

Talking Points:

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Draft Management Plan

Go to <http://www.fs.usda.gov/angeles/> to submit your comments.

Purpose of the Monument Plan

The management should include stated objectives and timelines. The SGMNM plan is broad in scope and ambitious in goals, but without objectives and timelines it risks remaining a high-level assessment of problems, but without solutions.

Illegal Mining

There is no specific language about either increased law enforcement, or how those engaged in illegal mining will be cited. Because the U. S. Forest Service lacks appropriate citations to use when responding to illegal mining within the Angeles National Forest, including so-called recreational mining, the Forest Supervisor should seek the authority granted to the Regional Forester to promulgate the necessary citations.

Critical Biological Land Use Zones

Recent genetics studies have found that the purest populations of remnant southern California coastal steelhead trout are found in the headwaters of the San Gabriel River (Jacobson, et al, 2014). The Land Use Zone boundaries of the West, North, and East forks of the San Gabriel River should be evaluated to ensure they are inclusive of the reaches in which these remnant populations were discovered. Detailed maps of these zones should then be published.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

The waters in the Monument declared eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation are Little Rock Creek, San Antonio Creek, and the West, North, and East forks of the San Gabriel River. A timeline for the initiation and completion of the requisite suitability studies should be specified in the Monument plan. The suitability study for the lower West Fork San Gabriel River should determine the best way to operate Cogswell Dam to sustain threatened native fish and provide high quality fishing and other recreational opportunities downstream. In the interim, there should be declared a Wild and Scenic River Land Use Zone for each of these eligible waters.

West Fork Trash

The Total Maximum Daily Load for Trash on the West Fork SGR requires a management strategy to bring it into compliance with the state regulations.

Visitor and Carrying Capacity Studies

While capacity studies are mentioned positively in the EA and Plan, a timeframe for their completion should be specified.