



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

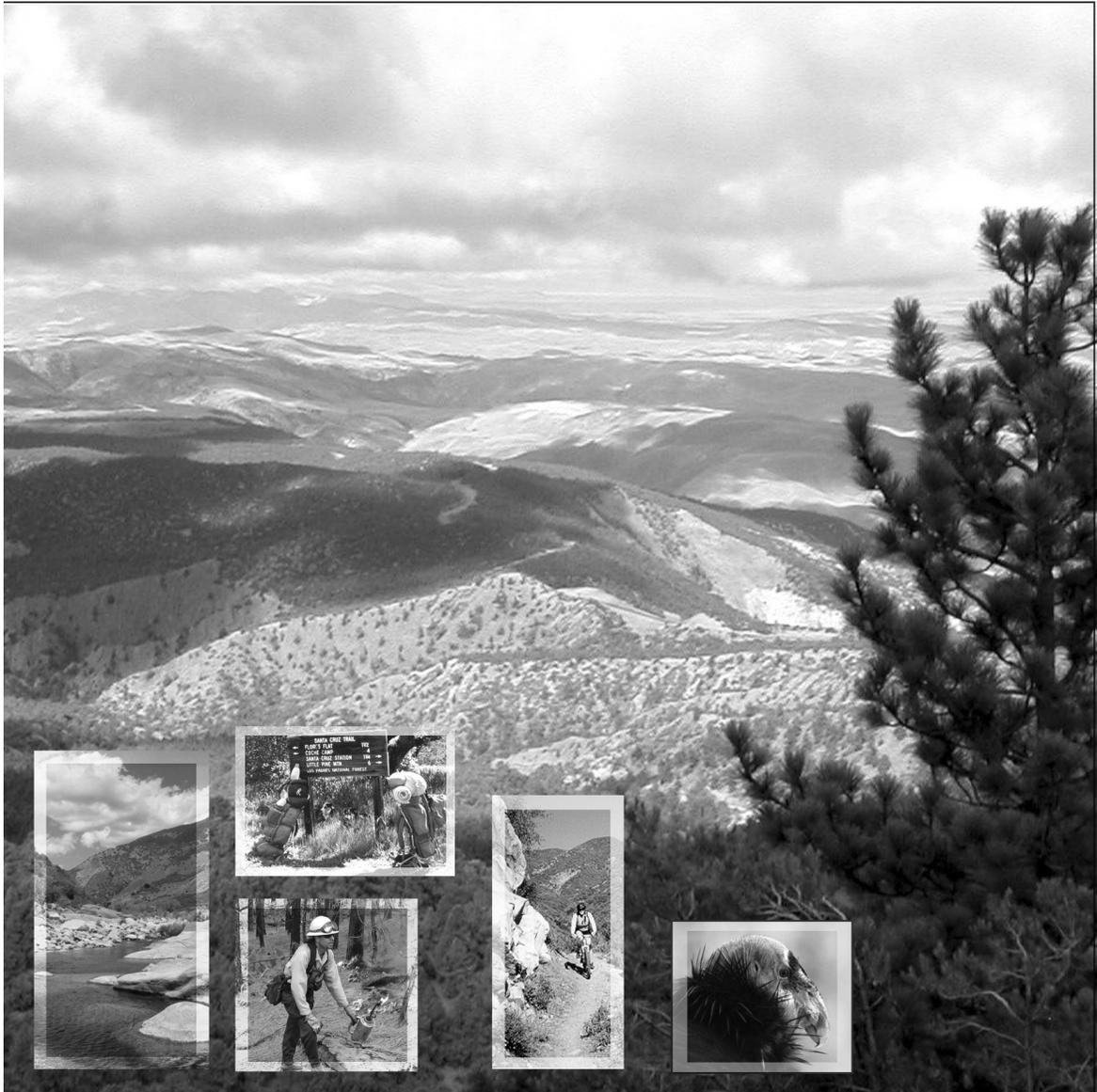
Pacific
Southwest
Region

R5-MB-043
May 2004

Draft Land Management Plan

Part 2:

Los Padres National Forest Strategy



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Part 2-Los Padres National Forest Strategy

Table of Contents

Land Management Plan Strategies.....	Strategy 6
Suitable Land Uses.....	Strategy 6
Land Use Zones.....	Strategy 6
Special Designation Overlays.....	Strategy 7
Scenic Integrity Objectives.....	Strategy 8
Public Uses Regulated by Other Agencies.....	Strategy 9
Prospectus.....	Strategy 9
Performance History.....	Strategy 9
Monitoring Trends and Performance Indicators.....	Strategy 10
General Budget History.....	Strategy 10
Management and Administration.....	Strategy 11
Resource Management.....	Strategy 11
Public Use and Enjoyment.....	Strategy 13
Facilities Operation and Maintenance.....	Strategy 13
Commodity and Commercial Uses.....	Strategy 14
Fire and Aviation Management.....	Strategy 14
Strategic Program Emphasis and Objectives.....	Strategy 15
Management and Administration.....	Strategy 15
Resource Management.....	Strategy 15
Public Use and Enjoyment.....	Strategy 16
Facilities Operation and Maintenance.....	Strategy 17
Commodity and Commercial Uses.....	Strategy 18
Fire and Aviation Management.....	Strategy 18
Program Strategies and Tactics.....	Strategy 19
Management and Administration.....	Strategy 19
Management Efficiency.....	Strategy 19
Partnerships and Cooperative Relations.....	Strategy 19
Tribal Relations.....	Strategy 19
Tribal 1: Traditional and Contemporary Uses.....	Strategy 19
Tribal 2: Government to Government Relations.....	Strategy 19
Resource Management.....	Strategy 19
Adaptive Management Cycle.....	Strategy 19
AM 1: Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation.....	Strategy 19

AM 2: Forestwide Inventory.....	Strategy 20
Biological Resources.....	Strategy 21
WL 1: Imperiled Species Management.....	Strategy 21
WL 2: Management of Species of Concern.....	Strategy 21
IS 1: Invasive Species Prevention and Control.....	Strategy 24
WL 4: Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants Habitat Management.....	Strategy 25
FH 1: Vegetation Restoration.....	Strategy 25
FH 2: Prevention of Type Conversion.....	Strategy 25
FH 3: Restoration of Forest Health.....	Strategy 25
FH 4: Insect and Disease Management.....	Strategy 26
Physical Resources.....	Strategy 26
Air 1: Minimize Smoke and Dust.....	Strategy 26
Air 2: Forest Air Quality Emissions.....	Strategy 26
WAT 1: Watershed Function.....	Strategy 27
WAT 2: Water Management.....	Strategy 27
WAT 3: Hazardous Materials.....	Strategy 28
Land Adjustment.....	Strategy 28
Lands 1: Strategic Acquisition.....	Strategy 28
Link 1: Habitat Linkage Planning.....	Strategy 28
Special Designations.....	Strategy 29
SD 1: Wilderness.....	Strategy 29
SD 2: Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	Strategy 29
SD 3: Research Natural Areas.....	Strategy 29
SD 4: Special Interest Areas.....	Strategy 29
Heritage Resources.....	Strategy 30
Her 1: Heritage Resource Protection.....	Strategy 30
Her 2: Public Involvement Program.....	Strategy 30
Her 3: Forestwide Heritage Inventory.....	Strategy 30
Her 4: Heritage Research.....	Strategy 30
Public Use and Enjoyment.....	Strategy 30
Recreation.....	Strategy 31
REC 1: Recreation Opportunity.....	Strategy 31
REC 2: Sustainable Use and Environmental Design.....	Strategy 31
REC 3: Recreation Participation.....	Strategy 31
REC 4: Conservation Education.....	Strategy 31

Landscape Management.....	Strategy 31
LM 1: Landscape Aesthetics.....	Strategy 31
LM 2: Landscape Restoration.....	Strategy 32
LM 3: Landscape Character.....	Strategy 32
Law Enforcement.....	Strategy 32
Law 1: Enforcement.....	Strategy 32
Law 2: Investigation.....	Strategy 32
Facilities Operation and Management.....	Strategy 32
Facilities Management.....	Strategy 32
Fac 1: Facilities Maintenance Backlog.....	Strategy 32
Transportation Management.....	Strategy 33
Trans 1: Transportation System.....	Strategy 33
Trans 2: Unnecessary Roads.....	Strategy 33
Trans 3: Improve Trails.....	Strategy 33
Trans 4: Off-Highway Vehicle Opportunities.....	Strategy 33
Commodity and Commercial Uses.....	Strategy 34
Special Forest Products.....	Strategy 34
SFP 1: Offer Special Forest Products.....	Strategy 34
Lands and Special Uses.....	Strategy 34
Lands 2: Land Use Authorizations.....	Strategy 34
Lands 3: Boundary Management.....	Strategy 35
Lands 4: Mineral Withdrawals.....	Strategy 35
Minerals and Energy.....	Strategy 35
ME 1: Minerals Management.....	Strategy 35
ME 2: Biomass Utilization.....	Strategy 35
Fire and Aviation Management.....	Strategy 36
Fire and Fuels Management.....	Strategy 36
Fire 1: Fire Prevention.....	Strategy 36
Fire 2: Direct Community Protection.....	Strategy 36
Fire 3: Fire Suppression Emphasis.....	Strategy 36
Fire 4: Firefighter and Public Safety.....	Strategy 36
Fire 5: Fuelbreaks and Indirect Community Protection.....	Strategy 37
Place Based Program Emphasis.....	Strategy 37
Arroyo Seco.....	Strategy 38
Avenales.....	Strategy 39

Big Sur.....	Strategy 41
Black Mountain.....	Strategy 43
Colson.....	Strategy 44
Cuesta.....	Strategy 45
Cuyama-Highway 166 Front.....	Strategy 47
Figueroa-Santa Ynez.....	Strategy 48
Highway 33 Corridor.....	Strategy 50
Hungry Valley/Mutau.....	Strategy 52
Mt. Pinos.....	Strategy 53
Ojai-Piru Front Country.....	Strategy 55
Pozo/La Panza.....	Strategy 57
Rockfront.....	Strategy 58
San Rafael.....	Strategy 59
Santa Barbara Front.....	Strategy 61
Sespe.....	Strategy 62
Ventana.....	Strategy 64
Forest-specific Design Criteria.....	Strategy 66
Place-specific Standards.....	Strategy 66
Wilderness Standards.....	Strategy 66
Forestwide Guidance.....	Strategy 66
Performance Risks.....	Strategy 66
Appendices.....	Appendix A 4
Appendix A - Special Designation Overlays - Los Padres National Forest.....	Appendix A 4
Wilderness.....	Appendix A 4
Existing Wilderness.....	Appendix A 4
Chumash Wilderness.....	Appendix A 4
Dick Smith Wilderness.....	Appendix A 4
Garcia Wilderness.....	Appendix A 4
Machesna Mountain Wilderness.....	Appendix A 5
Matilija Wilderness.....	Appendix A 5
San Rafael Wilderness.....	Appendix A 5
Santa Lucia Wilderness.....	Appendix A 6
Sespe Wilderness.....	Appendix A 6
Silver Peak Wilderness.....	Appendix A 6
Ventana Wilderness.....	Appendix A 7

Recommended Wilderness.....Appendix A 7

 Chumash Toad Springs.....Appendix A 7

 Cuyama.....Appendix A 7

 Diablo.....Appendix A 7

 Garcia Mountain.....Appendix A 8

 La Brea.....Appendix A 8

 Machesna Mountain.....Appendix A 8

 Madulce-Buckhorn.....Appendix A 9

 Matilija.....Appendix A 9

 Mono.....Appendix A 9

Wild and Scenic Rivers.....Appendix A 10

 Designated.....Appendix A 10

 Sespe Creek.....Appendix A 10

 Big Sur River.....Appendix A 10

 Sisquoc River.....Appendix A 10

 Wild and Scenic Rivers, Recommended for Designation.....Appendix A 10

 Piru Creek.....Appendix A 10

 Sespe Creek.....Appendix A 10

 Arroyo Seco River.....Appendix A 11

 San Antonio River.....Appendix A 11

Research Natural Areas.....Appendix A 11

 Established.....Appendix A 11

 American Canyon.....Appendix A 11

 Black Butte.....Appendix A 12

 San Emigdio Mesa.....Appendix A 12

 Cone Peak Gradient.....Appendix A 12

 Proposed.....Appendix A 12

 Big Pine Mountain.....Appendix A 12

 Sawmill Mountain.....Appendix A 12

 White Mountain.....Appendix A 13

 Valley Oak.....Appendix A 13

 Ventana Cones.....Appendix A 13

Special Interest Areas.....Appendix A 14

 Existing.....Appendix A 14

 Cuesta Ridge.....Appendix A 14

Dry Lakes Ridge.....	Appendix A 14
Mt. Pinos Summit.....	Appendix A 14
Quatal Canyon.....	Appendix A 14
Sierra Madre.....	Appendix A 15
Alder Creek.....	Appendix A 15
Lion Den Spring.....	Appendix A 15
Southern Redwood.....	Appendix A 15
Proposed.....	Appendix A 15
Bear Ponds.....	Appendix A 15
Camatta.....	Appendix A 16
Mono Basin.....	Appendix A 17
Milpitas.....	Appendix A 18
GPRA Objectives.....	Appendix A 18
Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire.....	Appendix A 18
Goal 2: Reduce the impacts from invasive species [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2].....	Appendix A 19
Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1].....	Appendix A 19
Goal 4: Help meet energy resource needs [USDA Objective 5.1].....	Appendix A 19
Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2].....	Appendix A 20
Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals.....	Appendix A 20

Table Appendix LPNF Part 2

Table-2.3.1-Suitable Uses Resource Management, LPNF	Table-2
Table-2.3.2-Suitable Uses Public Use and Enjoyment, LPNF	Table-3
Table-2.3.3-Suitable Uses Commodity and Commercial Uses, LPNF	Table-4
Table-2.3.4-Suitable Uses Fire and Fuels Management, LPNF	Table-4
Table-2.3.5-Resource Management Performance Indicators, LPNF	Table-5
Table-2.3.6-Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, LPNF	Table-5
Table-2.3.7-Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, LPNF	Table-5
Table-2.3.8-Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, LPNF	Table-5
Table-2.3.9-Fire and Aviation Management Performance Indicators, LPNF	Table-6

Land Management Plan Strategies

This document is the second of the three parts of the land management plan for the Los Padres National Forest and describes the strategic direction to be used over the next 3 to 5 years to realize the desired conditions described in Part 1 (the Vision) of the land management plan. This part includes a description of the suitable uses for each of the land use zones and a prospectus describing past performance history and anticipated performance over the next 3 to 5 years. Place Based Program Emphasis is found at the end of Part 2.

Part 2 supplements Part 1 of the land management plan (the vision). Part 1 sets the context for managing the forest and describes a common vision for the National Forests in southern California. Part 1 discusses the niche occupied by the forests within the communities of southern California (as well as the region and the nation), the desired conditions for forest resources, the expected outcomes and the challenges we expect to have as we implement the land management plans.

The third part of the land management, Design Criteria, includes a short example of the legal framework we work within, the legally required standards, and an index of Forest Service handbook and other applicable guidance that can be used to implement the direction described in the land management plan.

Suitable Land Uses

Land Use Zones

Except when specific areas are determined to be not suitable for a specific type of use in the land management plan, laws, or other national or regional policy, National Forests are suitable for a variety of uses (36 CFR 219) based on the desired conditions identified and described in Part 1 of the land management plan. Tables 2.2.1 through 2.2.4 display uses that are not suitable by land use zone or suitable only in designated areas.

The term "when justified" means that the use is generally not suitable, however, it may be considered when there is a compelling public need. Although a use may be identified as appropriate to a given land use zone, all use of National Forest System lands are subject to the design criteria identified in part three of this plan. These design criteria are applied at the project-specific planning level.

Seven land use zones have been identified for the Los Padres National Forest. These zones, including overlays, are applicable to only the National Forest System land and in no way modify zoning applied to other ownerships by local government agencies. The zones include:

- **Rural and Urban Interface (URI):** This zone includes areas adjacent to communities with consolidated infrastructure. There is a high intensity of human use and high level of dependence on roads. Resource use and development are expected.
- **Developed Area Intermix (DAI):** This zone includes areas adjacent to communities or concentrated developed areas with more scattered or isolated community infrastructure. Although there is a high level of human use and roads, the environment appears more natural and motorized use is less intensive than in the URI zone. Resource use and development may generally occur.
- **Back Country Motorized (BCM):** This zone includes largely undeveloped, natural or natural appearing areas where motorized use may occur. The intensity of human use is low to moderate. Facilities may occur.
- **Back County Non-Motorized (BCNM):** This zone includes the same backcountry environment as BCM but motorized use is not allowed. The intensity of human use is lower than in BCM, with expectations for more user challenge and solitude. Facilities, if any, are primitive.
- **Critical Biological (CB):** This zone includes the most important areas on the Cleveland National Forest to

manage for the protection of imperiled species. Facilities are minimal to discourage human use. Activities and modification to existing infrastructure are allowed if they are beneficial or neutral to the species. Dispersed use such as hiking and hunting is generally allowed. Use of adjacent National Forest system roads is allowed.

- Wilderness (EW): This zone includes existing wilderness lands.
 - Chumash Wilderness
 - Dick Smith Wilderness
 - Garcia Wilderness
 - Machesna Mountain Wilderness
 - Matilija Wilderness
 - San Rafael Wilderness
 - Santa Lucia Wilderness
 - Silver Peak Wilderness
 - Ventana Wilderness

- Recommended Wilderness (RW): This zone includes land that the Forest Service is recommending to Congress for wilderness designation.
 - Chumash Toad Springs
 - Cuyama
 - Diablo
 - Garcia Mountain
 - La Brea
 - Machesna Mountain
 - Madulce-Buckhorn
 - Matilija
 - Mono

Table 2.3.1: Suitable Uses Resource Management, LPNF

Table 2.3.2: Suitable Uses Public Use and Enjoyment, LPNF

Table 2.3.3: Suitable Uses Commodity and Commercial Uses, LPNF

Table 2.3.4: Suitable Uses Fire and Fuels Management, LPNF

Special Designation Overlays

The following land use classifications act as overlays to the primary land use zones. In other words, suitable uses identified in the land use zone tables are generally suitable in these overlay classifications unless specifically excluded. When differences occur in suitable uses between the land use zone and special designation overlay, the more restrictive set of allowable uses apply.

Wild and Scenic River

Suitable uses are those compatible with protecting and enhancing the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated or found eligible.

Designated Rivers include:

- Sespe Creek
- Big Sur River
- Sisquoc River

Rivers Recommended for designation include:

- Piru Creek
- Sespe Creek
- Arroyo Seco River

All existing facilities, management actions, and approved uses will be allowed to continue in eligible river corridors until a decision is made on inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System, provided these facilities, actions, and uses do not interfere with the protection and enhancement of the river's outstandingly remarkable values.

Proposed new facilities, management actions, or uses on National Forest land are not allowed if they have the potential to affect the eligibility or potential classification of the river segment.

Uses comply with Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, chapter 8.2, which includes a description of developments and activities that are permitted, restricted or prohibited within the designated river corridor for each of the three classifications (wild, scenic and recreation).

Research Natural Areas

Research natural areas include relatively undisturbed areas of the forest that form a long-term network of ecological reserves designated for research, education, and the maintenance of biodiversity. This designation applies to both established and proposed research natural areas.

Established research natural areas include:

- American Canyon
- Black Butte
- San Emigdio Mesa
- Cone Peak Gradient

Proposed research natural areas include:

- Big Pine Mountain
- Sawmill Mountain
- White Mountain
- Valley Oak
- Ventana Cones

Research natural areas are selected to preserve a spectrum of relatively pristine areas that represent a wide range of natural variability within important natural ecosystems and environments, and areas that have unique characteristics of scientific importance. Research natural areas are also selected for one or more of the following reasons:

- To serve as reference areas for evaluating the range of natural variability and the impacts of management in similar environments.
- To protect and maintain representative or key elements of biological diversity at the genetic, species, population, community, or ecosystem levels.

- To serve as areas for the study of ecosystems and ecological processes including succession.
- To provide onsite and extension educational activities.
- To serve as baseline areas for measuring ecological change.

Uses that retain the research values for which the site is designated are appropriate.

Special Interest Areas

Special interest areas protect and, where appropriate, foster public use and enjoyment of areas with scenic, historical, geological, botanical, zoological, palentological, or other special characteristics. Uses that are compatible with maintaining the target of the areas designation are appropriate.

Existing special interest areas include:

- Cuesta Ridge
- Dry Lakes Ridge
- Mt. Pinos Summit
- Quatal Canyon
- Sierra Madre
- Alder Creek
- Lion Den Spring
- Southern Redwood

Proposed special interest areas include:

- Bear Ponds
- Camatta
- Mono Basin
- Milpitas

Scenic Integrity Objectives

The scenery management system (SMS) is a tool for integrating the benefits, values, desires, and preferences regarding aesthetics and scenery for all levels of land management planning. People are concerned about the quality of their environment and the aesthetic values of landscapes, particularly the scenery and spiritual values. Scenic integrity objectives have been designated for all areas of the forest. At the project level, all forest activities are subject to review of the scenic integrity objectives.

Public Uses Regulated by Other Agencies

The California State Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) manages California's fish and wildlife populations for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

Hunting is permitted throughout the National Forests of southern California during hunting seasons designated by the CDF&G. Hunting is not permitted in those areas where the discharge of firearms is prohibited by county ordinance, California State law, or federal regulations. Hunters must follow all laws including no hunting within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area for safety. Except as permitted by CDF&G, it is unlawful to use a dog to pursue/take animals or to train a dog for hunting. The CDF&G may issue dogtraining and organizational field trial permits authorizing releasing and taking domestically reared game birds, bobwhite quail, or coturnix quail. Such organized events require a special use

permit from the appropriate forest office.

Angling is encouraged in most areas of the National Forests during fishing seasons designated by the CDF&G. Some locations have special regulations and a few are closed to fishing in order to protect the steelhead trout and other aquatic species that depend on high quality habitat.

Prospectus

The prospectus describes recent trends and expectations regarding the levels of experiences, goods and services, or other outcomes that are supplied by the forest, as well as anticipated resource improvements planned over the next 3 to 5 years. Past performance is generally a good indicator of what is expected in the near future. Performance expectations under two budget levels are projected into the future (see Performance History). Annual monitoring and evaluation of trends in performance indicators determine if there is a need to shift program emphasis to more effectively move toward the desired conditions (see Monitoring Trends and Performance Indicators). Strategic program emphasis is described through specific objectives that the forest will focus on under current budget expectations (see Strategic Program Emphasis and Objectives). The Forest Supervisor will plan and implement projects that contribute to achieving desired conditions described in part one, while meeting the standards described in Part 3. Information in this prospectus will be updated on a regular basis to reflect changes in management emphasis or budget fluctuations. The final section describes examples of performance risks that could cause a need for change in management emphasis (see Performance Risks).

Performance History

A common methodology was applied during the development of the Forest Business Plan, in order to describe the activities and programs for the Los Padres National Forest. With the direction of cross-functional representatives, activities were organized into six functional areas which describe all areas of the business for which the forest is responsible. The functional areas were then broken down into 35 programs. Forest management can use the results to clearly communicate program capability with a variety of audiences.

Los Padres National Forest's management is guided by the expertise of the people working in all of its functional areas including resource management, public use & enjoyment, and facility operations & maintenance. As an example, managers from these functions know how and where to route an off-highway vehicle trail around a threatened & endangered species habitat. Unfortunately, these managers often lack the resources to accomplish many of the projects essential to effectively managing the forests resources.

To achieve the vision of a healthy forest, the required resources must be available and directed toward the correct tasks. The six functional areas are:

- **Management & Administration:** Forest leadership, management and administrative support activities, communications, external affairs, planning, human resources, information technology, and financial management.
- **Resource Management:** Activities related to managing, preserving, and protecting the forest's cultural and natural resources.
- **Public Use & Enjoyment:** Activities which provide visitors with safe, enjoyable and educational experiences while on the forest.
- **Facility Operations & Maintenance:** Activities required to manage and operate the forest's infrastructure (roads, facilities, and structures).
- **Commodity & Commercial Uses:** Grazing management, forest special product development, and activities related to managing non-recreation special uses such as forest access, telecommunications sites, and utility corridors.
- **Fire & Aviation Management:** Wildfire prevention through education, hazardous fuels reduction, and proactive preparation. This program also includes on-forest, national or international wildfire and emergency

incident response.

Monitoring Trends and Performance Indicators

Monitoring in Part 2 of the land management plan is focused on program implementation including inventory. The forest currently uses the budget formulation and evaluation system (BFES) performance indicators for tracking program accomplishments. The current system is expected to be replaced by a performance accountability system integrating annual budgets with programs of work and linking these to tracking of strategic plan performance indicators.

Each of the key BFES performance indicators are estimated for two budget levels in the performance history section, one based on the current budget trend and the other an estimate of the total capability and need for the program activity on the forest assuming an unconstrained budget. Performance indicators are shown at the end of each management function section:

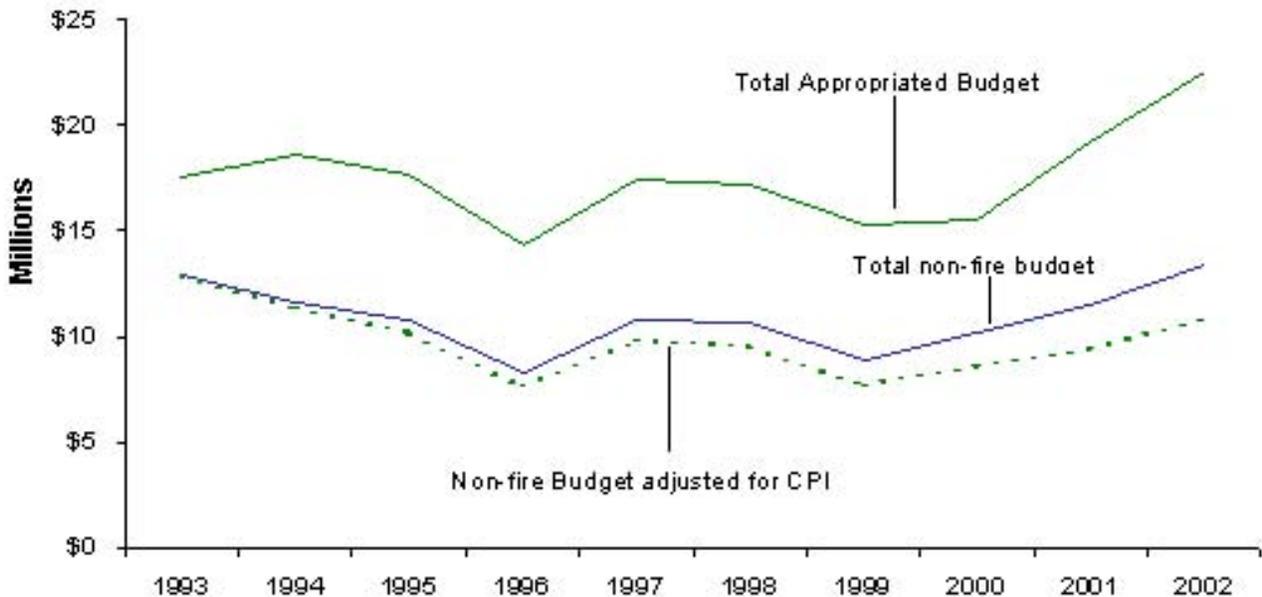
- Management and Administration
- Resource Management, Resource Management Performance Indicators, LPNF
- Public Use and Enjoyment, Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, LPNF
- Facilities Operation and Maintenance, Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, LPNF
- Commodity and Commercial Uses, Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, LPNF
- Fire and Aviation Management, Fire and Aviation Management Performance Indicators, LPNF

Actual performance is tracked over time through annual documentation of accomplishment and these trends are evaluated periodically to determine if the forest needs to shift program strategies (see Adaptive Management Cycle). This data is reported in the annual monitoring and evaluation report as part of the forest's implementation monitoring efforts.

Inventory is a continuous effort (see AM 2: Forestwide Inventory Program Strategies and Tactics section). As funding is available, priority inventories are implemented and reported through various resource information systems including interagency systems. Periodic evaluation of inventory data is used to explore trends in resource conditions over time. Annual monitoring and evaluation reports (AM 1: Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation) will document when there is a need to change the plan in response to declining trends in resource conditions.

General Budget History

The figure below shows the total annual allocation from the Pacific Southwest Region to the Los Padres National Forest, for the ten-year period 1993-2002, and seems to indicate an increase in funding over the decade.



Yet, after subtracting the rising allocation for fire preparedness and hazardous fuels reduction (triangles), the budget for non-fire activities (diamonds) has just barely regained its 1993 funding level. However, this appearance is deceiving. Adjusting for inflation (dotted line) reveals that in 2002, the Los Padres operated its non-fire activities with only 84% of its 1993 budget.

Finally, even this chart does not reveal the depth of appropriations reductions. Prior to 1993 the Los Padres was operating with even larger budgets and numbers of personnel.

Management and Administration

The current complex web of federal, State, county, local, partnership, not-for-profit, and private relationships require broad and deep skills and experiences in order to effectively manage the forest. The challenge of proactively organizing the transformation of a healthy forest requires more than just management, it requires the leadership of everyone who might be affected by that change.

Management & Administration is divided into General Management, Financial Management, General Administration, District Management, Planning, Public Affairs, and Information Technology programs. The land management plan addresses two of these programs, general and district management.

General Management: Vision, leadership, performance reporting, legislative contacts and priority setting are the tasks of the Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor, and their immediate support staff. From the Supervisor's Office in Los Padres, human resources, engineering, recreation, fire and aviation management, resources, public relations, information technology and other staff functions provide technical and administrative support to the districts.

District Management: The forest is divided into five ranger districts: Monterey, Santa Lucia, Santa Barbara, Ojai and Mount Pinos. Each District Ranger and staff is directly responsible for the development, conservation, and utilization of the natural resources of forest and associated lands of the ranger district.

Resource Management

The management of the Los Padres National Forest's resources is divided into seven programs: wildlife; vegetation; watershed, air and geologic resources; heritage resources; specially designated areas (including

wilderness); lands ownership; and managing the data of these resources.

The wildlife, fisheries and plant program manages the needs of all threatened, endangered and sensitive species along with those of all other non-listed species. Biologists, ecologists, botanists and other skilled specialists contribute to this program's operations.

Vegetation management is carried out to protect critical habitats, to reduce fire and erosion risks, and to replant burned or otherwise damaged vegetation. The forest restoration program incorporates an integrated set of vegetation management actions designed to meet multiple objectives including restoration of forest health and community protection. Close coordination between the fire and aviation management staff and resource management staff is required. The forest has identified the following vegetation management project categories related to community protection and forest health:

- **Mortality Removal - Annual Need: 100 acres.** This includes the removal of dead vegetation to reduce fire hazard. This category includes the use of timber sales to remove merchantable trees, and the contract removal of non-merchantable trees and shrubs. These projects include treatment of all slash and are expected to move forested areas from Condition Class three towards Condition Class one. In chaparral areas mortality removal is planned in order to reduce the fire hazard from high to low.
- **Thinning - Annual Need: 200 acres.** This includes the removal of living trees from overstocked stands, in most cases trees of 24 inches in diameter or less. These projects include the treatment of all slash and are expected to move forested areas from Condition Class two or three towards Condition Class one. Thinning is required prior to the reintroduction of fire in most cases.
- **Reforestation And Restoration Of Forest Vegetation - Annual Need: 100 acres.** Restoration projects are either designed to facilitate natural recovery following disturbance (fire, drought related mortality, insect and disease) or to implement planting projects as needed when natural processes are not likely to achieve desired results.
- **Fuelbreak Maintenance - Annual Need: 1,000 acres.** Existing fuelbreaks are generally maintained using prescribed fire or grazing. Most of the fuelbreaks are in high hazard chaparral areas and are designed to limit wildfire size and provide firefighter access and improved firefighter safety. A few of the fuelbreaks are in coniferous forest and serve to limit fire spread from or towards communities or timber stands in poor condition. Most of the existing fuelbreaks are on ridgetops or along roads.
- **Fuelbreak Construction - Annual Need: 400 acres.** Most of the planned fuelbreaks are also along roads and ridgetops and are proposed for limiting wildfire patch size. Most fuelbreaks are constructed with machinery. Some are built by hand or by using prescribed fire. Herbicides are used to kill resprouting chaparral and then fire used to maintain the fuelbreak over time. Fuelbreaks are sometimes constructed near communities to provide some level of future protection in cases where land ownership patterns or topography limit the applicability of the "buffer" concept.
- **Buffers - Annual Need: 2,000 acres.** This term describes the reduction of vegetation density adjacent to structures within the wildland urban interface (WUI). A WUI defense zone is a relatively narrow area in width (see standard S120 in part 3) directly adjoining structures that is converted to a non-flammable state to increase defensible space and firefighter safety. A secondary buffer (the WUI threat zone, see S120) is an additional strip of vegetation modified to reduce flame heights and radiant heat. The two buffers together are designed to make most structures defensible. These buffers are applicable to National Forest lands only and are applicable to all structures on public land and can also be applied where National Forest boundaries are directly adjacent to communities on private lands. Techniques may include hand or machine removal of vegetation and herbicides in the primary buffer. Treatments in the WUI threat zone are less intensive and can generally be maintained with prescribed fire over the long term. In forested areas, extensive tree thinning is planned as part of installing WUI threat zones.
- **Prescribed (Rx) Fire - Annual Need: 10,000 acres.** Projects placed in this category are generally large burns in chaparral to reduce fire hazard near communities or as part of an overall landscape mosaic designed to limit wildfire patch size. Prescribed fire is also used to help restore and maintain lands in the coniferous forest areas, currently categorized as condition class one or two. Some prescribed burns are conducted for the purpose of enhancement of wildlife browse conditions.

Projects often incorporate a combination of these activities designed to most effectively meet site-specific objectives.

The Los Padres National Forest was established to protect the watersheds that supply water to many Californians. Activities include management of water quality, water supply, soil quality and productivity, water rights, air quality and geologic resources and hazards.

The Lands program handles land exchanges and purchases, rights-of-way acquisitions, boundary and title management. In addition to completing their own projects, resource staff provide significant support to other program areas.

The heritage resource program area has the mission to protect significant heritage resources, to share their values with the American people, and to contribute relevant information and perspectives to natural resource management so that future generations will have an opportunity to discover the human story etched in the forest.

Table 2.3.5: Resource Management Performance Indicators, LPNF.

Public Use and Enjoyment

The public use and enjoyment function consists of those forest operations that interact with the visiting public. It includes programs directly related to the visitor's forest experience (such as interpretation, education and concessions) as well as their overall safety and protection. As such, interpretive and law enforcement staff work together to provide an enriching environment.

Interpretation is an educational activity that aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects, by firsthand experience, and by illustrative media rather than simply to communicate factual information. The Los Padres has rich geologic, wildlife and Native American history to interpret for its visitors and a variety of programs to do so.

The forest's visitor safety activities are carried out by two separate groups of protection officers. Law enforcement officers carry firearms, make arrests and are responsible for the prevention of crimes and the enforcement of federal laws and regulations on National Forest and adjacent lands.

Campgrounds and Developed Sites: The campgrounds program encompasses the care and maintenance of the forest's 122 campgrounds. The largest and most highly used facilities are operated by concessionaires. Maintenance includes two major categories: routine maintenance and deferred maintenance. Routine maintenance work includes cleaning and repairing restrooms, picnic tables, fire rings and grills, signs, renting portable toilets, pumping vault toilets, removing graffiti from facilities and natural features, testing and maintaining water systems, posting kiosks with current information, picking up and hauling trash.

Concentrated Use Areas (CUA): Despite the infrastructure provided by the forest, many visitors like to congregate in undeveloped areas such as road turnouts or along creeks. As a result, additional maintenance is necessary because of such impacts as litter, vandalism and soil compaction and erosion. Activities at such sites include hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, scenery viewing, picnicking, camping, snow play, and water play. Facilities in these areas are limited to portable toilets, minimal parking, trash cans, signs and kiosks. These facilities require cleaning, pumping, graffiti removal, and repair of vandalism.

Table 2.3.6: Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, LPNF.

Facilities Operation and Maintenance

Buildings, Grounds & Utilities: Facility Operations and Maintenance (FOM) encompass all activities that operate and maintain the forest's infrastructure. This includes not only buildings, campgrounds and other facilities, but also trails, roads and vehicles. The buildings program area includes operating 241 structures located within the forest's 55 administrative sites, as well as utility systems including generators, water systems, wastewater systems and solar electric systems. Deferred maintenance includes small projects that do not qualify as capital improvement projects, such as replacing a toilet that is past its useful life. Deferred maintenance is an unusual category—it essentially means that facilities have fallen into disrepair because there has been no budget available to fix or replace a facility as it begins to deteriorate.

Roads: Considering that the Los Padres is spread across 220 linear miles of central California, it is not surprising that it contains over 1,500 miles of roads (paved and non-paved), which is still a very low density in terms of miles of road per square mile. As such, road improvement and maintenance represent the largest expenditure in this functional area. Activities include grading unpaved roads, clearing rock fall, repairing potholes, signage, striping, resurfacing, and bridge maintenance.

Trails: A 1,238-mile trail system is also a direct result of the forest's large size. Trail planners emphasize providing loop trails and connecting trails to enhance hiking opportunities and minimize resource damage, while simultaneously trying to take advantage of opportunities for interpretation of unique visual, geologic and botanical features.

Table 2.3.7: Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, LPNF.

Commodity and Commercial Uses

Non-Recreation Special Uses: The largest program in this functional area is the administration of approximately 600 non-recreation land uses. These uses can include agricultural (orchards and apiaries); service uses (schools, parking lots); hydroelectric; research facilities (weather stations, observatories); power generation and transmission facilities; oil and gas development; electric transmission and distribution lines; communication (broadcast sites, telephone lines); and water improvements (waterlines, wells).

Minerals and Energy Resources: The Los Padres contains the only developed commercial quantities of oil and gas within the California forests. There are 22 oil and gas leases on 15,000 acres (less than 1% of forest land) that contain about 180 wells and associated facilities. There are also several active hard rock (e.g. gold) claims and small amounts of mineral material (e.g. sand and gravel) activity.

Grazing: The livestock-grazing program on the Los Padres currently consists of 107 allotments, of which 70 are active (3rd highest of any National Forest in California). A number of vacant allotments have applications on file, but cannot be processed until an environmental analysis is completed. The forest manages this program for the sustainability of forage production as well as the protection of soil, water, flora and fauna.

Table 2.3.8: Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, LPNF.

Fire and Aviation Management

The Forest fire program is guided by the fire management plan. The fire program on the Los Padres is supported by approximately 350 permanent and temporary personnel and is comprised of three main functions:

- management and administration
- wildland fire suppression and preparedness
- hazardous fuels program

Management and administration provides the overall program coordination (budget, training, staffing, direction, etc.). An emergency command center coordinates fire activities throughout the year.

Wildland fire suppression and preparedness encompass all firefighting activities included in containing and mitigating the damages of wildfires, caused by either natural or human means. Fire crews and disaster teams supported by this program also respond to other areas of the country to help with wildfires and disasters. Fire suppression resources on the Los Padres include fire engine modules, helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, fire prevention personnel, bulldozers, and water tenders.

Frequently, Los Padres fire personnel are called to fight fires on other National Forests and assist in mitigating the effects from other disasters such as earthquakes or terrorist activity. However, most of these assignments relate to fighting large forest fires in the U.S. In addition to supporting large suppression operations nationally, other types of assignments come via the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Past assignments have included earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, 9/11 disaster support, wildfires in Australia, and supervision of the Columbia Space Shuttle debris recovery.

The third element of the fire program is hazardous fuels. Hazardous fuels include chaparral and all other vegetation types that are susceptible to carrying a fire. The fuels program is accomplished through vegetation treatments to restore the plant community to the desired fire regime while protecting neighboring communities and resource values. Fuels management consists of planning and evaluating forest conditions, prescribed burns, and the mechanical removal of hazardous material in high-risk areas.

Table 2.3.9: Fire and Aviation Management Performance Indicators, LPNF.

Strategic Program Emphasis and Objectives

Management and Administration

Effective Management

Staff anticipate enlisting the support of local communities, partners, and volunteers to promote land stewardship through jointly developing and carrying out a broad range of conservation, natural resource education and recreational activities. (See Business Plan for the Los Padres National Forest 2003).

Tribal Relations

Staff expect to secure effective communications and working relationships with Native American tribal entities, both federally recognized and nonrecognized. This strategy is expected to facilitate involvement and consultation with tribes on all aspects of forest management involving sacred land, projects involving direct management or protection of sensitive cultural sites, projects with indirect affects whose boundaries contain cultural sites, and traditional practices such as plant gathering and religious ceremonies. Staff will use memorandums of understanding and other protocols to promote recognition of tribal interests at all levels.

See also the following sections: Tribal 1: Traditional and Contemporary Uses; Tribal 2: Government to Government Relations

Resource Management

Wildlife, Fish and Plant Management

Program emphasis for wildlife management is focused on conserving biodiversity in an interconnected regional open space network. Habitat loss and fragmentation is expected to be reduced by conserving and managing habitat linkages within and, where possible, between the forests and other public and privately conserved lands. Strategies are developed to emphasize maintaining or improving habitat capability, removing invasive species, and reducing conflicts with other activities. Staff expect to implement one to two recovery tasks and accomplish approximately 1,000 acres of habitat restoration per year. The intent is to continue the emphasis on improving our knowledge base regarding riparian dependent threatened and endangered species through basic inventory of suitable habitat, with a focus on survey of nonwilderness areas. Increase emphasis on maintenance and restoration of habitat in areas where high use recreation and TEPCS species coincide.

See also the following related sections: WL 1: Imperiled Species Management; WL 2: Management of Species of Concern; IS 1: Invasive Species Prevention and Control; WL 4: Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants Habitat Management; Link 1: Habitat Linkage Planning

Vegetation Management

Improving biodiversity and forest health is accomplished through vegetative treatments targeting the restoration of desired fire regimes; protecting community and recreation values; managing insect and disease epidemics; improving water quality and flow in order to maintain or improve riparian habitats; and improving watershed conditions. Staff expect to treat an average of approximately 12,000 acres per year as a combination of fuels and direct habitat treatments including the 1,000 acres of habitat restoration stated under Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plant Management.

See also the following sections: FH 1: Vegetation Restoration; FH 2: Prevention of Type Conversion; FH 3: Restoration of Forest Health; FH 4: Insect and Disease Management; ME 2: Biomass Utilization; Fire 2: Direct

Community Protection; Fire 5: Fuelbreaks and Indirect Community Protection

Invasive Species

The forest is placing a high priority on preventing and controlling nonnative species that prey on, or compete with, TEPCS species. Staff expect to implement control measures on an average of approximately 300 acres per year of known areas where invasive species are impacting TEPCS species.

See also the following section: IS 1: Invasive Species Prevention and Control

Physical Resources (Soil, Geology, Water and Air)

Groundwater and surface water resources will be managed to benefit ecosystem health and forest administrative needs. To address the increased demand for groundwater and surface water resources of the National Forests, program emphasis is on balancing the needs of water users with resource needs for the maintenance or improvement of stream, riparian, springs and wetland habitat through the procurement of water rights and in-stream flow agreements. Staff expect to complete three water diversion permit reauthorizations within five years with emphasis on those with recreation and/or species issues. This includes acquiring available water rights and relocating diversions to the forest perimeter, where possible.

See also the following sections: WAT 1: Watershed Function; WAT 2: Water Management

Emphasis will be on watershed restoration projects in areas with recreation and/or species habitat issues.

Land Ownership and Adjustment

Management intent is to work collaboratively to consolidate land ownership adjustments. Emphasis is to improve land management, to acquire lands that contain unique resources, allow for enhanced public access and use, improve habitat linkages, and to improve management efficiency. Staff expect to implement land adjustment strategies on approximately five cases per year.

See also: Lands 1: Strategic Acquisition

Additional emphasis will be on resolving title claims and boundary management cases on National Forest System land where recreation use issues exist. Staff expect to initiate action on approximately six miles of boundary resolution per year.

Heritage Resources

Emphasis will be placed on the inventory and documentation of sites in areas of high recreation use. Priority will be given to identifying and mitigating activities that adversely affect, or potentially adversely affect, heritage resources. Staff expect to accomplish the survey of one high use recreation area per year.

See also the following sections: Her 1: Heritage Resource Protection; Her 2: Public Involvement Program; Her 3: Forestwide Heritage Inventory; Her 4: Heritage Research

Public Use and Enjoyment

Recreation

The forest provides balanced, environmentally sustainable recreation opportunities to meet the needs of a growing, urban, culturally diverse population. Adaptive management measures are applied to all high recreation use areas and developed sites that have conflicts among users and/or with sensitive resources. Dispersed camping will continue outside of restricted use areas, keeping vehicles within fifty feet of classified roads (as identified on the forest map). See also: REC 2: Sustainable Use and Environmental Design; REC 3: Recreation Participation

Recreation special uses (e.g.; concession campgrounds) are an important program that will be emphasized to address growing demand. Complete recreation residence permits renewal process by 2008.

Investment emphasis focuses on Forest Service recreational facilities and related infrastructure. Opportunities are developed through partnerships and special funding to reduce the backlog of facility maintenance and to expand capacity. Develop recreation infrastructure to guide use away from resource and social conflict. This is accomplished through creation of new sites and the decommissioning of existing sites. Reduce the facilities maintenance backlog by two sites per year.

Target shooting is limited to designated areas with an emphasis on sites under special use permits. Hunting will continue as regulated by state law.

Conservation Education

Improve visitor services and increase opportunities for interpretation and environmental education through expanded partnerships with permittees, volunteers and other organizations. Conservation education imparts knowledge about Forest Service mission and policy, environmental features of interest, and behaviors that preserve and respect the environment. Expand outreach to local communities, including nontraditional audiences, for the purpose of increasing visitor enjoyment and understanding of the forest and encouraging appropriate behavior. Coordinate with other southern California forests to expand outreach to larger metropolitan audiences. Forest Staff expect to increase partnership participation by approximately 20%. See also: REC 4: Conservation Education

Landscape and Scenery Management

Scenic resources emphasize conserving or restoring aesthetic, recreational, and open space values, especially those of high-valued scenery such as scenic byways and backdrops for local communities. See also: REC 1: Recreation Opportunity; LM 1: Landscape Aesthetics; LM 2: Landscape Restoration; LM 3: Landscape Character

Law Enforcement

Focus on visitor health, safety, and ecological resource protection. Continue to work cooperatively with local law enforcement agencies. Emphasize detection, eradication and resource rehabilitation of marijuana and drug related activities. See also: Law 1: Enforcement; Law 2: Investigation

Facilities Operation and Maintenance

Buildings and Grounds

Administrative facilities (offices, storage, warehouses, garages, visitor centers, communications, etc.) shall be provided and maintained so as to:

- Provide safe and functional workspace to support and enhance high work performance.
- Support the Built Environment Image Guide concept in the design and construction of buildings to improve the image, aesthetics, sustainability, and overall quality of Forest Service facilities.
- Provide for the effective and efficient protection and management of the forest by location and design of buildings.
- Provide for facilities and related infrastructure that is maintained and operated in compliance with federal, State and local rules, codes and regulations.

Maintain a Forest Facilities Master Plan. This plan will identify acquisition, conveyance, maintenance, decommissioning and disposal needs and priorities for Forest Service owned structures. Housing facilities for employees may be provided when necessary to meet the forest mission, when insufficient acceptable private sector facilities are available, or when recruitment and retention of a highly qualified workforce is severely constrained as a result of local high cost and availability of acceptable housing. See also: Fac 1: Facilities Maintenance Backlog

Roads and Trails System

Management of the transportation system emphasizes user demand, forest and community protection needs, and resource considerations. Implement the procedures and process of the forest-scale roads analysis process. Roads and trails are maintained, reconstructed or relocated to reduce the effects to species and watersheds while safely accommodating use. Annually maintain 10% of forest system roads to their operational maintenance level. Designate routes for motorized use. Allow mechanized use (e.g. mountain bikes) only on classified roads and trails. Work with communities to evaluate suitability of unauthorized trails. Work with communities in areas where user conflicts and/or resource damage occurs. The forest expects to average approximately 100 miles of trail maintenance annually. See also: Trans 1: Transportation System; Trans 3: Improve Trails; Trans 4: Off-Highway Vehicle Opportunities

Evaluate roads accommodating high levels of use for improvement, including parking in appropriate locations, for popular destinations. Develop or improve five trailheads annually to access the forest. See also: Trans 1: Transportation System

Decommissioning of unneeded or unclassified roads and trails where environmental conflicts occur is emphasized. Initiate site-specific analysis on approximately 30% of the unclassified roads to make appropriate designations (forest system road, decommission or forest designated trail, either motorized or non-motorized). See also: Trans 2: Unnecessary Roads

Access to the National Forests is acquired where needed for administrative and public use through purchase, exchange, easements, and rights-of-way. Program emphasis will be on the development and maintenance of roads and trails systems that address access issues and minimize conflicts with private landowners. See also: Lands 1: Strategic Acquisition

Coordinate management of the forest transportation system with other public and private transportation system agencies. Integrate transportation needs and information to provide for a seamless transportation system from communities to the National Forests. Maximize participation, where appropriate and consistent with management direction, with federally funded highway programs including forest highways, public Forest Service roads, alternative transportation, Scenic Byways, etc., to improve or enhance public use of National Forest System land. As appropriate, use agreements or permits with cooperators, public road agencies, and commercial users to define maintenance responsibilities and accomplish maintenance in the most efficient manner. See also: Trans 1: Transportation System

Commodity and Commercial Uses

Non-Recreation Special Use

Demand for infrastructure to provide water, energy, transportation, and other community support needs continues to receive focus. Program emphasis is on managing these uses while preserving recreational opportunities and resolving natural resource conflicts. Managers expect to annually reduce backlog of permit re-issuance by approximately 5 percent. See also: Lands 2: Land Use Authorizations

Livestock Grazing

The livestock grazing program emphasizes compliance with the Rescission Act of 1995. Priority is given to allotments where there are conflicts with natural resources or recreational use.

Minerals and Energy

Additional development of oil and gas on the Los Padres Forest will proceed only as specified by the pending decision from the Oil and Gas EIS. Permits for exploration, development, and operation of additional oil and gas facilities, such as wells, roads, tanks, pipelines, etc., are subject to further site-specific environmental study and NEPA review and will incorporate all stipulations and geographic restrictions specified by the Record of Decision for the Oil and Gas EIS. See also: ME 1: Minerals Management; ME 2: Biomass Utilization

Fire and Aviation Management

Preparedness

All wildfires burning on southern California National Forest System land are considered a threat to communities. Under severe burning conditions, a wildfire burning in the backcountry or wilderness can be a threat to one of the many at-risk mountain or foothill communities within one burn period. Aggressive fire suppression and prevention strategies are implemented throughout the forest to achieve the objectives of protecting life, property and natural resources. Maintain cooperative relationships vital to our fire management effectiveness. Maintain the suppression organization at 95 percent of the most efficient level or higher, subject to annual funding. See also: Fire 1: Fire Prevention; Fire 3: Fire Suppression Emphasis; Fire 4: Firefighter and Public Safety

Vegetative treatments will be strategically integrated to maximize community protection efforts and minimize wildfire size, while considering habitat needs. Annually review and implement the forest five-year fuels strategy. See also: Fire 2: Direct Community Protection; Fire 5: Fuelbreaks and Indirect Community Protection

Program Strategies and Tactics

This section details the program strategies the forest may choose to emphasize to progress toward achieving the desired conditions and goals described in Part 1. The forest will prioritize which strategies they choose to bring forward in any given year using the program emphasis objectives (Strategic Program Emphasis and Objectives), national and regional direction, and available funding. Lists of more specific tactics are included to help the reader understand what may be involved in implementing these strategies. Finally, each strategy that supports a Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) goal and objective is linked to the 2004-2008 National Strategic Plan (GPRA Objectives).

Management and Administration

Management Efficiency

Partnerships and Cooperative Relations

The forest will enlist the support of local communities, partners, and volunteers to promote land stewardship by jointly developing and implementing a broad range of conservation activities (See Business Plan for the Los Padres National Forest 2003).

Tribal Relations

Tribal 1: Traditional and Contemporary Uses

Allow traditional uses, access to traditionally used areas (as well as contemporary uses and needs), by tribal and other Native American interests:

- Protect, conserve, and restore traditionally or contemporarily used resources. Opportunities for traditional use of the forest and forest resources are improved and provisions are made to offer access to sites with cultural significance. Use opportunities during project planning and implementation to identify, enhance, and protect traditionally or contemporarily used resources.
- Maintain opportunities for spiritual solitude for tribal groups and individuals. Retain the character of traditional sites in conditions consistent with traditional cultural uses.
- Establish effective partnerships to address issues of mutual concern (plant material propagation, etc).
- Work collaboratively with tribes to determine appropriate locations and levels for gathering traditional plant materials.

Tribal 2: Government to Government Relations

Establish effective relationships with federally recognized tribes:

- Using the National Tribal Relations Strategy, develop government-to-government protocols with all recognized tribes and organized groups of local Native Americans within this planning cycle.
- Develop protocols to promote collaborative partnerships for heritage resource management, ecosystem restoration, comprehensive fire planning, and to recognize historic Native American access rights to land areas and resources.

Resource Management

Adaptive Management Cycle

AM 1: Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation

Report the results of land management plan monitoring and evaluation questions in the annual monitoring and evaluation report, including the actions taken to respond to new information learned through the adaptive management cycle:

- Amend the land management plan as necessary in response to monitoring and evaluation.
- Implement adaptive management measures designed to redirect activity outcomes toward improved environmental protection.
- Manage recreation opportunities to respond to changing visitor demographic profiles.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 5.

AM 2: Forestwide Inventory

Develop and maintain the capacity (processes and systems) to provide and analyze the scientific and technical information needed to address agency priorities including:

- Develop the capacity use existing databases and monitor the results to track and display the cumulative effects of forest plan implementation.
- Conduct surveys within suitable habitat to determine presence of threatened and endangered species.
- Survey suitable habitat for federally listed and Forest Service sensitive species. Update all maps and databases as information is obtained.
- Survey wetlands, vernal pools, meadows, springs and stringer meadows for plant and wildlife species (e.g. spring snails, etc).
- Identify and map all riparian areas.
- Inventory geologic resources (fossils, caves, groundwater basins and extractions, geologic special interest areas, geologic features along scenic corridors, etc.) that are available to the public, affecting other resource areas, or needing special management or protection.
- Identify and mitigate geologic hazards (seismic activity, land slides, land subsidence, flooding and erosion) through landscape and watershed planning, sediment placement site planning, engineering design, reclamation and maintenance.
- Inventory water extractions, diversions, miles/acres of streams, acres of water bodies, acres of riparian, etc.
- Study and identify how rock types and geomorphic processes directly affect soil type development, geo-technical conditions for excavations and construction activities, vegetative type distribution and development, and variation in species habitat. Develop an improved understanding of the relationships of geologic resources and hazards to ecologic functions and patterns as they apply to the management of forest lands and the effects of fire.
- Conduct integrated inventories of ecologic functions (ecological unit inventory) at the scale appropriate to the need.
- Complete invasive nonnative plant and animal inventories based on regional protocol methods.
- Work with the appropriate agencies and academic sources to develop protocols and survey guidelines, gathering current information and identifying additional research needs for resource management. Implement research as opportunities occur. Priority wildlife studies:
 1. Ecological revegetation and restoration and mine reclamation techniques.
 2. Effects of nonnative species and effects of management activities on TEPCS habitat.
 3. Effects of cowbird interactions to vireos and flycatchers.

4. Best methods for removal of exotic species (bullfrog, etc.).
5. Results of the removal of non-native species from TEPCS species habitat.
6. Effects of off-highway vehicle disturbances and other recreational activities on wildlife.
7. Validation of use of habitat linkages.
8. Effects of forest product removal on other resources.
9. Effects of management activities on oak regeneration.
10. Additional information on species specific habitat use and distribution on National Forest System land.
11. Validation of watershed standards for cumulative effects (less than 20% manipulation/yr and less than 40% over 5 years).

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 1.

Biological Resources

WL 1: Imperiled Species Management

Manage habitat to move species toward recovery and de-listing. Prevent listing of proposed and sensitive species by:

- Maintaining or improving habitat conditions for wildlife, fish and plant species.
- Using vegetation management practices to reduce habitat loss due to catastrophic fires.
- Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries to develop recovery plans for federally listed species. Implement Forest Service actions as recommended in recovery plans for federally listed species. Develop a written recovery strategy to implement the Forest Service portion of recovery objectives identified in an approved USFWS recovery plan. In the absence of an approved plan, implement interim Forest Service objectives.
- Establishing and maintaining a working relationship with county planning to insure coordination on development projects within the county.
- Where known or potential conflicts may occur, coordinating with California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) regarding fish stocking to implement measures to resolve conflicts with all TEPCS species and habitats.

Linked to GPRA:

Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2] , objective 3.

Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

WL 2: Management of Species of Concern

Implement priority conservation strategies for species or habitat (with a viability rating of 5) as identified within the species account conservation consideration section (species and habitat management strategies). Develop habitat management strategies for additional species if new information indicates a viability concern. Prioritize implementation of the most effective conservation measures when funding allows. Five general strategies have been identified below with priority species indicated for the next 3 to 5 years:

STRATEGY: EDUCATION/INFORMATION/INTERPRETATION

Importance of riparian and aquatic species and habitat:

- Arroyo chub, Santa Ana sucker, Santa Ana speckled dace and other native fishes

- Arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, coast range newt
- American dipper, southwestern willow flycatcher
- Humboldt lily, Yadon's horkelia

Value of vegetation management to species at risk:

- Golden eagle, California spotted owl, flammulated owl, long-eared owl

Importance of keeping vehicles on roads:

- Arroyo toad

Importance of keeping foot traffic on wilderness trails:

- Hutchinson's larkspur, Dudley's lousewort

Habitat fragmentation, species linkages and corridors and biological diversity:

- American badger, mountain lion, Nelson's bighorn sheep

Habitat disturbance:

- Western snowy plover

STRATEGY: SURVEY/INVENTORY/INCREASE KNOWLEDGE BASE

Riparian and Aquatic Species:

- Arroyo chub, Santa Ana speckled dace, Santa Ana sucker, Pacific lamprey, and other native fishes
- Aquatic invertebrates
- California red-legged frog, arroyo toad, southwestern pond turtle, Western spadefoot
- Southwestern willow flycatcher,
- Humboldt lily

Beach associated species:

- Western snowy plover

Terrestrial species:

- American badger, mountain lion, Nelson's bighorn sheep

Upland plants:

- Hardham's evening primrose, Hutchinson's larkspur, Yadon's horkelia, San Luis Obispo lupine, Abram's oxytheca, hooked popcorn-flower, Adobe sanicle, Parry's tetracoccus, Humboldt lily

STRATEGY: HABITAT RESTORATION/IMPROVEMENT

Streambank stabilization, riparian area plantings:

- Southern steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey, arroyo chub, Santa Ana speckled dace, and other native fishes
- Southwestern willow flycatcher

Control of invasive, nonnative species: water loving plant species such as arundo and tamarisk, warm water fish, bullfrogs, and weeds in the upland areas:

- Santa Ana sucker, partially armored three-spine stickleback, and other native fishes
- Coast range newt, arroyo toad, southwestern pond turtle

Control of feral animals: domestic sheep and dogs:

- Nelson's bighorn sheep

Vegetation and fuel treatments, prescribed burning:

- Santa Ana sucker, partially armored three-spine stickleback, southern steelhead trout, and other native fishes
- Purple martin, flammulated owl, California spotted owl
- Nelson's bighorn sheep
- Santa Lucia malacothamnus, Santa Ynez false-lupine, Parish's checkerbloom

STRATEGY: MONITOR/STUDY

Generally, federally listed species:

Riparian or aquatic species:

- Southern steelhead trout, Santa Ana sucker, Santa Ana speckled dace
- California red-legged frog, arroyo toad
- Southwestern willow flycatcher, least bell's vireo
- Additional priority species and habitat to inventory and monitor are species, primarily fairy shrimp, associated with vernal pools (although they did not fit into the viability rating 5 category).

Species responsive to vegetation treatments:

- Nelson's bighorn sheep
- California spotted owl

Species recovery after wildfire (burned area monitoring):

- Santa Ana speckled dace
- Parish's checkerbloom
- California spotted owl

Upland plant species:

- San Luis Obispo sedge, slender pentachaeta, adobe sanicle, Hickman's checkerbloom, Parish's checkerbloom, Santa Ynez false-lupine, San Gabriel Mountains dudleya

STRATEGY: HABITAT PROTECTION

Proposed Project Planning (e.g. reduce type conversion, minimize additional developments, timing of projects to avoid critical life stages):

- All species of concern benefit from sound project planning

Prescribed fire or vegetation treatment:

- Santa Ana sucker, southern steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey, Santa Ana speckled dace, arroyo chub, partially armored three-spine stickleback, California red-legged frog

- South coast red-sided garter snake, Western spadefoot, arroyo toad
- Southwestern willow flycatcher, long-eared owl, purple martin, California spotted owl, American dipper, calliope hummingbird

Coordination With Other Agencies:

- Southern steelhead trout, Santa Ana sucker
- Nelson's bighorn sheep, mountain lion, American badger
- California condor, California spotted owl

Habitat Acquisition:

- Western spadefoot, southern rubber boa
- Southwestern willow flycatcher, flammulated owl, long-eared owl, bald eagle, California spotted owl
- Mountain lion, American badger
- Aquatic species

Restricted human access during critical life stages (barriers, gates, re-routes, etc.):

- Western snowy plover, prairie falcon, golden eagle

Prevent the spread of invasive nonnative species (plant and animal):

- Southern steelhead trout, Santa Ana sucker, Santa Ana speckled dace, and other native fishes
- Arroyo toad, California red-legged frog
- Southwestern pond turtle
- Southwestern willow flycatcher

Fire Prevention and Suppression:

- Southwestern pond turtle, coast range newt, arroyo toad, mountain yellow-legged frog
- MacGillivray's warbler, Southwestern willow flycatcher, California spotted owl, flammulated owl
- American badger, mountain lion

Upland plants:

- Parish's checkerbloom, adobe sanicle

Linked to GPRA:

Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2] , objectives 1 and 3.

Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objectives 1,3, and 5.

Goal 2: Reduce the impacts from invasive species [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2], objective 1.

IS 1: Invasive Species Prevention and Control

Prevent the introduction of new invaders, conduct early treatment of new infestations, and contain and control established infestations.

- When setting priorities for treating invasive species, consider the rate of spread of the species; the sensitivity of the location, especially invasions occurring within occupied or potential habitat for threatened,

endangered or proposed species or within special management areas such as research natural areas, special interest areas, and wildernesses; and the probability that the treatment(s) will be successful.

- Prevent the introduction of invasive species and coordinate the treatment of invasive species across jurisdictional boundaries. Coordinate internally as well as with local, state and federal agencies and permittees to prevent future introductions of invasive species through stocking, recreational use, special use authorizations and all other forest management and emergency activities or decisions that could promote additional invasions. Emphasize using weed management areas to consolidate and coordinate weed prevention and treatment efforts across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Routinely monitor noxious weed control projects to determine success and to evaluate the need for follow-up treatments or different control measures. Monitor known infestations as appropriate in order to determine changes in density and rate of spread. Conduct follow-up inspections of ground disturbing activities to ensure compliance with Regional Noxious Weed Management Strategy.

Linked to GPRA Goal 2: Reduce the impacts from invasive species [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2], objective 1.

WL 4: Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants Habitat Management

Maintain and improve habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants including desirable Management Indicator Species:

- Manage State of California designated Wild Trout streams to maintain high quality habitat for wild trout populations.
- Coordinate and form partnerships with the CDFG and other cooperators such as Partners in Flight to maintain and improve fish, wildlife and plant habitat.
- Maintain and improve habitat for Management Indicator Species.
- Maintain and/or improve habitat conditions for target species within wildlife emphasis areas.
- Retrofit water developments with wildlife escape ramps as opportunities occur.
- Monitor habitat for ecological health indicators (e.g., arrundo, tamarisk and bullfrogs).
- Maintain developed wildlife water sources and other habitat improvement structures.
- Protect habitat during fire suppression activities where feasible.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

FH 1: Vegetation Restoration

Restore vegetation through reforestation or other appropriate methods after stand-replacing fires, drought, or other events or activities that degrade or cause a loss of plant communities. Where needed, implement reforestation using native tree species grown from local seed sources. In such plantings, consider long-term sustainability of the forest vegetation by taking into account factors such as fire regime and regional climate. Consider small nursery operations to facilitate reforestation and to improve restoration success where direct seeding is ineffective. Use noxious-weed-free seed in all plantings.

Linked to GPRA Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 3.

FH 2: Prevention of Type Conversion

Minimize vegetation type conversion (permanent or long-term loss of plant communities) resulting from frequent fires:

- Promote intervals greater than 35 years between fires in all coastal sage scrub types to reduce the likelihood that they will be converted to annual grasslands or other vegetation types. Within the range of the California gnatcatcher, treat chaparral adjacent to coastal sage scrub to reduce the threat of wildfire and/or to reduce the intensity of fires that burn into it.
- Protect subalpine forest and woodlands from stand-replacing fires.

- Protect closed-cone woodlands and forests (Coulter) with developing cone banks until they are sufficiently large to perpetuate stands after fire. In Coulter pine woodlands not growing in chaparral, or other highly flammable vegetation types, reduce the potential for high-intensity, stand-replacing fires.
- Protect desert woodlands (e.g., pinyon-juniper) and desert scrub vegetation from burning outside the desired range of variability. After fires, protect these types from disturbances and additional fires to ensure natural regeneration, except where more frequent fires have played a role in the maintenance of the vegetation type.
- Emphasize fire prevention and fuelbreak maintenance to reduce the number of fires burning at excessively short fire-return intervals (less than 25 years) that have degraded, or could degrade, low-elevation (below 2000 feet) chaparral.

Linked to GPRA Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2] , objectives 1 and 3.

FH 3: Restoration of Forest Health

Protect natural resource values at risk from wildfire loss that are outside the desired range of variability, or where needed for wildlife habitat improvement:

- Implement vegetation management activities to reduce tree densities and fuel loading in yellow pine and mixed conifer forests to levels similar to those that characterized forests of the pre-suppression and early suppression eras (ca. 1880-1930). Restore species composition comparable to forests of the same era with an emphasis on increasing the relative abundance of large-diameter (greater than 24 inches diameter breast height), shade-intolerant conifer species.
- Implement vegetation treatments that improve the health of Coulter pine forests and woodlands growing in chaparral. Focus treatments on stands greater than 35 years, except where it is necessary to protect life and property. In the latter case, treatments may occur in stands greater than 20 years so long as cone-seed banks are adequate to perpetuate the stands.
- Remove ladder fuels and forest floor fuel accumulations to protect stands of bigcone Douglas-fir from stand-replacing crown fires. Reduce fuel loading in chaparral adjacent to fir stands so that future wildfires are less likely to initiate crown fires from surrounding shrublands.
- Treat fuel loading in montane chaparral to reduce the likelihood that fires originating in this type will generate crown fires in adjacent forested stands.
- Manage chaparral in selected locations to protect the life and property of human inhabitants (e.g., the urban interface), to improve wildlife forage, and to protect watersheds from the adverse impacts of large, destructive, high intensity fires. In selected watersheds, manage for even-aged patch sizes of less than 5,000 acres.

Linked to GPRA Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 1.

FH 4: Insect and Disease Management

Protect natural resource values at risk due to insect or disease loss at levels outside of the desired range of variability or where needed to improve habitat:

- Thin conifer stands to prevent water stress and damage by bark beetles.
- Report unusual mortality of vegetation promptly to the staff responsible for forest health protection. Forest health protection investigates detection reports and coordinates funding requests from the forest for pest suppression and prevention projects.
- Consider desired pest management suppression projects when economically viable such as suppression of dwarf mistletoe in high value trees at developed recreation sites.

Linked to GPRA Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 1.

Physical Resources

Air 1: Minimize Smoke and Dust

Control and reduce fugitive dust in order to protect human health, improve safety and moderate or eliminate environmental impacts.

- Incorporate visibility requirements into project plans.

Air 2: Forest Air Quality Emissions

Maintain and update the inventory for wildland fire and other forest resource management emissions within the current State implementation plan (SIP). The State implementation plan inventories establish levels of air pollution that meet the long-term federal air quality attainment goals of the permitting Air Pollution Control District.

- Describe the frequency, duration and magnitude of prescribed and wildfire emissions in each Air Pollution Control District.

WAT 1: Watershed Function

Protect, maintain and restore natural watershed functions including slope processes, surface water and ground water flow and retention, and riparian area sustainability:

- Assess the impacts of existing or proposed groundwater extraction and tunneling projects and proposals in order to assure that developments will not adversely affect aquatic, riparian or upland ecosystems.
- Restore, maintain and improve watershed conditions. Assure that approved and funded rehabilitation and emergency watershed treatments are implemented in an effective and timely manner.
- Maintain or restore soil properties and productivity to ensure ecosystem health (soil microbiota and vegetation growth), soil hydrologic function, and biological buffering capacity.
- Manage riparian conservation areas (RCA) to maintain or improve conditions for riparian dependent resources. Riparian conservation areas include aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and lands adjacent to perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams as well as around meadows, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, seeps, and springs and other water bodies. Riparian dependent resources are those natural resources that owe their existence to the area such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, fairy shrimp, aquatic invertebrates, plants, birds, mammals, soil and water quality.
- Achieve and maintain natural stream channel conductivity, connectivity and function.
- Assess and manage geologic resources and hazards to integrate earth science principals and relationships into ecosystem management, reduce risks to people and resources, and interpret and protect unique values.
- Identify, prioritize based on risk, and mitigate impacts of abandoned and inactive landfills on water, soil and other resources. Stabilize and, where necessary, reclaim abandoned and inactive landfills to maintain proper watershed function, public safety and resource benefit.
- Inventory, analyze and prioritize abandoned mines to identify chemical and physical hazards, historic significance, and biological resources prior to reclamation. Mitigate safety hazards and adverse environmental impacts, conduct reclamation as needed, and assure that water quality standards are met.
- Maintain watershed integrity by replacing or disposing of displaced soil and rock debris in approved placement sites.
- Develop direction and policy (southern California-, forest, or place-wide as appropriate) for protecting, collecting, curating, and distributing paleontologic resources.

Linked to GPRA Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2] , objectives 1, 2, and 3.

WAT 2: Water Management

Manage groundwater and surface water to maintain or improve water quantity and quality:

- Assess impacts of existing and proposed groundwater extractions and tunneling projects and proposals to assure that developments will not adversely affect aquatic, riparian or upland ecosystems and other uses, resources or rights (e.g., tribal water rights).
- Promote water conservation at all National Forest administrative and authorized facilities. Protect and improve water quality by implementing best management practices and other project-specific water quality protection measures for all National Forest and authorized activities. When reviewing non-forest water-related projects that may affect forest resources, include appropriate conservation and water quality mitigation measures in the review response.
- Conserve and protect high quality water sources in quantities adequate to meet National Forest needs.
- Take corrective actions to eliminate the conditions leading to State listing of 303(d) impaired waters on National Forest System land. For those waters that are both on and off National Forest System land, ensure that Forest Service management does not contribute to listed water quality degradation.
- Actively pursue water rights and water allocation processes to secure instream flows and groundwater resources for current and future needs sufficient to sustain native riparian dependent resources and other forest resources and uses.
- Identify the need for and encourage the establishment of water releases, for current and future use, to maintain instream flow needs including channel maintenance, and to protect and eliminate impacts on riparian dependent resources.
- Participate in all Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensing and re-licensing efforts on National Forest System land to ensure sufficient consideration and protection is provided for riparian dependent resources. Incorporate instream flow, riparian, and other natural resource management requirements into 4(e) license conditions.
- Monitor water development projects to ensure that instream flows are meeting riparian dependent resource needs.
- To maintain or improve habitat containing TEPCS species, coordinate activities with CDF&G, NMFS, USFWS, State Water Resource Control Board and other appropriate agencies involved in recommending instream flow and surface water requirements for waterways.
- Cooperate with federal, tribal, State and local governments and private entities to secure the instream flow needed to maintain, recover, and restore riparian dependent resources, channel conditions and aquatic habitat.

Linked to GPRA Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2] , objective 1.

WAT 3: Hazardous Materials

Manage known hazardous materials risks:

- Develop a hazardous materials response plan that addresses risk and standard cleanup procedures.
- Coordinate with federal, tribal, State, city and county agencies and local landowners to develop emergency response guidelines for hazardous spills on National Forest System land or on adjacent non-National Forest System land with potential to affect TEPCS fish and amphibian habitat. In the event of hazardous material spills in known habitat on National Forest System lands, the Forest Service will contact the USFWS within 24 hours. Quickly contact resource personnel and use them as consultants to minimize impacts to habitat and to initiate emergency consultation with the USFWS if necessary. Provide habitat maps to response personnel for hazardous spills.

Land Adjustment

Lands 1: Strategic Acquisition

Consolidate National Forest System land base to support resource management objectives, improve management

effectiveness, enhance public benefits, and/or improve habitat condition and linkage:

- Acquire lands or interest in lands through purchase, donation, exchange, rights-of-way acquisition, transfer, interchange, and boundary adjustment to address the issues associated with complex ownership patterns such as urban interface fire protection and occupancy trespass.
- Acquire lands or rights-of-way for road and trail access to support appropriate National Forest activities and public needs.
- Work with land conservancies, local government, and others to secure long-term habitat linkages.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

Link 1: Habitat Linkage Planning

Identify linkages to surrounding habitat reserves and other open space for maintenance of biodiversity.

Collaborate with local government, developers, and other entities to complement adjacent federal and non-federal land use zones and associated design criteria:

- Participate in regional planning efforts to identify linkages to surrounding habitat reserves and other open space for maintenance of biodiversity.
- Work with land conservancies, local government and others to secure long-term habitat linkages.
- Manage forest uses and activities to be compatible with maintenance of habitat linkages.
- Actively participate with local government, developers, and other entities to protect forest values at intermix and interface zones.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

Special Designations

SD 1: Wilderness

Protect and manage wilderness to improve the capability to sustain a desired range of benefits and values and so that changes in ecosystems are primarily a consequence of natural forces. Protect and manage areas recommended for wilderness designation to maintain their wilderness values:

- Within one year of the approval of the land management plan revision, establish a schedule to review and update all existing wilderness management plans and implementation schedules and create new wilderness management plans and implementation schedules for those wildernesses where they do not exist. Accomplish this work within the life of the land management plan.
- Within three years of the designation of new wildernesses and wilderness additions, prepare wilderness management plans and implementation schedules.
- Ensure that current and future issues and management needs, including adequate biophysical and social monitoring, are addressed in all wilderness planning. Identify all use that results in adverse impacts and develop measures to alleviate those impacts to an appropriate level using state-of-the-art processes such as limits of acceptable change.

SD 2: Wild and Scenic Rivers

Manage designated Wild and Scenic River segments to perpetuate their free-flowing condition and designated classifications, and to protect and enhance their outstandingly remarkable values and water quality.

- For those designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, a Comprehensive River Management Plan and boundary declaration will be prepared and implemented as specified in the designation language.

Manage eligible Wild and Scenic River segments to perpetuate their free-flowing condition and proposed classifications, and to protect and enhance their outstandingly remarkable values and water quality through the

suitability study period, and until designated or released from consideration:

- For those eligible Wild and Scenic River segments, interim protection measures will be applied to the bed, bank, and one-quarter mile on either side of the ordinary high-water mark.

SD 3: Research Natural Areas

Protect and manage research natural areas to maintain unmodified conditions and natural processes. Identify a sufficient range of opportunities to meet research needs. Compatible uses and management activities are allowed:

- Submit establishment reports for designated research natural areas to the Regional Forester within five years of approval of the revised land management plan.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

SD 4: Special Interest Areas

Protect and manage special interest areas (SIAs) for the values and features for which they are established. Uses and management activities, including access, that complement or are subordinate to the values and features are allowed:

- Within three years of the approval of the revised land management plan, update current management plans, implementation schedules and monitoring protocols for existing designated SIAs. Within five years of the approval of the revised land management plan, prepare management plans, implementation schedules and monitoring protocols for newly designated SIAs and for existing SIAs without this documentation.

Heritage Resources

Her 1: Heritage Resource Protection

Protect heritage resources for cultural and scientific value and public benefit:

- Within this planning cycle, document all known significant cultural properties to identify any activity that does or has the potential to adversely affect or does not complement the site. Develop measures to mitigate the adverse effects or impacts.
- Use partnerships to implement site management plans for heritage resource sites, focusing on those sites with recognized significance or are at risk from public or land use effects.
- Evaluate historic sites for appropriate management. Develop site management plans for noteworthy heritage resources wherever they occur.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objectives 1 and 2.

Her 2: Public Involvement Program

Provide public involvement programs for the public to partner in the stewardship of heritage resource sites:

1. Develop public involvement programs to foster partnership in heritage resource stewardship to aid in identifying and evaluating heritage sites.
2. Work with the local communities to understand, document, preserve, and interpret the forest history for the public. Develop opportunities for partnerships with the public to maintain and reuse historic heritage resources.

Her 3: Forestwide Heritage Inventory

Increase knowledge of the occurrence, distribution, and diversity of site types for heritage resources on the forest:

- Increase the heritage resource database through the survey of nonproject acreage. Prioritize those places where the percentage of uninventoried high heritage resource sensitivity acres exceeds 50% of the total high

heritage resource sensitivity for the place.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objectives 1 and 3.

Her 4: Heritage Research

Document and strengthen the linkages between heritage research and ecosystem management and research; and integrate knowledge and appreciation of past cultures into today's diversity:

- Identify research needs and opportunities for research programs for qualified persons or groups by developing cooperative agreements.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

Public Use and Enjoyment

Recreation

REC 1: Recreation Opportunity

Manage forest land to achieve recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) objectives:

- Wilderness ROS will be mapped and implemented when existing wilderness plans and schedules are updated and/or when new wilderness plans and schedules are written.

REC 2: Sustainable Use and Environmental Design

Analyze, stabilize and restore areas where visitor use is negatively affecting recreation experiences, public safety and environmental resources. Manage visitor use within the limits of identified capacities:

- Implement recreation capacity control measures in specific high use areas as use levels become a concern.
- Implement adaptive management processes at recreation facilities to proactively respond to persons with disabilities, contemporary urban visitors, aging populations, diverse ethnic groups, and day use emphasis.

Linked to GPRA Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 1.

REC 3: Recreation Participation

Offer a wide range of high quality, environmentally sustainable developed and dispersed recreation opportunities to a rapidly growing and culturally diverse visitor population, with minimal visitor conflicts and effects to other resources:

- Develop new, environmentally sustainable recreation opportunities and infrastructure to relieve concentrated demand within existing high-use areas and to accommodate future growth and new uses elsewhere.
- Improve, remove or replace aging developed recreation infrastructure to better meet current needs and future demand. As a priority, compensate for opportunities lost due to closures.
- Conduct TEPCS occupancy surveys within potential TEPCS recreation conflict areas.
- Implement recreation residence tract consistency reviews and continuation determinations.
- Inventory and analyze existing and potential dispersed use, including recreational target shooting, water play, snow play and camping opportunities. Identify areas where that use is consistent with resource protection and public safety, and mitigate or eliminate problems over time.

Linked to GPRA Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 1.

REC 4: Conservation Education

Visitors have a greater understanding about the significance and importance of forest ecosystems, heritage resources, and the interrelationship between people and the natural environment:

- The Forest Service plays a leadership role in developing strong, well-supported conservation education partnerships with non-profit organizations, volunteer groups, communities, governments, organization camps and private entities, emphasizing and enhancing the capability of field program and project delivery, especially to underserved populations. Coordination between forests is promoted for maximum results and cost efficiencies of programs, projects and visitor centers.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

Landscape Management

LM 1: Landscape Aesthetics

Manage landscapes and built elements to achieve scenic integrity objectives:

- Use best environmental design practices to harmonize changes in the landscape and advance environmentally sustainable design solutions.

LM 2: Landscape Restoration

Restore landscapes to reduce visual effects of nonconforming features:

- Prioritize landscape restoration activities in key places. Integrate restoration activities with other resource restoration.

LM 3: Landscape Character

Maintain the character of key places to preserve their intact nature and valued attributes:

- Maintain the integrity of the expansive, unencumbered landscapes and traditional cultural features that provide the distinctive character of the place.
- Promote the planning and improvement of infrastructure along scenic travel routes.

Law Enforcement

Law 1: Enforcement

Provide law enforcement services for safety and resource protection:

- Provide law enforcement services commensurate with available staffing levels, the number of incidents recorded annually, and the ability of the public to access forestlands.
- As soon as practicable after implementing the revised land management plans, develop, update or revise Forest Orders to develop long-term orders that are applicable to all four forests of southern California and/or to individual forest needs.

Linked to GPRA Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objectives 1 and 3.

Law 2: Investigation

Criminal and civil investigations are conducted in a timely manner:

- Provide investigative services commensurate with available staffing levels, the degree of severity and impact of an incident, and the number of incidents recorded annually.

Facilities Operation and Management

Facilities Management

Fac 1: Facilities Maintenance Backlog

The backlog of facilities that do not meet the desired condition or complement the recreation setting is reduced by replacing outdated substandard facilities with safe, efficient, durable, environmentally sensitive infrastructure. Accommodate the facilities needs of new fire employees and equipment:

- Identify and evaluate applicable property or buildings of potential historic value in support of the facility master plan. Remove facilities no longer needed or abandoned, and restore sites to natural conditions.
- Reduce the backlog with priority for health and safety and accessibility compliance.
- Increase the operating efficiency of existing buildings.
- Upgrade site utilities for efficient operation. Remodel or construct new buildings to conform to approved facilities master plans.
- Construct new facilities to accommodate the 2003 supplementary fire employees and equipment.

Transportation Management

Trans 1: Transportation System

Plan, design, construct, and maintain the road and trail system to meet land management plan objectives, to promote sustainable resource conditions, and to safely accommodate anticipated levels and types of use:

- Implement landscape scale transportation system analysis on a priority basis. Coordinate with State, county, local and regional government entities, municipalities, tribal governments, other agencies, and the public.
- Add unclassified roads to the Forest Service Road System when site-specific road analysis determines there is a public need for the road.
- Enhance user safety and offer adequate parking at popular destinations on high traffic passenger car roads, while also minimizing adverse resource effects.
- Using priorities identified in the roads analysis process, reduce the road maintenance backlog to provide safe, efficient routes for recreationists and through-traveling public, and to safely accommodate fire protection equipment and other high clearance vehicles.

Linked to GPRA:

Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 1.

Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 2.

Trans 2: Unnecessary Roads

Reduce the number of unnecessary or redundant unclassified roads and restore landscapes:

- Decommission roads and trails that have been determined to be unnecessary for conversion to either the road or trail system through site-specific road analysis.
- Establish level of restoration through project planning.

Linked to GPRA Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 2.

Trans 3: Improve Trails

Develop an interconnected, shared-use trail network and support facilities that complement local, regional and national trails and open space, and that also enhance day use opportunities and access for the general public:

- Construct and maintain the trail network to levels commensurate with area objectives, sustainable resource conditions, and the type and level of use. Convert ecologically sustainable unclassified roads and trails, and other roads that meet the need for trail-based recreation.
- Manage the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail to protect the trail experience, and provide for the conservation and enjoyment of its nationally important scenic, historic, natural, and cultural qualities.
- Maintain and/or develop access points and connecting trails linked to surrounding communities and create opportunities for non-motorized trips of short duration.

Linked to GPRA Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 1.

Trans 4: Off-Highway Vehicle Opportunities

Improve off-highway vehicle opportunities and facilities for highway licensed and non-highway licensed vehicles:

- Improve 4 Wheel Drive opportunities in the easy, more, and most difficult route categories.
- In conjunction with the designation of low maintenance standard roads (and where applicable, open areas), develop motorized trails that address the needs of off-highway vehicle enthusiasts.
- Submit candidate roads and trails to the State of California, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division, for designation as the California Backcountry Discovery Trail as opportunities to afford this experience are identified.

Linked to GPRA Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 2.

Commodity and Commercial Uses

Special Forest Products

SFP 1: Offer Special Forest Products

Deliver miscellaneous forest products at appropriate levels to sustain resource values. In a manner consistent with adjacent Districts, manage special forest products to reduce or eliminate impacts to other resources:

- Record forest product removal permits to analyze magnitude of the removals.
- Use public fuelwood sales to remove large pockets of drought induced tree mortality in locations of urban interface where high fire danger is present.
- Limit collection of woody species under miscellaneous forest product permits to fuel reduction treatment areas or other project areas with completed NEPA project planning.

Lands and Special Uses

Lands 2: Land Use Authorizations

Optimize encumbered National Forest System land and efficiently administer special use authorizations (SUAs):

- All special uses comply with law, regulation, and policy. Upon termination, restore areas to a specified condition. Administer existing SUAs in TEPCS species habitats to ensure they avoid or minimize impacts to TEPCS species and their habitats.
- Work with special use holders to better administer National Forest System land and reduce administrative cost.
- Require SUAs to maximize opportunities to co-locate facilities and minimize encumbrance of National Forest System land.

- Phase out water diversion permits that adversely affect TEPCS species.
- In TEPCS species habitat that has been degraded by water withdrawals, work to amend existing permits as necessary to provide suitable water flows for TEPCS species.
- Where overhead transmission lines occur in California condor habitat, work with utility companies or permit holders to install high-visibility or avoidance devices and raptor guards on poles and other structures potentially used as perching sites by California condors.
- Cooperatively identify emergency routes around all areas of key and occupied TEPCS pebble plains plant habitat.
- Establish permit holder responsibility for public education about TEPCS species approved by the Forest Service for recreational special use events within all TEPCS species habitats.
- For special use permit holders operating within TEPCS species key and occupied habitats, develop and provide information and education (e.g., workshops, annual meetings) on ways to avoid and minimize effects of their activities on occupied TEPCS species habitat.
- Use signing, barriers, or other suitable measures to protect TEPCS species key and occupied habitats within permit areas.

Linked to GPRA:

Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

Goal 4: Help meet energy resource needs [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 4.

Lands 3: Boundary Management

Reduce backlog of landline posting and incidents of trespass:

- Survey and post key boundaries to eliminate occupancy trespass and prevent unauthorized occupancy.

Lands 4: Mineral Withdrawals

Monitor and manage withdrawal status to document condition of lands that could affect other actions (e.g., watershed protection, mining):

- Review existing withdrawals to determine if continuation is consistent with the statutory objectives of the programs for which the lands were dedicated.
- Recommend for withdrawal from mineral entry TEP species key habitats in areas of mineral potential where habitat is not protected by any other means and would benefit by withdrawal. Protective measures will be maintained for the period of time needed to provide the necessary protection for TEP species and key habitats. Implement in occupied habitats for the arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, mountain yellow-legged frog, southwestern willow flycatcher, and least Bell's vireo.

Minerals and Energy

ME 1: Minerals Management

Administer minerals and energy resources to afford commodities for current and future generations commensurate with the need to sustain the long-term health and biological diversity of ecosystems:

- Limit withdrawals from mineral entry in order to maintain opportunities to access mineral and energy resources that are important to sustain viable rural economies and to contribute to the national defense and economic growth.
- Assure long-term access and availability for leasing of oil and gas resources from environmentally suitable lands, for regional, Statewide and national energy needs.

- Use terms and conditions to offset the effects of mining consistent with conservation of habitats for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.
- Eliminate unapproved and noncompliant minerals operations.
- Facilitate environmentally and culturally sensitive exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources on National Forest System lands open to these activities or on withdrawn lands consistent with valid existing rights, and integrate these activities with the planning and management of other resources.
- Work with California Department of Fish and Game to prohibit suction dredging to protect threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species.
- Work with the Bureau of Land Management to formalize the status of abandoned and idle wells and ancillary facilities and the restoration of the land to natural conditions.
- For approved mining operations within occupied TEPCS habitat, riparian habitat, or other areas with species of concern, monitor mining operations as needed to ensure compliance with plans of operation.

ME 2: Biomass Utilization

Seek opportunities to use debris from forest thinning and mortality removal for production of energy.

Fire and Aviation Management

Fire and Fuels Management

Fire 1: Fire Prevention

Reduce the number of human-caused fires and associated human and environmental impacts. Focus fire prevention programs on the urban interface, TEPCS species habitat, vegetative areas threatened with type conversion and areas of major recreation use:

- Consider application of fire retardant along roads and adjacent to areas of high recreation use where human-caused fires are frequent.
- Consider full or partial forest closures when there is a lack of firefighter capability or extreme weather and fuel conditions that would result in unstoppable wildfires.
- Continue with environmental and fire prevention education in the classroom in local schools.

Linked to GPRA Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 2.

Fire 2: Direct Community Protection

Reduce the number of high risk/high value, and high and moderate risk acres using both mechanical treatments and prescribed fire. Identify and schedule for treatment the high risk and high value acres near communities, including the installation of wildland urban interface (WUI) defense and threat zone vegetation treatments. Highest priority should be given to those areas with substantial drought and insect-killed vegetation that present a significant threat to life and property in entire communities:

- Promote removal of tree mortality adjacent to structures as the first step in reducing threats to human life and investments.
- When National Forest System lands are managed for direct community protection, consider the use of Memorandums of Understanding with Fire Safe Councils as a means of allowing residents to meet State fire law or county brush clearance ordinances on a combination of private and public lands.
- Herbicides or the repetitive use of prescribed fire should be used in the WUI defense zone on National Forest System land to avoid expensive treatments of resprouting chaparral species.

Linked to GPRA Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objectives 1 and 3.

Fire 3: Fire Suppression Emphasis

Improve wildfire suppression capability when in proximity to communities or improvements. A full range of suppression strategies may be used elsewhere on the forest. All natural ignitions will be suppressed:

- Cross train with other fire agencies to improve suppression coordination and performance on fires burning in the wildland urban interface or developed area intermix.
- During periods of limited firefighter availability, communities within the forest direct protection area should be the highest priority for initial attack coverage.

Linked to GPRA Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 2.

Fire 4: Firefighter and Public Safety

Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity. Integrate all fire management activities with those of other government agencies and conduct fire management activities in a cost effective manner:

- Improve residential inspection capability to enhance the defensible space around structures.
- In concert with other agencies and Fire Safe Councils, develop evacuation and structure protection plans that will enhance both firefighter and public safety.

Linked to GPRA Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 2.

Fire 5: Fuelbreaks and Indirect Community Protection

Maintain the existing system of roadside fuelbreaks and fuelbreaks along watershed boundaries to minimize fire size and the number of communities threatened by both fires and floods. Consider constructing new fuelbreaks on land outside of wilderness or other special designations.

- Consider an opportunistic approach to fuels management. Take advantage of wildfire occurrence and wherever possible, connect wildfires to forest health and wildlife habitat improvement projects as well as fuelbreaks to maintain multiple lines of community defense and to minimize future wildfire patch size.
- Pre-plan fire suppression activities to avoid or minimize the use of locations of known invasive nonnative species.

Linked to GPRA Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objectives 1 and 3.

Place Based Program Emphasis

The forest has been divided into a series of geographical units that we call places. Each place has its own landscape character. Landscape character has been described as an overall visual and cultural impression of landscape attributes, the physical appearance and cultural context of a landscape that gives it an identity and "sense of place."

Each place has a theme, setting, desired condition and program emphasis section.

- Theme - refers to images of the landscape that can be defined with a brief set of physical, visual or cultural attributes that encapsulate the sense of place.
- Setting - provides a description of the landscape character of the place.
- Desired Condition - paints a picture of what the place could be as the forest implements activities to move toward the overall forest-wide desired conditions.
- Program Emphasis - identifies priority activities the forest will emphasize in the next 3 to 5 years.

These are the places identified for the Los Padres National Forest:

- Arroyo Seco
- Avenales
- Big Sur
- Black Mountain
- Colson
- Cuesta
- Cuhama-Highway 166 Front
- Figueroa-Santa Ynez
- Highway 33 Corridor
- Hungry Valley/Mutau
- Mt. Pinos
- Ojai-Piru Front Country
- Pozo/La Panza
- Rockfront
- San Rafael
- Santa Barbara Front
- Sespe
- Ventana

Arroyo Seco

Theme: A deep-river gorge landscape offering family water play next to an undisturbed, remote wilderness.



Setting: The Arroyo Seco Place, in the eastern portion of the Monterey District, includes the Arroyo Seco Recreation Area in the northwest corner of the place, and to the south, the Arroyo Seco River and its gorge. East of the Arroyo Seco River, about two-thirds of the northern part of the place is in the Ventana Wilderness. The southern one-third is adjacent to the Fort Hunter-Liggett military reservation. The Arroyo Seco River, with its recreation area, its unique gorge, and its remote and rugged features, is the dominant feature along the eastern boundary of the place.

Junipero Serra Peak has an isolated montane mixed conifer forests at its summit. South of the wilderness, along County Road 4050, there are excellent woodlands and savannas composed of three oak species including monarch valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*). In fact, the candidate Valley Oak Research Natural Area, at the boundary of the forest and military reservation, is one of the few examples of intact valley oak woodlands on public lands in the State.

In addition to the geologically significant and scenic inner gorge of the Arroyo Seco River, another notable geologic feature is the "the rocks," a formation that extends west from Reliz Canyon. This collection of rock outcrops collectively is known as Wagon Caves.

With the exception of the Arroyo Seco Recreation Area, which is accessible via County Road G16, the place is 90% wilderness and largely undeveloped. In fact, most of the Arroyo Seco Place has no access, especially along the northern and eastern boundaries of the forest. The Arroyo Seco/Indians Road (3050) is a major travel route that connects the Arroyo Seco Recreation Area to the Indians area and then continues through Hunter-Liggett and the San Antonio Mission. This road bisects the eastern and western portions of the Ventana Wilderness and offers outstanding vistas of the river's inner gorge. The road also provides access to the wild, western portion of the wilderness via a crossing near Escondido and Santa Lucia Memorial Campgrounds.

The Arroyo Seco River draws visitors from the nearby valley communities of King City, Greenfield, and Salinas and serves as a refuge from the hot, dry valley summers. By contrast, coastal visitors from as far away as San Jose and Santa Cruz visit the area to escape summer fog and to enjoy the remote setting. High-quality developed recreation is being provided at the Arroyo Seco Recreation area. The recreation area offers a spectrum of opportunities including camping, hiking, and water play and therefore represents a major recreational contribution to nearby communities. Thus, this place provides an unusual contrast of concentrated use in the Arroyo Seco facility and the solitude of the rugged Ventana Wilderness.

The perennial Arroyo Seco River is a Wild and Scenic River candidate that is fed by isolated, rugged tributaries. It features a precipitous gorge that is seasonally accessible by the Arroyo Seco/Indians road. When the Arroyo Seco/Indians road is open, a touring loop from King City offers views of the river as it flows from Indians area. At the Indians an old, adobe building that was the first ranger station in the area still stands; it is the only Forest Service adobe structure in California. The Indians area is also the site of summer recreational residences that serve as urban retreats along the river. Hiking and driving for pleasure on the few roads in the area reward the visitor with spectacular wildflower displays in some years.

Native American historic sites abound along the Arroyo Seco River; ceremonial and gathering activities still occur at numerous sites. Both Junipero Serra Peak and the Arroyo Seco inner gorge have sacred significance to Native Americans. The Wagon Caves has been proposed as a special interest cultural area to be protected as a valuable historic site.

Recommended Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Arroyo Seco River 15.1 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- Ventana Wilderness 58,278 acres

Proposed Special Interest Areas:

- Milpitas 8,995 acres

Proposed Research Natural Areas:

- Valley Oak 108 acres

Desired Condition: Arroyo Seco/Indians is maintained as a naturally evolving and natural appearing landscape that function as a wilderness entry as well as offering family use along the river's edge. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the mosaic patterns of the vegetation; the free flow of the river and the opportunities for touring that interprets the cultural history of the area.

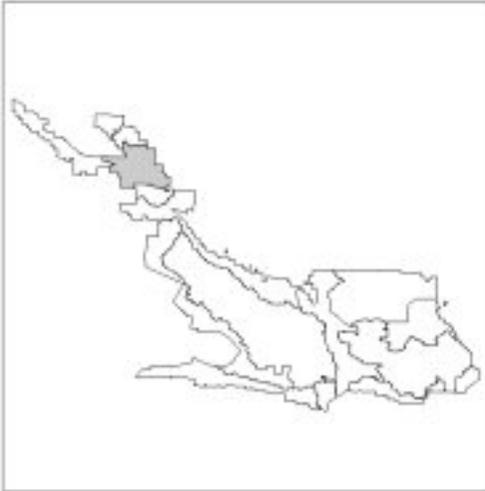
Program Emphasis: Maintain and enhance the unique water-based recreation experience along the Arroyo Seco

River while mitigating any negative impacts of visitor use within this steelhead trout watershed. This mitigation may include limiting the number of visitors and/or restrictions on seasonal use of sensitive habitat areas to minimize potential impacts.

Maintain facilities at the Arroyo Seco Recreation Area. Increase visitor education relative to the habitat needs of sensitive biological resources and protection and management of the natural and cultural resources along the river. Enhance access to the Ventana Wilderness where feasible.

Avenales

Theme: Rural ranching within a cultural landscape of rolling blue oak and valley oak woodlands and savannas. Grazing is a major activity within this place as well as primitive recreation in the two wilderness areas.



Setting: The rural and isolated landscape of this place is made up of mountains and low hills that are bisected by a well-developed valley adjacent to the upper Salinas River. The valley bottom, including the river, is almost entirely privately owned but flanked on both sides by the public lands in the rugged La Panza Range and Garcia Mountain. The Salinas River and Alamo Creek originate in watersheds feeding the valley. The valley separates the Garcia Wilderness that covers most of the southeast trending Garcia Mountain from the Machesna Mountain Wilderness that occupies the midsection of the La Panza Range. The American Canyon Research Natural Area is nested within the Machesna Mountain Wilderness.

Valley vegetation includes annual grasslands and extensive blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) woodlands and savannas. Blue oak woodlands and forests extend onto public lands, especially in American Canyon, Los Machos Hills, around Stony Creek and near the Avenales Observation Point. The riparian corridor along the Salinas River is lined with open Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and willow woodlands. Upland mountainous terrain is clothed almost entirely in chaparral. The American Canyon RNA protects the best examples of Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*)/chaparral forests and woodlands on the central coast.

Blue oak woodlands are vital wildlife habitat and support a wide variety of vertebrate species. Historically, owners of the Avenales Ranch, in cooperation with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), introduced a herd of tule elk (*Cervus elaphus nannodes*) that now ranges onto National Forest System lands. Castle Crag, a looming rock outcrop on the edge of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness, is an historic California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) nesting site, and more recently the site of successful condor reintroductions.

The Avenales Place has limited public access because entryways into the valleylike Pozo Road are gated. Seasonal access to American Canyon Campground is afforded to the public during hunting season. Off-highway vehicle trails skirt the periphery of the Machesna Wilderness and Garcia Wilderness and provide jumping off points for hikers.

The area is managed primarily for livestock grazing (nine allotments are under permit), dispersed recreation, hunting, heritage resources and historic sites. Recreational use is generally low because the place is not readily accessible by designated trails or roads. Infrastructure for nearby urban areas includes electrical power lines that cross the place and communication sites on Las Pilitas Mountain.

Existing Wilderness:

- Garcia Wilderness 13,933 acres
- Machesna Mountain Wilderness 18,304 acres

Recommended Wilderness:

- Garcia Mountain 1,334 acres
- Machesna Mountain 4,604 acres

Existing Research Natural Areas:

- American Canyon 1,529 acres

Desired Condition: Avenales is maintained as a pastoral and naturally evolving landscape that functions as wilderness and ranchland grazing areas. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the pastoral qualities of grazing activities, the oak-grasslands and the Coulter pine-chaparral forested areas.

Program Emphasis: Improve condition of non-motorized access to wilderness. Acquire the few inholdings in the wilderness areas if the opportunity arises. Repair the road to the La Panza/Las Pilitas communication site, and better maintain the site. Riparian vegetation of the Salinas River on forestlands is to be maintained in a healthy condition. Improve access to the area in a way that does not generate conflicts between uses. Work on creating a trail link between Machesna and Garcia wildernesses. Add emphasis on maintenance or enhancement of local deer and tule elk habitat.

Big Sur

Theme: An international destination defined by spectacular land-ocean interface scenery. The natural landscape, including the fog-shrouded, windswept, rugged coastline is exemplified by an independent, eclectic use of natural materials that create the image of the place and the spirit of the people. Big Sur is valued as a touring corridor that provides access to the Ventana and Silver Peak Wildernesses, the Big Sur Wild and Scenic River, and postcard natural images.



Setting: The Big Sur Place is a long, narrow coastal strip of land along the western edge of the Santa Lucia Range. California Highway 1, also known as the Cabrillo Highway, is part of the California Scenic Highway System, and an "All American Road". It is a favorite touring destination for regional and international visitors. The communities of Monterey, Big Sur, San Simeon, and Cambria are gathering places for visitors and serve as the portals to touring, hiking, and destinations, such as the Hearst Castle at San Simeon. Highway 1 traverses the

length of this place, winding in and out of the narrow canyons and hugging steep cliffs above the rugged Pacific Ocean coastline.

Most of the place is remote, undeveloped, and relatively inaccessible. Approximately half of the place is within the Silver Peak and Ventana Wildernesses and serves as a gateway to other portions of these wilderness areas and the Wild and Scenic Big Sur River. Despite its remoteness, there are numerous trails that provide access to the Ventana and Silver Peak Wildernesses.

Other than wilderness, numerous special designations are found within the Big Sur Place. The Cone Peak Gradient Research Natural Area, established in 1987, provides research opportunities in a mixed evergreen forest. Three special interest areas (SIAs) exhibit rare and exemplary botanical values. The Alder Creek and Lion Den Springs SIAs boast groves of endemic Sargent cypress, and the Southern Redwood SIA is home to the southernmost stand of natural redwoods.

Dramatic, steep, unstable oceanfront slopes are synonymous with the Big Sur landscape. Narrow marine terraces with hidden coves and beaches occur along some stretches of the shoreline and serve as a testament to changes in sea level over geologic time. Rounded ridge-tops with steep, rugged, side-slopes characterize the mountains that reach from sea level to 6,000 feet over short distances, creating dramatic contrasts of color, texture and scale. The ocean edge is juxtaposed to this mountainous landscape and creates spectacular scenery around every turn in the road. Water runs off this area quickly, creating many small streams and several rivers with dramatic waterfalls.

Although largely covered by chaparral, coastal sage scrub and prairies, the Big Sur Place is noted for the southernmost stands of coast redwoods in a vegetative mosaic of pine, mixed evergreen forest, and riparian vegetation. Coastal fog, spring wildflowers, coastal prairies, coastal sage scrub and chaparral offer seasonal contrasts of color and viewing distances that make this an area to visit many times. One can also see terrestrial and marine mammals, pelagic life, and land birds in this land to ocean interface. As a transition zone between northern and southern California floras, and as an interface between land and marine environments, it is an area of unusually high biodiversity. Many of the coastal streams provide habitat for federally listed steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), an oceangoing rainbow trout. The ridges of the Santa Lucia Mountains supply roosting and feeding habitat for California condors that soar in the thermals created by the steep, ocean-facing terrain.

The integrity of the landscape is primarily affected by construction and maintenance of Highway 1 on land that is constantly shifting and moving, creating a fragile balance between human use and geomorphic processes. Frequent landslides have promoted several exotic plant species, which grow primarily on disturbed soil. The place has a history of small and large wildfires that result from a combination of productive vegetation and hot, dry summers just a short distance inland from the coastal marine influence. The highly erosive, sediment-based soils coupled with steep, unstable slopes generate significant sediments that are augmented by road maintenance and removal of ground cover by fires. These sediments result in slough material removal problems from regular, wintertime landslides that also affect offshore marine sanctuaries.

Human inhabitation of Big Sur dates back approximately 10,000 years. The Esselen Tribe of American Indians traditionally lived in the central portion, while the Salinan tribe inhabited the southern portion of the place. Coastal travel along the De Anza Trail has been documented from the mission period through World War II. Homesteads were the first developments along the coast. There is also a strong Civilian Conservation Corps influence on historic bridges and other historic facilities to be found throughout the Big Sur.

The beauty of Big Sur, and its location between major northern and southern population centers, makes it a place to be protected from development and overuse.

Existing Wilderness:

- Silver Peak Wilderness 8,167 acres
- Ventana Wilderness 22,843 acres

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- Alder Creek 23 acres

- Lion Den Spring 81 acres
- Southern Redwood 17 acres

Existing Research Natural Areas:

- Cone Peak Gradient 2,734 acres

Desired Condition: The Big Sur Place is maintained as a naturally evolving and natural appearing landscape that functions as an international destination defined by spectacular land-ocean interface scenery. The valued attributes to be preserved over time are stands of redwoods within a mosaic of other vegetation, riparian vegetation appearing as prominent ribbons, grasslands that appear as openings across flat plateaus along the coast, and a rustic/rural built environment that reflects the eclectic character of the land and people.

Program Emphasis: Retain the internationally valued scenic beauty and biodiversity of this place. Management will be particularly sensitive to the fragility of the unstable landscape and the co-mingling of terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Continue emphasis on visitor education relative to the unique assemblage of threatened or endangered species including the California condor, bald eagle, steelhead trout and western snowy plover.

Implement predator control to protect occupied western snowy plover and California least tern nesting sites in key and occupied habitats. Increase efforts to control the introduction or spread of invasive noxious plants like pampas grass, and predatory exotic wildlife species such as the bullfrog to aide in the recovery of the threatened California red-legged frog and endangered Smith's blue butterfly.

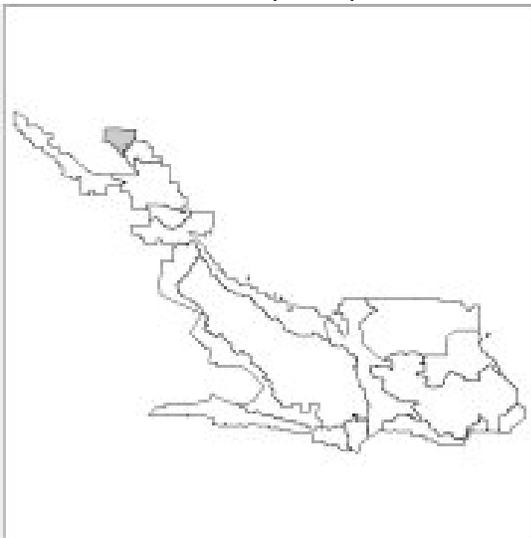
Vegetative management emphasis includes creation of added community defense zones around the urbanized areas while addressing such forest health issues as the spread of Sudden Oak Death, which holds the potential to cause devastation of coastal forested habitats.

Analyze the potential for a visitor information facility on the south coast (Pacific Valley south to forest boundary). Maintain and upgrade existing campground facilities along Highway 1. Manage recreation use and related facilities to maintain scenic integrity. Manage to protect and enhance scenic qualities through cooperative efforts with Cal Trans, California State Parks and others.

The Brazil Ranch will be a place for conferences and educational opportunities focused on bringing the arts and humanities together with natural resource management. It will be a place where traditional land uses can be showcased and studied.

Black Mountain

Theme: An undisturbed, intact, open-space landscape of chaparral with blue oak woodlands and savannas. Home of wild horses and sensitive plant species.



Setting: The Black Mountain Place is the most distinctive landform in this northeastern arm of Los Padres National Forest. The highly visible, silver-domed Federal Aviation Administration radar (FAA) facility at its summit further emphasizes the mountain as the central topographic feature in this expansive, relatively undisturbed landscape. The forest boundary defines three sides of this place. Descending north, east and west from the mountain to the edge of the National Forest, the terrain becomes rolling foothills and flatlands that spread onto large neighboring ranches. Streams such as Fernandez Creek are intermittent, but there are an unusually high number of springs and seeps scattered throughout the area.

Chaparral covers the entire mountain and most of the place but below elevations of 1,800 feet, large patches of blue oak woodlands and savannas intermix with chaparral. It is home to a wild horse herd that roams this area and to two sensitive plant species.

Access to much of this place is limited by the absence of roads. The main road to the FAA facility is paved. Portions of the area receive considerable public use for such activities as recreational mining, hunting, mountain biking, and OHV use. There are two allotments and two special use pastures. The Black Mountain Place also supports a number of special uses including power lines, an apiary, and several popular filming locations.

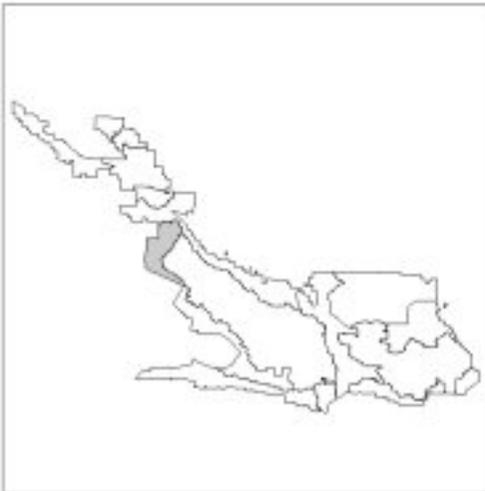
There are no special designations.

Desired Condition: The Black Mountain Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as an open space. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the area's contiguous, uniform vegetation pattern on the slopes and the oak grasslands on the lower elevations.

Program Emphasis: This place needs little management change from current direction. It supports livestock and wild horse grazing at levels consistent with maintenance of viable native wildlife such as the local deer and upland game populations. It supports a variety of special uses and dispersed and developed recreation with few conflicts. The most significant management challenge is trespass along the forest boundary from private landowners. Otherwise, the area supports a variety of uses in an isolated, relatively untrammelled landscape.

Colson

Theme: A traditional, rustic, back-road area utilized for hunting, backcountry touring and camping. An intermix of recreation, grazing, and threatened and endangered species habitat activities identify this place.



Setting: The Colson Place is a steeply mountainous area less than an hour's drive from Santa Maria. This place is situated east of Tepusquet Canyon, south of State Highway 166, and north of the Sisquoc River. Local ranches border the Colson Place on the west, north, and south, with the San Rafael Wilderness on the eastern border. The landscape character is natural appearing with little development.

The South and North Fork La Brea Creeks drain through the Colson Place and are the primary watersheds in the area. The Colson Quarry extracts flagstone for commercial sale from private land. In addition, there are several abandoned historic mines.

Vegetation is primarily mixed chaparral with oak woodlands with riparian vegetation in the canyon bottoms. The

riparian areas consist of diverse populations of deciduous and evergreen plant species. The area is highly susceptible to lightning- and human-caused fires. Tepusquet Canyon has numerous homes and ranches that are threatened by wildfire due to access problems and fuel accumulations.

Wildlife is diverse in this place. The threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) is found in and adjacent to the riparian zones in some areas. Livestock grazing and recreational use disturb frog populations. Currently, the South Fork La Brea Creek has seasonal closures to vehicles and livestock grazing during the breeding season of the California red-legged frog.

Access to the Colson Place is via Sierra Madre or Colson Canyon Roads. Most of the area is used for dispersed recreational activities including hunting, equestrian, hiking, camping. There are six semi-primitive campgrounds in the area. Colson Campground has been subject to vandalism and is the site of large parties, requiring additional Forest Service presence to control inappropriate activities. Most recreationists visiting the Colson Place are repeat visitors from the Central Coast desiring a rustic outdoor experience away from urban centers. Historic use of the place is connected mainly to Native Americans, who used the area as a trade route between the coast and interior valleys.

Development of private land adjacent to the forest boundaries is occurring; private lands intermingle with public lands throughout the place. These are mostly family ranches that are managed for livestock production. There are four allotments and two livestock-area special use permits within the place. All but one of the allotments extends into adjacent places.

There is a communication site on Tepusquet Peak that houses a transmitter for a television station in Santa Maria, as well as other communication facilities.

Recommended Wilderness:

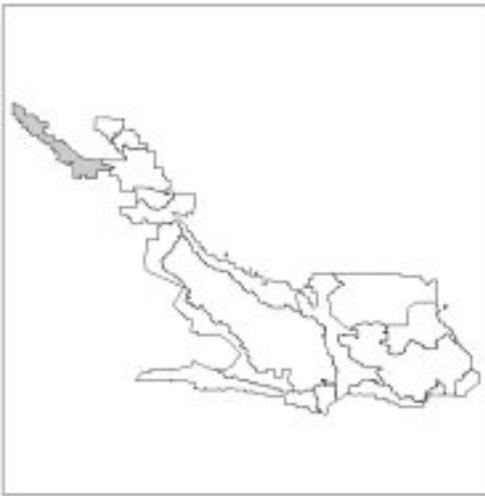
- La Brea 272 acres

Desired Condition: The Colson Place is maintained as a natural appearing and pastoral landscape that function as a traditional back-road area for recreation and grazing. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the riparian vegetation adjacent to the oak-grasslands along the canyon bottoms, the mix of chaparral vegetation on the slopes, and the pastoral qualities of grazing activities. The built environment maintains the dispersed, rural character that recalls the family histories that make this place.

Program Emphasis: Focus on continuing multiple uses in this place, while minimizing conflicts between the California red-legged frog, recreation, and livestock grazing activities. Implement forest health projects to reduce fuel accumulations and threats to adjacent homes and ranches. Design and maintain facilities to mitigate inappropriate uses, while providing additional Forest Service presence in the area.

Cuesta

Theme: An urban, scenic backdrop that also serves as the portal to the coast. Steep canyons shelter important habitats. Day-use trails, wilderness and recreation provide direct linkages to urban areas. Cuesta Ridge Botanical Area offers opportunities for interpretation of serpentine plant communities and the Sargent cypress (*Cupressus sargentii*). Communication sites along the ridgeline are an increasingly important activity in this place.



Setting: This place is situated in the narrow, northwest trending Santa Lucia Mountains. The Santa Lucia Mountain Range, locally referred to as "East and West Cuesta," creates a dramatic backdrop to coastal communities such as San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande. Highway 101 climbs through Cuesta Grade and links the coast to inland communities like Santa Margarita, Paso Robles and Atascadero. The ridge top offers panoramas of the ocean and coastal communities, as well as the expansive inland ranchlands and towns. There are several special area designations in the place including the Santa Lucia Wilderness in which there is opportunity for hiking along year-round streams. The Black Butte Research Natural Area provides opportunities for research on knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*)-chaparral and Sargent cypress plant communities, while the Cuesta Ridge SIA supports stands of Sargent cypress, Coulter pine, and 12% of the forest's sensitive plant species.

Watersheds in the place are important components of the functioning of ecosystems that support the Morro Bay watershed and National Estuary Program. Lopez Lake is used as a primary water supply for coastal communities such as Arroyo Grande.

Dense riparian vegetation in this place supports abundant wildlife. The Cuesta Ridge Botanical Area offers an opportunity for viewing and interpreting serpentine plant communities such as Sargent cypress forests. Numerous rare plant species are associated with this unusual parent material.

The presence of nearby communities increases concern for wildfire, including management of the place as an urban interface. The area has experienced several large fires in the past that have threatened nearby communities and resulted in losses of homes. The landscape consists of steep mountains and low hills with rounded ridges, where narrow, deep canyons dissect steep mountainous slopes. The ridge tops and steep slopes are dominated by mixed chaparral and are surrounded by private open grasslands.

Wildlife is diverse in this place and includes condors, peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), steelhead trout in some streams, and a dense spotted owl population in Lopez Canyon. Huffs Hole is both a condor and peregrine falcon breeding area. Highway 101 creates a major barrier to wildlife and plant dispersal between East and West Cuesta ridges.

The proximity of the mountains to urban areas makes this area particularly attractive for day-use activities, like mountain biking, pleasure driving and hiking. Recreational use is consistently high. Cerro Alto is a popular developed recreation site and is operated by a concessionaire. Dispersed recreation opportunities are numerous. Another popular attraction is the High Mountain Lookout, which is also a peregrine falcon recovery site and California condor interpretive point.

There are a number of locations within this place where access problems exist, or where roads are in poor shape and create a safety hazard. Private land block access to the Garcia Wilderness and Trout Creek. Numerous social trails on West Cuesta Ridge are creating an extensive undesignated trail system. Also, because there are numerous private in-holdings within the forest boundary, especially between Bald Mountain and the Santa Lucia Wilderness, there are conflicts between private landowners and mountain bikers and hikers.

The mountains and the Highway 101 corridor make this place a vital location for a variety of special uses including communication sites, power lines, a railroad line, a water tunnel, high pressure oil and gas lines, and a fiber-optic line. There are also nine livestock grazing allotments in this place.

Existing Wilderness:

- Santa Lucia Wilderness 18,403 acres

Recommended Wilderness:

- Garcia Mountain 132 acres

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- Cuesta Ridge 1,304 acres

Existing Research Natural Areas:

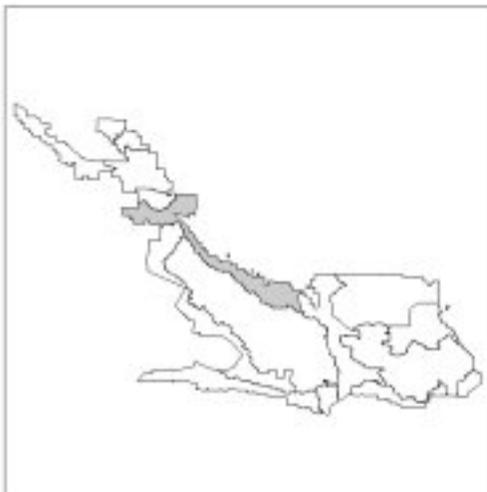
- Black Butte 940 acres

Desired Condition: Cuesta-Front is maintained as a naturally evolving and natural appearing landscape that functions as the scenic backdrop and portal to the coast. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the mosaic patterns of vegetation in the backdrop, the natural skyline silhouette, and the sustainability of the oak woodlands.

Program Emphasis: Consistent with the natural setting and integrity, focus on defensible space and community protection from wildfires, as well as developing a trail system on West Cuesta for mountain bikes, equestrians, and hikers. Seek opportunities to increase interpretation of the designated botanical area, sensitive habitat of the California red-legged frog and spotted owl, and geologic resources. Work cooperatively with private landowners and San Luis Obispo County to provide road and trail access to the National Forest.

Cuyama-Highway 166 Front

Theme: A rural, scenic backdrop with an agricultural feel mixed with emerging ranchette communities. This place is a human and wildlife corridor connecting coastal to inland valley communities.



Setting: The Cuyama-Highway 166 Front is located along the southwest edge of Cuyama Valley with expansive vistas along the Highway 166 corridor between Santa Maria and the Cuyama Valley. Highway 166 is a main transportation corridor between coastal communities, Interstate 5, and the Bakersfield area. The Cuyama Front portion of the place consists of a comparatively steep, mountain escarpment that stands in striking contrast to the flat, rural Cuyama Valley floor. Valley-facing slopes are steep and periodically interrupted by narrow, highly eroded canyons and draws. Family ranches are located within and adjacent to the place, much of which was an historic Spanish Land Grant. Except for a few roads and trails, public access is limited. In addition, there are scattered potreros on the eastern section of Sierra Madre Ridge that have significant cultural resource values.

Watersheds of the place are the source of water for people living in the Santa Maria Valley. The Cuyama

watershed drains into the Twitchell Reservoir that supplies water to the Santa Maria River basin and agriculture in the Santa Maria Valley. Twin Rocks, Miranda Pine Mountain, Timber Peak, McPherson Peak, and Santa Barbara Canyon are the prominent topographic features of the place.

Plant communities in this place are diverse and range from ridge top forests to areas of dense mixed chaparral, oak woodlands, and open annual grasslands. Five rare plant species are present and this place includes the northern most extension of the redshank (*Adenostoma sparsifolium*) community. The potreros offer an unusual array of herbaceous species that are closely aligned to the Caliente Mountain flora. In the past there have been frequent lightning- and human-caused wildfires as well as vegetative treatment activities involving prescribed fire.

This place serves as a wildlife corridor to the Caliente Mountains. Condors have been released from here, and tule elk roam in the area. There are threatened California red-legged frogs in the Cuyama River and there is southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli extimus*) habitat.

Recreational use of this area is relatively low because access is limited and is "off-the-beaten-path", and largely by-passed by recreationists. The land ownership pattern is a mix of private and publicly owned parcels. Private parcels adjacent to forest preclude access to much of this place.

One of the most important features of this place is its sense of remoteness and the opportunities it provides for the exploration of open space in nearby forests. Some hunting and oil exploration occur here, but the landscape is most prized for its dispersed recreation opportunities and scenic qualities. Some of the more popular activities in this place include hiking, hunting, mountain biking, horseback riding, condor viewing, hang-gliding, and paragliding.

All or parts of 10 allotments are present in this place. In several allotments grazing has created conflicts with riparian habitat, threatened species and heritage resources.

The place hosts a number of important special uses. There is a 30-inch oil pipeline, a power line, producing oil leases, and communication sites located at Olive Canyon, Hibbard Hill, McPherson Peak and Plowshare Peak. Several of these administrative sites are outside the forest boundary.

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- Sierra Madre 3,852 acres

Desired Condition: Cuyama–Highway 166 Front is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a rural backdrop to agricultural land and small communities. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the undeveloped quality and character of the backdrop, the natural skyline silhouette, the intrinsic scenic qualities that make the route a scenic highway, the openings created by *potreros*, and the contrast of the oak woodlands.

Program Emphasis: Focus management on heritage values in the special interest area, maintenance of scenic values, fire suppression, development of public access, and livestock management. Minimize conflicts with heritage resources, wildlife species, and rare plants. Add emphasis on developing cooperative habitat management projects focused on improvement of deer and tule elk habitat. Continue to restrict motorize use year-round on the Sierra Madre ridge road to protect heritage values.

Figueroa-Santa Ynez

Theme: A highly scenic, easily accessible recreation area that features mountain wildflowers and river-play activities. Figueroa-Santa Ynez is a prime watershed for coastal, urban populations.



Setting: The Figueroa-Santa Ynez Place contains hills and dissected plains and is located between the Santa Ynez River and the San Rafael Mountains, which run northwest to the Sisquoc River. Elevations range from sea level to approximately 5,000 feet, with a corresponding vegetation change that ranges from grasslands, chaparral, and oak woodlands at lower and mid-elevations to mixed conifer forests at higher elevations. As viewed from the Santa Ynez Valley, there is a striking transition from valley vineyards and horse ranches to forested peaks, with mosaics of grass and brush in the intermediate elevations. Views from Figueroa Peak encompass the entire Santa Ynez Valley, Cachuma Lake, and, on clear days, views of the ocean near the Burton Mesa, 40 miles to the southwest.

This place is easily accessible from rapidly growing coastal communities, from the Santa Ynez corridor, from Scenic Highway 154, and from the nearby Santa Ynez Valley. In the northwest portion of the Figueroa-Santa Ynez Place, visitors can experience distinct seasonal changes and participate in day use activities and camping. This portion of the place also serves as an entry point to the San Rafael Wilderness. Easily accessible roads provide a convenient loop for pleasure driving through scenic, mountain and rolling foothill landscapes. Figueroa Road is an exceptional scenic route.

One of the distinctive features of the Figueroa area is the periodic display of wildflowers that attracts people for tours and picnicking. The area is also popular during the winter months, as this place offers snow play for short durations. The Figueroa area links the San Rafael Wilderness and the activities of the Santa Ynez Valley, offering a diversity of landscapes from pastoral lowland ranches to some of the most rugged mountains in southern California.

Cachuma and Gibraltar reservoirs, situated along the upper Santa Ynez River, date back to large water projects at the turn of the century. The seasonally flowing Santa Ynez River is the major source of water for communities along its banks, including Santa Ynez, Solvang, Buellton, and Lompoc. It also supplies water to coastal communities such as Santa Barbara and Goleta and is a popular recreational area for water-oriented activities. The hot, dry inland summer weather and limited availability of running streams makes the Santa Ynez River a valued resource to forest recreational users.

Dramatic rock formations distinguish the Santa Ynez Canyon, one of the longest drivable stretches of accessible water in southern California. A major recreation residence area and the Santa Ynez Recreational Area are situated at the lower end of the Santa Ynez River. Upstream recreation centers on dispersed activities such as fishing and picnicking. Seasonal road and campground closures have been placed in the upper Santa Ynez watershed to protect TEPCS species.

Because of the heavy recreational use in this place, it is particularly susceptible to fire. Moreover, fires originating in the forest may threaten nearby communities like Los Olivos. The long, narrow shape of the place and its proximity to valley communities make it an emphasis area for community defense fuels treatment zones.

The Santa Ynez River was an extensive prehistoric settlement that supported a large Chumash population. The area has numerous examples of rock art and other archaeological sites and is still widely used for plant gathering and ceremonies by Native Americans.

Other activities occurring within this place range from camping, hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, and recreational shooting to special uses such as mountaintop communications facilities, range allotments, and an

important utility corridor.

Inholdings scattered throughout the area create access barriers to roads and trails. As a result, OHV trespass is a problem. Designated trails are in need of maintenance, and competing recreational uses on trails create conflicts. The Santa Ynez canyon is heavily used for developed recreation, resulting in congestion and potential sanitation problems. Hot springs in the area have spawned illegal uses such as hot tub construction and other unregulated activities. The place is also popular for group parties that take place in non-designated sites. Unmanaged recreational shooting occurs in non-designated areas. Finally, this place, especially Santa Ynez canyon, is heavily used for commercial and non-commercial filming and photography, which have caused occasional conflicts with private landowners and Native Americans.

Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Sisquoc River 1.9 miles

Recommended Wilderness:

- La Brea 154 acres

Proposed Special Interest Area

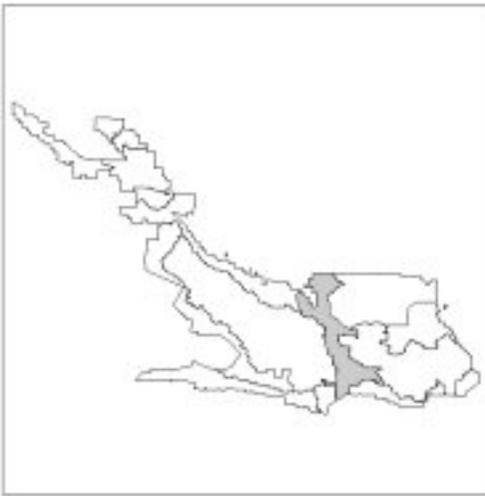
- Mono Basin 2,791 acres

Desired Condition: The Figueroa–Santa Ynez Place is maintained as a natural appearing and pastoral landscape that functions as a scenic recreation area. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the vegetation mix and transition from vineyards to grasslands to forested peaks (as viewed from scenic Highway 154 and Figueroa Rd/Happy Canyon Rd. scenic touring route), the visibility of the rock outcrops along the Santa Ynez River, the pastoral qualities of grazing activities, the availability of water for recreation use along the Santa Ynez River, and the oak woodlands along the Santa Ynez River (for recreation settings), all of which are integral to the understanding of the local Native American and Anglo uses of the area.

Program Emphasis: This area is valued for its recreational and scenic opportunities and its unique assemblage of threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Control user access to avoid overuse of facilities and protect sensitive habitat areas. Promote recreational uses compatible with TESP species protection. Preserve the scenic backdrop. Design and manage recreational opportunities and facilities to reflect the preferences and demands of rapidly growing adjacent communities. Protect sensitive riparian resource areas including habitat for the threatened California red-legged frog and southwestern willow flycatcher in the lower Santa Ynez. Protect sensitive riparian resource areas including habitat for the endangered arroyo toad, California red-legged frog and least Bell's vireo populations in the upper Santa Ynez. Increase emphasis on controlling the introduction and spread of invasive plant species, such as tamarisk and giant reed, and exotic wildlife species, such as the bullfrog and crayfish. Continue community protection measures against wildfire spreading from the forest.

Highway 33 Corridor

Theme: This scenic, cross-forest byway corridor provides the primary recreational access through the main body of the National Forest and provides recreation opportunities in the place. The travel corridor features numerous panoramic vistas, notable rock formations, the scenic Matilija and Sespe Creek watersheds, the Cuyama River valley, and diverse vegetation that provides relatively undisturbed habitats for several southern California native species. This place includes an historic, late 19th century travel route that has become important for auto-touring, numerous recreation activities and a base for environmental education and interpretation.



Setting: Highway 33 crosses the Transverse Ranges and connects coastal cities like Ventura and Ojai to the inland Cuyama Valley. Designated as a Forest Scenic Byway, and also known as the Jacinto Reyes Scenic Byway, the route was pioneered by the Reyes family to access their ranch on the Cuyama side of the mountains. Entry points along the corridor from Highway 33 serve as portals to four different wilderness areas that border the corridor: the Matilija, Sespe, Dick Smith, and the Chumash. The Scenic Byway is heavily traveled and is well known for its many recreational opportunities, its cultural history, and superb scenery where the upper reaches of Sespe Creek and the Sespe Gorge offer views of dramatic geologic formations.

From Ojai, the highway parallels the Ventura River and climbs up through the Matilija Creek watershed, which flows to the south, crosses into the Sespe watershed that flows to the east, and eventually drops into the Cuyama watershed, which flows to the west. The route passes through steep, often unstable, mountainous terrain. Falling rocks and roadside erosion are common and disposal of slide material to keep the highway open is a constant challenge.

An array of plant communities greets the traveler. On the coastal side, hardwoods line riparian areas along Matilija Creek at the lower elevations. At higher elevations there are scattered populations of bigcone Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*) and canyon live oak forests. At the highest elevations of Pine Mountain undisturbed mixed conifer forests cover upper north slopes. In the eastern rain shadow where the highway descends into the Cuyama Valley the vegetation changes to desert scrub and singleleaf pinyon forests and woodlands.

The Cuyama Valley, lying in the rain shadow of the Coast Range, has a climate which is much drier and woodlands and grassland are the dominant vegetation. Large parcels of private land are interspersed with the public land. Farming, grazing and oil exploration exist on both private and public land.

The Sespe Creek watershed is large and wild and supports a high degree of biodiversity. The arroyo toad, California condor, desert bighorn sheep, and southern steelhead trout are some of California's endangered wildlife which inhabit this remote watershed. The Dry Lakes Ridge Botanical Area preserves remnant stands of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and several relict plant species. Invasive, noxious weeds, notably tamarisk, Spanish broom (*Spartium junceum*) and yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) occupy the area with continuing emphasis on control or limiting further spread.

The vegetation of the corridor and surrounding areas periodically experience numerous large, landscape-changing wildfires, sometimes exceeding 100,000 acres. Community protection from wildfire is important to the area around Ojai and the many small blocks of private land that make up approximately 10% of the land base within the corridor. Community Defense Zones are yet to be fully established. The Scenic Highway and forest roads provide good access to some areas. In contrast, access to other areas is restricted by private land, insufficient easements, and long travel times on steep, winding roads; these factors contribute to poor coverage for fire suppression and emergency medical services. Seasonal road closures and access by permit reduce damage to forest resources.

Growing communities to the south emphasize the need to provide access for a variety of recreation and special use activities. Recreational opportunities within the Highway 33 corridor range from scenic touring by automobile to hang-glider soaring. Photography, snow play, camping, hiking, swimming, bicycling, OHV use, and shooting

are also some of the many common uses. Sixty-eight miles of maintained OHV routes in the Ballinger Canyon area in the Cuyama Valley provide high quality off-road opportunities.

Management challenges for this place include increasing demand for sensitive resources, quality of recreation experience, deferred maintenance of recreation facilities, maintenance of water quality and wildlife habitat, and law enforcement to deal with vandalism, graffiti, and marijuana cultivation.

A variety of special uses occur in the Highway 33 Corridor. Electronic sites, water extractions, grazing, and oil and gas operations in the Cuyama Valley are examples. A gas pipeline crosses the mountains from Cuyama to Ventura. Portions of grazing allotments cover the northern half of this place. State Highway 33 also is a heavily used thoroughfare for transport of commerce.

Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Sespe Creek 4.7 miles

Recommended Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Sespe Creek 11.5 miles

Recommended Wilderness:

- Matilija 330 acres

Existing Special Interest Areas:

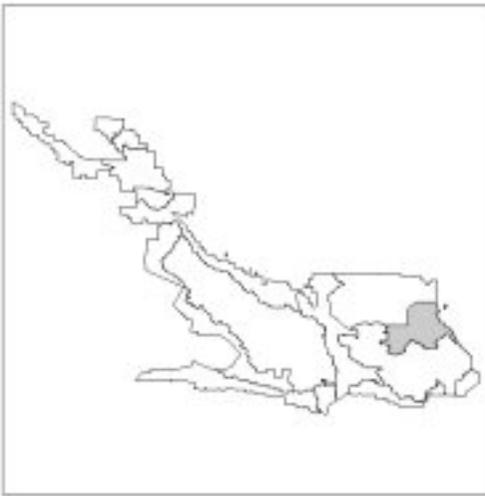
- Dry Lakes Ridge 406 acres

Desired Condition: Highway 33 Corridor Place is a primary location for a large segment of recreation in the main body of the forest, and the corridor also provides numerous access routes for dispersed recreation to more remote areas of the forest. Environmental education and interpretation of forest resources and issues is a significant feature of this place because of the quick, easy access from southern California communities. Partnerships, both public and private, are a significant component of accomplishing work and solving problems. The Scenic Byway is maintained for its history and the natural appearing landscape. Future recreation and special uses attempt to grow with the demands of increasing populations but remain in compliance with wildlife and other natural resource constraints.

Program Emphasis: The Highway 33 corridor will continue to serve as a high quality Scenic Byway and to link many of the forest's recreation features. The place will continue to provide quality recreation opportunities. Continued emphasis on reducing conflicts between recreationists and sensitive species, and to minimize illegal activities (e.g. marijuana cultivation) will be maintained. Continue to eradicate or limit further spread of invasive weeds. Focus on reducing risks from wildfire to maintain water and scenic quality and improve steelhead and arroyo toad habitat. Continue plans to remove existing recreational facilities which are resulting in adverse impacts to endangered species and pursue funding to construct replacement recreational facilities with equal or greater user capacities. Continue cooperative efforts with CDFG and NOAA Fisheries to provide fishing opportunities at the Rose Valley Lakes. Establish community defense zones in the urban interface. Emphasize the acquisition of lands to improve public access, to promote ecological stability, and to reduce or eliminate use conflicts. Pursue development of an OHV trail linking the Ballinger Canyon area to Hungry Valley. Relocate target shooting from the environmentally sensitive Cherry Canyon to a better location in the Rose Valley area. If oil or gas developments occur in the Cuyama Valley, they will proceed only as specified by the Oil and Gas EIS. Permits for exploration, development, and operation of additional oil and gas facilities will be subject to further environmental study and be designed and maintained to reduce or eliminate environmental impacts.

Hungry Valley/Mutau

Theme: A variety of recreational opportunities are provided in natural appearing landscapes of grassland, chaparral, meadows, and pine forests. Pines forests and tranquil meadows invite visitors to backcountry wilderness hiking.



Setting: The Hungry Valley/Mutau Place rises from the Piru drainage at about 2,500 feet to Frazier Mountain at 8,000 feet. The lower elevation edge is delineated by Pyramid Lake and the higher elevation boundary is marked by a series of high peaks and ridges. This area is the headwaters for Piru Creek. The area offers views of a scenic montane landscape to both the local mountain communities and to Interstate 5 travelers. Some of the oldest igneous and metamorphic rocks in the Transverse Ranges underlie the Piru Creek watershed. This area is most accessible from Interstate 5 and it serves as the primary access to the northern portion of the Sespe Wilderness and the eastern boundary of this Place.

The dominant plant community at lower elevations is mixed chaparral. Mixed conifer forests, Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) forests and singleleaf pinyon pine (*Pinus monophylla*) woodlands are prevalent at higher elevations. Canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) forms dense forests along shaded slopes and in canyon bottoms. Noxious weed infestations are present, including tamarisk (*Tamarix ramossissima*). All but the larger streams are dry through the summer; however, Piru Creek has water year-around. Water flowing from Piru Creek feeds Pyramid Lake, a year-round, water-based recreational area that serves as an important source of water for the Ventura County region.

This area has not experienced a large wildfire for some time, resulting in a buildup of hazardous fuels. There are areas, however, that are still within the natural fire regime, while other areas are experiencing more frequent fire. In the past, fuel treatments have been limited in extent. At present, fire-safe conditions along the urban interface are inconsistent and private landowners look to the Forest Service to create community defense zones.

Spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) occupy the area and a wild trout fishery on Lockwood and Piru Creeks provides fly-fishing opportunities.

Native American rock art and campsites, historic mining districts, and early Forest Service Administrative sites (including fire lookouts) and town sites reflect the history of human use in the area. Human influence today is in the form of developed and dispersed recreational facilities and trails. Heavy-use areas and road cuts create strong visual contrast within this landscape. Most facilities and trails are located along drainages, ridge tops, on flats, or are cut into hillsides.

This Place is a major year-round recreation area for both local residents and regional visitors. It is a popular destination for OHV users and day-use visitors seeking water play. The dramatic contrasts in scenery and vegetation provide an excellent viewshed for touring. Although the area is readily accessible from Interstate 5, it still offers visitors opportunities to experience a sense of distance and isolation. Recreation focuses mainly on backcountry camping and day-use facilities although some developed facilities support OHV activities and water-based recreation. Remote campground facilities are in poor repair due to lack of investment and vandalism. Land ownership patterns surrounding this Place preclude OHV access.

Populations are growing along the I-5 corridor and in mountain communities. Development of in-holdings is adding to an increase in the population of urban areas near the Forest boundaries. Access to the Forest is restricted by a lack of easements and rights-of-way. Some roads are inappropriately located in riparian zones and many are poorly maintained and in need of reconstruction. Illegal activities including trash disposal, littering (including shooting debris), illegal OHV use, graffiti, gang activity, firearms use, partying, fires, parking, and closure

violations present additional management challenges. Law enforcement coverage is inadequate, especially during the evening hours.

A wide variety of multiple and special uses take place within the Place ranging from electronic sites to recreation residence tracts. Recreation uses and authorizations for water extraction constitute the majority of the special uses. The Forest also provides a variety of small forest products that are of interest to the general public such as pinecones, fuel wood, traditional plants and Christmas trees.

Recommended Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Piru Creek 32.8 miles

Proposed Special Interest Areas:

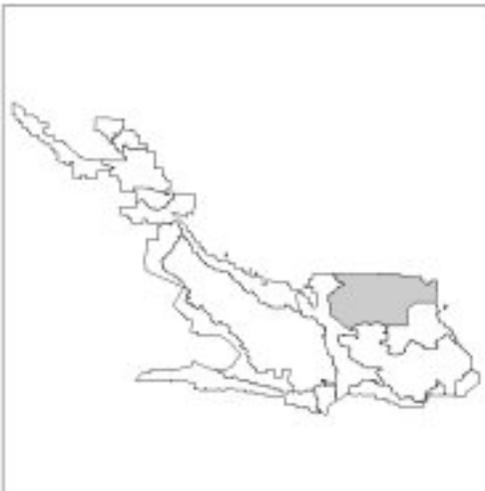
- Bear Ponds 197 acres

Desired Condition: The Hungry Valley/Mutau Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as an OHV recreation area and a tranquil backcountry area. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the meadows/grasslands and pine tree over-story (especially in the Mutau area), and the natural appearance of the backdrop to communities.

Program Emphasis: Managers expect to preserve the recreational opportunities and primitive feel afforded by this Place, as adjacent areas become more populated. Increase management presence to curb vandalism and other inappropriate uses. Treat vegetation for forest health and to reduce fuel loading. Enhance recreation infrastructure to meet growing demand, including plans to study the need for added OHV connector trails, upgrading the Goldhill road from I-5 to Alamo Mountain, and developing a parallel OHV trail from Hungry Valley to Goldhill to reduce safety problems. The existing closure of the Goldhill road corridor and Hardluck Road corridor to camping outside of developed campsites should be maintained to protect resource values and reduce user conflicts. Pursue development of an OHV trail that would link the Ballinger Canyon area to Hungry Valley. Manage the upper Piru Creek corridor to preserve Wild and Scenic river qualities and sensitive riparian habitats. Address resource conflicts at Goldhill camping area by developing appropriate recreation infrastructure and implementing user controls. Pursue disposal of the Tejon Administrative Site via appropriate conveyance at fair market value to Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area.

Mt. Pinos

Theme: A Big Tree high country environment offering opportunities for year round recreation. This place is the center of the Chumash Indian Universe.



Setting: The Mount Pinos Place serves as the primary outdoor recreation gateway on the eastern side of Los Padres National Forest where the Tehachapi Mountains, Transverse Ranges and the San Joaquin Valley converge. Elevations range from 4,000 feet to over 8,000 feet on Mt. Pinos, the forest's highest point and center of the

Chumash Indian Universe. The San Andreas Fault bisects the area in an east-west direction. Mount Pinos is readily accessible from Interstate 5 and is within an hour's drive of downtown Los Angeles to the south or of Bakersfield to the north.

Singleleaf pinyon-California juniper (*Juniperus californica*) woodlands and forests dominate low elevation landscapes. Montane conifer forests, composed almost entirely of Jeffrey pine, cover the higher elevations. Small patches of limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) and subalpine vegetation occupy the mountain summits. The area has the largest stand of unmanaged Jeffrey pine stands in southern California. Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), an invasive plant, has taken hold in the place north of Frazier Park. Also, there are infestations of spotted knapweed (*Centaurea biebersteinii*) and Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*) on private land near forestlands.

The place is home to the California condor and tule elk. Mount Pinos provides a critical wildlife linkage between the forest and the adjacent Wind Wolves Preserve, the Bitter Creek Wildlife Refuge and Carrizo Plains Monument. Together these four areas comprise a large, interconnected block of wildland habitat for many species. Jeffrey pine forests provide important habitat for the California spotted owl and northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). The area also provides habitat for the Fort Tejon woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum hallii*), one of only three known locations in the world. There is one established research natural area, the San Emigdio Mesa RNA that supports Pinyon-juniper woodland, and one candidate RNA, Sawmill Mountain. Two special interest areas are also found in the place. Mt. Pinos Summit SIA exhibits exemplary botanical values, including limber pine stands that are the forest's sole example of southern California subalpine forest. The Quatal Canyon SIA boasts unique, eroded badland topography with Miocene vertebrate fossils.

The place serves as scenic backdrop to a number of rural mountain communities like Frazer Park and Pine Mountain Club. Views from the area's highest points include expansive vistas of adjacent mountains and valleys. Cerro Noroeste Road offers vistas of the Badlands and San Emigdio Mesa, two prominent geological features of the area. Mount Pinos is a popular dark-sky star gazing location for amateur astronomers. There are significant paleontological resources in Quatal and the Dry Canyons, and Native American rock art is accessible via trails on Mount Pinos.

The area provides year-round motorized and non-motorized recreation; recreation opportunities both for local residents and out-of-town visitors. Nevertheless, lack of access to Mount Pinos from Lockwood Valley, due to private lands in Mill and Seymour Canyons, precludes loop opportunities for pleasure driving, equestrians, hikers, and bikers. The area is a regional destination for winter snow play activities and cross-country skiing, but facilities and services are often inadequate to accommodate the large volume of winter sports enthusiasts. This results in conflicts between local landowners and businesses, and ultimately results in an inferior experience for many recreationists. The shooting area behind the sheriff's substation in Frazier Park is a problem area in terms of dumping of inappropriate targets and other litter. User-constructed trails also exist adjacent to communities.

Mount Pinos accommodates special uses including utility corridors and communication sites. There are also several organization camps that offer facilities for a number of groups. The area contains seven occupied grazing allotments. The area's natural setting and its close proximity to Los Angeles, make it a very popular "site" location for the film industry.

Existing Wilderness:

- Chumash Wilderness 37,248 acres

Recommended Wilderness:

- Chumash Toad Springs 560 acres

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- Chumash Toad Springs 453 acres
- Quatal Canyon 469 acres

Existing Research Natural Areas:

- San Emigdio Mesa 1,239 acres

Proposed Research Natural Areas:

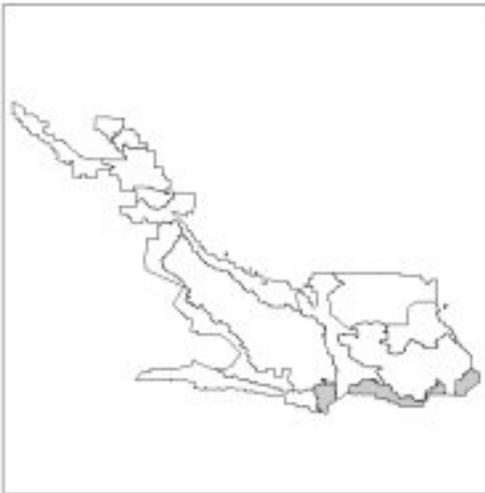
- Sawmill Mountain 3,451 acres

Desired Condition: The Mount Pinos Place is maintained as a naturally evolving and naturally appearing landscape that functions as a big tree recreation environment. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the big tree Jeffrey pine forested areas, the natural appearing backdrop to rural communities, and the rustic mountain-built environment.

Program Emphasis: Managers expect to focus on perpetuating healthy conifer forests that are one of the main attraction for forest visitors. The old growth (big tree) appearance of the Jeffrey pine forests would be maintained with vegetative treatments that reduce stand densification problems. Management of recreation is expected to focus on: (a) improving the snowplay experience both for visitors and the community, (b) maintaining facilities and trails to standard and (c) providing hiking, biking, equestrian, and OHV opportunities. The shooting range behind Frazier Park should be placed under active management as a concession-operated shooting range, or closed. The existing closure to public motorized use of the road from the Chula Vista parking lot to Tumamiat Trail observation point at the summit of Mt. Pinos should be maintained to protect cultural and botanical resources. The existing closure of the Frazier Mountain Park Raad/Cuddy Valley Road/Mill Potrero Rad/Lockwood Valley Raad corridors to camping outside of developed campsites should be maintained to protect resource values and reduce user conflicts. Pursue development of an OHV trail that would link the Ballinger Canyon area to Hungry Valley, and thereby facilitate the closure of the Toad Springs OHV trail through the Chumash Wilderness as called for in the 1992 Condor Range and River Protection Act.

Ojai-Piru Front Country

Theme: This place serves as the scenic backdrop for the communities and urban areas at the foot of the forest. The Ojai-Piru Front provides day-use recreation opportunities and access points for extended stays in the interior of the forest. The bluffs, rock outcrops and steep landscapes hint at the rugged backcountry just beyond. Landscape retention, watershed protection and day use recreation are typical themes of urban interface front-country areas. Oil and gas operations have occurred in a few locations in this place for many years.



Setting: The Ojai-Piru Front Country follows San Cayetano Fault from Ojai across the front of the Topa Topa Mountains and Santa Paula Ridge to the mouth of the Sespe River and past Fillmore and Piru to the eastern forest boundary near the Los Angeles/Ventura county line. It forms a scenic, mountainous backdrop to Lake Casitas, Lake Piru, and the Ojai and Santa Clara Valleys. Terrain varies from low rolling hills to steep, high mountains near the urban-rural interface. Several communities, extensive farmlands and historic oil fields border the place. Oil was first discovered in California just off forest in Santa Paula Canyon. The front country provides several entry points of access to the Matilija and Sespe Wildernesses and borders the Condor Sanctuary. Early homesteads are present near Piru, and the first gold discovered in California, pre-dating the Sierran Gold Rush, was found just east of the forest in Santa Felicia Canyon.

Numerous rivers and streams, like Sespe Creek, Piru Creek, Santa Paula Creek, and Matilija Creek, flow southward from interior watersheds of the Transverse Mountain Range. Water quality is generally good. Domestic and agricultural water sources have been extensively developed along the front, including diversions, springs, wells, and tunnels that tap both surface and groundwater emanating from forest land. Mountain peaks often exceed 4,000 feet in elevation, the highest being the Topa Topa bluffs at 6,367 feet. The ruggedness of these peaks is due to the high tectonic activity in these mountains explaining why earthquakes and landslides are not uncommon.

The predominately south-facing slopes of the Ojai Front are dominated by chaparral with areas of grassland and oak woodland at lower elevations. Conifers grow in patches along the ridges and on peaks. Narrow riparian corridors contrast sharply with chaparral-covered uplands. Wildfires historically have threatened forest resources, private land, and communities along the extensive wildland-urban interface. High levels of recreational use and other forest activities have degraded some riparian areas.

Wildlife species in the Ojai Front are typical of those in southern California chaparral communities. Sensitive species found within the Ojai Front most often live in riparian habitat. The forest has identified potential impacts to wildlife species from oil and gas development, grazing, concentrated recreation use, and other forest activities. Unique wildlife species include the arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, southwestern willow flycatcher, California condor and southern California steelhead. Exotic species have spread in lower Piru Creek and elsewhere in this place.

As urbanization spreads towards the forest, human-caused fire ignitions have increased. Thus, there are more requests for fuel breaks and community defense zones. Fire suppression is hampered by poor access to private land on both sides of the forest boundary.

Various dispersed recreational opportunities are available to the public including mountain biking, equestrian, hiking, hang gliding/paragliding, rock climbing, camping, water play, fishing, and OHV. Opportunities for developed and dispersed recreation are limited by public access to forest land. Existing trails and trailheads are not meeting demands of nearby urban populations, and they are not being maintained to standard. Certain areas receive heavy day use and there are conflicts between hunters, OHV enthusiasts, private landowners, and oil field developments. Graffiti and sanitation problems affect water quality and aesthetics in Santa Paula and Piru Canyons.

A small number of livestock graze allotments in the place but their effects are minimal. The Sespe Oil Field has produced oil and gas since the early 1900s, and other areas along the front country have moderate to high potential for exploration and development.

Competing uses include multiple demands for limited water resources, the need for access to recreation opportunities, and oil and gas developments. Seventy percent of the land inside the forest boundary is either private in-holding or Condor sanctuary. These land produce surface and groundwater for adjacent agricultural areas and communities and provide many domestic and agricultural water needs along the entire front. The lack of access to the forest results in land encroachment issues.

There are no special designations.

Desired Condition: The Ojai-Piru Front Country Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a scenic backdrop for urban communities and continues to provide recreational opportunities while protecting natural resources. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are visibility of rock outcrops and cliffs, and the natural skyline ridge as a backdrop to urban areas.

Program Emphasis: The Ojai-Piru Front Country Place is expected to continue to serve as a high quality recreation playground and scenic backdrop to nearby communities. Management focus is expected to continue on reducing risk from wildfire, the improving access to forestlands, maintaining scenic quality, improving recreation facilities and increasing public environmental education. Establish community defense zones. Continue to reduce conflicts between recreationists, private landowners, sensitive species, and minimize illegal activities (e.g. marijuana cultivation). Emphasize acquiring land improve public access and to promote ecological stability and to reduce or eliminate use conflicts. If new oil or gas developments occur, they will proceed only as specified by the decision pending from the Oil and Gas EIS. Permits for exploration, development, and operation of additional facilities will be subject to further environmental study and the stipulations and geographic restrictions specified. Idle oil wells and ancillary facilities will be abandoned and restored to natural conditions.

Pozo/La Panza

Theme: Backcountry motorized recreation network through a vast rolling chaparral landscape is what this place is all about. A wild horse herd, grazing, habitat and other rustic recreation activities is how this place is also utilized.



Setting: The low, dissected hills and mountains of the La Panza Range dominate the Pozo/La Panza Place. Most of the place is readily accessible either by the historic Pozo-La Panza road, that passes through the area from east to west, or by the Navajo Road that takes off from Highway 58 and runs south until it meets the Pozo-La Panza Road. The Pozo/LaPanza road provides the only motorized access to the north end of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness.

This is a largely chaparral-covered landscape with scattered blue oak woodlands and occasional annual grasslands. Several threatened, endangered and sensitive plant and animal species reside here including the dwarf calycadenia (*Calycadenia villosa*), Camatta Canyon amole (*Chlorogalum purpureum reductum*), Parish's checkerbloom (*Sidalcea hickmanii* ssp. *parishii*), Santa Margarita manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pilosula pilosula*), peregrine falcon and the California condor. Water is scarce except for several springs that are vital to both wildlife and livestock.

This area is best known for its variety of OHV opportunities that require advanced skill levels. Visitors from coastal areas, especially San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande, heavily use OHV routes. In addition to motorized use, the area supports recreation uses such as mining, hunting, mountain biking and the running of hounds. There are four grazing allotments and several wild horse territories. The place supports special uses such as power lines, an apiary, and filming locations. Much of the area is a historic gold mining district as evidenced by scattered abandoned mines.

The variety and intensities of use in this place create conflicts and management challenges. OHV use potentially affects threatened and endangered species (Dwarf calycadenia, Camatta Canyon Amole, California condor), grazing allotments (Navajo and Queen Bee), aggravates soil erosion, and damages heritage sites.

Proposed Special Interest Area:

- Camatta 55 acres

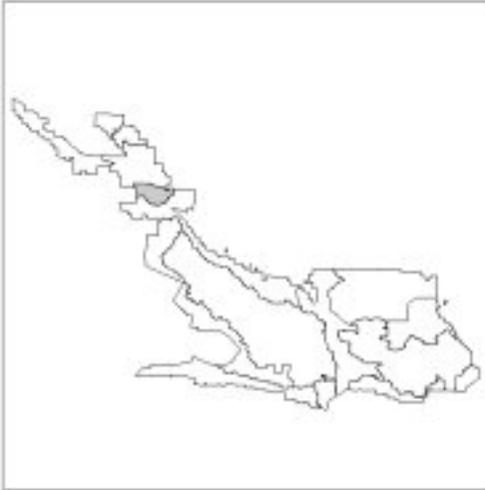
Desired Condition: The Pozo/La Panza Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as an open space and motorized recreation area. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the contiguous expanses of the uniform vegetation.

Program Emphasis: Managers expect to continue to emphasize OHV use and opportunities in this place. Staff expect to focus on resolving conflicts between OHV users and other important resources (TES species, heritage sites, wild horses, and grazing allotments). Improve cooperation between the Forest Service and users to cultivate allies in the desired management of the place. Improve OHV trails and facilities emphasizing safety, signage and resource protection. Manage fuels to reduce risk to homes. Continue focus on cooperative efforts for wildlife

observations and studies at the Hi Mountain lookout and surrounding watersheds. Maintain protection of the peregrine falcon and California condor nesting and roosting habitats which exist in this place.

Rockfront

Theme: Motorized recreation, especially four-wheel activities are identified with this place. Private land intermixed with public spaces accommodates grazing and recreational activities.



Setting: The Rockfront Place is located about 30 miles east of Santa Maria and is accessible from a single entry point near the Rockfront Ranch off Highway 166. Day users from Santa Maria and other coastal communities can easily reach this area. The area has intermingled private lands, and includes a number of popular day loop roads and trail systems.

The area is in the Alamo watershed that drains into the Santa Maria river basin through the Cuyama River. This watershed is an important water source for the Santa Maria Valley residents and for agricultural uses.

A noteworthy vegetative feature is the mosaic of blue oak woodlands and forests that break up an otherwise continuous cover of chamise and mixed chaparral. This place contains the northern-most community of redshank in California. Fire is frequent in this place and has reburned areas that were treated in the last several decades.

Riparian corridors along Branch and Alamo Creeks are largely intact and support diverse wildlife and plant populations. Threatened and sensitive species found in this place include red-legged frogs, western pond turtles, and three-striped garter snakes associated with Branch Creek and Alamo Creek. Big Rocks is a historical nesting site for the peregrine falcon.

This place is a popular destination for OHV enthusiasts, rock climbers, and hunters. There is an extensive network of roads and trails for off-road recreation. Branch Creek road is an important connecting route in the OHV network, but it is frequently washed out and in disrepair. The road also interferes with wildlife in the riparian area and creates conflicts with private landowners. There are three semi-primitive camps located in the place with road access. The intermingled private lands within and bordering this place result in trespass by recreationists attempting to reach the forest through private lands.

There are five livestock grazing allotments in whole, or in part, in this place. The Rockfront allotment constitutes most of the area and is vacant. Unauthorized grazing has been a problem in the past, especially when large wildfires have destroyed fences. Permitted livestock from adjacent allotments have strayed onto the Rockfront allotment due to lack of natural barriers.

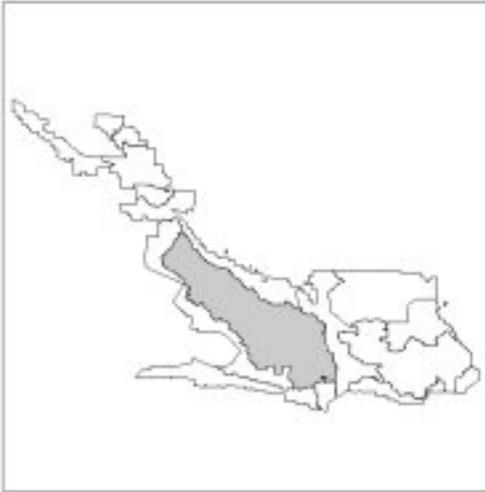
There are no special designations.

Desired Condition: The Rockfront Place is maintained as a pastoral and natural appearing landscape that functions as a motorized recreation and grazing area. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the mosaic of blue oak woodlands within the cover of chamise and mixed chaparral.

Program Emphasis: Managers expect to focus on recreation activities associated with OHV uses and hunting, and potential conflicts with threatened and sensitive wildlife species and trespass onto private land. Carry out vegetation treatments to reduce the incidence of wildfire. Work cooperatively with partners to address habitat enhancement opportunities for tule elk and other wildlife species.

San Rafael

Theme: Vast, rugged wilderness offering a primitive contrast to the urban development along the nearby coast. Historic structures are scattered in a landscape rich in biodiversity exemplified by the Wild and Scenic Sisquoc River.



Setting: San Rafael Place is part of the interior Santa Lucia Mountains and forms the transition between the coastal and interior portions of the Transverse Ranges. This landscape includes steep, rugged mountains with narrow and rounded summits that reach 6,500 feet in elevation. Steep, narrow canyons are common. Mountains north of the Big Pine fault trend northwest while those south of the Santa Ynez fault trend east to west. This place is a prime example of one of the rugged, scenic landscapes in southern California. It offers a primitive contrast to a rapidly urbanizing coastal area. The San Rafael, Dick Smith and Matilija Wildernesses are all part of this expansive landscape, as is the Wild and Scenic Sisquoc River.

For a place of such enormous size it has surprisingly few points of easy access. There is an extensive trail system, but in the wilderness areas motorized access is prohibited.

Chaparral is the dominant vegetative type but there are intermixed forests of canyon live oak and bigcone Douglas-fir on north-facing slopes and in canyon bottoms. The highest elevations support southern California mixed conifer (candidate Big Pine Mountain Research Natural Area) and Jeffrey pine forests. The Sisquoc River and its varied riparian vegetation runs uninterrupted through this expansive terrain.

Because of its size, habitat complexity and lack of disturbance, the San Rafael Place supports a high degree of biodiversity. The integrity of all its component ecosystems is essentially intact. Sisquoc/San Rafael Condor Area protects habitat for the California condor. Threatened species include the arroyo toad, California red-legged frog and southern steelhead.

Remnants of historic settlements including the Manzana schoolhouse are present. The San Rafael Place also contains numerous examples of Chumash rock art. Both Painted Rock and Salisbury Potrero are important heritage sites. The Sierra Madre Special Interest Area, found within this place, is dedicated to the preservation of cultural resources. Contemporary Native Americans still use the area for ceremonies and plant collection. Most of the area is designated wilderness, with vistas, peaks and rugged landscapes.

There is an extensive trail system offering long hikes in remote settings and two corridors for mountain bikes. While the emphasis is on non-motorized use, primitive OHV opportunities are still available. The trail system needs maintenance and there is mechanized intrusion at a number of entry points.

Nonconforming improvements within the wilderness, including culverts and old roadbeds, have not been

reclaimed or removed. Livestock grazing also occurs within this place on four allotments. Some locations need to be managed to reduce conflicts between threatened and endangered species, heritage resources, and recreation. The presence of star thistle and tamarisk has been an unwanted consequence of livestock grazing in some locations.

Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Sisquoc River 32.6 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- Dick Smith Wilderness 71,350 acres
- Matilija Wilderness 29,243 acres
- San Rafael Wilderness 190,168 acres

Recommended Wilderness:

- Diablo 28 acres
- La Brea 3,003 acres
- Madulce-Buckhorn 4,985 acres
- Matilija 2,779 acres
- Mono 28,005 acres

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- Sierra Madre 1,740 acres

Proposed Special Interest Areas:

- Mono Basin 286 acres

Proposed Research Natural Areas:

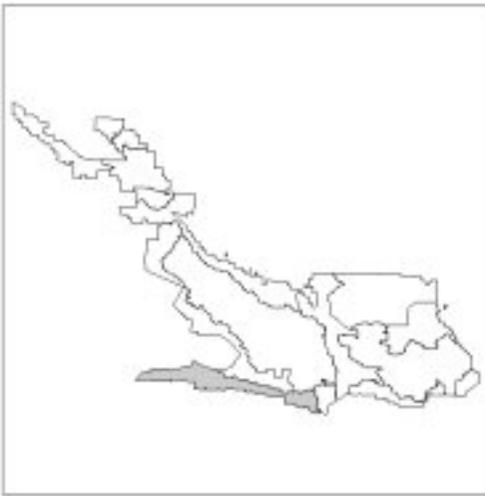
- Big Pine Mountain 3,258 acres

Desired Condition: The San Rafael Place is maintained as a naturally evolving landscape that functions as a primitive wilderness area. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the mixed conifer forests, big cone Douglas fir forests, and the area's wild and undisturbed character.

Program Emphasis: Managers expect to perpetuate its wild and undisturbed character. Focus on maintaining and improving the trail system and reducing mechanized intrusions at entry points. Emphasize eliminating or reducing the spread of invasive species such as arundo, tamarisk and star thistle. Resolve conflicts between grazing, TES, and heritage resources. Using vegetation management treatments, protect mixed conifer and bigcone Douglas-fir forests and regenerate Coulter pine/chaparral woodlands to break up large watershed-impacting wildfires. Continue protecting the Sisquoc Condor Sanctuary and sensitive riparian areas and habitat for TES species including steelhead trout and arroyo toads.

Santa Barbara Front

Theme: This place is a rugged, steep, scenic backdrop to the communities of Santa Barbara as it extends to the Gaviota coastal area. Rock outcrops offer contrasts of color within the deep green chaparral along these south-facing mountains. Dramatic views of the ocean, islands and coastal communities make this place an important area for viewing scenery.



Setting: The Santa Barbara Front Country Place consists of the steep, chaparral-covered, ocean-facing slopes of the Santa Ynez Mountains, part of the western Transverse Ranges, between Gaviota and Carpinteria. It also includes all the land within the forest boundary on both sides of the ridge west of Highway 154. The majority of the place is located within Santa Barbara County. Highway 101 parallels the southern boundary of this forty-six mile long place. The oceanfront land is highly valued as the backdrop for coastal communities and the largely undeveloped Gaviota coastline. A historical stagecoach route over San Marcos pass connects Santa Barbara to the Santa Ynez Valley. The area has several good examples of rock art and is still utilized by Native Americans as a gathering area. Important cultural and historic sites include the Reagan Ranch, Knapp's rock art site, La Cumbre lookout, Painted Cave, Gaviota Hot Springs, Slippery Rock, and historic stagecoach and wagon roads.

Elevations range from near sea level to 4,300 feet at Santa Ynez Peak. Alternating bands of grasslands and chaparral follow bands of faulted and folded sedimentary rock formations across the landscape. The east-west trend of the mountain front combined with the distinct Mediterranean/marine climate results in a unique botanic zone and mix of species. West of Highway 154 the north side of the mountains face Lake Cachuma and the Santa Ynez Valley. Landslides create maintenance problems where the highway and other roads cut through steep terrain. Domestic and agricultural water sources have been developed along the entire front, and include: diversions, springs, wells, and tunnels, tapping surface water and groundwater flowing from forestlands. Three tunnels transport water from the Santa Ynez Valley through the mountains to the Santa Barbara/Goleta area. Small streams and creeks flow off the forest through urban areas to the ocean. Water quality is considered good up to the forest boundary.

The predominately south-facing slopes are dominated by chaparral with some grasslands and oak woodlands at lower elevations. Conifers exist in small patches along ridge tops and on north-facing slopes. Narrow riparian corridors contrast sharply with the otherwise dry, chaparral-dominated landscape. Noxious weed infestations are an increasing problem especially along road and trail corridors.

Wildlife species in the Santa Barbara Front are those typically found within the southern California foothill chaparral communities. Much of the area is relatively dry and covered by continuous cover of chaparral vegetation that limits the amount and quality of habitat for many wildlife species. Sensitive species found within the Santa Barbara Front are most often associated with riparian habitat. The forest has identified potential impacts to wildlife species from concentrated recreation use, and other forest activities. Examples of threatened and endangered species found within this place include steelhead and California red-legged frog. There is the potential to view California condors.

This place has a longer forest boundary exposed to a longer urban interface and higher use than any other place on the Los Padres National Forest. Numerous private land inholdings exist inside the forest boundary, resulting in a mixed land ownership pattern with large lot zoning. Thus, it is an example of a quintessential high-use urban interface, subject to recreation pressures, fire hazards, and water quality issues. There is a history of large fire events in this place. The Camino Cielo ridge top serves as a fuelbreak. As urbanization spreads towards forested land, fire starts have increased and there are more requests for fuelbreaks and community defense zones. Private land and insufficient easements restrict access to forest boundaries for emergencies such as fire, floods, and earthquakes. Community defense zones are not fully established.

Recreational opportunities primarily focus on day use, and include hiking, bicycling, paragliding and hang gliding, horseback riding, rock climbing and wildlife viewing. Many roads and non-motorized trails provide "backyard access" to the foothills and ridge top for local hiking and biking enthusiasts from the urban area. The Divide Peak OHV area is open for motorized vehicle use, and three designated shooting areas are located near the ridge top. Auto touring routes cross and parallel the length of the place, offering spectacular views of the Santa Ynez Mountains, the Santa Barbara Channel and the Channel Islands. Human and multiple uses in and around this place, including land development patterns, complicate management. Many points of access to forest land exist; however, other areas are blocked to public access by private land. Very little grazing and no mining occur within this place.

Conflicts occur between different types of recreation uses, and also between recreation uses and water quality, fire hazards, and archaeological resources. The lack of access results in land encroachment issues. There is a lack of law enforcement presence in this place, along with a prevalence of unsuitable activities, such as motorized vehicle trespass, resource damage on fuelbreaks, illegal trash dumping along roads, rave parties, extreme sports, crimes, and graffiti. A portion of the place also serves as a utility corridor for transmission lines, and contains numerous communication sites, both on and below the ridge top.

There are no special designations.

Desired Condition: The Santa Barbara Front Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a scenic backdrop for urban coastal communities. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the natural appearing skyline silhouette, the exposed rock outcrops, a well-defined age-class mosaic in chaparral, the riparian ribbons of vegetation, and the open views from the ridgeline and along scenic Highway 54.

Program Emphasis: The Santa Barbara Front Country serves as a high quality recreation playground and scenic backdrop to nearby communities. Continue to reduce conflicts between recreationists, private landowners, and sensitive species. Continue to minimize illegal activities (e.g., marijuana cultivation). Focus on maintaining ecosystem health, providing recreational opportunities, and improving defensible space and community protection from fire and floods such as community defense zones. Where possible, emphasize the acquisition of land to improve public access, promote ecological stability, and reduce or eliminate user conflicts, particularly on the front country trails system. Stress public education about forest ecological values, defensible space, and safe use of front country trails.

Sespe

Theme: This is the most rugged, remote repository of wilderness in the southern California ranges. It is habitat for many threatened and endangered species as well as home to the California condor and steelhead. This is a place of challenge and adventure within vast expanses of untouched landscapes and unique geologic features that provide opportunities for research and education even along the National Recreation Trail and Wild and Scenic Sespe Creek.



Setting: The Sespe Wilderness, the last native home of the California condor before the captive breeding

program, contains some of the wildest, most rugged, and remote backcountry in southern California, yet it is still close to major urban populations. A wide variety of geologic formations are exposed in these east-west trending western mountains, leading to spectacular scenery and a great diversity of plant and animal habitats. Good accessibility via multiple entry points and a great trail network serve foot and equestrian travel throughout the wilderness. The nearby condor sanctuary is closed to public access.

High mountains include the Pine Mountain Ridge, the Topa Topa Range, and other peaks over 6,000 feet, topped by Reyes Peak at over 7,500 feet. Principal streams include the Wild and Scenic Sespe Creek, Agua Blanca Creek, and portions of Piru Creek. Watersheds are rugged, remote, and mostly undeveloped, except for trails and campsites. Most of the bedrock is of folded and faulted sedimentary origin, except for older basement rocks in the eastern area.

Mixed conifer forests cover north-facing slopes of the highest elevations and chaparral dominates the lower elevations. Wilderness designation limits opportunities for vegetation management. A minor noxious weed problem exists in some areas, including invasion of tamarisk and yellow-star thistle. Volunteer groups are controlling tamarisk populations.

There is a wide array of habitat, both riparian and upland, leading to a high biodiversity of wildlife. Cliffs and rock outcrops provide habitat for condors, mountain lions (*Felis concolor*), bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis cremnobates*), bats, and other species. Bear (*Ursus americanus*) and deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) are common. The anadromous steelhead trout can be found in a few streams during wet years, but barriers to fish passage restrict the growth of populations.

With some exceptions, fire has largely been excluded from this place for many decades. Old-age fuels are set up for large fires, and there is a need for management-ignited fire. Since most of the Sespe Place is surrounded by other wildland places; there is no urban interface. Special authorization has been obtained in certain situations to utilize motorized equipment inside the wilderness to aid firefighting activities. Otherwise, access for firefighting is limited to foot travel or aerial suppression.

Recreational opportunities include wildlife viewing and interpretation, picnicking, camping, hiking, hunting and use of the hot springs. Water play and fishing are available at Blue Point, and opportunities for solitude exist throughout the wilderness. Environmental education is insufficient to meet demand. Although there are multiple entry points to the wilderness, access to some key areas is unavailable to the public, and needs to be resolved. Unauthorized OHV and mountain bike activity is occurring in a few areas, and conflicts exist between recreationists, livestock and heritage values. Cultural sites need additional protection.

Grazing occurs on several allotments around the eastern and northern perimeter of the wilderness, but most grazing occurs outside of the boundary. Oil and gas are pumped from beneath the wilderness via directional drilling from wells in the Sespe Field located just outside the boundary. Hot springs occur within the wilderness, and are enjoyed for soaking, but the former "Known Geothermal Resource Area" once defined within the wilderness has been abandoned, and no drilling has occurred.

Portions of the public are concerned about the lack of accessibility to certain areas, such as the Condor Sanctuary, the Green Cabin trail, and Devil's Gate, and also the lack of maintenance of historic trails and campsites. Lead bullets, antifreeze, high voltage lines and other hazards threaten the condors. There are private inholdings within the wilderness.

Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Sespe Creek 24.3 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- Sespe Wilderness 218,507 acres

Proposed Research Natural Areas:

- White Mountain 2,104

Desired Condition: Sespe is maintained as a naturally evolving landscape that functions as one of the most rugged wilderness areas in southern California. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the

area's rugged, untamed character and the mix of conifer and chaparral.

Program Emphasis: The Sespe backcountry will continue to serve as a high quality primitive recreation area and wildlife refuge for varied species, including the California condor, close to major populations. A focus will be on reducing risks from wildfire to maintain water and scenic quality and improve habitat for steelhead, condors, bighorn sheep and other focal species. The Sespe Wild and Scenic River plan will add clarification for the river corridor. Additionally, maintain access to forestlands, improve recreation opportunities and facilities and improve public education about the forest ecosystem. Efforts will continue to reduce conflicts between recreationists, private landowners, and sensitive species. Emphasize the acquisition of lands to improve public access and to promote ecological stability and to reduce or eliminate use conflicts.

Ventana

Theme: A spectacular wilderness that offers a wide range of habitats, from cool, damp coast redwood groves to hot, dry mountain peaks, for solitude and quiet contemplation.



Setting: The Ventana Place consists of remote, undeveloped wild land with deep canyons and mountain peaks approaching 5,000 feet in elevation, all within just a few miles of the ocean. It has as its backbone the geologically complex, structurally faulted and folded, and locally unstable northern Santa Lucia Mountains. The majority of this place is designated Wilderness. It is bordered on the southwest by the Big Sur coast, on the north by private land, on the east by the Arroyo Seco drainage, and on the south by Fort Hunter Liggett Military Reservation. It is well known for its remote recreation and solitude.

The Big Sur and Carmel Rivers are the main watercourses that drain to the Pacific Ocean. Waterfalls, deep pools and hot springs are found along major streams. Average annual rainfall ranges from over 100 inches near the mountain crest to less than 30 inches a few miles inland. The surprising abundance of water emanating from the forest serves many downstream domestic and agricultural needs, especially in the Salinas Valley. Most areas east of the crest are hot and dry during the summer. Very little development has occurred within this place; less than 5% of the area is private land. The mostly metamorphic, highly faulted terrain has thin outcrops of marble, and traces of other valuable minerals that have not been developed.

Marked vegetation changes partition the place into well-defined ecosystems. These changes are attributed to dramatic climatic, topographic and geologic variations, coupled with an extensive history of fires. Much of the Ventana Place is covered by chaparral. Grass meadows, oak woodlands and open pine forest, deep canyons coast redwood, and the rare Santa Lucia fir (*Abies bracteata*), create a mosaic of vegetation across the rugged landscape. Ecosystems have recently been impacted by sudden oak death, invasion of non-native species, visitor use exceeding ecological capacity, and air quality degradation.

Wildlife is abundant, including mountain lions, wild pigs and turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*), trout, falcons and eagles. Mountain streams support healthy fisheries, and steelhead trout inhabit some of the coastal streams, such as Big Creek.

The Ventana Place has a history of very large fires that affect dams, roads and human infrastructure outside the

forest and air quality. Fuel treatments have been limited by restrictions and difficult access.

Management has focused on preserving wilderness character and resources while providing opportunities for primitive recreation experiences. People are drawn here because of the big trees, its proximity to Big Sur, opportunities to hike into rugged, beautiful wild areas, and deer hunting. Scenic vistas and spectacular topography offer opportunities for solitude and renewal of the human spirit. This place provides opportunities for year-round wildland recreation. Visitor use exceeds capacity in some areas, causing overuse of trail camps. A good trail system enables users to cross the wilderness; however, motorized and mechanized recreation is encroaching into the Wilderness. Undeveloped campgrounds are scattered across the entire place. Extreme sporting activities are becoming increasingly popular. Rock art and numerous archaeological sites highlight cultural resources, some of which are being effected by high public use.

Surrounding areas have had extensive mining development, but within the Ventana Place no mineral deposits for which extraction is economically feasible have been located, and the wilderness areas are off-limits to new exploration. Most of this place is withdrawn from mineral entry, and very little historic mining has occurred.

Some landowners have restricted access across their land, resulting in a reduction of traditional routes into the Wilderness. Illegal cultivation of marijuana has occurred in remote areas of the Ventana but there has been no interference with the use of trails.

Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Big Sur River 20.6 miles

Recommended Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Arroyo Seco River 2.9 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- Ventana Wilderness 151,274 acres

Proposed Special Interest Areas:

- Milpitas 953 acres

Proposed Research Natural Area:

- Ventana Cones 2,220 acres

Desired Condition: Ventana is maintained as a naturally evolving landscape that functions as a contemplative retreat and spectacular wilderness. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the mosaic of vegetation including the redwoods, oak woodlands, open pine forests, grasslands and chaparral mix that draw people for the big trees, water environment with scenic vistas.

Program Emphasis: Maintain the wild, scenic and spiritual character of the rugged back-country. Protect areas of cultural and biological significance, improve trail maintenance, increase environmental education, and resolve conflicts between users and resources. Increase Forest Service presence in the place through increased wilderness patrols and volunteer patrols. Protecting and educating the public about the many ecological and social values of the place will be stressed. Emphasize vegetation treatments (including fuels reduction treatments) and fire prevention to reduce the occurrence of large wildfires. Continue emphasis on partnerships to promote environmental education and resource protection efforts especially for threatened or endangered species such as the California condor and bald eagle.

Forest-specific Design Criteria

Place-specific Standards

Wilderness Standards

LPNF S2 - Emphasize minimum impact suppression tactics in all wilderness wildland fire responses. See Part 3, Appendix D.

LPNF S3- The maximum visitor group size is 25 people. Exceptions may be approved by the authorized officer.

Forestwide Guidance

Functional management plans (both existing and anticipated) that provide more specific direction are listed below:

- Wilderness Plans and Implementation Schedules
- Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive River Management Plans
- Forest Fire Management Plan
- Special Interest Area Plans
- Research Natural Area Establishment Reports and Implementation Plans
- Scenic Byway Plans
- Species Recovery Plans
- Species and Habitat Conservation Strategies
- Oil and Gas Record Of Decision and Environmental Impact Statement

Performance Risks

The forest operates in a dynamic environment, characterized by uncertainties in both internal and external operating conditions, due to fluctuations in the natural environment and the institutional environment. If events unfold in a manner that was not anticipated when this prospectus was prepared, attainment of the objectives shown above will be affected.

Risks Related to the Natural Environment

Fires, insect or disease outbreaks, and other disturbances are likely to occur, and could significantly alter current conditions.

The forest has experienced large wildfires in the last 10 years. Where and when future fires will burn is an inexact science. If future wildfire disturbance events exceed historical averages, or are concentrated in areas that are particularly vulnerable (urban interface, riparian areas, or special habitats), then the extent, location, and timing of management activities could all be affected.

Risks Related to the Institutional Environment

The Forest budget could differ from projections.

The trends in accomplishment of objectives shown above are dependent on the forest receiving an operating budget that is similar to its experienced budget over the last three years. Fluctuations in the budget, either upward or downward, would likely cause a change in the direction and/or magnitude of projected accomplishments. In addition, changes in the mix of funds between program areas also have the potential to affect the rate or magnitude of performance.

National or Regional strategic initiatives may emerge in response to broad-scale issues.

This forest plan is linked to the agency's national strategic plan (see Part 1—Southern California National Forests Vision) that is updated every three to five years. Historically, both Congress and the Executive Branch have also

instituted program initiatives outside of the forest planning process that affect much or all of the National Forest system (e.g., the roadless rule, the National Fire Plan, and the National Energy Policy). Such changes in national direction have the potential to add to, override, or otherwise adjust the performance objectives of the forest.

Tables Appendix

Table Appendix LPNF Part 2

Table-2.3.1-Suitable Uses Resource Management, LPNF

Land Use Zone	URI	DAI	BCM	BCNM	CB	W
Resource Management:	Urban and Rural Interface	Developed Areas Intermix	Back Country Motorized	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness
Fuelwood Harvesting	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	When Justified	Not Suitable
Rangeland Type Conversion for Forage production	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Restoration of Vegetation Condition	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	When Justified
Disposal of National Forest System lands	When Justified	When Justified	When Justified	When Justified	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Table-2.3.2-Suitable Uses Public Use and Enjoyment, LPNF

Land Use Zone	URI	DAI	BCM	BCNM	CB	W
Public Values and Uses:	Urban and Rural Interface	Developed Areas Intermix	Back Country Motorized	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness
Recreation Residence Tracts (see map)	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Developed Winter Sports Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Hunting (including dog training) and Fishing	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)
Target Shooting Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Motorized Use on Roads	Forest System Roads	Forest System Roads	Forest System Roads	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Off-Highway Vehicle Use on Forest System Roads	Designated Roads	Designated Roads	Designated Roads	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Motorized use off Forest System Roads (36CFR295) and (36CFR261.51)	Designated Motorized Trails	Designated Motorized Trails	Designated Motorized Trails	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Mountain Bikes	Designated Roads and Trails	Designated Roads and Trails	Designated Roads and Trails	Designated Roads and Trails	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Dispersed Area Camping (vehicle access permitted to designated campsites)	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Dispersed Area Camping (foot access)	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable

Table-2.3.3-Suitable Uses Commodity and Commercial Uses, LPNF

Land Use Zone	URI	DAI	BCM	BCNM	CB	W
Commodity and Commercial Uses:	Urban and Rural Interface	Developed Areas Intermix	Back Country Motorized	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness
Special Uses: Low Intensity Land Use	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	For Research	Not Suitable
Communication Sites	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Livestock Grazing	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Designated Areas
Major Transportation Corridors (36 CFR 219.27 (a) (9))	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Road construction or reconstruction	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Major Utility Corridors (36 CFR 219.27 (a) (9))	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Developed Facilities	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Oil and Gas Exploration Areas	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Fuelwood Harvesting	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	When Justified	Not Suitable

Table-2.3.4-Suitable Uses Fire and Fuels Management, LPNF

Land Use Zone	URI	DAI	BCM	BCNM	CB	W
Fire and Aviation Management:	Urban and Rural Interface	Developed Areas Intermix	Back Country Motorized	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness
Community Protection Areas	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	When Justified	When Justified
Fuelbreak Construction including type conversion	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	Not Suitable	When Justified

Table-2.3.5-Resource Management Performance Indicators, LPNF

Performance Indicators for Resource Management	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Acres of Terrestrial Habitat Enhanced	94	1,000
Miles of Aquatic Habitat Enhanced	3	25
Acres of Noxious Weeds Treated	75	225
Acres of Vegetation Improved (Timber Stand Improvement)	47	300
Acres of Watershed Improved	9	60
Acres of Land Ownership Adjusted	0	160
Number of Heritage Resources Managed to Standard	65	77

Table-2.3.6-Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, LPNF

Performance Indicators for Public Use and Enjoyment	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Products Provided to Standard (Interpretation and Education)	76	95
Recreation Special Use Authorizations Administered to Standard	98	210
PAOT Days Managed to Standard (Developed Sites)	1,133,111	3,629,884
Recreation Days Managed to Standard (General Forest Areas)	931	10,000

Table-2.3.7-Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, LPNF

Performance Indicators for Facility Operations and Maintenance	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Miles of Passenger Car Roads Maintained to Objective Maintenance Level	36	441
Miles of High Clearance & Back Country Roads Maintained to Objective Maintenance Level	54	677
Miles of Road Decommissioned	1	8
Miles of Trail Operated and Maintained to Standard	34	245

Table-2.3.8-Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, LPNF

Performance Indicators for Commodity and Commercial Uses	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Land Use Authorizations Administered to Standard	43	106
Number of Mineral Operations Administered	164	210
Manage Grazing Allotments	1,080	8,000

Table-2.3.9-Fire and Aviation Management Performance Indicators, LPNF

Performance Indicator for Aviation and Fire Management	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Acres of Hazardous Fuel Reduction	6,700	13,700

Appendices

Appendix A - Special Designation Overlays - Los Padres National Forest

Wilderness

Existing Wilderness

Chumash Wilderness

38,150 Acres

This area was established 1992 by the Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act. The Chumash Wilderness is within Ventura and Kern Counties and west of Frazier Park. It includes the area surrounding Mount Pinos, which was an integral part of Chumash Indian life and is still extremely important to the local Chumash residents. Elevations range from 8,800 feet near the summit of Mount Pinos to 4,400 feet in Apache Canyon. There are numerous access points; the most popular are at Mount Pinos and Mount Abel.

The vegetation consists mainly of pine forests in the northern portion, and a combination of badlands and chaparral in the south. Hiking and camping are among the many recreational activities available in this area, and snow in the winter provides opportunities for winter recreation. Human use however, is light.

Places: Mt. Pinos

Dick Smith Wilderness

67,800 Acres

The Dick Smith Wilderness was established in 1984 by the California Wilderness Act and is located in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, approximately 12 mile north of Santa Barbara. The writer, artist, and photographer for whom this wilderness was named was referred to by some as the "conscience of Santa Barbara" (Tilton).

The area is extremely rugged with numerous canyons and ridges. Elevations range from less than 2,000 feet in canyon bottoms to 6,541 feet at Madulce Peak. Prominent canyons include Indian, Mono, Alamar, Don Victor and Santa Barbara. The area has 8 trails totaling 49 miles and 5 trail camps. Vehicular access to trailheads in the Los Prietos area is limited by seasonal closures and long drive times over low-standard roads. Better access exists in the eastern portion from trailheads along State Highways 33 and 166.

While chaparral is the predominant vegetation, Madulce Peak has some of the most beautiful stands of mixed conifers found in the forest. The eastern portion of the area, known as the Rancho Nuevo Region, is more open with massive sandstone rock formations, chaparral, big cone Douglas fir and Great Basin sagebrush. Wildlife includes, black bear, deer, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, and several species of snakes.

Places: Dick Smith Wilderness

Garcia Wilderness

14,100 Acres

The Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act established this wilderness in 1992. It is located within San Luis Obispo County and is most easily accessed from the Lake Lopez and Pozo areas. Elevations range from 1,500 feet to 2,600 feet along the crest.

The Garcia Wilderness area offers an abundance of panoramic views, solitude and a variety of lush wildflowers in spring. The terrain ranges from chaparral-covered mountains to grasslands and abundant creek-side vegetation. Two hiking trails totaling 17 miles cut through the wilderness and there are three designated campsites. Golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and prairie falcons nest here.

Places: Avenales

Machesna Mountain Wilderness

19,760 Acres

The Machesna Mountain Wilderness was established in 1984 by the California Wilderness Act and is located within San Luis Obispo County. It can be accessed from State Highway 58 and the Pozo area via Forest Road 29S01. Elevations range from 4,063 feet at the summit of Machesna Mountain to 1,600 feet in American Canyon.

This wilderness boasts high peaks, chaparral, oak woodlands and conifer forests. Prairie falcon and tule elk live in this wilderness, though it is best known for its critical habitat for the California condor. Two trails totaling 20 miles and one camp are found within this wilderness, and human use is light. The area also includes the 1,500-acre American Canyon Research Natural Area, dedicated to the study of a unique strain of Coulter pine.

Places: Avenales

Matilija Wilderness

29,600 Acres

This wilderness was established 1992 by the Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act. It is located in Ventura County, 12 miles northeast of the town of Ojai and can be accessed from State Highway 33. Elevations range from Monte Arido at 6,003 feet to 1,600 feet where the Upper North Fork of Matilija Creek leaves the wilderness. This wilderness includes the scenic canyons of both Matilija Creek and its North Fork, with year-round flowing water.

Vegetation consists primarily of chaparral, and poppies are plentiful in spring. Fishing in Matilija creek is possible at certain times of the year. There are two hiking trails through the area, and one trail has campsites along it. Visitors may observe black bear, deer, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion, rattlesnakes, hawks, eagles, and California condor.

Places: San Rafael

San Rafael Wilderness

197,380 Acres

The San Rafael Wilderness became the first primitive area in the nation reclassified as wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964 (additional acreage was added in 1992 by the Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act). The San Rafael Wilderness is located in the San Rafael and Sierra Madre Mountain Ranges in northern Santa Barbara County. The wilderness area includes the Sisquoc Condor Sanctuary and the Sisquoc Wild and Scenic River. Elevations range from 1,160 feet, where the Sisquoc River leaves the wilderness, to 6,593 feet at the summit of San Rafael Mountain. There are over 125 miles of trails within the wilderness with numerous points of access; the most popular access is from Nira Campground.

This wilderness is mainly covered by chaparral, which consists of chamise, buckthorn ceanothus manzanita, scrub oak and yucca. Also found here are potreros (grassy meadows). Most trails through the area follow the creeks and rivers. The two main corridors into the wilderness are the Sisquoc River and Manzana Creek. These riparian zones provide food, water, and shelter for most species of wildlife. In the water are rainbow trout, western pond

turtles, and aquatic garter snakes. Bordering the water, western toad or pacific and California tree frogs may be found. From April through June many songbirds can be heard, such as the yellow warbler, house wren, orange-crowned warbler, and plain titmouse, that nest in riparian zones. Further from the creek, up in the brush, one can hear the calls of the scrub jay, California quail, and mountain quail.

Other points of interest include the Manzana Schoolhouse and the standing ruins of homesteads along the Sisquoc River. These sites are all that remain of a vigorous farming community that settled the flats along the river around the turn-of-the-century. The South Fork Cabin is a historic Forest Service shack that has sheltered generations of backcountry rangers.

Places: San Rafael

Santa Lucia Wilderness

18,679 Acres (NFS); 21,704 (total)

Located in San Luis Obispo County, the Santa Lucia Wilderness was established in 1978 by the Endangered American Wilderness Act. Elevations within the wilderness range from 800 feet near Lopez Reservoir to 3,000 feet near the summit of Hi Mountain. The area is most frequently accessed via the East Cuesta Ridge Road (Forest Route 30S10) and Lopez Canyon Road (Forest Route 31S06).

Chaparral-covered slopes and peaks, stream-fed valleys, Morro Rock, and the Seven Sisters are scenic images that are part of the Santa Lucia Wilderness experience. This wilderness offers numerous trails for hiking, hunting, and fishing

Places: Cuesta

Sespe Wilderness

219,700 Acres

The Sespe Wilderness was established in 1992 by the Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act and is located primarily within Ventura County. The wilderness includes the 53,000-acre Sespe Condor Sanctuary and the Gene Marshall-Piedra Blanca National Recreation Trail. Also found here is Sespe Creek, the last remaining undammed river in southern California. Part of Sespe Creek is a designated Wild and Scenic River (31.5 miles) with an additional 21.4 miles of Upper Sespe Creek eligible for designation. The creek is contained by sandstone cliffs, rising up to 500 feet above the water. Fabulous rock formations, along with petroglyphs and other evidence of ancient Indians, can be observed along the creek corridor (Tilton).

Elevations in the wilderness range from 7,510 feet at the Reyes Peak summit to approximately 1,000 feet where Sespe Creek leaves the wilderness. The Sespe Wilderness is mainly a chaparral-covered environment, with rock cliffs throughout. Steep, narrow gorges, picturesque pools, cascading riffles, and outstanding views of geologic formations create a unique visual experience. There are numerous trailheads, trails, and camps, and human use is heavy.

Places: Sespe

Silver Peak Wilderness

31,555 Acres

The Silver Peak Wilderness, located in Monterey County along the famous Big Sur coastline, was established in 1992 through the Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act. The Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act of 2002 added 17,055 acres to the Silver Peak Wilderness. Elevations range from 3,590 feet at the summit of Silver Peak to near sea level along State Highway 1. Numerous access points along State Highway 1 provide access to trails. Most of the trails and camps are found in the original Silver Peak Wilderness area.

The Willow Creek watershed contains a large stand of Douglas fir. The canyons also distinguish themselves with groves of towering redwoods that follow the creeks up the hillsides where they merge with the grassy meadows

found on the upper slopes. Steelhead trout still spawn in the lower reaches of Willow Creek. The North Fork of Willow Creek and its tributaries wind through steep canyons of dense old-growth forest on their way to the sea, some eight miles away.

Dramatic scenery, steep terrain, and coastal redwood groves characterize this area. Hiking is available on moderate to strenuous trails, and wildlife is present in more remote areas.

Places: Big Sur

Ventana Wilderness

239,288 acres

In 1931 the chief of the Forest Service set aside 45,520 acres known as the Ventana Primitive Area. This was enlarged to 55,884 acres in 1937. Since then, the area was renamed the Ventana Wilderness when it became part of the National Wilderness system in 1969, and has been enlarged four times (in 1978, 1984, 1992, and 2002), bringing its total up to the present 239,288 acres. The 1992 enlargement added 38,000 acres in the Horse Creek and Rocky Creek areas on the eastern edge of the wilderness. The Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act of 2002 added 37,110 acres. The wilderness area lies entirely within the Monterey County. Elevations range from 600 feet, where the Big Sur River leaves the Wilderness, to about 5,750 feet at the summit of Junipero Serra Peak. There are numerous access points to over 260 miles of trails.

Steep-sided, sharp-crested ridges, separating V-shaped valleys characterize the topography of the Ventana Wilderness. Most streams fall rapidly through narrow, vertical-walled canyons flowing on bedrock or a veneer of boulders. Waterfalls, deep pools and thermal springs are found along major streams.

Marked vegetation changes occur within the wilderness. These changes are attributed to dramatic climate and topographic variations, coupled with an extensive fire history. Much of the Ventana is covered by chaparral. This brushy vegetative cover is typical of that found throughout Southern California's fire susceptible mountains. The contrast of annual grass meadows and open pine stands may be found throughout the wilderness. Deep narrow canyons cut by the fast moving Big and little Sur Rivers support virgin stands of coastal redwood. Small, scattered stands of the endemic bristle cone fir may be found on rocky slopes.

Places: Big Sur, Ventana, Arroyo Seco

Recommended Wilderness

Chumash Toad Springs

The Chumash-Toad Springs area is an off-highway vehicle corridor temporarily excluded from the existing Chumash Wilderness, which was established in 1992 by the Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act. The Act states, "The Toad Springs road corridor delineated as potential wilderness shall remain open to off-road traffic until construction of an alternate route, which bypasses this area, is completed. These potential wilderness lands shall be automatically incorporated in and managed as part of the Chumash Wilderness upon publication of a notice in the Federal Register."

Places: Mt. Pinos

Cuyama

Diablo

The proposed wilderness area is located in eastern Santa Barbara County, approximately 10 miles north of Carpinteria. Elevations range from 5,800 feet along the eastern boundary to 1,700 feet where Aqua Caliente Canyon reaches the inventoried roadless area boundary. Vehicular access is available to nearby Pendola Station. Beyond Pendola, access is by off-highway vehicle or non-motorized travel. Forest Service off-highway vehicle

routes bound the area on three sides. The Aqua Caliente Trail extends approximately four miles into the area within Aqua Caliente Canyon. Upper Caliente Camp is a single-site rustic trail camp providing dispersed camping opportunities. Vegetation is primarily chaparral with conifers at higher elevations.

Places: San Rafael, Figueroa-Santa Ynez

Garcia Mountain

The Garcia Mountain Roadless Area is located in central San Luis Obispo County, approximately 15 miles east of San Luis Obispo. The area consists of four separate parcels adjacent to the existing Garcia Wilderness.

Elevations in the inventoried roadless area range from 1,500 to 2,700 feet, and the vegetation is primarily chaparral. The headwaters of the Salinas and Huasna Rivers originate along the flanks of Garcia Mountain. The North Fork of La Brea Creek supports red-legged frogs. Pine ridge, along the southern boundary of the Garcia Wilderness, is an extremely broken sandstone formation with numerous erosion-caused caves, cavities and ledges.

Access to the National Forest in this area is very poor and requires cross-country travel. Public access to the Stony Creek parcels of the inventoried roadless area is from Huasna Road. Forest Road 30S02 goes north to the Avenales. Another forest road leads 1.25 miles to the Avenales Observation Point. Access to the Hi Mountain parcel is via Forest Route 30S05 from Pozo or Lake Lopez.

There are 1,700 acres of private land and three encroaching roads within the Garcia Mountain inventoried roadless area boundaries, all of which render wilderness management difficult and costly. Because of the heavy chaparral cover throughout the area, primitive camping is limited. The large draw for the area is off-highway vehicle (OHV) use and dispersed camping. Some opportunities for rock climbing exist, but access to the area is difficult. Hunters use the area heavily. There are also portions of three grazing allotments within this area.

Places: Avenales, Cuesta, Rockfront

La Brea

The La Brea inventoried roadless area is located within the Santa Lucia Ranger District, approximately 15 miles east of Santa Maria. It is composed of all the National Forest System lands between the San Rafael Wilderness and the Sisquoc Land Grant south from NFSR 11N04 (near the North Fork of La Brea Creek) to NFSR 8N02 (near Zaca Lake).

The steep topography is bisected by numerous canyons, which drain into the Sisquoc River. Elevations rise from 1,200 feet to over 3,193 feet along the existing wilderness boundary. Vegetation is predominately chaparral, over 31-year age class. A limited amount of oak-woodland and oak-grassland exists at the lower elevations. The area is mostly steep, brushy and inaccessible to the general public.

The only motorized access is across private land, which is closed to the public at the lowest elevations on the north side at Barrel Springs Campground; however, one could park and hike cross-country. Public access to the north end is from Highway 166 via Tepusquet Canyon and Colson Canyon Roads (Santa Barbara County) to NFSR 11N04 (Rattlesnake and La Brea Canyon Roads). Public access is also gained by cross-country hiking from the San Rafael Wilderness.

Places: Colson, Figueroa-Santa Ynez, San Rafael

Machesna Mountain

The Machesna Mountain Roadless Area is within the Santa Lucia Ranger District, approximately 20 miles east of San Luis Obispo. The area consists of four separate parcels adjacent to Machesna Mountain Wilderness Area. Access to this area best gained from the Pozo Fire Station via Forest Routes 29S01 and 31S02.

The La Panza Range is the dominant landform. A number of drainages traverse the area. Elevations range from 1,500 feet near Frazier Canyon to 3,777 feet atop San Jose Peak. Aside from Pine Mountain Road (Forest Trail 30S17), the natural integrity of this area is generally undisturbed.

Chaparral dominates the landscape, although groups of conifers can be found in some drainages. Wildlife species include deer, mountain lion, bear and coyote as well as small game species, such as mountain and valley quail, dove and cottontail rabbit. It also contains potential habitat and borders a release site for the California condor.

Access to the National Forest in this area is very poor and requires cross-country travel. Annual recreation use is estimated at 2,500 recreation visitor days, attributed mostly to extensive OHV use, hunting and camping. There are 8.5 miles of off-highway-vehicle trails traversing the area. The Machesna Roadless Area contains three grazing allotments.

Places: Avenales, Pozo/La Panza

Madulce-Buckhorn

The portion of the Madulce-Buckhorn Roadless Area proposed for wilderness is located in Santa Barbara County, approximately 10 miles north of Santa Barbara. Elevations range from 4,926 feet at the headwaters of Buckhorn Creek to 2,000 feet where Buckhorn Creek leaves the area. Access is limited to non-motorized travel, and there are no trails within the interior of the inventoried roadless area.

The area is primarily comprised of the Buckhorn Creek watershed. The upper reaches of Buckhorn Creek maintain year-round water, with healthy rainbow trout fisheries. In the extreme northern portion of this area there are outstanding examples of large sandstone outcrops rising out of a dense stand of mixed conifer and chaparral.

There are few opportunities for visitor access due the dense growth of chaparral. Buckhorn Trail (Forest Trail 27W12), which borders the area on the south, is a popular backcountry loop for mountain bikers.

Places: San Rafael, Figueroa-Santa Ynez, Highway 33 Corridor

Matilija

The Matilija Roadless Area is located in Ventura County, approximately six miles northeast of the town of Ojai. Elevations range from just over 5,600 feet at the summit of Ortega Hill to 1,600 feet where the Upper North Fork of Matilija Creek leaves the area. Access is from State Highway 33 along the Matilija Creek Road (Forest Route 5N13) and the Ortega Road (Forest Route 6N01).

The natural appearance and integrity of the area are very much intact. The area has experienced several large wildfires, including the 1932 Matilija Fire, which was the largest wildland fire in California history (219,000 acres). Steep canyons, rugged side slopes, with more gentle ground in the large potreritos, characterize the area. There are several man-made improvements in the area, including Cherry Canyon Road, Ortega Trail, a buried natural gas pipeline along the eastern edge of the area, and several dozer-created fire lines.

The topography is rugged and mountainous, predominantly steep drainages with some gentle slopes in the northern area. Before the 1985 Wheeler Fire (118,000 acres), the vegetation was mainly chaparral with minor amounts of conifer and pinion juniper. Wildlife consists of bear, deer, mountain lion, bobcat, and coyote; smaller species include fox, mountain and valley quail, rabbit, raccoon, and gray squirrels.

Places: San Rafael, Highway 33 Corridor, Ojai-Piru Front Country

Mono

The Mono Roadless Area is located in Santa Barbara County approximately 10 miles north of Santa Barbara. Elevations range from Hildreth Peak at 5,065 feet to 1,600 feet, where Mono Creek leaves the area. The area is surrounded by existing administrative jeep-ways. Access is limited to non-motorized travel originating primarily from Mono Campground. The Mono/Alamar Trail and a portion of the Poplar Trail comprise 10 miles of non-motorized trails within the area. The Mono/Alamar Trail does receive some mountain bike use. Mountain bikers also use the 25-mile Loma-Victor Jeepway from the Monte Arido Road to an area just south of Ogilvy Ranch for extended backcountry travel and dispersed camping.

The Mono Creek drainage offers miles of outstanding natural features. The towering steep canyon walls of the Narrows, deep pools along Mono Creek, limestone and sandstone outcroppings, and the large expansive rolling

grass potrerros of Loma Pelona are classic backdrops for wilderness discovery.

Places: San Rafael

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Designated

Sespe Creek

31.5 Miles (27.5 Miles Wild, 4 Miles Scenic)

Interesting geologic formations, unusual gorges, and rich riparian vegetation provide excellent scenic diversity and recreation opportunities. This stream is considered an outstanding rainbow trout fishery and provides critical habitat for the endangered California condor. (www.nps.gov)

Places: Highway 33 Corridor, 4.7 miles; Sespe, 24.3 miles

Big Sur River

20.6 Miles, Wild

Located in the Ventana Wilderness, this river offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, camping, swimming and fishing. It is one of the longest coastal California streams lined with redwoods. (www.nps.gov)

Places: Ventana, 20.6 miles

Sisquoc River

Sisquoc Creek: 34.6 Miles, Wild

Most of this river lies within the San Rafael Wilderness. It offers excellent opportunities for solitude, wilderness-oriented activities, and appreciation of the outstanding scenery. (www.nps.gov)

Places: San Rafael 32.6 miles; Figueroa-Santa Ynez, 1.9 miles

Wild and Scenic Rivers, Recommended for Designation

Piru Creek

The upper portions of Piru Creek, those below a point in the Sespe Wilderness in the southwest corner of Township 6 N., Range 22 W., Section 3 to the maximum pool of Pyramid Lake, have been found suitable for classification as either a Wild or Scenic river. Upper Piru creek provides an outstandingly remarkable opportunity to recreate in and along a year-round stream. The faults and rock formations found along the Creek include important features crucial to the understanding of the very complex structural and geomorphic evolution of the west coast of North America. Along the upper portion of Piru Creek, exposures of the oldest basement rocks in the coastal mountains of the western U.S. are considered to be outstandingly remarkable. This portion of the Creek supports a population of arroyo toads, and the scientific and interpretive values offered by several of the prehistoric/ethnographic sites constitute outstandingly remarkable values.

Places: Sespe, 5.8 miles; Hungry Valley/Mutau, 32.8 miles

Sespe Creek

This portion of Sespe Creek originates in the southern half of Township 6 N., Range 24 W., Section 4 and extends to the confluence of Rock Creek in the northwest ¼ of Township 5 N., Range 22 W., Section 5. The section has

been found suitable for designation as either a Recreational or Scenic River (a 31.5-mile segment of Sespe Creek, from its confluence with Rock Creek and Howard Creek downstream to where it leaves section 26, T5N, R20W, received designation as a Wild/Scenic River in 1992). Sespe Creek has exemplary visual features, including contrasts created by large rock outcroppings and seasonal colors, and water that attracts regional and national attention. Below Chorro Grande Canyon, Sespe Creek offers excellent dispersed recreation opportunities such as swimming and wading, picnicking, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, photography, driving for pleasure and viewing scenery on the adjacent Scenic Byway. Also, the resident population of arroyo toads in upper Sespe Creek is one of the largest within one hundred miles. Intact habitat for southern steelhead and southwestern willow flycatcher habitat is also outstandingly remarkable, because samples of this intact habitat are very rare on the Los Padres National Forest and in the National Forests of southern California.

Places: Highway 33 Corridor, 11.5 miles

Arroyo Seco River

Steep canyon walls, gorges, rock outcrops, and jumbles of boulders that create pools and dramatic sounds characterize the dynamic setting of the Arroyo Seco River corridor, which has been found suitable for designation as a Wild and Scenic River. Many sections of the river, especially in the gorge and the many deep pools upstream, offer opportunities for solitude and challenge. These unique recreational opportunities are considered outstandingly remarkable. Geologically, the river also possesses significant and remarkable features, as it exposes the relationship of rocks and geologic structural features in the Salinian Block that are important as research areas to aid in understanding important tectonic and seismic processes along the California continental margin. Finally, the Arroyo Seco is the middle link of an anadromous fishery and provides habitat for the federally threatened steelhead fish.

Places: Ventana, 2.9 miles; Arroyo Seco, 15.1 miles

San Antonio River

Approximately 8.6 miles of the San Antonio River have been found suitable for designation as either a Wild or Scenic River, based on heritage and cultural resource values. The density and variety of sites in the Merle Ranch area, and the time span (probably encompassing thousands of years) that they collectively represent, taken with the prehistoric and historic interpretive potential of Merle Ranch and other local areas, constitute an outstandingly remarkable value.

Places: Ventana, 5.0 miles; Arroyo Seco, 3.6 miles

Research Natural Areas

Established

American Canyon

The 1,500-acre American Canyon Research Natural Area is located within the Machesna Mountain Wilderness on the Santa Lucia Ranger District. Coulter pine occurs in abundance here as dispersed, generally even-aged stands of varying size and density. Fires swept through the southeast and northwest portions of the basin in 1921 and 1939 respectively. Most of the stands date back to those fires; however, ridgetop and canyon bottom stands spared from the fires contain older trees. The associated chaparral is dominated by chamise and Eastwood manzanita.

An approved off-road vehicle trail runs along the east-west ridge of the basin. Other recreation use in the area consists mostly of hunting.

Places: Avenales

Black Butte

This 540-acre RNA is situated on the steep, generally northwest-facing slopes of Cuesta Ridge in the Santa Lucia Wilderness. Knobcone pine-chaparral is the target vegetation type and is found on north and northeast slopes as scattered groves and occasional continuous areas. Chaparral species, principally chamise, manzanita, and the sensitive Santa Lucia manzanita occupy the areas between pine stands. The intermittent streams that drain into the Black Butte RNA support riparian vegetation composed of coast live oak, California bay, tanoak, and bigleaf maple. There are no trails located within the RNA.

Places: Cuesta

San Emigdio Mesa

The San Emigdio RNA encompasses 1,200 acres of a large alluvial fan, dissected by several intermittent stream channels and gullies on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District. The target vegetation type is pinyon-juniper woodland. Pinyon pine, the dominant tree species, averages 15 to 20 feet in height and is evenly distributed over the entire area in low to moderate densities. Of the three common brush species, California juniper, big sagebrush, and dwarf oak, dwarf oak is by the far the most abundant. Some hunting may occur in the area, but there are no hiking or off-road vehicle trails through the RNA.

Places: Mt. Pinos

Cone Peak Gradient

The Cone Peak Gradient RNA, a 2,736-acre area, is remarkable for its ecological diversity. Within a three-mile horizontal distance inland from the Monterey coast, the mountains rise from sea-level to 5,000 feet. The resulting elevational and climatic gradient has 12 plant communities including canyon live oak woodland, mixed evergreen forest, coast live oak woodland, coast redwood and chaparral. The RNA lies within the Ventana Wilderness, and several trails traverse the area.

Places: Big Sur

Proposed

Big Pine Mountain

The Big Pine Mountain proposed RNA is located on the Santa Barbara Ranger District about 19 miles north of the city of Santa Barbara. Encompassing 3,258 acres, the RNA lies between 3,600 to 6,828 feet in elevation. The topography of the area is characterized by a level summit that changes quickly to a moderately steep to steep north-facing slope. Side canyons vary from relatively gradual slopes to steep pitches with occasional waterfalls.

Plant communities within the RNA are highly varied and strongly influenced by the 3,000-foot change in elevation within the area. Jeffrey pine forests occupy the summit and mixed conifer forests spread down the upper north slope. Coulter pine forests, canyon live oak forests, bigcone Douglas fir/canyon live oak forests are below the montane forests and above northern mixed chaparral that dominates the lowest elevations. The Buckhorn road traverses the upper southeast corner of the area. Road access is for administrative use only. Trails skirt the southern and northeastern boundaries of the area; however, recreational backpacking and hunting use are very light. This proposed RNA is an excellent example of high-elevation montane vegetation types that are compressed into a steep elevational gradient. The area also harbors two rare plant species and a number of animal species of special concern.

Places: San Rafael

Sawmill Mountain

The Sawmill Mountain proposed RNA is located on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District about 4.5 miles west of Frazier Park, within the Chumash Wilderness. The 3,451-acre area reaches from 6,250 to 8,750 feet in elevation, and the topography is characterized by small peaks and ridges and steep and moderately steep slopes with narrow drainages.

Jeffrey pine forests and Jeffrey pine-singleleaf pinyon/canyon live oak woodlands and forests are present on the south facing slopes, while Jeffrey pine-white fir forests dominate mesic, north-facing slopes. Small islands of mountain meadow vegetation are scattered throughout the area. The RNA also contains portions of two sub-watersheds, one that drains into San Emigdio and Cuddy creeks to the south and the other that drains into Dry and Apache canyons to the north. Since the area lies within designated wilderness, it is closed to motorized use, and no roads are present in it. The two trails traversing the area are used for hiking, primitive camping and Nordic skiing.

This RNA is in very good to excellent ecological condition and contributes to the Region 5 network a typical example of southern California Jeffrey pine and white fir forests, as well as undisturbed mountain meadows. Recreational use is low and confined to trails, and access for research is good.

Places: Mt. Pinos

White Mountain

Located on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District about 15 miles southeast of Frazier Park, the White Mountain proposed RNA encompasses approximately 2,104 acres. An expansive, dissected, relatively steep northeast facing exposure with a long, relatively narrow ridge characterizes the area's topography. Elevations range from 3,200 to 6,200 feet. Bigcone Douglas fir and mixed conifer pine forests cover the entire elevational range of the area. They intermix with large areas of lower montane chaparral. Canyon live oak forests are juxtaposed to both types of coniferous and small patches of montane riparian vegetation that occur at the lowest elevations. Part of the Buck Creek watershed that drains into the Pyramid reservoir is located within this proposed RNA.

No motorized use is permitted on the proposed site, and no designated trails exist within the area. This RNA is in excellent condition and offers good examples of bigcone Douglas fir forests and other montane vegetation types.

Places: Sespe, Hungry Valley/Mutau

Valley Oak

The 108-acre proposed Valley Oak RNA is located on the Monterey Ranger District about 18 miles west of King City on the western boundary of the Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation. Landforms that characterize this area include gently sloping alluvial terraces dissected by small arroyos and minor rills, along with a well developed sandstone outcrop. Elevations here range from 1,550 to 2,465 feet.

The Valley Oak proposed RNA has one of the few remaining examples of valley oak woodlands on public lands in the State. The proposed area has open woodlands of large, stately trees, and a significant area of younger, dense forests. Other vegetation types include blue oak woodlands, California annual grasslands, chamise chaparral, coastal sage scrub and riparian vegetation along the San Antonio River.

The proposed RNA represents a small part of a much larger watershed that drains into the San Antonio River. It is also located within the 2,200-acre Upper Milpitas allotment that has a long history of grazing.

A paved, well-used county road passes through the area. As a consequence, there are a number of uses inconsistent with RNA designation such as shooting, illegal dispersed camping, fishing and rock climbing. No designated trails fall within the proposed area however. This proposed RNA is in fair to good ecological condition and represents one of the few remaining areas on the Central Coast that offer research opportunities in valley oak.

Places: Arroyo Seco

Ventana Cones

The Ventana Cones proposed RNA is located on the Monterey Ranger District about 32 miles west of King City

in the heart of the Ventana Wilderness. The topography of the 2,200-acre area is defined by a steep, west-facing slope with numerous rock outcrops and narrow canyons. Elevations range from 2,000 to 4,700 feet.

This proposed RNA was selected to represent the narrow endemic Santa Lucia fir, as well as associated rock-outcrop vegetation, including hardwood forests composed of tanoak, madrone and California bay. The Santa Lucia fir occurs both in single-species stands and mixed with canyon live oak and other hardwoods. Fir stands are patchily distributed within this area often around rock outcrops.

The area is part of a much larger watershed that drains into the Carmel River. There is one designated trail through the area leading to the Ventana Double Cone.

Places: Ventana

Special Interest Areas

Existing

Cuesta Ridge

Established in 1969, the Cuesta Botanical Area covers 1,330 acres of serpentinite Sargent cypress (*Cupressus sargentii*), but also includes small stands of Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*). In addition to being the largest area of Sargent cypress on the Forest, the area is of special importance because it provides important habitat for the following sensitive plants: Cuesta Pass checkerbloom (*Sidalcea bickmanii* spp. *anomala*), San Luis sedge (*Carex obispoensis*), San Luis mariposa lily (*Calochortus obispoensis*), and Brewer's spineflower (*Chorizanthe breweri*). In 1994, the Highway 41 Fire burned through the botanical area destroying most of the Sargent cypress trees. However, the year after the fire botanists found thousand of Sargent Cypress seedlings. In a similar fashion, thousands of Cuesta Pass checkerbloom plants appeared where previously there were only known to be 50. This illustrates the resiliency of the botanical area and its vegetation to wildfire.

Places: Cuesta

Dry Lakes Ridge

The Dry Lakes Ridge SIA, located in Ventura County, was set aside for its outstanding botanical values. The area encompasses over 400 acres of dry lakes formed from a relatively small internal basin located at the axis of a steeply folded anticline. Of botanical and scientific interest are the disjunct relic plant species including *Lotus stipularis*, *Rhus trilobata quinata*, *Apoxynum pumilum*, and *Chrysothasminus nauseosus consumilis*, none of which are found on nearby ridges. In addition there are remnant stands of *Pinus ponderosa*.

Places: Highway 33 Corridor

Mt. Pinos Summit

Located in Ventura and Kern Counties, the 450-acre Mt. Pinos SIA was designated for its unique botanical values. The species of special interest is limber pine, which grows in two relatively small areas (less than 20 acres) on Mt. Pinos and Sawmill Mountain above 8,000-foot elevation. These pine are the only representatives of southern California subalpine forest on the Los Padres National Forest.

Places: Mt. Pinos

Quatal Canyon

Quatal Canyon SIA, located in Ventura and Kern Counties, was set aside for its unique geological attributes. The area as viewed from Quatal Canyon clearly has a distinctive geomorphic character when compared with the surrounding terrain. Vertical pedestals and eroded cliffs of folded buff and iron-stained sandstone beds (Caliente

Formation) have been sculpted by surface waters. The results are channels and near vertical slopes of loose debris which disgorge onto Quatal Canyon Valley. Soils are so thin that little or no vegetation grows. The area shows a unique terrain, which is being eroded so fast that soil profiles cannot develop. Indeed, the area allows anyone interested in earth science to observe how quickly the bedrock history of the forest can be erased by water erosion, even in a desert climate.

The site provides scenic qualities to the Los Padres National Forest. The valley generally contrasts sharply with the buff and red colored sandstone, which has little vegetation. The area offers outstanding examples of geology and the processes which shaped, and are shaping, the forest mountains and valleys.

Places: Mt. Pinos

Sierra Madre

The Sierra Madre SIA contains unique cultural resources. The 5,592-acre site expands upon the Eastern Sierra Madre Ridge Archeological District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register District was established in 1978 and encompasses an area containing significant cultural values related to rock art, other archeological sites, and traditional values of importance to contemporary Native Americans. It is also an important location for on-going research by specialists interested in archeoastronomy. Special treatment for this area began in the 1960s, with its exclusion from the San Rafael Wilderness Area, primarily to allow continued essential access to the Sierra Madre Ridge; although excluded, the Forest Service at that time made a commitment to encouraging research and preserving the important cultural values of the area. More than 65 cultural properties have been recorded within the area, and many additional sites have been reported in portions outside the National Register District which have not been systematically inventoried.

Places: San Rafael, Cuyama-Highway 166 Front

Alder Creek

Located in Monterey County, the Alder Creek SIA was set aside for its unique botanical values. The 23-acre site includes Sargent cypress with a number of other rare endemic plant species, including the sensitive species hardham's bedstraw.

Places: Big Sur

Lion Den Spring

Located in Monterey County, Lion Den Spring SIA was designated for its unique botanical values. Like Alder Creek SIA, this site also has a Sargent cypress grove. It covers 85 acres and has only a few endemics, including Hardham's bedstraw (a Forest Service Sensitive species). The two areas complement one another well and provide a good representation of Sargent cypress endemics.

Places: Big Sur

Southern Redwood

The Southern Redwood SIA has been designated for its unique botanical values. Located in Monterey County, it encompasses the southern most stand of natural redwood. The area is small (10 acres) and narrow, since redwood at this latitude usually occur along streams.

Places: Big Sur

Proposed

Bear Ponds

Acres: 197

Emphasis: Ecology/Research/Education-Interpretation

Description of values: The Bear Ponds, as a collection of vernal pools and one pond are popularly called, form the nucleus of an area that provides habitat for several rare plants and animals. Two endangered species and three Forest Service sensitive species are present, each in distinctly different habitats, and each with unique geographic distributions that are alike in one respect: each of these five species, though rare, have geographic distributions that are fairly wide and consist of relatively isolated, disjunct populations. In the vernal pools are found at least two species of federally listed fairy shrimp (Conservancy fairy shrimp and vernal pool fairy shrimp). These vernal pools are unique in that they occur in a montane setting, surrounded by pine forest, near the top of a watershed. Odd geologic folding has created the setting for the vernal pools, which in some years never fill with water and in others are wet for several consecutive months. One pool is large enough to be classified as a pond and it provides habitat for a different suite of aquatic invertebrates. Natural aquatic habitats, especially vernal pools, ponds, and lakes, are very rare in the western Transverse Range.

Four types of vegetation are present within a relatively small area: on the Lockwood clay is found pale-yellow layia (*Layia heterotricha*); on the margins of the vernal pools is Baja navarretia (*Navarretia peninsularis*); on open, buckwheat covered flats is pine-green gentian (*Swertia neglecta*), and in the pinyon woodlands, flax-like monardella (*Monardella linoides* ssp. *oblonga*). All of these plants are sensitive. The Lockwood clay soil provides habitat for an assemblage of plants that is repeated elsewhere, wherever Lockwood clay is found. Lockwood clay has a limited distribution in the western Transverse Range and in some areas the clay is mined for use in aggregate. Other plants in this assemblage include stink bells (*Fritillaria agrestis*), Mt. Pinos onion (*Allium howellii* var. *clokeyi*), and heart-leaf thornmint (*Acanthomintha obovata* ssp. *cordata*). The buckwheat (*Eriogonum wrightii* ssp. *subscaposum*) covered flats appear to have a 'pebble plain' appearance. Odd associates include bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*) and desert mariposa (*Calochortus kennedyi*).

The area provides ecologists and biogeographers the opportunity to study ecological relations, gene flow, population biology, and migration theory. The Bear Ponds area also provides excellent opportunities for guided and self-guided interpretation.

The Bear Ponds is not a well-known location and currently experiences little scientific attention and little recreation use. The primary recreation use is hunting and dispersed (roadside) camping. The area is within the Piru Allotment.

Description of area: The proposed Bear Ponds botanical SIA is in a saddle between the upper headwaters of Lockwood Creek and Piru Creek near San Guillermo Mountain.

Access: Interstate 5 to Frazier Mountain Road, west to Lockwood Valley Road, west on Lockwood Valley Road about 9 miles to Forest Road 7N03 (Grade Valley Road), south on Grade Valley Road about 1.6 miles.

Desired condition: Habitats remain largely unaltered and as close to natural potential as possible. Recreation remains at current levels or increases 5-15 percent, with increased emphasis on interpreting and appreciating natural history.

Places: Hungry Valley/Mutau

Camatta

Acres: 55

Emphasis: Ecology/Research/Education-Interpretation

Description of values: The Red Hill Road is so-named because of the red soil that is evident atop the old plateau where the Red Hill Road begins. On either side of this plateau, erosion has worn away the side and washed away the red soil. Chamise chaparral and blue oak woodlands are found on the slopes and bottomlands; however, the area bisected by the Red Hill Road is a savannah at best, as the thin, rocky red soil is apparently inhospitable to tree and shrub. The vegetation of the proposed botanical SIA is not well described in the ecological literature and is best termed flower fields. Nonnative annuals such as filaree and foxtail are present, but native annuals and perennial form a dominant component of the vegetation and feature one threatened species (Camatta Canyon amole) and a second narrow endemic (*Dwarf calycadenia*). Camatta Canyon amole (*Chlorogalum purpureum*

reductum) is a threatened species and is found only in this area, partly on private land and mostly on NFS land. Dwarf Calycadenia (*Calycadenia villosa*) is a sensitive species and this form the species is apparently restricted to about four locations # all in or adjacent to the La Panza Range. The soil type here is unique and is apparently found nowhere else.

The area provides ecologists and biogeographers opportunity to study ecological relations, gene flow, population biology, and effects of grazing. The Red Hill Road area also provides excellent opportunities for guided and self-guided interpretation.

The Red Hill Road area is a well-known location. Botanists visit the area in the spring to enjoy wildflowers and to see rare plants. Stargazers occasionally gather at night in the open plateau. Off-highway vehicle riders often stage from an informal parking area located along Red Hill Road. Campers and picnickers occasionally use the area for dispersed recreation. The area is within the Navajo Allotment.

Description of area: The proposed Red Hill Road botanical SIA is located on the border of the National Forest near the La Panza Range.

Access: From Highway 101, east on Highway 58, or from Interstate 5, west on Highway 58, to Forest Road 29S15 (Red Hill Road). Proposed botanical SIA is immediately south of intersection of Highway 58 and Red Hill Road.

Desired condition: Vegetation is not adversely affected and natural disturbance processes function within historic range of variability. Recreation use is mostly in the form of non-motorized day use with increased emphasis on interpreting and appreciating natural history.

Places: Pozo/La Panza

Mono Basin

Acres: 3,078

Emphasis: Ecology/Research/Education-Interpretation/Recreation

Description of values: The Mono Basin area in the upper Santa Ynez watershed has long been recognized for the richness of its biodiversity, unmatched by any other area of comparable size in the National Forests of southern California. This feature is made possible by the diversity and condition of the habitats in the basin, which includes various age classes and conditions of most upland and riparian/aquatic types. The upland areas are characterized by chaparral (xeric to mesic) on west to south facing slopes, various live and valley oak woodlands along canyons and valley bottoms and potrero grassland scattered throughout but especially along mid slopes and ridge systems.

The area's aquatic and riparian habitats make the biggest contribution to the area's biodiversity. These habitats include one of the largest and most intact mid-elevation cottonwood/willow riparian woodland in southern California. Over 100 species of birds are known to nest or have otherwise been detected in this habitat. Over 60 of these species are neotropical migrants. Two of these migrants are listed under the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts (ESA)--the least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher, both endangered. The vireo is known to nest and for that reason most of the habitat has been federally designated as critical to species recovery. This is the only such habitat on Los Padres National Forest. Although the flycatcher is not known to nest, suitable habitat does exist and future nest surveys may be successful. There is a remarkable assemblage of reptiles and amphibians associated with the habitat, including the endangered arroyo toad and threatened California red-legged frog. In fact, the Mono Basin area is the only location on the Los Padres where the two coexist. Although widespread in proper habitat throughout the Los Padres, populations of two-striped garter snakes and southwestern pond turtles (both sensitive) are thought to be the largest and most secure on LPNF.

The highlands on the north side of this ecological area are within the Sisquoc-San Rafael Condor Area, which is federally designated as critical to California condor (federally and state endangered) recovery. There are several historic condor nest sites in this area.

The scientific community is very interested in the Mono Basin area. Intensive studies of the least Bell's vireo breeding population, riparian bird community in general and brown-headed cowbird-least Bell's vireo relationships have been and continue to be investigated in Mono Basin.

The Upper Santa Ynez Recreation Area, three campgrounds, receives moderate use by the public with most occurring during the late summer/fall hunting season.

Description of area: This proposed ecological area is in the upper Santa Ynez watershed in Santa Barbara County. It encompasses the Mono, Indian, Blue, Big and Little Caliente subbasins in their entirety and includes that section of the Santa Ynez basin from Alder Creek to Gibraltar Reservoir.

Access: State Highway 154 to East Camino Cielo to Forest Road 5N15 (Pendola Road) to Mono Campground a distance of about 25 miles or two hours from Highway 154

Desired condition: Habitats remain largely unaltered and as close to natural potential as possible. Recreation remains at current levels.

Places: Figueroa-Santa Ynez, San Rafael

Milpitas

Places: Arroyo Seco, Ventana

GPRA Objectives

The GPRA priority goals for the Forest Service are provided in the Forest Service National Strategic Plan (2003 Revision). The priority goals embody the agency's many areas of responsibility, as captured in the mission statement: "The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." Forest land management plans further refine these goals through development of desired condition statements and forest-specific objectives. The land management plan identifies the role each forest plays in working toward these national goals and objectives.

Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire

Outcome: Reduced risk to communities and the environment from catastrophic wildland fire by improving the health of the nation's forests and grasslands.

"A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment: 10-Year Comprehensive Wildland Fire Strategy" (Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture, 2001) describes the need to reduce the risk of wildland fire to communities and the environment because:

- increased population growth in the wildland-urban interface place more citizens and property at risk;
- many of the traditional approaches to land management and suppression of wildland fire have resulted in dense, diseased or dying forests, which has contributed to severe fires and increased threats to communities and ecosystems; and
- post-fire ecosystem health problems from insects, pathogens, and invasive species are increasing.

Miles of rural landscape once buffered urban areas from the effects of wildland fire. Now forests are increasingly part of the wildland-urban interface, creating a greater challenge for fire protection. Recent research has identified 73 million acres of National Forest System lands and 59 million acres of privately-owned forestland at high risk of ecologically destructive wildland fire (condition classes 2 and 3, Fire Regime I and II) (Schmidt et al., 2002).

The following objectives support this goal:

Objective: Improve the health of National Forest System lands that have the greatest potential for catastrophic wildland fire.

Objective: Consistent with resource objectives, wildland fires are suppressed at a minimum cost, considering firefighter and public safety, benefits, and values to be protected.

Objective: Assist 2,500 communities and those non-National Forest System lands most at risk

with development and implementation of hazardous fuel reduction and fire prevention plans and programs.

Goal 2: Reduce the impacts from invasive species [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2]

Outcome: Improve the health of the nation's forests and grasslands by reducing the impacts from invasive species.

Invasive species, particularly insects, pathogens, plants, and aquatic pests, pose a long-term risk to the health of the nation's forests and grasslands. These species interfere with natural and managed ecosystems, degrade wildlife habitat, reduce the sustainable production of natural resource-based goods and services, and increase the susceptibility of ecosystems to other disturbances such as fire and flood. Rampant population growth and impact often occurs when new organisms are introduced into ecosystems and their natural enemies do not follow. Habitat fragmentation (the division of forest and grassland habitat into smaller, more isolated patches) limits containment and eradication of invasive species.

Economic impacts to forests and grasslands from invasive species currently exceeds \$4 billion per year, without considering the cost of environmental consequences, such as loss of native fauna and flora in large areas. The best defense against invasive species is either preventing their introduction or aggressively eradicating newly detected pest species. The Forest Service accomplishes both courses of action by implementing the National Invasive Species Management Plan in cooperation with other USDA agencies, other federal departments, States, tribes, and private sector partners.

The following objective supports this goal:

Objective: Improve the effectiveness of treating selected invasive species.

Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1]

Outcome: Provide high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities on forests and grasslands, while sustaining natural resources, to help meet the nation's recreation demands.

By mid-century our nation's population is projected to increase by nearly 50%. Simultaneously, public access to privately-owned forestland is expected to continue to decline. This situation will increase the pressure on public lands to provide additional recreation opportunities. If public lands are to continue to provide additional recreation benefits without experiencing unacceptable impacts to resources, emphasis must be placed on effective management solutions. In particular, it is critical that we improve management of off-highway vehicle access and use on National Forest System lands to preserve high-quality experiences for all recreational users.

The following objectives support this goal:

Objective: Improve public access to National Forest System land and water and provide opportunities for outdoor health-enhancing activities.

Objective: Improve the management of off-highway vehicle use to protect natural resources, promote safety of all users, and minimize conflicts among various uses through the collaborative development and implementation of locally-based travel management plans.

Goal 4: Help meet energy resource needs [USDA Objective 5.1]

Outcome: Consider opportunities for energy development and the supporting infrastructure on forests and

grasslands to help meet the nation's energy needs.

The nation's forests and grasslands play a significant role in meeting America's need for producing and transmitting energy. Unless otherwise restricted, National Forest System lands are available for energy exploration, development, and infrastructure occupancy (e.g., well sites, pipelines, and transmission lines).

The following objective supports this goal:

Objective: Work with other agencies to identify and designate corridors for energy facilities, improve permit application processing efficiency, and establish appropriate land tenure (including transferability clauses) in easements and other authorizations to provide for long-term project viability.

Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2]

Outcome: Increase the area of forest and grassland watersheds in fully functional and productive condition.

An estimated 3,400 towns and cities currently depend on National Forest System watersheds for their public water supplies. Our national forests and grasslands contain more than 3,000 public water supplies for campgrounds, administrative centers, and similar facilities. Communities that draw source water from national forests and grasslands provide water to 60 million people, or one-fourth of the nation's people. Although most forested watersheds are in fully functioning or satisfactory condition, many streams on National Forest System lands do not meet State water-quality standards. Some municipal watersheds, especially in the West, are at risk from catastrophic wildland fire and from impacts due to excessive use. These problems are compounded by land parcelization. The loss of valuable corridors connecting National Forest System land with other undisturbed tracts of land increases the difficulty of effectively managing watershed conditions. Sustaining functional watershed conditions over time maintains the productive capacity of our land and water.

The following objectives support this goal:

Objective: Assess and restore high-priority watersheds and maintain riparian habitat within these watersheds.

Objective: Monitor water quality impacts of activities on National Forest System lands.

Objective: Restore and maintain native and desired nonnative plant and animal species diversity within terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and reduce the rate of species endangerment by contributing to species recovery.

Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals

Outcome: Improve the productivity and efficiency of other mission-related work and support programs.

The Forest Service provides direction for natural resource stewardship through direct land management practices, indirect management under partnership agreements, and research and development programs. The agency also provides many goods and services such as recreational opportunities, clean water, and wood products, to the American people. We consistently strive to maintain the organizational structure and capacity to deliver the necessary mission work.

The following objectives support this goal:

Objective: Provide current resource data, monitoring, and research information in a timely manner.

Objective: Meet Federal financial management standards and integrate budget and performance.

Objective: Maintain the environmental, social, and economic benefits of forests and grasslands by

reducing their conversion to other uses.

Objective: Maintain Office of Safety and Health Administration standards.

Objective: Develop and maintain the processes and systems to provide and analyze scientific and technical information to address agency priorities.