



## FAQ on the proposed San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

*In order to answer common questions about the proposed San Gabriel Mountain National Monument, we have jointly compiled this FAQ.*

### ***How is a national monument created?***

A President may use his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect existing federal public lands. Congress has also occasionally established national monuments through a legislative approach.

### ***What would a national monument designation do?***

A national monument managed by the US Forest Service would preserve the San Gabriel Mountains for future generations to enjoy the same way as today. It could increase funding to protect water quality, enhance recreation opportunities, reduce trash and pollution, increase visitor facilities, services and staffing.

### ***What would a national monument designation not do?***

State, local and private property as well as existing water rights are not affected. It would not create regulations or authority over existing agencies or local governments. It would not affect existing visitor uses, such as mountain biking, hunting, four-wheel driving on designated roads and fishing.

### ***Who would manage the national monument?***

The US Forest Service already manages the land and would continue to manage it as a national monument. USFS already manages several national monuments across the country.

### ***Is this a federal "land grab"?***

No. A national monument can only consist of existing Federal land. Furthermore, a monument designation does not grant authority to acquire private or state land through eminent domain.

### ***Would a monument curtail mountain bike use and other established recreational activities in any way?***

No. Mountain biking and other established recreational activities would continue to be a permitted use within a national monument managed by the US Forest Service. After a proclamation, a public planning process would address and update land and recreation management under national monument status.

### ***Would building or maintaining trails be forbidden in a national monument?***

Trail work would continue in a manner consistent with current regulations. The public would have input on potential trails. Trail maintenance and construction when done in a way that protects other values, such as water quality, would fit with the designation recommended by local officials including Congresswoman Judy Chu.

### ***Would a national monument create new Wilderness areas?***

No. A national monument does not equal Wilderness. It takes an act of Congress to designate Wilderness areas and this cannot be done by presidential proclamation. A legislative proposal for additional wilderness areas on the Angeles National Forest has not been introduced in Congress.

### ***Aren't the San Gabriel Mountains already protected?***

Currently, management on the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests is subject to change and development. A monument would ensure that the area is permanently protected and available for the use and enjoyment of the public.

### ***Does a national monument designation require the creation of new user fees?***

A national monument does not create user fees. All land managers make determinations about fees while developing their resource management plan. The public would be involved in this planning process.

### ***Does a national monument designation impose local taxes?***

No. Designation of a national monument does not and cannot create new taxes.

### ***Would community members have a say over how a national monument is managed?***

Yes. Public input is gathered in advance of a designation. USFS is currently soliciting additional comments through the Angeles National Forest website. Following any designation, the community would be invited to participate in a formal public input process to help develop a management plan.

### ***Will a national monument fulfill the same goals as the National Recreation Area Legislation?***

They are similar; however, the NRA legislation also proposes additional urban river and foothills areas outside federal land. A national monument will not do this, as it applies only to existing federal lands.

### ***Does a national monument receive more funding than a national recreation area?***

Past experience indicates that both national recreation areas and monuments receive more funding than areas without designations.

### ***Why not let the legislative process run its course?***

Congress has been historically slow in considering public lands legislation in recent years. Designation of a national monument is a way to begin secure protections today, and protect the values that make the San Gabriel Mountains so special.