



On the Importance of Expanding the National Monument to Include All of the San Gabriel Mountains

Tim Brick, Managing Director, Arroyo Seco Foundation

Three best hikes in soon-to-be San Gabriel Mountains National Monument



2 Days Before

1. Sturtevant Falls
2. Echo Mountain
3. Chantry Flats

None of the three hikes falls within the revised boundaries of the National Monument



Chantry Flats



Millard Canyon

“The Forest Service released a map of the monument boundaries that excludes literally all of the San Gabriels visible from Pasadena.”

Some of the Excluded Treasures

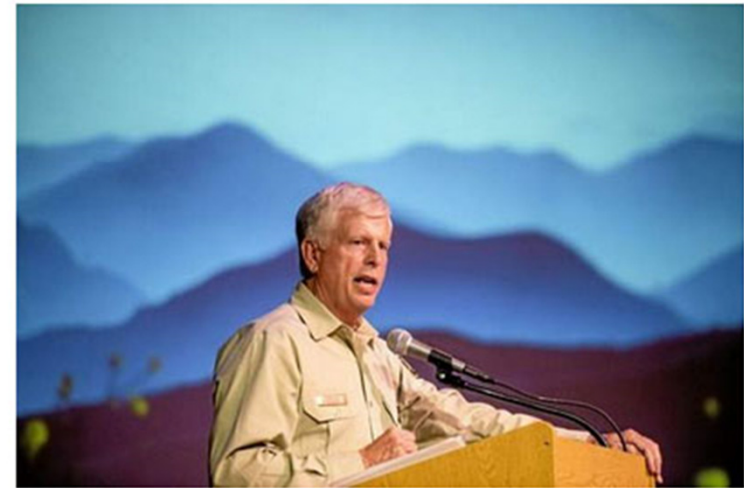
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Western San Gabriels get a monumental shaft: Editorial



U.S. Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell speaks about the San Gabriel Mountains being considered for national monument status during a San Gabriel Mountains meeting Tuesday night, August 26, 2013 at Baldwin Park Performing Arts Center. Rep. Judy Chu has a bill to make the area a national recreation area but has since asked President Obama to consider the mountains a national monument. (Photo by Sarah Reingewirtz/Pasadena Star-News)

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4 COMMENTS

Searching for clues in case of missing San Gabriels National Monument: Larry Wilson

By **Larry Wilson**, Pasadena Star-News

POSTED: 10/28/14, 8:05 PM PDT

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I couldn't get anyone to answer some still very much unanswered questions about why the front range of the local mountains was at the last minute left entirely out of the [San Gabriels National Monument](#).

Our editorial board had last week lamented the exclusion of everything the eye can see from Duarte west to Tujunga and on out to the headwaters of the Los Angeles River, very much including the historic heart of the human intrusions into the mountains: the Arroyo Seco. That's where "Commodore" Switzer built his hikers' hotel back in the early 20th century, when thousands of Pasadenans and visitors to the area got their recreation in long strolls with knapsacks into the hills.

"If it's antiquities that are being protected, why were the oldest historic sites, such as the Alpine Lodge and the Mt. Lowe Railway, mysteriously left out?"



Switzer-Land Chapel, Mt. Disappointment (center) Mt. Lowe (right).

The Entire Upper LA River Watershed



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Editorial Obama didn't go far enough: The San Gabriel Mountains need more protections



“The result is a monument that doesn't achieve the goals outlined by the administration and environmentalists.”

“But the final map leaves out the entire southwest portion of the Angeles National Forest, which is close to foothill cities and contains some of the most popular and damaged facilities. For instance, some environmental groups had hoped the monument designation would help the Forest Service restore the nationally recognized Gabrielino Trail and sensitive areas destroyed by the 2009 Station fire and subsequent mudslides. Now there is real concern that any additional funding — at least \$3 million was promised by philanthropic groups — and Forest Service attention will be directed to the monument at the expense of other high-need areas”

A Sad History of Neglect



Five years after the Station Fire, the upper reaches of the Arroyo Seco and the Gabrielino National Trail are still closed.

But nothing has been done to deal with the sediment buildup and the flood of exotic species that have destroyed habitat there.



Brown Canyon Dam



- 3.2 miles above the Arroyo Seco mouth
- 81 ft. tall concrete arch dam
- 120 ft. wide
- Previously listed on National Inventory of Dams as a “significant hazard” dam
- Not inspected since 2004
- Totally blocks passage of fish, wildlife and humans

Have native trout in the Arroyo Seco been extirpated by fire, flood and the negligence of the US Forest?

Why the SG Mountains National Monument Needs to be Extended

1. The excised area contains many of the most important historic, cultural and environmental features of the San Gabriel Mountains.
2. The front range of the San Gabriel Mountain is heavily used and closest to the dense urban population of Los Angeles County.
3. The southwest Angeles National Forest is in great need of care following the Station Fire and decades of neglect.
4. River restoration programs for the Los Angeles River and the Arroyo Seco need to link to the San Gabriel Mountains.
5. It's wrong to segment the Angeles National Forest and foster bitter competition for vitally needed resources.

Extend the SG Mountains National Monument to Insure Success

LA Times – “It would be a mistake to see monument status as the endgame, especially after so much of the mountains were left out. Chu and the Los Angeles-area congressional delegation should continue to push for greater protection and funding for the entire range.”



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