



United States
Department of
Agriculture

**Forest
Service**

Pacific
Southwest
Region

R5-MB-044
May 2004



Draft Land Management Plan

Part 2:

San Bernardino National Forest Strategy



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Part 2-San Bernardino National Forest Strategy

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Land Management Plan Strategies

This document is the second of the three parts of the land management plan for the San Bernardino 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 San Bernardino National Forest. These zones, including overlays, are applicable to only the National Forest System Lands 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 San Bernardino 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.
 - Big Horn Mountain Wilderness
 - Cucamonga Wilderness
 - San Gorgonio Wilderness
 - San Jacinto Wilderness
 - Santa Rosa Wilderness
 - Sheep Mountain Wilderness
- Recommended Wilderness (RW): This zone includes land that the Forest Service is recommending to Congress for wilderness designation.
 - Cucamonga B Expansion
 - Raywood Flat B (San Gorgonio Expansion)
 - Sugarloaf

Table 2.4.1: Suitable Uses Resource Management, SBNF

Table 2.4.2: Suitable Uses Public Use and Enjoyment, SBNF

Table 2.4.3: Suitable Uses Commodity and Commercial Uses, SBNF

Table 2.4.4: Suitable Uses Fire and Fuels Management, SBNF

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.

Eligible Rivers include:

- Bautista Creek
- Bear Creek
- Fish Creek
- Fuller Mill Creek
- Holcomb Creek
- Lytle Creek - Middle Fork
- Palm Canyon
- San Jacinto River - North Fork

- Santa Ana River
- Santa Ana River - South Fork
- Siberia Creek
- Whitewater River - East Fork of South Fork
- Deep Creek

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:

- Cahuilla Mountain
- Fishermans Camp
- Hall Canyon
- Horse Meadow
- Millard Canyon

There are no proposed research natural areas for the San Bernardino National Forest.

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:

- Baldwin Lake Holcomb Valley
- Black Mountain
- Mt. San Antonio

Proposed special interest areas include:

- Childrens Forest
- Deep Creek

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 San Bernardino 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.

San Bernardino 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:

- Resource Management, Resource Management Performance Indicators, SBNF
- Public Use and Enjoyment, Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, SBNF
- Facilities Operation and Maintenance, Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, SBNF
- Commodity and Commercial Uses, Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, SBNF

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

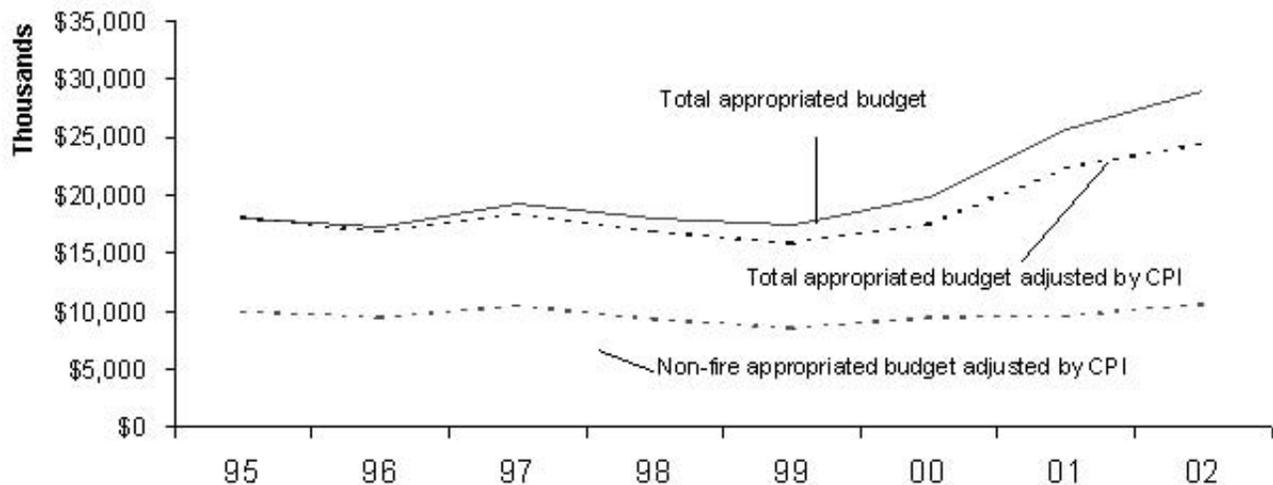
Actual performance is tracked over time through annual documentation of accomplishment and these trends are evaluated periodically to determine if the forest needs to shift program strategies. This data is reported in the annual monitoring and evaluation report as part of the forest's implementation 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 forest's budget allocations increased, even on an inflation adjusted basis, from 1995 to 2002. Analysis of budget history indicates that practically all of the increase was for hazardous fuels reduction and fire pre-suppression & preparedness to implement the National Fire Plan. Other program budgets have increased at roughly the rate of inflation. Excluding expenditures for wildfire suppression and national fire & disaster support (these expenditures are paid when incurred by the Forest Service's national organization), the total budget was slightly over \$27 million for 2002.

Figure 2.4.1 -- San Bernardino National Forest Appropriated Base Budget History



Adjusted Base Budget: Adjusting budget dollars for inflation involves selecting a measure of inflation, in this case the national consumer price index for each year, and deciding on a base year, in this case 1995. In other words, this process converts 1996 through 2002 dollars of purchasing power into 1995 dollars of purchasing power. Adjusted dollars are referred to as 1995 dollars, while nonadjusted dollars are referred to as nominal dollars.

Measured in 1995 dollars, the San Bernardino National Forest's total budget, excluding money spent for wildfire suppression and national fire & disaster support on the forest, followed a downward trend to a low of \$15.7 million in 1999, and then increased dramatically from 2000 to 2002. In 1995 dollars, the total 2002 budget allocation was \$24.4 million.

Specific items that affected budget allocations from 1995 through 2002:

- The increase during 1997 in the overall downward trend was due to one-time allocations for land acquisitions during that year.

- From 1999-2002 Congress began allocating more money towards recreation across all of the nation's forests. Increases in nominal dollars were \$385,000, \$418,000 and \$899,000 for 1999, 2000, and 2002, respectively.
- Dry weather extending from the Pacific Northwest to Florida during 2000 led to a difficult fire season, resulting in increased funding for hazardous fuels reduction and fire presuppression & preparedness under the framework of the National Fire Plan. The combined allocation for these two programs increased from \$9.2 million in 2000 to \$16.4 million in 2002 in nominal dollars.

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 experience 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.

The forest business plan divides the Management & Administration category 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 San Bernardino, human resources, engineering, recreation, resources, public relations, information technology and other staff functions provide technical and administrative support to the districts.

District Management: Organizationally, the Forest is divided into three Districts: Mountaintop, Front Country, and San Jacinto managed by three District Rangers who are responsible for managing all aspects of their assigned districts. Operations, such as hazardous fuels reduction, archeological surveying, and special use permitting, must go through the appropriate District Ranger prior to implementation. Finally, the Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor generate and communicate the vision, interact with external stakeholders, and prioritize forest-wide initiatives.

Resource Management

The mission of the 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." The resource management function manages the health of the vegetation on the land, the quality of wilderness areas, the boundaries and ownership of the land, the cultural heritage that resides on the land, the quality of the water running on and under the land, the air quality above the land, and the habitat for the wildlife roaming the land.

In order to carry out these responsibilities, the staff must be technically proficient in biology, botany, entomology, archeology, geology, hydrology, silviculture, or one of the other natural and social sciences. On the San Bernardino National Forest, all of the other functional areas depend on resource management for natural science expertise and help in complying with regulations when planning, executing, and monitoring a project.

Resource management oversees the management of wildlife, vegetation, heritage resources, data, watershed, air & geologic resources, land ownership & adjustment, and special designated areas.

The forest restoration program incorporates an integrated set of vegetation management actions designed to meet multiple objectives including the 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: 7,500 acres.** The removal of dead vegetation to reduce fire hazard. Timber sales to remove merchantable trees and contract removal of non-merchantable trees and shrubs, slash treatments. Projects will move forested areas from condition class three towards condition class one. In chaparral areas mortality removal is planned to reduce the fire hazard from high to low.

- **Thinning - Annual Need: 2,000 acres.** 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: 6,000 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: 100 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: 500 acres.** Most of the planned fuelbreaks are also along roads and ridgetops and are proposed for limiting wildfire patch size. While 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 is 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.** 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 standard 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 land only and apply to all structures on public land. They also apply 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 WUI defense zone. Treatments in the secondary buffers 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: 15,000 acres.** Projects 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 land in the coniferous forest areas, currently categorized as condition class one or two. Some prescribed burns are conducted for the purpose of enhancing wildlife browse conditions.

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

Table 2.4.5 Resource Management Performance Indicators, SBNF

Public Use and Enjoyment

The recreation budget has gradually dwindled to less than half of what it was in the late 70s, while at the same time demand for recreational opportunities has increased. The budget decrease has created an extremely resourceful and lean organization, one that is too lean in some areas to fully leverage the tremendous energy and skills of the nearby communities to more effectively manage the recreation program.

The Public Use & Enjoyment function demonstrates what can be accomplished by creative, collaborative efforts to create a healthy recreational forest. Forest staff are responsible for visitor education, volunteer programs, and forest protection. Forest protection officers work with volunteers to leverage their time. Professional volunteer organizations use fee money to hire managers for several large volunteer programs. It is important to note that without the fee program, all the programs listed here would suffer dramatically.

Public use & enjoyment includes the management of visitor centers, public information, interpretive services and

education, concessions & recreation special uses, recreation fee collection, law enforcement, visitor safety and protection.

Campgrounds and Developed Sites: There are 9 picnic areas, 25 trailheads, and 46 campgrounds with the capacity to accommodate approximately 4,350 campers on the San Bernardino.

Maintenance is planned in two major categories: routine and deferred. 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. Deferred maintenance includes small projects that do not qualify as capital improvement projects, such as the replacement of a toilet that is past its useful life. Deferred maintenance is an unusual category, it is essentially facilities that have fallen into disrepair because there has been no budget available to fix or replace the facility as it begins to deteriorate.

Concentrated Use Areas (CUA): A concentrated use area is an undeveloped area where maintenance and management time and money are invested because recreation use leaves evident impacts, including litter, vandalism, or soil compaction. There are 83 of these areas identified on the San Bernardino National Forest. 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. Graffiti and trash removal are required along heavily used roads as well as in CUAs. Heavy use near rivers and streams requires watershed restoration.

Table 2.4.6: Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, SBNF

Facilities Operation and Maintenance

Buildings, Grounds & Utilities: This program area focuses on operating and maintaining Forest Service owned and leased fire and administrative buildings and other associated buildings and infrastructure. The Forest has 222 non-recreation buildings and 3 visitor centers located on 43 administrative sites. The facilities include administrative offices, fire stations, communication and utility buildings, barracks, storage buildings, shop buildings, and an air tanker base. This program includes operating and maintaining numerous gas and electrical utility systems, 25 water systems and 53 sewer systems. Work involves annual (routine) maintenance and deferred/heavy maintenance as well as facility upgrades and improvements to buildings, utilities and grounds.

Grounds maintenance includes ongoing exterior upkeep. All walkways, steps, and lawn areas are cleaned by the grounds operation. Snow is removed performed when needed. Grounds operation also includes maintaining sprinkler systems, the mowing, edging, and fertilization of all lawn area, as well as tree pruning and flower bed maintenance. Work also involves repairing and improving hardscape elements such as retaining walls, curbs, and sidewalks.

Roads: This program area focuses on operating and maintaining the San Bernardino National Forest road system. The road system consists of 1,178 miles of dirt roads and 56 miles of paved roads. Other paved roads are maintained and operated by other entities, including Caltrans (State), counties, and the private sector. Maintenance activities include grading, paving, striping, repairing potholes, cleaning and installing drainage control structures, removal of rocks and landslides, repairing washouts, and bridge repairs. Management of the transportation system is coordinated with State and local public road officials to integrate transportation needs and information. Roads are maintained to provide for user safety and to meet road maintenance management objectives. Operations for the roads program include managing road closures, restrictions, use permits, maintenance agreements, and rights-of-way use agreements.

Trails: The San Bernardino National Forest has a shrinking network of 535 miles of non-motorized trails and 36 miles of motorized trails for hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use and off-highway vehicle use. The trails program consists of maintaining, constructing, and reconstructing the trail system and related facilities such as trailheads, bulletin boards, signage, and parking areas. Also integral are use monitoring, use types, and impacts to the natural resources.

Table 2.4.7: Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, SBNF

Commodity and Commercial Uses

This program covers a broad spectrum of use, including everything from small gold mines to tree nurseries to jet fuel pipelines to pinecones. The majority of cash receipts from these activities are sent to the U.S. Treasury, with 25% sent to local governments.

The grazing, timber, and nontimber forest products program areas are managed for noncommercial values. The forest has not seen large-scale timber operations since the 80s. There no longer exists sufficient infrastructure to support commercial logging in southern California. No There are no acres identified as suitable for timber production on the forest. These activities are tools for vegetation management, critical for maintaining or restoring forest health and reducing the risk of wildfire.

The commodity and commercial use program plans, prepares, and administers special forest product sales (including personal fuelwood sales), issues botanic research permits, and tracks the collection of ethnobotanic products such as ferns and basket weaving materials. The program ensures that the vegetative forest products removed from the forest (fuel wood and various trees, plants, and products used for decorative or medicinal purposes) are within management guidelines.

The management of non-recreation special uses focuses on the permitting and monitoring of special uses such as sanitary systems (sewage pipeline and transfer stations); research activities; still photography and motion pictures; power generation; oil & gas pipelines; electric transmission lines; boat docks & marinas; radio, television and cell phone towers; telephone lines; water lines; and roads.

Minerals: The forest maintains its role in a viable, healthy minerals industry in an environmentally sound manner by administering its mineral program to facilitate the orderly exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources.

The minerals staff administers activities related to mining, leasing, the reclaiming mined lands, identifying and closing abandoned mines, inventorying mineral potential, the identifying and protecting threatened, endangered and sensitive plants and animals through mineral withdrawals, identifying geologic hazards, and conducting other geologic and ecologic inventories on forest land.

Nondiscretionary activities are sanctioned under the General Mining Act of 1872, as amended. These activities include all locatable hard rock minerals such as gold, silver, lead, zinc and other minerals. Discretionary activities, such as oil, gas, geothermal, sand, gravel, building stone, and common clay, are permitted under various minerals leasing acts.

Grazing: The grazing program is one of the methods used to achieve vegetation and wildlife management goals. Currently the forest has five active cattle grazing allotments. The Forest Service concentrates its efforts on managing the vegetation resources across the range allotments to serve a multitude of resource needs, including habitat for a variety of plant and animal species, clean water, and sustainable grazing and browsing. The type of resource work that occurs on allotments includes inventory, classification, and monitoring of rangeland conditions to maintain or improve rangeland health.

The goal of the grazing program is for all rangelands to progress toward a healthier condition. Where there are unhealthy rangelands, forest personnel strive to restore rangeland ecosystem functions through the understanding and cooperation of everyone involved in grazing management, including landowners, land managers, users, universities, other agencies, and the public.

Table 2.4.8: Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, SBNF

Fire and Aviation Management

Today there are over 90,000 residential and commercial structures worth approximately \$7 billion dollars located within the forest boundary. Not included in this figure are the increasingly dense urban interfaces with communities including Hesperia, Hemet, Highland, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, San Bernardino, San Jacinto, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Yucaipa. All of these communities are susceptible to an out-of-control wildfire and the floods that result from steep slopes where vegetation has burned.

Besides carrying the primary responsibility of responding to fires on the forest, members of the fire organization are available to respond to a variety of emergency situations wherever they occur. Recent responses include support to the Space Shuttle recovery, the exotic Newcastle chicken disease, and earthquakes.

The Forest Service proactively manages living and dead vegetation, primarily through thinning via prescribed burns or mechanical means. Hazardous fuel reduction is the set of activities associated with removing dense brush and vegetation from areas where they pose a significant threat to human life, property, and forest resources, and where they interfere with the health of natural fire-adapted ecosystems. It involves direct management of vegetation using prescribed fire, mechanical, manual, or chemical methods. Hazardous fuel reduction involves a multidisciplinary planning approach using resource specialists, local governments, communities and contractors.

Fire managers prepare year-round for the inevitable task of fighting fire. When a fire is initially detected, fire personnel are dispatched in response to the fire and to cover other fire stations. Related actions including evacuations are then coordinated within the forest and through adjoining Fire Department jurisdictions to keep people safely away from wildfire. Fires are fought on the ground with engines, hand crews, and machinery and from the air with helicopters and air tankers. Physical barriers are used to slow fire progress so fires can be more effectively contained. Once a fire is contained, damage caused by fire suppression efforts are repaired through a team of resource specialists as part of the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER).

Table 2.4.9: Fire and Aviation Management Performance Indicators, SBNF

Strategic Program Emphasis and Objectives

Based on expected management priorities, the San Bernardino National Forest leadership team selected objectives to emphasize in each program area over the next three to five years. Forest-wide program emphasis is described for each of the six management functions in this section. Specific geographical place based program emphasis is described at the end of each place description (see Place Based Program Emphasis).

Management and Administration

Effective Management

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 the <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/business-plans/>).

Tribal Relations

Emphasis will be placed on further developing relationships with tribal governments; working together to resolve issues and to facilitate the continued traditional and cultural tribal use of the forest.

Resource Management

Wildlife, Fish and Plant Management

The wildlife, fish and plant management program will stabilize and improve the health and diversity of species habitat through active management in order to achieve more natural conditions (FH 3: Restoration of Forest Health). The primary focus areas will be riparian and meadow habitats, carbonate habitats, pebble plains, forest health, and bighorn sheep. The forest will emphasize conserving core habitat areas from the threat posed by increasing population and use (Lands 1: Strategic Acquisition). Habitat loss and fragmentation will be reduced through continued participation in regional efforts to create and preserve an interconnected open space network (Link 1: Habitat Linkage Planning). Declining trends in TEPCS species populations are expected to be stabilized or reversed by maintaining or improving habitat capability (WL 1: Imperiled Species Management), removing invasive nonnative species (IS 1: Invasive Species Prevention and Control), and by reducing conflicts with other activities such as recreation (REC 2: Sustainable Use and Environmental Design) and resource or community development. Program emphasis includes implementing the 10 priority recovery tasks and conservation measures identified in recovery plans and species and habitat conservation strategies as funding permits (WL 2:

Management of Species of Concern); implementing 300-500 acres of terrestrial habitat improvement per year and three to five miles of stream habitat improvement per year (WL 4: Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants Habitat Management); and restoring habitat and managing vehicle use to allow natural recovery on the Old and Grand Prix Fires of 2003. The forest expects to continue the emphasis on improving our knowledge base of riparian dependent threatened and endangered species suitable habitat by implementing 10% of the forest inventory needs per year (AM 2: Forestwide Inventory). Prioritize completion of nonwilderness areas in the next five years.

Vegetation Management

The vegetation program emphasizes developing or maintaining fuelbreaks and other vegetation treatments used to maintain (FH 2: Prevention of Type Conversion) or restore forest health (FH 3: Restoration of Forest Health) and defensible space within community protection areas (Fire 2: Direct Community Protection). Other ecosystem restoration projects may be located further into the forest, away from structures, but they will still have the goal of community protection (Fire 5: Fuelbreaks and Indirect Community Protection). Over the next three to five years, these vegetation treatments will be strategically integrated to maximize community protection efforts and minimize wildfire size, while considering habitat needs. Mortality removal will be integrated with thinning within community defense and threat zones. Program goals include completing approximately 20% of identified treatment needs. Plans are expected to include strategically locating fuels treatments in order to take advantage of the Open and Grand Prix fires.

Invasive Species

The invasive species program emphasis includes preventing the introduction and spread of invasive nonnative species across the forest. Priority locations for eradication are riparian and TEPCS habitat and areas within the recent fires that have had pre-treatment by wildfire. The forest expects to survey and map the locations of invasive species, and to implement eradication measures on approximately 5-10 miles per year of riparian habitat and approximately 70-150 acres per year of uplands habitat (IS 1: Invasive Species Prevention and Control).

Physical Resources (Soil, Geology, Water, and Air)

The physical resources program emphasis is expected to balance the needs of water users with resource needs for maintaining or improving stream, riparian, springs and wetland habitat by procuring water rights and instream flow agreements to address the increased demand for the ground and surface water resources of the forest (WAT 2: Water Management). Forest staff expect to complete approximately 30% of the water diversion permit reauthorizations backlog (Lands 2: Land Use Authorizations), including acquiring available water rights or relocating diversions to the forest perimeter where there is a demonstrated need for riparian species management.

Land Ownership and Adjustment

The forest will work collaboratively with others in order to acquire lands that enhance public use, allow for continued public access, improve habitat linkage, or contain special resources. Staff expect to implement one land adjustment and acquire approximately 500 acres per year (Lands 1: Strategic Acquisition). The program will emphasize retaining and restoring clear title to National Forest System land by resolving trespass and encroachment uses. Staff expect to survey approximately 25 miles of boundary per year to identify encroachment problems (Lands 3: Boundary Management) with emphasis on areas burned by the Grand Prix and Old Fires and areas with substantial tree mortality and fuel buildup. Priority will be given to resolving identified encroachments.

Special Area Management

The special area management program will emphasize managing for all existing and new Special Designations to conserve those unique values and features for which the area is protected.

- SD 1: Wilderness
- SD 2: Wild and Scenic Rivers
- SD 3: Research Natural Areas
- SD 4: Special Interest Areas

Heritage Resources

The heritage program emphasis includes identifying all activities that have the potential to adversely affect or do

not complement known significant cultural properties. Staff expect to develop and implement management plans to address adverse effects for approximately 25% of the effected sites (Her 1: Heritage Resource Protection). Program emphasis will also focus on interpretation opportunities and public participation programs (designed to facilitate evaluation of sites for the National Register of Historic Places Her 2: Public Involvement Program). Program priorities include survey and site record maintenance within the Grand Prix and Old Fires, and areas around communities with fuels problems.

Public Use and Enjoyment

Recreation

The recreation program will make available a wide array of balanced, environmentally sustainable quality recreation opportunities to meet most of the needs of a growing, urban, culturally diverse population (REC 3: Recreation Participation). Staff anticipate higher investment levels in order to provide maximum resource protection, including a greater Forest Service field presence, effective facility design, more intensive management, and improved monitoring and follow-up. Staff expect to identify the existing areas of concentrated, developed, and dispersed recreation use in which unacceptable TEPCS, resource or social impacts are occurring. The forest anticipates implementing adaptive management measures on approximately 75% of these areas to reduce or eliminate conflicts (REC 2: Sustainable Use and Environmental Design). Priority will be given to closing or relocating facilities or sites to less environmentally sensitive areas when possible and to creating new opportunities to accommodate increased use.

Recreation special uses are expected to remain an important program component, including winter sports, recreation residences, organization camps, and outfitter/guides.

Investment emphasis is expected to focus on forest recreation facility needs. Staff expect to develop opportunities through partnerships and special funding to reduce the backlog of facility maintenance by approximately 5-10 percent (REC 1: Recreation Opportunity).

Conservation Education

Conservation education will receive a substantial emphasis including a focus on developing a land stewardship ethics (REC 4: Conservation Education). Staff expect the quality of the program to improve and to reach more participants. Expectations include amending the existing forest interpretive plan to address changing demographics and new issues, including strategies for forest health and high-use recreation sites/areas where TEPCS and heritage conflicts may occur. Staff anticipate the implementation of the existing SRSJNM and the Alpine Pedal Path interpretive plans. The conservation education program will emphasize leveraging scarce resources by increasing forest partnerships by approximately 20%, with a focus on forest health, investment projects, visitor services, and reducing the maintenance backlog (Partnerships and Cooperative Relations).

Landscape and Scenery Management

The landscape and scenery management program emphasis is expected to conserve and restore aesthetic, recreational, and open space values, especially those of high-valued landscapes that serve as scenic backdrops to local communities and those with increasingly rare values such as open space and solitude (LM 1: Landscape Aesthetics LM 3: Landscape Character).

Facilities Operation and Maintenance

Buildings and Grounds

The administrative buildings and grounds program will emphasize maintaining and improving existing facilities and exploring new opportunities to develop fire management support facilities. Staff expect to reduce the facilities maintenance backlog by approximately 5-10% (Fac 1: Facilities Maintenance Backlog).

Road and Trail Systems

The roads program will emphasize managing the transportation system to accommodate increased user demand, to reduce conflicts between user groups, to protect the forest and communities, and other resource considerations. Roads and trails will be maintained to reduce the level of adverse effects to species and

watersheds while safely accommodating use. Staff expect to maintain approximately 60% of the National Forest System roads to their objective operation maintenance level (Trans 1: Transportation System).

The program will emphasize improving the forest OHV system by designating OHV road and trail routes and effectively managing inappropriate use (Trans 4: Off-Highway Vehicle Opportunities). The program includes designating trails suitable for mechanized (mountain bike) use. Staff expect to provide well-managed dispersed recreation parking by developing and implementing localized place strategies (Trans 3: Improve Trails). Staff expect to complete site-specific road analysis of the unclassified roads and to make recommendations for decommissioning where conflicts with TEPCS are occurring or for including routes into the forest road and trail system. Staff expect to decommission or classify approximately 150 miles of unclassified roads or trails (Trans 2: Unnecessary Roads). The program will focus on creating more easy-to-moderate day use trails and trail loops and linkages. Additional focus includes resolving road and trail conflicts occurring between user groups, communities and resources and with Level 3 roads, and removing inappropriate uses. Staff expect to resolve one conflict per year.

Access to the National Forest is expected to be acquired where needed for public and administrative use by purchasing or exchanging land, acquiring easements and rights-of-way. The program will emphasize developing and maintaining road and trail systems that address access issues and minimize conflicts with private landowners. Staff expect to acquire one right-of-way needed to operate the forest road and trail system per year (Lands 2: Land Use Authorizations).

Commodity and Commercial Uses

Non-Recreation Special Uses

The non-recreation special uses program will emphasize accommodating the demand for infrastructure to facilitate water supply, energy, transportation and other community support while preserving open space in a natural setting. Existing special uses are expected to continue. Staff expect to authorize new special uses only when the development cannot be accommodated on private land. Staff will give priority to maintaining open space over accommodating urban needs. The Forest Service expects to complete approximately 20% of the permit re-issuance backlog. Additional emphasis will be given to resolving issues related to lands encumbered by special use authorizations (Lands 2: Land Use Authorizations).

Livestock Grazing

The livestock grazing program will emphasize protecting and restoring range allotments. Staff expect to manage all allotments to standard. Priority will be given to the backlog of NEPA compliance projects in order to meet the requirements of the Recession Act of 1995.

Minerals and Energy

The minerals and energy program will emphasize offering a sustainable level of resource production to contribute to meeting local and regional demand. The emphasis will be consistent with the requirements of the carbonate habitat protection strategy and with the protection of other resource values, including wildlife habitat, scenery, and recreation settings (ME 1: Minerals Management Lands 4: Mineral Withdrawals). Staff expect to increase the carbonate plant habitat reserve by approximately 2,600 acres through land acquisition or exchange (Lands 1: Strategic Acquisition), allowing for future mining in other areas.

Fire and Aviation Management

Preparedness

All wildfires on southern California National Forests are considered to be a threat to communities. The fire management program will emphasize preparation for aggressive fire suppression and implementing prevention strategies to achieve objectives including protecting life and property from wildland fire and subsequent floods. Staff expect to maintain the suppression organization at 90 percent of the Most Efficient Level or higher (Fire 3: Fire Suppression Emphasis Fire 4: Firefighter and Public Safety). Additional expectations include revising approximately 50% of all cooperative agreements and completing the forest fire management plan.

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 San Bernardino 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 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.
- Emphasizing the following practices within carbonate and pebble plain habitat:
 1. Develop and implement a transportation plan for carbonate, TEPCS meadow habitat, and pebble plain habitat that result in the reduction in road density and no new roads or motorized trails.
 2. Develop and implement a facilities plan for carbonate, TEPCS meadow and pebble plain habitat that avoids the construction of new recreation and administrative facilities.
 3. Amend/modify existing non-recreation special use permits to include provisions for minimizing impacts to carbonate, TEPCS meadow and pebble plain habitat. Avoid new permits for special uses in carbonate, TEPCS meadow and pebble plain habitat where the requested use would adversely affect these habitats.
 4. Implement a program of land acquisition and land exchange that will contribute to carbonate habitat reserve as described in the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy.

5. Develop contingency plans that will minimize impacts to carbonate, TEPCS meadow and pebble plain habitat from actions and activities that occur during emergencies.
6. Develop and implement a monitoring plan that will provide early detection of downward trends in the quality of carbonate, TEPCS meadow and pebble plain habitat.

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 speckled dace and other native fishes
- Arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, mountain yellow-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle
- American dipper, southwestern willow flycatcher
- Humboldt lily

Value of vegetation management to species at risk:

- San Gabriel Mountains elfin butterfly, Quino checkerspot butterfly, vernal blue butterfly
- Bald eagle, golden eagle, California spotted owl, flammulated owl, long-eared owl

Importance of keeping vehicles on roads:

- Southern rubber boa, arroyo toad
- California bedstraw, pebble plains, and carbonate plant species

Habitat fragmentation, species linkages and corridors and biological diversity:

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

STRATEGY: SURVEY/INVENTORY/INCREASE KNOWLEDGE BASE

Riparian and Aquatic Species:

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

Species with limited distribution:

- San Gabriel Mountains elfin butterfly, Quino checkerspot butterfly, Erlich's checkerspot

butterfly, vernal blue butterfly, California diplectronan caddisfly

Terrestrial species:

- San Bernardino kangaroo rat, American badger, San Bernardino flying squirrel (San Jacinto), mountain lion, , Nelson's bighorn sheep (San Gabriel), southern rubber boa (San Jacinto)

Upland plants:

- California bedstraw, Sierra podistera, San Bernardino bluegrass, Humboldt lily

STRATEGY: HABITAT RESTORATION/IMPROVEMENT

Streambank stabilization, riparian area plantings:

- 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:

- partially armored three-spine stickleback, and other native fishes
- arroyo toad, southwestern pond turtle

Control of feral animals--domestic sheep and dogs:

- Peninsular bighorn sheep, Nelson's bighorn sheep

Vegetation and fuel treatments, prescribed burning:

- Santa Ana sucker, partially armored three-spine stickleback, and other native fishes
- Quino checkerspot butterfly
- Purple martin, flammulated owl, California spotted owl
- Nelson's bighorn sheep, Peninsular bighorn sheep
- Mountain yellow-legged frog

STRATEGY: MONITOR/STUDY

Generally, federally listed species.

Riparian or aquatic species:

- Santa Ana speckled dace
- mountain yellow-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, mountain yellow-legged frog
- Parish's checkerbloom
- California spotted owl

Upland plant species:

- pedate checkermallow, slender-petaled mustard, California bedstraw, California dandelion, pebble plains and carbonate plant species

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, unarmored three-spine Shay Creek stickleback, Santa Ana speckled dace, arroyo chub, partially armored three-spine stickleback
- Southern rubber boa, mountain yellow-legged frog, south coast red-sided garter snake, Western spadefoot, mountain garter snake, arroyo toad
- Southwestern willow flycatcher, long-eared owl, purple martin, California spotted owl, American dipper, calliope hummingbird

Coordination With Other Agencies:

- Mountain yellow-legged frog
- Nelson's bighorn sheep, San Bernardino kangaroo rat, Mountain lion, American badger
- California condor, California spotted owl
- Pebble plains and carbonate plant species

Habitat Acquisition:

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

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

- Prairie falcon, golden eagle, bald eagle

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

- Santa Ana speckled dace, and other native fishes
- Arroyo toad, mountain yellow-legged frog
- Southwestern pond turtle
- Southwestern willow flycatcher

Fire Prevention and Suppression:

- Southwestern pond turtle, arroyo toad, mountain yellow-legged frog

- Vernal blue butterfly
- Mountain garter snake, Belding's orange-throated whiptail
- MacGillivray's warbler, Southwestern willow flycatcher, California spotted owl, bald eagle, flammulated owl
- Peninsular bighorn sheep, American badger, San Bernardino flying squirrel, mountain lion, San Bernardino kangaroo rat

Upland plants:

- Pedate checkermallow and slender-petaled mustard, San Bernardino Mountains monkeyflower, pebble plains and carbonate plant species

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 the 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 or other habitat improvement structures.
- Protect habitat during fire suppression activities where feasible.

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

Linkrd 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 land with potential to affect TEPCS fish and amphibian habitat. In the event of hazardous material spills in known habitat on National Forest System land, 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 the 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 in order 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 in order 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 maintaining 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 maintaining biodiversity.
- Work with land conservancies, local government and others to secure long-term habitat linkages.
- Manage forest use and activities to be compatible with maintaining 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. Use 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 that are 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 adversely affects, 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 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 with opportunities for the public to partner in the stewardship of heritage resource sites:

- Develop public involvement programs to foster partnerships in heritage resource stewardship to aid in identifying and evaluating heritage sites.
- Work with local communities to understand, document, preserve, and interpret the forest history for the public. Develop opportunities for partnerships with the public to maintain and re-use 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 forestland 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 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 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 the development of strong, well-supported conservation education partnerships with nonprofit groups, 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 forestland.
- As soon as practical after the implementation of the revised land management plans, develop, update, or revise Forest Orders to develop long-term orders that apply 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: Investigations

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 facility 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 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 Use

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 1.

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 the 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 to maintain opportunities to access mineral and energy resources.
- 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 conserving habitat 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 restore the land to natural conditions.
- Coordinate with California Department of Fish and Game on applying and enforcing State suction dredge regulations on the San Gabriel River. Participate with the State to identify for the public those sections of streams that are open or closed to dredging.
- 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 producing 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:

- Make campfire closure within wilderness permanent and increase patrols within the wilderness.
- 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

Acknowledge firefighter and public safety as 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.

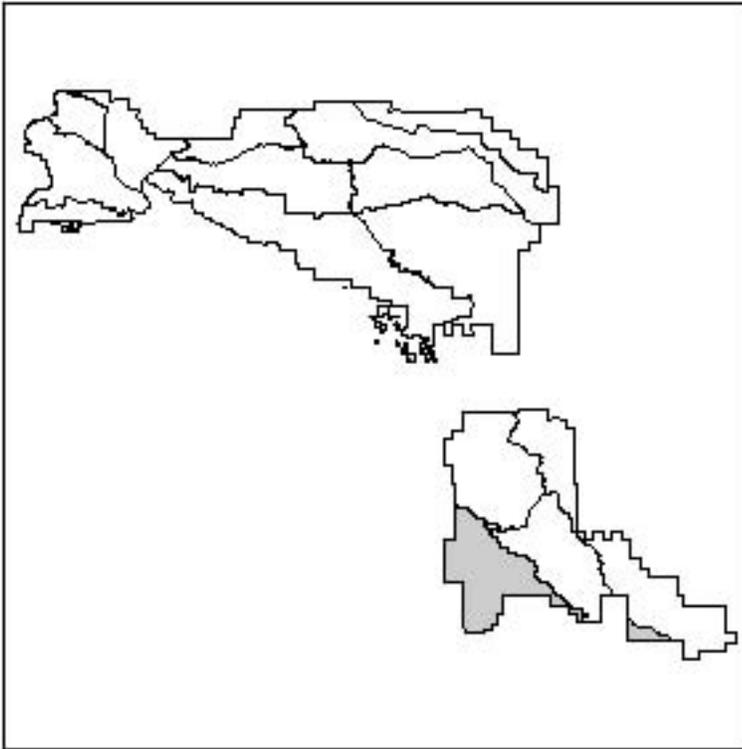
- Theme - refers to images of the landscape that can be defined with a brief set of physical, visual or cultural attributes that encapsulate the sense of place.
- Setting - provides a description of the landscape character of the place.
- Desired Condition - paints a picture of what the place could be 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 San Bernardino National Forest:

- Anza
- Arrowhead
- Big Bear
- Big Bear Back Country
- Cajon
- Desert Rim
- Garner Valley
- Idyllwild
- Lytle Creek
- San Bernardino Front Country
- San Gorgonio
- Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument
- Silverwood
- Mojave Front Country (Within San Bernardino National Forest)
- The Front Country (Within San Bernardino National Forest)

Anza

Theme: Chaparral-covered hillsides braided by seasonally flowing streams. Anza offers a distinctive, rural character, and remote open space, just miles from major urban centers. Early Spanish explorers passed through Bautista Creek leaving the area rich in history.



Settings: The Anza place is located within the San Jacinto foothills, stretching from the valley communities of Hemet and San Jacinto to Cahuilla Mountain and the southwestern slope of Thomas Mountain. To the south lies the community of Anza, named after the Spanish explorer Juan Bautista De Anza, who led an overland expedition in this area in the 1770s. De Anza traveled through the heart of this landscape on his expedition from Tubac, Arizona north to San Francisco. Visitors often travel through Bautista Canyon revisiting this historical adventure or as a short cut from Hemet to Anza. The Cahuilla Mountain Research Natural Area (RNA) located here is dedicated to the study of Coulter pine and black oak.

The climate is temperate, with sub-humid to hot summers at the lower elevations of 1,500 feet; giving way to cooler temperatures in the higher elevations. Most of this land is semi-arid with no lakes or man made reservoirs, and all streams are dry in the summer except for springs fed from the higher mountains. Annual precipitation ranges from 10 to 30 inches per year, mostly in the form of rain. Steep mountains characterize the land, with narrow to rounded ridges and narrow canyons.

Grasslands in the valleys yield to a chaparral covered landscape at the lower elevations, including chamise, buckwheat, sage and ceanothus. In the higher elevations there are stands of canyon live oak, pine and fir. Much of the landscape is dense chaparral on the slopes, with a riparian corridor along the Bautista Canyon bottom that contains diverse species of trees, shrubs, and grasses. The rich diversity provides both spring and fall color, enhancing the scenic character of the canyon. Wildfire threat is ever-present here, along with the cycle of erosion and flood.

The biological diversity along the river corridors within this place is unusually high. Bautista Creek possesses the largest number of endangered and Forest sensitive wildlife species of any location on the Forest. The southwestern willow flycatcher occurs here, and critical habitat for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat and the arroyo toad is designated here and along the San Jacinto River. Bautista Creek also supports the only population on the Forest of the endangered slender horned spine-flower. Some places along this creek are valued by Native Americans as botanical gathering areas. The encroachment of tamarisk (a noxious weed) within the creek corridor reduces the water table and affects species diversity. There is critical habitat for the Quino checkerspot butterfly in the vicinity of Hixon Flat and deer, quail, black bear, and mountain lions are present throughout the Anza Place. Private lands adjacent to the southern portion of the place provide a regional habitat linkage connecting the San Jacinto Mountains to the Palomar Mountains in the Cleveland National Forest.

This area is sparsely populated, with most of the population located in the adjacent communities of Hemet, San Jacinto and the Anza Valley. No major highways transect this area, and there are only a few native surface forest

roads. Because of the limited access, the area is not a high use recreation area. Most of the visitation focuses on driving for pleasure, with some OHV use. No developed camping or picnic sites are located here, although remote camping is allowed. Hunting deer and quail is popular. Unauthorized trash dumping and recreational target shooting occurs, as does unlawful use of campfires.

The area has historically been a grazing community. Cattle, horses, sheep, and other farm animals are found on national forest land at higher elevations and in the neighboring communities of Anza and Garner Valley.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Bautista Creek 11.7 miles

Existing Research Natural Areas:

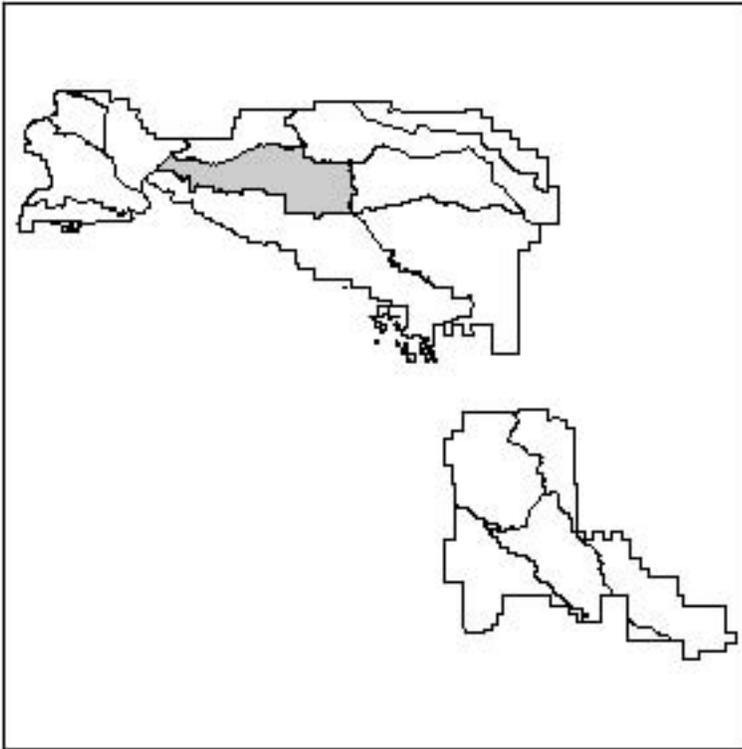
- Cahuilla Mountain 861 acres

Desired Condition: Anza is maintained as an historic and natural appearing landscape that functions as a transition zone to the higher mountains beyond, as well as providing a natural continuous expanse of vegetation as viewed from the high country. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the uniform pattern of the chaparral-covered hills, the ribbons of diverse native vegetation in the canyons and riparian areas, the presence of oaks, fir and pine in higher elevations, and interpreted remnants of early Spanish exploration.

Program Emphasis: Management will focus on maintaining the remote character and natural setting of this place. Community protection will be emphasized through public education, fire prevention, fuels management and direct suppression. Maintenance of plant and wildlife habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and wildlife species will be emphasized. Maintaining the unique biological diversity found in Bautista Creek and the San Jacinto River is a priority. Removal of tamarisk and other exotic species, eliminating unauthorized shooting and trash removal in streamside areas and maintenance of the regional habitat linkage will be emphasized. Visitor experiences will be enhanced through interpretation of the historic route of Juan Bautista De Anza and of the habitat and wildlife of Bautista Creek. Law enforcement actions and activities will be emphasized for the protection of forest resources and the safety of forest visitors and employees. The development of interconnected OHV routes will be explored, as will a motorized right-of-way access to Reed Valley.

Arrowhead

Theme: A scenic mountain retreat for residents and visitors alike, the Arrowhead place has large areas of urban development on private lands around Lake Arrowhead. Dense forest, a perennial stream in Deep Creek and abundant recreational opportunities characterize this area. The National Children's Forest is a living classroom for environmental education.



etting: The Arrowhead Place is known for its scenic vistas, lakes, diversity of vegetation, and seasonal climatic changes. The upper portion of Deep Creek, a major tributary of the Mojave River, is a unique feature of this place. It is one of only two designated State of California "Wild Trout Streams" within the Forest and offers a popular fly-fishing opportunity. The National Children's Forest, a 3,400 acre living classroom for environmental education is located here and links students, teachers and parents to their public land. The Fisherman's Camp Research Natural Area (RNA), set aside for Coulter pine research, is also located here.

The Arrowhead Place is a steep landscape characterized by rounded summits. Elevations range from 4,000 to 8,000 feet. Precipitation ranges from 30 to 40 inches annually, with up to 80 inches of snow falling at the highest elevations. Fog is often present. The rate of groundwater extraction in the area and lack of private land water flows into Forest streams are a concern.

Forests and woodlands here abound with Coulter pine, canyon live oak, and black oak with scattered stands of juniper and singleleaf pinyon pine in the northeast section of the place. At the higher elevations, Jeffrey pine, ponderosa pine and incense cedar are present, Big cone Douglas fir occupies drainages within the chaparral-covered hillsides and mountain dogwood occupies shaded stream corridors at the higher elevations. Large acreages of dense conifer forest on both National Forest and private land have been affected by high tree mortality related to drought, and the threat of wildfire in the rural/urban interface is a significant concern. The Old Fire of 2003 destroyed a large number of homes in the Cedar Glen-Hook Creek area, illustrating the unprecedented fuels problem. Over a dozen communities are located here, and the number of residents living within the Forest boundary is one of the highest in the nation.

This place supports diverse plant and wildlife communities including a large expanse of high quality California spotted owl habitat and much of the known range of the southern rubber boa. Southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow warbler, northern flying squirrel, and many other special status species are found here. Bald eagle wintering roost sites are present on National Forest land adjacent to Lake Arrowhead and Silverwood Lake. Private land throughout the area has high potential for development, increasing species dependence on National Forest land. Critical habitat for the arroyo southwestern toad is designated below 5,000 feet along Deep Creek. Deep Creek also supports native fish including a hybridized population of the Mohave tui chub. This corridor serves as an important habitat linkage, connecting southwestern willow flycatcher habitat in the desert to habitat in the mountains. An important landscape linkage for deer and bear is present in the Heap's Peak/Sheep Creek area, connecting desert and coastal areas.

The Snow Valley Pebble Plain Complex supports one of the largest known occurrences of the ashy gray

paintbrush, a federally threatened species. Protective measures are in place to promote recovery of this species. San Bernardino Mountains owl's-clover, Lemon lily, Humboldt lily, and several other Forest sensitive plant species are also present throughout the place.

Significant historic and prehistoric heritage properties occur here. Rock Camp, a large prehistoric encampment named for its numerous bedrock milling features, is one of the best-known heritage sites in southern California. Historically, the area was an important location of early logging activity and the setting of the "Battle of Indian Hill," the last major encounter between Euro-Americans and Native Americans in southern California.

Visitors access the area by State Highways 138 and 18, known as the Rim of the World Scenic Byway. State Highways 330, 38 and 173 provide alternate access routes. Public access to Lake Arrowhead, and adjacent Lake Papoose is restricted by private property ownership. Power, water transmission, telephone, cable television, communication sites, and sewer rights of way cross National Forest land serving the communities. There are many requests for additional non-recreational special use permits or expansions of existing permits. Popular motion picture filming locations are located here. Adjacent private land development has resulted in many encroachments on National Forest System lands.

Abundant recreation opportunities, especially day use, are provided here for both local residents and the large and diverse influx of seasonal visitors. Hiking, backpacking, camping, fly-fishing, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, fern gathering, mountain biking, hunting, pleasure driving and 4 wheeling opportunities are present. The hang-gliding and paragliding site at Pavika Point is nationally recognized. Recreational shooting is available. Snow play, nordic skiing and alpine skiing draw large crowds during the winter months. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail provides popular hiking, backpacking, and equestrian opportunities; motorized trail opportunities are present along the North Shore National Recreation Trail. Although the most well-defined motorized trail system on the Forest occurs here, improvements could still be made. Noise conflicts between Forest OHV use and adjacent landowners need to be resolved. There is also concern for effects to resources caused by increased off trail mountain bike use. A non-motorized trail system linking mountain communities to the Forest has been proposed with community support. There are four developed family campgrounds, three group campgrounds, and two day use picnic areas located here, as well as five organization camps and four recreation residence tracts. Equestrian facilities are lacking. Heaps Peak Arboretum (partially burned in the Old Fire of 2003) offers self guided interpretive tours and the Fire Lookout Programs at Keller and Strawberry Peak offer fascinating interpretive and volunteer opportunities.

Rehabilitation of unclassified roads is needed to improve water quality and provide solitude for wildlife. Unlawful activities such as trash dumping, off-road vehicle use, and property vandalism are reoccurring problems adjacent to communities. Dispersed camping in unauthorized locations and unlawful campfire use also occur. Additional unlawful activities, including marijuana cultivation, methamphetamine lab dumps, and abandonment of stolen vehicles are increasing as urban areas within the Forest boundary continue to develop.

In light of the recent tree mortality and Old Fire, there is a window of opportunity for the Forest and the community to develop a community based volunteer restoration program.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Deep Creek 10.6 miles
- Holcomb Creek .5 miles

Proposed Special Interest Areas:

- Childrens Forest 3,394 acres
- Deep Creek 832 acres

Existing Research Natural Areas:

- Fishermans Camp 412 acres

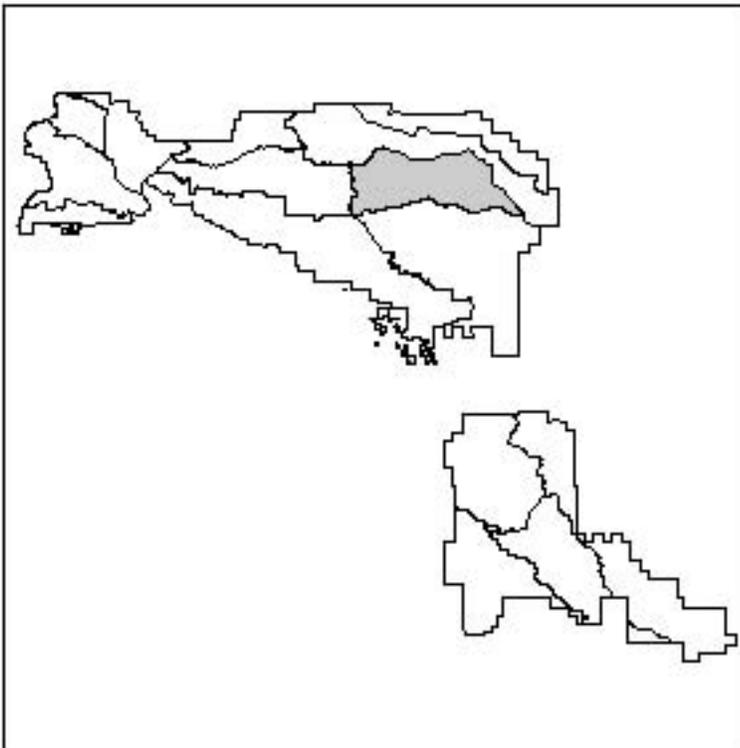
Desired Condition: Arrowhead is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a recreation retreat setting with seasonal influences. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the big tree

conifer-forest character, conifer-framed views of the lake, and rock outcrops. The built environment is that of a mountain village with the dominant material of wood and stone accents.

Program Emphasis: Management will focus on maintaining and restoring forest health through implementation of projects to remove dead trees, reduce stand densification and reforestation. Improving defensible space and community protection from wildfire is a priority. Maintenance of wildlife habitat and recovery of TEPCS species will be emphasized in all management activities. Maintaining regional habitat linkages and protecting Deep Creek are also priorities. Acquisition of land will be emphasized to improve administrative and public access, increase recreation opportunities, promote species recovery, and reduce urban/wildland boundaries. The forest will continue to work closely with developers, planners and local officials to reduce resource impacts and conflicts on national forest lands from nearby development. Recreation use will be promoted, where appropriate and environmentally sustainable. Conservation education, with a focus on the demonstration and interpretation of healthy forests, will be emphasized at the National Children's Forest, Keller and Strawberry Peak Fire lookouts, Heaps Peak Arboretum Deep Creek, and along the Rim of the World Scenic Byway. Renovation of developed sites will be emphasized, as will development of safe areas for snow play, development of a dispersed camping strategy, and day-use recreation at Deep Creek. Deep Creek and National Children's Forest Special Interest Area plans will be created. Improvement of motorized and non-motorized trail systems will continue. Water management will be emphasized. Restoration of areas burned in the Old Fire of 2003 and building joint community based partnerships will be emphasized.

Big Bear

Theme: The premier mountain lake resort destination in southern California. Visitors and residents heavily use this landscape of urban development and surrounding public lands. It is also known as a "hot spot" of biodiversity, with unique habitats that support one of the highest concentrations of threatened, endangered and sensitive plant and wildlife species in California.



Setting: Big Bear is a scenic, high-country landscape with abundant, year-round recreation and wildlife viewing opportunities. Millions of visitors from throughout southern California are drawn annually to this resort community known for its clean air, cool temperatures and mountain beauty. The mountains here are moderately steep with narrow to rounded summits. Elevations range from 6,500 feet at the Big Bear Lake dam up to 9,952 feet in the surrounding mountains. Precipitation averages 22 inches per year; 64 inches occurs as snowfall in the

higher elevations. A portion of the North Baldwin-Holcomb Valley Special Interest Area, designated for historical, zoological and botanical values, is located within this place. The eastern portion of the unit is managed as wild burro territory.

Big Bear Lake is the largest high elevation lake in southern California, with a surface area of approximately 10 square miles and an intricate 23-mile shoreline. Developed a century ago to impound water for diversion to the citrus industry in the San Bernardino Valley, it is now managed by the Municipal Water District (MWD). Bluff, Cedar, and Erwin Lakes and Lake Williams are also man-made water bodies, but under private management. Baldwin Lake is ephemeral, and the only natural lake in the area. Water management is a concern in the Big Bear basin. Water supplies in the basin may not be adequate to serve competing demands. Surface and ground water extractions and intra-basin transfers play a role in the water level of Big Bear and Baldwin Lakes, ponds, and riparian areas and in the maintenance of wet meadow habitat. Water extraction under permit may be affecting endangered unarmored three-spine stickleback habitat. Several million gallons of sewage effluent are exported from the basin to the desert via an outfall line. The Forest is working with the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency to treat this water and keep it in the basin. A small amount of locatable mineral potential (dolomite) exists in the northwestern portion of the Big Bear Place. One small area is under claim for gold mining.

Pinyon-juniper woodland, Jeffrey pine forest, and mixed conifer and subalpine forests are found here. One of two relic quaking aspen groves in southern California and the Champion lodgepole pine occur here. Drought induced mortality in Jeffrey pine forest is occurring at a high rate, raising risk of wildfire. There is potential for stand replacing fires in the pinyon-juniper woodland within the unit, as large acreages of this vegetation type have burned (and re-burned) to the north and east. Community defense zones are needed to protect the communities of Big Bear Lake, Big Bear City, Fawnskin, Moonridge, Sugarloaf, Baldwin Lake, Erwin Lake and Lake Williams. Firewood collection is an important local use here. Livestock grazing does not occur within the place.

This biological hotspot supports nine federally listed plant species, three federally listed wildlife species and an unusually large number of Forest Sensitive species. Big Bear Lake is home to the largest population of wintering bald eagles in southern California and provides year round habitat for waterfowl. Shay Meadow and Baldwin Lake support the only remaining natural population of the unarmored three-spine stickleback, an endangered fish. Bear Creek, one of two designated State of California Wild Trout Streams on the Forest, also supports breeding pairs of southwestern willow flycatchers. California spotted owls are present within forested habitats and the area is one of a few locations in the southern California forests where common nighthawks, gray vireos, and gray flycatchers breed. An important habitat linkage for conifer forest dependent species is present from Sugarlump Mountain south into the San Geronio Place. Ecologically unique plant communities found on pebble plain, carbonate substrate and montane meadow habitat support plant and invertebrate species found nowhere else in the world. The entire range of the Bear Valley bladderpod occurs here and Critical Habitat for this plant is present. Five of the six occurrences of the pedate checker-mallow known on NFS land occur here and one of only two occurrences of the slender-petaled mustard on NFS land is present. Effects to listed habitats from high levels of recreation use are a concern here.

High concentrations of prehistoric and historic heritage resources are found here along with some of the oldest habitat sites on the Forest. Natural features such as Baldwin Lake and Pan Hot springs figure prominently in Native American creation stories and legends. The protection and interpretation of these sites is an ongoing concern.

Access is via State Highways 18, and 38 (Rim of the World Scenic Byway), with a large network of classified roads and trails providing access throughout the place. Unauthorized routes originating from private lands adjacent to the Forest boundary and the increased use of mountain bikes off of roads and trails are of concern here. High concentrations of pre-historic and historic heritage resources are found here along with some of the oldest known habitation sites on the Forest. Protection of these sites is an ongoing concern.

National Forest lands contribute a significant portion of the total recreation value generated by visitors to the Big Bear area. Serrano Campground is the most requested campground in the National Recreation Reservation System. Snow Summit and Bear Mountain Ski Areas, operating under Special Use Permit, provide the best winter sports activities in southern California. The Team Big Bear annual mountain bike race is a nationally recognized event. Recreational shooting and horseback riding opportunities are accommodated at facilities under Special Use authorization. Filming locations are requested frequently on both National Forest and private land. One of the heaviest concentrations of recreation residences in southern California occurs here, including those in the

Southwest Shore Historic Tract. Power, water transmission, telephone, cable television, communication sites, and sewer rights of way cross national forest land serving the communities.

Quality information, interpretation, environmental education and volunteer programs are offered at the Big Bear Discovery Center, a premier Forest visitor center located on the north shore of Big Bear Lake. Other activities include picnicking, fishing wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, snowshoe, snowplay and cross-country skiing.

Visitor use within this place is seasonally heavy, and often concentrated in a few areas. Developed site peak capacity is regularly exceeded on summer weekends and holidays and use is expected to grow in the future. Many developed sites near Big Bear Lake are aging and in need of maintenance and reconstruction to meet accessibility standards. Many high use recreation areas overlap with threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat. These habitats and populations of listed species are affected by the high level of recreation activities, unauthorized road and trail establishment, trash dumping, wood theft and invasive species. Unlawful use of campfires is also a concern.

Approximately one third of the lands within the Big Bear Place are in private ownership and endangered species occurring on private lands adjacent to the Forest are under increasing pressure from development. The remaining undeveloped parcels are high priority for acquisition because of their recreational and biological values. As development continues, an increasing desire to develop urban infrastructure on National Forest System lands is anticipated.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Bear Creek 6.5 miles
- Siberia Creek 3.0 miles

Recommended Wilderness:

- Sugarloaf 2,591 acres

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- Baldwin Lake Holcomb Valley 1,825 acres

Desired Condition: Big Bear is maintained as a rural natural appearing landscape that functions as a recreation setting for water-oriented summer recreation and the surrounding mountains for winter sports activities. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the big-tree conifer forests to provide the alpine character; the relic quaking aspen groves, lodge pole pine forests and the rocky base of terrain providing numerous outcrops. The built environment emulates the environment by using wood and rock accents.

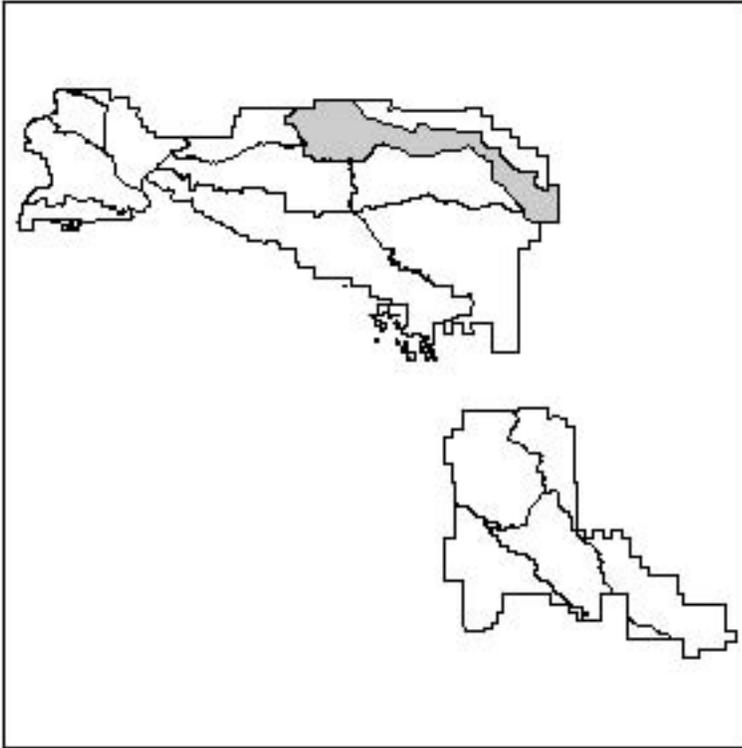
Program Emphasis: Management will focus on maintaining and restoring forest health through the implementation of projects to remove dead trees and reduce stand densification. Improving defensible space and community protection from wildfire through fuels management is a priority. Offering quality recreation opportunities, including those at the Discovery Points, while ensuring protection and recovery for TEPCS species is an additional priority. Capacity may be evaluated, off-season use promoted and facilities and scenic quality will be maintained and improved. Conservation education will be emphasized at the Discovery Center and along the Alpine Pedal Path. Alternative locations for the Big Bear Sportsman's Club will be explored.

Watershed condition and listed species habitats will be improved by relocating classified roads out of sensitive habitat where possible, decommissioning/adding to system/conversion to trails existing unclassified roads which affect species habitat, and preventing unauthorized off-road vehicle use. Continued implementation of the revised road maintenance policy and an emphasis on a mountain bike policy will reduce habitat degradation. Actions to prevent extinction of the unarmored three-spine stickleback and restoration of the pebble plain habitat at Snow Forest Ski Area will remain a priority. Habitats for sensitive and other species of concern will be managed to prevent downward trends in populations or habitat capability and to prevent federal listing. Conservation and protection of ground and surface water resources and habitat linkages will be emphasized and invasive species will be removed. Acquisition of land will be emphasized to improve administrative and public access, increase recreational opportunities, promote species recovery and prevent undesirable development. The identification,

evaluation, interpretation and protection of heritage properties will be emphasized.

Big Bear Back Country

Theme: The Big Bear Back Country has an abundance of roaded recreation opportunities and colorful gold mining history. This is also biologically diverse, with important high desert, mountain meadow and conifer forest ecosystems.



Setting: The Big Bear Back Country Place is known for its colorful mining history, prehistoric habitations and scenic character. From 1860 until the early 1900s, Holcomb Valley was the location of southern California's largest gold rush and the mining towns of Belleville, Clapboard Town and Union Town were located here. Extractions of gold, silver and copper persisted here over a longer period of time than anywhere else in California. The last mining operation of any size concluded in 1958. Holcomb Valley is a California Historic District, noted for its abundant historic and prehistoric sites. Other historic mining areas are present in Lone Valley and Rattlesnake Canyon. Rose Mine, which housed a mountain community at the turn of the century, is now a national historical site. The Arrastre Creek area has been important to Native Americans since prehistoric times. The North Baldwin/Holcomb Valley Special Interest Area (SIA), designated for its unique historical, botanical and zoological features, is present in this place. The eastern portion of the unit is managed as Wild Burro Territory.

Although several gold claims remain active, mining today focuses on carbonate substrates. Large-scale industrial companies extract the ore for use in making pharmaceuticals and cement and many acres within this area are under claim. Two large mining pits and an overburden site are located north of Hitchcock Spring. The Claudia Pit is under reclamation, however the Cloudy Pit remains open due to potential for future extractions. Additional potential for active mining occurs on the Right Star Claim in Lone Valley.

Elevations range from roughly 4,400 to 8,000 feet. Annual precipitation ranges from 8 to 25 inches, much of this falling as snow in the higher elevations. Coxey Pond is the only open body of water in this place. Holcomb Creek and Arrastre Creek provide a perennial water source for wildlife. Jacoby Creek and Coxey Creek are also important, as are the other ephemeral drainages, seeps and springs present.

The open, temperate, high desert landscape in the eastern portion of the place is characterized by Joshua tree stands and pinyon-juniper covered hillsides. Holcomb Valley, with its large montane meadow system, dominates

the center of the place. Jeffrey pine, western juniper, canyon live oak and white fir cover the hillsides here. The 1999 Willow Fire burned the western portion of the place and vast acreages of desert scrub, chaparral, pinyon-juniper woodland, and Jeffrey pine forest are regenerating. The management of pinyon-juniper woodlands, susceptible to type conversion after large, frequent fires, is important here. Prevention of cheatgrass invasion, which carries fires, and the suppression of wildfire in the burned Jeffrey pine and pinyon juniper forest is needed for the next 50 to 100 years to allow for regeneration of these communities. In other areas throughout this place, drought induced conifer mortality is occurring in remaining stands and effects to pinyon-juniper woodlands have also been noticed.

The biological diversity within this place is unusually high. Wet meadow, pebble plain and carbonate plant habitat supports a large number of threatened, endangered, and Forest Sensitive and Watch list plants. Critical habitat designated for the recovery of the carbonate endemic plants is present. Six pebble plain complexes occur; two of them support the host plants for rare butterfly species endemic to this area. One of the largest concentrations of endemic plant species in California occurs in Belleville Meadow. Aquatic, riparian and forested habitats along Holcomb Creek support nesting pairs of southwestern willow flycatcher, California spotted owl, San Bernardino flying squirrel, partially armored stickleback, sculpin and rare bats. Naturally reproducing rainbow trout are also present. Arrastre Creek, one of the only perennial streams in the area, provides habitat for a diverse array of wildlife species. This riparian corridor also provides a wildlife linkage for the Cushenbury Nelson's bighorn sheep herd to connect to the San Gorgonio herd. Another important habitat linkage occurs on the west side of North Peak extending north to its connection with Fifteenmile Valley. Excellent habitat for big game species is also present in the Heartbreak Ridge and Pipes Canyon Roadless Areas in the southeastern portion of the place.

Forest Roads 3N16, 3N14 and 3N03 provide access to the area from Highway 18 and connect to many other forest roads and trails. This area has the highest number of unclassified roads and trails in all of the four southern California National Forests, with approximately three miles of road per square mile. The volume of new unauthorized road and trail creation is high, as is the breaching of decommissioned and restored roadbeds. Resource degradation caused by unauthorized use is high here. No residential communities occur within or adjacent to the boundaries of this unit; however several structures are present on private in-holdings. A gas pipeline, sewer outfall, and underground fiber optic lines are present in this unit and water is extracted from Van Dusen Creek as a community water source. Power and phone lines are present, however, the area is not designated as a utility corridor. Holcomb Valley is a well-known location of several famous movie and television productions, and a large number of new media production requests are received each year. Areas within this place are also used by the military for patrolling, orienteering and other training exercises.

The Big Bear Back Country offers a wide variety of dispersed recreation opportunities. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail traverses almost the entire length of the place, offering popular hiking and equestrian opportunities. The Gold Fever Trail, a self-guided auto tour, is a popular way to view Holcomb Valley's historical features. Numerous developed campgrounds provide family, equestrian and group camping opportunities. OHV staging areas and trail systems provide both high desert and montane riding opportunities at Cactus Flat and Big Pine Flat. Regionally significant OHV events occur here annually under Special Use Permit. Holcomb Valley is a popular area for mountain biking and the increase in off-trail mountain bike use is affecting endangered habitats. Use of campfires in unauthorized locations is also a concern. Recreational shooting areas are designated in four locations within this place. Impacts to resources and signing at these locations is occurring. The eastern and western sections of this place offer some of the most popular areas for deer, quail and turkey hunting on the Forest. Other popular activities include wildlife viewing, driving for pleasure, rock climbing, cycling, and cross country skiing.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Holcomb Creek 14.5 miles

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- Baldwin Lake Holcomb Valley 8,758 acres

Proposed Special Interest Areas:

- Deep Creek 17 acres

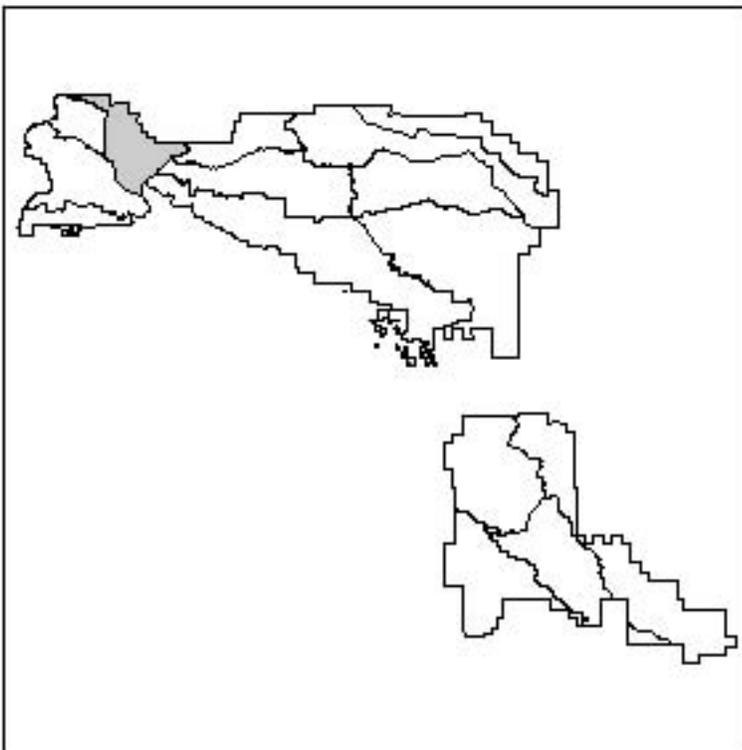
Desired Condition: The Big Bear Back Country is maintained as an historic and natural appearing landscape that functions as a recreation setting for backcountry rustic road-touring recreation experiences. The valued landscape

attributes to be preserved over time are the stands of Joshua trees and Pinyon juniper, the large montane meadow system, the open high-desert undeveloped character, all an important part of the landscape character associated with mining and Native American use.

Program Emphasis: Management will balance recreation use with protection of listed species habitat and heritage resource properties within a natural appearing landscape. Facility improvements, management of OHV road and trail systems, and conservation education are priorities. Maintenance of habitat for TEPCS species and management of habitat linkages will be emphasized in all management activities. Emphasis on the transportation system will continue due to the high number of roads and trails here. Relocation of classified roads out of sensitive habitat, analysis and decommissioning/adding to system/conversion to trails of existing unclassified roads and trails, and preventing the establishment of new roads are all priorities. Another focus is the development of a dispersed camping strategy. Ecological restoration projects will continue to be a focus here and emphasis on the regeneration of pinyon-juniper woodland and Jeffrey Pine forest will continue in the Willow fire area. Wherever possible, acquisition of land will be emphasized to acquire habitat or to provide recreation access. Law enforcement will continue to be a priority. The identification, evaluation, interpretation and protection of heritage properties will be emphasized.

Cajon

Theme: One of the major transportation gateways and utility corridors leading into southern California. The San Andreas Fault prominently passes through these fire prone, chaparral-covered hillsides. This area is the key wildlife habitat linkage between the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains.



Setting: Once a prehistoric travel way, the Cajon Pass is now a major modern transportation and utility corridor serving all of southern California. This includes 19 major uses including railroads, highways, pipelines, fiber optic lines, and electric lines. Billions of dollars of commerce and utility services move annually through the Cajon Pass. Native Americans, Spanish explorers, Mormon settlers, and travelers along Route 66 all entered southern California through the Cajon Pass. Forty six million vehicles now travel annually through this Pass.

The northern portion of this place is a diverse landscape, with areas of high desert, where elevations range from 3,000 to 4,000 feet, the climate is hot and arid, and precipitation is as low as 4 to 10 inches. At higher elevations along the corridor, the land has steep mountains, with narrow to rounded summits and narrow canyons. Elevations here range from 3,000 to 6,500 feet, with a warm temperate climate, precipitation of 20 to 40 inches, and

chaparral to scattered mixed conifer vegetation. The steepness and geology of this landscape promotes rapid water runoff.

The San Andreas Fault is the dominant geologic feature in this place. The fault trace separates the San Gabriel Mountains from the San Bernardino Mountains along Lone Pine Canyon. Lost Lake is the only naturally occurring, fault-formed perennial lake along the rift zone in southern California. Mormon Rocks and the associated paleontologic resources are unique geological formations. Oil and gas development occurs to the north of this place, and there may be potential for future development.

Vegetative cover is primarily chaparral. There is a high frequency of fires adjacent to the transportation corridors, including the Grand Prix and Old Fires of 2003, resulting in type conversion from chaparral vegetation to non-native grasses. The degradation of riparian habitats by introduced species such as *Arundo donax* is a major problem in Cajon Wash.

This place is a critical evolutionary landscape between the high desert and the coastal basins and from the San Bernardino Mountains to the San Gabriel Mountains. Loss of habitat connectivity as a result of the development of Interstate 15, State Highways 138 and 66, railroads, and increasing urbanization are affecting wildlife passage. Establishment of a regional habitat linkage to connect the San Gabriel Mountains with the San Bernardino Mountains is needed.

Critical habitat for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat is present along Cajon Wash, and habitat for the arroyo toad is present in Little Horsethief Canyon and Cajon Wash. A minerals withdrawal to promote recovery of the arroyo toad has been proposed in Little Horsethief Creek. The largest areas of cottonwood/willow habitat on the Forest are found in Cajon Wash, Crowder Canyon, and Lost Lake; and Least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher nest in these locations. This place also has important habitat for speckled dace, a Forest Service sensitive species.

The primary access into the place is provided by Interstate 15 and by State Highway 138. A few Forest roads provide further access into more remote areas. The fast-growing desert communities of Hesperia and Victorville exert a major influence on this place. Rapid urbanization along the northern edge of the place is encroaching upon forest lands and affecting species habitat.

Human population densities within the place itself are low however, and visitor use varies with seasonal changes in the weather. Popular activities include hiking, OHV use, picnicking, sightseeing, mountain biking, and hunting. Many locations along the railroad tracks provide excellent, internationally significant opportunities to view and photograph trains. A nationally recognized location for radio controlled flyer events is present here. The Pacific Crest Trail traverses the place for approximately 9 miles from Silverwood Lake on the east to Cajon Junction at the I-15 corridor. Small OHV systems are located on Baldy Mesa and Cleghorn Ridge.

Unlawful off-road vehicle use has been in the past, and remains today a major problem at Baldy Mesa, Crowder Canyon, Cajon Wash, and in areas where recent wildfires have burned vegetation to allow motorized access where none had been before. Unlawful activities, such as trash dumping, use of campfires in unauthorized locations and property vandalism are reoccurring difficulties. Other unlawful activities, such as marijuana cultivation, methamphetamine lab dumps, and abandonment of stolen vehicles are increasing as areas adjacent to the Forest are being developed.

There are no special designations.

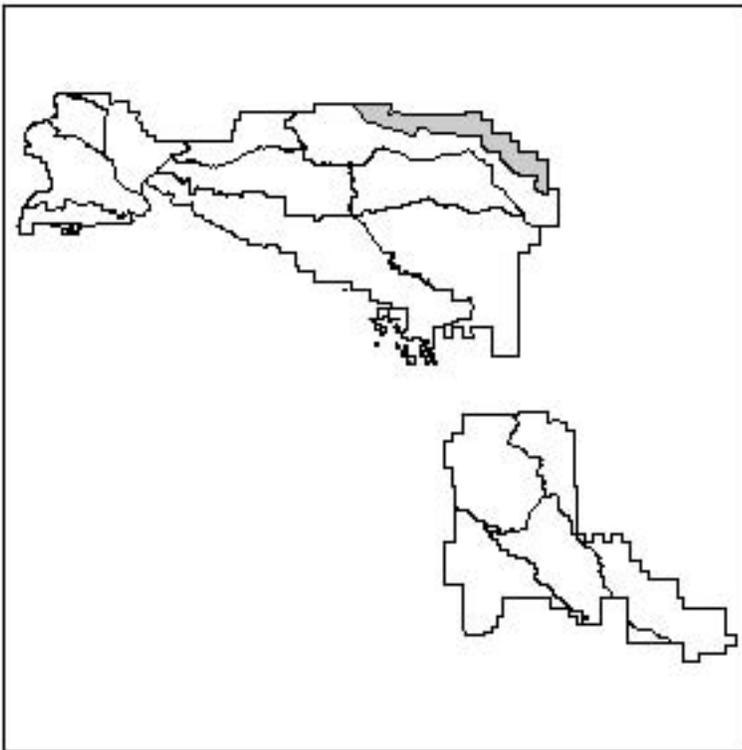
Desired Condition: Cajon is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a transportation gateway, utility corridor and wildlife habitat linkage. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are an age-class mosaic in chaparral, native grasses, and the rock outcrops in the dissected terrain.

Program Emphasis: Management will focus on maintaining the Cajon Pass utility corridor access for people, goods and services, while retaining the rugged and picturesque character of the landscape. Habitats for federally listed and Forest Service sensitive species within the place will be managed to promote species conservation and recovery. The regional landscape linkages between the coast and the desert and the San Gabriel Mountains and the San Bernardino Mountains will be kept intact and functioning. The Forest will continue to work closely with developers, planners and local officials to reduce resource impacts and conflicts on National Forest lands from nearby development. Eradication efforts for *Arundo donax* will be emphasized and prevention of vehicle trespass in Cajon Wash will continue. Motorized and non-motorized trails that are sustainable to the environment will be developed to improve existing trail opportunities. OHV trails will be established in areas of low environmental

sensitivity to provide an attractive alternative to unlawful use and to promote user cooperation in avoiding sensitive areas. There will be an emphasis on OHV law enforcement in Baldy Mesa. Efforts will be made to reduce fire occurrence and frequency next to I-15 and railroads. The identification, evaluation, interpretation and protection of heritage properties, particularly those at Baldy Mesa, will be emphasized. There will be a focus on the interpretation of the San Andreas Fault. Remote control glider recreation opportunities and locations will be explored.

Desert Rim

Theme: A remote, high desert landscape with extensive industrial limestone mining operations. Joshua trees at the lower elevations lead to shaded canyons and forested ridges. Some of the largest occurrences of federally listed native plants are found here in the carbonate deposits laid down by ancient inland seas. Solitude and challenge are found within the primitive Bighorn Mountains Wilderness.



Setting: The Desert Rim Place is a high desert, remote, rugged landscape formed by complex geologic faulting. This is the location where the north slope of the San Bernardino Mountains links up with the Mojave Desert. In the 1800s, small amounts of gold, silver and lead were extracted here. Today, the majority of land is valued for the presence of large quantities of high quality, limestone mineral deposits used in the production of pharmaceuticals and cement. These carbonate deposits, derived from an ancient inland sea, are also valuable habitat supporting four species of threatened and endangered plants found nowhere else in the world. A portion of the Bighorn Mountain Wilderness, managed jointly by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is located here. Also located in this place is a portion of the North Baldwin Lake and Holcomb Valley SIA, established for its unique botanical, zoological, and historical features.

The Desert Rim landscape is arid, but contains many intermittent streams and important spring locations. Arrastre Creek, Crystal Creek, Terrace Springs, Visera Spring, Grapevine Creek, Burnt Flat pond, and Marble, Artic and Furnace Canyons provide important water sources for wildlife. The area is known for its unique features and is a popular location for geological exploration. The majority of the land here is under mining claim for limestone and metals. Three large-scale industrial limestone mines are present, annually producing about three million tons of cement-grade limestone and 1.5 million tons of high-brightness limestone.

Shaded canyons and ridges of the Desert Rim are forested with Jeffrey pine, white fir and incense cedar. As the landscape drops in elevation toward the desert, pinyon-juniper woodlands cover the slopes and valleys and

intermix with Joshua tree woodlands and desert scrub. Tamarisk is affecting riparian habitat in Arrastre Creek and Old Woman Spring. The 1999 Willow Fire burned conifer forest and pinyon- juniper woodland in the western portion of this place. Suppression of fire is necessary to allow natural regeneration of these habitat types. Carbonate and pebble plain habitat supporting federally listed plant species is present. A large area of critical habitat is designated for the recovery of carbonate endemic plants. Protecting these plant species is often in conflict with mining of the limestone deposits. Development of a Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy is the goal of interested mining companies, claim holders, landowners, conservation interests, and government agencies to resolve this conflict in a mutually agreeable manner. Important wildlife habitat is also present here. The Cushenbury herd of Nelson's bighorn sheep and California spotted owl are present on the Desert Rim. Excellent year-round deer range is found throughout most of the place. Pinyon and Joshua tree woodlands provide habitat for rare birds such as hepatic tanager, calliope hummingbird, gray flycatcher and Lewis woodpecker.

Access through the Desert Rim Place, from the mountains to the desert, is via State Highway 18 west to Lucerne Valley 3N03, and 2N02 east to Pioneer Town. Ninety miles of road provide access throughout the place. The Rattlesnake grazing allotment, consisting of 1,386 acres on National Forest System land, occurs on the southeast portion of the place in the Bighorn Mountain Wilderness and on land administered by the BLM. The eastern portion of the place is managed as wild burro territory. All private parcels with the place boundary are utilized for limestone mining operations; no residential uses of land exist.

Primitive and semi-primitive recreation experiences are found in this place. The Bighorn Mountain Wilderness offers primitive hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and hunting opportunities. Other popular activities include driving for pleasure, wildlife viewing, and OHV use along designated routes. Vehicle trespass in the Visera Springs area is compromising Wilderness values. No developed recreation sites are located within this place and conservation education opportunities are limited. Significant heritage resources associated with historic mining and prehistoric habitation occur here and are in need of protection.

Although recent efforts to reduce unauthorized uses in this place have been successful, many unlawful activities continue to occur. Unlawful recreational shooting, trash dumping, off-road vehicle use, and unauthorized woodcutting continue here, affecting both habitats and sensitive heritage resources. Additional law enforcement patrols and USFS presence are needed.

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- Baldwin Lake Holcomb Valley 207 acres

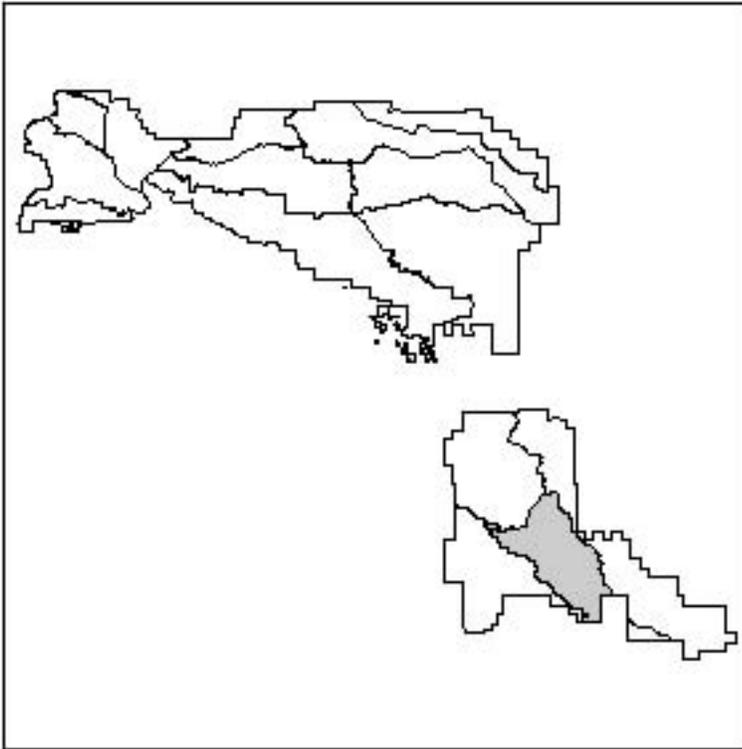
Desired Condition: Desert Rim is maintained as a modified to natural appearing landscape that functions as a sanctuary for a large number of federally listed native plants and a highly valued area for limestone production. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the Jeffrey pine, white fir and incense cedar in the shaded aspects of ridges and canyons; intermittent streams and springs with riparian features and shady vegetation groves; and, white carbonate limestone outcrops.

Program Emphasis: Management is expected to center on implementation of the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy to promote mining while preserving and managing habitat for the four federally listed plants. Maintenance of plant and wildlife habitat for TEPCS plant and wildlife species will be emphasized in all management activities. Enforcement of livestock and vehicle restrictions in the Bighorn Mountain Wilderness with the BLM is a priority, especially in the Viscera Springs area. A Bighorn Mountain Wilderness Implementation Plan will be developed with the BLM. The identification, evaluation, interpretation and protection of heritage properties will be emphasized.

Prioritization of locations needing increased law enforcement patrol will be emphasized for protection of forest visitors and employees.

Garner Valley

Theme: Green meadows and historic ranchland in an expansive mountain valley frame the Garner Valley place. Lake Hemet and surrounding areas offer popular recreational opportunities and scenic vistas of an open pine forest.



Setting: Garner Valley Place is located within the San Jacinto Mountain Range. The San Jacinto Wilderness borders the place to the north, while the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument forms its eastern boundary. The Santa Rosa Indian Reservation lies directly to the south. Elevations within the Garner Valley Place range from approximately 2,500 feet to over 8,500 feet. Some areas here have historically supported cattle grazing which continues today.

The mountain climate ranges from hot to temperate in the lower elevations and cold temperatures in the higher elevations. Annual precipitation varies from 16 to 30 inches, with snow falling mostly in the higher elevations. Water is scarce in the summer months, except for scattered springs and groundwater. Lake Hemet is the largest body of water in the area. It is a human-made reservoir providing water to the local area, while also offering significant water-based recreation opportunities, such as, boating and fishing. Striking rock outcrops and unique landforms are found along the desert divide, which forms the boundary with the Monument.

The Garner Valley Place is blanketed with basin sagebrush intermingled with meadow plants and exotic grasses. Jeffrey pine grows along the valley's edge, while at the south end pinyon/juniper woodlands prevail. Ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest are found on the slopes of Mt. San Jacinto, with lodgepole pine present at higher elevations. Sage encroachment is occurring in the valley and its adjacent timbered areas as a result of past fire suppression activities. Because sage is highly flammable, the risk that fires will destroy the trees and convert the area to brush and grassland is high.

The large acreages of montane meadow found here provide habitat for many unique plants and animals. The only known locations of Johnson's rock cress, a Forest Sensitive plant species, are found in this place and bald eagle wintering habitat is found at Lake Hemet. Garner Valley meadows and adjacent uplands are important deer habitat where fire has been used to maintain habitat quality. A State Game Refuge located at the northern end of the valley provides protection for game species from hunting.

Cahuilla Indians were the earliest known people living in Garner Valley, and abundant Native American cultural sites are located in this area. Numerous historic locations are also found here, including historical buildings and mine sites. A few open mine shafts are in need of closure to provide for public safety.

State Highway 74, the Palms to Pines Scenic Byway, traverses this area from southeast to northwest. Garner Valley offers access and views into the San Jacinto Wilderness.

Access to the National Forest is a concern in Garner Valley, as the Forest Service does not hold public rights of way and private landowners allow limited access through their property. The proximity of local communities to

National Forest land has also led to numerous encroachments in the area, including wells and water tanks.

This place contains a variety of recreation opportunities, including mountain biking, hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, and equestrian use. Tool Box Spring Campground and Lake Hemet Picnic Area are located here, and the Pacific Crest Trail traverses the eastern boundary of the area along the desert divide. There is insufficient parking at some trailheads to accommodate users and conflicts occasionally arise among some hiking, biking, and equestrian trail users. There are no off-highway vehicle trails in the area. Portions of trails are affecting some heritage sites. Unmanaged recreational target shooting is also a problem within this place.

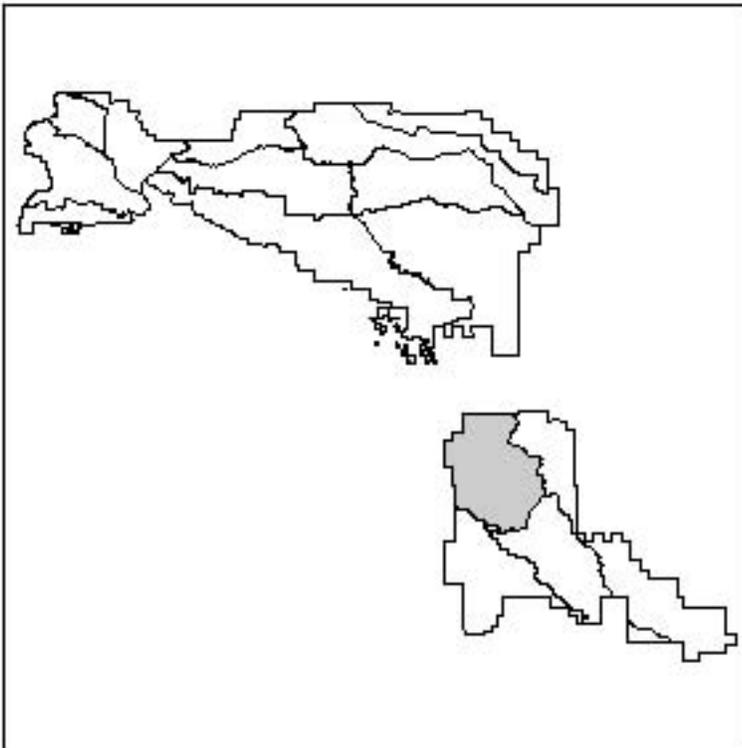
There are no special designations.

Desired Condition: Garner Valley is maintained as an historic and natural appearing landscape that functions as a recreation setting offering scenic vistas of open pine forests. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the natural appearing and pastoral landscape views from the scenic byway, the presence of montane meadows, the Jeffrey pine forests along the valley's edge, the mixed conifer forests on Mount San Jacinto, lodgepole pine in higher elevations, interpreted remnants of Native American history, and the pastoral qualities of grazing activities.

Program Emphasis: Management will focus on maintaining the open grassland character and expansive wet meadows and vistas of Garner Valley. Historic cattle grazing will continue to highlight the rural character of this mountain setting. Forest health projects to reduce sagebrush encroachment and establish historic fire return intervals are a priority. Community protection will be emphasized through public education, fire prevention, fuels management and direct suppression. Wherever possible, acquisition of land will be emphasized to improve public and administrative access, protect resources, and maintain open space and scenic qualities. Improvements to the trail system, including parking and rerouting to avoid heritage sites, will be emphasized.

Idyllwild

Theme: A mountain hideaway of art and music nestled beneath jagged rocks and towering pines, Idyllwild is the gateway to the San Jacinto Wilderness.



Setting: The Idyllwild place is located in the higher elevations of the San Jacinto Mountains and is characterized by steep canyons and jagged rocks. Elevations in the place range from 2,000 feet to 10,804 feet at the top of San Jacinto peak. The San Jacinto Wilderness has long been a popular destination for visitors to this place, and the

newly created Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument borders the eastern boundary. The spectacular features of the National Forest provide the backdrop for this unique community. Idyllwild attracts and inspires many people interested in the arts. Because of its proximity to Palm Springs, this place continues to receive a large number of international visitors. The Hall Canyon Research Natural Area, dedicated to the study of mixed conifer forest, and the Black Mountain Scenic Area are located here, as is Mt. San Jacinto State Park.

The mountain climate ranges from hot to temperate at the lower elevations and cold temperatures at the highest elevations. Surface water is scarce in the summer months, except for scattered springs. Lake Fulmor, a small human-made lake, is located here. Annual precipitation ranges from 16 to 30 inches, with snow falling mostly at the highest elevations. The North Fork of the San Jacinto River and Fuller Mill Creek are important riparian corridors.

The San Jacinto foothills contain a mixture of manzanita, big sagebrush, California buckwheat, chamise and oak scrub. In the higher elevations, the chaparral gives way to stands of mixed oak and Coulter pine, then to stands of big cone Douglas fir, Jeffrey pine, and finally, lodgepole pine at the highest elevations. The Vista Grande and Soboba Grazing Allotments are located in the area. These allotments are currently vacant and without ongoing grazing, brush encroachment is beginning to occur in the area.

Fuel buildup has occurred in the timbered portions of this place, increasing the probability of large stand replacement fires. Fire hazard has been exacerbated by drought and a high level of tree mortality, presenting risks to private land owners and forest facilities. Defensible fuel profile zones are needed to protect Idyllwild and surrounding communities.

This popular mountain place contains unique biological diversity. A distinct population of mountain yellow legged frog occurs here. California spotted owls are also present. Southern rubber boas and San Bernardino flying squirrels occur here at the southernmost portion of their range. A small amount of critical habitat for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat, and the arroyo toad is present along the San Jacinto River. A small amount of critical habitat for the Peninsular Range bighorn sheep is also present. The only known occurrences of the California bedstraw, a Forest Service sensitive plantspecies occur here. The northern portion of this place is an important element of the regional habitat linkage connecting the San Jacinto Mountains and the San Bernardino Mountain front country through the Banning Pass.

State Highway 243, entering the forest from the north at Banning, runs southeast as the "Palms to Pines Scenic Byway". This is a highly traveled scenic route where people can spend the day driving for pleasure. Access to forest land within this place is generally good, although some areas near the community of Idyllwild are lacking rights-of-way due to the large number of private in-holdings. The proximity of the community of Idyllwild to this place has led to numerous encroachments on National Forest land.

Forest visitors find opportunities to hike, camp, fish, and mountain bike, while rock climbers try their skills at climbing vertical faces of rock. There is a high demand for snow play here during the winter months, Bee Canyon is heavily used for recreational target shooting, and hunters find a variety of game in the more remote areas. The Pacific Crest Trail traverses through Idyllwild Place, and there is a large non-motorized trail network in the area, providing opportunities for hiking and equestrian use. A non-motorized trail system linking Idyllwild and Pine Cove to the forest has been proposed and has community support. A non-motorized trail system linking Idyllwild and Pine Cove to the forest has been proposed with community support. Only a limited number of "easy" trails can be accessed from Idyllwild however, and opportunities for both mountain bike and off-highway vehicle use are limited. Developed recreation facilities are in need of renovation and no Forest Service visitor center exists within the area.

Law enforcement staffing levels are inadequate to manage the number of users. Unlawful activities such as trash dumping, off-road vehicle use, and property vandalism are reoccurring problems. Unlawful activities such as marijuana cultivation, methamphetamine lab dumps, and abandonment of stolen vehicles are increasing as the urban areas adjacent to the forest are being developed. Protection of the numerous heritage resources located within the area is also a concern. Trash dumping and conflicts between recreational target shooters and OHV use are reoccurring problems in Bee Canyon.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Fuller Mill Creek 3.4 miles

- San Jacinto River - North Fork 11.2 miles

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- Black Mountain 6,028 acres

Established Research Natural Areas:

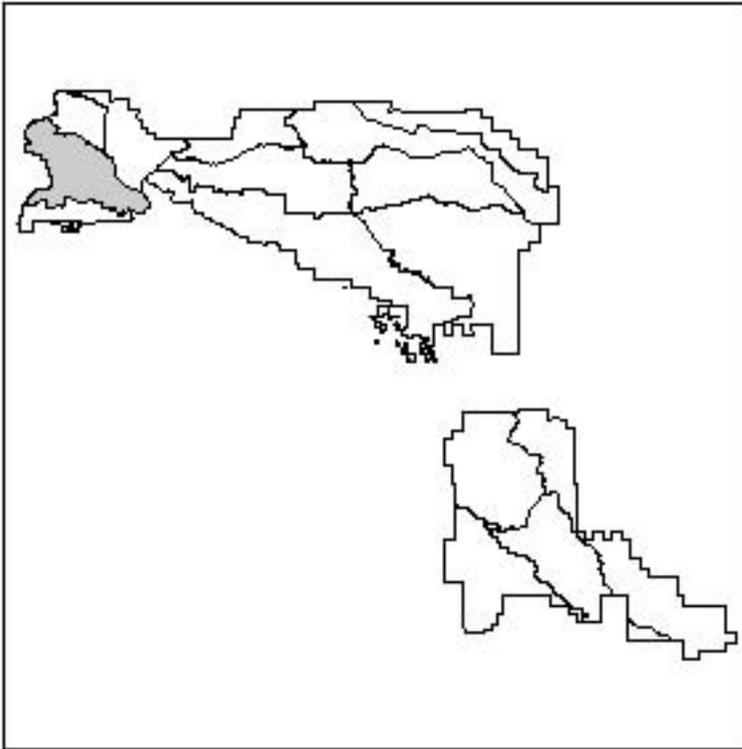
- Hall Canyon 671 acres

Desired Condition: Idyllwild is maintained as a natural appearing and pastoral landscape that functions as a recreation setting and Wilderness gateway. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the natural appearing views from the scenic byway and Pacific Crest Trail, the pastoral qualities of grazing activities, the presence of conifers at higher elevations, the current diversity of brush species at the foothill locations, and the presence of rock outcrops.

Program Emphasis: Management will focus on maintaining and restoring forest health through implementation of projects to remove dead trees and reduce stand densification. Providing defensible fuel profile zones to protect Idyllwild and surrounding communities from wildfire is also a key priority. Community protection will be emphasized through public education, fire prevention, fuels management and direct suppression. Conservation education, with a focus on the demonstration and interpretation of healthy forests at the expanded District Office, will be emphasized to enhance the experience of visitors and promote stewardship. The scenic focus will be on maintaining views of jagged rocks and towering pines, especially from the scenic byway. Maintenance of wildlife habitat for TEPCS species such as the mountain yellow legged frog, southern rubber boa, and San Bernardino flying squirrel will be emphasized in all management activities. Activities will also be managed to maintain the regional habitat linkages to the north and west. Wherever possible, acquisition of land will be emphasized to improve public and administrative access and to maintain open space and scenic qualities. Trespass and encroachment will be reduced. Opportunities for a variety of new non-motorized trails (especially short, easy-to-moderate difficulty day loop trails) and designated recreational target shooting areas will be explored.

Lytle Creek

Theme: Lytle Creek offers a popular year-round river gathering place for urban families. There are steep, chaparral-covered hillsides with intermittent streams and fragmented riparian vegetation, important wildlife habitat, and scattered groves of large sugar pine.



Setting: The Lytle Creek place lies at the eastern-most extension of the San Gabriel Mountains. The area is highly dissected by deep canyons, steep slopes, cliffs, and narrow ridges. The north, middle, and south forks of Lytle Creek are the dominant physical features in this place, which has been a popular destination for many generations of local residents from the cities of San Bernardino, Rialto, Fontana, and Colton. The San Andreas fault is prominent here, extending in a northwest/southeast trend along the northern boundary of this place. Elevations range from 2,000 feet along the Interstate-15 corridor to 9,000 feet along the boundary with the San Gabriel High Country. Cucamonga Peak, the Cucamonga Wilderness, the Sheep Mountain Wilderness and Mt. San Antonio typify the rugged, mountainous country west of the I-15 transportation corridor.

The climate of the area ranges from Mediterranean to mountain, from temperate to hot, with cooler temperatures at the higher elevations. Precipitation ranges from 7 inches at lower elevations to 40 inches, with snow in the winter on the taller peaks. Lytle Creek and its tributaries are perennial streams. Surface and ground water extraction for hydropower and municipal uses, administrative withdrawals for campgrounds and picnic areas, and unauthorized withdrawals have reduced flow in the lower reaches of the canyon. Riparian and water resources are affected by the large numbers of people that come into contact with the water. Recreational dams impede downstream flow during periods of low water and affect species dependent upon a consistent flow regime.

Riparian vegetation is fragmented and discontinuous along many sections of Lytle Creek and is generally limited to a narrow swath along the stream. Mature stands of mixed conifer with black oaks, chaparral, and some isolated pockets of big-cone Douglas fir are found in the Middle Fork of Lytle Creek, while some of the largest sugar pines in Southern California are found on San Sevaine Ridge. The south-facing slopes throughout the area are mostly dominated by chaparral. Vegetation along the urban interface and transportation corridors is being converted from chaparral, hardwood/Douglas-fir stands to annual grasses due to the increased frequency of stand replacing fire. Extremely dense fuelbeds remain adjacent to the community in some locations, presenting risks to private landowners. Community defense zones are needed to protect the Lytle Creek community. The Grand Prix Fire of 2003 resulted in the loss of homes in the Lytle Creek Community and Middle Fork Recreation Residence Tract, demonstrating the serious fuels problem here. A high concentration of tree-of-heaven, a non-native invasive plant species, is present here.

Lytle Creek supports a diverse population of riparian species, particularly in the upper reaches where water flow and riparian vegetation are adequate. Riparian bird diversity is high and the creek supports a healthy population of speckled dace, a Forest Service sensitive species. Most of the perennial streams support trout, and the most heavily used reaches are planted by the California Department of Fish and Game. Water withdrawal in the lower

reaches of the canyon is affecting downstream species and their habitats, especially during periods of low water. Critical habitat for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat and the California Gnatcatcher is found in the southeastern portion of the place. Periodic flooding in Lytle Creek Wash is required to maintain suitable habitat for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat. Nelson's Bighorn Sheep are found at the higher elevations of the place. The Middle and South Fork ewe groups are dependent on a more natural fire regime and the population has severely declined in part due to fire suppression activities. The Grand Prix Fire burned the areas of sheep habitat and should result in greatly improved habitat conditions. Sheep response to the burning will need to be monitored.

Lytle Creek Canyon contains the community of Lytle Creek, as well as two tracts of nearby recreation residences on National Forest System land. Conflicts occur on busy summer weekends as crowds spill onto private land. The community is working with the forest Service to manage this use. Access into the place is primarily gained via the county road system with further dispersal of recreational or service traffic being accomplished via the Forest road system.

Lytle Creek is very popular as a gathering location, especially for the area's urban Hispanic and Korean visitors, as family units share traditional cultural values within the cool confines of the shaded streams and refreshing water during hot summer days. Water-based recreation is popular here year-round, with water-play, fishing, picnicking, and dispersed camping concentrated mainly along the canyon bottoms of the Middle and North Forks of Lytle Creek. Dispersed camping opportunities at yellow post sites are numerous here. Other activities include sightseeing, hiking, hunting, and photography. Lytle Creek Firing Line, a popular concessionaire managed shooting area, is located here. The Applewhite Picnic Area and Campground is located adjacent to the North Fork of Lytle Creek. There is a lack of designated trails originating from the campground and picnic area, as well as easy access loops for families hiking in the canyons. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail crosses the place near its northern boundary. The Cucamonga Wilderness can be accessed via trails located along the Middle Fork of Lytle Creek and from San Antonio Canyon on the west. A native plant garden with bilingual interpretive signing and the recently renovated front office interpretive display at the Lytle Creek Ranger Station are visited by tens of thousands of school children annually.

Unlawful activities, such as trash dumping, off-road vehicle use, and property vandalism are reoccurring difficulties. Other unlawful activities, such as marijuana cultivation, methamphetamine lab dumps, and abandonment of stolen vehicles are increasing as areas adjacent to the forest are being developed.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Lytle Creek - Middle Fork 2.4 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- Cucamonga Wilderness 8,350 acres
- Sheep Mountain Wilderness 1,804 acres

Recommended Wilderness:

- Cucamonga B Expansion 7,925 acres

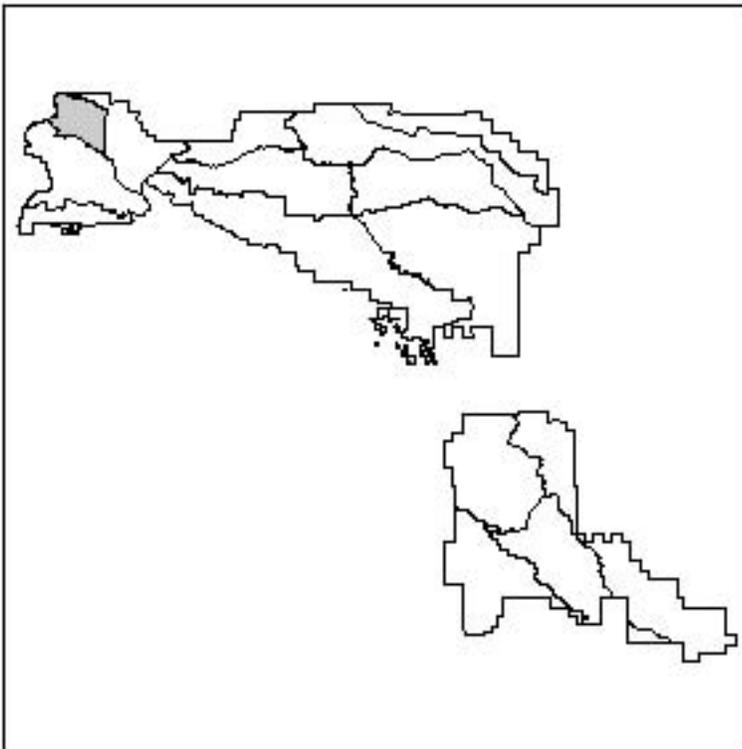
Desired Condition: Lytle Creek is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a location for family-oriented, day-use recreation. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are scattered riparian-area vegetation, the presence of mature stands of mixed conifer and big cone Douglas fir, the presence of sugar pines and an age class mosaic in chaparral.

Program Emphasis: Management will focus on providing quality recreation opportunities, balanced with riparian resource protection, for the culturally diverse visitors who come to this place. Existing capacity limits within Lytle Creek Canyon will continue and multilingual conservation education programs will be emphasized. The scenic focus will be on maintaining a natural appearing, well-defined mosaic of chaparral and the sustainability of the riparian vegetation. The Lytle Creek Firing Line will continue to remain open for recreational shooting and can be used as a model for this activity in other locations. Habitats for federally listed and forest sensitive species within the place will be managed to promote species conservation and recovery, with maintenance of water flows being a particularly high priority. Removal of invasive non-native species remains a priority. Monitoring sheep and sheep habitat response to the Grand Prix Fire of 2003 and working to identify and

reduce recreation conflicts with sheep will be a priority. Prescribed fire will be used to develop more natural conditions in bighorn sheep range. Providing defensible fuel profile zones to protect the community of Lytle Creek is also a priority. More non-motorized, short easy-to-moderate day loop trails originating from the campground and picnic area are needed. An emphasis will be placed on retaining the primitive nature of the South Fork of Lytle Creek. Forest Service field personnel and law enforcement staff will be continue to be highly visible. Create a recreation strategy for the Middle Fork of Lytle Creek. Emphasize recreation residence permit compliance and resolve conflicts between permit holders and riparian values.

Mojave Front Country (Within San Bernardino National Forest)

Theme: Functions year-round as low elevation open space for Mojave Basin residents, as well as metropolitan residents of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. Mojave Front Country serves as the backdrop for the Antelope Valley, while providing breathtaking desert views from within the place. This "desert interface" landscape provides portals from the Mojave Basin to the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests.



Setting: The Mojave Front Country rises up from the Mojave Desert with elevations from about 3,000 feet up to 6,000 feet. The lower elevation edge is delineated by the interface with the Mojave Desert. The higher elevation edge is marked by a series of peaks and ridges and provides winter snow play opportunities. The Northern aspect's steep to very steep slopes with sharp to rounded summits and narrow canyons are the dominant landforms of this landscape.

The steeper reaches of slopes are barren and show evidence of fractured rock and landslides. Canyons have steep rocky sides that are covered with large boulders. The area is influenced by the San Andreas Fault zone, along with other faults, that result in unique geologic formations such as those seen at Mormon Rocks and Devil's Punchbowl Special Interest Area. The presence of faulting has resulted in the movement and exposure of mineral resources that influences human activity, i.e., limestone mining, and clay extraction.

The rain-shadow from the San Gabriel Mountains affects vegetation types and water availability in the Mojave Front Country. It is a transition zone from high desert to forest. Desert scrub and pines are the most dominate plant communities. In higher elevations pines are present as scattered individuals or tight clumps. Pinyon and Joshua trees are present at the lowest elevations. Sycamore and Cottonwood are present in drainages and shaded canyons. Scattered large drainages provide limited perennial water play and fishing areas along this front.

The Mojave Front Country provides habitat for the Arroyo Toad, Mountain Yellow-legged, Least Bell's Vireo Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Desert Tortoise and several Forest Service Sensitive plants and animals. Potentially important habitat linkages occur between the forest and adjacent private land. Potential threats to riparian dependent species and other sensitive habitat areas include developed and dispersed recreation, and wildfire.

The supply (ground and surface water) does not meet the need for forest ecosystem health and other demands. Surface ground water supply in many locations is overextended, causing stress on riparian and aquatic ecosystems. Watercourses carry pollutants, including bacteria, which affect the human environment. Abandoned mines are posing a safety hazard, and are a visual impact to the character of the area.

The cultural landscape of the Mojave Front Country is generally undeveloped. Some of the oldest and most varied heritage resource sites for the forests exist within the place. This area is quickly changing from a rural undeveloped landscape to an urbanized setting along the forests boundary. Housing development along the boundary is affecting access to forest land. Human influence is most apparent in developed and dispersed recreation facilities and trails, leaving the majority of the landscape subject to ecological change. Human impacts that create strong visual contrast within this landscape include: road cuts, utility corridors, and intensive recreational use areas. Most facilities and trails are located along drainages, on flats or cut into hillsides. This area is generally accessed from major portals along State Highway 2, 14 and 138, and Big Pines Highway. The limited paths through this nearly inaccessible landscape lead visitors to dramatic desert panoramas and rugged mountain background views. Opportunities exist to better define the architectural image and create connections with open space areas in the Mojave Desert.

Hiking, backpacking, equestrian, bicycling, mountain biking, hunting, OHV use, and water-based recreation are the most popular recreation activities occurring within this place and require a support network of trails and roads, and developed facilities. The dramatic changes in scenery and vegetation also create a view shed that promotes driving for pleasure. Recreation is centered along Little Rock and Big Rock Creeks, in close proximity to major travel ways. OHV opportunities exist within the Back Country Discovery Trail and the Little Rock OHV Area. The demand for low elevation recreation along riparian areas is reaching or exceeding capacity. Riparian areas are overused and under supported in terms of infrastructure (i.e., sanitation and trash facilities). Major conflicts exist between the recreationists and TEPS species.

The presence of urban development along the forest boundary in this place is not consistent with buildup concentrated in the northwest and northeast sections of this place. This presents a challenge to the local governments and the forest to have a consistent management strategy along the forest boundary, and places greater emphasis on the forests to provide fire protection and habitat linkages in those areas of intense buildup along the boundary. Encroachment has increased due to the urban development resulting in access and encroachment issues.

Adjacent developments are creating their own social trails on National Forest land, primarily caused by an increase in unlawful off-road vehicle use. The place is continually having problems due to trash, car dumping, graffiti, illegal OHV use, and partying, with enforcement capability minimal due to inadequate law enforcement coverage.

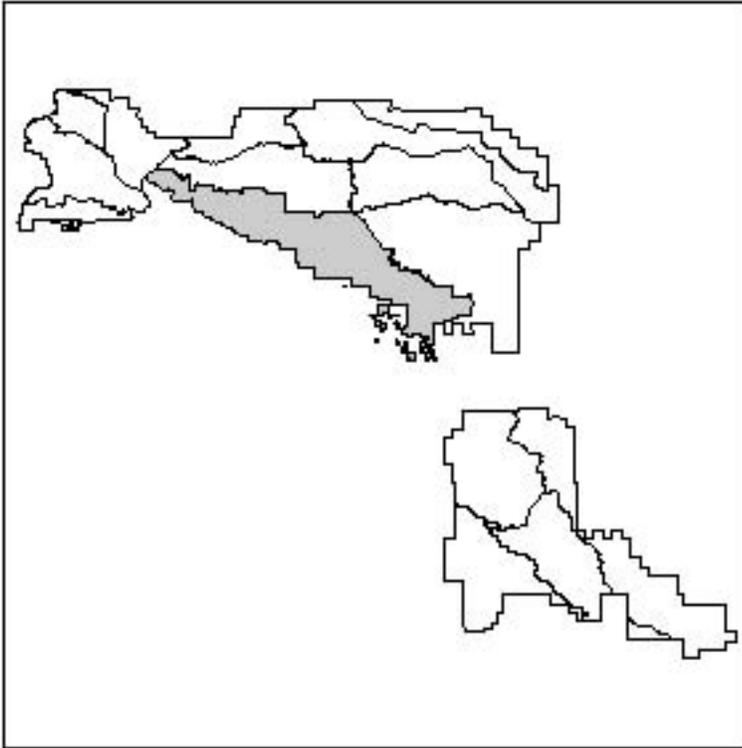
For special designations see Angeles National Forest Part 2.

Desired Condition: Mojave Front Country is maintained as a natural appearing and cultural landscape that functions as a year-round, low elevation open space for Mojave Basin residents and residents of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. It also serves as a scenic backdrop for the Antelope Valley. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are distinct desert views from within the landscape and rugged mountain background views, desert scrub with scattered Pinyon pines and Joshua trees, Sycamore and cottonwood in drainages and shaded canyons, and remnants of Native-American history.

Program Emphasis: Management will focus on community protection, recreation use by visitors, and forest infrastructure that is sustainable, consistent with the natural setting and integrity, and has minimal effects to species of management concerns and their habitat. Forest health and water needs will be managed to provide for a healthy forest ecosystem with in-stream flows necessary to support surface and subsurface resources. Uses will be balanced and promote the conservation of resource qualities that sustain these uses and provide attractions for this area. There will be a focus on the conservation of wildlife movement corridors between the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains, and interpretation of the San Andreas Fault and Mormon Rocks.

San Bernardino Front Country

Theme: A rugged, scenic backdrop to an urban, growing San Bernardino Valley. Steep canyons shelter important riparian habitat. Several heavily driven state highways provide a commuter and visitor portal into the communities and recreational opportunities of the high country forest.



Setting: The San Bernardino Front Country Place is a rugged, scenic backdrop to a dynamic urban interface, prominently identified by the large historic "Arrowhead" landmark on Arrowhead Peak. Rising to the north of the cities of San Bernardino, Redlands, Highland and Yucaipa, the steep brush-covered mountains quickly climb in elevation from 1,500 feet to 6,000 feet. Narrow canyons of critical riparian habitat and rounded summits with patches of montane conifer are found here. There are diverse and unique physical and biological resources that are strongly influenced by human activities from the nearby urban interface. The San Manuel Indian Reservation is located within the place, as are a number of cultural, historic and prehistoric sites. There are no existing special designations.

The climate is generally warm (temperate) with a marine influence (Mediterranean) and the area receives 15 to 30 inches of precipitation per year, with some snow at the higher elevations. Rain may run off quickly from the steep mountainsides and through the canyons of the San Bernardino Front Country, at times causing flash floods and eroding the slopes along the roads. The Santa Ana River (now dammed for flood control by the Seven Oaks Dam at the Forest boundary), Mill Creek and City Creek are the major watershed features here. The highest waterfall on the Forest, Big Falls, is located near the community of Forest Falls. Surface and ground water extraction occurs in the place.

The vegetation includes mixed chaparral shrub lands at the lower elevations with knobcone, Jeffrey and ponderosa pine, and mixed conifers at the higher elevations. Poor air quality affects vegetation health and vigor, as well as obscuring views. Noxious weeds are present. There is evidence of repeated wildfire, including areas of chaparral that have been or are being converted to grass along the lower slopes. A high fire danger with a corresponding threat to mountaintop communities is present during much of the year. Community defense zones are a concern as urban development adjacent to the Forest continues to expand and increase the potential for fire starts. The Old Fire of 2003 burned much of this place from I-15 to the Seven Oaks Dam. There is a high potential for erosion and flooding for the next several years. Although an extensive fuel break system exists, some fuel breaks lack regular maintenance, compromising their potential effectiveness.

This place is home to diverse and unique plant and wildlife communities. Important habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher and speckled dace exists here. The only known occupied mountain yellow-legged frog habitat in the San Bernardino Mountains occurs within this place, and it is threatened by large, high intensity wildfires and hazardous spills on State Highway 330. The Old Fire burned most of the watershed above this population. Some frogs have been salvaged from the stream and moved to the Los Angeles County Museum in case of flooding which could occur. They will be reintroduced if they are eliminated in their natural habitat. National Forest land near Oak Glen provide a connection to regional habitat linkage connecting the San Bernardino Mountains to the Redlands Badlands and ultimately to the San Jacinto/Lake Perris Core Reserve. San Gorgonio Creek provides a similar habitat linkage to the San Jacinto Mountains to the south.

The place includes opportunities for a mixture of motorized and non-motorized recreation. The San Bernardino Front is the primary portal into the San Bernardino Mountains from urban valley communities throughout southern California on heavily traveled State Highways 18, 330 and 38 (Rim of the World Scenic Byway). Visitor use within the place is generally low to moderate, typically concentrated in a few locations near water and/or trees. Recreation facilities are mostly day use, few in number, heavily used and worn out. Dispersed recreation activities include four-wheel driving, sightseeing/driving for pleasure, hiking, equestrian, mountain biking, picnicking, water-play, snow-play, hang gliding, dispersed camping, hunting and recreational shooting. The Santa Ana River Trail is a popular, regionally designated non-motorized "crest to coast" route. The existing trail system is inadequate, leading to some off-road vehicle use and spurring the creation of social (non system) trails. A recreational shooting area along 1N09 may be causing resource damage and may have health and safety concerns. Paint ball use is also occurring. Interpretive and environmental education opportunities are limited, mostly occurring at the Mill Creek Ranger Station.

Multiple human uses in and around this place, including the checkerboard pattern of public and private land, complicate management. There are landline and trespass issues. The Inland Feeder Project (eight miles of tunnel under the forest) is located here, as are several high-pressure gas lines. Unlawful activities are a problem, including drug production, dumping, vandalism and graffiti. There is urban development occurring along the southern boundary of the San Bernardino Front Country, often affecting national forest resources and administration.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Bear Creek 1.1 miles
- Santa Ana River 1.7 miles
- Whitewater River - East Fork of South Fork 1.4 miles

Recommended Wilderness:

- Raywood Flat B (San Gorgonio Expansion) 4,541 acres

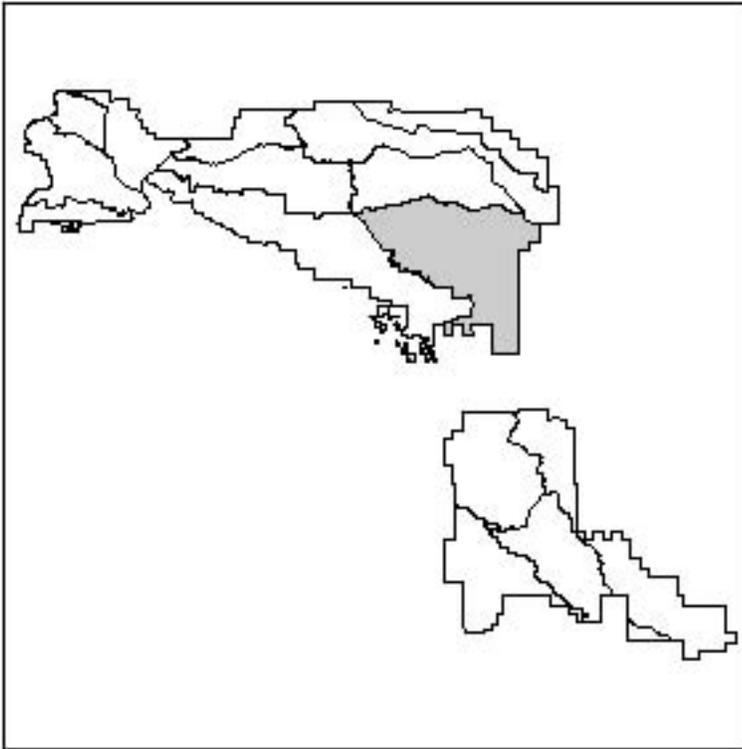
Desired Condition: Front Country is maintained as a natural appearing "first impression" landscape that functions as a scenic backdrop and forest portal providing high-quality natural-appearing landscape vistas. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are craggy silhouettes of the mountain peaks, the mosaic of rock outcrops, an age-class mosaic in chaparral, the presence of conifers in the higher elevations and canyons.

Program Emphasis: Management is expected to focus on active participation with local governments to plan for scenic and recreation values while protecting important natural resources from adjacent urbanization. Implementation of forest health projects are expected to result in a healthy mixture of vegetation diversity and structure in selected locations. Providing buffers to improve defensible space and protect communities will be emphasized. Habitat for TEPCS species such as the southwestern willow flycatcher, mountain yellow-legged frog and speckled dace will be conserved. Activities on National Forest land will also be managed to maintain the regional habitat linkage to the south. Opportunities for the removal of invasive non-native species will concentrate on tamarisk, tree-of-heaven, *Arrundo donax* and Spanish broom. New trail development and day-use recreation opportunities will be emphasized for a diverse urban population while protecting public safety and riparian habitat. Forest Staff expect Recreational target shooting to be well managed and developed recreation facilities to be reconstructed in order to improve their condition. Snowplay activities in Forest Falls will be managed.

Conservation education will include a bilingual emphasis. Land acquisition is expected to consolidate ownership and land line management to be improved. The forest will continue to work closely with developers, planners and local officials to reduce resource impacts and conflicts on National Forest land from nearby development.

San Gorgonio

Theme: Often referred to as the Alps of southern California, this area is dominated by the presence of Mt. San Gorgonio, the tallest peak south of the Sierra Nevada Range. Dense chaparral, montane meadows, old growth forest and alpine habitat are found here. Visitors flock to the recreation opportunities in Barton Flats and Heart Bar, and make the San Gorgonio Wilderness one of the most popular in the National Forest System.



Setting: Mt. San Gorgonio and surrounding peaks dominate this landscape. "Old Grayback," at an elevation of 11,502 feet, is the tallest peak in southern California, from which you can see the Sierra Nevada Mountains and Catalina Island on a clear day. Glacial activity during the Ice Age carved out rugged canyons and created fields of scree and boulders. Regionally unique alpine plant and tree communities have since evolved in this high, harsh, windy environment. The Santa Ana River, comprising the largest stream and watershed on the forest, runs through the northern tier of this place. The San Gorgonio Wilderness is one of southern California's oldest, largest and heavily visited Wilderness areas. The land in this place consists of steep canyons with rounded summits and flats, from high desert landscapes at 1,500 feet to vast expanses of conifer forest at higher elevations. It is rich in history and a favorite all-season playground for the public. The Horse Meadow Research Natural Area, set aside for the study of White fir, and the Millard Canyon RNA, dedicated to Interior live oak research, are both located here.

Mt. San Gorgonio feeds the headwaters of the Santa Ana River, where several other major streams flow into the rolling valleys below. The climate varies from a warm temperate with marine influence (Mediterranean) to vertically differentiated complex mountain temperatures. Precipitation can vary from 10 inches of rain at the lower elevations to 40 inches of snow at the higher elevations. Runoff may be rapid on this landscape of steep mountains and narrow canyons, at times causing flooding at the mouths of canyons like Mill Creek. Jenks Lake, a small human-made lake, natural Dollar Lake, and Dry Lake, a dammed marsh are the only bodies of water in this area. There are surface and groundwater extractions in the place, as well as unauthorized extractions.

Vegetation communities are diverse due to the range of altitude. The lower elevations on the south side are covered by chaparral, chamise and black and live oak stands, yielding to big cone Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and

a mixed conifer series at the higher elevations. The upper reaches of the San Gorgonio Mountains are covered with ponderosa pine, sugar pine, incense cedar, Coulter pine, Jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine and limber pine leading to tree line and then up into a world of alpine plants. Some of the largest wet montane meadows on the forest also occur at this elevation. Poor air quality during much of the year affects vegetation health and vigor. Noxious weeds are present. There is a possibility of catastrophic fire because of drought and forest densification issues. Wildfire has been actively suppressed in the San Gorgonio Wilderness for decades, creating an older age class and a greater diameter stand with a densified suppressed understory. Mortality of Coulter pine, big cone Douglas fir and big berry manzanita has been high within this place; canyon oak and interior live oak species have also been affected. Fire also presents a risk to forest facilities, including recreational residences and organization camps, as well as to private infrastructure. The majority of community defense zones identified are along the Santa Ana River corridor.

Important plant and wildlife habitat occurs in this place. A remnant Pleistocene quaking aspen grove is present in Fish Creek. Many large montane meadows provide habitat for deer, bear, and Forest sensitive plant species throughout the place. The only known occurrences of Barton Flats horkelia occur here. One of only four populations of the Nelson's bighorn sheep is present. The large expanse of montane conifer forest and riparian communities support a dense population of California spotted owl (especially on the north-facing slopes of the Santa Ana River watershed), nesting pairs of southwestern willow flycatcher along the Santa Ana River and tributaries, San Bernardino flying squirrel, southern rubber boa and rainbow and brown trout. The wildlife corridor connecting Sugarlump Mountain to the Big Bear Place is important for conifer dependent species, as is the corridor connecting the habitat between the San Gorgonio and the Cushenbury big horn sheep herds. The south-facing slopes of the Santa Ana River watershed are an important deer winter range for a local migratory herd. The Santa Ana River/tributaries are important water sources for wildlife.

The place contains includes opportunities for a mixture of motorized and non-motorized recreation, as well as more primitive opportunities in the San Gorgonio Wilderness. Highway 38, the Rim of the World Scenic Byway, is the primary gateway to the San Gorgonio place, leading from Mentone to the Onyx Summit and beyond to Big Bear. Developed recreation is very popular at the Barton Flats and Heart Bar complexes. The most popular types of dispersed recreation include camping, picnicking, swimming, fishing, day hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and backpacking; while winter brings nordic skiing and snow play opportunities. Some of the most popular equestrian trails on the forest are located here. Hunting of both bear and deer is popular. The Santa Ana River is the largest and most heavily visited fishing stream on the forest, with both stocked and naturally reproducing trout. The regionally designated Santa Ana River Trail and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail are here. There are some backcountry four-wheel drive roads through this place, but no designated OHV routes. Seasonal volunteer-staffed visitor information centers at Barton Flats and Horse Meadows are maintained. The San Gorgonio Place generally has a wild and remote feeling despite development in the Barton Flats area. Scenic values are high.

The place supports a number of resource uses. The Santa Ana River Grazing Allotment is located here. Mining claims on carbonate substrate are present. Fuelwood permits are issued for designated portions of this place. A high number of recreational residences are found here, as well as a greater density of organization camps than on any other National Forest in the country. Law enforcement issues in this place primarily consist of unlawful trash/hazardous materials dumping, campfires and marijuana cultivation.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Bear Creek 1.2 miles
- Fish Creek 3.6 miles
- Santa Ana River 18.1 miles
- Whitewater River - East Fork of South Fork 24.2 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- San Gorgonio Wilderness 56,628

Recommended Wilderness:

- Sugarloaf 6,457

Established Research Natural Areas:

- Millard Canyon 785 acres
- Horse Meadow 935 acres

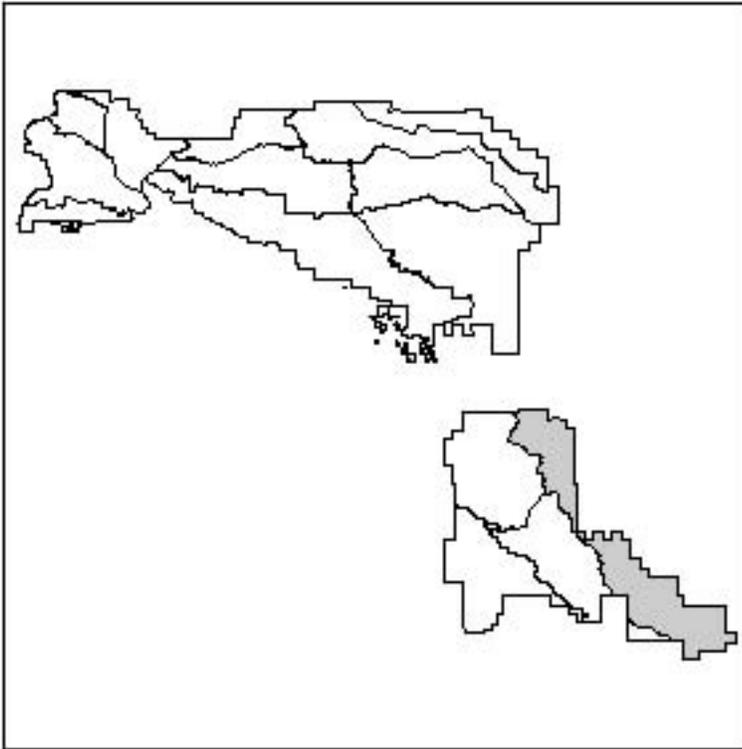
Desired Condition: San Gorgonio is maintained as a naturally evolving and natural appearing landscape that functions as an alpine recreation setting and wilderness portal. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time include the craggy silhouettes of the mountain peaks, the wind-carved alpine character and montane meadows, the big cone Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests at higher locations and associated steep slopes and drainages, well-defined age-class mosaic in chaparral, the occurrence of rock outcrops, and natural appearing views from the scenic byway and Pacific Crest Trail.

Program Emphasis: Management is expected to focus on maintaining and restoring forest health through the implementation of projects to remove dead trees and reduce stand densification, while maintaining current recreation use and the regionally unique and remote character of the place. Minimum in-stream flows and groundwater standards will be established for wildlife and to ensure that water use is managed at environmentally sustainable levels. Maintenance of plant and wildlife habitat and linkage corridors for threatened, endangered and sensitive species will be emphasized in all management activities. Restoration of ecosystem balance, using all appropriate management tools, will be emphasized in areas where forest health has deteriorated and stand densification has occurred. An active program of prescribed burning/fuelbreak maintenance is expected to result in quality Nelson's bighorn sheep habitat and deer winter/summer range. Fire management facilities in the east end (i.e. Heart Bar to Onyx Summit) are expected to be developed. Land is expected to be acquired for future re-routes of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in order to improve recreation opportunities and to protect sensitive resources, as well as providing a contiguous land base in the wilderness. Forest Staff expect to continue to work closely with developers, planners and local officials in order to reduce resource impacts and conflicts on National Forest land.

Spanish broom eradication along State Highway 38 will be emphasized. Aging recreation infrastructure renovation is expected to continue. A continued emphasis on off-route vehicle travel control and parking is expected, especially along the Santa Ana River. Unauthorized off-trail use and resource issues with mountain biking are expected to be minimized. More environmental education opportunities are expected with organization camps. Provide quality snowplay opportunities along Highway 38 and the Jenks Lake Loop Road. Another focus is the development of a dispersed camping strategy.

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Theme: The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument highlights dramatic desert landmarks, reaching from cactus in the low desert to pines in the high country. Unique habitats, including a fan palm oasis, and bighorn sheep herds are located in this area, as are a major state park and two wildernesses offering remote recreation opportunities.



Setting: The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument is located west of the Coachella Valley, providing a dramatic and picturesque backdrop for the desert communities of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, Indio, Thousand Palms, Desert Hot Springs and La Quinta. The San Jacinto Mountains rise sharply from the valley floor, with steep canyons sweeping upward to jagged peaks, bountiful boulders, and mountain meadows. Elevations range from 2,000 feet near the desert floor to 10,005 feet at the top of San Jacinto Peak. The area was designated as a National Monument in the year 2000 to protect critical watershed, flora and fauna, and to preserve the unique scenic and cultural values that exist on this land. It includes both Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Forest land and is managed jointly by the two agencies. The place also contains 578 acres of the Black Mountain Scenic Special Interest Area. This place description refers only to the National Forest land.

With only four inches of rainfall each year at lower elevations, little surface water is available except for occasional springs which surface at the mouths of canyons. The springs are a unique oasis in this desert environment, supporting a wide variety of plants and animals, and providing a water source for people since pre-historic days.

Vegetation ranges from cactus, creosote, chamise, and red shank along desert slopes, to stands of ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, Jeffrey pine, and lodgepole pine at the higher elevations. Canyon live oak is found deep in the canyons along the western boundary, while Parry pinyon and California juniper are present at higher elevations on desert slopes. The Wellman Grazing Allotment is located here. Fuel densification in timbered areas is increasing the risk of catastrophic fire. The 1994 Palm Fire reduced fuel hazard in Palm Canyon and near the community of Pinyon; however, additional fuels treatments are needed in this area to create a Community Defense zone that will continue to protect the Pinyon Community. Non-native tamarisk is a problem in Palm Canyon and in the Santa Rosa Wilderness.

Palm Canyon supports the largest California fan palm oasis in the United States and is recognized as an area of high ecological significance. Although the majority of Palm habitat occurs at lower elevations outside the National Forest, a small amount is located on National Forest land. Critical habitat needed for the recovery of the Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep is also present within this place. Sheep inhabit the steep, rocky terrain above the desert floor.

The Santa Rosa and the San Jacinto Mountains were home to the Cahuilla Indians prior to European settlement. Santa Rosa Mountain is particularly significant to the Cahuilla people. The area is rich in cultural history, with protection and interpretation of the cultural resources being a primary reason for the Monument designation. The

boundary of the Monument is located adjacent to the Agua Caliente, Morongo and Santa Rosa Indian Reservations, raising concerns that trespass onto the reservations by visitors will increase. Agave and other plants utilized by Native Americans are found within the Monument. Although numerous historic mining sites are located in the area, Federal land within the monument are withdrawn from mineral entry.

The area remains sparsely populated, but high numbers of visitors travel the "Palms to Pines Scenic Byway" from Palm Desert past Pinyon Flats and north to Banning. The Dunn Road, built without authorization in 1966, has always been closed to the public due to a lack of government right-of-way across private land. Trespass onto National Forest land is increasing, particularly in areas of intermixed land ownership. Vehicle use off roads is occurring, along with dumping of trash and hazardous material, especially adjacent to communities.

Opportunities for remote recreation abound in the Monument, as both the San Jacinto and the Santa Rosa Wilderness are located here. The San Jacinto Wilderness offers opportunities for rock climbing, hiking, backpacking, or riding horses. Visitors can also ride the famous Palm Springs tramway from the desert floor to the alpine forest of Mt. San Jacinto State Park. Mountain biking opportunities exist outside the Wilderness boundaries and winter brings nordic skiing and other snow play opportunities at the higher elevations. The Pacific Crest Trail traverses the crest of the San Jacinto Mountains, attracting additional visitors to the area. No loop trails exist at the present time, and some trails are not entirely on forest land. Recreational target shooting also occurs in the more accessible portions of the place. Developed camping opportunities within the Monument are limited. Pinyon Flat Campground, located along Highway 74, and a handful of sites located along the Santa Rosa Truck Trail at Santa Rosa and Santa Rosa Spring, are all in need of maintenance and reconstruction to meet accessibility standards. Ribbonwood Equestrian Campground is new and provides both individual and group camping opportunities. A Visitor Center, located on BLM land along Highway 74, provides information to visitors and encourages them to recreate responsibly within the Monument. The Center also offers interpretive programs and environmental education opportunities.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Palm Canyon 8.1 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- San Jacinto Wilderness 38,890
- Santa Rosa Wilderness 19,419 acres

Existing Special Interest Areas:

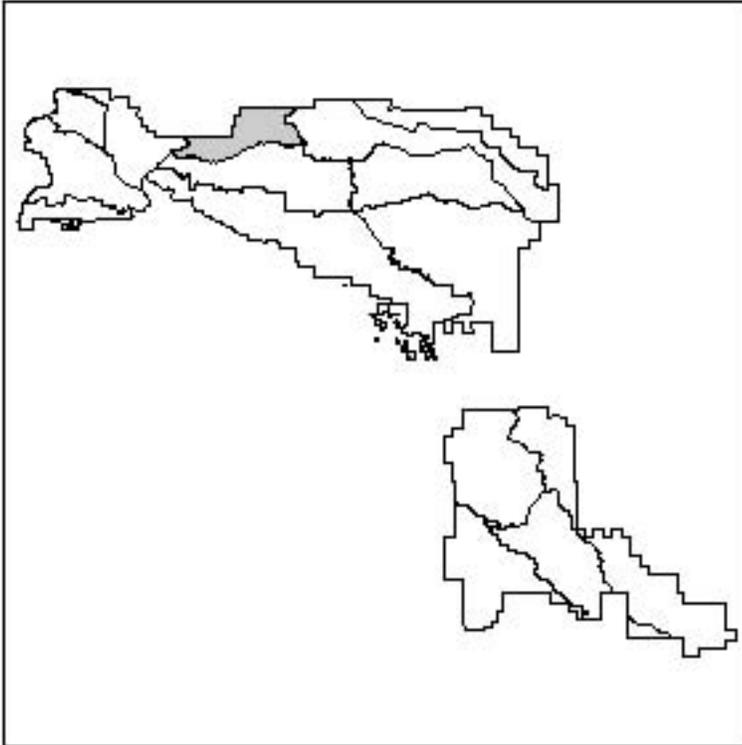
- Black Mountain 578 acres

Desired Condition: The Monument is maintained as a natural appearing and naturally evolving landscape that functions as a rugged backdrop that provides remote recreation opportunities, and a refuge for unique plant and animal species. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time include the high-country conifer forests, boulder outcrops lining jagged peaks dropping to steep canyons, live oak pockets deep in canyons, Pinyon juniper on high desert slopes, and the fan palm oasis.

Program Emphasis: Management will focus on maintaining the natural setting and unique biological and cultural resources found here. The Monument Plan will be implemented with the BLM and partners. Maintenance of wildlife habitat for TEPCS, such as the Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep, will be emphasized in all management activities. Removal of tamarisk will be emphasized in Palm Canyon and the Santa Rosa Wilderness. Conservation education programs focusing on cultural and biological resources will also be emphasized to enhance the experience of visitors. Acquisition of land from willing sellers is will be emphasized where needed in order to maintain habitat linkage and to improve public and administrative access. Trespass and encroachment is expected to be reduced. Community protection will be emphasized through public education, fire prevention, fuels management and direct suppression. Strategies are expected to be developed for recreation, trails and fire management.

Silverwood

Theme: The Silverwood place is a landscape consisting of unique desert-influenced and riparian ecosystems, from the Mojave River to Silverwood Lake to Deep Creek. Rapidly growing high desert urban communities flank the lower reaches, sending visitors in search of leisure opportunities at Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area. Important habitat exists here in the north-facing hillsides for the bald eagle and spotted owl.



Setting: The Silverwood Place is a land of unique desert-influenced ecosystems, extending from the intermittent Mojave River to the popular Silverwood Lake State Park over to the perennial Deep Creek watershed. Rising to the south of the desert communities of Victorville and Hesperia, the brush-covered mountains gradually climb in elevation to form rounded summits with patches of montane conifer and narrow canyons with critical riparian habitat. The diverse physical and biological resources found here are increasingly influenced by human activities. The primary access to Silverwood Place is Highway 138 (the Rim of the World Scenic Byway). The history of human occupation here causes the area to be rich in heritage resources. There are no existing special designations.

This place has a diverse landscape. The climate varies from a warm temperate with marine influence (Mediterranean) to transitional high desert (Mojave) to a vertically differentiated complex mountain climate. Annual precipitation is as low as four inches of rain in the desert to as high as 10 to 25 inches of rain and snow at higher locations. The land has steep mountains with rounded summits and narrow canyons. Elevations range from 3,000 feet to 6,500 feet. The Mojave River, Silverwood Lake and Deep Creek are the dominant watershed features. Some surface and ground water extraction occurs on and off the forest. Oil and gas development occurs to the north of the place, and there may be potential for future exploration and development within this place.

The Silverwood Place represents a transition zone from high desert chaparral to oak woodland to conifer forest. The vegetation ranges from sparse creosote, chamise and California buckwheat at lower elevations to oak and pinyon woodland and scattered mixed conifer, including important big cone Douglas fir stands. Healthy riparian habitats are also present. There is a risk of catastrophic fire because of forest densification and drought and insect damaged forest. Portions of this unit burned with stand replacing wildfire in the Old Fire of 2003 demonstrating the fuels problem. Frequent wildfires, typically caused by human activities, may result in type conversion from pinyon/juniper, Coulter pine and brush to grassland. Flooding and erosion that occurs when the vegetative cover has burned off usually follow wildfires. Treating the watershed above Silverwood Lake was an extremely high priority after the Old Fire due to the fact that the water that runs through the lake provides drinking water to over 12 million residents of southern California.

The north-facing slope (south and east of) Silverwood Lake has a high density of spotted owls and bald eagle roosting and nesting areas. Occupied habitat, designated for the recovery of the arroyo toad, is present along the

length of Deep Creek in the eastern portion of the place. It is also designated in Little Horsethief Canyon, along the Mojave River north of Silverwood Lake, and along the west fork of the Mojave River west of Silverwood Lake. Burnt Flats is a popular game hunting area and key winter deer range.

The place includes opportunities for a mixture of motorized and non-motorized recreation. Scenery values are generally moderate, but are high throughout Deep Creek. There are no developed recreation sites in this place, and relatively light recreation occurs here in dispersed settings. Visitor use varies by season. Popular activities include, hiking, OHV use from the Pinnacles Staging Area, picnicking, soaking in the hot springs of Deep Creek, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, horseback riding and mountain biking. Deep Creek is the most popular (and environmentally sensitive) area. Occurrences of unlawful off-road vehicle use are low in areas that have designated OHV routes. Off-road vehicle use on unclassified or decommissioned roads into the Deep Creek drainage, is an ongoing management difficulty and affects sensitive habitats and cultural resources. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail is located in the northern tier of this place, often shadowing Deep Creek. Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area serves as both a recreation and water storage area.

Conservation education opportunities are limited, especially for OHV recreation. The history of human occupation here is rich. Significant heritage resources are located in the Deep Creek drainage and protection is an ongoing concern.

Although the place itself is sparsely populated, substantial growth adjacent to the forest boundary (especially Victorville and Hesperia) is anticipated during the next decade. Unlawful activities, such as trash dumping, travel off-road, use of campfires in undesignated locations, and property vandalism are reoccurring difficulties. Unlawful activities, such as marijuana cultivation, methamphetamine lab dumps, and abandonment of stolen vehicles are increasing as the urban areas along the northern rim of the forest are developed.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Deep Creek 9.0 miles

Proposed Special Interest Areas:

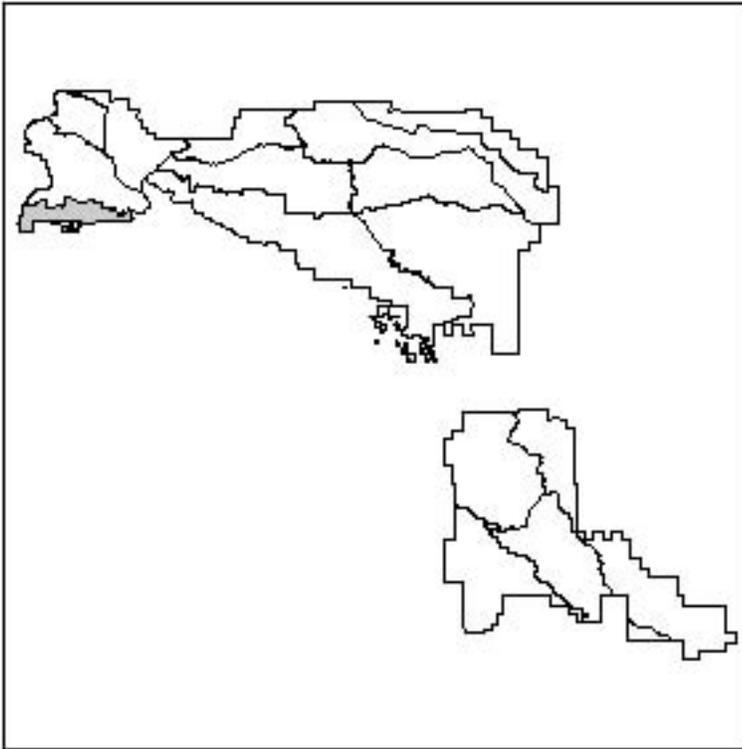
- Deep Creek 2,922 miles

Desired Condition: Silverwood is maintained in a natural appearing condition so that it functions as a transition landscape from high desert to the higher-elevation conifer forests, and recreation setting for motorized and non-motorized activities. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time include natural appearing views from the scenic byway and Pacific Crest Trail, big cone Douglas fir stands, oak woodland, and an age-class mosaic in chaparral.

Program Emphasis: Management will focus on the maintenance of healthy forest and riparian habitats. Maintenance of plant and wildlife habitat for TEPCS species will be emphasized in all management activities. Forest Staff expect to minimize potential type conversion along the northern end of the place by providing defensible corridors along roads for fire control. Management of Deep Creek will be emphasized for day-use recreational values, conservation education and riparian dependent resources, including the native trout fishery, the riparian habitat linkage and recovery of the arroyo southwestern toad. Wherever possible, acquisition of land will be emphasized in order to improve public and administrative access, protect sensitive resources, and to maintain open space and scenic qualities. Relocation and/or reconstruction of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail will be emphasized in key locations to improve recreation opportunities and protect sensitive resources. More intensive management of OHV recreation will be emphasized. Law enforcement activities are conducted in concert with other functional areas for the protection of forest resources and the safety of forest visitors and employees. The identification, evaluation, interpretation and protection of heritage properties will be emphasized. Reforestation of forested areas burned in the Old Fire of 2003 as well as reducing fuel loading in areas with substantial conifer mortality are a priority.

The Front Country (Within San Bernardino National Forest)

Theme: The scenic mountain backdrop for the greater Los Angeles area. The place provides portals from the Los Angeles Basin, with its 15 million plus population, to the National Forest. This "backyard" landscape is extensive and includes 60 miles from Lytle Creek to the Newhall Pass.



Setting: The Front Country place rises dramatically from the Los Angeles Basin from an elevation of approximately 300 feet to an elevation of approximately 6,000 feet. The communities that make up the urban interface of the San Bernardino, San Fernando, and San Gabriel Valleys define the lower elevation edge of the place. The area is easily accessible from various points along the Interstate 5, 15, and 210 travel corridors. The trails though the place offer forest visitors dramatic urban panoramas and views to rugged mountain backdrops. This place has a variety of special designations, including the San Dimas Experimental Forest and the 1,400-acre Fern Canyon Research Natural Area (RNA), which offers opportunity for study of mixed chaparral and live oak woodland communities. Five Inventoried Roadless Areas are located in The Front Country, some of which may be proposed as wilderness.

The southern aspect of the place includes steep slopes with sharp to rounded summits and deep narrow canyons. The steeper reaches of the slopes are typically barren and highly eroded. Canyons characteristically have steep, rocky sides and are often strewn with large distinctive boulders.

The Mediterranean climate of southern California affects vegetation types and water availability. Perennial water is present only in the largest creeks and rivers. Chaparral is the most dominant plant community. Canyon and Coast live oaks grow along the shaded slopes of the canyons. Deciduous trees and shrubs occupy riparian areas. Degradation of air quality (in surrounding communities) is a factor that is affecting forest health in a variety of ways including stressed plant communities, lower water productivity and lower water quality. Human use has resulted in the presence of exotic weed infestations in many areas.

There is a rich diversity of plant and animal species found in the place as well as habitat for four federally listed plants and several other rare plants. Riparian areas along the streams include habitat for numerous riparian dependant species, and serve as valuable linkages between the National Forest and adjacent habitat on private land. Potential threats to habitat for riparian dependent species and other sensitive habitat include recreation uses, wildfire, flood control and other water conservation activities and practices.

The cultural landscape of the place is generally characterized by urban influences resulting in a modified character in many areas. The modified setting is often inconsistent with the types of recreation opportunities visitors are seeking. In other areas, steep slopes limit access (protecting resources) resulting in feelings of remoteness and solitude while enjoying hidden treasures that include, springs, waterfalls, a variety of landscapes, and many recreation experiences including hunting and fishing. Access is limited by a trail system that some think is not meeting the needs of the recreating public. Some trails are located in poor locations (steep, unstable areas) requiring high maintenance. There is also a network of user created trails that are the cause of resource problems

in many areas. The developed sites in the area are aging and do not meet the needs of the modern recreation user. Many facilities cannot accommodate modern vehicles and at a fundamental level do not meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or the Region 5 Built Environmental Image Guide (BEIG). In many areas within the place, managers feel that the levels of recreation use are approaching levels that are exceeding the capacity of the facilities to support.

The place has numerous electronic and communication sites located on ridgelines and mountain tops. Many of the utility corridors that support the Los Angeles basin are located in the place as well as flood control structures and dam facilities. Finally, there are many activities occurring in the place that are not authorized, resulting in resource problems.

Fire safe conditions along the urban interface within the place are inconsistent. Private landowners look to the Forest Service to accomplish the vegetative treatments required for community defense. Traditionally, fuel treatments have been focused on Front Country watershed protection, concentrating on age class mosaics and fuel breaks designed to reduce the threat of downstream flooding that often occurs after wildfires. Wildfires, including the Grand Prix Fire of 2003, have resulted in property and resource losses. The numbers of fire starts are not consistent with natural disturbance cycles and are moving some plant communities toward non-native annual grass type conversions that are out of character in the place.

The proximity of the place to the cities along the urban interface emphasizes the need to continue to develop and maintain good working relationships with other agencies and community governments. Inconsistent management strategies have led to problems and emphasize the need to work together and effectively manage the National Forests to support common goals in an era of intense urbanization. Habitat linkages, access, water, urban infrastructure are just a few of the problems requiring a more common solution.

The Front Country place is viewed by the residents of adjacent communities as the "backyard." The area might be characterized as being "loved" to death. The area is intensively used resulting in user conflicts, trash, non-permitted uses, parties, car dumping, graffiti, and other activities that compromise forest resources.

For special designations see Angeles National Forest Part 2.

Desired Condition: Front Country is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a first impression scenic backdrop for the Los Angeles/San Bernardino metropolitan area, and a forest portal for its 15 million residents. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time include the rugged and wild appearing mountain silhouettes, dramatic undisturbed views to urban and mountain landscapes especially from trails and roads, coast live oaks along the shaded slopes of the canyons, and a well-defined age-class mosaic in chaparral.

Program Emphasis: Management will focus on community protection, recreation use, and forest infrastructure that is sustainable, consistent with the natural setting and integrity, and has minimal effects to species of management concern and their habitat. Forest health and water needs will be managed to provide for a healthy forest ecosystem with the in-stream flows necessary to support surface and subsurface resources. Uses will be balanced and promote the conservation of resource qualities that sustain these uses and provide attractions for this area. There will be a focus on the development of low-elevation trails, interpretive opportunities, prescribed burning to improve bighorn sheep habitat, day-use recreation in Cucamonga Canyon, and conservation with other agencies for coastal sage habitat. Management will focus on community protection, recreation use, and forest infrastructure that is sustainable, consistent with the natural setting and integrity, and has minimal effects to species of management concerns and their habitat. Uses will be balanced and promote the conservation of resource qualities that sustain these uses and provide attractions for this area. Monitoring bighorn sheep and sheep habitat response to the Grand Prix and padua Fires of 2003 will be a priority as well as community relationship building in the fire affected communities.

Forest-specific Design Criteria

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

- Wilderness Plans and Implementation Schedules

- Wild and Scenic River Management Plans
- Forest Fire Management Plans
- Special Interest Area Plans
- Research Natural Area Establishment Reports and Implementation Plans
- Scenic Byway Plans
- Species Recovery Plans
- Species and Habitat Conservation Strategies

Place Specific Standards

SBNF S1 - Avoid any activity that causes long-term damage to ash-grey paintbrush host plants or host plant habitat in key and occupied habitats (Big Bear, Back Country, Desert Rim Places).

SBNF S2 - Avoid new ground-disturbing activities within key and occupied listed pebble plains plants habitats except where habitat would be improved (Big Bear, Back Country, Desert Rim Places).

SBNF S3 - Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail - Protect scenic values in accordance with adopted scenic integrity objectives. Protect foreground views from the footpath as well as designated viewpoints. Where practicable, avoid establishing unconforming land uses within the viewshed of the trail.

SBNF S4 - In southern rubber boa habitat, leave an additional 3 hard downed logs per acre for a total of 9 downed logs per acre (Arrowhead, Big Bear, Back Country, Silverwood, San Gorgonio, Idyllwild).

SBNF S5 - Livestock grazing in San Bernardino bluegrass habitat will be deferred until after seed-set (Anza Place).

In carbonate habitat, mine restoration prescriptions shall include the success criteria and provisions for effectiveness monitoring and reporting of results as described in the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy dated 2003 (Back Country and Desert Rim Places).

Wilderness Standards

SBNF S6 - The maximum visitor group size is 12 people. The San Gorgonio and San Jacinto Wildernesses have day and overnight use restrictions and quotas. The Cucamonga and Santa Rosa Wildernesses have visitor sign-in requirements. The San Gorgonio, San Jacinto and Cucamonga Wildernesses have designated campsites.

SBNF S7 - Pack stock that travel and camp together are limited to 8. Goats are not permitted in wildernesses with bighorn sheep herds. Pack stock are not allowed to graze; their feed must be packed in. Dogs must be leashed at all times.

SBNF S8 - Open campfires and glass containers are not allowed within any wilderness. Visitors must use gas, jellied petroleum, pressurized liquid fuel or other portable camp stoves that are completely enclosed.

SBNF S9 - Fish stocking within wilderness lakes and streams is not allowed. Re-introduction of any plant or wildlife species is not allowed unless that species is indigenous and was extirpated by human induced events.

SBNF S10 - No new fixed anchors for rock climbing are allowed.

SBNF S11 - Emphasize minimum impact suppression tactics in all wilderness wildland fire responses. See Appendix D.

SBNF S12 - Other wilderness related restrictions for San Bernardino wilderness areas should include permits required for all but Santa Rosa/Bighorn (regional order) – also please see forest orders 96-3 signed 7/22/96, and 99-2 signed 3/9/99.

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 Management Plans
- Forest Fire Management Plans
- Special Interest Area Plans
- Research Natural Area Establishment Reports and Implementation Plans
- Scenic Byway Plans
- Species Recovery Plans
- Species and Habitat Conservation Strategies

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 I – Vision) that is updated every three to five years. Historically, both Congress and the Executive 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 Part 2 SBNF

Table 2.4.1 - Suitable Uses Resource Management, SBNF

Land Use Zone	URI	DAI	BCM	BCNM	CB	W
Resource Management Activities:	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 2.4.2 - Suitable Uses Public Use and Enjoyment, SBNF

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
Motorized use off Forest System Roads (36CFR295) and (36CFR261.51)	Designated Motorized Trails and Open Areas	Designated Motorized Trails and Open Areas	Designated Motorized Trails and Open Areas	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 2.4.3 - Suitable Uses Commodity and Commercial Uses, SBNF

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 2.4.4 - Suitable Uses Fire and Fuels Management, SBNF

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 Buffers	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	When Justified	When Justified
Fuelbreak Construction including type conversion	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	Not Suitable	When Justified

Table 2.4.5 - Resource Management Performance Indicators, SBNF

Performance Indicators for Resource Management	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Acres of Terrestrial Habitat Enhanced	206	2,800
Miles of Aquatic Habitat Enhanced	4	25
Acres of Noxious Weeds Treated	38	130
Acres of Vegetation Improved (also see Hazardous Fuels Reduction)	188	2,000
Acres of Watershed Improved	125	1,450
Acres of Land Ownership Adjusted	1,381	2,500
Number of Heritage Resources Managed to Standard	65	77

Table 2.4.6 - Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, SBNF

Performance Indicators for Public Use and Enjoyment	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Products Provided to Standard (Interpretation and Education)	185	400
Recreation Special Use Authorizations Administered to Standard	875	1,010
PAOT Days Managed to Standard (Developed Sites)	269,362	356,976
Recreation Days Managed to Standard (General Forest Areas)	5,699	14,500

Table 2.4.7 - Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, SBNF

Performance Indicators for Facility Operations and Maintenance	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Miles of Passenger Car Roads Maintained to Objective Maintenance Level	95	316
Miles of High Clearance & Back Country Roads Maintained to Objective Maintenance Level	279	789
Miles of Road Decommissioned	6	30
Miles of Trail Operated and Maintained to Standard	20	471

Table 2.4.8 - Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, SBNF

Performance Indicators for Commodity and Commercial Uses	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Land Use Authorizations Administered to Standard	439	800
Number of Mineral Operations Administered	15	15
Manage Grazing Allotments	17,000	32,500

Table 2.4.9 - Fire and Aviation Management Performance Indicators, SBNF

Performance Indicator for Aviation and Fire Management	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Acres of Hazardous Fuel Reduction	3,953	25,100

Appendices

Appendix A - Special Designation Overlays - San Bernardino National Forest

Wilderness

Existing Wilderness

Big Horn Mountain Wilderness

11,800 Acres

Created in 1994 by the California Desert Protection Act, this wilderness is co-managed with the Bureau of Land Management. It is located on the northeast flank of the San Bernardino Mountains, east of Big Bear Lake. Access is from Long Valley on the west and Forest Road 3N03. Other access points are from Horsethief Flat in the north and Viscera Springs in the east.

Elevations range from 4,800 feet to 7,500 feet at the top of the Granite Peaks. This wilderness represents a transition zone from the Joshua trees and yucca of the high desert to scattered Jeffrey pine on the peaks. Mule deer, mountain lions, and bobcats dwell in the Big Horn Mountain Wilderness, while golden eagles may soar above. There are no established trails or campsites in the area, and permits are not required.

Places: Desert Rim

Cucamonga Wilderness

8,581 Acres

Located on the eastern flank of the San Gabriel Mountains near Cajon Pass, this area is adjacent to some of the most densely populated areas of southern California. It is jointly managed with the Angeles National Forest and may be accessed by Forest Roads 2N58 and 1N34.

Elevations in the Cucamonga Wilderness range from 4,920 to 9,008 feet (Telegraph Peak rises to 8,985 feet). Movement of the nearby San Andreas Fault has left landslides as visual reminders on the landscape. Vegetation at the lower elevations is predominantly chaparral, with conifer stands blanketing the high country. The area is characterized by extremely rough and precipitous terrain. The headwaters of Lytle, Cucamonga, Deep and Day creeks lie immediately south of the wilderness boundary. A herd of bighorn sheep inhabits the area. There are three dispersed campsites within the wilderness (two on the San Bernardino NF side, one on the Angeles NF side), and human use of the area is heavy. (Tilton)

Places: Lytle Creek, The Front Country (Within San Bernardino National Forest)

San Gorgonio Wilderness

56,722 Acres

This wilderness is one of the most heavily used in the nation. It is located on the southeast flanks of the San Bernardino Mountains and may be accessed via Forest Roads 2S05, 1N60, 1N05 and the Forest Falls Road, the Angelus Oaks Trailhead Road, and the Forsee Creek Trailhead Road.

The wilderness includes nine peaks over 10,000-feet (including the tallest peak south of the Sierra Nevada Range, San Gorgonio Mountain at 11,490) and two glacier-carved cirque lakes. Examples of the arctic-alpine forest life zones and glacier-deposited moraines are evident in this area. There are two small natural lakes here, Dollar and Dry.

Two Research Natural Areas are located within the San Gorgonio Wilderness: Horse Meadows for white-fir and Millard Canyon for interior live oak. The headwaters for the Santa Ana and Whitewater Rivers are located in this wilderness, along with habitat for a herd of Nelson Big Horn Sheep. Day use and overnight camping permits are required. There are 24 campsites within the wilderness.

Places: San Gorgonio

San Jacinto Wilderness

32,248 Acres

The San Jacinto Wilderness is located in the east flanks of the San Jacinto Mountain Range, accessed via the Palm Spring Aerial Tramway and the Humber Park Road, which lead directly to the wilderness boundary. The Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness State Park manages most of the higher peaks along the ridge within the range, effectively dividing this wilderness area into two distinct areas of very different characters.

The entire northern portion of the wilderness, along with the Andreas and Murray desert canyons of the southern portion, include some of the steepest, most rugged terrain in the nation. The northern escarpment plunges dramatically in sheer cliffs and ridges to Banning Pass, nearly two miles below. Snow creek and its tributaries have carved deep canyons into the escarpment face, affording excellent cross country hiking and climbing opportunities. The area offers spectacular views of the surrounding desert valleys and mountain ranges.

The southern portion of the wilderness provides contrasting wilderness opportunities. This portion contains a well-watered plateau area that harbors a number of stream-fed mountain meadows and a portion of the San Jacinto ridgetop known as the Desert Divide. To the east of the Divide lie several deeply eroded, rugged desert canyons. The relatively flat terrain contains a number of very popular camping areas adjacent to streams and meadows and an extensive 26-mile trail network. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail traverses the Desert Divide through the wilderness. Permits are required.

Places: Idyllwild, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, Garner Valley

Santa Rosa Wilderness

13,787 Acres

This wilderness was created in 1984 by the California Wilderness Act. In 1994 the wilderness was quadrupled by the addition of 64,340 acres of BLM land in the California Desert Protection Act. It is located in the southeastern portion of the San Jacinto Ranger District, and can be accessed from Forest Road 7S01.

Elevations rise from the desert floor (sea level) to 8,000 feet at Toro Peak. The wilderness is comprised primarily of the Santa Rosa Mountains, which are rugged, boulder-strewn mountains with highly eroded canyons and washes, valleys, steep cliffs and sheer surfaces. Vegetation ranges from desert agave, ocotillo and creosote to mountain pinyon and juniper.

Recreation opportunities mainly center on the Canyon Springs Trail (5E01) and in riparian areas. Wildlife consists of common desert species, such as deer, cougar, and quail. Eastern portions of the area are used by the largest herd of peninsular bighorn sheep in the United States. Much of the wilderness is within the boundaries of the Santa Rosa Mountains State Game Refuge.

Places: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Sheep Mountain Wilderness

2,401 Acres

The Sheep Mountain Wilderness was added in 1984 by the California Wilderness Act. The wilderness stretches across the contiguous boundary between the Angeles and San Bernadino National Forests, and is administered by the Angeles National Forest.

Places: Lytle Creek

Recommended Wilderness

Cucamonga B Expansion

The Cucamonga Roadless Area is located in the western portion of the Front Country Ranger District. The area lies west of the Lytle Creek Ranger Station and the Lytle Creek community, with the more urbanized Rancho Cucamonga and the Upland communities located five miles to the south.

The topography is characterized by the primarily steep, heavily dissected ridges within a dense chaparral ecosystem. Some riparian areas are found in the lower elevations and some mixed conifer in the upper elevations.

Recreation is primarily dispersed, including hiking, nature viewing, and hunting. No trails lie within this inventoried roadless area.

Places: Lytle Creek

Raywood Flat B (San Gorgonio Expansion)

The Raywood Flat Roadless Area is located in the east side of the Front Country Ranger District. It is bounded on the north and east by the San Gorgonio Wilderness, west by FDR 1S08, and south by the San Gorgonio River. Raywood Flat lies near the Oak Glen Fire Station and Oak Glen and Forest Falls communities, with the more urbanized Inland Empire communities located 10 miles to the southwest.

The topography is characterized by a primarily steep, heavily dissected ridgeline. Special features within the area include Little San Gorgonio Peak, Galena Peak, Wilshire Peak, Cedar Mountain, and Birch Mountain. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this area.

Vegetation consists of a dense chaparral ecosystem at lower elevations and mixed conifer at higher elevations. Culturally sensitive plants occur in this area that were traditionally gathered by Serrano and Cahuilla Indian people

The area contains modeled habitat for mountain yellow-legged frog, ashy-gray paintbrush, California dandelion, San Bernardino bluegrass, and southwestern willow flycatcher.

Dispersed recreational activities are predominant, including hiking, nature viewing, and hunting. No trails lie within the Raywood Flat area, and access by the public is difficult.

Places: San Bernardino Front Country, San Gorgonio

Sugarloaf

The Sugarloaf Mountain Roadless Area is located in the southeast portion of the Mountaintop Ranger District, near Camp Heart Bar and the Big Bear community. The more urbanized Inland Empire communities are located 15 miles to the southwest. The topography here is primarily steep ridges with open chaparral and mixed conifer ecosystems.

Dispersed recreation activities are most common, especially hiking, nature viewing, snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, camping and hunting. Horseback riding is also very popular (including packing with stock). Trail 2E18, the Sugarloaf National Recreation Trail, lies within this inventoried roadless area.

Places: Big Bear, San Gorgonio

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Eligible

Bautista Creek

The entire length of Bautista Creek, 13.4 miles, is eligible for classification as a Recreational River. The creek has outstandingly remarkable values for wildlife, botany, prehistory and history. Wildlife values are based on the presence of several Federally endangered species. Native American sites of exceptional human interest lie along the whole length of the Canyon, and ethno-historic Cahuilla village sites occur at the upper portion of the drainage. The Creek's historic context relates to the passages of Juan Bautista de Anza in 1774 and again in 1776. The canyon was also used as a route in the earliest efforts to reach the San Francisco Bay area from 'Sonora Mexico.'

Places: Anza, 11.7 miles

Bear Creek

The eligibility study for Bear Creek cites that 8.9 miles possess outstandingly remarkable values in regards to recreation, wildlife and fisheries. Bear Creek is a renowned regional freshwater fishery resource and a designated State of California Wild Trout Program Stream. The creek offers numerous sightseeing and wildlife-viewing opportunities, giving it significant recreational value. Wildlife values are attributed to multiple and nesting pairs of the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher, and the several pairs of California spotted owls, which nest in the canyon.

Places: Big Bear, 8.9 miles

Fish Creek

One 3.6-mile segment of Fish Creek, from the headwaters to the San Gorgonio Wilderness boundary, is eligible for classification as a Wild River. The Fish Creek landscape supports rare, high altitude montane wet meadow habitat, and is home to both federally listed and Forest Service Sensitive species. Its outstandingly remarkable botanical values, freedom from impoundments, inaccessibility except by trail, location within an essentially primitive watershed, and unpolluted waters support its eligibility as a Wild river.

Places: San Gorgonio, 3.6 miles

Fuller Mill Creek

Fuller Mill Creek is free-flowing from its headwaters to the intersection with the North Fork of the San Jacinto River and water flows intermittently for some of its length during the mid to late summer and fall. The river exhibits outstandingly remarkable values pertaining to wildlife as it is home to a nationally significant population of mountain yellow-legged frog. The creek supports one of the last remaining populations of this federally endangered species in southern California and the only known population on the San Jacinto Ranger District. Other Forest Sensitive species, the California spotted owl and San Bernardino flying squirrel, are also present in the river corridor. It is eligible for classification as a Recreational River, as it is readily accessible by road or trail and has some development within the corridor.

Places: Idyllwild, 3.4 miles

Holcomb Creek

Holcomb Creek is free-flowing from the Hitchcock Ranch impoundment to its confluence with Deep Creek,

though much of the flow is intermittent. The scenery here is regionally impressive, while outstandingly remarkable wildlife values are based on the presence of multiple pairs of nesting willow flycatchers, a federally listed species, and regionally significant pairs of California spotted owls, a federal candidate species. The segment from the Hitchcock Ranch impoundment to Forest Road 3N16 is eligible for classification as a Recreational River, as it is readily accessible by road and has some development. A second segment, 5.8 miles from Forest Road 3N16 to the confluence with Deep Creek, is eligible for classification as Wild. It is free of impoundments, has a largely primitive shoreline, accessed only by a trail, with nonpolluted waters.

Places: Big Bear Back Country, 14.5 miles

Lytle Creek - Middle Fork

The Middle Fork of Lytle Creek, which originates at 8,600 feet on the northwest flank of Cucamonga Peak, is eligible for classification as a Scenic River, as it has outstandingly remarkable fisheries values, is free of impoundments, is in a largely primitive watershed with an undeveloped shoreline, with access from a nearby road and trail. A 2.5-mile segment of the Middle Fork of Lytle Creek (between the Commanche campsite and the Middle Fork Trailhead) sustains a naturally reproducing population of rainbow trout and has the potential to become designated as a State Wild Trout Stream. It is considered a regionally important resident fish stream with outstandingly remarkable values.

Places: Lytle Creek, 2.4 miles

Palm Canyon

The deep, rugged, rocky canyons, thick riparian vegetation, and palm oases found within the Palm Canyon landscape provide regionally spectacular scenery. Many Native American sites are found along the entire portion of the canyon. Also, it meets the standards for a Traditional Cultural Property as highly significant and has outstandingly remarkable pre-historic values. The Palm Oases within Palm Canyon are recognized as having outstandingly remarkable habitat value due to both a location that supports the largest California fan palm oasis in the United States and the abundance of these native palms, relics from millions of years ago that are nationally significant and unique. Approximately 8 miles of Palm Canyon River, from the private land to the forest boundary, are eligible for classification as a Wild River. Also, it is free of impoundments, inaccessible except by trail, and in a primitive watershed with unpolluted waters.

Places: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, 8.1 miles

San Jacinto River - North Fork

The eligibility study evaluated two segments of this river, one of which is located within Mount San Jacinto State Park, the other within National Forest jurisdiction. Both segments have outstandingly remarkable values for scenery and wildlife. The scenery along the river is diverse, ranging from dramatic, high elevation, rocky alpine to middle elevation mixed conifer and oak woodland to lower elevation chaparral and grassland. Also, suitable habitat for mountain yellow-legged frog exists in the headwater tributaries. The State park segment is free of impoundments, inaccessible except by trail, and is located in a primitive watershed with unpolluted waters, therefore making it eligible as a Wild River. The segment lying on the forest is readily accessible by road and trail and has some recreation improvements along its shore, allowing for its Scenic classification.

Places: Idyllwild, 13.4 miles

Santa Ana River

The eligibility study for this river discloses that all segments have outstandingly remarkable values for scenery, recreation, fish, wildlife and history. The South Fork segment within the San Geronio Wilderness is free of impoundments, inaccessible except by trail, and in a primitive watershed with unpolluted waters. The Recreational-eligible segment of the Santa Ana River is readily accessible by road and trail and has significant recreation improvements along its shore (developed recreation sites, recreation residences, and organization

camps). The Scenic segment of the Santa Ana River, from Filaree Flat to the confluence with Bear Creek, is free of impoundments, has a largely undeveloped shoreline, is accessible at one location by road, and has less than pristine water quality.

Places: San Gorgonio, 18.1 miles; San Bernardino Front Country, 1.7 miles

Santa Ana River - South Fork

Siberia Creek

Siberia Creek is eligible for classification as a Scenic River because of its outstandingly remarkable botanical values, free-flowing nature, location in a largely primitive watershed, and accessibility from trails. Siberia Creek supports rare, high altitude, montane wet meadow habitat, nationally significant occurrences of the pedate checker-mallow and California taraxacum, both federally listed species. The presence of the Champion Lodgepole Pine within a quarter-mile of the stream corridor is nationally significant.

Places: Big Bear, 3.0 miles

Whitewater River - East Fork of South Fork

Twenty-five miles of the Whitewater River, including portions of its various forks, are eligible for classification as Wild rivers. Outstandingly remarkable values, such as scenery and wildlife, contribute this classification. The scenery here is highly diverse, colorful and striking, with regionally unique headwater springs and steep, textured canyon walls. The river corridor also supports a large amount of quality (remote, pristine, designated wilderness) and diverse habitat for regionally significant populations of Nelson's bighorn sheep (California rare), California spotted owl (Forest Sensitive, Federal candidate), mule deer and black bear. All the forks of the river are free of impoundments, inaccessible by road or trail, and located in a primitive watershed with unpolluted waters.

Places: Whitewater River - East Fork of South Fork, 24.2; San Bernardino Front Country, 1.2 miles

Deep Creek

The landscape surrounding Deep Creek is unique in a southern California context, and its recreational opportunities are valued at the regional and national levels. Thermal hot springs, found within the Deep Creek corridor, are unique and regionally important. Deep Creek supports the greatest diversity of wildlife habitats of any drainage on the San Bernardino National Forest and has earned the State designation of a Wild Trout Stream. It also represents some of the greatest diversity of vegetation communities of any drainage on the forest. Approximately 11 miles of this river are eligible for designation as Scenic; 9 miles are eligible for designation as Wild, as they are free of impoundments, inaccessible except by trail, and in a primitive watershed with unpolluted waters.

Places: Arrowhead, 10.6 miles; Silverwood, 9 miles

Research Natural Areas

Established

Cahuilla Mountain

The 861-acre Cahuilla Mountain RNA is located on southern end of the San Jacinto Ranger District. Topography is mostly gentle to moderate upland that breaks off as an abrupt escarpment. Both black oak and Coulter pine are well-distributed, and occur in a variety of community states ranging from nearly pure stands to various mixtures with each other and with canyon live oak. Some individual black oak specimens are impressive in size and

quality.

Places: Anza

Fishermans Camp

Located on the Mountaintop Ranger District, the 412-acre Fisherman's Camp RNA represents coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*) forest vegetation and is located in the Deep Creek drainage. Deep Creek is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. The area also contains riparian vegetation, extensive areas of western Ponderosa pine forest, and an uncommon association of coulter pine and canyon live oak. The area provides habitat for California spotted owls and southern rubber boas. There is public access to the RNA via hiking trails and administrative access via a gated forest road.

Places: Fishermans Camp

Hall Canyon

Located on the San Jacinto Ranger District, the 671-acre Hall Canyon RNA represents mixed conifer vegetation. Public access is restricted because entry is through the University of California James Reserve in Hall Canyon, across private land. The watershed is relatively undisturbed, except for a wildfire burn along the western and northern boundary, a small portion of which was replanted as a rehabilitation measure. Six conifer and two hardwood overstory species are well represented throughout the area. The RNA is within the Black Mountain Scenic special interest area; however, the scenic designation is compatible with RNA designation.

Places: Idyllwild

Horse Meadow

The Horse Meadow RNA is located on the San Geronio Ranger District and lies entirely within the San Geronio Wilderness. This 935-acre RNA was established for its stands of white fir. It is one of the larger Research Natural Areas on the forest, most of it very steep or partially stabilized talus. The stands of white fir are typical of southern California mountain areas. There are many seeps and springs on the slope, where riparian vegetation is common.

Places: San Geronio

Millard Canyon

Located on the Front Country Ranger District, the 785-acre Millard Canyon RNA represents interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*) vegetation and is located on the eastern slope of the middle fork of Millard Canyon. The area also contains well-developed big-cone Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*) and canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*). Other vegetation types represented include chaparral and sage scrub on the drier slopes, and canyon live oak, mixed conifer and rock outcrops at the highest elevations. Public access is restricted as it is located on National Forest System lands that can only be reached by travel through the Morongo Indian Reservation and passage through this area is not open to the public. The watershed is relatively undisturbed vegetation that provides excellent wildlife habitat including one of the highest density black bear habitats in southern California. The RNA is entirely within the San Geronio Wilderness.

Places: San Geronio

Special Interest Areas

Established

Baldwin Lake Holcomb Valley

Located on the Mountaintop Ranger District, the North Baldwin Lake and Holcomb Valley SIA is recognized for its unique botanical, zoological, pre-historical and historical values. The Pebble Plain and wet meadow habitat here supports one of California's highest concentrations of threatened, endangered, rare and endemic plant species. Federally threatened bald eagles are present around Baldwin Lake in the winter months, and when full, this lake supports one of the largest concentrations of waterfowl in southern California. Other unique wildlife species such as the unarmored three spine stickleback fish, southwestern willow flycatcher, California spotted owl, and Andrew's marble butterfly are also present within the SIA. High concentrations of prehistoric and historic heritage resources are also found here and the area is highly valued by tribal members who regard Baldwin Lake as the epicenter of the Serrano creation. The remains of the Bairdstown (Doble) and Belleville mining towns, sites of the largest gold rush in southern California history, can be accessed via a motorized interpretive route in Holcomb Valley. Numerous other Forest system roads and trails provide access throughout the SIA.

Places: Big Bear, Big Bear Back Country

Black Mountain

The Black Mountain Scenic SIA, located on the north end of the San Jacinto Ranger District, is an area of old growth Jeffrey and sugar pine with large, unique rock outcrops and scenic vistas, making it a popular visitor attraction. Fires have burned over a significant portion of the area, particularly on the steep slopes of the west and north sides of Black Mountain.

Places: Idyllwild, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Proposed

Childrens Forest

Acres: 3,395

Emphasis: Recreational and Scenic

Description of values: The National Children's Forest (NCF) is an encapsulated working forest offering high quality youth development and conservation education programs in partnership with a nonprofit partner, the San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA). It is a unique place where youth are empowered to learn about the environment and then share that knowledge with visitors, partners and Forest Service staff as they help to guide and implement management decisions. The NCF has developed a strategic plan as well as annual program plans. Major programs in education, ecosystem management, and the Visitor Center are in operation year-round.

Description of area: Located in the Arrowhead Place. In November 1970, a large wildfire burned 53,000 acres of National Forest lands. Almost immediately, the Forest Service began the process of renewing the forest by salvaging dead trees, reseeding barren slopes to protect topsoil, and planting young trees. In partnership with Hunt-Wesson Foods, Inc. a campaign directed toward youth was started to help reforest this area. The overwhelming success of this project led to the creation of a new idea, the National Children's Forest. The original 20-acre site within the San Bernardino National Forest was one of three sites selected nationally. That small area grew into an expanded 3,400 acres during the early 1990s. It now consists of a distinctive Visitor Information Center shared with a Forest Service Fire Station at Deer Lick, portions of the Snow Valley Mountain Resort, Shady Cove Group Campground, Children's Forest Trailhead and Interpretive Trail, and Keller Peak Fire Lookout (where scenic views extend into much of southern California). Elevations range from 6,000 to 7,880 feet. The vegetation is primarily montane mixed conifer.

Access: California State Highway 18 (a leg of the Rim of the World Scenic Byway) leads through the communities of Running Springs, Deer Lick and Arrowbear Lake, and generally forms the northern boundary of the NCF. At the Deer Lick Fire Station and Children's Forest Visitor Information Center, Forest Road 1N96 leads

into the NCF.

Desired condition: The National Children's Forest creates opportunities for visitors to learn how to enjoy a wildland setting and become an active stakeholder in their National Forest; where youth may learn, participate and help make decisions about the stewardship of the forest; and where a public land management agency can learn to work with partners to provide governance and support for this program, creating a model for others around the nation.

Places: Arrowhead

Deep Creek

Acres: 3,772

Emphasis: Cultural, Scenic, Botanical, and Zoological.

Description of Values: Deep Creek is a unique place recognized for a multitude of special values. It is a rugged and remote canyon with perennial water and world-famous natural hot springs. The area has only limited vehicle access, so it is relatively pristine and free of human disturbance. This makes it very important to wildlife that require solitude. It is one of the largest streams on the San Bernardino National Forest and is one of the two State Designated Wild Trout streams on the forest. In addition to the trout, there are a variety of other aquatic species, including the sensitive two-striped garter snake arroyo, Mohave chub hybrid and federally endangered arroyo toad. The vegetation in the proposed Deep Creek SIA is extremely diverse, from mixed conifer to desert riparian. Golden eagles and California spotted owls nest here and use the area as well as the federally endangered southwest willow flycatcher. The area is important to bear, deer, mountain lion and the Forest Service Sensitive San Bernardino flying squirrel. Unique botanical features in Deep Creek include a variety of vegetation communities and special-status plant species. Montane mixed conifer, riparian hardwood, oak and single-leaf pinyon/western juniper woodland, and chaparral associations are present. The Forest Service sensitive plant, lemon lily (*Lilium parryi*), and the Forest watchlist plant, ocellated Humboldt lily (*Lilium humboldtii* var. *ocellatum*) may also be present along Deep Creek within the boundaries of the proposed SIA. A historical population of Mohave tarplant (*Hemizonia mohavensis*), a Forest Service Sensitive plant, is also known from the southern portion of Deep Creek. The area features excellent wildflower displays.

This area has outstanding heritage resource values, containing numerous prehistoric archaeological sites of village and extensive occupation sites and seasonal camps. There are numerous special-use resource procurement areas and processing sites distributed throughout the SIA landscape, including rock paintings. This SIA served as a corridor for Native American movement between the desert floor and upland and mountain habitats. An indication of its importance is the number of Serrano place names that still survive from the area.

The area is extremely scenic with the diversity of vegetation and striking landforms. The alder-cottonwood riparian forest and clear stream in forest and desert landscapes provide unique vistas. Many visitors recreate here year-round, especially anglers, hikers, and those using the hot springs.

Access: The proposed Deep Creek Special Interest Area is only accessible by passenger vehicle from the edges via FS road number 3N34 and State Highway 173. The 2W01 motorcycle trail crosses Deep Creek at Devil's hole. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail parallels and crosses Deep Creek several times by arching trail bridges.

Desired condition: The remote, scenic, and biologically important nature of the area is protected through the continuation of existing use. This nonmotorized day-use access helps retain security for large mammals and other species that prefer solitude, as well as for the arroyo toads which are active at night. Unauthorized vehicle use, camping and fires are carefully controlled to protect habitats and cultural sites from damage. The unique resources of this area are conserved by continued protection and interpretive signing. The SIA classification highlights the unique habitats and wildlife, cultural and scenic values of the area. This area is featured in interpretive talks and presentations. The unusual heritage characteristics are protected and enhanced by management emphasis, public education, and appropriate interpretation.

Places: Arrowhead, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

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.