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Forest Service

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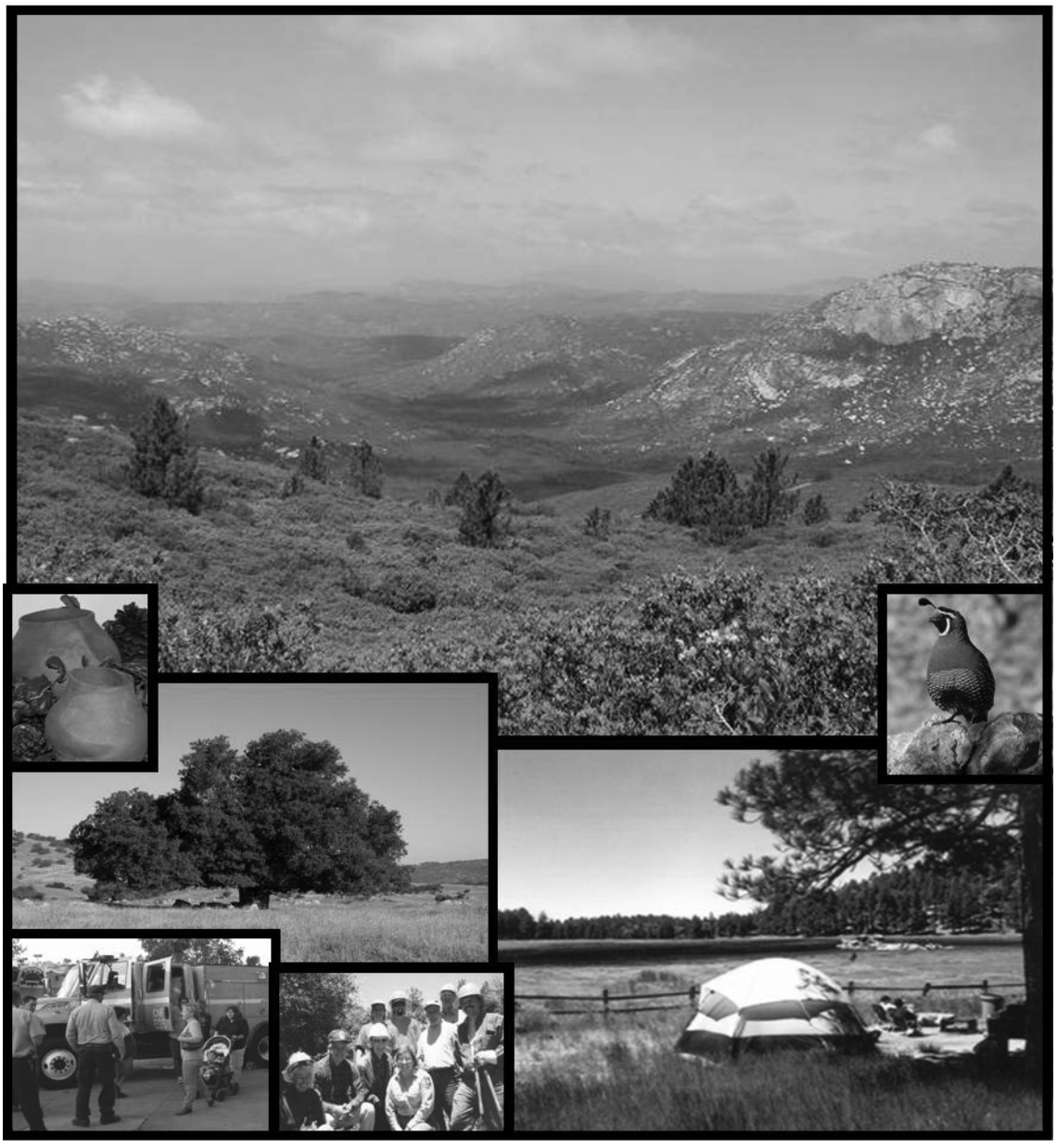
Land Management Plan

Part 2 Cleveland National Forest Strategy



Land Management Plan

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Table of Contents

Note: Tables were managed in a database environment, and were assigned unique numbers as their need was identified. During the lifetime of the analysis, over 500 tables were created for potential use. Some tables were later determined to be redundant or unnecessary. The planning team decided not to renumber the tables for publication due to the amount of work required to locate and update every reference to every table. Thus, the table numbers are not consecutive, and all table numbers were not used in the final documents.

Document Format Protocols

The following format protocols (font type, size, and strength, as well as indentation) are used throughout the Land Management Plan.

All headings are Arial bold, in varying font sizes and indentation.

Text is generally Times New Roman, 12 point regular.

Table column headings are in Arial Narrow, 10 pt, with a shaded background.
Table cell contents are Times New Roman, 12 point. **Note:** Tables were managed in a database environment, and were assigned unique numbers as their need was identified. During the lifetime of the analysis, over 500 tables were created for potential use. Some tables were later determined to be redundant or unnecessary. The planning team decided not to renumber the tables for publication due to the amount of work required to locate and update every reference to every table. Thus, the table numbers are not consecutive, and all table numbers were not used in the final documents.

Photograph captions have a top and bottom border to separate them from regular text, and are 12 point Arial font. For example, this is a clip-art butterfly.

References to websites (URLs) are in OCR B MT, 10 point in the printed version. In the electronic version, these are live links. The electronic version is posted at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland/projects/lmp

Land Management Plan Strategy

This document is Part 2 of the three-part (vision, strategy and design criteria) land and resource management plan (forest plan) for the Cleveland National Forest. The strategic direction and program emphasis objectives that are expected to result in the sustainability (social, economic and ecological) of the national forest and, over the long-term, the maintenance of a healthy forest are described in this document. The legislative mandate for the management of national forests requires that public lands be conservatively used and managed in order to ensure their sustainability and to guarantee that future generations will continue to benefit from their many values1. Forest plans are founded on the concept of sustainable use of the national forests. In its simplest terms, sustainability means to maintain or prolong. In order to foster the concept of sustainability, this section describes the program emphasis and strategies that may be employed to enable multiple uses to occur in ways that promote long-term sustainability. The program emphasis and management strategies are continuously projected over a three to five year period (over the life of the plan) in order to describe the projects or activities that may be employed as we move along the pathways toward the realization of the desired conditions described in Part 1 of the revised forest plan.

Forest visitors hike through Laguna Meadow
Cleveland NF

Part 1 describes the national forest in the future, the niche it occupies in the community framework, the desired conditions the Forest Service is striving to realize, as well as the challenges the national forest will resolve in getting there. Part 2 supplements Part 1 of the forest plan. Part 2 also constitutes the 'tools' resource staff will use to accomplish the objectives that contribute to the realization of the desired conditions. Part 2 defines and describes each of the land use zones. The land use zones are an on-the-ground manifestation of the desired conditions and are the primary tools used to describe the strategic direction, including the management intent and suitable uses for areas of the national forest where the zone is used. Part 2 also includes a prospectus describing the past performance history of the national forest and the anticipated performance in three to five year increments over the life of the forest plan. Place-Based Program Emphasis is also described so that people will have a better understanding of what types of management is expected in specific areas of the national forest. Finally, Part 2 addresses the monitoring to be done to assess the effective implementation of the strategies used.

1 Committee of Scientists issued a final report on March 15, 1999, entitled *Sustaining the People's Lands*

Part 3 of the forest plan is the design criteria and constitutes the 'rules' that the Forest Service will follow as the national forest implements projects and activities over time. The rules include the laws, agency policy, standards, and the associated guidance that is referenced for use at the project level.

Suitable Land Uses

Land Use Zones

Land use zones (CFR 219.11(c)) were used to map the Cleveland National Forest (CNF) for the purpose of identifying appropriate management types of 'uses' that are consistent with the achievement of the desired conditions described in Part 1 of the revised forest plan. These land use zones are used to help demonstrate clearly management's intent and to indicate the anticipated level of public land use in any area (Place) of the national forest. The activities that are allowed in each zone are expected to result in progress along the pathway toward the realization of the desired conditions. National Forest land use zoning is similar in concept to the zoning models that are being used by counties or municipalities throughout southern California. Tables 2.2.1 through 2.2.4 display the suitability of specific uses by land use zone (note: recommended wilderness and existing wilderness zones are combined into the wilderness zone column on the tables).

Table 2.2.1. Suitable Uses Resource Management, CNF

Land Use Zone:	DAI	BC	BCMUR	BCNM	CB	W
Activity or Use	Developed Areas Interface	Back Country	Back Country Motorized Use Restricted	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness
Rangeland Type Conversion for Forage production	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Restoration of Vegetation Condition	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	*By Exception	Suitable
Disposal of National Forest System lands	*By Exception	*By Exception	*By Exception	*By Exception	*By Exception	Not Suitable

* By Exception = Conditions which are not generally compatible with the land use zone but may be appropriate under certain circumstances .

Table 2.2.2. Suitable Uses Public Use and Enjoyment, CNF

Land Use Zone:	DAI	BC	BCMUR	BCNM	CB	W
Activity or Use	Developed Areas Interface	Back Country	Back Country Motorized Use Restricted	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness
Recreation Residence Tracts	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Organization Camps	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Lodges, Resorts and Clubs	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Hunting and Fishing	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)
Target Shooting Areas	*By Exception	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Public Motorized Use on Forest System Roads	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Authorized Motorized Use	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	*By Exception	*By Exception	*By Exception
Off-Highway Vehicle Use on Forest System Roads and Trails	Designated Roads and Trails	Designated Roads and Trails	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Public Motorized Use off Forest System Roads and Trails	Suitable in Designated Open Areas	Suitable in Designated Open Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Mountain Bikes Forest System Roads and Trails	Unless Otherwise Restricted	Unless Otherwise Restricted	Unless Otherwise Restricted	Unless Otherwise Restricted	Unless Otherwise Restricted	Not Suitable
Dispersed Area Camping	Suitable Unless Otherwise Restricted	Suitable Unless Otherwise Restricted	Suitable Unless Otherwise Restricted	Suitable Unless Otherwise Restricted	Not Suitable	Suitable Unless Otherwise Restricted

* By Exception = Conditions which are not generally compatible with the land use zone but may be appropriate under certain circumstances .

Table 2.2.3. Suitable Uses Commodity and Commercial Uses, CNF

Land Use Zone:	DAI	BC	BCMUR	BCNM	CB	W
Activity or Use	Developed Areas Interface	Back Country	Back Country Motorized Use Restricted	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness
(Non-Rec) Special Uses: Low Intensity Land Use	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	*By Exception	*By Exception	*By Exception
Communication Sites	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	*By Exception	*By Exception	Not Suitable
Livestock Grazing	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Designated Areas
Major Transportation Corridors	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Major Utility Corridors	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Road construction or re-construction	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable for authorized use	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Developed Facilities	Suitable	Suitable	*By Exception	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Minerals Resources Exploration and Development	Suitable	Suitable	*By Exception	*By Exception	*By Exception	Not Suitable
Renewable Energy Resources	Suitable	Suitable	*By Exception	*By Exception	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Wood Products, including fuelwood harvesting	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	*By Exception	Not Suitable
Special Forest Products	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	*By Exception	*By Exception

* By Exception = Conditions which are not generally compatible with the land use zone but may be appropriate under certain circumstances.

Table 2.2.4. Suitable Uses Fire and Fuels Management, CNF

Land Use Zone:	DAI	BC	BCMUR	BCNM	CB	W
Activity or Use	Developed Areas Interface	Back Country	Back Country Motorized Use Restricted	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness
Community Protection Areas	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	*By Exception	*By Exception
Fuelbreak Construction including type conversion	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	*By Exception	*By Exception	*By Exception
Wildland Fire Use Strategy	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

* By Exception = Conditions which are not generally compatible with the land use zone but may be appropriate under certain circumstances.

Specific uses are allowed on national forests except when identified as not suitable, because of law, national or regional policy, or the revised forest plan. What this means is that the forest plans are permissive. That is, activities may occur unless the forest plan says that they cannot. However, activities are not authorized based solely on the land use zoning for this forest plan. The suitable uses identified in tables 2.2.1 through 2.2.4 are intended as guidance for consideration of future activities and do not affect existing authorized occupancy and uses or the administrative procedures used to manage them. Most ground disturbing activities require further project or site-specific analysis before a decision is made. The uses that are identified as suitable in each of the land use zones are subject to the design criteria, as well as the other guidance described in Part 3 (Appendix A) of this forest plan. The standards, along with applicable guidance are typically used during project or site-specific planning. Applicable guidance includes the body of information encompassed by the Forest Service Manual and Handbooks, Species Accounts, Best Management Practices, Soil and Water Conservation Handbooks, the Built Environment Image Guide, or other documents with guidance that is identified for use based on site-specific project analysis.

Several activities are described in the suitable use tables as being permitted in designated areas only. For example, what this means is that motorized uses are restricted to designated roads, trails and limited open areas and may be restricted or expanded further in order to achieve the desired condition for the land use zones. Vehicular traffic traveling cross-country or on non-designated routes is not allowed in any zone.

Seven land use zones have been identified for the Cleveland National Forest (see appendix C, Land Use Zone maps). These zones, including overlays described in the following section are applicable to only the National Forest System (NFS) lands and in no way modify zoning applied to other ownerships by local government agencies. When other lands are acquired and become National Forest System lands, then the adjacent land use zones are applied unless changed through a Forest Plan Amendment. The land use zones descriptions in this section help to paint a picture of the anticipated level or intensity of public use or administrative activities. The existing character of each zone is included, along with the characteristic Recreation Opportunity

Spectrum (ROS) objective (see appendix C, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum maps). The zones, in order of decreasing land use intensity are:

- Developed Area Interface (DAI)
- Back Country (BC)
- Back Country Motorized Use Restricted (BCMUR)
- Back Country Non-Motorized (BCNM)
- Critical Biological (CB)
- Recommended Wilderness (RW)
- Existing Wilderness (EW)

Developed Area Interface (40,705 acres or 9.7 percent of the national forest): This zone includes areas adjacent to communities or concentrated developed areas with more scattered or isolated community infrastructure. The level of human use and infrastructure is typically higher than in other zones.

The characteristic ROS objectives are Rural and Roaded Natural. A number of highly popular developed recreation facilities, recreation and non-recreation special-uses facilities and national forest administrative facilities may be included in this zone. The level of development within this zone varies between areas that are highly developed to areas where no development has occurred.

The DAI zone is managed for motorized public access. Approximately 20.7 percent of the National Forest System and non-system user created routes are found in this zone including 24 miles of unclassified road. The national forest road system is generally managed and maintained to a higher standard, facilitating public access to developed recreation opportunities and authorized infrastructure. A designated off-highway vehicle (OHV) system may be included in some locations, often including trailheads or staging areas leading to Back Country areas.

Most direct community protection Wildland/Urban Interface Defense Zones (see Appendix K in Part 3 of the forest plan) and some Threat Zones are anticipated to be located within the DAI zone.

Although this zone may have a broad range of higher intensity uses, the management intent is to limit development to a slow increase of carefully designed facilities to help direct use into the most suitable areas and concentrating on improving facilities before developing new ones. National Forest staff expect that there will be some road construction, but anticipate no more than a 5 percent net-increase in road mileage.

Back Country (61,024 acres or 14.5 percent of the national forest): This zone includes areas of the national forest that are generally undeveloped with few roads. The characteristic ROS objectives are Semi-Primitive Motorized with limited areas of Roaded Natural. Most of the national forest's remote recreation and administrative facilities are found in this zone. The level of human use and infrastructure is generally low to moderate.

The zone is managed for motorized public access on designated roads and trails. Approximately 44.6 percent of the National Forest System and non-system roads are found in this zone including 45 miles of unclassified road. Some roads within this zone may be closed to public access. The majority of National Forest System roads and other road systems that interconnect

areas of concentrated development are found in this zone. A network of low standard Back Country roads provide access for a wide variety of dispersed recreation opportunities in remote areas such as camping and access to trailhead facilities for hiking or biking. Some new trails may be constructed to improve opportunities between trails on the existing system. The majority of the designated OHV system is found here including limited areas that are designated for OHV use (Angeles and Cleveland National Forests).

Wildland/Urban Interface Threat Zones (see Appendix K in Part 3 of the forest plan) are characteristic in this zone. Managers anticipate locating community protection vegetation treatments that require permanent roaded access (such as fuelbreaks) within the Back Country zone.

Although this zone generally allows a broad range of uses, the management intent is to retain the natural character inherent in this zone and limit the level and type of development. National Forest staff expect to manage the zone for no increase or a very low level of increase in the national forest road system. Managers expect to limit development to a slow increase of carefully designed facilities to help direct use into the most suitable areas and remove temporary facilities when they are no longer needed.

Back Country (Motorized Use Restricted) (48,582 acres or 11.5 percent of the national forest): This zone includes areas of the national forest that are generally undeveloped with few roads. Few facilities are found in this zone, but some may occur in remote locations. The characteristic ROS objectives are Semi-Primitive Motorized and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized. The level of human use and infrastructure is low to moderate.

The zone will be managed for non-motorized (mechanized, equestrian, and pedestrian) public access. Motorized use is restricted to administrative purposes only that include Forest Service, other agency, or tribal government needs, as well as access needed to private land or authorized special-uses. Administrative access is intermittent and generally limited to existing roads or to temporary roads needed for resource management purposes. The intent is to use temporary roads or gated permanent roads while management is occurring and then gate the permanent roads or remove the temporary route when done.

Approximately 24.9 percent of the National Forest System and non-system roads are found in this zone including 43 miles of unclassified road. A limited number of National Forest System roads and other road systems that access administrative and authorized facilities and private land are found here. A network of low standard Back Country roads provides access for a wide variety of non-motorized dispersed recreation opportunities including camping, hiking, biking, hunting and fishing. Designated OHV use is not suitable in this zone.

Wildland/Urban Interface Threat Zones (see Appendix K in Part 3 of the forest plan) are characteristic in this zone. Managers anticipate locating community protection vegetation treatments that require permanent roaded access (such as fuelbreaks) within the Back Country Motorized Use Restricted zone.

Although this zone allows a range of low intensity land uses, the management intent is to retain the natural character of the zone and limit the level and type of development. Some roads will be constructed and maintained, but the intent is to manage the zone for no increase or a very low level of increase in system development. Managers will consider expanding the ability of

existing facilities to meet demand before proposing new facilities and removing temporary facilities when they are no longer needed.

Back Country Non-Motorized (181,535 acres or 43.1 percent of the national forest): This zone generally includes areas of the national forest that are undeveloped with few, if any roads. The characteristic ROS objective is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized. Developed facilities supporting dispersed recreation activities are minimal and generally limited to trails and signage. The level of human use and infrastructure is low.

The zone is managed for a range of non-motorized uses that include mechanized, equestrian and pedestrian public access. Administrative access (usually for community protection) is allowed by exception for emergency situations and for short duration management purposes (such as fuel treatment). The intent is to use temporary routes while management is occurring and then close or remove the route. Access to authorized facilities and to private land is not anticipated, but may occur by exception when there are existing rights to such access.

Approximately seven percent of the National Forest System and non-system roads are found in this zone including 41 miles of unclassified road. A network of low standard Back Country trails provide public access for a wide variety of non-motorized dispersed recreation opportunities including remote area camping, hiking, mountain biking, hunting and fishing. Designated OHV use is not suitable in this zone, and no designated OHV routes are located in this zone.

Wildland/Urban Interface Threat Zones (see Appendix K in Part 3 of the forest plan) may occur in this zone. Managers anticipate locating community protection vegetation treatments that require only temporary roaded access (such as mechanical thinning of trees or prescribed burning) within the Back Country Non-Motorized zone.

While a range of non-motorized public uses are generally allowed, the management intent is to typically retain the undeveloped character and natural appearance (fuelbreaks that contrast with the natural character may be present) of this zone and to limit the level of development to a low level of increase. Facility construction (except trails) is generally not allowed, but may occur in remote locations where roaded access is not needed for maintenance. Managers are expected to remove temporary facilities when they are no longer needed.

Critical Biological (2,131 acres or 0.5 percent of the national forest): This zone includes the most important areas on the national forest to manage for the protection of species-at-risk. Facilities are minimal to discourage human use. The level of human use and infrastructure is low to moderate.

Wildland/Urban Interface Threat Zones (see Appendix K in Part 3 of the forest plan) may occur in this zone. Community protection vegetation treatments within the Critical Biological land use zone may occur by exception. In these cases, managers will consider species and habitat needs.

The management intent is to retain the natural character and habitat characteristics in this zone and limit the level of human development to manage for protection of species-at-risk. Activities and modification to existing infrastructure are allowed if they are beneficial or neutral to the species for which the zone was primarily designated (see table 525: Cleveland NF Critical Biological Land Use Zones). Human uses are more restricted in this zone than in Back Country Non-Motorized zones in order to protect species needs, but are not excluded. Low impact uses,

such as hiking, mountain biking and hunting are generally allowed. There are no National Forest System or non-system roads in this zone. Road density will not be increased.

Table 525. Cleveland NF Critical Biological Land Use Zones

Primary Species Protected and Primary Uses			
CBLUZ	Primary Species Protected	Place	Primary Uses This is a partial list of activities associated with these CBLUZ's. See Suitable Use Tables for full description of all suitable uses.
Dripping Springs (Arroyo Seco)	Arroyo toad, and *Dodecahema leptoceras*	Aguanga	Current use of Dripping Springs Campground is retained.
Guatay Mountain	*Cupressus forbesii*, and other gabbro endemic Sensitive plant species	Sweetwater	Where CBLUZ overlaps with existing Guatay Mt. Special Interest Area, suitable uses in CBLUZ will be applied. Community protection is suitable by exception or with use of Standard S8. Treatment within CBLUZ may not be necessary. Use of prescribed fire in cypress stands as a method of community protection in less than 50 year intervals is unsuitable use. Current grazing permit located outside of CBLUZ is retained.
King Creek	*Cupressus stephensonii*, and other gabbro endemic Sensitive plant species	Upper San Diego River	Where CBLUZ overlaps with existing King Creek RNA, follow direction in RNA Management Strategy unless CBLUZ suitable uses are more restrictive. Development and implementation of fuel treatments to protect cypress from frequent fire is suitable use. Community protection projects would occur in adjacent Developed Area Interface land use zone. However, if cypress habitat is needed for community protection, use of prescribed fire in cypress stands in less than 50 year intervals is not suitable. Maintenance of existing utility lines are retained as per permit.
San Luis Rey	Southwestern willow flycatcher	San Dieguito/ Black Mountain	Current use of San Luis Rey Campground is retained. Private lands are not included in CBLUZ.
Viejas Mountain	*Acanthomintha illicifolia*, and other gabbro endemic Sensitive species	Sweetwater	

Existing Wilderness (75,523 acres or 17.9 percent of the national forest): This zone includes Congressionally designated wildernesses. Only uses consistent with all applicable wilderness legislation and with the primitive character are allowed in existing and recommended wildernesses. Road access is limited to uses identified in the specific legislation designating the wilderness (see wilderness in the forest-specific design criteria of Part 2 of the forest plan), approximately 1.9 percent of the National Forest System and non-system roads are found in this zone including 10 miles of unclassified road. The characteristic Recreation Opportunity Spectrum objective is Primitive with limited areas of Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized.

Wildland/Urban Interface Threat Zones (see Appendix K in Part 3 of the forest plan) may occur in this zone. Community protection vegetation treatments within the existing wilderness zone may occur by exception. In these cases, managers will consider wilderness needs.

The management intent is to administer this zone for the use and enjoyment of people while preserving its wilderness character and natural conditions. Non-conforming uses will be removed to preserve wilderness character. Designated Wilderness includes:

- Agua Tibia Wilderness
- Hauser Wilderness
- Pine Creek Wilderness
- San Mateo Wilderness

Recommended Wilderness (11,377 acres or 2.7 percent of the national forest): This zone includes land that the Forest Service is recommending to Congress for wilderness designation and will be managed in the same manner as existing wilderness so that the wilderness attributes of the area are retained until Congress passes legislation, or the area is released from consideration. If Congress elects to not designate an area, the area would be zoned as Back Country Non-Motorized until modified by a subsequent plan amendment. Approximately one percent of the National Forest System and non-system roads are found in this zone including two miles of unclassified road.

Wildland/Urban Interface Threat Zones (see Appendix K in Part 3 of the forest plan) may occur in this zone. Community protection vegetation treatments within the recommended wilderness land use zone may occur by exception. In these cases, managers will consider wilderness needs.

The management intent is to administer this zone for the use and enjoyment of people while preserving its wilderness character and natural conditions. Wilderness recommendations include:

- Cutca Valley (Agua Tibia Wilderness)
- Pine Creek (Pine Creek Wilderness)
- Hauser South (Hauser Wilderness)

Special Designation Overlays

The following land use classifications act as overlays to the primary land use zones. In other words, suitable uses identified in the land use zone tables are generally suitable in these overlay classifications unless specifically excluded. When differences occur in suitable uses between the land use zone and special designation overlay, the more restrictive set of allowable uses apply.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Wild and Scenic River *eligibility (*an inventory and evaluation of whether a river is free-flowing and possesses one or more outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) including scenery, recreation, geology, fish and wildlife, history, cultural (prehistoric), or similar values) was completed for the four southern California national forests. If found eligible, a river segment was then analyzed as to its current level of development (water resources projects, shoreline development, and accessibility) and a recommendation was made that it be placed into one of three classes—wild, scenic or recreational. The final procedural step (*suitability)* provides the basis for determining whether to recommend to Congress an eligible river as part of the National System.

The suitability study phase will be initiated at a later date for the three eligible rivers on the Cleveland National Forest.

Suitable uses are those compatible with protecting and enhancing the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated or found eligible.

Eligible rivers include:

- Cottonwood Creek
- San Luis Rey River (Main)
- San Mateo Creek

All existing facilities, management actions, and approved uses will be allowed to continue in eligible river corridors until a decision is made on inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System, provided these facilities, actions, and uses do not interfere with the protection and enhancement of the river's outstandingly remarkable values.

Proposed new facilities, management actions, or uses on National Forest System lands are not allowed if they have the potential to affect the eligibility or potential classification of the river segment.

Uses comply with Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, chapter 8.2, which includes a description of developments and activities that are permitted, restricted or prohibited within the designated river corridor for each of the three classifications (wild, scenic and recreation).

Inventoried Roadless Areas

Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) were originally mapped as a result of the second Roadless Area Review (RARE II), which was documented in a final environmental impact statement dated January of 1979, and refined during development of the national forest land management plans. These maps were identified in a set of inventoried roadless area maps, contained in the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November 2000. A final Roadless Area Conservation Rule was published in May of 2005, allowing optional State government involvement through a petition process. Alternatively the 1982 NFMA planning rule allows for the analysis and evaluation of roadless areas, including boundary adjustments, in the forest plan revision process. An updated inventory has been prepared to reflect changes in the roadless inventory due to analysis and evaluation made in this forest plan revision. Adjustments to the inventory include correction of mapping errors including boundary roads mistakenly included within an IRA, removal of those areas that congress has

designated as wilderness, addition of undeveloped areas that were not part of the original inventory but were recommended as wilderness in this forest plan, and implementation of the following classification to reflect the land use zoning decisions in the revised forest plan:

- 1a - IRAs allocated to a prescription that does not allow road construction and the forest plan recommends as wilderness.
- 1b - IRAs allocated to a prescription that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.
- 1c - IRAs allocated to a prescription that allows road construction or reconstruction.

(See appendix C, Inventoried Roadless Area Maps)

Research Natural Areas

Research Natural Areas (RNAs) include relatively undisturbed areas of the national forest that form a long-term network of ecological reserves designated for research, education, and the maintenance of biodiversity. This designation applies to both established and proposed research natural areas.

Research Natural Areas are selected to preserve a spectrum of relatively pristine areas that represent a wide range of natural variability within important natural ecosystems and environments, and areas that have unique characteristics of scientific importance. Research Natural Areas are also selected for one or more of the following reasons:

- To serve as reference areas for evaluating the range of natural variability and the impacts of management in similar environments.
- To protect and maintain representative or key elements of biological diversity at the genetic, species, population, community, or ecosystem levels.
- To serve as areas for the study of ecosystems and ecological processes including succession.
- To provide onsite and extension educational activities.
- To serve as baseline areas for measuring ecological change.

Uses that retain the research values for which the site is designated are appropriate.

Established Research Natural Areas include:

- Agua Tibia
- King Creek
- Organ Valley

Proposed Research Natural Areas include:

- Guatay Mountain
- Viejas Mountain
- San Diego River

These three areas will be evaluated and analyzed within three years and if appropriate recommended for establishment as research natural areas.

Special Interest Areas

Special Interest Areas protect and, where appropriate, foster public use and enjoyment of areas with scenic, historical, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, or other special characteristics. Uses that are compatible with maintaining the target of the areas designation are appropriate.

Special Interest Areas include:

- San Luis Rey River (West Fork)
- Guatay Mountain
- Chiquito Basin
- Pine Mountain

Other Designations

- Designated Communication Sites - Cleveland National Forest (table 475)
- Designated Transportation Corridors - Cleveland National Forest (table 483)
- Designated Utility Corridors - Cleveland National Forest (table 485)
- Recreation Residence Tracts - Cleveland National Forest (table 479)
- Designated Recreational Target Shooting Areas - Cleveland National Forest (table 489)
- Designated Off-Highway Vehicle Areas: Wildomar and Corral Canyon

Table 475. Designated Communication Sites, Cleveland National Forest

Communications Site Name	Existing Uses	Approximate Location	Restrictions
Elsinore Peak	Two-way radio/ Non-Broadcast/ Low-power[1]	Sec. 31, T6S, R4W, SBM	
Modjeska Peak	Two-way radio/ Non-Broadcast/ Low-power	Sec. 19 & 30 T5S, R6W, SBM	
Pleasants Peak	Two-way radio/ Non-Broadcast/ Low-power	Sec. 28, T4S, R7W, SBM	Government Only
Santiago Peak	Two-way radio[2]/ Non-Broadcast/ Low-power	Sec. 29, T5S, R6W, SBM	
Sierra Peak	Two-way radio/ Non-Broadcast/ Low-power	Sec. 6, T4S, R7W, SBBM	
Los Pinos Peak	Two-way radio/ Non-Broadcast/ Low-power	Sec. 33 T16S, R4E, SBM	Government Only
Lyons Peak	Two-way radio/ Non-Broadcast/ Low-power	Sec. 10 & 15, T17S, R2E, SBM	Government Only
Monument Peak	Microwave Two-way radio/ Non-Broadcast/ Low-power	Sec. 1 & 12, T15S, R5E, SBM	
Stephenson Peak	Radar Two-way radio/ Non-Broadcast/ Low-power	Sec. 12, T15S, R5E, SBM	

[1] Low-power as defined in the Forest Service Handbook, (FSH 2709.11 Chapter 90) revised in 2003. This definition is incorporated by reference and included in the project file.
[2] Santiago Peak: an existing, senior use includes one FM broadcaster operating at a power level consistent with senior users.

Table 483. Designated Transportation Corridors, Cleveland National Forest

Transportation Corridor Name	Approximate Land Area (acres)
State Highway 74 (Ortega Highway)	2410
Interstate Highway 8	8564

Table 485. Designated Utility Corridors - Cleveland National Forest

Utility Corridor Name	Approximate Land Area		Existing Uses
	Acres	Miles	
Valley/Serrano	2,097	12.0	500KV

Table 479. Recreation Residence Tracts, Cleveland National Forest

Recreation Residence Tract, Cleveland National Forest
Viejas
Guatay
Boiling Springs
Burnt Rancheria
El Centro
Escondido
Hulburd
Laguna
Los Huecos
Piedra
Pine Creek
Shrine
San Juan
Hot Springs
Trabuco
Holy Jim

Table 489. Designated Shooting Areas - Cleveland National Forest

Component	Cleveland
Concession-Operated Sites	
Permitted Gun Clubs: Limited or No Public Access	SERE Camp (DOD)
Designated Shooting Sites by Forest Order (Other Shooting Restrictions May Apply)	
Remainder of Forest	Closed by District specific order, unless open. Open areas are Orosco Ridge and along Palomar Divide.

Scenery Management System

The Scenery Management System (SMS) is a tool for integrating the benefits, values, desires, and preferences regarding aesthetics and scenery for all levels of land management planning. People are concerned about the quality of their environment and the aesthetic values of landscapes, particularly the scenery and spiritual values. Scenic integrity objectives have been designated for all areas of the national forest. At the project level, all national forest activities are subject to review of the scenic integrity objectives (see appendix C, Scenic Integrity Objective maps).

Public Uses Regulated by Other Agencies

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) manages California's fish and wildlife populations for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

Hunting is permitted throughout the national forests of southern California during hunting seasons designated by the CDF&G. Hunting is not permitted in those areas where the discharge of firearms is prohibited by county ordinance, California State law, federal regulations, or Forest Orders, such as Laguna Mountain Recreation Area. Hunters must follow all laws including no hunting within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, trail or occupied area for safety. Such organized events require a special-use authorization from the appropriate national forest office.

Hunters

Angling is encouraged in most areas of the national forests during fishing seasons designated by the CDF&G. Some locations have special regulations and a few are closed to fishing in order to protect the steelhead trout and other aquatic species that depend on high quality habitat.

Prospectus

The prospectus describes recent trends and expectations regarding the levels of experiences, goods and services, or other outcomes that are supplied by the national forest, as well as anticipated resource improvements planned over the next three to five years. Past performance is generally a good indicator of what is expected in the near future. Performance expectations under two budget levels are projected into the future. Annual monitoring and evaluation of trends in performance indicators determine if there is a need to shift program emphasis to more effectively move toward the desired conditions (see Monitoring Trends and Performance Indicators). Strategic program emphasis is described through specific objectives that the national forest will focus on under current budget expectations. The Forest Supervisor will plan and implement projects that contribute to achieving desired conditions described in Part 1, while meeting the standards described in Part 3. Information in this prospectus will be updated on a regular basis to reflect changes in management emphasis or budget fluctuations. Specific strategies and tactics that are linked to program objectives are found in Appendix B. These are referenced from each of the applicable program objectives discussed in this section. The final section describes examples of performance risks that could cause a need for change in management emphasis (see Performance Risks).

Program Emphasis and Objectives

A methodology common to the four southern California national forests was applied during the development of the Forest Business Plan (`http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/business-plans`), in order to describe the activities and programs for the Cleveland National Forest. Activities were organized into six functional areas, which include all areas of business for which the national forest is responsible. The functional areas collectively include 35 programs. National Forest management uses the results to clearly communicate program capability both internally and externally.

The six functional areas are:

- Management & Administration: National Forest leadership, management and administrative support activities, communications, external affairs, community outreach, planning, human resources, information technology, and financial management.
- Resource Management: Activities related to managing, preserving, and protecting the national forest's cultural and natural resources.
- Public Use & Enjoyment: Activities which provide visitors with safe, enjoyable and educational experiences while on the national forest and accommodate changing trends in visitor use and community participation and outreach.
- Facility Operations & Maintenance: Activities required to manage and operate the national forest's infrastructure (i.e., roads, facilities, trails, and structures).
- Commodity & Commercial Uses: Grazing management, forest special product development, and activities related to managing non-recreation special-uses such as national forest access, telecommunications sites, and utility corridors.
- Fire & Aviation Management: Wildland fire prevention through education, hazardous fuels reduction, and proactive preparation. This program also includes on-forest wildland

fire suppression, and national or international wildland fire and emergency incident response.

Monitoring Trends and Performance Indicators

Monitoring in Part 2 of the forest plan is focused on program implementation including inventory. The national forest currently uses performance indicators for tracking program accomplishments. The current system is expected to be replaced by a performance accountability system integrating annual budgets with programs of work and linking these to tracking of strategic plan performance indicators.

Each of the key performance indicators are estimated for two budget levels in the performance history section; one based on the current budget trend and the other an estimate of the total capability and need for the program activity on the national forest assuming an unconstrained budget. Performance indicators are shown at the end of each management function section:

- Resource Management Performance Indicators, CNF (table 2.2.5, page 24)
- Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, CNF (table 2.2.6, page 27)
- Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, CNF (table 2.2.7, page 29)
- Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, CNF (table 2.2.8, page 30)
- Fire and Aviation Management Performance Indicators, CNF (table 2.2.9, page 32)

Actual performance is tracked over time through annual documentation of accomplishment and these trends are evaluated periodically to determine if the national forest needs to shift program strategies. This data is reported in the annual monitoring and evaluation report as part of the national forest's implementation monitoring efforts.

Inventory is a continuous effort (see AM 2 – Forest-wide Inventory). As funding is available, priority inventories are implemented and reported through various resource information systems including interagency systems. Periodic evaluation of inventory data is used to explore trends in resource conditions over time. Annual monitoring and evaluation reports (see AM 1 - Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation) will document when there is a need to change the plan in response to declining trends in resource conditions.

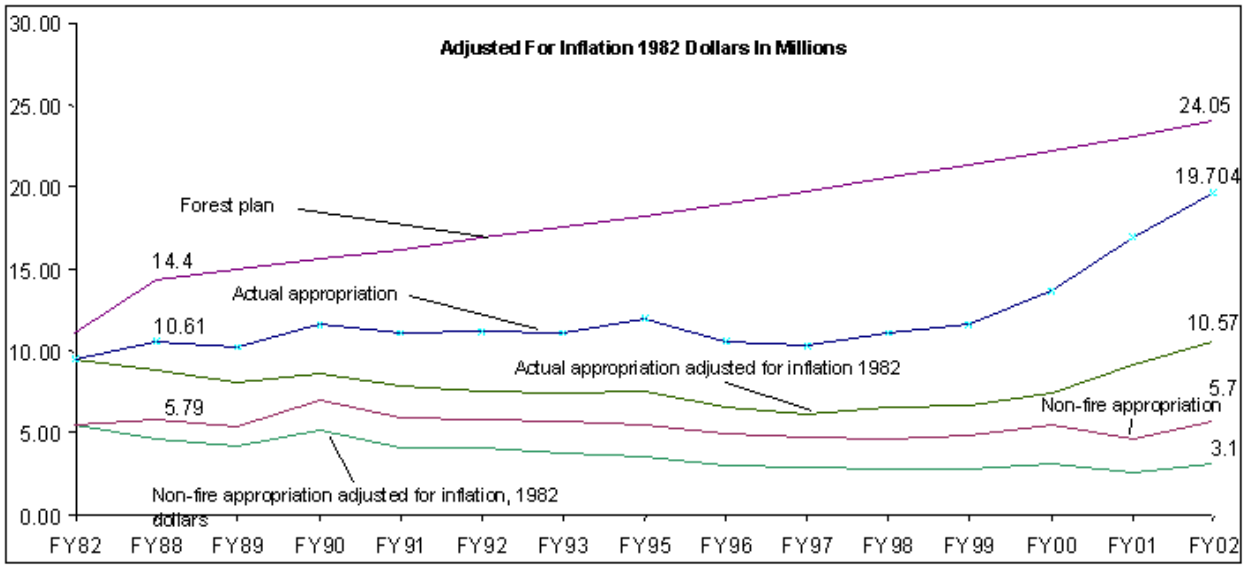
General Budget History

From fiscal year (FY) 1999 to FY 2002, overall funding to the Cleveland National Forest increased, nearly doubling in just three years. This increase is attributed primarily to the increase to hazardous fuels reduction and fire pre-suppression and preparedness. While the base budget for the fire program more than doubled in size, funding for all other national forest programs adjusted for inflation has actually decreased. Even not adjusted for inflation, the non-fire budget has remained relatively constant for nearly 15 years, since 1988. During this same time, costs to the national forest increased exponentially as a result of the growing neighboring populations of Orange, Riverside, Imperial and San Diego Counties, as well as other changing influences.

These two factors (flat budgets and increased costs) present new challenges to the national forest as it tries to serve public and resource management needs. Maintenance, special-use authorizations monitoring and administration backlogs are accumulating as national forests struggle to meet wage increases and other operational requirements. Additionally, even though

fire program funding increased significantly over the past decade, so did costs. The program remains short of required funds to meet maximum efficiency levels and the original planned budget of the 1986 Forest Plan.

Figure - 2.1 Cleveland National Forest Appropriated Budget History Adjusted for Inflation



Management and Administration

The current complex web of federal, state, county, local, partnership, not-for-profit, and private relationships require broad and deep skills and experiences in order to effectively manage the national forest. The challenge of proactively organizing the transformation of a healthy national forest requires more than just management, it requires the leadership of everyone who might be affected by that change, including the communities of the urban areas in which the national forest conducts business.

The Forest Business Plan divides the Management & Administration category into General Management, Financial Management, General Administration, District Management, Planning, Public Affairs, and Information Technology programs. The forest plan addresses two of these programs, general and district management.

Vision, leadership, performance reporting, legislative contacts and priority setting are the tasks of the Forest Supervisor and the immediate support staff. From the Forest Supervisor's Office in Rancho Bernardo, human resources, engineering, recreation, resources, public relations, information technology and other staff functions provide technical and administrative support to the Ranger Districts.

One of a number of public open houses hosted by the Cleveland NF for the forest plan revision.

The national forest is divided into three Ranger Districts: Trabuco, Palomar and Descanso. Each District Ranger and staff is directly responsible for developing, conserving, and using the natural resources of the national forest and the associated land of the Ranger District. The proximity of the national forest to large and expanding urban populations and the U.S./Mexico border adds complexity to the range of management issues, public pressures and demands for national forest resources, goods and services. It requires working with a variety of internal and external customers, cooperators and organizations to balance diverse and often competing interests.

Over the next three to five years, national forest staff expect to enlist the support of local communities, partners, and volunteers to promote land stewardship through jointly developing and carrying out a broad range of conservation activities. Emphasis will be placed on further developing relationships with tribal governments, working together to resolve issues, and facilitating continued traditional or cultural use of the national forest (see Tribal 1 - Traditional and Contemporary Uses and Tribal 2 - Government to Government Relations).

Resource Management

The mission of the Forest Service is "to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." The resource management function manages the health of the vegetation on the land, the quality of areas of wilderness, the boundaries and ownership of the land, the cultural heritage that resides on the land, the quality of the water running on and under the land, the air quality above the land, and the habitat for the wildlife roaming the land.

Wildlife, Fish and Plant Management: The focus of the Wildlife Management Program is the management and protection of plant and animal habitats and species. Emphasis is given to the management of federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as Region 5 sensitive

plants and animals. Activities in this program include: the development and maintenance of partnerships with national, state and local agencies to establish and maintain species habitat goals; the integration of habitat planning into land management and project plans; and the improvement and maintenance of wildlife and fish habitat.

Program emphasis for wildlife management is expected to focus on minimizing the effects of urbanization. National Forest staff expect to emphasize protecting core habitat areas from the effects that urbanization poses so that these areas continue to conserve biodiversity in an interconnected regional open space network. National Forest biologists expect to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation through conserving and managing habitat linkages within, and where possible, between the national forests and other public and privately conserved lands (see Link 1 - Habitat Linkage Planning, Lands 1 - Land Ownership Adjustment). National Forest staff expect to manage threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive (TEPCS) species populations by maintaining or improving habitat capability (see WL 1 - Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Candidate, and Sensitive Species Management and WL 2 - Management of Species of Concern), removing invasive species (see IS 1 - Invasive Species Prevention and Control), and by reducing conflicts with other activities such as recreation (see REC 2 - Sustainable Use and Environmental Design), resource, or community development (see Lands 2 - Non-Recreation Special Use Authorizations). Managers expect to implement approximately five percent of the recovery tasks and conservation measures identified in recovery plans and species and habitat conservation strategies as funding becomes available (see WL 2 - Management of Species of Concern). Managers also expect to continue to improve our knowledge base regarding riparian dependent threatened and endangered species through the basic inventory of suitable habitat (see AM 2 – Forest-wide Inventory).

National Forest staff expect to place a high priority on controlling nonnative species that prey on or compete with threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species. Managers intend to implement control measures on approximately five percent of known areas where invasive species are conflicting with threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species (see IS 1 - Invasive Species Prevention and Control).

The Soil, Water and Air Program encompasses all activities associated with the management of water quality and supply, soil productivity and stability, air quality management, hazardous materials mitigation, and geologic and paleontologic resource management on national forest lands. The objective of this program is to identify the health of the national forest's air, water, and soil resources, and to implement measures to protect and enhance their natural properties.

National Forest managers expect to emphasize management of groundwater and surface water resources to benefit ecosystem health and national forest administrative needs (see WAT 1 - Watershed Function and WAT 2 - Water Management). To address the increased demand for groundwater and surface water resources of the national forest, staff expect to emphasize balancing the needs of water users with resource needs for maintaining or improving stream, riparian, springs, and wetland habitat through procuring water rights and instream flow agreements. National Forest staff expect to review approximately 90 percent of the water diversion permit reauthorizations backlog. National Forest staff also expect to acquire water rights that are available and relocate diversions to the national forest perimeter where possible (see Lands 2 - Non-Recreation Special Use Authorizations).

Land ownership and adjustment includes all activities related to the management of the national forest's real estate functions. Program activities include land acquisition to improve public access of national forest lands and enhance resource values, the maintenance of national forest boundary lines, and the processing of title documents.

National Forest staff expect to work collaboratively with others to acquire lands that contain unique resources, that allow for continued public access, that enhance public use, that simplify administration, or that improve habitat linkage. Managers expect to implement land adjustment strategies on approximately five percent of the areas identified on land adjustment maps (see Lands 1 - Land Ownership Adjustment).

National Forest staff expect to emphasize retaining and restoring clear title to National Forest System land through resolving trespass and encroaching uses and by posting boundaries bordering developing areas (see Lands 3 - Boundary Management).

The Heritage Resource Management Program on the Cleveland National Forest includes the protection and interpretation of archeologic and historic sites, ethnography (the study of social interactions and community behaviors), and the fostering of relationships with local Native American tribal organizations and their members.

The heritage resource staff expect to document all known significant cultural properties to identify any activity that is or has the potential to adversely affect or that does not complement the site. National Forest staff expect to develop measures to mitigate the adverse effects or impacts to heritage sites. National Forest staff expect to educate the public about preservation of cultural and historic resources. Heritage staff expect to increase heritage inventory and research opportunities (see Her 1 - Heritage Resource Protection, Her 2 - Public Involvement Program, and Her 3 - Forest-wide Heritage Inventory).

Vegetation management project turns slash into chips.

The national forest's Restoration Program incorporates an integrated set of vegetation management actions designed to meet multiple objectives including restoration of national forest health and community protection. Close coordination between the fire and aviation management staffs and resource management staff is required. The national forest has identified the following vegetation management project categories related to community protection and forest health.

- **Mortality Removal - Annual Need: 400 acres.** The removal of dead vegetation to reduce fire hazard. This category includes the use of timber, biomass, and fuelwood sales to remove merchantable trees, and contract removal of nonmerchantable trees and shrubs. These projects include treatment of all slash and move forested areas from Condition

Class 3 towards Condition Class 1. In chaparral areas, mortality removal is planned to reduce the fire hazard from high to low.

- **Thinning - Annual Need: 200 acres.** The removal of living trees from overstocked stands, in most cases trees of 24 inches in diameter or less. These projects include treatment of all slash and move forested areas from Condition Class 2 or 3 towards Condition Class 1. Thinning is required prior to the reintroduction of fire in most cases.
- **Reforestation And Restoration Of Forest Vegetation - Annual Need: 500 acres.** Restoration projects are either designed to facilitate natural recovery following disturbance (i.e., fire, drought related mortality, insect and disease) or to implement planting projects as needed when natural processes are not likely to achieve desired results.
- **Fuelbreak Maintenance - Annual Need: 1,000 acres.** Existing fuelbreaks are generally maintained using prescribed fire or grazing. Most of the fuelbreaks are in high hazard chaparral areas and are designed to limit wildland fire size and provide firefighter access and improved firefighter safety. A few of the fuelbreaks are in coniferous forest and serve to limit fire spread from or towards communities or timber stands in poor condition. Most of the existing fuelbreaks are on ridgetops or along roads.
- **Fuelbreak Construction - Annual Need: 400 acres.** Most of the planned fuelbreaks are also along roads and ridgetops and are proposed for limiting wildland fire patch size. Most fuelbreaks are constructed with machinery. Some are built by hand or by using prescribed fire. Herbicides may be used to kill resprouting chaparral and then fire used to maintain the fuelbreak over time. Fuelbreaks are sometimes constructed near communities to provide some level of future protection in cases where land ownership patterns or topography limit the applicability of the Wildland/Urban Interface Defense and Threat Zones concept.
- **Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) Defense and Threat Zones- Annual Need: 1,500 acres.** A WUI Defense Zone is a relatively narrow area in width (see standards S7 and S8 in Part 3), directly adjoining structures, that is converted to a less-flammable state to increase defensible space and firefighter safety. The WUI threat zone (see standard S7) is an additional strip of vegetation modified to reduce flame heights and radiant heat. The two zones together are designed to make most structures defensible. These zones are applicable to national forest land and all structures upon them. In addition, they apply where national forest boundaries are directly adjacent to communities on private lands. Techniques may include hand or machine removal of vegetation and herbicides in the WUI Defense Zone. Treatments in the threat zone are less intensive and can generally be maintained with prescribed fire over the long-term. In forested areas, extensive tree thinning is planned as part of installing WUI threat zones.
- **Prescribed Fire - Annual Need: 2,000 acres.** Projects placed in this category are generally large burns in chaparral to reduce fire hazard near communities or as part of an overall forest health plan. Prescribed fire is also used to help restore and maintain land in the coniferous forest areas, currently categorized as Condition Class 1 or 2. Some prescribed burns are conducted to enhance wildlife browse conditions.

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

Vegetation management is the maintenance and improvement of healthy and productive stands of native trees in forested areas and plant species. Specific maintenance and improvement activities include reforestation projects, the continued promotion of vegetation growth and survival, and the protection of desired vegetation from animal damage, human damage, and undesirable plant competition.

Insect infestations and regional drought conditions have significantly and adversely impacted forest health in the past three years. However, the extent of these impacts on national forest resources is uncertain due to a lack of funds and personnel to implement forest-wide area surveys and remediation plans.

In the next three to five years national forest staff expect to improve forest health by implementing the community protection program (see Fire 2 - Direct Community Protection and Fire 5 - Fuelbreaks and Indirect Community Protection). Vegetative treatments targeting the restoration of desired fire regimes; the improvement of water quantity, quality, and flow to maintain or improve riparian habitats; and the improvement of watershed conditions will be deferred until community protection projects are implemented. National Forest staff expect to implement approximately five percent of identified forest health projects (see Fire 3 - Fire Suppression Emphasis).

Table 2.2.5. Resource Management Performance Indicators, CNF

Performance Indicators for Resource Management	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Acres of Terrestrial Habitat Enhanced	42	259
Miles of Aquatic Habitat Enhanced	3	10
Acres of Noxious Weeds Treated	0	5
Acres of Vegetation Improved (Timber Stand Improvement)	41	500
Acres of Watershed Improved	5	16
Acres of Land Ownership Adjusted	250	325
Number of Heritage Resources Managed to Standard	28	45

Public Use and Enjoyment

The overall mission of the Conservation Education Program is to build intellectual and personal connections between people and their natural and cultural heritage. The program focuses on public service information regarding recreation opportunities, stewardship responsibilities, and resource education.

Managers intend to emphasize partnership, collaborative community connections, and volunteer programs to improve visitor services and to increase opportunities for interpretation and environmental education. Managers expect to increase partnerships by approximately 20 percent (see REC 4 - Conservation Education). Community outreach includes activities that encourage the stewardship of national forest lands through the participation of people from local areas and communities. These efforts lead to sustainable recreation within the national forest.

The recreation special-use program incorporates the management and monitoring of all concession and recreation special-use authorizations on national forest land. The Cleveland National Forest manages over 340 recreation special-use authorizations, including two concession campground complexes and over 300 summer homes. Recreation special-uses are an important program component. Managers anticipate completing the reauthorization process for recreation residence permits by 2008.

The Cleveland National Forest operates 22 campgrounds with over 650 individual campsites, trailheads, interpretive sites, visitor information centers, and an additional seven picnic areas. Activities include trash collection, cleaning, maintaining equipment, monitoring water systems associated with keeping the facilities clean, safe, and in good repair.

Investment emphasis is expected to focus on Forest Service recreation facility maintenance needs. Managers expect to reduce the backlog of recreation facility maintenance by developing opportunities through partnerships and special funding (see Fac 1 - Facilities Maintenance Backlog).

Laguna Mountain campground

A concentrated use area (CUA) is an undeveloped area where maintenance and management time and money are invested because recreation use leaves evident impacts, including litter, vandalism, or soil compaction. Activities at such sites include hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, scenery viewing, picnicking, camping, snowplay, and waterplay. Facilities in these areas are limited to portable toilets, minimal parking, trash cans, signs and kiosks. These facilities require cleaning, pumping, graffiti removal, and repair of vandalism. Graffiti and trash removal are required along heavily used roads, as well as in CUAs.

The recreation staff expect to emphasize providing balanced, environmentally sustainable, recreation opportunities to meet the needs of a growing, urban, culturally diverse population,

particularly day-use opportunities (see REC 1 - Recreation Opportunity). Managers expect to implement adaptive management measures in areas where resource conflicts and user conflicts occur (see REC 2 - Sustainable Use and Environmental Design and REC 3 - Recreation Participation). Managers expect to designate areas not suitable for remote camping when suggested by adaptive management measures.

An old-time forest ranger tells stories to forest visitors during "Living History" on the Cleveland NF.

National Forest managers expect to maintain aesthetic, recreation, and open space values, especially those of high-valued scenery including scenic backdrops and large open spaces (see LM 1 - Landscape Aesthetics, LM 2 - Landscape Restoration, LM 3 - Landscape Character, and REC 1 - Recreation Opportunity).

National Forest staff expect to complete or revise two of the four Wilderness Management Plans (see SD 1 - Wilderness). National Forest staff expect to complete 20 percent of Special Area Management Plans.

Law enforcement services are an integral part of the Forest Service's day-to-day management. These services include the administration of permits and contracts, the dissemination of visitor information regarding the use of national forest lands, and the enforcement of the rules and regulations that govern the management of the national forest. The authority for providing law enforcement services is described at 16 USC 551 and 559. The means to implement these authorities are found in 36 CFR 261 and Title 18 of the United States Code. Visitor safety and resource protection activities are accomplished using law enforcement officers working at three different levels. These are: (1) Forest Protection Officers are primarily responsible for public contact in the field, public information and education efforts and they have the authority to write citations. This level of enforcement focuses on the prevention of violations when in the field. (2) Law Enforcement Officers are responsible for the prevention of crimes and the enforcement of federal laws and regulations on national forest and adjacent land. These officers carry firearms and can make arrests. (3) Special Agents are the investigative arm of the agency and are

responsible for the staff work related to the arrest and prosecution of criminals and for the development of reports that address claims made for and against the government.

Table 2.2.6. Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, CNF

Performance Indicators for Public Use and Enjoyment	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Products Provided to Standard (Interpretation and Education)	12	20
Recreation Special Use Authorizations Administered to Standard	49	85
PAOT Days Managed to Standard (Developed Sites)	796,172	1,381,578
Recreation Days Managed to Standard (General Forest Areas)	5,032	9,477

Facilities Operation and Maintenance

The Buildings, Grounds & Utilities Program area focuses on operating and maintaining Forest Service owned and leased fire and administrative buildings, and other associated buildings and infrastructure. The facilities include administrative offices, fire stations, communication and utility buildings, barracks, storage buildings, shop buildings, and an airtanker base. This work includes operating and maintaining numerous gas and electrical utility systems, water systems and sewer systems. Work involves annual (routine) maintenance and deferred/heavy maintenance, as well as facility upgrades and improvements to buildings, utilities and grounds.

The 2002 Oak Grove station is the national prototype of a multi-engine fire station. The building accommodates twenty employees, two engines and a water tender, and has day use and office space. The design of this building received an architectural award by *Fire Chief* magazine for notable design.

National Forest staff have identified 40 percent of total facilities that need to be decommissioned. Of these, approximately 20 percent should be decommissioned annually. Priority will be given to those that have health and safety concerns (see LM 2 - Landscape Restoration). Managers have identified the need to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog by 10 percent annually. Managers expect to reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance by approximately 5 percent

annually. National Forest staff propose to construct facilities to meet crew needs (see Fac 1 - Facilities Maintenance Backlog).

Many of the Cleveland National Forest's roads are in hazardous condition due to increased urban use, storm damage, crossing needs at creeks, and funds to maintain them. While many roads have been closed to minimize risk, demand for their use increases and use is concentrated on the remaining network. There are hundreds of miles of undesignated roads that require some form of active management.

Rockslides, overflowing crossings, road closures, and road damage after the heavy and frequent rains early 2005, Cleveland NF

Daily use requirements of trails continue to grow as the population of neighboring communities increase. In an effort to reduce costs, the majority of the national forest's 350 miles of designated trails and 16 trailheads are maintained with the help of volunteers and partnership groups. Trail maintenance work consists of clearing, inspecting, constructing, decommissioning and marking trails. There are hundreds of miles of undesignated trails that require some form of active management.

Managers of the transportation system expect to emphasize addressing user demand, forest and community protection needs, and resource considerations (see Trans 1 - Transportation System). Roads and trails are expected to be maintained in order to reduce the level of effects to species and watersheds while safely accommodating use (see REC 3 - Recreation Participation). Managers expect to maintain approximately 15 percent of the National Forest System roads and trails to their objective maintenance level. Managers expect to analyze and assess the suitability of non-system roads and trails for inclusion in the national forest transportation system (see Trans 1 - Transportation System, and Trans 3 - Improve Trails, Trans 4 - Off-Highway Vehicle Opportunities). Managers expect to designate trails and routes suitable for OHV use.

Roads accommodating high levels of use are expected to be candidates for improvement, including parking areas in appropriate locations for popular destinations. Managers expect to improve parking opportunities on approximately ten percent of identified potential sites (see Trans 3 - Improve Trails).

Managers expect to decommission unneeded or unauthorized roads and trails (see Trans 2 - Unnecessary Roads). National Forest staff expect to complete site-specific road and trails analysis on approximately 30 percent of the unclassified roads and trails to make appropriate designations (i.e., National Forest System road, decommission, conversion to National Forest System trail, either motorized or non-motorized).

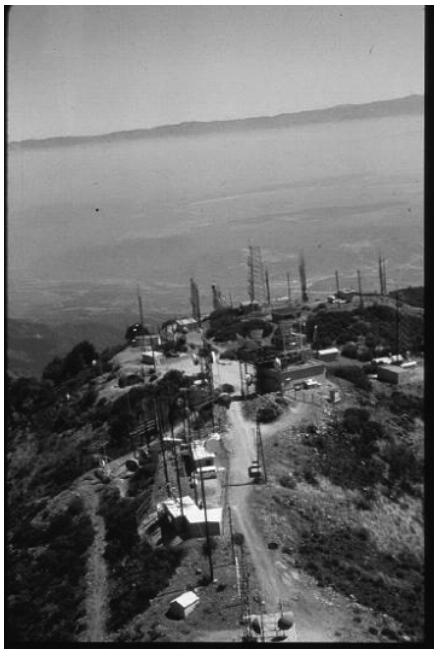
Access to the national forest will be acquired where needed for administrative and public use through the purchase of, or exchange for, easements and rights-of-way (see Lands 1 - Land Ownership Adjustment). Program emphasis is expected to focus on developing and maintaining road and trail systems that address access issues and minimize conflicts with private landowners. National Forest staff expect to acquire approximately two percent of the rights-of-way needed to operate the national forest road and trail system.

Table 2.2.7. Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, CNF

Performance Indicators for Facility Operations and Maintenance	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Miles of Passenger Car Roads Maintained to Objective Maintenance Level	21	40
Miles of High Clearance & Back Country Roads Maintained to Objective Maintenance Level	23	100
Miles of Road Decommissioned	3	10
Miles of Trail Operated and Maintained to Standard	41	80

Commodity and Commercial Uses

Non-recreation special-use management includes activities related to permitting, monitoring, and processing a wide variety of commercial and private uses. The growth in residential, commercial, and industrial development in southern California puts pressure on the national forest to expand its scope of special-use operations. The amount and complexity of existing and proposed special-use authorizations necessitates extensive permit processing and monitoring operations.



Communication Site

The demand for the infrastructure needed to provide water, energy, transportation and other needs to support communities will be balanced with the preservation of open space and natural settings. Managers expect to consider new special-uses only when they cannot be reasonably accommodated on non-National Forest System lands. Maintaining open space is expected to be given priority over accommodating urban needs. Managers expect to evaluate all expired authorizations (see Lands 2 - Non-Recreation Special Use Authorizations).

The national forest maintains its role in a viable, healthy minerals industry in an environmentally sound manner by

administering its Mineral Program to facilitate the orderly exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources.

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

The minerals staff administers activities related to mining, leasing, identifying and closing abandoned mines, and reclaiming mined lands while protecting other resources. The Minerals and Energy Program will emphasize processing and administration of exploration and development proposals and operations while providing adequate protection of surface resources, wildlife habitat, scenery, and recreation settings (ME 1 - Minerals Management). Permits, leases, and Plans of Operation will require that adverse environmental effects are minimized, or mitigated, and that mined lands are reclaimed in a timely manner to regain surface production and use. Reasonable access for approved mineral operations will be allowed.

As determined in a 2003 study of oil and gas potential, the Cleveland National Forest contains no lands classified by the Bureau of Land Management as having potential for occurrence of oil and gas resources. Therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR 228.102(d), national forest lands are "not available" for exploration and development of oil and gas resources. If at some future date new information shows some potential for oil or gas occurrence, this decision will be reconsidered.

Grazing encompasses activities associated with livestock grazing on National Forest System land. These include issuing and administering grazing permits, as well as monitoring permit compliance.

Managers intend to focus the Livestock Grazing Program on addressing the backlog of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance projects to be consistent with the requirements of the Rescission Act of 1995. Managers expect to comply with NEPA with signed decision notices for allotments and livestock areas according to the 1995 Rescission Act allotment NEPA schedule. Priority for scheduling NEPA is given to allotments where there are known significant impacts on natural resources and recreation use (see LG 1 - Livestock Grazing , and LG 2 - Rangeland Health).

National Forest products encompass the sale and gathering of materials such as pinecones, mistletoe, yucca stalks, and fuelwood under permit.

Table 2.2.8. Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, CNF

Performance Indicators for Commodity and Commercial Uses	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Number of Mineral Operations Administered	4	7
Manage Grazing Allotments	2,146	3,571

Fire Management

The Cleveland National Forest fire organization is the largest and most complex component of the national forest and the primary management focus. It includes the following areas of responsibility:

- Management and Administration
- Fire Pre-Suppression and Preparedness
- Wildland Fire Suppression
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Management and administration provides for direction and oversight of all fire management activities including fighting forest fires, adhering to approved employee safety practices, community protection and forest health projects, educating the public and responding to inquiries.

Primary pre-suppression activities include fire prevention, maintaining fire suppression equipment, fire suppression training and first aid training. Fire prevention activities focus on four primary areas: fire prevention engineering, education, community preparedness, and enforcement. Education includes Smokey Bear programs to instill a fire prevention ethic in school children and Firewise community programs that target civic and homeowner groups. Engineering includes abatement of fire hazards along roadways and in high-use areas. Enforcement includes executing county, state, and federal fire laws regarding hazard abatement around structures, for both public and private lands in the national forest. This also is done along all electrical transmission and distribution systems placed by public utilities across the national forest.

Fire Management personnel respond primarily to wildland fire incidents on the national forest. Initial attack firefighting can involve hundreds of firefighters. Extended attack operations (more than two days) involve the leadership and coordination of up to several thousand firefighters and support personnel in a complex interagency environment with substantial urban interface. Frequently, fire personnel are called to fight fires on other national forests and assist in mitigating the effects from other disasters such as earthquakes or terrorist activity. However, most of these assignments relate to fighting large forest fires in the United States. All activities

within the Cleveland National Forest are viewed as local and described under wildland fire suppression. In addition to supporting large suppression operations nationally, other types of assignments come via the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Past assignments have included earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters.

To safely reintroduce fire into the ecosystem, land managers conduct prescribed burns (fires that are intentionally lit by experts under carefully monitored weather and fuel conditions). Prescribed fires clear dead, dry plant and chaparral material and improve conditions for wildlife by encouraging new plant generation. This provides better wildlife food sources and protects water sources from the erosion caused by wildland fire. Finally, prescribed fire results in better protection of national forest facilities and communities within and adjacent to their boundaries.

Suppression of wildland fires is the first priority for program managers (see Fire 4 - Firefighter and Public Safety). All wildland fires on southern California national forests are considered to be a threat to communities (see Fire 1 - Fire Prevention). Fire staff expect to implement aggressive fire suppression and prevention strategies near communities to protect life and property from wildland fire and subsequent floods. Managers expect to maintain the suppression organization at approximately 90 percent of the most efficient level or higher (see Fire 3 - Fire Suppression Emphasis).

Managers intend to focus on creating community defense zones around structures, fuelbreaks, and vegetation treatments to maintain or restore forest health within community protection areas as the second priority for the program (see Fire 2 - Direct Community Protection). Over the next three to five years, managers expect to strategically integrate vegetative treatments to maximize community protection efforts and to minimize wildland fire size, while considering multiple resource needs (see Fire 5 - Fuelbreaks and Indirect Community Protection). Dead tree removal and other vegetative treatments will be given priority within the community defense zones (see FH 3 - Restoration of Forest Health). Managers anticipate completing approximately 20 percent of the identified treatment needs.

Table 2.2.9. Fire and Aviation Management Performance Indicators, CNF

Performance Indicators for Commodity and Commercial Uses	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Number of Mineral Operations Administered	4	7
Manage Grazing Allotments	2,146	3,571

Place-Based Program Emphasis

The national forest has been divided into a series of geographical units that we refer to as 'Places.' Each has its own landscape character. Landscape character has been described as an overall visual and cultural impression of landscape attributes, the physical appearance and cultural context of a landscape that gives it an identity and 'sense of place.'

Each unit or Place has a theme, setting, desired condition and program emphasis section.

- Theme - the theme refers to the images of the landscape that can be defined with a brief set of physical, visual, or cultural attributes that characterize the sense of place.
- Setting - provides a description of the landscape character of the Place. The approximate number of acres of special designation overlays found in each place is listed in this section.
- Desired Condition - the desired conditions paint a picture of what the Place could be as the national forest implements activities in order to move toward the overall forest-wide desired conditions.
- Program Emphasis - the program emphasis identifies prioritized activities that the national forest intends to emphasize over the next three to five years.

These are the Places identified for the Cleveland National Forest:

- Aguanga (47,895 acres)
- Elsinore (46,729 acres)
- Laguna (30,183 acres)
- Morena (49,568 acres)
- Palomar (23,941 acres)
- Pine Creek (33,561 acres)
- San Dieguito/Black Mountain (25,852 acres)
- San Mateo (59,737 acres)
- Silverado (28,063 acres)
- Sweetwater (33,021 acres)
- Upper San Diego River (42,328 acres)

Aguanga

Theme: Aguanga Place forms a scenic backdrop along California State Highway 79. The Aguanga Place supports dispersed remote recreation use, developed camping, and wilderness use in Agua Tibia Wilderness, as well as administrative uses. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail corridor links the Laguna Mountains with the San Jacinto Mountains to the north. This Place is an important wildlife habitat corridor between the Agua Tibia Wilderness, the San Jacinto Mountains, and the Santa Ana Mountains.

Setting: The ridge between Aguanga and Palomar Mountains and the summits and slopes of the Agua Tibia Wilderness form a backdrop to southern Riverside County, the city of Temecula, and the rapidly developing rural communities of the Temecula Valley along the California State Highway 79 corridor. Elevations range from 3,000 feet at Dripping Springs to 5,000 feet at Eagle Crag. Rapid urbanization will dramatically change the rural character of the private land surrounding the Aguanga landscape.

Aguanga includes the Temecula Creek and upper San Luis Rey River Watersheds. Drainages are typically dry, sandy and strewn with boulders. The headwaters for both the San Luis Rey and Santa Margarita Rivers originate in this Place and represent some of the least developed coastal draining watersheds remaining in southern California. The rural community has been dependent on groundwater from basins recharged by annual runoff from the national forest. Rapid urbanization is likely to change the demand for water as city sub-divisions with fully developed infrastructures replace the rural ranches that have been dependent on well water.

In general, steep chaparral-covered mountains give way to stands of pine and oak at higher elevations with stringers of bigcone Douglas-fir stands along the northeast facing drainages. In the past, this area was characterized by its expansive stands of old-growth chaparral

including distinctive stands of redshank and tree-sized manzanita. However, large fires in the past 15 years have burned nearly the entire western half of the area. The Agua Tibia Wilderness has important stands of bigcone Douglas-fir, and includes the Agua Tibia Research Natural Area (RNA), emphasizing one of the most impressive stands of bigcone Douglas-fir and canyon live oak forest. The Agua Tibia RNA also represents the southern range extension for several plant species, such as madrone, pink honeysuckle, broadleaf stonecrop, and woodland pinedrops, indicating habitat affinities with more northerly ranges. The high levels of ozone and other air pollutants in the region are known to affect the health and vigor of these vegetative communities.

Numerous communities along California State Highway 79 are at risk from wildland fire. Community protection projects have been accomplished adjacent to several of these communities and more are planned. Recent drought has resulted in mortality of the chaparral species, which is expected to increase fire suppression and community protection needs. A lack of Fire Safe Councils is a barrier to maximizing community protection efforts.

The vegetation age class varies between 3-100 years. One federally endangered plant, Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*), and two federally threatened plants, slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*), and Vail Lake ceanothus (*Ceanothus ophiochilus*) occur in the Aguanga Place. Other sensitive plants include rainbow manzanita (*Arctostaphylos rainbowensis*), Orcutt's brodiaea (*Brodiaea orcuttii*), Payson's jewelflower (*Caulanthus simulans*), Mojave tarplant (*Hemizonia mohavensis*), Lakeside ceanothus (*Ceanothus cyaneus*), Orcutt's linanthus (*Linanthus orcuttii*), Hall's monardella (*Monardella macrantha hallii*), and San Felipe monardella (*Monardella nana leptosiphon*).

Habitat between the Agua Tibia/Palomar Ranges and the Santa Ana Mountain Range has been identified as a link for top carnivores such as mountain lions. The fragmentation of wildlife habitats is recognized as a threat to the conservation of biodiversity.

The Aguanga Place is popular for developed, dispersed, and wilderness recreation. Developed recreation sites include Dripping Springs, Oak Grove, and Indian Flats Campgrounds and San Luis Rey Picnic Area. Access points into the national forest originate from California State Highway 79. Camping, hiking, and hunting are popular activities within this Place. There are opportunities to develop educational and interpretive services regarding recreation opportunities, natural resources, public safety, etc. There are some abandoned, unreclaimed mines located within this Place, along with active high-grade tourmaline mining. The Aguanga Place supports permitted livestock grazing.

There is a maintenance backlog on National Forest System roads making access difficult for vehicles, including fire engines. Access to National Forest System lands by the public and for administrative purposes could be improved with acquisition of rights-of-way through private parcels. Trail use is moderate. Cutca Trail, the Dripping Springs Trail loop, and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail provide most of the trail related recreation. There are opportunities to improve parking at the Barker Valley Trailhead and to upgrade developed campground facilities, particularly Indian Flats Campground.

Existing Wilderness:

- Agua Tibia Wilderness 15,890 acres

Recommended Wilderness:

- Cutca Valley (Agua Tibia Wilderness) 3,821 acres

Established Research Natural Areas:

- Agua Tibia 517 acres

Special Interest Areas:

- Pine Mountain 273 acres

Total national forest acres--Aguanga Place: 47,895

Desired Condition: The Aguanga Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape functioning as a rural backdrop for southern Riverside County. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the remote, undeveloped character of the backdrop, pockets of bigcone Douglas-fir in high elevation drainages, and the undisturbed character within the foreground and from key vista points along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) of the airshed encompassing Agua Tibia Wilderness (designated Class I area) is also desired.

Program Emphasis: Conservation easements for wildlife connectivity on land outside Congressional boundaries are needed in order to maintain habitat links to the Santa Ana Mountains and San Jacinto Ranger District.

Maintain the scenic integrity of the rural backdrop and the remote and rural character of the Aguanga Place. Develop multiple lines of defense against wildland fire and enhance defensible space. Protect bigcone Douglas-fir stands and communities adjacent to the national forest by maintaining the existing fuelbreak system, continuing large chaparral burns adjacent to the communities in the eastern portion of the Aguanga Place, and by treating chaparral vegetation adjacent to bigcone Douglas fir stands. Evaluate the effects of high levels of ozone on the Agua Tibia Wilderness air resource.

Coordinate planning along the eastern boundary for access, boundary management, land adjustment, and water extraction with adjacent communities. Emphasize high water quality in the West Fort of the San Luis Rey River and Temecula Creek Watersheds. Acquire rights-of-way to maintain access. Foster outdoor learning opportunities for neighboring communities. Maintain working relationships with the tribal governments. Revise existing wilderness plan for the Agua Tibia Wilderness.

Protect the natural appearance, opportunity for solitude, and air quality resources in the Agua Tibia Wilderness. Maintain a scenic buffer along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail corridor. Balance trails usage with trailhead facilities and improve parking at popular destinations. Accommodate dispersed recreation and equestrian use where feasible. Improve road access to the Agua Tibia Wilderness and trail access within the wilderness. Increase road and trail maintenance to support management objectives, including fire suppression and prevention. Improve campground facilities and replace outdated facilities per the respective facilities master plans. Manage grazing on a sustainable basis in concert with other resource uses and needs.

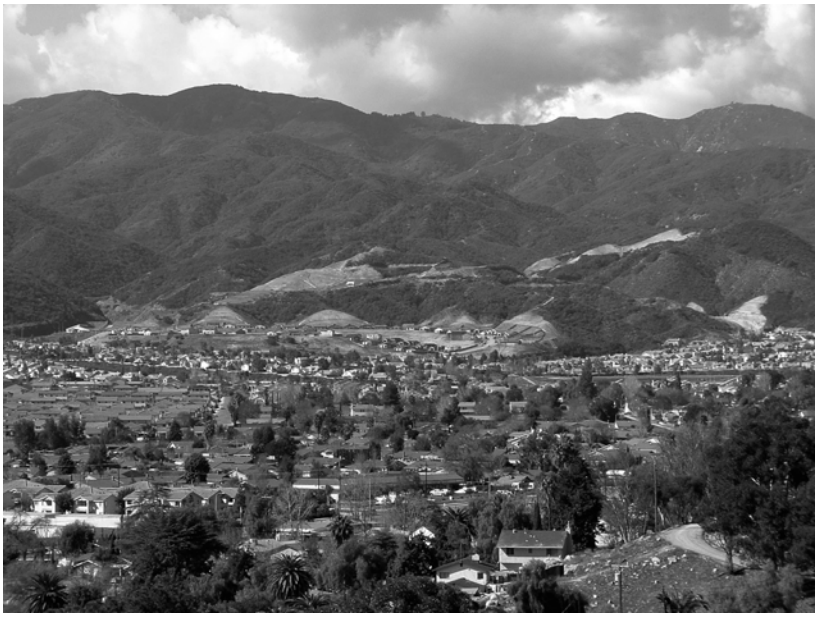
Elsinore

Theme: Urban interface and open space background for neighboring communities and commuters on Interstate 15 and Ortega Highways. An island of undeveloped land surrounded by rapidly developing communities.

Setting: The Elsinore Place includes the east-facing slopes of the Santa Ana Mountains and is almost entirely surrounded by urban development. The Elsinore Front is steep (slopes approach 85 percent); elevations range from 1,000 feet near Corona to over 5,600 feet at Santiago Peak. Santiago Peak is the tallest peak in the Santa Ana Range and, along with Modjeska Peak forms what is commonly called Saddleback. Regional haze associated with urbanization, agriculture and seasonal fuel management activities occasionally obscures or limits scenic quality.

Elsinore is the background for neighboring communities and a mountainous backdrop to thousands of motorists traveling between Los Angeles and San Diego along Interstate 15, and from Riverside to Orange County, along California State Highway 74 (Ortega Highway). Oretega Highway in Riverside and Orange counties has been dedicated as the California Wildland Firefighter Memorial Highway. The California Wildland Firefighter Memorial (the only California memorial dedicated to wildland firefighters) is located near Ortega Highway and the South Main Divide Road. Ortega Highway is the only route through the Santa Anas linking the coastal cities along Interstate 5 to the inland cities along Interstate 15, and has become a busy commuter route.

The Elsinore Place includes woodlands and riparian areas, coastal sage scrub, chaparral/chamise communities, and alluvial fan scrub. Pine plantations, oak woodland, chaparral, and bigcone Douglas-fir all occur here. In the northern section of the Place, dense stands of pine and oak are present. Pleasants Peak and Santiago Peaks in the upper elevations of Elsinore Place support stands of knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuate*), particularly in serpentine outcrops.



Forest health in the southern part of the Elsinore Place has been maintained by wildland fire. Wildland fires result in high levels of property and resource losses in this Place. Numerous fire starts are moving plant communities towards type conversions. The

fire/flood sequence continues to pose a threat to downstream housing developments. Fire-safe defensible space along the urban interface is inconsistent and private landowners expect the Forest Service to provide community defense zones. Past vegetation management in this Place has been limited to fuelbreak construction and maintenance.

Suitable habitat for some threatened, endangered and sensitive species is located in this Place, including Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*), California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*), Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*), southwestern arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*), and the southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*). This Place has a large number of water developments for quail, deer and other small animals. Non-native, plant, fish, and amphibian species, such as arrundo, bullfrogs, goldfish, catfish, and Spanish broom occur here and are a continuing management challenge.

At least two locations in this Place may be important for habitat linkages to other open space, (county or private) in order to maintain biodiversity in the southern California bio-region.

Access to the Elsinore Place is limited. The national forest does not have rights-of-way for many of the roads leading to this Place. The rapid pace of urbanization has increased the need for public access. Open, undeveloped lands adjacent to the national forest are being developed and public access is being progressively restricted.

The community of El Cariso is located off the Ortega Highway (California State Highway 74). Other private inholdings also exist in the Place. The Elsinore Place contains some of the infrastructure supporting the surrounding urban communities. Communication sites (several of them large), high-powered transmission lines, large-scale water tanks, and an important road corridor between the inland valley and the coast are all immediately adjacent to or located within the Elsinore Place. As the population in the adjacent communities increases, issues are arising concerning the need for additional infrastructure to occur within or across national forest boundaries.

The majority of developed recreation sites (campgrounds and picnic areas) and special-use authorizations on the Trabuco Ranger District, and the Wildomar Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) area are located within the Elsinore Place. The OHV area is susceptible to erosion and sedimentation problems. Its location adjacent to a federally designated wilderness encourages trespass problems. Off-highway vehicle use, backcountry driving, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, hang-gliding, camping, and picnicking occur in this landscape. A hang-gliding site exists above Lake Elsinore. Ortega Falls is a popular setting for seasonal waterplay. On weekends and holidays, recreation sites along the highway are generally filled to capacity. Some hiking trails lead to this Place, but due to the lack of public access there are only a few trails located within the Place.

Unauthorized activities include: trash dumping, unauthorized trails, trespasses (clearing brush or building fences or structures), marijuana gardens, and graffiti.

Existing Wilderness:

- San Mateo Wilderness 497 acres

Special Interest Areas:

- Chiquito Basin 11 acres

Total national forest acres--Elsinore Place: 46,729

Desired Condition: The Elsinore Place is one of the most visible landscapes on the national forest and is maintained as an undeveloped island in the rapidly developing southern Riverside County and a natural appearing urban backdrop to the Interstate 15 corridor. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the undeveloped quality and character of the urban backdrop, including the natural appearing skyline silhouette of the Santa Ana Mountains, and the scenic integrity of areas visible from the Interstate 15 and Ortega Highway corridors.

Program Emphasis: Provide a variety of quality recreation experiences including the improvement of developed recreation facilities. Maintain the natural appearance of the urban backdrop. Resource damage and unauthorized wilderness use by off-highway vehicles will be minimized. Implement forest health projects to improve oak regeneration. Improve community protection and defensible space. Coordinate planning for access, boundary management, flood control, and fire prevention in the urban interface with neighboring communities and county governments. Enhance community protection efforts in this Place and increase fire prevention efforts. Acquire land that facilitates access and boundary management and protect sensitive habitats and habitat linkages. Improve road conditions to accommodate fire equipment and to supply safe public access. Address trespass and encroachments and emphasize health and public safety.

Laguna

Theme: Characterized by winter snowplay and cool summers including breathtaking desert views and diverse wildlife. The Laguna Place is within an hour's drive for millions of people in the San Diego/Tijuana, Mexico area and communities in the Imperial Valley and is the most popular recreation destination on the national forest. Laguna is rich in both historic and prehistoric heritage values. Meadow habitats within Laguna support an abundance of rare and vulnerable plant and animal species. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, Noble Canyon National Recreation Trail, the Sunrise Scenic Byway, and the Laguna Recreation Area are important features within this Place.

Setting: The Laguna mountain plateau is defined by a steep escarpment on the east that descends to the desert lands below. The Place is located in the heart of the Laguna Mountains where elevations range from 3,800 to over 6,000 feet. The highest peaks on the national forest surround Laguna's most distinctive feature, Laguna Meadow. Deep canyons drain the waters of the Laguna Place to the south and west where Kitchen and Cottonwood Creeks produce year-round flows in wet years. However, surface water quantity has decreased with the recent drought.

High elevations support the growth of a mixed-conifer/black oak forest and grassy meadows. The Laguna Place is the largest woodland expanse on the Cleveland National Forest. Recent drought has caused high mortality in the coniferous vegetation, which has increased fire suppression and community protection needs. Insect and disease infestations represent a growing threat to the remainder of the conifer forest. Approximately half the forest area has been treated to reduce vegetation levels to a pre-suppression era fire regime. The remaining area is over-stocked with vegetation and forest health thinning is planned. Forest health projects in this Place have increased the level of community protection from wildland fires. However, some community defense zones are needed to further enhance community protection.

Meadow complexes provide habitat for several threatened and endangered species including the

Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly (*Pyrgus ruralis lagunae*) and the San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*). The Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly host plant, Cleveland's Horkelia (*Horkelia sp.*) occurs within the meadow complex, co-existing with recreation and grazing uses. Several occurrences of the San Bernardino bluegrass are protected along the meadow margins within fenced enclosures. Laguna Mountain also supports sensitive plants, such as velvety false lupine (*Thermopsis californica semota*), Parish's meadow foam (*Limnanthes gracilis parishii*), Laguna Mountains aster (*Machaeranthera asteroides lagunensis*), and Orcutt's linanthus (*Linanthus orcuttii*). Laguna Mountain includes Watchable Wildlife sites for several animals and summer nesting and breeding sites for migratory birds, such as ducks and purple martins. In addition, spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*- a Region 5 sensitive species) are year round inhabitants. The endangered southwestern arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) occurs in the lower drainages of Laguna Mountain at Pine and Kitchen Creeks.

The Laguna Place has a high concentration of private and public recreation uses including recreation residences, resorts, clubs, campgrounds, picnic areas, interpretive sites, trails and trailheads, and a visitor information center, as well as accommodating many permitted recreation services and events. The Laguna Place supports some of the largest permitted livestock grazing operations on the national forest. Designated communication sites serve regional demand and have surplus capacity available for anticipated growth. The abandoned Mount Laguna Air Force Base affects the quality of the Laguna recreation experience because of public safety and environmental hazards. Impacts associated with undocumented immigration (including unclassified trails, litter and sanitation issues, law enforcement action and health and safety threats to immigrants and the public) present a significant management challenge in this Place.

The San Diego State University Astronomy Department maintains an observatory here. Year-round access is provided by Sunrise Highway, which is maintained by the County of San Diego. Access along Kitchen Creek, Pine Creek, and Thing Valley Roads is subject to seasonal closures. A few remaining important in-holdings are available for exchange to complete the consolidation of important recreation areas and habitat linkages.

The Laguna Place is the closest high elevation Forest Service destination in the San Diego area for year-round camping, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, snowplay and other recreation activities. The picturesque Sunrise Scenic Byway bisects the Place and climbs to the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area. Noble Canyon National Recreation Trail and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail pass through the Laguna Place. The landscape appears mostly natural with evidence of rural recreation development visible along the Sunrise Scenic Byway. Access to vantage points and overlooks allows unobstructed views of the vast desert panorama to the northeast. Travelers from outside the area and residents comprise a diverse population who enjoy year-round activities in this area. A large amount of visitors see the Laguna Place while driving along scenic mountain drives. The Laguna Place still offers solitude in many isolated settings.

Total national forest acres--Laguna Place: 30,183

Desired Condition: The Laguna Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as the most popular year-round recreation and local scenic touring national forest destination. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved or developed through time are opportunities for panoramic desert views from the Laguna crest; vegetative diversity—especially mature over-story trees and grassy meadows that are visible from key recreation/scenic developments (i.e., developed recreation sites, national scenic and recreation trails, and the

Sunrise Scenic Highway); built elements that are harmonized and complement the cultural and natural character of the Place; special geologic, historic, and botanic features that add diversity to the landscape; and a predominantly undeveloped landscape in the immediate foreground of the Sunrise Scenic Highway. Vegetation is intensively managed in a healthy and sustainable condition providing increased protection from wildland fires. Within the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area, mountain biking and equestrian use occurs on designated roads and trails; user conflicts on trails are minimized; high quality recreation facilities and opportunities are provided; opportunities for star-gazing will be maintained or enhanced; a continued supply of high quality water is assured for recreation users and maintenance of aquatic habitats.

Program Emphasis: Protect the Laguna Place's unique scenic attributes and ecosystems. Maintain the natural appearance of the landscape. Supply high quality recreation settings, experiences, and facilities. Viewsheds around Laguna Meadow and panoramic views of the desert from the Laguna Crest will be highlighted. Maintain views along the Sunrise Scenic Byway, Noble Canyon National Recreation Trail, and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Improve wildlife viewing opportunities. Preserve dark night skies for astronomical research and stargazing. Maintain and develop recreation facilities in compliance with the Built Environment Image Guide and support a variety of recreation activities. Winter recreation will be managed appropriately - parking, traffic control, and sanitation facilities will be improved and expanded. Protect cultural resources. Develop interpretive opportunities where resources can be protected. Improve forest health. Thin overstocked stands. Manage healthy coniferous vegetation for its scenic and recreation value. Resolve recreation conflicts with sensitive habitats. Manage the trail system to minimize user and resource conflicts. Continue decommissioning the abandoned Air Force base and restore it to natural conditions. Maintain reliable year-round road access. Manage grazing on a sustainable basis in concert with other resource uses and needs. Acquire inholdings that improve habitat connectivity, enhance recreation, and alleviate incompatible uses. Continue community protection. Supply an environmentally sustainable, integrated network of non-motorized trails for various user groups that resolve user conflicts. Conduct groundwater study and analysis that identifies long-term solutions to a sustainable supply of water for public and private needs.

Morena

Theme: A gateway to the desert province, this Place is comprised of gently rolling terrain and is covered with uniform expanses of chaparral interrupted by scattered oak covered drainages. It is home to the Corral Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area, some of the southern most segments of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, and unique heritage resources. Bisected by the Interstate 8 corridor, it is an unspoiled corridor with expansive views.

Setting: The Morena Place retains an open-space character with large expanses of undeveloped land. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail bisects the Place from north to south; Interstate 8 bisects this Place from the northeast to southwest. The popular Corral Canyon OHV Area is located here. There are numerous surveys of archaeological sites in the area, including some with cultural significance to local Native Americans. Heritage sites are subject to vandalism by the public or impacts from current land uses. Corral Canyon has been identified as an eligible National Register Archaeological District. The only active Cleveland National Forest fire lookout is located here. Hang-gliding and rock climbing are popular dispersed recreation activities within this Place.

Morena has a south-facing aspect where elevations range from approximately 3,000 to 5,500 feet. Large valleys surrounded by steep mountains are the dominant features within this landscape. Scenery is further characterized by steep, uniform, chaparral covered hills. To the east, an expanse of open space currently links the Morena Place to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park via the McCain Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area. The Place is a watershed for San Diego municipal water supplies with notable features including Lake Morena, Cottonwood Creek, and Kitchen Creek.

This area is known for dangerous, fast moving wildland fires that require aggressive fire suppression tactics. A successful International Border Fire Prevention Program assists fire prevention and protection procedures in the southern part of this Place. The

construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks is an important activity here. Recent drought has resulted in the mortality of chaparral species, which has increased fire suppression and community protection needs. There is a historic pattern of wildland fires burning large acreages in this Place.

At low elevations, desert plant communities transition with red shank, lower mixed montane, coast live oak, Coulter pine, chamise, great basin sage, and grassland meadows. The vegetation age class varies between 30 to 100 years. San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*), an endangered plant, occurs within the Bear Valley meadow complex where grazing also occurs. Tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.) is currently a noxious weed problem within the Cottonwood Creek drainage. Morena Creek supports habitat for the endangered southwestern arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), and other wildlife species such as quail, deer, and cougar. In addition, bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) occur at Los Pinos, Corte Madera, and Morena Butte. The Corte Madera Ranch and the surrounding valley have been set-aside as a wildlife refuge. Within Morena, unauthorized OHV uses have the potential to impact wildlife habitat and soil and scenic resources. The Morena Place supports some of the largest livestock grazing operations on the national forest.

The Morena Place has a moderate number of short-term recreation events including mountain bike races, motorcycle enduros, and long-distance equestrian and running races. Boulder Oaks (the only equestrian campground on the District) is located within this Place. Impacts associated with undocumented immigration (including unclassified trails, litter and sanitation problems, law enforcement actions, and health and safety threats to the public and immigrants) present a significant management challenge in this Place.

Utility infrastructure on National Forest System land accommodates local needs. Designated communication sites serve government needs; however, demand for non-government facilities is not met. Access is appropriate for recreation in the Bear Valley and Corral Canyon areas. Access along Kitchen Creek, Thing Valley and other roads in this Place is subject to seasonal and temporary closures. A few remaining inholdings are available to complete the consolidation of important recreation areas, to protect heritage values, and to provide habitat linkages. Access is appropriate for recreation activities.

The Interstate 8 corridor (which bisects the Morena Place*)* is a significant component of this landscape. Annually, millions of travelers move through this Place along the Interstate, from which they have access to distant views of Mexico. Within the Morena Place, old oaks provide shade and shelter for isolated dispersed camping. Opportunities for waterplay exist among the boulders and oaks that line Kitchen Creek. The dense chaparral thickets are relatively impenetrable, and visitors view the landscape from established road and trail corridors including the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The Laguna Place is less than five miles from the border with Mexico and less than 40 miles from trails and recreation areas within Mexico, including the Sierra Juarez National Forest and Laguna Hansen National Park. The Corral Canyon OHV Area is an important feature in this landscape. Its close proximity to Interstate 8 makes Corral Canyon one of the most easily accessed OHV areas in southern California.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Cottonwood Creek 11.9 miles

Total national forest acres--Morena Place: 49,568

Desired Condition: The Morena Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as one of the primary gateways to the deserts of the southwest and a natural appearing viewshed along the Interstate 8 corridor. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the rare and inviting streamside woodlands that provide scenic diversity in this chaparral-dominated landscape, and the natural appearance of areas that can be viewed from the Interstate 8 corridor, the Sunrise Scenic Highway, and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Corral Canyon OHV area is the premier OHV area in San Diego County and provides a full range of challenges along a network of ecologically sustainable and designated OHV routes.

Program Emphasis: Maintain the remote undeveloped character of the Morena Place in Corral Canyon OHV area. Secure year-round access via Kitchen Creek Road through cooperative efforts with local governments. Protect scenic values along the Interstate 8 corridor and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Emphasize community protection. Construct and maintain fuelbreaks. Strategically locate forest health and fuels reduction projects to interrupt the historic pattern of large wildland fires. Enlist local tribal governments to help protect heritage values within Morena. Acquire inholdings to improve access, consolidate or expand recreation opportunities, protect heritage values, and to protect important habitat. Minimize wilderness fires related to immigration routes. Minimize resource damage and resolve sanitation issues along immigration routes. Manage grazing on a sustainable basis in concert with other resource needs.

Palomar Mountain

Theme: A mountainous, forested area with winter snowfall and summer showers that sustain critical habitat for rare and endangered species. This Place features Palomar Mountain, a prominent historic mountain in clear view of millions of San Diego and Riverside County residents and is known for the Palomar Observatory with famous star-gazing opportunities and dark night skies. It features cool, year-round, high country recreation attractions with scenic drives.

Setting: Palomar Mountain (the most distinctive feature in this landscape) is the site of the Palomar Observatory. Improved access to the mountaintop was established in the 1920s in order to construct the Palomar Observatory and to deliver the 200-inch mirror for a telescope, at that time the world's largest. Astronomy continues to be an important part of the recreation experience and research programs in this Place. There is a great amount of vegetative diversity as elevations range from less than 3,000 feet at Lake Henshaw spillway to over 6,100 feet at the summit of Palomar Mountain. Because significant rainfall occurs in the Place, both hardwood forests and montane conifer forests are present over broad areas.

The West Fork of the San Luis Rey River is the primary watershed in the area. Lake Henshaw is located within the Palomar Mountain Place and is managed by the Vista Irrigation District for urban uses.

Most of the Palomar Mountain Place is covered with a dense mixed conifer forest that is subject to drought and stand replacement fires. The problem is magnified by the recent drought-related mortality of white fir and incense cedar. Forest stand maintenance and management are management challenges with possible threats to human life and investments from wildland fire. Hidden within the conifers are hundreds of structures, mostly on private land. Increasing needs for fire suppression and community protection are indicated.

The Palomar Mountain Place supports diverse plant and wildlife communities. Wildlife species in the area include a southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) population, a self-sustaining wild trout fishery (Santo Domingo trout *(Oncorhynchus mykiss* subspecies*)),* spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis),* bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), bear, and deer. An existing Special Interest Area for native trout is located in Barker Valley along the West Fork San Luis Rey River. The largest Cleveland National Forest population of both the Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly (*Pyrgus ruralis lagunae)* and the southwestern willow flycatcher occur here. The Palomar Mountain Place is also popular for hunting.

Access to Palomar Mountain Place is via California State Highway 76. Most visitors arriving in the area are from population centers to the west. County Road S6 (South Grade Road) and County Road S7 (East Grade Road) are the two access points off California State Highway 76 to Palomar Mountain. Access to National Forest System lands on top of Palomar Mountain is difficult due to land ownership problems and a lack of rights-of-way for public and administrative access across private lands. There are landline and trespass issues with the Palomar Mountain community.

Hundreds of visitors travel through this landscape daily enroute to the Palomar Observatory, the California State Parks, private lands, and Forest Service recreation facilities. Developed recreation facilities support high visitor use. Lake Henshaw and Warner Valley are located at the foot of Palomar Mountain and can be seen from the road corridors. The headwaters and tributaries of the West Fork of the San Luis Rey River provide opportunities for dispersed camping, hiking, fishing, and biking in remote, primitive settings such as Barker Valley. Snowplay also occurs here. The Henshaw Wildlife Viewing Area offers interpretive opportunities.

Recommended Wilderness:

- Cutca Valley (Agua Tibia Wilderness) 4,798 acres

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- San Luis Rey River (West Fork) 218 acres

Total national forest acres--Palomar Place: 23,941

Desired Condition: The Palomar Mountain Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as one of the national forest's most popular year-round recreation and scenic touring destinations. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved or developed over time are dark night skies; built elements that are harmonized and complement the cultural and natural character of the Place; scenic vista points along County Roads S6 and S7; special historic features that add diversity to the landscape; mature over-story trees in and around developed recreation sites—especially conifer species; and the predominantly natural appearance of the landscape visible from these locations.

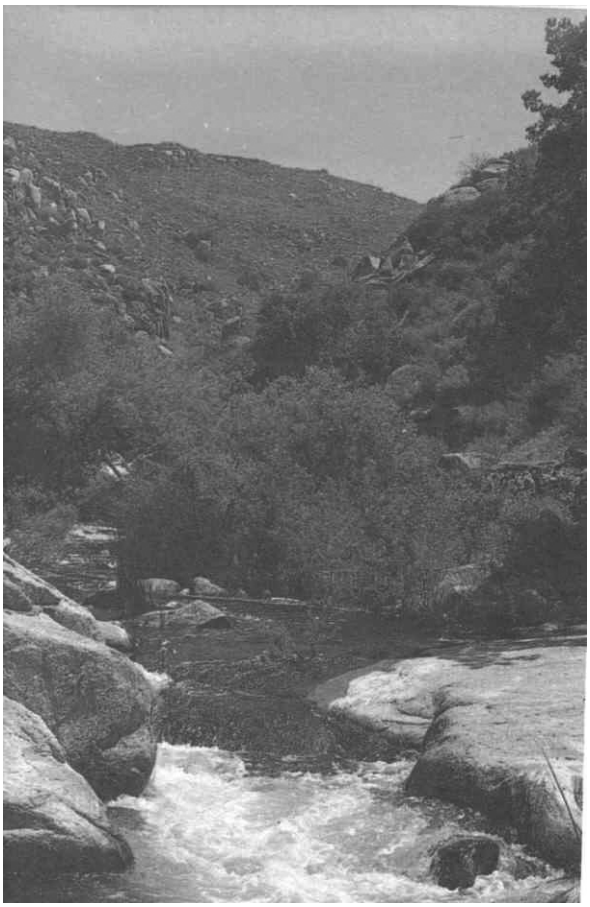
Program Emphasis: Maintain scenic drives and developed recreation opportunities. Improve public facilities. Maintain dark night skies and opportunities for star-gazing. Protect habitat for rare and vulnerable species, such as the California spotted owl, the southwestern willow flycatcher and the Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly. Improve defensible space and community protection through the implementation of forest health projects that reduce stand density. Acquire rights-of-way to enhance access on existing Forest Service roads, including Palomar Divide

Road. Acquire lands to improve administrative and public access and to consolidate public land. Maintain roads to accommodate fire equipment and enhance remote driving opportunities. Evaluate the effects of groundwater extraction. Prepare management plans for designated special areas.

Pine Creek

Theme: This Place is a wilderness landscape that contains the southern portal of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The Place features an undeveloped canyon landscape with two designated areas of wilderness that include high-quality riparian habitats with important populations of wildlife species. It is one of the most remote and isolated Places on the Cleveland National Forest, offering opportunities for solitude and quiet contemplation.

Setting: The Pine Creek Place is an undeveloped, wilderness landscape where evidence of human activities is not common. It is located in the extreme southwestern corner of the national forest. Hauser Canyon and Pine Valley Creek Canyon are the most distinctive landscape features. Pine Valley Creek drains from the Laguna Mountains to the south and Cottonwood Creek flows west through Hauser Canyon. The creeks meet at Barrett Lake Reservoir. Elevations range from 1,600 to 4,400 feet; the canyons are rough, steep and narrow, rising as much as 1,500 feet in less than a mile. Residential communities of Japatul Valley and Deerhorn Valley are within and adjacent to this Place.



Most of the area is covered with coastal sage and broadleaf chaparral. Granite boulders and rocky outcroppings dot the landscape. Although the streams are dry most of the year, riparian and oak woodlands (comprised of oaks, cottonwood, and willows) thrive in the grassy canyons. Water is generally unavailable; running water occurring only during rainy periods and during spring run-off.

Most of the vegetation in the Place is approximately 35 years old and in healthy condition. However, recent drought has resulted in the mortality of chaparral species which has increased fire suppression and community protection needs.

Vegetation and fuels projects have opened some areas to unauthorized off-highway vehicle use. There are other areas where prescribed fire within designated wilderness could improve community protection. Arson along transportation corridors and illegal campfires related to undocumented immigration are the primary sources of wildland fire in this Place. Impacts associated with undocumented immigration (including

unclassified trails, litter and sanitation problems, law enforcement actions, and health and safety threats to the public and immigrants) present a significant management challenge in this Place. The current emphasis on fire prevention in this Place (known as the Border Fire Prevention Program) is expected to continue.

Pine Valley Creek has high-quality riparian habitat and important populations of arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*). Limited access to Pine Creek has resulted in minimal impacts to wildlife. Eagles are seen within the Pine Creek Place. Water is randomly discharged from Lake Morena into Hauser Canyon. The unnatural release schedule affects habitat and wildlife communities.

Interstate 8 and Lyons Valley Road from Horsethief Trailhead to the national forest boundary are the main roads in the Pine Creek Place. Interstate 8 and Lyons Valley Road offer views of the rugged Pine Creek Wilderness. Interstate 8 forms the northern tip of the Pine Creek Place. For millions of visitors traveling westward on the Interstate, views of the Pine Creek Wilderness from the Interstate 8 corridor will be their last glimpse of undeveloped land before they descend into the rural and urban landscape of southern California.

The Pine Creek Place is the southern gateway to the 2,560-mile Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. This important trail cuts across the extreme east corner of the Pine Creek Place. The Place is remote and isolated. Recreation use fluctuates depending upon the availability of water and seasonal temperatures. The trails within the Pine Creek Place receive little use. Patterns of land ownership and lack of public easements limit public access to Hauser Canyon. Unauthorized access on the north side of Hauser Wilderness from the adjacent OHV area is a management challenge.

Non-conforming uses (e.g., drug trafficking, nonsystem trails, litter and undocumented immigration) affect the agency's ability to protect and manage the wilderness character of this Place.

Existing Wilderness:

- Hauser Wilderness 6,834 acres
- Pine Creek Wilderness 13,368 acres

Recommended Wilderness:

- Pine Creek (Pine Creek Wilderness) 449 acres
- Hauser South (Hauser Wilderness) 2,302 acres

Total national forest acres--Pine Creek Place: 33,561

Desired Condition: The Pine Creek Place is maintained as a predominantly naturally evolving area that functions as a remote, undeveloped, wilderness landscape where only ecological changes are evident. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved or developed over time are pristine canyon woodland communities; vegetative diversity as expressed by healthy, coastal sage scrub communities; the natural appearance of the landscape—especially in those areas visible from the Interstate 8 and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail corridor and from key vista points along these corridors; and the undisturbed/undeveloped character of the Pine Creek Wilderness. A network of hiking and equestrian trails provide a range of wilderness experiences

and challenges. Incorporate recent land acquisitions into Hauser Canyon and Pine Creek Wilderness Areas and expand Hauser Wilderness to the south.

Program Emphasis: Maintain the current character and level of development within the Pine Creek Place. Emphasize dispersed recreation opportunities. Management activities are to promote wilderness values. Manage wilderness areas in accordance with up-to-date wilderness plans. Move toward elimination of existing roads and power lines within the wilderness areas, and minimize trespass with motorized vehicles. Maintain scenic views from the Interstate 8 corridor. Maintain or develop long distance trail networks for hiking, backpacking and equestrian use. Develop access to loop trails and day-use opportunities within the wilderness. Develop common management goals for open-space protection and land acquisition plans for Lake Morena and Barrett Lake in cooperation with San Diego water authorities. Cooperate with San Diego water authorities to achieve water discharge from Lake Morena which mimics natural conditions and supports unique wildlife and plant values. Maintain existing fuelbreaks and increase community protection efforts. Enhance defensible space and firefighter and public safety. Introduce prescribed fire into Pine Creek and Hauser Wilderness Areas. Minimize wildland fires related to immigration routes through the Border Fire Prevention Program. Control and reduce resource damage due to undocumented immigration.

San Dieguito - Black Mountain

Theme: This Place is an open space area that provides many opportunities for remote recreation use. It is a popular backyard to the rapidly urbanizing community of Ramona and the Mesa Grande Indian Reservation. The southern portion of this landscape is part of the San Dieguito River Park. It provides important habitat for a number of threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species. San Dieguito/Black Mountain Place is popular for driving, hiking, equestrian use, and hunting.

Setting: The Place offers a natural setting for dispersed day-use recreation activities set within a rural ranching community. California State Highways 76, 78 and 79 and the community of Ramona separate this Place from the southern part of the Cleveland National Forest. Orosco Ridge and Black Mountain encircle Pamo Valley and the Temescal Creek floodplain. The 4,050 foot Black Mountain is the highest and most distinctive feature within this Place. In general, the landscape exhibits an undeveloped character.

Santa Ysabel Creek flows through Lake Sutherland, then joins Temescal Creek and drains Pamo Valley. Short-term use of water resources in this area may be affecting water quality. The Place is a botanically unique area and contains the Organ Valley Research Natural Area (RNA). Organ Valley RNA conserves oak woodland and savannah plant communities dominated by Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*). Both Black Mountain and Organ Valley have areas composed of gabbro rocks. Soils derived from gabbro are unusual and harbor many rare and sensitive plants, such as Orcutt's linanthus (*Linanthus orcuttii)*, Orcutt's brodiaea *(Brodiaea orcuttii)*, Gander's ragwort *(Senecio ganderi)*, Ramona horkelia (*Horkelia sp.)*, and felt-leaved monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. lanata*)*.

In general, the vegetation within the Place is mostly chaparral with large oak woodland riparian components and scattered pines. The chaparral vegetation is vigorous, and varies between 10 to 100 years in age class, with the exception of Orosco Ridge, where type conversion of scrub communities to grasslands may be occurring due to short fire intervals. Chaparral communities have adapted to a southern California fire regime, regenerating within a couple years. Insects and drought have caused losses of pine and oak forests. Prescribed

burns have been successful. Mechanical eradication treatments for the noxious weed tamarisk have been partially successful in Santa Ysabel Creek. Additional vegetation management projects are needed for the maintenance of forest health and community protection.

Although much of the land within the Place is privately owned, the area is highly diverse and supports a large number of sensitive species, including the southwestern arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Pamo Valley (which is owned by the City of San Diego) is leased for ranching. This Place supports a permitted Livestock Grazing Program.

The Place's southern border includes the rapidly developing community of Ramona. Adjacent land owners include the City of San Diego and the California Department of Fish and Game. San Diego County's Black Canyon and Pamo Roads access the Place. The Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians uses Black Canyon Road and Sutherland Dam Road for access to tribal land.

Day-use, hiking, dispersed camping, and remote driving are the most popular recreation activities. There are no developed sites or facilities for public use. Deer hunting is popular, as is hang-gliding.

Existing Research Natural Areas:

- Organ Valley 562 acres

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- San Luis Rey River (Main) 3.2 miles

Total national forest acres--San Dieguito/Black Mountain Place: 25,852

Desired Condition: The San Dieguito/Black Mountain Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape in which Black Mountain is the dominant feature. San Dieguito/Black Mountain serves as a backyard to rural communities including Ramona. Remote driving, hunting, hiking, and equestrian uses are accommodated. Biodiversity and threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species within this Place are protected. Prescribed fires will be used to provide protection to surrounding communities. Transportation systems, including both roads and trails are maintained to protect unique cultural features. Newly constructed trails are designed to alleviate potential resource conflicts. The portion of the San Dieguito River Park Trail on National Forest System land is compatible with multiple resource values. The Penny Pines plantations are maintained and the Organ Valley Research Natural Area is protected. Orsoco Ridge is rehabilitated and restored for public use and enjoyment.

Program Emphasis: Manage vegetation to enhance community protection. Maintain vegetation within one fire return interval of the pre-suppression fire regime, minimizing type conversion of scrub communities to grasslands. Limit the spread of exotic, nonnative plant and animal species. Maintain Penny Pine plantations. Preserve wildlife and threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species habitat and connecting links between the San Diego River Watershed and San Dieguito/Black Mountain. Protect botanical values within the Organ Valley Research Natural Area and Black Mountain.

Improve and maintain roads to accommodate fire equipment and enhance opportunities for remote driving. Work with San Diego County to secure continued legal access for Black Canyon Road. Protect heritage resources along Black Canyon Road. As part of the San Dieguito River Park trail network provide safe hiking opportunities along Sutherland Dam Road. Support interagency efforts to link San Dieguito River Park to National Forest System lands, including connecting trails. Analyze the potential need for additional trail-based opportunities for equestrian use.

Coordinate with community planning efforts by the city of Ramona concerning urban interface development on the south end of the San Dieguito/Black Mountain Place. Participate with the City of San Diego concerning long-range planning for Pamo Valley. Acquire rights to assure continued public access. Work with California Department of Fish and Game and the City of San Diego to coordinate public access on the western border of the San Dieguito/Black Mountain Place. Consolidate national forest ownership within the San Dieguito/Black Mountain Place and acquire lands that contain key habitats or enhance wildlife corridors. Monitor the effects of water use. Manage grazing on a sustainable basis in concert with other resource uses and needs. Prepare management plans for special areas.

San Mateo

Theme: A day-use retreat. The San Mateo Place is one of the few remaining wildland areas in southern California that is bordered by large natural reserves. The Place offers opportunities for challenge, solitude, and contemplation close to urban populations, as well as exceptional opportunities for trail-based recreation, including mountain-biking in the northern half of the Place. The Place supports the southern-most population of native steelhead trout and exceptional botanical values. The Ortega Highway (California State Highway 74) is an important variable in this landscape.

Setting: The San Mateo Place is primarily an undeveloped landscape. The Place includes the west-facing slope of the central and south Santa Ana Mountains. The southern part of this Place includes the San Mateo Wilderness. Ortega Highway crosses through this Place and divides the federally designated wilderness segment in the south from the non-wilderness area to the north. To the south and west, the San Mateo Place is bordered by large tracts of nature reserves and the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base.

San Mateo Creek is one of the few remaining free-flowing streams in southern California and possesses unique plant and animal habitats. San Mateo and Devils Canyon contain water for most of the year. The other major drainages in the Place are San Juan Creek, Los Alamos Creek and Hot Springs Creek. The San Mateo Place has several popular waterfalls, including Tenaja Falls.

Two communities (Rancho Carrillo and Rancho Capistrano) are located in and nearby the San Mateo Place. Rancho Capistrano is located on the national forest boundary and Rancho Carrillo is surrounded by the wilderness in the southwestern part of the Place. Several other private inholdings are also located within the wilderness or adjacent to the wilderness boundary. These communities are at risk from wildland fire and community protection projects are needed to reduce that threat.

Chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitats are characteristic of the San Mateo landscape. The area of wilderness contains a number of

oak woodlands and grassy meadows. Seasonal wildflower displays are abundant in this landscape**.** A high percentage of the vegetation in this Place is chaparral. While in generally healthy condition, land in lower San Mateo Canyon has been degraded by human caused fires spreading into the wilderness and from military exercises from adjacent Camp Pendleton.

Both San Mateo and San Juan Creeks have been designated as critical habitat along parts of their reach for one or more threatened or endangered species, including southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss),* and southwestern arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*). Other endangered, threatened and sensitive species that have habitat occupied and unoccupied in this Place include the southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*), California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and a number of plants. Chiquito Basin (which is located in the San Mateo Place) has a number of endemic and rare plants. The seasonal wildflower display is spectacular. Nonnative vegetation, including artichoke thistle, yellow star-thistle, and animals (fish & amphibian) can also be found throughout the Place.

Access to and within the San Mateo Place is limited to a few roads. The most highly used road is Ortega Highway. Ortega Highway has become a commuter road, and is the only east-west route in the area which connects Riverside and Orange Counties. Motorized access to a small segment of the northern portion of the Place is limited because the national forest boundary is adjacent to open space or wildlife reserves. Access in the south is limited due to land ownership and the lack of rights-of-way.

Plant materials traditionally used by Native Americans thrive in several locations. Dispersed day-use and trail-based recreation, especially hiking and mountain biking, bird watching, photography, waterplay, and nature study are the most popular activities. The San Mateo Place boasts the most extensive designated trail system on the Cleveland National Forest. Morgan Trail and Tenaja Falls are popular day-use destinations. Some trails receive very little use due to patterns of land ownership. Recreation access is limited by lack of public rights-of-way through private parcels. Trails outside of the wilderness are very popular with mountain bikers. Camping is currently permitted only in developed campgrounds and the federally designated wilderness. The San Mateo Place has high need and potential for environmental interpretation.

A number of abandoned mines exist within the Place. Two grazing allotments, El Cariso-Verdugo and the Miller section of the Miller Mountain-Tenaja, allotment are also located here. In addition, two recreation residence tracts are located in San Juan and Hot Springs Canyons.

Unlawful activities within the San Mateo Place include marijuana plantations, unauthorized motorized vehicle use, wildlife poaching, and mechanized use in the wilderness. There are also a number of trespasses (i.e., fences and unauthorized trails).

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- San Mateo Creek 14.1 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- San Mateo Wilderness 38,912 acres

Special Interest Areas:

- Chiquito Basin 727 acres

Total national forest acres--San Mateo Place: 59,737

Desired Condition: The San Mateo Place is maintained as a predominantly naturally evolving landscape that functions as an undeveloped day-use wildland and wilderness retreat for southern Orange and Riverside County. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are a mosaic of chaparral and coastal sage scrub, punctuated by riparian woodlands that have high scenic value and enhance the recreation experiences (i.e., bigleaf maples, California bay, other deciduous trees and wildflowers); expansive vistas that accentuate the impression of remoteness; and the undeveloped character of the land especially in those areas visible from important trail and road corridors (Ortega Highway).

Program Emphasis: Maintain the undeveloped, primitive and semi-primitive character of the San Mateo Place. Conserve opportunities for solitude and challenge within the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness. The unique diversity of plant and animal species, and their habitats are to be protected. Control or limit the spread of invasive, noxious, or undesirable nonnative plant and animal species. Coordinate wildland fire protection with Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base and neighboring communities. Maintain opportunities for mechanized trail-based recreation in the northern part of the San Mateo Place. Manage recreation residence special-use authorizations to standard. Maintain national forest boundaries and secure public access through cooperative efforts with adjacent communities and counties. Manage grazing allotments to standard. Develop a management plan for the Chiquito Basin Special Interest Area.

Silverado

Theme: The Silverado Place is a canyon lands backdrop for millions of southern Orange County residents. Canyon communities, open-space links to surrounding communities and trail-based recreation characterize this Place. The Silverado Place is an important habitat link to surrounding regional wildlife preserves. Riparian habitats support recreation activities and species diversity.

Setting: The Silverado Place occupies the northwest side of the Trabuco Ranger District from the north national forest boundary down to and including Trabuco Canyon. The northwest slopes of the Santa Ana Mountains are dominant features within this landscape. Elevations range from approximately 1,200 feet at the mouth of Silverado Canyon to over 5,600 feet at Santiago Peak. The area is known for earthquake fault activity. The Silverado Place is closer to Los Angeles than any other Place on the Cleveland National Forest. A number of Orange County cities are minutes away from this part of the national forest.

The Silverado Place generally has high rainfall during the wet season. Due to the available moisture, riparian habitats, for species such as oaks and ash are concentrated here. Large California bay laurel trees and the southern-most populations of bigleaf maple thrive in Trabuco Canyon. Bigcone Douglas-fir grows at the heads of several of the canyons. The headwaters of Silverado's canyons contain the greatest concentrations of bigcone Douglas-fir in the Santa Ana Mountains.

The vegetation is generally healthy in this Place, but due to the age of the chaparral there is potential for high intensity wildland fire that could damage or kill stands of bigcone Douglas-fir.

A significant number of acres are chaparral greater than 80 years of age in this Place. Pleasants Peak and Santiago Peaks in the upper elevations of Silverado Place support stands of knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*), particularly in serpentine outcrops.

There are community protection concerns within the Silverado Place, especially in the community of Silverado. The Silverado Place is a

difficult location to fight wildland fire due to the lack of roads and fuelbreaks to provide firefighter access and defensible space.

The Silverado Place has a number of threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Dudleya sp. occurs on Modjeska Peak. The Place has suitable and occupied habitat for the California spotted owl. The arroyo toad, speckled dace, and other sensitive species are present or have habitat in this Place. Due to the presence of the arroyo toad, a seasonal closure occurs on the popular Maple Springs Road (Silverado Canyon).

Invasive, nonnative exotic species (both plant and animal - arrundo, eucalyptus, gums, star thistle, vinca spp., ivy, bullfrogs, etc.) are present here and present a continuing management challenge.

Several locations within the Silverado Place serve as habitat links to several Orange County parks. The Silverado Place is part of Orange County's Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP); Orange County's habitat conservation plan for multiple species).

Historic and pre-historic sites can be found in some of the canyons.

The Silverado Place is an important day-use area for Orange County. Trail-based activities (particularly hiking and mountain biking) are increasing in popularity. Blackstar, Falls Canyon, and Holy Jim, Harding Road, along with Silverado Motorway, Silverado Truck Trail, and Maple Springs are important visitor destinations. Vehicular access is constrained by patterns of land ownership. Maple Springs Road is the only road opened to vehicular traffic that connects to another national forest road, North Main Divide. Neither Blackstar nor Harding Roads are open to motorized access. These roads are used as biking and hiking trails.

A number of special-uses are evident within this Place. A section of the 500 kV Valley-Serrano powerline is located in one of the upper canyons (Ladd Canyon). A high concentration of abandoned mines and shafts are located within this Place. A number of recreation residences exist in Trabuco/Holy Jim Canyon. The California Department of Fish and Game stocks Trabuco Creek with fish when water flows are sufficient.

Unauthorized activities include trash dumping, unauthorized trail construction, trespass (clearing brush or building fences or structures), marijuana gardens, and graffiti.

There are no special designations.

Total national forest acres--Silverado Place: 28,063

Desired Condition: The Silverado Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a backdrop for southern Orange County and a refuge for communities and the unique natural resources sheltered in its canyons. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the undeveloped quality and character of the urban backdrop, and areas viewed from canyon communities; woodland plant habitats that have high scenic value and enhance the recreation experiences (i.e., bigleaf maples, California bay, other deciduous trees and wildflowers); and rare vegetative communities on upland slopes that add diversity to the landscape (i.e., knobcone pine and coastal sage scrub).

Program Emphasis: Improve forest health through vegetative management. Vegetation treatments protect chaparral stands and bigcone Douglas-fir. Develop fire protection measures for canyon communities. A fire safe council has been formed and has identified a fuelbreak and an emergency escape route across National Forest System lands as enhancements needed for community protection. Remove or limit spread of nonnative species to improve water quality and/or quantity. Develop additional parking areas for trail-based activities to improve access. Maintain mechanized use throughout the area. Address conflicts associated with trail-based recreation. Increase Forest Service presence through the use of personnel, signage, public education, and publications. Enhance interpretive opportunities and accessibility for persons with disabilities. Increase volunteerism, environmental education and interpretation. Develop services and facilities in partnership with local communities. Administer recreation residence special-use authorizations to standard. Lands that are acquired will enhance habitat linkages, public access, and consolidation of public lands. Acquire rights-of-way for public and administrative road access through cooperative efforts with internal and external partners. Evaluate the feasibility of a transportation corridor linking Orange and Riverside Counties. Evaluate alternatives to Maple Springs Road. Improve road maintenance for safety and to accommodate contemporary firefighting vehicles. Maintain a road network that supports the demand for scenic driving with canyon-woodland views. Administer special-uses to maintain important viewsheds.

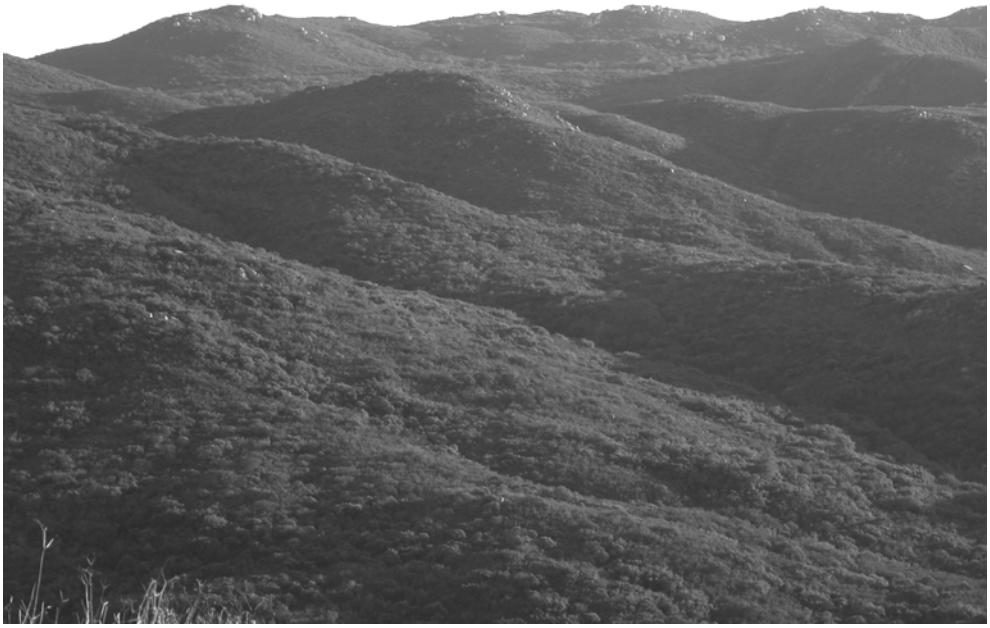
Cleveland NF employees overwhelmingly respond to an 11th hour request for Silverado Place pictures—thanks!

Sweetwater

Theme: Sweetwater Place is a transition zone between the southwestern deserts and the urbanized communities along the southern California seacoast. It contains the Interstate 8 road corridor, the largest transportation corridor on the Cleveland National Forest. The Interstate 8 corridor offers expansive, scenic views of Guatay, Laguna, and Viejas Mountains to tens of thousands of interstate travelers each day. It is characterized by the most mixed land ownership pattern in the planning area and offers many challenges and opportunities for coordinated community planning and partnerships.

Setting: Sweetwater Place is a transition zone between metropolitan San Diego and the relatively undeveloped mountain, desert and wilderness open-spaces of eastern San Diego County. Interstate 8 is one of the primary east-west linkages in the southern United States. Millions of travelers annually move through this landscape. Sweetwater is also the primary entry to the Cleveland National Forest and offers a snapshot of the national forest and panoramic views to travelers passing through.

The Sweetwater area is home to tens of thousands of people. The land ownership pattern is a mixture of private, tribal, and public land. It contains the urban fringe of San Diego, the communities of Alpine, Descanso, Pine Valley, Guatay, Japatul Valley, Carveacre, and the Viejas Indian Reservation. The character and appearance of Sweetwater is a mix of natural and rural/urban elements.



The landscape supports a variety of vegetation types. Oak woodlands, chaparral, and riparian vegetation types are the most common. Gabbro soils and many rare plant species are found here including Tecate cypress (*Cupressus forbesii*) at Guatay, Engelmann oaks (*Quercus engelmannii*) at

Roberts Ranch, and San Diego thorn-mint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*). Also located within Sweetwater, the Guatay Mountain Special Interest Area was established in 1986 to conserve the largest stand of Tecate cypress on National Forest System lands.

Fire frequency within Sweetwater Place is high. Increased traffic and population have resulted in a corresponding increase in human ignited fires and fire frequency. Vegetative management issues within the Place are complex and relate to both forest health and community protection. Recent drought has resulted in mortality of chaparral species, which has increased fire suppression and community protection needs. There are thousands of structures within the Forest Service protection area that are in extremely hazardous settings, and more are proposed for development. Substantial vegetative treatments will be required to create a safe fire-fighting environment.

Several threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, including least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) are found within Sweetwater Place. Pine Creek supports one of the few native fish species on the national forest, the partially armored three-spine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus microcephalus),* a Region 5 sensitive species. A bridge has recently been constructed at Pine Creek to protect arroyo toad habitat.

There are important cultural and historic values within Sweetwater Place. Prominent landmarks such as Viejas Mountain, Chiquito Peak, Guatay Mountain and Cuyamaca Peak are important to the local communities. Sections of the historic San Diego Flume are within the Place. A historic settlement site and archaeological sites are located near the community of Descanso.

Within Sweetwater Place, undocumented immigration, resource conflicts, and illegal activities pose a variety of management challenges. Lack of public access, encroachment, trespass, user created non-system trails, and dumping are common activities. Drug production, burglary and other illegal activities are also widely reported.

Sweetwater Place supports various recreation activities including, hiking, equestrian use, mountain biking, and hang-gliding. Trail-based activities are popular. Segments of the California Riding and Hiking Trail also pass though the Place. There is, however, no continuous system of trails and users are developing trails from the adjacent communities.

Special Designations:

Proposed Research Natural Areas:

- Guatay Mountain 1,337 acres
- Viejas Mountain 3,182 acres

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- Guatay Mountain 180 acres

Total national forest acres--Sweetwater Place: 33,021

Desired Condition: Sweetwater Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as one of the primary transition zones between the deserts of eastern San Diego County and southern California's coastal communities. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved or developed over time are the undeveloped character of Forest Service land that remain in this otherwise highly developed rural area; opportunities for unobstructed, panoramic views from the

Interstate 8 corridor—especially on the eastern side; the scenic integrity of important local landmarks; and built elements that are unobtrusive and exhibit a consistent architectural theme.

Program Emphasis: Management efforts help to ensure that activities originating from neighboring private land are consistent with national forest land management objectives. Reduce the danger of fire and floods by managing vegetation in community threat zones. Minimize illegal activities, off-road vehicle use, administrative backlogs, fire danger, and resource degradation. Increase fire prevention efforts to reduce the frequency of fire ignitions. Emphasize species conservation and control or eradication of noxious weeds. Minimize private encumbrance of public land. Acquire rights-of-way. Place emphasis on boundary management and land adjustments. Recreation development will focus on establishing a trail network for day-use, as well as links to long-distance trail networks. Manage development within the Interstate 8 road corridor to conserve panoramic views from the highway. Encourage and enlist community partners to actively participate in managing, planning, designing, maintaining and monitoring resource conditions (including groundwater withdrawal and quality), and to help resolve problems as they arise within the Place.

Upper San Diego River

Theme: A remote, primitive landscape with deep, rugged river canyons, popular waterfalls, and scenic vistas within a rapidly urbanizing area to the west. This is one of the key ecological areas within the national forests of southern California, containing a large number of rare species and habitats.

Setting: This Place includes the headwaters of the San Diego River and its tributaries. The steep canyons of Boulder Creek, Cedar Creek, and the San Diego River exhibit a remote, undeveloped character. The Upper San Diego River Place is located in the central part of the Cleveland National Forest between the community of Ramona, the Cuyamaca Mountains (Cuyamaca Rancho State Park), Capitan Grande Indian Reservation, and the historic community of Julian. Private land and tribal lands make up the lower portion of this Place and surround the El Capitan Reservoir. The San Diego River drainage is the most distinctive natural feature in the area. Elevations range from 750 feet at El Capitan spillway to over 3,400 feet at the Inaja Memorial Picnic Area. The Place supports many rare and vulnerable plant and animal species and includes the King Creek Research Natural Area, which contains stands of Cuyamaca cypress. Three Inventoried Roadless Areas are also found within this Place.

Vegetation includes a diverse mix of plant communities that change with elevation. The mix ranges from chaparral communities that dominate the hillsides at lower elevations to Coulter pine and black oak mixed with manzanita at higher elevations (above 3,000 feet). The San Diego River Place is the only area in the world where the Cuyamaca cypress (*Cupressus stephensonii*) grows. In addition, the rare Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*) grows in patches around Eagle Peak and other areas. The upper San Diego River canyon above El Capitan Lake contains the largest contiguous stand of coastal sage scrub on the Cleveland National Forest. This vegetation community is critical habitat for the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*).

There is a history of large, dangerous wildland fire in this Place including the 2003 Cedar fire, which burned the entire upper San Diego River watershed and spread all the way to the San Diego

City communities of Scripps Ranch and Tierrasanta. A drought had resulted in the mortality of large areas of chaparral vegetation and triggered a bark beetle outbreak killing approximately 40 percent of the Coulter pine. The Inaja fire in the 1950s also affected the upper San Diego River watershed. There is a defensible space issue associated with most of the development in the Place and a lack of community fuelbreaks. Interagency protection efforts are currently being discussed regarding the communities adjacent to the western perimeter of the Place, and a fire safe council has been formed in Julian to the northeast.

There is a high potential for human caused fire near El Capitan Reservoir, Cedar Creek Falls, and adjacent to San Diego Country Estates, and for both lightning and human caused fire near Eagle Peak. The Cedar Creek Falls location has also been identified as a problem area for law enforcement and fire management due to poor access.

Fire frequency is an issue related to other vegetative cover within the Place. The interval between fires is very short in the coastal sage scrub. In fact, some parts of the San Diego River bottom have burned three times in the past eight years. The Cuyamaca cypress stand is now at risk to loss from fire until a viable aerial cone bank has been reestablished, possibly taking 30-50 years.

Land ownership patterns adjacent to this Place often constrain public and administrative access. Dense urban development occurs along the national forest boundary in some locations. Tribal interests, such as the Viejas, Barona, Inaja, and El Capitan Grande Indian Reservations, own large areas of land adjacent to Upper San Diego River. Access between the tribal land and National Forest System land is constrained, as rights-of-way and partnerships do not exist. Some urban influences do exist, including infrastructure, such as roads and power lines along the periphery, as well as some visible fuelbreaks. The proximity to urban development results in an increased threat of wildland fire.

The majority of this Place is undeveloped, and road and trail access is limited. Trail-based access within the Place is limited to a network of unofficial (non-Forest Service) trails and a short trail from Saddleback to the area above Cedar Creek Falls. The San Diego River Conservancy was recently established to protect open-space values along the San Diego River corridor. The Upper San Diego River Place is the location of a proposed link in the regional Transcounty Trail. Most visitors come to this Place to enjoy the scenery and solitude or to access specific destinations. Visitors to the Inaja National Recreation Trail can hike to vista points above the San Diego River headwaters and enjoy views that extend to the ocean.

Overall, recreation use throughout the Upper San Diego River Place is light and widely dispersed; however, some concentrated use is occurring at Cedar Falls. Good opportunities for hunting exist, and there is a high level of use on existing roads. Only one developed site (the Inaja Memorial Picnic Area) is located within the Place. Unauthorized motorized use is occurring around the periphery.

Established Research Natural Areas:

- King Creek 992 acres

Proposed Research Natural Area:

- San Diego River 5,965 acres

Total national forest acres--Upper San Diego River: 42,328

Desired Condition: The Upper San Diego River Place is maintained as a remote, natural appearing landscape that functions as respite for the surrounding urban population. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved (or restored) over time are a mosaic of coastal sage scrub, chaparral vegetation, riparian woodlands, and rare botanical species that add diversity to the landscape (i.e., Cuyamaca cypress and Engelmann oak). Other attributes include broad, undisturbed expanses of landscape that frame panoramic vistas; opportunities for viewing unique landscape features, such as deeply dissected canyons, waterfalls, and distant landmarks from vista points and road and trail corridors; and built elements that are rustic and unobtrusive. A diversity of age classes is developed over time in the chaparral as this watershed recovers from the Cedar Fire. Homeowners (in cooperation with the Forest Service) maintain defensible fuel profiles around their homes in recognition of the frequent fires that are likely to occur in this area. Opportunities for developed recreation and trails (including the Transcounty Trail) improve through time.

Program Emphasis: Management emphasis is to maintain the natural-appearing setting for dispersed recreation activities and to increase public understanding of natural systems through education and interpretation. Fire prevention emphasis featuring community protection will be increased in the lower portion and on the west and north sides of the Place. Recreation management in the vicinity of Cedar Creek Falls will be improved. Acquire rights-of-way to improve administrative and public access. Plan a trail system and develop support facilities commensurate with forest plan objectives to allow safe access to popular destinations, including an east/west section of the Transcounty Trail. Support the efforts of the San Diego River Conservancy to the extent feasible. Assess the landscape for opportunities to provide developed campgrounds and enhanced trail-based recreation. Conserve biological values associated with the Research Natural Areas. Monitor coastal sage scrub in the San Diego River bottom and take adaptive management measures to protect important habitats as necessary. Develop management plans for special areas.

Forest-Specific Design Criteria

CNF S1 - Consider and mitigate the impacts of proposed management activities and uses of National Forest System lands on dark night skies.

CNF S2 - Open campfires are not allowed outside of developed sites with campfire rings.

CNF S3 - Off-highway vehicle use is limited to designated routes and areas.

CNF S4 - Motorized use of Forest Service system roads is limited to state licensed operators only unless the road is designated for use by non-licensed operators.

CNF S5 - Consolidate major transportation and utility corridors by co-locating facilities and/or expanding existing corridors.

CNF S6 - Place new power lines (33 kV or less), telephone lines, and television cables underground wherever possible.

CNF S7 - A camping permit is required for remote, overnight camping outside of developed campsites forest-wide.

CNF S8 - Remote or backcountry camping on the Trabuco Ranger District is prohibited outside of the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness.

Place Specific Standards

CNF S9 - Avoid or mitigate, following consultation, activities resulting in direct trampling or erosion problems to Laguna Mountains skipper suitable and occupied habitat and adjacent areas (Laguna and Palomar Places).

CNF S10- Future development at Elsinore Peak will be designed to avoid adverse effects to Munz's onion, *Allium munzii* (Elsinore Place).

CNF S11- Livestock grazing in San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*) habitat will be deferred until after seed-set (Laguna, Palomar, Morena Places).

CNF S12 - Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail - Protect scenic values in accordance with adopted scenic integrity objectives. Protect foreground views from the footpath as well as designated viewpoints. Where practicable avoid establishing unconforming land uses within the viewshed of the trail (Morena, Laguna, Aguanga Places).

CNF S13 - Avoid or mitigate activities that may negatively affect San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*) occupied habitat (Sweetwater Place).

CNF S14 - Restrict activities that may disturb slender-horned spineflower, *Dodecahema leptoceras* (Aguanga Place).

CNF S15 - Hunting with firearms within Laguna Mountain Recreation Area is prohibited (Laguna Place).

CNF S16 - Within Laguna Mountain Recreation Area mountain biking and horseback riding are limited to National Forest System roads and trails designated for those uses (Laguna Place).

Wilderness Standards

CNF S17 - Open campfires are not allowed within any wilderness.

CNF S18 - The maximum visitor group size is 15 people.

CNF S19 - The maximum number of stock associated with any group is eight.

CNF S20 - Limits of Acceptable Change methodology will be used to ensure an acceptable state of solitude.

CNF S21 - Limits of Acceptable Change methodology will be used to mitigate increases in wilderness resource degradation.

Forest-wide Guidance

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

- Wilderness Plans and Implementation Schedules
- Wild and Scenic River Management Plans
- Forest Fire Management Plans
- Special Interest Area Plans
- Research Natural Area Establishment Reports and Implementation Plans
- Scenic Byway Plans
- Species Recovery Plans
- Species Guidance Documents (see Appendix H in Part 3)
- Forest Interpretive Plan

Performance Risks

The national forest operates in a dynamic environment, characterized by uncertainties in both internal and external operating conditions, due to fluctuations in the natural environment and the institutional environment. If events unfold in a manner that was not anticipated when this prospectus was prepared, attainment of the objectives shown above will be affected.

Risks Related to the Natural Environment

Fires, insect or disease outbreaks, and other disturbances are likely to occur, and could significantly alter current conditions.

The national forest has experienced large wildland fires in the last 10 years. Predicting where and when future fires will burn is an inexact science. If future wildland fires exceed historical averages, or are concentrated in areas that are particularly vulnerable (urban interface, riparian areas, or special habitats), then the extent, location, and timing of management activities could all be affected.

Risks Related to the Institutional Environment

The national forest budget could differ from projections.

The trends in accomplishment of objectives shown above are dependent on the national forest receiving an operating budget similar to the last three years. Fluctuations in the budget (either upward or downward) would cause a change in the direction and/or magnitude of projected accomplishments. In addition, changes in the mix of funds between program areas also have the potential to affect the rate or magnitude of performance.

National or Regional strategic initiatives may emerge in response to broad-scale issues.

This forest plan is linked to the agency's National Strategic Plan (see Part 1—Southern California National Forests Vision) that is updated every three to five years. Historically, both Congress and the Executive Branch have also instituted program initiatives outside of the forest planning process that affect much or all of the National Forest System (e.g., the Roadless Rule, the National Fire Plan, and the National Energy Policy). Such changes in national direction have the potential to add to, override, or otherwise adjust the performance objectives of the national forest.

Appendix A - Special Designation Overlays - Cleveland National Forest

Wilderness

Existing Wilderness

Agua Tibia Wilderness	Places: Aguanga	15,933 Acres

The Agua Tibia Wilderness is located in the Palomar Ranger District. The wilderness is bounded on the east by the Cutca Valley and the Cutca Inventoried Roadless Area, on the south and to the west by the Pauma and Pechanga Indian Reservations, and on the north by the Cleveland National Forest's Dripping Springs Campground, which is located just off California State Highway 79. There are approximately 25 miles of trails within the wilderness, accessed from the campground.

Canyon slopes are covered with fragile soils that support a vegetative cover of dense chapparal, while the peaks are capped with stands of conifer. Elevations within the area range from 1,700 to 5,077 feet at Eagle Crag Peak.

The wilderness is close to the rapidly urbanizing north San Diego County and southern Riverside County. Residents from the surrounding communities have easy access to the Agua Tibia Wilderness although currently, the Agua Tibia Wilderness is lightly used. Recreation visitor days are estimated at 3,146 days annually. About 90 percent of the use originates from the Dripping Springs Campground, and the remainder originates from the east via Cutca Valley Trail.

Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Hauser Wilderness	Places: Pine Creek	7,547 Acres

The area is a congressionally designated wilderness, located on a long, narrow finger of land on the extreme south end of the Descanso Ranger District. The primary access to the wilderness is via the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail from the Morena Regional Park Trailhead. Access to the trailhead is from Morena Lake Road and Buckman Springs Road.

The wilderness is a broad south-facing slope of Hauser Canyon, an important watershed for Barrett Reservoir. Elevations within the wilderness range from 1,600 near Barrett Lake to 3,681 feet near Bronco Flats. The steep slopes are primarily covered with coastal sage scrub and broadleaf chaparral, with numerous granite boulders and rocky outcrops. Hauser Creek Trail follows Hauser Canyon for four miles just outside the southern wilderness boundary. No other trails exist, and the rest of the area is seldom used. Recreation visitor days are estimated at 1,200 days annually. Day-use hiking and hunting are the most popular recreation activities. Barrett Lake, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, and the Marine Memorial are the most popular destinations.

Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Pine Creek Wilderness	Places: Pine Creek	13,480 Acres

This wilderness is located on the Descanso Ranger District and is situated in Pine Creek Valley, south of Interstate 8. Access is from Horsethief Canyon Trailhead, located off Lyons Valley Road, an easy reach both from the north (Japatul Road from Alpine) and from the south (Skyline Truck Trail) from Jamul and the western segment of the signed Espinosa Trail. The primary source of users is from the north (Pine Valley Trailhead/Secret Canyon Trail). The Secret Canyon Trail parallels the Pine Valley Canyon and eventually intersects with Espinoza Trail. The Espinoza Trail can also be accessed from the east, via Buckman Spring Road and Corral Canyon Road.

Recreation visitor days are estimated at 7,272 days annually. About 60 percent of the use originates from the Pine Valley Trailhead, and the remainder originates from Horsethief Trailhead.

The rough, steep canyon walls are covered with young, even-aged chaparral, due to a minor fire in 1970 that burned the entire area; however, there are several mesas within the wilderness that support some broadleaf woodland. Pine Creek and its tributaries represent typical riparian areas. Several minor canyon drainages feed into Pine Creek, bisecting the wilderness. Elevations vary from 1,600 to 4,400 feet.

Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this wilderness.

San Mateo Wilderness	Places: San Mateo and Elsinore	38,484 Acres

This Congressionally designated wilderness is located in the southern part of the Trabuco Ranger District. Several trails off the South Main Divide Road near the Ortega Highway (California State Highway 74) provide access to the area; however, public entry is restricted by adjacent private lands. Public access is not allowed from two additional roads off the Ortega Highway, Morrell Canyon (private development within the wilderness) and the road to Rancho Carrillo (another private in-holding). Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base prohibits access from the south, and there is no access from the west. Access from the north is via the Bear Canyon Loop Trail. Additionally, the steeply angular topography of the Wildhorse area makes much of this wilderness almost entirely inaccessible.

Elevations in the wilderness range from 500 to 3,500 feet, and the vegetation consists predominantly of chamise and broadleaf chaparral with some interspersed oak woodland and grass meadows. San Mateo Creek is the major stream running through this area. It contains southern steelhead trout and a number of other threatened, endangered and sensitive species, and is one of the few remaining unregulated streams on the national forest.

Most of the recreation use that occurs within the wilderness occurs within the first five miles of the boundary. Tenaja Falls (located near San Mateo Creek) is a popular destination. Morgan Trail, Tenaja Trail and Fisherman Camp Trail are the most frequently used trails.

One entire grazing allotment is located within the wilderness, and part of a second. Infrequent wildland fires occur in the wilderness.

Recommended Wilderness

Cutca Valley (Agua Tibia Wilderness)	Places: Palomar and Aguanga

The 8,619-acre Cutca Valley Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the northern part of the Palomar Ranger District, approximately 12 miles southeast of Temecula. From the east, the area can be accessed from the High Point Road (FS8S05) and Palomar Divide Road (FS9S07). The eastern boundary parallels High Point Road. Cutca Valley Trail (1E01) provides access to both the Cutca Inventoried Roadless Area and the Agua Tibia Wilderness.

The topography of this area is a valley with rugged terrain and forested up-slopes, along with perennial streams. Canyon slopes are covered with chaparral, while higher ridges and peaks support stands of conifers.

This area is part of two sub-watersheds, one of which flows into the San Luis Rey River and the other into the Santa Margarita River. Slopes are therefore strategic and valuable water sources.

Recreation opportunities include hiking, hunting, backpacking, photography, equestrian use and rock hunting.

Pine Creek (Pine Creek Wilderness)	Places: Pine Creek and Sweetwater

Acres: 430

The area lies within the Descanso Ranger District, and is situated in the Pine Creek Valley, south of Interstate 8. Access is from Horsethief Canyon Road on the west, and from Skye Valley Road on the southeast. Public access is limited by adjacent private lands. Several miles of the wilderness abut Interstate 8; however, there is no direct access from the highway.

The rough, steep canyon walls are covered with young, even-aged chaparral, due to a minor fire in 1970 that burned the entire area. There are several mesas within the wilderness, which support some broadleaf woodland. Pine Creek and its tributaries represent typical riparian areas. Elevations vary from 1,600 to 4,400 feet. Several minor canyon drainages feed into Pine Creek, bisecting the wilderness.

Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, and hunting. One of the primary designated trails (Espinosa Trail) runs through the upper portion of the area.

Hauser South (Hauser Wilderness)	Places: Pine Creek

Acres: 2,302

The Hauser South 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. Due to its remoteness, lack of use, and undisturbed quality, Hauser South is a unique and excellent resource study area for biologists and entomologists.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Eligible

Cottonwood Creek	Places: Laguna, 3.3 miles; and Morena, 8.6 miles

Within the Cottonwood Creek corridor several sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places have been documented on both public and private lands. The sites represent the area's prehistoric use. Some have exhibited evidence of contact between the local inhabitants and the Hohokam pueblo builders of Arizona, which is a rare finding for California. The cultural resources found within the creek corridor are therefore considered to be outstandingly remarkable, and the creek is found to be eligible for designation as a recreational river.

San Luis Rey River (Main)	Places: Palomar, 0.11 miles; and San Dieguito/Black Mountain, 3.2 miles

California's largest southwestern willow flycatcher population (a federally listed endangered species) is located immediately below Lake Henshaw Dam on land outside the Cleveland National Forest boundary. About one-third of this population is on the Cleveland National Forest. The amount and character of the river's flow is sufficient to sustain the population, even though water levels are artificially controlled and water flow is heavily regulated. The population of this endangered species is the outstandingly remarkable value for this river, and is the basis for its eligibility for classification as a recreational river.

San Mateo Creek	Places: San Mateo, 4.1 miles, and Elsinore, 1.2 miles

San Mateo Creek is one of the few remaining streams south of Los Angeles that is not dammed, and because of its location on federal lands, it has retained a pristine character. San Mateo Creek has an exceptionally high habitat quality for aquatic species. The San Mateo Creek Watershed supports the southernmost population of southern steelhead trout known to exist. The population is located on the lower reaches of the San Mateo Creek corridor and in Devil Canyon. The largest known population of sticky dudleya (a Region 5 sensitive plant species) is also located along San Mateo Creek in Devil Canyon, and at the confluence of Devil Canyon and San Mateo Creek (Devil's Gorge). These outstandingly remarkable fish and botanical values determine this creek's eligibility as a wild river.

Research Natural Areas

Established

Agua Tibia	517 acres	Places: Aguanga

The Agua Tibia Research Natural Area (RNA) was established for the study of bigcone Douglas-fir. Located within the Agua Tibia Wilderness, the site is relatively undisturbed and contains typical bigcone Douglas-fir habitat characteristics. The target species occurs on northern slopes and canyon bottoms at lower elevations and on various aspects at higher elevations. It has a sparse herb layer and occurs on very steep slopes. The trees are somewhat fire resistant, but would be eliminated by frequent fires. The surrounding vegetation that would provide a defensible space zone is predominantly broadleaf chaparral. Access to the RNA is either through Cutca Valley or through the Mission Indian Reservation, both involving some strenuous hiking.

King Creek	992 acres	Places: Upper San Diego River

The King Creek Research Natural Area (RNA) located on the Descanso Ranger District adjacent to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains a small, rare population of Cuyamaca cypress, a relic of the ancient genus *Cupressus*, which was once widespread across North America. Cuyamaca cypress exists in six distinct stands on the national forest and also on state park land on the slopes of Cuyamaca Peak. All of the King Creek stands burned in a fire in 1950. Access to the RNA by trail is good, and a powerline road forms the northern boundary. Cuyamaca cypress is considered a federal 'Species of Concern' (former candidate for listing) and has also been designated a Region 5 sensitive plant species. Most of the Cuyamaca cypress in both the RNA and in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park burned in the 2003 Cedar Fire, but regeneration is expected to be adequate to repopulate the stands because trees were old enough to have substantial cone banks at the time of the fire.

Organ Valley	562 acres	Places: San Dieguito/Black Mountain

The Organ Valley Research Natural Area (RNA) located on Black Mountain is dedicated to the study of Englemann oak *(Quercus engelmannii*). Englemann oak woodlands are distributed within a very limited area of cismontane southern California and northern Baja California, Mexico. Many of the original groves have been destroyed by overgrazing and/or development. The stands located within the RNA also suffer to some degree from the deteriorating factors mentioned above; however, Organ Valley has not been grazed for some time and the site is relatively undisturbed. The Englemann oaks are healthy and vigorous. They vary in size, representing several age classes. Two Region 5 sensitive plants also occur in the oak habitat; Orcutt's brodiaea (*Brodiaea orcuttii*) and velvety false-lupine (*Thermopsis macrophylla* var. *semota).*

Proposed

Guatay Mountain	1,337 acres	Places: Sweetwater

The Guatay Mountain Research Natural Area (GMRNA) is located in San Diego County, California, on the Descanso Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest. It is approximately 36 miles (58 km) inland from the Pacific Ocean and 18 miles (29 km) north of the Mexican border. The 1,337 acre RNA, 435 acres (176 ha) of which is designated as a botanical special interest area lies entirely on lands managed by the Cleveland National Forest, which is the sole administrator of the RNA. Although a portion of the land area within the RNA is newly acquired and consequently outside the Forest Service Congressional boundary, the land has approved purchase unit status and therefore has National Forest System lands status.

The land bordering the GMRNA to the north and west is privately owned with rural residential development, including the town of Guatay (population 782 in 2000). To the east and southeast, GMRNA is bordered National Forest System lands. The southern border of the RNA is a privately owned cattle ranch.

GMRNA is located near the former sites of two Native American villages. Residents of these villages regarded Guatay Mountain as sacred. Formerly included within grazing allotments, grazing was excluded from the area in 1998. Day hikers occasionally visit the peak, but otherwise recreation use is infrequent.

Guatay Mountain is important as representative of the Tecate cypress (*Cupressus forbesii*) forest and mafic southern mixed chaparral vegetation types. Tecate cypress is listed as rare and endangered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). The Tecate cypress stand within GMRNA is the only known occurrence of this species and this vegetation type on Forest Service land. Guatay Mountain is also distinctive in its geology and soils. Developed on mafic rock types (loosely termed 'gabbro') that underlay most of area, the soils of GMRNA support distinctive vegetation and species not found on other soil types, including *Calochortus dunnii*, listed as rare by the state of California (California Department of Fish and Game 2003b) and rare and endangered by CNPS (California Native Plant Society 2003).

The portions of the RNA not included in the Tecate Cypress Botanical Special Interest Area are currently designated General Forest Roaded (mixed emphasis) in the Cleveland National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (USDA Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest 1986).

Guatay Mountain Research Natural Area was formally nominated by the Cleveland National Forest in May, 1995, after a site visit by a four-member team of ecologists and biologists from Pacific Southwest (PSW) Research Station and Cleveland National Forest (Phillips 1995). Designation of the RNA was included as a guideline in the Tecate cypress Species Management Guide and Fire Management Guide, approved by Cleveland National Forest in October, 1991 (Winter 1992).

Viejas Mountain	3,182 acres	Places: Sweetwater

The Viejas Mountain Research Natural Area (VMRNA) is located in San Diego County, California on the Descanso Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest. It is approximately 30 miles (48 km) east of the Pacific Ocean and 20 miles (32 km) north of the Mexican border.

The 3,182 acre RNA lies entirely on lands managed by the Cleveland National Forest, which is the sole administrator of the RNA.

Ownership of the land bordering the VMRNA is a mix of private, communal, and public. Lands to the north of the RNA are within the El Capitan Indian Reservation, and lands to the east are within the Viejas Indian Reservation. To the south and west, private property is interspersed with lands of the Cleveland National Forest.

Viejas Mountain is representative of the chamise chaparral vegetation type, and is recognized as having high biodiversity and research potential. The chamise chaparral within the RNA is representative of the gabbroic variant of chamise chaparral common in the Cleveland National Forest, and consequently captures important variation of this widespread type. Viejas Mountain RNA also provides habitat for San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*), a species federally-listed as threatened, California State-listed as endangered, and recognized by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as rare and seriously endangered, as well as six additional plant species recognized as sensitive by the Regional Forester and/or CNPS. Twelve animal species of special concern to the State of California are known or expected to occur within the RNA. The peak of the mountain has special importance to the Kumeyaay Nation (Shipek 1985).

The Viejas Mountain area was formally nominated as a Research Natural Area by the Cleveland National Forest in May, 1995, after a site visit by a four-member team composed of ecologists and biologists from the Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW) and the Cleveland National Forest (Phillips 1995). The Viejas Mountain area was previously considered as a botanical special interest area, but RNA designation was seen as more appropriate in view of the high research potential of the site.

San Diego River	5,965 acres	Places: Upper San Diego River

The San Diego River Research Natural Area (SDRRNA) is located in San Diego County, California on the Palomar Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest. It is approximately 30 miles (48 km) east of the Pacific Ocean and 21 miles (33 km) north of the Mexican border. The RNA lies entirely on lands managed by the Cleveland National Forest, which is the sole administrator of the RNA.

Ownership of the land bordering the SDRRNA is a mix of private individuals, communal, and public institutions. A coalition of tribes manages the Capitan Grande Indian Reservation on the south of the RNA. Helix Water District owns a two-mile (3.2 km) stretch of the San Diego River streambed and the adjacent ¼ mile (0.4 km) wide floodplain. The San Diego Country Estates development and the Barona Mesa rural residences border the southwest of the RNA. Land on the northwest is private land regulated by San Diego County under the zoning code of Agricultural Zone 20.

Prior to 1930, the San Diego River bottom area was probably used as a temporary village settlement for the Barona Indians. Currently, recreation is the major use of the area; activities are concentrated in the southern part of the RNA. Cedar Creek Falls is a popular destination for hikers, cyclists, and horseback riders. SDRRNA has been used for scientific research studying the unusually high biodiversity and fire ecology. Scientists conducting studies in the RNA are

from Forest Service, non-profit organizations (California Native Plant Society [CNPS] and the Nature Conservancy), and academics (University of California at San Diego, San Diego State University, and Pomona College).

San Diego River area was recognized as unique and important for its inland coastal sage scrub community and riparian habitat. California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) is the dominant shrub, which is one of the primary plant species associated with the California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*), a federally listed threatened species. Most of the SDRRNA is included in a proposed critical habitat for the California gnatcatcher (USDI Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] 2000a,b). As of June 23, 2003, the critical habitat designation has not been finalized. The riparian zone in SDRRNA and Helix Water District property was once considered by the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (2001) to be designated as critical habitat for arroyo southwestern toad (*Bufo microscaphus californicus*), a federally listed endangered species, but the designation was vacated in fall, 2002.

San Diego River area was formally nominated as an RNA by the Cleveland National Forest in May, 1995, after the site was visited by a seven-member team composed of ecologists and biologists from the Pacific Southwest (PSW) Research Station and the Cleveland National Forest. Nomination of the SDRRNA is part of a Habitat Conservation Agreement developed with the USFWS to further the protection of coastal sage scrub.

The entire area of the proposed RNA was burned in the 2003 Cedar Fire. Most of the target vegetation elements should recover naturally. Some of the coastal sage scrub has now burned three times since the early 1990s, making the proposed RNA a natural laboratory for the study of frequent fire effects on this vegetation type.

Special Interest Areas

San Luis Rey River (West Fork)	Wild Trout	Place: Palomar

Acres: 218

The West Fork of the San Luis Rey River was designated as a special interest area because it supports a population of wild trout. This 218-acre site is accessible from the Palomar Divide Truck Trail. The primary management objectives are to protect the aquatic environment and surrounding riparian area, perpetuate the naturally sustained population of rainbow trout, and to offer a quality remote angling experience.

Guatay Mountain	Tecate Cypress	Place: Sweetwater

Acres: 180

Guatay Mountain is of special interest because of its unique old growth stand of Tecate cypress and associated potential habitat for Thorne's hairsteak butterfly (though the butterfly has never been found here). This SIA is the site of the largest stand of Tecate cypress found on National Forest System lands, although larger stands do occur on private land located on Otay Mountain.

Private lands border the SIA on three sides and include the other half of the Tecate cypress stand. Access is excellent along Old Highway 80 through the old Guatay Campground. A firebreak (which was constructed during the Laguna Fire in 1970) cuts across the northern boundary of the stand. Dunn's mariposa lily (a sensitive plant species) also occurs on the site.

Chiquito Basin	Botanical	Place: San Mateo

Acres: 727

Description of Values: Chiquito Basin includes an undisturbed deergrass meadow and large stands of coast live oak riparian forest, chaparral, and sage scrub. The riparian forest is habitat for the largest known population of San Miguel savory, a Region 5 sensitive plant species. The area meets SIA criteria including unique plant communities and plant species. The extensive population of San Miguel savory represents the northernmost extent of the species. The deergrass meadow and oak riparian habitat in the area are very high quality.

Description of Area: Chiquito Basin features the largest known population (and the northernmost population) of San Miguel savory (*Satureja chandleri*). Other unique features of the area include a deergrass meadow and a population of Fish's milkwort (*Polygala cornuta var. fishiae*), a species of concern listed by the California Native Plant Society. Four vegetation types occur within the proposed botanical area including the deergrass meadow, oak riparian woodland, coastal sage scrub, and chamise chaparral. San Miguel savory (*Satureja chandleri)* is a Region 5 sensitive species. This species is a perennial woody mint that typically grows in shaded, moist areas. It is known from about 20 populations in the coastal mountains of southern California. Fish's milkwort (*Polygala cornuta var. fishiae*) is a plant of limited distribution and is locally important. This species is a small perennial shrub that typically grows in exposed dry areas of chaparral.

Chiquito Basin is located in the center of the Santa Ana Mountains on the Trabuco Ranger District. It is located on the USGS Alberhill Quadrangle, Township 6 South, Range 6 West, Sections 13, 14, 23, and 24. Elevations range from about 2,700 to 3,200 feet. Soils in the area are mapped as rock outcrop-Cienaba complex, Capistrano sandy loam, Vista sandy loams, and Escondido sandy loams.

A Forest Service trail passes through the area. No grazing is permitted in the area. The trail and nearby campgrounds receive heavy use. The San Juan and Chiquito Trails are very popular with mountain bikers. There is some potential for disturbance by off-trail biking.

Access: Chiquito Basin is just north of California State Highway 74 and west of El Cariso Village. The area can be accessed by taking Main Divide Road (Forest Road 6S05) to Blue Jay Campground, then taking the San Juan Trail to the south.

Desired condition: The unique plants and plant communities in the area are highlighted by designation. The area is featured in interpretive talks and presentations. Interpretive signing and additional protection have conserved the unique resources of the area.

Pine Mountain	Botanical	Place: Aguanga

Acres: 273

Description of Values: Pine Mountain is an excellent example of the transitional community seen on the eastern slope of the Palomar Mountains. A mixture of coastal and desert-oriented species is seen here, as well as a large stand of redshank. Botanical resources include a riparian community featuring coast live oak, and numerous wildflowers. Desert-affiliated species at Pine Mountain include California juniper (*Juniperus californica*), desert savior (*Dudleya saxosa ssp. aloides*), Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) and desert needlegrass (*Achnatherum speciosum*). Two Region 5 sensitive species (Orcutt's linanthus (*Linanthus orcuttii*) and Mojave tarplant (*Hemizonia mohavensis*)) occur in the botanical area. This area meets SIA criteria including unique and important plant communities and plant species. The Hot Springs Mountain area (of which this area is a part) contains several rather unusual plant associations and plant species. Redshank chaparral is unique to southern California and Mexico.

Description of Area: Pine Mountain includes areas of desert transition grassland, a rare habitat type on the national forest. It also features redshank chaparral, a vegetation type that is unique to southern California. Three vegetation types occur within the botanical area including desert transition grassland, oak riparian woodland, and redshank chaparral. Two Region 5 sensitive plant species occur within the area. Orcutt's linanthus (*Linanthus orcuttii*) occurs in the southeast corner of the botanical area. This small annual plant occurs in openings within the chaparral. A few individuals were located in spring 1995 (a drought year); it is expected that more plants will be observed in years with average or above-average amounts of rainfall. Orcutt's linanthus is nearly endemic to the Cleveland National Forest, where it is known from about 20 populations. The second sensitive species is Mojave tarplant *(Hemizonia mohavensis*). This species occurs along the streamcourse at the western edge of the botanical area, and until recently was thought to be extinct. Several populations were discovered on the Palomar Ranger District in 1994 and 1995, by botanists from Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. In addition, one species of concern to the national forest occurs in the area; Cleveland horkelia (*Horkelia clevelandii*) occurs on the rock outcrops, and along the stream course at the southern edge of the botanical area. Cleveland

horkelia is the host plant for the federally listed endangered Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly. At this time, the Laguna Mountains skipper is not known to occur in the Pine Mountain area. The botanical area is located on the USGS Warner Springs Quadrangle, Township 10 South, Range 2 East, Sections 1 and 12. Elevations range from about 3,100 to 3,660 feet. Soils in the area are mapped as rough broken land, Ramona sandy loam, and Tollhouse sandy loam.

A Forest Service road and campground are located just north of the area, which is mostly in an undisturbed condition. An unclassified trail is present within the botanical area and an unofficial road parallels a stream. This area is currently used for occasional recreational hiking.

Access: Pine Mountain is located on the eastern side of the Palomar Mountains on the Palomar Ranger District. It is east of California State Highway 79 and can be accessed via Indian Flats Road (Forest Road 9S04).

Desired condition: The area's integrity and visitor safety have been assured by relocating the recreational target shooting area and closing the spur road. Recreational hiking is welcomed. The area is featured in interpretive talks and presentations that highlight the unique plants and plant communities found here. Interpretive signing and other protections conserve the unique resources of the area.

Appendix B - Program Strategies and Tactics

This section describes the detailed program strategies that the national forest may choose to make progress toward achieving the desired conditions and goals discussed in Part 1. The national forest will prioritize which strategies will be brought forward in any given year using the program emphasis objectives, national and regional direction, and available funding. Lists of more specific tactics are included to help the reader understand what may be involved in implementing these strategies. Please note not all of the strategies are numbered consecutively. The strategies listed in Appendix B are those the Cleveland National Forest managers intend to emphasize in the next 3-5 years (2006 through 2008-2010).

Tribal 1 - Traditional and Contemporary Uses

Allow traditional use, access to traditionally used areas, as well as contemporary use and needs by tribal and other Native American interests:

- Protect, conserve, and restore traditionally or contemporarily used resources. Opportunities for traditional use of the national forest and national forest resources are provided and provisions are made to offer access to sites with cultural significance. Use opportunities during project planning and implementation to identify, enhance, and protect traditionally or contemporarily used resources.
- Maintain opportunities for spiritual solitude for tribal groups and individuals. Retain the character of traditional sites in conditions consistent with traditional cultural use.
- Establish effective partnerships to address issues of mutual concern (plant material propagation, etc).
- Work collaboratively with tribes to determine appropriate locations and levels for gathering traditional plant materials.

Tribal 2 - Government to Government Relations

Establish effective relationships with federally recognized tribes:

- Develop and maintain government-to-government protocols, according to the National Tribal Relations Strategy, with all recognized tribes and organized groups of local Native Americans.
- Develop protocols to promote collaborative partnerships for managing heritage resources, ecosystem restoration, comprehensive fire planning and recognizing historic Native American access rights to land areas and resources.

AM 1 - Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation

Report the results of forest plan monitoring and evaluation questions including the actions taken to respond to new information learned through the adaptive management cycle:

- Amend the forest plan as necessary in response to monitoring and evaluation.
- Implement adaptive management measures designed to redirect activity outcomes toward enhanced environmental protection.
- Manage recreation opportunities to respond to the changing visitor demographic profiles.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 5.

AM 2 - Forest-wide Inventory

Develop and maintain the capacity (processes and systems) to provide and analyze the scientific and technical information needed to address agency priorities:

- Develop the capacity to use existing databases and annually monitor the results to track and display the cumulative effects of forest plan implementation.
- Conduct aerial and ground-based inventory of vegetation conditions.
- Conduct surveys within suitable and modeled habitat to determine the presence of threatened and endangered species.
- Survey the suitable habitat of federally listed and Region 5 sensitive species. Update all maps and databases as information is obtained.
- Survey wetlands, vernal pools, meadows, springs and stringer meadows for plant and wildlife species (e.g., spring snails, etc).
- Identify and map all riparian areas.
- Inventory and analyze geologic and hydrologic resources (fossils, caves, groundwater basins and extractions, geologic Special Interest Areas, geologic features along scenic corridors, etc.) that are available to the public, affect other resources, or need special management or protection.
- Identify and mitigate geologic hazards (seismic activity, sliding land, land subsidence, flooding and erosion) through landscape and watershed planning, sediment placement site planning, engineering design, reclamation and maintenance.
- Inventory surface and groundwater extractions, diversions, miles/acres of streams, acres of water bodies, acres of riparian, etc.
- Study and identify how rock types and geomorphic processes directly affect soil type development, geo-technical conditions for excavations, construction activities, vegetative type distribution and development, and the variation in species habitat, to develop an improved understanding of the relationships of geologic resources and hazards to ecologic functions and patterns as they apply to managing national forest land and the effects of fire.

- Conduct integrated inventories of ecologic functions (ecological unit inventory) at the scale appropriate to the need.
- Complete invasive nonnative plant and animal inventories based on regional protocol methods.
- Work with appropriate agencies and academic sources to develop protocol and survey guidelines, gather current information and identify additional research needs for resource management. Implement research as opportunities occur. Priority wildlife studies:
- Ecological revegetation and restoration and mine reclamation techniques.
- The effects of nonnative species and the effects of management activities on threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive habitat.
- The effects of cowbird interactions with vireos and flycatchers.
- Best methods for removal of exotic species (bullfrog, etc.).
- The results of the removal of nonnative species from threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species habitat.
- The effects of off-highway vehicle disturbances and other recreation activities on wildlife.
- Validation of the use of habitat linkages.
- The effects of national forest product removal on other resources.
- The effects of management activities on oak regeneration.
- Additional information on species specific habitat use and distribution on National Forest System lands.
- The validation of watershed standards for cumulative effects (less than 20 percent manipulation/year and less than 40 percent over five years).

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 5 - Improve watershed condition, objective 3; and

Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

WL 1 - Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Candidate, and Sensitive Species Management

Manage habitat to move listed species toward recovery and de-listing. Prevent listing of proposed and sensitive species.

- Implement priority conservation strategies (see table 529, Cleveland NF Conservation Strategy).
- Use vegetation management practices to reduce the intensity of fires to reduce habitat loss due to catastrophic fires.
- Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NOAA Fisheries to develop recovery plans for federally listed species. Implement Forest Service actions as recommended in recovery plans for federally listed species.
- Establish and maintain a working relationship with county and city planning agencies to ensure coordination on planning development projects adjacent to the national forest, as well as implementation of multi-species habitat conservation plans.
- Coordinate with California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) regarding fish stocking and nonnative fisheries management to implement measures to resolve conflicts with threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species and habitats.
- Recommend mineral withdrawal when needed to provide species protection over the long-term.
- Conduct threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species occupancy surveys within potential threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species recreation conflict areas.

Linked to National Strategic Plan,

Goal 5 - Improve watershed condition, objectives 1 and 3, and

Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objectives 1, 3, and 5.

Table 529. Cleveland NF Conservation Strategy

Conservation Strategy Emphasis – Priority tasks for next 3-5 years.

Strategy	Specific Species
Education/ Information/ Interpretation	Importance of riparian habitat and aquatic species: southern steelhead, arroyo toad, least Bell's vireo, and southwestern willow flycatcher
	Value of vegetation management to species at risk: California gnatcatcher and California spotted owl
	Importance of keeping vehicles on roads: arroyo toad and Allium munzii
	Habitat fragmentation, species linkages and corridors, and biological diversity: mountain lion and mule deer
Survey/ Inventory/ Increase Knowledge Base	Riparian and aquatic species: aquatic invertebrates, Santa Ana speckled dace, southern steelhead, arroyo toad, and southern Pacific pond turtle
	Species with limited distribution: Laguna Mountains skipper
	Terrestrial species: mountain lion
	Upland plants: Acanthomintha ilicifolia, Calochortus dunnii, and Packera ganderi
Habitat Restoration/ Improvement	Streambank stabilization and riparian area plantings: arroyo chub, southern steelhead, and southwestern willow flycatcher
	Control of invasive, nonnative species such as water loving plant species (e.g., arundo and tamarisk), bullfrogs, and warm water fish: southern steelhead, arroyo toad, coast range newt, and southern Pacific pond turtle
	Vegetation and fuel treatments, prescribed burning: California spotted owl and mule deer
Monitor/ Study	Generally, focus on federally listed species:
	Riparian or aquatic species: Santa Ana speckled dace, southern steelhead, arroyo toad, least Bells' vireo, and southwestern willow flycatcher
	Species responsive to vegetation treatments: Laguna Mountains skipper and California spotted owl
	Species recovery after wildfire (burned area monitoring): Hermes copper butterfly, Santa Ana speckled dace, California spotted owl, and Cupressus stephensonii
	Upland plant species: Acanthomintha ilicifolia, Allium munzii, and Packera ganderi

Strategy	Specific Species
Habitat Protection	Proposed project planning (e.g., reduce type conversion, minimize additional developments, and timing of projects to avoid critical life stages): All species of concern benefit from sound project planning
	Prescribed fire or vegetation treatment: arroyo chub, partially armored threespine stickleback, Santa Ana speckled dace, southern steelhead, arroyo toad, California spotted owl, long-eared owl, purple martin, and southwestern willow flycatcher
	Coordination with other agencies: southern steelhead, California condor, California spotted owl, and mountain lion
	Habitat acquisition: Laguna Mountains skipper, arroyo toad and other aquatic species, California spotted owl, long-eared owl, southwestern willow flycatcher, and mountain lion
	Restrict human access during critical life stages (barriers, gates, re-routes, etc. where appropriate): golden eagle and prairie falcon
	Prevent the spread of invasive nonnative species (plant and animal): Santa Ana speckled dace, southern steelhead and other native fishes, arroyo toad, southern Pacific pond turtle, and southwestern willow flycatcher
	Fire prevention and suppression: Hermes copper butterfly, arroyo toad, coast range newt, southern Pacific pond turtle, California spotted owl, California gnatcatcher, southwestern willow flycatcher, and mountain lion
	Upland plants: Limnanthes gracilis ssp. parishii and Machaeranthera asteroides var. lagunensis

WL 2 - Management of Species of Concern

Maintain and improve habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants, including those with the following designations: game species, harvest species, management indicator species, and watch list species.

- Manage State of California designated Wild Trout Streams to maintain high quality habitat for wild trout populations.
- Coordinate and form partnerships with the CDF&G and other cooperators such as Partners in Flight to maintain and improve fish, wildlife and plant habitat.
- Monitor management indicator species (MIS).
- Monitor habitat for ecological health indicators (e.g., tamarisk, aquatic macroinvertebrates, bullfrogs).
- Develop and maintain wildlife water sources and other habitat improvement structures.
- Protect habitat during fire suppression activities where feasible.
- Cooperate with other agencies, partners, and other national forest programs to maintain and improve landscape level habitat conditions and ecological processes over the long-term for landscape linkages, wildlife movement corridors, key deer and bighorn sheep fawning, lambing, and winter ranges, and raptor nesting sites.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 5 - Improve watershed condition, objective 3, and

Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

IS 1 - Invasive Species Prevention and Control

Prevent the introduction of new invaders, conduct early treatment of new infestations, and contain and control established infestations:

- Implement the Noxious Weed Management Strategy for the four southern California national forests (see Part 3, Appendix M).
- Limit ground disturbance to the minimum area necessary during project activities. Promote conditions to enhance the recovery of vegetation recovery in project planning, design, and implementation. Use native plant materials as needed to restore disturbed sites to prevent the introduction or reintroduction of invasive nonnative species. Conduct follow-up inspections of ground disturbing activities to monitor the effectiveness of restoration efforts in reducing or preventing the introduction or re-introduction of invasive non-native plants.
- When setting priorities for treating invasive species consider the rate of spread, the likeliness of environmental harm resulting from the establishment and spread of the invasive non-native species, the geographical location within the watershed, and the sensitivity of the location, especially invasions occurring within occupied or potential habitat for threatened, endangered or proposed species or within special management areas such as research natural areas, special interest areas, and wildernesses; and the probability that the treatment(s) will be successful.
- Prevent the introduction of invasive species and coordinate the treatment of invasive species across jurisdictional boundaries. Coordinate internally, as well as with local, state and federal agencies and permittees, and the public to prevent future introductions of invasive species through stocking, recreation use, special-use authorizations and all other national forest management and emergency activities or decisions that could promote additional invasions. Emphasize using weed management areas to consolidate and coordinate weed prevention and treatment efforts across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Routinely monitor noxious weed control projects to determine success and to evaluate the need for follow-up treatments or different control measures. Monitor known infestations as appropriate in order to determine changes in density and rate of spread.
- Treatments may include herbicide application if approved through environmental analysis.
- Facilitate research opportunities for invasive nonnative species management on National Forest System lands.

Linked to: National Strategic Plan
Goal 2 - Reduce the impacts from invasive species, objective 1.

FH 1 - Vegetation Restoration

After stand replacing fires, drought, or other events or activities that degrade or cause a loss of plant communities allow for natural regeneration and consider vegetation treatments for watershed stabilization and other purposes:

- Where needed, implement reforestation using native tree species grown from local seed sources. In such plantings consider the long-term sustainability of the forest vegetation by taking into account factors, such as fire regime and regional climate. Consider using small nursery operations to facilitate reforestation and to improve restoration success where direct seeding is ineffective. Use noxious-weed-free seed in all plantings.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 5 - Improve watershed condition, objective 3.

FH 2 - Prevention of Fire Induced Type Conversion

Minimize vegetation type conversion (permanent or long-term loss of plant communities) resulting from frequent fires:

- Promote intervals greater than 35 years between fires in all coastal sage scrub types to reduce the likelihood that they will be converted to annual grasslands or other vegetation types. Within the range of the California gnatcatcher treat chaparral adjacent to coastal sage scrub to reduce the threat of wildland fire and/or to reduce the intensity of fires that burn into it.
- Protect subalpine forest and woodlands from stand replacing fires.
- Protect closed-cone woodlands and forests (Coulter pine, Cuyamaca and Tecate cypress) with developing cone banks until they are sufficiently large to perpetuate stands after fire. In pine woodlands not growing in chaparral, or other highly flammable vegetation types reduce the potential for high-intensity, stand replacing fires.
- Protect desert woodlands (e.g., pinyon-juniper) and desert scrub vegetation from burning outside the desired range of variability. After fires, protect these types from disturbances and additional fires to ensure natural regeneration, except where more frequent fires have played a role in maintaining the vegetation type.
- Emphasize fire prevention and fuelbreak maintenance to reduce the number of fires burning at excessively short fire-return intervals (less than 25 years) that have degraded, or could degrade low-elevation (below 2,000 feet) chaparral.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 5 - Improve watershed condition, objectives 1 and 3.

FH 3 - Restoration of Forest Health

Protect natural resource values at risk from wildland fire loss that are outside the desired range of variability, or where needed for wildlife habitat improvement:

- Implement vegetation management activities to reduce tree densities and fuel loading in pine and mixed conifer forests to levels similar to those characterized forests of the pre-suppression and early suppression eras (ca. 1880-1930). Restore species composition to a mix that is comparable to forests of the same era with an emphasis on increasing the relative abundance of large-diameter (greater than 24 inches diameter breast height), shade-intolerant conifer species.
- Implement vegetation treatments that improve the health of pine forests and woodlands growing in chaparral. Focus treatments on stands greater than 35 years, except where it is necessary to protect life and property. In the latter case, treatments may occur in stands greater than 20 years so long as cone-seed banks are adequate to perpetuate the stands.
- Remove ladder fuels and forest floor fuel accumulations to protect stands of bigcone Douglas-fir from stand replacing crown fires. Reduce fuel loading in chaparral adjacent to fir stands so that future wildland fires are less likely to initiate crown fires from surrounding shrublands.
- Treat fuel loading in montane chaparral to reduce the likelihood that fires originating in this type will generate crown fires in adjacent forested stands.
- Manage chaparral in selected locations to protect the life and property of human inhabitants (e.g., the urban interface), to improve wildlife forage, and to protect watersheds from the impacts of large, high intensity fires. In selected watersheds manage for even-aged patch sizes of less than 5,000 acres.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 1- Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 1.

FH4 - Insect and Disease Management

Protect the natural resource values at risk due to insect or disease loss at levels outside of the desired range of variability or where needed to improve habitat:

- Thin conifer stands to prevent water stress and damage by bark beetles.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 1- Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 1.

Air 1 - Minimize Smoke and Dust

Control and reduce smoke and fugitive dust to protect human health, improve safety and/or reduce or eliminate environmental impacts.

- Incorporate visibility requirements into project plans.

Air2 - Forest Air Quality Emissions

Maintain and update the inventory for wildland fire emissions and other forest resource management emissions within the current State Implementation Plan (SIP). The State Implementation Plan inventories establish levels of air pollution that meet the long-term federal air quality goals for bringing the nonattainment areas to attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

- Provide input to the Air Quality Management District on regional air quality issues for forest protection.

WAT 1 - Watershed Function

Protect, maintain and restore the natural watershed functions including slope processes, surface water and groundwater flow and retention, and riparian area sustainability:

- Restore, maintain and improve watershed conditions. Assure that approved and funded rehabilitation and emergency watershed treatments are implemented in an effective and timely manner.
- Maintain or restore soil properties and productivity to ensure ecosystem health (soil microbiota and vegetation growth), soil hydrologic function, and biological buffering capacity.
- Manage Riparian Conservation Areas (RCA) to maintain or improve conditions for riparian dependent resources. Riparian Conservation Areas include aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and lands adjacent to perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, as well as around meadows, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, seeps, springs and other water bodies. Riparian dependent resources are those natural resources that owe their existence to the area, such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, fairy shrimp, aquatic invertebrates, plants, birds, mammals, soil and water quality.
- Maintain natural stream channel conductivity, connectivity and function.
- Assess and manage geologic resources and hazards to integrate earth science principals and relationships into ecosystem management, reduce risks to people and resources, and to interpret and protect unique values.
- Identify, prioritize based on risk, and mitigate the impacts of abandoned and inactive landfills on water, soil and other resources. Stabilize and reclaim where necessary, abandoned and inactive landfills to maintain proper watershed function, public safety and resource benefit.
- Inventory, analyze and prioritize abandoned mines to identify chemical and physical hazards, historic significance, and biological resources prior to reclamation. Mitigate safety hazards and adverse environmental impacts, conduct reclamation as needed, and assure that water quality standards are met.
- Maintain watershed integrity by replacing or disposing of displaced soil and rock debris in approved placement sites.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 5 - Improve watershed condition objectives 1, 2, and 3.

WAT 2 - Water Management

Manage groundwater and surface water to maintain or improve water quantity and quality in ways that minimize adverse effects:

- Assess the impacts of existing and proposed groundwater extractions and tunneling projects and proposals to assure that developments will not adversely affect aquatic, riparian or upland ecosystems and other uses, resources or rights (e.g., tribal water rights).
- Promote water conservation at all national forest administrative and authorized facilities. Protect and improve water quality through implementing best management practices and other project specific water quality protection measures for all national forest and authorized activities. Include appropriate conservation and water quality mitigation measures in the review response when reviewing non-forest water-related projects that may affect forest resources.
- Conserve and protect high quality water sources in quantities adequate to meet national forest needs.
- Take corrective actions to minimize conditions leading to state listing of 303(d) impaired waters on National Forest System land. For those waters that are both on and off National Forest System land ensure Forest Service management does not contribute to listed water quality degradation.
- Actively pursue the acquisition of water rights and water allocation processes to secure instream flow and groundwater resources for current and future needs sufficient to sustain native riparian dependent resources and other forest resources and uses.
- Identify the need for and encourage the establishment of water releases for current and future uses to maintain instream flow needs, including channel maintenance, and to protect and eliminate impacts on riparian dependent resources.
- Participate in all Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensing and re-licensing efforts on National Forest System land to ensure sufficient consideration and protection is provided for riparian dependent resources. Incorporate instream flow, riparian, and other natural resource management requirements into 4(e) license conditions.
- Monitor water development projects to ensure that instream flows are meeting riparian dependent resource needs.
- To maintain or improve habitat containing threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species coordinate activities with CDF&G, NOAA Fisheries, USFWS, State Water Resource Control Board and other appropriate agencies involved in recommending instream flow and surface water requirements for waterways.
- Cooperate with federal, tribal, state and local governments, and private entities to secure the instream flows that are needed to maintain, recover, and restore riparian dependent resources, channel conditions, and aquatic habitat.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 5: Improve watershed condition objective 1.

WAT 3 - Hazardous Materials

Manage known hazardous materials risks:

- Develop a Hazardous Materials Response Plan that addresses risk and standard cleanup procedures.
- Coordinate with federal, tribal, state, city and county agencies, and local landowners to develop emergency response guidelines for hazardous spills on National Forest System land or on adjacent non-National Forest System land with the potential to affect threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive fish and amphibian habitat. In the event of hazardous material spills in known habitat on National Forest System land, the Forest Service will contact the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries (as appropriate) within 24 hours. Quickly contact resource personnel and use them as consultants to minimize impacts to habitat and to initiate emergency consultation with the USFWS if necessary. Provide habitat maps to response personnel for hazardous spills.

Link 1 - Habitat Linkage Planning

Identify the linkages to surrounding habitat reserves and other natural areas for maintaining biodiversity. Collaborate with local government, developers, and other entities to complement adjacent federal and non-federal land use zones and associated design criteria.

- Participate in regional planning efforts to identify the linkages to surrounding habitat reserves and other natural areas for the maintenance of biodiversity.
- Work with land conservancies, local government and others to secure long-term habitat linkages.
- Manage national forest uses and activities to be compatible with maintaining habitat linkages.
- Actively participate with local government, developers, and other entities to protect national forest values in the intermix and interface zones.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

SD 1 - Wilderness

Protect and manage wilderness to improve the capability to sustain a desired range of benefits and values and so that changes in ecosystems are primarily a consequence of natural processes. Protect and manage the areas recommended for wilderness designation to maintain their wilderness values:

- Within one year of the approval of the land management plan revision establish a schedule to review and update all existing wilderness management plans and implementation schedules and create new wilderness management plans and implementation schedules for those wildernesses where they do not exist. Accomplish this work within the life of the forest plan.
- Within three years of the designation of new wildernesses and wilderness additions prepare wilderness management plans and implementation schedules.
- Ensure that current and future issues and management needs, including adequate biophysical and social monitoring, are addressed in all wilderness planning. Identify all uses that result in adverse impacts and develop measures to alleviate those impacts to an appropriate level using state-of-the-art processes, such as Limits of Acceptable Change.
- Prescribed fire may be used in wilderness to retain wilderness values or where community protection needs exist due to development on private lands near the wilderness. Community protection projects have been identified within the Hauser, Pine Creek and San Mateo Wilderness Areas. Use prescribed fire in wilderness only to meet wilderness fire management objectives.
- Emphasize Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics in all wilderness wildand fire responses (see Appendix B in Part 3 of the forest plan). Suppression operations in the Pine Creek, Hauser, Aqua Tibia, and San Mateo Wilderness areas and any subsequent wilderness additions may be conducted under control, contain, or confine suppression strategies.
- Wilderness resource advisors will be assigned as necessary to all wilderness fires.
- When new wilderness is recommended, include legislative wording that identifies "where a wilderness area is adjacent to or is in close proximity to inhabited areas, the Secretary may take appropriate measures to control or prevent wildland fire through federal, state, and/or local agencies and jurisdictions."

SD 2 - Wild and Scenic Rivers

Manage designated wild and scenic river segments to perpetuate their free-flowing condition and designated classifications, and to protect and enhance their outstandingly remarkable values and water quality. Manage eligible wild and scenic river segments to perpetuate their free-flowing condition and proposed classifications, and to protect and enhance their outstandingly remarkable values and water quality through the suitability study period until designated or released from consideration.

SD 3 - Research Natural Areas

Protect and manage research natural areas to maintain unmodified conditions and natural processes. Identify a sufficient range of opportunities to meet research needs. Compatible uses and management activities are allowed.

- Submit Establishment Reports for designated research natural areas to the Regional Forester.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

SD 4 - Special Interest Areas

Protect and manage special interest areas (SIAs) for the values and features for which they are established. Allow uses and management activities, including access, that complement or are subordinate to the values and features.

- Within three years of the approval of the revised land management plan update current management plans, implementation schedules and monitoring protocols for existing designated SIAs. Within five years of the approval of the revised land management plan prepare management plans, implementation schedules and monitoring protocols for newly designated SIAs and for existing SIAs without this documentation.

Her 1 - Heritage Resource Protection

Protect heritage resources for cultural and scientific value and public benefit:

- Document known significant cultural properties to identify any activity that does or has the potential to adversely affect the site, or that does not complement the site. Develop measures to mitigate the adverse effects or impacts.
- Use partnerships to implement site management plans for heritage resource sites, focusing on those sites with recognized significance or that are at risk from public or land use effects.
- Evaluate historic sites for appropriate management. Develop site management plans for noteworthy heritage resources.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objectives 1 and 2.

Her 2 - Public Involvement Program

Provide public involvement programs with opportunities for people to partner in the stewardship of heritage resource sites.

- Develop public involvement programs to foster partnership in heritage resource stewardship to aid in identifying and evaluating heritage sites.
- Work with the local communities to understand, document, preserve, and interpret the national forest history. Develop opportunities for partnerships with the public to maintain and re-use historic heritage resources.

Her 3 - Forest-wide Heritage Inventory

Increase knowledge of the occurrence, distribution, and diversity of site types for heritage resources on the national forest.

- Increase the heritage resource database by surveying non-project acreage. Prioritize those places where the percentage of uninventoried high heritage resource sensitivity acres exceeds 50 percent of the total high heritage resource sensitivity for the place.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objectives 1 and 3.

Her 4 - Heritage Research

Document and strengthen the linkages between heritage research and ecosystem management and research, and integrate knowledge and appreciation of past cultures into today's diversity:

- Identify research needs and opportunities for research programs by qualified persons or groups by developing cooperative agreements.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

REC 1 - Recreation Opportunity

Manage national forest land to achieve recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) classes.

- Wilderness ROS will be Primitive.

REC 2 - Sustainable Use and Environmental Design

Analyze, stabilize and restore areas where visitor use is negatively affecting recreation experiences, public safety and environmental resources. Manage visitor use within the limits of identified capacities.

- Implement control measures in specific high-use areas as use levels become a concern.
- Implement Adaptive Mitigation for Recreation Uses (Appendix D) in existing and new recreation sites and uses whenever a conflict between uses or sensitive resources is detected.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 3 - Provide outdoor recreation opportunities, objective 1.

REC 3 - Recreation Participation

Offer a wide range of high quality, environmentally sustainable developed and dispersed recreation opportunities to a rapidly growing and culturally diverse visitor population, with minimal visitor conflicts and effects to other resources.

- Develop new, environmentally sustainable recreation opportunities and infrastructure to relieve concentrated demand within existing high-use areas and to accommodate future growth and new uses elsewhere.
- Improve, remove or replace aging developed recreation infrastructure to meet current needs and future demand.
- Inventory and analyze existing and potential dispersed use, including hang-gliding, waterplay, snowplay and camping opportunities. Manage for those uses that are consistent with resource protection and public safety, and mitigate or eliminate problems over time.
- Implement adaptive management processes at recreation facilities to proactively respond to persons with disabilities, contemporary urban visitors, aging populations, diverse ethnic groups, and day-use emphasis (see Appendix C, Monitoring Requirements).

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 3 - Provide outdoor recreation opportunities, objective 1.

REC 4 - Conservation Education

Visitors have a greater understanding about the significance and importance of forest ecosystems, heritage resources, and the interrelationship between people and the natural environment:

- Develop strong, well-supported conservation education partnerships with non-profit organizations, volunteer groups, communities, governments, organization camps and private entities, while emphasizing and enhancing the capability of field program and project delivery, especially to underserved populations and Baja, California. Coordinate between national forests.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

REC 5 - Recreation Special Use Authorizations

- Manage recreation residences as a valid use of National Forest System land.
- Complete Recreation Residence Consistency Review and Continuance Determinations including Recreation Residence Compliance Inspections.
- Manage all recreation special-uses in compliance with law, regulation and policy.
- Administer all recreation special-use authorizations to standard.
- Establish authorization holder responsibility for public education about threatened, endangered, protected, candidate, and sensitive species approved by the Forest Service for recreation special-use events within all threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species habitats.

LM 1 - Landscape Aesthetics

Manage landscapes and built elements in order to achieve scenic integrity objectives:

- Use the best environmental design practices to harmonize changes in the landscape and to advance environmentally sustainable design solutions.

LM 2 - Landscape Restoration

Restore landscapes to reduce visual effects of management activities and nonconforming features.

- Prioritize landscape restoration activities in key places (Aguanga, Elsinore, Laguna, Morena, Palomar Mountain, Pine Creek, San Dieguito/Black Mountain, San Mateo, Silverado, Sweetwater, and Upper San Diego River). Integrate restoration activities with other resource restoration.

LM 3 - Landscape Character

Maintain the character of National Forest System lands in order to preserve their intact nature, valued attributes, and open space.

- Maintain the integrity of the expansive, unencumbered landscapes and traditional cultural features that provide the distinctive character of places.
- Plan, design, and improve infrastructure along scenic travel routes to meet scenic integrity objectives.

Law 1 - Enforcement and Investigations

Provide law enforcement (LE) services for safety and resource protection. As soon as practical after the implementation of the revised land management plans, develop, update, or revise Forest Orders to provide long-term orders that apply to all four southern California national forests and/or to individual national forest needs. Improve incident reporting accuracy by utilizing current technologies and data base management services. Opportunities to supplement constrained LE resources include but are not limited to:

•Supplement Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) staff with LEOs from other agencies, (e.g., the Bureau of Land Management), and by recruiting and deploying additional reserve LEOs. Pursue alternate funding sources to supplement LE staffing needs (e.g., the State of California Off-Highway Vehicle grant program).

•Cooperative agreements with local law enforcement agencies. Supplement field personnel and provide additional law enforcement support primarily on high-use weekends or holidays when visitor use is highest or as a response unit in locations where LEO presence is limited. Utilize other law enforcement services whenever possible that would leverage a national forest's LE staffing during times of intensified activity, such as contracting with the Campaign Against Marijuana Program (CAMP) at a province or national forest level that would provide eradication teams during the time periods when eradication needs are high; subsequently freeing up LEOs for other national forest responsibilities. Participate in task force operations with other state, county, federal, and local law enforcement agencies for the prevention of unlawful activities and for the implementation of action plans that address illegal activities in the field.

•Improve LE services by recruiting and employing Spanish speaking officers whenever possible. Provide training for officers that do not currently speak Spanish. Adapt to changes in interpreter/interpretation needs with the inclusion of people that are conversant in any of the other languages that are, or will become, predominant in the future by recruiting these people into the ride-along-program with the LEO cadre.

•As soon as practical develop, update, or revise Forest Orders to define the long-term protection that apply to national forest needs.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 3 - Provide outdoor recreation opportunities, objectives 1 and 3.

Fac 1 - Facilities Maintenance Backlog

The backlog of facilities that do not meet the desired condition or complement the recreation setting are reduced by replacing outdated substandard facilities with safe, efficient, durable, environmentally sensitive facilities. Accommodate the facilities needs of the workforce and equipment:

- Identify and evaluate applicable property or buildings of potential historic value in support of the Facility Master Plan. Remove the facilities no longer needed or that have been abandoned, and restore the sites to natural conditions.
- Reduce the facility maintenance backlog giving priority to health and safety and accessibility compliance.
- Increase the operating efficiency of existing buildings.
- Upgrade site utilities for efficient operation. Remodel or construct new buildings to conform with approved Facility Master Plans.
- Construct new facilities to accommodate supplementary fire employees and equipment.

Trans 1 - Transportation System

Plan, design, construct, and maintain the road and trail system to meet those objectives established to implement the forest plan, to promote sustainable resource conditions, and to safely accommodate anticipated levels and types of use:

- Implement landscape scale transportation system analysis on a priority basis. Coordinate with state, county, local and regional government entities, municipalities, tribal governments, other agencies, and the public.
- Add unclassified roads and trails to the Forest Service transportation system when site-specific analysis determines there is a public need.
- Enhance user safety and offer adequate parking at popular destinations on high traffic passenger car roads, while also minimizing adverse resource effects.
- Using the priorities identified in the Roads Analysis Process (prepared October 10, 2003 and posted to the Reading Room May 2004) reduce the road maintenance backlog to provide safe, efficient routes for recreation traffic and the through-traveling public, and to safely accommodate fire protection equipment or other high clearance vehicles.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 3 - Provide outdoor recreation opportunities, objective 1, and
Goal 1- Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 2.

Trans 2 - Unnecessary Roads

Reduce the number of unnecessary or redundant unclassified roads and trails and restore landscapes.

- Decommission roads and trails that have been determined to be unnecessary for conversion to either the road or trail system through site-specific analysis.
- Establish the level of restoration through project planning.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 3 - Provide outdoor recreation opportunities, objective 2.

Trans 3 - Improve Trails

Develop an interconnected, shared-use trail network where compatible and support facilities complement local, regional and national trails and open space, and also enhance day-use opportunities and access for the general public.

- Construct and maintain the trail network to levels commensurate with area objectives, sustainable resource conditions, user safety, and the type and level of use. Convert ecologically sustainable unclassified roads and trails, and other roads that meet the need for trail-based recreation.
- Manage the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail to protect the trail experience, and to provide for the conservation and enjoyment of its nationally important scenic, historic, natural, and cultural qualities.
- Maintain and/or develop access points and connecting trails linked to the surrounding communities and to create opportunities for non-motorized trips of short duration.
- New trail construction projects will emphasize development of partnerships and cooperative agreements (such as the Adopt-a-Trail program) for construction, future maintenance, and reconstruction.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 3 - Provide outdoor recreation opportunities, objective 1.

Trans 4 - Off-Highway Vehicle Opportunities

Provide off-highway vehicle opportunities on designated routes within the Wildomar and Coral Canyon OHV areas, and on existing designated routes.

- Provide 4-Wheel Drive opportunities in the easy, more, and most difficult route categories.
- Consider providing opportunities for non-highway licensed vehicles on low maintenance standard roads when Traffic Studies have been completed and potential for user conflict is minimal.
- Consider developing remote driving networks as opportunities to accomodate this experience are identified.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 3 - Provide outdoor recreation opportunities, objective 2.

SFP 1 - Offer Special Forest Products

Manage miscellaneous forest products at appropriate levels to sustain resource values. Manage special forest products to reduce or eliminate impacts to other resources in a manner that is consistent with adjacent Districts.

- Use fuelwood sales to facilitate removal of drought induced tree mortality in fuel reduction treatment areas where high fire danger is present.
- Emphasize woody species collection under miscellaneous forest product permits within fuel reduction treatment areas or other project areas.

Lands 1 - Land Ownership Adjustment

Consolidate the National Forest System land base to support resource management objectives, improve management effectiveness, enhance public benefits, and/or to improve habitat condition and linkage.

- Acquire or dispose of lands or interest in lands by purchasing, donating, exchanging, acquiring rights-of-way, transferring, interchanging, or adjusting boundaries to address the issues associated with complex ownership patterns, such as urban interface fire protection and occupancy trespass.
- Acquire land or rights-of-way for road and trail access to support appropriate national forest activities and public needs.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

Lands 2 - Non-Recreation Special Use Authorizations

- Administer existing special-use authorizations in threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species habitats to ensure they avoid or minimize impacts to threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species and their habitats, cultural and scenic resources, and open space values.
- Efficiently administer special-use authorizations (SUAs) on National Forest System lands.
- Work with special-use authorization holders to better administer National Forest System land and to reduce administrative cost.
- Require special-use authorizations to maximize opportunities to co-locate facilities and minimize the encumbrance of National Forest System land.
- Phase out water diversion authorizations that adversely affect threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species.
- In threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species habitat that has been degraded by water withdrawals work to amend existing authorizations as necessary to provide suitable water flows for threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species subject to valid existing rights.
- For special-use authorization holders operating within threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species key and occupied habitats develop and provide information and education on the ways to avoid and minimize effects of their activities on occupied threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species habitat.
- Use signing, barriers, or other suitable measures to protect threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species in key and occupied habitats within the special-use authorization areas.
- Upon termination, restore special-use authorization areas to a specified condition.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3, and

Goal 4 - Help meet energy resource needs, objective 1.

Lands 3 - Boundary Management

Reduce the backlog of landline posting and incidents of trespass.

- Survey and post key boundaries in order to eliminate occupancy trespass and to prevent unauthorized occupancy.

Lands 4 - Mineral Withdrawals

Monitor and manage withdrawal status to document the condition of land that could affect other actions (e.g., watershed protection, mining).

- Review existing withdrawals to determine if continuation is consistent with the statutory objectives of the programs for which the lands were dedicated.

ME 1 - Minerals Management

Manage minerals and energy resources commensurate with the conservation of forest resource values and the long-term health and biological diversity of ecosystems.

- Use terms and conditions of the operating plan to offset the effects of mining consistent with the conservation of habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.
- Eliminate unapproved and noncompliant minerals operations.
- Facilitate environmentally and culturally sensitive exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources on National Forest System land open to these activities, or on withdrawn lands consistent with valid existing rights, and integrate these activities with the planning and management of other resources.
- Work with California Department of Fish and Game to prohibit suction dredging to protect threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species. Participate with the state to identify for the public those sections of streams that are open or closed to dredging.
- Monitor mining operations as needed to ensure compliance with the plans of operation.

ME 2 - Biomass Utilization

Seek opportunities to use debris from forest thinning and mortality removal for producing energy.

LG 1 - Livestock Grazing

Livestock grazing areas are maintained and remain sustainable and suitable over the long-term.

- Administer each livestock grazing area to standard within a three year period. Administering a livestock grazing area to standard includes: ensuring compliance with terms and conditions of the permit, allotment management plans, annual operating instructions, biological opinions, and forest plan standards. Permittees monitor for compliance with the permit standards and guides. The permittee submits monitoring and allotment management reports to the national forest officer in charge when requested (FSH 2209.13, 15.14b).
- Review and consider the Region 5 Permit Suspension and Cancellation Guidelines for non-compliance with permit terms and conditions (FSH 2209.13, 16.2, 16.21d).
- Plan and implement range structural improvements, such as but not limited to, water developments, and barbed wire fences are maintained in a serviceable condition. Structural improvements will incorporate wildlife protection measures when allotment management plans are revised or new improvements are planned.
- Utilize suitable vacant allotments, other livestock grazing areas, and transitory range for available forage, or utilize these areas to move active livestock grazing areas toward meeting resource and rangeland management desired conditions.

Review and apply the appropriate rangeland management practices necessary to meet or move toward desired conditions. Rangeland management practices include, but are not limited to: regulation of livestock numbers and distribution; season and degree of use; salt placement locations; and placement of structural improvements. Fencing should be considered as a last resort after other management practices have been determined to be ineffective. Water developments should be considered outside of riparian areas and where such developments would lessen the degree of riparian use.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 5 - Improve watershed condition, objectives 1, 2, and 3, and
Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objectives 1 and 3.

LG 2 - Rangeland Health

Rangelands are healthy and sustainable over the long-term. Rangelands are meeting or moving toward forest plan, ecosystem, and site-specific desired conditions.

- Prioritize and perform an interdisciplinary team rangeland assessment every five years (e.g., long-term condition and trend transects and proper functioning condition assessments (PFC)) to determine if key areas are meeting or moving toward desired conditions and resource objectives. Adjust livestock management as necessary.
- Evaluate ecosystem health every five years. Indicators used in the evaluation include, but are not limited to: measures of riparian structure and function; the amount and distribution of noxious weeds and invasive nonnative species; soil health; threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species habitat; rare plant species vigor; plant community composition and structure; sensitive heritage resources; and water quality. Adjust livestock management as necessary.
- Review and incorporate the Forest Plan Noxious Weed Management Strategy.

Implement Best Management Practices for Water Quality.

Linked to National Strategic Plan
Goal 2 - Reduce the impacts from invasive species, objective 1,
Goal 5 - Improve watershed condition, objectives 1, 2, and 3, and
Goal 6 - Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objectives 1 and 3.

Fire 1 - Fire Prevention

Reduce the number of human-caused wildland fires and associated human and environmental impacts. Focus fire prevention programs on the urban interface; threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species habitat; sensitive cultural resources; vegetative areas threatened with type conversion; and areas of major recreation use:

- Continue with implementing the Border Fire Prevention Program as an effective measure in preventing human-caused wildland fires related to immigration.
- Prohibit campfires outside of developed recreation areas.
- Implement activity restrictions and access to National Forest System lands and sites commensurate with fuel and weather conditions and fire suppression resource availability.
- Continue with environmental and fire prevention education in the classroom in local schools and communities.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 1- Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 2.

Fire 2 - Direct Community Protection

Reduce the number of high and moderate risk acres by using both mechanical treatments and prescribed fire. Identify and schedule for treatment the high risk acres near communities, including the installation of Wildland/Urban Interface Defense and Threat Zone vegetation treatments. Highest priority should be given to those areas with substantial drought and insect-killed vegetation that present a significant threat to life and property in entire communities:

- Promote the removal of tree mortality adjacent to structures and access/evacuation routes as the first step in reducing threats to human life and investments.
- When National Forest System land is managed for direct community protection consider allowing residents to meet state fire law or county brush clearance ordinances on a combination of private and public lands within community defense zones.
- Herbicides or the repetitive use of prescribed fire may be considered in the Wildland/Urban Interface Defense Zones on National Forest System land to avoid expensive treatment of resprouting chaparral species.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 1- Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objectives 1 and 3.

Fire 2 - Direct Community Protection

Reduce the number of high and moderate risk acres by using both mechanical treatments and prescribed fire. Identify and schedule for treatment the high risk acres near communities, including the installation of Wildland/Urban Interface Defense and Threat Zone vegetation treatments. Highest priority should be given to those areas with substantial drought and insect-killed vegetation that present a significant threat to life and property in entire communities:

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Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 1- Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objectives 1 and 3.

Fire 3 - Fire Suppression Emphasis

Improve wildland fire suppression capability when in proximity to communities or improvements. All human and natural ignitions will be suppressed using control, contain, confine strategies.

- Cross train with other fire agencies to improve suppression coordination and performance on fires burning in the Wildland/Urban Interface or developed area intermix.
- During periods of limited firefighter availability, communities within the national forest direct protection area should be the highest priority for initial attack coverage.
- Consider protection of sensitive resources, values, and uses during suppression action.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 1- Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 2.

Fire 4 - Firefighter and Public Safety

Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity. Integrate all fire management activities with those of other government agencies and conduct fire management activities in a cost effective manner.

- Conduct inspections to ensure that defensible space requirements are met around structures within delegated Forest Service jurisdiction.
- In concert with other agencies and Fire Safe Councils support evacuation and community wildland fire protection plans that will enhance both firefighter and public safety.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 1- Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 2.

Fire 5 - Fuelbreaks and Indirect Community Protection

Maintain the existing system of fuelbreaks to minimize fire size and the number of communities threatened by fire. On land outside of wilderness or other special designations consider the construction of new fuelbreaks.

- Consider an opportunistic approach to fuels management. Take advantage of wildland fire occurrence and wherever possible, connect wildland fires to fuels treatment, forest health and wildlife habitat improvement projects, and fuelbreaks to maintain multiple lines of community defense and to minimize future wildland fire patch size.
- Pre-plan fire suppression activities to avoid or minimize the use of locations of known invasive nonnative species, sensitive heritage resource locations, and threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species.
- Consider multiple resource values including scenic, open space, cultural, recreation, watershed, and biological resources when maintaining and constructing fuelbreaks and community protection zones.

Linked to National Strategic Plan

Goal 1- Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objectives 1 and 3.

Appendix C. Maps

Cleveland National Forest North

Land Use Zones
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
Scenic Integrity Objectives
Inventoried Roadless Areas
Places

Cleveland National Forest South

Land Use Zones
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
Scenic Integrity Objectives
Inventoried Roadless Areas
Places