
San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

On October 10, 2014, President Obama designated the new San Gabriel Mountains National Monument based on the request of numerous residents and organizations in the Southern California community and Congressional Representatives, led by Rep. Judy Chu. The [San Gabriel Mountains National Monument](#) is comprised of existing National Forest acreages including approximately 342,000 acres of the Angeles National Forest and 4,000 acres of the San Bernardino National Forest.



Los Angeles with the San Gabriel Mountains in the background. Photo: USFS.

The San Gabriel Mountains are incredibly significant to Southern California as they contain 70 percent of the open space in Los Angeles County and provide more than one-third of the County's drinking water. The San Gabriel Mountains' characteristics include: unique geological features; more than 160 rare, threatened, and endangered species; and significant archeological and architectural elements.

Today the Angeles National Forest is one of the busiest in the nation with three million annual visitors and is the most urban forest in the Nation due to its proximity to more than 17 million residents of greater Los Angeles. The Forest already supports more than \$60 million a year in local visitor spending, according to the U.S. Forest Service. This value is forecasted to increase with the new designation. The neighborhoods that consider the San Gabriel Mountains their backyard are some of the most culturally diverse communities in the nation with populations that include people from 200 nationalities/cultures who speak more than 100 languages.

The new San Gabriel Mountains National Monument will vastly enhance the recreation access, management, and interpretation of a significant portion of the Angeles National Forest and parts of the San Bernardino National Forest, and offer new and innovative ways to reconnect one of the largest urban areas in the country to the outdoors.

The National Forest Foundation and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) has been working in the Los Angeles community for several years through its *Treasured Landscapes* conservation campaign on the Angeles National Forest. Our positive relationships with local communities, users groups and the Forest Service provide us with the credibility and the capacity to expand our work to include the new San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.



San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Photo: USFS

The NFF is raising and investing more than \$3 million to help restore the Monument's unique ecosystems and connect Los Angeles' diverse communities to this amazing natural asset in their backyard. We are also facilitating a new collaborative process that will help develop community priorities for managing the Monument. The [San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative](#) will also serve as a link between the Forest Service and broader LA region to help meet the needs of ever-increasing public use while enhancing the sustainable recreation experiences for the millions of visitors each year.

Our efforts will remain flexible and strategic to meet the needs of the new Monument as provided by the stakeholders and may include:

- Protecting the area's natural, historic, and cultural resources;
- Promoting sustainable recreation with new recreation areas, educational kiosks and trails;
- Implementing a comprehensive multilingual signage system;
- Creating a frontline visitor reception program;
- Developing a comprehensive education program to serve the needs of foothill communities and adjacent residents and visitors;
- Enhancing engagement and support to volunteer programs;
- Increasing economic opportunities for urban and disadvantaged youth, and unemployed;
- Fairly distributing health and environmental justice benefits; and
- Partnering with tribal governments.

For more information about the Monument, email Edward Belden at: ebelden@nationalforests.org.