San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study

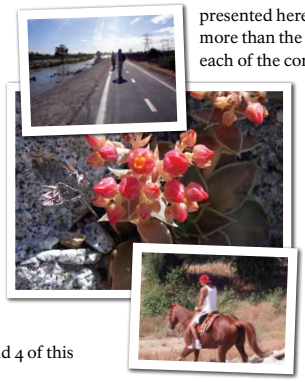
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Santa Fe Dam Native Plant Garden, Irwindale

Newsletter 4, August 2009

Dear Friends:

We are happy to report our progress on the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study and we invite your feedback on the proposals presented on these pages. Since you last heard from us, we have been working on resource analysis and development of alternative management concepts. This newsletter contains a summary of the preliminary study findings, and it presents several alternative concepts for protecting significant resources and enhancing recreational and educational opportunities in the area. Please let us know what you think.



The study process includes determining whether resources of the study area are nationally significant, suitable for inclusion in the national park system, and feasible for inclusion in the national park system. The preliminary study findings on these topics are presented on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter.

The three alternative concepts presented in this newsletter seek to address current and future recreation and open space needs and protect or restore significant natural resources. They emphasize opportunities for collaborative management and partnerships, and they respect existing property rights, jurisdictions and authorities. They include different levels and types of involvement by the National Park Service (NPS).

Each alternative concept has a different approach to cultural and natural resource protection, recreational opportunities, and management structure.

The study team developed these concepts through research and input from agency partners, along with stakeholder and public comments provided during the scoping period.

Please tell us what you think about the alternative concepts presented here. Do you like one particular concept more than the others? Do you like various elements of each of the concepts? Do you have an entirely different vision of how the area should be managed? Your comments will help us refine the concepts and will ultimately lead to a recommendation to Congress.

We are hosting several public meetings this fall to discuss the study findings and alternative concepts. Please join us at one of these meetings if you can. You may also send us your comments by e-mail at **pwr_sangabriel@nps.gov**, enter them onto our public comment web site at **www.nps.gov/pwr/sangabriel**, or send us the enclosed mail-in form or a letter.

We sincerely value your input regarding the future of the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains study area, and thank you in advance for your participation. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Martha Crusius

Martha Crusius, Project Manager

You're Invited!

We look forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas and comments at one of the following public meetings:

El Monte
Monday, August 31st
7pm - 9pm
City of El Monte Senior Center
3120 N. Tyler Avenue

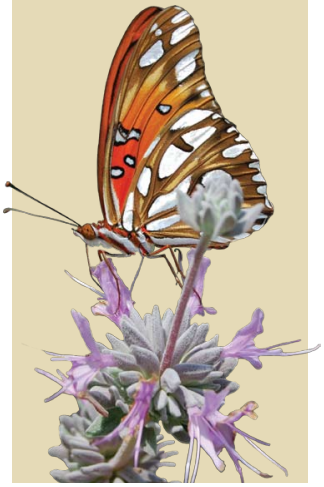
Diamond Bar
Wednesday, September 2nd
7pm - 9pm
Diamond Bar Center Ballroom
1600 S. Grand Avenue

Santa Clarita
Thursday, September 3rd
7pm - 9pm
George A. Caravalho Activities Center
Santa Clarita Room A
20880 Centre Point Parkway

Glendora
Monday, September 14th
7pm - 9pm
Glendora Public Library
140 South Glendora Avenue

Palmdale
Tuesday, September 15th
7pm - 9pm
Larry Chimbole Cultural Center
Lilac Room
38350 Sierra Highway

Please visit ***www.nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel*** *for details and directions*



Study Findings Summary

Significance: *Are there nationally significant resources in the study area?*	*see p. 3*
San Gabriel Mountains	Nationally significant for their geologic resources, high biodiversity, dynamic river systems, and the long history of scientific study and discovery.
Puente-Chino Hills	Nationally significant for their rare native plant communities, including coastal sage scrub habitat and walnut woodlands
Other portions of the study area	Isolated pockets of significant resources
Suitability: *Could the area help fill a crucial gap in the national park system?*	*see p. 4*
San Gabriel Mountains & Puente-Chino Hills	The study area contains a unique combination of themes and resources not found in other national parks or comparably protected areas.
Feasibility: *Could it be efficiently and effectively managed by the National Park Service?*	*see p. 4*
Management of the entire study area as a traditional national park unit is not feasible. Portions of the study area, focused on the nationally significant resources, could be a feasible addition to the national park system if managed in collaboration with local partners.	

What's Inside...

Background, p. 2
An overview of the study process and the study team's progress to date.

How to Comment
Look for the comment form insert.

Findings, pp. 3-4
The team's findings on significance, suitability, and feasibility.

The Study Area, p. 4
Study area map.

Alternative Concepts, pp. 4-7
A: San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area, p. 5
B: San Gabriel Parks and Open Space Network, p. 6
C: San Gabriel Watershed National Recreation Area, p. 7

The Special Resource Study Process

A special resource study is prepared when the National Park Service is requested by Congress to study an area for possible inclusion in the national park system.

In a special resource study, a proposed addition to the national park system receives a favorable recommendation from the National Park Service only if it meets all of the following criteria:

- it possesses nationally significant natural or cultural resources;
- it is a suitable addition to the system;
- it is a feasible addition to the system; and
- it requires direct NPS management, instead of alternative protection by other public agencies or the private sector.

In cases where a study area's resources meet criteria for national significance, but do not meet other criteria for inclusion in the national park system, the National Park Service may recommend an alternative status.

The San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study seeks to bring together the NPS process for special resource studies with the realities of densely populated urban communities, managed by many different landowners, agencies, and jurisdictions, interfacing with large areas of open space and wildlands. Using this combined approach, the primary emphasis of the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study is identifying opportunities for collaborative management and partnerships among local, state and federal governments and other entities, in order to:

- Address current and future recreation and open space needs;
- Protect or restore significant natural resources and important habitats;
- Preserve historic and cultural resources;
- Maintain or improve water quality, water conservation and flood protection.

Background

Public scoping meeting in Claremont

The National Park Service (NPS) began work on the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study in 2005. In a special resource study, the NPS evaluates the natural and cultural resources of an area, identifies opportunities for public enjoyment and recreation, determines if any resources are eligible for management as a national park or some other form of protection, and provides a report to Congress and the local community with recommendations for the protection and public enjoyment of natural and cultural resources.

As directed by Congress, the NPS is conducting this study in partnership with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the Angeles National Forest, and other federal, state, and local government entities.

As part of the scoping process, the NPS introduced the study in Newsletter #1 and at meetings with organizations, agencies, elected officials, and the public. Many communities, elected officials, agencies, organizations and individuals provided comments on the initial study approach, important resources that should be included in the study, the potential impacts of the study, the scope and size of the study area, and the range of possible study outcomes. A summary of these comments was included in Newsletter #2 (2005) and posted on the study website.

Newsletter #3 (2006), also posted on the study website, described how the study approach and boundaries were revised in response to comments from the public, various agencies, public officials, and other stakeholders. The revised approach included identifying opportunities for collaborative management and partnerships among local, state, and federal governments. This approach forms the foundation of all three alternative concepts presented here.

The NPS study team is continuing its work on the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study. In this newsletter, we present the draft resource evaluation findings, as well as several draft alternative management concepts that would protect significant resources and provide more recreational opportunities in the region. As at the beginning of the study, you again have an opportunity to provide input into the study process.

We Would Like to Hear from You!

As you read through this newsletter and consider the alternative concepts, think about which ideas you like best and which are most likely to improve recreational opportunities and protect natural and cultural resources. Your written comments are welcomed and encouraged. Comments can be submitted electronically or by mail as listed below. Please consider the questions listed on the enclosed comment form in addition to any other thoughts and ideas you wish to share. Receiving your input before October 30 will allow us to learn from you and revise our approach as we develop the draft study report.

Please share your thoughts and comments by attending a public meeting, sending us the enclosed form, by e-mail (**pwr_sangabriel@nps.gov**), or through the study web site (**www.nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel**). You can also join the study's email list by visiting the web site.

Study Area Issues

Based on what we heard from you at the beginning of the study, the study team, in consultation with agency partners, developed a set of issues to be addressed by the alternative concepts. Adequate funding for resource protection and recreation objectives was considered to be a primary need of managing agencies. Community needs included more close-to-home recreational opportunities and a greater awareness of the region's natural and cultural resources. Ecological communities and wildlife corridors between protected areas were identified as key protection issues. Cultural resources, including the heritage resources of the Angeles National Forest and sites associated with Native Americans, Hispanic, and American settlement were seen as needing further documentation, protection, and interpretation. Creation of a regional identity centered on the area's unique cultural, natural, and recreational resources. Cooperative management of those resources and linkages was recognized as a useful strategy to address these needs.

San Gabriel Dam

Existing Agencies, Local Governments, and Private Property Rights

Based on early public comments, the NPS stated it would only consider management alternatives which respect property rights and the authorities that currently belong to existing local, state and federal agencies and jurisdictions:

- **Private Property Rights** – The alternative concepts presented here emphasize collaborative projects with other organizations. Concepts involving land acquisition by eminent domain were not considered.
- **Local Land Use Authorities** – The alternative concepts respect and retain local land use authority of jurisdictions within the study area. The NPS collaborates with local jurisdictions in many areas without changes in land ownership or management.
- **Existing Regulatory Agencies** – The alternative concepts respect and retain existing decision-making and regulatory authorities, including authorities over flood protection and water supply.
- **Water and Infrastructure** – The alternative concepts respect existing water rights, water supply, flood protection, drainage and public infrastructure.
- **Angeles National Forest** – Under each alternative concept, the US Forest Service will retain management of the Angeles National Forest

Schabarum Regional Park, Rowland Heights

Summary of Nationally Significant Resources

TWO REGIONS: THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS AND THE PUENTE-CHINO HILLS

Within the large and diverse landscape of the study area, two areas were found to be nationally significant, the San Gabriel Mountains and the Puente-Chino Hills. Because these areas have not been as heavily urbanized as the lowland valleys and flood plains of the study area, they represent important examples of the native southern California landscape. The San Gabriel Mountains are also culturally rich, with a long history of human use. Nationally significant cultural resources in the San Gabriel Mountains include the Mount Wilson Observatory and the San Dimas Experimental Forest.

The San Gabriel Mountains

The San Gabriel Mountains and foothills are nationally significant for their geologic resources, high biodiversity, dynamic river systems, and the long history of scientific study and discovery. Early conservation of the San Gabriel Mountains ensured that these areas were protected from the rapid development of the Los Angeles Basin, which began in the late 19th century. The active mountain system has created scenic and unusual landscapes that support a high level of ecological diversity. Within a short distance, the mountains and foothills feature coastal, desert, montane and sub-alpine communities. This diverse landscape provides habitat for an abundance of rare and endemic plants and wildlife. In addition, the San Gabriel Mountains contain significant waterways and riparian areas, some of which are eligible Wild and Scenic River segments. Nationally significant cultural resources include the San Dimas Experimental Forest, which contains some of the earliest and most comprehensively and continuously monitored experimental watersheds, and the Mount Wilson Observatory which includes large telescopes that were used in significant astronomical discoveries.

MOUNTAIN BUILDING & DIVERSE GEOLOGY

San Gabriel Mountains

- The San Gabriel Mountains are among the fastest growing mountains in the world - as much as 2 inches a year - thus serving as an excellent location to learn about mountain building.
- One of the most geologically diverse mountain ranges in Southern California, the San Gabriel Mountains are comprised of rocks from all the major geologic eras, including some of the oldest rocks (over 1 billion years old) on the west coast of the United States.
- Several historically significant geologic discoveries occurred in the San Gabriel Mountains and along the San Andreas Fault, including major contributions to the development of plate tectonic theory.
- The dramatic change in elevation, coupled with striking landforms such as the Devil's Punchbowl, provides a highly scenic landscape of contrasts.

HIGH LEVELS OF BIODIVERSITY

Scale-Broom

- The diverse range of plant communities in the San Gabriel Mountains provides habitat for 73 plant species and 123 wildlife species considered sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered.
- Outstanding examples of southern California communities include alluvial fan sage scrub, bigcone Douglas-fir, coastal sage scrub, relict juniper communities, riparian areas, and subalpine habitat.

Nationally Significant Regions

ARCHITECTURE

San Dimas Experimental Forest

- The San Dimas Experimental Forest contains structures that are excellent examples of historic Forest Service architecture, as well as a lysimeter facility that is the largest of its type ever built.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY

Mount Wilson Observatory. Photo: Dave Jurasevich

- Data collected in the San Dimas Experimental Forest since 1933 represent some of the earliest and most comprehensive records from continuously monitored U.S. Forest Service experimental watersheds in the United States.
- The San Dimas Experimental Forest is recognized as an "International Biosphere Reserve."
- The Mount Wilson Observatory, established in 1904, includes five historically significant telescopes which laid the technological foundation for all large modern telescopes.

DYNAMIC RIVER SYSTEMS

West Fork of the San Gabriel River

- River systems within the San Gabriel Mountains meet the eligibility criteria for National Wild and Scenic River designation. Free-flowing sections of Little Rock Creek and the north, east and west forks of the San Gabriel River retain high levels of integrity and support sensitive wildlife.
- Some of the best remaining alluvial fan sage scrub vegetation in the Los Angeles Basin is found within the study area.
- The San Gabriel Mountains are one of the richest areas for freshwater fishes in southern California.

Criteria for National Significance

The National Park Service (NPS) uses four basic criteria to evaluate the national significance of proposed areas. These criteria, listed in the National Park Service Management Policies, state that a resource is nationally significant if it:

1. It is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource.
2. It possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage.
3. It offers superlative opportunities for public enjoyment, or for scientific study.
4. It is a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource.

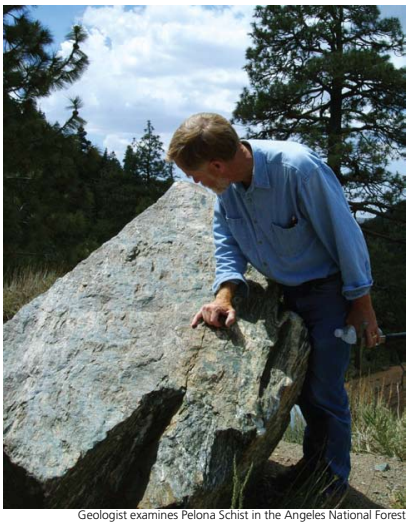
The Puente-Chino Hills

The Puente-Chino Hills in the Los Angeles Basin contain rare native plant communities. Although this area is somewhat of an island of open space surrounded by urbanized areas, the Puente-Chino Hills and the Santa Ana Mountains, connected together, encompass about 500,000 acres of wildlands containing significant biological resources.

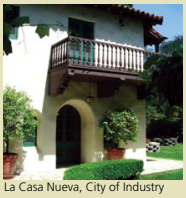
HIGH LEVELS OF BIODIVERSITY

Walnut woodlands

- The Puente-Chino Hills are part of a biologically diverse regional wildlife corridor that provides habitat for ecological communities with an abundance of endemic, threatened and rare plants and animals.
- Outstanding examples of southern California communities in the Puente-Chino Hills include coastal sage scrub, one of the most endangered plant communities in California, and the best remaining stands of California walnut-dominated forests and woodlands south of Ventura County.



Geologist examines Pelona Schist in the Angeles National Forest



La Casa Nueva, City of Industry

Other Recognized Resources

In addition to these nationally recognized resources, there are many cultural resources that represent the settlement and growth of the Los Angeles region. These include Native American resources, the original site of the Mission San Gabriel Arcangel, portions of the Juan Bautista de Anza and the Old Spanish National Historic Trails, numerous ranchos, and sites related to mining, petroleum extraction, citrus and walnut production, the flood control system, the Pacific Electric Railway, and Route 66.

Suitability

Could the area help fill a crucial gap in the national park system?

An area is considered suitable for addition to the national park system if it represents a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented in the national park system, or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies; tribal, state, or local governments; or the private sector.

Based upon evaluation of the study area resources and their relative quality, character, and rarity, the National Park Service has determined that the San Gabriel Mountains and Puente-Chino Hills portions of the study area are suitable for inclusion in the National Park System. The two areas contain a combination of themes and resources not found in any national park unit or comparably managed area, including the unique geology, habitats, and history of scientific advances in the San Gabriel Mountains, and the coastal sage scrub habitat and walnut woodlands of the Puente-Chino Hills.

Feasibility

Could it be efficiently and effectively managed by the National Park Service?

To be feasible as a new unit of the national park system, an area must be (1) of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure sustainable resource protection and visitor enjoyment (taking into account current and potential impacts from sources beyond proposed park boundaries), and (2) capable of efficient administration by the National Park Service (NPS) at a reasonable cost.

Management of the entire study area as a traditional national park unit is not feasible, based on its land use and ownership patterns. The portion of the study area within the Angeles National Forest is compatible with national park system designation provided management by the Forest Service continues and the NPS provides complementary services that enhance resource protection and public enjoyment opportunities. The only areas outside the Angeles NF that would be feasible for national park designation are those that have the potential for collaborative management with local, state and federal managers to protect natural and cutural resources, provide recreation, public access, interpretation and educational opportunities, and other compatible uses. In addition, technical and administrative assistance for conservation and recreation planning is a feasible role for the NPS.

Jackson Lake, Angeles National Forest

Devil's Punchbowl, San Gabriel Mountains

Introduction to the Alternative Concepts

The alternative concepts presented in this newsletter were developed in cooperation with multiple land management agencies after an analysis of public comments, recreational needs, natural resource issues, and significant resources. The common focus of all three alternatives is an emphasis on cooperative management of existing public lands. These alternative concepts do not propose large federal land acquisitions, although small strategic purchases from willing sellers to support partnership objectives may be possible. Each alternative seeks to enhance the capabilities of existing agencies by leveraging resources, sharing information, and cooperative planning.

The three alternative concepts present different management structures. The first (San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area) concentrates on providing the Angeles National Forest with the cooperative planning and funding tools it needs to meet the demands of a growing urban population. The second (Parks and Open Space Network), builds on continuing efforts by multiple agencies and organizations to create a regional cooperative planning structure focused on development and management of a recreational and ecological network. The final alternative (San Gabriel River National Recreation Area) establishes a watershed-based National Recreation Area with a greater level of support from the NPS.

View of the San Gabriel Mountains from the Puente Hills

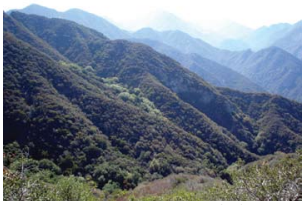
A San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area

A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA MANAGED BY THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE.

VISION

This alternative concept recognizes the special character of the San Gabriel Mountains as a collection of nationally significant resources, a habitat connector, and an urban recreation area. Public awareness and appreciation of the mountains will be elevated through increased and improved recreation, education, and access. This concept also reaches beyond the forest boundary to protect connected habitats and educate people about the mountains.

Inspiration Point



San Gabriel Mountains

DESCRIPTION OF CONCEPT

The San Gabriel Mountains would be designated by Congress as a National Recreation Area which would continue to be managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The new designation would bring additional attention to the mountains, its significant resources, opportunities, and resource needs. The enabling legislation would include additional authorities for the USFS to coordinate a regional land management partnership, protecting habitat connections and providing coordinated education and interpretation. The USFS would increase its educational and interpretive efforts, both in and outside of its boundaries. Expanded recreational opportunities, including access and trails, would be a primary focus.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The designated lands would continue to be managed by the USFS. The USFS would also coordinate a regional land management partnership.

NPS ROLE

The NPS would have no role in this alternative concept. The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area would continue to partner with the USFS, as it currently does, on an informal basis.

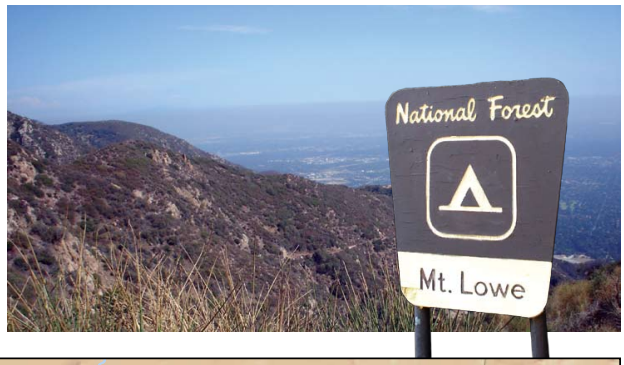
FUNDING

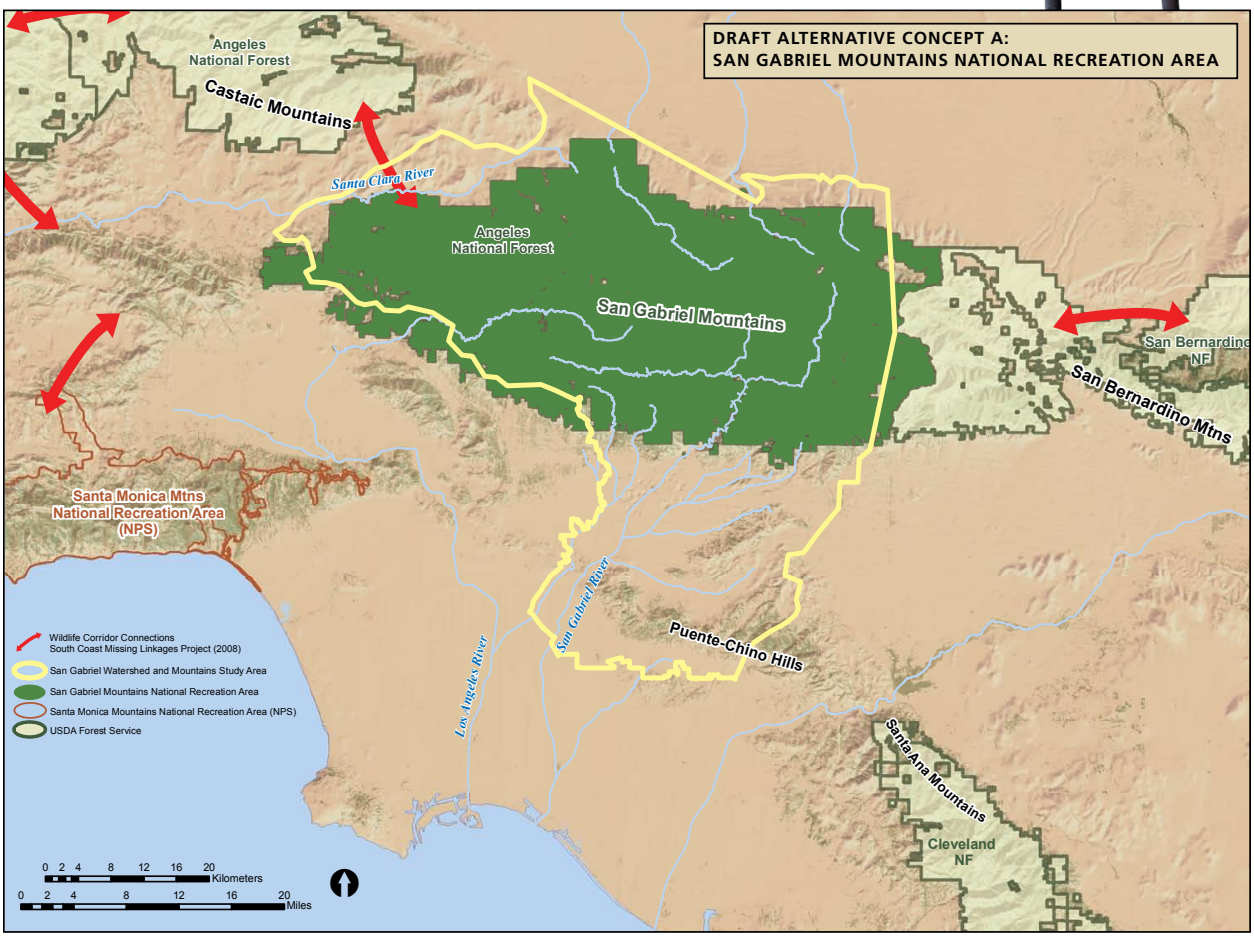
Increased attention and a narrower management focus resulting from the special designation may encourage additional or reprioritized federal funding for resource restoration and protection projects, as well as improved recreation, interpretation, and educational facilities and programs. Legislation could authorize the USFS to manage lands purchased by other agencies like the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The San Gabriel Mountains and foothills are nationally significant for their geologic resources, high biodiversity, dynamic river systems, and a long history of scientific study and discovery. Within a 90-minute drive of over 15 million people, the San Gabriel Mountains offer superlative opportunities for public enjoyment and scientific study. A national recreation area designation would recognize the national significance of the mountains and provide the Angeles National Forest with more authorities and funding to protect, interpret, and provide for public enjoyment of those significant resources. Authority to work beyond its boundaries would enable the USFS to protect biodiversity through maintenance of important wildlife corridors and habitat connections.

Expanded and improved recreation and interpretive services and facilities would benefit surrounding communities by increasing the supply of quality recreational and learning experiences. National recognition of the mountains would raise awareness of their significant resources among residents and enhance a sense of regional pride.





B San Gabriel Parks and Open Space Network

A PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP OF INTERCONNECTED PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

VISION

This alternative concept protects and expands an interconnected system of parks, habitats, and open spaces, connecting urban neighborhoods, mountains, and rivers within a broader ecosystem. Coordinated education and interpretation focuses on connecting people to the special resources and stories of their mountains and watershed. Access to recreational opportunities closer to home is increased.

Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, Irwindale

DESCRIPTION OF CONCEPT

Under this alternative concept, a park and open space network would be developed through a partnership of public and private landowners and organizations. The partnership would be comprised of federal, state, and local land management agencies, along with recreation and conservation organizations. A comprehensive plan for a connected system of parks would be created under the partnership, detailing coordinated management strategies to protect and enhance natural resources, cultural resources, recreation, and access. The partnership would coordinate interpretive and educational messaging throughout the network. An information sharing network would be established to organize, consolidate, and distribute scientific information related to the region. An urban satellite office connected to the California Mediterranean Research Learning Center at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area would provide research and educational opportunities to communities and schools. The partnership would serve as a model for future efforts in other areas such as the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains, the Santa Clara River, and Antelope Valley.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

A partnership of land management agencies, conservation organizations and recreation interests would be created. The key roles of the partnership would be to administer the network, share information between partners, and create a comprehensive plan. Lands would continue to be owned and managed by the current owners.

NPS ROLE

The NPS could provide initial planning and administrative assistance for a specified term. Afterward, the NPS would provide continuing technical assistance to the partnership on a more limited scale, including the development of interpretive and educational materials. The NPS would operate a California Mediterranean Research Learning Center satellite office in the study area. Opportunities for collaboration with the San Dimas Experimental Forest would be explored.

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail would work under existing authorities to increase interpretation, education, and recreational opportunities.

FUNDING

The partnership could establish a fundraising organization or be a coordinating body for existing grant programs. The partnership would leverage funds from a variety of sources (e.g. state bonds, Land & Water Conservation Fund) to increase and prioritize funds for new parks, trails, and open spaces within the network. Congressional funding would allow the NPS to provide initial planning assistance to the partnership.

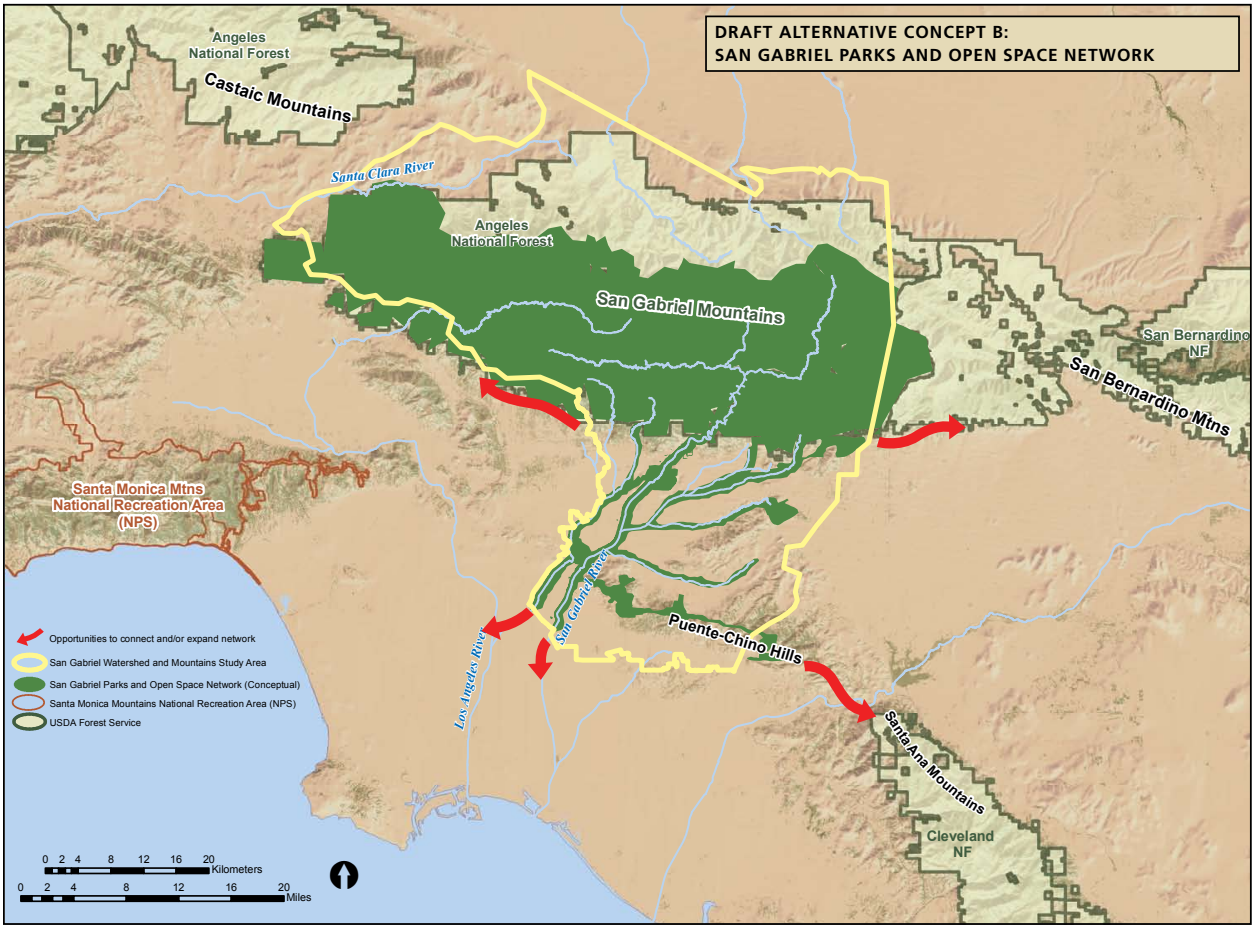
Chino Hills

Lashbrook Park, City of El Monte

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

This alternative concept would increase open space, provide new recreational opportunities in underserved areas, and foster a regional identity based on being part of a broader ecosystem.

In addition to expanding parks and recreation areas, the parks and open space network would provide additional habitat connections to significant natural resources in the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente-Chino Hills and the isolated pockets of rare native plant communities located throughout the San Gabriel Valley and Los Angeles coastal plain. Enhanced habitat connections would strengthen regional biodiversity. Additionally, the parks and open space system would provide more opportunities for the public to learn about and enjoy the significant cultural resources of the region such as the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. Sites important to interpreting these trails could be incorporated into the network.



C San Gabriel Watershed National Recreation Area

A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA COOPERATIVELY MANAGED BY THE NPS, USFS AND OTHER LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.

VISION

This alternative concept connects the mountainous upper reaches of the San Gabriel River in the Angeles National Forest with the urban communities through which it descends, connecting those communities to nationally significant resources in the watershed. A National Recreation Area (NRA) expands access to river-based recreation and offers new interpretation and educational opportunities, including a cooperative program to provide coordinated recreational access, interpretation and information throughout the watershed.

DESCRIPTION OF CONCEPT

The San Gabriel Watershed NRA would encompass the river, its upper watershed, associated trails and access points, and other adjacent public lands. It would be managed by a partnership including the NPS, USFS, and the numerous other agencies and organizations with land and interests in the area. The upper watershed portion of the NRA would continue to be managed by the USFS. In the lower portion of the watershed, the river corridor and related public lands would continue to be managed by existing owners. These organizations would work through the partnership to develop and implement a comprehensive management strategy for the watershed's natural and cultural resources, public access and recreation opportunities, and interpretive and educational opportunities. The partnership would also develop a voluntary program throughout the rest of the watershed that would allow existing conservation and recreation-oriented sites to offer coordinated interpretation and information.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

A formal partnership would be created to develop and implement a coordinated and comprehensive management strategy for the watershed. Each partner, including the USFS, would retain all of its land ownership, management and decision-making authorities. Water and flood protection would continue to be managed by those currently responsible.

NPS ROLE

The NPS would take a lead role in the coordination of the partnership, including providing technical, planning, and administrative services. The National Recreation Area outside the Angeles National Forest would be considered a "unit" of the National Park System, while remaining under existing ownership and management. The NPS would have no land use authority except that it may be authorized to acquire limited lands from willing sellers for operational purposes. The NPS would be authorized to enter into interagency agreements with the other NRA partners, in order to share resources and manage the NRA effectively. For example, through interagency agreements, the NPS could provide educational, interpretive and other services, including providing "river rangers" along the river.

FUNDING

Lands within the NRA would remain under their current jurisdictions, with each land management agency continuing to fund their own operations. The NPS would receive federal funding for its administrative, educational, and interpretive roles. The partnership could establish a fundraising organization or be a coordinating body for existing grant programs. The partnership could leverage funds from a variety of sources (e.g. state bonds, Land & Water Conservation Fund) to increase and prioritize funding for projects in the NRA and strategic acquisitions.

Eaton Canyon Natural Area, Pasadena

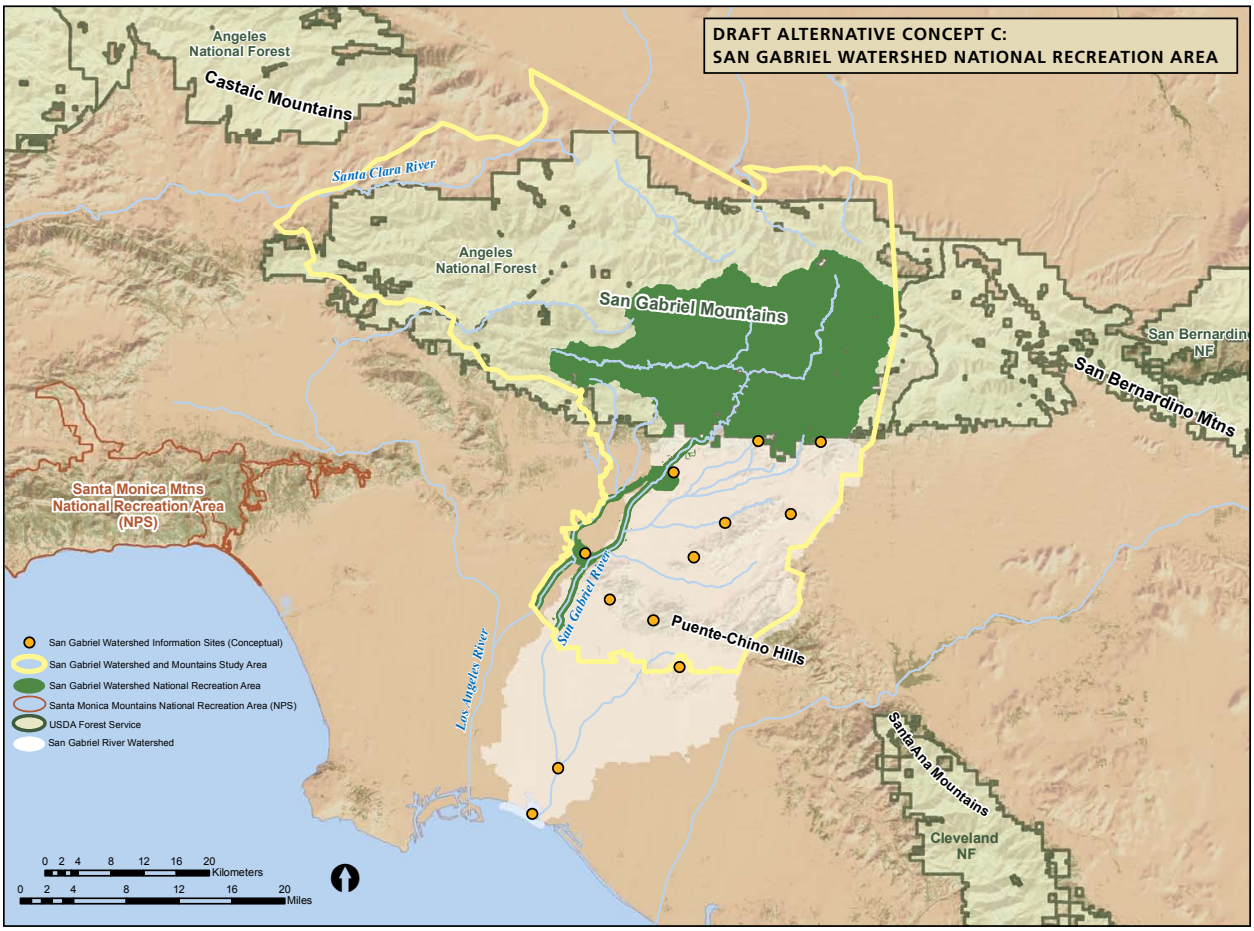
North Fork of the San Gabriel River

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Portions of the watershed of the San Gabriel River are nationally significant for their geologic resources, high biodiversity and long history of scientific study. The north, east and west forks of the San Gabriel River support sensitive wildlife and meet the eligibility criteria for National Wild and Scenic River designation. In lower reaches, the river contains some of the best remaining alluvial fan sage scrub vegetation in the Los Angeles Basin, and riparian areas which support a high diversity of wildlife including federally endangered species such as the Least Bell's vireo.

These river systems also provide a significant portion of the local water supply for area residents, and are popular recreation destinations for the 15 million people of the Los Angeles basin. The San Gabriel Watershed NRA would provide the National Park Service and partner land managing agencies with more funding and recognition to protect, interpret, and provide for public enjoyment of these significant resources.

By interpreting the connections between communities and their watershed, this alternative would promote a sense of regional identity through a shared understanding of the natural processes that shape the area. Dispersed and expanded river recreation would provide new opportunities along the urban river corridor.



San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study, Newsletter #4

What's Inside:

Enclosed for your review are alternative concepts developed for the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study, along with draft findings of the ongoing study.

Findings Summary, *p. 1*
Background, Issues, *p. 2*
Significant Resources, *p. 3*
Other Findings & Study Area Map, *p. 4*
Alternative Concepts, *pp 5-7*

Contact Information

Mail:
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1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
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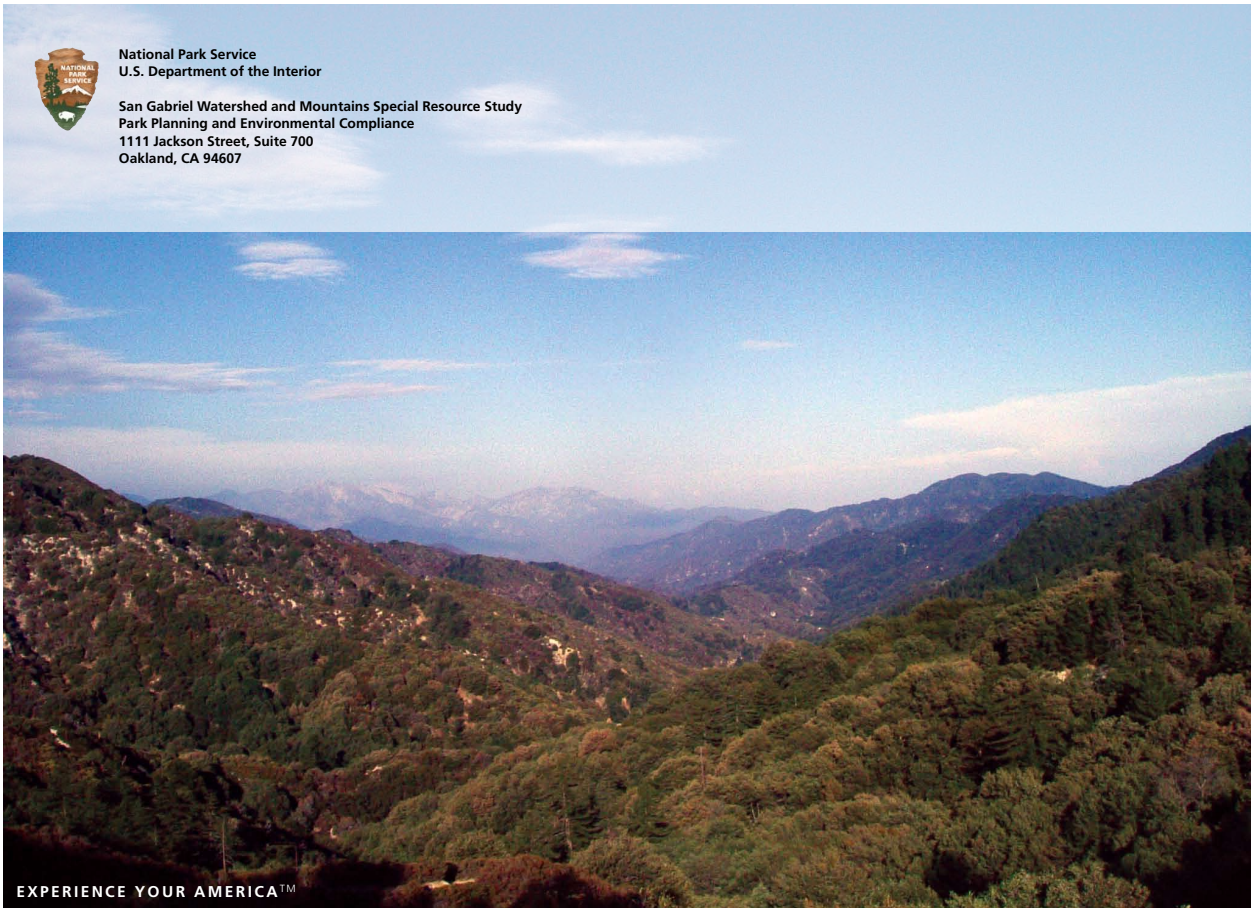
Next Steps

	Planning Activity	Dates
1	**Scoping** Start study process. Host public meetings. Collect and analyze public comments.	**2005 - 2006**
2	**Resource Analysis** Explore recreation and conservation needs. Identify nationally significant resources.	**2005 - 2007**
3	**Alternatives Development & Feasibility Analysis** Identify feasible roles for the NPS and develop alternative concepts. You are invited to help refine and develop these concepts through written comments and participation in public meetings.	**2007 - 2009**
	We Are Here	
4	**Draft Report** The Draft Report will contain a more detailed description and analysis of the area's resources and alternatives for the protection of significant resources and the enhancement of recreational opportunities. You will have an opportunity to comment on this draft before the report is finalized.	**2010**
5	**Final Report/Transmittal to Congress**	**2011**

Santa Fe Dam, Irwindale