

# Inventoried Roadless Areas and Wilderness Evaluations

For reader convenience, all wilderness evaluation documents are compiled here, including duplicate sections that are also found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix D Inventoried Roadless Areas.

## Introduction and Evaluation Process Summary

Roadless areas refer to substantially natural landscapes without constructed and maintained roads. Some improvements and past activities are acceptable within roadless areas. Inventoried roadless areas are identified in a set of maps contained in the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), Volume 2, November 2000. These areas may contain important environmental values that warrant protection and are, as a general rule, managed to preserve their roadless characteristics. In the past, roadless areas were evaluated as potential additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Roadless areas have maintained their ecological and social values, and are important both locally and nationally. Recognition of the values of roadless areas is increasing as our population continues to grow and demand for outdoor recreation and other uses of the Forests rises. These unroaded and undeveloped areas provide the Forests with opportunities for potential wilderness, as well as non-motorized recreation, commodities and amenities.

The original Forest Plans evaluated Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) data from the mid-1980s and recommended wilderness designation for some areas. Most areas were left in a roadless, non-motorized use status. This revision of Forest Plans analyzes a new and more complete land inventory of inventoried roadless areas as well as other areas identified by the public during scoping. These inventoried roadless areas are evaluated by alternative to determine which areas would be recommended to Congress for wilderness designation and which areas would be allocated to an alternative land use. There were 118 roadless areas inventoried within the southern California National Forests for the Forest Plan revisions, totaling approximately 1,065,925 acres, approximately 32% of the total National Forest System lands or 47% of the total non-wilderness National Forest System lands here.

Wilderness evaluation of the roadless inventory of the Forests, as well as of other undeveloped areas proposed by the public, is based on criteria of capability, availability, and need:

- **Capability:** The capability of potential wilderness is the degree to which it contains the basic characteristics that qualify it for wilderness designation. Factors examined include environment and special features, challenge, outdoor recreation opportunities, and manageability.
- **Availability:** An area's availability is determined by comparing wilderness values in that location to the value of and need for other resource uses and production from the same land area.
- **Need:** The need for designation of new wilderness is based on comparing the value of a potential area to existing wilderness in nearby locations as well as to the National Wilderness Preservation System as a whole. This analysis considers demand for additional wilderness recreation opportunities on the forest. It also looks at the need to give certain vegetation types the protection that wilderness designation would afford.

Using the above criteria, each area was rated high, moderate, or low. The analysis resulted in identification of 23 roadless and other undeveloped areas within the Angeles National Forest, 21 roadless and other undeveloped areas within the Cleveland National Forest, 51 roadless areas within the Los Padres National Forest, and 23 roadless areas within the San Bernardino National Forest. The following tables list the names, acreage and ratings of all the areas evaluated:

- Table 343: [Angeles National Forest - Inventoried Roadless Areas evaluated](#)
- Table 344: [Angeles National Forest - Publicly proposed other undeveloped areas evaluated](#)
- Table 345: [Cleveland National Forest - Inventoried Roadless Areas evaluated](#)
- Table 346: [Cleveland National Forest - Publicly proposed other undeveloped areas evaluated](#)
- Table 347: [Los Padres National Forest - Inventoried Roadless Areas evaluated](#)
- Table 348: [Los Padres National Forest - Publicly proposed other undeveloped areas evaluated](#)
- Table 349: [San Bernardino National Forest - Inventoried Roadless Areas evaluated](#)
- Table 350: [San Bernardino National Forest - Publicly proposed undeveloped areas evaluated](#)

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**Inventoried Roadless Areas  
and Wilderness Evaluations**

**Proposed Wilderness by  
Alternative**

**Table 343. Angeles National Forest - Inventoried Roadless Areas evaluated**

<b>Inventoried Roadless Area</b>	<b>Recommended by Public</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Capability</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Need</b>
Arroyo Seco		4,674	Moderate	Low	Low
Cucamonga A	Yes	1,221	High	High	Moderate
Fish Canyon		29,872	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Magic Mountain	Yes	15,517	Low	Low	Low
Pleasant View	Yes	26,332	High	Moderate	Low
Red Mountain	Yes	8,030	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Salt Creek	Yes	11,004	Moderate	Moderate	Low
San Dimas		7,149	Low	Low	Low
San Gabriel Add		2,506	Low	High	Low
Sespe-Frazier*		4,200	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Sheep Mountain	Yes	1,441	Low	Moderate	Low
Sheep Mountain	Yes	613	Low	Moderate	Low
Sheep Mountain		18	High	High	Low
Sheep Mountain	Yes	16,240	High	High	Moderate
Sheep Mountain		2,641	Low	Moderate	Low
Strawberry Peak	Yes	7,193	Low	Low	Low
Tule	Yes	9,855	Low	Low	Low
West Fork	Yes	1,156	High	High	Low
Westfork	Yes	4,385	High	High	Low

*\*Note: A recent adjustment to the administrative boundary has been made within the GIS system. The official IRA acres for the ANF Sespe-Frazier were calculated before the adjustment, and the official Recommended Wilderness acres for the ANF Sespe-Frazier were calculated after the adjustment; hence the discrepancy of 21 official acres.*

**Table 344. Angeles National Forest - Publicly proposed other undeveloped areas evaluated**

<b>Other Undeveloped Area</b>	<b>Recommended By Public</b>	<b>Acres Alt. 6</b>	<b>Capability</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Need</b>
Condor Peak	Yes	13,803	Low	Low	Low
Pleasant View - Non IRA	Yes	**2,427	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Santa Clarita Canyons	Yes	3,661	Low	Low	Moderate
Silver Mountain (West Fork)	Yes	**8,285	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

\*\* *Value averaged across alternatives*

**Table 345. Cleveland National Forest - Inventoried Roadless Areas evaluated**

<b>Inventoried Roadless Area</b>	<b>Recommended by Public</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Capability</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Need</b>
Barker Valley	Yes	11,912	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Caliente	Yes	5,910	High	High	Moderate
Coldwater	Yes	8,370	Low	Low	Low
Cutca Valley	Yes	8,619	High	Moderate	Low
Cutca Valley	Yes	5,891	Moderate	Low	Low
Eagle Peak	Yes	6,460	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Ladd	Yes	5,287	Low	Low	Low
No Name	Yes	4,887	Low	Moderate	Low
Pine Creek		485	High	High	High
San Mateo Canyon		65	Low	Low	Low
Sill Hill	Yes	5,279	Moderate	Low	Low
Trabuco		23,320	High	Moderate	Moderate
Wildhorse/Morrell (except Sections 21/22)	Yes	965	Low	Low	Low
Wildhorse/Morrell (Sections 21/22)	Yes	515	Low	Low	Low

**Table 346. Cleveland National Forest - Publicly proposed other undeveloped areas evaluated**

<b>Other Undeveloped Area</b>	<b>Recommended By Public</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Capability</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Need</b>
Cedar Creek	Yes	**2,800	Low	Low	Moderate
Hauser Mountain	Yes	1,274	High	Moderate	Moderate
Hauser South (expansion)	Yes	**3,600	High	Moderate	Moderate
Sitton Peak	Yes	1,029	Low	Low	Low
Sitton Peak Addition	Yes	1,206	Low	Low	Low
Upper San Diego River	Yes	1,028	High	Moderate	Moderate
Upper San Diego River Gorge	Yes	**4,905	High	Moderate	Moderate

\*\* Value averaged across alternatives

**Table 347. Los Padres National Forest - Inventoried Roadless Areas evaluated**

Inventoried Roadless Area	Recommended by Public	Acres	Capability	Availability	Need
Antimony	Yes	40,513	Low	Low	Low
Bear Canyon		*1,946	Low	Low	Low
Bear Mountain		1,045	Low	Low	Low
Big Rocks		11,841	Low	Low	Low
Black Butte	Yes	*5,172	Low	Low	Low
Black Mountain	Yes	16,830	Low	Low	Low
Camuesa		8,191	Low	Low	Low
Chalk Peak		*1,442	Low	Low	Low
Condor Point	Yes	14,868	Low	Low	Low
Cuyama	Yes	19,534	Low	Low	Low
De La Guerra		5,417	Low	Low	Low
Diablo	Yes	9,407	Moderate	Low	Low
Diablo	Yes	10,195	Low	Low	Low
Dry Lakes	Yes	7,576	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Dry Lakes	Yes	9,463	Low	Low	Low
Fox Mountain	Yes	11,174	Moderate	Low	Low
Fox Mountain	Yes	40,908	Low	Low	Low
Garcia Mountain	Yes	2,467	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Garcia Mountain	Yes	5,381	Low	Low	Low
Horseshoe Springs		14,097	Low	Low	Low
Juncal	Yes	12,280	Low	Low	Low
La Brea	Yes	5,521	Moderate	Low	Low
La Brea		8,453	Low	Low	Low
La Panza		4,958	Low	Low	Low
Little Pine	Yes	1,290	Low	Low	Low
Los Machos Hills		10,984	Low	Low	Low
Machesna Mountain (includes part of Los Pelados)	Yes	4,883	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Machesna Mountain	Yes	7,362	Low	Low	Low
Madulce Buckhorn	Yes	7,961	High	Moderate	Low
Madulce Buckhorn	Yes	6,221	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Manzana	Yes	138	Low	Low	Low
Matilija	Yes	3,175	Moderate	Moderate	Low

<b>Inventoried Roadless Area</b>	<b>Recommended by Public</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Capability</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Need</b>
Matilija	Yes	1,740	Low	Low	Low
Miranda Pine		13,308	Low	Low	Low
Mono	Yes	16,236	High	High	Mod
Mono	Yes	11,796	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Nordhoff		12,024	Low	Low	Low
Quatal		7,248	Low	Low	Low
Santa Cruz	Yes	14,501	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Santa Cruz	Yes	6,620	Moderate	Low	Low
Sawmill-Badlands	Yes	1,514	Moderate	Low	Low
Sawmill-Badlands (includes Chumash Additions NW and SW, and Badlands Apache)	Yes	49,537	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Sespe-Frazier (includes Fishbowls PWA**, Thorn PWA and Stone House PWA)	Yes	14,810	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Sespe-Frazier (includes Sheep Creek)	Yes	59,242	Low	Low	Low
Sespe-Frazier (includes part of Chorro Grande)	Yes	12,893	Low	Moderate	Low
Sespe-Frazier (includes part of Beaver)	Yes	23,944	Low	Low	Low
Spoor Canyon	Yes	13,752	Low	Low	Low
Stanley Mountain		14,267	Low	Low	Low
Tepusquet Peak		5,823	Low	Low	Low
Tequepis		9,086	Low	Low	Low
White Ledge	Yes	18,607	Moderate	Low	Low

\* Acres are an estimate; Final acreages will be determined when Big Sur Wilderness Area boundaries are finalized.

\*\*PWA = "Proposed Wilderness Area"

**Table 348. Los Padres National Forest - Publicly proposed other undeveloped areas evaluated**

<b>Other Undeveloped Area</b>	<b>Recommended By Public</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Capability</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Need</b>
Bear	Yes	1,958	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Beaver	Yes	1,277	Low	Low	Low
Chorro Grande	Yes	1,060	Low	Moderate	Low
Machesna Mountain (Los Pelados)	Yes	2,803	Low	Low	Low

**Table 349. San Bernardino National Forest - Inventoried Roadless Areas evaluated**

<b>Inventoried Roadless Area</b>	<b>Recommended by Public</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Capability</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Need</b>
Cactus Springs A		21	Low	Low	Low
Cactus Springs B		3,101	Low	Low	Low
Cahuilla Mountain	Yes	6,945	Moderate	Low	Low
Cajon		7,461	Low	Low	Low
Circle Mountain		6,092	Low	Low	Low
City Creek	Yes	9,986	Low	Low	Low
Crystal Creek		6,771	Low	Low	Low
Cucamonga B	Yes	11,918	High	High	Moderate
Cucamonga C	Yes	4,084	Low	Moderate	Low
Deep Creek		23,847	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Granite Peak		447	Low	Low	Low
Heartbreak Ridge		4,450	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Hixon Flat		8,086	Low	Low	Low
Horse Creek Ridge	Yes	8,959	Moderate	Low	Low
Mill Peak		7,876	Low	Low	Low
Pyramid Peak A	Yes	14,138	High	Moderate	Moderate
Pyramid Peak B	Yes	7,187	Low	Low	Low
Raywood Flat A	Yes	530	Low	Low	Low
Raywood Flat B	Yes	7,547	Moderate	Moderate	High
Raywood Flat B	Yes	3,312	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Rouse Hill		13,733	Low	Low	Low
San Sevaine		6,854	Low	Low	Low
Sugarloaf	Yes	8,196	Moderate	Low	Moderate

**Table 350. San Bernardino National Forest - Publicly proposed undeveloped areas evaluated**

<b>Other Undeveloped Area</b>	<b>Recommended by Public</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Capability</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Need</b>
Sheep Mountain	Yes	5,197	High	High	High

## Proposed Wilderness by Alternative

Roadless areas possess important social and ecological values as well as characteristics that are becoming scarce in the rapidly urbanizing landscape of southern California. They provide unique opportunities for non-motorized and motorized trail recreation in a primitive or semi-primitive setting, sources of clean drinking water, and large undisturbed landscapes that offer privacy and solitude. These areas support a diversity of habitats for native plants and animal species, conserve biological diversity and provide opportunities for study and education. The roadless areas in the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres and San Bernardino National Forests provide these values to differing degrees. Some areas have relatively large, mostly undisturbed environments, while many others are more diverse and have portions that reveal past or current development and in some cases, resource impacts.

Chapter 2, Comparison of Alternatives, Special Designations, differentiates the alternatives on the basis of recommended wilderness and displays a table summarizing the total acres of roadless areas recommended for wilderness designation by forest and alternative. Tables [Angeles National Forest Recommended Wilderness by Alternative](#), [Cleveland National Forest Recommended Wilderness by Alternative](#), [Los Padres National Forest Recommended Wilderness by Alternative](#), and [San Bernardino National Forest Recommended Wilderness by Alternative](#) further detail the number of roadless areas recommended for wilderness designation by forest, acreage and alternative. (also see [Land Use Zone Map Links](#)) The acreage is based on the findings of the wilderness evaluations combined with the emphasis of each alternative. Acres include any areas being proposed as wilderness, including IRAs, portions of IRAs, or other areas identified by the forests.

The effects analysis for inventoried roadless areas and recommended wilderness considers land within the boundaries of the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres and San Bernardino National Forests. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered lands, National Parks and Monuments, and State of California Parks adjacent to and near the Forests are also considered. Private lands were not considered. Other Forests throughout the state of California will soon be initiating Forest Plan Revisions. However, they are physically separated from the southern California National Forests (by many miles) and any analysis of their roadless areas and potential wilderness recommendations would not affect the Forests in this Plan Revision. The National Wilderness Preservation System encompasses all federal lands. No roadless areas are currently being considered for Wilderness designation in southern California within public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, or State of California.

Areas recommended for wilderness designation in the Record of Decision (ROD) will be managed to maintain their existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness

Preservation System until congressional action on the recommendations and the Wilderness Study Area. Any recommendation for wilderness designation is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States (FSM 1923.11). Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designation.

**Proposed Wilderness by  
Alternative**

**Arroyo Seco Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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# **Angeles National Forest Wilderness Evaluations**

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**Proposed Wilderness by  
Alternative**

**Arroyo Seco Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Arroyo Seco Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

Los Angeles River Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The 4,674-acre Arroyo Seco Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is completely within the Arroyo Seco watershed. The area encompasses a variety of vegetation types from mixed montane chaparral (ceanothus, scrub oak, and manzanita – it would not be uncommon to find tree size manzanita) to the mixed conifer pine type. It is surrounded by roads and bordered by powerlines. Man-made features including electronic sites and an observatory are visually prominent on the boundary. The sight and sounds of State Highway 2, a heavily traveled road that is just north of the area, reduces the opportunity for solitude to moderate.

Challenge: A well-developed transportation system in and around this area reduces the opportunities for adventure and challenge. Highway 2 is visible from most vantage points and the sounds of motor vehicle travel can be heard throughout most of the area. Further into the canyons where the noise lessens, seeing other visitors hiking the trail system is likely. The area can be crowded on selected weekends and holidays.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The Gabrielino National Recreation trail (11W14) offers excellent opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use. This trail is popular and highly used by the local communities of Altadena, La Canada, and Pasadena. This popular trail offers trail camps at Gould Mesa and Oakwilde and two picnic sites at Paul Little and Nino. There is an interior trail (12W08) that offers a trail camp at Bear Canyon.

Special Features: The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals including Nevin's barberry, Braunton's milk-vetch, lemon lily, bald eagle, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, mountain yellow-legged frog, and the two-striped garter snake. North-facing slopes have the remaining stands of bigcone Douglas-fir, which are inhabited by the California spotted owl. Canopy cover on the existing trail through this area gives one the sense of walking through a cathedral of old growth trees.

Manageability: The 4,674-acre Arroyo Seco IRA does not meet the 5,000 acres size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. The perimeter of the area is used for numerous special use permitted activities such as the San Gabriel Peak communication site, farther east the Mt. Wilson recreation site, and observatory/

communication sites.

Boundary Considerations: These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to highways/roads, trails, or prominent topographic features such as Brown Mountain.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: At the northwest end of this area is Switzer's, a heavily used day use area for picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use. There is a high demand for mountain biking, which would be restricted if designated wilderness. Large electronic sites surround the area with road access leading to these sites.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: At the eastern edge of this area is NFSR 2N52, which leads to the San Gabriel Peak communication sites.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be no effect on adjacent private land since it is confined to mountaintops outside of the proposed area. Designation as wilderness could have an effect on the management of the popular Switzer's recreation day use area located adjacent to this roadless area.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The San Gabriel Wilderness, which is 36,118 acres in size, lies five miles to the east. Composed of mostly dense chaparral, it is larger than this roadless area, with less access and more unique features.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is low to moderate use of the existing wilderness areas, which are primarily used for daylong rather than overnight trips.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Current lands provide an unconfined recreation experience due to steep terrain and limited access. The areas to the east and west offer no additional unconfined recreation experiences. These areas are within ¼ mile of State Highway 2, which is used heavily by the motoring public and therefore offers no peace and solitude.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biota is currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. All biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully under projected levels of public use. No development projects are proposed that would impact this area.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in

less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Lands within this proposed wilderness are not more distinct or unique than other areas on the forest. The north slopes are heavily wooded with mixed conifer/hardwood and bigcone Douglas-fir. Terrain is steep and rugged with deep canyons and perennial streams. This type is well represented in existing wildernesses.

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**Angeles National Forest  
Wilderness Evaluations**

**Cucamonga A Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Cucamonga A Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

San Gabriel River Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The proposed 1,221-acre Cucamonga A addition Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is composed of several segments of land adjacent to the existing Cucamonga Wilderness on the Angeles National Forest. This area is within the San Antonio watershed. The feeling of solitude and serenity would be low in that portion of the addition that is closest to the Mt. Baldy Road corridor, Icehouse Canyon parking area, and to Mt. Baldy Village. However, the level of wilderness experience heightens away from the road corridor where the terrain becomes steep and inhospitable, and accessibility decreases for many visitors. The southwest area of this addition (Barrett/Cascade/Stoddard Canyons) would have a view of the San Antonio flood control dam, which does not present a free and natural appearance.

Challenge: The steep, rocky terrain and lack of additional developed trails make this area very challenging to novice as well as experienced hikers and backpackers. The Cucamonga Wilderness itself has a trail system that enables travel from the Icehouse Trailhead east to the San Bernardino National Forest, as well as north and south to a number of peaks. The ridge trail (7W06) northerly ties into the Pacific Crest Trail.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: There would be many opportunities for this area to provide a primitive and unconfined recreation experience. However, the variety would generally be limited to backpacking, hiking, occasional hunting, and horseback riding for experienced equestrians.

Special Features: This addition would expand the area's ability to provide for outdoor education and scientific studies. However, it would contribute little to the area's existing wilderness capability because the area is used very minimally due to the steep terrain.

The addition supports habitat for the Cucamonga Peak group of Nelson's bighorn sheep, and other Forest Service sensitive plants and animal species such as Peirson's spring lily, lemon lily, and yellow-blotched salamander, and moderate dispersed habitat for spotted owls. The area also supports potentially suitable habitat for the ashy-grey paintbrush, another sensitive plant.

Manageability: The Cucamonga A IRA would be easy to manage in order to retain its unimpaired condition because of the minimal access points. Cucamonga A does not meet the 5,000 acres size recommendation in the Wilderness Act; however, if designated, it would add 1,221 acres to the 1984 addition of 4,400 acres to the Angeles NF section of the Cucamonga Wilderness.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundaries generally use existing natural features and are therefore easy to establish and recognize on the ground. Each piece is adjacent to the existing Cucamonga Wilderness. The majority of the boundaries would act as a shield to protect the wilderness environment while retaining adequate access for wilderness visitors. A large portion of this addition would follow the dominant ridge that parallels Mt. Baldy Road to the east with an approximately 0.25 mile buffer from the road.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Wilderness designation would not prohibit the use of mountain bikes on approximately 5 miles of road (2N04.2 – Barrett Stoddard Truck Trail) where high clearance vehicle use (when road is clear of slides) and mountain bike use presently occur. There would be a 200 Acre buffer going East from the center line of the road to the Wilderness Boundary.

There are no known resource demands from this area.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: The area is fairly inaccessible. The Barrett Stoddard Truck Trail (2N04.2) located in the southerly end of the proposed addition is the only known road. There are no special use authorizations in this addition.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation of this area would have very little impact on adjacent lands. Although the size of the existing wilderness to the west and north would increase, the existing access points from Mt. Baldy Road would remain the same.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Cucamonga Wilderness consists of 12,781 acres, of which 4,400 are in the Angeles National Forest as added in 1984. Also, located approximately two miles to the west is the 41,883-acre Sheep Mountain Wilderness.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Currently there is moderate to high use of the existing Icehouse trail, which is primarily used for daylong trips. Use in the Sheep Mountain Wilderness is low due to very limited access. Both wilderness areas have very little overnight use. However, the foothill cities of Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga, Claremont, Upland, Alta Loma, and La Verne are increasingly

developing at the base of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, which may increase the demand for recreation activities on these forests.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The areas to the west and southwest offer very little additional unconfined recreation experiences. In addition, they are within ¼ mile of the heavy public use around Mt. Baldy Road, Mt. Baldy Village, and Glendora Ridge Road, and therefore offer no peace and solitude.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider means available, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Due to steepness and inaccessibility, wilderness designation would not increase public use of these areas. Competition between the public and biotic species would remain minimal; from this standpoint, designation of this area would not add any additional protection.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is a low need to provide a sanctuary because the majority of the area is inaccessible to the public due to steep and inhospitable terrain and already provides a primitive surrounding. Periodic introduction of fire into bighorn sheep habitat is necessary to maintain the viability of this species.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The base of the San Antonio Watershed, composed mostly of chaparral with dense woodlands in shaded slopes and canyons and its associated habitats, would be preserved.

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**Arroyo Seco Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Magic Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## Magic Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

Los Angeles River Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The 15,517-acre Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) lies within the Pacoima and Soledad watersheds. Pacoima is a key watershed for the unarmored three-spine stickleback. The Soledad watershed is also important for the unarmored three-spine stickleback; however, most of the fish's habitat is off-forest. Chaparral (chamise, manzanita, scrub oak, ceanothus) covers most of the mountain slopes. In the steep, vertical-walled, narrow canyons with perennial streams there are scattered stands of mixed pines and hardwoods (oaks, willows, alder, sycamores).

Challenge: There are very low opportunities for adventure and challenge due to ground disturbance by mining. The area has one dirt road that traverses the mountain from the community of Lange to Magic Mountain, and one mining trail that goes north to south. Although hampered by dense chaparral, cross-country exploring provides some interesting challenges.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: There is a limited amount of primitive recreation opportunities due to the mining activities. There are trails that lead to the mining operation and can be used by the public.

Special Features: The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals including Nevin's barberry, Braunton's milk-vetch, lemon lily, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, mountain yellow-legged frog, unarmored three-spine stickleback, Santa Ana sucker, and the two-striped garter snake. The area encompasses a key watershed for the unarmored three-spine stickleback and the Santa Ana sucker, whose habitat is located outside and downstream of the proposed wilderness. There is a considerable amount of historical and active mining of non-gold minerals not seen anywhere else on the forest.

Manageability: The 15,517-acre Magic Mountain IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. However, management difficulties arise with the existing operations and active mining claims that require roads and debris sites.

Boundary Considerations: To the west, use junction National Forest System Road (NFSR) 3N17 and Soledad Claims Road in Sections 4, 33, 28, 29, 20, and 17. To the north, use the Forest Service boundary that parallels with Soledad Canyon Rd with a 500 foot buffer. To the east, use the junction of Soledad Canyon Rd to NFSR 4N37. To the south, use the junction of NFSR 4N37 and 3N17 to the west. All development will have 500 feet of buffer. Boundaries are clearly definable on the ground. However, due to the existing mining operations and active mining claims, the boundaries would not act as a shield to protect the wilderness values from the sights and sounds of civilization. The maps need to exclude the existing mining operations.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The proposed wilderness area contains active mining areas that supply regional building materials such as sand and gravel. Strategic minerals such as titanium are also mined.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: Roads to mineral claims & roads to private land. Existing encumbrances include a military reservation, a communication site, and a helipad at Magic Mountain. There are electric distribution lines and telephone lines to the facilities at Magic Mountain. There are the Vulcan Sand and Gravel mining operations to the north. The mining operations exist within the IRA boundary as described on map ANF0058, December 3, 2001.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation of this area would not have a significant impact on the production of building materials (sand and gravel) because these operations could continue under existing legal rights.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: There are no wilderness areas on the Santa Clara Mojave Rivers RD. At approximately 30 miles to the west/northwest is the Sespe Wilderness, which is 219,700 acres. At approximately 20 miles southeast is the San Gabriel Wilderness, which is 36,118 acres.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: In the Sespe Wilderness, use is generally light except on a few holiday weekends and at popular sites within the wilderness. In the San Gabriel Wilderness, there is low to moderate use of the existing wilderness areas, which are primarily used for daylong rather than overnight trips.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: There are limited opportunities for unconfined recreation activities due to the existing mining claims and operations. Opportunities exist to the south and east.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that

affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The area encompasses a key watershed for the unarmored three-spine stickleback and the Santa Ana sucker, whose habitat is located outside of the proposed wilderness.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: This proposed wilderness area would not provide a sanctuary for these species because they are located outside the proposed area.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There are no identifiable unique landform types or ecosystems within this area.

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**Cucamonga A Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Pleasant View Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Pleasant View Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: Both proposed sections in the 26,332-acre Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) are on the ridge that divides Little Rock Creek and Big Rock watersheds.

Section 1 – This 23,906 acre section of semi-desert chaparral occurs on the lower slopes facing the Mojave Desert. This type is noticeably more open than all other chaparral types. Crown cover is usually less than 50% and it does not burn as often as the coastal forms since the presence of man is not as extensive and fire does not carry as well. Desert shrubs and Joshua trees are scattered throughout. The pinyon/juniper vegetation type occurs in the mid-slope elevation. As you travel southward to Highway 2, the forest is dense with old growth white fir, incense cedar, and Jeffrey and sugar pines.

Section 2 – This section contain three fragmented pieces of parcels totaling 2,426 acres. Using known landmarks, the large 1,359 acre parcel is near Buckhorn Campground. To the west near Winston Peak, is the smallest parcel of 185 acres. To the south/southwest of Sulphur Springs is a modest 830 acre parcel. South towards Highway 2 and west towards 3N17, the forest is dense with old growth white fir, incense cedar, and Jeffrey and sugar pines.

Challenge: Sections 1 & 2 – The desert side of the San Gabriel Mountains rises abruptly with V-shaped canyons and steep, rugged terrain. Although hampered by steep and rugged terrain, cross-country exploring provides interesting challenges.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Section 1 – One trail, the High Desert National Recreation Trail (10W02 and 10W09), traverses this area. On its western boundary it is adjacent to designated OHV route 4N15. To the east is Big Rock Creek Road (NFSR 4N11). There are remote fishing opportunities in the Little Rock Creek and Big Rock Creek watersheds. Section 2 – The Pacific Crest Trail traverses this area. To the south/southwest are several organization camps.

Special Features: Sections 1 & 2 – The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals, including the lemon lily, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, and the two-striped garter snake. The mountain yellow-legged frog and peregrine falcon are known to inhabit the area. A panoramic view of

the area ranges from the high desert and Joshua trees to majestic old growth pines and big rocks. Extreme historical earthquake activity has created interesting rock formations in and around the Devil's Punchbowl area.

Manageability: Section 1 of the Pleasant View IRA does meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. The area would be easy to manage to retain its unimpaired condition because of the minimal access points into the area. Section 2 does not meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act; however, considered as a whole, the area is 26,332 acres.

Boundary Considerations: These boundaries could be readily and accurately described and recognized on the ground as they are located adjacent to highways/roads, trails, or prominent topographic features. The roads and trails should be buffered by at least 500 feet.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Both sections provide suitable habitat for the California spotted owl and mountain yellow-legged frog.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: Section 1 – The use of power equipment is mandatory for trail maintenance on the High Desert National Recreation Trail. To the north is the Devil's Punchbowl Regional Park, operated under special use permit by Los Angeles County. There is a small county park, but most of the trails are on NFS lands under special use permit. The desert foothills are peppered with ranch-style housing developments of one to five acres or greater. If boundaries are not clearly established, encroachment/trespass will continue to occur. Section 2 – Several organization camps use this area. In the Cloud Burst Summit there is an old road that is gated by Highway 2.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Private property owners to the north along the proposed wilderness boundary would complain that they cannot use their motorized/mechanical equipment on the forest to maintain their improvements, primarily water systems.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: San Gabriel Wilderness is 52 miles to the south. At 36,118 acres in size, it encompasses a larger area with less access and more unique features. San Gabriel is composed of mostly dense chaparral. Sheep Mountain Wilderness is 2 miles to the southeast.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is low to moderate use of the existing wilderness areas, which are primarily used for daylong trips. There is very little overnight use of the existing wilderness areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Much of the surrounding non-wilderness lands in this area encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider means available, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biotic species are not affected due to the area having low public use and no development.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The area allows protection of biotic species, including the populations of mountain yellow-legged frog and peregrine falcon.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: To the northeast is a special use permit to the Los Angeles County Parks for trails coming from Devil's Punchbowl, a park that provides preservation and interpretation of a unique landform.

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**Magic Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Red Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Red Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The 8,030-acre Red Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is partly in the Elizabeth Lake and San Francisquito watersheds. Chaparral (chamise, manzanita, scrub oak, ceanothus) dominates the vegetation covering the slopes of the mountain. In the steep narrow canyons with perennial streams there are scattered stands of mixed pines and hardwoods (oaks, willows, alder, sycamores). A small stand of bigcone Douglas-fir grows on the north face slope of Red Mountain. Occasionally there are long meandering canyons with steep vertical walls and year-round flowing streams. The visual quality may be impaired due to remnants of firelines and dozer lines with fuelbreaks on ridge tops. There are intermittent mountain springs on the northeast corner of the roadless area known as Plum Springs.

Challenge: Hampered by dense chaparral, cross-country exploring provides interesting challenges. There are no trails and one non-system road within this proposal. The road is at the southern end of the area, near Camp 14, and does not have lateral roads to allow views of the rest of the mountain.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for cross-country exploring, hiking, hunting, as well as backpacking/camping are available.

Special Features: The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals including least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, mountain yellow-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, unarmored three-spine stickleback, California condor, and two-striped garter snake. The view from Red Mountain looking towards Castaic Lake is outstanding.

Manageability: The 8,030-acre Red Mountain IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. The perimeter of the area is used for numerous special use permitted activities such as the Southern California Edison (SCE) transmission line (500kV).

Boundary Considerations: To the west, use Lake Hughes Road with a 500 foot buffer from the center line. To the north, use Midway Vincent SCE power lines and National Forest System road (NFSR) 6N24. To the east, use San Francisquito Canyon Road with a 500 foot buffer from the center line. To the south, use NFSR 5N30 with a 500 foot buffer from the center line and tie into Lake Hughes Road.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Watershed and fire protection for the developing communities at the foot of the mountains would not be impacted by wilderness designation. A minimal amount of mountain biking has occurred in this area in the past. Future opportunities would be precluded by wilderness designation.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: At the perimeter of the proposed wilderness are a shooting area under special use permit and a private shooting area in San Francisquito Canyon, as well as SCE transmission lines and OHV designated routes on Ruby and Clearwater Canyon Roads.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation would not have significant impacts to private property owners along the wilderness Boundary near San Francisquito Road.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: No wilderness areas are in the immediate area: 15 miles southwest is the 219,700-acre Sespe Wilderness on the Los Padres NF. On the Angeles, the closest wilderness (San Gabriel) is over 20 miles away in the main divide of the forest.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Use is generally light except for on a few holiday weekends and at popular sites within the wilderness.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The surrounding area provides similar unconfined recreation experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biotic species are not affected due to the area having low public use and no development.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: None identified.

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**Pleasant View Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Salt Creek Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## Salt Creek Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The 11,004-acre Salt Creek Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is within the Castaic watershed. Chaparral (chamise, manzanita, scrub oak, ceanothus) mainly covers the slopes of the mountain. In the steep narrow canyons with perennial streams there are scattered stands of mixed pines and hardwoods (oaks, willows, alder, sycamores). Some long meandering canyons with steep vertical walls and year round flowing streams may be found. The visual quality may be impaired due to remnants of fire lines and dozer lines with fuelbreaks on ridge tops.

Challenge: There are only two trails and one road within this proposal. The trail goes north to south and does not have lateral trails to allow you to see the rest of the mountain. Although hampered by dense chaparral, cross-country exploring provides interesting challenges.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Two trails (16W03 and 17W06) traverse north and south along Cienega and Redrock canyons. The Knapp Ranch can offer educational and environmental field trips for local schools and colleges. There is hiking, mountain biking, hunting, and occasional backpacking/camping available.

Special Features: The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals including least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, and two-striped garter snake. The California condor once occupied the area, and may once again use habitat within the area now that it has successfully been released back into its natural environment. Knapp Ranch, which lies to the north, is rich in biotic and archaeological resources. The ranch has the only true wet meadow existing on the forest. The Gillette Mine is active.

Manageability: As individual proposals, Salt Creek (roads allowed) 5,298 acres and Salt Creek (roads not allowed) 5,705 acres meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act.

Boundary Considerations: The boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads, transmission lines, and topographic features. Infrastructure would have a 500 foot buffer (e.g., Southern California Edison (SCE) transmission lines).

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Resource demands are few due to limited accessibility of the proposed wilderness interior. The California condor once occupied habitat within the area and there is a need to maintain this capability for recovery of the species.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: There is the SCE transmission line at the old ridge route corridor to the west and SCE Midway Vincent transmission line to the south. Forest Service Road 7N22 leads to the historic Knapp Ranch and the Gillette Mine.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: National Forest System Road (NFSR) 7N22 would have to be maintained for access to Gillette Mine and for fire access. Mine operations operate under existing rights subject to direction in existing mining laws.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres) is approximately 4-5 miles to the west/ southwest.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Use is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and popular sites within the wilderness.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Current designation of Salt Creek is semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized. Non-wilderness land currently provides for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences such as mountain biking, remote camping, day hiking, hunting, and equestrian use.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biota is currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. Given the low current and projected levels of public use, all biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully. No development projects are proposed that would affect this area. The existing condition of the chaparral vegetation does not offer the public easy, unencumbered access due to its age, size, and density.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is no need for such a sanctuary as the current level of protection is adequate. There is no unique scientific value or phenomena that would need to be protected beyond current management of the area.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There are no identifiable landform types or ecosystems.

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**Red Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**San Dimas Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## San Dimas Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

San Gabriel River Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The 7,149-acre San Dimas Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is in the San Dimas watershed, a tributary to the San Gabriel River, and lies completely within the San Dimas Experimental Forest. It is generally free from disturbance due to posted signs informing the public of no public entry to the experimental forest. To the North, there are developments located at Tanbark, including housing/research station facilities built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Scattered throughout the experimental forest are existing communication sites, weather stations, water tanks, rain gauges, distribution power lines under 33kV, pine plantations, lysimeter sites, debris dams, special use authorizations that contribute to a particular research program, and several forest roads. The area would not provide a feeling of serenity and solitude.

Challenge: The areas to the north, west, and south offer very little challenge due to manmade structures scattered throughout in support of research/experiments. The area to the east is relatively remote and has very few trails and roads.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The existing housing and research facilities, which are seldom used, can offer a semi-primitive motorized outdoor lodge atmosphere (rental facilities). Opportunities for this area can provide a limited recreation experience that would generally be limited to lodging and hiking. This would be an ideal area for an environmental camp with easy access for school buses.

Special Features: Tanbark includes a number of historically significant CCC housing and research station facilities. In addition, there is the Fern Canyon Research Natural Area, which depicts a California Oak Woodland vegetation zone.

The California spotted owl is known to occupy suitable habitat within the area. Potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed plants and animals, including the arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, Santa Ana sucker, bald eagle, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, thread-leaved brodiaea, Nevin's barberry, and Braunton's milk-vetch are present within the addition.

Manageability: The total area of 7,149 acres meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. This IRA falls entirely within the existing San Dimas Experimental Forest, which has restrictions to access and the types of uses that are allowed. In addition, the boundary of the portion of roads not allowed exactly coincides with the Fern Canyon Research Natural Area. The area includes existing forest roads and trails that lead to facilities and research sites. Should the area be designated, management of the area as wilderness would “trump” management as an experimental forest. Therefore, this area should be removed from the Forest Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Boundary Considerations: The boundary is already established because of its designation as an experimental forest. The boundary to the west, north, and east follow major ridgelines adjacent to a known forest system road. The boundary to the south is combined with the forest boundary and experimental forest boundary.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: As mentioned above, the area is currently zoned as experimental forest and in one area, as both experimental forest and research natural area.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: There are close to 30 miles of forest system roads in this area. The majority of maps (forest or quads) show 70-unit recreation residence lots within the San Dimas Experimental Forest. In the establishment record, these recreation residence lots were excluded. Johnstone Peak Communication Site, which lies to the south, and Sunset Peak Communication Site, which lies to the east, both have several buildings and towers. Several water tanks that have been developed for wildland fire fighting are scattered along forest roads. There are two known trails in the eastern area of the experimental forest; however, use is limited to those scientists conducting experiments.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There are private land in-holdings within the southern end of the combined Forest Congressional Boundary and San Dimas Experimental Forest. Designation of this area to wilderness could have an impact on existing special uses and access.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: There are two existing wilderness areas nearby: Sheep Mountain Wilderness, 41,883 acres, located approximately 1.5 miles to the north and Cucamonga Wilderness 12,781 acres, located approximately 3 miles to the east.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Currently there is moderate to high use of the existing Icehouse trail in the Cucamonga Wilderness, which is primarily used for daylong trips. Use in the Sheep Mountain Wilderness is low due to very limited access. Both wilderness areas have very little overnight

use. However, the foothill cities of Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga, Claremont, Upland, Alta Loma, and La Verne are increasingly developing at the base of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, which may increase the demand for recreation activities on these forests.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The areas to the north, west, and east offer additional unconfined recreation experiences. The area to the south encompasses more urbanized areas therefore affording less unconfined recreation opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): There is no need for wilderness designation to increase the ability for biotic species to compete. Furthermore, the area's present designation as an experimental forest restricts visitor use; in contrast, wilderness would open public access. Experimental forest designation also restricts the types of activities that can occur.

Need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is low need to provide a sanctuary. The area is presently designated as an experimental forest that already restricts the visitor use and manages the area to study and discover scientific knowledge.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The experimental forest already studies the effects of natural processes on ecosystems and soil erosion after a fire. The designation of a wilderness would not have an increased effect on this ability.

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**Salt Creek Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**San Gabriel Addition  
Inventoried Roadless Area**

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## San Gabriel Addition Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

San Gabriel River Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: Most of the 2,506 acre San Gabriel Add Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is within the North Fork San Gabriel River watershed. The feeling of solitude and serenity would be low in the portion of the area that is closest to the West Fork Road and Highway 39 corridors. However, further away from the road corridors, where the terrain becomes steep and inhospitable with decreased accessibility for many visitors, the level of wilderness experiences becomes moderate. The vegetation cover is mixed chaparral and hardwood.

Challenge: This addition to the existing San Gabriel Wilderness would provide a considerable amount of opportunity for adventure and challenge because of the lack of developed trails.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: There would be many opportunities for this area to provide a primitive recreation experience. However, the variety would generally be limited to camping, hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. Wilderness designation would prohibit the use of mountain bikes on approximately 1.5 miles of the Bear Creek Trail (9W10) where mountain biking is currently allowed.

Special Features: The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals including Nevin's barberry, Braunton's milk-vetch, lemon lily, bald eagle, least Bell's vireo, and southwestern willow flycatcher. The Santa Ana sucker, a federally listed threatened fish, inhabits the lower reaches of the North Fork of the San Gabriel River. This addition would expand the vegetation zone of mixed chaparral and oak in wilderness.

Manageability: The 2,506 acre San Gabriel Add does not meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act; however, it is contiguous with the San Gabriel Wilderness. The area would be easy to manage to retain its unimpaired condition because of the minimal access points into the area. Proposed boundaries generally use existing natural features and are therefore easy to establish and recognize on the ground. The presence of State Highway 39 to the east could contribute to management difficulty due to the potential of human-caused fire starts.

Boundary Considerations: The boundaries could be readily described: the West Fork Road to the south and Highway 39 to the east would serve as the majority of the boundary. The area would act as a shield to protect the wilderness environment while retaining adequate access for wilderness visitors.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are no known resource demands from this area other than the Bear Paw Plantation which is located in the Northern Section of the area. A service road accesses the plantation. No existing recreation use would be forgone.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: There are no encumbrances on this fairly inaccessible steep terrain. There is one trail (9W10) that traverses from east (Highway 39) to west, then south towards the West Fork Road.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Increasing the size of the existing wilderness to the east would have very little impact on the adjacent land.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: There are two adjacent existing wilderness areas: the San Gabriel Wilderness (36,118 acres) to the west and Sheep Mountain Wilderness (41,883 acres) approximately 5 miles to the east.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is low use of the San Gabriel Wilderness, which is primarily used for daylong rather than overnight trips. Use in the western section of Sheep Mountain Wilderness is low due to the lack of hiking trails.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The areas to the north and east offer no additional unconfined recreation experiences. To the north lies the Crystal Lake Recreation Area, a highly developed recreation area containing 176 campsites, a group camping area, two picnic areas, an administrative site, visitor center, resort, and approximately 16 miles of trail. Lands to the east have no developed access for public use and consist of steep slopes with no system trails or roads. The area located within ¼ mile of State Highway 39 and the North Fork of the San Gabriel River receive heavy dispersed use in summer months, and do not offer peace and solitude.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider means available, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Wilderness designation is not needed to add to the ability of biotic species to compete. The majority of the area is inaccessible due to steep and inhospitable terrain, and there is no increase in public use anticipated. Therefore, there already exists minimal competition between public uses and biotic species. From this standpoint, the designation of this area would not add protection.

Need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The need to provide a sanctuary is low because the majority of the area is inaccessible to the public and already provides a primitive surrounding.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The addition of this area would expand the existing wilderness area thus preserving a portion of the North Fork San Gabriel watershed and associated habitats. These habitats are already well represented in existing wilderness.

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**San Dimas Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Sespe-Frazier Addition  
Inventoried Roadless Area**

## Sespe-Frazier Addition Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The Sespe-Frazier Inventoried Roadless Area lies on both the Los Padres and Angeles National Forests. This 4,200-acre portion is within the Angeles National Forest. Chaparral covers much of the slopes with interspersed areas of meadowlands and some coniferous species. Riparian vegetation occurs along Michael Creek on the northern boundary and through Canton and Sharps Canyons in the interior of the roadless area. Forest trail 17W05 is located in the steep and rugged terrain, but is not regularly maintained and receives light use. Natural integrity and appearance are fairly high throughout this area except for evidence of historic grazing. The opportunity for solitude is moderate.

Challenge: Cross-country exploring provides some interesting challenges, although travel is hampered by dense chaparral. Two trails in the area are considerably challenging. The climate itself can present a challenge to the visitors. In the summer, the weather can get extremely hot and dry, while in the winter snow can be found in the upper slopes.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Available opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation include hiking, equestrian use, and hunting. There is also fishing along Piru Creek.

Special Features: The California condor is the most dominant feature of this area. The arroyo toad is also known to occur within the area. The area also supports potentially suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher.

Manageability: By itself, the Sespe-Frazier wilderness proposal of 4,200 acres does not meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. However, the area is contiguous with the Sespe Wilderness on the Los Padres National Forest. The combined acreage would equal almost one quarter of a million acres. The area would be easy to manage to retain its unimpaired condition because of the minimal access points into the area. Proposed boundaries generally use existing natural features and are therefore easy to establish and recognize on the ground.

Boundary Considerations: These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to existing wilderness, highways/roads, creeks, or trails.

## Availability

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Trails are currently used for a variety of non-motorized activities including mountain biking. This use would be forgone if the area was designated as wilderness. Most of the area has a high potential for oil and gas occurrence.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: This is Angeles National Forest system land administered by the Los Padres National Forest. There is a private inholding around the Piru lake area. Signs of grazing are noticeable, such as old barbed wire fencing and cattle trails. Trail 17W05 traverses into private land in the southern end of section 13; if designated into wilderness, we do not know how the landowner will react.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: If designated as wilderness, the existing Sespe Wilderness would expand further to the east. There is a significant block of private land in the Piru Lake area, as well as south of trail 17W05.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Sespe Condor Sanctuary is just four miles to the west, the 219,700 acres of Sespe Wilderness is just two miles to the west, and there is adjacent land to the Northwest by Michael Creek on the Los Padres National Forest. On the Angeles National Forest to the east there is no wilderness area until you are in the main divide of the forest.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Use is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and popular sites within the wilderness.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Ojai Ranger District (Los Padres NF) is designated as semi-primitive motorized or semi-primitive non-motorized. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in the non-wilderness areas. Other surrounding lands on the Angeles NF are generally of a more developed nature such as the developed recreation opportunities to the north and the infrastructure around Interstate Highway 5.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biota is currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. The low and current levels of public use indicate that potentially all biotic species are expected to thrive successfully. No development projects are proposed that would impact this area.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is no need for such a sanctuary, the current levels of protection are adequate. There

are no unique scientific values or phenomena that would need to be in a protected area.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: None identified.

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**San Gabriel Addition  
Inventoried Roadless Area**

**Sheep Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## Sheep Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger Districts and San Gabriel Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: For the purposes of this evaluation, the 20,953-acre Sheep Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) was broken down into five sections.

Sections 1 and 2 contain 16,240 and 18 acres respectively. Overall, the feeling of solitude and serenity would be low in those portions of the proposed addition that are closest to State Highway 39 to the west, State Highway 2 to the north, and East Fork Road to the south. However, further away from the road corridors the level of wilderness experience becomes high due to the inaccessible, steep, and inhospitable terrain. The southwest area of this addition has a view of Los Angeles and flood control dams, which does not present a free and natural appearance. This area is within the Big Rock, West Fork San Gabriel, and Upper San Gabriel River watersheds.

Section 3 (613 acres) is a portion of the Sheep Mountain IRA that is located south of Wrightwood. The area is adjacent to what the locals call the “slide.” This area is in the Jeffrey pine forest vegetation zone. The feeling of solitude and serenity is low due to the area's close proximity to the town of Wrightwood. The Pacific Crest trail traverses to the south of the area. This section is located within the Swarthout-Sheep 5th field watershed.

Section 4 contains approximately 1,441 acres. This portion of the Sheep Mountain IRA is located south of Wrightwood. This area is in the Jeffrey pine forest vegetation zone. The feeling of solitude and serenity is low due to close proximity to the town of Wrightwood, which less than 1.5 miles away. This section is located within the Upper San Gabriel River watershed.

Section 5 contains approximately 2,641 acres. This portion of the Sheep Mountain IRA is located west of the San Antonio Canyon Creek with a scattered housing development that surrounds Manker Flats. Vegetation is composed of a mix of chaparral with bigcone Douglas-fir on the north-facing slopes. This section is located within the Chino Creek watershed.

## Challenge:

Section 1 – This large addition to the existing wilderness would provide a considerable amount of opportunity for adventure and challenge because of the lack of developed trails.

Section 2 – This very small piece would provide little challenge as it is a parcel that would connect to existing Sheep Mountain south of National Forest System Road (NFSR) 3N39.

Section 3 – This 615-acre portion of the IRA provides little challenge, because the PCT (Pacific Crest Trail) traverses nearby, and NFSR 3N06.2 divides this area. The area, known as “the slide,” would be highly challenging if one were willing to take a serious risk in climbing or rappelling.

Section 4 – The proximity of the community of Wrightwood and Mountain High Ski Area (winter) offers a variety of opportunities from mountain biking, hiking, equestrian use, and camping. Guffy Campground is also in close proximity. In the winter, one can go skiing at Mountain High Ski Area, located less than one mile to the north.

Section 5 – Due to the proximity of the Mt. Baldy Village and the ski area, this area offers opportunities for hiking and camping. The area is very difficult for cross-country travel due to the size of the boulders that cover the landscape.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Collectively, all five sections would offer many opportunities for a primitive and unconfined recreation experience. However, the variety of activities would generally be limited to camping, hiking, and horseback riding where there are some constructed facilities. Hunting would be very challenging due to the rocky and steep terrain. The designation of the wilderness in these five sections would prohibit the use of mountain bikes on approximately 10-15 miles of existing trails and roads where they can presently ride.

Special Features: This addition does expand upon the area's ability to provide for outdoor education and scientific studies, and would contribute significantly to the area's wilderness capability. Sections 1, 4, and 5 provide connectivity and expand the wildlife corridor that provides habitat for two of the groups of Nelson's bighorn sheep (The Iron Mountain and Mount San Antonio groups).

Section 2 – This area, due to its small pieces of land, has no special features. Section 3 – The area, known as the “slide,” is highly visible from a distance. This upper section had dropped to the foot of the mountain near the San Andreas Fault. The Pacific Crest Trail traverses the area, and from a vantage point looking north, provides a view of the growing high desert communities.

## Manageability:

Section 1 - Sheep Mountain, 16,226 acres (roads allowed), meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. The area would be easy to manage for the retention of its unimpaired condition,

because there are few access points to the area. Proposed boundaries generally use existing natural features, and are therefore easy to establish and recognize on the ground.

Section 2 – Sheep Mountain, 18 acres, does not meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act.

Section 3 – Sheep Mountain, 613 acres, does not meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act.

Section 4 – Sheep Mountain, 1,441 acres, does not meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. This area is not directly connected to the main body of Sheep Mountain Wilderness, because NFSR 3N39 interrupts some of its connectivity. It is adjacent to Mountain High Ski area to the north.

Section 5 – Sheep Mountain, 2,641 acres, does not meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. It is contiguous with the main body of Sheep Mountain Wilderness.

#### Boundary Considerations:

Section 1 – The majority of the boundaries would act as a shield to protect the wilderness environment, while retaining adequate access for wilderness visitors. Each piece is adjacent to an existing wilderness. A large portion of this addition would parallel Highway 39 to the west with approximately a 0.25 mile buffer from the road. The addition would parallel Highway 2 to the north with approximately a 0.25 mile buffer from the road. The section on the northern end has several segments that are fragmented until you reach Vincent's Gap. To the south, it would follow the dominant ridge that parallels East Fork Road with approximately a 0.25 mile buffer from the road. To the east, it would follow the dominant ridge that parallels Mt. Baldy Road with approximately a 0.25 mile buffer from the road.

Section 2 – This section includes several small parcels of land to the south of NFSR 3N39 that border the Sheep Mountain wilderness in sections 24 and 19.

Section 3 – The proposed boundary locations would avoid conflicts with private land and an existing road. The southwest boundary is adjacent to NFSR 3N06, and to the south/southeast, the boundary is shared with the San Bernardino National Forest. To the north, the private lands delineate the boundary line.

Section 4 – The proposed boundary to the south and east is NFSR 3N39. Where the junction of NFSR 3N39 and 3N06 is to the east, the boundary continues to parallel NFSR 3N06 to the north. To the west, the boundary will tie to the southwestern corner of Section 11 nearest the existing wilderness.

Section 5 – The eastern boundary of the Sheep Mountain Wilderness is 1/4 mile west of San Antonio

Canyon. The boundary between the San Bernardino NF and Angeles NF serves as this section's boundary to the north. In the west, the boundary ties to the existing Sheep Mountain Wilderness.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy:

Section 1 – It provides the connectivity and expands the wildlife corridor that is habitat for two of the groups of Nelson's bighorn sheep (The Iron Mountain and Cattle Canyon groups).

Section 2 – Small fragmented parcels may provide habitat for the mountain yellow-legged frogs.

Section 3 – The forested area on the ridge may provide additional habitat for the California spotted owl.

Section 4 – There is demand for remote vehicle camping at Guffy, Lupine, and Cabin Flats Campgrounds. Lupine and Cabin Flats are currently closed because of mountain yellow-legged frog habitat.

Section 5 – It provides connectivity and expands the wildlife corridor that is habitat for two of the groups of bighorn sheep (The Iron Mountain and Mount San Antonio groups).

Constraints and encumbrances on lands:

Section 1 – The area is fairly inaccessible due to a lack of roads (only NFSR 2N15, 2N17, and 3N07) and trails (8W13, 8W16, and the Pacific Crest) throughout this addition, and the minimal access points from Highway 39, Highway 2, Mt. Baldy Road, and East Fork County Road. There are no special use authorizations in this proposed addition.

Section 2 – There is an old road NFSR 3N08 used as a trail that ties into 8W10 and 3N39A, leading to Lupine campground. To the north is NFSR 3N39.

Section 3 – NFSR 3N06 would be used to create the boundary to the south/south west of this proposed wilderness addition. The northern end of the proposed wilderness is adjacent to private land, and is commonly used by mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians. These local trails tie to the Pacific Crest Trail or NFSR 3N06.

Section 4 – This area has two walk-in campgrounds, Cabin Flats and Lupine campgrounds. There is NFSR 3N39.

Section 5 – There is a 40-acre private parcel called the Gold Ridge Mine in Section 8 adjacent to the boundary, and the 7W02 Forest Service trail traverses the northeast corner of this property.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: The designation of this area would have very little impact on the adjacent land. This designation would increase the size of the existing wilderness to the north, southeast, and west and would not affect the existing access points from roads such as Highway 39, Highway 2, Mt. Baldy Road, and East Fork County Road. There are no proposals for new trailheads and trails.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: There are three existing wilderness areas, all of which are proposed for expansion. The Sheep Mountain Wilderness, 41,883 acres, is adjacent to this addition to the north, south, west, and east. The San Gabriel Wilderness (36,118 acres) is located approximately three miles to the west, and the Cucamonga Wilderness (12,781 acres) is approximately two miles to the south/southeast.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is low to moderate use of the existing wilderness areas, which are primarily used for daylong trips. There is very little overnight use of the existing wilderness areas. There is low use in the adjacent Sheep Mountain Wilderness due to very minimal access. Just less than a mile to the southeast is Icehouse Trail, which is primarily used for daylong trips in the Cucamonga Wilderness. There is very little overnight use among the three wilderness areas.

The northern portion of Los Angeles and San Bernardino County is increasingly growing. The desert foothill cities of Phelan, Pinon Hills, and Valyermo continue to develop, but at a slower rate than in previous years. The small town of Wrightwood, located within the congressional boundary of the Angeles National Forest, has grown in population and has become a destination point for recreation activities year-round.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The areas to the north, south, east, and west offer no additional unconfined recreation experiences. These areas are within ¼-mile of State Highway 39, Highway 2, Mt. Baldy Road, and East Fork county road, which offer no peace and solitude due to heavy use by the motorized public. The surrounding non-wilderness land provides opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. The types of uses (mountain biking, car camping, and skiing) will not be appropriate for wilderness activities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need):

Sections 1, 2, and 5 – Within the interior of the current wilderness, minimal competition between the public and biotic species (bighorn sheep) exists. The designation of this area would not add any additional protection.

Section 3 – There is a low potential for development in surrounding areas.

Section 4 – To the south of this proposed wilderness, the forest had placed a temporary closure to Lupine and Cabin Flats campgrounds during the recovery of the Narrows Fire. Road 3N39 remains closed to vehicular traffic while the biological assessment determines impacts of camping and vehicles to mountain yellow-legged frogs. The campgrounds are open to hiking.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is a low to moderate need to provide a sanctuary, because the majority of the area already provides a primitive surrounding. The closed Lupine and Cabin Flats Campgrounds receive little use, and though they lie within model habitat, no species have yet been found.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The North Fork of the San Gabriel Watershed. Road 3N06 would be used to create the boundary to the south/southwest of this proposed wilderness addition.

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**Sespe-Frazier Addition  
Inventoried Roadless Area**

**Strawberry Peak Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Strawberry Peak Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

Los Angeles River Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The majority of the 7,193 acre Strawberry Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is within the Upper Big Tujunga watershed. This area is north of Highway 2 with south slopes composed mainly of chaparral and mixed conifer/hardwood in the canyon bottom. The north slopes have a rock face that is over several hundred feet in length. Bounded by roads on all four sides, the area clearly shows evidence of man with camp facilities and private camps within the interior, and communication sites on the boundary. This area has several large bigcone Douglas-fir stands within the proposed area.

Challenge: Two hiking trails that run through the interior of this area provide a good day hiking experience. No overnight or day use facilities are located within the area. Hiking the existing trails provides a moderate level of challenge. However, the challenge provided in this area is considerable if hiking cross-country, due to steepness and density of vegetation.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Use is moderate to heavy for day and overnight camping. Mountain bikers and hikers use the majority of the trails in this area. Equestrian use is limited. Other uses are picnicking, day use, hunting, fishing, and photography. The area is heavily used for deer hunting. The north-facing slope provides one of the rare opportunities for rock climbing.

Special Features: Strawberry Peak granite rock face is a unique feature of the local area. The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for several federal listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals, including Nevin's barberry, lemon lily, bald eagle, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, mountain yellow-legged frog, and the two-striped garter snake. The California spotted owl is known to occupy habitat within the area.

Manageability: The 7,193 acre Strawberry IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. The perimeter of the area is used for numerous special use permitted activities such as the Strawberry and Josephine Peak communication sites. There is a large privately owned parcel and road within the interior. Necessary community defense of the private land within the roadless area would be very difficult if surrounded by designated wilderness.

Boundary Considerations: These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to highways/roads, creeks, or ridgelines. The proposed boundary locations avoid conflicts with the improvements in the Josephine and Strawberry Peak area. All private land will be buffered 500 feet. For example, Colby Ranch and the road leading into the ranch should be cherry stemmed.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are active mining claims along the stream on the northern boundary. Mountain biking is currently popular in the area but would be a forgone use if designated as wilderness. Rock climbing would still be allowed, although it is likely that no new bolts would be allowed.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: Colby Ranch (private land) is within the interior. There is a special use permit issued for the county sheriff helicopter base within the interior with daily overflights and rescue operations. The area including the communication site on Josephine Peak and extending to the south is just outside of the roadless area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: A county sheriff helicopter base and Colby Ranch are located within the interior. The ability to keep non-wilderness activity from continuing would be difficult.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Two existing wilderness areas are being evaluated for expansion: San Gabriel Wilderness (36,118 acres) is located approximately three miles to the east across Highway 2 and the West Fork road, and Sheep Mountain Wilderness (41,883 acres) is located approximately 18 miles to the east.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is low to moderate use of the existing wilderness areas, which are primarily used for daylong trips rather than overnight use.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The surrounding areas to the north and west offer no additional unconfined recreation experiences. The area to the south is within less than a mile of State Highway 2, and therefore offers no peace and solitude. The area to the east offers some opportunity for an unconfined recreation experience as the nearest road, NFSR 3N10 and a power line lie approximately two miles east of the wilderness boundary with only one improvement (trail 11W09) in between.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this

need): Biota is currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. All biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully under projected levels of public use. No development projects are proposed that would impact this area.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: None identified.

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**Sheep Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Tule Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

## Tule Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The 9,855 acre Tule Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is within the upper reaches of the Elizabeth Lake watershed. Chaparral (chamise, manzanita, scrub oak, ceanothus) is the dominant vegetation type covering the mountain slopes. In the narrow steep-walled canyons with perennial streams there are scattered stands of mixed pines and hardwoods (oaks, willows, alder, Sycamore). A few small stands of bigcone Douglas-fir are on the north slope.

Challenge: The challenge is considerable in this area with its lack of roads and trails, rough and broken terrain, and dense vegetation.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The majority of use is hunting, with limited fishing in the Prospect vicinity. There is hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Special Features: The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals including Nevin's barberry, Braunton's milk-vetch, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, foothill yellow-legged frog, unarmored three-spined stickleback, California condor, and the two-striped garter snake. There are small stands of oak/ woodland within the area, however chaparral dominates the landscape.

Manageability: The 9,855 acre Tule IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Despite having numerous access points, the area would be easy to manage due to lack of roads, trails and rough and broken terrain.

Boundary Considerations: On the south, use National Forest System road (NFSR) 6N24 with a 500 foot buffer east to Tule Ridge Road (7N01). Proceed north to NFSR 7N05 and the junction with Lake Hughes road. Use Lake Hughes Road for the west boundary with about a 1000 foot buffer.

### Availability

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There is demand for

watershed protection for the developing communities at the foot of the mountains.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: At the perimeter of the proposed wilderness is a Southern California Edison 500kV transmission line, a LADWP underground water tunnel, and the Backcountry Discovery Trail, a designated OHV route.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Roads that are needed to repair the water lines near the western boundary may be closed to motorized use.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: There are no existing wilderness areas on the Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers RD or in close proximity. Approximately 30 miles to the west/northwest is the Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres), and about 20 miles southeast is the San Gabriel Wilderness (36,118 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is low to moderate use of the existing wilderness areas, which are primarily used for daylong trips, with little overnight use.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The surrounding area provides unconfined recreation experiences that range from primitive to developed. The recreation residences are northwest and outside the area.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): All habitats for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species are in the riparian areas outside of the proposed wilderness.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There are no unique landform types or ecosystems in this area.

## Westfork/ West Fork Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

San Gabriel River Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The 1,156-acre West Fork and 4,385-acre Westfork Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) lie within the West Fork San Gabriel River watershed. The feeling of solitude and serenity would be low in that portion of the addition that is closest to the National Forest System Road (NFSR) 2N25 corridor to the north. However, the level of wilderness experience becomes higher away from the road corridor where the terrain becomes steep and inhospitable and accessibility decreases for many visitors. Cogswell Dam is visible from portions of this area.

Challenge: This area would provide a considerable amount of opportunity for adventure and challenge because of the lack of any trails.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: There would be many opportunities for this area to provide a primitive and recreation experience. However, the variety would generally be limited to camping, hiking and hunting.

Special Features: The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals including Nevin's barberry, Braunton's milk-vetch, lemon lily, bald eagle, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, mountain yellow-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog and two-striped garter snake. The Santa Ana sucker, a federally listed threatened fish, inhabits the West Fork of the San Gabriel River below Cogswell Dam. This addition will not expand the vegetation zone of mix chaparral and oak.

Manageability: As individual proposals, Westfork (4,385 acres) and West Fork (1,156 acres) do not meet the 5,000 acres size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. The area would be easy to manage to retain its unimpaired condition because of the minimal access points into the area. Proposed boundaries generally use existing natural features and are therefore easy to establish and recognize on the ground.

Boundary Considerations: The boundaries could easily be described. The West Fork Road to the north and Southern California Edison (SCE) transmission lines to the west would play as a majority of the boundary. This would act as a shield to protect the wilderness environment while retaining minimal access for wilderness visitors.

## **Availability:**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The proposed area is fairly inaccessible due to very few roads and trails and the minimal access points from Highway 39 and NFSR 2N25. There are no known resource demands from this area.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: The area is fairly inaccessible due to very few roads and trails throughout this addition and the minimal access points from Highway 39 and Forest Service Road (2N25). There is a SCE transmission line (500kV) that traverses through the western section located in sections 31, 32 and 35. Just south of Cogswell Dam outside of this proposal is a sediment disposal site used by Los Angeles County Department of Public Works known as Twomile Point.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: The designation of this area would have very little impact on the adjacent land. This designation would create a new wilderness area directly across the West Fork from the existing San Gabriel Wilderness but would not affect the existing access points to this area from Highway 39 and West Fork Road (NFSR 2N25).

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: San Gabriel Wilderness (36,118 acres) is located approximately 0.50 miles to the north across the West Fork road and Sheep Mountain Wilderness (41,883 acres) is located approximately 3 miles to the northeast. Both are being evaluated for expansion.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is low to moderate use of the existing wilderness areas, which are primarily used for daylong trips. There is very little overnight use of the existing wilderness areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The area to the south offers additional unconfined recreation experiences of peace and solitude. However, these areas are fairly inaccessible due to very few roads and trails and the minimal access points from Highway 39 and NFSR 2N25.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider means available, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Minimal competition currently exist between the public and significant biotic species, such as the Santa Ana sucker and Santa Ana speckled dace, which occupy habitat located in the West Fork of the San Gabriel River and selected tributaries. Designation of this area would not add any additional protection.

Need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less

than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is a low to moderate need to provide a sanctuary because the majority of the area already provides a primitive surrounding.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The addition of this area would create a new wilderness area thus preserving a larger portion of the Upper West Fork of the San Gabriel watershed and associated habitats.

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**Tule Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

**Condor Peak Other  
Undeveloped Area**

## Condor Peak Other Undeveloped Area

### Angeles National Forest

Los Angeles River Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The 13,803-acre Condor Peak undeveloped area is partly in the Lower Tujunga and partly in the Upper Big Tujunga watersheds. Located north of the Big Tujunga Canyon Road, the area is bordered by roads on all four sides and a major 500kV transmission line to the east. The vegetation consists mainly of chaparral on the south-facing slopes to mixed conifer/hardwood in the canyon bottom. The north slopes have some rock faces that are over several hundred feet in height. The presence of man is strongly evidenced by transmission lines and electronic sites on the boundary perimeter, and one trail camp within the interior. There are several small bigcone Douglas-fir stands within the proposed area.

Challenge: Traversing through the interior are three hiking trails that provide a good day hiking experience. There is one overnight trail camp within the area. The challenge provided in this area is no different than that provided on trails in other non-motorized areas. The challenge is considerable if cross-country hiking.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: A trail camp located within the area provides the opportunity for primitive camping. Two trails (13W05 and 13W03) dominate the area. In addition, one short section of trail travels east to west (13W06). The trails in this area are used to a minor degree by mountain bikers and equestrians. Most of the use is by hikers. Other uses are picnicking, day hiking, hunting, fishing, and photography.

Special Features: This a typical front county landscape with steep slopes and dense chaparral with small streams and intermittent waterfalls. The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals including Nevin's barberry, Braunton's milk-vetch, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, Santa Ana sucker, Mount Gleason's paintbrush, California spotted owl, and the two-striped garter snake. The arroyo toad is known to occur near the southern boundary of the proposed area within Upper Big Tujunga Creek.

Manageability: The Condor Peak undeveloped area of 13,803 acres meets the 5,000 acres size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. The perimeter of the area is used for numerous special use permitted activities such as transmission lines and communication sites.

Boundary Considerations: To the west, use National Forest System Road (NFSR) 3N29 then Yerba Buena Ridge until it ties into NFSR 3N32 to the north. Proceed east using NFSR 3N32 until intersection with NFSR 3N27. Use 3N27 south to Big Tujunga road. Provide a buffer of at least 500 feet along Big Tujunga Road.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Watershed protection and fuels management in close proximity of private land and high recreation use area are important demands to meet in this area.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: To the east is a Southern California Edison (SCE) 500kV transmission line. At the westerly end is NFSR 3N29, which is a dead end road.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There is a need for community defense zones and fuels treatment to protect private property along Big Tujunga Canyon Road and the high recreation use along the creek. The SCE transmission lines to the east would be a visual impact.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Both of the two existing wilderness areas within 20 miles are proposed for expansion. San Gabriel Wilderness (36,118 acres) is located approximately 10 miles to the east across Highway 2 and the West Fork Road. Sheep Mountain Wilderness (41,883 acres) is located approximately 20 miles to the east.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is low to moderate use of the existing wilderness areas, which are primarily used for daylong trips and have very little overnight use.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The areas to the north and west offer similar unconfined recreation experiences. The area to the south lies within a mile of Big Tujunga Canyon Road, which is heavily traveled by the commuting public and would offer no peace and solitude.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biota is currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. All biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully given projected levels of public use. No development

projects are proposed that would impact this area.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: None identified.

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**Westfork/ West Fork  
Inventoried Roadless Area**

**Fish Canyon Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Fish Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area

### Angeles National Forest

Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The 29,872-acre Fish Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) lies within the Castaic watershed. At its northern end is the Liebre mountain area containing a large stand of black oak. Mixed chaparral, composed of chamise and manzanita, is found growing on remaining slopes. Ridgelines have remnants of dozer lines from past fires and a large network of pre-attack fuelbreaks established in the 1970's. The area has intermittent streams and numerous springs. Fish Canyon is a tributary to and a major source of water for Castaic Lake.

Challenge: There are trails within this area. Although hampered by dense chaparral, cross-country exploring provides interesting challenges.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Two trails (16W05-Fish Canyon Trail and 16W02-Burnt Peak Trail) traverse north and south along Fish and Burnt Peak canyons. Hiking, hunting, and backpacking/camping is available.

Special Features: The area provides potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals including the bald eagle, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, unarmored threespine stickleback, and the two-striped garter snake. The arroyo toad and California spotted owl are known to occupy habitat within the area. The historic Maxwell Mine is located nearby. The Liebre Mountain area, which has one of the largest stands of black oak in southern California, is being recommended as a Special Interest Area (SIA).

Manageability: The area meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Several authorized uses operate in the area along the perimeter. Activities such as mining, communication sites, etc., would not hinder wilderness manageability as they lie outside the Roadless Area Boundary. There is the OHV Backcountry Discovery Trail (which is outside the Boundary) and mountain bike trails.

Boundary Considerations: These boundaries could be readily and accurately described and for the most part are located adjacent to roads. The boundary will need to "cherry stem" NFSR 7N13, 7N19, and 7N23A with a 200-foot buffer from the center line.

## Availability

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The area is proposed as a special interest area to help preserve the largest stand of black oak on the forest.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: Numerous roads lead into the proposed wilderness including NFSR 7N13, 7N23A, and 7N19. Burnt Peak Electronic Site is in the area. Gillette mine is at the area's perimeter. There is a major fuelbreak to the east that ties into Sawtooth Mountain that is marked on the USGS quad map and forest recreation map and could be mistaken for a trail.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There are no private inholdings adjacent to the roadless area so the effects would be minimal.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Approximately 12-15 miles to the west/southwest is the Sespe Wilderness, which is 219,700 acres in size. There are no wilderness areas on the Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District. The San Gabriel Wilderness area is 35 air miles to the southeast.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: In the Sespe Wilderness, use is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and popular sites within the wilderness. In the San Gabriel Wilderness, there is low to moderate use of the existing wilderness areas, which are primarily used for daylong trips. There is very little overnight use of this wilderness.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The area currently provides for unconfined outdoor experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The steepness of the topography, a general lack of accessibility, and density of vegetation tend to place limits on public use of the area. Therefore, wilderness designation would not appreciably increase the ability of certain biotic species to compete with outside influences by decreasing public use and future development.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The majority of the area is not readily accessible due to its remote location, rough terrain, and limited access by the public via trails. This area already provides a primitive surrounding, and the change to wilderness status would not substantially increase protection, except for areas close to existing roads.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: No known unique identifiable landforms or ecosystems are found in this area.

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**Condor Peak Other  
Undeveloped Area**

**Pleasant View Other  
Undeveloped Area**

## Pleasant View Other Undeveloped Area

### Angeles National Forest

Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The Pleasant View undeveloped area contains three fragmented parcels totaling 2,427 acres. Using known landmarks, the large parcel is identified near Buckhorn Campground and encompasses 1,364 acres. To the west, near Winston Peak, is the smallest parcel of 183 acres. To the south/southwest of Sculpture Springs lays an additional 831-acre piece. As you travel south toward Highway 2 and west toward National Forest System Road (NFSR) 3N17, the forest is dense with old growth white fir, incense cedar, and Jeffrey and sugar pines. The undeveloped area parcels lie on the ridge that divides Little Rock and San Gabriel River Watersheds.

Challenge: The desert side of the San Gabriel Mountains rises abruptly with V-shaped canyons and steep, rugged terrain. Although hampered by steep and rugged terrain, cross-country exploring provides interesting challenges.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The Pacific Crest Trail traverses this area. To the south and southwest are several organization camps.

Special Features: The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals including the lemon lily, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, and the two-striped garter snake. The mountain yellow-legged frog and peregrine falcon are known to inhabit the area. A panoramic view of the area encompasses the high desert and Joshua trees along with a majestic old growth pine forest and big rocks.

Manageability: The 2,427-acre undeveloped area does not meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act.

Boundary Considerations: This area is fragmented, comprised of three parcels totaling 2,427 acres. Using known landmarks, the large 1,364-acre parcel is near Buckhorn. To the west near Winston Peak is the smallest parcel of 183 acres. To the south/southwest of Sulphur Springs is a modest 831-acre

parcel.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The area provides suitable habitat for the California spotted owl and mountain yellow-legged frog.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: Numerous organization camps utilize the area. In the Cloud Burst Summit there is an old road that is gated by Highway 2.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Organization camps may be affected in how they can utilize the area.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The San Gabriel Wilderness is 52 miles to the south. This wilderness is 36,118 acres and encompasses a larger area with less access and more unique features. San Gabriel Wilderness is composed of mostly dense chaparral. Sheep Mountain Wilderness is two miles to the southeast.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is low to moderate use of the existing wilderness areas, which are primarily used for daytrips. There is very little overnight use of the existing wilderness areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The surrounding forest and developed organization camps provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biotic species are not affected due to the area having low use and no development.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The area allows for protection of biotic species. It also supports a population of Mountain Yellow-legged frog and Peregrine falcon.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: To the Northeast, the Los Angeles County Parks maintain several trails under special use permit. The trails come from Devil's Punch Bowl and provide preservation of the unique landform.

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**Fish Canyon Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Salt Creek/Fish Canyon Other  
Undeveloped Area**

## Salt Creek/Fish Canyon Other Undeveloped Area

### Angeles National Forest

Santa Clara/Mojave River Ranger District Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: This area is in the Castaic watershed and consists of a narrow corridor that lies between the Salt Creek Inventoried Roadless Area on the west and Fish Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area on the east. Chaparral covers the slopes of the mountainous areas, and typical riparian vegetation populates the drainages. There are also some dense stands of willows in the riparian areas. The old Knapp Ranch area is comprised of grassland and wet meadow areas.

Challenge: There is one system road (7N22) located in the area, which provides access to mining operations at the Gillette Mine. There is an old road alignment that runs up Cienega Canyon that used to provide access to the Knapp Ranch. It is now used as trail 16W03. The trail is not well maintained and is washed out in several areas, thus providing considerable challenges to traverse. There is also a small portion of trail 17W06 in the northeast section of the area. Cross-country exploring provides interesting challenges on the slopes.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The two trails mentioned above, along with Forest Road 7N22 provide access for hiking, mountain biking, and hunting. Currently there is low general use of the area except during the hunting season.

Special Features: The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher due to the presence of dense stands of willows in the Knapp Ranch area and arterial drainages. The old Knapp Ranch, which was acquired by the Forest Service in the early 1990s, is rich in biotic and archaeological resources. The ranch has the only true wet meadow existing on the forest.

Manageability: This 2,159 acre other undeveloped area does not meet the 5,000 acre recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act.

Boundary Considerations: These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and topographic features. Infrastructure would have a 500 foot buffer.

### Availability

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Resource demands are few due to relative remoteness of the area.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: Road 7N22 provides the northern boundary of the area. There is an old power line that used to provide electricity to Knapp Ranch. The power lines have been removed, however most of the poles are laying on the ground with a few still standing. Knapp Ranch contains historic structures.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Forest Service Road 7N22 would have to be maintained for access to Gillette Mine and for fire access. Mine operations would continue under existing rights subject to direction in existing mining laws.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres) is approximately 10-12 miles to the west/southwest.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Use is generally light except during hunting season.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The area currently provides for unconfined outdoor experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation for meeting this need): Biota is currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. Given the low current and projected levels of public use, all biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The northern portion of the area is readily accessible up to the old private property line due to the presence of road 7N22. However, due to its remote location, use of the area is not expected to change appreciably over time. The southern portion of the area below the old Knapp Ranch, is not readily accessible due to rough terrain and limited access by the public via trails. Thus there is no need for such a sanctuary as the current level of protection is adequate.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There are no identifiable landform types or ecosystems.

## Santa Clarita Canyons Other Undeveloped Area

### Angeles National Forest

Los Angeles River Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: Most of the 3,661-acre Santa Clarita Canyons undeveloped area is in the upper reaches of Placerita Creek, which drains into the Santa Clara River. The other part of this area is in the Soledad River watershed. Chaparral (chamise, manzanita, scrub oak, ceanothus) predominantly covers the slopes of the mountain. In the narrow steep-walled canyons with perennial streams there are scattered stands of mixed pines and hardwoods (oaks, willows, alder, sycamores). A few small stands of bigcone Douglas-fir grow on the north slope.

Challenge: This area has one hiking trail that runs from the north through the interior that provides a good day hike and mountain bike experience. The challenge provided in this area is no different than that provided on trails and roads in other semi-primitive motorized areas. This area has limited trail access but relatively plentiful road access making the overall challenge moderately low.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: This roaded area is close to the urban influence of San Fernando and Sylmar to the south, and Santa Clarita, Newhall and Canyon communities of I-14 corridor to the west and north. There is one established trail 15W02 from the north through Placerita Canyon State Park and south to NFSR 3N64. The majority of the trails in this area are used by mountain bikers and hikers with a few equestrian users. There is potential for rock climbing and wildlife viewing (birding).

Special Features: There is oak/woodland that is not abundant in Los Angeles County. The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals including Nevin's barberry, Braunton's milk-vetch, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, and two-striped garter snake. Seasonal waterfalls are present after rainfall events.

Manageability: This undeveloped area does not meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. The area would be difficult to manage and retain its unimpaired condition because of the numerous access points. Proposed boundaries would be adjacent to private land, making it difficult to establish and recognize them on the ground.

Boundary Considerations: This undeveloped area covers three distinct canyons: Placerita, Elsmere and Whitney. All area to the west along the forest boundary borders private land. To the north is Placerita Canyon State Park and more private land. To the east is Sand Canyon Road. To the south, use NFSR 3N17 westward to 3N56. At that point, use NFSR 3N56 as an east boundary, and head south until you reach the forest boundary.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: If designated as wilderness, current mountain biking and 4WD opportunities on existing roads would be forgone and visitor recreation days would be greatly reduced.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: This area is surrounded by man-made structures. To the west is the Southern California Edison 500kV transmission line, while to the east are two electronic/communication sites near Contract Point.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Fire suppression would be more difficult and restrictive. This area is more valuable as a community defense zone.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: There are no existing wilderness areas on the Los Angeles River Ranger District or in the vicinity. At approximately 25 miles to the west/northwest is the Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres). About 25 miles southeast is the San Gabriel Wilderness (36,118 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Use is low to moderate in the existing wilderness areas. They are primarily used for daylong trips, with very little overnight use.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The surrounding area provides unconfined recreation experiences that range from primitive to developed; however, urban influence is not far away.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The majority of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species is located in the riparian areas outside of the proposed wilderness. The designation of this area would not add any additional protection.

Need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or

phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There are no unique landform types or ecosystems in this area.

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**Salt Creek/Fish Canyon Other  
Undeveloped Area**

**Silver Mountain Other  
Undeveloped Area**

## Silver Mountain Other Undeveloped Area

### Angeles National Forest

San Gabriel River Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: This 8,285 acre undeveloped area falls within the Lower West Fork of the San Gabriel Watershed. There is one dominant peak known as Silver Mountain. The feeling of solitude and serenity would be low in that portion of the addition that is closest to the National Forest System road (NFSR) 2N24 corridor to the north, 1N36, 1N29, and 2N30 to the west, and Highway 39 to the east. However, the level of wilderness experience rises to moderate away from the road corridors where the terrain becomes steep and inhospitable and accessibility decreases for many visitors.

Challenge: This proposed wilderness would provide a considerable amount of opportunity for adventure and challenge because of the lack of any trails. Heading west from Roberts Camp is an old truck trail that is commonly used by mountain bikers.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: There would be some opportunities for this area to provide a primitive recreation experience. However, the variety would generally be limited to camping, hiking, and hunting. Currently there is mountain biking.

Special Features: The proposed addition provides potentially suitable habitat for several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals including Nevin's barberry, Braunton's milk-vetch, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, bald eagle, and the two-striped garter snake. Old growth mixed hardwood and chaparral is present in shaded and riparian areas of Robert's Canyon.

Manageability: The Silver Mountain undeveloped area meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. The area would be easy to manage to retain its unimpaired condition because there are minimal access points into the area.

Boundary Considerations: The proposed boundaries generally use existing natural features and are therefore easy to establish and recognize on the ground. National Forest System Road 2N24 to the north, and Southern California Edison (SCE) transmission lines and NFSRs 1N36, 1N29, and 2N30 to

the west would serve as a majority of the boundary. To the east, use Highway 39 with a minimum buffer of at least ¼ of a mile. To the south, use private land and the forest boundary. This would act as a shield to protect the wilderness environment while retaining minimal access for wilderness visitors.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are no known resource demands from this area.

Constraints and encumbrances on lands: The area is fairly inaccessible due to very few roads and trails throughout this addition and the minimal access points from Highway 39 and NFSR 2N24. There is a SCE transmission line (500kV) that traverses through the western section located in sections 17, 8, 5, and 32. Just southeast is a 160 acre private parcel with a road. To the south is an underground water line that connects at the base of Morris Dam and travels west past the SCE line.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: The designation of this area would have a very major impact on the adjacent private lands. This designation would create a new wilderness area directly south of the existing San Gabriel Wilderness and NFSRs 1N36, 1N29, and 2N30.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: There are two existing wilderness areas, both of which are proposed for expansion. San Gabriel Wilderness (36,118 acres) is located approximately 1.5 miles to the north across the West Fork road. Sheep Mountain Wilderness (41,883 acres) is located approximately five miles to the northeast.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is low to moderate use of the existing wilderness areas, which are primarily used for daylong trips and have very little overnight use.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The areas to the north and west offer additional unconfined recreation experiences of peace and solitude. However, these areas are fairly accessible due to some roads and the minimal access points from Highway 39 and NFSR 2N24.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): All habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species is located in riparian areas outside of the proposed wilderness. The designation of this area would not add any additional protection.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or

phenomena: There is a low to moderate need to provide a sanctuary for biotic species because the majority of the area already provides a primitive surrounding.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The addition of this area would create a new wilderness area thus preserving a larger portion of the Lower West Fork of the San Gabriel watershed and associated habitats.

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**Santa Clarita Canyons Other  
Undeveloped Area**

**Cleveland National Forest  
Wilderness Evaluations**

**Silver Mountain Other  
Undeveloped Area**

**Barker Valley Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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# **Cleveland National Forest Wilderness Evaluations**

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**Silver Mountain Other  
Undeveloped Area**

**Barker Valley Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Barker Valley Inventoried Roadless Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Palomar Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 11,912 acre Barker Valley Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located in the northern part of the Palomar Ranger District on the Cleveland National Forest in southern California. Barker Valley is on the southeastern slope of Palomar Mountain between Aguanga Mountain and the Pine Hills, and includes most of a subwatershed for the West Fork San Luis Rey River.

Environment: The Barker Valley IRA is natural appearing with excellent opportunities for solitude. Although this area is within a rapidly urbanizing region, its location and topography give the impression of remoteness, and visitors have opportunities to gain solitude, self-reliance, and adventure. The area encompasses the meadow and the rugged, steep canyon of the upper West Fork San Luis Rey River. In addition to native trout and Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly populations (see Special Features below), the watershed supports a diversity of unique biological resources that have scientific and educational value including populations of arroyo chub, arroyo toads, and southwestern pond turtles (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.335). The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. Concentrated recreation use and the spread of invasive non-native species have also disrupted this interplay in some locations. A portion of the area has been surveyed for heritage resources and several historic sites have been identified. Barker Valley IRA contains culturally important plants that are gathered by the Luiseño people (Craig and Pfeiffer 1995). The West Fork San Luis Rey River watershed contributes to municipal drinking water supplies. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Challenge: Barker Valley is described as perhaps the most isolated non-wilderness area in San Diego County (Schad 1999 p.131). Established trails, although moderately strenuous, facilitate access to Barker Valley. The IRA has moderate opportunities for adventure and challenge. A three-mile hike along an old roadbed descends the west side of the San Luis Rey River corridor and ends in a large meadow. An unmaintained route leads to the river corridor from Deer Flats. There is a set of waterfalls and pools southeast of the meadow but there are no developed trails. The Barker Valley hike is hot and steep in the summer months. Reaching the first falls requires high initiative and self-reliance.

Scrambling over steep terrain and across slippery, water-polished rock is required (Schad 1999, p.143-144). Elsewhere, dense brush and steep slopes limit challenging opportunities for all practical purposes.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Relative to the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province, Barker Valley has a medium capability for providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation including day-use hiking, seasonal water play, wildlife and wildflower viewing, photography, nature study, short backpacking trips, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. This area is inherently capable of supporting four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest: viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Primitive and unconfined types of recreation that currently take place here include day-use hiking, camping, nature study, environmental education, fishing, and hunting for deer, turkey, and pigeon.

Special Features: This IRA contains the 86 acre West Fork San Luis Rey River Special Interest Area for wild trout fisheries. The middle segment of the river supports a land-locked population of native trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* subspecies). Although the waters of the West Fork of the San Luis Rey have not been designated as wild trout waters under the California Department of Fish and Game Heritage Trout Program or Wild Trout Program, the native trout enhances the area's wilderness capability (California Department of Fish and Game, Appendix F. 2002, p.32, 33). Montane meadows in Mendenhall Valley support the Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly (*Pyrgus ruralis lagunae*), a federally listed endangered species. These populations and their habitats offer unique opportunities for scientific study, both formal and informal. Special scenic features include a set of waterfalls and pools on the West Fork of the San Luis Rey River that flow during storm events and during the rainy season.

Manageability: The 11,912 acre Barker Valley IRA is of sufficient size to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition. Most the area has been successfully managed to retain a primitive, non-motorized character within a naturally appearing setting where management activities are not evident. However, the juxtaposition of the IRA to the open-shooting area on Aguanga Ridge, the popularity of Palomar Divide Road for backcountry driving, and the demand for mountain biking opportunities is likely to impair the ability of the Forest Service to protect and manage the primeval character of wilderness. In addition, a road used to support grazing operations crosses a corner of the area between Mendenhall Valley and Dych Valley, and motorized access may be needed in the future for permit administration.

Boundary Considerations: Overall, the potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this IRA is medium. Encroachment involving nonconforming structures is minimal. Existing uses outside the IRA boundary that might result in demands to allow nonconforming activities in the wilderness include mountain biking, open shooting, and backcountry driving and sightseeing in high-clearance vehicles. Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and presuppression requirements may also result in demands to allow nonconforming structures and activities in the wilderness, including the use of mechanized equipment and the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks and firelines. There is an existing Forest Service repeater situated on High Point with road access on the north end of the IRA. There have been proposals for further development of the site.

Currently, the impact of this installation is minimal; however, there may be demands for expansion that would be readily visible and apparent from within the Barker Valley IRA.

The southwest boundary of the IRA has been surveyed. The northeast boundary conforms to the Palomar/Aguanga Mountain ridgeline. The ridgeline does not constitute a barrier to prohibited use or shield the wilderness environment inside the boundary from the sounds of civilization. Elsewhere, boundaries do not conform to natural features. Boundaries are established and accurately described but not readily recognizable on the ground. The northeastern boundary of the IRA is accessible from Palomar Divide Road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) 9S07). Palomar Divide Road supplies adequate opportunity for access and traveler transfer.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of this area as wilderness would limit the future range of uses and of management alternatives and techniques. With certain exceptions, the Wilderness Act prohibits motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport. Other resource demands and uses that this area could satisfy include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Diverse kinds of off-road recreation, mountain biking, competitive events, commercial communication site developments, road construction, new administrative site developments, and developed recreation opportunities are some of the demands that could potentially be satisfied in this area. Mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, prescribed fire for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and road use and maintenance (including use and maintenance of roaded-fuelbreaks) for presuppression activities are management techniques that could be used in this area. Current uses include mountain biking, target shooting, military training activities, motorized access to support grazing operations, and law enforcement activities requiring motorized/mechanized use.

Constraints and encumbrances (special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): Interagency anti-terrorist activities (military training activities) are staged out of the Westfork Honor Camp and are regularly authorized under a Temporary Military Training Site Special Use Permit. South of Palomar Divide Road (Section 10, T10S, R2E) is the Maple Load Mine, which is currently listed with the Bureau of Land Management as an active mine claim. It includes road access and fence improvements. There is no private land within the IRA and the Forest Service has recently acquired private land in this vicinity. There are unclassified roads as well as roads under permit (e.g., to San Diego County).

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Designation may result in increased mountain biking on transportation systems outside the wilderness. This area is currently managed for non-motorized use. There are currently no roads within the IRA. Designation would not change motorized use in the area, but would preclude future road development and motorized use, as well as mechanized use within the IRA. Barker Valley Trail supplies adequate access to the IRA and an unimproved trailhead on Palomar Divide Road satisfies the demand for traveler transfer facilities. There is no further requirement for access or traveler transfer facilities, and the existing

facilities are compatible with other management needs.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Agua Tibia Wilderness (USFS--15,933 acres) is located six miles to the north and west of this area. Other Wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province are the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness (USFS--38,484 acres), Hauser Wilderness (USFS--7,547 acres), Pine Creek Wilderness (USFS--13,480 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS--32,248 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres) and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM--18,500 acres). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and State of California also manage other wilderness areas in southern California, including Fishcreek Mountain (25,940 acres), Sawtooth Mountain (35,080 acres), Coyote Mountains (17,000 acres), Carrizo Gorge (15,700 acres), Jacumba (33,670 acres), Santa Rosa Wilderness (BLM/USFS-- 78,127 acres), and the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. These wilderness areas are in the American Semidesert and Desert Ecosystem Province and do not represent the values of the California Coastal Range (Bailey 1995, p.56-58, 68-70; Miles and Goudey 1997, p.13-1 to 13-16).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Agua Tibia has light day use. Population growth and urbanization are increasing rapidly in Riverside and San Diego Counties, and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however, some of the areas within the province experience moderate to high day use. Visitors to wilderness areas on the Cleveland National Forest rated their visit 1.6 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding. The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is slightly more crowded, rated 1.9 on a scale from 1 to 5 (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use: the average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours. Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Hiking and walking are among the most popular recreation activities in the area (Kocis and others 2002, p.10, 12). Currently, nearby undeveloped lands supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness and there is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. These lands, however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on other wildernesses (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Nearby Cutca Valley IRA supplies a similar type of recreational experience. Cutca Valley is managed to meet Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) objectives in a setting where management activities are visually subordinate (Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) is Moderate) or dominate (SIO is Low or Very Low) to the natural character of the land. Caliente IRA is also managed to supply semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation opportunities (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1986b). Cuyamaca Rancho State Park also offers opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that

affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): This area is remote, providing quality habitat for native steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly (*Pyrgus ruralis lagunae*). The biggest issue for the region's trout streams is maintaining adequate stream flows. Most of the wild trout streams lie below dams, and their survival is dependent on sustained water releases from those impoundments (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.318). Non-motorized management area direction has helped to maintain the habitat qualities needed to sustain these species. Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly habitat is found in Mendenhall Valley. Increasing public use and development projects would jeopardize both these species. Provision for roadless but non-wilderness land use categories is an alternative to designation.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: Only a few populations of native steelhead trout remain in southern California. They thrive in streams in remote (non-motorized) areas: the relatively difficult access helps reduce fishing pressure on these waters and maintain vegetation essential to the species survival. The Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly occurs in very small numbers at only a handful of sites. The population in Mendenhall Valley is substantially larger than those found elsewhere. There is great concern about the viability of the remaining populations and much uncertainty over how to manage them. Further research is needed to investigate the effects of grazing, the spread of non-native grasses, and fire frequencies on the butterfly's host plant, *Horkelia clevelandii* (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.207).

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States. Thus, it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon, Agua Tibia, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wildernesses satisfy this objective.

## Caliente Inventoried Roadless Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Palomar Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 5,910 acre Caliente Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located on the eastern edge the Palomar Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest, less than one mile north of Warner Springs, California. This IRA is bordered on the northeast by the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and bordered on the southeast by the Los Coyotes Indian Reservation.

Environment: Its location on the edge of the desert and distance from urban areas make Caliente one of the most remote places on the Cleveland National Forest. The area is expansive and natural appearing and supplies excellent opportunities for solitude even though use is concentrated within the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) corridor (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1986a). Caliente is near the headwaters of the San Luis Rey River and is characterized by rough broken terrain ranging from low hills to steeper mountains with large boulders and rock outcrops. The area is covered with open brush and woody vegetation including chamise, manzanita, red shank, ceanothus, and oaks with grass understory. Intermittent springs support riparian vegetation and are a seasonal water source for hikers along the PCT. Common native wildlife found in more modified environments as well as species that face a variety of threats outside of wilderness are located within this IRA. The San Luis Rey watershed contributes to municipal drinking water supplies. The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. The spread of invasive non-native species has also disrupted this interplay in some locations. One historic site has been recorded. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1986c. p. C-5 to C-12).

Challenge: Caliente is one of the most remote areas on the Cleveland National Forest. It contains a segment of the PCT that links the San Diego Ranges with the San Jacinto Mountains. Opinions regarding the challenge associated with this segment of the trail vary from very high (Stienstra and Brown 2001, p.801) to moderate (easy terrain/moderately strenuous difficulty). The degree of challenge and need for self-reliance are due to the uncertain availability of water and extreme temperatures. There is a nonsystem route that links the development on the eastern border of the IRA with the PCT.

Elsewhere within the IRA, the lack of trails and dense brush limits access, and challenge is therefore low. Generally, cross-country travel is not feasible although some of the drainages offer opportunities for boulder hopping and (seasonal) wading. Serious scrambling, possibly swimming, and battling with ever-present alder branches have been reported (Schad 1999, p.150, 151).

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Caliente IRA has a high capability for supplying primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as wildlife and wildflower viewing and photography, nature study, short backpacking trips, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. This area is inherently capable of supporting four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest: viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Primitive and unconfined types of recreation that currently take place within this area are day hiking, backpacking, hunting, camping, rock collecting, field trips for environmental education, horseback riding, photography, and nature study/exploration. A resting and watering spot for hikers on the PCT is located along Agua Caliente Creek.

Special Features: The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail facilitates access and enhances the capability of this area to provide outdoor education and scientific study, both formal and informal, in a manner that is compatible with wilderness. The Cindy B/Cryogenie Mine produces noteworthy, gem quality tourmaline with high geologic value. While this mineral resource is unique, it does not supply opportunities for study that are compatible with wilderness. (See Constraints and Encumbrances below).

Manageability: The 5,910 acre Caliente IRA is small but of sufficient size to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition. This area has been successfully managed to retain a primitive, non-motorized character within a natural appearing setting where management activities are not evident (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1986b).

Boundary Considerations: The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this IRA is generally low; however, some mountain bike use on the PCT currently exists inside the boundary. The potential demand for increased mountain biking opportunities within the IRA is moderate. The neighboring Los Coyotes Indian Reservation with its extensive network of roads and trails has become popular among mountain bikers (Schad 1999, p.145). Backcountry driving is one of the five most popular activities on the forest (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and presuppression activities have affected this area, including the construction of fuelbreaks, community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and fire use (prescribed fire).

Boundary surveys are lacking for this area, and boundaries are not recognizable on the ground. The boundaries do not conform to any natural features; however, the southwest boundary parallels Indian Flats Road. Due to its remote location, the Caliente IRA is not exposed to the sights and sounds of civilization. Its southwestern boundary is accessible from Indian Flats Road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) 9S05). Indian Flats Road supplies adequate opportunity for access and potential traveler transfer.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Wilderness designation would limit the future range of uses and of management alternatives and techniques. With certain exceptions, motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport would be prohibited. Other resource demands and uses that this area could satisfy include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Road construction, new administrative site development, developed recreation opportunities, diverse kinds of off-road recreation, and mountain biking are some of the demands that could potentially be satisfied in this area. Mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, prescribed fire for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and road use and maintenance (including use and maintenance of roaded-fuelbreaks) for presuppression activities are examples of management techniques that could be used in this area. Current uses include active mining (see below). Hard rock minerals and geothermal potentials in the area have not been evaluated (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest 1978).

Constraints and encumbrances (Special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): Approximately 1,000 feet east of Indian Flats Road in Section 11, T10S, R3E, SBB&M, there is an active, moderate size tourmaline mining operation (Cindy B/Cryogenie Mine) that covers a parcel approximately 600x1500 feet. A special use permit application for a road to supply access to the mining operations is pending. Several other mining claims are located in Section 14—these areas are not covered by mineral leases. There is no private land within this IRA. Outside the special use permit area, the Forest Service has sufficient control to prevent development of irresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential. The area has one unclassified road.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Designation would not change access within the Caliente IRA and there would be no effect on transportation systems outside the wilderness. There are currently no roads within this IRA. Caliente is currently managed to meet Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized objectives. The only Forest Service system trail within the IRA, the Pacific Crest Trail, supports foot travel and horseback riding and facilitates access into and through the IRA. Two traveler transfer points and one established trailhead facilitate access to the IRA via the PCT. There is no further requirement for access or traveler transfer facilities. The existing facilities are compatible with other management needs.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Agua Tibia Wilderness, comprised of 15,933 acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands, is located approximately 18 miles to the north and west of this area. Other wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province and on NFS lands are the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness (38,484 acres), Hauser Wilderness (7,547 acres), Pine Creek Wilderness (13,480 acres) and San Jacinto Wilderness (32,248 acres). On state lands is the 12,828 acre Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness. The Bureau of Land

Management (BLM) manages wilderness areas in southern California including Otay Mountain (18,500 acres), Fishcreek Mountain (25,940 acres), Sawtooth Mountain (35,080 acres), Coyote Mountains (17,000 acres), Carrizo Gorge (15,700 acres), Jacumba (33,670 acres), and Santa Rosa Wilderness (78,127 acres, BLM/USFS).

Several large wilderness areas within Anza Borrego Desert State Park are directly to the east, northeast, and southeast (though not contiguous with) Caliente IRA: Sheep Canyon Wilderness, Pinyon Ridge Wilderness, Santa Rosa Wilderness, Vallecito Mountain Wilderness, Granite Mountain Wilderness, and Whale Peak Wilderness. These wilderness areas are in the American Semidesert and Desert Ecosystem Province and do not exemplify the California Coastal Range ecosystem (Bailey 1995, p.56-58, 68-70, Miles and Goudey 1997, p.13-1 to 13-16).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Agua Tibia has light day-use visitation. Population growth and urbanization are increasing rapidly in Riverside and San Diego Counties; accordingly, wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however, some of the areas within the province experience moderate to high day use. Visitors to wilderness areas on the Cleveland National Forest rated their visit 1.6 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding. The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is slightly more crowded, rated 1.9 on a scale from 1 to 5 (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use: the average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours. Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Hiking and walking are among the most popular recreation activities in the area (Kocis and others 2002, p.10, 12). Currently, nearby undeveloped lands supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness and there is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. These lands, however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on other wildernesses (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The surrounding area includes undeveloped lands that supply similar opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. Nearby Cutca Valley IRA supplies a similar type of recreational experience in a setting that is managed to a lower standard. Cutca Valley is managed to meet ROS Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized objectives in a setting where management activities are visually subordinate to the natural character of the land (Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) is Moderate), or dominate (SIO is Low or Very Low). Barker Valley IRA is likewise managed to supply semi-primitive and non-motorized recreation opportunities. Management standards for the recreation setting are the same as those for Caliente (SIO is High). Eagle Peak IRA, as well as Sill Hill IRA and No Name IRA, all supply a similar type of recreation experience (ROS is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized) in settings that are managed to meet a range of SIOs that vary from Very Low to High (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1986b). Cuyamaca Rancho State Park also offers some opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. Nearby, but outside the California Coastal Range ecosystem is Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The Park has large areas managed for primitive outdoor recreation experiences that exemplify the American Semidesert and Desert Ecosystem Province.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Public lands and habitat reserves are patchily distributed in southern California (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.335). As development intensifies, farsighted planning in northern San Diego County is needed to ensure that habitat connectivity is maintained between Palomar, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and natural areas to the north. The Caliente IRA supports rare and vulnerable botanical and wildlife species including Hall's monardella (*Monardella macrantha hallii*), Orcutt's linanthus (*Linanthus orcuttii*), arroyo toads (*Bufo californicus*), coast horned lizards (*Phrynosoma coronatum*), and coastal rosy boas (*Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca*) (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.135-137). Maintenance of unroaded, non-motorized conditions is one means of meeting the needs of these species. Research Natural Area designation is an alternative to wilderness designation.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: Common native wildlife that is often found in more modified environments as well as species that face a variety of threats outside of wilderness are located within the Caliente IRA. Agua Caliente Creek contains riparian areas that have the potential to support species displaced by human activities elsewhere such as arroyo toads.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). The Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States. Thus it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon, Agua Tibia, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wilderness satisfy this objective.

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**Barker Valley Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Coldwater Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## Coldwater Inventoried Roadless Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Trabuco Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 8,370 acre Coldwater Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is on the northeastern slope of Santiago Peak in the Santa Ana Mountains of southern California. This IRA is on the Trabuco Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest, and is located directly south of the city of Corona and approximately 1.5 miles west of Interstate Highway 15.

Environment: The interior of the Coldwater IRA is natural appearing with modest opportunities for solitude. Coldwater is within a rapidly growing urbanized region, and nearby infrastructure development is readily apparent from most locations within the IRA. The steep, narrow canyons and dense vegetation give an impression of remoteness from some locations. There are also opportunities to gain feelings of solitude, adventure, and self-reliance. Several of the east-facing drainages of the central Santa Ana Mountains are included in this IRA. The primary vegetation is chaparral; however, scattered springs and seasonal creeks support pockets of bigcone Douglas-fir, Coulter pine, live oak, riparian woodlands, and rare botanic species. Common native wildlife sheltered here include: deer, coyotes, rabbits, butterflies, rattlesnakes, a host of rodents such as squirrels, field mice, and rats, many kinds of birds such as sparrows and some raptors, and keystone predators such as mountain lions and bobcats. The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. The spread of invasive non-native species has also disrupted the biotic interplay in some locations. Heritage resource surveys are limited to some of the ridgelines and drainages. One historic site (Bedford Mine) has been recorded. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Challenge: An unmaintained Forest Service system trail (Coldwater Trail, FS6W01) accesses the Coldwater IRA and drops into Meyhew Canyon. This route is extremely steep; consequently, trails in the general area are rated suitable for experienced hikers only (Schad 1988, p. 79, 80). No other trails access the interior of the IRA. The opportunity to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, or self-reliance ranges from low to moderate. Without the benefit of a trail, travel through mature chaparral is regarded as nearly impossible (Schad 1988, p.5).

**Outdoor Recreation Opportunities:** Relative to other areas within the California Coastal Range Province, Coldwater has a medium inherent capability for providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as wildlife and wildflower viewing and photography, nature study, short backpacking trips, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. This area is inherently capable of supporting four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest: viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Primitive and unconfined types of recreation that currently take place here are hiking, hunting, camping, mountain biking, and some equestrian use. [1] Camping within this area is currently prohibited.

**Special Features:** Scattered springs and seasonal creeks sustain bigcone Douglas-fir stands, old live oak stands, sycamores, bigleaf maple, bay laurels, cottonwood, wildflowers, and a superb set of falls in Meyhew Canyon (Schad 1988, p.60, 61, 79, 80). These special scenic features contribute to the Coldwater's wilderness capability. Lack of access limits opportunities for outdoor education and scientific study.

**Manageability:** The 8,370 acre Coldwater IRA is small but of sufficient size to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition. However, only part of the IRA has been successfully managed to retain a natural appearing, semi-primitive, non-motorized character. Management activities are allowed to dominate the Bedford Ridge Road corridor and ridgeline (Scenic Integrity Objective is Low). The 500 kV Valley/Serrano powerline is located inside the IRA boundary, and is readily visible and apparent from most areas within the IRA. In the future, the ability of the Forest Service to manage this area as an enduring resource of wilderness that is untrammelled by man and that retains its primeval character is low. The juxtaposition of development on private lands, the Valley/Serrano powerline, and communication sites on the peaks that surround this area impair the ability of the Forest Service to protect and manage its natural character.

**Boundary Considerations:** The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this IRA is very high. At this time, encroachments involving nonconforming structures along the urban interface are moderate, but they are expected to increase as development fills in along the eastern edge of the IRA. There are several nonsystem mountain biking routes originating from adjacent lands within the community of Lake Elsinore that traverse the IRA at the urban interface. The public currently uses the Bedford Ridge Road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) 4S03) and Indian Truck Trail (FS5S01) even though the Forest Service does not have easements for public or administrative use. Communication sites under special use permit are located just outside the IRA on Modjeska and Santiago Peaks. A 500 kV electric transmission line is inside the boundary of the IRA (See Constraints and Encumbrances below). These structures are readily visible and apparent from within the IRA. Proposals have been received for large-scale infrastructure development, including a major transportation corridor through the IRA and another large-scale utility corridor. Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and presuppression activities including the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and the use of prescribed fire may be required in this area. In addition, backcountry driving is one of the five most popular recreation activities on the forest (Kocis and others 2002, p.12).

The Coldwater IRA area has not been surveyed and the boundaries are not readily recognizable on the ground. The boundaries loosely conform to the Coldwater Creek drainage and the crest of the Santa Ana Mountains. Due to its location, physiography, and orientation, this IRA is exposed to the sights and sounds of civilization. Urban vistas and the sound of air traffic are noticeable throughout the entire District. Coldwater IRA can be accessed from the Main Divide Road (NFSR 3S04), Indian Truck Trail, and Bedford Ridge Road. The Main Divide Road supplies adequate opportunity for access to the area and traveler transfer points could be developed.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of this area as wilderness would limit the future range of uses and of management alternatives and techniques. With certain exceptions, the Wilderness Act prohibits motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport. Other resource demands and uses that this area could satisfy include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Diverse kinds of off-road recreation, mountain biking, competitive events, commercial communication site development, transportation and utility corridor development, road construction, new administrative site development, and developed recreation opportunities are some of the demands that could potentially be satisfied. If designated, mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks and community defense zones under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, prescribed fire for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and road use and maintenance (including use and maintenance of roaded-fuelbreaks) for presuppression activities may be forfeited. Current uses include mountain biking, motorized/mechanized maintenance of roaded-fuelbreaks and community defense zones, special use permit activities and motorized/mechanized uses related to law enforcement activities.

Constraints and encumbrances (special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): A portion of the land included in this study is committed through contractual agreement for use, purposes, and activities not in concert with the requirements of the Wilderness Act. Southern California Edison holds a Special Use Permit for a 500 kV electric transmission line (the Valley-Serrano line), with a 160 foot right-of-way for maintenance in accordance with the terms and conditions of their permit (Sections 32 and 33, T4S, and Section 5 and 6, T5S and T5S, R6W, SBB&M). The Valley/Serrano Line is readily visible and apparent within the IRA and mechanized (helicopter) access is necessary for emergencies as well as routine operation and maintenance of the line. There are no active mining claims in this IRA. There are no private land parcels within the IRA. Existing development within the IRA lessens its wilderness character and potential. There are unclassified roads in this area as well as roads under special use permit.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Coldwater is currently managed for non-motorized use. There is one unmaintained system trail in this IRA and several routes that offer a high degree of challenge and adventure. Designation would shift existing and future mechanized use (mountain biking) and any potential future motorized use to transportation

systems outside the area. The North Main Divide Road, Bedford Ridge Road, and Indian Truck Trail supply opportunities for traveler transfer. Additional access and traveler transfer facilities may be required in the future. These facilities would be compatible with other management needs and could be funded through the Capital Investment Program.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The 38,484 acre San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is located 10 to 12 miles southeast of Coldwater on the southern part of the Trabuco Ranger District. Other Wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Province are the Agua Tibia Wilderness (USFA 15,933 acres), Hauser Wilderness (USFS 7,547 acres), Pine Creek Wilderness (USFS 13,480 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS, 32,248 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres) and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM, 18,500 acres). The 8,300 acre Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, 8,000 acre Ronald W. Casper's Wilderness Park, 6,600 acre Irvine Ranch canyon reserves, and the 4,000 acre National Audubon Society Starr Ranch are also located in the general vicinity and are similar to wilderness although some motorized and mechanized uses are permitted.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Population growth and urbanization are increasing rapidly in Riverside County, and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however, some of the areas within the four National Forests of southern California experience moderate to high day use. Visitors to wilderness areas on the Cleveland National Forest rated their visit 1.6 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding. The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is slightly more crowded, rated 1.9 on a scale from 1 to 5 (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use: the average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours. Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Hiking and walking are among the most popular recreation activities in the area (Kocis and others 2002, p.10, 12). Currently, nearby undeveloped lands supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness, and there is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. These lands however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on other wildernesses (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: In general, the management objectives currently assigned to the Trabuco IRA and the Ladd Canyon IRA support primitive outdoor recreation experiences. These areas are managed to supply semiprimitive, nonmotorized and motorized (Ladd Canyon IRA) recreation experiences. For most of these areas, Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIOs) for maintenance of the recreation setting support a natural appearing landscape (assigned SIO is High) although management activities are allowed to dominate the ridgelines and some of the road and trail corridors (assigned SIO is Low) (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1986b).

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): In general, freshwater aquatic habitats are uncommon in coastal southern California and most have been substantially modified by altered stream flows. The middle and lower portions of these streams, typically found at elevations below 3,000 feet, support a high number of rare and vulnerable riparian species. Of particular importance are sections of streams that are in a relatively unmodified state (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.35-38). The canyons within the Coldwater IRA (Coldwater, Meyhew, Bixby, and Brown) contain some riparian areas within this range and have the potential to support species displaced by human activities elsewhere. Specific information about biotic species within Coldwater IRA and the influence of surrounding development is limited due to the lack of access and survey data. Two Forest Service sensitive plant populations have been recorded in the IRA: Hall's monardella (*Monardella macrantha hallii*) and heart-leaved pitcher sage (*Lepechinia cardiophylla*). Provision for roadless but non-wilderness land use categories is an alternative to designation.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The Coldwater IRA is one of a few remaining unroaded areas that could serve as a link to the San Diego Ranges, the Santa Rosa Plateau, the Santa Ana Mountains, Chino Hills State Park, the canyon reserves of Irvine Ranch, and other open space reserves to the north. Coldwater may support some wilderness-associated species as well as species adapted to more modified environments, including keystone predators. As development pressures increase on private lands, the public wildlands increasingly serve as core refugia for native habitats and species. Individual landowners, government agencies, and non-profit groups are engaged in planning efforts to create habitat reserves for maintaining biodiversity in this rapidly developing area. The need for corridor connections from existing and newly created habitat reserves and the remaining unroaded public lands (such as the Coldwater IRA) is crucial (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.2, 6, 7). Provision for roadless but non-wilderness land use categories is an alternative to designation.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States. Thus it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon, Agua Tibia, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wildernesses satisfy this objective.

## Cutca Valley Inventoried Roadless Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Palomar Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 14,510 acre Cutca Valley Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located in the northern part of the Palomar Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest, approximately 12 miles southeast of Temecula, California. The valley lies between the northern slopes of Palomar Mountain and the eastern slope of Agua Tibia Mountain. The Agua Tibia Wilderness and the Pauma Indian Reservation border Cutca on the west. Several Bureau of Land Management (BLM) parcels adjoin the Cutca Valley IRA on the northeast.

Environment: Cutca Valley is a rugged, diverse, natural-appearing area with excellent opportunities for solitude. Although the area is within a rapidly developing region, the landscape promotes the impression of remoteness and supplies opportunities to gain feelings of solitude and a sense of self-reliance. Cutca is part of two subwatersheds: one flows to the San Luis Rey River and the other to the Santa Margarita River. Slopes are strategic and valuable water sources. Both watersheds contribute to municipal water supplies. The steep, chaparral-covered mountains give way to stands of fir, pine, and oak at elevations above 4,400 feet. Timbered areas are mixed-conifer stands including white fir, incense cedar, spruce, Coulter pine, and Jeffrey pine. Species adapted to more modified environments as well as some wilderness-associated wildlife are found within the Cutca IRA. The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. The spread of invasive non-native species has also disrupted the biotic interplay in some locations. Much of Cutca has been surveyed for heritage resources. Numerous prehistoric sites, including at least one probable village with traditional cultural properties and evidence of historic use, have been recorded. This area is associated with the Luiseño people. Culturally sensitive plants occur within the IRA and are gathered today by the Luiseño people (Craig and Pfeiffer 1995). Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Challenge: This area has been referred to as wild and lonely, offering some of the most remote territory found anywhere in southern California (Schad 1999, p.129). Challenge varies from low to high. Cutca Trail links the Cutca IRA to Eagle Crag and the Agua Tibia Wilderness. This trail offers a high degree of difficulty. Challenge and the need for self-reliance and initiative are moderate to high. Summer

temperatures can exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and water can be difficult to find. Elsewhere within the IRA, the lack of trails and dense brush limits access, and challenge is therefore low. Generally, cross-country travel is through dense brush and requires substantial off-trail bushwhacking.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Cutca has a high inherent capability for providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation, including day-use hiking, wildlife and wildflower viewing and photography, nature study, short backpacking trips, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. This area is capable of supporting four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest: viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.10, 12). Primitive and unconfined types of recreation that currently take place here are hiking, hunting, camping, equestrian use, and rock collecting.

Special Features: The size of the Cutca Inventoried Roadless Area (14,510 acres) and its proximity to the 15,933 acre Agua Tibia Wilderness enhance the area's capability for outdoor education and scientific study and its ability to support abundant and varied wildlife.

Manageability: The 14,510 acre Cutca IRA is of sufficient size to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition. It is one of the largest remaining roadless areas outside of wilderness on the Cleveland National Forest and is contiguous with the Agua Tibia Wilderness. This area has been successfully managed to retain a primitive, non-motorized character within a setting where management activities are subordinate to the natural character of the land.

Boundary Considerations: From the east, the IRA can be accessed from the High Point Road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) 8S05) and Palomar Divide Road (NFSR 9S07). The eastern boundary parallels High Point Road. Cutca Valley Road (NFSR 8S08) is located in the western part of the IRA. It is not maintained for travel by standard passenger-type vehicles and is closed to the public. (Administrative access is allowed on a case-by-case basis, but the road is impassible south of the private lands). Fire suppression and presuppression activities including the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and the use of prescribed fire (fire use) may be required in this area. There is also an existing Forest Service repeater situated on High Point with road access just outside the IRA boundary on the south end. There have been proposals for further development as a communication site. Currently, the impact of this installation is minimal; however, expansion would be readily visible and apparent from within the Cutca Valley IRA. Backcountry driving is one of the five most popular recreation activities on the Forest (Kocis and others 2002, p.10, 12). Existing motorized use in the area results in demands to allow nonconforming use in the wilderness. Some target shooting has been reported off High Point Road. With the exception of the northwest section of the IRA, boundary surveys are lacking for this area, and boundaries are generally not recognizable on the ground. The boundaries do not conform to any natural features. Due to its remote location and bowl-shaped topography, Cliente IRA is currently not exposed to the sights and sounds of civilization. High Point Road and Cutca Trail supply adequate opportunities for access and traveler transfer.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of this area as wilderness would limit the future range of uses and of management alternatives and techniques. With certain exceptions, the Wilderness Act prohibits motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings and mechanical transport. Other resource demands and uses that this area could satisfy include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Diverse kinds of off-road recreation, mountain biking, competitive events, commercial communication site development, road construction, new administrative site development, and developed recreation opportunities are some of the demands that could potentially be satisfied in this area. Mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, prescribed fire for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, mechanical/motorized maintenance of community defense zones, and road use and maintenance (including use and maintenance of roaded-fuelbreaks) for presuppression are examples of management strategies applicable to this area. Current uses include mountain biking, target shooting, motorized/mechanized maintenance of roaded-fuelbreaks, and special use permit activities. The Cutca IRA contains designated livestock grazing areas, and motorized access may be needed for permit administration in the future.

Constraints and encumbrances (special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): The Forest Service has sufficient control over a portion of this area to prevent development of irresolvable and incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential. Patterns of private land ownership in the northwest corner and motorized access to inholdings would constrain manageability of this portion of the IRA. There is no other private land within the IRA. Subsurface resources are outside the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. There are unclassified roads in this area as well as a road leading to private property.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Most of this area is currently managed for non-motorized use. The eastern part of the IRA is zoned for motorized use. Cutca Valley Road (NFSR 8S08) is located in the western part of the IRA. Designation would preclude future motorized and mechanized use of Cutca Valley Road south of the private land, as well as road development and mechanized use in the eastern part of the IRA. As a result, mountain biking and motorized use on transportation systems outside the wilderness may increase. Cutca Valley Trail (1E01) supplies adequate access to both the Cutca IRA and the Agua Tibia Wilderness. An unimproved trailhead on High Point Road satisfies the demand for traveler transfer facilities. There is no further requirement for access or traveler transfer facilities, and existing facilities are compatible with other management needs.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The 15,933 acre Agua Tibia Wilderness is located immediately west of the Cutca IRA. Other wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Province are the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness (USFS--38,484 acres), Hauser

Wilderness (USFS--7,547 acres), Pine Creek Wilderness (USFS--13,480 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS--32,637 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres), and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM--18,500 acres).

The BLM and the state of California also manage other wilderness areas in southern California: Fishcreek Mountain (25,940 acres), Sawtooth Mountain (35,080 acres), Coyote Mountains (17,000 acres), Carrizo Gorge (15,700 acres), Jacumba (33,670 acres), Santa Rosa Wilderness (BLM/USFS--78,127 acres), and the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. These wilderness areas exemplify the American Semidesert and Desert Ecological Province (Bailey 1995, p.56-58, 68-70, Miles and Goudey 1997, p.13-1 to 13-16).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Agua Tibia has light day-use visitation. Population growth and urbanization are increasing rapidly in San Diego County and southern Riverside County, and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is generally light; however, some of the areas within the four National Forests of southern California experience moderate to high day use. Visitors to wilderness areas on the Cleveland National Forest rated their visit 1.6 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding. The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is slightly more crowded, rated 1.9 on a scale from 1 to 5 (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use: the average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours. Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Hiking and walking are among the most popular recreation activities in the area (Kocis and others 2002, p.10, 12). Currently, nearby undeveloped lands supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness, and there is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. These lands, however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on other wildernesses (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Surrounding areas, including some parts of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, also supply opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. The recreation experience associated with the nearby Barker Valley and Caliente IRAs, which are managed for semiprimitive, nonmotorized activities, is similar to the experience supplied by Cutca Valley, however Cutca Valley has a lower assigned Scenic Integrity Objective than these areas (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1986b).

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Mojave tarplant (*Hemizonia mohavensis*) is a state listed endangered species known to exist along Cutca Trail. The mountains and foothills of San Diego County contain a large number of rare species and habitats. Public lands and habitat reserves are patchily distributed in the San Diego ranges. As development intensifies, farsighted planning is needed to ensure that habitat connectivity is maintained between the mountains and the remaining natural areas in the coastal and inland valleys (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.335). Species adapted to more modified environments as well as some wilderness-associated wildlife are found within the Cutca IRA, including coast horned lizard

(*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*), coastal rosy boas (*Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca*), spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*), and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Maintenance of unroaded, non-motorized conditions is one means of meeting the needs of these species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: In general, freshwater aquatic habitats are uncommon in coastal southern California, and most have been substantially modified by altered stream flows. The middle and lower portions of these streams, typically found at elevations below 3,000 feet, support a high number of rare and vulnerable riparian species -- sections of streams that are in a relatively unmodified state are particularly important (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.35-38). Long Creek contains some riparian areas within this range and has the potential to support species displaced by human activities elsewhere.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States. Thus, it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon, Agua Tibia, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wildernesses satisfy this objective.

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**Coldwater Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Eagle Peak Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Eagle Peak Inventoried Roadless Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Palomar Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 6,460 acre Eagle Peak Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located in southern California, west of the Cuyamaca Mountains and approximately three miles southeast of the city of Ramona. It lies at the southern edge of the Palomar Ranger District, in the central part of the Cleveland National Forest. The Capitan Grande Indian Reservation borders the IRA on the west. The IRA is reached from Eagle Peak Road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) 13S06) and Boulder Creek Road (NFSR 13S08).

Environment: This is a very remote part of the upper San Diego River watershed. The Eagle Peak IRA is natural appearing with moderate opportunities for solitude. Although it is within a rapidly urbanizing region, its deep canyons and rugged topographic features give the impression of remoteness and supply visitors with opportunities to gain feelings of solitude and a sense of self-reliance. Tall seasonal waterfalls and sections of three perennial creeks are located within the IRA and contribute to municipal water supplies for the region. The vegetation includes a matrix of chaparral with coastal sage scrub, mature riparian woodlands, and Englemann oak stands on the ridgetops and north-facing slopes. The San Diego Ranges have been identified as one of the key ecological areas in the region, and many rare and vulnerable plant and animal species are located in the Eagle Peak IRA (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p. 335). The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. Concentrated recreation use and the spread of invasive non-native species have also disrupted the biotic interplay in some locations. None of the area has been surveyed for heritage resources, although a few features have been located near the stream confluences. (Many sites have been recorded along the streams and on the mesas and mountaintops within the nearby Cuyamaca Rancho State Park). This area is associated with the Kumeyaay people. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Challenge: In general, Eagle Peak IRA is a remote, undeveloped area. Cedar Creek Falls, however, is one of the most visited waterfalls in San Diego County and is highly rated for its overall appeal (Stienestra and Brown 2001, p.790). Eagle Peak Road and the trail from Saddleback facilitate relatively

easy access to the creek and viewpoints above the falls. Hiking has been rated moderate with relatively easy terrain (Schad 1999, p.161, Stienestra and Brown 2001, p.790). Difficulty and challenge are low. The falls can also be reached from below via two undesignated, nonsystem routes across lands owned by the Helix Water District. There is no formal agreement for public access. There is also a triple set of waterfalls in Boulder Creek canyon called the “Three Sisters.” After storm events, this cascade also attracts local recreationists. A moderately strenuous hike over difficult terrain leads to the Three Sisters; the hike is recommended for experienced hikers only (Schad 1999, p.162). This route offers a high degree of challenge and adventure. Elsewhere, Eagle Peak IRA is for all practical purposes inaccessible. Cross-country travel through dense brush requires substantial bushwhacking and challenge is therefore low. Overall, the opportunity for challenge and adventure within Eagle Peak IRA is moderate.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Eagle Peak has a medium inherent capability for providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as day-use hiking, wildlife and wildflower viewing and photography, nature study, short backpacking trips, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, seasonal water play, relaxation, and respite from urban life. This area is capable of supporting four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest: viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Primitive and unconfined types of recreation that currently take place here are day hiking, viewing scenery (Cedar Creek Falls, Three Sisters Falls, San Diego River Canyon), seasonal water play, and some primitive camping. [\[1\]](#)

Special Features: This area’s inherent capability to supply outdoor education in a manner compatible with wilderness is high. Abundant and varied wildlife enhances its wilderness capability. (See discussion of biotic resources under Need). Non-conforming structures are not necessary for the management of wildlife in this area. Special scenic features including rugged canyons, Eagle Peak, Cedar Creek Falls, and Three Sisters Falls enhance its wilderness capability.

Manageability: The 6,460 acre Eagle Peak IRA is small but of sufficient size to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition. It is also contiguous with the San Diego River and Cedar Creek undeveloped areas and No Name IRA. Cedar Creek Road lies between Eagle Peak IRA and Cedar Creek roadless area, while Tule Springs Road forms the boundary between Eagle Peak IRA and No Name IRA. Neither road is maintained for travel by standard passenger-type vehicles. This area has been managed successfully to retain a Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized character however the current management objectives for the scenery (setting) vary from very protective (unimpaired condition) to virtually unprotected (management activities can dominate the landscape) (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1986b). Currently, Eagle Peak is undisturbed and natural appearing: trails and routes and a segment of the Boulder Creek powerline are the only evidence of man’s activities within the IRA. The potential for the Forest Service to manage this land as an enduring resource of wilderness is medium.

Boundary Considerations: The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this IRA is low to moderate. The northern part of the IRA has existing nonconforming structures and uses associated with private land. Other existing uses outside the IRA boundary that

might result in demands to allow nonconforming activities in the wilderness include mountain biking, and backcountry driving and sightseeing in high-clearance vehicles. Cedar Creek Road is designated for off-highway vehicle use. Backcountry driving is one of the five most popular recreation activities on the forest (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Fire suppression and presuppression activities including the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks (including roaded-fuelbreaks), community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and the use of prescribed fire may be required in this area. None of the area has been surveyed and boundaries are not recognizable on the ground. The boundaries do not conform to the terrain or other natural features, but do parallel Cedar Creek Road and Boulder Creek Road. Due to its location, topography, and orientation, the degree to which the wilderness environment inside the boundary is protected from the sights and sounds of civilization varies. Its north boundary can be accessed from Cedar Creek Road (NFSR 13S11). This road supplies adequate opportunity for visitor access to the northern part of the area and potential for traveler transfer. Maintenance level 1 roads on the south and west boundary are impassable to motorized traffic, but serve trail-based recreation – hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking.

[1] Unpublished data on file, Cleveland National Forest, San Diego, California.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of this area as wilderness would limit the future range of uses, management alternatives, and techniques. With certain exceptions, motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport would be prohibited. Other resource demands and uses that this area could satisfy include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Diverse kinds of off-road recreation, mountain biking, road construction, new administrative site development, and developed recreation opportunities are some of the demands that could otherwise be satisfied in this area. The Cedar Creek undeveloped area is separated from Eagle Peak IRA by Cedar Creek Road (NFSR 13S11), an improved (maintenance level 2) road that is maintained for high clearance vehicles and also designated for non-highway licensed high-clearance vehicles (open to OHV use). Motorized access, motorized/mechanized access to support grazing, mountain biking, OHV use, mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, prescribed fire for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and road use and maintenance (including use and maintenance of roaded-fuelbreaks along Boulder Creek, Cedar Creek and Tule Springs roads) for presuppression activities are uses the area under evaluation could satisfy. This IRA contains designated livestock grazing areas, and motorized access may be needed for permit administration in the future. Further study is needed to better understand the hard rock minerals and geothermal potentials in the area (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest, 1978).

Constraints and encumbrances (special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): Constraints and encumbrances include an active mining claim in the SW1/4 Section 4, (Claim no. CAMC235568, Home Stake, lode claim). There is also an inholding in Section 31, T13S, R3E, SBB&M on the northern boundary of this area with a single residence. Ancillary structures and nonconforming uses within the

Forest boundary have been reported. Private lands in this area have recently been acquired. Over most of the area, the Forest Service has sufficient control to prevent development of irresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential. There are unclassified roads in the area as well as part of Tule Springs Road.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation would have little effect on surrounding lands. This area is currently managed for non-motorized use. Cedar Creek Road, Tule Springs Road, and a nonsystem trail (an abandoned segment of Eagle Peak Road) separate this area from adjacent IRAs. There are currently no roads or trails within the IRA. If the Eagle Peak IRA, Cedar Peak undeveloped area, and/or the Upper San Diego River undeveloped area were combined, transportation systems outside the wilderness, such as Boulder Creek Road and Eagle Peak Road, would experience increased motorized and mechanized use. The unimproved trail and trailhead at Saddleback above Cedar Creek Falls does not satisfy current demand for access or for traveler transfer facilities. Improved access and traveler transfer facilities would be required. Required facilities would be compatible with other management needs and could serve the Cedar Creek undeveloped area, No Name IRA, and the Upper San Diego River undeveloped area. Facilities could be funded through the Capital Investment Program.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: There are no other Forest Service wilderness areas in the immediate vicinity. Pine Creek Wilderness (13,480 acres) and Hauser (7,547 acres) are located 12 to 15 miles to the southeast on the Descanso Ranger District. The 15,933 acre Agua Tibia Wilderness is located 32 miles away, on the northern end of the district. Other Wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province are the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness (USFS--39,540 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS--32,637 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres) and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM--18,500 acres).

The BLM and state of California also manage other wilderness areas in southern California including Fishcreek Mountain (25,940 acres), Sawtooth Mountain (35,080 acres), Coyote Mountains (17,000 acres), Carrizo Gorge (15,700 acres), Jacumba (33,670 acres), Santa Rosa Wilderness (BLM/USFS, 78,127 acres), and the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. These wilderness areas, however, represent the American Semidesert and Desert Ecosystem Province (Bailey 1995, p.56-58, 68-70, Miles and Goudey 1997, p.13-1 to 13-16).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Population growth and urbanization are increasing rapidly in San Diego County, and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however, some of the areas do experience moderate to high day use. Visitors to wilderness areas on the Cleveland National Forest rated their visit 1.6 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding. The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is slightly more crowded, rated 1.9 on a scale from 1 to 5 (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use: the average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours (Kocis and others 2002,

p.10, 12). Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Hiking and walking are among the most popular recreation activities in the area. Currently, nearby undeveloped lands supply opportunities for primitive types of recreation outside wilderness, and there is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. These lands, however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on other wildernesses (USDA Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The management objectives assigned to the Upper San Diego River and Cedar Creek undeveloped areas, No Name IRA, and Sill Hill IRA support unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. With the exception of Cedar Creek, which offers a Semi-Primitive Motorized setting, these areas are managed to supply Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized recreation experiences. Eagle Peak IRA and parts of No Name IRA currently have low scenery integrity objectives that allow for management activities that dominate the landscape; in contrast, Upper San Diego River and Sill Hill have higher visual quality standards for maintenance of the recreation setting (USDA, Forest Service, 1986b). Cuyamaca Rancho State Park also offers opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The mountains and foothills of San Diego County (including the lower reaches of Cedar Creek and Boulder Creek) contain a number of important habitats for rare and vulnerable species. Eagle Peak IRA is among the key ecological areas identified for this region and is dominated by some of the best remaining occurrences of low-elevation ecosystems (e.g. riparian woodland, southern part of the Province). Currently, factors affecting ecological integrity in the upper San Diego River watershed include housing developments along the canyon's western rim, increased fire starts, and non-native species (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.335-337). The effect of recent fires on these habitats is currently being monitored. Available means, other than wilderness designation, that would allow the unique biotic species of the Eagle Peak IRA area to compete with increasing public use and development are the management of trail-based recreation for species protection and provision for roadless but non-wilderness land use categories.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The slopes along the lower reaches of Cedar Creek and Boulder Creek (above the confluence with the San Diego River) support coastal sage scrub vegetation that supplies habitat for California gnatcatchers (*Polioptila californica*), a federally listed threatened species. There are also several stretches of high quality riparian woodland with populations of arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) (federally listed endangered) and southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*) (Forest Service sensitive species). Coastal rosy boas (*Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca*) (Forest Service sensitive species), coast horned lizards (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*) (California species of special concern and Forest Service sensitive species), orange-throated whiptails (*Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi*) (California species of concern) and two-striped garter snakes (*Thamnophis hammondi*) (Forest Service sensitive species) are also found here (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.335-337). Eagle Peak has

been a golden eagle nest site that could be negatively affected by increased public use. As development intensifies in the foothills, farsighted planning is needed to ensure that habitat connectivity is maintained between the mountains and the remaining natural areas in the coastal and inland valleys and mid to low elevation riparian habitats are conserved (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.35-38). Surveys are needed to more fully determine the distribution of these species and the effects that non-native plants and animals and high fire frequencies have on their habitats.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States; thus, it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon, Agua Tibia, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wildernesses satisfy this objective.

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<b>Cutca Valley Inventoried Roadless Area</b>	<b>Ladd Inventoried Roadless Area</b>
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## Ladd Inventoried Roadless Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Trabuco Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 5,287 acre Ladd Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located in southern California on the northwest slope of the Santa Ana Mountains on the Trabuco Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest. (Approximately 2,000 acres of additional "undeveloped" area to the northwest are also included in this evaluation). The city of Corona is approximately three miles to the northeast and Los Angeles is about 40 miles to the northwest. Many southern Orange County communities are less than 20 miles from this IRA. Ladd Canyon contains the proposed 800 acre Pleasants Peak Research Natural Area. Access to Ladd Canyon is from the Main Divide Road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) 3S04) and Silverado Canyon Road (NFSR 5S07).

Environment: The interior of the Ladd Canyon IRA is natural appearing with modest opportunities for solitude. It is within a rapidly growing urbanized region, and development and infrastructure is readily apparent from most locations within the IRA. The topography and dense vegetation give an impression of remoteness from some locations. There are limited opportunities to gain a feeling of solitude, adventure, and a sense of self-reliance. The IRA encompasses both forks of Ladd Canyon. An isolated spring and waterfall add diversity to this area. Although chaparral is the dominant vegetation type, two unique plant communities also occur here: coastal sage scrub on the south-facing slopes and knobcone pine near Pleasants Peak. Common native wildlife are sheltered here: deer, coyotes, rabbits, butterflies, rattlesnakes, a host of rodents like squirrels, field mice, and rats, many kinds of birds such as sparrows and some raptors, and keystone predators such as mountain lions and bobcats. The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. The spread of invasive non-native species has also disrupted the biotic interplay in some locations. Only the road corridors in the area have been surveyed for heritage resources; however, the likelihood of finding heritage resources is limited due to the steep topography. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Challenge: Ladd Canyon IRA is a steep, undeveloped, unroaded area on the west slope of the Santa Ana Mountains. No Forest Service system trails access the interior of the IRA. A cross-country trip requires substantial bushwhacking. A short unmaintained route leads from the North Main Divide Road to Ladd

Canyon Spring. The hike to the spring is rated moderate. Another primitive route accesses Black Star Canyon Falls on the west side of the IRA. Boulder-hopping, bushwhacking, and moderate hands-and-feet scrambling are required to reach the falls. A strenuous hike over difficult terrain is required (Schad 1988, p.66, 68). Elsewhere within the IRA the vegetation is regarded as impenetrable, and opportunities for adventure and challenge are limited. Without the benefit of a trail, travel through mature chaparral is almost impossible (Schad 1988, p.5). Overall, opportunities for adventure range from low to moderate.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Ladd Canyon currently has a low capability for supplying primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as wildlife and wildflower viewing and photography, nature study, short backpacking trips, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. Although this area is inherently capable of supporting four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest, viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited by the lack of an established trail network. Some hiking, nature study, and photography may occur near road corridors, Black Canyon Falls, and Ladd Canyon Spring.

Special Features: Serpentinite rock outcrops and soils around Pleasants Peak support rare plant species and the southernmost knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuate*) stands in California. An idiosyncratic mix of chaparral species, serpentine barrens, and outcrops of anorthosite (a very rare type of metamorphic rock) are located within the IRA [1] (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999. pg. 55, 41, 60). These features (serpentine outcrops) comprise one of 12 rare ecological communities identified in the Mountains and Foothills Assessment area. The knobcone pine population is identified as a locally rare community. The combination of features offers unique opportunities for scientific study, both formal and informal, in a manner that is compatible with wilderness. (See biotic discussion under Need).

Manageability: Although the 5,287 acre Ladd Canyon IRA meets the 5000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act, it is not of sufficient size to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition. Recreation objectives assigned to this area support semiprimitive, motorized activities. Most of the area is presently undisturbed, but management activities may dominate the ridgeline between Ladd Canyon and Baker Canyon (assigned Scenic Integrity Objective is Low) and development within and immediately adjacent to the IRA diminishes the overall scenic integrity of the area (see discussion below). The ability of the Forest Service to manage this area as an enduring resource of wilderness that is untrammelled by man and that retains its primeval character is low.

Boundary Considerations: The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this IRA is high. Backcountry driving is one of the five most popular recreation activities on the forest (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Existing motorized use in the area may result in demands to allow nonconforming use in the wilderness. Some nonconforming use within the IRA (off highway vehicle or 4-wheel drive use originating from the Main Divide Road corridor) has been reported. There is also an existing communication site under special use permit on Pleasants Peak (with road access) just outside the IRA boundary on the north end, as well as a 500 kV powerline corridor in the southern part of the IRA and a 12 kV powerline that bisects the area. These structures are readily visible and apparent

from within the IRA and impair the ability of the Forest Service to preserve the wilderness attributes of the IRA. Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and presuppression activities including the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and the use of prescribed fire (fire use) may also be required. Some of the western edge of the IRA has been surveyed. There is a high potential for encroachments on the southern boundary of this area: approximately 50 to 100 existing encroachments have been reported. The boundaries are not readily recognizable on the ground, although they loosely conform to the Ladd Canyon drainage, and the crest of the Santa Ana Mountains, including Pleasants Peak and Bedford Peak. The north and northeastern boundaries parallel the north Main Divide Road (NFSR 3S04) and the southeastern boundary parallels the Silverado Motorway (NFSR 5S03). The sound of air traffic is noticeable throughout the Trabuco Ranger District. Due to its location, physiography, orientation, and the scope and scale of development within and adjacent to the area, the Ladd Canyon IRA is not shielded from the sights and sounds of civilization. Half of its boundary is accessible from the roads mentioned above. The Main Divide Road supplies adequate opportunity for access to the area and traveler transfer points could be developed.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of this area as wilderness will limit the future range of uses and of management alternatives and techniques. With certain exceptions, motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport would be prohibited. Other resource demands and uses that this area could satisfy include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Diverse kinds of off-road recreation, mountain biking, communication sites, transportation and utility corridors, road construction, administrative site development, and developed recreation opportunities are demands that could potentially be satisfied here. In the future, mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks (including the roaded fuelbreak along the North Main Divide Road) under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, fires use (prescribed fire) for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and mechanical/motorized maintenance of community defense zones are all management options with applicability to the Ladd Canyon IRA. Current uses include motorized/mechanized maintenance of roaded-fuelbreaks, and operation and maintenance of electric transmission lines (see below).

Constraints and encumbrances (special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): A portion of the lands included in this study is committed through contractual agreement for use, purposes, and activities not in concert with the requirements of the Wilderness Act. Southern California Edison has a special use permit for the Valley-Serrano 500 kV electric transmission line, with a 160 foot right-of-way for maintenance in accordance with the terms and conditions of their permit and a 12kV distribution line (Pleasants Peak tap line) with a 20 foot right-of-way from Silverado Canyon to Pleasants Peak. Located in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, T5S, and R7W, the Valley-Serrano line is readily visible and apparent within the IRA, and motorized or mechanized (helicopter) access is necessary for emergency repairs and routine operation and maintenance of both the lines. There are no active mining claims in this IRA. There is no private land within the IRA boundaries. A substantial proportion of the area contains irresolvable and incompatible uses that lessen its wilderness character and potential. There are roads in the area,

including unclassified roads and those under special use permit.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Current use of transportation systems outside the wilderness would not change as a result of designation; however, potential future motorized use and mechanized use inside the area would be forfeited. Primitive routes within the IRA currently offer a high degree of adventure and challenge, and the North Main Divide supplies opportunities for traveler transfer. Additional access and traveler transfer facilities may be required in the future. These facilities would be compatible with other management needs and could be funded through the Capital Investment Program.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The 38,484 acre San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is located about 15 miles southeast of this area on the southern part of the Trabuco District. Other Wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Ecological Province are the Agua Tibia Wilderness (USFS--15,933 acres), Hauser Wilderness (USFS--7,547 acres), Pine Creek Wilderness (USFS--13,480 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS--32,248 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres) and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM--18,500 acres). The 8,300 acre Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, 8,000 acre Ronald W. Casper's Wilderness Park, 6,600 acre Irvine Ranch canyon reserves, and the 4,000 acre National Audubon Society Starr Ranch are also located in the general vicinity.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Population growth and urbanization are increasing rapidly in Orange County, and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however, some of the areas within the province experience moderate to high day use. Visitors to wilderness areas on the Cleveland National Forest rated their visit 1.6 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding. The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is slightly more crowded, rated 1.9 on a scale from 1 to 5 (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use: the average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours. Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Hiking and walking are among the most popular recreation activities (Kocis and others 2002, p.10, 12). Currently, nearby undeveloped lands supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness, and there is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. These lands, however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on other wildernesses (USDA Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: In general, the management objectives currently assigned to the Coldwater IRA and Trabuco IRA support unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. These areas are managed to supply Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized recreation experiences. Although the management objectives for maintenance of the recreation setting support a natural appearing landscape (scenic integrity objective is high), management activities are allowed to dominate the ridgeline in the Trabuco IRA, and the Valley-

Serrano powerline bisects the Coldwater IRA (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1986b).

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The area around Pleasants Peak supports plants that have adapted to the unique chemistry of serpentine-derived soils including knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*), dwarf soaproot (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*), and a minor component of bigcone Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*). The knobcone pine population is one of two ecological communities that are relatively common in other areas, but are rare or highly localized within the Mountains and Foothills Assessment area. Serpentine-based communities are rare within the Mountains and Foothills Assessment area. This combination offers unique opportunities for scientific study, both formal and informal, in a manner that is compatible with wilderness (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.41, 55, 59, 60). Provision for roadless but non-wilderness land use categories is an alternative to designation. Research Natural Area designation is another means available to allow these species to compete with increasing public use and development that affects their habitats elsewhere.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The Santa Ana Mountains are the westernmost extension of the Peninsular Range and are largely surrounded by urbanization. Ladd Canyon is one of a few remaining unroaded, undeveloped areas that has the potential to link the San Diego Ranges, the Santa Rosa Plateau, the Santa Ana Mountains, Chino Hills State Park, the canyon reserves of Irvine Ranch, and other open space reserves to the north. Ladd Canyon may support wilderness-associated species as well as species adapted to more modified environments. In general, as development pressures increase on private lands, the public wildlands increasingly serve as core refugia for native habitats and species. Individual landowners, government agencies, and non-profit groups are engaged in planning efforts to create habitat reserves for maintaining biodiversity in this rapidly developing area. The need for corridor connections, such as Ladd Canyon, from existing and newly created habitat reserves and the remaining undeveloped public lands is essential (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.2, 6, 7).

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States; thus, it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989). The San Mateo Canyon, Agua Tibia, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wildernesses satisfy this objective.

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**Eagle Peak Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**No Name Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## No Name Inventoried Roadless Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Descanso Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 4,887 acre No Name Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located in southern California, west of the Cuyamaca Mountains and approximately five miles southeast of Ramona, California. The area is on the northern edge of the Descanso Ranger District, in the central part of the Cleveland National Forest. About half of the southern end of the No Name IRA borders the Capitan Grande Indian Reservation.

Environment: The No Name IRA is natural appearing with inherent capability for a wide range of experiential benefits including solitude, awareness, and adventure. In the future, however, the remoteness of the area and the opportunities for solitude may be compromised by its size and the development of adjacent lands. No Name lies within the upper San Diego River watershed and contributes to municipal water supplies in the region. It encompasses rugged terrain, oak woodlands, and mixed-chaparral, and supports rare and vulnerable plant and animal species. The San Diego Ranges have been identified as one of the key ecological areas in the region (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.335). The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. The spread of invasive non-native species has also disrupted this interplay in some locations. Scientific and educational values are currently constrained by lack of access. None of the area has been surveyed for heritage resources although a few cultural features have been located at the stream confluences. (On nearby lands just outside the forest boundary, many sites have been recorded along the streams and on the mesas and mountaintops). Culturally sensitive plants occur in the area and are gathered today by the Kumeyaay people (Craig and Pfeiffer 1995). Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Challenge: No Name is a very remote area due to access constraints, location and topography. There are roadbeds and several primitive routes within the No Name IRA, but there are no designated trails and no public access, resulting in the potential for adventure and challenge but limiting opportunities. Cross-country travel through dense brush would require substantial bushwhacking; challenge is therefore low.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Relative to other places within the California Coastal Range, No Name has a medium inherent capability for supplying primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as day-use hiking, wildlife and wildflower viewing and photography, nature study, short backpacking trips, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. Four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest, viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.12), could potentially take place here. Limited recreation use (hunting, hiking, equestrian use, and mountain biking) by adjacent landowners, tribal members, and local residents occurs.

Special Features: The inherent capability of this area to supply outdoor education and scientific study is comparable to the rest of the Upper San Diego River watershed but is currently limited due to lack of access and information about both the cultural and biological diversity of the area. No special scenic features have been identified.

Manageability: The 4,887 acre No Name IRA is not of sufficient size to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition. However, it is contiguous with and could be combined with the neighboring Eagle Peak IRA and managed as a whole. No Name is separated from Eagle Peak IRA by Tule Springs Road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) 14S07), an unimproved (maintenance level 1) road that is currently available with landowner permission on a case-by-case basis for administrative access. Tule Springs Road is not maintained for travel by a standard passenger-type vehicle and public access is prohibited. No Name has been successfully managed to retain a Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized character; however, the scenery management objectives vary from somewhat protective, where management activities are noticeable but subordinate to the natural character, to virtually unprotected, where management activities can dominate the landscape (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1986b). The potential for the Forest Service to manage this land as an enduring resource of wilderness is low.

Boundary Considerations: The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this IRA is low. Boulder Creek Road (NFSR 13S08) borders this area on the east. Existing uses outside the IRA boundary that might result in demands to allow nonconforming activities in the wilderness include mountain biking, and backcountry driving and sightseeing in high-clearance vehicles. Backcountry driving is one of the five most popular recreation activities on the forest (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and presuppression activities including the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and the use of prescribed fire may be required in this area. No Name IRA has not been surveyed. Its boundaries are not recognizable on the ground, nor do they conform to the terrain or other natural features. The degree to which this IRA is shielded from the sights and sounds of civilization is a function of location, topography, and orientation, and varies throughout the area. Boulder Creek Road supplies adequate opportunity for visitor access to the eastern part of the area for cross-country foot travel and could be developed further to improve traveler transfer.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of this area as wilderness would limit the future range of uses, management alternatives, and techniques. With certain exceptions, motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport would be prohibited. Other resource demands and uses that could be satisfied include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Diverse kinds of off-road recreation, mountain biking, competitive events, road construction, new administrative site development, developed recreation opportunities, and commercial communication site and utility corridor development are some of the demands that could potentially be developed in this area if access is secured. Mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks (including roaded-fuelbreaks) under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, prescribed fire for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and mechanical/motorized maintenance of community defense zones are management options with applicability to the No Name IRA. Road corridors (roaded-fuelbreaks) supply the means to supply adequate fire protection to adjacent private property and reservation lands. Potential uses include mountain biking, but recreation opportunities are currently limited due to the lack of public access. This IRA also contains a designated livestock grazing area, and motorized access may be needed for permit administration in the future. Minerals potentials within No Name warrants further study (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest 1978).

Constraints and encumbrances (special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): A portion of the land included in this study is committed through contractual agreement for use, purposes, and activities not in concert with the requirements of the Wilderness Act. San Diego Gas & Electric has a special use permit for the Boulder Creek electric transmission line, a 12 kV electric distribution line, and the 12 kV West Cuyamaca distribution line, with a 30-foot wide right-of-way for brush clearance and road maintenance in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit. This segment of the line is not readily visible or apparent, but motorized and mechanized access is necessary for emergencies as well as routine operation and maintenance of the line. There are no active mining claims in this IRA. Wilderness potential is limited by lack of access to this IRA. There are no private inholdings within this area. Some of Tule Springs Road, unclassified roads, and roads under permit to San Diego Gas & Electric are in this area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Designation would not change use on transportation systems outside the wilderness. This part of the forest is currently zoned for semi-primitive, non-motorized use. There is currently no access to roads and trails within the IRA. However, if the No Name is combined with the Eagle Peak IRA, any potential future motorized and mechanized use on Tule Springs Road would be forfeited although existing transportation systems outside the IRAs would continue to support motorized/mechanized travel in the general area. Unless easements for public access can be acquired, new trail and trailhead developments may be required. Required facilities would be compatible with other management needs and could be funded through the Capital Investment Program.

**Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: There are no other Forest Service wilderness areas in the immediate vicinity. Pine Creek Wilderness (13,480 acres) and Hauser (7,547 acres) are located 10 to 15 miles away on the southern part of the district. The 15,933 acre Agua Tibia Wilderness is located about 35 miles to the north on the northern part of the Palomar District. Other wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province are the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness (USFS--38,484 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS--32,637 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres) and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM--18,500 acres). The BLM and state of California also manage other wilderness areas in southern California including Fishcreek Mountain (25,940 acres), Sawtooth Mountain (35,080 acres), Coyote Mountains (17,000 acres), Carrizo Gorge (15,700 acres), Jacumba (33,670 acres) Santa Rosa Wilderness (BLM/USFS--78,127 acres), and the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. These wilderness areas exemplify the American Semidesert and Desert Ecosystem Province (Bailey 1995, p.56-58, 68-70, Miles and Goudey 1997, p.13-1 to 13-16).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: The Agua Tibia Wilderness area has light day use. Population growth and urbanization are increasing rapidly in San Diego County and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however, some of the areas within the province experience moderate to high day use. Visitors to wilderness areas on the Cleveland National Forest rated their visit 1.6 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding. The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is slightly more crowded, rated 1.9 on a scale from 1 to 5 (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use: the average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours. Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Hiking and walking are among the most popular recreation activities in the area (Kocis and others 2002, p.10, 12). Currently, nearby undeveloped lands supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness, and there is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. These lands, however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on other wildernesses (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The management objectives assigned to the Upper San Diego River and Cedar Creek undeveloped areas, Eagle Peak IRA, and Sill Hill IRA support unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. These surrounding areas are likewise managed to supply semiprimitive, nonmotorized recreation experiences except for Cedar Creek, which was assigned a Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS objective. However, the Upper San Diego River and Sill Hill have higher visual quality standards than those assigned to No Name IRA. Eagle Peak and parts of No Name IRA currently have scenic integrity objectives that allow for management activities that dominate the landscape (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1986b). In general, remote camping is allowed in backcountry areas of the Descanso Ranger District, except for the Laguna Recreation Area. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park also offers some opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands are located to the south of the District and supply primitive camping, hiking, and backpacking opportunities. Non-wilderness parts of Anza Borrego Desert State Park supply unconfined outdoor recreation opportunities within a desert ecosystem (i.e. the American Semidesert and Desert

Ecosystem Province).

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): *Ramona horkelia* (*Horkelia truncate*), a Forest Service sensitive species, is located in this IRA. Approximately 40 occurrences are known, most on public lands. The mountains and foothills of San Diego County contain a large number of rare species and habitats. Public lands and habitat reserves are patchily distributed in the San Diego ranges. As development intensifies, farsighted planning is needed to ensure that habitat connectivity is maintained between the mountains and the remaining natural areas in the coastal and inland valleys (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.335). Species adapted to more modified environments as well as some wilderness-associated wildlife including southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*), two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*) and coastal rosy boas (*Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca*) are found within the No Name IRA. Maintenance of unroaded, non-motorized conditions is one means of meeting the needs of these species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: *Ramona horkelia* can be affected by mining activities, heavy road maintenance, chaparral management, and livestock grazing (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p. 261). In general, freshwater aquatic habitats are uncommon in coastal southern California and most have been substantially modified by altered stream flows. The middle and lower portions of these streams, typically found at elevations below 3,000 feet, support a high number of rare and vulnerable riparian species—such sections of streams that are in a relatively unmodified state are particularly important (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.35-38). Conejos Creek and Sand Creek contain some riparian areas within this range and have the potential to support species displaced by human activities elsewhere.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States; thus, it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon, Agua Tibia, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wildernesses satisfy this objective.

## Pine Creek Inventoried Roadless Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Descanso Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 485 acre Pine Creek/Espinosa IRA area is located in the south-central part of the Descanso Ranger District at the southern end of the Cleveland National Forest (within Sections 22, 26, 27, and 35 T16S, R3E, SBB&M). It consists of a small parcel of National Forest System land surrounded on three sides by the Pine Valley Wilderness. The area lies approximately nine miles southeast of Alpine, California and is less than 15 miles north of Mexico.

Environment: This parcel retains the wilderness characteristics that are present in the surrounding Pine Creek Wilderness. It is remote and rugged, supplying opportunities for solitude and adventure. The area is natural appearing and mostly free from evidence of man's activities. Historically, this area supported least Bell's vireos. The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified. Concentrated recreation use and the spread of invasive non-native species have also disrupted the biotic interplay to some degree. This parcel has not been surveyed for heritage resources; however, a few features have been identified along both Espinosa and Pine Valley Creeks. These features are associated with the Kumeyaay people. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Challenge: The Espinosa Trail runs through the upper part of the parcel. Espinosa is one of the main designated trails in the Pine Creek Wilderness. This segment of the trail is steep (elevation change is 400 feet), and spans a short distance from the bottom of Pine Valley Creek canyon to the Horsethief Trailhead. Boulder hopping along Pine Valley Creek ranges from easy when the water level is low, to difficult and dangerous after major storms or in winter when the water in the creek is cold (Schad 1999, p.218-219). The Espinosa Trail facilitates access to this area. Overall the trail difficulty has been rated moderate, or suitable for all physically fit people. Challenge associated with this parcel is low.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The parcel has a high inherent capability for providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation including day-use hiking, wildlife and wildflower viewing and photography, nature study, short backpacking trips, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. The area is inherently capable of supporting four of the five most

popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest: viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Primitive and unconfined types of recreation that currently take place here are water play, day-use hiking, backpacking, and hunting.

Special Features: The parcel's capability to supply outdoor education and scientific study in a manner that is compatible with wilderness is excellent because it's almost entirely surrounded by the Pine Creek Wilderness. The Pine Creek Canyon is a scenic feature that contributes to the area's wilderness capability.

Manageability: The 485 acre Espinosa Trail IRA is very small but contiguous to existing wilderness – the Pine Creek Wilderness. Its size is sufficient to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition, and the area's physiography and vegetation help to make it manageable in a natural condition. The surrounding area has been successfully managed to retain a semi-primitive non-motorized character within a natural appearing setting. At present the flow of undocumented immigrants through the area slightly impairs the ability of the Forest Service to retain its primeval character and untrammelled condition. The area under evaluation is surrounded on three sides by wilderness and would be difficult to manage for other than wilderness values and characteristics. Overall, the ability of the Forest Service to manage this land as an enduring resource of wilderness and retain its natural character is medium.

Boundary Considerations: The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this expansion area is low. The Pine Creek Wilderness surrounds the parcel on three sides, and the study area does not contain any nonconforming structures. Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and presuppression activities including the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and the use of prescribed fire may be required in this area. Although surveys have been conducted, boundaries are not recognizable on the ground. The boundaries conform to the Espinosa Trail corridor and a segment of Pine Valley Canyon. The canyon constitutes a barrier to prohibited use. Its remote location, physiography, and juxtaposition to an existing wilderness area shield the Espinosa expansion area from the sights and sounds of civilization. The Japatul and Lyons Valley Roads and National Forest System Road 16S04 access this area. Horsethief Trailhead supplies adequate opportunity for traveler transfer and does not conflict with the wilderness boundary.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of this area as wilderness will limit the future range of uses and of management alternatives and techniques. With certain exceptions, motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport would be prohibited. Other resource demands and uses that could be satisfied include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Diverse kinds of off-road recreation, mountain biking, competitive events, road construction, new administrative site development, and developed recreation opportunities are some of the demands that could otherwise be satisfied in this area. Mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, prescribed

fire for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and road use and maintenance (including use and maintenance of roaded-fuelbreaks) for presuppression activities are management strategies that could be applied here. This area contains designated livestock grazing areas and motorized access may be needed for permit administration in the future. Most of the demands and uses currently supplied by the Pine Creek IRA are compatible with wilderness designation.

Constraints and encumbrances (special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): The Forest Service has sufficient control to prevent development of irresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential within the expansion area. There is no private land within the area under consideration. This expansion is proposed due to acquisition of private land. This area was acquired through the Forest's land adjustment program with the intent of adding it to the existing wilderness. The area includes part of Horsethief Road.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: The Espinosa Trail is managed for non-motorized and nonmechanized use although it is not currently in the Wilderness. Use on transportation systems outside the wilderness will not change as a result of wilderness designation. Espinosa Trail (4E03) facilitates wilderness access, and required traveler transfer opportunity is supplied at Horsethief Trailhead. These facilities are compatible with other management needs.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Cleveland National Forest manages two wilderness areas in the immediate vicinity of this parcel. The Pine Creek Wilderness surrounds the evaluation area. The Hauser Wilderness is located three miles to the south. The Agua Tibia Wilderness is located on the Palomar Ranger District nearly 50 miles to the north. Other wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Open Woodland Ecological Province are the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness (USFS--38,484 acres), Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM--18,500 acres), the San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS--32,637 acres), and the Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres). San Diego County is experiencing significant growth and urbanization, which may affect the amount of wilderness use. While there is currently no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area, this adjustment would integrate management objectives for the area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Adjacent parts of the Pine Creek Wilderness receive heavy use when there is water in Pine Creek. Population growth and urbanization are increasing rapidly in San Diego County, and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however, some of the areas experience moderate to high day use (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use (Kocis and others 2002, p.10). Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails, including areas such as this adjustment area. Hiking and walking are among the most popular recreation activities in the area. Nearby undeveloped lands currently supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness. These lands, however, are going to decrease in acreage as the

demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on other wildernesses (U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The management objectives assigned to the Noble Canyon and Upper San Diego River drainages, including Cedar Creek and Upper San Diego River undeveloped areas, Eagle Peak IRA, No Name IRA, and Sill Hill IRA, support unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. These areas are managed to supply semiprimitive, nonmotorized or motorized (Cedar Creek) experiences. In general, remote camping is allowed in backcountry areas of the Descanso Ranger District, except for the Laguna Recreation Area. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park also offers opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands are located to the south of the District and supply dispersed camping, hiking and backpacking opportunities. Non-wilderness parts of Anza Borrego Desert State Park supply unconfined outdoor recreation opportunities, however, in a desert ecosystem (i.e. the American Semidesert and Desert Ecosystem Province).

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): There are several historic locations for least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) (federally endangered) within the expansion area, however no vireos have been seen there for the last five years or so. Least Bell's vireo numbers are low on National Forest System lands and make up a small percentage of the total regional population. While not considered to be a problem on public lands, habitat loss is occurring in urbanizing areas as a result of habitat degradation. The decline is attributed to the loss of low elevation riparian habitat and cowbird parasitism. Factors such as overgrazing, off-road vehicle activity, concentrated recreation use, channel clearing, large discharges of water from upstream reservoirs, and invasion of non-native plants have been noted (Calcarone and Stephenson 1999, p.152, 153).

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: This area supplies protection for least Bell's vireo habitat. A small breeding population once existed along Pine Valley. The population of Pine Valley Creek vireos dropped from five pairs in 1994 to zero in 1997 and 1998 (Calcarone and Stephenson 1999, p.153). This area has the inherent potential to provide sanctuary for this species and additional protection for least Bell's vireo habitat. Provision for roadless but non-wilderness land-use categories is an alternative to designation.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States; thus, it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon, Agua Tibia, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wildernesses satisfy

this objective.

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**No Name Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**San Mateo Canyon  
Inventoried Roadless Area**

## San Mateo Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Trabuco Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 65 acre San Mateo Inventoried Roadless Area is located in southern California on the Cleveland National Forest. It consists of a small parcel of land in Section 23, T8S, R5W, SBB&M on the southeast side of the Trabuco Ranger District. The parcel is immediately adjacent to the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness, between the Wilderness boundary and Santa Margarita Road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) 8S01).

Environment: The San Mateo IRA is not remotely located and the opportunities for adventure and solitude are limited by the proximity of rural improvements and motorized activities. Common native wildlife such as deer, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, rabbits, butterflies, rattlesnakes; a host of rodents like squirrels, field mice, and rats; and many kinds of birds, such as sparrows and some raptors may be found here. The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. The spread of invasive non-native species has also disrupted the biotic interplay to some degree. The San Mateo IRA has not been surveyed for heritage resources. This area is associated with use by both the Luiseño and Juaneño people, tribal boundaries probably fluctuated over time and seasons. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Challenge: There are no Forest Service system trails or trailheads within the IRA. In general, where there is not a trail or route, travel through mature chaparral is almost impossible (Schad 1988, p.5, 99), therefore opportunities for adventure and challenge within the IRA are minimal.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Relative to the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province, San Mateo Canyon IRA has low capability for providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as day use hiking, wildlife and wildflower viewing, photography, seasonal waterplay, nature study, short backpacking trips, camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. Overnight camping in this area is prohibited.

Special Features: No special features have been located within the San Mateo IRA. No rare or

vulnerable plant or animal species have been recorded. The capability to supply outdoor education and scientific study is limited by the steep topography, dense vegetation, and lack of access.

Manageability: The 65 acre area is contiguous to the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness. While it could be preserved in an unimpaired condition, its juxtaposition to roads and private land make this parcel subject to external influences. Backcountry driving is one of the five most popular recreation activities on the forest (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). The IRA is currently managed to retain a rural, roaded (motorized) recreation experience where management activities are visible but subordinate to the natural appearance of the land. The ability of the Forest Service to manage this land as an enduring resource of wilderness and retain its primeval character is low.

Boundary Considerations: The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this area is high. There are currently no nonconforming structures within the IRA however nonconforming activities inside the boundaries include off-highway vehicle use. Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and pre-suppression activities including the use of mechanized equipment, the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, community defense zones and fire lines, and fire use (prescribed fire) may be required in this area. The boundaries have been surveyed and marked, however they are not recognizable on the ground. Boundaries conform somewhat to terrain features that may discourage use. There are two private landing strips within a mile of the IRA: one directly south, one about a mile to the north. Santa Margarita Road parallels the eastern edge of the IRA. The sound of vehicles and air traffic is noticeable throughout this part of the District and the environment inside the boundary of the IRA is not shielded from the sights and sounds of civilization. Proposals have also been received for a major utility corridor through this area. Potential public uses outside the boundary may result in demands to allow additional nonconforming structures and activities in the wilderness.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of this area as wilderness will limit the future range of uses and of management alternatives and techniques. With certain exceptions, motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport would be prohibited. Other resource demands and uses that this area could satisfy include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Commercial communication site development, large scale utility corridors, water storage and electric generating facilities, diverse kinds of motorized off-road recreation, mountain biking, competitive events, road construction, new administrative site development, and developed recreation opportunities are also demands that could potentially be satisfied in this area. Mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, fire use (prescribed fire) for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and mechanical/motorized maintenance of community defense zones adjacent to the private property that joins the area are examples of demands that the area can satisfy.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): The Forest Service does not have sufficient control to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen the

wilderness character and potential associated with this area. The study area is wedged between the Wilderness, private land on the north and south, and Santa Margarita Road on the east. A short segment of Santa Margarita Road lies within the IRA.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: The San Mateo IRA is currently zoned for a roaded-natural recreation experience that includes both motorized and mechanized use although no roads or trails exist within this area. Designation is unlikely to shift off-highway vehicle use that currently takes place within the IRA to other areas. Any potential future legal use however would be shifted to roads and trails outside the area. Existing trails and trailheads to the north, such as the Tenaja Trailhead, serve the need for access to the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness. These facilities are compatible with management needs. No other facilities in the area are required.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The 38,484 acre San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is immediately adjacent to this area. Other Wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province are the Agua Tibia Wilderness (USFA 15,933 acres), Hauser Wilderness (USFS 7,547 acres), Pine Creek Wilderness (USFS 13,480 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS, 32,248 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres) and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM, 18,500 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: The interior of San Mateo Canyon Wilderness has limited use however the first few miles of trail sometimes receive high use. The population of Riverside and Orange Counties is expanding rapidly and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however some nearby wilderness areas experience moderate to high day use. An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day-use (average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours). Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. There is currently no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area and nearby undeveloped lands supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness. These lands however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on other wildernesses (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: In general, the management objectives currently assigned to the Coldwater and the Ladd Canyon IRAs, and the Trabuco IRA support unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. Coldwater IRA and Trabuco IRA are managed to supply semi-primitive, nonmotorized recreation experiences (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is SPNM). Management objectives for Ladd Canyon allow a semiprimitive but motorized experience (ROS is SPM). For the Trabuco IRA area, most of Coldwater, and some of the Ladd Canyon IRA, the standards for maintenance of the recreation setting support a natural appearing landscape (Scenic Integrity Objective is High), although management activities are allowed to dominate the ridgelines where the assigned SIO is Low. Throughout most of the Ladd

Canyon IRA, management activities may be evident but should remain subordinate to the natural character of the setting (SIO is Moderate) (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1986b).

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Little is known about biotic resources within the IRA however a number of sensitive botanical species have been identified adjacent to the IRA. These species are declining due to loss of habitat outside the forest. Individual landowners, government agencies, and non-profit groups are engaged in planning efforts to create habitat reserves for maintaining biodiversity in this rapidly developing area (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.2, 6, 7). Maintenance of nonmotorized activities would also improve the ability of these species to compete with increasing public use and development.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: No wilderness dependent animal species have been identified within this IRA, however keystone predators and common native wildlife such as deer, coyotes, and rabbits; a host of rodents like squirrels, field mice, and rats; and many kinds of birds, such as some raptors and sparrows; butterflies, and rattlesnakes may be found here. The IRA is just north of an area where thread-leaved brodiaea and Orcutt's brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia* x *B. orcuttii*) hybrids (federally listed/sensitive species) have been identified and other sensitive plant species, such as Ramona horkelia (*Horkelia truncate*) and Rainbow manzanita (*Arctostaphylos rainbowensis*), may be found. All of these species are declining due to development and activities that affect their habitats outside the forest (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.248, 258-261). Wilderness designation would help protect the habitat(s) that remain.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States. Thus it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomizes a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness, Aqua Tibia Wilderness, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wilderness satisfy this objective.

## Sill Hill Inventoried Roadless Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Palomar and Descanso Ranger Districts

### Capability

Location: The 5,279 acre Sill Hill Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located in southern California on the western slopes of the Cuyamaca Mountains. It is situated on the border between the Palomar and Descanso Ranger Districts, in the central part of the Cleveland National Forest. The IRA is located approximately six miles south of Julian, California. Sill Hill shares its eastern boundary with the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and contains the 750 acre King Creek Research Natural Area (RNA).

Environment: The Sill Hill IRA is natural appearing with moderate opportunities for solitude. The undeveloped character of the land fosters the impression of remoteness and supplies visitors with opportunities for solitude although the area is small and not entirely shielded from urban vistas. This west-facing slope of Cuyamaca Mountain supports mixed-conifer vegetation (Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, incense cedar, Coulter pine, white fir), dense chaparral slopes, and rare and vulnerable plant species (Cuyamaca cypress). The San Diego Ranges have been identified as one of the key ecological areas in the region, and several rare and vulnerable plant and animal species are located in the Sill Hill IRA (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p. 335). The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. The spread of invasive non-native species has also disrupted this interplay in some locations. Boulder Creek and King Creek contain riparian habitat and flow across the IRA. None of the area has been surveyed for heritage resources, although a few features have been located at the stream confluences. These features include resource collection and processing elements associated with the Kumeyaay people. (On adjacent lands outside the Forest boundary, many heritage sites have been recorded along the streams and on the mesas and mountaintops). Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest 1986c. p. C-15 to C-21).

Challenge: Sill Hill is in a remote corner of the Cleveland National Forest. A challenging route involving rock hopping and bushwhacking leads from Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to a grotto and 30-foot waterfall (seasonal) just west of Milk Ranch. The trail is rated strenuous and suitable only for experienced hikers; the terrain is moderately difficult (Schad 1999, p.175). Elsewhere within Sill Hill

there are no designated trails. Cross-country travel through dense brush requires substantial bushwhacking. The thick brush constrains access and limits challenge. Overall, the opportunity for challenge and adventure within Sill Hill is moderate.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Relative to other areas in the province, Sill Hill has a medium inherent capability for supplying primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as day use hiking, wildlife and wildflower viewing and photography, nature study, short backpacking trips, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. Sill Hill can supply four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest: viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Primitive and unconfined types of recreation that currently take place here are day hikes, viewing scenery, and nature study.

Special Features: Sill Hill contains the 750 acre King Creek Research Natural Area. Cuyamaca cypress (*Cupressus stephensonii*) occurs along upper King Creek on the southwest flank of Cuyamaca Peak. The RNA was established to protect the rare cypress and its habitat and allow for nonmanipulative observation, research, and ecological study. Only activities necessary to maintain the plant community are allowed (see biotic discussion under Need below). Sill Hill waterfall, just east of Milk Ranch, contributes to the area's wilderness capability.

Manageability: The 5,279 acre Sill Hill IRA is very small but of sufficient size to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition because it is contiguous with wilderness in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. It has been successfully managed to retain a semi-primitive non-motorized character in a natural appearing setting where there is no evidence of management activities. Sill Hill contains a private inholding and is bordered by private land on the north and south. The potential for the Forest Service to manage this land as an enduring resource of wilderness that is untrammelled by man and that retains its primeval character is medium.

Boundary Considerations: The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this IRA is medium. Its western boundary can be accessed from Boulder Creek Road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) 13S08). There are currently some nonconforming activities and temporary structures (encroachments) within the IRA. Existing uses outside the IRA boundary that might result in demands to allow nonconforming activities in the wilderness include mountain biking, and backcountry driving and sightseeing in high-clearance vehicles. Backcountry driving is one of the five most popular recreation activities on the forest (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and presuppression activities including the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and the use of prescribed fire may be required in this area. It has not been surveyed and boundaries are not recognizable on the ground. Its boundaries do not conform to the terrain or other natural features. The degree to which this IRA is shielded from the sights and sounds of civilization is a function of location, topography, and orientation, and varies throughout the area. Although this is a remote location, the urban coastline and downtown San Diego can be seen in the distance from some high elevation vantage points. Boulder Creek Road supplies adequate opportunity for visitor access and has the potential for traveler transfer.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of this area as wilderness would limit the future range of uses and of management alternatives and techniques. With certain exceptions, motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport would be prohibited. Other resource demands and uses that this area could satisfy include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Diverse kinds of off-road recreation, mountain biking, competitive events, road construction, new administrative site development, developed recreation opportunities, and commercial communication site and utility corridor development are some of the demands that could potentially be developed. Mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks (including roaded-fuelbreaks) under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, prescribed fire for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and mechanical/motorized maintenance of community defense zones are important management options with applicability to Sill Hill. The Boulder Creek Road (13S08) corridor (a roaded fuelbreak) is used to protect adjacent private property and the Capitan Grand Indian Reservation from wildfire. The areas adjacent to private property on the northern and southern boundaries of the IRA could be also used to meet the demand for fire protection. Sill Hill also contains a designated livestock grazing area, and motorized access may be needed for permit administration in the future. Mineral potential has been identified and evaluation has been recommended (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest 1978).

Constraints and encumbrances (special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): A portion of the land included in this study is committed through contractual agreement for use, purposes, and activities not in concert with the requirements of the Wilderness Act. San Diego Gas & Electric has a special use permit for the Boulder Creek electric transmission line, a 69 kV transmission line with a 12 kV electric distribution line, and the 12 kV West Cuyamaca distribution line, with a 30-foot wide right-of-way for brush clearance and road maintenance in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit. Although this segment of the line is not readily visible and apparent within the IRA, motorized and mechanized (helicopter) access is necessary for emergencies as well as routine operation and maintenance of these lines. There are no active mining claims in this IRA. To the west and northwest, the Cleveland National Forest has obtained ownership of several private inholdings that could have been subject to development (T14S, R3E, Sections 3, 4, 5, and 15). Immediately to the north (T14S, R3E, Section 2; T13S, R3E, Sections 35 and 36), however, is a large private inholding approximately four miles from Pine Hills that could be subject to development. To the south (T14S, R3E, Section 36), the area is also bordered by private inholdings. The Forest Service has moderate ability to prevent development of irresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential. There are roads in the area including roads under permit to San Diego Gas & Electric.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Designation would not change use on transportation systems outside the wilderness. This part of the Forest is currently zoned for semi-primitive, non-motorized use. There are no roads or system trails within the Sill Hill IRA. Wilderness access and traveler transfer facilities may be required and would be compatible with other management needs. Facilities could be funded through the Capital Investment Program.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: About 13,000 acres within the adjacent Cuyamaca Rancho State Park have been set aside as California State Wilderness (Schad 1999, p.172). Pine Creek Wilderness (13,480 acres) and Hauser Wilderness (7,547 acres) are located 8 to 15 miles away on the southern part of the Descanso Ranger District. The 15,933 acre Agua Tibia Wilderness is located about 32 miles away on the northern part of the Palomar Ranger District. Other wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Ecological Province are the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness (USFS--38,484 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS--32,248 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres), and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM--18,500 acres).

The BLM and state of California also manage other wilderness areas in southern California including Fishcreek Mountain (25,940 acres), Sawtooth Mountain (35,080 acres), Coyote Mountains (17,000 acres), Carrizo Gorge (15,700 acres), Jacumba (33,670 acres), Santa Rosa Wilderness (BLM/USFS--78,127 acres), and the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. These wilderness areas are nearby but outside the Province and represent the American Semidesert and Desert Ecosystem Province (Bailey 1995, p.56-58, 68-70, Miles and Goudey 1997, p.13-1 to 13-16).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Population growth and urbanization are increasing rapidly in San Diego County, and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however, some of the areas within the province experience moderate to high day use. Visitors to wilderness areas on the Cleveland National Forest rated their visit 1.6 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding. The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is slightly more crowded, rated 1.9 on a scale from 1 to 5 (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use: the average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours. Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Hiking and walking are among the most popular recreation activities in the area (Kocis and others 2002, p.10, 12). Currently, nearby undeveloped lands supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness, and there is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. These lands, however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on other wildernesses (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: In general, the management objectives assigned to the Upper San Diego River and Cedar Creek undeveloped areas, No Name IRA, and Eagle Peak IRA support unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. With the exception of Cedar Creek, which offers a Semi-Primitive Motorized setting, these areas are managed to supply Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized recreation experiences. The Upper San Diego River and Sill Hill, however, have high visual quality standards (scenic integrity objective is high) for maintenance of the recreation setting. Eagle Peak IRA and parts of No Name IRA currently have standards for maintenance of the recreation setting that allow for management activities that dominate the landscape (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1986b). Generally, remote camping is

allowed in backcountry areas of the Descanso Ranger District, except the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park offers some (limited) opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. Bureau of Land Management lands are located to the south of the Descanso Ranger District and supply dispersed camping, hiking, and backpacking opportunities as well as research opportunities (Hauser Mountain Wilderness Research Area). Non-wilderness areas within the Anza Borrego Desert State supply unconfined outdoor recreation opportunities in a desert ecosystem (i.e. American Semidesert and Desert Ecosystem Province).

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): A portion of the area (Boulder Creek) contains coastal rosy boas (*Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca*) and coast horned lizards (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*). The remoteness of this area and its unroaded condition has allowed these species to compete with increasing public use and development that affects their habitats elsewhere. The King Creek Research Natural Area contains Forest Service sensitive species including Cuyamaca cypress (*Cupressus stephensonii*), Dunn's mariposa lily (*Calochortus dunnii*), Orcutt's bordiaea (*Brodiaea orcuttii*), and Cuyamaca larkspur (*Delphinium hesperium* ssp. *cuyamaca*). The RNA status adequately provides for protection of these habitats. Provision for roadless but non-wilderness land-use categories is an alternative to designation.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: Coast horned lizards are reported to be declining, primarily due to loss of habitat in low coastal elevations and inland valleys. Thus, public lands are becoming increasingly important to the conservation of this species. The coastal rosy boa is primarily associated with rocky habitat in scrub chaparral, and in the mountains is often found in canyons and washes (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.180). These species are found in unroaded and undeveloped areas but they can also survive in more modified environments. The unique scientific values of the King Creek area are already subject to certain protections by its RNA designation.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States; thus, it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon, Agua Tibia, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wildernesses satisfy this objective.

## Trabuco Inventoried Roadless Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Trabuco Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 23,320 acre Trabuco Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located in southern California on the western slopes of the central Santa Ana Mountains, in the northern part of the Cleveland National Forest. Los Angeles is about 50 miles to the northwest of this area. Many southern Orange County communities (Mission Viejo, Laguna Beach, San Juan Capistrano, San Clemente) are less than 15 miles west of this part of the Trabuco Ranger District. Ronald W. Casper's Wilderness Park and the National Audubon Society Starr Ranch Sanctuary adjoin Trabuco on the southwest. The proposed 720 acre Chiquito Basin Botanical Special Interest Area is located in the eastern part of this area.

Environment: The Trabuco IRA is natural appearing with excellent opportunities for solitude. Although the Trabuco is within a rapidly urbanizing region, it is large enough to seem remote and supplies better-than-average opportunities for solitude, adventure, and self-reliance. The characteristic vegetation is a combination of conifer and oak woodlands with bigcone Douglas-fir and some coastal sage scrub. The major streams, Holy Jim, Trabuco Creek, Bell Canyon, and Hot Spring Canyon, sustain groves of live oaks, alders, bay laurels, bigleaf maples, sycamores, and ferns, as well as rare and vulnerable animal species. Higher elevations also support rare and vulnerable animal species such as the California spotted owl and several unique botanic species. In general, common native wildlife including deer, coyotes, rabbits, butterflies, rattlesnakes; a host of rodents like squirrels, field mice, and rats; and many kinds of birds, such as sparrows and some raptors; as well as keystone predators like mountain lions and bobcats are sheltered here. The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting Trabuco is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. Concentrated recreation use and the spread of invasive non-native species have also disrupted the biotic interplay in some locations. Historically, Trabuco Canyon is important for mining activity. Heritage resource surveys are limited to some of the ridgelines and drainages. Several prehistoric resource collection and food-processing areas have been located along the streams and at stream confluences. These features are associated with the Juaneño people. Culturally sensitive plants are known to occur in the vicinity of the Trabuco IRA and are gathered by the Juaneño people (Craig and Pfeiffer 1995). Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Challenge: Trabuco supplies a full range of opportunities for challenge and adventure. Parts of the area are seemingly remote but relatively easily reached. An extensive system of dirt tracks (fire roads, fuel breaks, and abandoned roads) and several interconnected trails make it relatively easy for hikers to get around. Access to other parts of the area requires high initiative and self-reliance. There are many trails and routes that are very challenging and suitable only for experienced hikers in excellent condition. Several of the hikes (trails) within this area are considered the best in Orange County. Lower Hot Spring Canyon offers the most strenuous and hazardous hike in Orange County; it is remote and accessible to only the most experienced hikers and contains one of the best waterfalls in the county (Schad 1988, p.61, 77-79, 81-82, 85-87, 90-98, 114). Trabuco offers many outstanding opportunities for adventure and challenge.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Relative to the other places in the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province, Trabuco has a high capability for providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as day hiking and walking, seasonal waterplay, wildlife and wildflower viewing and photography, nature study, short backpacking trips, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. It is inherently capable of supporting four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest: viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). The primitive and unconfined recreation activities that currently take place here include hiking, picnicking, seasonal waterplay, birdwatching, photography, wildflower viewing, and limited equestrian use (Schad 1988, p.85). [\[1\]](#) Primitive camping is prohibited.

Special Features: The Trabuco IRA is the largest remaining unroaded land outside of designated wilderness on the Cleveland National Forest (23,320 acres). Its size is second only to the 39,691 acre San Mateo Canyon Wilderness. The area's capability to supply outdoor education and support abundant and varied wildlife is enhanced by its size. The Chiquito Springs area supports high-quality deer grass meadow, large stands of coast live oak riparian forest and the largest known population of San Miguel savory (*Satureja chandleri*), a forest sensitive plant species (Winter and Davis 2001, p.15). Several trees are at or close to the southern end of their range, including bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), and Pacific madrone, (*Arbutus menziesii* Pursh) (restricted to a tiny area in upper Trabuco Canyon), and Orange County's biggest alder grove are also located within the Trabuco roadless area (Schad 1988, p.6, 81). Nonconforming structures or activities are not necessary for management of these species. Scenic features include varied and colorful vegetation such as deciduous trees and wildflowers, steep canyons and unique rock formations, bird and wildlife watching opportunities, San Juan Falls, Holy Jim Falls, Chiquito Falls, and several falls in Hot Spring Canyon. Lower Hot Spring Canyon contains Orange County's best and tallest waterfall (Schad 1988, p.114). These features contribute to the area's capability.

Manageability: The 23,320 acre Trabuco IRA is sufficient in size to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition. For the most part, this area has been successfully managed to retain a semi-primitive, non-motorized character within a natural appearing setting where management activities are not evident, although management activities are allowed to dominate trail corridors and ridgelines (Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) is Low). In the future, the ability of the Forest Service to manage this area as an

enduring resource of wilderness, retaining its primeval character is medium. The juxtaposition of Forest Service land allocated to recreation special use authorizations and developed recreation adjacent to the roadless area impairs the area's manageability for wilderness preservation. Special Use Permit communication sites on [Modjeska Peak](#) and [Santiago Peak](#) are readily visible and apparent from within the roadless area and impair the ability of the Forest Service to retain the primeval character of the area and manage the area as an enduring wilderness resource. The current and anticipated demand for mountain biking opportunities is also an important external influence.

Boundary Considerations: The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this roadless area is high. There is a possibility of encroachment involving both activities and structures. Trabuco Road receives high use year-round.

Neighboring areas in private ownership are undergoing development. Mountain biking is a very popular nonconforming activity both outside and inside the roadless area. The potential demand for increased mountain biking opportunities is extremely high. In addition, backcountry driving is one of the five most popular recreation activities on the forest (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Nonsystem roads permit easy passage into some of the more remote areas by bicycles, off-road vehicles, and motorcycles (Schad 1988, p. 64). Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and presuppression activities including the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and fire use (prescribed fire) may be required in this area. There have been some surveys on the southeast corner of the planning area, but boundaries are not readily recognizable on the ground. The boundaries only loosely conform to the San Juan Canyon, the Santa Ana Mountain crest, and Joplin Creek. The south, northeast, and northwest boundaries run parallel to Ortega Highway (State Highway 74), Main Divide Road, and Joplin Creek respectively. The boundaries within the IRA parallel Trabuco Canyon Road. The San Juan River canyon forms a barrier to some nonconforming use (motorized use). Potential exposure to the sights and sounds of civilization varies throughout the area and is dependant on location, geomorphology, and orientation. The sound of air traffic is noticeable throughout the District and the din of traffic on the Ortega Highway is noticeable from many locations. The Trabuco IRA can be accessed from the Main Divide Road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) 3S04), Trabuco Canyon Road (NFSR 6S13), Blue Jay Campground, portions of the Ortega Highway and canyon communities on the western slope of the Santa Anas. These roads supply adequate opportunity for access and have traveler transfer points.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of this area as wilderness will limit the future range of uses, management alternatives, and techniques. With certain exceptions, motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport would be prohibited. Other resource demands and uses that could be satisfied include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Commercial communication site development and utility corridors, diverse kinds of off-road recreation, mountain biking, competitive events, road construction, new administrative site development, and developed recreation opportunities

are some of the demands that the area under evaluation could satisfy. Mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks (including roaded-fuelbreaks) under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, fire use (prescribed fire) for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and mechanical/motorized maintenance of community defense zones, and mechanical/motorized access for law enforcement activities are management options that could be applied here.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): In the past there have been numerous mining claims along Trabuco Creek. There is a tin mine in the upper reaches of Trabuco Creek. Current uses (mountain biking) have the potential to lessen wilderness character and potential. There are unclassified as well as special use permit roads in this IRA.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Currently Trabuco is managed for non-motorized use (ROS is SPNM). Many Forest Service system trails, routes, and unimproved roads currently exist within the Trabuco roadless area. The transportation system and nonsystem routes supply some of the best mountain biking opportunities in Southern California. Designation would shift some of this use to roads, trails, and routes outside the wilderness, however additional access would need to be developed outside the area to meet the current demand. Potential future motorized or mechanized use would be concentrated on existing and newly created roads, trails, and routes outside the area. There are some improved parking areas and traveler transfer points adjacent to the area. One or more traveler transfer points with facilities (trailheads) are needed to meet current and anticipated levels of use. These facilities would be compatible with other management needs and could be funded through the Capital Investment Program.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The 38,484 acre San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is located three miles southeast of Trabuco IRA, on the southern end of the District. The 4,000 acre National Audubon Society Starr Ranch Sanctuary adjoins Trabuco on the west. Other wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Ecological Province are the Agua Tibia Wilderness (USFS--15,933 acres), Hauser Wilderness (USFS--7,547 acres), Pine Creek Wilderness (USFS--13,480 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS--32,248 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres), and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM--18,500 acres).

The BLM and state of California also manage other wilderness areas in southern California including Fishcreek Mountain (25,940 acres), Sawtooth Mountain (35,080 acres), Coyote Mountains (17,000 acres), Carrizo Gorge (15,700 acres), Jacumba (33,670 acres), Santa Rosa Wilderness (BLM/USFS 78,127 acres), and the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. These wilderness areas exemplify the American Semidesert and Desert Ecological Province (Bailey 1995, Miles and Goudey 1997, p.13-1 to 14-16).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Growth and urbanization in southern Orange and Riverside Counties is expanding rapidly and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in Southern California is light, however some of the areas within the province

experience moderate to high day use. Visitors to wilderness areas on the Cleveland National Forest rated their visit 1.6 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding. The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is slightly more crowded (rated 1.9 on a scale from 1 to 5) (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use (the average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours). Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Hiking and walking are among the most popular recreation activities in the area (Kocis and others 2002, p.10, 12). At this time there is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. Nearby undeveloped lands currently supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness. These lands however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on wilderness (USDA Forest Service 1992). Changes in transportation and nationwide travel patterns reflect a decrease in international travel. People are less likely to travel long distances for recreation opportunities. In general, travelers are staying closer to home (Telephone conversation, Chavez 2003).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The Trabuco Ranger District supplies some opportunity for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences, particularly for nearby Orange County and Riverside County residents. In general, the management objectives assigned to the Coldwater IRA and the Ladd Canyon IRA support unconfined outdoor recreation experiences, however opportunities are currently limited by the lack of trails. The Coldwater IRA is managed to supply a semi-primitive non-motorized recreation experience. Ladd Canyon is zoned for semi-primitive motorized experiences (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum objectives (ROS) are SPNM and SPM). For most of Coldwater and some of Ladd Canyon, the objectives for maintenance of the recreation setting support a natural appearing landscape (SIO is High), although management activities are allowed to dominate some of the ridgelines and road corridors (SIO is Low), and a high-power electric transmission line bisects both areas. Throughout most of the Ladd Canyon IRA, management activities may be evident but should remain subordinate to the natural character of the setting (SIO is Moderate).

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The Trabuco IRA contains unique and important plant communities (high quality deergrass meadow, large stands of coast live oak riparian forest, chaparral, and sage scrub), rare plant species including Fish's milkwort (*Polygala cornuta* var. *fishiae*), and the largest known and northernmost population of San Miguel savory (*Satureja chandleri*), a forest sensitive species. There are an estimated 25 known occurrences of San Miguel savory on federal, state, and private lands. Occurrences in the Santa Anas and San Diego County appear stable, but the species may be vulnerable to horticultural collecting (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.316). Fish's milkwort is a plant of limited distribution and is vulnerable to destruction of habitat and overcollecting (Winter and Davis 2001, p.16). Pockets of bigcone Douglas-fir and canyon live oak below the Main Divide are nesting areas for spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*), a forest sensitive species (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.191). Other rare and vulnerable species found in the area include arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) (Federally listed Endangered), coastal rosy boas (*Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca*) (Forest Service Sensitive species), coast horned lizards (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*) (California species of Special Concern and

Forest Service Sensitive species), and Orange-throated whiptails (*Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi*) (California species of Concern) (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.136, 175, 180). Provision for roadless but non-wilderness land-use categories is an alternative to designation.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The Santa Ana Mountains are the westernmost extension of the Peninsular Range and are largely surrounded by urbanization. The Trabuco IRA is the largest of a few remaining unroaded, undeveloped areas on the Cleveland National Forest that has potential to link the San Diego Ranges, the Santa Rosa Plateau, the Santa Ana Mountains, the National Audubon Society Starr Ranch Sanctuary, Chino Hills State Park, the canyon reserves of Irvine Ranch, and other open-space reserves to the north. Trabuco supports wilderness-associated species as well as species adapted to more modified environments, including keystone predators. In general, as development pressures increase on private lands, the public wildlands increasingly serve as core refugia for native habitats and species. Individual landowners, government agencies and non-profit groups are engaged in planning efforts to create habitat reserves for maintaining biodiversity in this rapidly developing area. The need for corridor connections from existing and newly created habitat reserves and the remaining undeveloped public lands (such as the Trabuco IRA) is essential (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.2, 6, 7).

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States. Thus it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p. 78). The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness, Agua Tibia Wilderness, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wilderness satisfy this objective.

[1] Unpublished data on file, Cleveland National Forest, San Diego, California.

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**Sill Hill Inventoried Roadless Area**

**Wildhorse/Morrell Inventoried Roadless Area**

## Wildhorse/Morrell Inventoried Roadless Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Trabuco Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 1,480 acre Wildhorse expansion area is located in southern California on the western slope of the Elsinore Mountains, within the Trabuco Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest. It consists of several small parcels of National Forest System land located on the northeast side of the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness (portions of Sections 26, 36, T6S, R5W and Section 6, T7S, R5W, and portions of Sections 21, 22, and 23 T6S, R5W, SBB&M). It lies south of Lake Elsinore Recreation Area and approximately five miles southwest of Interstate Highway 15. The South Main Divide Road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) 6S07, formerly Killen Truck Trail) parallels the northeastern edge of this area.

Environment: The Wildhorse/Morrell area is not remotely located and the opportunities for adventure and solitude in this area are limited by the proximity of development and motorized activities. The sound of vehicles and air traffic is noticeable throughout this part of the District. Scattered stands of oak, archaeological sites, and an intermittent stream characterize Wildhorse. Common wildlife native to the area include: deer, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, rabbits, butterflies, rattlesnakes, a host of rodents such as squirrels, field mice, and rats, and many kinds of birds such as sparrows and some raptors. The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. Concentrated recreation use and the spread of invasive non-native species have also disrupted the biotic interplay to some degree. Most of Wildhorse has been surveyed for heritage resources. Due to the relatively moderate terrain and existence of known heritage resources, further evidence of prehistoric use is somewhat likely, particularly in Sections 26 and 36. Morrell Canyon and Lion Spring are associated with use by both the Luiseño and Juaneño people whose tribal boundaries probably fluctuated over time and seasons. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Challenge: Morgan Trail (FS5W02) facilitates access to the northern part of Wildhorse. The trail is described as moderate and is considered suitable for all physically fit people. The terrain is considered easy. Elsewhere there are no Forest Service system trails or trailheads within the proposed study area. The terrain is relatively flat and existing nonsystem roads and trails facilitate easy access. In areas

where there is not a trail or route, travel through mature chaparral is almost impossible (Schad 1988, p.5, 99). Overall, opportunities for adventure and challenge are minimal.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Relative to the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province, Wildhorse has a medium capability for providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as day use hiking, wildlife and wildflower viewing, photography, seasonal water play, nature study, short backpacking trips, camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. It is inherently capable of supporting four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest: viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Primitive and unconfined types of activities that currently take place on these parcels are day use hiking, wildlife and wildflower viewing, photography, seasonal water play, nature study, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. [1] Overnight camping in this area is prohibited.

Special Features: No special features have been located within Wildhorse. No rare or vulnerable plant or animal species have been recorded. Scattered oaks surround Lion Spring, and oak woodlands, willow, and a few sycamores line Morrell Canyon, adding diversity to the scenery. The capability to supply outdoor education and scientific study in a manner that is compatible with wilderness is compromised by nonconforming activities within and around the Wildhorse/Morrell expansion area.

Manageability: The 1,480 acre area consists of several very small parcels, but all are contiguous to existing wilderness (San Mateo Canyon Wilderness). While it could be preserved in an unimpaired condition, its juxtaposition to roads, private land, and the Wildomar Off-Highway Vehicle area make these parcels subject to external influences. Backcountry driving is one of the five most popular recreation activities on the forest (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). The majority of Wildhorse is managed to retain a rural, roaded (motorized) recreation experience where management activities are not evident. The ability of the Forest Service to manage this land as an enduring resource of wilderness and to retain its primeval character is low.

Within Sections 21 and 22, proposals have also been received for large-scale infrastructure development, including a major utility corridor, and a water storage and electric generating site. Potential public uses outside the boundary may result in demands to allow additional nonconforming structures and activities in the wilderness.

Boundary Considerations: The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this expansion area is high. There are currently no nonconforming structures within this area; however, nonconforming activities inside the boundaries include both off-highway vehicle use and mountain biking. Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and presuppression activities including the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and the use of prescribed fire (fire use) may be required in this area. The boundaries have been surveyed and marked; however, they are not recognizable on the ground. Boundaries do not conform to terrain or other features that would constitute a barrier to use, and the

terrain within some of the areas is relatively flat. The boundaries do not shield the wilderness environment inside the boundary from the sights and sounds of civilization outside the boundary. The communication site on Elsinore Peak is readily visible and apparent from within the expansion area. Both public and administrative access to the middle parcel occurs through informal agreement with the State of California. The South Main Divide Road (NFSR 6S07, formerly Killen Truck Trail) and Wildomar Road almost entirely surround the southern parcel (Section 6), and the Wildomar OHV area is immediately to the south. The South Main Divide Road receives heavy vehicular use.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of this area as wilderness would limit the future range of uses and of management alternatives and techniques. With certain exceptions, motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport would be prohibited. Other resource demands and uses that this area could satisfy include a full spectrum of recreation experiences: diverse kinds of motorized off-road recreation, mountain biking, competitive events, and developed recreation opportunities. In addition, commercial communication site development, large-scale utility corridors, water storage and electric generating facilities, road construction and new administrative site development are some of the demands that could potentially be satisfied in this area. Mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks (including roaded-fuelbreaks along the South Main Divide Highway) under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, prescribed fire for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and mechanical/motorized maintenance of community defense zones adjacent to private property that joins the area may be forfeited.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): The Forest Service does not have sufficient control to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen the wilderness character and potential associated with this area. Although there is no private land within these parcels, several are of them are sandwiched between private land or National Forest System roads. The area includes a road permitted to GTE CA, Inc. (0.26 mi.), and an unclassified road (0.60 mi.).

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wildhorse/Morrell is currently zoned for rural recreation experiences including motorized use. At present there are no Forest Service system roads within this area. Designation would shift the mountain biking and off-highway vehicle use that currently takes place on Morgan Trail (5W02) to transportation systems outside of the wilderness. Potential future use would also be shifted to other roads and trails. Morgan Trailhead and Morgan Trail meet the requirements for access and traveler transfer facilities in this area. No other facilities would be required and the existing facilities are compatible with other management needs.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The 38,484 acre San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is immediately adjacent to these parcels. Other wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province are the Agua Tibia Wilderness (USFS 15,933 acres), Hauser Wilderness (USFS 7,547 acres), Pine Creek Wilderness (USFS 13,480 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS 32,248 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (California State Parks and Recreation 12,828 acres), and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM 18,500 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: The interior of San Mateo Canyon Wilderness has limited use; however, the first few miles of trail sometimes receive high use. The population of Riverside and Orange Counties is expanding rapidly, and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however, some of the areas within the four forests of southern California experience moderate to high day use. Visitors to wilderness areas on the Cleveland National Forest rated their visit 1.6 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding. The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is slightly more crowded, rated 1.9 on a scale from 1 to 5 (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use: the average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours. Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Hiking and walking are among the most popular recreation activities in the area (Kocis and others 2002, p.10, 12). There is currently no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area: nearby undeveloped lands currently supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness. However, these lands are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on other wildernesses (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: In general, the management objectives currently assigned to the nearby Coldwater and the Ladd Canyon IRAs, and the Trabuco IRA support unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. The Coldwater IRA and the Trabuco IRA are managed to supply semi-primitive, nonmotorized recreation experiences (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is SPNM). The Ladd Canyon supplies a semi-primitive but motorized experience (ROS is SPM). For the Trabuco, most of Coldwater, and some of the Ladd Canyon IRA, the standards for maintenance of the recreation setting (Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIOs)) support a natural appearing landscape (SIO is High), although management activities are allowed to dominate the ridgelines (SIOs on ridgelines are Low). Throughout most of the Ladd Canyon IRA management activities may be evident but should remain subordinate to the natural character of the setting (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1986b).

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The Santa Ana Mountains are the westernmost extension of the Peninsular Range and are largely surrounded by urbanization. In general, as development pressures increase on private lands, the public wildlands increasingly serve as core refugia for native habitats and species (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.2, 6, 7), however no species of special concern are known to inhabit the Wildhorse/Morrell area.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: No wilderness dependent species have been identified within Wildhorse/Morrell. Specific information about biotic species is limited.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). The Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States. Thus it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon, Agua Tibia, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wildernesses satisfy this objective.

[1] Unpublished data on file, Cleveland National Forest, San Diego, California.

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**Trabuco Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

**Cedar Creek Other  
Undeveloped Area**

## Cedar Creek Other Undeveloped Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Palomar Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 2,800 acre (average across alternatives) Cedar Creek undeveloped area is located in southern California, west of the Cuyamaca Mountains. The city of Ramona is approximately three miles to the west and Julian is approximately five miles to the northeast. This area is in the southern part of the Palomar Ranger District, in the central part of the Cleveland National Forest.

Environment: The Cedar Creek undeveloped area is natural appearing with moderate opportunities for solitude. Although Cedar Creek is within a rapidly developing urban region, the canyon landscape gives an impression of remoteness and is inherently capable of supplying opportunities for solitude and self-reliance. Cedar Creek is within the San Diego River watershed and contributes to municipal water supplies. The Creek supports riparian woodland plants, stands of Engelmann oak, southern coast live oak, and southern cottonwood. Along the San Diego River (including the lower reaches of Cedar Creek) are several stretches of high-quality riparian woodland and populations of arroyo toad and southwestern pond turtle. Coastal rosy boas, horned lizards, orange-throated whiptails, and two-striped garter snakes can also be found here (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.337). The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. Concentrated recreation use and the spread of invasive non-native species have also disrupted the biotic interplay in some locations. None of the area has been surveyed for heritage resources and no sites have been recorded. Generally, features related to resource collection and food processing are commonly located near stream confluences in this area. On nearby lands outside the forest, many sites have been recorded along the streams and on the mesas and mountaintops. Culturally important plants occur within the area and are gathered by the Kumeyaay people (Craig and Pfeiffer 1995). Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Challenge: This area is moderately remote. It contains no designated system trails (Cedar Creek Falls, a very popular seasonal destination for local hikers is located to the south within the Eagle Peak IRA). Most of the area is for all practical purposes inaccessible and cross-country travel involves substantial bushwhacking through dense brush. Challenge is therefore low.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Relative to the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province, Cedar Creek has a low inherent capability for providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation including day-use hiking, wildlife and wildflower viewing, photography, seasonal water play, nature study, short backpacking trips, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. Cedar Creek is inherently capable of supporting four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest, including viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Primitive and unconfined types of recreation that currently take place here are: hiking, viewing the scenery (Cedar Creek Falls), seasonal water play, horseback riding, hunting, and primitive camping.

Special Features: The area supports a number of rare species and habitats, including riparian woodlands, coastal sage scrub, grassland, and Engelmann oak woodlands (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.335). The effect of recent wildfires on these habitats is currently being monitored. Abundant and varied wildlife enhance the area's wilderness capability. (See biotic species discussion under Need.) Nonconforming structures and activities are not necessary for management of these species or their habitat. The opportunity for scientific studies, both formal and informal, in a manner that is compatible with wilderness is high. Cedar Creek is important for ecological studies because of the increasing scarcity of unmodified natural ecosystems in southern California. A proposed Special Interest Area for California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica*) is located along the lower reaches of Cedar Creek on the western edge of this undeveloped area.

Manageability: This area is not sufficient in size (2,800 acres) to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition; however, it is contiguous with the Eagle Peak IRA. Cedar Creek undeveloped area is separated from Eagle Peak IRA by Cedar Creek Road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) 13S11), an improved road that is currently used by high clearance vehicles and is designated for non-highway licensed vehicles (open to OHV use). Cedar Creek Road is not maintained for travel by standard passenger-type vehicles. Most of the area has been managed to retain a semiprimitive character within a natural appearing setting where management activities are either not evident or are subordinate to the characteristic landscape. The ability of the Forest Service to manage this land as an enduring resource of wilderness and retain its primeval character is low.

Boundary Considerations: The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this undeveloped area is high. There are currently nonconforming structures and activities within the roadless area boundaries. The Boulder Creek powerline crosses the Cedar Creek undeveloped area. (See Constraints and Encumbrances below.) Existing uses outside the boundary that might result in demands to allow nonconforming activities in the wilderness include mountain biking, backcountry driving, and sightseeing in high-clearance vehicles. Backcountry driving is one of the five most popular activities on the forest (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and presuppression activities including the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and fire use (prescribed fire) may be required in this area.

Most of the area has not been surveyed and boundaries are not recognizable on the ground. The

boundaries loosely conform to the Cedar Creek drainage, and the southwestern boundary parallels Cedar Creek Road (NFSR 13S11). Due to its location and canyon physiography, the wilderness environment inside the boundary is protected from the sights and sounds of civilization. However, the suburbs of the city of Ramona are about three miles to the east and are visible from ridgelines.

The area is readily accessible by a backcountry road system that includes Cedar Creek, Eagle Peak Road (NFSR 13S06), and a small segment of Boulder Creek Road.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of Cedar Creek as wilderness would limit the future range of uses and of management alternatives and techniques. With certain exceptions, motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport would be prohibited. Other resource demands and uses that could be satisfied include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Diverse kinds of off-road recreation, mountain biking, competitive events, road construction, new administrative site development, and developed recreation opportunities are some of the potential demands that might be satisfied. Mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, prescribed fire for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and road use and maintenance (including use and maintenance of roaded-fuelbreaks) for presuppression activities are valuable management techniques with applicability to this area. The Cedar Creek undeveloped area is separated from Eagle Peak IRA by Cedar Creek Road (NFSR 13S11), a road that is maintained for high clearance vehicles and also designated for non-highway licensed vehicles (open to OHV use). Current uses include motorized access for powerline maintenance and mountain biking. Cedar Creek contains a designated livestock grazing area and motorized access for permit administration may be required in the future.

Constraints and encumbrances (special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): A portion of the land included in this study is committed through contractual agreement for use, purposes, and activities not in concert with the requirements of the Wilderness Act. San Diego Gas & Electric has a special use permit for the Boulder Creek electric transmission line, a 12 kV electric distribution line and a 69 kV transmission line with a 30 foot wide right-of-way for brush clearance in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit. The improvements are in Sections 27, 33, 34, T13S, R3E, and SBB&M. There are some unimproved roads in the area, including those under permit to San Diego Gas & Electric. Motorized and mechanized access is necessary for emergency repairs and routine operation and maintenance of the transmission line. This improvement is readily visible and apparent from areas within Cedar Creek. Outside the powerline corridor, the Forest Service has sufficient control to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential. Private lands along the boundary of the area were recently acquired. There are no private lands within this undeveloped area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: This part of the

forest is zoned for motorized recreational opportunities; however, there are no public roads or trails within the Cedar Creek undeveloped area. Designation would not change use on transportation systems outside the wilderness unless the Cedar Creek undeveloped area is combined with neighboring IRAs and motorized and mechanized use on Cedar Creek Road is forfeited – thereby increasing both motorized and mountain biking use on other roads in the area. An unimproved trailhead located at Saddleback could serve Cedar Creek as well as the adjacent roadless areas and would be compatible with other management needs. Future development could be funded through the Capital Investment Program.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: There are no other Forest Service wilderness areas in the immediate vicinity. Pine Creek (13,480 acres) and Hauser (7,547 acres) Wildernesses are located about 15 miles to the southeast on the Descanso Ranger District. The 15,933 acre Agua Tibia Wilderness is located about 32 miles away, on the northern end of the Palomar Ranger District. Other wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province are the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness (USFS--38,484 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS--32,248 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres) and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM--18,500 acres). The BLM and state of California also manage other wilderness areas in southern California including Fishcreek Mountain (25,940 acre), Sawtooth Mountain (35,080 acres), Coyote Mountains (17,000 acres), Carrizo Gorge (15,700 acres), Jacumba (33,670 acres), Santa Rosa Wilderness (BLM/USFS-- 78,127 acres), and the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. These Wilderness areas exemplify the American Semidesert and Desert Ecosystem Province (Bailey 1995, p.56-58, 68-70, Miles and Goudey 1997, p.13-1 to 13-16).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Agua Tibia has light day use. San Diego County is expanding rapidly and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however, some of the areas within the province experience moderate to high day use. Visitors to wilderness areas on the Cleveland National Forest rated their visit 1.6 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding. The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is slightly more crowded, rated 1.9 on a scale from 1 to 5 (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use: the average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours (Kocis and others 2002, p.10). Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Hiking and walking are among the most popular recreation activities in the area. Currently, nearby undeveloped lands supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness and there is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. These lands, however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase -- resulting in increasing visitor pressure on other wildernesses (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The management objectives assigned to the Eagle Peak, No Name, and Sill Hill IRAs and the Upper San Diego River undeveloped area complement unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. All four of these areas are managed to supply semiprimitive, nonmotorized recreation experiences (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum objective is SPNM). The Upper San Diego River roadless area and

Sill Hill IRA, however, have higher scenic quality standards than Cedar Creek. Eagle Peak IRA and parts of No Name IRA currently have lower scenic quality standards and management activities that dominate the landscape are allowed (USDA, Forest Service 1986b). Cuyamaca Rancho State Park also offers some opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The mountains and foothills of San Diego County (including the lower reaches of Cedar Creek) contain important habitat for rare and vulnerable species. The Cedar Creek undeveloped area is within one of the key ecological areas for this region and is dominated by some of the best remaining occurrences of low elevation ecosystems (e.g. riparian woodland, coastal sage scrub, and Englemann oak woodlands) that are poorly represented on public land and declining in the southern part of the Province. Factors affecting ecological integrity in the upper San Diego River watershed include housing developments along the canyon's western rim, increased fire starts, and non-native species (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.335-337). The effect of recent fires on these habitats is currently being monitored. Englemann oak populations (*Quercus engelmannii*) are declining due to habitat loss on private lands. They inhabit the smallest natural range of any oak species in California and are located next to the fastest growing urban landscape in the country (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.44, 45). Other means available outside of wilderness designation that would allow the unique biotic species of the Cedar Creek undeveloped area to compete with increasing public use and development are Research Natural Area designation, management of trail-based recreation for species protection, and maintenance of unmodified, non-motorized conditions.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The lower reaches of Cedar Creek, on the slope above the confluence with the San Diego River, support coastal sage scrub vegetation that supplies habitat for California gnatcatchers (*Polioptila californica*), a federally listed threatened species. The effect of recent fires in this area is currently being monitored. There are also several stretches of high quality riparian woodland with populations of arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) (federally listed endangered), southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*) (Forest Service sensitive species), coastal rosy boas (*Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca*) (Forest Service sensitive species), coast horned lizards (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*) (California species of special concern and Forest Service sensitive species), orange-throated whiptails (*Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi*) (California species of concern), and two-striped garter snakes (*Thamnophis hammondi*) (Forest Service sensitive species) (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.335-337). As development intensifies in the foothills, farsighted planning is needed to ensure that habitat connectivity is maintained between the mountains and the remaining natural areas in the coastal and inland valleys. Surveys are needed to more fully determine the distribution of these species and the effects that non-native plants and animals and high fire frequencies have on their habitats. The primary management concern for Englemann oak woodlands on public lands is maintaining sufficient regeneration. In order to ensure the long-term viability of Englemann oak, research concerning disturbance regimes and regeneration rates is needed (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.44, 45).

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States. Thus it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon, Agua Tibia, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wildernesses satisfy this objective.

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<b>Wildhorse/Morrell Inventoried Roadless Area</b>	<b>Sitton Peak (and addition) Other Undeveloped Areas</b>
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## Sitton Peak (and addition) Other Undeveloped Areas

### Cleveland National Forest

Trabuco Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 1,029 acre Sitton Peak and 1,206 acre Sitton Peak Addition area is located in southern California on the western slopes of the central Santa Ana Mountains, on the northern part of the Cleveland National Forest. Los Angeles is about 60 miles to the northwest. Many southern Orange County communities (Mission Viejo, Laguna Beach, San Juan Capistrano, San Clemente) lie within 20 miles of this part of the Trabuco Ranger District.

Environment: This area includes Sitton Peak and the north-facing slopes of the San Juan River Canyon. The proximity and visibility of the Ortega Highway (State Highway 74) corridor diminishes the remoteness of this roadless area and impairs the potential to gain a wide range of experiential benefits such as feelings of solitude, adventure, and self-reliance. Homogeneous chaparral with some isolated pockets of coastal sage scrub is characteristic of this area. Common native wildlife that may be found here include deer, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, rabbits, butterflies, rattlesnakes; a host of rodents like squirrels, field mice, and rats; and many kinds of birds, such as sparrows and some raptors. The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. The spread of invasive non-native species has also disrupted this interplay to some degree. The likelihood of significant heritage resources is limited due to the steep topography. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this area.

Challenge: The Sitton Peak expansion area is the steep, undeveloped, unroaded, southern slope of the San Juan Creek Canyon. No Forest Service system trails access the interior of this roadless area. A primitive, unmaintained road (Sitton Peak Road, National Forest System Road (NFSR) 7S09) delineates the southern border. Sitton Peak Road is deeply eroded, rocky, and overgrown in places but offers relatively easy access for hikers. A cross-country trip into the expansion area requires substantial bushwhacking. Chaparral is the dominant plant community and without the benefit of a trail, cross-country travel is almost impossible (Schad 1988, p.5). The opportunity to experience adventure and challenge within this area is low.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Relative to the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province, this area has a medium capability for providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation including day-use hiking, viewing scenery, wildlife and wildflowers, photography, nature study, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. It has some inherent capability to support four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest: viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Primitive and unconfined types of recreation that currently take place within this area are hiking, viewing scenery, photography, hunting, and some equestrian use. [1] Primitive camping is prohibited.

Special Features: Sitton Peak has minimal capability to supply outdoor education and scientific study. Sitton Peak is one of the few remaining undeveloped peaks in the Santa Ana Mountains. On a clear day, Sitton Peak offers 50-mile vistas in all directions (Schad 1988, p.100). While this scenic feature is unique, it does not supply opportunities for study or experiences that are compatible with wilderness values.

Manageability: The 2,235 acre Sitton Peak and Sitton Peak expansion areas are small but contiguous to existing wilderness (San Mateo Canyon Wilderness). In combination with the San Mateo Wilderness, its size is sufficient to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition, and the area's geomorphology and vegetation help to make it manageable in a natural condition. It has been successfully managed to retain a natural, but roaded character with high scenic integrity. The Sitton Peak Road corridor is currently managed to allow management activities that dominate the landscape. The ability of the Forest Service to manage this land as an enduring resource of wilderness and to retain its primeval character is low.

Boundary Considerations: The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses originating outside the boundary is medium. Nonconforming structures and activities within the boundaries that originate from private land on the northeast have been reported. Mountain biking currently takes place within the boundary, and potential exists for future demands for mountain biking access. Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and presuppression activities including the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and the use of prescribed fire may be required in the future. Sitton Peak expansion area has not been surveyed, and boundaries are not recognizable on the ground. The boundaries conform to the south half of the San Juan Canyon and Sitton Peak. The canyon constitutes a barrier to prohibited use; however, the boundaries do not act as a shield to protect the wilderness environment inside the boundary from the sights and sounds of civilization outside the wilderness. The Ortega Highway is visible throughout the area, and the sounds of traffic and airplanes are readily recognizable. The northeastern boundary currently offers adequate opportunity for access and traveler transfer. On the west, access for hiking, mountain biking, and administrative use is allowed through informal agreement, but no legal easements have been acquired.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of

this area as wilderness would limit the future range of uses, management alternatives, and techniques. With certain exceptions, motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport would be prohibited. Other resource demands and uses that this area could satisfy include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Commercial communication site development and utility corridors, diverse kinds of off-road recreation, mountain biking (some use occurs on Sitton Peak Road), competitive events, road construction, new administrative site development, and developed recreation opportunities are some of the demands that could potentially be satisfied in this area. Mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks (including roaded-fuelbreaks) under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, prescribed fire for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and mechanical/motorized maintenance of community defense zones are management strategies that could be applied here. Sitton Peak has been identified by interested public agencies as an important location for development of a new communication site for police, fire and road maintenance, as well as potential commercial uses. In addition, proposals have been received to widen and realign the Ortega Highway. Development would include road reconstruction and new construction for motorized access off of Sitton Peak Road. The expansion area does not contain private land.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): There are no existing encumbrances on National Forest System land within the undeveloped area. The Forest Service has sufficient control to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential. There is no private land within the study area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Sitton Peak is currently zoned for motorized use. Mountain biking use would be shifted to trails outside the wilderness. Although Sitton Peak Road is not currently maintained for motorized use, wilderness designation would preclude motorized use and shift potential future use to other roads in the area. Sitton Peak Road and nonsystem trails meet access requirements. Existing trailheads elsewhere on the District serve this area.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The 38,484 acre San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is immediately south of this area. The 4,000 acre National Audubon Society Starr Ranch Sanctuary is located approximately two miles to the west. Other wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province are the Agua Tibia Wilderness (USFS--15,933 acres), Hauser Wilderness (USFS--7,547 acres), Pine Creek Wilderness (USFS--13,480 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS--32,248 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres), and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM--18,500 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Population growth and urbanization are increasing rapidly in Orange and Riverside Counties, and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however, some of the areas experience moderate to high day use. Visitors to wilderness areas on the Cleveland National Forest rated their visit

1.6 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding. The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is slightly more crowded, rated 1.9 on a scale from 1 to 5 (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use: average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours. Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Hiking and walking are among the most popular recreation activities in the area (Kocis and others 2002, p.10, 12). Currently, nearby undeveloped lands supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside of wilderness, and there is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. These lands, however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on other wildernesses (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: In general, the management objectives currently assigned to the Coldwater, Ladd Canyon, and Trabuco IRAs support unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. Coldwater IRA and Trabuco IRA are managed to supply a semiprimitive, nonmotorized recreation experience, while Ladd Canyon is assigned a semi-primitive motorized management objective. For the Trabuco IRA, most of Coldwater IRA, and some of the Ladd Canyon IRA, the current scenic integrity objectives (SIOs) for maintenance of the recreation setting support a natural appearing landscape (assigned SIO is High), although management activities are allowed to dominate some of the roads, trails, and ridgelines (assigned SIO is Low) (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1986b). However, throughout most of the Ladd Canyon and Coldwater IRAs, management activities (powerlines and communications sites) are readily visible and apparent.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): In general, as development pressures increase on private lands, the public wildlands increasingly serve as core refugia for native habitats and species. Individual landowners, government agencies and nonprofit groups are engaged in planning efforts to create habitat reserves for maintaining biodiversity in this rapidly developing area. The Santa Ana Mountains are the westernmost extension of the Peninsular Range and are largely surrounded by urbanization. The Sitton Peak expansion area is one of a few unroaded, undeveloped areas that have the potential to link the San Diego Ranges, the Santa Rosa Plateau, the Santa Ana Mountains, the Audubon Society Starr Ranch Sanctuary, Chino Hills State Park, the canyon reserves of Irvine Ranch, and other open space reserves to the north. The need for corridor connections from existing and newly created habitat reserves and the remaining undeveloped public lands is essential (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.2, 6, 7). Provision for roadless but non-wilderness land use categories is an alternative to designation.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: Specific information about biotic species within the Sitton Peak expansion area is limited. Common native wildlife that may be found here include deer, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, rabbits, and rattlesnakes; a host of rodents like squirrels, field mice, and rats; and many kinds of birds, such as some raptors and sparrows. However, no wilderness dependent species have been identified in this area.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States; thus, it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon, Agua Tibia, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wildernesses satisfy this objective.

[1] Unpublished data on file, Cleveland National Forest, San Diego, California.

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**Cedar Creek Other  
Undeveloped Area**

**South Hauser/Hauser  
Mountain Other Undeveloped  
Area**

## South Hauser/Hauser Mountain Other Undeveloped Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Descanso Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 1,274 acre Hauser Mountain and 3,600 acre South Hauser expansion areas are located at the southern edge of the Cleveland National Forest, in the southern part of the Descanso Ranger District. The Hauser Wilderness (California's smallest wilderness) adjoins this area on the northeast and Barrett Lake borders the northwest. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages most of the land along the southern boundary. The expansion area lies approximately 10 miles south of Descanso, California and is just over five miles north of Mexico.

Environment: The South Hauser expansion area is natural appearing with excellent opportunities for solitude. Hauser is one of the most remote locations on the Cleveland National Forest. The distance from urban centers and its canyon topography enhance its remoteness. Hauser supplies better-than-average opportunities for solitude, adventure, and self-reliance. The expansion area encompasses the rugged, steep Hauser/Cottonwood Creek Canyon. The rocky upland slopes are mostly covered with chaparral, and oaks and riparian woodlands occupy the stream bottoms. The only mapped southwestern willow flycatcher location in the general area is on Cottonwood Creek upstream from Barrett Lake. A fairly good population of least Bell's vireo is located in Hauser Canyon downstream from outflow of Lake Morena Reservoir. The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. Concentrated recreation use and the spread of invasive non-native species have also disrupted this interplay in some locations. The north-facing slopes of Hauser Canyon have not been surveyed for heritage resources; however, there are known historic features within Hauser Canyon. Evidence of prehistoric use has also been found along the Hauser and Cottonwood Creeks. These features relate to food processing and are associated with the Kumeyaay people (Craig and Pfeiffer 1995). Due to its remoteness, lack of use, and undisturbed quality, Hauser South is a unique and excellent resource study area for biologists and entomologists. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for the area.

Challenge: Hauser Canyon cuts across one of the most isolated parts of the country. An established trail, although strenuous, facilitates one-way access to the eastern part of Cottonwood and Hauser Canyon.

The canyon is approached via a long and uneventful segment of the Pacific Crest Trail. Once into the canyon, the route follows the stream bank through tangled riparian vegetation. The route is long and suitable only for experienced hikers in excellent physical condition (Schad 1998, p.223). Challenge and opportunity for adventure are high. Elsewhere within the roadless area, dense brush and steep slopes limit access for all practical purposes.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Relative to other areas within the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province, Hauser South has a high capability for providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as day hiking, water play, wildlife and wildflower viewing and photography, nature study, short backpacking trips, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation, and respite from urban life. It is inherently capable of supporting four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest: viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Primitive and unconfined types of recreation that currently take place here are day hiking, hunting, short backpacking trips, camping, water play, and horseback riding. [\[1\]](#)

Special Features: Lower Cottonwood Creek has been identified as an area of particularly high ecological significance (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.337). High quality riparian habitat within Hauser Canyon supports important populations of least Bell's vireos (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and southwestern pond turtles (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*). The area has potential for outdoor education and scientific study, and nonconforming structures and activities would not be required to support this use. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) passes through the corner of South Hauser. Hauser Canyon is 20 miles from the southern terminus of the 2,627 mile Pacific Crest Trail and most PCT hikers make their first night's camp in this area (Stienstra and Brown 2001, p.797, 798).

Manageability: The 4,874 acre South Hauser expansion and Hauser Mountain areas is very small but contiguous to an existing wilderness (Hauser Wilderness). In combination with the Hauser Wilderness, its size is sufficient to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition, and the area's physiography and vegetation help to make it manageable in a natural condition. Most of South Hauser has been managed to retain a semi-primitive non-motorized character within a natural appearing setting where management activities are not evident. However, in the southeastern half of the area current management allows for activities that dominate the landscape. Throughout most of South Hauser, the natural character of the land has been preserved. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land that includes a Wilderness Study Area surrounds the southern boundary of this area. In the past the flow of undocumented immigrants through the area somewhat impaired the ability of the Forest Service to retain its primeval character and untrammelled condition. Currently the ability of the Forest Service to manage this land as an enduring resource of wilderness and retain its natural character is medium to high.

Boundary Considerations: The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this roadless area is medium. The City of San Diego manages the land around Morena and Barrett Reservoirs, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages most of the adjacent land area to the south. Nonconforming activities and structures include two unclassified roads, ongoing U.S. Border

Patrol operations, undocumented immigrant foot-travel and mountain biking on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT). Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and presuppression activities including the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and the use of prescribed fire may be appropriate management techniques. A proposal has been received for a communication site in Section 25, T17S, R4E, SBB&M. There have been no surveys in the area, and boundaries are not recognizable on the ground. Boundaries loosely conform to the south half of the Hauser Canyon and include both Cottonwood Creek and Hauser Creek. The canyon constitutes a barrier to most nonconforming use. Its remote location, geomorphology, and juxtaposition to an existing wilderness area shield the South Hauser expansion area from the sights and sounds of civilization. This undeveloped area is accessible via the PCT, routes along the canyon bottom, and a nonsystem route originating from private land on the south forest boundary. (The Forest Service does not have easements for public use of this route). The trailhead that serves the area is located within Lake Morena County Park.

[1] Unpublished data on file, Cleveland National Forest, San Diego, California.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of this area as wilderness would limit the future range of uses and of management alternatives and techniques. With certain exceptions, motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport would be prohibited. Other resource demands and uses that this area could satisfy include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Commercial communication site development and utility corridors, diverse kinds of motorized off-road recreation, mountain biking, competitive events, road construction, new administrative site development, and developed recreation opportunities are some of the demands that could potentially be satisfied. Mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks (including roaded-fuelbreaks) under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, prescribed fire for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, mechanical/motorized maintenance of community defense zones, and mechanical/motorized access for law enforcement and Border Patrol activities are management options that could be used here. Bulk minerals and geothermal potentials in the area have not been evaluated (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest 1978).

Constraints and encumbrances (special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): There are several unclassified roads and road segments within the undeveloped area. These roads are used for border patrol activities on a routine basis. There is no private land within this undeveloped area. The Forest Service has sufficient control to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses within South Hauser.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: The trails in this area are currently managed for non-motorized and nonmechanized use. Designation would not change current use on transportation systems outside the area; however, potential future mechanized use within

South Hauser would be forfeited. (Motorized use and mechanized use are both prohibited on the PCT). The PCT and associated routes in the canyon serve wilderness access requirements and the trailhead at Lake Morena meets most demands. Unauthorized access across private lands occurs from the south. Easements for access and a traveler transfer point south of the roadless area may be required in the future. These facilities would be compatible with management needs and could be funded through the Capital Investment Program.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Two Forest Service Wilderness areas, the Pine Creek Wilderness (13,480 acres) and Hauser Wilderness (7,547 acres) are in the immediate vicinity of the expansion area. The South Hauser expansion area shares its northeastern boundary with the Hauser Wilderness. The Hauser Mountain Wilderness Research Area, managed by the BLM, borders a part of this area on the southeast. The 15,933 acre Agua Tibia Wilderness is located about 60 miles away, on the northern end of Palomar Ranger District. Other wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province are the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness (USFS--38,484 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS--32,248 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres), and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM--18,500 acres). The BLM and state of California also manage other wilderness areas in southern California including Fishcreek Mountain (25,940 acres), Sawtooth Mountain (35,080 acres), Coyote Mountains (17,000 acres), Carrizo Gorge (15,700 acres), Jacumba (33,670 acres), Santa Rosa Wilderness (BLM/USFS--78,127 acres), and the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. While these wilderness areas supply opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences, they represent the American Semi-desert and Desert Ecosystem Province rather than the California Coastal Range (Bailey 1995, p.56-58, 68-70, Goudey and Smith, 1994, ch.13).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: In general, population growth and urbanization are increasing rapidly in San Diego County, and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however, some of the areas experience moderate to high day use (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use: the average stay in wilderness on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours (Kocis and others 2002, p.10). Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Currently, nearby undeveloped lands provide opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness, and there is currently no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. These lands, however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on wilderness (USFS 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Objectives (ROS) assigned to the Noble Canyon and Upper San Diego River drainages, including Cedar Creek and Upper San Diego River undeveloped area, Eagle Peak IRA, No Name IRA, and the Sill Hill IRA support unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. These areas are managed to supply semi-primitive, nonmotorized or motorized (in Cedar Creek) experiences. In general, remote camping is allowed in backcountry areas of the Descanso Ranger

District, except for the Laguna Recreation Area. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park also offers opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands are located to the south of the District and supply dispersed camping, hiking, and backpacking opportunities. Non-wilderness parts of Anza Borrego Desert State Park supply unconfined outdoor recreation opportunities, however, this area exemplifies a desert ecosystem (i.e. the American Semidesert and Desert Ecosystem Province).

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Cottonwood Creek has been identified as an area of particularly high ecological significance (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.337). High quality riparian habitat within Hauser Canyon supports important populations of least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*), as well as many species adapted to more modified environments. As development intensifies, farsighted planning is needed to ensure that habitat connectivity is maintained between the mountains and the remaining natural areas in the coastal and inland valleys (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.335). Maintenance of unroaded, non-motorized conditions and management of trail-based activities for species protection are options for meeting the needs of these species. Research Natural Area designation would set aside the area for nonmanipulative observation, research, and ecological study. Provision for roadless but non-wilderness land-use categories is also an alternative to designation.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: In general, freshwater aquatic habitats are uncommon in coastal southern California. The middle and lower portions of these streams, typically found at elevations below 3,000 feet, support a high number of rare and vulnerable riparian species (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.35-38). South Hauser contains riparian areas within this range and shelters species that are being displaced by human activities elsewhere in San Diego County. Designation would provide additional protection for riparian habitats.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States; thus, it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon, Agua Tibia, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wildernesses satisfy this objective.

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**Sitton Peak (and addition)  
Other Undeveloped Areas**

**Upper San Diego River Other  
Undeveloped Area**

## Upper San Diego River Other Undeveloped Area

### Cleveland National Forest

Palomar Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The 1,028 acre Upper San Diego River and 4,905 acre Upper San Diego River Gorge undeveloped areas are located in Southern California, west of the Cuyamaca Mountains. This area is in the southern part of the Palomar Ranger District, in the central part of the Cleveland National Forest. On the west, Mount Gower Open Space Preserve and the suburbs of the city of Ramona border the roadless area. El Capitan Grande Indian Reservation adjoins the southern end of the area, and Julian, California is about three miles to the east. The proposed San Diego River Research Natural Area (RNA) is within both the Upper San Diego River and Upper San Diego River Gorge undeveloped area.

Environment: The Upper San Diego River roadless area is natural appearing with moderate opportunities for solitude. Although it is adjacent to a rapidly developing community, the canyon landscape fosters the impression of remoteness and supplies visitors with opportunities to gain feelings of solitude and a sense of self-reliance. This roadless area encompasses the rugged, steep canyon at the headwaters of the San Diego River. Elevations range from 880 feet at the riverbed to about 3,000 feet in the upslope area. Tall seasonal waterfalls and sections of three perennial rivers are also included in the roadless area. In addition to coastal sage scrub vegetation, mature southern cottonwood, willows, and riparian woodlands thrive here. The San Diego Ranges have been identified as one of the key ecological areas in the region and many rare and vulnerable plant and animal species are located in the Upper San Diego River roadless area (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p. 335). The normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting this area is mostly intact, although natural fire intervals have been modified and some connectivity to other wildlands has been lost. Concentrated recreation use and the spread of invasive non-native species have also disrupted the biotic interplay in some locations. Most of the area has not been surveyed for heritage resources, but some features related to resource collection and food processing are located at stream confluences and on the mesa tops above the San Diego River canyon. Culturally sensitive plants can be found here and are gathered by Kumeyaay people (Craig and Pfeiffer 1995). Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Challenge: There are no designated system trails in the roadless area. Several seasonal waterfalls (some

as high as 100 feet) attract local hikers to the canyon. The trip down the San Diego River canyon requires high initiative and self-reliance. The opportunity for challenge and adventure is high (Schad 1999, p.159). Cedar Creek Falls is a popular seasonal destination. Access to the area is primarily on nonsystem routes originating from nearby San Diego County Estates and from Saddleback; both routes approach the bottom of Cedar Creek falls from the west. The opportunity for adventure and challenge associated with these trails is low to moderate (Schad 1999, p.161, Stienstra and Brown 2001, p.790). (The Helix Water District owns the land below the 995 foot elevation within the San Diego River corridor, including the area below Cedar Creek Falls (Section 1, T14S, R2E, SBB&M) and public access is not formally authorized).

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The Upper San Diego River has a medium capability for providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation including hiking, seasonal waterplay, wildlife and wildflower viewing and photography, nature study, short backpacking trips, primitive camping, hunting, horseback riding, relaxation and respite from urban life. It is inherently capable of supporting four of the five most popular recreation activities on the Cleveland National Forest, viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing, and hiking/walking (Kocis and others 2002, p.12). Primitive and unconfined types of recreation that currently take place here include scenic viewing, hiking, seasonal waterplay, photography, and primitive camping.[\[1\]](#)

Special Features: This roadless area contains stretches of high-quality riparian woodlands that shelter threatened and endangered species and a number of rare species. Fires in 2003 swept through extensive stands of coastal sage scrub vegetation that supported an important population of California gnatcatchers (*Poliopitila californica*). Recovery of these areas and their ability to support gnatcatcher populations in the future is currently being monitored. Abundant and varied wildlife enhances the area's wilderness capability. (See biotic species discussion under Need). Nonconforming structures and activities are not necessary for management of these species or their habitat. Opportunity for scientific studies, both formal and informal, in a manner that is compatible with wilderness is high due to the diversity of ecological values and increasing scarcity of unmodified natural ecosystems elsewhere in Southern California. The roadless area is being evaluated concurrently for consideration as part of the San Diego River Research National Area. Special scenic features that contribute to the area's wilderness capability include several seasonal waterfalls within the San Diego River Canyon.

Manageability: The 5,933 acre San Diego River undeveloped area is very small but of sufficient size to preserve and use in an unimpaired condition. It is contiguous with other wilderness study areas (Cedar Creek roadless area and Eagle Peak IRA) but separated from them by an unimproved road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) 13S06). This road is not maintained and is impassable to motorized vehicles. Most of this area has been successfully managed to retain a semi-primitive motorized character within a naturally appearing setting where management activities are not evident or are subordinate to the characteristic landscape. With the exception of the trail to Cedar Creek Falls the interior of the San Diego River roadless area has an undisturbed, natural character. Private land surrounds much of this area. Urban development occurs on the western rim of the river canyon. The ability of the Forest Service to manage this land as an enduring resource of wilderness and retain its primeval character is medium.

Boundary Considerations: The potential for conflict with existing or potential public uses outside the boundary of this roadless area is medium. The ability of the Forest Service to manage this area as an enduring resource of wilderness and retain its primeval character is low. The upper San Diego River roadless area adjoins urban development on the eastern side of the city of Ramona (Ramona County Estates). Due to the threat of wildfire, fire suppression and presuppression activities including the construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, community defense zones, firelines, the use of mechanized equipment, and the use of prescribed fire may be required in this area. There are currently some nonconforming structures (unclassified trails, encroachments) and activities within the boundaries of this area. There have been no surveys in the area except on the western boundary and boundaries are not recognizable on the ground. They loosely conform to the San Diego River drainage and the canyon constitutes a barrier to some nonconforming use (motorized use). The river canyon adequately shields the area from the sights and sounds of civilization. The boundary can be accessed from Eagle Peak Road and Cedar Creek Road. These roads supply adequate opportunity for access and traveler transfer.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The designation of this area as wilderness will limit the future range of uses and of management alternatives and techniques. With certain exceptions, motorized equipment, structures, installations, roads, commercial enterprises, aircraft landings, and mechanical transport would be prohibited. Some of the other resource demands and uses that this area could satisfy include a full spectrum of recreation experiences. Commercial communication site development and utility corridors, diverse kinds of off-road recreation, mountain biking, competitive events, road construction, new administrative site development, and developed recreation opportunities could potentially be satisfied in this area. Mechanical maintenance of fuelbreaks (including roaded-fuelbreaks along Eagle Peak Road and Saddleback and other State and County roads) under normal (non-emergency) circumstances, prescribed fire for purposes other than reducing unnatural fuels accumulation, and mechanical/motorized maintenance of community defense zones adjacent to private property that joins the area are examples of management techniques that could be employed here. The Upper San Diego River area also contains designated livestock grazing areas and motorized access may be needed for permit administration in the future.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special use authorizations, roads, mining claims): A portion of the land included in the northern end of this study area is committed through contractual agreement for use, purposes, and activities not in concert with the requirements of the Wilderness Act. San Diego Gas & Electric has a Special Use Permit for the Boulder Creek electric transmission line, a 12 kV electric distribution line and a 69 kV transmission line with a 30 foot wide right-of-way for brush clearance in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit (Sections 27 and 34, T12S, R3E, SBB&M). From the northern tip of the San Diego roadless area, this improvement is readily visible and apparent. Motorized access is necessary for emergency repairs and routine operation and maintenance of some segments of the transmission line. The NW1/4, Section 34 contains one active placer mining claim. (The Helix Water District owns the land below the 995 foot elevation within the San Diego River corridor, including the area below Cedar Creek Falls (Section 1, T14S, R2E, SBB&M) and public access

is not formally authorized). There are no private lands within the boundary of the undeveloped area and some private lands have recently been acquired in the area. The Forest Service has sufficient control over a portion of the undeveloped area to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential. Approximately ½ mile of unclassified road mileage is located within the boundaries of the area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Currently the roadless area is managed for non-motorized use (ROS is SPNM). No forest service system roads or trails presently exist inside the area. Designation would not change current use on transportation systems outside the wilderness, however any potential future motorized or mechanized use would be limited to roads and trails outside the area. Two nonsystem routes supply access, and there are improved parking and facilities at Inaja and two traveler transfer points (one on the east side of the area, and one to the west) adjacent to the canyon. One or more traveler transfer points with facilities and improved trail access would be required. These facilities would be compatible with other management needs and could be funded through the Capital Investment Program.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: There are no other Forest Service wilderness areas in the immediate vicinity. Pine Creek Wilderness (13,480 acres) and Hauser (7,547 acres) are located about 15 miles to the southeast on the Descanso Ranger District. The 15,933-acre Agua Tibia Wilderness is located about 25 miles away on the northern end of the Palomar Ranger District. Other Wilderness areas that are within the California Coastal Range Ecological Province are the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness (USFS 38,484 acres), San Jacinto Wilderness (USFS 32,248 acres), Mount San Jacinto State Park Wilderness (12,828 acres) and the Otay Mountain Wilderness (BLM 18,500 acres).

The BLM and state of California also manage other wilderness areas in southern California including Fishcreek Mountain (25,940 acres), Sawtooth Mountain (35,080 acres), Coyote Mountains (17,000 acres), Carrizo Gorge (15,700 acres), Jacumba (33,670 acres), Santa Rosa Wilderness (BLM/USFS 78,127 acres), and the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. These wilderness areas represent the American Semidesert and Desert Ecosystem Province (Bailey 1995, p.56-58, 68-70, Miles and Goudey 1997, p.13-1 to 13-16).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Population growth and urbanization in San Diego County are expanding rapidly and wilderness use is predicted to increase. Visitor pressure on other wilderness areas in southern California is light; however some areas experience moderate to high day use. Visitors to wilderness areas on the Cleveland National Forest rated their visit 1.6 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding. The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness is slightly more crowded (rated 1.9 on a scale from 1 to 50) (Chavez 1993a, 1993b). An important trend in wilderness use is short-term day use (average stay on the Cleveland National Forest is 2.2 hours). Based on this trend, use patterns will be concentrated on the first few miles of wilderness trails. Hiking and walking are among the most popular

recreation activities in the area (Kocis and others 2002, p.10, 12). At the present time there is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. Nearby undeveloped lands currently supply opportunities for primitive type recreation outside wilderness. These lands however, are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase, resulting in increasing visitor pressure on wilderness (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1992).

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: The management objectives assigned to the Cedar Creek roadless area, No Name, Eagle Peak, and Sill Hill IRAs complement unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. With the exception of Cedar Creek, these areas are managed to supply nonmotorized experiences in a semiprimitive setting. Cedar Creek offers a primitive but motorized setting (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Objectives (ROS) are SPNM and SPM). With the exception of Sill Hill, however, the standards for maintenance of the recreation setting (Scenic Integrity Objectives) are lower than the standards that apply to the Upper San Diego River roadless area. Eagle Peak IRA and parts of No Name IRA currently have management objectives that allow activities to dominate the landscape (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 1986b). Cuyamaca Rancho State Park also supplies some opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands are located to the south of the Descanso Ranger District and also supply primitive camping, hiking, and backpacking opportunities. Generally, dispersed camping is allowed in backcountry areas of the Descanso Ranger District, except in the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area. Non-wilderness areas within the Anza Borrego Desert State Park supply unconfined outdoor recreation opportunities in a desert setting (i.e. American Semidesert and Desert Ecosystem Province). Nearby El Capitan Grande Indian Reservation lands supply a similar setting and recreation experience for tribal members.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The mountains and foothills of San Diego County (including the Upper San Diego River roadless area) contain a number of important habitats for rare and vulnerable species. The Upper San Diego River is among the key ecological areas for this region and is dominated by some of the best remaining occurrences of low-elevation ecosystems (e.g. riparian woodland, coastal sage scrub, grassland, and Englemann oak woodlands) that are poorly represented on public land and declining in the southern part of the Province. Factors affecting ecological integrity in the watershed include urban encroachment from the west, high fire frequencies, and non-native plant and animal species (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, p.335-337). (The effect of recent wildfires on these habitats is being monitored). As development intensifies in the foothills, farsighted planning is needed to ensure that habitat connectivity is maintained between the mountains and the remaining natural areas in the coastal and inland valleys. Research Natural Area designation would help the unique biotic species of the San Diego River roadless area compete with increasing public use and development. Provision for roadless but non-wilderness land-use categories is an alternative to designation. Management of trail-based activities to protect important habitats would improve the ability of species within this roadless area to compete.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or

phenomena: The San Diego River canyon above El Capitan lake contains an extensive stand of coastal sage scrub that supports an important population (20 to 30 pairs of California gnatcatchers (*Polioptila californica*) (Federally Threatened species)). (Fires in 2003 swept through these stands. Recovery of these areas and their ability to support gnatcatcher populations in the future is currently being monitored). Outside the roadless area, there has been a substantial loss of coastal sage habitat due to urbanization. Engelmann oak stands have suffered similar losses. There are also several stretches of high-quality riparian woodland with populations of several important wilderness-associated wildlife species including the arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) (Federally listed Endangered) and southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*) (Forest Service sensitive species). Coastal rosy boas (*Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca*) (Forest Service Sensitive species), Coast horned lizards (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*) (California Species of Special Concern and Forest Service Sensitive species), Orange-throated whiptails (*Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi*) (California Species of Concern) and two-striped garter snakes (*Thamnophis hammondi*) (Forest Service Sensitive species) have also been identified in the area (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999, 335-337). Some of these populations have been displaced to undeveloped areas for protection and are dependent on habitat conditions within the San Diego River roadless area due to the expansion of urban development in the surrounding area. Surveys are needed to more fully determine the distribution of these species and the effects that non-native plants and animals and high fire frequencies have on their habitats.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The California Coastal Range Ecosystem Province represents 2.5% of the total land area in the United States but has 0.8% of the National Wilderness Preservation System (ratio is 3.0). This Province has three times as much representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System as it has in the land area in the continental United States. Thus it is well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (Loomis and Echohawk 1999). The Forest Service defines adequate representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 400 hectares that epitomize a particular ecosystem (Davis 1989, p.78). The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness, Agua Tibia Wilderness, Pine Creek, and Hauser Wilderness satisfy this objective.

[1] Unpublished data on file, Cleveland National Forest, San Diego, California.

**Upper San Diego River Other  
Undeveloped Area**

**Antimony Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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# **Los Padres National Forest Wilderness Evaluations**

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**Upper San Diego River Other  
Undeveloped Area**

**Antimony Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Antimony Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Mt. Pinos Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The natural integrity of the area and opportunities for solitude have both been compromised by numerous roads, OHV trails, and mining developments. There are four miles of hiking trails, 4.9 miles of motorcycle trails, 20.4 miles of 4-wheel drive road, and three small campgrounds. There are also a number of old, unclassified roads from previous mining and timber harvesting activities, the most obvious being a road down Bradley Ridge, the old road accessing the patented mining claim on Antimony Peak, and the road from the northern forest boundary into Black Bob Canyon, which accesses Black Bob Mine. Black Bob Mine has been identified for the cleanup of hazardous waste, resulting from former mining activity. There is an old rock quarry near the top of San Emigdio Mountain with a visible scar on the hillside. A strip of private land along San Emigdio Canyon bisects the area. In addition, on the southern boundary of the area, major paved roads and residential developments along the periphery impact the area's serenity. Within the area, the landscape's appearance remains relatively natural, as most roads are narrow jeep ways. A road scar is visible as a result of the Antimony mine activity.

Most of the area lies north of or adjacent to the San Andreas Fault. The area consists of folded and faulted non-marine sedimentary rock formations south of the fault and a mixture of intensified fractured and faulted granite, gneiss, and schist north of it. Numerous small peaks and drainages that primarily flow into the San Joaquin Valley characterize the topography. Elevations range from 3,250 to 7,495 feet atop San Emigdio Peak. The area is split by a deep drainage known as San Emigdio Creek. Other drainages include Pleito, Salt, and Cherry Creeks, and Black Bob, Deadman, Cloudburst, and Santiago Canyons. Vegetation consists of 15% conifer type, 55% pinyon-juniper, and 30% grassland; all vegetative types are in the over 31 year age class. Parts of the area are historic roost sites of the California condor. The area contains such big game species as mule deer, mountain lion, and black bear. The area also contains historic range for Tule elk and pronghorn. Small game species include fox, quail, band-tailed pigeon, coyote, bobcat, and rabbit. Many species of the rodent family live in the area. The area serves as winter deer range.

Challenge: Because of the linear shape of this area and the proximity of urban development, the

opportunities for challenge are limited. Cross-country hiking could offer a challenge to the experienced hiker and rock climbing in the canyons within the area could provide some challenge and excitement.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: There are some opportunities for hiking, but these are mainly available on unclassified trails. Riding and packing use could occur on the existing roads and trails within the area. The area provides opportunities for big game hunting (primarily deer) as well as bird hunting (primarily quail and pigeons). Santiago Canyon provides some opportunities for rock climbing.

Special Features: From the ridge tops there are excellent vistas of the southern portion of San Joaquin Valley. Special attractions to the area include the San Andreas Fault and formations near the fault, which were moved here from their original location near the Salton Sea. There are opportunities to view the California condor and the Southern spotted owl.

Manageability: At 40,513 acres, this area meets the 5,000 acre recommendation in the Wilderness Act. The area is 24 miles long and three miles wide. Its linear configuration affords few locations where one can get away from the impacts of humans, particularly along the south facing slopes from Apache Saddle to the eastern boundary of the area. There is one archeological site of unknown significance and no known historical or religious sites. The area is bordered by Wind Wolves Preserve, a private conservation area, on the north and by the county highway from Pine Mountain Club to the western extremity. Centrally located on the southern edge is the Pine Mountain Club subdivision. Further to the east, the communities of Cuddy Valley, Lake of the Woods, and Frazier Park are near the boundary of the area. Wilderness designation could limit the ability to treat known noxious weed infestations.

Boundary Considerations: The present boundaries would make this area extremely difficult to manage as wilderness. For the purpose of wilderness designation, it would be desirable to adjust the boundary of the IRA, as to exclude the area east of San Emigdio canyon, thereby eliminating considerable conflict with existing uses and private land intrusions. The remaining westerly portion would still require some boundary modification. If the boundary were moved to the north of the main ridgeline from San Emigdio Canyon to San Emigdio Mountain (similar to the management segment boundary on the "Wilderness and Further Planning Areas" map from the 1988 L&RMP), the western portion of the area would be reasonably manageable.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Annual potential practical recreation use capacity is 96,270 Recreation Visitor Days (RVDs); capacity managed as wilderness would be 45,074 RVDs. Portions of the area receive intensive, seasonal use by hunters and year-round use by OHV enthusiasts and mountain bikers. Additionally, the area is heavily used for wood gathering, target shooting, and pinyon nut collection. Four grazing allotments are within the IRA. Maximum grazing potential is 4,256 Animal Unit Months.

The area contains 7,362 acres of coniferous stand and 24,714 acres of pinyon-juniper that have been

managed for their aesthetic and recreational values. In addition, there are two ozone-monitoring plots where vegetation sampling occurs. There are approximately 40 acres of reforestation within the area. There has been considerable concern for potential dwarf mistletoe and bark beetle infestation in the coniferous species. Management activities within the coniferous vegetation such as reforestation and/or salvage after wildfires would be forgone with wilderness designation. There are uranium, antimony, gold, and silver mines in the area. There is high potential for saleable products such as gravel and building stone and high potential for non-strategic and strategic minerals. There is low potential for phosphate production and for geothermal resources. There is moderate to low potential for oil and gas leasing in the area. Most of the area is in Kern County (2,400 acres in Ventura County) and is designated non-attainment for ozone and particulates for current air quality. The potential resistance to fire control is rated moderate.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): There is currently a designated electronic site on Antimony Peak that is not occupied and a phone line linear special use permit.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Extensive private lands are found on the northern border. These lands are along Black Bob Canyon, Salt Creek, Pleito Creek, Devil's Kitchen, and others. Landowners do not provide access through these lands.

Designation of wilderness adjacent to the private land in Pine Mountain Club, Cuddy Valley, Lake of the Woods, Frazier Park, and Lebec limits the possibilities for fuels management activities, and the establishment and management of defensible fuel profile zones adjacent to this growing urban interface.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The area is adjacent to the small communities of Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, and the Pine Mountain Club (approximately two hours from Los Angeles). Within a 20-mile radius of the area are the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres), the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), the Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres), and the Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Use in these wilderness areas is generally light, except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations within the wildernesses.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Mount Pinos Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in these non-wilderness areas.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that

affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): California condor, pronghorn, and Tule elk have had their historic ranges substantially reduced due to increased human populations and developments. All three species have been re-introduced into areas of their historic range in and adjacent to the Antimony roadless area. Current and projected human uses and developments on National Forest System lands in the Antimony roadless area are not substantially affecting the habitats of these species. Wildlife biologists currently use management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve these species that are not consistent with wilderness management objectives (e.g. use of motorized vehicles to transport, release, and monitor individual animals). A combination of SPM and SPNM land use designations would provide these species with suitable habitat while allowing wildlife managers to continue to use motorized vehicles in their conservation efforts.

There are no identified rare plant species or populations that are declining due to public uses and developments occurring on National Forest System lands.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: California condors, pronghorn, and Tule elk are all species that require large tracts of land in order to maintain viable populations. Currently, all three species occupy areas that are part roadless and part roaded. Current monitoring data does not indicate that the presence of roaded areas is precluding or reducing the use of these areas by these animals. The recovery plan for the California condor does not recommend the designation of additional wilderness areas as a means of promoting the recovery of the species.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: N/A

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## **Bear Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area**

### **Los Padres National Forest**

Monterey Ranger District

### **Capability**

The Bear Canyon roadless area, located in the Monterey Ranger District, lies 10 miles west of King City. The northern border adjoins the Ventana Wilderness and the southern and eastern boundaries are coincident with the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest. A portion of the western boundary follows the Santa Lucia Trail, Monterey County Road 4050, and the access road into the Indian Ranch. A narrow finger extends along the boundary of the Ventana Wilderness nearly to the Santa Lucia Memorial Park.

The Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act of 2002 created the Bear Canyon addition to the Ventana Wilderness. A portion of the Bear Canyon roadless area, approximately 1,946 acres (acres are an estimate; final acres will be determined when the Big Sur Wilderness Act is determined), was not included in the wilderness addition and does not contain the basic characteristics that make it suitable for wilderness designation.

## Bear Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Monterey Ranger District

### Capability

The Bear Mountain inventoried roadless area (IRA) is located in the eastern portion of the Monterey Ranger District and abuts the Ventana Wilderness.

Environment: Bear Mountain IRA, situated in the Santa Lucia Mountains, is highly dissected with canyons containing tributaries, draining into the Arroyo Seco River. Elevations range from 600 to 2,500 feet above sea level. The natural integrity of the area has been disturbed slightly by fuel breaks, trails, fire protection activity, and roads.

Chaparral-covered slopes along main ridges and riparian vegetation in the canyon bottoms characterize the area. Plant communities consist of 75% chaparral and 25% oak woodland/grassland.

Approximately 50% of the area burned during the 1977 Marble Cone Fire. Slopes are dry and brushy and run primarily east and west, providing opportunities for ridge top views of surrounding countryside.

Challenge: Opportunities for solitude and tranquility are severely limited, although the terrain tends to concentrate visitors along the canyon bottoms and ridge tops. Primitive camping is limited.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Recreation is estimated at 13,000 Recreation Visitor Days annually. Most recreational activity consists of big and small game hunting, hiking, horseback riding, visiting the Adobe, and water related recreation. Overnight camping does occur along the Santa Lucia drainage. Administrative access is via the Arroyo Seco Indians road and the Santa Lucia Adobe road. Horse, foot, and bike traffic is allowed. There are two trails accessible by foot into the area, which are located approximately 15 miles west of King City.

Special Features: There is one significant landmark in the vicinity and there are several rare and endangered species. Big game species such as California mule deer and cougar are found in the area. Small game birds such as quail, pigeon, and dove are plentiful. Many non-game species of birds and animals are found, and the IRA contains Peregrine falcon habitat. Several archeological sites are located

within the area.

Manageability: This 1,045-acre IRA does not meet the 5,000 acre recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. Manageability would be difficult because of the private land adjacent to the Abbott Lakes, the proximity of the Arroyo Seco recreation area, and fuel management activities that take place on an annual basis. Potential resistance to fire suppression is rated high. Rights-of-way over existing roads, private property, and trails would be required to make the area accessible.

Boundary Considerations: The majority of the boundary is adjacent to National Forest System Lands. Near the Arroyo Seco Recreation Area the IRA abuts private land.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Practical capacity under present management is 26,875 Recreation Visitor Days for non-motorized activities. If managed as wilderness, the capacity would be 17,272 Recreation Visitor Days. There is no potential for water yield through type conversion and low potential for other resource purposes. The maximum potential for cattle grazing is estimated at 100 Animal Unit Months. The present classification of the air shed is Class II, however, the IRA will be managed to protect the air shed values of the adjacent Ventana Wilderness.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): The nearby Arroyo Seco Recreation Area is operated under a Special Use Permit.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Most of adjacent lands are within designated wilderness.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Bear Mountain roadless area is immediately adjacent to the Ventana Wilderness (239,288 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: The majority of visitors to the Bear Mountain roadless area are local residents for whom the main attraction is water related activities, hunting big or small game, or enjoying spring wildflower displays. Even though the area provides some primitive recreation experiences in its riparian zone, there is a greater degree of quantity and quality of these attributes within the Ventana Wilderness. The Bear Mountain roadless area is located immediately south of the Arroyo Seco recreational area, which receives over 50,000 Recreation Visitor Days per year. Due to the large percentage of designated wilderness (over 90%) on the District, non-wilderness areas are needed to provide a more balanced recreation opportunity spectrum.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation

experiences: Access points and trails are limited within non-wilderness areas. Opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are plentiful due to the large percentage of wilderness on the District.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The California condor has had their historic range substantially reduced due to increased human populations and developments. California condors have been re-introduced into areas of their historic range in and adjacent to the Black Mountain roadless area. Current and projected human uses and developments on National Forest System lands in the Black Mountain roadless area are not substantially affecting the habitat of this species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: California condors require large tracts of land in order to maintain viable populations. Currently, this endangered species occupies areas that are part roadless and part roaded. Current monitoring data does not indicate that the presence of roaded areas is precluding the use of these areas by these birds nor does the data show that California condors use designated wilderness areas more frequently than non-wilderness areas. The recovery plan for the California condor does not recommend the designation of additional wilderness areas as a means of promoting the recovery of the species.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Lands and ecosystems within this roadless area are similar to lands within existing wilderness.

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**Bear Canyon Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Big Rocks Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## Big Rocks Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Lucia Ranger District

### Capability

The Big Rocks roadless area lies within the Santa Lucia Ranger District and is located in the southernmost section of Santa Lucia Range, 25 air miles east of Arroyo Grande. The area is bounded on the west by NFSRs 30S02 and 32S14, on the north by private land and the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest, on the east by private land, NFSR 32S11, and a power line corridor, and on the south by private lands along State Highway 166.

Environment: The Big Rocks roadless area is characterized by rolling topography with steep canyons and large rock outcrops. Elevations range from 1,200 to 3,500 feet atop Sycamore Ridge. Vegetative types are composed of 24% oak-grassland and 76% mixed chaparral. In 1997, the Logan fire burned approximately 50,000 acres in the southern half of this area.

The natural integrity of Big Rocks roadless area is low. It contains 700 acres of private land, a 500 kilovolt power line, numerous tractor lines (fire pre-attack lines from the 1950s and 60s) and 15 miles of off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails, which alter its natural appearance. Some ridge top firebreaks constructed in the late 1950s are still visible.

Challenge: Opportunities for solitude are limited with the exception of the most eastern part that is adjacent to BLM lands. A lack of water and the absence of a developed hiking trail system limit the opportunity for primitive recreation. There are no challenging experiences afforded in the area. At its longest points the area runs seven miles east and west and five miles north and south.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Public access is via 30S02 (Branch Canyon Road). Annual recreation use is estimated at 1,400 Recreation Visitor Days, mostly associated with deer hunting and OHV use. Rock climbers occasionally use the Big Rocks for climbing. Practical capacity is estimated at 22,640 Recreation Visitor Days; managed as wilderness, the capacity would be 14,140 Recreation Visitor Days. There are 12 miles of OHV routes and 13 miles of administrative jeep trails used for fire and grazing management purposes.

Special Features: The Big Rocks formation is the only major attraction to the area. There are no other scenic landmarks. Branch creek headwaters and tributaries are located in this area and flow toward Alamo creek on the southwest side of the area. There are no rare or endangered species or any sensitive plants known to be in the Big Rocks roadless area; however, there is known red-legged frog and endangered bird habitat in Branch and Alamo Creeks just to the west. Prairie falcons are known to nest in the area. There are a number of archeological sites in the area, including remains of the Stonehouse Homestead located at the head of Branch Creek on private land.

Manageability: The Big Rocks IRA at 11,841 acres meets the 5,000 acre recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. The Big Rocks roadless area would be extremely difficult to manage as wilderness because of the existing off-highway vehicle routes and the 500 kilo-volt power lines. The air shed is designated “attainment” for National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

The potential resistance to fire control is rated “high.” Motorized access and equipment are important for future prescribed burning and fire suppression activities.

Boundary Considerations: None

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are currently parts of three grazing allotments contained in this area. No hard rock mines are located within the area and there is low potential for strategic or non-strategic minerals. No potential exists for saleable materials such as gravel or building stone. There is low potential for geothermal resources and phosphates. There is high to moderate potential for oil and gas production. There is significant demand of the IRA for existing uses, such as motorized recreation, access to private lands, rock climbing, and administrative uses including fire suppression, range management, and power line maintenance.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): One 500 kilo-volt power line traverses the southeast border. There are three livestock grazing allotments with improvements including fences and water developments.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Unknown.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Big Rocks roadless area is 18 air miles southeast of the Santa Lucia Wilderness (18,679 acres), nine air miles southeast of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness (19,760 acres), and nine air miles southeast of the Garcia Wilderness (14,100 acres), which are each relatively small wilderness areas with limited access and low use, suitable for day trips and short overnight trips. The San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) is located six air miles to the south. The San Rafael Wilderness is a much larger area than the other wildernesses in

the area with several access points suitable for multiple day trips. The San Rafael also receives relatively light use, with moderate use occurring on popular trails on certain weekends. All of these wilderness areas are located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Present visitor use on all wildernesses on the district and forest is relatively low. There are a few popular spots that do receive extra visitor pressure.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Due to the rugged and steep terrain of some of the surrounding non-wilderness lands, there is a feeling of being unconfined and providing a quality outdoor experience that is accessible by vehicles on existing roads.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): For species such as elk, which use the area to the east, the ability of Forest Service personnel to manage the land outside of wilderness is probably important. Integrated management strategies with adjacent private and government lands could provide the best means of providing for wildlife in the area.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is no known need in this area.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: None identified.

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**Bear Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Black Butte Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## **Black Butte Inventoried Roadless Area**

### **Los Padres National Forest**

Monterey Ranger District

### **Capability**

The Black Butte roadless area is divided into four separate areas (section 1, section 2, section 3, and section 4), all lying within the east central portion of the Monterey District. These areas are approximately 30 miles southwest of Salinas.

The northernmost area (section 1) is approximately 1,600 acres. Its western boundary is Monterey County Route 5007 (Tassajara Road), the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest lies to the north and east, and the Ventana Wilderness to the south. The Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act of 2002 created the Anastasia Canyon addition to the Ventana Wilderness. The Anastasia Canyon addition encompasses approximately 1,000 acres of section 1. The remaining portion of section 1, approximately 600 acres, was not included in the Ventana Wilderness addition and does not contain the basic characteristics that make it suitable for wilderness designation.

There is a 160 acre private inholding, accessed by NFSR 18S08, located within the area outside of the Anastasia Canyon Wilderness addition. The area is commonly referred to as Anastasia Canyon. Elevations range from 2,800 to 5,000 feet. Vegetation is mixed evergreen and hardwood forests with chaparral and grasslands intermixed. There is a two mile unmaintained trail from Bruce Flat to Cahoons Spring. Old bulldozer lines often are used for nonconforming uses.

Section 2 contains approximately 500 acres and is four miles south of section 1. Monterey County Route 5007 forms the western boundary, the Ventana Wilderness is to the north and east, and private lands form the southern boundaries.

Section 3 contains approximately 400 acres and is located in the Piney Creek drainage. Section 3 is surrounded by the Piney Creek loop, parts of which are permanently closed to motor vehicle traffic. Elevations range from 1,000 to 1,800 feet. Chaparral and riparian woodlands characterize the area. Access is via the Piney Creek road, which has seasonal closures for motor vehicle traffic. The endangered southern steelhead is known to exist in the Piney Creek drainage. The area burned in the 1977 Marble Cone fire. Bulldozer lines were put in during the 1999 Kirk Creek fire.

Section 4 lies five miles southeast of Black Butte and contains approximately 2,560 acres. The eastern boundary is the Arroyo Seco River, the western boundary is the Arroyo Seco Indians Road, the northern boundary is Horse Bridge, and the southern boundary is the Lost Valley Trail. The Arroyo Seco Corridor addition to the Ventana Wilderness, as set forth in the Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act of 2002, encompasses all of section 4.

Environment: Section 2 is characterized by chaparral covered slopes along the main ridges and riparian vegetation in the canyon bottoms. Elevations range from 2,200 to 4,941 feet adjacent to Black Butte. Access is from the southern portion of the area via Forest Trail 4E05 (Horse Pasture Trail) from Monterey County Route 5007 (Tassajara Road). The Tassajara road experiences frequent vehicle traffic. The natural integrity of the area has been disturbed by fuel breaks, hunter trails, fire protection activities, and minor development on private land. The natural appearance of the area is unmarred except near adjacent ranches, roads, and trails. Privately owned parcels are contained within the area, including numerous structures at the Tassajara Hot Springs Resort.

Challenge: Opportunities for challenging experiences or primitive camping are limited.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Most recreation occurs as non-motorized activity such as, hiking, big and small game hunting, horseback riding, and nature study. Overnight camping is allowed at designated sites. In areas outside these designated sites, camping is by permit only during fire season.

Special Features: The area contains nesting habitat of the Prairie Falcon. There are a number of rehabilitation projects near Piney Creek.

Manageability: None of the four sections of this IRA have sufficient acreage to meet the 5,000 acre recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Estimated resistance to control of wildfire is rated high.

Boundary Considerations: Most of the adjacent lands are within designated wilderness.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Little potential exists for increased water yield through type conversion, although there are opportunities to convert chaparral. There are 247 acres of noncommercial conifers in the area. The present classification of the air shed is Class II; however it will be managed to protect the Class I air shed values of the Ventana Wilderness.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): Oil and gas potential in the area is low. There is high potential for geothermal development (section 2), and potential for locatable minerals is high to moderate. Potential for saleable materials is low. Little mineral prospecting occurs in the area. A potential electronics site exists near Chews ridge, and a special use permit has been issued to the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy for an observatory near

Chews Ridge Lookout.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Most of the adjacent lands are within designated wilderness.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The four sections comprising the IRA are immediately adjacent to the Ventana Wilderness (239,288 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: The Ventana Wilderness sustains approximately 90,000 annual visitor days, mostly near Big Sur. Even though the Black Butte roadless area provides some primitive recreation experiences in its riparian zone, there are a greater variety of these attractions within the Ventana Wilderness with better access. Due to the large percentage of designated wilderness (over 90%) on the District, non-wilderness areas are needed to provide a more balanced recreation opportunity spectrum.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Access points and trails are limited within non-wilderness areas. Opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are plentiful due to the large percentage of wilderness on the District.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The habitat within this roadless area is similar to habitat within existing wilderness. Species that exist within this roadless area are protected under current laws and regulations.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: Condors exist within the Ventana Wilderness and could potentially use these roadless areas.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Lands and ecosystems within this roadless are similar to lands within existing wilderness.

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**Big Rocks Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Black Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## Black Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Lucia Ranger District

### Capability

The Black Mountain roadless area is within the northernmost extent of the Santa Lucia Ranger District, 20 miles northeast of San Luis Obispo. The area is bounded on the north and west by the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest, on the south by a power transmission line corridor, and on the east by NFSR 28S02.

Environment: The Black Mountain radar station is located in the center of this roadless area. Part of the La Panza Range, the Black Mountain area contains moderately rough terrain with elevations ranging from 1,700 feet along the west side to 3,600 feet atop Black Mountain. The headwaters of the Salinas River and Shell and Huerhuero Creeks, are located here. Access is gained from U.S. Highway 101, State Highway 58, and forest roads.

Vegetation is 95% chaparral and 5% conifer species. There are a variety of wildlife species including deer, bear, gray fox, bobcat, and mountain lion. There are no fisheries in the area.

The area contains old tractor lines (fire pre-attack lines) along the main ridges. Many of these tractor lines are now used in the administration of the grazing allotments and some are part of the designated OHV trail system. A dozen wildlife-watering sources have been constructed throughout the area, but these have a minimal impact on the natural integrity on the area.

Challenge: There is little opportunity for solitude because of the many off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails traversing the area, and because it is located beneath major flight paths. Opportunities for primitive recreation are limited, but there is some dispersed area camping in the more secluded canyon bottoms. No major challenges in outdoor recreation experiences exist.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The attraction for off-highway vehicle use relates to the ease of topography, five miles of designated OHV trails, proximity to cities like Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo, and the general outdoor recreation experience such as hunting, mountain biking, and hiking.

Special Features: The area contains no particular distinctive features except that the highest point, Black Mountain, is the site of the Black Mountain radar facility. From the major ridge tops the views are northeasterly all the way to the Sierra Nevada range. Numerous fields of wildflowers bloom in the spring. There are no known rare or endangered species. Those sensitive plants identified include *Chorizanthe insignia*, *Chorizanthe rectispina*, and *Lupinus lucoviciannus*.

Manageability: The Black Mountain IRA, at 16,830 acres, meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Managing the Black Mountain roadless area as a wilderness would be difficult. It is not possible to readily and accurately describe, establish, and recognize boundaries on the ground because they do not follow topographic features. The private lands on the west side of this area are rapidly developing with trespass onto the National Forest increasing. Due to the existing OHV trail system and old dozer lines, preventing motorized intrusions would be a difficult management problem.

Boundary Considerations: Due to the proximity of the proposed boundary lines on the north and west, the potential for trespass from private properties could be high. The district is aware that some trespass is occurring on the north end of the proposed boundary.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Annual recreation visitor use is estimated at 3,000 Recreation Visitor Days, most of which is associated with OHV use and hunting. The practical capacity for all types of recreational activity based on non-wilderness is estimated at 29,250 Recreation Visitor Days. If the area were designated as wilderness, this use would be reduced to 17,608 Recreation Visitor Days. OHVs would be precluded should the area be designated as wilderness. There are a number of known archaeological sites of undetermined significance. The air quality has been designated as “attainment” for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The area is important for the Black Mountain wild horse herd.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): There are three grazing allotments within the IRA, and the Black Mountain Wild Horse Territory, which supports approximately 20 horses. The maximum potential for cattle grazing is estimated at 4,354 Animal Unit Months. There are three stock ponds and approximately four miles of range fences. One large white radar dome accessible via asphalt-surfaced roads is located on top of Black Mountain. This dome can be seen from any ridge in the area. There are recently active gold and uranium claims in the southeast portion of the area, but these have been determined to be of low-grade quality. There is high potential for both strategic and non-strategic minerals, and a high potential for saleable minerals such as gravel and building stone. Low potential exists for oil and gas and for geothermal and phosphates.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: The potential resistance to fire suppression is rated high. Motorized access and equipment are important tools for future fire suppression and prescribed burning and for erosion mitigation.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Black Mountain roadless area is eight air miles northeast of the Santa Lucia Wilderness (18,679 acres), four air miles northwest of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness (19,760 acres), and six air miles north of the Garcia Wilderness (14,100 acres). All are relatively small wilderness areas with limited access and low use, suitable for day trips and short overnight trips. The San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) is located 26 air miles to the southeast. The San Rafael Wilderness is much larger area than the other wildernesses in the area with several access points suitable for multiple day trips. The San Rafael also receives relatively light use with moderate use occurring on popular trails on certain weekends. All of these wilderness areas are located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Present visitor use on all wildernesses on the district and forest is relatively low. There are a few popular spots that do receive extra visitor pressure.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the area surrounding Black Mountain Roadless Area is relatively undeveloped National Forest System lands. Some of the area contains private lands with no access to public lands. The National Forest System lands are accessible to the public and offer a wide range of recreational opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): If this area became more accessible to the public, it could have a negative effect on the wild horses. Present management has been successful because there is limited public access, but administrative motorized access remains an option for herd management.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The wild horse herd needs to remain relatively undisturbed. Present management is ideal.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The area is very successful in maintaining the wild horse herd at its small size. Eliminating motorized access would make it much more difficult and more traumatic to the horses to maintain herd size.

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**Black Butte Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Camuesa Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Camuesa Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Barbara Ranger District

### Capability

The IRA is bounded on the west and north by the Buckhorn/Camuesa Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Route, along with the Camuesa Administrative Road (NFSR 5N15), for approximately 15 miles. It is bounded on the south by the Santa Ynez River Road (NFSR 5N18) and Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area, Gibraltar Trail (Forest Trail 28W06), and Gibraltar Reservoir. The eastern boundary is Santa Barbara City property (Mono Debris Dam and soil erosion control basins).

Environment: The unclassified road to Camuesa Peak is currently used by OHVs. This old roadbed, constructed to service the old Camuesa Peak Lookout, travels into the very center of the roadless area. The lookout has been removed. This road has been used most recently to access prescribed fire treatment areas involving mechanical brushing, crushing, and disking with dozers and as a prescribed fire control line. Several dozer lines along with the Camuesa Peak Road are visible on main ridgelines from most locations within the roadless area.

The natural integrity and appearance of the area has been modified. In addition, primary views from within the IRA look out upon the highly developed Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area and Gibraltar Reservoir to the south. The designated Buckhorn/Camuesa OHV Route forms the boundary of the IRA to the north and the sounds and visual recognition of motorized vehicle activity intrudes into the roadless area. The opportunity for solitude is compromised by OHV routes, as well as by the proximity of the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area.

Challenge: There are very few opportunities to experience wilderness challenge in this area. The current predominant recreational uses surrounding and within this area are not consistent with wilderness visitor expectations.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Multiple use trails within the roadless area include the Camuesa Connector Trail (3.9 miles), Forest Trail 27W22, and a small portion of the North Cold Spring Trails (1.5 miles), Forest Trail 26W10. Both are popular mountain bike trails.

Special Features: There are no outstanding natural features within this roadless area.

Manageability: The 8,191 acre Camuesa IRA meets the 5,000 acre recommendation in the Wilderness Act. OHV trespass and informal trails from the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area (LSYRA) currently exist within the planning area. Constant heavy recreation use coming from the LSYRA would degrade wilderness values for solitude. Noise coming from the Camuesa/Buckhorn OHV Route can be heard in many locations within the roadless area. Within the local community, the Camuesa/Buckhorn OHV Route is used as the primary route for this activity with year round heavy use.

Boundary Considerations: Relocation of boundaries to avoid conflict would reduce the area's size to a point where it would not be reasonable to consider it for wilderness classification. The existing unclassified road located on the major ridgeline within the area significantly bisects the majority of this land area. The desire to continue the administrative use of this unclassified road further reduces the available acreage for wilderness inclusion.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Historically used fire dozer routes from Lower Oso to the Buckhorn and Camuesa Road intersection have proven to be necessary in recent fire suppression efforts. There exists a minimal amount of identified habitat for two threatened and endangered (TE) species on the northeast edge of this unit. The Arroyo Toad is found in Indian Creek and Mono Creeks and least Bell's vireo at Mono Debris Basin and Mono Creek. This described TE habitat in this unit is found within lands owned by the City of Santa Barbara. Therefore, wilderness inclusion would not provide additional benefit to these species. There are approximately 250 accumulative acres of infestation of the noxious weed, European star thistle. The infestation occurs primarily in roadside strips around the perimeter and along the Camuesa Peak access road. Future use of mechanical treatments and herbicides would be reduced with inclusion into wilderness status.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): The existing unclassified road to Camuesa Peak is necessary for future fire suppression and fuels management activities.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: The existing highly developed recreation use activities that currently surround this area are not consistent with desired wilderness characteristics.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Located approximately seven air miles north of this area is the combined wilderness acreage of the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) and the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Visitation in the San Rafael and Dick Smith Wilderness

is considered light to moderate and areas are minimally impacted.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Santa Barbara Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) as defined by the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Much of the Santa Barbara Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and provide opportunities for primitive outdoor experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The greatest threat to California condor (endangered) recovery has been and continues to be the influence of man on the birds' habitat and on the birds themselves. Birds do best in remote areas where human activity is limited due to the lack of roads. Historic nest sites exist near Little Pine Mountain just north of the Camuesa area. As the recovery of the condor continues, these sites may again become active. Any young produced in these sites will probably learn to forage in habitats located nearby. Young condors are especially susceptible to human caused hazards such as transmission lines and other human structures, which are now few in the Camuesa area.

Designated critical habitat for Arroyo toad and least Bell's vireo, both federally designated endangered species, exists at the confluence of Mono Creek and the Santa Ynez River near the east end of the Camuesa area. All perennial streams in or bordering the area are designated critical habitat for the California red-legged frog, a federally designated threatened species. Existing roads either border or access most of these habitats. Sediment movement into adjacent aquatic habitats from these roads and actual animal kills on the associated crossings are an on-going concern and the subject of an intense monitoring program.

There is no foreseeable development projects or large increases in public use within this area.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The comments above also apply here. However, as suggested these species can tolerate less than primitive conditions.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: No significant landform or ecosystems have been identified in this IRA.

## Chalk Peak Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Monterey Ranger District

### Capability

The Chalk Peak roadless area, located in the Monterey Ranger District, lies approximately 20 miles southwest of King City. The area is bounded on the north by Monterey County Route 4004 (Nacimiento Road), NFSR 23S05 (South Coast Ridge Road) to the west, and Fort Hunter-Liggett to the south and east.

The Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act of 2002 created the Chalk Peak Addition to the Ventana Wilderness. The Chalk Peak Addition encompasses 6,550 acres of the Chalk Peak roadless area. The majority of the remaining 1,442 acres (acres are an estimate; final acreages will be determined when Big Sur Wilderness Area boundaries are finalized) occur in the eastern portion of the roadless area between Slickrock Creek and the Nacimiento River. Approximately 50 acres between Monterey County Route 4004 (Nacimiento Road) and NFSR 23S05, west of Carrals Spring, was also excluded from the wilderness addition.

Environment: The area is on the eastern side of the Santa Lucia Range. Elevations range from 1,300 to 3,550 feet. Vegetation consists of a mixture of chaparral and oak woodland, riparian corridors. Rare plants include the Santa Lucia Fir. The major drainage is the Nacimiento River with smaller tributaries including Negro Fork and Slickrock Creek (which all contain native rainbow trout). The natural integrity of the area has been slightly disturbed by fire protection activities, grazing, and hunter trails. A major spur ridge in the area serves as a bulldozer line to enhance fire management activities. The area burned in 1996.

Challenge: Opportunities for solitude and tranquility exist, although the terrain tends to concentrate use along the Nacimiento River.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Annual recreation days are estimated at less than 1,000 Recreation Visitor Days. Recreation use is low due to the absence of recreational facilities. A small portion of the Slickrock Trail exists within the southeast corner of the area. Trail camps are absent along this trail, thus limiting opportunities for primitive camping experiences. Steep and rugged terrain coupled with

dense vegetation limits opportunities for off-trail travel. The majority of users are local residents who come to enjoy hunting, fishing, and hiking.

Special Features: Salinian Indian archeological sites have been reported in the area. Wildlife big game species, such as California mule deer and cougar are found in the area. Small game birds such as quail, pigeon, and doves are plentiful. In addition, many non-game species of birds and animals are found in the area. Chalk Peak is a unique geologic formation within the area.

Manageability: At only 1,442 acres, the remaining portion of the Chalk Peak IRA does not meet the 5,000 acre recommendation in the Wilderness Act. However, when combined with the adjacent Chalk Peak addition to the Ventana Wilderness, this area would be large enough to be managed as wilderness. Fuel reduction projects were implemented in the early 1980s and additional projects are planned along Monterey County Route 4004 (Nacimiento Road). Fire management activities on Fort Hunter-Liggett have the potential to impact the area. External influences associated with Fort Hunter-Liggett would likely jeopardize opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Boundary Considerations: The remaining portion of the Chalk Peak roadless area is adjacent to Fort Hunter-Liggett. The solitude and tranquility along the border with Fort Hunter Liggett can be severely influenced by the sights and sounds of military activities (i.e. aircraft, tanks, jeeps, field personnel, and arms firing). There is a potential for Fort Hunter-Liggett to increase its current training activities.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Practical capacity under present management is less than 1,000 Recreation Visitor Days for non-motorized activities. If managed as wilderness, the capacity would remain the same or would slightly decrease. Annual recreation use levels increase (depending on seasonality) in stream corridors and remain relatively low in non-riparian areas. Wilderness designation would probably have little effect on use levels. Type conversion potential is limited for water yield purposes. Cattle grazing is no longer occurring in the area. Most recreation occurs as non-motorized activity such as hiking, big and small game hunting, fishing, nature study. Potential resistance to fire suppression is rated high.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): There are no constraints and encumbrances.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation could potentially conflict with adjacent military activities on Fort Hunter-Liggett.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The remaining portion of the Chalk Peak roadless area is immediately adjacent to the recently expanded Ventana Wilderness (239,288

acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: The majority of visitors to the remaining portion of the Chalk Peak roadless area are local residents enjoying non-motorized activities such as hiking, big and small game hunting, fishing, and nature study. Even though the area provides some primitive recreation experiences in its riparian zone, there is a greater degree of quantity and quality of these attributes within the Ventana Wilderness. Due to the large percentage of designated wilderness (over 90%) on the District, non-wilderness areas are needed to provide balance to the recreation opportunities available.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Access points and trails are limited within the remaining portion of the Chalk Peak roadless area. Opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are plentiful due to the large percentage of wilderness on the District.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The California condor has had their historic range substantially reduced due to increased human populations and developments. California condors have been reintroduced into areas of their historic range in and adjacent to the Chalk Peak roadless area. Current and projected human uses and developments on National Forest System lands in the Chalk Peak roadless area are not substantially affecting the habitat of this species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: California condors require large tracts of land in order to maintain viable populations. Currently, this endangered species occupies areas that are part roadless and part roaded. Current monitoring data does not indicate that the presence of roaded areas is precluding the use of these areas by these birds, nor does the data show that California condors use designated wilderness areas more frequently than non-wilderness areas. The recovery plan for the California condor does not recommend the designation of additional wilderness areas as a means of promoting the recovery of the species.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Lands and ecosystems within this roadless area are similar to lands within existing wilderness.

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**Camuesa Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Condor Point Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## Condor Point Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Barbara Ranger District

### Capability

This roadless area is located along Santa Ynez Mountain Range, Santa Barbara Front Country. The northern boundary is the West Camino Cielo Road (Forest Road 5N19) for approximately 15 miles. Private lands and the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest bound the area on the west and south.

Environment: Two designated shooting sites exist along West Camino Cielo Road. Numerous permitted electronic sites exist on Broadcast and Santa Ynez Peaks. The Forest Service maintains a pine tree plantation and two water collection ponds. The main ridge of the Santa Ynez Range has undergone fuel type conversion treatments (disking, crushing, and pile burning) in recent history. In addition to existing roads and man-made improvements (plantations, ponds, electronic sites), much of the ridge tops are laced with visible dozer lines. These numerous access roads and dozer lines were established for the construction and maintenance of a continuous fuel break within the unit. Currently, this area is under further study for continued fuel break maintenance and fuel modification practices.

The western and southern boundaries border exclusively on private property.

Challenge: There is little opportunity for solitude. State Highway 101 is visible from most portions of this area. West Camino Cielo Road provides the opportunity for low density touring with standard vehicles, all-wheel drive, and dual purpose motorcycles. The current predominant recreational uses surrounding and within this area are not consistent with wilderness visitor expectations.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: There are no established trails within the planning area. Available public access exists solely from ridge top roads and fuel break lines. There is a proposed trail from El Capitan Ranch to the ridge top under discussion with the local community and Santa Barbara County Parks and Recreation.

Special Features: There are no special features within the IRA.

Manageability: At 14,868 acres, the Condor Point IRA meets the 5,000 acre recommendation in the

Wilderness Act. Unauthorized off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is occurring on most portions of the ridgeline where old roads and dozer lines exist. Approximately 10 miles of cable and wire fence have been constructed along West Camino Cielo Road to stop OHV incursions. Ridge top areas may provide for future OHV trail opportunities.

Boundary Considerations: Designation of wilderness directly adjacent to private property would create the potential for future conflicts as the private property continues to be developed. Future OHV opportunities along ridge tops within the unit would require adjustments to current boundaries south of West Camino Cielo Road.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Ridge top fuel breaks and fuel type conversions are necessary for fire control planning efforts.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): West Camino Cielo Road exists as a Santa Barbara County road maintenance easement. This road provides access to numerous electronic sites on Santa Ynez and Broadcast Peaks. The western seven-mile segment, approximately half of the West Camino Cielo Road from Santa Ynez Peak to Refugio Pass, is paved. Vandenberg Air Force Base constructed this road portion for access to Santa Ynez Peak for periodic viewing and monitoring of scheduled rocket launches.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be minimal effect on adjacent lands.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Located approximately 15 air miles north of this unit is the combined wilderness acreage of the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) and the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Visitation in the San Rafael and Dick Smith Wilderness is considered light to moderate and areas are minimally impacted.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Santa Barbara Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Much of the Santa Barbara Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and provide opportunities for primitive outdoor experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this

need): The perennial streams draining to the south are habitat for Southern steelhead trout, a federally designated endangered species, and designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog, a federally designated threatened species. For the trout, natural or man-made barriers and sediment deposition into spawning areas are of greatest concern for species recovery throughout its range. Currently, there are no known barriers on National Forest Service System lands and sedimentation above natural levels is limited to some disturbed areas adjacent to West Camino Cielo Road. At this time, the amount is not considered excessive. However, this could change if additional roads or other construction occurs in the area.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: Use of this area by California Condors is expected to increase as their numbers grow to recovery level. Although they do successfully inhabit areas altered by man, they are best adapted to remote areas. Of special concern, especially to young birds, is exposure to hazards associated with man-made structures, but especially electronic communication sites located on ridge tops. There are three such sites located on West Camino Cielo Road.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: No significant landform or ecosystems have been identified in this unit.

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<b>Chalk Peak Inventoried Roadless Area</b>	<b>Cuyama Inventoried Roadless Area</b>
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## Cuyama Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Mount Pinos Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: Several unclassified and temporary roads, primarily from grazing permit and mining activities, have compromised the natural integrity of the area and opportunities for solitude. Tinta motorcycle trail is along the southwestern boundary of the area and the adjacent Dick Smith Wilderness. There is also an oil and gas pipeline through the area. The area is composed mainly of brush covered foothills and canyons and some oak grassland. The southwest portion of the area has steep, heavy brush covered slopes.

Challenge: The area provides a low sense of solitude, adventure, and self-reliance due to the proximity of Highway 33 and the rural development in the Upper Cuyama Valley. The area along Dry Canyon Road provides a higher level of solitude, adventure, and self-reliance since you are some distance from private land and do not have views of rural development or the State highway.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The area provides the opportunity for cross-country hiking (there are no maintained hiking trails in the area). Travel in most areas is difficult because of the steep terrain and heavy vegetation. The temporary and unclassified roads could provide travel corridors in some of the canyon bottoms; however, they would be dead end routes. Dispersed camping is allowed, however water sources are very scarce in the area. The area also provides the opportunity for big game hunting (primarily deer) and upland birds and small game hunting (primarily quail and rabbits).

Special Features: N/A.

Manageability: The Cuyama IRA at 19,534 acres meets the 5,000 acre recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. The area would be difficult to manage as wilderness however, due to the large amount of interface with private land and the general inaccessibility of that interface to monitor for trespass activities. Activities associated with the three grazing allotments would further complicate administration of the area as wilderness.

Boundary Considerations: Designation of wilderness directly adjacent to the large extent of private property will probably create future conflicts as the private property continues to be developed. A boundary adjustment on the northeast side of the area would avoid the pipeline becoming a non-

conforming use.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The area includes portions of four grazing allotments (Burgess, Tinta, Apache, and Santa Barbara Potrerros) and the area provides a substantial amount of grazing opportunity. The area is available for oil and gas leasing and is identified as possessing high potential. Currently there are approximately 2,326 acres under application for oil and gas leasing.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): There are four grazing allotments and an oil and gas pipeline linear Special Use Authorization (SUA), as well as mining claims in the area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: May complicate administration of grazing allotments and implementation of fuels treatment projects in the area. Designation of wilderness directly adjacent to the large extent of private property will probably create future conflicts as the private property continues to be developed.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20 mile radius of the area are the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres), the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), the Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres), and the Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: The area is in the Upper Cuyama Valley within an hour drive of the small communities of New Cuyama, Cuyama, Maricopa, Taft, Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, and the Pine Mountain Club, and is approximately two hours from Ventura and Santa Maria. Use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for on a few holiday weekends and at a couple of popular destinations within the wildernesses.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in these non-wilderness areas.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The California condor has had their historic range substantially reduced due to increased human populations and developments. California condors have been reintroduced into areas of their historic range in and adjacent to the Cuyama roadless area. Current and projected human uses and developments

on NFS lands in the Cuyama roadless area are not substantially affecting the habitat of this species. Wildlife biologists currently use management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve this species that are not generally consistent with wilderness management objectives (e.g. use of motorized vehicles to transport, release, and monitor individual animals and to place supplemental feed). A combination of semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized land use designations would provide California condors with suitable habitat while allowing wildlife managers to continue to use motorized vehicles in their conservation efforts.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: California condors require large tracts of land in order to maintain viable populations. Currently, this endangered species occupies areas that are part roadless and part roaded. Current monitoring data does not indicate that the presence of roaded areas is precluding the use of these areas by these birds nor does the data show that California condors use designated wilderness areas more frequently than non-wilderness areas. The recovery plan for the California condor does not recommend the designation of additional wilderness areas as a means of promoting the recovery of the species.

There are no identified rare plant species or populations that are declining due to public uses and developments occurring on National Forest System lands.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: N/A

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**Condor Point Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**De La Guerra Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## De La Guerra Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Barbara Ranger District

### Capability

The IRA is bounded by private property on the west and south with no public access. The primary boundary to the north is the paved Figueroa Mountain Road, and the eastern boundary is the paved Cachuma Saddle Road, both NFSR 7N07.

Environment: There are several unclassified roads/fire lines that bisect the area. There are also visible fire suppression dozer lines that run north to south within the area. Some of these fire roads and fire lines are currently in use for vehicle access by the grazing allotment permittee. Noise from the unregulated shooting areas, the paved roads, and adjacent campground would distract from wilderness values and any attempts for seeking solitude. Existing paved roads and developments are visible from many of the ridges.

Challenge: There are few opportunities to experience wilderness challenge in this IRA. The current predominant recreational uses surrounding and within this area are not consistent with wilderness visitor expectations. There is little opportunity for solitude because of the several unclassified roads/fire lines that bisect the area.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: There are no inventoried trails within the planning area. Considerable public hiking does take place on numerous unclassified fire roads traversing the area. Routine public access does take place on the abandoned old De La Guerra Springs Campground Road used for hiking and hunting. Cachuma Public Campground with six campsites is located on the boundary on Cachuma Saddle Road. At the northern edge is the Cachuma Saddle Station. Target shooting occurs on several turnouts along the easterly boundary of Cachuma Saddle Road.

Special Features: There are no outstanding natural features within this roadless area.

Manageability: Due to the small size of the area (5,417 acres), the proximity to existing recreational developments, and the presence of unclassified roads, the area would be extremely difficult to manage as wilderness. However, it does meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act.

Boundary Considerations: Relocation of boundaries to avoid conflict would reduce the area size to less than 5,000 acres.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Fire access roads and firelines will continue to be needed to suppress fires within the area.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): De La Guerra grazing allotment is currently active. The permittee maintains two water developments and several miles of fence within the roadless area. One of the water developments consists of a large diameter concrete cattle trough. Vehicle access to these water developments and to numerous miles of cattle fence is currently taking place on portions of these unclassified roads and fire lines.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There will be a minimal effect on adjacent lands.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Located approximately two air miles east of this IRA is the combined wilderness acreage of the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) and the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Visitation to the San Rafael and Dick Smith wilderness is considered light to moderate and areas are minimally impacted.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Santa Barbara Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Much of the Santa Barbara Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and provide opportunities for near primitive outdoor experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): This area is adjacent to the Sisquoc-San Rafael Condor Area, which is designated as critical habitat for the California Condor, a federally designated endangered species. This special condor area contains historic nest locations and foraging habitat. Use is expected to increase in and adjacent to the condor area as birds rediscover and use the historic nest sites. Currently, the De La Guerra area is somewhat primitive due to lack of public road access, and its open habitats are the type condors prefer as foraging habitat. Although condors have shown an ability to inhabit developed areas, they are better adapted to primitive conditions. This is especially true for young birds, which are more apt to come in contact with man-made hazards. Young birds learn to forage and otherwise survive in suitable areas

near their fledging sites and, as numbers increase, the foraging habitat in the De La Guerra area will become more important to species recovery.

Need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The above comments are pertinent here and can also apply to most of the other wildlife that inhabit the De La Guerra area.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: No significant landform or ecosystems have been identified in this IRA.

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**Cuyama Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

**Diablo Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

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## Diablo Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Barbara Ranger District

#### Capability

The IRA is bounded on three sides by Forest Service administrative roads. These three travelways are typically referred to as Forest Service “jeepways,” because of their rugged nature and the need for all-wheel drive (Forest Service road maintenance classification is Level 2). The roads include: the Hildreth Jeepway (NFSR 6N17) on the west and north, the Monte Arido Road (NFSR 6N03) on the east, and the Pendola Jeepway (Forest Road 5N01) on the south. Additionally, the roadless area is bounded on the west by the Big Caliente Public Road, with approximately one mile of said road extending into the study area terminating at Big Caliente Hot Springs.

Environment: Big Caliente and Rock Camp are within the study area and contain improvements typically found in the developed recreation setting: parking spurs, picnic tables, a block toilet building, a pit toilet, barbeques, and fire rings. The hot springs area consists of a cement square, an in-ground bathing pool, and an adjacent block dressing room.

There is one Forest Service designated trail within the study area. The Caliente Trail (Forest Trail 25W06) begins at the Big Caliente Hot Springs Parking Area and travels north three miles where it terminates near Caliente Camp. Caliente Camp is a single site rustic trail camp providing dispersed camping opportunities. Approximately one mile above Big Caliente Hot Springs in Caliente Creek, there is a massive concrete debris basin. The basin constructed in the 1930s spans Caliente Creek at a height of over 100 ft. This man-made structure has backed up soil over the years creating a large silt basin now forested in cottonwood trees and a jungle of riparian vegetation.

There exist several short dozer roads off of the Monte Arido Road within the study area. There are two short sections of road leading to Old Man Mountain and Monte Arido Peak. There is a constructed road and water pond just inside the study area. Additionally, numerous fire dozer control zones have been established along ridgelines during fire suppression activities adjacent to all the jeepways that encompass this study area. These dozer lines are visible on most of the ridges in this area.

Future off-highway vehicle (OHV) route opportunities have been discussed for the perimeter ridge jeepways surrounding the Diablo roadless area. Access to the public is allowed on the Monte Arido Road on a permit basis issued by the Ojai Ranger District. Five permits are issued daily for recreational

use of a section of the Monte Arido Road from Hwy 33 to a locked gate near Monte Arido Peak.

Challenge: Extremely remote location with outstanding opportunities to experience adventure, self-reliance, and solitude.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Public vehicle access does not occur on the portion of the Monte Arido Road in this study area.

The Caliente Trail is located within the IRA. With the exception of this short trail, recreational opportunities are limited to travel on jeepways and roads. Off trail access or cross-country travel is difficult in the heavy chaparral vegetation. Extremely rugged travel along the two main waterways could provide opportunities for very remote access and adventure oriented wilderness visitation. Mountain bicycles use the existing roads and jeepways that surround this area. Off-Highway-Vehicle trespass does occur on the jeepways. There is one dispersed camp, Upper Santa Ynez, located along the Juncal Road (Forest Road 5N13) on the southern boundary of this roadless area.

Special Features: Continuous dense chaparral vegetation with sandstone outcropping are the predominate feature with this area. Two main waterways, Diablo and Caliente Creeks, are located within the interior of this area. These drainages provide year round water flows with some deep pools and falls.

Manageability: The Diablo IRA at 16,902 acres meets the 5,000 acre recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. The most significant management challenge, which would arise with designation of this roadless area as wilderness, is the necessity to retain access to existing jeepways (fuel breaks) for fire suppression efforts and the management of prescribed fires. A roaded corridor for this purpose might be needed along the Monte Arido Road, and if surrounding roadless areas were also designated as wilderness, a need would also arise to create a roaded corridor along the Pendola Jeepway.

Management of the invasive plant, European star thistle could be compromised by additional restriction on the use of mechanical treatments and application of herbicides to reduce this infestation within wilderness.

Boundary Considerations: The need for boundary variations exists in conjunction with the adjacent roadless areas. This roadless area consists of substantial acre size and suitable wilderness characteristics to stand alone as a future wilderness unit.

Maintaining wilderness character would be difficult adjacent to the heavily used Big Caliente Hot Springs, the Big Caliente Road, and the Pendola Fire Station. The potential exists for vehicle trespass in this roadless area from Monte Arido Road.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The Hildreth Jeepway has been studied for future potential motorized public access opportunities. Historically, the need to use the jeepways in this roadless area for fire suppression activities has been demonstrated.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): Future planning efforts to maintain existing fuel breaks and defensible space zones could be lost with inclusion of this area into wilderness status.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: No effect on adjacent National Forest System Lands.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Located approximately four air miles north of this unit is the combined wilderness acreage of the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) and the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres). To the east, the Diablo Roadless Area abuts the Matilija Wilderness (29,600 acres) for approximately six miles.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Visitation in the San Rafael, Dick Smith, and Matilija Wildernesses is considered light to moderate and areas are minimally impacted.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Santa Barbara Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Much of the Santa Barbara Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and provide opportunities for primitive outdoor experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): There are a few open ridgelines and open grassy habitats that are suitable as foraging areas for California Condor, a federally designated endangered species. Present use is limited, but is expected to increase as numbers grow to recovery levels. Although condors have shown an ability to inhabit areas with much human development, they, like most other wildlife, are more adapted to unaltered habitats.

Big Caliente and Rock Creeks are both federally designated and occupied critical habitat for the California red-legged frog, a federally designated threatened species. The former also supports a healthy population of California pond turtle, a federally designated sensitive species. Frog mortality as a result of vehicle traffic on the access road to Big Caliente Hot Springs is a subject of intensive monitoring conducted by the Los Padres National Forest. Currently, sediment loads into Big Caliente Creek are only slightly elevated due to the relative lack of roads and other human factors in the watershed and the frog population there is considered secure. Sediment deposition into breeding ponds and upon egg masses is thought to be a major factor in the decline in red-legged frog populations in southern

California.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The comments and rationale above can also apply here, but are especially applicable to species with large territories such as Mountain lion, bobcat, Golden eagle, and California condor.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: No significant landform or ecosystems have been identified in this unit.

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**De La Guerra Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Dry Lakes Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Dry Lakes Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Ojai Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: This area is nearly contiguous with the existing Matilija Wilderness. It is separated by gravel Cherry Canyon Road (NFSR 6N01) starting at State Highway 33 and extending south approximately 1.5 miles along this route. From this point south, the area is flanked on the west by a buried gas pipeline. This pipeline and the Ortega Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail (Forest Trail 23W08) intersect each other southward to Ortega Camp. At that point, the Ortega OHV Trail turns southeasterly to its terminus on State Highway 33 near Wheeler Gorge, crossing this area for approximately 6.2 miles. From Ortega Camp, the buried pipeline heads south creating a narrow cherry stem between the Matilija Wilderness and this area. It is accompanied for much of that distance by a primitive road constructed when the pipeline was built and now is used intermittently for pipeline maintenance with heavy equipment.

The Dry Lakes IRA is 15 miles north of Ventura on the Ojai Ranger District in the coastal mountain range. Access to the Dry Lakes area is from State Highway 33 via the Ortega OHV trail from the south, Dry Lakes tractor line from the east, and Cherry Canyon Road from the north. The topography is composed of steep drainages, relatively flat plateaus, and gentle slopes. The major drainage is Tule Creek that flows easterly into Sespe Creek. Elevations range from 1,300 to 5,850 feet above Ortega Hill. Prior to the 1985 Wheeler Fire, the vegetation was composed of 6% conifer, 5% oak-grassland, 28% mixed chaparral, and 61% other chaparral; however, essentially the entire area was burned and vegetative re-growth may vary somewhat. The area contains the Dry Lakes Ridge Botanical Area (approximately 400 acres). Visitor day use occurs primarily in association with OHV trails (Ortega).

The appearance of the area varies from open, dry lakebeds on a ridgetop in the Botanical Area to vast chaparral covered slopes. State Highway 33, Matilija Canyon, and the buried gas pipeline circumscribe the area. The Matilija escarpment, exposed sandstone bedrock, is highly visible from Highway 33. The natural appearance and integrity of the area are very much intact, although the buried gas pipeline access-way presents a minor scar along the western boundary. There are a few manmade improvements in the area, including the Ortega OHV route that traverses the southern half of the area, the small Ortega Camp containing several metal fire rings and picnic tables, and the fire dozer line along Dry Lakes Ridge and adjacent to the Ortega Trail.

Wildlife consists of bear, deer, mountain lion, bobcat, and coyote; smaller species include fox, mountain and valley quail, rabbit, raccoon, and gray squirrels. There are no rare or endangered species in the area, although it does contain potential habitat for the Peregrine falcon. The area does not contain any known archeological sites.

Challenge: Numerous opportunities for solitude exist in spite of seeing Matilija Canyon Road (NFSR 5N13), State Highway 33, and gas pipeline scars from portions of the area. The Dry Lakes and Tule Creek areas afford a certain amount of seclusion. Cross-country exploring, while providing some interesting challenges, is hampered by dense chaparral vegetation.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The Ortega OHV Trail currently has light use; this factor allows ample non-motorized recreation opportunities in the southern portion of the IRA. Access via Tule Creek offers primitive recreation opportunities. The Dry Lakes Ridge dozer line offers access to Dry Lakes Ridge Botanical Area (a special feature), although part of this access route is quite steep. It was not built to trail standards. There are a number of opportunities for primitive recreation associated with hunting and hiking along the buried gas pipeline corridor, and hiking along Tule Creek. The area provides opportunities for hunting (primarily deer and quail).

Special Features: The eastern edge of the area contains the scarp of a large landslide visible from State Highway 33. There are excellent vistas of the coastal range, coastline, and Channel Islands from Ortega Trail and Dry Lakes Ridge. The Dry Lakes Ridge Botanical Area contains unique stands of ponderosa pine and other vegetation. The middle of the area contains the Matilija escarpment, some 1,500 acres in size. It is exposed sandstone bedrock that is highly visible from Highway 33. There are two dry lakes along Dry Lakes Ridge.

Manageability: The 17,039 acre IRA meets 5,000 acre recommendation in the Wilderness Act. The area is 6.5 miles long and five miles wide. Its size and shape are adequate to manage as wilderness. Maintenance activities currently include use of a motorized trail tractor to maintain proper tread and drainage functions to protect resource values as well as chainsaws to keep chaparral cut back from encroaching on the trail. From certain portions of the area, one can hear and see the traffic on State Highway 33.

Boundary Considerations: The buried gas pipeline and Cherry Canyon Road preclude this area being contiguous with Matilija Wilderness. The boundary of the area borders these features. Also, Ortega OHV Trail bisects the southern portion. With these constraints in mind, a smaller parcel could have boundaries defined adequately. If the boundary were changed at Ortega Camp to run parallel to and north of the southern portion of Ortega OHV Trail, the remaining northern portion of the area would be reasonably manageable. This would allow continued use of the Ortega OHV Trail and continued mechanized maintenance of this trail. It would also delete over half of the “cherry stem” effect of the buried gas pipeline.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The buried gas pipeline will remain as a use in the area into the foreseeable future. Due to required intermittent maintenance on the line with heavy equipment, the impacts associated with the pipeline and associated access-way are expected to continue indefinitely.

The existing Ortega OHV Trail cuts across this area and is used by motorcycles and some all-terrain vehicles. This trail provides an opportunity for semi-primitive motorized recreation, as it offers a challenging route suitable for experienced motorcycle riders. This is also the only motorcycle route on the Ojai Ranger District. Many local motorcycle riders are vocal about their enjoyment of the Ortega Trail. However, wilderness designation would eliminate OHV use and mechanized maintenance of Ortega Trail. Previous routes were eliminated from motorcycle usage by 1992 Wilderness legislation. Current maintenance practices rely on mechanized equipment. Loss of mechanized maintenance methods would seriously hamper the ability to keep the route adequately maintained for public use and to protect resources.

The northwest corner of this area borders a popular shooting area along Cherry Canyon Road near State Highway 33. This spot is used year round. Heavy use days here often include 100 or more shooters. Designation of this area as wilderness could create user conflicts with shooters. Sounds of shooting and debris would detract from the solitude values of the wilderness.

Dry Lakes Ridge and the area adjacent to the upper Ortega OHV Trail serve an important function as a fire line. During wildfires, tractors create a 50 foot swath cleared of brush. The trail was as a fire line during the Wheel Fire in 1994 and again for the Wolf Fire in 2002. These activities would complicate administration of the area, as Regional Forester approval would be required prior to any such tractor use if the area were designated as wilderness. These firelines would also detract visually from the near-pristine appearance of the area.

Vegetation and soil disturbance is still evident from the gas line constructed in the late 1950s. A conflict with wilderness on the western boundary would occur, as expected maintenance of the existing pipeline is performed per the special use permit. There are no grazing allotments in this area.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): There is a linear special use permit for a buried gas pipeline. No private parcels of land are inside this area. Cherry Canyon Road is a FS system road. There are no mining claims in the area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation would complicate management of recreational shooting adjacent to the northwest portion of the area. Otherwise, it would have a minimal effect on adjacent lands.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20 mile radius of the area

are the Matilija Wilderness (29,600 acres), Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres), San Rafael Wilderness (190,968 acres), Dick Smith Wilderness (71,350 acres), and Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres). Collectively, these nearby wildernesses all offer protection for similar types of natural ecosystems. They also offer similar non-motorized recreation opportunities for solitude and self-reliance. Dry Lakes is notably lacking in stream courses in comparison with the wildernesses cited above. It generated only limited public support for wilderness designation during the initial LMP analysis in 1988.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Public use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations within the wildernesses. Use levels typically increase during the spring months. Public use has never reached sufficient levels to warrant implementation of a wilderness permit or quota system.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Ojai Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in these non-wilderness areas.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biota are currently thriving without wilderness designation. The low current and projected levels of public use means that all biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully into the future. No developmental projects are proposed that would impact this area. The existing condition offers the public a freer form of access and use of the land since it is mostly covered with chaparral. The environment is currently in balance with the existing public use and there are no threats to change that balance. The Dry Lakes Ridge Botanical Area will thrive with or without wilderness designation.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is no need for such a sanctuary; the current levels of protection are adequate. Also, there are no unique scientific values or phenomena that would need protection by special designation.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Unique landforms and ecosystems will be preserved regardless of wilderness designation.

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**Diablo Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

**Fox Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## **Fox Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area**

### **Los Padres National Forest**

Mount Pinos Ranger District

### **Capability**

Environment: Within the motorized portion of the inventoried roadless area (IRA), numerous unclassified and temporary roads from previous mineral exploration and extraction, oil exploration, and grazing activities have compromised the natural integrity of the area and opportunities for solitude. The area is comprised mainly of brush covered foothills and canyons with some oak grassland. The area is traversed by three Forest Service maintained trails, Aliso Canyon, Rocky Ridge and Bull Ridge trails. There is a NFSR (27W01) up Aliso Canyon from Aliso Campground to Hog Pen Spring, and an electronic site and associated road located in Olive Canyon. There are known cultural and heritage sites within the area. This evaluation covers the Fox Mountain IRA as well as 1,486 acres proposed by the public that lie immediately northwest of the IRA.

The natural integrity of the non-motorized portion of the IRA remains generally intact. The area is comprised mainly of steep, brush-covered slopes. The area is traversed by Aliso Canyon, Rocky Ridge, and Bull Ridge trails. The Lion Canyon Condor release site is located within the area. Portions of the Sierra Madre Cultural Resource Area are included in the area. The exposed rock formations in upper Lion Canyon and the Potrero system are unique and visually impressive.

Challenge: The motorized area provides a moderate sense of solitude, adventure, and self-reliance due to the difficulty in accessing the area. Private land blocks access to the northeast side of the area with the exception of Aliso Canyon. Other access points are from Santa Barbara Canyon and Bates Canyon, or trail access from Sierra Madre Ridge.

Although the non-motorized area presents views of the rural and agricultural activities in the Cuyama Valley, the difficulty in reaching the area provides a high sense of solitude, adventure, and self-reliance.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The motorized area provides the opportunity for hiking, riding, and packing on the maintained trails. Travel off the maintained trails in most areas is difficult because of the heavy vegetation. The temporary and unclassified roads would provide travel corridors in most of the canyon bottoms and some ridge tops; however, access is blocked by private land. Dispersed camping is allowed, however water sources are very scarce in the area. There is the moderate to high possibility for viewing a California condor while in the area. The area also provides the opportunity for big game

hunting (primarily deer) and upland birds and small game hunting (primarily quail and rabbits).

Special Features: There are excellent vistas of the Dick Smith and San Rafael Wildernesses. Lion Canyon and the Potrero system are a unique landscape.

Manageability: The 52,082 acre Fox Mountain IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. The non-motorized portion of the Fox Mountain roadless area would be fairly simple to manage as wilderness due to the steep slopes, heavy vegetation cover, and general inaccessibility.

The motorized portion of the Fox Mountain roadless area would be difficult to manage as wilderness due to the large amount of interface with private land and the general inaccessibility of that interface to monitor for trespass activities. Activities associated with the three grazing allotments would further complicate administration of the area as wilderness. There are also several private parcels within the area.

Boundary Considerations: Designation of wilderness directly adjacent to the large extent of private property will probably create future conflicts as the private property continues to be developed. A boundary adjustment in the Olive Canyon area would avoid the electronic site becoming a non-conforming use. There may be a need to adjust the boundary in upper Lion Canyon to accommodate continued California condor releases and supplemental feeding activities and to address high oil and gas potential along the northeast boundary of the area.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The area includes portions of three grazing allotments (Branch Canyon and Aliso and Santa Barbara Potrerros). The area is available for oil and gas leasing and has high potential; however, the area between Montgomery and Salisbury Potrerros is withdrawn from surface occupancy (see "Availability of Forest Lands for Oil and Gas Leasing" map in 1988 LRMP). The area also includes an approved electronic site.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): There are three grazing allotments within the IRA, an electronic site and road in Olive Canyon, a road special use authorization (SUA) in Castro Canyon, and water development SUAs in Castro and Branch Canyons. There is also an electric transmission line in Branch Canyon and road SUAs. Native Americans use the area for religious and traditional activities as well as traditional material gathering.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation may complicate administration of grazing allotments, implementation of fuels treatment projects, and the maintenance of the Sierra Madres fuel break system (approximately 20 miles in length). Designation of wilderness directly adjacent to the large extent of private property will probably create future conflicts as the private property continues to be developed.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20-mile radius of the area are the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres), the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), the Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres) and the Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: The area is in the Upper Cuyama Valley within an hour drive of the small communities of New Cuyama, Cuyama, Maricopa, Taft, Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, and the Pine Mountain Club, and is approximately two hours from Ventura and Santa Maria.

Use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations within the wildernesses.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in these non-wilderness areas.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The California condor has had their historic range substantially reduced due to increased human populations and developments. California condors have been re-introduced into areas of their historic range in and adjacent to the Fox Mountain roadless area. Current and projected human uses and developments on National Forest System lands in the Fox Mountain roadless area are not substantially affecting the habitat of this species. Wildlife biologists currently use management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve this species that are not generally consistent with wilderness management objectives (e.g. use of motorized vehicles to transport, release, and monitor individual animals and to place supplemental feed). A combination of semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized land use designations would provide California condors with suitable habitat while allowing wildlife managers to continue to use motorized vehicles in their conservation efforts.

There are no identified rare plant species or populations that are declining due to public uses and developments occurring on National Forest System lands.

There is no foreseeable development projects or large increases in public use within this area.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: California condors require large tracts of land in order to maintain viable populations. Currently, this endangered species occupies areas that are part roadless and part roaded. Current

monitoring data does not indicate that the presence of roaded areas is precluding the use of these areas by these birds, nor does the data show that California condors use designated wilderness areas more frequently than non-wilderness areas. The recovery plan for the California condor does not recommend the designation of additional wilderness areas as a means of promoting the recovery of the species.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: N/A

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<b>Dry Lakes Inventoried Roadless Area</b>	<b>Garcia Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area</b>
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## Garcia Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Lucia Ranger District

### Capability

The Garcia Mountain Roadless Area is within the Santa Lucia Ranger District at the southern end of the Santa Lucia Mountains. The roadless area consists of four separate sections adjacent to the existing Garcia Wilderness. Three parcels are located near Stony Creek along the southeastern edge of the wilderness and one along the northwestern edge near Hi Mountain. In general, these parcels are bounded on the south by the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest and private lands; on the east by private lands, and NFSRs 30S02 and 31S02; and on the northwest by NFSR 30S05 and private lands.

Environment: Elevation ranges from 1,500 to 2,700 feet. The headwaters of the Salinas and Huasna Rivers originate along the flanks of Garcia Mountain. Vegetation is primarily chaparral. Pine ridge, along the southern boundary of the Garcia Wilderness, is an extremely broken sandstone formation with numerous erosion-caused caves, cavities, and ledges.

Public access to the Stony Creek parcels is from the Huasna Road. Access to the National Forest is very poor and requires cross-country travel. NFSR 30S02 goes north to the Avenales. Another forest road goes about 1.25 miles to the Avenales Observation Point. Access to the Hi Mountain parcel is by NFSR 30S05 from Pozo or Lake Lopez.

Challenge: The opportunity for solitude is high.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Because of the heavy chaparral cover throughout the area, primitive camping is limited. The natural integrity of the area is high. The large draw for the area is off-highway vehicle (OHV) use and dispersed camping. Public access to Stony Creek campground and the surrounding area has been eliminated with the installation of the Huasna Ranch gate. Hi Mountain Camp is accessible by vehicle except during wet weather. Hunters use the area heavily.

Special Features: There are few special features, attractions, or opportunities for challenging experiences, although there are nesting sites for golden eagles in the sandstone outcrops. Some opportunities for rock climbing exist, but access to the area is difficult. Archeological sites exist.

Manageability: The Garcia Mountain IRA at 7,848 acres meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. Garcia Mountain boundaries include 1,700 acres of private land and three encroaching roads, which would render wilderness management difficult and costly.

Boundary Considerations: On the northeast side, it is difficult to establish clear boundaries along the private land. The private land boundaries are not clearly marked and do not follow natural landscape features. However, there are no ranch roads or motorized access within the area and the steep terrain and chaparral cover prevent unauthorized motorized access.

Posting the northeast boundary would be very expensive.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Annual recreation visitor days are estimated at 100. Designation as wilderness would not change use or capacity. There is low potential for vegetative conversion. Cattle grazing amounts to 711 AUM a year; maximum potential is estimated at 3,376 AUM. The area is designated as “attainment” for all National Ambient Air Quality standards for Class II air sheds and will be managed to meet Class II standards if designated as wilderness.

Annual recreation visitor days are primarily associated with hunting and motorized activities.

The Huasna County Road provides the only motorized access to the south end of the Garcia Mountain area. Access demand is very high, but limited due to recent road closures on private land (Huasna Ranch). Cattle grazing and ranch roads exist with the Huasna and Avenales allotments. These roads are within and adjacent to the area and receive motorized use.

The area is classified as having moderate oil and gas potential. The entire area is considered low potential for phosphate, geothermal energy, and locatable or saleable minerals. The potential resistance to fire suppression is rated high. This area is not desirable for prescribed fire due to the north-northeast aspect. It is also not a point where motorized access for fire suppression is needed.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): None.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Access to the IRA is through wilderness on the Balm of Gilead or Caldwell Mesa trails. The Forest Service has limited control over access, but due to the area’s steepness and private land, there is limited access. The current or planned uses of private land are compatible with wilderness values.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Garcia Mountain roadless area is two air miles east of the Santa Lucia Wilderness (18,679 acres) and one air mile northeast of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness (19,760 acres). All are relatively small wilderness areas with limited access and low use, suitable for day trips and short overnight trips. The San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) is located 26 air miles to the southeast. The San Rafael Wilderness is a much larger area than the other wildernesses in the area with several access points suitable for multiple day trips. The San Rafael also receives relatively light use with moderate use occurring on popular trails on certain weekends. All of these wilderness areas are located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Present visitor use on all wildernesses on the district and forest is relatively low. There are a few popular spots that do receive extra visitor pressure.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the area surrounding Garcia Mountain Roadless Area is relatively undeveloped National Forest System lands. Some of the area contains private lands with no access to public lands. The National Forest System lands are accessible to the public and offer a wide range of recreational opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): This area has low public use and development. It is functioning in a fairly undisturbed condition.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: None.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: None.

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**Fox Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Horseshoe Springs  
Inventoried Roadless Area**

## Horseshoe Springs Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Lucia Ranger District

### Capability

Horseshoe Springs roadless area is located within the Santa Lucia Ranger District in the Sierra Madre Mountains 20 air miles east of Santa Maria. The area is bounded on the north and west by the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest and private lands, and on the south and east by NFSRs 31W06 and 11N04. The Colson Quarry is excluded.

Environment: Overall, the natural integrity of the area has not been harshly compromised. It has a roaded-natural appearance, including features such as ranch improvements and campgrounds. The Colson rock quarry is visible from most areas within the Horseshoe Springs roadless area. Primary access to the area is via the Tepusquet Canyon Road to Colson Canyon Road (NFSR 11N04) or from the Sierra Madre Road (NFSR 32S13) to Miranda Pine Road (NFSR 11N03). The topography consists of relatively steep slopes with gentle ridge tops. Elevations range from 1,000 feet to a high of 3,000 feet on Peach Tree Ridge. Vegetation is predominantly chaparral and in the over 31 year age class. Bear Canyon drains the majority of the area.

The area is adjacent to four private inholdings and encompasses a small private parcel along Buckhorn Canyon. Four of the parcels have a yearlong residence and access road.

Challenge: Opportunities for solitude are moderate because of its small size. The heavy vegetation, however, does provide some potential for solitude.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: It is estimated that there are 2,500 Recreation Visitor Days mostly associated with deer hunting, car camping, and OHV use. La Brea and Smith Canyon Roads are popular high clearance roads. Five OHV routes, totaling 10 miles, are located within the area. Hikers and mountain bikers occasionally use Bear Canyon trail. Opportunities for semi-primitive recreation are high with seven developed car-campgrounds and motorized and or non-motorized trail systems.

Special Features: The area provides good habitat for numerous game species and red-legged frog. There is potential habitat for the spotted owl. There are five known archeological sites.

Manageability: The 14,097 acre Horseshoe Springs IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. Based on potential conflicts with adjacent private land, the need for identifiable boundaries, and the desirability of excluding jeepways and motorized access from the area, this area is not considered capable or manageable for wilderness. The potential resistance to fire control is high. There is considerable potential for fuel modification with multiple benefits to recreation, wildlife, and water production. This area is important for both fuels management and fire suppression in order to reduce the risk of fire to homes in Pine, Colson, and Tepusquet Canyons.

The structures on the four private land parcels and the mining are not compatible with wilderness management. The other three private land parcels may also include structures.

Boundary Considerations: Private property boundaries exist on the north and west side of this proposed area. Property lines are not well defined in these areas and would be difficult to establish and post due to the rugged terrain.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Potential recreation capacity is 30,415 Recreation Visitor Days; managed as wilderness, the capacity would be 13,000 Recreation Visitor Days. Driving for pleasure with street vehicles, along with OHV and motorcycle use, are highly demanded activities within this area. Mountain biking and hunting are also popular. The North Fork of La Brea Creek supports red-legged frogs. Apiary special use authorizations exist and require motorized access. There are portions of three grazing allotments in this area. The air shed is designated “attainment” for National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): There are three grazing allotments in the area. Apiary sites are also currently permitted. There is a moderate potential for strategic and non-strategic minerals. There is a low potential for geothermal, phosphate, oil, and gas development.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: The potential resistance to fire suppression is rated high. Motorized access and equipment are important tools for future fire suppression and prescribed burning in this area.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Horseshoe Springs roadless area is 20 air miles southeast of the Santa Lucia Wilderness (18,679 acres), 18 air miles south of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness (19,760 acres), and 14 air miles southeast of the Garcia Wilderness (14,100 acres). All are relatively small wildernesses with limited access and low use, suitable for day trips and short overnight trips. The San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) is located adjacent to the east side of Horseshoe Springs roadless area. The San Rafael Wilderness is a much larger area than the other

wildernesses in the area with several access points suitable for multiple day trips. The San Rafael Wilderness also receives relatively light use, with moderate use occurring on popular trails on certain weekends. All of these wilderness areas are located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Present visitor use on all wildernesses on the district and forest is relatively low. There are a few popular spots that do receive extra visitor pressure.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the surrounding area to the north and west of the Horseshoe Springs Roadless Area is relatively undeveloped National Forest System lands. Some of the area contains private lands with no access to public lands. The National Forest System lands are accessible to the public and offer a wide range of recreational opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biotic species are co-existing with the existing and projected use of this area as it is presently managed.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is no need at this time. If one surfaced, management tools exist to protect them.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Addition of this area to the San Rafael Wilderness would not help to protect the values of the existing wilderness. Existing management and tools are available to preserve the ecosystem and to allow for prescribed burning, which is important to reduce the risk to watersheds and adjacent homes and facilitate the natural fire ecology in a safe manner.

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**Garcia Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Juncal Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

## Juncal Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Barbara Ranger District

### Capability

The boundaries consist of four administrative roads and jeepways. The roadless area is bounded on the north by the Pendola Jeepway (NFSR 5N01), on the east by the lower portion of the Monte Arido Road (NFSR 6N03), on the west by the public Camuesa Road (NFSR 5N15) from the old Juncal Campground to the Pendola Station, and on the south by the Juncal administrative road (NFSR 5N13). The eastern boundary of the Juncal Roadless Area is adjacent to the existing Matilija Wilderness.

Environment: Steep terrain and dense continuous chaparral vegetation acts to discourage visitation in to the IRA. There are no special or outstanding natural features within this area. Fisheries in the upper Santa Ynez River and the North Fork of Juncal Creek attract fisherman during the winter and spring. Rainbow trout are limited to using these upper waterways for spawning and returning to the reservoir.

Along the southern boundary of the roadless area are Juncal Dam and Jameson Reservoir. The reservoir and surrounding private lands are owned by the Montecito Water Department.

Challenge: The Juncal IRA is a relatively remote location with moderate opportunities to experience adventure, self-reliance, and solitude.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Public vehicle access is not available on the portion of the Monte Arido Road in this study area.

There are no designated trails or trail camps within the study area. Recreational opportunities are limited to travel on jeepways and roads. Mountain bicyclists use the existing roads and jeepways that surround this area. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) trespass does occur on these jeepways. There is one dispersed camp, Upper Santa Ynez, located along the Juncal Road on the southern boundary of this roadless area.

Special Features: Continuous, dense chaparral with sandstone outcroppings are the predominate feature within this area.

Manageability: The 12,280 acre Juncal IRA meets the 5,000 acre recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. The most significant management challenge, which would arise with designation of this roadless area as wilderness, is the necessity to retain access to existing jeepways (fuel breaks) for fire suppression efforts and the management of prescribed fires. A roaded corridor for this purpose might be needed along the Monte Arido Road, and if surrounding roadless areas were also designated as wilderness, a need would also arise to create a roaded corridor along the Pendola Jeepway.

Management of the invasive plant, European star thistle, could be compromised by additional restrictions on the use of mechanical treatments and applications of herbicides to reduce this infestation within wilderness.

Boundary Considerations: The need for boundary variations exists in conjunction with the adjacent roadless areas. This roadless area is large and contains suitable wilderness characteristics to stand alone as a future wilderness.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The Pendola Jeepway has been studied for future potential motorized public access opportunities. Historically, the need to use the jeepways in this roadless area for fire suppression activities has been demonstrated.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): Future planning efforts to maintain existing fuel breaks and defensible space zones could be lost with inclusion of this area into wilderness status.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: No effect on adjacent National Forest System Lands.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Located approximately seven air miles north of this area is the combined wilderness acreage of the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) and the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres). The Juncal Roadless Area abuts the Matilija Wilderness (29,600 acres) along approximately five miles of its eastern border.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Visitation in the San Rafael, Dick Smith and Matilija Wildernesses is considered light to moderate and areas are minimally impacted.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Santa Barbara Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Much of the Santa Barbara Ranger District non-wilderness lands

encompass similar landscapes and provide opportunities for primitive outdoor experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The aquatic and riparian habitats along the Santa Ynez River that borders this area on the west and south include federally designated and occupied critical habitat for the California red-legged frog, a federally designated threatened species. In fact, the area of river adjacent to the closed Juncal Campground supports one of the largest populations on the forest. There is also federally designated and occupied Arroyo toad habitat in certain areas along the Santa Ynez River, west of Juncal Campground. Sedimentation from the uplands in the Juncal Roadless Area into these important habitats is now only slightly above natural levels due to lack of roads and other human factors that cause erosion. With the exception of a limited amount of foraging habitat, there are no suitable habitat features in this area that would attract and hold California condors, a federally designated endangered species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The above species, as well as most other wildlife in the area, do best in habitats that are not altered by man, be it by direct or indirect intensions.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: No significant landform or ecosystems have been identified in this unit.

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**Horseshoe Springs  
Inventoried Roadless Area**

**La Brea Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

## La Brea Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Lucia Ranger District

### Capability

The La Brea roadless area is located in the Sierra Madre Mountains, approximately 15 miles east of Santa Maria, within the Santa Lucia Ranger District. It is composed of all the National Forest System lands between the San Rafael Wilderness and the Sisquoc Land Grant south from NFSR 11N04 (near the North Fork of La Brea Creek) to NFSR 8N02 (near Zaca Lake). The northern parcel is separated from the San Rafael Wilderness by a corridor excluding the Kerry Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle Route.

Environment: The natural integrity and appearance of the area have not been altered significantly. The steep topography is bisected by numerous canyons, which drain into the Sisquoc River. Elevations rise from 1,200 feet to over 3,193 feet along the existing wilderness boundary. Vegetation is predominately chaparral, over 31 year age class. A limited amount of oak-woodland and oak-grassland exists at the lower elevations. The area is mostly steep, brushy, and inaccessible to the general public. The only motorized access is across private land, which is closed to the public at the lowest elevations on the north side at Barrel Springs Campground. A person could park and hike cross-country.

Public access to the north end is from Highway 166 via Tepusquet Canyon and Colson Canyon Roads (Santa Barbara County) to NFSR 11N04 (Rattlesnake and La Brea Canyon Roads). Public access is also gained by cross-country hiking from the San Rafael Wilderness. A second access corridor that originates at the private land boundary and extends approximately one mile toward Manzanita Mountain is excluded.

Challenge: The area south of Manzanita Mountain offers opportunities for solitude; however access is difficult.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Annual recreation use is estimated at 10 Recreation Visitor Days, occurring during the hunting season on the north end. There are no camps, trails, or access other than cross-country. There are six to eight miles of off-highway vehicle roads used in managing the grazing allotment that are not accessible to the public.

Special Features: La Brea Creek has red-legged frogs. There are known archeological sites in the area.

Manageability: The 13,974 acre La Brea IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. Due to the extensive amount of private land boundaries and the numerous side canyons that drain from Manzanita Mountain ridge, it would be extremely difficult and costly to identify and post a wilderness boundary. Motorized use by the grazing permittee and administrative motorized use to reach the Manzanita Lookout site would be in conflict with wilderness values. Potential resistance to fire control is rated high. The Forest Service needs to retain motorized administrative access for fire suppression and to manage prohibited uses.

Boundary Considerations: This area was previously excluded as unmanageable as wilderness because the substantial amount of irregularly shaped private land along the border conflicts with the objective of locating identifiable wilderness boundaries using topographic features.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Most visitor use is associated with adjacent private land activity. Very few Recreation Visitor Days would be generated from this addition. There are rare and endangered species in the area. There are parts of three grazing allotments with associated improvements including fences and spring developments, which rely on motorized access for maintenance.

The adjacent San Rafael Wilderness is a designated Class I air shed. The La Brea is presently a Class II air shed but will be managed to protect the Class I air of the San Rafael Wilderness.

There is a low potential for saleable minerals such as gravel and building stone and for phosphates or geothermal production. There is a moderate potential for strategic and non-strategic minerals. There is a low to moderate potential for oil and gas production.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): There are portions of three grazing allotments in the area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation would require a lengthy approval process for adjacent landowners to use motorized equipment in their grazing operations.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The La Brea roadless area is 25 air miles southeast of the Santa Lucia Wilderness (18,679 acres), 20 air miles south of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness (19,760 acres), and 16 air miles southeast of the Garcia Wilderness (14,100 acres). All are each relatively small wilderness areas with limited access and low use, suitable for day trips and short overnight trips. The San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) is adjacent on the east side of all of the parcels included in the La Brea. The San Rafael Wilderness is a much larger area than the

other wildernesses in the area with several access points suitable for multiple day trips. The San Rafael also receives relatively light use with moderate use occurring on popular trails on certain weekends. All of these wilderness areas are located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Present visitor use on all wildernesses on the district and forest is relatively low. There are a few popular spots that do receive extra visitor pressure. The adjacent San Rafael Wilderness receives 90 percent of its recreation use from local citizens. Based on established use patterns, wilderness designation of La Brea would not divert San Rafael visitors.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the area surrounding the La Brea Roadless Area is relatively undeveloped National Forest System lands. Some of the area contains private lands with no access to public lands. The National Forest System lands are accessible to the public and offer a wide range of recreational opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): High under existing management and tools available. Public use and development are not increasing.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: None.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Existing management and tools available are successful in preservation needs.

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**Juncal Inventoried Roadless Area**

**La Panza Inventoried Roadless Area**

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## La Panza Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Lucia Ranger District

### Capability

The La Panza Roadless Area is within the Santa Lucia Ranger District, 20 air miles east of San Luis Obispo. The area is bounded by NFSR 29S01 to the south, NFSR 29S02 to the north, and private lands to the east and west. A transmission line further defines the northern boundary.

Environment: Located in La Panza Mountain Range, the area has steep and broken topography. A number of minor drainages traverse the area. Elevations range from 1,500 feet near Frazier Canyon to 3,140 feet atop Las Chiches Mountain. The natural integrity of the area, which is four miles long and three miles wide, has been generally undisturbed. Access is via U.S. Highway 101, State Highway 58, and a county road.

Chaparral vegetation dominates the area. Due to the Highway 58 Fire in 1996, 80% of the chaparral is in the five-year age class. The remaining stands are in the 11-31 year and older age class. The 2002 Red Hill Fire burnt approximately 200 acres.

Approximately 70% of the area is mapped as granitic bedrock; the rest is marine bedrock of the Cretaceous Period, which has been uplifted and displaced along northwest-southeast trending faults, including La Panza Fault.

Challenge: The area's small size reduces the value of a true wilderness experience, as sounds of automobile traffic from Black Mountain, Pozo, and Navajo grade roads can be heard throughout the area, as well as noise from the Tower and Las Chiches Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Route which bisects the area. Capability of the area for wilderness is low due to the small size and noise from motorcycles and vehicles.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Annual recreation use is estimated at 660 Recreation Visitor Days. Eight miles of OHV trails traverse the area. 52% (2,685 acres) of the area is classified as "semi-primitive motorized" (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification system) and 48% (2,462 acres) is classified in the "roaded natural" category.

Special Features: A known archaeological site has been noted in the area, and there may be potential for identification of additional sites with further surveys. The area contains no year-round streams. Wildlife species include deer, mountain lion, and coyote, as well as small game species such as mountain and valley quail, dove, and cottontail rabbit.

Manageability: At 4,958 acres the La Panza IRA does not meet the 5,000 acre recommendation in the Wilderness Act.

Boundary Considerations: The La Panza roadless area boundary excludes the private land located in the northeast portion.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Practical recreation capacity under present management is 13,153 Recreation Visitor Days; managed as wilderness the capacity would be 7,121 Recreation Visitor Days. There are no known threatened and endangered species in the area nor does it contain potential habitat for such species. Potential for prescribed burning for other resource programs is also considered low. There are no timber resources in the area. La Panza is designated “attainment” for National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Motorized access and equipment for fire suppression activities is important.

There is a high potential for both non-strategic and strategic minerals. There are no mineral leases or applications in the area. There is a low potential for oil, gas, geothermal, and phosphates in the area.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): Portions of two grazing allotments lie within this area. There are several mining claims, but no active mines exist.

One telephone line traverses the area. A 500 kilovolt transmission line borders the north end. The potential resistance to fire suppression is high.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Unknown.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The La Panza roadless area at its closest point is seven air miles northeast of the Santa Lucia Wilderness (18,679 acres), two air miles northwest of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness (19,760 acres), and three air miles north of the Garcia Wilderness (14,100 acres) which are each relatively small wilderness areas with limited access and low use, suitable for day trips and short overnight trips. The San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) is located 26 air miles to the southeast. The San Rafael Wilderness is a much larger area than the other wildernesses in the area with several access points suitable for multiple day trips. The San Rafael also receives relatively light use, with moderate use occurring on popular trails on certain weekends. All of

these wilderness areas are located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Present visitor use on all wildernesses on the district and forest is relatively low. There are a few popular spots that do receive extra visitor pressure.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the area surrounding the La Panza Roadless Area is relatively undeveloped National Forest System lands. Some of the area contains private lands with no access to public lands. The National Forest System lands are accessible to the public and offer a wide range of recreational opportunities. This area is important for OHV use.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Increased use and development are not anticipated. Existing management and tools are protecting existing biotic species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: No need identified.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Topography and vegetation types represented in the La Panza area are not unique.

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<b>La Brea Inventoried Roadless Area</b>	<b>Little Pine Inventoried Roadless Area</b>
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## Little Pine Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Barbara Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The Little Pine Roadless Area is bounded on the south by the Santa Cruz National Recreation Trail and on the north by a jeepway used for administrative purposes to serve the Santa Cruz Guard Station.

Challenge: The opportunity for wilderness challenge is greatly degraded within this small roadless area as a result of impacts from a variety of recreational and administrative uses already present throughout this area. Little Pine Roadless Area is extremely small, only one eighth of a mile wide at its narrowest point and two miles long.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The Santa Cruz Jeepway serves Santa Cruz Campground, which is located just outside the San Rafael Wilderness boundary (jeepway separates Little Pine from the San Rafael Wilderness). This camp is the south entrance to the San Rafael Wilderness. Patrol by means of vehicle access is extremely important to effective management activities adjacent to the San Rafael Wilderness at Santa Cruz Camp. Further entry is by foot, horse, or motorcycle to the eastern boundary along the Camuesa/Buckhorn Road (NFSR 9N11). Santa Cruz Guard Station is a man-made feature located on the periphery of Little Pine Roadless Area. The station and adjacent primitive camps are especially crowded during the spring with overnight campers and day visitors on mountain bicycles. This camping area and station has been in place for 60 years and has become a significant feature for visitors who travel to the area. Hikers traveling into the San Rafael Wilderness heavily use the Santa Cruz National Recreation Trail. Overall annual recreation use is estimated at 650 visitor days.

Special Features: The Santa Cruz National Recreation Trail lies along the southern boundary of this IRA.

Manageability: The 1,290 acre IRA does not meet the 5,000 acre recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. The sound produced by motorized vehicles and off-highway vehicles (OHV) on the Camuesa/Buckhorn Road can be heard from many locations within the IRA. Current off-route travel by OHVs and mountain bikes will escalate as a management concern if the area is classified as wilderness.

Boundary Considerations: The Little Pine Roadless Area lacks the acreage to be considered suitable for

a stand-alone wilderness area. Any combination with the existing San Rafael Wilderness along the northern boundary or combined with the proposed Santa Cruz study adjacent to the west, could make it viable for wilderness inclusion. In either case the Santa Cruz Jeepway should remain available for Forest Service administrative use.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The area currently provides both concentrated recreational use and multiple use trail systems.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): The density of multiple motorized and non-motorized trails has heavily impacted this area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be little effect to adjacent National Forest Service System Lands.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: This roadless area shares three miles of boundary along the Santa Cruz Jeepway with the combined wilderness acreage of the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) and the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Visitation in the San Rafael and Dick Smith Wildernesses is considered light to moderate and areas are minimally impacted.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Santa Barbara Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Much of the Santa Barbara Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and provide opportunities for primitive outdoor experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): This small area includes some of the most extensive mixed conifer forest on the Santa Barbara District. There are several historic California condor nest sites near the Little Pine Roadless Area in the Sisquoc-San Rafael Condor Area, federally designated critical habitat for condor recovery.

There are several records of apparent nesting by California spotted owl in the Happy Hollow area on Little Pine Mountain. For this reason, portions of Little Pine are included in a Spotted owl management area. Although all these species have demonstrated an ability to adapt to some human encroachment, they are best adapted to unaltered habitats, which generally exist only in areas with little or no road access.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The above is pertinent here, but also applies to most other wildlife species in the Little Pine area. In addition, the area's mixed conifer forest and its co-evolved unique wildlife would be more secure with limited vehicle access.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: No significant landform or ecosystems have been identified in this IRA.

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**La Panza Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Los Manchos Hills Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Los Manchos Hills Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Lucia Ranger District

### Capability

Los Machos Hill roadless area is located within the Santa Lucia Mountains and is 20 miles east of San Luis Obispo. The area is bounded on the north by private lands and NFSR 31S02, on the east by NFSR 32S14 and Forest Trail 32S21, and on the south and west by NFSR 30S02 and private lands. Access is via State Highway 166 and NFSR 30S02 (Branch Canyon Road).

Environment: The area is characterized by rolling hills, steep canyons, and large rock outcrops and is within the Santa Lucia Ranger District. The area is divided by the South Cuyama Fault and is gently folded into anticlines and synclines; bedrock crops out as ledges on moderate natural slopes. Elevations range from 1,700 to 2,600 feet.

Vegetation is about one-third oak grassland and two-thirds chaparral. Approximately 2,500 acres burned in 1982; firebreaks from pre-attack fire activities are still noticeable. Approximately 50,000 acres of the area burned in the 1997 Logan Fire.

The natural integrity of Los Machos Hills is low because of numerous private land parcels, border roads, 12 miles of off-highway vehicle (OHV) roads and trails and two 500 kilovolt power lines, which intrude into the area. In addition, two highly developed access roads protrude into the area for a distance of one mile and come within one-half mile of connecting. OHV trails noticeably impact the natural appearance.

Challenge: Opportunities for solitude are limited, and water scarcity and lack of a developed hiking trail system limit the opportunity for primitive recreation. There are no challenging experiences afforded in the area, which are five miles wide and two miles long.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Annual recreation use is estimated at 1,100 Recreation Visitor Days, mostly associated with hunting and OHV use. There is a total of 12 miles of OHV routes within the area.

Special Features: There are no major attractions in the area. There are some red-legged frogs in Branch Creek. Alamo Creek flows year-round, but no heavy use is made of the stream for fishing purposes. There are no scenic landmarks in the area. The area contains potential habitat for the Peregrine falcon

and nesting area for the Prairie falcon and Golden eagle.

Manageability: This IRA, at 10,984 acres, meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Los Machos would be extremely difficult to manage as wilderness however, because access is available through 800 acres of scattered private land and 12 miles of OHV routes. The northern portion is also unmanageable as wilderness because it is bisected from the remainder of the area by a power line access road. The potential resistance to fire control is rated high. Motorized access and equipment are important tools for future fire suppression and prescribed burning in this area.

Boundary Considerations: Private land boundaries always present difficulty because they do not follow topographic features.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Annual recreation visitor use is estimated at 1,100 Recreation Visitor Days mostly associated with off-highway vehicle and hunting activities. The potential capacity for the area is 39,134 Recreation Visitor Days; managed as wilderness, the capacity would be 11,576 Recreation Visitor Days.

Cattle grazing maximum potential is estimated at 3,141 Animal Unit Months per year. There are a number of known archeological sites. There are no coniferous species found in the area. The air is designated “attainment” for National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

There is a low potential for phosphates, geothermal resources, and strategic and non-strategic minerals. A low potential exists for gravel, building stone, and other common materials.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): Two 500 kilovolt power lines traverse the area a distance of two miles. High standard power line roads form two projecting fingers into the area. Portions of five grazing allotments are present in the area and support 1,200 Animal Unit Months. There are three major land use permits in the area. No major hard rock mines are present.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation would create motorized access problems for ranchers and utility companies and would make fire protection difficult.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Los Machos Hills Roadless Area is 12 air miles southeast of the Santa Lucia Wilderness (18,679 acres), three air miles north of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness (19,760 acres), and one air mile northwest of the Garcia Wilderness (14,100 acres), which are each relatively small wilderness areas with limited access and low use,

suitable for day trips and short overnight trips. The San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) is located 10 air miles to the southeast. The San Rafael Wilderness is a much larger area than the other wildernesses in the area with several access points suitable for multiple day trips. The San Rafael also receives relatively light use with moderate use occurring on popular trails on certain weekends. All of these wilderness areas are located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Present visitor use on all wildernesses on the district and forest is relatively low. There are a few popular spots that do receive extra visitor pressure.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the area surrounding the Los Machos Hills Roadless Area is relatively undeveloped National Forest System lands. Some of the area contains private lands with no access to public lands. The National Forest System lands are accessible to the public and offer a wide range of recreational opportunities. These areas of non-wilderness in the future are important for OHV use and hunting.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider means available, other than Wilderness designation, for meeting this need): High ability under existing management and adequate tools exist to protect species should needs arise. Biota are currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. The low current and projected levels of public use means that all biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully into the future. No developmental projects are proposed that would impact this area. The existing condition offers the public a freer form of access and use of the land since it is mostly covered with chaparral. The environment is currently in balance with the existing public use and there are no threats to change that balance.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: None.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: High ability under existing management. No unique landforms or ecosystems.

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**Little Pine Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Machesna Mountain  
Inventoried Roadless Area**

## Machesna Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Lucia Ranger District

### Capability

The Machesna Mountain Roadless Area is within the Santa Lucia Ranger District, 20 air miles east of San Luis Obispo. The area consists of four separate parcels adjacent to the Machesna Mountain Wilderness Area. Three parcels are bordered by private lands, the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest, and NFSRs 29S01 to the north and 31S10 to the south. The fourth parcel is roughly circumscribed by NFSRs 30S04 and 30S02.

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

Chaparral vegetation dominates the landscape. 80% of all chaparral is in the five-year age class, due to the Highway 58 Fire in 1996 and 20% of the stand is in the 11-31 year and older age class. Although dominated by chaparral, there are groups of conifers in some of the drainages.

Most of the area is mapped as cretaceous or granitic bedrock. The cretaceous is marine bedrock, which has been uplifted and displaced along northwest-southeast trending faults, including La Panza Fault.

Challenge: The largest area is relatively small, approximately 2.5 miles by 4.5 miles at its widest points. The detached section to the east contributes less than one square mile. While some areas could provide a feeling of solitude, the well-traveled roads surrounding most of this area would reduce the wilderness experience due to vehicle noise.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Annual recreation use is estimated at 2,500 Recreation Visitor Days mostly attributed to extensive OHV use, hunting, and camping. 8.5 miles of OHV trails traverse the area. 35% of the area is classified as semi-primitive non-motorized, 40% of the area is classified in the semi-primitive motorized category, and 25% is classified in the roaded natural category (Recreation opportunity Spectrum classification system).

Access is best gained from the Pozo Fire Station via NFSRs 29S01 and 31S02. There is a road

penetrating approximately one-half mile toward Bowman Springs on the unconnected eastern portion of this IRA, between the forest boundary and the existing wilderness boundary. There is also a short section of trail beginning outside the forest, on the “Bowman Springs” road, crossing the proposed area and then following the current wilderness boundary a short distance. NFSR 30S17 (Pine Mountain Road) is excluded from the roadless area and separates this area from the Machesna Mountain Wilderness. The most easterly corner of the unconnected area also has an OHV route cutting through the roadless area for about 3/10 of a mile northeast of Bear Trap Spring.

Special Features: The area contains no year-round streams. Wildlife species include deer, mountain lion, bear, and coyote as well as small game species such as mountain and valley quail, dove, and cottontail rabbit. It also contains potential habitat and borders a release site for the California condor used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Archeological sites exist in the area.

Manageability: The 12,245 acre Machesna Mountain IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Restricting motorized use on the popular Pine Mountain OHV route would be difficult. There is an important need for motorized recreation for dispersed camping, hunting, and OHV use. This area also provides motorized access to the Machesna Wilderness trailheads.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also uses the Pine Mountain Road to access release and observation areas for the endangered California condor. Once designated as wilderness, it would prove difficult to block and deny motor vehicle access on this well-established OHV route. If the Pine Mountain Road were to remain as an administrative route or corridor, it would greatly reduce the opportunity for a true wilderness experience, due to the small size of the area. Using a road for much of the northern boundary could also prove difficult to prevent motor vehicle trespass into the wilderness. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be hampered in the endangered California condor recovery program.

Potential resistance to fire suppression would be high. Fire activity is high, as is the need for motorized access and equipment for fire suppression activities.

Boundary Considerations: Establishing and posting boundaries on the ground would be costly and difficult to define from Frazier Canyon, along a private inholding and southeast to the current wilderness boundary, as well as around the private land on the northern boundary. Most other portions of the boundary follow an existing road.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: As wilderness, visitor recreation days would be greatly reduced, due to loss of OHV opportunities and the lack of trails and campgrounds to attract wilderness visitors.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): The Machesna roadless area has three existing grazing allotments. Wilderness designation would restrict U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service in their California condor recovery efforts. A very popular OHV route, Pine Mountain Road, would be unusable by motor vehicles. Numerous mining claims and several active mines exist.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be minimal effect except for limiting motorized access for ranching and mining.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Machesna Mountain roadless area at its closest point is six air miles northeast of the Santa Lucia Wilderness (18,679 acres), adjacent to the Machesna Mountain Wilderness (19,760 acres), and two air miles east of the Garcia Wilderness (14,100 acres), which are each relatively small wilderness areas with limited access and low use, suitable for day trips and short overnight trips. The San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) is located 15 air miles to the southeast. The San Rafael Wilderness is a much larger area than the other wildernesses in the area with several access points suitable for multiple day trips. The San Rafael also receives relatively light use, with moderate use occurring on popular trails on certain weekends. All of these wilderness areas are located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Present visitor use on all wildernesses on the district and forest is relatively low. There are a few popular spots that do receive extra visitor pressure.

The area is adjacent to the Machesna Wilderness, which receives light use due to limited and difficult access. Designation of additional wilderness would make access to the existing wilderness much harder.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the area surrounding the Machesna Roadless Area is relatively undeveloped National Forest System lands. Some of the area contains small parcels of private lands with no access to public lands. The National Forest System lands are accessible to the public and offer a wide range of recreational opportunities. The area is important for OHV use, motorized camping, and hunting.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Increased use and development are not anticipated. Existing management and tools are able to protect species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: California condors are adequately protected with existing management. Motorized access aids in tracking condors from this area.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Topography and vegetative types are not unique.

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**Los Manchos Hills Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Madulce Buckhorn  
Inventoried Roadless Area**

## Madulce Buckhorn Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Barbara and Mt. Pinos Ranger Districts

#### Capability

The 14,812 acre inventoried roadless area (IRA) has two parts that are separated by the Dick Smith Wilderness, with one part located on the Santa Barbara Ranger District and the other part on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District. For the part of the Madulce Buckhorn IRA on the Santa Barbara Ranger District, the southern boundary is the Camuesa administrative road (NFSR 5N15). The western boundary is the Buckhorn administrative road (NFSR 9N11). The eastern boundary in the upper portion of this roadless area is the Indian Creek dozer line to Buckhorn Creek. The eastern boundary continues south, down a short segment of Buckhorn Creek to the confluence with Indian Creek. The eastern boundary continues down Indian Creek from this confluence approximately two miles. The southern boundary is an unnamed ridgeline from Indian Creek west to the Camuesa Road.

For the part of the Madulce Buckhorn IRA on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District, the roadless area is bordered on the south and west by NFSR 7N04, the west and north by the Tinta motorcycle trail, and on the east by a pipeline corridor and private lands.

In addition to covering the Madulce Buckhorn IRA as described above, it includes 2,881 acres proposed by the public that lie south of the Dick Smith Wilderness and south of NFSR 6N24.

Environment: On the Santa Barbara, there are dozer lines associated with and adjacent to the Buckhorn Road along the western boundary, which are visible on the main ridges. The study area is primarily the Buckhorn Creek watershed. The upper reaches of Buckhorn Creek maintains year round water with a healthy rainbow trout fishery. In the extreme northern portion of this study area, there are outstanding examples of large sandstone outcrops rising out of a dense stand of mixed conifers and chaparral.

On the Mt. Pinos, several unclassified and temporary roads, primarily from grazing permit and mining activities, have compromised the natural integrity of the area and opportunities for solitude. The area is composed mainly of brush covered foothills and canyons and some oak grassland. The southwest portion of the area has steep, heavy, brush-covered slopes.

Challenge: On the Santa Barbara, the Madulce Buckhorn roadless area is relatively remote with outstanding opportunities to experience adventure, self-reliance, and solitude.

On the Mt. Pinos, the area provides a low sense of solitude, adventure, and self-reliance due to the proximity of Hwy 33, motorized forest trails and roads, and the rural development in the Upper Cuyama Valley.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: On the Santa Barbara, there are few opportunities for visitors to access this study area due to the dense growth of chaparral. Travel off-trail is limited to a few miles within the main wet drainages. The area is bisected by the designated Buckhorn Trail (Forest Trail 27W12) from the Buckhorn Road to Lower Buckhorn Trail Camp. The trail continues along the eastern boundary down the Indian Creek. This is the only trail within the study area and is a popular backcountry loop for mountain bicyclists. The Indian Creek Trail (Forest Trail 26W08) intersects with the Buckhorn Trail at the Dick Smith Wilderness boundary and travels north into the wilderness. There is little to no public use of the Indian Creek dozer line for recreational travel.

On the Mt. Pinos, the area provides the opportunity for cross-country hiking (there are no maintained hiking trails in the area). Travel in most areas is difficult because of the steep terrain and heavy vegetation. Dispersed camping is allowed, however water sources are very scarce in the area. The area also provides the opportunity for big game hunting (primarily deer), upland birds, and small game hunting (primarily quail and rabbits).

Special Features: There are no outstanding natural features within this roadless area.

Manageability: The IRA meets the 5,000 acre recommendation in the Wilderness Act.

On the Santa Barbara, inclusion in the wilderness system would eliminate a segment of a popular mountain bicycle trail. Potential for unauthorized off-highway vehicle (OHV) use could occur along the west and south boundaries from the existing Camuesa/Buckhorn OHV route.

The Indian Creek dozer line is described as an important north to south wildfire control line. This dozer line was last reopened by fire suppression dozers during the Ogilvy Fire in 1995. Inclusion of this IRA into wilderness would place the entire length of this fire control line within wilderness. The dozer fire control lines located along the ridges adjacent to the Buckhorn Road are also viewed as critical wildfire control points.

On the Mt. Pinos, the area would be difficult to manage as wilderness due to the large amount of interface with private land and the general inaccessibility of that interface to monitor for trespass activities. Activities associated with the grazing allotment would further complicate administration of the area as wilderness.

Boundary Considerations: On the Santa Barbara, redrawing the southern boundary of this roadless area using the Buckhorn Trail would allow for the continued use of mountain bicycles on the trail. Creating a buffer outside of wilderness along the Buckhorn Road would allow the inclusion of existing fire control

lines. Retain the Indian Creek dozer line as a motorized corridor for fire suppression and prescribed fire purposes.

On the Mt. Pinos, designation of wilderness directly adjacent to the large extent of private property will probably create future conflicts as the private property continues to be developed. A boundary adjustment on the northeast side of the area would avoid the pipeline becoming a non-conforming use.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Historically, it has been necessary to use the pre-suppression lines in the Santa Barbara part of this roadless area for fire suppression activities.

On the Mt. Pinos, the area includes portions of the Tinta grazing allotment. The area is available for oil and gas leasing and part of the area is identified as high potential.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): On the Santa Barbara, future planning efforts to maintain existing fuelbreaks and defensible space zones could be lost with inclusion of this area into the wilderness system.

On the Mt. Pinos, the area contains a grazing allotment and an oil and gas pipeline linear special use authorization (SUA) as well as mining claims in the area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be no effect to adjacent National Forest System Lands on the Santa Barbara part. On the Mt. Pinos, designation of wilderness may complicate administration of grazing allotment and implementation of fuels treatment projects in the area. In addition, the directly adjacent proximity to fairly extensive private property will probably create future conflicts as the private property continues to be developed.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20 mile radius of the area are the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres), the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), the Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres), and the Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Visitation in the San Rafael and Dick Smith wilderness is considered light to moderate and areas are minimally impacted.

The portion on the Mt. Pinos is in the Upper Cuyama Valley within an hour drive of the small communities of New Cuyama, Cuyama, Maricopa, Taft, Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, and the Pine Mountain Club, and is approximately two hours from Ventura and Santa Maria. Use in these wilderness

areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations within the wildernesses.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on both ranger districts is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Many of these non-wilderness areas have similar landscapes and offer the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The California condor has had their historic range substantially reduced due to increased human populations and developments.

On the Santa Barbara, the area is located on the north and east flanks of Little Pine Mountain. It and the adjacent proposed Little Pine Roadless Area support the only extensive mixed conifer forest on the Santa Barbara District. There are several historic nest sites for California condor in this area. For this reason, all of Little Pine Mountain was included within the Sisquoc-San Rafael Condor Area and is federally designated critical habitat for condor recovery. California condors have been reintroduced into areas of their historic range from a release site approximately 14 air miles away from the area on the Mt. Pinos. Like many species of wildlife, the condor has shown some ability to co-exist with humans, but like most wildlife species, they are pre-adapted to natural or unaltered habitat conditions. California spotted owls are also suspected to nest within this roadless area. Current and projected human uses and developments on National Forest System lands in this roadless area are not substantially affecting the habitat of this species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena. The above applies here as well. California condors require large tracts of land in order to maintain viable populations. Currently, this endangered species occupies areas that are part roadless and part roaded. Current monitoring data does not indicate that the presence of roaded areas is precluding the use of these areas by these birds nor does the data show that California condors use designated wilderness areas more frequently than non-wilderness areas. The recovery plan for the California condor does not recommend the designation of additional wilderness areas as a means of promoting the recovery of the species.

On the Santa Barbara, the extensive mixed conifer forest and its co-evolved and unique wildlife would be more secure if vehicle access was limited.

There are no identified rare plant species or populations that are declining due to public uses and developments occurring on National Forest System lands.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: No significant landform or ecosystems have been identified in this IRA.

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**Machesna Mountain  
Inventoried Roadless Area**

**Manzana Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## **Manzana Inventoried Roadless Area**

### **Los Padres National Forest**

Santa Lucia Ranger District

### **Capability**

The Manzana Roadless Area was added to the existing San Rafael Wilderness by Public Law 102-301–June 19, 1992–16 USC 1132–Note sec. 2, “Designation of Wilderness Areas.” The 138 acres remaining in the IRA are the remnants from this boundary designation. They consist of 11 parcels ranging in size from 58 to 0.2 acres; most are less than 10 acres. They no longer meet the criteria for roadless areas and are not viable additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System; therefore, they are eliminated from further consideration. Essentially, the Manzana roadless area is now included within the San Rafael Wilderness.

## Matilija Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Ojai Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: This area is comprised of 16 small areas, all of which are either contiguous to or in close proximity of the existing Matilija Wilderness. The estimated combined acreage of all parcels is 4,915 acres. Matilija is from 10 to 20 miles north of Ventura, California within the Ojai Ranger District in the coastal mountain range. The topography is a rugged mountainous setting composed of predominantly steep drainages with some gentle slopes in the northern area. Elevations range from 1,600 to 5,600 feet near Ortega Hill. Prior to the 1985 Wheeler Fire (118,000 acres), the vegetation was composed of 5% conifer, 2% pinyon-juniper, 2% oak-grassland, 41% mixed chaparral, and 50% other chaparral; however, essentially the entire area was burned and vegetative regrowth may vary somewhat.

The natural appearance and integrity of the area is very much intact. Overall, the area has been generally undisturbed since the 1932 Matilija Fire, which was (until 2003) the largest wildland fire in California history. It burned 219,000 acres. The entire area was also burned in the 1985 Wheeler Fire. Steep canyons, rugged side slopes with more gentle ground in the large potrerros characterize the area. There are several manmade improvements in the area, including the Cherry Canyon Road, Ortega Trail, a buried natural gas pipeline along the eastern edge of the area, and several unnamed dozer fire lines.

Cherry Canyon Road (NFSR 6N01) is a dirt road starting at State Highway 33 and extending three miles south. At a point approximately 1.5 miles south of the highway, Cherry Canyon Road enters the IRA and traverses the area for approximately one-half mile. The area then extends south of the road and ends to the southeast of Ortega Hill. This IRA sits astride a prominent hill, offering panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, Channel Islands, and adjacent mountains and canyons. This route is currently open seasonally to motorized vehicle traffic.

Ortega Trail (Forest Trail 23W08) is an historic trail east of Matilija Wilderness and is currently used by motorcycles, OHVs, hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers. Maintenance is performed with mechanized equipment. This includes tractors for tread and water drainage maintenance and chainsaws for keeping brush cleared back to allow passage along the trail. One of the proposed areas encompasses approximately three-quarters of a mile of Ortega Trail. This same area overlaps a portion of Cherry Canyon Road as described above.

Access to the southern Matilija parcels is from State Highway 33 via the Matilija Canyon Road, a county road. The appearance of the area is characterized as canyon bottom adjacent to Matilija Creek and chaparral sideslopes to Murietta Road (NFSR 5N13) as it climbs toward Murietta Divide. Access to the three northern Matilija areas is from State Highway 33 via either Potrero Seco Road (NFSR 6N03) or Cherry Canyon Road (NFSR 6N01). Matilija Canyon Road, Murietta Road, Potrero Seco Road, Cherry Canyon Road, and the buried gas pipeline surround the area.

Wildlife consists of bear, deer, mountain lion, bobcat, and coyote; smaller species include fox, mountain and valley quail, rabbit, raccoon, and gray squirrels.

Challenge: Cross-country exploring provides some interesting challenges, although it is hampered by dense chaparral vegetation. There are considerable challenges in the area, as there are few trails. Numerous opportunities for solitude exist, despite views of Matilija Canyon Road, State Highway 33, coastal cities, and gas pipeline scars in portions of the area. The climate itself can present a challenge to the visitor. In summer, the weather is extremely hot and dry, while in winter, snow can be found on the upper slopes.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Recreation opportunities in this area include hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, motorcycle riding, all terrain vehicle riding, and hunting.

Special Features: The large northern parcel of the IRA contains the headwaters and upper reaches of Sespe Creek, which is a study river for possible inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. The study river status gives it interim protection pending further analysis for eligibility and suitability for possible inclusion in the System.

Manageability: The 4,915 acre, fragmented Matilija IRA does not contain any areas large enough to meet the 5,000 acre recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. The largest area is three miles by two miles in size. Its size and shape are adequate to manage as an addition to the existing Matilija Wilderness. However, the manageability of the area would be improved with the exclusion of this area from consideration because this would eliminate a grazing allotment with its associated fence lines and water development. Exclusion would also eliminate conflicts with ranching use of private lands and fingers of private land extending into the area. This also creates the potential for trespass onto private land along the northern boundary. The removal of this segment enhances the wilderness quality, provides a locatable boundary for the existing wilderness, and eliminates the pattern of private land interspersed with wilderness.

Boundary Considerations: Much of the area is bordered by existing dirt roads. Potrero Seco Road borders the north side. It is bordered on the east by a buried gas pipeline and Cherry Canyon Road. Murietta Road borders the IRA on the south.

Three of the small southern segments would fit between existing wilderness and private land. The middle area of these three contains a dirt road used to access a private parcel. This area should be

considered for exclusion from the proposed area so as not to conflict with continued use of this road by the private landowners.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Designation of the eastern area as wilderness would preclude motorized use or maintenance of Cherry Canyon Road and part of the Ortega Trail. Current use includes high-clearance vehicles accessing the area for trail access, hunting, and nature study. There is also an occasional need for heavy equipment to access this road for pipeline maintenance. This route also provides an opportunity for semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation.

Wilderness designation of the largest area on the east side would eliminate motorized vehicle and mountain bike use on Cherry Canyon Road and a portion of Ortega Trail. Due to the well-established use of these routes by the public, their sudden closure to vehicle use would likely create a difficult enforcement situation. This road would need to be maintained as a trail to provide access to the start of North Fork Matilija Trail (23W07) and Ortega Trail (23W08). Route maintenance would be more difficult and costly due to inability to use mechanized equipment for maintenance. Wilderness designation here would also create an island of non-wilderness surrounded by wilderness at Ortega Hill. This would be difficult to manage and would make no sense.

An additional problem is that Ortega Trail is an off-highway vehicle trail currently accessed from the south end of Cherry Canyon Road. Wilderness designation would eliminate this key access point for motorcycle and all-terrain-vehicle riders as well as the use of the upper portion of the trail. Wilderness designation would reduce the length of Ortega Trail usable by motorized vehicles from 8.7 miles to 7.5 miles. As the only motorized vehicle trail on the Ojai Ranger District, its partial closure and reduced access would likely be met with resistance from the riding community, creating law enforcement problems. The lack of mechanized maintenance on this portion of the route would adversely impact all current users, including those using the trail for non-motorized recreation.

There are no existing locatable mineral mines in the area. There is low potential for saleable products such as gravel and building stone, and for strategic and non-strategic minerals. There is a low potential for phosphates.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): There is a linear special use permit for a gas pipeline adjacent to the area on the east side. The buried gas pipeline will remain as a use in the area into the foreseeable future. Due to required intermittent maintenance on the line with heavy equipment, the impacts associated with the pipeline are expected to continue indefinitely. Also, roads exist as described above. There are no private parcels of land inside this area.

The area contains one grazing allotment that supports 356 AUM. The Potrero Seco allotment has been vacant for over ten years. This allotment is located in the larger northern parcel.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: This is expected to have a minimal effect on adjacent lands in most of the component areas. However, on the eastern area, wilderness designation would force heavy equipment to re-establish access along the original steep pipeline alignment that has revegetated since the pipeline was constructed. This is expected to have negative impacts on soil, water, and visual resources. Heavy equipment currently uses Cherry Canyon Road to access the pipeline. In the southern area, the small proposed area would block existing vehicle access to a private parcel.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20 mile radius of the area are the Matilija Wilderness (29,600 acres), Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres), San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres), Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), and Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres). Collectively, these nearby wildernesses all offer protection for similar types of natural ecosystems. They also offer similar non-motorized recreation opportunities for solitude and self-reliance.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Public use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations. Use levels typically increase during the spring months. Public use has never reached sufficient levels to warrant implementation of a wilderness permit or quota system.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Ojai Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in these non-wilderness areas.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biota are currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. The low current and projected levels of public use means that all biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully into the future. No development projects are proposed that would impact this area. The environment is currently in balance with the existing public use and there are no threats to change that balance.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is no need for such a sanctuary; the current levels of protection are adequate. Also, there are no unique scientific values or phenomena that would need protection by special designation.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Unique landforms and ecosystems will be preserved regardless of wilderness designation.

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**Manzana Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Miranda Pine Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Miranda Pine Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Lucia Ranger District

### Capability

The Miranda Pines Roadless Area is located on the Santa Lucia Ranger District, 15 air miles northeast of Santa Maria, California. The area is bounded on the south by Forest Roads 11N04 and 11N03 (Miranda Pine Road), on the east by Forest Road 32S13 (Sierra Madre Road), on the north by private lands and Forest Road 12N05 (Old Sierra Madre Road), and on the west by private lands and the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest.

Environment: Natural integrity of this area is low. This area is surrounded and bisected by roads and is relatively small (13,308 acres). Elevations range from 1,234 to 3,828 feet at Treplett Mountain. Most of this area is chaparral, accompanied by oak grasslands and some conifers. Annual recreation use is estimated at 2,000 Recreation Visitor Days, which can be attributed to the large number of trails, roads, and campgrounds used by hunters, hikers, campers, and limited off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. Most of this area is within the Sisquoc grazing allotment.

Challenge: Feelings of solitude would be possible in some locations, but motor vehicle noise reduces the quality of the wilderness experience.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Within this area are six private inholdings and many trails, including a portion of Willow Springs Trail, Kerry Canyon OHV route, and Lake Ridge Trail. Forest Trail 31W03 goes to Porter Peak, Davis Cabin and one of the private in-holdings. There is another unnamed, 4-wheel drive road heading from La Brea north about two miles to just below an unnamed 2,808 foot peak. Many of the trails originate on private lands. NFSR 11N04A terminates at Brookshire Campground and is excluded from the roadless area. Public access is from NFSR 32S13 (Sierra Madre Road) from the north and NFSRs 11N03 and 11N04 (Miranda Pine Road) from the south. If designated as wilderness, motor vehicle access on Pine Flat Road, Kerry Canyon OHV route, and Forest Road 31W03 to Davis Cabin would need to be retained.

Special Features: Federally threatened California red-legged frogs exist in La Brea Creek.

Manageability: This 16,236-acre IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. The numerous roads surrounding and bisecting this area make managing access points

difficult. Restricting motorized use on the popular Pine Mountain OHV Route would be difficult. There is an important need for motorized recreation for dispersed camping, hunting, and OHV use. This area also provides motorized access to the Machesna Wilderness trailheads.

Boundary Considerations: The six private land inholdings and the forest boundary being the westerly border pose manageability problems, as does the zigzagging to the edge of private parcels on the northern boundary. These boundaries are difficult to describe, establish, and recognize on the ground. It would also be difficult to monitor and prevent prohibited use in the previously mentioned areas.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Motorized, mountain bike, and off-highway vehicle activity would be lost if managed as wilderness. Significant loss of motorized camping would not be lost as long as boundaries exclude developed sites. However, Brookshire campground and its access road, 11N49, would become inaccessible by vehicle. This area is important for both fuels management and fire suppression in order to reduce the risk of fire to property in Pine, Colson, and Tepusquet canyons.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): The Sisquoc grazing allotment is largely within this IRA and there are fences and springs, which support grazing activities.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation would limit motorized access for range permittees, landowners and fire suppression.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Miranda Pines Roadless Area at its closest point is 20 air miles southeast of the Santa Lucia Wilderness (18,679 acres), 14 air miles southeast of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness (19,760 acres), and 12 air miles north of the Garcia Wilderness (14,100 acres), all of which are relatively small wilderness areas with limited access and low use, suitable for day trips and short overnight trips. The San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) is adjacent to the southeast. The San Rafael Wilderness is a much larger area than the other wildernesses in the area with several access points suitable for multiple day trips. All of these wilderness areas are located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: The San Rafael Wilderness receives relatively light use with moderate use occurring on popular trails on certain weekends. Present visitor use on all wildernesses on the district and forest is relatively low. However, there are a few popular spots that do receive extra visitor pressure.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the area surrounding the Miranda Pines Roadless Area is relatively undeveloped

National Forest System lands. Some of the area contains small parcels of private lands with no access to public lands. The National Forest System lands are accessible to the public and offer a wide range of recreational opportunities. This area is important for motorized access for camping, day use, hunting, and mountain biking.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biota, including red-legged frogs are currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. The low current and projected levels of public use mean that all biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully into the future. No developmental projects are proposed that would impact this area. The existing condition offers the public a freer form of access and use of the land since it is mostly covered with chaparral. The environment is currently in balance with the existing public use and there are no threats to change that balance.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is no need for such a sanctuary for red-legged frogs; the current levels of protection are adequate. Also, there are no unique scientific values or phenomena that would need protection by special designation.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Topography and vegetation types are not unique to this area.

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**Matilija Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

**Mono Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

## Mono Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Barbara Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: The Mono Roadless Area best exemplifies opportunities for future wilderness designation on Santa Barbara Ranger District. The Mono Roadless Area is typical of the three large remaining roadless areas in the eastern portion of the Santa Barbara Ranger District as it is surrounded by existing administrative jeepways. The western and northern boundary is the Loma-Victor Jeepway (NFSR 7N05). The eastern boundary consists of a short segment of the Monte Arido Road (NFSR 6N03) and the remaining eastern boundary is the Hildreth Jeepway (NFSR 6N17) to Mono Creek.

Mono Creek has been found to be an eligible Wild and Scenic River and is within this IRA. Approximately 11 miles of Mono Creek are already within the Dick Smith Wilderness. Inclusion of this roadless area in the wilderness system would place an additional 14 miles of Mono Creek within designated wilderness.

Challenge: The Mono Roadless Area is extremely remote with outstanding opportunities to experience adventure, self-reliance, and solitude.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: There are 10 miles of non-motorized trails within the area. They are the Mono/Alamar Trail (Forest Trail 26W07) and a portion of the Poplar Trail (Forest Trail 26W08). The Mono/Alamar Trail does receive some mountain bike use. The Poplar Trail is a wilderness trail and travels south through the Dick Smith Wilderness before entering the Mono Roadless Area. Mountain bicyclists use the 25 mile Loma-Victor Jeepway from the Monte Arido Road to an area just south of Ogilvy Ranch for extended backcountry travel and dispersed camping. Inclusion into wilderness could result in a net loss of 35 miles of road and trail access for mountain bicycle trail use.

Special Features: The Mono Creek drainage offers miles of outstanding natural features, the towering steep canyon walls of the Narrows, deep pools along Mono Creek, limestone and sandstone outcroppings, and the large expansive rolling grass potreros of Loma Pelona are classic backdrops for wilderness discovery.

This area also includes aquatic and riparian habitats that support an unusually large assemblage of unique wildlife. Important amongst these are California red-legged frog, (federally threatened),

southwestern willow flycatcher (federally endangered) which may nest in the riparian cottonwoods in the lower creek, and one of the largest populations of southwestern pond turtle (Forest Service Sensitive Species). The western half of the proposed Mono Roadless Area is within the Sisquoc-San Rafael Condor Area. Some suitable foraging habitat for the California condor (federally endangered) exists in open habitats located along ridgelines and within potreros (isolated grassland habitat) scattered throughout the Mono Creek Watershed. The aquatic and riparian habitats in Mono Creek are some of the most diverse and pristine on the Los Padres National Forest, especially the upper 13 miles.

Manageability: The 28,032 acre Mono IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth on the Wilderness Act. The Ogilvy Ranch is private property within the study area. The ranch owner accesses the property by way of the P-Bar and Hildreth Jeepways. There would be a need to reclassify a short segment of road from terminus of the Hildreth Jeepway approximately one mile on the forest to the beginning of the ranch property for their continued use. The ranch does make use of their airstrip to fly in and out of the property.

Loss of administrative vehicle access on the Loma-Victor Jeepway to perform routine trail maintenance will greatly reduce the ability to maintain the trails in the study area. Access to the Loma Pelona area via the jeepway has been used historically for backcountry trail crew spike camps. Wilderness designation and the end of mechanical tool use (chain saws) will also greatly reduce the ability to maintain system trails within the area. Loss of jeepway access will add days of travel time for trail crews to hike to interior segments of trail for routine maintenance.

Loss of fire suppression, vehicle, and dozer access on Loma-Victor and Hildreth Jeepways will greatly reduce effectiveness in fire suppression and future prescribed fire-planning efforts.

Boundary Considerations: The Mono Roadless Area could exist as an individual wilderness area of 28,032 acres or be included as an addition to the existing Dick Smith Wilderness acreage or be combined with other roadless areas in the vicinity.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The Loma-Victor Jeepway has potential for motorized public access opportunities. Historically, the need to use the jeepways in this roadless area for fire suppression activities has been demonstrated.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): Efforts to maintain existing fuel breaks and defensible space zones could be prohibited with inclusion of this area into the wilderness system. Plans to promote prescribed fire within this study area would be compromised without the use of these jeepways for motorized access by fire equipment.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: No effect on adjacent National Forest System Lands.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Mono Roadless Area has a continuous adjoining boundary with the existing Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres) for approximately 17 miles to the north and west of this area. The Mono Roadless Area also shares an adjoining boundary with the Matilija Wilderness (29,600 acres) for approximately two miles in the northeast corner of the Mono Roadless Area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Visitation in the San Rafael, Dick Smith and Matilija Wildernesses is considered light to moderate and areas are minimally impacted.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Santa Barbara Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Much of the Santa Barbara Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and provide opportunities for primitive outdoor experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The aquatic and riparian habitats and the dependent species are best protected by the perpetuation of a roadless condition in the watershed.

This area is partially within the Sisquoc-San Rafael Condor Area, which is designated as critical habitat for the California condor. This area contains historic nest locations and foraging habitat. Use by the condor is expected to increase in and adjacent to the condor area as birds re-discover and use the historic nest sites. Currently, the Santa Cruz area is somewhat primitive due to lack of public road access, and its open habitats are the type condors prefer as foraging habitat. Although condors have shown an ability to inhabit developed areas, they are better adapted to primitive conditions. This is especially true for young birds, which are more apt to come in contact with man-made hazards. Young birds learn to forage and otherwise survive in suitable areas near their fledging sites, and as numbers increase, the foraging habitat in the Santa Cruz area will become more important to species recovery.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: Many wildlife species do exhibit an ability to exist in habitats altered by man, but some less so than others. In particular, aquatic and riparian obligate species are less tolerant because their habitats are more susceptible to human alteration. Up to 80% of the biodiversity of the area in question is associated with Mono Creek itself. Increased vehicle access into upper Mono Creek would jeopardize this feature.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: No significant

landform or ecosystems have been identified in this IRA.

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**Miranda Pine Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Nordoff Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

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## Nordhoff Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Ojai Ranger District

#### Capability

Environment: This area is located on the south side of Nordhoff Ridge that extends east-west as a part of the Santa Ynez Mountains to the north of Ojai. It is bounded on the north by Nordhoff Ridge Road (NFSR 5N08), on the east by Sisar Canyon Road (NFSR 4N15.2) and Chief Peak Road (NFSR 4N15), on the west by State Highway 33, and on the south by the urban interface between the forest and outlying private parcels on the north edge of Ojai. Most of the southern boundary is comprised of the line between forest and private land, with a small portion being bounded by the Foothill Fuelbreak Road (NFSR 5N34). The northeast portion of this area comes closest to the existing Sespe Wilderness, which is about two miles from the boundary.

The topography of this area is comprised of steep drainages on the south side of this massive ridge. Chaparral is the predominant vegetative type, interspersed with some oak woodland. Several riparian areas occur along creeks extending south off the ridge. These areas contain sycamore, alder, and oak trees. Most of this area burned in the 1985 Wheeler Fire.

The natural appearance and integrity of the area are mostly intact. However, looking out from this area to the south the typical view is the Ojai Valley, which contains a rural community and is flanked by orchards. This view is of a largely modified, manmade “backdrop” to this area. Further south of Ojai, the view changes to the larger cities of Ventura and Oxnard along the coastline. To the west, views are of the Pacific Ocean and Channel Islands. Elevations range from 1,280 to 5,560 feet atop Chief Peak.

There are some manmade improvements in the area, including four trails: the Cozy Dell Trail (Forest Trail 23W26) crosses the southwest corner of the area for 0.5 miles; Pratt Trail (Forest Trail 23W09) crosses the area for 2.2 miles starting near Nordhoff Peak and extending into Ojai; Gridley Trail (Forest Trail 22W05) starts along Nordhoff Ridge and crosses this area for 3.7 miles and terminates in Ojai; and Horn Canyon Trail (Forest Trail 22W08) starts at Nordhoff Ridge and drops into Ojai, crossing the area for 3.2 miles. All four of these trails are popular with hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians.

Access to the Nordhoff area is from numerous public roads and State Highway 150 on the south side, State Highway 33 on the west side, Chief Peak/Nordhoff Ridge Roads to the north and east, and Sisar Canyon Road on the east.

Wildlife consists of bear, deer, mountain lion, bobcat, and coyote; smaller species include fox, mountain and valley quail, rabbit, raccoon, and gray squirrels.

Challenge: Cross-country exploring provides some interesting challenges, although it is hampered by steep terrain and dense chaparral vegetation. There are moderate challenges in the area, although there are four trails. Some opportunities for solitude exist despite views of towns and development in Ojai Valley and neighboring urban areas of Ventura and Oxnard as well as State Highway 33. Existing roads and trails (as described above) are the only opportunity to enter the area due to the extreme terrain.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: This area is currently popular for the trail access it provides for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. The lower portions of the four trails are used frequently by local residents and visitors for short hikes or as part of daily workout routines. More serious day users will use the trails to access the top of Nordhoff Ridge. Many mountain bikers also make various loop rides. A popular one is to ascend the ridge on Gridley and descend on either Pratt or Horn Canyon Trails or Sisar Canyon Road. Each of these three trails also offers a single trailside campsite, two of which also have primitive gravity-feed water systems from local springs. Another opportunity is on the northern edge where four-wheel drive users hike from their vehicles up a social (non-Forest System) trail to the top of Chief Peak, which is the highest point in this area at 5,560 feet. Hang gliders also access the area from Chief Peak Road. Hunting occurs in this area, usually on the north side off existing roads.

Special Features: Chief Peak, with its unique geology, is a prominent landmark on top of the ridge at the north side of this area. Nordhoff Ridge lies to the west of Chief Peak, and is a popular destination for both motorized and non-motorized users as a scenic overlook of the Ojai Valley as well as of the forest lands to the west, north, and south. It contains the remains of an old fire lookout tower. The proposed area offers excellent coastal views, which are rare for National Wilderness Preservation System lands.

Manageability: This 12,024 acre IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act.

Boundary Considerations: The entire area is bordered by existing roads. The north and east boundaries are off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails (Nordhoff Ridge and Sisar Canyon Roads). Additionally, the entire southern boundary is urban interface. Due to the shape of this area, there is no potential boundary adjustment that would make sense from a manageability standpoint.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The area currently serves water supply needs in the community of Ojai. The Senior Canyon Municipal Water District has two water diversions and a tunnel. The area also contains an additional water diversion and a road for Oma Ojai Ranch. All of these facilities are operated under the terms of a special use permit.

The area offers a dramatic mountainous backdrop to Ojai. Due to this role, there are no foreseeable plans to change or alter this important visual resource on the forest.

The area contains four trails heavily used for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. There are also three trail camps. The area is bordered on the north by two popular four-wheel drive routes. Popular trails (Gridley, Pratt, Cozy Dell, Horn Canyon) would be more difficult to manage in wilderness due to the prohibition on chainsaws and trail tractors. These trails currently receive heavy mountain bike use.

Significant fire pre-suppression infrastructure, including a system of fuelbreaks and fire roads is adjacent to the south and north edges of the area. Fire suppression in the adjacent communities will be significantly impaired if the IRA is designated as wilderness. Fire suppression and fuelbreak maintenance in the urban interface behind the Ojai community (Community at Risk) would be jeopardized. This area has been identified in the National Fire Plan as an emphasis area for development and maintenance of fuelbreaks, both on top of Nordhoff Ridge and in the urban interface on the north side of Ojai. Numerous dozerlines exist in the area from previous fire suppression activities. Fuelbreaks would not be acceptable in wilderness. Fire lines would be difficult to construct in wilderness due to the constraints. These factors would combine to create an increased risk of large wildfires in the community of Ojai.

The southeast portion of this area has been rated as having a high potential for oil and gas occurrence. The area contains one grazing allotment along the top of Nordhoff Ridge. It is vacant and there is no current plan to re-authorize the grazing.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): Water uses for the local community are prevalent on the forest at the south end of the area. As a result, special use permits have been issued for three diversions, one water tunnel, and a private road. These would remain in the proposed wilderness. Roads exist in the area as described above. There are no private parcels of land inside this area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation would reduce the manageability of adjacent lands for water supply. It would also reduce recreation opportunities and eliminate mountain bike use on trails. Wilderness designation would be adjacent to significant blocks of private land along the urban interface, and would eliminate the possibility of managing fuelbreaks effectively in this area. This would put these private parcels at a greater risk of a catastrophic wildfire due to reduced fire prevention and suppression capabilities adjacent to the urban interface of the Ojai community. This risk would be increased by the inability to use chainsaws and other motorized equipment to perform trail maintenance; this would result in trails being more overgrown and therefore at greater risk of burning.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20 mile radius of the area

are the Matilija Wilderness (29,600 acres), Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres), San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres), Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), and Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres). Collectively, these nearby wildernesses all offer protection for similar types of natural ecosystems. They also offer similar non-motorized recreation opportunities for solitude and self-reliance.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Public use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations within the wildernesses. Use levels typically increase during the spring months. Public use has never reached sufficient levels to warrant implementation of a wilderness permit or quota system.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Ojai Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in these non-wilderness areas.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biota are currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. The low current and projected levels of public use means that all biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully into the future. No development projects are proposed that would impact this area. The existing condition offers the public a freer form of access and use of the land since it is mostly covered with chaparral. The environment is currently in balance with the existing public use and there are no threats to change that balance.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is no need for such a sanctuary; the current levels of protection are adequate. Also, there are no unique scientific values or phenomena that would need protection by special designation.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Unique landforms and ecosystems will be preserved regardless of wilderness designation.

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**Mono Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

**Quatal Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

## Quatal Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Mount Pinos Ranger District

### Capability

The IRA is bounded on the south by the Quatal Canyon bottom and road, on the north by Cerro Noroeste Road and private land, on the northwest by the Ballinger Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area (specifically the eastern portion of the Rim OHV Route), and on the west by private land adjacent to the Monolith Cement Mine.

Environment: The natural integrity and appearance of the area have been unaffected except for minor road intrusions. However, one can see human made improvements (housing, etc.) in the western portion of Quatal Canyon. There has been some surface disturbance as a result of mining in Section 23. Three short OHV trails compromise the opportunity for solitude, as do the Monolith gypsum mine along the western boundary and the proximity of Quatal Canyon and Cerro Noroeste roads.

The area adjoins the Cuyama Valley on the west in an area intensely folded with older bedrock thrusts over young sedimentary formations that are steeply dipped or overturned near the adjacent San Andres fault. Sandstone clay and shale crop out on steep canyons with highly eroded slopes generally known as "Badlands." Elevations range from 3,800 to 5,400 feet near the head of Quatal Canyon where there are a number of tributary drainages to the south-southwest.

Streams flow for a short period during the winter and during summer thunderstorms. Average annual rainfall is seven inches. Most of the area is pinyon-juniper with some grassland, sagebrush, and chaparral vegetative types. Nearly all of the vegetation is in the over 31 year age class.

Big game species include mule deer, mountain lion, and bobcat. Other species include pigeon, dove, Valley quail, coyote, and rabbit.

Challenge: There are no major challenging experiences in the area, but use during the summer months can be challenging due to the hot, dry climate.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Recreation use is mostly associated with small and big game hunting, pinyon nut collecting, and firewood gathering. There are no developed trail camps in the area.

There are three short OHV routes totaling four miles. There are no hiking trails in the area, but visitors can hike in the fringes of the area without too much difficulty. There are a number of informal trails. Opportunities for primitive recreation are limited, although there are possibilities for cross-country day hikers. The area is two miles wide and seven miles long; these dimensions do not allow much opportunity to explore deeply into the terrain.

Special Features: The area in the vicinity of Cowhead Potrero offers scenic wildflower displays in the spring. There are some locations of paleontological value in the area's northern cliffs and spectacular erosion of the badlands.

Manageability: This IRA, at 7,248 acres, meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. However, the Quatal area would be extremely difficult to manage as wilderness because existing adjacent OHV use and an active gypsum mine would present significant conflicts, and traditional uses, such as pinion nut and wood gathering, require the use of motor vehicles.

Boundary Considerations: Relocation of boundaries to avoid conflict would reduce the area size to a point where it would not be reasonable to consider it for wilderness classification.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Potential practical recreation use capacity is 54,730 Recreation Visitor Days (RVDs); capacity managed as wilderness would be 10,509 RVDs. The Badlands Trails Analysis is currently analyzing an OHV route through the area to replace the Toad Springs OHV Route through the Chumash Wilderness. The area contains no habitat for rare and endangered species. There is one grazing allotment (Cowhead Potrero) in the area. There are no known archeological sites; however, the area is known for its paleontological values. The pinyon pine trees in the area are managed for their aesthetic and pinyon nut crop values. There is little potential for saleable products such as gravel and stone. There is low potential for strategic minerals and moderate potential for non-strategic minerals. There is low potential for phosphates and geothermal resources. There is moderate potential for oil and gas development. The area is largely in the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District and is designated "attainment" for National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The potential resistance to fire control is low.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): There is one private inholding in the area and one grazing allotment. There are inactive gypsum mines. The area's appearance has been affected in the southerly portion by minor roads (used as OHV routes in drainage bottoms), but mostly it retains its natural appearance.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: May complicate administration of the grazing allotment and the use of prescribed fire. Designation of wilderness directly adjacent to private property will probably create future conflicts as the private property continues to be developed.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20 mile radius of the area are the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres), the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), the Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres), and the Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: The area is in the Upper Cuyama Valley within an hour drive of the small communities of New Cuyama, Cuyama, Maricopa, Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, and the Pine Mountain Club, and is approximately two hours from Ventura and Santa Maria. Use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations within the wildernesses.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The California condor has had their historic range substantially reduced due to increased human populations and developments. California condors have been reintroduced into areas of their historic range in and adjacent to the Quatal roadless area. Current and projected human uses and developments on National Forest System lands in the Quatal roadless area are not substantially affecting the habitat of this species. Wildlife biologists currently use management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve this species that are not generally consistent with wilderness management objectives (e.g. use of motorized vehicles to transport, release, and monitor individual animals and to place supplemental feed). A combination of semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized land use designations would provide California condors with suitable habitat while allowing wildlife managers to continue to use motorized vehicles in their conservation efforts.

There are no identified rare plant species or populations that are declining due to public uses and developments occurring on National Forest System lands.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The California condor has had their historic range substantially reduced due to increased human populations and developments. California condors have been reintroduced into areas of their historic range in and adjacent to the Cuyama roadless area. Current and projected human uses and developments on NFS lands in the Cuyama roadless area are not substantially affecting the habitat of this species. Wildlife biologists currently use management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve this species that are not generally consistent with wilderness management objectives (e.g. use of motorized vehicles to transport, release, and monitor individual animals and to place supplemental feed). A combination of semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized land use designations would provide California condors with suitable habitat while allowing wildlife managers to continue to use motorized vehicles in their conservation efforts.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Better and more

extensive examples of the highly eroded badland terrain have been protected immediately adjacent to the area in the Chumash Wilderness and Quatal Geologic Area.

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**Nordoff Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

**Santa Cruz Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## Santa Cruz Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Mount Pinos Ranger District

### Capability

The IRA is bounded on the south by the Quatal Canyon bottom and road, on the north by Cerro Noroeste Road and private land, on the northwest by the Ballinger Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area (specifically the eastern portion of the Rim OHV Route), and on the west by private land adjacent to the Monolith Cement Mine.

Environment: The natural integrity and appearance of the area have been unaffected except for minor road intrusions. However, one can see human made improvements (housing, etc.) in the western portion of Quatal Canyon. There has been some surface disturbance as a result of mining in Section 23. Three short OHV trails compromise the opportunity for solitude, as do the Monolith gypsum mine along the western boundary and the proximity of Quatal Canyon and Cerro Noroeste roads.

The area adjoins the Cuyama Valley on the west in an area intensely folded with older bedrock thrusts over young sedimentary formations that are steeply dipped or overturned near the adjacent San Andres fault. Sandstone clay and shale crop out on steep canyons with highly eroded slopes generally known as "Badlands." Elevations range from 3,800 to 5,400 feet near the head of Quatal Canyon where there are a number of tributary drainages to the south-southwest.

Streams flow for a short period during the winter and during summer thunderstorms. Average annual rainfall is seven inches. Most of the area is pinyon-juniper with some grassland, sagebrush, and chaparral vegetative types. Nearly all of the vegetation is in the over 31 year age class.

Big game species include mule deer, mountain lion, and bobcat. Other species include pigeon, dove, Valley quail, coyote, and rabbit.

Challenge: There are no major challenging experiences in the area, but use during the summer months can be challenging due to the hot, dry climate.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Recreation use is mostly associated with small and big game hunting, pinyon nut collecting, and firewood gathering. There are no developed trail camps in the area.

There are three short OHV routes totaling four miles. There are no hiking trails in the area, but visitors can hike in the fringes of the area without too much difficulty. There are a number of informal trails. Opportunities for primitive recreation are limited, although there are possibilities for cross-country day hikers. The area is two miles wide and seven miles long; these dimensions do not allow much opportunity to explore deeply into the terrain.

Special Features: The area in the vicinity of Cowhead Potrero offers scenic wildflower displays in the spring. There are some locations of paleontological value in the area's northern cliffs and spectacular erosion of the badlands.

Manageability: This IRA, at 7,248 acres, meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. However, the Quatal area would be extremely difficult to manage as wilderness because existing adjacent OHV use and an active gypsum mine would present significant conflicts, and traditional uses, such as pinon nut and wood gathering, require the use of motor vehicles.

Boundary Considerations: Relocation of boundaries to avoid conflict would reduce the area size to a point where it would not be reasonable to consider it for wilderness classification.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Potential practical recreation use capacity is 54,730 Recreation Visitor Days (RVDs); capacity managed as wilderness would be 10,509 RVDs. The Badlands Trails Analysis is currently analyzing an OHV route through the area to replace the Toad Springs OHV Route through the Chumash Wilderness. The area contains no habitat for rare and endangered species. There is one grazing allotment (Cowhead Potrero) in the area. There are no known archeological sites; however, the area is known for its paleontological values. The pinyon pine trees in the area are managed for their aesthetic and pinyon nut crop values. There is little potential for saleable products such as gravel and stone. There is low potential for strategic minerals and moderate potential for non-strategic minerals. There is low potential for phosphates and geothermal resources. There is moderate potential for oil and gas development. The area is largely in the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District and is designated "attainment" for National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The potential resistance to fire control is low.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): There is one private inholding in the area and one grazing allotment. There are inactive gypsum mines. The area's appearance has been affected in the southerly portion by minor roads (used as OHV routes in drainage bottoms), but mostly it retains its natural appearance.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: May complicate administration of the grazing allotment and the use of prescribed fire. Designation of wilderness directly adjacent to private property will probably create future conflicts as the private property continues to be developed.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20 mile radius of the area are the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres), the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), the Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres), and the Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: The area is in the Upper Cuyama Valley within an hour drive of the small communities of New Cuyama, Cuyama, Maricopa, Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, and the Pine Mountain Club, and is approximately two hours from Ventura and Santa Maria. Use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations within the wildernesses.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The California condor has had their historic range substantially reduced due to increased human populations and developments. California condors have been reintroduced into areas of their historic range in and adjacent to the Quatal roadless area. Current and projected human uses and developments on National Forest System lands in the Quatal roadless area are not substantially affecting the habitat of this species. Wildlife biologists currently use management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve this species that are not generally consistent with wilderness management objectives (e.g. use of motorized vehicles to transport, release, and monitor individual animals and to place supplemental feed). A combination of semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized land use designations would provide California condors with suitable habitat while allowing wildlife managers to continue to use motorized vehicles in their conservation efforts.

There are no identified rare plant species or populations that are declining due to public uses and developments occurring on National Forest System lands.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The California condor has had their historic range substantially reduced due to increased human populations and developments. California condors have been reintroduced into areas of their historic range in and adjacent to the Cuyama roadless area. Current and projected human uses and developments on NFS lands in the Cuyama roadless area are not substantially affecting the habitat of this species. Wildlife biologists currently use management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve this species that are not generally consistent with wilderness management objectives (e.g. use of motorized vehicles to transport, release, and monitor individual animals and to place supplemental feed). A combination of semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized land use designations would provide California condors with suitable habitat while allowing wildlife managers to continue to use motorized vehicles in their conservation efforts.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Better and more

extensive examples of the highly eroded badland terrain have been protected immediately adjacent to the area in the Chumash Wilderness and Quatal Geologic Area.

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**Quatal Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

**Sawmill-Badlands Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## Sawmill-Badlands Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Mount Pinos Ranger District

### Capability

Note: For the ease of explanation and description, the Sawmill-Badlands roadless area has been divided into an east and west portion. Each portion contains three sections physically separated from each other by at least a road. All sections are contiguous with the Chumash Wilderness. See attached map.

#### Sawmill-Badlands section Descriptions:

Section 1 contains approximately 2,413 acres. Private land and Mil Potrero Highway border this section on the north, it is bordered on the west by Cerro Noroeste Road, on the south by Cerro Noroeste Road and the Chumash Wilderness, and on the east by private land and National Forest System lands. The GIS database named this area Sawmill-Badlands (Able).

Section 2 contains approximately 14,069 acres. Private land, Quatal Canyon Road (NFRS 9N09), and the Cuyama wash border this section on the north; private land and Highway 33 border the west; Apache Canyon Road (NFSR 8N06) borders on the south-southeast; and the Chumash Wilderness borders the area to the east. This section includes Chumash Addition NW.

Section 3 contains approximately 22,667 acres. Apache Canyon Road (NFSR 8N06) and private land borders the north-northwest side of this section, private land and Highway 33 border the south-southwest side, private land borders the south, Dry Canyon Road (NFSR 8N40) borders the south-southeast side, and the Chumash Wilderness borders the west-northwest side. This section includes Chumash Addition SW and Badlands-Apache.

Section 4 contains approximately 9,284 acres. The Chumash Wilderness borders the north, the Chumash Wilderness and Dry Canyon Road (NFSR 8N40) border the west, Lockwood Valley Road (NFSR 9N03) borders the south, and private land borders the east. The GIS database named this area Sawmill-Badlands (Wagon Wheel Springs).

Section 5 contains approximately 547 acres. The Chumash Wilderness borders the area to the north, west, and south, and the east is bordered by the Chula Vista Parking lot.

Section 6 contains approximately 1,510 acres. Private land and Mil Potrero Highway border the north, the Chumash Wilderness borders the west, and National Forest System land borders the south and east. The GIS database named this area Sawmill-Badlands (Antimony).

Also, there are three isolated parcels totaling approximately 547 acres in the Lockwood Valley area (east of section 4) that are unsuitable for wilderness.

Environment: The core of the Sawmill-Badlands IRA became the Chumash Wilderness in 1992 as part of the “Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act.” The remaining portions of the area are blocks of forest defined by the Chumash Wilderness as one boundary, and state, county, and forest development roads or private property on the remaining boundaries. The area provides a low to moderate sense of solitude, adventure, and self-reliance due to the proximity of state, county, and forest development roads or private property. The natural integrity of the area is largely intact, however there are a number of temporary and unclassified roads, primarily associated with grazing allotments, located on the western portions of the area. The western portion (Sections 2,3, and 4) of the area is generally described as badlands with mostly pinyon-juniper vegetation and some areas of brush and grassland. The eastern portion (Sections 1,5, and 6) is primarily mixed conifer. Section 5 includes the summit area of Mt. Pinos, which is a designated botanical Special Interest Area (SIA). The summit area is also culturally important to the Chumash Tribe and has a road that provides access to the summit as well as a nearby electronic site. Sections 5 and 6 contain portions of hiking trails and Section 4 has four miles of designated off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes. Section 3 has seven miles and section 2 has three miles of designated OHV routes.

Challenge: The area provides a low to moderate opportunity to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, or self-reliance due to the proximity of rural development in the western portion and urban interface in the eastern portion.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: There are no maintained trails in Section 1 of the area; Sections 2, 3, and 4 have a designated motorcycle trail and several OHV routes; Section 5 currently provides motorized access by permit to the summit of Mount Pinos; and Section 6 contains a portion of the McGill Trail, a popular mountain bicycle route. The Mount Pinos Botanical SIA provides opportunity for the interpretation and enjoyment of the subalpine plant communities. This area currently has no motorized access for the general public. The Mount Pinos Botanical SIA is a popular destination for native plant enthusiasts. Sections 5 and 6 have heavy mountain bike use and Section 1 has light mountain bike use. The open vegetation allows cross-country hiking, however, badland terrain often limits cross-country hiking to localized areas in the western portion. The area provides the opportunity for big game hunting (primarily deer) as well as bird and small game hunting (primarily quail and rabbit). Dispersed camping is allowed, but the lack of water is a limiting factor. The badland landform provides good opportunities for photography.

Special Features: The badlands are a locally unique landform; however, most of the best examples of badlands are already included in the Chumash Wilderness. In Sulphur Canyon and the upper reaches of

Dry Canyon, there are considerable paleontological finds.

**Manageability:** The eastern boundary is adjacent to two large private land parcels consisting of multiple ownerships (Pine Mountain Club community and Lockwood Valley). Nine organizational camps are also on the periphery of the eastern portion of the area. The western portion (Sections 2,3, and 4) has eight grazing allotments within it, and the development of private land is continuing into the area.

**Boundary Considerations:** Due to the inadequacy of earlier land surveys, boundaries shown along private land in the western portion of the area would be extremely difficult to identify. Any designation of wilderness in this portion should be well away from private land and along easily identifiable natural features. On the eastern portion of the area designation of wilderness directly adjacent to the large extent of private property will probably create future conflicts as the private property continues to be developed. The boundary would be difficult to locate and post due to intrusion of private land, irregular shape, and vague location. Particular manageability problems exist concerning the Pine Mountain Club, the access corridor to Mount Abel, areas of traditional OHV use in Quatal and Apache canyons, and the extensive holdings of private land around the western and southern perimeter. Designation of wilderness adjacent to the private land in Pine Mountain Club, Lockwood Valley, and the numerous private parcels along the western boundary of the area limits the possibilities for fuels management activities and the establishment and management of defensible fuel profile zones adjacent to this growing urban interface. There are approximately 100 acres of plantations under active management west of Pine Mountain Club that should be excluded from any wilderness proposal. Designation of additional wilderness along the western and southern portions of the area will further complicate or preclude relocation of the Toad Springs OHV Route called for in the Condor Range and River Protection Act that designated the Chumash Wilderness. It also appears that the Apache Saddle Fire Station may be within the area and should be excluded from wilderness consideration.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Sections 1 and 6 provide opportunity for future development of ski facilities, both downhill and cross-country, that would be forgone with wilderness designation. Wilderness designation of Section 5 would limit access by some members of the Chumash for traditional activities near the Mt. Pinos summit. On the south and western portions (Sections 2,3, and 4) there is a proposed OHV route to replace the Toad Springs OHV Route through the Chumash Wilderness. There are some fuel wood sales of dead and down trees as well as approximately 100 acres of reforestation (primarily in Section 1) within the area. There has been considerable concern for potential dwarf mistletoe and insect infestation in the coniferous species. Management activities within the coniferous vegetation such as reforestation and/or salvage after wildfires would be foregone with wilderness designation. Gypsum is mined in the area. Overall there is a moderate potential for saleable products such as gravel and building stone. There is a moderate potential for strategic and non-strategic minerals, and there is low potential for phosphates and geothermal resources. There is high potential for oil and gas development in the western portions of the area.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): There are eight grazing allotments that are partially or fully within the area. The special use permits for the east portion of the Badlands/Sawmill area are as follows: permitted water systems and associated transmission lines in Sections 1 and 6, an organization camp in Section 1, telephone transmission lines in Sections 1 and 6, an electronic communications site in Section 5, and electric transmission lines in Section 1 and 6. The special use permits for the west section of the Badlands/Sawmill area are as follows: permitted water systems and associated transmission lines in Sections 2 and 3, permitted roads in Section 2, and stream gauges in Section 4.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation may complicate administration of grazing allotments. Designation of wilderness directly adjacent to the large extent of private property could potentially create future conflicts as the private property continues to be developed. Designation of wilderness adjacent to the private land in Pine Mountain Club, Cuddy Valley, and Lockwood Valley limits the possibilities for fuels management activities and the establishment and management of defensible fuel profile zones adjacent to this growing urban interface.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20 mile radius of the area are the San Rafael Wilderness (190,968 acres), the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), the Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres), and the Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: The area is in the Upper Cuyama Valley within an hour drive of the small communities of New Cuyama, Cuyama, Maricopa, Taft, Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, and the Pine Mountain Club, and is approximately two hours from Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Maria. Use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations within the wildernesses.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in these non-wilderness areas.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): There is no foreseeable development projects or large increases in public use within this area. The California condor has had their historic range substantially reduced due to increased human populations and developments. California condors have been re-introduced into areas of their historic range in and adjacent to the Sawmill-Badlands roadless area. Current and projected human uses and

developments on National Forest System lands in the Sawmill-Badlands roadless area are not substantially affecting the habitat of this species. Wildlife biologists currently use management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve this species that are not generally consistent with wilderness management objectives (e.g. use of motorized vehicles to transport, release, and monitor individual animals and to place supplemental feed). A combination of semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized land use designations would provide California condors with suitable habitat while allowing wildlife managers to continue to use motorized vehicles in their conservation efforts.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: California condors require large tracts of land in order to maintain viable populations. Currently, this endangered species occupies areas that are part roadless and part roaded. Current monitoring data does not indicate that the presence of roaded areas is precluding the use of these areas by these birds, nor does the data show that California condors use designated wilderness areas more frequently than non-wilderness areas. The recovery plan for the California condor does not recommend the designation of additional wilderness areas as a means of promoting the recovery of the species.

There are no identified rare plant species or populations that are declining due to public uses and developments occurring on National Forest System lands.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: N/A

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**Santa Cruz Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Sespe-Frazier (Mount Pinos  
RD) Inventoried Roadless Area**

## Sespe-Frazier (Mount Pinos RD) Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Mount Pinos Ranger District

### Capability

#### Sespe-Frazier section Descriptions:

Section 1 contains approximately 3,360 acres. It is bounded by: Highway 33 on the west, NFSR 6N06 (Pine Mountain Road) on the south, the existing Sespe Wilderness on the east, and private land in Ozena Valley on the north.

Section 2 contains approximately 27,751 acres. It is bounded by Piru Creek on the north, the existing Sespe Wilderness and private land on the west and south, and the Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area on the east. This section includes Fishbowls PWA, Thorn PWA, and Stone House PWA.

Section 3 contains approximately 41,773 acres. It is bounded by Piru Creek on the south, the Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area on the east, private property and NFSR 8N42 on the north, and the existing Sespe Wilderness on the west.

Section 4 consists of approximately 1,168 acres of isolated small tracts of National Forest System Lands immediately adjacent to private land and is not suitable for wilderness designation. The area is located four miles east of the Ozena Fire Station and is bounded on the north by Alamo Creek and private lands, on the west by private lands, and on the south and east by private lands and the existing Sespe Wilderness.

Environment: In Section 1, chaparral covers most of the slopes, with coniferous species at higher elevations. Natural integrity and appearance are fairly high once you get away from the private land, roads, and recreation developments that exist along the edges. There is a small private parcel within the area near Pine Mountain ridge and the western portion of the area has an oil and gas pipeline corridor under special use permit.

Section 2 contains approximately 11.4 miles of maintained hiking/horse trail, 10 miles of designated motorcycle trail, and six miles of designated off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes traverse the area. Forest

Roads 18N01 and 7N01 (Alamo Mountain Road and Loop), NFSR (Stewart Mountain Road), NFSR 7N03 (Mutau Road), and the NFSR 7N03C (Thorn Meadows Road) all form cherry stems into the area. Chaparral covers most of the slopes with interspersed areas of coniferous species. Riparian vegetation occurs along Piru Creek. The Condor Range and River Protection Act designated Piru Creek as a study river for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. There is a patented mining claim along Piru Creek and several parcels of private property along Mutau Creek that would become wilderness inholdings. There is a road to the primary parcel (Mutau Flats). Natural integrity and appearance is fairly high once you get away from roads, OHV routes, and the private parcels. The area has a history of small-scale mining activity dating back to the 1830s. There are known cultural and historic sites within the area. There is visible evidence of previous logging activity in the Alamo and Stewart Mountain areas.

In Section 3, there are 36 miles of designated motorcycle trail and 27.5 miles of designated OHV routes. The routes around Frazier Mountain form cherry stems into the area. Non-system roads provide access through the area to private property (Castaic Mine, Long Dave Valley, Maxey Ranch, and Tibbetts Ranch). Chaparral covers most of the slopes, though there exist areas of coniferous species, primarily in the higher elevations. Riparian vegetation occurs along Piru and Lockwood creeks as well as a number of tributaries. The Condor Range and River Protection Act designated Piru Creek as a study river for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. There is a patented mining claim along Piru Creek and another on East Frazier Mountain. Natural integrity and appearance is fairly high once you get away from roads, OHV routes, and the private parcels, however, the area is heavily influenced by motorized use. Frazier Mountain, Gold Hill, and the area along Piru and Lockwood creeks have a history of mining activity dating back to the 1830s. There are known cultural and historic sites within the area. There is visible evidence of previous logging activity on Frazier Mountain as well as current plantations and thinning activities.

Challenge: Section 1 provides a fairly low level of challenge for most users. The opportunity for solitude is moderate in the interior portions of the area. Section 2 provides a moderate level of challenge and the opportunity for solitude for most users. The opportunity to escape from the sights and sounds of motorized use and private property development is small in Section 3.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Section 1 provides the opportunity for backcountry camping, hiking, and horseback riding as well as hunting, primarily for large game. Recreation use is mostly associated with hunting small and big game, hiking, and viewing scenery. Approximately 6.5 miles of maintained hiking/horse trail traverse the area. In Sections 2 and 3, recreation use is primarily associated with off-highway vehicle use. Hunting big game, small game and upland birds, hiking, horseback riding, limited fishing, and viewing scenery are secondary uses.

Special Features: Piru Creek is under study as a Wild and Scenic River.

Sections 2 and 3 contain both suitable and occupied Willow flycatcher habitat. There is one known location of a Goshawk nesting site. There is one known spotted owl nesting site in this section. The California Department of Fish and Game introduced a population of Bighorn sheep into this area. The

sheep tend to be shy and avoid human contact whenever possible. The California Department of Fish and Game manage Piru Creek and Lockwood Creek as heritage trout streams.

There are two species of fairy shrimp that are found in two areas of Section 3.

Manageability: Sections 2 and 3 both meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act.

Section 1 would be easy to manage as wilderness.

Section 2 would be difficult to manage as wilderness due to the numerous OHV routes, forest roads, and private land inholdings in the area. If the area were adjusted to reflect the boundaries as noted below, the manageability would be reasonably easy.

Section 3 would be difficult to manage as wilderness due to the numerous OHV routes, forest roads, and private land inholdings, and the communities of Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, and Lockwood Valley that border the area.

Boundary Considerations: The northern boundary of Section 1 should be relocated away from the private property to a location that allows for fuels management activities and establishment and management of defensible fuel profile zones. The western boundary needs to be located with consideration of maintenance activities along Highway 33 and identified and potential slough disposal areas as well as the oil and gas pipeline. Relocation of the southern boundary to one-quarter mile north of Pine Mountain Road will allow for management of the recreation sites and access to the private parcel.

The portions of Section 2 considered for wilderness designation should be similar to two areas shown as semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) on the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum map from the 1988 Los Padres National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan; these areas are located between Thorn Meadows and Mutau Flat, and to the west of Mutau Road in the Fishbowls Trail (Forest Trail 21W05) area. Boundaries should follow prominent terrain features and remain ¼ mile from all existing roads, OHV routes, and Piru Creek.

Boundary adjustments will not improve the overall manageability of Section 3.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Section 2 has a history of mineral extraction that continues even today in small-scale operations and prospecting. The potential for mineral location is high. Currently, there are four applications for approximately 2,396 acres of oil and gas leasing in the area. Much of the area is utilized for motorized recreation and there are planned fuel treatments in the Alamo Mountain area. Public fuel wood gathering occurs along Piru Creek near Mutau Road and along Alamo Mountain Road. Reforestation after fires and other stand management

activities would be restricted if the area were designated as wilderness.

In Section 3, a history of mineral extraction continues even today in small-scale operations and prospecting and the potential for mineral location is high. Much of the area is utilized for motorized recreation and there are planned fuel treatments in the Frazier Mountain area and near the interface areas with the communities on the northern boundary of the area to create defensible fuel profile zones. Public fuel wood gathering and small fuel wood sales occur on Frazier Mountain and in the Grade Valley area. There are a number of recent and on-going silvicultural treatments on Frazier Mountain. Reforestation after fires and other stand management activities would be restricted if the area were designated as wilderness.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): Section 1 contains portions of the Ozena grazing allotment and special use authorizations for a rain gauge, a seismic monitoring station, and an oil and gas pipeline. There is one permitted slough disposal site and two additional sites that have been identified for future use.

In Section 2, there are three special use authorizations for stream and rain gauges in the area. The area includes portions of the Piru grazing allotment. There are also mining claims within the area in addition to the patented claim on Piru Creek.

In Section 3, there are special use authorizations for water developments and transmission lines for the communities of Frazier Park and Lake of the Woods, for a gas pipeline, for a rain gauge, and for a private access road (Long Dave). The area includes portions of the Piru grazing allotment. There are also mining claims within the area in addition to the patented claims on Piru Creek and Frazier Mountain. There are additional claims that are in the patent process for bentonite clays in the area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Designation of wilderness adjacent to the private land limits the possibilities for fuels management activities and the establishment and management of defensible fuel profile zones. Designation may complicate the administration of the grazing allotment. During the period leading up to the designation of the current Sespe Wilderness, the landowners in the Mutau Creek area were very adamant about not becoming an inholding in the wilderness due to the limitations it created for the future use of their land.

In Section 3, wilderness designation would severely limit OHV trail loop opportunities currently available on the Mount Pinos District and cause trespass problems where the roadless area is adjacent to Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Section 1 is within a 10 mile radius of the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres), the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), the Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres), and the Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres).

Section 2 is within a 20 mile radius of the Dick Smith Wilderness (71,350 acres), the Chumash Wilderness (37,248 acres), and the Sespe Wilderness (218,508 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations.

Section 1 is in the Upper Cuyama Valley within an hour drive of the small communities of New Cuyama, Cuyama, Maricopa, Taft, Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, and the Pine Mountain Club, and is approximately two hours from Los Angeles, Bakersfield, Ventura, and Santa Maria. Use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations within the wildernesses.

Sections 2 and 3 are south of Frazier Park and west of Interstate 5 within a half hour drive of the small communities of Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, and Pine Mountain Club, approximately one hour from Bakersfield and Santa Clarita, and approximately two hours from Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Maria.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in these non-wilderness areas.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): There are no foreseeable development projects or large increases in public use within this area.

The California condor has had their historic range substantially reduced due to increased human populations and developments. California condors have been reintroduced into areas of their historic range in and adjacent to the Sespe-Frazier roadless area. Current and projected human uses and developments on National Forest System lands in the Sespe-Frazier roadless area are not substantially affecting the habitat of this species. Wildlife biologists currently use management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve this species that are not generally consistent with wilderness management objectives (e.g. use of motorized vehicles to transport, release, and monitor individual animals and to place supplemental feed). A combination of semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized land use designations would provide California condors with suitable habitat while allowing wildlife managers to continue to use motorized vehicles in their conservation efforts.

There are no identified rare plant species or populations that are declining due to public uses and developments occurring on National Forest System lands.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: California condors require large tracts of land in order to maintain viable populations. Currently, this endangered species occupies areas that are part roadless and part roaded. Current monitoring data does not indicate that the presence of roaded areas is precluding the use of these areas by these birds nor does the data show that California condors use designated wilderness areas more frequently than non-wilderness areas. The recovery plan for the California condor does not recommend the designation of additional wilderness areas as a means of promoting the recovery of the species.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: N/A

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**Sawmill-Badlands Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Sespe-Frazier (Ojai RD)  
Inventoried Roadless Area**

## Sespe-Frazier (Ojai RD) Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Ojai Ranger District

### Capability

#### Sespe-Frazier section Descriptions:

Section 1 contains approximately 7,684 acres. It is bounded by State Highway 33 and Sespe Creek on the south and west, Sespe Wilderness on the east and northeast, Reyes Peak on the northeast, and Gypsum Mine Road on the north. This section includes approximately 3,155 acres of Chorro Grande (additional acreage in Chorro Grande that falls outside of this inventoried roadless area is evaluated separately).

Section 2 contains approximately 4,504 acres. It is bounded by Sespe River Road (NFSR 6N31) on the north, Chief Peak Road (NFSR 5N42) on the west, Nordhoff Ridge Road (NFSR 5N08) on the south, and Sespe Wilderness on the east.

Section 3 contains approximately 11,749 acres. It is bounded by the Sespe Wilderness on the north, Nordhoff Ridge Road on the northwest, Sisar Road (NFSR 4N15) on the west, and private land in Bear Canyon on the southwest. The IRA section boundary lies north of La Broche Canyon Road (NFSR 4N04A), and then traverses around private land in Santa Paula Canyon. It continues along the interface of forest and private land on the south, and then along the interface of forest and private land on the east. This area contains Topatopa Bluff, a tremendous scenic escarpment that can be seen for miles around the Ojai, Santa Clara, and Simi Valleys.

Section 4 contains approximately 813 acres. It is bounded by the Sespe Wilderness on the north and west, Redrock Creek on the northeast, Squaw Flat Road (NFSR 6N16) on the east, a gated road south of Squaw Flat Road on the southeast, and the Forest boundary on the south.

Section 5 contains approximately 5,658 acres. It is bounded by the Sespe Wilderness on the northwest and west, and private strips of land in the southern portions of Sections 28-30 in the south and southeast. The eastern boundary begins approximately one-eighth of a mile west of Piru Canyon Road (NFSR 4N13), where it crosses forest land in Section 22. The eastern boundary then traverses around a large private parcel in Sections 21 and 16 and continues along Piru Canyon Road in Sections 10 and 15 on the northeast. It then again meanders around private land in Sections 10 and 4 on the northeast and

north.

Section 6 contains approximately 862 acres. It is bounded by Sespe Wilderness on the north, by Piru Creek in Section 4 on the northwest. The boundary excludes the private land in Section 10 on the west. It continues just east of Blue Point Campground and Piru Creek on the west, and follows around private land in Section 15 on the southwest. It lies just south of Canton Canyon Creek on the south. The north-south line on the east extends from the south side of Section 15 to the top of Section 3, starting at the intersection of the line at the top of Township 5N with the Sespe Wilderness boundary. Sections 1 and 6 include approximately 2,405 acres of Beaver (additional acreage in Beaver that falls outside of this inventoried roadless area is evaluated separately).

### Environment:

In Section 1, chaparral covers most of the slopes, with coniferous species at the higher elevations. Riparian areas contain sycamore and oak trees. Natural integrity and appearance are fairly high away from the highway, roads, and private and recreation developments that exist along the edges.

In Section 2, chaparral covers most of the slopes with interspersed areas of coniferous species. Riparian vegetation occurs along Lion Canyon. Natural integrity is similar to that in Section 1.

In Section 3, chaparral covers most of the slopes with interspersed areas of coniferous species. Riparian vegetation occurs along Sisar and Santa Paula Creeks. Natural integrity is similar to that in Section 1.

In Section 4, chaparral covers most of the slopes. Riparian vegetation occurs along Redrock Creek on the northeast edge. Natural integrity and appearance are fairly high throughout the area. An old dirt roadway, used as a hiking trail, traverses the area through Sections 25, 30, and 31 for one mile before entering the Sespe Wilderness/Sespe Condor Sanctuary. In recent years, an apiary permit has been issued for use at the road's western terminus. There is also a small helispot on a ridgetop approximately 0.2 miles in from Squaw Flat Road.

In Section 5, chaparral covers much of the slopes, though there are interspersed areas of meadowlands and some coniferous species. Riparian vegetation occurs along both Reasoner Canyon, which traverses the middle of this area, and Agua Blanca Creek on the northern edge. Natural integrity and appearance are fairly high throughout this area, except for evidence of grazing and occasional drift fences.

In Section 6, chaparral covers most of the slopes, with interspersed areas of meadowlands. Natural integrity and appearance are fairly high away from roads and recreation developments that exist along the edges. The southern portion shows some evidence of grazing. Blue Point Campground sits midway up the western boundary of this area. The buried distribution line and water tank for its water system are within this area. A non-system dirt road that accesses a private parcel of land in Canton Canyon traverses the southern portion of this section for approximately 0.5 miles.

Challenge: Cross-country exploring provides some interesting challenges, although travel is hampered by dense chaparral vegetation. There are considerable challenges in the area, as there are few trails. Numerous opportunities for solitude exist in spite of views of State Highways 33, 126, and 150, and Sespe River Road, Piru Canyon Road, coastal cities, and oil and gas development from portions of the area. The opportunity for solitude is moderate to high in the interior portions of all sections, with the exception of Section 3 near Santa Paula Creek and Section 6 near Blue Point Campground. The climate itself can present a challenge to the visitor. In summer, the weather is extremely hot and dry, while in winter, snow can be found on the upper slopes.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Collectively, these six sections provide primitive recreation opportunities that include hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, backcountry camping, fishing, and hunting. Approximately 16.8 miles of maintained hiking/horse/bicycle trails traverse these areas. An additional 14.9 miles of non-Forest System trails traverse these areas.

Three recreational trails cross Section 1, each of which is open to hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers. The Chorro Grande Trail (Forest Trail 23W05) runs north and south through approximately 2.1 miles of the IRA. A short, one-quarter mile stretch at the start of Potrero John Trail (Forest Trail 23W06) crosses this area. The third trail is Middle Sespe Trail (Forest Trail 22W04), which runs east and west for 7.5 miles along the north bank of Sespe Creek.

Section 2 contains Lion Canyon Trail (Forest Trail 22W06), which is a 5.6 mile forest-maintained hiking/horse/mountain bike trail located along the eastern edge of this section.

Section 3 contains four designated trails. The southern portion of the Red Reef Trail (Forest Trail 21W08) travels through this area for approximately 2.7 miles between Hines Peak Road (NFSR 5N08) on the north and Sisar Canyon Road (NFSR 4N15.2) on the south. The area includes White Ledge Camp, a small trailside camp set in an oak/sycamore riparian thicket along upper Sisar Creek. Santa Paula Canyon Trail (Forest Trail 21W11) crosses the area for 5.3 miles from Big Cone Camp eastward to Bluff Camp. At a spot just north of Big Cone Camp, this trail intersects with Last Chance Trail (Forest Trail 21W09); this trail runs north in this area for approximately half a mile before entering the Sespe Wilderness at Cross Camp, a small but popular trailside camp. Big Cone Camp is a 4-unit dispersed campsite in a grove of bigcone Douglas firs at the terminus of Santa Paula Canyon Road (NFSR 4N03). This road starts at State Highway 150 at Thomas Aquinas College and runs for 3.4 miles to Big Cone Camp. For this entire length, it is gated and posted against public vehicle traffic, as the road crosses three contiguous private parcels of land. In one location, it traverses an orchard; public trail traffic is routed to a separate trail at this point. The road receives a high volume of hiker and mountain bike use as an access to Santa Paula Creek and its popular swimming holes. Stream use by the public is heaviest between Big Cone Camp and Cross Camp.

The Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act designated Santa Paula Creek as a study river for possible inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The portion of Santa Paula Canyon Trail along East Fork Santa Paula Creek to Bluff Camp receives very light use and is not currently

maintained. It is nearly impassable due to landslides. Near its eastern end, this trail intersects Santa Paula Peak Trail (Forest Trail 20W16) that is 4.4 miles long and climbs up and over Santa Paula Peak (elevation 4,957). It continues south of the peak to its terminus at a private gated road coming up Timber Canyon from State Highway 126. There is no public trail easement to allow crossing private lands to access this trail. In spite of that, some horse users are given permission by the landowner for access to maintain and use this trail. By doing so, two small trail camps (Bluff and Cienega) are accessed at the eastern end of Santa Paula Canyon Trail.

The Pothole Trail (Forest Trail 18W04) crosses this area for approximately 2.0 miles starting low at Piru Canyon Road and climbing up to 3,200 feet elevation at the Sespe Wilderness boundary. This trail is not regularly maintained and receives light use. A short section of Agua Blanca Trail (Forest Trail 19W10) crosses this area at the extreme northern edge for approximately 0.5 miles. This trail also does not receive regular maintenance and is lightly used.

Special Features: Upper Sespe Creek in Section 1 is a study river for possible inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System from its headwaters to Rock/Howard Creeks. The same is true of Santa Paula Creek in Section 3. Section 3 also contains Topatopa Bluff, a tremendous scenic escarpment that can be seen for miles around the Ojai, Santa Clara, and Simi Valleys.

Manageability: Sections 1, 3, and 5 each meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. Each of the six sections that comprise the IRA are contiguous with the existing Sespe Wilderness. However, their manageability as wilderness would be hampered by their current use by either mountain bikes (sections 1, 2, 3, 5) or vehicles on existing roads (sections 4, 6). These uses would need to be terminated to allow management of these areas as wilderness. Also, trail maintenance activities would need to exclude use of chainsaws and mechanized equipment, increasing the cost and reducing the likelihood of properly maintaining many of the identified routes in these areas.

Boundary Considerations: In Section 3, the western portion should be considered for elimination from wilderness designation, since fuels management activities are needed here, including an established defensible fuel profile zone. Shrinking this boundary further, back to the east side of Big Cone Camp in Santa Paula Canyon, would also delete this heavily used canyon from this possible wilderness. This canyon's pattern of heavy day use is not consistent with wilderness values of solitude and self-reliance.

In Section 6, the entire area would make a cherry stem (a narrow area flanked by wilderness) running north from Lake Piru along Piru Canyon Road, and would include Blue Point Campground and two private parcels north of Blue Point. It would also contain a minor road used to access a private parcel in Canton Canyon on the south. This entire area should be withdrawn from consideration for wilderness designation. If that is not feasible, its boundary should be modified to include only the portion north of Blue Point Campground, perhaps along the bottom of Section 3.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy:

In all six sections, current trail and/or road maintenance practices rely on mechanized equipment. Loss of mechanized maintenance methods would seriously hamper the ability to keep the routes adequately maintained for public use and for resource protection.

Trails in Section 1 are currently used for a variety of non-motorized activities, including mountain biking. This activity would be forgone if the area were designated as wilderness. Also in this section, the buried gas pipeline will remain in use into the foreseeable future. Due to required intermittent maintenance on the line with heavy equipment, the impacts associated with the pipeline and associated access roadway are expected to continue indefinitely. These activities are not compatible with wilderness designation.

Most of this area has been rated as having no potential for oil and gas occurrence; however, there is a small area of high potential in the northeast portion of this section. There are no existing locatable mineral mines in the area. There is low potential for saleable products such as gravel and building stone, and for strategic and non-strategic minerals. There is a high potential for phosphates and for geothermal resources. Vegetation and soil disturbance are still evident from the gas line constructed in the late 1950s. A conflict with wilderness on the western boundary would occur, as expected maintenance of the existing pipeline is performed per the terms of a special use permit. There is a proposed electronic site on Reyes Peak that could not be developed if wilderness designation occurred.

Trails in Section 2 are currently used for a variety of non-motorized activities, including mountain biking. This use would be lost if the area were designated as wilderness.

Trails in Section 3 are currently used for a variety of non-motorized activities, including mountain biking. This use would be lost if the area was designated as wilderness. Wilderness designation would also preclude the use and maintenance of the existing fuelbreak south of Topatopa Bluff. This fuelbreak is a key component in fire suppression activities along the Ojai Front. Most of this area has high potential for oil and gas occurrence.

The one trail/road in Section 4 is currently used for a variety of non-motorized activities, including mountain biking. It also functions as a gated administrative road that accesses an apiary site (under special use permit) and a small helispot. All of these uses would be lost if the area were designated as wilderness.

Trails in Section 5 are currently used for a variety of non-motorized activities, including mountain biking. This use would be lost if the area were designated as wilderness. Most of this area is in an area of high potential for oil and gas occurrence. Operation and management of the two existing grazing allotments would be hampered by wilderness designation due to elimination of motorized and mechanical access and activities.

The one road in Section 6 is necessary for access to private land; it is not a public road. Maintenance of this road involves mechanized equipment. Loss of mechanized maintenance methods would seriously hamper the ability to keep the route adequately maintained for vehicle use and for resource protection. The southern half of this area is in an area of high potential for oil and gas occurrence.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): Section 1 contains a special use permit for a buried gas pipeline adjacent to the area on the west side.

Section 2 contains an electronic site on Sisar Peak at the southeastern edge of this area.

Section 3 contains the San Cayetano grazing allotment; it is currently vacant. It also contains a small parcel of private land near the east edge of the area.

Section 4 contains a special use permit for an apiary site.

Section 5 contains portions of two grazing special use permits for the Temescal and Pot Hole allotments.

Section 6 contains a portion of a grazing special use permit for the Piru allotment and a special use permit for a road accessing private land. This area also contains a small parcel of private land along the west edge of the area.

In most sections, roads exist as described in the previous section.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: In Section 3, wilderness designation is adjacent to significant blocks of private land, and would eliminate the possibility of managing fuelbreaks effectively in this area. This would put these private parcels at greater risk of a catastrophic wildfire. Designation may also complicate the administration of the grazing allotments.

In Section 6, wilderness designation would eliminate the use of the existing water tank system for Blue Point Campground, as these improvements are within the roadless area. Operation of this campground would be difficult without this water system. Additionally, wilderness designation would block existing vehicle access to a private parcel.

In all other sections, wilderness designation is expected to have a minimal effect on adjacent lands.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20 mile radius of the area are the Matilija Wilderness (29,600 acres), the Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres), the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres), the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), and the Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres). Collectively, these nearby wildernesses all offer protection for similar types of natural

ecosystems. They also offer similar non-motorized recreation opportunities for solitude and self-reliance.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Public use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations within the wildernesses. Use levels typically increase during the spring months. Public use has never reached sufficient levels to warrant implementation of a wilderness permit or quota system.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Ojai Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in these non-wilderness areas.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biota are currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. The low current and projected levels of public use means that all biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully into the future. No developmental projects are proposed that would impact this area. The existing condition offers the public a freer form of access and use of the land since it is mostly covered with chaparral. The environment is currently in balance with the existing public use and there are no threats to change that balance.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is no need for such a sanctuary; the current levels of protection are adequate. Also, there are no unique scientific values or phenomena that would need to be in a protected area.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Unique landforms and ecosystems will be preserved regardless of wilderness designation.

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**Sespe-Frazier (Mount Pinos  
RD) Inventoried Roadless Area**

**Spoor Canyon Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Spoor Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Lucia Ranger District

### Capability

Spoor Canyon Roadless Area is located on the Santa Lucia Ranger District, 25 air miles east of Santa Maria. It is a narrow corridor bordered by Sierra Madre road on the south and by private lands and the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest to the north. NFSR 11N01 (Bates Canyon Road) forms the eastern boundary. The roadless area is separated from the San Rafael Wilderness by NFSR 32S13 (Sierra Madre Road).

Environment: This area is part of the Cuyama and Sisquoc River drainages. The natural integrity of this area is low. There is a communication site at Plowshare Peak.

Vegetation consists of chaparral with patches of conifers in canyons and peaks. A private road is located at Moon Canyon, which enters at the north border. Bates Canyon campground and the White Oaks fire station and barracks are located along the eastern boundary.

Motorized public access is from Highway 166 on the Sierra Madre road, or on Bates Canyon Road. The area may also be accessed from Forest roads 11N04 (La Brea Canyon Road) and 11N03 (Miranda Pine Road). From the south, access by foot, horseback, or mountain bike is possible from the gate near McPherson Peak. The roads in this area provide important access to the existing San Rafael Wilderness.

Challenge: The opportunity for solitude is limited because of the proximity of the Sierra Madre and Bates Canyon roads. There are many peaks and ridges where Highway 166 and other man-made developments are highly visible. Sounds from motor vehicle travel are heard through most of this area. Cross-country travel is hampered in this area by heavy brush, steep terrain, and the lack of system trails.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Recreation use of this area consists primarily of camping and access during hunting season. There are access points to the San Rafael Wilderness and hang gliding launch points from the Sierra Madre Ridge east over this area to the Cuyama Valley.

Special Features: This area is of high cultural significance and contains listings on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a high-use flyway for the endangered California condor and is also within the

range of *Eriophyllum lanatum hallii*, a sensitive plant species.

Manageability: At 13,752 acres, the Spoor Canyon IRA meets the 5,000-acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Access to the Plowshare Peak and McPherson Peak communication sites, and management concerns would preclude abandoning the road to the sites.

Boundary Considerations: The northern boundary of this area is very difficult to describe, establish, and mark on the ground, as it follows no topographic features. It crosses many canyons and borders on private ranch land for many miles, where access is difficult to manage.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Opportunities for hang gliding, OHV use, mountain biking, and dispersed camping would be lost if managed as wilderness. Significant opportunities for motorized camping would not be lost as long as boundaries exclude developed sites. The area provides mechanized and motorized access to wilderness trailheads. Both fuels management and fire suppression are important management activities to reduce the risk of fire to private property in Pine, Colson, and Tepusquet Canyons and along the east side of the Sierra Madre ridge. Communication sites are another important use in the area.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): Availability for wilderness is limited by the two communication sites at either end of the area, by the motorized roads through the middle and along the west side of the area, and by the noise and development from the Cuyama Valley to the east of the area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: The Sierra Madre Ridge is extremely important for motorized fire suppression efforts to prevent fire going either way between the rural Cuyama Valley and the San Rafael Wilderness. Wilderness designation would remove this very important suppression tool. Landowners in Moon Canyon would have to get authorization for motorized access if the IRA were designated as wilderness.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Spoor Canyon Roadless Area is 22 air miles northeast of the Santa Lucia Wilderness (18,679 acres), 15 air miles southeast of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness (19,760 acres), and 14 air miles southeast of the Garcia Wilderness (14,100 acres), each of which are relatively small wilderness areas with limited access and low use, suitable for day trips and short overnight trips. The San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) is adjacent on the west side just across Sierra Madre Road. The San Rafael Wilderness is a much larger area than the other wildernesses in the area with several access points suitable for multiple day trips. The San Rafael also receives relatively light use, with moderate use occurring on popular trails on certain weekends. All of these wilderness areas are located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Present visitor use on all wildernesses on the district and forest is relatively low. There are a few popular spots that do receive extra visitor pressure.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the area surrounding the Spoor Canyon Roadless Area is relatively undeveloped National Forest System lands. Some of the area contains small parcels of private lands along the east side of the Sierra Madre ridge, through which there is no access to public lands. The National Forest System lands are accessible to the public and offer a wide range of recreational opportunities. The only launch sites for hang gliders are along the Sierra Madre Ridge.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Species present are, and can be, adequately protected with existing management tools.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: None.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: No unique landforms or ecosystems identified. The existing ecosystems are adequately protected.

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**Sespe-Frazier (Ojai RD)  
Inventoried Roadless Area**

**Stanley Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Stanley Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Lucia Ranger District

### Capability

Stanley Mountain Roadless Area is located within the Santa Lucia Ranger District at the junction of the Santa Lucia and Sierra Madre Mountain ranges, 20 air miles from the city of Santa Maria. The area is bounded on the west by the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest, NFSR 32S09, and private lands; on the north by private lands and Forest roads 32S09 and 30S02; on the east by Forest Trail 32S27 (Twin Rocks) and private lands; and on the south by the unnamed route to Stanley Mountain, private lands, and the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest. NFSR 12N04 and the adjacent private lands are excluded.

Environment: The area is characterized by rolling topography with steep canyons and rock outcrops. It is divided by the South Cuyama Fault and is gently folded into anticlines and synclines; bedrock crops out as ledges of moderate 15-20% natural slope gradients. Elevations range from 1,000 to 2,400 feet on Stanley Mountain. Vegetation types are composed at 17% Oak-Grassland, 71% other chaparral and 12% mixed chaparral. Most of the vegetation burned in the Logan fire in 1997. There are five miles of administrative jeep trails used for fire and grazing.

The natural integrity of the area is low with seven parcels of private land and 14 miles of roads and jeep trails contained in the area. The west and northeast sides are bordered by private property; the east, north, and south borders are formed by jeep trail off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes. A low standard road located near Alamo Creek protrudes three miles into the area. OHV routes heavily impact the natural appearance of the area as well as the noise level in the areas adjacent to routes.

Challenge: Water scarcity and the absence of a developed hiking trail system limit primitive recreation. There are no challenging experiences afforded in the area. The area is eight and one-half miles long and five miles wide. The inclusion of private land reduces this relatively small area's feeling of expansiveness. Opportunities for solitude are limited.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Annual recreation visitor use is estimated at 1,900 Recreation Visitor Days, most of which are associated with deer hunting and OHV use. There are nine miles of OHV routes.

Special Features: There are no major attractions or scenic landmarks in the area. A small population of red-legged frogs has been found in Branch Creek. Prairie falcons nest in the area.

Manageability: This 14,267 acre area meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. This area would be extremely difficult to manage as wilderness because access is difficult to control from the private land parcels and from the many off-highway vehicle routes. Wilderness classification would eliminate off-highway vehicle use. Prescribed burning activities and fire suppression activities are needed for future management and require motorized access and equipment. Range developments such as water tanks, fences, pipelines, troughs, and stock ponds require motorized access for maintenance and construction. Ranchers and private landowners do drive on the roads throughout the area to access their land and manage their cattle.

Boundary Considerations: The Bureau of Land Management's 300 acres (wsa-ca-012), located along the forest boundary to the west of Stanley Mountain, is adjacent to the area. Private land boundaries are difficult to establish, post, and maintain due to limited access.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Practical recreation capacity is 24,728 Recreation Visitor Days managed; as wilderness the capacity would be 18,147 Recreation Visitor Days. Maximum grazing use is estimated to be 2,563 Animal Unit Months a year. There are no known archeological sites in the area. The air is designated attainment for National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Mercury has been identified as a mineral in the area. There is low potential for saleable minerals, such as gravel and building stone and for strategic minerals. There is a low to moderate potential for oil and gas development. The potential resistance to fire control is rated high.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): There are four grazing allotments with several miles of fence. Ridge top firebreaks from the pre-attack activities in the late 1950s and more recent fires (Logan) are still noticeable. The abandoned Deer Trail mine exists within the area. Clean up of this mine will utilize motorized access and equipment.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Limits motorized access to private lands and for range management.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Stanley Mountain Roadless Area at its closest point is 12 air miles southeast of the Santa Lucia Wilderness (18,679 acres), eight air miles south of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness (19,760 acres), and five air miles southeast of the Garcia Wilderness (14,100 acres), which are each relatively small wilderness areas with limited access

and low use, suitable for day trips and short overnight trips. The San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) is located nine air miles to the southeast. The San Rafael Wilderness is a much larger area than the other wildernesses in the area with several access points suitable for multiple day trips. The San Rafael also receives relatively light use with moderate use occurring on popular trails on certain weekends. All of these wilderness areas are located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Present visitor use on all wildernesses on the district and forest is relatively low. There are a few popular spots that do receive extra visitor pressure.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the area surrounding of the Stanley Mountain Roadless Area is relatively undeveloped National Forest System lands. Some of the area contains parcels of private lands through which there is no access to public lands. The National Forest System lands are accessible to the public and offer a wide range of recreational opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): There is a limited potential for increased use and development and a high ability for species to compete.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: None.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: No unique landforms or ecosystems identified.

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**Spoor Canyon Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Tepusquet Peak Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Tepusquet Peak Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Lucia Ranger District

### Capability

Tepusquet Peak Roadless Area is located in the mountains roughly 12 miles east of Santa Maria, on the Santa Lucia Ranger District. The area is bounded on the north by NFSR 11N04, on the east by private lands and Forest roads 11N04 and 10N06, and on the south and west by the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest.

Environment: Elevations range from approximately 700 feet in the extreme southeast corner to 3,253 feet at the Tepusquet Peak communication site. Most of this area is within the Sisquoc River Watershed. 40% or more of this area is steep and 80% is covered by oak grassland or chaparral in the 31 year age class. Tepusquet Peak supports two large communication sites and a winding road to access them. The South Fork La Brea range allotment also falls within this area.

The natural integrity of this area is low due to private land, roads on the eastside, and Tepusquet Peak communication sites on the west side. This area contains Tepusquet Peak to the west and Rattlesnake Canyon to the east. Along the top half of the western boundary there is a parcel of Bureau of Land Management land. Alejandro Canyon bisects the IRA. There are large parcels of private land on the eastern side of the area, including the Goodchild/Adams Ranch.

Challenge: The opportunity for a quality wilderness experience does not exist due to the small size and the surrounding and intruding roadways. No special scenic features exist in the area.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Current annual recreation use is estimated at 300 Recreation Visitor Days, mostly camping, hunting, and some off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on La Brea and Colson roads. These roads can be closed during the winter in order to protect the California red-legged frog. Colson campground is located just outside of the boundary on the northern end and Barrel Springs Campground is within the IRA in the southeast. Both are family style campgrounds with access via Colson Canyon road and La Brea road, respectively. One of the major needs during deer hunting season is camping with motorized access. Some mountain bike use occurs on roads and trails.

Special Features: The area contains red-legged frog habitat. There are no known archeological sites.

Manageability: The 5,823 acre IRA meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. Recreation activities would change to non-motorized uses with wilderness designation. Access to Barrel Springs Campground would be limited to hiking or horseback, instead of motor vehicles, probably greatly reducing public use. Manageability on the north and east is fair due to well-defined roadways, but the opportunity for intrusion from or onto private land would be high due to the same roads. The opportunity for motorized access would decrease if this became a wilderness.

Boundary Considerations: To the west and south the forest boundaries would be much more difficult to define and mark on the ground, making overall manageability poor.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Most visitor use currently is associated with hunting and camping and there is some off-highway vehicle use on La Brea and Colson roads, which border this area. Use of Barrel Springs Campground would decrease due to lack of motorized access. The area is important for both fuels management and fire suppression in order to reduce the risk of wildfire to homes in the Tepusquet and Colson canyons. Private landowners and Santa Barbara County have identified the area as a high priority for prescribed burning. This area is a Class I Airshed.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): The South Fork La Brea grazing allotment falls within this area, as does the developed access road to the two communication sites on Tepusquet Peak. No major hard rock mines are present. The two different access roads to the ranch and communication sites will need to remain available to motorized use.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: A dirt access road for the Goodchild/ Adams Ranch cuts through the extreme southeast corner of this area and receives high use. Motorized access for the ranch needs to be maintained if the area is converted to wilderness.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Black Mountain Roadless Area at its closest point is eight air miles northeast of the Santa Lucia Wilderness (18,679 acres), four air miles northwest of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness (19,760 acres), and six air miles north of the Garcia Wilderness (14,100 acres), which are each relatively small wilderness areas with limited access and low use, suitable for day trips and short overnight trips. The San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres) is located 26 air miles to the southeast. The San Rafael Wilderness is a much larger area than the other wildernesses in the area with several access points suitable for multiple day trips. The San Rafael also receives relatively light use with moderate use occurring on popular trails on certain weekends. All of these wilderness areas are located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Present visitor use on all wildernesses on the district and forest is relatively low. There are a few popular spots that do receive extra visitor pressure.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: There are moderate opportunities for both motorized and mechanized recreation.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): There is a very low potential for increased use and development. Species have a high ability to compete in the area. Current management tools provide adequate protection.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: None.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: No unique landforms or ecosystems are identified. Need to use prescribed fire to preserve fire-adapted ecosystems and reduce the risk of wildfire.

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**Stanley Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Tequepis Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Tequepis Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Barbara Ranger District

### Capability

This roadless area is bounded on the south by the West Camino Cielo Road (NFSR 5N19). The West Camino Cielo Road exists as a Santa Barbara County road maintenance easement. The northern boundary consists primarily of private property and the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest with no public access into the roadless area.

Environment: The West Camino Cielo Road provides access to numerous electronic sites on Santa Ynez and Broadcast Peaks. The western seven-mile segment, approximately half of West Camino Cielo from Santa Ynez Peak to Refugio Pass, is paved. Vandenberg Air Force Base constructed this road portion for access to Santa Ynez Peak for periodic viewing and monitoring of scheduled rocket launches. Feelings of solitude and serenity provided by this IRA are considered low to moderate. The area does have a fairly natural appearance; however, on both boundaries there is a high level of disturbance.

Challenge: The view from many vantage points located in this study area are of human activities taking place on Highway 154, Lake Cachuma, Bee Rock Quarry, and the San Marcos Golf Course. There are limited opportunities to experience wilderness characteristics because of the high level of human activity.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The Tequepis Trail (Forest Trail 29W06) passes through the middle of this roadless area. The northern trailhead for this trail is associated with three outdoor camps: one private camp and two under special use permit. With the exception of this trail, public access is limited to West Camino Cielo Road, fuel break roads, and dozerlines.

Special Features: There are no unique or remarkable natural features.

Manageability: The 9,086 acre IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. Unauthorized off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is occurring on most portions of the ridgeline where old roads and dozerlines exist. Approximately 10 miles of cable and wire fence has been constructed along West Camino Cielo Road to stop OHV trespass. Ridge top areas may provide for future OHV trail opportunities.

Boundary Considerations: Designation of wilderness directly adjacent to the large expanse of private property could create future conflicts as the private property continues to be developed. Future OHV opportunities along ridge tops within the IRA would require adjustments to current boundaries south of West Camino Cielo Road.

Boundary Considerations: Uncontrolled vehicle access would occur from surrounding private ranches and properties. Ability to post and establish wilderness boundaries along jagged property lines would be difficult and costly to maintain.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: Ridge top fuel breaks and fuel type conversions are necessary for fire control efforts.

Unclassified roads exist across National Forest System lands linking private land parcels to adjacent private land, water developments, and historical fire suppression roads and dozer fire lines. Some unauthorized roads exist on National Forest System lands.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): West Camino Cielo Road exists as a Santa Barbara County road maintenance easement. This road provides access to numerous electronic sites on Santa Ynez and Broadcast Peaks. The western seven-mile segment, approximately half of the West Camino Cielo Road from Santa Ynez Peak to Refugio Pass, is paved. Vandenberg Air Force Base constructed this road portion for access to Santa Ynez Peak for periodic viewing and monitoring of scheduled rocket launches.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Posting of boundaries between private and National Forest Land would be necessary.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Located approximately fifteen air miles north of this IRA are the San Rafael (197,380 acres) and the Dick Smith Wildernesses (67,800 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Visitation in both the San Rafael and the Dick Smith Wilderness is considered light to moderate and areas are minimally impacted.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Santa Barbara Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Much of the Santa Barbara Ranger District non-wilderness lands

encompass similar landscapes and provide opportunities for primitive outdoor experiences.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): All the perennial streams flowing north out of this area are federally designated critical habitat for the threatened California red-legged frog. Sedimentation into breeding pools is thought to be one of the largest threats to the frog throughout its range. Erosion above natural levels is limited to some disturbed spots associated with West Camino Cielo Road. Currently the amount is not considered excessive, however this could change if additional roads or other construction occur in the area. There are several records of California spotted owl, a federally designated sensitive species in Tequepis Canyon, and as such has been designated as a Spotted Owl Management Area. With the exception of non-motorized recreation throughout (hikers and mountain bikers), and that associated with a trailhead and outdoor school in the lower canyon (mostly outside the core area), little human activity occurs that might disturb the owls.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: Use of this area by California condors, a federally designated endangered species, is expected to increase as their numbers grow to recovery level. Although they do successfully inhabit areas altered by man, they are best adapted to remote areas. Of special concern, especially to young birds, is exposure to hazards associated with man-made structures, especially electronic communication sites located on ridge tops. There are three such sites located on West Camino Cielo Road. Additional sites would probably come in conflict with condor recovery.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: No significant landforms or ecosystems have been identified in this IRA.

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**Tepusquet Peak Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**White Ledge Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## White Ledge Inventoried Roadless Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Ojai Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: This area is nearly contiguous with the existing Matilija Wilderness. It is separated by the gravel-surfaced, Murietta Road (NFSR 5N13) along the south side of Matilija Wilderness and north side of this area.

White Ledge IRA is 10 miles north of Ventura within the Ojai Ranger District in the coastal Santa Ynez Mountain range. The topography is a rugged mountainous setting composed of predominantly steep drainages with some gentle slopes. Elevations range from 1,300 to 4,800 feet above White Ledge Peak. Prior to the 1985 Wheeler Fire, the vegetation was composed of 6% conifer, 5% oak-grassland, 28% mixed chaparral, and 61% other chaparral; however, essentially the entire area was burned and vegetative regrowth may vary somewhat. It now tends to be even-aged vegetation. Wildlife consists of bear, deer, mountain lion, bobcat, and coyote; smaller species include fox, mountain and valley quail, rabbit, raccoon, and gray squirrels.

The natural appearance and integrity of the area are very much intact. There are several man-made improvements in the area. They include Alder Creek Camp, Ocean View Trail, East Camino Cielo Road, and several unnamed dozer fire lines. Alder Creek Camp is a small camp in the northwest corner of the area along Alder Creek. The area is flanked on the east side by a buried gas pipeline.

Access to the White Ledge area is from State Highway 33 via the Matilija Canyon Road, a county road. The appearance of the area is characterized by a major ridgeline with large, steep canyons extending down to the north and south. The slopes are generally covered with chaparral. The middle of the area contains a unique feature, which is the prominent White Ledge Peak. Minor access is also provided by Murietta Road on the northwest corner of the area, Divide Peak off-highway vehicle (OHV) route (NFSR 5N12) on the west side, and East Camino Cielo Road on the east side. Public access along the southern flank is not possible because private lands preclude access. Matilija Canyon Road, Murietta Road, Superior Ridge Road (4N05), and the buried gas pipeline surround the area.

The six-mile Ocean View Trail (Forest Trail 24W08) lies within this IRA. Its western terminus is at Murietta Divide, the high point along Murietta Road. It climbs south up the Divide Peak ridge and then turns east toward its eastern terminus with East Camino Cielo Road. The bulk of its length is on or near

the ridgeline, offering panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, Channel Islands, and the backcountry. Immediately to the south is the backside of White Ledge Peak, a prominent peak in the area. Lake Casitas is also seen to the south. Views east and west look along one of the main spines of the Transverse Range. Also seen to the east is the community of Ojai. Views to the north look into the Matilija Wilderness and adjacent forestlands to the west of the Matilija Wilderness.

East Camino Cielo Road (NFSR 5N12.1) intersects the Ocean View Trail and traverses the ridge to its eastern terminus at State Highway 33. The western two miles of the road are within the IRA. This road is currently open to non-motorized recreation use and is believed to be a portion of a historic route, which spanned the Santa Barbara and Ojai front country from State Highway 101 at Gaviota to State Highway 33.

There are also several dozerlines descending from the Divide Peak area northerly to Murietta Divide and NFSR 5N13.

Challenge: Cross-country exploring provides some interesting challenges, although it is hampered by steep terrain and dense chaparral vegetation. There are considerable challenges in the area, as there are few trails. Numerous opportunities for solitude exist despite views of Matilija Canyon Road (NFSR 5N13), State Highway 33, coastal cities, and gas pipeline scars within portions of the area. Areas on the north side of the ridgeline offer greater opportunities for solitude.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Recreation opportunities in this area are mainly concentrated along the Ocean View Trail and East Camino Cielo Road. Opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. “Peak baggers” will also use this route as an access to White Ledge Peak, a popular destination due to its prominence in the area. The area also provides opportunities for hunting (primarily deer and quail).

Special Features: White Ledge Peak (elevation 4,640) is a prominent rocky peak. Its south side offers a bare-rock face that is visible from great distances. It is a popular day hike. The proposed area offers excellent coastal views, which are rare in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Manageability: The 18,607 acre IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation set forth in the Wilderness Act. The area is nine miles by 5.5 miles in size. Its size and shape are adequate to manage as wilderness. However, wilderness designation would eliminate mountain bike use and mechanized maintenance of Ocean View Trail and East Camino Cielo Road. Maintenance activities currently include use of a motorized trail tractor to maintain proper tread and drainage functions to protect resource values, as well as chainsaws to keep chaparral cut back from encroaching on the trail. From certain portions of the area, one can hear and see the traffic on State Highway 150 to the south near Lake Casitas.

Boundary Considerations: Most of the area is bordered by existing dirt roads. The west side has a long cherry stem of Divide Peak 4WD Road. It is bordered on the east by a buried gas pipeline. It is bordered

on the south by Santa Ana Fuelbreak. The area also contains several miles of East Camino Cielo Road.

Boundary adjustments to exclude Ocean View Trail and East Camino Cielo Road from the wilderness would roughly bisect this area. Each resulting area would be too small to properly administer as wilderness. However, this boundary adjustment would allow continued use of mechanized equipment (tractors, chainsaws) for road maintenance and resource protection.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The buried gas pipeline will remain in use into the foreseeable future. Due to required intermittent maintenance on the line with heavy equipment, the impacts associated with the pipeline are expected to continue indefinitely.

The existing Ocean View Trail and East Camino Cielo Road cut across this area and are used by hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers. This route provides an opportunity for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. Current maintenance practices rely on mechanized equipment. Loss of mechanized maintenance methods would seriously hamper the ability to keep the route adequately maintained for public use and for resource protection.

The southern portion of this area has been rated as having a high potential for oil and gas occurrence.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): There is a linear special use permit for a gas pipeline adjacent to the area on the east side. Also, roads exist as described above. There are no private parcels of land inside this area. The Coyote grazing allotment exists in the southern portion.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation is expected to have a minimal effect on adjacent lands.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20 mile radius of the area are the Matilija Wilderness (29,600 acres), the Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres), the San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres), the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), and the Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres). Collectively, these nearby wildernesses all offer protection for similar types of natural ecosystems. They also offer similar non-motorized recreation opportunities for solitude and self-reliance.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Public use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations. Use levels typically increase during the spring months. Public use has never reached sufficient levels to warrant implementation of a wilderness permit or quota system.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Ojai Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in these non-wilderness areas.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biota are currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. The low current and projected levels of public use means that all biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully into the future. No developmental projects are proposed that would impact this area. The existing condition offers the public a freer form of access and use of the land since it is mostly covered with chaparral. The environment is currently in balance with the existing public use and there are no threats to change that balance.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is no need for such a sanctuary; the current levels of protection are adequate. Also, there are no unique scientific values or phenomena that would need protection by special designation.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Unique landforms and ecosystems will be preserved regardless of wilderness designation.

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**Tequepis Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Bear Undeveloped Area**

## Bear Undeveloped Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Los Pinos Ranger District

### Capability

Environment: This 1,958 acre roadless area is bordered by the Dick Smith Wilderness to the west and south; private land, National Forest System Road (NFSR) 7N04, and an oil/gas pipe line corridor to the north and west; and California State Highway 33 to the east. Chaparral covers most of the slopes with coniferous species (mostly bigcone Douglas-fir) at higher elevations. A small amount of oak woodland and riparian vegetation exist in the canyon bottom. Approximately 1.25 miles of an old (unmaintained) road and 3.5 miles of maintained hiking trail exist. The entire area is part of the Tinta grazing allotment with several miles of fenceline and other livestock grazing improvements.

Challenge: The area provides a low sense of solitude due to the proximity to Highway 33, private land, and NFSR 7N04. The California Department of Transportation has inquired about the availability for a potential disposal site of slough material from Highway 33.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: This area provides the opportunity for backcountry camping, hiking, and horseback riding as well as hunting, primarily for deer and quail. Recreation use is mostly associated with hunting, hiking, and camping. The approximately 3.5 miles of maintained hiking/horse trail access the Dick Smith Wilderness.

Manageability: The area would be moderately difficult to manage as wilderness due to the proximity to private land, state highway, and gas/oil pipeline special use permit; as well as the grazing allotment management activities.

Boundary Considerations: Boundary adjustments on the north and east sides would prevent conflicts with the private land, oil/gas special use permit, and the potential need for disposal sites.

### Availability

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The area includes

portions of the Tinta grazing allotment. The area is available for oil and gas leasing and part of the area is identified as high potential. Highway 33 has numerous landslides every winter adjacent to the area. A need exists to locate future disposal sites for this material.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): The area contains a grazing allotment and an oil and gas pipeline linear special use authorization.

Effect that Wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Designation of wilderness may complicate administration of grazing allotment and implementation of fuels treatment projects in the area. Also, directly adjacent proximity to the private property will probably create future conflicts as the private property continues to be developed.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other Wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20 mile radius of the area are the San Rafael Wilderness (211,937 acres), the Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), the Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres), and the Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres).

Present visitor pressure on other Wildernesses: The area is in the Upper Cuyama Valley within an hour drive of the small communities of New Cuyama, Cuyama, Maricopa, Taft, Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, and the Pine Mountain Club, and approximately two hours from Ventura and Santa Maria. Use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a couple of popular destinations within the wildernesses.

Extent to which non-Wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in these non-wilderness areas.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than Wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The California condor has had their historic range substantially reduced due to increased human populations and developments. California condors have been reintroduced into areas of their historic range from a release site approximately 15 air miles from this roadless area. Current and projected human uses and developments on National Forest System lands in the Bear roadless area are not substantially affecting the habitat of this species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: California condors require large tracts of land in order to maintain viable populations. Currently, this endangered species occupies areas that are part roadless and part roaded.

Current monitoring data does not indicate that the presence of roaded areas is precluding the use of these areas by these birds nor does the data show that California condors use designated Wilderness areas more frequently than non-wilderness areas. The recovery plan for the California condor does not recommend the designation of additional wilderness areas as a means of promoting the recovery of the species.

There are no identified rare plant species or populations that are declining due to public uses and developments occurring on National Forest System lands.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: N/A

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**White Ledge Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Beaver Undeveloped Area**

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## Beaver Undeveloped Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Ojai Ranger District

### Capability

Location: The Beaver roadless area contains approximately 1,185 acres. It is bounded by Sespe Creek on the north, State Highway 33 on the west, Howard Creek Road (Forest Road 5N05) on the east, and Sespe Road (Forest Road 6N31) on the south. The area excludes all four of these features.

Environment: In this area, chaparral covers most of the slopes. Riparian areas contain sycamore, alder, willow, and oak trees. Natural integrity and appearance are fairly high once you get away from the highway and roads that are located along the edges.

Challenge: Cross-country exploring provides some interesting challenges, although travel is hampered by dense chaparral vegetation. There are considerable challenges in the area, as there are no trails. Numerous opportunities for solitude exist in spite of seeing State Highway 33 from portions of the area. The opportunity for solitude is moderate in the interior portions of this area. The climate itself can present a challenge to the visitor. In summer, the weather is extremely hot and dry, while in winter, snow can be found on the upper slopes.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: This area provides the opportunity for challenging cross-country travel, as there are no formal trails. On the east side, there is an old abandoned dirt road leading to an abandoned quarry. Other outdoor recreation opportunities are limited due to poor access to most of the area, its small size, and the preponderance of chaparral.

Special Features: This area is located south of Sespe Creek, a notable feature in local geography.

Manageability: The area, as proposed for wilderness, is not contiguous with the existing Sespe Wilderness. Due to its small size of only approximately 1,185 acres, it would be an isolated, unmanageable block of land if designated as wilderness.

Boundary Considerations: None.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: This area has been rated as having no potential for oil and gas occurrence. There are no existing locatable mineral mines in the area. There is low potential for saleable products such as gravel and building stone, and for strategic and non-strategic minerals. The one existing road into the area was built by the Navy SeaBees to allow quarrying of common variety rocks and gravel. The road and quarry have since been abandoned.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): The only encumbrance is an existing dirt road accessing an abandoned quarry. This feature would detract from the area's wilderness character. There are no special use authorizations or known mining claims.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation would be expected to have a minimal effect on adjacent lands.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20 mile radius of the area are the Matilija Wilderness (29,600 acres), Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres), San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres), Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), and Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres). Collectively, these nearby wildernesses all offer protection for similar types of natural ecosystems. They also offer extensive non-motorized recreation opportunities for solitude and self-reliance.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Public use in these wilderness areas is generally light except for a few holiday weekends and a few popular destinations within the wildernesses. Use levels typically increase during the spring months. Public use has never reached sufficient levels to warrant implementation of a wilderness permit or quota system.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Ojai Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) in the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification system. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in these non-wilderness areas.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biota are currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. The low current and projected levels of public use indicate that all biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully into the future. No developmental projects are proposed that would impact this area. The existing condition offers the public a freer form of access and use of the land since it is mostly covered with chaparral. The environment is currently in balance with the existing public use and there are no threats to change that balance.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is no need for such a sanctuary; the current levels of protection are adequate. Also, there are no unique scientific values or phenomena that would need to be in a protected area.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Unique landforms and ecosystems will be preserved regardless of wilderness designation.

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**Bear Undeveloped Area**

**Chorro Grande Undeveloped  
Area**

## Chorro Grande Undeveloped Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Ojai Ranger District

#### Capability

Location: The Chorro Grande roadless area contains approximately 1,030 acres. It is bounded by Reyes Peak Road (Forest Road 6N06) on the north, Chorro Grande Trail (Forest Trail 23W05) on the west, Munson Creek on the east, and an old mining exploration road near Oak Camp on the south. The area excludes all four of these features.

Environment: In this area, chaparral covers most of the slopes, with coniferous species at the highest elevations. Riparian areas contain sycamore, alder, willow, and oak trees. Natural integrity and appearance are fairly high once you get away from the highway, roads, and recreation developments that are located along the edges. Chorro Grande Trail is the one recreational trail adjacent to this area and is open to hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers.

Challenge: Cross-country exploring provides some interesting challenges, although travel is hampered by dense chaparral vegetation. There are considerable challenges in the area, as there are no trails. Numerous opportunities for solitude exist in spite of seeing State Highways 33 and coastal cities in the distance from portions of the area. The opportunity for solitude is moderate to high in the interior portions of this area. The climate itself can present a challenge to the visitor. In summer, the weather is extremely hot and dry, while in winter, snow can be found on the upper slopes.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: This area provides the opportunity for challenging cross-country travel, as there are no trails. For the same reason, other outdoor recreation opportunities are limited due to poor access and the small size of the area.

Special Features: This area is located on the south flank of the large Pine Mountain ridge, a notable feature in local geography.

Manageability: The area, as proposed for wilderness, is not contiguous with the existing Sespe Wilderness. It would create a manageability issue at its northern edge where it would create a narrow “cherry stem” or road corridor that encompasses Reyes Peak Road. Current vehicle use on this existing

road would hamper its manageability. This road is the principal access for the existing wilderness trailhead on Pine Mountain. The road is important for this use as well as for providing access to a proposed radio repeater on top of Reyes Peak. The road is also popular as a launch site for hang gliders.

A second manageability issue is that the area is not contiguous with the existing Sespe Wilderness. Due to its small size of only approximately 1,030 acres, it would be an unmanageable block of land if designated as wilderness.

Boundary Considerations: None.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: This area has been rated as having no potential for oil and gas occurrence. There are no existing locatable mineral mines in the area. There is low potential for saleable products such as gravel and building stone, and for strategic and non-strategic minerals. There is a high potential for phosphates and gypsum.

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): This area contains a number of mining claims that are believed to be expired. The original boundary of the Sespe-Frazier Inventoried Roadless Area excluded this area due to the mining claims being valid at that time. Several abandoned dirt roads associated with past mining exploration are found within the southern portion of the area. These would detract from its wilderness character.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Wilderness designation would be adjacent to a 40 acre parcel of undeveloped private land. There is currently no access to this parcel. Any future access needs for this parcel would be initially constrained by wilderness designation, limiting access to this parcel to an approach from the west only. This would put an undue burden on the landowners for accessing this parcel that is in steep country, and could increase access costs. If access from this side were not physically feasible, access options within the newly designated wilderness would be explored. In turn, this would have impacts on this wilderness, especially due to its small size. Such future access might also leave a scar visible below from Highway 33, a National Forest Scenic Byway.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: Within a 20 mile radius of the area are the Matilija Wilderness (29,600 acres), Sespe Wilderness (219,700 acres), San Rafael Wilderness (197,380 acres), Dick Smith Wilderness (67,800 acres), and Chumash Wilderness (38,150 acres). Collectively, these nearby wildernesses all offer protection for similar types of natural ecosystems. They also offer extensive non-motorized recreation opportunities for solitude and self-reliance.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Public use in these wilderness areas is generally light

except for a few holiday weekends and a few popular destinations within the wildernesses. Use levels typically increase during the spring months. Public use has never reached sufficient levels to warrant implementation of a wilderness permit or quota system.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: A large percentage of the non-wilderness land base on the Ojai Ranger District is designated semi-primitive motorized (SPM) or semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) in the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification system. Many of the same opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences are available in these non-wilderness areas.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Biota are currently thriving successfully without wilderness designation. The low current and projected levels of public use indicate that all biotic species are expected to continue thriving successfully into the future. No developmental projects are proposed that would impact this area. The existing condition offers the public a freer form of access and use of the land since it is mostly covered with chaparral. The environment is currently in balance with the existing public use and there are no threats to change that balance.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is no need for such a sanctuary; the current levels of protection are adequate. Also, there are no unique scientific values or phenomena that would need to be in a protected area.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Unique landforms and ecosystems will be preserved regardless of wilderness designation.

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**Beaver Undeveloped Area**

**Los Pelados Undeveloped Area**

## Los Pelados Undeveloped Area

### Los Padres National Forest

Santa Barbara Ranger District

### Capability

The 2,803 acre Los Pelados Mountain Roadless Area is within the Santa Lucia Ranger District, 20 air miles east of San Luis Obispo. The area is bordered by private lands on the west, the Machesna inventoried roadless area on the north, the administrative boundary of the Los Padres National Forest on the east, and Forest Route 31S14 to the south.

Environment: The La Panza Range is the dominant landform. A number of drainages traverse the area. Chaparral dominates the landscape. 80% of all chaparral is in the less than 10 year age class, due to the Highway 58 Fire in 1996 and 20% of the stand is in the 11 to 31 year and older age class. Most of the area is mapped as cretaceous or granitic bedrock. The cretaceous is marine bedrock, which has been uplifted and displaced along northwest-southeast trending faults. Elevation ranges from 2,000 feet to 3,908 feet at the communication site at the end of National Forest System Road (NFSR) 31S10. NFSR 31S10 traverses through the middle of this area and High Voltage Power Lines run along NFSR 31S14 to form the south boundary.

Challenge: This area is remote terrain with the Machesna Wilderness to the north and unpopulated private land surrounding the other sides. Access is limited.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The majority of the area is classified as the semi-primitive motorized category. An area in the northeast corner, approximately 600 acres, is classified as semi-primitive, non-motorized. Public access is limited and involves hiking in approximately 11 miles across the Machesna Wilderness.

Special Features: The area contains no year-long streams. Wildlife species include deer, mountain lion, bear, and coyote as well as small game species such as mountain and valley quail, dove, and cottontail rabbit. Archaeological sites exist in the area.

Manageability: The size is less than the 5,000 acre recommendation in the Wilderness Act. NFSR 31S10 to the communication site and NFSR 31S14 to the High Voltage PG&E Diablo-Midway Power Lines need to remain open to motorized use.

The area is included in the Avenales and Piletas Grazing Allotments. There are several old jeep trails utilized by the Avenales Ranch associated with cattle management that are currently not maintained for motorized use. These roads are used by motorized vehicles occasionally to maintain range structures.

Potential resistance to fire suppression would be high. Fire activity is high, as is the need for motorized access and equipment for fire suppression activities to protect the High Voltage PG&E Diablo-Midway Power Lines.

Boundary Considerations: Establishing and posting boundaries on the ground would be costly and difficult to do due to the checkerboard nature of the boundary along with up to seven private inholdings.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: As wilderness, visitor recreation days would not change due to the remote area and no special interest.

Constraints and encumbrances (Special Use Authorizations, roads, mining claims): The Los Pelados area has two existing grazing allotments, one communication site, one High Voltage Power Line, and two Forest System Roads.

Effect that Wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Minimal effect except for limiting motorized access for ranching and mining.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other Wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Los Pelados area is adjacent to the existing Machesna Wilderness (19,760 acres), to the north. It is located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Present visitor pressure on other Wildernesses: Present visitor use on all wildernesses on the district and forest is relatively low. There are a few popular spots that do receive extra visitor pressure.

The area is adjacent to the Machesna Wilderness, which receives light use due to limited and difficult access. Designation of additional wilderness would make access to the existing wilderness much harder.

Extent to which non-Wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the area surrounding the Los Pelados Area is relatively undeveloped National Forest System lands. Some of the area contains small parcels of private lands with no access to public lands. The National Forest System lands are not accessible to the public and offer limited recreational opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than Wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Increased use and development are not anticipated. Existing management and tools are able to protect species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: California condors are adequately protected with existing management. Motorized access aids in tracking condors from this area.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: Topography and vegetative types are not unique.

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**Chorro Grande Undeveloped  
Area**

**Chumash Toad Springs Road  
Corridor**

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## Chumash Toad Springs Road Corridor

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

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# **San Bernardino National Forest Wilderness Evaluations**

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## Cactus Springs A and B Inventoried Roadless Areas

### San Bernardino National Forest

San Jacinto Ranger District

### Capability

The Cactus Springs "A" Inventoried Roadless Area is a small, remnant 21-acre parcel of recently acquired National Forest System land south of National Forest System Road (NFSR) 7S02 at Virgin Springs, adjacent to the existing Santa Rosa Wilderness. Cactus Springs "B" Inventoried Roadless Area is 3,101 acres located generally south of State Highway 74 (the Palms to Pines Scenic Byway), east/north of National NFSR 7S02, and west of NFSR 7S01. The Santa Rosa Wilderness is directly east of this unit. Both units lie within the San Jacinto Ranger District. This is the upper Palm Canyon watershed, near the Pinyon Pines community. The more urbanized Coachella Valley communities are located ten miles northeast. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is located approximately three miles south.

Environment: For Cactus Springs "A", a high to moderate degree of experiential benefits are available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is natural and free from disturbance. Views of, and sounds from Highway 74 and the nearby community of Pinyon Pines are not evident. For Cactus Springs "B", a moderate to low degree of experiential benefits are available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is somewhat natural and free from disturbance. Views of, and sounds from Highway 74 and the nearby community of Pinyon Pines are often evident.

This is primarily boulder-strewn high desert, dense chaparral, and pinyon-juniper ecosystems. There is some mixed conifer at higher elevations. No unique scientific or educational values are found. However, this area can be considered a part of a cultural landscape. Numerous heritage resource sites are known to be in the area. Culturally sensitive plants occur in the area and are gathered today by Cahuilla Indian people. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this area.

Challenge: Relatively remote for southern California, the area offers moderate to low opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance. Dense chaparral and steep slopes preclude much cross-country travel.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, nature viewing and hunting. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is mostly Semi-Primitive Motorized, with some Roaded Natural and Rural.

Special Features: This is part of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Approximately 30 acres of modeled habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) occurs in Cactus Springs "B". Several plants grow in this area that are of importance for food. Certain classes of known archaeological sites are unique and offer scientific values not found in other areas under consideration. Prehistoric trails traverse through the area.

Manageability: These units do not meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act; however, they do meet this recommendation when viewed as contiguous additions to the existing Santa Rosa Wilderness. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements, however there are some improvements within the unit. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and follow section lines, although the portions of boundary that follows the section lines would be moderately difficult to administer. The boundary for Cactus Springs "A" should be set back to the north 200 feet away from NFSR 7S02.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are limited resource demands and uses. New mineral and geothermal rights have been withdrawn under National Monument authority. Some mountain biking and four-wheel driving opportunities would be forgone. There is no motorized access to Virgin Springs.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): None for Cactus Springs "A". Cactus Springs "B" is interspersed by three sections of private land. A portion of Ribbonwood Campground may lie within the boundary of this roadless area. A vital community water system under permit to the forest lies within the eastern section of this area. It consists of a well, water line, two water tanks, and an access road (which the water district uses for motorized access to maintain their improvements). There is an electronic site on nearby Toro Peak, accessed by NFSR 7S02. The Sawmill Trail, 5E02, lies within this unit, as does an old 4-wheel drive road that runs from the end of the Sawmill Road westward to the Spring Crest area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be some effect in fire management. There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. The northern boundary of this area borders the community of Pinyon Pines. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport had been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area for community protection. This type of suppression activity, along with prescribed burning, will be more difficult if the unit is designated as wilderness.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Santa Rosa Wilderness, 13,787 acres of National Forest System and 64,340 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands (added in California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located directly east. The San Jacinto Wilderness, 32,248 acres of National Forest System and 12,828 acres of Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness State Park lands are located approximately 10 miles northwest. Given these resources, there is little direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area. It is, however, appropriate to recommend the designation of most of Cactus Springs "A" as wilderness to fill in the small gap that had formerly been private land surrounded on three sides by the Santa Rosa Wilderness.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is light, mostly day use (Santa Rosa) to moderate, mixed day and overnight use (San Jacinto). Use is expected to increase somewhat with the new Monument designation. The Coachella Valley population is increasing rapidly. The area is easily accessible by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Much of the San Jacinto Ranger District non-wilderness land encompasses similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): N/A

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a low ability to provide for preservation.

## Cahuilla Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

San Jacinto Ranger District

### Capability

The 6,945 acre Cahuilla Mountain Inventoried Roadless area is located in the southwest corner of the San Jacinto Ranger District. It is bounded on the west, south, and east sides by the Forest boundary, and on the north by NFSR 7S04 and 6S22. The Cahuilla Indian Reservation adjoins the area on the southeastern corner. This is the upper Cahuilla and Wilson Creeks watershed, adjacent to the Tripp Flats Fire Station and rural Anza community, with the more urbanized Hemet Valley communities located 10 miles northwest.

Environment: There is a moderate to low degree of experiential benefits available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is relatively natural and free from disturbance, however views of and sounds from the nearby Cahuilla and Anza communities are sometimes evident. The area primarily consists of steep, heavily dissected ridges within varying densities of a chaparral ecosystem. A Research Natural Area for black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) and Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*) is found on Cahuilla Mountain. The area can be considered part of a Cultural Landscape and Traditional Cultural Property. The area is known for heritage resource sites. Culturally sensitive plants occur in the area and are gathered today by Cahuilla Indian people. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This is a relatively remote area for southern California, with moderate to low opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance. Dense chaparral precludes much cross-country travel.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities would include hiking, nature viewing, rock hounding, and hunting. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized.

Special Features: Cahuilla Mountain is a prominent local landmark with views of a vast area. The Inventoried Roadless Area, along with the local valley, has ties to Helen Hunt Jackson and her classic novel of early California, Ramona. Juan Bautista de Anza traveled through nearby Bautista Canyon during his 1775-1776 expedition. The Cahuilla Mountain Research Natural Area for black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) and Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*) is a special feature, but one that is already protected. There are approximately 2,500 acres of modeled habitat for the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas*

*editha quino*) in the southern and western sections of the area, 150 acres of modeled habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and 230 acres of modeled habitat for the San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*). Several plants grow in this area that are of importance for food and medicine. Little of the area has been inventoried for heritage resources, however known archaeological sites are considered very important to Cahuilla and Luiseño Indians. Cahuilla place names are still remembered for the area. The Research Natural Area contains unique scientific values not found in other areas under consideration.

Manageability: This area meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. The area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are some minor demands for mining and rockhounding (feldspar, silica, mica) and some gemstones. Some mountain biking opportunities would be forgone with wilderness designation.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): The Williamson Mine, used primarily by recreational collectors, is found on the south side of Cahuilla Mountain. There may be other mining claims here also. There are some wildlife water guzzlers. There is no private land within the IRA boundary. Forest Trail 2E45 lies within the area and is maintained by use of chainsaws because of heavy brush growth.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be some effect on fire management. There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. The southern and eastern boundary of this area borders the communities of Cahuilla and Anza. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area for community protection. This type of suppression activity will be more difficult, as would be prescribed burning, if the area were designated as wilderness.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Santa Rosa Wilderness, 13,787 acres of National Forest System and 64,340 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands (added in California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located 20 miles east. The San Jacinto Wilderness, 32,248 acres of National Forest System and 12,828 acres of Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness State Park lands are located 10 miles northeast. Given these resources, there is little direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Light, mostly day use (Santa Rosa) to moderate, mixed day and overnight use (San Jacinto) visitor pressure exists. Use is expected to increase somewhat with the new Monument designation. The Coachella and Hemet Valleys population is growing rapidly. The area is moderately accessible by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Much of the San Jacinto Ranger District non-wilderness land encompasses similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The current unroaded, relatively remote nature of this area has helped maintain the habitat quality for the black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) and Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*) within the existing Research Natural Area.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The need to provide sanctuary for the black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) and Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*) within the existing Research Natural Area is high.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a moderate to low ability to provide for preservation.

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**Cactus Springs A and B  
Inventoried Roadless Areas**

**Cajon Inventoried Roadless  
Area**

## Cajon Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

Front Country Ranger District

#### Capability

The 7,461 acre Cajon Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the western portion of the Front Country Ranger District. The southern and western boundaries are adjacent to Interstate 15 (I-15) through Cajon Pass. The area is bounded on the north by the old Cleghorn Road and on the east by NFSR 2N49. This is the Cleghorn, Kimbark and Cable Creeks area of the Cajon watershed (excludes Cajon Mountain Lookout). The south and west boundaries are immediately adjacent to urban development/I-15.

Environment: There is a low degree of experiential benefits available for feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is somewhat natural, but it has been subject to significant disturbance, primarily fire and fuel breaks, roads, mineral developments, and utility lines. There is substantial, persistent, intrusive noise from the nearby interstate and urban activities. It is primarily a steep, dense chaparral ecosystem with some bigcone Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*) and live oak on higher, north-facing slopes. A large part of the southern half of this area was burned over in the 1980 Panorama Fire, and much of the northern half was intensely burned in the Blue Cut and Louisiana Fires of 2002. There are no known unique scientific or educational values. The area can be considered a part of a Cultural Landscape. Heritage resource sites are known to be located within the area. Culturally sensitive plants occur in the area and are gathered today by Serrano Indian people. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This Inventoried Roadless Area is not a very remote region, even for Southern California, with low opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance. Dense chaparral and steep slopes preclude cross-country travel in much of the area.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Hiking and hunting occur here. There are no designated trails, but informal, non-system “social” trails leading from nearby communities exist. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Roded Natural.

Special Features: There are three minor peaks form the eastern boundary: Cleghorn Mountain, Cajon Mountain, and Sugarpine Mountain. Modeled habitat for the following species occurs in the area: southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)–50 acres; bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)–700 acres; Nevin’s barberry (*Berberis nevinii*)–200 acres; and mountain yellow-legged

frog (*Rana muscosa*)—east and west forks of Cable Canyon. Several plants grow in this area that are of importance for food, basket materials, and medicine. Several Serrano Indian villages are located in the vicinity and early Spanish explorers and American settlers traversed through the region. Much of the history of the area is tied to those who traveled through Cajon Pass beginning in the late 1700s.

Manageability: The area meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. The area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable.

Boundary Considerations: The proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads, ridges, and creeks, and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: The adjacent Cajon Pass transportation/utility corridor includes a major interstate highway (I-15), rail lines, power transmission and distribution lines, gas and liquid petroleum pipelines, and telecommunications cables. Some OHV and mountain bike use would be forgone with wilderness designation. There are some oil and gas leases, although there is no current activity.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): A number of private parcels, one with a cabin, occur here. There is an electronic site at Cajon Mountain that is accessed by a road.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be some effect on fire management. There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area. This type of fire suppression activity will be more difficult if designated as wilderness, given the propensity of the area to burn due to the proximity of Interstate 15.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Cucamonga Wilderness, 12,781 acres of National Forest System, is located six miles west. The Sheep Mountain Wilderness, 41,883 acres of National Forest System (primarily on the Angeles National Forest), is located 10 miles northwest. There is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Light to moderate, mostly day use occurs within the Cucamonga and Sheep Mountain Wilderness areas. Inland Empire and High Desert (Hesperia, Victorville) populations are increasing rapidly. The area is easily accessed by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the Front Country Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): N/A

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a low ability for preservation.

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**Cahuilla Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Circle Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Circle Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

Front Country Ranger District

#### Capability

The 6,092 acre Circle Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the northwest corner of the Front Country Ranger District, about two miles west of Wrightwood. It is bounded on the south and east by Lone Pine Canyon Road; on the north by Highway 138, private land, and the Forest boundary; and on the west by National Forest System Road (NFSR) 3N51 Horse Canyon Road to Circle Mountain. This is the upper Cajon Canyon watershed, near the Mormon Rocks Fire Station and Nuss Ranch, with the more urbanized Hesperia and Victorville communities located 10 miles northeast.

Environment: There is a low degree of experiential benefits available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is relatively natural and free from disturbance. Views of and sounds from nearby Highway 138 are often evident. The area consists primarily of steep ridges with a dense chaparral ecosystem and some pinyon pine and juniper in the northwestern portion. There are no known unique scientific, educational, or historical values. Few heritage resource sites are known to be within the area due to the lack of inventory. Culturally sensitive plants occur in the area. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This area is somewhat remote for southern California, but with low opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance. Dense chaparral and steep slopes preclude much cross-country travel.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, nature viewing, and hunting. No system trails lie within the area. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, with a small area of Roaded Natural.

Special Features: Special features include a minor peak (Circle Mountain), the San Andreas Fault, and views of nearby Mormon Rocks. There are approximately 50 acres of modeled habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). Several plants grow in this area that are of importance for food and medicine. Little of the area has been inventoried for heritage resources; however, known archaeological sites are considered very important to Serrano and Gabrielino Indians.

Manageability: The area meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Area size,

shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable.

Boundary Considerations: The proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are several private parcels and part of a grazing allotment here. Some oil and gas leases are also here, although there is no current activity. Some mountain biking opportunities would be forgone with wilderness designation.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): Some private parcels, mines, and access roads are located here.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be some effect on fire management. There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area. This type of fire suppression activity will be more difficult, as would prescribed burning, if the area is designated as wilderness.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Cucamonga Wilderness, 12,781 acres of National Forest System, is located two miles southwest. The Sheep Mountain Wilderness, 41,883 acres of National Forest System (primarily on the Angeles National Forest), is located two miles west. There is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is light to moderate, mostly day use within the Cucamonga and Sheep Mountain Wilderness areas. The Inland Empire and High Desert (Hesperia, Victorville) populations are increasing rapidly. The area is moderately accessible by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the Front Country Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): N/A

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a low ability to provide for preservation.

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**Cajon Inventoried Roadless Area**

**City Creek Inventoried Roadless Area**

## City Creek Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

Front Country Ranger District

#### Capability

The 9,986 acre City Creek Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the central portion of the Front Country Ranger District. The northern boundary, from Crestline to Heaps Peak, lies just below the Rim of the World Scenic Byway - State Highway 18. The eastern boundary is State Highway 330. The southern boundary is along National Forest System Road (NFSR) 1N24. The western boundary is formed by Waterman Canyon, Highway 18, and private lands. This area is comprised of the upper City Creek, Strawberry Creek, and Coldwater Canyon watersheds. It lies near the City Creek Fire Station. The urbanized Highland and San Bernardino communities lie several miles below, and Lake Arrowhead is situated immediately adjacent to the IRA boundary.

Environment: There is a low degree of experiential benefits available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is somewhat natural and free from disturbance. Views of and sounds from nearby State Highways 18 and 330 are sometimes evident. The area consists primarily of steep slopes with numerous canyons and draws in a dense chaparral ecosystem with small amounts of mixed conifer at the higher elevations. Much of this area was burned over in the Panorama Fire of 1980, Arrowhead Springs Fire of 2002 and again in the Old Fire of 2003. There are no known unique scientific or educational values. Heritage resource sites are known to be located within the area. Culturally sensitive plants occur in the area and are gathered today by Cahuilla Indian people. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This area is not very remote for southern California and has low opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance. Dense chaparral and steep slopes preclude much cross-country travel.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, nature viewing, and hunting. No system trails lie within this area. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized.

Special Features: Modeled habitat for the following species occurs in the area: bald eagle—4,000 acres; southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)—150 acres; California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)—30 acres; Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*)—300 acres; San Bernardino

bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)–15 acres; and mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*)–Coldwater Canyon and City Creek. Several plants grow in this area that are of importance for food by Serrano Indian people.

Manageability: The Inventoried Roadless Area meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable. Other difficult manageability factors include:

Possible Rim of the World Trail additions may be constructed in the near future within this area, raising the potential for loss of multi-use trail opportunities for mountain bike users.

This area contains a substantial block of even-aged chaparral, most recently created after the Bear Fire of 1970. Designation may hinder management efforts to create a desired mosaic pattern of fuels.

There are a number of National Forest Special Use Permits and improvements located within the boundaries of the area. Designation of wilderness could have significant impacts on the operation, maintenance, improvement, and emergency repair of these uses and improvements:

- Southern California Gas distribution lines feed natural gas to mountain communities through this area. One line runs north to south from Highway 18 through Arrowhead Peak. Opening a locked gate and bermed road from a Highway 18 turnout whenever equipment is needed in the area accesses this buried high-pressure gas line and road. Also, although not currently in use and probably not affected by wilderness status, Forest Trail 4W13A is what is called the gas company's road. This trail provides access to the top of the Arrowhead landmark since the bottom of the landmark is on private land. The other line runs down the old Daley Road from Highway 18 (starting at the "Ox Yoke" monument south of the highway itself), along the west edge of Mud Flats and ties into the Daley Truck Trail. This line is accessed from the old road for emergency use.
- Campus Crusade for Christ has an intake structure, pipelines, and access road leading up into the lower reaches of Coldwater Canyon, all of which are above ground (not buried) and within this area.
- Arrowhead Mountain Spring Water Company has trails, well access areas protected by chain link fence, surface pipelines, and other facilities running down the West Fork of Strawberry Creek.
- Mud Flats was the westernmost pasture for the Santa Ana Range Allotment (vacant since 1991) and it contained several water developments used for cattle and wildlife. Piping for these water developments was on the surface, and watering troughs and/or wildlife guzzlers may still exist.
- Mud Flats was also used as a fuelbreak in the Santa Ana fuelbreak system, which started at the western edge of Mud Flats and ran along NFSR 1N09 to South Fork Campground at the eastern edge of Barton Flats. The Daley fuelbreak also runs through the proposed wilderness and is part of the fuelbreak system that is still maintained with both prescribed fire and mechanical treatments. The fuelbreak protects the mountain communities as well as the City of San Bernardino. Maintenance of these fuelbreaks is considered to be critical to the safety of these

communities.

- The Arrowhead Landmark is within this area. The landmark has numerous erosion control structures that have been constructed over the years to protect its integrity. Wilderness designation could affect the ability of the forest and partners to maintain these structures and the landmark in a cost-effective manner.

The area contains habitat for mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana Muscosa*), which may be listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as endangered in the near future. Management activities for this species may conflict with wilderness designation.

There are significant law enforcement issues here. This area has historically been used for the illegal cultivation of marijuana. In 1999, one of the larger and more sophisticated cultivation sites discovered on the Forest was found between Coldwater and Strawberry Creeks. There is evidence that this site had also been used in previous seasons. The City Creek area is “highly suitable” for marijuana cultivation, unlike other nearby existing wilderness areas that are at higher elevations. And cultivators seek out areas of the forest, like City Creek, that are difficult to access. They cause severe localized resource damage (especially use from illegal herbicides and pesticides) and pose a significant threat to the public safety of visitors. Low-level helicopter reconnaissance is required to detect marijuana plantations, and helicopters often are required for insertion of law enforcement personnel and equipment to surveil, eradicate, and rehabilitate these sites.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are limited resource demands, but there are substantial uses as described above. Some mountain biking opportunities would be forgone with wilderness designation.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): There are adjacent private parcels. Some roads and trails are located here, as described in Manageability above.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be significant effects. See Manageability section above. Also, there would be fire management effects. There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. The mountain rim communities, including Lake Arrowhead, are located just above the area. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport had been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area. This type of fire suppression activity will be more difficult, as would prescribed burning, if the area is designated as wilderness.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Cucamonga Wilderness, 12,781 acres of National Forest System, is located 15 miles west. The San Geronio Wilderness, 56,722 acres of National Forest System lands and 37,980 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands (added in 1994 California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located 10 miles east. There is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is light to moderate, mostly day use within the Cucamonga and moderate to heavy day and overnight use within the San Geronio Wilderness. The Inland Empire population is increasing rapidly. The area is easily accessed by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the Front Country Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): N/A

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a low ability to provide for preservation.

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**Circle Mountain Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Crystal Creek Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## Crystal Creek Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

Front Country Ranger District

### Capability

The 6,771 acre Crystal Creek Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the central portion of the Front Country Ranger District, just west of the community of Angelus Oaks. It is bounded by National Forest System Road (NFSR) 1N13 on the west, NFSR 1N09 on the north, and NFSR 1N12 on the south and east. It is upstream of the Seven Oaks Dam. This area is comprised of the lower Santa Ana watershed, with the urbanized Highland and Yucaipa communities located five miles south.

Environment: There is a low degree of experiential benefits available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is somewhat natural and free from disturbance. It consists primarily of steep, heavily dissected ridges with steep canyons in a dense chaparral ecosystem with a few scattered pockets of bigcone Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga macrcarpa*). A unique riparian area is located adjacent to the Santa Ana River on the west. There are no known unique scientific, educational, or historical values. Culturally sensitive plants occur that were gathered by the Serrano Indian people. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This area is somewhat remote for southern California, but with low opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance. Dense chaparral and steep slopes preclude much cross-country travel.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, nature viewing and hunting. No system trails lie within the area. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Roded Natural.

Special Features: Special features include the Santa Ana River and nearby San Andreas Fault. The area is located above the Seven Oaks Dam. Approximately 500 acres of key habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher occurs along the Santa Ana River. In addition, modeled habitat for the following species occurs in the unit: Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*)—100 acres; San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)—40 acres; least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)—15 acres; mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*)—Deer Creek and Santa Ana River; Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*)—Crystal Creek and Santa Ana River; and California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)—30 acres.

There are no known heritage special features.

Manageability: This unit meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are some resource demands and uses, specifically those associated with water management and power generation of the Santa Ana River.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): There are some private parcels and an access road.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be some effects on fire management. There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. The mountain rim communities are located just above and to the east and west of this area. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport had been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area. This type of fire suppression activity will be more difficult, as would prescribed burning, if the area were designated as wilderness.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The San Gorgonio Wilderness, 56,722 acres of National Forest System lands and 37,980 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands (added in 1994 California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located two miles east. The Bighorn Mountain Wilderness, 39,185 acres of National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands (added in California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located 10 miles to the northeast. There is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is moderate to heavy mixed day and overnight use in the San Gorgonio Wilderness. The Inland Empire population is increasing rapidly. The area is moderately accessible by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the Front Country Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The current unroaded, relatively remote nature of this area has helped maintain the habitat quality for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*).

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The need to provide sanctuary for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) is important.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a low ability to provide for preservation.

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**City Creek Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Cucamonga B and C  
Inventoried Roadless Areas**

## Cucamonga B and C Inventoried Roadless Areas

### San Bernardino National Forest

Front Country Ranger District

#### Capability

The Cucamonga Inventoried Roadless Areas are located in the western portion of the Front Country Ranger District. They are bounded on the west by the Forest boundary with the Angeles National Forest and existing Cucamonga Wilderness boundary; on the south by National Forest System Road (NFSR) 1N34 and the Forest boundary; on the east side by private land, NFSR 2N57, and 2N58; and on the north by NFSR 3N06. Cucamonga "B" at 11,918 acres and "C" at 4,084 acres are separated by Day Canyon, with the "C" unit being to the west. This area is comprised of the upper Lytle and Cucamonga Creeks watersheds. It lies west of the Lytle Creek Ranger Station and Lytle Creek community, with the more urbanized Rancho Cucamonga and Upland communities located one mile south.

Environment: There is a moderate to high degree of experiential benefits available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance in Cucamonga "B." These benefits are low in Cucamonga "C" however, due to adjacent urban influences. Cucamonga "B" is relatively natural and free from disturbance; Cucamonga "C" is not. Both contain steep, heavily dissected ridges with dense chaparral ecosystems and some riparian areas in the lower elevations and mixed conifer in the upper elevations. There are no known unique scientific, educational, or historical values. Culturally sensitive plants that were gathered by Serrano Indian people occur here. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This area is relatively remote for southern California, with moderate opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance for Cucamonga "B," considerably less so for Cucamonga "C." Dense chaparral and steep slopes preclude much cross-country travel in both Inventoried Roadless Areas, although that has changed somewhat due to recent major wildfires.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, nature viewing, and hunting. No system trails lie within the area. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, with a small area of Roaded Natural.

Special Features: Bonita Falls and modeled habitat for the following species occurs in the Cucamonga "B" unit: Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevini*)—200 acres; southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax*

*traillii extimus*)—100 acres; arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) and mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*)—Lytle Creek, along the northern boundary of the IRA, and California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)—30 acres. Approximately 50 acres of modeled habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) occur in the Cucamonga “C” portion. This is Nelson’s bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) range. Some of the largest sugar pines (*pinus lambertiana*) in southern California are found on San Sevaine Ridge. There are no known heritage special features.

Manageability: Cucamonga “B” meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act; Cucamonga “C” does not. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable. Other factors include:

- A water tank appears to be included within the area boundary: T 1 N, R 7 W, Section 7 in Cucamonga “C”.
- The Cucamonga “C” unit is relatively close to the large and rapidly growing community of Rancho Cucamonga. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area. As mentioned in the general comments above, this type of suppression activity will be more difficult if the Cucamonga "C" Inventoried Roadless Area is recommended for wilderness designation. In Cucamonga "B", these effects are minimized by placing the recommended wilderness boundary at the toe of the slope, rather than in Lytle Creek itself. That allows managers to aggressively attack wildfires that start near NFSR 3N06.
- There are a number of dispersed camping area “yellow post” sites near the Joe Elliott Tree Memorial. They are very popular with hunters in the fall. The area boundary is set back from NFSR 1N34 to exclude these sites. There should be no concerns about changing the open campfire policy that is popular with these visitors. There is a similar situation in San Sevaine Flats.
- The proposed wilderness boundary is set back 200 feet from the Middle Fork of Lytle Creek Road 2N58 to cause less confusion to the public. This road is closed at the Middle Fork Trailhead, as indicated by boulders at the line between Sections 17 and 18. The boundary at this location is 200 feet up from the Trailhead.
- Stonehouse Crossing is an area just outside the existing Cucamonga Wilderness boundary but within the Cucamonga "B" Inventoried Roadless Area that provides a novice level hiking and camping experience. It has stoves/grills and open campfires are allowed. Continuation of this type of recreational opportunity will be evaluated by the District after wilderness designation. It is the only opportunity of its kind within the Front Country Ranger District. All other open campfire opportunities are in developed recreation sites and dispersed area “yellow post” sites.
- There is a dispersed area “yellow post” site in the Coldwater Canyon area. It is often inaccessible due to rough road/water in the creek conditions. However, it has a devoted following of visitors who have long enjoyed the open campfire policy there. It has been excluded from the recommended wilderness boundary.
- There are dispersed area “yellow post” sites in the Stockton Flats area with a devoted following of visitors who have long enjoyed the open campfire policy there. They have been excluded from the recommended wilderness boundary.

- The areas contain habitat for Nelson's bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*). Management activities for this species may conflict with wilderness designation.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: See manageability discussion above. There would be some effects on dispersed recreation uses. Some mountain biking opportunities would also be forgone with wilderness designation.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): There is a private parcel, Timber Gulch, located in Cucamonga "B."

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: See fire management discussion above in Manageability.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Cucamonga Wilderness, 12,781 acres of National Forest System, is located adjacent to the west. The Sheep Mountain Wilderness, 41,883 acres of National Forest System (primarily on the Angeles National Forest), is located two miles northwest. Additional wilderness designation is useful and appropriate here.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is light to moderate, mostly day use within the Cucamonga and Sheep Mountain Wilderness areas. The Inland Empire and High Desert (Hesperia, Victorville) populations are growing rapidly. The area is easily accessed by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Much of the Front Country Ranger District non-wilderness land encompasses similar landscapes and opportunities as Cucamonga "C," however the "B" portion is more distinct and unique.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): Nelson's bighorn sheep are affected by development.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is a need to provide a sanctuary for certain biotic species, including Nelson's bighorn

sheep.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a moderate ability in Cucamonga “B” and low in Cucamonga “C.”

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**Crystal Creek Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Deep Creek Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Deep Creek Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

Mountaintop Ranger District

#### Capability

The 23,847 acre Deep Creek Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the north central portion of the Mountaintop Ranger District. It is bounded on the north by the Forest boundary; on the west by Highway 173; on the south by National Forest System Road (NFSR) 3N34, Squints Ranch, and Crab Flats; and on the east by NFSRs 3N16, 3N95, and 3N59. This area is within the Holcomb and Deep Creek watersheds, between the Rock Camp Fire Station on the west, and Big Pine Flat Fire Station on the east, with Apple Valley (Hesperia) several miles to the north.

Environment: There is a moderate to low degree of experiential benefits available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is relatively natural and free from disturbance. The predominant feature in the area is Deep Creek, a perennial stream with its headwaters along the crest of the San Bernardino Mountains. The stream winds through forested high country into upper desert ecosystems. There is some mixed conifer and Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*) south of Holcomb Creek, with the area to the north covered by open stands of pinyon pine and juniper with mixed chaparral and curl leaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*). Deep Creek has unique scientific, educational, and historical values. Much of this area burned in the Willow Fire of 1999. The area can be considered a part of a Cultural Landscape containing many Traditional Cultural Properties. Many heritage resource sites are known for the area. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: The area is relatively remote for southern California, with moderate opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking (Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail), fishing, swimming, nature viewing, picnicking, snowshoeing, nordic skiing, horseback riding (including packing with stock), and hunting. Other non-motorized trails lie within this area. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is a mixture of Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, and Roaded Natural.

Special Features: Deep Creek itself is a very special feature. It is one of the highest quality natural trout fisheries in southern California, with unique hot springs and riparian areas. The portion of the IRA

where roads are not allowed contains key habitat for the arroyo toad and occupied habitat for the Mojave chub along Deep Creek. In addition, modeled habitat for the following species occurs in this portion: desert tortoise (*Xerobates (Gopherus) agassizii*)—5,700 acres along the northern section; southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)—500 acres; California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)—200 acres; least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)—200 acres; bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)—30 acres; San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)—200 acres; and mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*)—Deep Creek.

The portion, where roads are allowed, contains occupied habitat for the Mojave tui chub (*Gila bicolor mahavensis*) along Deep Creek. In addition, modeled habitat for the following species occurs in this area: San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)—800 acres; ashy-grey paintbrush (*Castilleja cinerea*)—600 acres; California dandelion (*Taraxacum californicum*)—100 acres; bird-footed checkerbloom (*Sidalcea pedata*)—30 acres; bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)—700 acres; southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)—600 acres; desert tortoise (*Xerobates (Gopherus) agassizii*)—480 acres; and mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*)—Deep, Coxey, and Holcomb Creeks. Many plants grow in this area that were of importance to Serrano Indian people for food, construction materials, and medicine. Known archaeological sites are considered very important to the Serrano Indians. Serrano place names are still remembered for the area. The area contains unique scientific values not found in other areas under consideration.

Manageability: The IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are limited resource demands and uses. Part of a grazing allotment is located here. There would be significant four-wheeling and mountain bike opportunities forgone with designation.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): A private parcel, Squints Ranch, Splinter's Cabin, and an access road.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be some effects on fire management. There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. The mountain rim communities, including Lake Arrowhead, are located just above this area. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area. This type of fire suppression activity will be more difficult, as would prescribed burning, if the area were designated as wilderness.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The San Gorgonio Wilderness, 56,722 acres of National Forest System lands and 37,980 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands (added in 1994 California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located 10 miles southeast. The Bighorn Mountain Wilderness, 39,195 acres of National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands (added in California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located 10 miles to the east. There is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is moderate to heavy mixed day and overnight use in the San Gorgonio. The Inland Empire and High Desert populations are growing rapidly. The area is moderately accessible by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Much of the Mountaintop Ranger District non-wilderness land encompasses similar landscapes and opportunities, with the unique exception of Deep Creek itself.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The current unroaded, relatively remote nature of this area has helped maintain the habitat quality for the arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) and Mohave tui chub (*Gila bicolor mahavensis*) species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The need to provide sanctuary for the arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) and Mohave tui chub (*Gila bicolor mahavensis*) species is high.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a moderate to low ability to provide for preservation.

## Granite Peak Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

Mountaintop Ranger District

#### Capability

The 447 acre Granite Peak Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the northeast corner of the Mountaintop Ranger District. It consists of three small parcels of National Forest System land adjacent to the Bighorn Mountain Wilderness, which is located three miles northeast of Big Bear City.

Environment: Moderate to low degree of experiential benefits available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is relatively natural and free from disturbance. It is primarily rocky high desert and pinyon pine and juniper ecosystem. There are no known unique scientific, educational, or historical values. Little is known of the heritage resources in this area. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This is a relatively remote area for southern California, with moderate opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, nature viewing, horseback riding (including packing with stock) and hunting. No system trails lie within this area. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Motorized.

Special Features: Horsethief Flat is a special feature used by motorized recreationists. Also, approximately 100 acres of key habitat for carbonate plants occur in the IRA. Modeled habitat for the following species occurs in the area: slender-petalled mustard (*Thelypodium stenopetalatum*)—40 acres; California dandelion (*Taraxacum californicum*) and bird-footed checkerbloom (*Sidalcea pedata*)—30 acres each; and San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)—15 acres. Little is known of the heritage resources of this area other than it was part of the Serrano territory.

Manageability: The area does not meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act; however, it does meet this recommendation when viewed as a contiguous addition to the existing Bighorn Mountain Wilderness. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are limited resource demands and uses. Part of a grazing allotment is located here. Some mountain biking opportunities would be forgone, as would four-wheel driving in Horsethief Flat.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): There are a significant number of mining claims here.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Minimal.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Bighorn Mountain Wilderness, 39,195 acres of National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands (added in California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located adjacent to the east.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: Very light, mostly day use occurs in the nearby Bighorn Mountain Wilderness. High Desert and Inland Empire populations are growing rapidly. However, the area is not easily accessible by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the Mountaintop Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The current unroaded, relatively remote nature of this area has helped maintain the habitat quality for some carbonate plant species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The need to provide sanctuary for carbonate plant species is moderate. Also, this is feral burro territory.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a low ability to provide for preservation.

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**Deep Creek Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Heartbreak Ridge Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Heartbreak Ridge Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

Mountaintop Ranger District

#### Capability

The 4,450 acre Heartbreak Ridge Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the eastern corner of the Mountaintop Ranger District. It is bounded on the east by the Forest boundary, on the west by Broom Flat and National Forest System Road (NFSR) 2N01, on the north by topography, and on the south by NFSR 1N01. This is the Antelope Creek and Pipes Canyon watershed, and Big Bear City is six miles west.

Environment: There is a high to moderate degree of experiential benefits available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. Except for some mining scars, the area is relatively natural and free from disturbance. It consists primarily of steep, dry, heavily dissected ridges with pinyon pine and juniper ecosystem with some chaparral. There are no known unique scientific or educational values. The area can be considered a part of a Cultural Landscape. Heritage resource sites are known to be located within the area. Culturally sensitive plants occur in the area. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This is a relatively remote area for southern California, with moderate to high opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, horseback riding (including packing with stock), nature viewing, and hunting. No system trails lie within this area. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Motorized.

Special Features: Both Broom Flat (meadow area) and nearby Juniper Spring (unique water source) are special features. Approximately 1,000 acres of key habitat for carbonate plants, and 40 acres of key habitat for pebble plains plants occur in the area. In addition, modeled habitat for the following species occurs in the area: ashy-gray paintbrush (*Castilleja cinerea*)—3,500 acres; California dandelion (*Taraxacum californicum*)—200 acres; San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)—150 acres; and bird-footed checkerbloom (*Sidalcea pedata*) and slender-petalled mustard (*Thelypodium stenopetalatum*)—40 acres each; and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)—150 acres. Several plants grow in this area that are of importance for food and medicine. Little of the area has been inventoried for heritage resources; however, known archaeological sites are considered very important to Serrano

Indians. Serrano place names for the area are still remembered. The area contains unique scientific values not found in other places.

Manageability: The IRA does not meet the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. However, as an extension of the nearby Bighorn Mountains Wilderness it would meet this size recommendation. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines. Boundaries have been reviewed and adjusted to ensure exclusion of adjacent system roads and the Round Valley and Juniper Springs Group Campgrounds.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are limited resource demands and uses. Part of a grazing allotment occurs here. Some mountain biking opportunities would be forgone.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): Private parcels, mining claims, and non-system access roads exist in this area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: Minimal.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Bighorn Mountains Wilderness, 39,195 acres of National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands (added in California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located one-quarter mile north. There is a direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area to complement the existing Bighorn Mountains Wilderness.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is very light, mostly day use in the Bighorn Mountains Wilderness. The High Desert and Inland Empire populations are growing rapidly. However, the area is not easily accessible by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Some of the Mountaintop Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this

need): The current unroaded, relatively remote nature of this area has helped maintain the habitat quality for carbonate and pebble plains plant species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The need to provide sanctuary for carbonate and pebble plains plant species is moderate to high. This is feral burro territory.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a moderate ability to provide for preservation.

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**Granite Peak Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Hixon Flat Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## Hixon Flat Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

San Jacinto Ranger District

#### Capability

The 8,086 acre Hixon Flat Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the southwest corner of the San Jacinto Ranger District. It is bounded on the west by the Forest boundary, on the north by the Bautista Canyon Road, on the east by private land, and to the south by National Forest System Road (NFSR) 6S22. This area is within the Bautista Creek watershed, near the Tripp Flats Fire Station and Anza community, with the more urbanized Hemet Valley communities located 10 miles northwest. The area does not include the Red Mountain Lookout or electronics facility.

Environment: There is a low degree of experiential benefits available with few feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is somewhat natural and free from disturbance. It consists primarily of steep, heavily dissected ridges within a dense chaparral ecosystem. There are no known unique scientific or educational values. The area can be considered a part of a Cultural Landscape and Traditional Cultural Property. The area is known for heritage resource sites. Culturally sensitive plants occur in the area and are gathered today by Cahuilla Indian people. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This is a somewhat remote area for southern California, but with low opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance. Dense chaparral precludes much cross-country travel.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, nature viewing, and hunting. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Roded Natural.

Special Features: Hixon Flat is a special feature. Within the area, approximately 10 acres of key habitat for the slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*) occurs along the northern end of Bautista Canyon, and occupied habitat for the arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) also occurs in Bautista Canyon. In addition, modeled habitat for the following species occurs in the area: Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*)—4,500 acres; southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)—150 acres; California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)—100 acres; San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*)—50 acres; and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)—Bautista Canyon; Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*)—650 acres; and San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)—15

acres. Several plants grow in this area that are of importance for food, basket materials, and medicine. Little of the area has been inventoried for heritage resources; however, known archaeological sites are considered to be very important to Cahuilla Indians. Cahuilla place names for the area are still remembered. The area contains unique scientific values not found in other areas under consideration.

Manageability: The Inventoried Roadless Area meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable. Other factors here and in adjacent Rouse Hill and Horse Creek Ridge units (which at times have been proposed as one unit called South Fork) include:

- Much of the area boundary is adjacent to or near NFSR 5S15 and State Highway 74. This would detract from a wilderness experience.
- A major fuelbreak system runs along NFSR 5S15, representing a substantial investment of Forest resources over time. Maintaining that portion of the fuelbreak within a new wilderness would be more costly and difficult.
- Two active grazing allotments are located within this area. There are range improvements on these allotments, including fences, corrals, and water developments that require routine maintenance. The boundary the Garner Allotment passes through a small portion of Section 1 near Baldy Mountain. The Rouse Allotment is located along and adjacent to NFSR 5S15. The permit holder is authorized to use mechanized vehicles and power tools to maintain allotment improvements.
- Current multi-use trails (Willow Creek and South Fork–2E17) in this area would not be able to provide mountain bike recreation opportunities if wilderness were designated.
- Wildlife habitat improvements, such as guzzlers, are present in this area and would require routine maintenance.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are portions of two active grazing allotments and wildlife habitat improvements within this area. Two OHV trails lie within this area, 2E43 and 2E44. There is an extensive network of unauthorized OHV trails along the western boundary of Red Mountain. This use would be forgone, as would mountain biking with wilderness designation.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): Private parcels and two OHV trails, 2E43 and 2E44.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be

significant effects. See Manageability section above. Also, there would be fire management effects. There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area. This type of fire suppression activity will be more difficult, as would prescribed burning, if the area were designated as wilderness.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Santa Rosa Wilderness, 13,787 acres of National Forest System and 64,340 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands (added in 1994 California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located 20 miles east. The San Jacinto Wilderness, 32,248 acres of National Forest System and 12,828 acres of Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness State Park lands are located 10 miles northeast. There is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is light, mostly day use (Santa Rosa Wilderness) to moderate, mixed day and overnight use (San Jacinto Wilderness). Use is expected to increase somewhat with the new Monument designation. The Coachella and Hemet Valley populations are increasing rapidly. The area is easily accessed by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the San Jacinto Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The current unroaded, relatively remote nature of this area has helped maintain the habitat quality for the slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*) and arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The need to provide sanctuary for the slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*) and arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) species is high.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a low ability to provide for preservation.

## Horse Creek Ridge Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

San Jacinto Ranger District

#### Capability

The 8,959 acre Horse Creek Ridge Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the west side of the San Jacinto Ranger District. It is bounded on the north by State Highway 74, on the south by Rouse Ridge, on the east by National Forest System Road (NFSR) 6S13, and is about one mile inside the Forest boundary on the west. This is the South Fork of the San Jacinto River watershed, near the Keenwild Fire Station and Mountain Center community, with Idyllwild about three miles north and the more urbanized Hemet Valley communities located five miles northwest.

Environment: There is a low degree of experiential benefits available, with few feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is somewhat natural and free from disturbance. It consists primarily of steep, heavily dissected ridges within a dense chaparral ecosystem with some mixed conifer in the northeast portion. There are no known unique scientific or educational values. The area can be considered part of a Cultural Landscape. The area is known for heritage resource sites. Culturally sensitive plants occur in the area and are gathered today by Cahuilla Indian people. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This is a somewhat remote area for southern California, with low opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance. Dense chaparral precludes much cross-country travel.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, nature viewing, camping, fishing, and hunting. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Roded Natural.

Special Features: The South Fork of the San Jacinto River flows through this area. Approximately 20 acres of key habitat for the bald eagle occurs in the IRA. In addition, modeled habitat for the following species occurs in the unit: bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)—750 acres; southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)—500 acres; California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)—South Fork San Jacinto River; Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*)—40 acres; least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)—30 acres; arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) and mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*)—South Fork San Jacinto River; Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevini*)—1,200 acres; San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)—20 acres along the northern and southern boundaries;

slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*)—200 acres; and thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*)—15 acres. Several plants that are of importance for food, basket materials, and medicine grow in this area. Known archaeological sites are considered very important to Cahuilla and Luiseño Indians. Cahuilla place names for the area are still remembered. The area contains unique scientific values not found in other areas under consideration.

**Manageability:** The area meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable. Other factors here and in adjacent Rouse Hill and Hixon Flat Inventoried Roadless Areas (which at times have been proposed as one unit called South Fork) include:

- Much of the area boundary would be adjacent to or nearby NFSR 5S15 and State Highway 74. This may detract from a wilderness experience.
- A major fuelbreak system runs along NFSR 5S15, representing a substantial investment of Forest resources over time. Maintaining that portion of the fuelbreak within the new wilderness would be more costly and difficult.
- Two active grazing allotments are located within this area. There are range improvements on these allotments including fences, corrals, and water developments that require routine maintenance. The boundary of the Garner Allotment passes through a small portion of Section 1 near Baldy Mountain. The Rouse Allotment is located along and adjacent to NFSR 5S15. The permit holder is authorized to use mechanized vehicles and power tools to maintain allotment improvements.
- Current multi-use trails (Willow Creek and South Fork—2E17) in this area would not be able to provide mountain bike recreation opportunities if wilderness were designated.
- Wildlife habitat improvements, such as guzzlers, are present in this area and would require routine maintenance.

**Boundary Considerations:** Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

**Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy:** There are portions of two active grazing allotments and wildlife habitat improvements located in this area.

**Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims):** Forest Trails 2E17 and 3E12 lie within this Inventoried Roadless Area. There are water company improvements in and along the South Fork of the San Jacinto River.

**Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands:** There would be significant effects. See Manageability section above. Also, there would be effects on fire management.

There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area. This type of fire suppression activity will be more difficult, as would prescribed burning, if the area were designated as wilderness.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Santa Rosa Wilderness, 13,787 acres of National Forest System and 64,340 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands (added in 1994 California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located 20 miles east. The San Jacinto Wilderness, 32,248 acres of National Forest System and 12,828 acres of Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness State Park lands are located 10 miles northeast. There is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is light, mostly day use (Santa Rosa) to moderate, mixed day and overnight use (San Jacinto). Use is expected to increase somewhat with the new Monument designation. Coachella and Hemet Valley populations are increasing rapidly. The area is easily accessed by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the San Jacinto Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The current unroaded, relatively remote nature of this area has helped maintain the habitat quality for bald eagle.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The need to provide sanctuary for bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is high.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a low ability to provide for preservation.

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**Hixon Flat Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Mill Peak Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Mill Peak Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

Front Country Ranger District

#### Capability

The 7,876 acre Mill Peak Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the central portion of the Front Country Ranger District, just west of the community of Angelus Oaks. It is south of the Rim of the World Scenic Byway (State Highway 18), east of State Highway 330, and north of National Forest system Road (NFSR) 1N09. It is upstream of the new Seven Oaks Dam. This area encompasses the lower Santa Ana watershed, immediately below Running Springs (with heavily developed private parcels) and Keller Peak Lookout. The urbanized Highland and Yucaipa communities are located five miles to the south. The area includes a portion of the National Children's Forest.

Environment: There is a low degree of experiential benefits available, with few feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is somewhat natural and free from disturbance. However, portions of the National Children's Forest received vegetation management treatments over the past few decades, including with the use of motorized equipment. The area consists of primarily steep, heavily dissected ridges with steep canyons, within a dense chaparral ecosystem, with a few scattered pockets of bigcone Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*) and some canyon hardwoods. There are no known unique scientific, educational, or historical values. Heritage resource sites for the area are unknown due largely to lack of inventory. Given the steepness of the terrain, heritage resources are less likely to occur. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This is a somewhat remote area for southern California, but with low opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance. Dense chaparral precludes much cross-country travel.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, nature viewing, and hunting. No official trails lie within this area; however, an unofficial trail leads to the University of Redlands. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Roaded Natural.

Special Features: The National Children's Forest is a special feature. Modeled habitat for the following species occurs in the IRA: bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)—1,500 acres; southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)—250 acres; California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)—

60 acres; mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*)—Fredalba and Bear Creeks; ashy-grey paintbrush (*Castilleja cinerea*)—600 acres; and San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)—20 acres. There are no known heritage special features within the area.

Manageability: The IRA meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are limited resource demands and uses.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): A portion of the area is used for sewer line/ponds with access road. Brush has been cleared for the letter “R” for the University of Redlands. Two unmaintained fuelbreaks exist.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be some effect on fire management. The community of Running Springs is immediately above a portion of the area. There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area for community protection. This type of suppression activity will be more difficult, as would prescribed burning, if the area were recommended for wilderness designation.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The San Gorgonio Wilderness, 56,722 acres of National Forest System lands and 37,980 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands (added in 1994 California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located three miles east. The Bighorn Mountain Wilderness, 39,195 acres of National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands (added in California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located 15 miles to the northeast. There is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is moderate to heavy mixed day and overnight use in the San Gorgonio. Inland Empire populations are increasing rapidly. The area is moderately accessible by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation

experiences: Most of the Front Country Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): N/A

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a low ability to provide for preservation.

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<b>Horse Creek Ridge Inventoried Roadless Area</b>	<b>Pyramid Peak A and B Inventoried Roadless Areas</b>
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## Pyramid Peak A and B Inventoried Roadless Areas

### San Bernardino National Forest

San Jacinto Ranger District

### Capability

The Pyramid Peak Inventoried Roadless Areas are located in the east side of the San Jacinto Ranger District. They are bounded on the north by the Forest boundary, on the west by national Forest System Road (NFSR) 6S05, on the south by various Forest Service roads and the Forest boundary, and on the east by Asbestos Mountain and the Forest boundary. The Pyramid Peak "A", where roads are not allowed, is 14,138 acres in size and the Pyramid Peak "B" unit, where roads are allowed, is 7,187 acres in size. They are generally divided by Palm View Peak and Pyramid Peak topographic feature, with the "A" unit being to the east. The area lies within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. The major drainage is Palm Canyon watershed. It is near the Kenworthy Fire Station and Pinyon Flats community, with the more urbanized Coachella Valley communities located 10 miles north. Also, it is near Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians tribal lands.

Environment: There is a high degree of experiential benefits available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance in Pyramid "A" but much less so in Pyramid "B". The area is relatively natural and free from disturbance. Views of and sounds from Garner Valley, State Highway 74 and the nearby community of Pinyon Pines are sometimes evident. The topography is generally steep in the higher portions of the area, becoming more gentle and rolling towards Garner Valley, with a dense chaparral ecosystem. There are great scenic vistas. There are no known unique scientific or educational values. The area can be considered a part of a Cultural Landscape containing many Traditional Cultural Properties. The area is known for heritage resource sites. Culturally sensitive plants occur in the area and are gathered today by Cahuilla Indian people. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This is a relatively remote area for southern California, with high to moderate opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance. Dense chaparral and steep slopes preclude cross-country travel in portions of the area.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, camping, nature viewing, rock hounding, target shooting, horseback riding, and hunting. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail lies within this area. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Roaded Natural.

Special Features: Palm Canyon, Pyramid Peak, Hells Kitchen and Live Oak Canyon with Hidden Falls are special features. There are approximately 5,800 acres of key peninsular bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsonii*) habitat in Pyramid Peak “A,” where roads are not allowed. In addition, modeled habitat for the following species occurs in this portion of the IRA: Nevin’s barberry (*Berberis nevinii*)–700 acres; southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), least Bell’s vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), and California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)–Palm Canyon; and mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*)–Hell’s Kitchen area and vicinity of Agua Bonita Spring. In Pyramid Peak “A” where roads are allowed, there are 20 acres of modeled habitat for the San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*). In Pyramid Peak “B” where roads are allowed, there is modeled habitat for the following species: southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)–300 acres; California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)–50 acres; San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)–300 acres; California dandelion (*Taraxacum californicum*)–15 acres. Several plants grow in this area that are of importance for food, basket materials, and medicine. Little of the area has been inventoried for heritage resources, however known archaeological sites are considered very important to Cahuilla Indians. Cahuilla place names for the area are still remembered. The area contains unique scientific values not found in other areas under consideration.

Manageability: The Inventoried Roadless Area meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable. Other manageability factors include:

- The existing multi-use Palm Canyon 4E01 trail would not be able to continue to provide mountain bike recreation opportunities if the proposed wilderness boundary was extended east to the Forest boundary for the full Inventoried Roadless Area. However, this boundary has been adjusted back to the bottom of Palm Canyon. As a result, almost all of the Palm Canyon Trail has been excluded, except where it intersects at several locations with the proposed wilderness boundary at the bottom of Palm Canyon. At those intersections, estimated to be approximately 3/4 mile in length, the trail will, over time, be relocated to the east to preserve this important mountain biking corridor. The Live Oak Canyon 4E03 Trail would be partially excluded. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail would be completely excluded.
- This area includes a large portion of the active Wellman grazing allotment (the winter range), which typically runs 45 head on a year-round basis. There are range improvements on this allotment that require routine maintenance, including fences, corrals, and water developments. The permit holder is authorized to use mechanized vehicles and power tools to maintain allotment improvements.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are some resource demands and uses. It is part of the Wellman grazing allotment. Mountain biking and four-wheel drive opportunities would be forgone, especially in Pyramid Peak “B.”

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): There are old mines and access roads in the southern portion of the area. There are some wildlife guzzlers and many private parcels. New mineral and geothermal rights have been withdrawn under National Monument authority.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be significant effects on fire management. There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. The southeastern boundary of this area borders the community of Pinyon Pines. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area for community protection. This type of suppression activity will be more difficult, as would prescribed burning, if the area were designated as wilderness. As a result, the proposed wilderness boundary has been adjusted back away from Pinyon Pines.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Santa Rosa Wilderness, 13,787 acres of National Forest System and 64,340 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands (added in 1994 California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located three miles southeast. The San Jacinto Wilderness, 32,248 acres of National Forest System and 12,828 acres of Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness State Park lands are located three miles northwest. There is a direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is light, mostly day use (Santa Rosa) to moderate, mixed day and overnight use (San Jacinto). Use is expected to increase somewhat with the new Monument designation. Coachella and Hemet Valley populations are increasing rapidly. The area is easily accessed by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Much of the San Jacinto Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The current unroaded, relatively remote nature of this area has helped maintain the habitat quality for the endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*).

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or

phenomena: The need to provide sanctuary for the endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsonii*) is high.

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a moderate to low ability to provide for preservation.

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**Mill Peak Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Raywood Flat A and B  
Inventoried Roadless Areas**

## Raywood Flat A and B Inventoried Roadless Areas

### San Bernardino National Forest

Front Country Ranger District

#### Capability

The Raywood Flat Inventoried Roadless Areas are located in the east side of the Front Country Ranger District. They are bordered on the north and east by the San Gorgonio Wilderness, on the west by National Forest System Roads (NFSR) 1S08 and 1S09, and on the south by the San Gorgonio River. Raywood Flat "A" at 530 acres is a portion of Section 30 above Raywood Flat itself, Raywood Flat "B" at 3,312 acres (where roads are allowed) is the slopes above State Highway 38 up to the existing San Gorgonio Wilderness boundary, and Raywood Flat "B" at 7,547 acres (where roads are not allowed) is the Yucaipa Ridge area. These areas are situated within the upper Santa Ana River and Mill Creek watersheds, near the Oak Glen Fire Station and Oak Glen and Forest Falls communities. The more urbanized Inland Empire communities are located 10 miles to the southwest.

Environment: There is a high degree of experiential benefits available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance in Raywood Flat "B," where roads are not allowed, slightly less so in Raywood Flat "B," where roads are allowed but very little in Raywood "A". The area is relatively natural and free from disturbance. The area consists primarily of steep, heavily dissected ridgeline within a dense chaparral ecosystem at lower elevations and mixed conifer above. There are no known unique scientific or educational values. The area can be considered a part of a Cultural Landscape. Heritage resource sites are unknown for the area, largely due to inventory. Culturally sensitive plants that were gathered by the Serrano and Cahuilla Indian people occur here. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: Raywood Flat "B" (roads allowed/not allowed) is a remote area for southern California, with high opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance; Raywood "A" is substantially less so.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities generally include hiking, equestrian use, mountain biking, nature viewing, and hunting. Access is via NFSRs 1S09 (to the west), 1S22 and Forest Trail 1W08, the Oak Glen Divide Trail. This trail is not well-maintained by the Forest due to lack of access/use. Public access along the entire Yucaipa Rudge and into Raywood Flat is non-motorized, and limited and difficult at best due to adjacent private lands, gated roads and administrative uses. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized with a small area of Road Natural.

There is one existing "yellow post" camping site (where campfires are seasonally allowed) called Mountain Home Flats in Section 34.

Special Features: Little San Gorgonio Peak, Galena Peak, Wilshire Peak, Cedar Mountain, and Birch Mountain are special features. In Raywood Flat "A," modeled habitat for the following species occurs: California dandelion (*Taraxacum californicum*) and San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)—15 acres each; southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)—25 acres; and mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*)—San Gorgonio River. In Raywood Flat "B" (roads not allowed) (southern) modeled habitat for the following species occurs: San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)—15 acres and mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*)—San Gorgonio River. In Raywood Flat "B" (roads allowed), (northern) modeled habitat for the following species occurs: Ashy-gray paintbrush (*Castilleja cinerea*)—100 acres; California dandelion (*Taraxacum californicum*)—15 acres; San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)—10 acres; and mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*)—Alger and Falls Creeks. Little of the area has been inventoried for heritage resources. The area may contain unique scientific values not found in other areas under consideration.

Manageability: Raywood "B" meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act; Raywood "A" does not. For Raywood Flat "B," both where roads are/are not allowed, area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable; a logical extension of the San Gorgonio Wilderness boundary. Other manageability factors include:

- There is an existing above-ground power line from Forest Falls that serves the radio tower on private land in Section 21 that also crosses National Forest System roadless area land. This structure is not within a recommended wilderness designation.
- A small diversion dam exists in the extreme southwest corner of Section 28, Gillman Canyon. The proposed wilderness boundary excludes this structure.
- There is a considerable amount of private land acreage within Raywood Flat "B," where roads are not allowed (a "checkerboard" pattern), which may add to the complexity of wilderness management and access and may also bring higher wildfire suppression costs. Fuelbreaks and other fuels management projects are scheduled in the next few years for those lands generally west of Section 28. These lands are not included within the proposed wilderness boundary.
- Portions of Raywood Flat "B," where roads are allowed, are somewhat influenced by views of and sounds from Highway 38 and the nearby community of Forest Falls.
- Raywood "A" contains an adjacent Forest System Road 2S01, the East Fork diversion dam and cabin. There is considerable influence by man here. This unit is not recommended for wilderness designation.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are limited resource demands and uses in the Raywood “B” units; however, Raywood “A” contains a cabin and a water diversion structure. Mountain biking opportunities on a small portion (one quarter mile of dead-end trail) of Section 28 to Little San Gorgonio Peak would be forgone with wilderness designation.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): There are many parcels of private land and some access roads. A water system and diversion dam are located in Raywood “A.” The San Gorgonio River watershed is the source of drinking water for the city of Banning.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be some effect on fire management in portions of the IRA. There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. The southwest boundary of Raywood Flat “B,” where roads are not allowed, is relatively close to the growing community and urban interface of Oak Glen, and the north-central boundary is relatively close to the Forest Falls community. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used in these areas as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area. This type of suppression activity will be more difficult, as would prescribed burning, if this area were designated as wilderness.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The San Gorgonio Wilderness, 56,722 acres of National Forest System and 37,980 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands (added in 1994 California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located adjacent. Bighorn Mountain Wilderness, 39,195 acres of National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands (added in California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located 15 miles to the north. Additional wilderness designation would be useful here.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is moderate to heavy mixed day and overnight use in the San Gorgonio Wilderness. Inland Empire populations are increasing rapidly. The area is moderately accessible by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Some of the Front Country Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): N/A

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or

phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a low ability for Raywood “A” and high ability for Raywood “B” to provide for preservation.

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**Pyramid Peak A and B  
Inventoried Roadless Areas**

**Rouse Hill Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

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## Rouse Hill Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

San Jacinto Ranger District

### Capability

The 13,733 acre Rouse Hill Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the southwest corner of the San Jacinto Ranger District. It is bounded on the west and south by Bautista Canyon Road, on the north by Rouse Ridge Road, and on the east by National Forest System Roads (NFSRs) 6S16 and 6S18. This is the Bautista Creek watershed, near the Tripp Flats Fire Station and Anza community; with the more urbanized Hemet Valley communities located 10 miles northwest.

Environment: There is a low degree of experiential benefits available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is somewhat natural and free from disturbance. The unit consists primarily of steep ridges within a dense chaparral ecosystem. There are many cultural sites that have not been evaluated. There are no known unique scientific or educational values. The area can be considered a part of a Cultural Landscape. Heritage resource sites for the area are known. Culturally sensitive plants occur in the area and are gathered today by Cahuilla Indian people. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: The area is somewhat remote for southern California, with low opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance. Dense chaparral and steep slopes preclude much cross-country travel.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, nature viewing, and hunting. No maintained system trails lie within this area. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Roaded Natural.

Special Features: Modeled habitat for the following species occurs in the area: Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*)–3,200 acres; California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)–200 acres; San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriamii parvus*)–100 acres; southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)–100 acres; bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)–100 acres; least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)–Bautista Canyon; Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*)–1,300 acres; slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*)–100 acres; San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*)–50 acres. Several plants that are of importance for food, basket materials, and medicine grow in this area. Known archaeological sites are considered very important to Cahuilla and Luiseño

Indians. Cahuilla place names for the area are still remembered. The area contains unique scientific values not found in other areas under consideration.

Manageability: The Inventoried Roadless Area meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable. Other factors here and in adjacent Hixon Flat and Horse Creek Ridge Inventoried Roadless Areas (which at times have been proposed as one area, called South Fork) include:

- Much of the area boundary would be adjacent to or near existing NFSR 5S15 and State Highways 74. This may detract from a wilderness experience.
- A major fuelbreak system runs along NFSR 5S15, representing a substantial investment of Forest resources over time. Maintaining that portion of the fuelbreak within the new wilderness would be more costly and difficult.
- Two active grazing allotments are located within this area. There are range improvements on these allotments, including fences, corrals, and water developments that require routine maintenance. The boundary of the Garner Allotment passes through a small portion of Section 1 near Baldy Mountain. The Rouse Allotment is located along and adjacent to NFSR 5S15. The permit holder is authorized to use mechanized vehicles and power tools to maintain allotment improvements.
- Current multi-use trails (Willow Creek and South Fork–2E17) in this area would not be able to provide mountain bike recreation opportunities if wilderness were designated.
- Wildlife habitat improvements, such as guzzlers, are present in this area and would require routine maintenance.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are portions of two active grazing allotments and wildlife habitat improvements located within this area.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): Private parcel of land.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be significant effects. See Manageability section above. Also, there would be effects on fire management. There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area. This type of fire suppression activity will be more difficult, as would be prescribed burning, if the area were designated as wilderness.

## Need

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Santa Rosa Wilderness, 13,787 acres of National Forest System and 64,340 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands (added in 1994 California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located 20 miles east. The San Jacinto Wilderness, 32,248 acres of National Forest System and 12,828 acres of Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness State Park lands are located 10 miles northeast. There is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is light, mostly day use (Santa Rosa) to moderate, mixed day and overnight use (San Jacinto). Use is expected to increase somewhat with the new Monument designation. Coachella and Hemet Valley populations are increasing rapidly. The area is easily accessed by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the San Jacinto Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): N/A

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a low ability to provide for preservation.

## San Sevaine Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

Front Country Ranger District

#### Capability

The 6,854 acre San Sevaine Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the southwestern portion of the Front Country Ranger District. It is bounded on the west by the Big Tree-Cucamonga Truck Trail, on the south by the Forest boundary, and on the north by the San Sevaine Road. It is situated within the Etiwanda and Day Canyons watershed, west of the Lytle Creek Ranger Station and Lytle Creek community, with the more urbanized Rancho Cucamonga and Fontana communities located just south.

Environment: There is a low degree of experiential benefits available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is somewhat natural and free from disturbance. Views of and sounds from the nearby city of Rancho Cucamonga are often evident. The area consists primarily of steep ridges, within a dense chaparral ecosystem and some riparian areas in the lower elevations and mixed conifer in the upper elevations. There are no known unique scientific or educational values. The area can be considered a part of a Cultural Landscape. Heritage resource sites for the area are known. Culturally sensitive plants occur in the area. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This is not a very remote area for southern California, with low opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance. Dense chaparral and steep slopes preclude much cross-country travel.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, nature viewing, and hunting. No system trails lie within this area. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized.

Special Features: Significant off-site intrusions exist. Modeled habitat for the following species occurs in the area: Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*)—100 acres; southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)—50 acres; and mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*)—Day, Deer, and East Etiwanda Canyons. Several plants that are of importance for food, basket materials and medicine grow in this area. Known archaeological sites are considered very important to Serrano Indians. Serrano place names for the area are known. The area contains unique scientific values not found in other areas under consideration. Some of the largest sugar pines in Southern California are found on San Sevaine

Ridge.

Manageability: The Inventoried Roadless Area meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: There are limited resource demands and uses.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): There are water developments, adjacent private parcels, and an electronic site with roaded access on San Sevaine Peak. Some mountain biking opportunities would be forgone with wilderness designation.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be significant effects on fire management. There has been some vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. The southern boundary of this area borders the city of Rancho Cucamonga. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area for community protection. This type of suppression activity will be more difficult, as would be prescribed burning, if the unit were designated as wilderness.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Cucamonga Wilderness, 12,781 acres of National Forest System, is located adjacent to the west. The Sheep Mountain Wilderness, 41,833 acres of National Forest System (primarily on the Angeles National Forest), is located two miles northwest. There is no direct, specific need for additional wilderness in this area.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is light to moderate, mostly day use within the Cucamonga and Sheep Mountain Wilderness. Inland Empire and High Desert (Hesperia, Victorville) populations are increasing rapidly. The area is easily accessed by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Most of the Front Country Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): N/A

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: N/A

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a low ability to provide for preservation.

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**Rouse Hill Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Sugarloaf Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

## Sugarloaf Inventoried Roadless Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

Mountaintop Ranger District

#### Capability

The 8,196 acre Sugarloaf Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the southeast portion of the Mountaintop Ranger District. It is bounded on the south by the Rim of the World Scenic Byway (State Highway 38) and Sugarloaf Meadow; on the west by Staircase Canyon; on the east by National Forest System Road (NFSR) 2N93; and on the north by topography. This area is comprised primarily of the upper Santa Ana River watershed, between Camp Heart Bar and the Big Bear communities. The more urbanized Inland Empire communities are located 15 miles to the southwest.

Environment: There is a moderate degree of experiential benefits available, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. The area is relatively natural and free from disturbance. Views of the Big Bear Valley communities are evident from the summit and ridges. The topography here consists primarily of steep ridges, within open chaparral and mixed conifer ecosystems. There are no known unique scientific or educational values. The area can be considered a part of a Cultural Landscape. Heritage resource sites for the area are known. Culturally sensitive plants occur in the area. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This is a relatively remote area for southern California, with opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, nature viewing, snowshoeing, nordic skiing, camping, and hunting. It is very popular for horseback riding (including packing with stock) and mountain biking. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized.

Special Features: Sugarloaf Mountain, the Sugarloaf National Recreation Trail, Sugarloaf Meadow, and Wildhorse Meadow are special features. The south side of Sugarloaf Mountain contains fairly large, unique areas of barren rock scree and outcroppings. Approximately 1,600 acres of key habitat for carbonate plants and 150 acres of key habitat for ashy-grey paintbrush (*Castilleja cinerea*) occurs in the IRA. In addition, modeled habitat for the following species occurs: bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)–1,900 acres; southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)–50 acres; mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*)–Wildhorse Creek; ashy-grey paintbrush (*Castilleja*

*cinerea*)–3,900 acres; California dandelion (*Taraxacum californicum*) and bird-footed checkerbloom (*Sidalcea pedata*)–15 acres each. Several plants that are of importance for food and medicine grow in this area. Known archaeological sites are considered very important to Serrano Indians. Serrano place names for the area are known. The area contains unique scientific values not found in other areas under consideration.

**Manageability:** The Inventoried Roadless Area meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable. Other factors include:

- A conflict with possible Bear Mountain Ski Resort expansion at Sugarlump; T2N, R1E, South ½ of Section 35.
- The existence of NFSR 2N92 Green Canyon Road, within the area. It is currently listed in the Forest database as an open system road, maintained at Level II conditions (suitable for high clearance vehicles). However, the road has not been maintained and has been gated closed to all motorized travel for many years. It leads to an inactive mining claim. Hikers and equestrians now use the road as part of Trail 2E18, and District staff/volunteers attempt to log out fallen trees on a periodic basis to keep it open for them.
- Intrusions from OHVs and motorized fuelwood harvesters occur along the difficult-to-restrict north central boundary. However, the topography just south of the boundary stops most of these intrusions from reaching very far into this area.
- Portions of the Santa Ana Range Allotment (and associated range improvements) lie within the boundary. However, this allotment has been vacant since 1991.
- There is a heavy natural fuels accumulation in some areas. The Forest is currently drafting an Upper Santa Ana Prescribed Fire Plan. Implementation of some of the objectives contained in this plan may conflict with wilderness designation.
- Old homestead site at Sugarloaf Meadow, not yet evaluated as to its historic value. There is no conflict with this site.
- It appears that the boundary of this area may include Sugarloaf Pond, which contains a population of the Shay Creek threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus* undescribed), a highly imperiled endangered fish. This pond has a dam, which requires periodic maintenance, such as after the last major earthquake in the area in 1992.

**Boundary Considerations:** Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

**Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy:** There are limited resource demands and uses. Part of a grazing allotment is located here. Some mountain biking and possible four-wheel driving opportunities would be forgone with wilderness designation, along with

opportunities for the development of downhill skiing on the north slopes. There is some mineral potential.

Constraints and encumbrances (special uses, roads, mining claims): Trail 2E18, the Sugarloaf National Recreation Trail, lies within this IRA, as does Road NFSR 2N92, described in Manageability above.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: There would be significant effects on fire management. There has been considerable vegetative mortality in this area due to the recent drought. The northern boundary of this area borders the communities of Big Bear Valley. In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this area for community protection. This type of suppression activity would be more difficult, as would prescribed burning, if the IRA were designated as wilderness.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The San Gorgonio Wilderness, 56,722 acres of National Forest System lands and 37,980 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands (added in 1994 California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located two miles south. The Bighorn Mountain Wilderness, 39,195 acres of National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands (added in California Desert Protection Act of 1994), is located 10 miles to the northeast. There is no direct, specific need for new wilderness in this area..

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is moderate to heavy mixed day and overnight use in the San Gorgonio Wilderness. Inland Empire populations are growing rapidly. The area is moderately accessible by vehicle from Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Some of the Mountaintop Ranger District non-wilderness lands encompass similar landscapes and opportunities. However, the high-altitude Sugarloaf area is unique in regards to its relatively pristine state near growing mountain communities in the Big Bear Valley.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): The current unroaded, relatively remote nature of this area has helped maintain the habitat quality for the ashy-grey paintbrush (*Castilleja cinerea*) and carbonate plant species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: The need to provide sanctuary for the ashy-grey paintbrush (*Castilleja cinerea*) and carbonate plant species.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: There is a moderate ability to provide for preservation.

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**San Sevaine Inventoried  
Roadless Area**

**Sheep Mountain Other  
Undeveloped Area**

## Sheep Mountain Other Undeveloped Area

### San Bernardino National Forest

Front Country Ranger District

### Capability

This 5,197 acre Sheep Mountain Other Undeveloped Area is not an Inventoried Roadless Area. It was, however, publicly proposed for evaluation in the Forest Plan Revision. It is bounded on the west by the Forest boundary with the Angeles National Forest, on the north by existing Sheep Mountain Wilderness, on the east by the North Fork of Lytle Creek, and on the south by National Forest System Road (NFSR) 3N06. This area is comprised of the upper Lytle Creek watershed. It lies north of Mt. Baldy Village, south of Wrightwood and west of the Lytle Creek community.

Environment: There is a moderate to high degree of experiential benefits available in the Sheep Mountain Other Undeveloped Area, including feelings of solitude and serenity, the spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance. It is relatively natural and free from disturbance. The terrain is steep, heavily dissected ridges with a mixture of chaparral (at the lower elevations) and mixed conifer (at the higher elevations) ecosystems with some riparian area in the lower elevations around Stockton Flat. There are no known unique scientific, educational, or historical values. Culturally sensitive plants that were gathered by Serrano Indian people occur here. Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply.

Challenge: This area is relatively remote for southern California, with moderate to high opportunities to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self-reliance. Some dense chaparral and steep slopes preclude much cross-country travel in the area.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities include hiking, equestrian use, nature viewing, camping (Stockton Flat area) and hunting. A system trail lies within the area, the Devils Backbone 7W04.2, as well as the very popular Mt. San Antonio (Old Baldy) summit. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Roaded Natural. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) traverses through the upper end of this area but is excluded from the proposed wilderness boundary.

Special Features: This is important California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) and Nelson's bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) range, both Regional Forest Sensitive Species. The spotted owl population in the San Gabriel Mountains and the San Bernardino Mountains is considered critical to

their survival in southern California. At least one pair of spotted owls occurs in the area between Stockton Flat and Mount Baldy Notch. Use areas include the north facing forested slopes above Stockton Flat and the forested portion of the Coldwater Canyon watershed. Wilderness designation here would benefit spotted owls in the long-term. The San Gabriel Mountain population of Nelson's bighorn sheep was listed as sensitive by the Regional Forester in 2004. The population had crashed in the last 15-20 years and gone from approximately 700 animals to approximately 100. This is believed to have been caused primarily by the lack of fire in key winter ranges which resulted in dense unsuitable habitat and poor forage conditions. The Grand Prix Fire in 2003 should improve the situation for sheep substantially. The Sheep Mountain recommended wilderness designation north and west of Mount Baldy Notch is important for sheep in the summer months and for herd connectivity. There are no known heritage special features.

Manageability: Sheep Mountain meets the 5,000 acre size recommendation in the Wilderness Act. Also, it is contiguous with the existing Sheep Mountain Wilderness. Area size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences would be considered manageable. Other factors include:

- In the past, motorized equipment and mechanical transport have been used as part of fast, aggressive initial attacks on wildfires in this general area. This type of suppression activity will be more difficult if the Sheep Mountain Other Undeveloped Area is recommended for wilderness designation. These effects are minimized by placing the recommended wilderness boundary at the toe of the slope, rather than near Stockton Flat or the North Fork of Lytle Creek itself. That allows managers to aggressively attack wildfires that start near Stockton Flat and/or NFSR 3N06.
- NFSR 3N06 is used by mountain bikers. It is left out of the recommended wilderness boundary to allow continued use of this recreation opportunity.
- There are dispersed area "yellow post" sites in the Stockton Flats area with a devoted following of visitors who have long enjoyed the open campfire policy there. The sites have been excluded from the recommended wilderness boundary.
- The area contains key habitat for Nelson's bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*). Management activities for this species may conflict with wilderness designation.
- Mt Baldy Ski Area lies to the southwest. Some backcountry skiing does occur within the Sheep Mountain area. Informal proposals have been made by the permit holder to expand the ski area into the Sheep Mountain Other Undeveloped Area within the San Bernardino National Forest. A recommendation of wilderness would preclude expansion approval.

Boundary Considerations: Proposed boundary locations generally avoid conflicts with roads and other improvements. These boundaries could be readily and accurately described as they are located adjacent to roads and creeks and follow section lines.

## **Availability**

Describe resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy: See manageability discussion above. There would be some effects on dispersed recreation uses. It provides the

connectivity and expands the wildlife corridor that is habitat for two of the group of Nelson's bighorn sheep (Iron Mountain and Mount San Antonio groups).

Constraints and encumbrances (SUAs, roads, mining claims): The area is within close proximity of the Mt. Baldy Ski Area. There have been several informal inquiries by the special use permit holder during the past 20 years for an expansion of the ski resort by development of a ski lift and runs on the northeast facing slopes from Baldy Notch down to the Stockton Flats base. No formal proposal has ever been received by the Forest Service and no environmental analysis has ever been conducted. Recommendation of a wilderness designation would preclude expansion of the ski area into the Sheep Mountain Undeveloped Area.

Effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands: See discussions in manageability and constraints and encumbrances above.

## **Need**

Location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity: The Cucamonga Wilderness, 12,781 acres of National Forest System, is located directly south. The San Gabriel Wilderness, 36,188 acres, is located approximately several miles to the west. The Sheep Mountain Wilderness, 41,883 acres of National Forest System (primarily on the Angeles National Forest), is located adjacent to the northwest. Additional wilderness designation is useful and appropriate here.

Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses: There is light to moderate, mostly day use within the Cucamonga and Sheep Mountain Wilderness areas. The Inland Empire and High Desert (Hesperia, Victorville) populations are growing rapidly. The area is easily accessed by vehicle from the Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire, and San Diego metropolitan areas. The northern portion of Los Angeles and San Bernardino County is increasingly growing. The desert foothill cities of Phelan, Pinon Hills and Valyermo are growing slowly, but nonetheless, developing. The small town of Wrightwood within the Congressional boundary of the Angeles National Forest has a growing population and has become a destination point for recreation activities year round.

Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences: Some of the Front Country Ranger District non-wilderness land encompasses similar landscapes and opportunities as the Sheep Mountain Other Undeveloped Area. However, the higher elevations of this area are more unique in their ability provide opportunities.

Ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats (Consider available means, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need): There exists minimal competition between the public and certain biotic species (California spotted owl and Nelson's bighorn sheep) that do not compete well with increasing public use. The designation of this area would contribute significant protection for these and other species.

The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena: There is a moderate to high need to provide a sanctuary for California spotted owl and Nelson's bighorn sheep.

Ability to provide for the preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems: The There is a moderate to high ability to preserve landform types for the Sheep Mountain area.

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**Sugarloaf Inventoried  
Roadless Area**