



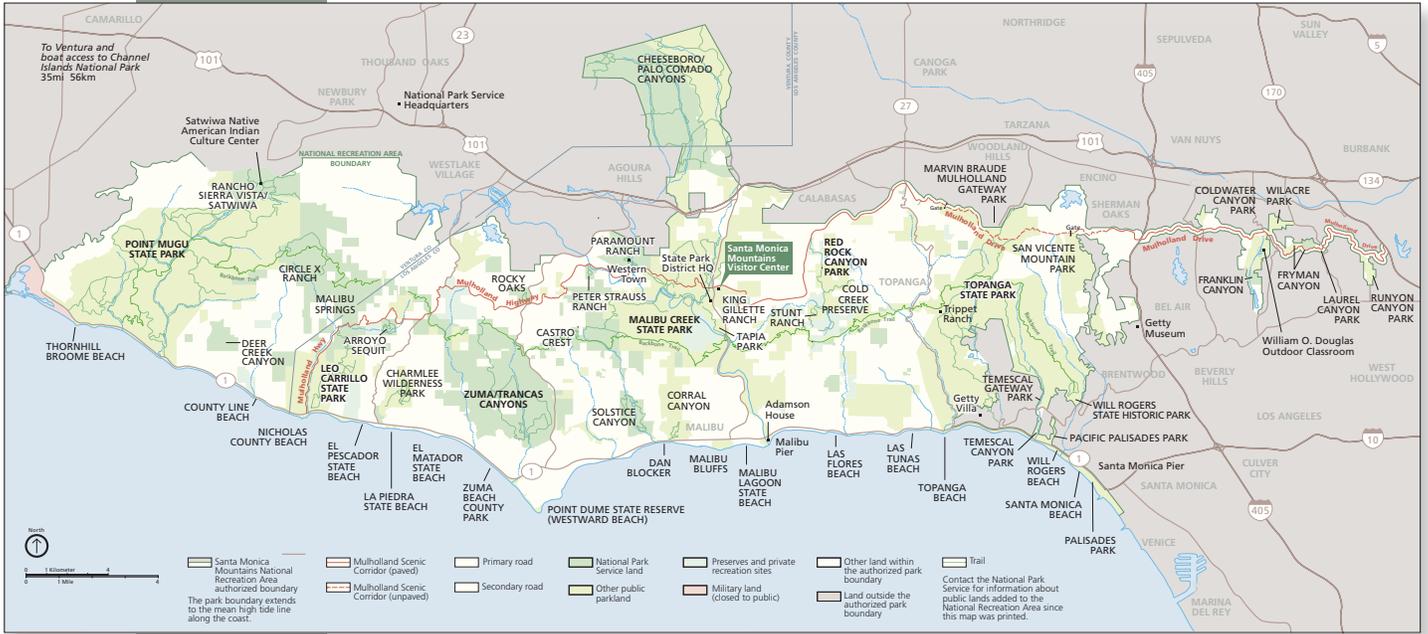
Foundation Document

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

California

May 2015





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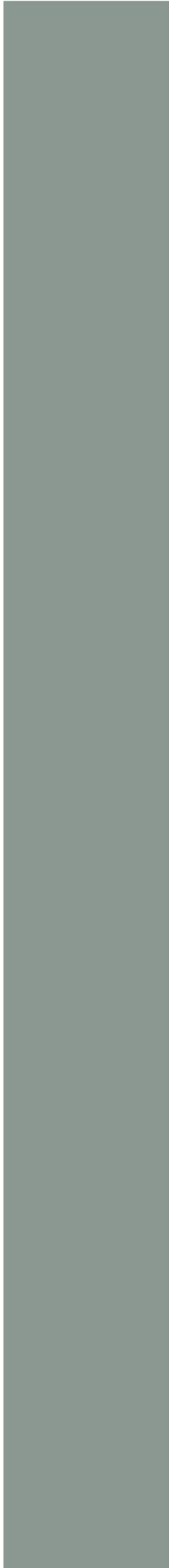
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Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

Shared stewardship: We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.

Excellence: We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.

Integrity: We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.

Tradition: We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.

Respect: We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.

Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description of the Park

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the nation's largest urban national park, comprises a vast and varied California landscape, including 21 miles of marine shoreline, in and around the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area. Totalling 153,250 acres of rugged mountains, narrow canyons, chaparral, and ocean surf, the Santa Monica Mountains embody coastal southern California. The mild climate allows visitors to enjoy its scenic, natural, and cultural resources throughout the year.

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area features some of the best remaining examples of the Mediterranean biome, a land type that is among the rarest on earth. The mild and pleasant climate makes this biome ideal for human occupation, a significant reason why only 20% of the world's Mediterranean biomes remain intact. With one of the highest concentrations of rare species in the United States, the Santa Monica Mountains' ecosystems provide habitat for hundreds of species of plants and wildlife.

Rich and diverse cultural resources are represented in the Santa Monica Mountains. Some 1,000 archeological sites provide insight into more than 10,000 years of Native American history. Settlers, ranchers, and other more recent arrivals, drawn to the resources of the Santa Monica Mountains, have changed and continue to change the ecology of the landscape. The national recreation area includes a portion of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The national historic trail recognizes the first successful overland route facilitating Spanish colonization of *Alta California* with the founding of the presidio and community of San Francisco. The metropolitan region surrounding Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area has influenced the world with its innovative contemporary architecture, literature, performing arts, music, and recreational pursuits. The important role the Santa Monica Mountains played in the development of the film industry is notable, serving as a primary destination for on-location filming.





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Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is located in one of the nation’s fastest growing and diverse urban areas. More than 18 million people live within an hour’s drive of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The mountains rise out of the heart of Los Angeles and follow the Pacific coast some 50 miles west to Point Mugu in Ventura County. The national recreation area is at once an integral part of the city and a world apart.

The U.S. Congress created Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in 1978 and granted the National Park Service the authority to promote a level of shared management of the national recreation area. Today, it is a cooperative effort that joins federal, state, and local park agencies with nonprofit organizations and private landowners to protect the area’s resources and provide public enjoyment opportunities. The park is a mosaic of public and private lands, and roughly 84,000 acres of land within the 153,250-acre Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is preserved for resource protection and/or public enjoyment. While the National Park Service shares responsibility for management of the national recreation area, it currently has direct responsibility for 15% of the land (23,500 acres). A cooperative management agreement with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and California State Parks provides a framework for the National Park Service to share resources and responsibilities for public land management.

Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on November 10, 1978 (see appendix A for enabling legislation and subsequent amendments). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

*SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
is a collaborative partnership that protects a
mosaic of natural resources, cultural heritage, and
scenery within North America's Mediterranean
biome, and provides public enjoyment opportunities,
including connections to wild places in the greater
Los Angeles metropolitan area.*



Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and system-wide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

- **High Biodiversity / Mediterranean Ecosystem** – Influenced by the mild climate and complex geologic setting, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area contains high concentrations of rare, sensitive, and endemic species, and represents one of the best remaining examples of the Mediterranean biome in North America. Mediterranean ecosystems are among the world's rarest and most endangered land types, occurring in only five locations throughout the world.
- **Recreational Opportunities / National Park Gateway** – The coastal and mountainous terrain of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area offers an abundance of recreational, health, and educational benefits and contributes clean air and water for the Los Angeles Region. Its proximity to one of the most densely populated regions of the United States provides a gateway to experience national park sites and other public parklands.
- **Scientific Understanding** – The Santa Monica Mountains provide an opportunity for understanding how to protect high biodiversity in a vast urban area. Additionally, the rich concentration of resources, which include an extensive range of native vegetation communities, archeological sites, and geologic and paleontological features, are all in close proximity to numerous research institutions, providing exceptional opportunities for scientific study.
- **Archeology** – Native American occupation in the Santa Monica Mountains spans more than 10,000 years, as reflected in a diversity of well-preserved archeological sites. American Indian groups, including the Chumash and Tongva, continue to have cultural ties to these resources and their associated landscapes.
- **Scenic Resources** – Extending from Point Mugu to downtown Los Angeles, the rugged landscape and geologic features of the Santa Monica Mountains serve as an urban refuge and offer a variety of exceptional vistas from expansive ocean and mountain views and urban skylines to secluded canyons and miles of seashore.
- **Film-Making History** – Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area's varied coastal and mountain landscapes, in close proximity to Hollywood, played a significant role in the film industry's transition from studio production to on-location filming, as represented by Paramount Ranch, one of the best remaining examples of an early movie ranch. These landscapes continue to provide backdrops for film production today.

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area:

- **Fully Functioning Native Habitats with High Native Diversity** – Preserving the full range of native habitats ensures long-term preservation of the high biodiversity associated with the Mediterranean ecosystem.
- **Science-Informed Stewardship / Learning Laboratory** – Science guides park management, informs policy, and lays the groundwork for educating visitors and fostering stewardship. A wide range of resources at the wildland-urban interface in close proximity to research institutions and residents creates a learning laboratory for understanding the evolution of the landscape and its diverse ecosystems.
- **Habitat Connectivity** – Maintaining habitat connectivity both within and outside of the national recreation area is critical/essential for preserving native biodiversity and ecosystem function (e.g., maintaining genetic diversity, dispersal, and movement).
- **Access to Year-Round Recreation and Exploration Opportunities** – With a mild, Mediterranean type climate, the Santa Monica Mountains provide a wide variety of year-round, close to home, outdoor recreation activities. Beaches, scenic routes, and an extensive trail network provide avenues for escape and exploration.



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- **Coastal and Mountain Landscapes** – Shaped by ongoing geologic forces, the Santa Monica Mountains’ coastal and mountain scenery includes canyons, ridgelines, rocky outcrops, and 21 miles of seashore that provide the setting for visitors and residents to enjoy outdoor recreation.
- **Native American Archeology** – Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area contains more than 10,000 years of Native American history, as represented by hundreds of archeological sites such as large villages, gathering areas, and rock art. These sites, along with other evidence, are used to reconstruct ancient subsistence and settlement patterns throughout the Santa Monica Mountains and Simi Hills.
- **Filming Sites and Settings** – Filming sites and settings include movie ranches that served as an outdoor backdrop for Hollywood’s Golden Era of the movie industry, as represented by the Paramount Ranch Historic District. Filming continues today at Paramount Ranch and other locations within the park, and offers the public an opportunity to experience filmmaking.



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Other Important Resources and Values

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the park and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as “other important resources and values” (OIRV). These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the park and warrant special consideration in park planning.

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area:

- **Sites and Landscapes Representative of Southern California History** – The Santa Monica Mountains contain archeological resources, cultural landscapes, and historic sites and structures that depict important periods of southern California history including Spanish exploration, Mexican ranchos, western expansion and settlement, and modern urbanization. Themes include architecture, environmental engineering to capture and control water, the role of the automobile in shaping culture and the landscape, and amusement / entertainment. Examples of locations that illustrate these themes include Peter Strauss Ranch (amusement and discovery), King Gillette Ranch (gentlemen’s ranch / architecture), Rancho Sierra Vista (working ranches), Mulholland Highway (role of the automobile), and Franklin Canyon (environmental engineering).
- **Ethnographic Resources** – Santa Monica Mountains contain a wide range of landscapes and resources important to American Indian cultures. Satwiwa Native American Culture Center serves as a destination for a broad range of American Indian groups from across the nation. Satwiwa is a learning center for all people to share traditional and contemporary indigenous lifeways. The center is a collective effort among the Chumash, Tongva, other native peoples, and the National Park Service.
- **Paleontological Resources** – Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area has one of the most extensive and diverse assemblages of marine and terrestrial fossil material known in the national park system. There are at least 2,300 known fossil localities, representing more than a dozen fossiliferous geologic formations ranging from the late Jurassic Period to the Pleistocene Epoch.



Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all park significance statements and fundamental and other important resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Well-developed themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The themes were developed as part of the 2012 long-range interpretive plan. During the foundation planning workshop, participants provided recommendations on additional subthemes that should be addressed during future revisions of the long-range interpretive plan. A full description of subthemes and storylines developed in the 2012 interpretive plan and additional subthemes suggested by foundation workshop participants are listed in appendix B.

- **Mediterranean Ecosystem** – In a growing urban environment, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area preserves a substantial portion of the rare Mediterranean biome (ecosystem), a rapidly diminishing resource that exists in only five places in the world.
- **Escape / Open Space** – In a vast, expanding urban area, the open space of the Santa Monica Mountains provides an oasis for inspiration, renewal, and recreation.
- **Gateway to the National Park System** – Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is a gateway for discovering America’s natural wonders and cultural heritages and the need to preserve them.
- **Human Use/Cultures** – For more than 10,000 years, people have shaped this land, just as the land has shaped the people. These processes continue today.



Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area.

Special Mandates

- **Acquisition Authority (P.L. 95-625, 92 Stat. 3501) (November 10, 1978).** The enabling legislation authorized acquisition by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, transfer from any federal agency, exchange, or otherwise. The act also prohibited the acquisition of fee title to improved properties unless the Secretary determines that (1) such lands are being used, or are threatened to be used, in a manner detrimental to the recreation area, or (2) such acquisition is necessary to fulfill the purposes of the act. An improved property is (1) a detached single-family dwelling, the construction of which began before January 1, 1976, together with any land and structures that the Secretary designates to be necessary for enjoyment of the dwelling for noncommercial residential use, or (2) property and structures developed for agricultural use on or before January 1, 1978.
- **Santa Monica Mountains Zone (P.L. 95-625, 92 Stat. 3501, 3506) (November 10, 1978).** The Santa Monica Mountain Zone, comprising an additional 75,000 acres, was also established by the 1978 legislation. It extends beyond the boundaries of the national recreation area and includes the entire Santa Monica Mountain range. Local and state agencies are responsible for land use regulations within this zone, but the Secretary of the Interior retains, by law, reviewing authority on projects involving federal funds, permits, or licenses that may affect the recreation area. This authority was provided by Congress to reduce downstream impacts on recreation area resources when possible. The Santa Monica Mountain Zone incorporates watersheds and canyon slopes associated with, but not formally included in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, as well as the easternmost extension of the Santa Monica Mountains from the Hollywood freeway to include Griffith Park (general management plan 2002).



- **Santa Monica Mountains Zone Comprehensive Plan (P.L. 95-625, 92 Stat. 3504) (November 10, 1978).** The Secretary shall request the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Commission to submit a comprehensive plan, prepared in accord with this section and title 7.75 of the California Government Code (commencing with section 67 450), for the Santa Monica Mountains Zone generally depicted on the map referred to in subsection (c) of this section for approval.
- **Acquisition Authority Amendment (P.L. 96-87, 93 Stat. 666) (October 12, 1979).** Amended the act of November 10, 1978, to correct the definition of an improved noncommercial residential property to include only those detached single-family dwellings that were constructed before January 1, 1978.
- **Upper Franklin Reservoir Land Exchange (P.L. 98-572, 98 Stat. 2946) (Act of October 30, 1984).** Authorized the Secretary to exchange federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the vicinity of the Haiwee Reservoir in Inyo County for lands owned by the City of Los Angeles within the boundaries of the recreation area related to the Upper Franklin Reservoir. The lands so acquired from the city shall be transferred without cost to the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Grants an easement to the City of Los Angeles for the existing water pipeline associated with Upper Franklin Reservoir.
- **Acquisition of Property Act (P.L. 100-202, 101 Stat. 1329-223) (December 22, 1987).** Prohibits the use of appropriated funds to commence, conduct, or participate in any action in any court of law for condemnation of the property or to initiate a declaration of taking for any property in the recreation area against the owner of any inholding having a detached single-family dwelling, the construction of which began before January 1, 1978, or against the owner or his assignees of any inholding of a detached single-family dwelling the construction of which had begun before January 1, 1978, which dwelling may have been destroyed by fire, storm, or otherwise.
- **Boundary Adjustment / Land Acquisition (P.L. 107-236) (Act of October 9, 2002).** Revised the northern boundary of the national recreation area to include additional lands (3,697 acres) needed to enhance a critical wildlife corridor and a key watershed. Such additional lands may be acquired only by donation or with donated funds.

Administrative Commitments

With its complex landownership and shared management on the part of federal, state, and local park agencies, the Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area operates under a wide range of administrative commitments. This includes agreements to facilitate the operation of parklands, protect resources, and enhance visitor services; contracts; and authorizations. These commitments have a significant influence on park management and the terms and conditions of the authorizations are legally binding. They are summarized in the following list and recorded in more detail in appendix D. Too numerous to document in the foundation document are rights-of-way and easements that traverse park lands and provide rights of access for utilities, fire-fighting agencies, public works agencies, and private landowners.

- Cooperative management agreement with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
- Agreements for resource management, inventory, and monitoring with U.S. Geological Survey, Mountains Restoration Trust, and others
- Youth programs with California Conservation Corps, Outward Bound, and Nature Bridge
- Cooperative agreement with Santa Monica Mountains Fund for various park projects and programs
- Cooperative agreement with the Western National Parks Association for operation of the book store and other park programs
- Task agreements with Los Angeles Conservation Corps and Student Conservation Association for vegetation projects and cyclic maintenance
- Cooperative agreements, special use permits and research permits for limited-term activities with various universities
- Commercial use authorizations for commercial activities including, but not limited to: filming, photography, and guided tours



Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of Part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park's fundamental and other important resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
2. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)
3. analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values (see appendix C)

The identification of key issues and analysis of fundamental resources and values leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental and other important resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental and other important resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance, but which still affect them indirectly. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

Various information sources have been used to define key issues, resource conditions, and planning needs including input from park staff at the foundation workshop and from Pacific West Region program staff.

The following are key issues that convey the primary challenges for existing and future management of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The associated planning and data needs for these key issues can be found in the summary of high-priority planning and data needs tables below. Other important issues of concern identified through the foundation process then follow the key issues.

- **Regional Growth and Urbanization.** Proximity to a large and growing metropolitan area poses challenges to the protection of nationally significant resources at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Regional growth and subsequent increased development affects a host of interrelated ecosystem processes with cascading effects throughout the system, affecting water quality, fire frequency, wildlife, and vegetation.

Habitat fragmentation may be the greatest threat to natural resource preservation in the Santa Monica Mountains. Increased development and associated infrastructure is the primary cause of habitat fragmentation, both within and beyond the park boundaries. Fragmentation and connectivity loss could isolate plant and animal communities, reducing their numbers, increasing their susceptibility to environmental change, and exposing them to potential genetic deterioration. Land use change, such as development, vineyards, and illegal marijuana cultivation, leads to habitat loss and other indirect impacts as well. Climate change will probably be a further physiological stressor for many species throughout the mountains because many of these species are already at the edge of their distribution. Because the landscape is already fragmented and due to the lack of latitudinal and elevational gradients, climate change impacts will probably be exacerbated. Many populations are already stressed from other factors listed so the cumulative effects may be worse.

Native vegetation is affected by changes in fire frequency, the introduction of invasive species, pollutants from urban runoff, and ground disturbance from development and fire break clearance. Human-caused fires are increasing the natural fire frequency in what may be the most complex park for wildland-urban interface fire in the National Park Service. Nonnative species affect native habitat through competition, predation, and indirect effects such as altered ecosystem function.

- **Maintaining Relevancy and Engaging New Audiences.** Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is the nation's largest urban national park, located in one of the nation's fastest growing and most diverse urban areas. The national recreation area serves a wide range of visitors, from local residents to international tourists. However, not all communities are fully represented among park visitors. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area continues to focus outreach efforts to identify and reach out to categories of potential visitors in greater Los Angeles who currently do not visit the park. Such efforts are challenged by current demands for programs, which are limited by park capacity.

As the demographics and use patterns of visitors continue to evolve, the national recreation area is challenged to keep up with and meet the needs of today's visitors. Changes in visitor demographics can sometimes create tension with current park users, when new visitors use the park in new and different ways. Many visitors to the national recreation area, especially to its beaches and local trails, may also be unaware that they are visiting a national park unit.



- **Visitor Use and Access.** Over time, more people are accessing the mountains, creating additional pressure on both resources and facilities. Increasing visitation has both intentional and unintentional consequences on park resources. Damage to both natural and cultural resources is incurred from vandalism, poaching, marijuana cultivation, unsanctioned or social trails, illegal collection of archaeological and paleontological resources, and in some cases unplanned recreational “grading” to accommodate use (parking or trail construction).

Resource damage also occurs simply by having too many people visiting sensitive places. For some trailheads, parking needs exceed current capacity and sanitation or visitor comfort facilities for large numbers of visitors are lacking. Congestion at trailheads also impacts visitor experience, as does unauthorized trail use by some users. A greater understanding of visitation and regional growth trends could aid facility planning and inform management strategies to reduce congestion and impacts to sensitive areas and improve visitor experiences.

- **Protection of Cultural Resources.** Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area contains numerous cultural resources. However, evaluation and documentation for many cultural resources has not been completed, limiting decision-making about the protection of these resources. Cultural resources face impacts from both human and natural sources, including intentional vandalism and theft, trampling and erosion, fire, flooding, burrowing animals, rot, insects, and climate change. Sites and landscapes are affected by urban encroachment, and possibly from visitor-use impacts associated with increasing visitation. For example, within the Paramount Ranch Historic District, the historic viewshed has been impacted by recent development. Movie sets, originally designed for temporary use, are generally in need of repair and preservation. Archeological resources on privately owned land are also threatened by development and other human-use impacts resulting from trampling and other forms of physical destruction, both intentional and unintentional.

Other Important Issues

In addition to the four key issues described above, several other important park issues were identified:

- **Partnerships and Volunteers.** Partners and volunteers are fundamental to the national recreation area’s operation. Opportunities exist to further maximize the potential of partnerships improving the effectiveness of operations for the national park service and its park partners.
- **Transportation.** Many communities have a hard time reaching the national recreation area due to limited transportation options. Alternative transportation options would also help reduce the overall number of personal vehicles in the national recreation area.
- **Enhancing Law Enforcement Effectiveness.** The complexity of land ownership and proximity to urban areas challenges law enforcement effectiveness. Opportunities exist for more cooperation among law enforcement agencies within the national recreation area.
- **Climate Change.** Climate change, in conjunction with other stressors, will probably affect all aspects of park management from natural and cultural resources to park operations and visitor experience. Climate change will manifest itself not only as shifts in mean conditions (e.g., increasing mean annual temperature) but also as changes in climate variability (e.g., more intense storms and droughts). Sea level rise could affect cultural and natural resources and recreational opportunities along the shoreline. Primary threats for the Santa Monica Mountains include: increased frequency of wildfire and the area burned; plant-pollinator phenology; range shifts of plant and animal species, particularly those that are the current limit of their distribution; and added stress on amphibians. A warming climate could also affect visitation patterns and interests and invite the need for innovations to accommodate these changes. Associated with the issue of climate change is the opportunity for interpretation (of impacts), park environmental leadership, and visitor stewardship learning.



Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

Criteria and Considerations for Prioritization.

- Ability of the plan to address multiple, or interrelated, issues. For example, many visitor capacity issues are interrelated with resource protection issues.
- Emergency/urgency of the issue.
- Prevention of resource degradation. Consideration of protection of the fundamental resources or values.
- Ability to impact visitor use and experience.
- Funding availability for the planning effort, study, or data collection.
- Feasibility of completing the plan or study.
- Opportunities, including interagency partnership or assistance.

High-Priority Planning Needs

Site-Specific Planning and Operational Guidance.

Rationale, Scope, and Sequencing — The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area general management plan provides broad guidance for park management. However, site-specific guidance, which is a critical component of management at the national recreation area, is a missing component. NPS-owned lands within Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area are primarily noncontiguous blocks, connected to and interspersed by other public and private lands. NPS-owned sites contain a wide variety of resource types ranging from small historic sites such as Paramount Ranch to large backcountry areas such as Circle X Ranch and Zuma/Trancas Canyons.

Over the years, numerous development concept plans have been prepared for NPS-owned sites with implementation occurring at varying degrees. In some instances, development concept plan guidance no longer meets current conditions and visitation trends. In other cases the cost for implementation of the planned facilities are prohibitively high given current budget realities. Some development concept plan facility designs are prescriptive without providing flexibility in implementation should conditions or needs change. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area needs to establish site-specific management goals and desired conditions that allow for flexibility in implementation.

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area would approach site-specific guidance and planning in a phased manner. The first step would be development of “site-specific foundations.” For each park site, the National Park Service would identify what is most important based on the parkwide foundation document and each site’s primary resource values. The adequacy of current guidance provided in existing development concepts plans and other planning documents would also be evaluated for each site. Following this evaluation, management goals and desired conditions that would allow for flexibility or phasing in implementation would be developed. Initially, one site would be completed as a pilot. Gathering visitor use data, identified as a high-priority data need, would be a critical first step of the planning process. Other factors, such as environmental stewardship opportunities (i.e., reducing carbon footprint and waste, green operations, etc.), would be considered. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is also planning to develop a trailhead toolkit to provide broad guidance and best management practices for trailheads, which is where many visitors interface with NPS parklands. The toolkit would provide flexible guidance for site-specific planning.

Interagency Trail Management Plan (Underway).

Rationale, Scope, and Sequencing — Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area maintains and operates a trail network of more than 475 miles of trails, including formal trails, fire roads, and ranch roads. The system traverses multiple jurisdictions. Because the trail system has developed largely without regional coordination or systemwide planning, many heavily used trailheads are informal and lack sanitation facilities. The system also suffers from poor circulation and route planning, uncoordinated signage, and includes many unsanctioned social trails. There are currently no systemwide management objectives or desired future conditions to guide future development of the trail system. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is currently in the process of completing an interagency trail management plan.

The trail management plan will 1) inform multiple agencies’ decisions on the scope of the trail network and construction of trail-related facilities including trailheads, backcountry camps along the Backbone Trail, and trail direction and regulatory signage; 2) determine or confirm trail use designation; and 3) support and substantiate partner agency efforts to secure public access and seek funding for trail construction and maintenance. The trail management plan will also provide an opportunity for the national recreation area to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 4.30, which requires development of regulations and route designations for bicycle use in areas other than existing park roads. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area would also develop a trailhead toolkit, which would provide best management practices for conditions at park trailheads.

Visitor Use Management Plan.

Rationale, Scope, and Sequencing — Located in the nation’s second largest metropolitan area, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area receives a high level of visitation. Some estimates are as high as 33 million visits per year. For NPS-owned sites, annual visitation was estimated at nearly 700,000 in fiscal year 2011. At many popular trailheads and park sites, use has exceeded capacity resulting in overflowing parking lots and impacts on both natural and cultural resources. Other impacts on park sites from high levels of visitation include creation of social trails, illegal collection of archeological and paleontological resources, and vandalism.

A visitor use management plan would evaluate current visitor use patterns and characteristics, identify visitor use management goals, objectives, strategies, and tools to sustain desired resources conditions and visitor experiences. Visitor use data and research, broad-based and site-specific, would be necessary to understand and guide visitor behavior in high-use areas.

Resource Stewardship Strategy.

Rationale, Scope, and Sequencing — Neither the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area resource management plan (1999), nor the general management plan (2003), contain specific management guidance for natural and cultural resource management. A resource stewardship strategy would provide a condition assessment of the recreation area’s fundamental and other important resources and identify comprehensive strategies to achieve and maintain desired conditions for those resources. The resource stewardship strategy would provide guidance to address primary threats to fundamental resources which include vegetation type conversion, urbanization, air pollution, vandalism, climate change, recreation impacts, and changes in the fire regime. The resource stewardship strategy could also evaluate plausible climate change scenarios and identify activities to maintain ecosystem integrity by building resistance or resilience to abrupt changes brought about by climate change.





Fire Management Plan (Update).

Rationale, Scope, and Sequencing — Wildland fire is a significant issue at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area given the Mediterranean climate, increasing fire frequencies, and the mosaic of landownership. The lands within the national recreation area have been marked by frequent, large, and in many cases, destructive wildfires. In the growing wildland urban interface zone of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area there is a need to manage wildland fire so that threats to life, property, and park resources are reduced and fire's function as a natural process is maintained.

Department of the Interior agencies with vegetation capable of sustaining wildland fire are required to prepare fire management plans. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is in need of updating its fire management plan, which was last updated in 2006. The fire management plan update provides an opportunity for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to address regional scale wildfire threats, smoke management, and fuel clearance standards.

Cultural Landscape Reports.

Rationale, Scope, and Sequencing — Guidance is needed for management of cultural landscapes within Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Cultural landscape reports for Rancho Sierra Vista, Paramount Ranch, and Peter Strauss Ranch will ensure that site treatments are consistent with the landscape's significance, condition, and planned use. Cultural landscape inventories have been completed for these three sites. Although the cultural landscape inventories are adequate for inventory and very basic management purposes, they are not sufficient for planning and management of significant historic properties. Cultural landscape reports could also inform and guide site-specific planning for these areas. Completion of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area's historic resource study would provide important data and information for the development of the cultural landscape reports.

Cultural landscape inventories and determinations of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places have not yet been completed for Solstice Canyon, Cheeseboro Canyon, and the Simi Hills areas. These sites would also benefit from cultural landscape reports to guide future management.

Long-Term Preservation Guide.

Rationale, Scope, and Sequencing — A long-term preservation guide would provide guidelines for day-to-day maintenance of historic structures (those identified in the List of Classified Structures and/or historic resource study) at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in order to meet the Secretary of the Interior's standards for historic preservation.

Integrated Identity and Wayfinding Pilot Program (Underway).

Rationale, Scope, and Sequencing — Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area has been described as a park hidden within plain view. Signing consistency is needed at the state, federal, and local level for both regulations and directional guidance. A wayfinding pilot program is underway to improve consistency in signing throughout the national recreation area. The goal of the wayfinding pilot program is to physically and conceptually connect the individual agency sites into one place – the Santa Monica Mountains. This will be achieved through an integrated identity and wayfinding approach.

High-Priority Data Needs

Visitor Use Data and Studies.

Greater understanding of park visitation patterns and the visitor use needs of surrounding communities is needed for planning decisions, visitor use management, and interpretive and educational programming. Visitor use data will feed into other planning efforts including site-specific management plans and the visitor use management plan and assist the park in planning to accommodate changing demographics and recreational interests. Visitor use forecasting and research on recreational preferences of surrounding communities are needed to plan for future facilities and develop programming to engage new audiences.

Visitor use data collection efforts would include:

- **Park-led visitation studies** – This would include simple counts of when and how visitors use NPS-owned park sites and the number and types of users at various sites. Information could be collected through trailhead counts conducted by park volunteers and through careful placement of traffic counters at trailheads and other park destinations.
- **Recreational use survey update** – The last recreational use survey for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area was conducted in 2002. This survey could be repeated to assess any changes in trail use and the types of recreation that is being undertaken.
- **Community surveys** – Community surveys on where surrounding residents recreate and their recreational preferences could help Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area provide visitor opportunities that better serve local communities. Park staff can also compare nearby sites and what draws people from one park to another.
- **Sociological studies** – Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area would evaluate how different cultural groups recreate, historical attitudes towards nature and outdoor recreation, and identify historical cultural ties to the Santa Monica Mountains. The National Park Service could partner with the U.S. Forest Service, which has conducted extensive sociological studies on how different cultural groups recreate.
- **User Demographics** – This would include studies of current user demographics and demographic information for communities that are under-served, or lack adequate access to parks and open space.
- **Formal NPS Visitor Use Survey** – Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is due for an update of the formal visitor use survey conducted by the National Park Service. The last visitor use survey was conducted in 1993. The survey instrument would need to be designed to apply to both state and federal lands within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to accurately assess visitor use patterns.
- **Visitor use growth trends and projections** – Understanding regional growth patterns and the potential effects on visitor use at various park sites would inform visitor management, site planning, and land protection efforts.

Historic Resource Study (Underway).

A historic resource study would provide a historical overview of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and identify and evaluate the park's cultural resources within historic contexts. It would synthesize all available cultural resource information from all disciplines in a narrative that would inform managers, planners, interpreters, cultural resource specialists, and the interested public as a reference for the history of the region and the resources within a park. It includes the preparation of national register nominations for all qualifying resources and is a principal tool for completing the cultural landscapes inventory and the List of Classified Structures. A historic resource study could help set priorities for cultural resource management and ensure that the various cultural aspects of the park are all being represented in decision-making efforts.

Archeological Overview and Assessment (Underway).

Completion of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area archeological overview and assessment would provide important management guidance and is a critical first step in determining the requirements for additional archeological research. This report describes and assesses the known and potential archeological resources.

Historic Structure Reports for Peter Strauss Ranch and Rancho Sierra Vista.

Historic structure reports will provide direction for treatment and improvements for facilities at Peter Strauss Ranch and Rancho Sierra Vista.

Wildlife Habitat Fragmentation and Corridor Studies.

The success of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area efforts to preserve nationally significant flora and fauna depend on connectivity to broader regional habitat corridors. Such corridors connect open space for large and small animals, both within the recreation area (e.g., between large core park areas) and outside of the park to other open spaces such as the Santa Susana, San Gabriel, and Topatopa Mountains.

Natural Resource Monitoring and Inventory Needs.

The following natural resource monitoring and inventory data needs would inform management decisions by providing information critical for understanding resource status and maintaining biodiversity: water quality; herpetofauna; avian; carnivore; invasive species; invertebrate; rare plant and animal populations; vegetation communities; landscape change; air quality and deposition; and habitat quality. Opportunities exist to engage citizen scientists (e.g., birders) in the collection of such data.

Climate Change Scenario Planning.

Climate change scenario planning is a living process that organizes available information (e.g., resource inventories and condition assessments, climate change vulnerability assessments, historic and projected climate trends) into a new way of strategically planning and managing within the context of uncertain climate futures. As new information and observations are made available, adjustments are incorporated into the process when warranted. Outcomes from this planning effort have application to fundamental natural and cultural resources, park facilities and operations, interpretation/education, and visitor needs.

Cost Recovery Analysis (Underway).

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area issues numerous special permits for filming, special events, photography, and other activities. The cost recovery analysis would evaluate the costs of maintaining those facilities most commonly used for special use permits and evaluate how such costs might be recovered through permit fees.

Partnerships Evaluation/Strategy.

Partnerships are fundamental to management of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The partnerships evaluation would analyze the effectiveness of current formal and informal partnerships and explore opportunities to improve and enhance existing partnerships while expanding efforts to unreached constituencies.

Additional Related Plans and Studies Underway

For descriptions of recently completed and ongoing planning efforts and studies that address key park issues, see “Appendix E, Past and Ongoing Park Planning and Data Collection Efforts.”

Summary of High-Priority Planning Needs		
High-Priority Planning Needs	Key Issues Addressed	FRV/OIRV
Site-specific planning and operational guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use and access • Protection of cultural resources • Maintaining relevancy and engaging new audiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All FRVs and OIRVs
Interagency trail management plan (underway)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use and access • Maintaining relevancy and engaging new audiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to year-round recreation and exploration
Comprehensive sign plan / wayfinding pilot program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use and access • Maintaining relevancy and engaging new audiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to year-round recreation and exploration
Visitor use management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use and access • Maintaining relevancy and engaging new audiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All FRVs and OIRVs
Resource stewardship strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional growth and urbanization • Protection of cultural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American archeology • Ethnographic resources • Habitat connectivity • Fully functioning native habitats with high native diversity • Science-informed stewardship/learning laboratory • Filming sites and settings • Sites and landscapes representative of Southern California history
Fire management plan (update)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional growth and urbanization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully functioning native habitats with high native diversity
Cultural landscape reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of cultural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filming sites and settings • Sites and landscapes representative of Southern California history
Long-term preservation guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of cultural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filming sites and settings • Sites and landscapes representative of Southern California history

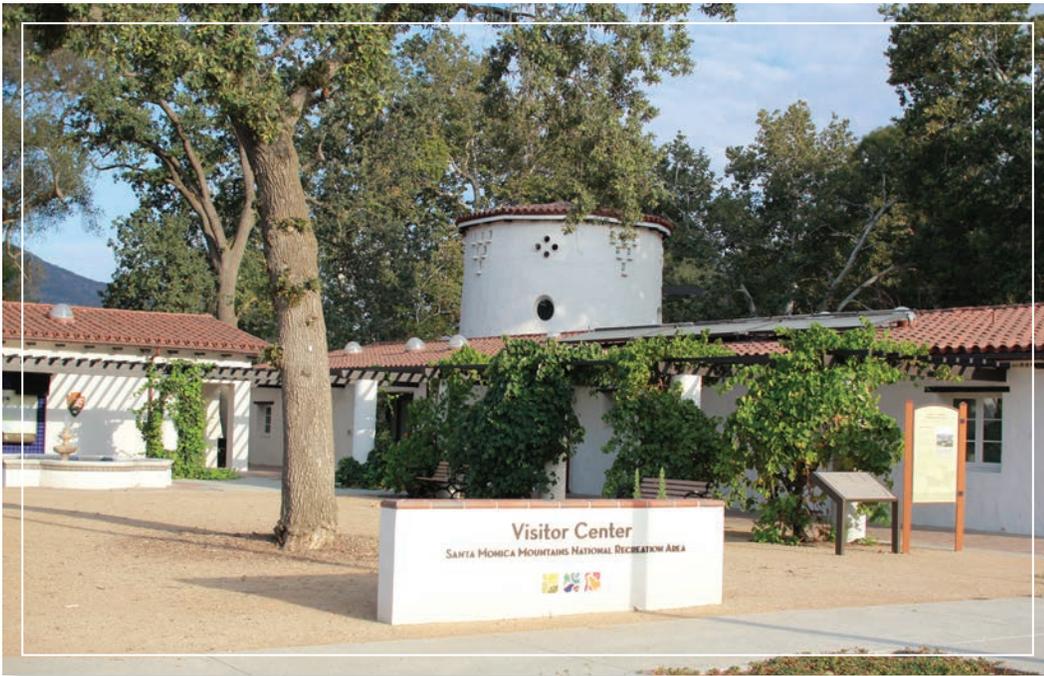
Summary of High-Priority Data Needs		
High-Priority Data Needs	Key Issues Addressed	FRV/OIRV
Visitor use data and studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use and access • Maintaining relevancy and engaging new audiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to year-round recreation and exploration
Historic resource study (underway)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of cultural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filming sites and settings • Sites and landscapes representative of Southern California history
Archeological overview and assessment (underway)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of cultural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American archeology • Ethnographic resources
Historic structures reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of cultural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filming sites and settings • Sites and landscapes representative of Southern California history
Wildlife habitat fragmentation and corridor studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional growth and urbanization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat connectivity • Fully functioning native habitats with high native diversity • Science-informed stewardship/ learning laboratory • Coastal and mountain landscapes
Natural resource monitoring and inventory needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional growth and urbanization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat connectivity • Fully functioning native habitats with high native diversity • Science-informed stewardship/ learning laboratory
Climate change scenario planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional growth and urbanization • Visitor access and capacity • Protection of cultural resources • Protection of natural resources, sustainable facilities, and park operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat connectivity • Fully functioning native habitats with high native diversity • Protection of cultural resources • Native American archeology • Sites and landscapes representative of Southern California history
Cost recovery analysis (underway)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor access and capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Outreach partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can assist in addressing all four key park issues concerning outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can assist in protection of most fundamental resources and values

Summary of Other Planning and Data Needs

Medium-Priority/Low-Priority Planning and Data Needs	Priority (M, L)
Natural Resources	
Plans	
Partnership plan for habitat connectivity – Work with agencies (Caltrans and others) and landowners to develop strategies for protecting wildlife connectivity other than land management; A plan would encourage commitments and buy-in. Best management practices for protecting wildlife connectivity would be a component of the plan	M
Fuels management plan (underway)	L
Vegetation management plan	L
Data Needs and Studies	
Air quality monitoring	M
Biophysical inventory of shoreline	M
Effects of climate change on plant and animal communities	M
Data on the effects of loss of habitat connectivity on plants	M
Fire frequency monitoring (ongoing)	M
Fire ignition – locations and causes	M
Citizen science prospectus	L
Data on the effects of roads on small animals	L
Inventories of wetlands, estuarine, and other shoreline habitat	L
More natural resource studies on the east side of the mountains, within our boundaries, but in the more urbanized areas	L
Post-burn surveys for plant and animal communities	L
Sea level rise and storm surge modeling by the U.S. Geological Survey	L
Studies of urban impacts on resources	L
Studies on uses of beaches and estuarine ecosystems	L
Water inventory	L



Medium-Priority/Low-Priority Planning and Data Needs		Priority (M, L)
Cultural Resources		
Plans		
Archeological site stewardship plan – To address archeological sites that are easily accessible and the most vulnerable to visitor caused impacts		M
Update museum management plan		L
Data Needs and Studies		
Archeological GIS data		M
Archeological Sites Information Management System update		M
Collection of oral histories		M
Cultural resource condition assessment – Summarizes cultural resources to inform both state of the park report and resource stewardship strategy. Identifies information on cultural resource program requirements and prioritizes needed plans, studies, inventories, etc.		M
Determination of Eligibility for National Register of Historic Places designation for Morrison House, Arroyo Sequit, Franklin Canyon, Solstice Canyon		M
Section 110 archeological surveys at Paramount Ranch, Peter Strauss Ranch, Rancho Sierra Vista, and Backbone Trail		M
Comprehensive geo-referenced digital database of historic photos		L
Collection condition survey		L
Cultural landscape inventories for Cheeseboro Canyon, Simi Hills, Arroyo Sequit		L
Visitor Experience		
Plans		
Backcountry management plan		L
Climbing management plan (potential to combine with backcountry management plan)		L
Overnight stay strategy – Explore ways to provide more opportunities for visitors to stay in the park and have a more guided/facilitated experience for new audiences		L
Data Needs and Studies		
Studies on uses of the Los Angeles River		M
Study concerning evolving technologies and how to stay current as technologies evolve		M
Evaluation of educational program effectiveness		L
Inventory of existing transit and bicycle options		L



Medium-Priority/Low-Priority Planning and Data Needs		Priority (M, L)
Facilities, Operations, and Land Protection		
Plans		
Plan for joint/interagency law enforcement training (NPS, CSP, MRCA)		M
Strategic plan for volunteerism (with partners): Could help identify and prioritize work for volunteers		L
Structural fire management plan – Need defensible space and a plan to protect structures and contents (some irreplaceable) from fire damage		L
Update land protection plan – To reflect future recreational needs, improve habitat connectivity, take into account potential species shifts as a result of climate change		L
Data Needs and Studies		
Administrative history – To consolidate the history of the park’s partnerships and relationships into a single document		M
Spatial geographic studies of the temporal and geographic nature of the arson threat		M
Document the economic benefits of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area		L

Analysis of Fundamental and Other Important Resources and Values

The fundamental and other important resource or value analysis tables include current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.

Please see appendix C for the analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values.

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Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

PUBLIC LAW 95-625—NOV. 10, 1978

92 STAT. 3501

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

SEC. 507. (a) The Congress finds that—

16 USC 460kk.

(1) there are significant scenic, recreational, educational, scientific, natural, archeological, and public health benefits provided by the Santa Monica Mountains and adjacent coastline area;

(2) there is a national interest in protecting and preserving these benefits for the residents of and visitors to the area; and

(3) the State of California and its local units of government have authority to prevent or minimize adverse uses of the Santa Monica Mountains and adjacent coastline area and can, to a great extent, protect the health, safety, and general welfare by the use of such authority.

(b) There is hereby established the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (hereinafter referred to as the “recreation area”). The Secretary shall manage the recreation area in a manner which will preserve and enhance its scenic, natural, and historical setting and its public health value as an airshed for the Southern California metropolitan area while providing for the recreational and educational need of the visiting public.

Establishment.

Management.

(c) (1) The recreation area shall consist of the lands and waters and interests generally depicted as the recreation area on the map entitled “Boundary Map, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, California, and Santa Monica Mountains Zone”, numbered SMM-NRA 80,000, and dated May 1978, which shall be on file and available for inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, District of Columbia, and in the offices of the General Services Administration in the Federal Office Building in West Los Angeles, California, and in the main public library in Ventura, California. After advising the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate, in writing, the Secretary may make minor revisions of the boundaries of the recreation area when necessary by publication of a revised drawing or other boundary description in the Federal Register.

Description.

Boundary revisions, notice to congressional committees and publication in Federal Register

(2) Not later than ninety days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, after consultation with the Governor of the State of California, the California Coastal Commission, and the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Commission, shall commence acquisition of lands, improvements, waters, or interests therein within the recreation area. Such acquisition may be by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, transfer from any Federal agency, exchange, or otherwise. Any lands or interests therein owned by the State of California or any political subdivision thereof (including any park district or other public entity) may be acquired only by

Lands, waters, and interests, acquisition and consultation.

donation, except that such lands acquired after the date of enactment of this section by the State of California or its political subdivisions may be acquired by purchase or exchange if the Secretary determines that the lands were acquired for purposes which further the national interest in protecting the area and that the purchase price or value on exchange does not exceed fair market value on the date that the State acquired the land or interest: *Provided, however,* That the value of any lands acquired by the Secretary under the exception in this sentence shall be deducted from the amount of moneys available for grants to the State under subsection (n) of this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any Federal property located within the boundaries of the recreation area shall, with the concurrence of the head of the agency having custody thereof, be transferred without cost, to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for the purposes of the recreation area.

Federal property, transferral.

Site transferral. (3) The Administrator of the General Services Administration is hereby authorized and directed to transfer the site generally known as Nike Site 78 to the Secretary for inclusion in the recreation area: *Provided,* That the county of Los Angeles shall be permitted to continue to use without charge the facilities together with sufficient land as in the determination of the Secretary shall be necessary to continue to maintain and operate a fire suppression and training facility and shall be excused from payment for any use of the land and facilities on the site prior to the enactment of this Act. At such time as the county of Los Angeles, California, relinquishes control of such facilities and adjacent land or ceases the operation of the fire suppression and training facility, the land and facilities shall be managed by the Secretary as a part of the recreation area.

Lands, waters, and interests, identification. (d) (1) Within six months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall identify the lands, waters, and interests within the recreation area which must be acquired and held in public ownership for the following critical purposes: preservation of beaches and coastal uplands; protection of undeveloped inland stream drainage basins; connection of existing State and local government parks and other publicly owned lands to enhance their potential for public recreation use; protection of existing park roads and scenic corridors, including such right-of-way as is necessary for the protection of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Corridor; protection of the public health and welfare; and development and interpretation of historic sites and recreation areas in connection therewith, to include, but not be limited to, parks, picnic areas, scenic overlooks, hiking trails, bicycle trails, and equestrian trails. The Secretary may from time to time revise the identification of such areas, and any such revisions shall become effective in the same manner as herein provided for revisions in the boundaries of the recreation area.

Revisions.

Plan, submittal to congressional committees. (2) By January 1, 1980, the Secretary shall submit, in writing, to the committees referred to in subsection (c) and to the Committees on Appropriations of the United States Congress a detailed plan which shall indicate—

- (A) the lands and areas identified in paragraph (1),
- (B) the lands which he has previously acquired by purchase, donation, exchange, or transfer for the purpose of this recreation area,
- (C) the annual acquisition program (including the level of funding) recommended for the ensuing five fiscal years, and
- (D) the final boundary map for the recreation area.

PUBLIC LAW 95-625—NOV. 10, 1978

92 STAT. 3503

(e) With respect to improved properties, as defined in this section, fee title shall not be acquired unless the Secretary finds that such lands are being used, or are threatened with uses, which are detrimental to the purposes of the recreation area, or unless each acquisition is necessary to fulfill the purposes of this section. The Secretary may acquire scenic easements to such improved property or such other interests as, in his judgment are necessary for the purposes of the recreation area.

Improved properties, acquisition.

Scenic easements.

(f) For the purposes of this section, the term "improved property" means—

Definition.

(1) a detached single-family dwelling, the construction of which was begun before January 1, 1976 (hereafter referred to as "dwelling"), together with so much of the land on which the dwelling is situated as is in the same ownership as the dwelling and as the Secretary designates to be reasonably necessary for the enjoyment of the dwelling for the sole purpose of noncommercial residential use, together with any structures necessary to the dwelling which are situated on the land so designated, and

(2) property developed for agricultural uses, together with any structures accessory thereto as were used for agricultural purposes on or before January 1, 1978.

In determining when and to what extent a property is to be treated as "improved property" for purposes of this section, the Secretary shall take into consideration the manner of use of such buildings and lands prior to January 1, 1978, and shall designate such lands as are reasonably necessary for the continued enjoyment of the property in the same manner and to the same extent as existed prior to such date.

Designation.

(g) The owner of an improved property, as defined in this section, on the date of its acquisition, as a condition of such acquisition, may retain for herself or himself, her or his heirs and assigns, a right of use and occupancy of the improved property for noncommercial residential or agriculture purposes, as the case may be, for a definite term of not more than twenty-five years, or, in lieu thereof, for a term ending at the death of the owner or the death of her or his spouse, whichever is later. The owner shall elect the term to be reserved. Unless the property is wholly or partially donated, the Secretary shall pay to the owner the fair market value of the property on the date of its acquisition, less the fair market value on that date of the right retained by the owner. A right retained by the owner pursuant to this section shall be subject to termination by the Secretary upon his determination that it is being exercised in a manner inconsistent with the purposes of this section, and it shall terminate by operation of law upon notification by the Secretary to the holder of the right of such determination and tendering to him the amount equal to the fair market value of that portion which remains unexpired.

Use and occupancy rights, retention.

Payment.

Termination, notification.

(h) In exercising the authority to acquire property under this section, the Secretary shall give prompt and careful consideration to any offer made by an individual owning property within the recreation area to sell such property, if such individual notifies the Secretary that the continued ownership of such property is causing, or would result in, undue hardship.

(i) The Secretary shall administer the recreation area in accordance with this Act and provisions of laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.). In the administration of the recreation area, the Secretary may utilize such statutory authority

Administration.

available for the conservation and management of wildlife and natural resources as appropriate to carry out the purpose of this section. The fragile resource areas of the recreation area shall be administered on a low-intensity basis, as determined by the Secretary.

Cooperative agreements.

(j) The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of California, or any political subdivision thereof, for the rendering, on a reimbursable basis, of rescue, firefighting, and law enforcement services and cooperative assistance by nearby law enforcement and fire preventive agencies.

Donations.

(k) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is authorized to accept donations of funds, property, or services from individuals, foundations, corporations, or public entities for the purpose of land acquisition and providing services and facilities which the Secretary deems consistent with the purposes of this section.

Report.

(l) By January 1, 1981, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Advisory Commission, established by this section, shall submit a report to the Secretary which shall—

(1) assess the capability and willingness of the State of California and the local units of government to manage and operate the recreation area,

(2) recommend any changes in ownership, management, and operation which would better accomplish the purposes of this section, and

(3) recommend any conditions, joint management agreements, or other land use mechanisms to be contingent on any transfer of land.

Report to congressional committees.

(m) The Secretary, after giving careful consideration to the recommendations set forth by the Advisory Commission, shall, by January 1, 1982, submit a report to the Committees referred to in subsection (c) which shall incorporate the recommendations of the Advisory Commission as well as set forth the Secretary's recommendations. Such report shall—

(1) assess the benefits and costs of continued management as a unit of the National Park System,

(2) assess the capability and willingness of the State of California and the local units of government to manage and operate the recreation area, and

(3) recommend any changes in ownership, management, and operation which would better accomplish the purposes of this section.

Comprehensive plan.

(n) (1) The Secretary shall request the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Commission to submit a comprehensive plan, prepared in accord with this section and title 7.75 of the California Government Code (commencing with section 67450), for the Santa Monica Mountains Zone generally depicted on the map referred to in subsection (c) of this section for approval.

(2) The comprehensive plan shall include, in addition to the requirements of California State law—

(A) an identification and designation of public and private uses which are compatible with and which would not significantly impair the significant scenic, recreational, educational, scientific, natural, archeological, and public health benefits present in the zone and which would not have an adverse impact on the recreation area or on the air quality of the south coast air basin;

(B) a specific minimum land acquisition program which shall include, but not be limited to, fee and less than fee acquisition

of strategic and critical sites not to be acquired by the Federal Government for public recreational and other related uses; and a program for the complementary use of State and local authority to regulate the use of lands and waters within the Santa Monica Mountains Zone to the fullest extent practicable consistent with the purposes of this section; and

(C) a recreation transportation system which may include but need not be limited to existing public transit.

(3) No plan submitted to the Secretary under this section shall be approved unless the Secretary finds the plan consistent with paragraph (2) and finds that—

(A) the planning commission has afforded adequate opportunity, including public hearings, for public involvement in the preparation and review of the plan, and public comments were received and considered in the plan or revision as presented to him;

(B) the State and local units of government identified in the plan as responsible for implementing its provisions have the necessary authority to implement the plan and such State and local units of government have indicated their intention to use such authority to implement the plan;

(C) the plan, if implemented, would preserve significant natural, historical, and archeological benefits and, consistent with such benefits, provide increased recreational opportunities for persons residing in the greater Los Angeles-southern California metropolitan area; and

(D) implementation of the plan would not have a serious adverse impact on the air quality or public health of the greater Los Angeles region.

Before making his findings on the air quality and public health impacts of the plan, the Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Consultation with EPA.

(4) Following approval of the plan with respect to the Santa Monica Mountains Zone, upon receipt of adequate assurances that all aspects of that jurisdiction's implementation responsibilities will be adopted and put into effect, the Secretary shall—

(A) provide grants to the State and through the State to local governmental bodies for acquisition of lands, waters, and interests therein identified in paragraph (2) (B), and for development of essential public facilities, except that such grants shall be made only for the acquisition of lands, waters, and interests therein, and related essential public facilities, for park, recreation, and conservation purposes; and

Grants.

(B) provide, subject to agreements that in the opinion of the Secretary will assure additional preservation of the lands and waters of the zone, such funds as may be necessary to retire bonded indebtedness for water and sewer and other utilities already incurred by property owners which in the opinion of the Secretary would if left outstanding contribute to further development of the zone in a manner inconsistent with the approved plan developed by the planning commission.

Funds.

No grant for acquisition of land may be made under subparagraph (A) unless the Secretary receives satisfactory assurances that such lands acquired under subparagraph (A) shall not be converted to other than park, recreation, and conservation purposes without the approval of the Secretary and without provision for suitable replacement land.

Assurance requirements.

Grant requirements.

Plan changes.

Comments.

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Advisory Commission. Establishment. Membership.

Meetings. Notice, publication in newspapers.

(5) Grants under this section shall be made only upon application of the recipient State and shall be in addition to any other Federal financial assistance for any other program, and shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Any jurisdiction that implements changes to the approved plan which are inconsistent with the purposes of this section, or adopts or acquiesces in changes to laws regulations or policies necessary to implement or protect the approved plan, without approval of the Secretary, may be liable for reimbursement of all funds previously granted or available to it under the terms of this section without regard to such additional terms and conditions or other requirements of law that may be applicable to such grants. During the life of the planning commission, changes to the plan must be submitted by the planning commission to the Secretary for approval. No such application for a grant may be made after the date five years from the date of the Secretary's approval of the plan.

(o) The head of any Federal agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed Federal or federally assisted undertaking in the lands and waters within the Santa Monica Mountains Zone, generally depicted on the map referred to in subsection (c), and the head of any Federal agency having authority to license or permit any undertaking in such lands and waters shall, prior to the approval of the expenditure of any Federal funds on such undertaking or prior to the issuance of any license or permit, as the case may be, afford the Secretary a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to such undertaking and shall give due consideration to any comments made by the Secretary and to the effect of such undertaking on the "findings" and purposes of this section.

(p) The Secretary shall give full consideration to the recommendations of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Commission, and the California Coastal Commission.

(q) (1) There is hereby established the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Advisory Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Advisory Commission"). The Advisory Commission shall terminate ten years after the date of establishment of the recreation area.

(2) The Advisory Commission shall be composed of the following members to serve for terms of five years as follows:

(A) one member appointed by the Governor of the State of California;

(B) one member appointed by the mayor of the city of Los Angeles;

(C) one member appointed by the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County;

(D) one member appointed by the Board of Supervisors of Ventura County; and

(E) five members appointed by the Secretary, one of whom shall serve as the Commission Chairperson.

(3) The Advisory Commission shall meet on a regular basis. Notice of meetings and agenda shall be published in local newspapers which have a distribution which generally covers the area. Commission meetings shall be held at locations and in such a manner as to insure adequate public involvement. Such locations shall be in the region of the Santa Monica Mountains and no more than twenty-five miles from it.

PUBLIC LAW 95-625—NOV. 10, 1978

92 STAT. 3507

(4) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation as such, but the Secretary may pay expenses reasonably incurred in carrying out their responsibilities under this Act on vouchers signed by the Chairperson.

Compensation and expenses.

(5) The Secretary, or his or her designee, shall from time to time but at least semiannually, meet and consult with the Advisory Commission on matters relating to the development of this recreation area and with respect to carrying out the provisions of this section.

Consultation.

(r) There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for acquisition of lands and interests in land within the boundaries of the recreation area established under this section, but not more than \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 1979, \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 1980, \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 1981, \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1982, and \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 1983, such sums to remain available until expended. For grants to the State pursuant to subsection (n) there are authorized to be appropriated not more than \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1979, \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1980, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1981, and \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1982, such sums to remain available until expended. For the authorizations made in this subsection, any amounts authorized but not appropriated in any fiscal year shall remain available for appropriation in succeeding fiscal years.

Appropriation authorization.

(s) For the development of essential public facilities in the recreation area there are authorized to be appropriated not more than \$500,000. The Congress expects that, at least until assessment of the report required by subsection (t), any further development of the area shall be accomplished by the State of California or local units of government, subject to the approval of the Director, National Park Service.

(t) Within two years from the date of establishment of the recreation area pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall, after consulting with the Advisory Commission, develop and transmit to the Committees referred to in subsection (c) a general management plan for the recreation area consistent with the objectives of this section. Such plan shall indicate—

Management plan, transmittal to Congress.

(1) a plan for visitor use including the facilities needed to accommodate the health, safety, education and recreation needs of the public;

(2) the location and estimated costs of all facilities;

(3) the projected need for any additional facilities within the area;

(4) any additions or alterations to the boundaries of the recreation area which are necessary or desirable to the better carrying out of the purposes of this section; and

(5) a plan for preservation of scenic, archeological and natural values and of fragile ecological areas.

93 STAT. 664

PUBLIC LAW 96-87—OCT. 12, 1979

An Act

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide for the commemoration of the efforts of Goodloe Byron to protect the Appalachian Trail, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE IV

SEC. 401. The National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, approved November 10, 1978 (92 Stat. 3467), is amended as follows:

(j) Section 507(f), re: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, is amended by changing "January 1, 1976" to "January 1, 1978".

98 STAT. 2946

PUBLIC LAW 98-572—OCT. 30, 1984

Public Law 98-572
98th Congress

An Act

Oct. 30, 1984
[H.R. 3331]

To authorize the exchange of certain lands between the Bureau of Land Management and the city of Los Angeles for purposes of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Public lands.
16 USC 460kk.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 507(c)(2) of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (92 Stat. 3501) is amended by—

- (1) inserting "(A)" after "(2)";
- (2) striking out "Any" in the third sentence thereof and substituting "Except as provided in subparagraph (B), any"; and
- (3) adding the following new subparagraphs at the end thereof:

43 USC 1716.

"(B) The Secretary shall negotiate, and carry out, and exchange with the city of Los Angeles (acting through its department of water and power) of certain federally owned lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the vicinity of the Haiwee Reservoir in Inyo County for certain lands owned by the city of Los Angeles which are associated with the Upper Franklin Reservoir in the city of Los Angeles. Lands acquired by the Secretary pursuant to such exchange shall be transferred without cost to the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service for inclusion within the recreation area. The Secretary shall include in such exchange a provision for an easement to be granted to the city of Los Angeles for the existing water pipeline associated with the Upper Franklin Reservoir and for the city of Los Angeles to provide for replacement water to maintain the water elevations of the Franklin Reservoir to the current levels. The values of lands exchanged under this provision shall be equal, or shall be equalized, in the same manner as provided in section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

"(C) The city shall assume full responsibility for the protection of cultural resources and shall develop a cultural resource management program for the public lands to be transferred to the city in the vicinity of the Haiwee Reservoir. The program shall be developed in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation."

Approved October 30, 1984.

101 STAT. 1329-223 PUBLIC LAW 100-202—DEC. 22, 1987

None of the funds in this Act or any other Act may be used to commence, conduct, or participate in any action in any court of law for condemnation of the property or to initiate a declaration of taking for any property in the Santa Monica Mountains NRA, California against the owner of any inholding having a detached single-family dwelling the construction of which had been begun before January 1, 1978, or against the owner or his assignees of any inholding of a detached single-family dwelling the construction of which had been begun before January 1, 1978, which dwelling may have been destroyed by fire, storm or otherwise.

Public Law 107-236
107th Congress

An Act

To adjust the boundaries of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

Oct. 9, 2002
[H.R. 640]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act".

Santa Monica
Mountains
National
Recreation Area
Adjustment Act.
California.
16 USC 1 note.

SEC. 2. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

Section 507(c) of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (92 Stat. 3501; 16 U.S.C. 460kk) establishing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "Boundary Map, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, California, and Santa Monica Mountains Zone", numbered SMM-NRA 80,000, and dated May 1978" and inserting "Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and Santa Monica Mountains Zone, California, Boundary Map", numbered 80,047-C and dated August 2001"; and

(2) by adding the following sentence after the third sentence of paragraph (2)(A): "Lands within the 'Wildlife Corridor Expansion Zone' identified on the boundary map referred to in paragraph (1) may be acquired only by donation or with donated funds."

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Section 507 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (92 Stat. 3501; 16 U.S.C. 460kk) establishing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking "Committee on Natural Resources" and inserting "Committee on Resources";

(2) in subsection (c)(2)(B), by striking "of certain" in the first sentence and inserting "certain"; and

(3) in subsection (n)(5), by striking "laws" in the second sentence and inserting "laws,".

Approved October 9, 2002.

Appendix B: Supplementary Notes on Interpretive Subthemes

Participants of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area foundation workshop held in July/August 2013 reviewed recently developed interpretive themes described in the park's 2012 long-range interpretive plan. Participants were specifically asked to review the recently developed themes and identify whether the current themes reflect the foundation statements developed during the workshop. A smaller working group of staff from the Interpretation Division and planning team met following the workshop to discuss comments on the interpretive themes provided by the workshop participants.

Generally, the working group concluded that the combination of primary interpretive themes and subthemes captured many of the topics related to national significance statements and fundamental resources and values included in the foundation document. One exception was paleontological resources.

The group also reviewed subthemes from the long-range interpretive plan that describe more specific stories or messages associated with the broader interpretive themes. Those subthemes are:

- **Escape / Open Space:** In a vast, expanding urban area, the open space of the Santa Monica Mountains provides an oasis for inspiration, renewal, and recreation.

Sub-themes:

- Located near one of the nation's most populated metropolitan areas, the almost 154,000-acre Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area offers a wide array of outdoor recreational experiences.
- The diverse scenic, natural, and cultural landscapes of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area offer many opportunities to experience solitude, engage in quiet contemplation, and draw inspiration from the region's long human history and immersion in the natural world.
- Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area serves as a gateway from our 21st-century urban environment into the natural world.
- **Human Use / Cultures:** For over 10,000 years, people have shaped this land, just as the land has shaped the people. These processes continue today.

Sub-themes:

- The Chumash, Gabrielino-Tongva, and other Native American people have called the Santa Monica Mountains home for at least 10,000 years and their descendants live here today.
- Settlers, ranchers, and other more recent arrivals, drawn to the resources of the Santa Monica Mountains, have changed and continue to change the ecology of the landscape.
- Architecture, filmmaking, and other art forms contribute to a popular worldview of the southern California culture.
- Numerous extant historic ranches in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area exemplify the evolving attitudes and economics of land use, the tensions between preservation and exploitation, and the continuing pressures of human incursions on natural ecosystems.
- Movement of people through the area has affected the landscape of the Santa Monica Mountains throughout human history, as people have traveled, explored, and experienced the resources and assets of the region.

- **Mediterranean Ecosystem:** In a growing urban environment, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area preserves a substantial portion of the rare Mediterranean biome (ecosystem), a rapidly diminishing resource that exists in only five places in the world.

Sub-themes:

- The unique factors creating the Mediterranean ecosystem include hot dry summers, mild wet winters, drought-adapted shrublands, and fire ecology.
 - The Mediterranean ecosystem needs protection as one of earth's smallest, most biologically diverse, and most threatened biomes (land types), composing 2% of the world's landmass.
 - Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is a vital part of the watershed and water supply for greater Los Angeles.
 - Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area plays an important role in the airshed and air quality of greater Los Angeles.
 - Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is a vital resource for education and research in a variety of fields for visitors of all ages, interests, and levels of training.
 - The geological processes that created the Santa Monica Mountains has and continues to exert powerful influences on the park's fragile Mediterranean biome.
 - Climate change and other environmental changes present challenges and opportunities for stewardship in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.
- **Gateway to the National Park System:** Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is a gateway for discovering America's natural wonders and cultural heritages and the need to preserve them.

Sub-themes:

- The Santa Monica Mountains area is a mosaic of public and private land ownership where involved citizens and public agencies work toward a common vision of stewardship, conservation, and preservation.
- The establishment of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area represents a major step—a workable, collaborative framework for action—in preserving this unique landscape for the enjoyment of current and future generations.
- National recreation areas such as the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area are an example of the many kinds of collaborative ventures the National Park Service engages in to protect our nation's special places for future generations.

Considerations for Future Revision of Interpretive Sub-themes

Upon reviewing the sub-themes workshop participants found that some subthemes could be clarified and expanded on, particularly sub-themes related to water supply and air quality. The following subtheme topics were identified for further consideration upon future revision of the long-range interpretive plan:

- Film-making
- Science and research
- Water supply and air quality
- Paleontological resources
- Natural resource topics such as wildlife, habitat connectivity, geology and the urban wildland interface

Appendix C: Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values / Other Important Resources and Values

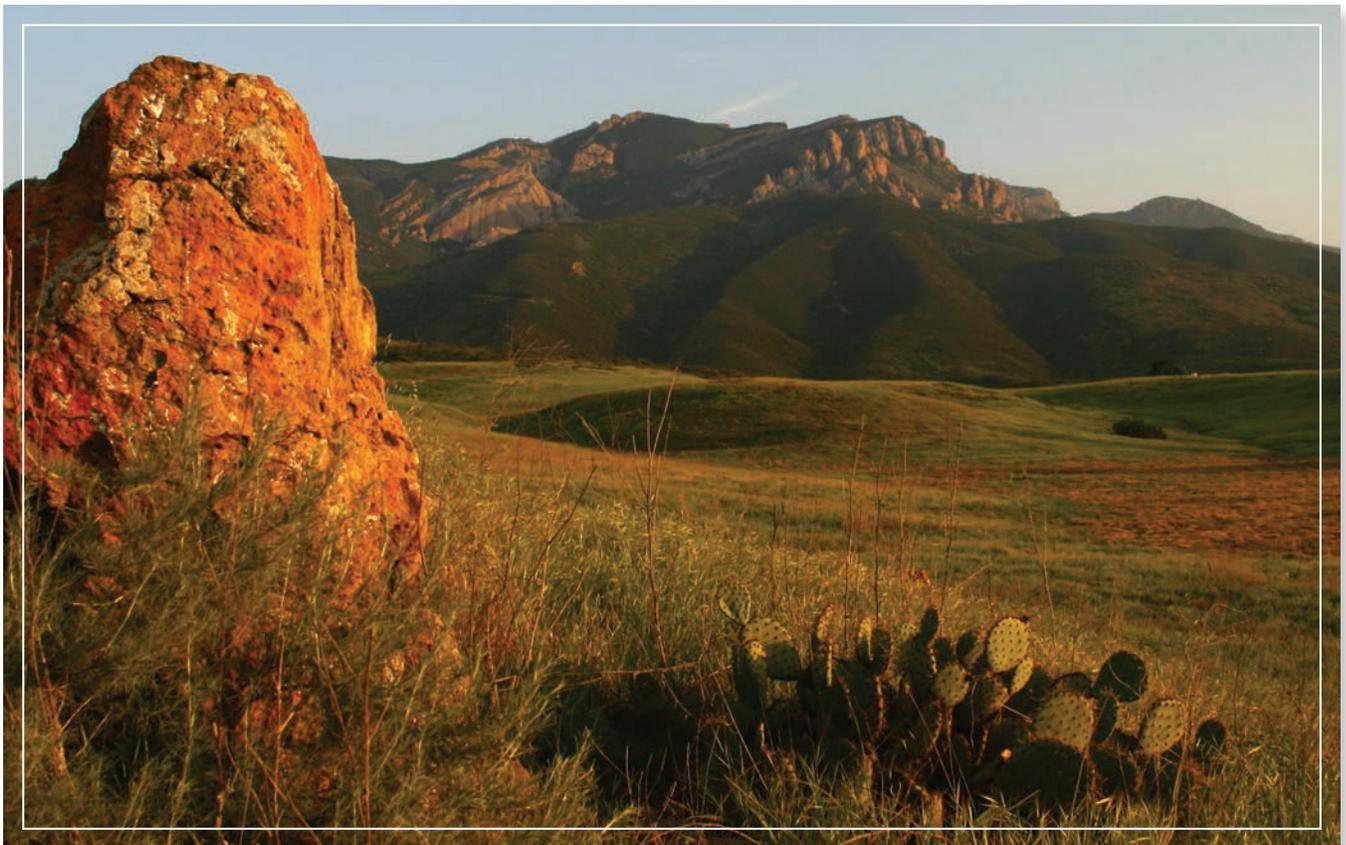
Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental Resource or Value	Fully Functioning Native Habitats with High Native Diversity
Importance	Preserving the full range of native habitats ensures long-term preservation of the high biodiversity associated with the Mediterranean ecosystem.
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly related to: High Biodiversity / Mediterranean Ecosystem; Scientific Understanding • Indirectly related to: Recreational Opportunities / National Park Gateway; Scenic Resources
Current Conditions	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian/streams: A full range of stream conditions exist with varying levels of urbanization. Streams with high levels of urbanization are negatively affected by nonnative species and urban pollutants (303d listing). • Coastal sage scrub: Although the extent has decreased due to development, the remaining coastal sage scrub habitats are generally in good condition. • Post fire flora has been impacted by nonnative annual grasses and forbs. • Chaparral: Generally in good condition, some loss due to excessively high fire frequency. • Grassland: Highly degraded but still serve a high ecological value where extant. Nonnative grasslands have a lower diversity of native herbaceous species. • Woodland: Not much left on NPS-managed lands but a lot is located in the middle of privately owned lands. Some existing patches are doing very well because they are located on protected lands. There are some challenges with regeneration, particularly with valley oak woodland. • Mountain lions: Low genetic diversity relative to lions in other parts of California, including north of State Route 101. Natural reproduction is occurring; raising young is successful; still preying on what they should be, preferring the remaining natural areas. • Bobcats: Fine other than rodenticides and mange. • Terrestrial herptofauna: Affected by habitat fragmentation, decreased species richness in smaller habitat patches (fence lizards), and potential threats of climate change. Less gene flow and decreased genetic diversity within isolated patches. • Red-legged frogs: Only found in one location within the park, but doing well there. Largely absent from historic range/habitat. • Limited information is available regarding the condition of the shoreline resources and coastal wetlands. • Ozone, which impacts vegetation in addition to human health, is of significant concern at 78.2 parts per billion for the latest measurement period. • Nitrogen and sulfur compounds deposited from air pollution can harm soils, vegetation, lakes, and streams through acidification or fertilization. Nitrogen deposition, at 1.3 kilograms per hectare per year for the latest measurement period warrants moderate concern. Sulfur deposition is currently rated as good for this area.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Fully Functioning Native Habitats with High Native Diversity
<p>Trends</p>	<p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of climate change, including extreme weather events, increase in average annual temperature, and increase in fire frequency/intensity. • Increasing fragmentation due to development, agriculture (e.g., vineyards). • Urban wildland interface affects including introduced species, loss of native species, and human-caused fires are changing the types of plants found in the park. • Although acquisition funds have slowed in recent years, the trend is that public agencies continue to purchase strategic parcels for open space. • Habitat quality in some areas has been enhanced through park actions. • Decreasing funding for California State Parks. • The number of research partners is increasing. • Shifting chaparral / coastal sage scrub mosaic / patterns of distribution, but net result of acreage of each is the same. • Fire frequency has increased over the last century. • Increasing water runoff from urban sources relative to historic natural stream flow patterns. • Population growth. • Increased visitor use.
<p>Threats</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased urbanization is the primary cause of habitat fragmentation. Ecosystem processes further affected by urbanization include water quality impacts, increased fire frequency, disrupted wildlife use patterns, and greater potential for human-wildlife conflicts. • Urbanization affects water quality, quantity, and seasonality of flow. The habitat structure of aquatic systems is also affected. • Fragmentation threatens native ecosystems through increased opportunities for invasive species colonization, impacts on species movement, and other associated edge effects. • Nonnative species affect native habitat through competition, predation, and indirect effects such as altered ecosystem function (e.g., increased fire frequency). • Climate change, including sea level rise, will probably be a physiological stressor for many species throughout the shoreline and mountains because many of these species are already at the edge of their distribution. Because the landscape is already fragmented and due to the lack of latitudinal and elevational gradients, climate change impacts will be exacerbated. Many populations are already stressed from other factors listed so the cumulative effects may be worse. • Roadways: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is riddled with roadways of many sizes and capacity. Roadways prevent species movement, are a source of mortality, and cause edge effects to ecosystems. • Use of rodenticides: There is a potential to impact rodent populations, and rodenticides move up through the food chain and impact carnivores. They also cause population level impacts both through direct mortality and interactions with disease. • Increasing fire frequency leads to habitat type conversion and decreases native biodiversity. • Land use changes that lead to habitat loss and other indirect impacts (such as the increase in vineyards and illegal marijuana cultivation). • Marijuana cultivation removes habitat and introduces trash and sewage pesticides and fertilizers into the ecosystem. • Increasing visitation could potentially impact natural resources. • Air pollution including ozone, which impacts vegetation, and nitrogen, which acts as an unnatural fertilizer, causing cascading ecosystem impacts, are both of concern.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Fully Functioning Native Habitats with High Native Diversity
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with local policy makers to conserve native habitat, wildlife, and resources. • State and local bond measures that fund open space conservation provide opportunities to conserve habitat within Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. • Partners working together, each with their own resources and capacity that are complementary. • Expanding collaborative partnership opportunities for research, land acquisition, corridors, etc. • Volunteerism. • Citizen science. • Enhance interpretation using park science. • The increased awareness and public interest in the plight of mountain lions in southern California creates both a public engagement opportunity and an opportunity to raise funds for continued research. • Provide information to residents in and around the park to help them to be stewards of the natural resources surrounding them. For example, not to use anticoagulant rodenticide poisons, to remove and avoid fire prone and invasive plants, and not to use chemicals or other pollutants that make their way into the watersheds.
<p>Related Resources and Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional wildlife corridors.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land protection plan. • General management plan (2003). • Community wildfire protection plan. • Water resources management plan. • Natural resource condition assessment. • Monitoring of water quality, herpetofauna, carnivores, invasive species, vegetation communities, and landscape change. • Fire frequency monitoring/ignition locations and causes.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource stewardship strategy. • Climate change scenario planning (could be accomplished as part of the resource stewardship strategy). • Fire management plan update. • Vegetation management plan. • Visitor use management plan. • Land protection plan update.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and inventories of: avian species, invertebrates, rare plant and animal populations, and habitat quality. • Inventory and monitoring protocols (water quality and landscape dynamics). • Effects of climate change on plant and animal communities. • Post-burn surveys for animal communities. • Spatial geographic studies of the temporal and geographic nature of arson threats. • Natural resource studies for the eastern/more urbanized area of the Santa Monica Mountains. • Water inventory. • Visitor use growth trends, projections and related impacts. • Inventories of wetlands, estuarine, and other shoreline habitat. • Air quality and deposition monitoring.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Fully Functioning Native Habitats with High Native Diversity
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended • National Invasive Species Act • Lacey Act, as amended • Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U.S.C. 703-712 • Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 668 • The National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, 42 U.S.C. 4321 • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • The Clean Water Act • The Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.) gives federal land managers the responsibility for protecting air quality and related values, including visibility, plants, animals, soils, water quality, cultural resources, and public health, from adverse air pollution impacts • Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" • Executive Order 13547, "Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6, 4.1, 4.1.4, 4.4.1, 4.7.2) provides general direction for managing park units from an ecosystem perspective • NPS Director's Order 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i> • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> • NPS <i>Wildland Fire Management Reference Manual 18</i>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Science-Informed Stewardship / Learning Laboratory
Importance	Science guides park management, informs policy, and lays the groundwork for educating visitors and fostering stewardship. A wide range of resources at the wildland-urban interface in close proximity to research institutions and residents creates a learning laboratory for understanding the evolution of the landscape and its diverse ecosystems.
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly related to: Scientific Understanding; High Biodiversity / Mediterranean Ecosystem • Indirectly related to: Scenic Resources; Recreational Opportunities / National Park Gateway
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lively and vigorous science program in partnership with many local universities and other institutions and agencies exists. For example, there are partnerships with University of California, Los Angeles; California State University, Northridge; California State University, Channel Islands; and Pepperdine University. • Some citizen science programs have been initiated but greater potential exists. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research partnerships are increasing at a steady pace. • Interest in citizen science is also increasing. • Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area data are increasingly used by local, state, and national policy makers. • Implementation of the monitoring program will probably inform further increases in science-informed stewardship and science partnerships. • The number of interns and the number of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area youth program participants are increasing.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget reductions and restrictions on travel will impact the National Park Service ability to maintain research partnerships and support grant programs, cooperative agreements, and fellowships with science institutions. • Changing educational standards affect the National Park Service ability to maintain and increase partnerships with primary and secondary schools. • NPS hiring practices that make it difficult for high-performing interns or students to be hired into paid positions have an impact on educational partnerships. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park research provides opportunities to educate about the impacts of climate change and other environmental changes (i.e., fire, increasing urban sprawl) on the ecosystem. • Frequent park fires create opportunities to teach the public about fire ecology and fire prevention using fire safe practices. • Research opportunities abound in the fields of geology, paleontology, and visitor use studies. • There is an opportunity to increase outreach to the public and policy makers using existing and ongoing research information from park science. • Partner with others to increase the number of citizen science programs. • Increased opportunity to provide technical assistance to under-funded groups and partner agencies throughout the greater Los Angeles area. • Potential for more of our scientific data to be available on the internet. • Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area’s Youth Program (SAMO Youth). • Partnerships with universities, agencies, and other institutions.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Science-Informed Stewardship / Learning Laboratory
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural resource condition assessment. • Carnivore study. • Existing inventory and monitoring data collection and protocols.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership strategy/evaluation. • Resource stewardship strategy. • Research prospectus. • Citizen science prospectus (inventory of potential project needs that could be completed using citizen science).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of educational program effectiveness. • Updated contact database for education and science institutions.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • Paleontological Resources Protection Act • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended • National Invasive Species Act • Lacey Act, as amended • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • The Clean Water Act • The Clean Air Act • Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Executive Order 13007, "American Indian Sacred Sites" • "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections" (36 CFR 79) • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) • Executive Order 13547, "Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§2.3.1.4, 4.2, 5.1, 8.10, 1.6, 4.1, 4.1.4, 4.4.1, 4.7.2) • Director's Order 28A: Archeology, 4A(3) Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act • NPS Museum Handbook, parts I, II, and III • NPS-75 Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring Guideline • NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77

Fundamental Resource or Value	Habitat Connectivity
Importance	Maintaining habitat connectivity, both within and outside of the boundary, is critical/essential for preserving native biodiversity and ecosystem function (e.g., maintaining genetic diversity, dispersal, and movement).
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly related to: Scientific Understanding; High Biodiversity / Mediterranean Ecosystems
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the Santa Monica Mountains, habitat connectivity for medium to large mammals is adequate. For smaller animals the connectivity is inadequate due to roads and development. We do not know how development and roads affects the habitat connectivity for plants. • Between the Santa Monica Mountains and areas outside the park, the connectivity is severely compromised for all species of wildlife. We do not know how plants have been affected. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat connectivity is decreasing due to development. • Remaining protected habitats are becoming increasingly isolated. • Increased density and improvements/widening of roads throughout the area. • Increasing public and agency interest in mountain lion research that highlights the need for habitat connectivity beyond the park boundary.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased development on low density parcels within the boundary that previously served as intact open space. • Cumulative effects of increasing development on previously undeveloped private land within the national recreation area could affect habitat connectivity. • Development throughout the area leads to habitat loss and increasing fragmentation. • Climate change effects including temperature increases, deductions in rainfall, increased fire, and sea level rise will make some habitat unsuitable and may impact connectivity and affect some species' ability to deal with change. • Increased density of roadways, development of new roadways, and widening of existing roads leads to increased fragmentation and loss of habitat connectivity. • Decreasing funds for land acquisition threatens NPS ability to protect important connections within the recreation area and outside of the recreation area. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Caltrans and other land management agencies that have increasing interest and concern for habitat connectivity. • Several opportunities for dam removal and stream restoration exist and could increase habitat connectivity. • Opportunities for conservation easements and planning overlays to preserve connectivity. • Working with local policy makers may provide a framework for implementing best management practices to improve and preserve connectivity. • Linkage Implementation Alliance partnership could coordinate improvements to connectivity. • State and local bond measures may support efforts and research. • Partners working together, each with their own resources and capacity that are complementary. • Expanding collaborative partnership opportunities for research, land acquisition, corridors, etc.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Habitat Connectivity
Related Resources and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional wildlife corridors.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carnivore study. • Land protection plan. • General management plan (2003). • "South Coast Missing Linkages" report. • Natural resource condition assessment. • Monitoring landscape change.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource stewardship strategy. • Climate change scenario planning. • Climate action plan. • Partnership plan for habitat connectivity. • Land protection plan update.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze the threshold of development that impacts wildlife. • Identify best management practices for maintaining connectivity. • Data on the effects of roads on small animals. • Data on the effects of loss of habitat connectivity on plants. • Biophysical inventory of shoreline.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended • Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U.S.C. 703-712 • The National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, 42 U.S.C. 4321 • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" • Executive Order 13547, "Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.6, 4.1, 4.1.4, 4.4.1, 4.7.2) provides general direction for managing park units from an ecosystem perspective • NPS Director's Order 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i> • NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77 • NPS Wildland Fire Management Reference Manual 18



Fundamental Resource or Value	Access to Year-Round Recreation and Exploration Opportunities
Importance	With a mild, Mediterranean type climate, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area provides a wide variety of year-round, close to home, outdoor recreation activities. Beaches, scenic routes, and an extensive trail network provide avenues for escape and exploration.
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly related to: Recreational Opportunities/National Park Gateway; Scenic Resources
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area has an extensive trail system that connects communities and resources and is near completion. • The 65-mile Backbone Trail is nearing completion. • Trails span multiple jurisdictions creating challenges for enforcement of agencies' differing regulations. • Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area has an extensive set of trailheads and other public access points. • Not all communities are aware of or are able to access the recreational opportunities in the Santa Monica Mountains. • Many close-by residents see the mountains as their own neighborhood park. There is a tendency to relate to one's own areas/communities. • Access to the mountains via public transportation is limited. • Access to the beaches is limited by private owners. • Traffic on the Pacific Coast Highway and other mountain roads is increasing and is a safety concern. • Few comfort stations exist at trailheads and access points. • Most visitors do not know they are recreating in a national recreation area and therefore are unaware of the federally designated natural and cultural significance of the region. • The <i>Outdoors</i> publication lists all programs in the mountains and coastal areas. • Conflicts between user groups exist. • Park neighbors are opposed to growth and some changes in interpretive programming. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people are accessing the mountains, creating more pressure on existing and trails and trailheads. • Social networking such as "meet-ups" is creating new demands on parking trailheads. • Luxury-based tourism, such as "wine trail" circuits, creates new challenges for recreation management. • More people are looking for outdoor fitness opportunities. • Social media is encouraging larger groups to convene at trailheads with little warning or no warning to park rangers. • Trailhead use is increasing and parking is limited. • As the economy improves, more people request special use permits for park sites. • Changing demographics and lack of visitors from diverse ethnic backgrounds. • There is an increase in visitation to most parks and some park sites have reached a maximum carrying capacity.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Access to Year-Round Recreation and Exploration Opportunities
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestion at trailheads impacts visitor experience. • Unauthorized use of trails by dog walkers and mountain bikers. • Lack of restroom facilities at trailheads causing environmental impacts. • Development and construction can cut off opportunities for recreation and can diminish the visitor experience by affecting scenery. • Pollution from urban runoff, oil spills, or harmful algal blooms may close the beaches or harm beachgoers. • Climate change and associated influences on recreational opportunities (increase in storm frequency/intensity, increase in fire frequency/intensity, warmer temperatures (drought)). <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new NPS outreach center in Los Angeles could provide new opportunities to connect more people to the Santa Monica Mountains. • Facilities could be improved for enhanced public access, starting with the park’s historic resources and structures providing new public enjoyment opportunities for visitors. • Upon completion of the Backbone Trail, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area can apply for designation as a national recreation trail. • Completion of the Backbone Trail could offer opportunities for backcountry camping. • Providing more Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible trails would facilitate more opportunities for visitors. • More public enjoyment opportunities exist for providing more cultural-based activities including tours, access to site and structures, e.g., at the Peter Strauss Ranch or access to King Gillette Ranch and Rancho Sierra Vista. • Commercial services opportunities, leasing, or other uses of historic sites could generate revenue and contribute to preservation. • Providing interpretive opportunities could increase public awareness and appreciation for cultural resources such as Paramount Ranch and could help with their protection. • Fund donations for specific sites/visitor experiences. • Development of friends groups for specific park sites could support stewardship (e.g., gardening, trash pick-up, etc.). • Access to Hollywood is an opportunity to raise money through a park partner to improve recreational sites. • Opportunities to better connect to communities in Los Angeles. • Improved public transportation to Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area from local communities. • The Backbone Trail is almost complete – a longer uninterrupted trail experience may be possible in the future; more people will come to hike here. • Increase the number of volunteer trail maintenance days/groups. • Providing interpreters and volunteers with foreign language skills and an understanding of different cultural groups to improve communications with constituents in communities the park is reaching out to.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing development concept plans provided ideas for more public opportunities to experience the park’s cultural sites and expanded recreation opportunities (Decker, Rancho Sierra Vista). • General management plan (2003). • Long-range interpretive plan. • Marketing and branding plan. • Outreach plan.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Access to Year-Round Recreation and Exploration Opportunities
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interagency trail management plan. • Visitor use management plan. • Trailhead planning or best practices. • Development concept plans or other site specific planning guidance. • Comprehensive sign plan. • Backcountry management plan for camping and climbing. • Overnight stay strategy. • Partnership strategy.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use data collection (visitor studies, visitor use survey, recreational use survey, community surveys, and sociological studies). • Visitor use growth trends, projections, and related impacts. • Inventory of transit and bicycle options. • Studies on uses of the Los Angeles River. • Study connecting technology and what the National Park Service needs to do to stay ahead of the curve. • Studies on uses of beaches and estuarine ecosystems.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 • Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 • Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards 2006 • Rehabilitation Act of 1973 • NPS Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998 <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10) • Director’s Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i> • Director’s Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services</i> • NPS <i>Transportation Planning Guidebook</i>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Coastal and Mountain Landscapes
<p>Importance</p>	<p>Shaped by ongoing geologic forces, the Santa Monica Mountains’ coastal and mountain scenery includes canyons, ridgelines, rocky outcrops, and 21 miles of seashore that provide the setting for visitors and residents to enjoy outdoor recreation.</p>
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly related to: Scenic Resources • Indirectly related to: Recreational Opportunities / National Park Gateway
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 90% of the land within the national recreation area boundary is currently still undeveloped. • Most land within the national recreation area was undeveloped or developed at rural densities in 2000. • Historical sea level trends calculated from the Santa Monica tide gauge (9410840) show that sea level has risen at an average 0.05 ± 0.01 inch/year (1.37 ± 0.35 millimeter/year) since 1933. • High levels of precipitation can lead to an increase in slope instability and erosional hazards at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. • Currently, visibility conditions at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area are not meeting NPS Air Resources Division recommended benchmark conditions. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views from the Pacific Coast Highway and Mulholland Drive are impaired by development. • Access to the beaches is limited by private owners. • Construction of homes on private property continues to impact scenery. The trend is for larger homes and estates. • State and local agencies continue to maintain policies that limit ridgeline construction, grading, and native habitat removal. • Local governments are adding dark sky provisions to building permits. • Fires are increasing in severity and frequency. • While air pollution has decreased since the national recreation area’s establishment, visibility is still of significant concern at an estimated 8.5 deciviews above natural conditions. • Sea level rise is affecting homes along the shoreline. In response, property owners are armoring shorelines, affecting currents and deposition.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased development on low density, remote parcels within the boundary has the greatest visual impact on scenery. • Decreasing funds for land acquisition threatens NPS ability to protect open space within the recreation area and outside of the recreation area and thereby protecting scenic, unobstructed views. • Private owners block access to shoreline. • Climate change and associated influences on coastal landscapes (increase in storm frequency/intensity, increase in fire frequency/intensity, warmer temperatures, and drought). <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Springs Fire is an opportunity to teach the public about fire ecology and fire prevention using house-out landscaping, a best practice for protecting homes from wildfires using fire-proof materials and removing fuels adjacent to the home. • Research and outreach opportunities abound in the fields of geology and paleontology. • The film industry has documented conditions in the mountains through film – archival data opportunity. • Opportunity to view wildlife.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Coastal and Mountain Landscapes
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management plan (2003). • Land protection plan. • Development concept plans.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land protection plan update. • Mulholland scenic corridor study. • Partnership strategy. • Climate change scenario planning (could be accomplished as part of the resource stewardship strategy).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality monitoring. • Cultural landscape inventories. • Coastal biophysical inventory of shoreline.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.) gives federal land managers the responsibility for protecting air quality and related values, including visibility, plants, animals, soils, water quality, cultural resources, and public health, from adverse air pollution impacts • Executive Order 13547, “Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes” • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (1.4, 1.6, 3.1) require the National Park Service to conserve and protect scenery and scenic vistas • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.7) provides further direction on the protection of air quality and related values for park units • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.8.1, 4.8.2, protection of geologic features) • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.10) recognizes that natural lightscapes are natural resources and values that contribute to visitor experience. The policy further states that NPS staff will seek to minimize the intrusion of artificial light into the night scene. In natural areas, artificial outdoor lighting will be limited to meet basic safety requirements and will be shielded when possible. • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.7) and NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> provide further direction on the protection of air quality and related values for park units



Fundamental Resource or Value	Native American Archeology
Importance	Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area contains more than 10,000 years of Native American history, as represented by hundreds of archeological sites such as large villages, gathering areas, and rock art. These sites, along with other evidence, are used to reconstruct ancient subsistence and settlement patterns throughout the Santa Monica Mountains and Simi Hills.
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly related to: Archeology
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2013 Archeological Sites Information Management System (ASMIS) report indicates that 85% of the park’s archeological resources are assessed to be in good condition, 12% are in fair condition, and 3% are in poor condition. Most of these archeological resources are associated with Native American sites. Condition of non-NPS-managed sites is deteriorating due to development. • Documentation: Much of the national recreation area requires baseline section 110 inventory for archeology. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most park-managed archeological resources are in stable condition. • Archeological resources on privately owned land are deteriorating due to development and other human-use impacts resulting from trampling and other forms of physical destruction, both intentional and unintentional. • Documentation of archeological resources is improving, assisted by new accurate GIS locational data and in response to the post-Springs Fire survey work at Rancho Sierra Vista, which improved the quality of the known archeological sites.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism, such as graffiti and artifact removal. • Expanding development on private lands impacts adjacent sites. • Fire. • Flooding. • Pothunters. • Unintentional visitor-caused impacts, including recreational uses. • Piecemeal land jurisdiction of the park limits National Park Service ability to accomplish a cohesive land management strategy with other agencies and private land owners. • Social trailing between different land jurisdictions where access is not controlled. • Non-NPS-owned archeological coastal sites could be impacted by climate change-related impacts. • Climate change and associated influences (increase in storm frequency/intensity [erosion and exposure], increase in fire frequency/intensity [exposure]). <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are recently discovered archeological resources that need to be surveyed and inventoried. • Condition assessments need to be updated. • Work with partners and pursue conservation easements at certain significant sites on non-NPS-owned lands to encourage protection of archeology. • Work with local universities to establish archeological field schools. • Fires clear the landscape, which results in field conditions that support more efficient archeological inventory. Park should leverage support for survey data following fire events. • Conduct comprehensive archeological surveys combined with other park projects wherever possible, early in the planning process, and beyond the minimum requirement under section 106. • Archeological collections in the park museum offer opportunities for new research and study.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Native American Archeology
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological overview (draft; Chester King). • Determinations of eligibility of numerous archeological resources. • Historic resource assessment of Simi Hills (1996).
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource stewardship strategy. • Archeological site stewardship plan. • Collection management plan. • Climate change scenario planning (could be accomplished as part of the resource stewardship strategy).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological overview and assessment. • Section 110 surveys at areas of high visitation, such as Paramount Ranch, Rancho Sierra Vista, Peter Strauss Ranch, and areas along the Backbone Trail. • ASMIS update. • Conduct a file search of California Archeological Information Center. • Archeological predictive modeling and field reconnaissance. • Archeological collection condition assessments. • Archeological GIS data.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiquities Act of 1906 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • Museum Act (16 USC 18f through 18f-3) • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites" • "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections" (36 CFR 79) • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) • Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management (1998)</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology (2004)</i> • NPS Museum Handbook, parts I, II, and III • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Filming Sites and Settings
Importance	Filming sites and settings include movie ranches that served as an outdoor backdrop for Hollywood’s Golden Era of the movie industry, as represented by the Paramount Ranch Historic District. Filming continues today at Paramount Ranch and other locations within the park, and offers the public an opportunity to experience filmmaking.
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly related to: Film-making History
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous film locations that were used for historic film making still exist today, while others have been lost to urbanization. • Paramount Ranch Historic District, which includes historic buildings and landscape features, is the only resource that represents a living movie set within the park. The movie set structures are in fair condition. The landscape is in good condition. The site is still accessible and being used. The viewshed has been impacted by development. The sets are generally in need of repair and preservation. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Paramount Ranch landscape and movie set structures are maintained as cultural resources, but they are deteriorating due to aging, weathering, and impermanent construction of the movie set structures. • Paramount Ranch’s movie set structures are maintained as a living film set, subject to modification according to filming needs, on a case-by-case basis.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movie set buildings are not built to code, and experience rapid deterioration due to poor, impermanent construction, including lack of foundations. • Dry rot and termites in wood framing. • Fire – due to the wood-frame construction, they are extremely flammable. • Water – Medea Creek runs through the site and is subject to flooding. • Burrowing animals undermine the structures. • Continued urbanization impacts the viewshed and landscape. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued filming and engagement in the entertainment industry continues the tradition at Paramount Ranch and other locations in the park. • Education – film students are encouraged to use Paramount Ranch and other park sites for school projects. • Work with Los Angeles County Fire Department to bring structures up to fire and buildings codes designed specifically for movie set structures. • Establish access and egress at Paramount Ranch for safety. • Filming industry has documented conditions in the mountains through film – archival data opportunity.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management plan (2003). • Paramount Ranch cultural landscape inventory. • Development concept plans. • Housekeeping/ preservation maintenance plan. • Preservation maintenance plan.

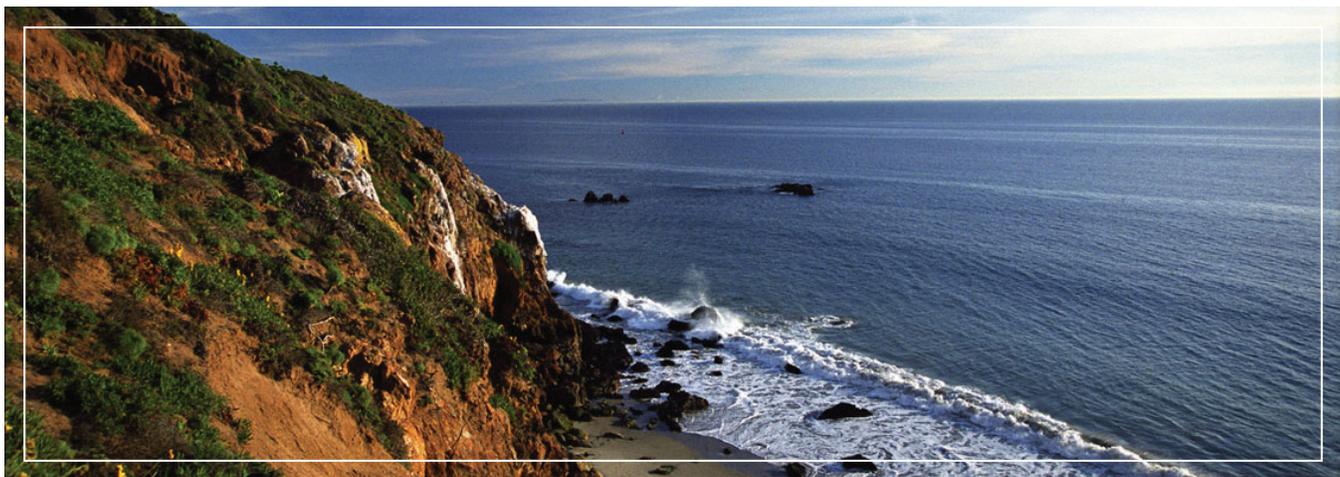
Fundamental Resource or Value	Filming Sites and Settings
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape reports for Paramount Ranch, including cultural resource condition assessments. • Long-term historic preservation guide for historic structures at Paramount Ranch. • Resource stewardship strategy. • Structural fire management plan. • Update museum management plan.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural resource condition assessment. • Historic resource study. • Cost/recovery study. • Section 110 archeological survey of Paramount Ranch, and other film site locations such as Peter Strauss Ranch. • Collection condition survey. • Collection of oral histories. • Cultural resources baseline inventory and monitoring.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Antiquities Act of 1906 • Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Museum Act (16 USC 18f through 18f-3) • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) • Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management (1998)</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology (2004)</i> • NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>



Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	Sites and Landscapes Representative of Southern California History
<p>Importance</p>	<p>The Santa Monica Mountains contain archeological resources, cultural landscapes, and historic sites and structures that depict important periods of southern California history including Spanish exploration, Mexican ranchos, western expansion and settlement, and modern urbanization. Themes include architecture, environmental engineering to capture and control water, the role of the automobile in shaping culture and the landscape, and amusement/entertainment. Examples of locations that illustrate these themes include Peter Strauss Ranch (amusement and discovery), King Gillette Ranch (gentlemen’s ranch), Rancho Sierra Vista (working ranches), Mulholland Highway (role of the automobile), and Franklin Canyon (environmental engineering).</p>
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites and landscapes range from good to poor; many have integrity loss and are fragmented. • Documentation is fair. The park has some cultural landscape inventories and determinations of eligibility but still needs additional documentation and updated information. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites and landscapes are generally deteriorating due to heavy encroachment, and possibly from visitor-use impacts associated with increasing visitation. • Sites and landscapes on private land are deteriorating due to development. • Documentation levels are improving.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism, such as graffiti and removal of features, which impact visitor experience at Grotto, Solstice Canyon, and Saddle Peak. • Social trail development. • Climate change, possible increase in fire. • Incompatible land use. • Encroaching development. • Many of the sites are not managed as cultural resources and lack baseline cultural resource documentation. • Climate change and associated influences (warmer temperatures, increase in nonnative species, increase in storm frequency/intensity, increase in fire frequency/intensity). <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate Peter Strauss period of history at the Peter Strauss Ranch and Nike site now that it’s more than 50 years old using the National Register of Historic Places criteria. • Pursue volunteer participation to assist in historic preservation efforts and education. • Partner with California Preservation Foundation to pursue historic preservation activities at Paramount Ranch. • Partnerships with universities.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development concept plans. • Cultural landscape inventories. • General management plan (2003). • Long-range interpretive plan (2012). • Historic resource assessment of Simi Hills (1996).

Other Important Resource or Value	Sites and Landscapes Representative of Southern California History
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic resources study. • Structural fire management plan. • Cultural landscape reports for Rancho Sierra Vista, Peter Strauss, Simi Hills and other sites as the determination of eligibility / cultural landscape inventory are completed. • Long-term historic preservation guide for historic structures at Peter Strauss and Rancho Sierra Vista. • Partnership strategy.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural resource condition assessment. • Historic resources study. • Cultural landscape inventories for Cheeseboro, Simi Hills, Arroyo Sequit, and Solstice Canyon. • Historic structures reports for Peter Strauss and Rancho Sierra Vista. • Develop comprehensive and geo-referenced digital database of historic photos.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Museum Act (16 USC 18f through 18f-3) • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) • Director's Order 24: NPS Museum Collections Management • Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management (1998) • Director's Order 28A: Archeology (2004) • NPS Museum Handbook, parts I, II, and III • The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation



Other Important Resource or Value	Ethnographic Resources
Importance	<p>Santa Monica Mountains contain a wide range of landscapes and resources important to American Indian cultures. Satwiwa Native American Culture Center serves as a destination for a broad range of American Indian groups from across the nation. Satwiwa is a learning center for all people to share traditional and contemporary indigenous lifeways. The center is a collective effort among the Chumash, Tongva, other native peoples, and the National Park Service.</p>
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnographic resources have been identified in oral history, but there is a lack of information about them. Conditions are not known because resources themselves have not yet been identified. • Documentation is poor; more information is needed. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends are not known because resources themselves have not yet been identified. • Documentation is static.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of information and understanding of the resources. • Loss of people with knowledge of the resources and practices. • Climate change and associated influences (increase in storm frequency/intensity [erosion and exposure], increase in fire frequency/intensity [exposure]). <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze oral history collections and park archives, including unfinished draft documents. • Conduct oral histories. • Partner with local universities with cultural anthropology programs to conduct documentation and research. • Consider fundraising opportunities through a park partner to support ethnographic documentation. • Work with American Indian community to learn about traditional use practices and ethnographic resources. • Collaborate with natural resource specialists within the park and elsewhere to identify potential ethnographic resource use areas.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural affiliation study (1999). • Oral history data. • Archeological overview and assessment (draft; Chester King). • “We are All Related,” ethnographic inventory and overview (draft, 2000).
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource stewardship strategy.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnographic overview and assessment. • Conduct additional oral histories. • Traditional use study.

Other Important Resource or Value	Ethnographic Resources
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites" • "Curation of Archeological Collections" (36 CFR 79) • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management (1998)</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology (2004)</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>



Other Important Resource or Value	Paleontological Resources
Importance	Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area has one of the most extensive and diverse assemblages of marine and terrestrial fossil material known in the national park system. There are at least 2,300 known fossil localities, representing more than a dozen fossiliferous geologic formations ranging from the late Jurassic to the Pleistocene.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the fossil localities no longer exist due to construction of buildings and roadways, but further investigation at new sites could yield more specimens. • Old Topanga Canyon once was a site of fossil collecting and research but it is currently privately owned and visitors are not allowed on the property. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With increases in recreational use, more people are discovering fossil resources along trails without knowing that park policy prohibits collecting.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal amateur fossil collecting is a major threat to the preservation of the paleontological history. The removal of fossils happens on a recurring basis in all areas of the mountains, even those not governed by the National Park Service. More fossiliferous locations in the surrounding area should be protected by the National Park Service, state parks, or the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in order to prevent any further removal. • Natural erosion of the landscape can impact the preservation of the fossils in several sites. • Graffiti is becoming a major threat to the paleontological resources. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are opportunities for paleontological research with universities, interpretation of paleontological resources, and partnership/public outreach opportunities with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and the La Brea Tar Pits. • Park staff could be provided with training on protecting paleontological resources and conducting recurring patrols of well-known sites. Rangers should continue their efforts in monitoring for destruction of fossil sites when responding to routine calls.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koch, A.L., V. L. Santucci, and T. R. Weasma. 2004. "Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Paleontological Survey." NPS/NRGRD/GRDTR-04/01. Denver, CO: National Park Service, Geologic Resources Division. • Lander, E.B., V.L. Santucci, and J. Tweet. 2013. "Arikareean and Hemingfordian mammalian vertebrate paleontology of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, California." Field trip guidebook – Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, 73rd Annual Meeting, October 2013. • Tweet, J.S., V.L. Santucci, and T. Connors. 2012. "Paleontological Resource Inventory and Monitoring: Mediterranean Coast Network. Natural Resource Technical Report NPS/MEDN/NRTR – 2012/640." National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource stewardship strategy.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of fossil locations.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (Pending, Senate Bill S.263), USC Title 9, Chapter 79, 5937 <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.8.2, 4.8.2.1, protection of paleontological resources)

Appendix D: Inventory of Administrative Commitments

Administrative Commitments

This list of administrative agreements is presented as a snapshot in time to give readers a sense of the complexity and range of agreement tools and types of commitments at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Agreement Type	Stakeholders	Purpose	Start Date	Expiration	Notes
Cooperative management agreement (CMA)	California Department of Parks and Recreation, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	Umbrella CMA; task agreements for specific projects such as visitor center construction, William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom, Backbone Trail, RTP buses; interpretive media; marijuana eradication; urban field office in downtown Los Angeles (Quon Building) and youth programs in Los Angeles		Update pending	Task agreements with any of the partners in the CMA tier off this master agreement
Cooperative agreement	Mountains Restoration Trust	Various resource management, inventory and monitoring, education/outreach, and science education projects; fuels reduction	5/13/12	8/13/17	Expiration varies with task
Cooperative agreement	Santa Monica Mountains Fund	Various park projects including branding, science festival, artist in residence; interpretive technologies and social media; ranger exchange; interns; Teacher-Ranger-Teacher interns	6/2/12	9/30/17	Expiration varies with task
Cooperative agreement	Outward Bound	Youth program	7/13/10	7/13/15	
Cooperative agreement	Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains	Use of Peter Strauss Ranch as office	8/31/10	8/31/15	
Task agreement	California Conservation Corps	Youth program			Tier of Pacific West Region cooperative agreement

Agreement Type	Stakeholders	Purpose	Start Date	Expiration	Notes
Task agreement	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Backbone Trail cyclic maintenance	11/15/11	9/30/13	Tier of Pacific West Region cooperative agreement
Service First	Bureau of Land Management	Cadastral surveys	2/22/12	2/22/17	
Task agreement	Student Conservation Association	Vegetation projects	4/12/12	6/15/13	Tier off national agreement
Cooperative agreement	UCLA La Kretz Center	Cooper Brown House/ Research Station	4/1/12	9/30/17	
Service First	US Forest Service – Angeles National Forest	Dispatch		9/30/16	Will update using Service First authority
43 USC 36C	US Geological Survey	Inventory and monitoring	9/1/11	9/1/16	
Cooperative agreement	Nature Bridge	Youth programs			
Cooperative agreement	Western National Parks Association (WNPA)	Guest Host Program Junior Ranger Program	5/30/13	9/30/18	National agreement with WNPA includes visitor center stores
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units	Various universities	Research			Pacific West Regional Office agreement
Memorandum of understanding	Various	Various			Maintained by program managers
Research	Ventura County Fire Department Los Angeles County Fire Department	RAWS (weather station) Circle X Cheeseboro		N/A	
Research	US Geological Survey	Earthquake monitor Circle X		N/A	

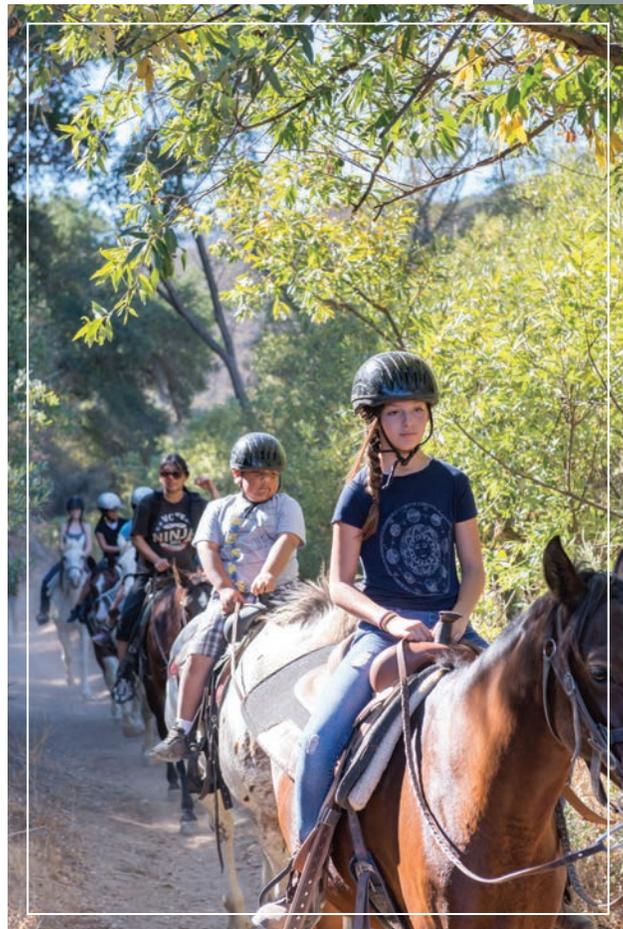
Appendix E: Past and Ongoing Park Planning and Data Collection Efforts

Existing and Ongoing Park Plans, Studies, and Data Collection Efforts
Collection Condition Survey (1999)
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2012)
COOP (Continuation of Operations)
Cultural Landscape Inventories
Paramount Ranch (2005)
Rancho Sierra Vista (2004)
Peter Strauss Ranch (2007)
Cultural Landscape Report, Paramount Ranch (Draft, 1997)
Development Concept Plans
Paramount Ranch (1982)
Rancho Sierra Vista (1983)
Decker Canyon (1987)
Rancho Sierra Vista / Satwiwa Site Management Plan (1993)
Zuma-Trancas Canyons Development Concept Plan (1993)
Peter Straus Ranch (1994)
Solstice Canyon Design Charette (1998)
Fire Management Plan (2005)
Fuels Management Plan (underway)
General Management Plan (2003)
Housekeeping Plan / Preservation Maintenance Plan (2005)
Integrated Pest Management Plan (2010)
Inventory and Monitoring Protocols
Terrestrial Herpetofauna
Aquatic Herpetofauna
Jurisdictional compendium
Land Protection Plan (1984, amended in 1987, 1991, and 1998)
Long Range Interpretive plan (2012)
Marketing/Branding Plan (2010)
Museum Management Plan (1999)
Museum Scope of Collection Statement (2009)
Outreach Plan (2011)

Existing and Ongoing Park Plans, Studies, and Data Collection Efforts
Potrero Creek Restoration Plan (1994)
Preservation Maintenance Plan (2005)
Resource Management Plan (1999)
Strategic Plan (2014)
Trail Management Plan (underway)
Water Resources Management Plan (1997)
Invasive Plant Management Plan (underway)
<p>Special Studies</p> <p>Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study (underway) – The National Park Service is conducting a special resource study of the Rim of the Valley Corridor area which includes the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The study will evaluate potential expansion of the Santa Mountain Mountains National Recreation Area boundary in the Rim of the Valley Corridor area, and explore the method and means for protection and interpretation of the corridor by the National Park Service, other federal, state, or local government entities, or private or nongovernmental organizations. The final study will provide a recommendation to Congress on whether there are feasible and appropriate roles for the National Park Service within the Rim of the Valley Corridor area.</p>

Other Related Plans

In addition to the NPS planning documents, there are several local planning documents and published reports that are most useful for park planners. These include the local coastal plans for Los Angeles County, Ventura County, and the City of Malibu, the Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan (LA County), and land use planning documents for the cities that are contiguous to the national recreation area boundary. County ordinance plans, specifically ridgeline and grading ordinances and oak tree protection plans, are also used frequently. Regional scientific reports, such as the “South Coast Missing Linkages” report that identifies regional wildlife corridors, are also cited regularly by park planners.





**Pacific West Region Foundation Document Recommendation
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area**

May 2015

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Pacific West Regional Director.

David N. Szymanski

May 8, 2015

RECOMMENDED

David Szymanski, Superintendent, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

Date

Christine S. Lehnertz

5/12/15

APPROVED

Christine S. Lehnertz, Regional Director, Pacific West Region

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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