

Environmental  
Initial Study

# **San Diego River Gorge Trail and Trailhead Improvement Project**

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- Appendix A *Forest Service Scoping Letter for the San Diego River Gorge Trailhead and Trail Improvement NEPA Document (USFS 2008)*
- Appendix B Biological Resources Reports
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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The San Diego River Conservancy (Conservancy) is the state lead agency for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This Initial Study evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed project pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, sec. 15000 et seq.), as amended. This CEQA document is a requirement as state grant funds, Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002, may be used to support the improvements.

Section 1.0 provides the project location and environmental setting; background; project objectives and description, and relevant planning. Section 2.0 - Environmental Checklist and Evaluation of Environmental Factors Potentially Affected - is used as the basis for determining which type of CEQA document is required. Section 3 lists the measures that have been incorporated to assure that effects related to project implementation are below a level of significance. Section 4.0 lists the individuals who prepared or contributed to the preparation of this document. Section 5.0 lists the references used in preparing this document. Section 6.0 lists the project scoping contacts.

The USFS is the deciding agency for actions occurring on Forest Service lands. The Palomar Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest is responsible for compliance with the National Environmental Planning Act (NEPA), a legal requirement to assess the environmental impacts of activities on federal lands. The USFS completed the *Forest Service Scoping Letter for the San Diego River Gorge Trailhead and Trail Improvement NEPA Document (USFS 2008)*, Appendix A as a preliminary analysis of trail alternatives in the project area. Additional biological surveys were completed for the project area and are included in the appendices of this document.

The San Diego River Gorge is highly scenic and a popular recreation destination. The stunning vistas and access to the Cedar Creek Falls are some of the reasons why the gorge has become known among outdoor enthusiasts. There is currently access to the gorge from both the west and east sides via “volunteer” trails created by the public across USFS and Helix Water District lands.

These trails have evolved through unauthorized use, and as such, were not professionally designed or engineered. Consequently, they are out-of-grade, improperly located, and not near any visitor amenities. The steepness of the terrain, the semi-remote location, and the high level of use have resulted in numerous safety and environmental and health-related problems, including extreme user exhaustion [often requiring assistance from the air support unit of the San Diego Sheriff's Department (ASTREA)]; unacceptable levels of erosion; and fecal contamination. Views of the existing West San Diego River Gorge Trail and Trailhead are shown in **Plates 1 through 5**.

The informal public use of the West San Diego River Gorge Trail has resulted in disturbance of San Diego Country Estates residents, with problems including visitor parking on residential streets, increased litter and trash, and the disturbance of residents by requests for water. Watershed concerns include the resultant debris and human waste along the trail.

To address these concerns, the Conservancy, working closely with the USFS, has proposed this project to improve the San Diego River Gorge Trail and Trailhead corridor through trail and trailhead improvements and sustainability measures such as restoration of the current user defined trails and implementation of erosion control measures throughout the project area. There are two primary components: trail improvements and trailhead improvements; both of which also incorporate sustainability measures and are described below.

### **Trail Improvements:**

Trail improvements included in this project are construction, which involves engineering and constructing an entirely new trail; rehabilitation, which involves improving an existing trail, and restoration, which includes actively re-vegetating a user-defined or volunteer trail or eroded area either by closing it and letting it naturally revegetate, or reseeding with native vegetation, as required. The proposed improvements are as follows:

*West San Diego River Gorge Trail Improvements:* This includes new construction and/or rehabilitation of approximately 2.27 miles of trail descending the western San Diego River Gorge from a trailhead at Thornbush Road to the boundary of Helix Water District owned property at the bottom of the gorge west of the San Diego River. This work also includes the restoration of existing user-defined trails and implementation of erosion control measures. Previously known as the Thornbush Trail and Trailhead, it has been renamed the West San Diego River Gorge Trail and Trailhead and is referred to as such throughout this document.

*East San Diego River Trail Improvements:* This includes rehabilitation of an existing county dirt road, currently used as a trail, for approximately 3 miles ascending the eastern San Diego River Gorge from the boundary of the Helix Water District-owned land located east of the river (the Helix-owned property traverses the river) to a trailhead on the eastern side of the gorge previously called Saddleback. This eastern trail and trailhead are renamed the East San Diego River Gorge Trail and Trailhead and referred to as such throughout this document.

*Helix Water District Easement:* An approximately 3000 foot corridor of Helix-owned land lies at the bottom of the San Diego River Gorge. An easement will be obtained from the Helix Water District to legalize this connection between the West and East sections of the San Diego River Gorge Trail. No trail improvements, other than marking the location of the trail, are planned for the Helix-owned portion of the trail.

### **Trailhead Improvements:**

Trailhead improvements are proposed for both trailheads but the majority of the improvements are proposed for the West trailhead which receives the most visitors.

*West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead Improvements:* This includes installation of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant public restroom, shaded picnic area, informational kiosk, trash receptacle, drinking fountain, automobile turnaround, water spigot, pad for a volunteer host's trailer and an ADA compliant parking space. The project will also create an ADA compliant trail to a vista point. These trailhead improvements require establishment of utility connections and coordination with the Ramona Water District, who operates the adjacent well on USFS land, under a Special Use Permit.

*East San Diego River Gorge Trailhead Improvements:* This includes installation of an informational kiosk.

## **1.1 Location and Environmental Setting**

The San Diego River Gorge Trail is located in central San Diego County on USFS lands in the Cleveland National Forest between the community of Ramona, the Cuyamaca Mountains, Capitan Grande Indian Reservation, and the community of Julian. The San Diego River and the general San Diego River Gorge Trail location within the San Diego River Watershed are shown on **Figure 1**. The vicinity is characterized by deep, rugged river canyons, waterfalls, and scenic vistas, and includes the headwaters of the San Diego River and its tributaries, Boulder Creek and Cedar Creek. The entire project site was burned during the 2003 Cedar Fire and portions were burned again during the 2007 Witch Fire.

The trail and trailheads proposed for improvement are located on USFS lands depicted on the USGS 7.5' Ramona; Santa Ysabel, El Cajon Mountain, and Tule Springs Quadrangles (**Figure 2**) The West San Diego River Gorge Trail descends from near the West Side Truck Trail/Thornbush Road intersection, south of the San Diego Country Estates in the unincorporated community of Ramona, to the Helix Water District property at approximately the 1,000 foot above mean sea level (MSL) contour. The East San Diego River Gorge Trailhead is located in the Wynola area approximately five miles northwest of Julian and three miles southeast of Santa Ysabel. The East San Diego River Gorge Trail descends west to the Helix Water District property.

## **1.2 Background**

The Conservancy is an independent, non-regulatory agency within the Resources Agency of the State of California. The Conservancy is governed by an eleven voting member and two non-voting member board of state and local representatives, with a primary jurisdiction encompassing the land and water within one-half mile on either side of the thread of the San Diego River. Recent legislation extended the Conservancy's jurisdiction to include the river's tributaries and other properties within the watershed under certain circumstances.

The mission of the Conservancy is to preserve and conserve land and water for the enjoyment of present and future generations within its jurisdiction. Conservancy partners include San Diego River Coalition; San Diego River Park Foundation; Lakeside River Park Conservancy; Senator Christine Kehoe; County of San Diego; City of San Diego; City of Santee; Helix Water District; Padre Dam Municipal Water District; and the Cleveland National Forest.

On March 24, 2006, the Conservancy Board adopted the ***San Diego River Conservancy Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011 (Strategic Plan)***. Included in the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan are completion of four major Programs:

- *Program 1 - Land Conservation;*
- *Program 2- Recreation and Education;*
- *Program 3 - Natural and Cultural Resources, Preservation and Restoration; and*
- *Program 4 - Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance.*

In the Strategic Plan, the first priority project under *Program 2 - Recreation and Education*, is the completion of the San Diego River Park Trail along the 52-mile length of the River from its headwaters near Julian to the Pacific Ocean. Two Strategic Plan implementing projects, 1.1 and 1.2, call for trail improvements to the west and east portions of the River Gorge Trail. The San Diego River Gorge Trail will connect eventually to the San Diego River Park Trail but is currently an actively used route to the river. Implementation of these Strategic Plan improvements associated with the River Gorge Trail is the subject of this CEQA document.

### **1.2.1 Funding**

To address the ongoing San Diego River Gorge Trail issues, the Palomar Ranger District and the Cleveland National Forest teamed with the Conservancy and the Ramona Trails Association to obtain funding to implement improvements.

In early 2007, the Conservancy received a *Proposition 40, Rivers and Parkways* grant to complete the trail improvements. A second Proposition 40 grant was awarded later in 2007 and involves the improvement of the trailheads and other sustainability improvements.

### **1.3 Project Objectives**

The project objectives are to improve recreational opportunities on public lands by improving the San Diego River Gorge Trail and Trailheads, which would result in the following improvements:

- Reduction of erosion and gullyng;
- Reduction of illegal dumping, littering, and campfires;
- Elimination of cut-through impacts on forest lands and further habitat destruction;
- Minimization of safety hazards along the trail; and
- Reduction of trail-user impacts to adjacent residential areas.

### **1.4 Project Description**

The San Diego River Gorge Trail improvements are described below:

#### **1.4.1 San Diego River Gorge Trail Improvements**

The trail improvements will give visitors to the Gorge better and safer access to the San Diego River. Based on preliminary plans, a maximum of 1.32 acres would be impacted by the proposed trail improvements on the west side of the gorge; however, a minimum of 1.78 acres of current user defined trails and associated erosion will be restored as a result of the project resulting in a minimum net gain of .46 acres of restored habitat area. Additionally, an existing .55 mile fire break, currently also serving as a user defined trail and heavily eroded, will be rehabilitated with erosion control measures and closed to trail use, further increasing the net environmental benefit associated with this project.

##### **1.4.1.1 West San Diego River Gorge Trail New Construction, Rehabilitation, Restoration**

The West San Diego River Gorge Trail project would fully construct and define the West San Diego River Gorge Trail through improvement to existing user-defined trails and construction of new trail. The improvements extend over approximately 2.27 miles. The improvements would include reconditioning of the trail, water control, water course stabilization (such as arch culverts and energy dissipaters), tread stabilization, vegetation removal, and redesign of trail alignment for long term sustainability. Realignment of portions of the trail to include construction of climbing turns and rock-armored drainage dips; and closure and re-vegetation of sections of the trail to reduce ongoing erosion. The trail could be widened to a four foot tread. Photos of the existing trail are shown in **Plates 1-5** at the end of this section.

#### **Construction Tasks:**

Previous USFS work on the trail involved the use of hand-crews only, resulting in a lightly roughed-out partial re-route. Construction for the currently proposed improvements would involve the use of crews

with mechanized equipment (e.g., a trail machine and mini excavator) with spark arrestors provided on all equipment and additional work, as needed, by hand crews. All work will be conducted in compliance with applicable state and federal legal requirements. Some volunteers would be enlisted in the effort. The following steps or phases are anticipated:

1. **Trail Excavation and Trail Restoration:** Approximately 25 construction days to perform the following:
  - a. Excavation, as necessary, of as much as 2.27 miles of new tread construction including construction of climbing turns, as required, from the West River Gorge Trailhead to the boundary of the Helix Water District property;
  - b. Restoration of about 4.60 miles of existing user-defined trails and associated erosion through closure of portions of the old trail to public use, and re-vegetation of cleared portions of the trail plus the installation of erosion control measures, as needed. Consistent with Forest Service restoration practices, the goal of the restoration is to emulate historical or pre-fire ecosystem structure, function, diversity, and dynamics consistent with approved Forest Service land management plans, or if that is infeasible, then to restore or establish a healthy, stable ecosystem in which native species are well represented.
2. **Install Hard Structures:** Installation of rock cribbing, check-dams, arched culverts and hardened drainages may be necessary in some locations to increase sustainability. Structures may be installed by volunteers, USFS personnel or project contractors, or contracted work crews. Forest Service manual requirements for trail construction will be utilized along with associated drawings for clarification.
3. **ADA Compliant Overlook:** The San Diego River Gorge Trail is generally steep and not passable for persons with certain physical limitations. An ADA compliant trail will be created from the West Trailhead to a vista point overlooking one of the most dramatic views of the San Diego River. The trail would be approximately 4.5 feet wide and approximately 1000 feet in length and built to a grade of 8% or less.

Construction staging will occur either on the Ramona Municipal Water District (Ramona MWD) tank site located on USFS land or other nearby land that can be secured at the end of each work day.

#### **1.4.1.2 East San Diego River Gorge Trail Rehabilitation**

East River Gorge Trail rehabilitation would involve minor rehabilitation and spot-tread restructuring of an approximately three mile trail section from the Helix Water District land easterly to the trailhead. This work would also be performed by the same team conducting improvements on the West Trail and Trailhead. All improvements will take place on previously disturbed trail.

#### **Construction Tasks:**

1. **Trail Rehabilitation:** Approximately 5 days to rehabilitate approximately three miles of trail from the end of the Helix Water District easement to the East San Diego River Gorge Trailhead; and

2. **Install Hard Structures:** Installation of rock cribbing, check-dams, and hardened drainages using native site material.

#### **1.4.1.3 Helix Water District Easement**

The Helix Water District land is currently experiencing trespassing by members of the public who use the Helix property to cross from one side of the river to the other. The Helix Water District property boundary is generally along the 995 foot MSL elevation contour, as shown in **Figures 2 and 3**. To minimize the trespassing and contain the ongoing indiscriminate use of the Helix property, Helix is prepared to grant an easement over a 3,000-foot-long corridor of their property to the Forest Service. This easement will serve to provide an official trail connection between the west and east side of the San Diego River. Legal documentation for an easement is being drafted by Helix and the Forest Service and subject to subsequent decisions by both parties. No trail construction is anticipated on Helix owned lands which are comprised of a sandy intermittent river bed. Instead, only trail markers are anticipated to keep trail users on the established narrow Helix corridor sandwiched between Forest Service lands.

#### **1.4.2 San Diego River Gorge Trailhead Improvements**

Proposition 40 funding will be used to install several improvements to the West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead and minimal improvements to the East San Diego River Gorge Trailhead. While this component would disturb and develop approximately one acre of total land area, it will also protect the watershed by reducing current gullying and erosion and improving water quality.

##### **Construction Tasks:**

1. **Kiosks:** Installation of three 48-inch by 48-inch panels at the West and East River Gorge trailheads, with Forest Service interpretive information and acknowledgement of the River Parkways program and the San Diego River Conservancy partnership on the trail and trailhead projects. Installation of a 24-inch by 48-inch chair level interpretive panel at the ADA compliant Overlook.
2. **Restroom:** Installation of a standard ADA compliant, two person vault restroom with toilets, at the West Trailhead. The building will meet local code requirements and will meet or exceed the effects of a Zone 4 earthquake and a 120-mph wind load.
3. **Water:** For water and sewer access to be developed, the project requires coordination with the Ramona Municipal Water District, a process that has been initiated by the USFS. Water service would be installed in a trench connecting the site to existing utility services in the San Diego Country Estates, approximately 1000 feet from the trailhead facilities.
4. **Shaded Picnic Rest Area:** Install an ADA compliant, steel, vandal resistant picnic table and a 16' by 16' steel shade Ramada, animal resistant/latching lid trash containers, water spigot and water fountain at the West Trailhead. Improvements will be patrolled and maintained by the USFS who may also utilize a trailer pad to house an on-site volunteer host.
5. **Parking:** A turnout and one handicap parking space will also be constructed at the West trailhead.

The estimated amount of time required for construction of the trailhead is approximately 60 days.

## **1.5 Relevant Planning**

In addition to inclusion in the *San Diego River Conservancy Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011*, the San Diego River Park Regional Trail is one of nine regional trails in the *San Diego Community Trails Master Plan (2005)*. The project lies within the County of San Diego Central Mountain Subregional Planning Area. The Forest Service documents relevant to trail planning, implementation, and usage are *Land Management Part 2, Cleveland National Forest Strategy, September 2005* (see **Figure 6**). The San Diego River Gorge Trail will also serve as a portion of the Transcounty Trail.

Figure 1 San Diego River Gorge Trail Location within the San Diego River Watershed

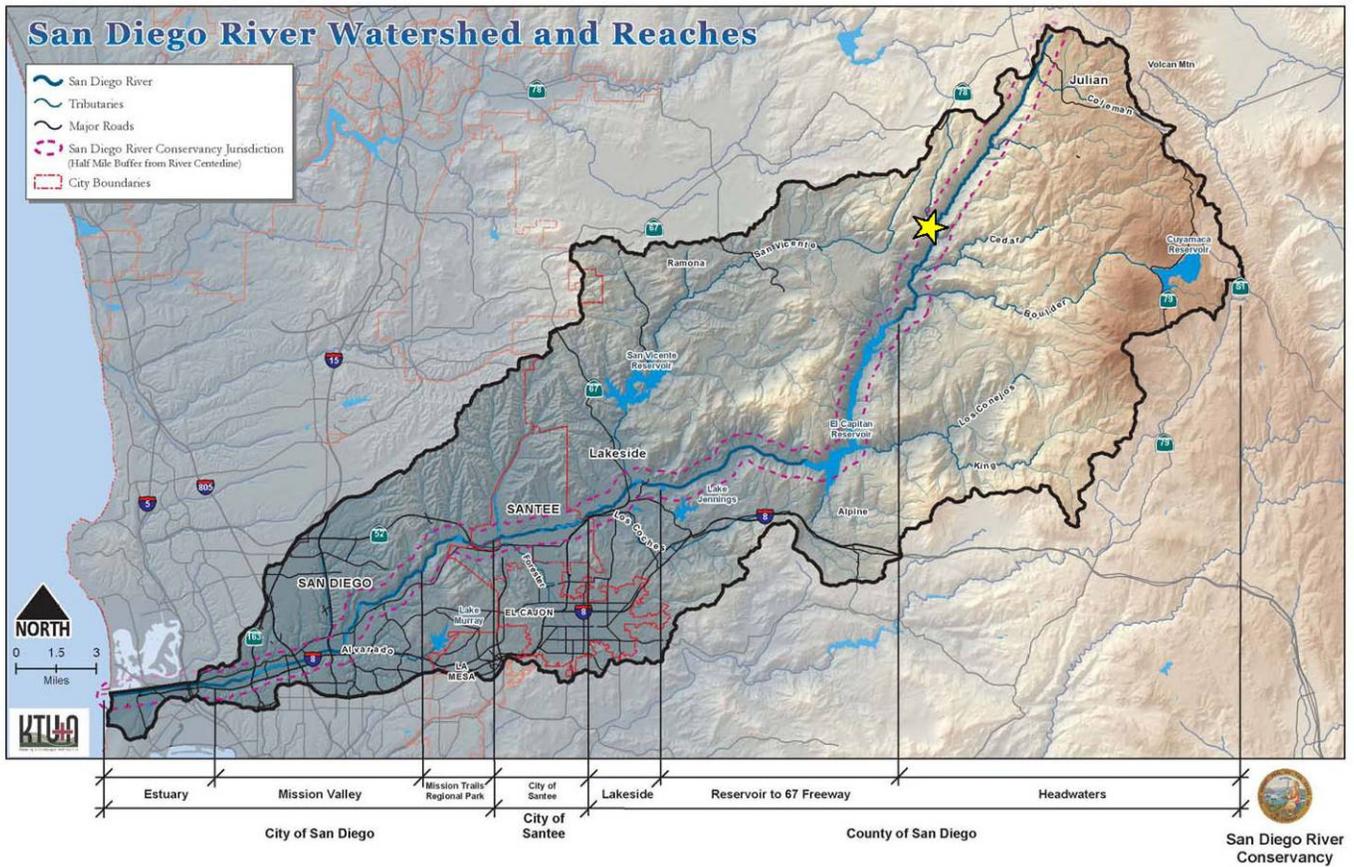
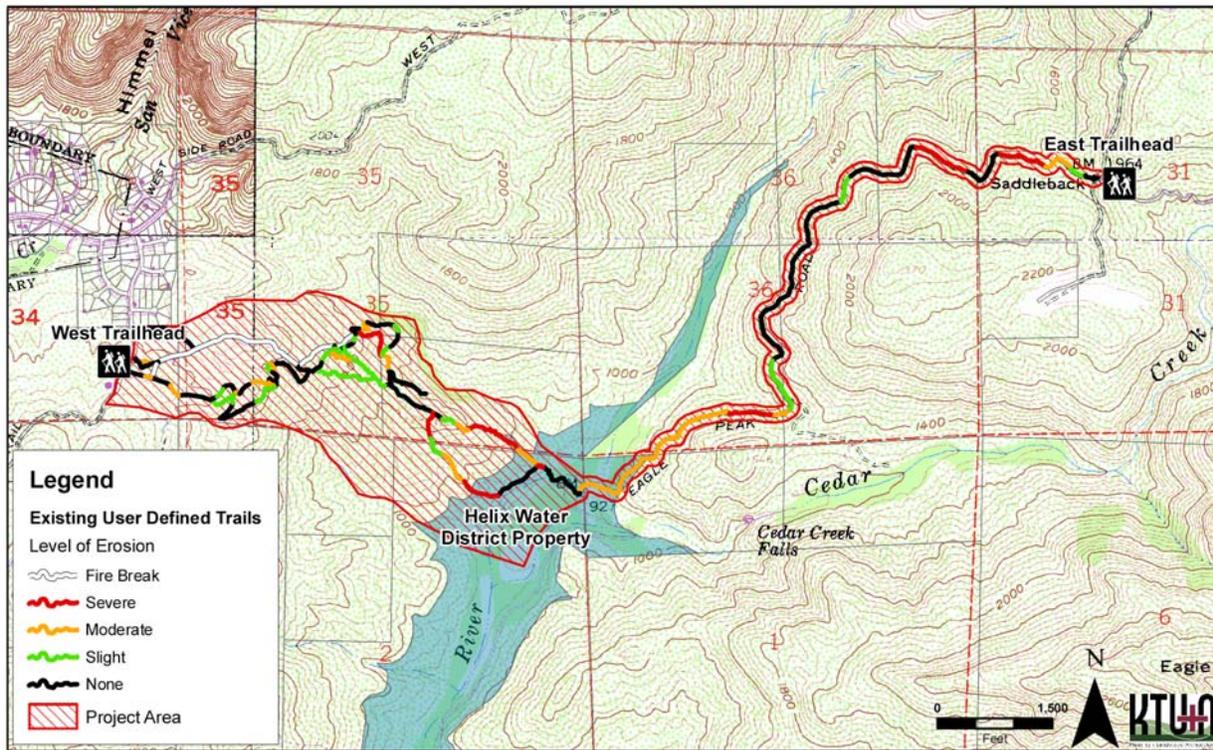


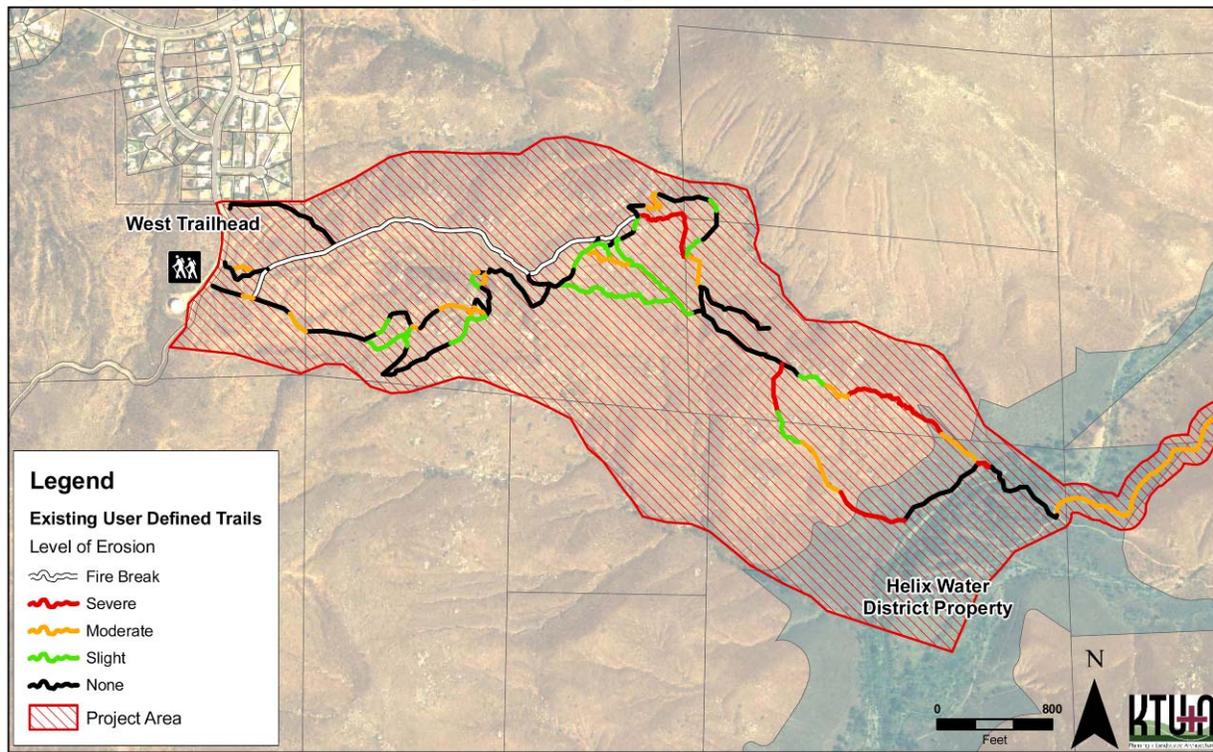
Figure 2 Proposed San Diego River Gorge Trail Improvements on USGS 7.5' Quadrangles



Proposed San Diego River Gorge Trail Improvements on USGS 7.5' Quadrangles

Figure 2

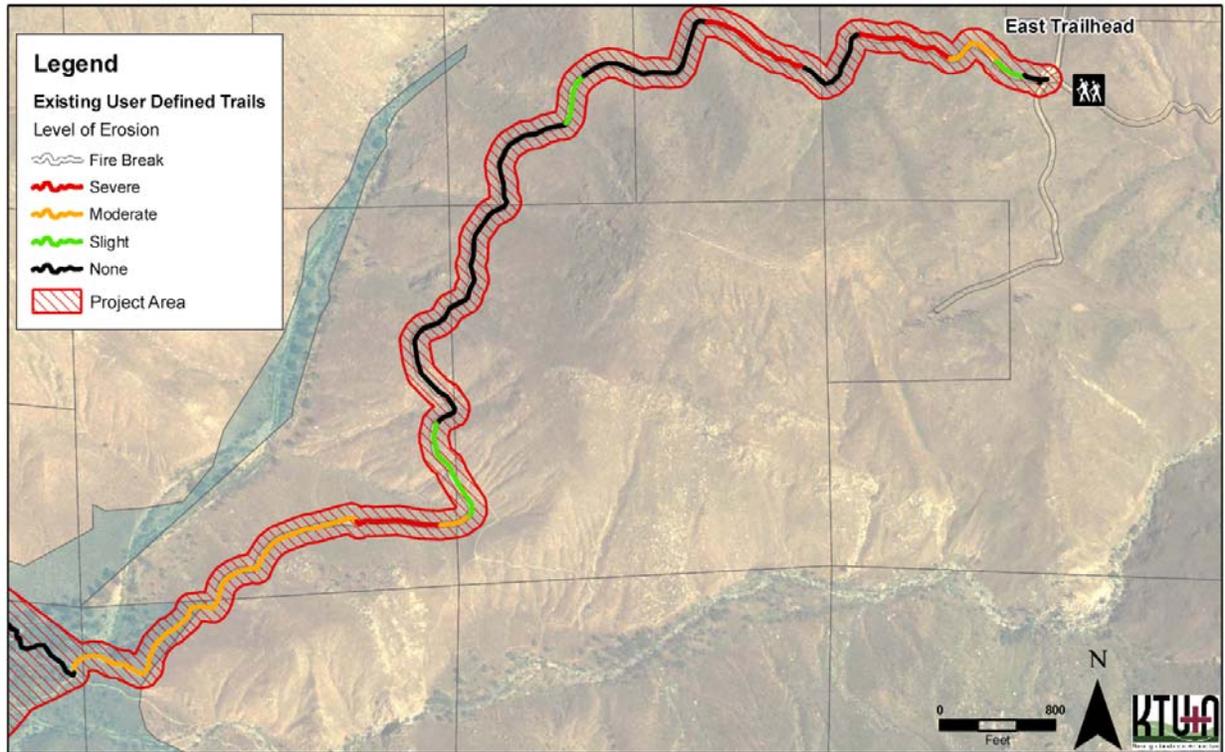
Figure 3. Proposed West San Diego River Gorge Trail Improvements



West San Diego River Gorge  
Trail Improvements

Figure 3

Figure 4. Proposed East San Diego River Gorge Trail Improvements



East San Diego River Gorge  
Trail Improvements

Figure 4



Figure 6 Cleveland National Forest Land Use Zones

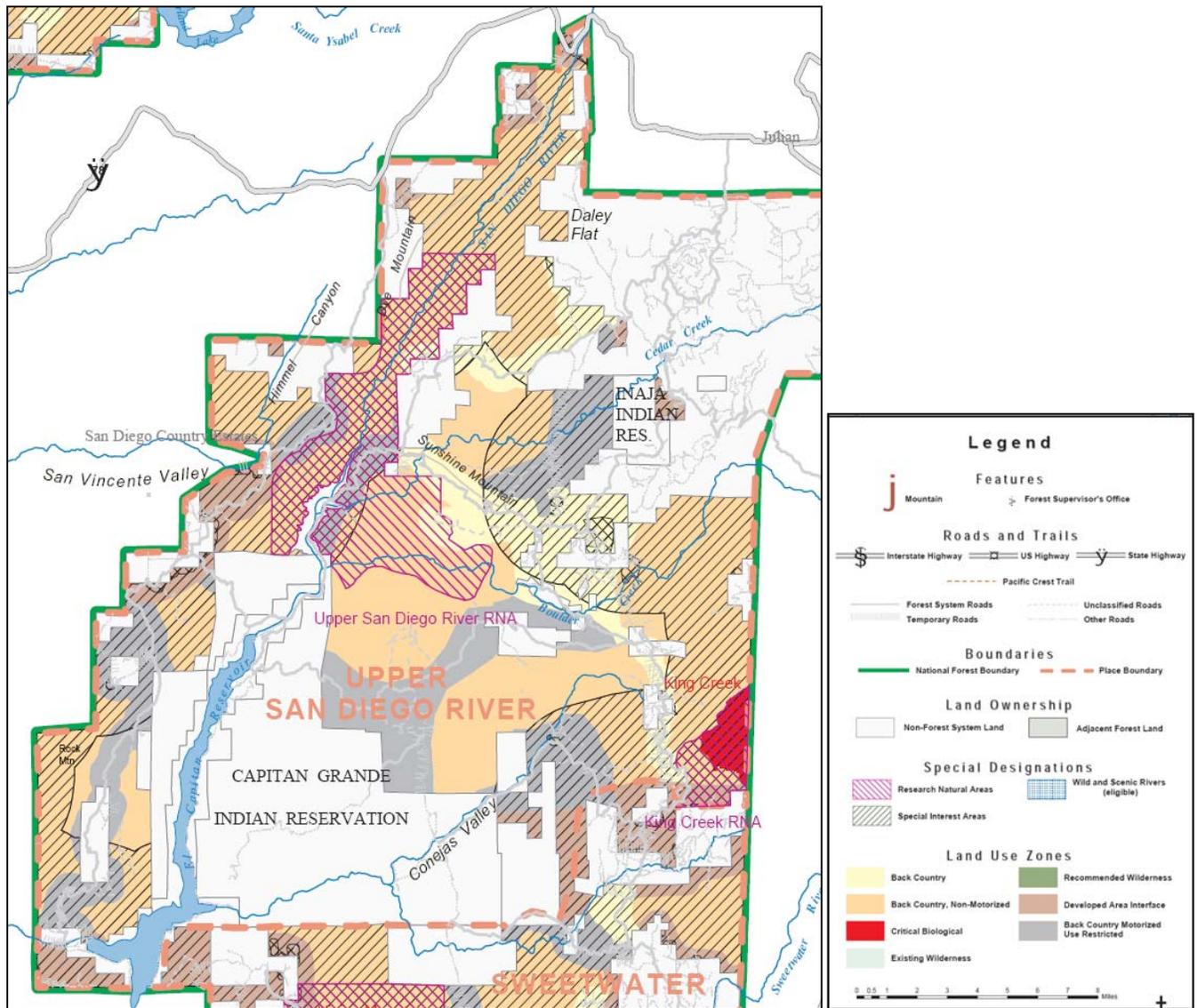


Plate 1      Looking northerly to San Diego Country Estates (July 2007)



Plate 2      Looking toward San Diego Country Estates showing parking at existing trailhead  
(April 2008)



Plate 3 Existing West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead (July 2007)



Looking easterly  
At current Trailhead Gate



Looking Westerly to current Trailhead

Plate 4 San Diego River/Helix Water District Property Views



Looking Easterly on West San Diego River Gorge Trail to San Diego River/Cedar Creek Confluence/  
Helix Water District Open Space Preserve (July 2007)



Looking at the West San Diego River Gorge Trail  
from San Diego River / Helix Water District Property (November 2007)

Plate 5      Looking easterly from West San Diego River Gorge Trail (July 2007)



Looking easterly from West San Diego River Gorge Trail (July 2007)

**2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECK LIST AND EVALUATION of ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources              | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality          | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources             | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services               | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |   |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

  
Signature

10.02.08  
Date

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>2.1 Aesthetics</b>				
Would the project:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) <b>No Impact:</b> The trail and trailhead improvements would be within the Cleveland National Forest and would not be visible from any designated scenic vista along major highways or from County designated visual resources and therefore will not change the composition of an existing scenic vista.				
b) <b>No Impact:</b> The trail and trailhead improvements would be sited to avoid any trees or rock outcrops. No historical buildings are within the area of potential effect and the project site is not within view of a state scenic highway.				
c) <b>Less than Significant:</b> The existing user-defined trails are a very minor portion of the view shed and visual character and visual quality of the area, but they do add to the visual degradation of the site. The trails traverse an area dominated by relatively sparse vegetation, portions of which burned in both the 2003 Cedar Fire and the 2007 Witch Fire. Rehabilitation of the trails would discourage visitors from blazing new trails through the surrounding natural area and reduce erosion and gullying currently visible along the existing trails. The project includes trail improvements to realign the West San Diego River Gorge Trail with climbing turns, if necessary, and re-vegetate currently scarred areas, thus improving the visual appeal of the project area. The project will also provide minor rehabilitation of the East San Diego River Gorge Trail which will enhance its scenic values. The project includes installation of trailhead signage consisting of 48-inch by 48-inch panels at the West and East San Diego River Gorge trailheads. At the West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead northeast of the Ramona MWD tank, the following ADA compliant improvements would be installed: a neutral tone 35-foot by 32-foot restroom structure; a shaded picnic rest area with a steel picnic table and 16-foot by 16-foot steel shade ramada; animal resistant/latching lid trash containers; a turnout and one handicap parking space. Additionally, an ADA compliant trail approximately 4.5 feet wide and approximately 1000 feet in length will be created from the trailhead to a vista point overlooking one				

of the most dramatic views of the San Diego River. One parking space will be installed to ADA standards. The Ramona MWD tank is 43 feet tall by 85 feet in diameter and is the largest human-made physical structure in the area. The existing tank is located on a pad 8 feet higher in elevation than proposed restroom building pad. The proposed restroom would be 12 feet on a side and no greater than 10 feet in height. The trailhead structures would add to the developed nature of the area, but not significantly so and would not substantially degrade the quality of the site and its surroundings. Additionally, the trailhead design includes the placement of a pad to support a resident volunteer host's recreational vehicle or trailer.

**Less than Significant:** The trail and trailhead improvements would not include any lighting that would produce light, glare, or dark sky impacts. The project will not install any highly reflective surfaces such as glare-producing glass or high-gloss surface color that will be visible along roadways, pedestrian walkways, or in the line of sight of adjacent properties. The resident volunteer host's vehicle would be the only source of evening light on site other than from nearby residences.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>2.2 Agricultural Resources</b>				
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) **No Impact:** The potential area of affect is not shown as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (San Diego County Important Farmland, 1994).
- b) **No Impact:** The project is within the Cleveland National Forest and none of the project site is under a Williamson Act Contract. Therefore, there will be no conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract.
- c) **No Impact:** The trail and trailhead improvements would be on Forest Service land within the Cleveland National Forest and would not be considered a change that would result in the conversion of Farmland.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**2.3 Air Quality**

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) <b>No Impact:</b> Construction and resulting use of the trail and trailhead improvements would not result in emissions of significant quantities of criteria pollutants listed in the California Ambient Air Quality Standards or toxic air contaminants as identified by the California Air Resources Board (ARB).				

Therefore, the project will not conflict or obstruct with the implementation of the Regional Air Quality Standards (RAQS) State Implementation Plan (SIP) on a project or cumulative level.

- b) **Less than Significant:** Minor construction- related vehicular emissions would be generated by equipment, worker trips, and public use of the completed trail. Although this would incrementally contribute to an existing air quality exceedance, the construction emissions would be temporary and dust control measures will be implemented. Many of the West San Diego River Gorge trail users are San Diego Country Estates residents. Existing usage by non-residents is estimated by the parked vehicles at the trailhead, which average 10-15 on the weekends. The East San Diego River Gorge Trail is more remote and averages 2-3 hikers/cars on weekends. Trail usage and vehicle trips are not expected to substantially increase due to the trail improvements. As such, the project would not contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.
- c) **Less than Significant:** The San Diego region frequently exceeds the Federal Clean Air standards for photochemical smog (ozone) and State standards for particulate matter (PM10). However, as described above, the minor contribution of construction-related emissions and lack of substantial addition project-related vehicle trips resulting from the trail and trailhead improvements will preclude a cumulatively considerable net increase of PM10, or any O3 precursors.
- d) **Less than Significant:** Sensitive receptors include land uses such as schools (preschool through 12th grade), hospitals, resident care facilities, day-care centers, or other facilities that may house individuals with health conditions that would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. Nearby structures are single family residential homes. One in home day care facility is licensed to operate approximately one mile from the site to care for children between 2 and 5 years of age Monday through Friday. The minimal emissions resulting from project implementation would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutants.
- e) **No Impact:** Potential sources of objectionable odors include, but are not limited to, industrial land uses, fuel combustion, refuse combustion, and natural sources (e.g., decaying plant and animal life). None of which would be created by project implementation.

	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
<b>2.4 Biological Resources</b>				

Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
- a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) **Less than Significant:**

**Trail improvements:** The proposed trail realignments would lie within communities of coastal sage scrub, chaparral, coastal sage scrub/chaparral mixed habitat. The project site was burned in the 2003 Cedar Fire and again in the 2007 Witch Fire. Species known to exist in the potential area of effect include the Northern harrier, a California Species of Special Concern; the California gnatcatcher, a Federally Threatened/California Species of Special Concern; and the California rufous-crowned sparrow, a California Species of Special Concern. The area contains potential habitat for sensitive animal species including the San Diego Horned Lizard, California Ring-necked Snake, Coastal Rosy Boa, although none have been observed in the potential area of disturbance. Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat are potentially inhabitants of the area. There is potential habitat for Forest Service's Regional Forester designated Dean's Astragalus along the proposed trail alignment. An

approximate maximum total of 1.32 acres will be affected by trail construction; however, a minimum of 1.78 acres will be restored as a result of this project, leaving a net environmental benefit associated with the trail improvements of approximately .46 acres. The restoration will be designed to promote recovery due to fire-related impacts. Due to the small area that will be affected and the short duration of the work, it has been determined that this project will have no effect on Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat. It is possible that San Diego Horned Lizards, California Ring-necked Snakes, and Coastal Rosy Boas might rest or bask on the trail and individuals may be affected. However, effects would not result in a trend toward federal or state listing or a loss of viability for these species. Potential impacts to sensitive species would be avoided by seasonal construction restrictions and monitoring. Disturbances such as frequent fire appear to reduce habitat suitability for California Gnatcatcher and their populations may no longer be evident in the potential area of affect. Should they be present, California Gnatcatchers are, however, tolerant of adjacent construction activities and high noise levels (USFS 2007).

**Trailhead Improvements:** The proposed West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead improvements would be located within a disturbed road shoulder with minimal vegetation. An area of approximately one acre, some of which is already heavily disturbed, would be affected by installation of the trailhead facilities, which is potential habitat for the San Diego Horned Lizard, California Ring-necked Snake, Coastal Rosy Boa, Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat. Due to the small area that will be affected, the short duration of the work, and the previous disturbance that has occurred where the facility will be installed, the project would have no effect on Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat. Due to the chance of disturbing individuals that might rest or bask on the road shoulder, the project may affect individual San Diego Horned Lizards, California Ring-necked Snakes, and Coastal Rosy Boas, but would not result in a trend toward listing or a loss of viability for these species (USFS 2007).

- b) **Less than Significant:** Portions of the San Diego River Gorge Trail improvements traverse coastal sage scrub, which is considered a sensitive habitat by the USFWS and CDFG. Portions of the improvements would be within the existing trails, although portions of the West San Diego River Gorge Trail would be realigned to include switchbacks, if necessary, and climbing turns and barriers within the coastal sage scrub. Since the trail improvements would reduce trail blazing and related habitat destruction and re-vegetate existing cut through trails, the impacts of the proposed improvements would be less than significant on the identified sensitive natural community, coastal sage scrub.
- c) **No Impact:** The East and West San Diego River Gorge Trails do not cross any federally-protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. No portion of the East and West San Diego River Gorge trailheads are located within federally-protected wetlands. Therefore the project would have no related impacts. While the Helix owned property includes wetlands, no trail improvements, other than signing, are proposed for Helix owned lands.
- d) **Less than significant:** Rehabilitation of the trail, construction of the trailhead improvements, and subsequent use of the trail are within a small portion of the USFS lands and would not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.
- e) **No impact.** The East County MSCP and the North County MSCP are located east and west of the proposed project, respectively. However, the project would largely be on federal USFS lands and managed in accordance with that agency's guidelines and decisions previously referenced (USFS

2004). The trail improvements terminate at the Helix Water District Open lands east and west of the river. The Subarea Plan of the Joint Water Agencies Natural Community Conservation Program/Habitat Conservation Plan (JWA NCCP/HCP) shows a trail within the Helix Water District lands as a "Planned or Conceptual Project". Helix is willing to provide an easement across its property (personal communication, L. Campbell, Helix Water District, October 2007). No improvements are proposed for Helix-owned lands. As such, the realignment and restoration of the trail and construction of the trailhead improvements would not conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan or any other local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>2.5 Cultural Resources</b>				
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>a) <b>Less Than Significant Impact:</b> A survey of the property by the USFS (USFS, 2004b, and 2008) determined that there were no cultural resources known to occur within the potential area of affect of the trailhead. However, two sites were identified in the general area of the trail. Ground disturbing activities associated with the proposed project will not occur within the boundaries of these resources, and there will be no direct effects to these resources associated with the implementation of the proposed project. An archaeological monitor will be present during during construction phases to ensure that no ground disturbing activities impact known sites.</p> <p>b) <b>No Impact:</b> The USFS Cultural Resources evaluation found the installation of the trailhead bathroom to be an exempt undertaking pursuant to the Regional Programmatic Agreement, among the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, California State Historic Preservation Officer, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding the Process for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Undertakings on the National Forests of the Pacific Southwest Region. Compliance was determined under Attachment A, Section (B), activities are those that take place within a disturbed context and the disturbance is such that the presence of historic</p>				

properties is considered highly unlikely. (Cleveland National Forest, August 10, 2006) Likewise, there would not be substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines.

- c) **No Impact:** Paleontological resources are found in sedimentary formations, none of which underlay the proposed trail. The onsite geologic formations are described below (Section 2.6.3, iii.) and do not have potential for paleontological resources.
- d) **No Impact:** Two surveys by the USFS have found no evidence of human remains in the project area and on-site monitoring during ground disturbing construction activities will assure that if unrecorded sites are located during construction, appropriate measures will be taken to assure their protection.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>2.6 Geology and Soils</b>				
Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) The trail and trailhead improvements would have minimal likelihood of exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving the following.				
i) <b>No Impact:</b> San Diego County has a number of active earthquake faults: San Jacinto, Elsinore, La Nacion, and Rose Canyon faults onshore and the Coronado Bank, San Diego Trough, and San Clemente faults offshore. Often the traces of these faults are marked by river valleys and canyons. The closest active fault to the proposed trail improvements is the Elsinore fault located approximately 15 miles northeasterly of the project site. The project is not located in a fault rupture hazard zone identified by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act. The restroom facility is the only proposed building and would be constructed to Uniform Building Code standards and to withstand predicted earthquakes.				
ii) <b>Less than Significant:</b> Because the project would formalize and improve segments of the San Diego River Gorge Trail and would involve construction of one small restroom structure located approximately 15 miles from the closest fault zone, the potential for increased exposure of people or structures to adverse effects from strong seismic ground shaking is not anticipated.				
iii) <b>No Impact:</b> The area trail and trailhead improvements would be within the Peninsular Ranges geomorphic province, with granitic and metamorphic material. This geologic environment is not susceptible to ground failure from seismic activity. In addition, the site is not underlain by artificial fill or located within a floodplain. Therefore, there would be no impact from the exposure of people to adverse effects from a known area susceptible to ground failures such as liquefaction.				
iv) <b>Less than Significant:</b> There appears to be no evidence of landslide activity in this area of the Forest as per the Forest Plan (personal communication, Al Colby to Tom White, April 2007). The trailhead improvements would be located in a relatively level area with little likelihood of landslide occurrence.				
b) <b>Less than Significant Impact:</b> The San Diego River Gorge Trail currently is subject to considerable erosion and gulying. The proposed trail improvements would include reconditioning of the trail, water control, water course stabilization (plus arch culverts and energy dissipaters), tread stabilization, vegetation removal, and redesign of trail alignment for long term sustainability. Realignment of portions of the trail to include construction of climbing turns, if necessary; and rock-armored drainage dips; and closure of sections of the trail to reduce ongoing				

damage. The project will avoid the removal of mature vegetation and will only remove those stumps, boulders, and roots that interfere with safe passage. During construction, the project contractor will implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as covering of excavated soils and placement of straw wattles or sediment blankets as necessary. Abandoned trails will be re-vegetated to further preclude future erosion.

- c) **Less than Significant:** The San Diego River Gorge Trail is within an area of steep terrain and topographic relief. The reconditioning and realignment of the trail would improve the current instability of the West and East San Diego River Gorge Trails and would be unlikely to cause any geological formations to become unstable.
- d) **Less than Significant:** According to the USDA Soil Survey, the soil type at the West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead is mapped as Fallbrook sandy loam (USDA 1973). A Soils Map and Soils analysis is included in Appendix C. The small restroom building will be constructed in compliance with the Uniform Building Code in consideration of onsite soils, so would not create substantial risks to life or property. While the soils in the project area are erodible, the purpose of the project is to reduce erosion associated with current user defined trails through trail and trailhead improvements.
- e) **No Impact:** No sewer connection is proposed at this time. However, the Forest Service is investigating providing sewer service to the volunteer host trailer and the restroom.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>2.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials</b>				
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
significant hazard to the public or the environment?				
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) <b>No Impact:</b> The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment because it does not propose the storage, use, transport, emission, or disposal of hazardous substances, nor are hazardous substances proposed or currently in use in the immediate vicinity.				
b) <b>No Impact:</b> The project will not contain, handle, or store any potential sources of chemicals or compounds that would present a significant risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances.				
c) <b>No Impact:</b> The project would not involve hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials, substances, or waste.				
d) <b>No Impact:</b> The project is not located on a site listed in the State of California Hazardous Waste and Substances sites list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.				
e) <b>No Impact:</b> Ramona Airport is the closest airstrip and is more than two air miles from the site. In addition, the project does not propose any structure greater than 15 feet in height, so it would not constitute a safety hazard to aircraft and/or operations from an airport or heliport. A small number of				

workers would be temporarily located on the site during construction and would not be exposed to airport related hazards.

- f) **No Impact:** Due to the distance from an airstrip and transitory project-related usage and employment, the project will not constitute a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.
- g) **No Impact:** The project is the rehabilitation of the existing trail and would not interfere with any emergency plans. The challenging nature of the existing trail segments out of the San Diego River Gorge, including steep terrain and semi-remote location, has sometimes resulted in the need for assistance from the air support unit of the San Diego Sheriff's Department (ASTREA) to assist injured, exhausted, and/or unprepared trail users. The project would improve this situation by modifying the steep trail grade through installation of switchbacks, if necessary, and climbing turns; providing educational signage; and installing water and restroom facilities at the West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead.
- h) **Less than Significant:** Wildland fires are a constant threat in this area where wildlands are adjacent to developed areas. The proposed trail improvements are not anticipated to increase the potential for wildland fires. The Forest Service provides informational signage advising of dangerous fire conditions and will oversee onsite crews or personnel. This project will adhere to applicable fire use restrictions or requirements by the USFS. In addition, the four foot wide trail tread may provide assistance as a fuel/fire break.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>2.8 Hydrology and Water Quality</b>				
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) <b>No Impact:</b> The project does not propose any known sources of polluted runoff or land use activities that would require special site design considerations. Best Management Practices (BMPs) required by the Forest Service will be in place during construction activities.				
b) <b>No Impact:</b> The project would not involve the use of groundwater, so would not deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge.				
c) <b>Less than Significant:</b> The project would involve the rehabilitation of the trail, with improvements to reduce the existing erosion problems. Through the installation of switchbacks, if necessary, and				

climbing turns, water bars, and rip rap, the drainage would be modified to repair the problems that have resulted in substantial erosion along the trail.

- d) **Less than Significant:** The West and East San Diego River Gorge Trails are not located within an area that is subject to flooding. The trail improvements would reduce the rate of runoff from the trail. Trailhead improvements would provide an incremental increase in impervious surfaces through the small restroom building and additional parking, but the increase in runoff would be minimal.
- e) **Less than Significant:** The San Diego River Gorge Trail is in a semi-remote area which does not drain into an existing or planned drainage system. Surface water quality is currently affected by runoff through eroded areas carrying sediment (non-point source pollution), and by direct discharge of pollutants (point-source pollution). During temporary construction activities, small amounts of solvents, oils, petroleum, and other contaminants associated with the use of construction equipment could be transported via surface runoff into the San Diego River. However, these will be minimal, and implementation of the improvements would provide long term protection of surface water by reduction of current erosion problems and closing and re-vegetating of eroded areas. The Forest Service policy and standard operating procedure (SOP) requires contractor's performing ground disturbing activities to provide storm water and erosion prevention plans in accordance with CalTrans standards. BMPs implemented by the Forest Service consisted with the Cleveland National Forest Land Management Plan (2005) would include but not be limited to, the placement of gravel bags or fiber rolls as appropriate to capture soil and debris; covering any exposed piles of soils, and practicing general "good housekeeping" during construction. Therefore the proposed project would not create or contribute runoff which impact a stormwater drainage system or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.
- f) **Less than Significant:** The proposed trail rehabilitation and trailhead improvements would not otherwise substantially degrade water quality, but would provide facilities intended to reduce the current litter, human waste, and other pollutants generated by trail users.
- g) **No Impact:** No permanent housing is proposed as part of the project. The trail rehabilitation and trailhead improvements would not involve the placement of any structures within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map.
- h) **No Impact:** The trail and trailhead improvements would not involve the placement of any structures that would impede flow within a 100-year flood hazard area.
- i) **No impact:** The trail and trailhead improvements are not located within an area at risk of flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.
- j) **Less Than Significant:** The trail improvements would range in elevation from 1000 feet above mean sea level (MSL) to more than 1800 feet MSL. The nearest enclosed body of water is El Capitan, more than two miles south of the project site. The distance and elevational difference between the trail improvements and the nearest enclosed body of water would prevent inundation from a seiche. The project site is located more than 20 miles from the coast; therefore, in the event of a tsunami, would not be inundated. Mudflow is a type of landslide. The site is not located within a landslide susceptibility zone. The geologic environment of the project area is not located within an area of potential or pre-existing conditions that could become unstable in the event of seismic activity. In addition, the project does propose land disturbance that will expose soils and the project is not located

downstream from exposed soils within a landslide susceptibility zone. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the project will expose people or property to inundation due to a mudflow.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**2.9 Land Use and Planning**

Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) <b>No Impact:</b> The proposed project would rehabilitate and formalize the San Diego River Gorge Trail and Trailheads. The West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead is located southerly of the residential community of San Diego Country Estates, which was developed adjacent to Forest Service lands in the 1980's. Although trail users access the West San Diego River Gorge Trail via San Diego Country Estates' roadways, the project would not significantly disrupt or divide the established community. The East San Diego River Gorge Trail is in a remote area westerly of Julian and entirely within Forest Service ownership in the Cleveland National Forest, so it would not divide an established community.				
b) <b>No Impact:</b> The proposed trail and trail head improvements would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. This project is consistent with the Cleveland National Forest's Land Management Plan (USFS 2000) and the Land Management Part 2, Cleveland National Forest Strategy R5-MB-077, September (USFS 2005).				
c) <b>No Impact:</b> See 2.4 f.				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>2.10 Mineral Resources</b>				
Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>a) <b>No Impact:</b> Implementation of the trail and trailhead improvement projects would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. The project site is not considered an important area for construction aggregates (Western San Diego County Production-Consumption Region for construction aggregates, State Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, 1997).</p> <p>b) <b>No Impact:</b> Implementation of the trail and trailhead improvement projects would not result in the loss or availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan. The CNF Land Use Zones show the trail corridor as “Back Country Non-motorized” and “Back Country Motorized restricted”, with portions of the area designated as “Special Interest Area” and portions designated as “Research Natural Area” and is not planned as an extractive use zone. (CNF South Final Land Management Plan (2005).</p>				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>2.11 Noise</b>				
Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) **Less Than Significant Impact:** The project would improve the San Diego River Gorge Trail and Trailheads. The West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead is located 800 feet south of the closest residence in San Diego Country Estates. The project site will be utilized by hikers, bike riders, and equestrian riders. The surrounding area supports single-family residential land use. Project implementation would not expose existing or planned noise sensitive areas to road, airport, heliport, railroad, industrial or other noise in excess of the CNEL 60 dB(A). Therefore, the project will not expose people to potentially significant noise levels that exceed the allowable limits of the County of San Diego General Plan, Noise Element. The project construction would involve the use of a skip loader and mini excavator which would generate noise levels of an average no greater than 75dB at 50 feet and would not exceed the standards of the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance. Construction operations will occur only during permitted hours of operation pursuant to Section 36-410 of the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance. Conformance with the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance the project will prevent any cumulatively considerable noise impacts. The project will not exceed the local noise standards for noise sensitive areas and the project will not exceed the applicable noise level limits at the property line or construction noise limits, derived from State regulation to address human health and quality of life concerns. Therefore, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable exposure of persons or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan, noise ordinance, and applicable standards of other agencies

- b) **No Impact:** The project does not propose any major, new or expanded infrastructure such as mass transit, highways or major roadways or intensive extractive industry that could generate excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels on-site or in the surrounding area.
- c) **No Impact:** The trail improvements would not support noise-generating activities. The only noise would be from passive activities, (i.e. hiking, and wildlife viewing). Therefore, the project would not result in a substantial permanent increase in existing ambient noise levels in the project vicinity.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact:** The project construction would involve the use of a skip loader and mini excavator which would generate noise levels of an average no greater than 75dB at 50 feet and would not exceed the standards of the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance. Construction of the trailhead improvements and the trail improvements are each anticipated to last about two months. Construction of the improvements could occur simultaneously, to shorten the duration of temporary noise impacts. Due to the short duration of the noise impacts and the minor amount of construction equipment required, the project would not result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in existing ambient noise levels in the project vicinity.
- e) **No Impact:** The proposed project is not located within a Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) for airports or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, the project will not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive airport-related noise levels.
- f) **No Impact:** The proposed project is not located within a one-mile vicinity of a private airstrip; therefore, the project will not expose people working in the project area to excessive airport-related noise levels.

	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
<b>2.12 Population and Housing</b>				
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) <b>No Impact:</b> The proposed trail and trailhead improvements would not induce substantial population growth because the project does not propose any physical or regulatory change that would remove a				

restriction to population growth. Ramona MWD provides sewer and water service to San Diego Country Estates located approximately 1000 feet north of the proposed restroom. Although the West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead improvements would require coordination with the Ramona MWD for sewer and water service, this would serve only the single proposed Forest Service restroom and or provide services to the volunteer host. Local Agency Formation (LAFCO) annexation has been initiated by the Forest Service and will be completed if required in order to implement these improvements.

- b) **No Impact:** The proposed trail and trailhead improvements would not displace any housing since the site is vacant and lies within the Cleveland National Forest on Forest Service land.
- c) **No Impact:** The proposed trail and trailhead improvements would not displace any people since the site is currently vacant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**2.13 Public Services**

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: Fire protection: Police protection: Schools; Parks; or Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) <b>No Impact:</b> The trail and trailhead improvements would not involve the construction of new or physically altered governmental facilities including but not limited to fire protection facilities, sheriff facilities, schools, or parks in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance service ratios or objectives for any public services. Therefore, the project will have no impact.				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>2.14 Recreation</b>				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>a) <b>No Impact:</b> The project does not propose any residential use that may increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities in the vicinity. The proposed trail and trailhead improvements will improve neighborhood and regional recreational opportunities. The project will improve the condition of the trails and ameliorate their deterioration through erosion or otherwise that is currently occurring.</p> <p>b) <b>Less than Significant:</b> The project involves trail and trailhead improvements (i.e., the expansion of recreational facilities). The improvements would not result in adverse physical effect on the environment because all related impacts from the proposed project would be mitigated to below a level of significance. In addition, the project would mitigate the adverse physical effects the current trails are having on the environment.</p>				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>2.15 Transportation and Traffic</b>				
Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) <b>Less than Significant Impact.</b> During the project construction, the residential area would experience a few additional construction worker trips to the project site using the residential roads to access the trail. These would have less than significant impacts on the roads and freeways. Project implementation would not a significantly increase vehicle trips and would not add to traffic congestion.				
b) <b>No Impact:</b> The project would add few to no additional average daily trips (ADTs); therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways.				
c) <b>No Impact:</b> The trail and trailhead improvements would not affect air traffic.				
d) <b>No Impact:</b> Project implementation would not involve any changes to road design. Traffic would access the site via San Diego Country Estates for the West San Diego River Gorge Trail construction and usage. Traffic would access the East San Diego River Gorge Trail two miles west of Julian on highways 78/79, then left (south) on Pine Hills Road for 1.5 miles; bearing right on Eagle Peak Road; proceeding an additional 1.4 miles and bearing right to stay on Eagle Peak Road. Traffic would proceed another eight miles on partially paved road to the “California Riding and Hiking Trail” sign at the trailhead.				

- e) **No Impact:** Project implementation would not impact access. Project construction would be temporary in nature and would not block emergency access to nearby uses.
- f) **Less than Significant Impact:** Some users of the existing trail park on residential roads within San Diego Country Estates, and this is a concern for neighbors. Until recently, paved parking at the trailhead was fairly limited. Recently a small road maintenance project by the Forest Service resulted in new paving on part of Thornbush Road which created new parking along the road for trail users. There are currently an estimated 15 vehicles per weekend related to the trail use. With the trail improvements, limited numbers of additional trips may occur but most users are still anticipated to be from the local area. This project would add one dedicated handicap parking spaces. The new handicapped parking area is located away from nearby residences. Construction staging and parking would also be located on USFS land along Thornbush Road as well as on the Ramona Municipal Water District tank site property.
- g) **No Impact:** Access to the project site is via San Diego Country Estates local roads. Provision of parking on USFS land would provide cleared roadways for pedestrians and bicyclists. No impact is anticipated.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>2.16 Utilities and Services</b>				
Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) <b>Less than Significant:</b> As currently planned, the installation of a restroom on the West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead would involve no discharge to a sewer system. The restroom installed would use a sealed cement vault to collect waste. Therefore, the project will not affect Regional Water Quality Control Board wastewater treatment requirements. However, if the Forest Service and Ramona Municipal Water District decide to proceed with a sewer hookup to support the public bathroom and/or volunteer host, the impact would still be less than significant.				
b) <b>No Impact:</b> The minor amount of water used for the West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead fountain and water spigot would not require new or expanded water facilities.				
c) <b>No Impact:</b> The trail and trailhead improvements would not involve the use of storm water drainage facilities, so would not require the construction or expansion of stormwater facilities.				
d) <b>Less than Significant:</b> The trail and trailhead improvements would include connection of the proposed fountain and water spigot at the West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead to water services in San Diego Country Estates. The use of the water by occasional hikers would not significantly impact available water resources. If the Forest Service and Ramona Municipal Water District decide to proceed with a sewer hookup to support the public bathroom and/or volunteer host, the impact of that water use would still be less than significant.				
e) <b>Less than Significant:</b> The West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead improvements would involve the installation of a public fountain and water spigot and not require a connection to sewer facilities in San Diego Country Estates. If the Forest Service and Ramona Municipal Water District decide to proceed with a sewer hookup to support the public bathroom and/or volunteer host, the impact of that sewer use would still be less than significant.				
f) <b>Less than Significant:</b> The project will install waste containers at the West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead. These would be animal proofed resistant with latching lids and would be serviced by the Forest Service personnel or Forest Service contractors. The minor amount of solid waste generated will place minimal impact on the existing permitted landfills or transfer stations.				
g) <b>No Impact:</b> The project will generate a minimal amount of solid waste and will not place any burden on the existing permitted capacity of any landfill or transfer station within San Diego County.				

Therefore, compliance with any Federal, State, or local statutes or regulation related to solid waste is not applicable to this project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>2.17 Mandatory Findings of Significance</b>				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>a) <b>Less than Significant:</b> Per the instructions for evaluating environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory were considered in the response to each question in this checklist. In addition to project specific impacts, this evaluation considered the project's potential for significant cumulative effects. Impacts to biological resources were evaluated as potentially significant due to the potential for the Coastal California gnatcatcher within the project corridor should habitat lost to recent fires return. After mitigation, there is no substantial evidence that significant effects associated with this project would result. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.</p>				

- b) **No Impact:** The potential for adverse cumulative effects were considered in the response to each question in the checklist, and there is no substantial evidence that there are cumulative effects associated with this project. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.
- c) **Less than Significant:** There is no substantial evidence that there are adverse effects on human beings associated with this project. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

### **3.0 INVENTORY OF MEASURES INCORPORATED**

All impacts would be less than significant due to measures that have been incorporated to assure that effects related to project implementation are below a level of significance. Consequently, no mitigation and monitoring program is required. The following is an inventory of potential environmental effects followed by the measures which have been incorporated into the project to avoid adverse effects to these resources.

#### **3.1 Aesthetics**

The existing trail is a very minor portion of the view shed and visual character and visual quality of the site. Existing user-defined trails add to the visual degradation of the site. Rehabilitation of the trails would discourage visitors from blazing new trails through the surrounding natural area and reduce erosion and gullying currently visible along the existing trails. The trailhead structures, including potential placement of a recreational vehicle or trailer for the volunteer host, would add to the developed nature of the area, but not significantly so and would not substantially degrade the quality of the site and its surroundings. Design of trailhead structures will be neutral in color and low in profile to minimize aesthetic impacts, consistent with Forest Service standards.

**Responsibility:** Forest Service

#### **3.2 Biological Resources**

The trail realignment and trailhead improvements lie within communities of coastal sage scrub, chaparral, coastal sage scrub/chaparral mixed habitat. While California species of special concern and federally threatened species are known to exist in these habitat communities, Forest Service findings regarding sensitive species or species of concern is that they will not be significantly or substantially affected by the proposed project due to the small size of the impacted area, the loss of habitat in the area from recent and past fires and incorporated measures to close and re-vegetate other user-created trails in the area and implement sustainability measures to curtail current erosion. Improvements will be achieved as completion of the trail will allow other user-created trails in the area to recover and re-vegetate.

The project area is not presently suitable for gnatcatchers due to the loss of habitat from recent and past fires. (See Appendix B) The USFS found that sensitive species or species of concern will not be significantly or substantially affected by the proposed project. The project would have an overall beneficial impact on sensitive species and species of concern because existing user-created trails would be recovered and re-vegetated and erosion control measures installed that will improve long term sustainability of the project.

**Responsibility:** Forest Service

### **3.3 Cultural Resources**

An archaeological monitor will be present during all ground disturbing activities in the vicinity of the known sites.

**Responsibility:** Forest Service

### **3.4 Geology and Soils**

The San Diego River Gorge Trail currently is subject to considerable erosion and gullyng. The proposed trail improvements would include reconditioning of the trail, water control, water course stabilization (plus arch culverts and energy dissipaters), tread stabilization, vegetation removal, and redesign of trail alignment for long term sustainability. Realignment of portions of the trail to include construction of switchbacks, if necessary; climbing turns and rock-armored drainage dips; and closure of sections of the trail to reduce ongoing damage. The project will avoid the removal of mature vegetation and will only remove those stumps, boulders, and roots that interfere with safe passage. During construction, the project contractor will implement Forest Service Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as covering of excavated soils and placement of straw waddles or sediment blankets as necessary. Abandoned cut through trails will be re-vegetated to further preclude future erosion.

**Responsibility:** Forest Service

### **3.5 Hydrology and Water Quality**

The San Diego River Gorge Trail is in a semi-remote area which does not drain into an existing or planned drainage system. Surface water quality is currently affected by runoff through eroded areas carrying sediment (non-point source pollution), and by direct discharge of pollutants (point-source pollution). During temporary construction activities, small amounts of solvents, oils, petroleum, and other contaminants associated with the use of construction equipment could be transported via surface runoff into the San Diego River. However, these will be minimal and implementation of the improvements would provide long term protection of surface water by reduction of current erosion problems and closing and re-vegetating of eroded areas. The Forest Service policy and standard operating procedure (SOP) requires contractor's performing ground disturbing activities to provide storm water and erosion prevention plans in accordance with CalTrans standards. BMPs under the plan would include but not be limited to, the placement of gravel bags or fiber rolls as appropriate to capture soil and debris; covering any exposed piles of soils, and practicing general "good housekeeping" during construction.

**Responsibility:** Forest Service

### **3.6 Noise**

Project implementation would not expose existing or planned noise sensitive areas to road, airport, heliport, railroad, industrial or other noise in excess of the CNEL 60 dB(A). Therefore, the project will not expose people to potentially significant noise levels that exceed the allowable limits of the County of San Diego General Plan, Noise Element. Construction operations will occur only during permitted hours of operation pursuant to Section 36-410. Due to conformance to the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance the project will not create cumulatively considerable noise impacts, because the project will not exceed the local noise standards for noise sensitive areas; and the project will not exceed the applicable noise level limits at the property line or construction noise limits, derived from State regulation to address human health and quality of life concerns.

**Responsibility:** Forest Service

#### **4.0 PREPARERS/CONTRIBUTORS**

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#### **5.0 REFERENCES USED IN THE COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST**

Cleveland National Forest Land Management Plan, 2005 Revision, USDA Forest Service.

County of San Diego, 2005. San Diego Community Trails Master Plan.

San Diego River Conservancy, 2006. San Diego River Conservancy Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011.

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County of San Diego General Plan.

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Demere, Thomas A., and Stephen L. Walsh. Paleontological Resources San Diego County. Department of Paleontology, San Diego Natural History Museum. 1994.

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San Diego County Light Pollution Code (Sections 59.101-59.115 of the County Code of Regulatory Ordinances) as added by Ordinance No 6900, effective January 18, 1985, and amended July 17, 1986 by Ordinance No. 7155.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1973. Soil Conservation Service. Soil Survey, San Diego Area, California. Parts I and II and maps.

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USDA 2005. Land Management Plan Part 2, Cleveland National Forest Strategy R5-MB-077, September.

-----2003c. West Side Truck Trail Maintenance and Associated Spur Road Rehabilitation Project Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation, USFS, October 2003.

----- 2004a. Decision of Memorandum, West Side Truck Trail Rehabilitation and Cedar Creek Falls reconstruction, US Forest Service, October.

----- 2004b. Section 106 PA Status of West Side Truck Trail Rehabilitation and Cedar Creek Falls Reconstruction, USFS, October.

----- 2004a. Watershed Report for the West Side Truck Trail Rehabilitation and Cedar Creek Falls Rehabilitation, April.

----- 2004b. West Side Truck Trail Rehabilitation and Cedar Creek Falls Reroute Project Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation, Addendum.

----- Policy and Standard Operating Procedures.

Western San Diego County Production-Consumption Region for construction aggregates, State Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, 1997.

## **6.0 San Diego River Gorge Scoping Contacts**

### **Newsletters and Local Media**

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djkmkennedy@yahoo.com

Palomar District  
1634 Black Canyon Road (760) 788-0250  
Ramona, CA 92065-1205

Carly Gibson or Megan Jennings (760) 788-0250

Appendix A

**Forest Service Scoping Letter for the San Diego River Gorge  
Trailhead and Trail Improvement NEPA Document  
(USFS 2008)**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Cleveland National Forest

Palomar Ranger District  
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(760) 788-0250  
(760) 788-6130 FAX  
CRS 1-800 735-2922

File Code: 1950/2350

Date: October 1, 2008

Dear Forest User:

This letter initiates public scoping for the ***San Diego River Gorge Trailhead and Trail Improvement Project***. I am informing you about this action, because of your potential interest in this project.

Scoping is often the first contact between the US Forest Service and the public as the agency undertakes its environmental analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Inviting participation helps us to identify affected public and agency concerns, identify important issues, determine the level of analysis needed, as well as indicate the timing and location of proposed projects. NEPA procedures provide the direction to help public officials make decisions that are based on the understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment. NEPA procedures also require that environmental information is available to citizens before decisions are made and actions are taken that may affect the human environment. This same analysis helps us ensure that activities are consistent with goals, objectives, and the standards and guidelines of the Cleveland National Forest Plan (2005).

Back in July, 2006, this District sent out a scoping letter asking for your input and comments on a proposal to construct a restroom, a water fountain and spigot, animal proof trash bins, upgraded information board and parking facilities located approximately 1,000 feet beyond the end of Thornbush Road. You provided us with helpful comments and ideas. The District was unable to complete the environmental analysis required for this project due to a series of severe wildfires and work associated with the damage caused by those fires. We now are in a position to continue the environmental analysis process started in 2006. Since 2006, we have improved our original proposal, in part based on comments received, requiring us to repackage this as a new proposed project thus providing you an opportunity for additional comment and review. We feel that combining these three actions, the trailhead, trail improvements and Helix Water District lands easement into one analysis is a better approach since all three actions are related.

The Forest Service has entered into partnership with the 'San Diego River Conservancy' has obtained a *Proposition 40, Rivers and Parkways* grant that could be used to complete the trailhead and trail improvements.

During the last scoping effort, input was considered in the development of this project. Specifically, concerns were expressed by local residents that: 1) trail users are parking on the residential streets; 2) trail users are leaving trash at the trailhead and along the trail; 3) unsanitary conditions due to forest visitors using the bushes as bathrooms or disturbing local residents with requests to use their bathroom facilities; 4) forest visitors disturbing local residents for drinking water; and 5) local persons using the trailhead area for partying after dark. The following Proposed Action addresses these concerns plus many resource issues that need to be corrected along the trail system.



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Appendix A (cont.)

**Forest Service Scoping Letter for the San Diego River Gorge  
Trailhead and Trail Improvement NEPA Document  
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Because of your concerns about safety and this area attracting unwanted persons after dark, we decided to add a 20 X 40 foot trailer pad for future use by a site host and limit the number of picnic tables. The only night lighting would be for a site host (volunteers who provide service to the public while living on site). Utilizing a volunteer host is dependent on our staffing capability to supervise and direct them.

We still have your comments from 2006 in the official project record for the trailhead and trail improvements and they will still be valid and will apply to this planning effort. If you have any new and/or additional comments that were *not* previously voiced we are asking that you please submit them to us during this scoping period.

Comments should be based on the merits of the attached Proposed Action; be within the scope of the proposal; and include supporting reasons for the deciding official's consideration.

Accompanying this letter is a description of the Proposed Action, project map, and a Public Comment Form.

Written or oral comments may be submitted to: Al Colby, Recreation and Lands Officer, Palomar Ranger District, 1634 Black Canyon Road, Ramona, CA 92065; TEL: 760-788-0250; FAX 760-788-6130. Individuals who do not have comments to submit but who wish to remain on this mailing list should check that box on the attached comment form. Please submit your comments by **October 31, 2008**. Comments are a matter of public record and as such may be provided to interested parties upon request.

We appreciate your interest and continuing cooperation and support. Should you have any questions, or need additional information about this project, or prefer to visit with us in person, please contact Al Colby, Recreation and Land Officer for the Palomar Ranger District at (760) 788-0250 or by e-mail at [acolby@fs.fed.us](mailto:acolby@fs.fed.us)

Sincerely,

*/s/ JOAN FRIEDLANDER*

JOAN FRIEDLANDER  
District Ranger

Appendix A (cont.)

**Forest Service Scoping Letter for the San Diego River Gorge  
Trailhead and Trail Improvement NEPA Document (Proposed Actions)  
(USFS 2008)**

**Proposed Action**

**San Diego River Gorge Trailhead  
and  
Trail Improvement Project**

October, 2008

**Purpose and Need**

The San Diego River Gorge Trailhead and Trail is a highly popular social non-motorized route that begins near the San Diego Country Estates. The trail travels down to the San Diego River Gorge, across the Helix Water District lands at the bottom of the gorge and connects to the West San Diego River Gorge Trail.

For many years the trailhead at the end of Thornbush Road has been used as an undeveloped trailhead for access to the San Diego River Gorge. Because the trailhead was not sufficient to withstand this use over the years, several public and resource issues regarding the trailhead and the trail itself have arisen. Due to the steepness of the terrain, the semi-remoteness and poor location of the trail, level of use and trail hazards, many environmental and safety and health related problems have resulted.

Problems identified by the public include: 1) trail users are parking on the residential streets; 2) trash at the trailhead and along the trail; 3) fecal contamination of the area because no public restroom facilities are present or disturbing local residents with requests to use their bathroom facilities; 4) forest visitors disturbing local residents for drinking water; 5) local persons using the trailhead area for partying after dark. Resource concerns include: 1) watershed degradation due to inappropriate location of trails causing excessive erosion and gullying and subsequent sediment flow and deposition into the San Diego River; and 2) destruction of forest vegetation due to user-created trails.

**Proposed Action**

The following Proposed Action has been developed to meet the project's purpose and need. Please refer to attached map.

The Proposed Action consists of:

**West San Diego River Gorge Trailhead**

*Information Kiosk* - Installation of one 3-Paneled (approximately 48 inches x 48 inches per panel) Kiosk.

*Restroom* - One two-person restroom Foot print to be approximately 26 feet x 20 feet x 12 feet. Non-reflective color to blend with surroundings.

*Water* - Water service will be installed in a trench approximately 1,000 feet long connecting to the site from existing utility services in the San Diego Country Estates. The process for installing this as part of the trailhead would be coordinated between the Ramona Municipal Water District and USFS.

*Picnic and Rest Area* - Installation of an ADA (American with Disabilities Act) compliant, vandal resistant picnic table and one 16 feet x 16 feet steel shade ramada, animal resistant/latching lid trash containers, and a water fountain and spigot.

Appendix A (cont.)

**Forest Service Scoping Letter for the San Diego River Gorge  
Trailhead and Trail Improvement NEPA Document (Proposed Actions)  
(USFS 2008)**

*Parking* – One paved ADA Parking space, one paved vehicle turn-around, approximately 1,000 feet x 60 feet. Parking already exists for approximately 18 vehicles.

*Trailer Pad* – One paved trailer pad with water, sewer and electrical hook ups. Trailer pad will be big enough to accommodate a 20 X 40 trailer for use by a Forest Service volunteer who could help the agency to manage this site.

*Walk Way* -- ADA cement walk way connecting all features at the trailhead.

**ADA Compliant Trail and Overlook**

*Interpretive Sign* - Installation of one 24 inch x 48 inch chair-level interpretive panel.

*Spur Trail and Overlook* - The trail would be approximately 4.5 feet wide and approximately 1,000 feet in length.

**West San Diego River Gorge Trail**

*New Construction* – Approximately 2.27 miles of new trail construction to define the trail alignment and reduce erosion and steepness of trail grade, including reconditioning of the trail, realignment of portions of the trail, construction of switchbacks where necessary, climbing turns and rock-armored drainage dips. The trail would be widened to 4 foot tread.

*Decommission and Rehabilitation* – Approximately 4.60 miles of trail decommissioning and rehabilitation. This would eliminate trail hazards and sections of user-created trails and shortcuts that have resulted in unacceptable levels of erosion, gullying and negative impacts on forest habitat.

**Helix Water District Easement**

*Easement* – Legal documentation for an easement is being drafted by Helix Water District and the Forest Service and will be subject to subsequent decisions by both parties. This easement will connect the West San Diego River Gorge Trail and the East San Diego River Gorge Trail. No new trail construction or rehabilitation is anticipated on the Helix Water District owned lands. A 3,000 foot corridor of Helix Water District owned land lies at the bottom of the San Diego River Gorge. Forest Service will identify a 50 foot wide corridor across the easement east to west, within which a 10 foot floating or transitory trail will be identified each year (with eco-friendly signage such as carsonite signs) since ground conditions tend to change from year to year due to flooding and other environmental events.

**East San Diego River Gorge Trail**

*Rehabilitation* – Approximately 3.0 miles of trail rehabilitation from the east boundary of the Helix Water District easement to the East San Diego River Gorge Trailhead. This would include spot-tread restructuring and installation of rock cribbing, check-dams, and hardened drainages using native site material. All rehabilitation will take place on previously disturbed road tread.

**Resource Protection Measures**

The proposed action is designed to comply with Forest Plan standards and guidelines, as amended. Design features are incorporated into the project to protect forest resources of soil, water, scenery values, wildlife and aquatic habitat, and rare plants. Mitigation measures and best management practices will be implemented to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants, to protect heritage resources, and to protect public health and safety.

Appendix A (cont.)

**Forest Service Scoping Letter for the San Diego River Gorge  
Trailhead and Trail Improvement NEPA Document (Proposed Actions)  
(USFS 2008)**

**Decision to be Made**

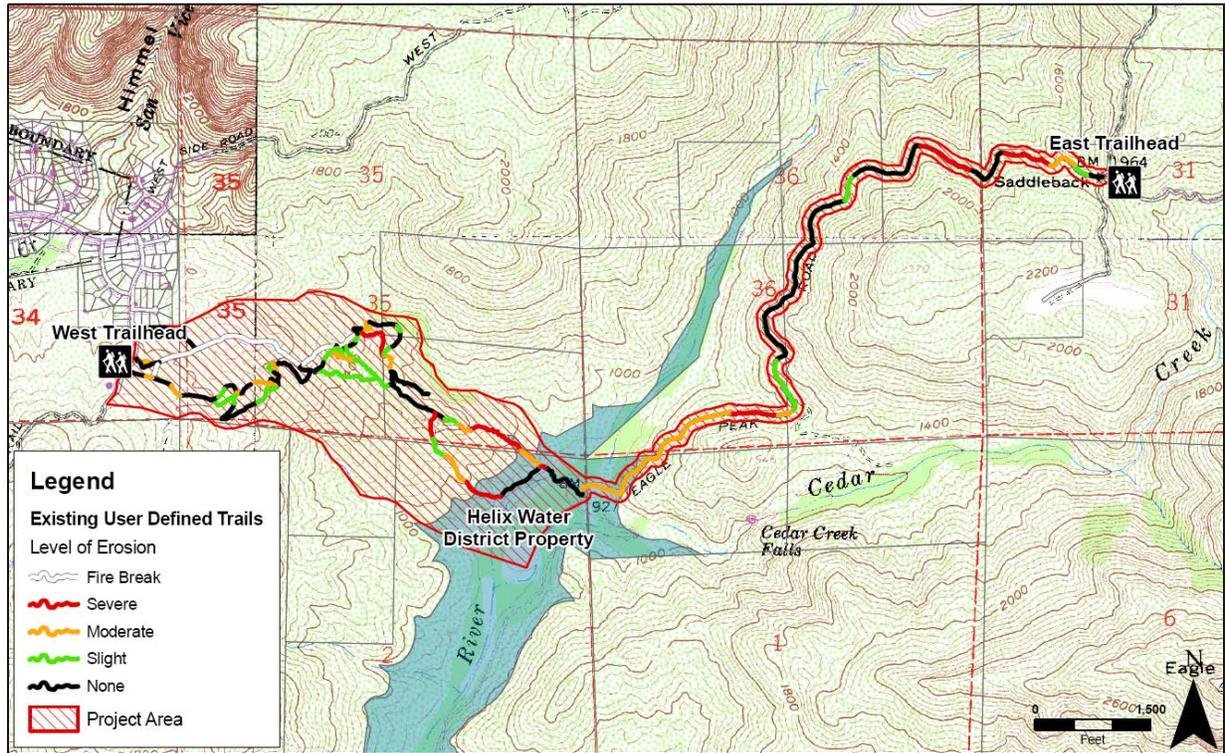
The Palomar District Ranger is the Responsible Official for this project. The decision to be made is whether or not to authorize the trailhead and trail improvements and in what manner, as described in the Proposed Action.

**Contact Person**

Team Leader: Al Colby, Recreation and Lands Staff Officer, Palomar Ranger District (760-788-0250) or email: [acolby@fs.fed.us](mailto:acolby@fs.fed.us)

Appendix A (cont.)

Forest Service Scoping Letter for the San Diego River Gorge  
Trailhead and Trail Improvement NEPA Document (Project Area)  
(USFS 2008)



Proposed San Diego River Gorge Trail  
Improvements on USGS 7.5' Quadrangles

Figure 2

Appendix B  
**Biological Resource Reports**



United States  
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Service

Cleveland National  
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(858) 673-6192 FAX  
CRS 1-800-735-2922

---

**File Code:** 2670

**Date:** February 22, 2008

**Route To:** Al Colby, District Recreation Officer

**Subject:** Update to Biological Assessment  
Cedar Creek Falls Trail, and Thornbush Trailhead and Restroom Facilities

**To:** Jeff Wells, Acting District Ranger

**Project Description**

The Cleveland National Forest is considering developing a designated trailhead at Thornbush Road and an associated trail that leads down to the San Diego River. These projects were previously analyzed in a Biological Evaluation/Assessment dated April 30, 2007 (USDA Forest Service 2007). This document updates the previous analysis to address recent revisions to designated critical habitat for California Gnatcatcher (USFWS 2007) and the proposed San Diego River Research Natural Area.

There is designated critical habitat for California Gnatcatcher within the project area. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2007), the primary constituent elements of critical habitat for this species are:

- (1) Dynamic and successional sage scrub habitats: Venturan coastal sage scrub, Diegan coastal sage scrub, Riversidean sage scrub, maritime succulent scrub, Riversidean alluvial fan scrub, southern coastal bluff scrub, and coastal sage-chaparral scrub and
- (2) Non-sage scrub habitats such as chaparral, grassland, riparian areas, in proximity to sage scrub habitats as described for PCE 1 above that provide space for dispersal, foraging, and nesting.

**Existing Conditions**

Kirsten Winter, Forest Biologist surveyed the project site on November 2, 2006 and on April 20, 2007. The entire project area was burned over in October 2003 during the Cedar Fire. The site has also been surveyed on several prior occasions, including surveys for the Cedar Fire BAER work in 2003, chaparral classification plots, the San Diego Research Natural Area establishment record, and other projects. The proposed trailhead site is a disturbed road shoulder, and there is minimal vegetation present. The adjacent vegetation is chamise chaparral and southern mixed chaparral, which is not suitable habitat for California Gnatcatcher (USDA Forest Service 2000). The proposed trail travels through areas that previously supported California Gnatcatcher. However due to the frequent fires in the area over the last 15 years this habitat is largely type-converted to chamise chaparral and non-native grassland, and is no longer suitable habitat for



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Appendix B (cont.)  
**Biological Resource Reports**

California Gnatcatcher. The habitat at the proposed trailhead and trail site does not contain the primary constituent elements of critical habitat and is not suitable habitat for California Gnatcatcher.

**Determinations**

California Gnatcatcher – critical habitat

There is designated critical habitat for the California Gnatcatcher at the proposed trailhead and trail site. Due to multiple recent fires, the habitat in this area has been type-converted to disturbed chamise chaparral and grassland. The primary constituent elements of critical habitat are not present. The proposed project will not result in the adverse modification of designated critical habitat for California Gnatcatcher.

San Diego River Proposed Research Natural Area

The draft establishment record for the San Diego River Research Natural Area (USDA Forest Service 2002) acknowledges existing trail use in the area and states the following:

“The Cedar Creek Falls area within the pRNA is subjected to high recreation use. Construction and rehabilitation of the un-authorized trails to the fall would help prevent soil erosion on the steep banks of the un-authorized trail. Designation of the area as a Research Natural Area and inclusion of the trail into the Forest trail system will help alert the public to the uniqueness of the area. This may help reduce the vandalism and trash frequently found near the falls. Two trails are recommended.

- a) Trail from San Diego Country Estates to Cedar Creek Falls – Use of this un-official trail is heavy. Construction of this trail should be a priority.
- b) Trail from Eagle Peak Road to Cedar Creek Falls – This trail could possibly loop in the trail from SDCE.”

Therefore establishment of the proposed trail is consistent with recommendation “a” and is consistent with appropriate management of the proposed Research Natural Area.

*s/ Kirsten Winter*  
Kirsten Winter  
Forest Biologist

Appendix B (cont.)  
**Biological Resource Reports**

**References:**

USDA Forest Service. 2000. Biological Assessment for Forest Plans. 3 notebooks. Cleveland National Forest files.

USDA Forest Service. 2002. Draft Establishment Record for the San Diego River Research Natural Area. Prepared by Sheauchu Chen. Cleveland National Forest files.

USDA Forest Service. 2007. Biological Evaluation/Assessment Thornbush Trail, Trailhead and Restroom Facilities. Cleveland National Forest files. 8 pp. plus attachments.

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the Coastal California Gnatcatcher. **Federal Register** / Vol. 72, No. 243 / Wednesday, December 19, 2007.

## Appendix B Biological Resource Reports



United States  
Department of  
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Cleveland National  
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CRS 1-800-735-2922

**File Code:** 2670

**Date:** April 30, 2007

**Route To:** Robert Macon, Trails Specialist

**Subject:** Biological Evaluation/Assessment  
Thornbush Trailhead and Restroom Facilities

**To:** Grace Terrazas, District Ranger

### Proposed Action

The Cleveland National Forest is considering developing a designated trailhead at Thornbush Road. For many years, this area has functioned as a trailhead for a popular trail, but there are no existing facilities. This has created parking and sanitation problems. The proposed project includes creation of a picnic area, a turnaround, and parking areas, and installation of flush toilets. Water, sewer, and electrical service will be installed in a trench connecting the site to existing utility services in the San Diego County Estates, approximately 800 feet north of the new restroom facilities. Heavy machinery would be used to excavate vaults and install the new facilities. The estimated amount of time required for construction is approximately 60 days. The project would disturb and develop approximately 1 acre. The new trailhead facilities would be located in Township 13 South, Range 2 East, SE ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 34, on the USGS El Cajon Mountain Quadrangle; the new trail would be located just east of the trailhead in the southern part of Section 35 (see attached maps). The associated proposed trail, which accesses the San Diego River and Cedar Creek Falls, has been addressed in earlier project analyses; an updated analysis of this trail will be included in this document. The existing user-created trail at this location has caused erosion problems; the district is proposing to realign the trail consistent with Forest Service trail standards.

This document is prepared to comply with the legal requirements set forth under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1536(c), 50 CFR 402), and policy and standards set forth in Forest Service Manual (FSM ) 2672.4 through 2672.42. There is no modeled habitat for any federally-listed plant species at the project site. There is no potential for any federally-listed plant species to occur at the site. There is modeled habitat for one federally-listed animal, the California Gnatcatcher, in the project area (USDA Forest Service 2000).

A habitat suitability analysis was conducted for each sensitive plant and animal species on the Regional Forester's sensitive list (see attached list). The trailhead area is not known to be occupied by any Regional Forester's list sensitive plant species, and none are expected to occur in the areas where the facility will be installed, as the area has been disturbed by prior road work and recreational activity. The existing user-created trail to the river passes by a population of the Regional Forester's sensitive list plant, Dean's Astragalus (*Astragalus deanei*). There are no other known locations for any Regional Forester's list sensitive animal species at the trailhead or



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Appendix B (cont.)  
**Biological Resource Reports**

trail site. The project site is potential habitat for six Regional Forester's Sensitive list animal species – San Diego Horned Lizard, California Ring-necked Snake, Coastal Rosy Boa, Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat.

**Existing Conditions**

Kirsten Winter, Forest Biologist surveyed the project site on November 2, 2006 and on April 20, 2007. The entire project area was burned over in October 2003 during the Cedar Fire. The site has also been surveyed on several prior occasions, including surveys for the Cedar Fire BAER work in 2003, chaparral classification plots, the San Diego Research Natural Area establishment record, and other projects. The proposed trailhead site is a disturbed road shoulder, and there is minimal vegetation present. The adjacent vegetation is chamise chaparral and southern mixed chaparral, which is not suitable habitat for California Gnatcatcher (USDA Forest Service 2000). The proposed trail travels through areas that previously supported California Gnatcatcher. However due to the frequent fires in the area over the last 15 years this habitat is largely type-converted to chamise chaparral and non-native grassland, and is no longer suitable habitat for California Gnatcatcher. Plant species observed at the site are shown in Appendix 1. The soil type at the project site is mapped as Fallbrook sandy loam (USDA Soil Conservation Service 1973).

Due to the highly modified nature of the proposed trailhead site, there is no suitable habitat for any Regional Forester's list sensitive plant species at the proposed trailhead. There is potential habitat for Dean's Astragalus along the new proposed trail alignment. The project site is potential habitat for six Regional Forester's Sensitive list animal species – San Diego Horned Lizard, California Ring-necked Snake, Coastal Rosy Boa, Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat.

**Effects**

Federally-listed species

There is no modeled habitat for any federally-listed plant species at the proposed trailhead or trail site, and no effects on these species are expected. There is no suitable habitat at the site for California Gnatcatcher, and no effects on this species are expected.

Regional Forester's Sensitive List Species

There is no suitable habitat for any Regional Forester's list sensitive plant species at the proposed trailhead. There is potential habitat for Dean's Astragalus along the proposed new trail alignment, however this species was not detected along the new alignment so no effects are expected.

The proposed trailhead site is potential habitat for six Regional Forester's Sensitive list animal species – San Diego Horned Lizard, California Ring-necked Snake, Coastal Rosy Boa, Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat. The new trailhead facility will be installed in and adjacent to the existing road shoulder. A total of 1 acre will be affected by installation of the

Appendix B (cont.)  
**Biological Resource Reports**

facility. Due to the small area that will be affected, the short duration of the work, and the previous disturbance that has occurred where the facility will be installed, the project is expected to have no effect on Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat. Since the project will disturb and develop 1 acre of habitat that may be used for resting or basking San Diego Horned Lizard, California Ring-necked Snake, and Coastal Rosy Boa, a total of 1 acre of habitat for these species will be permanently lost.

The proposed new trail alignment is potential habitat for six Regional Forester's Sensitive list animal species – San Diego Horned Lizard, California Ring-necked Snake, Coastal Rosy Boa, Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat. A total of less than 1 acre will be affected by trail construction. Due to the small area that will be affected and the short duration of the work, the project is expected to have no effect on Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat. Due to the chance of disturbing individuals that might rest or bask on the trail, the small area that will be affected, and the short duration of the work, the project is expected to affect individual San Diego Horned Lizards, California Ring-necked Snakes, and Coastal Rosy Boas.

**Cumulative Effects**

The project is not expected to have no effect on any threatened or endangered species and is not expected to significantly affect any Regional Forester's list sensitive species. The project will not contribute to cumulative effects for any of these species.

**Determinations**

Federally-listed species

The proposed project site is not suitable habitat for any federally-listed endangered, threatened, or proposed plant species. It is my determination that the installation of a new facility and trail will have no effect on any federally-listed plant species.

The trailhead site and the proposed new trail alignment are not within suitable habitat for California Gnatcatcher. It is my determination that installation of a new facility and trail will have no effect on this species.

Regional Forester's Sensitive List Species

The trailhead site is not suitable habitat for any Regional Forester's list sensitive plant species. It is my determination that installation of a new facility will have no effect on any Regional Forester's list sensitive plant species.

The proposed new trail alignment does not intersect locations of any Regional Forester's list sensitive plant species. The new alignment will allow permanent closure of the existing user-created trail that passes near a population of a sensitive species, Dean's Astragalus. It is my

Appendix B (cont.)  
**Biological Resource Reports**

determination that the proposed new trail alignment will have no effect on any Regional Forester's Sensitive List species.

The **trailhead site** is potential habitat for six Regional Forester's Sensitive list animal species – San Diego Horned Lizard, California Ring-necked Snake, Coastal Rosy Boa, Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat. The new facility will be installed in the existing road shoulder. A total of 1 acre will be affected by installation of the facility. Due to the small area that will be affected, the short duration of the work, and the previous disturbance that has occurred where the facility will be installed, it is my determination that this project will have no effect on Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat. Due to the chance of disturbing individuals that might rest or bask on the road shoulder, the small area that will be affected, the short duration of the work, and the previous disturbance that has occurred where the facility will be installed, it is my determination that this project may affect individual San Diego Horned Lizards, California Ring-necked Snakes, and Coastal Rosy Boas, but will not result in a trend toward federal listing or a loss of viability for these species.

The proposed **new trail alignment is potential habitat for six Regional Forester's Sensitive list animal species** – San Diego Horned Lizard, California Ring-necked Snake, Coastal Rosy Boa, Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat. A total of less than 1 acre will be affected by trail construction. Due to the small area that will be affected and the short duration of the work, it is my determination that this project will have no effect on Red Bat, Pallid Bat, and Townsend's Big-eared Bat. Due to the chance of disturbing individuals that might rest or bask on the trail, the small area that will be affected, and the short duration of the work, it is my determination that this project may affect individual San Diego Horned Lizards, California Ring-necked Snakes, and Coastal Rosy Boas, but will not result in a trend toward federal listing or a loss of viability for these species.

Kirsten Winter  
Forest Biologist

Enclosure:

- Maps showing proposed location of new facilities
- List of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species that may occur on Cleveland National Forest

Appendix B (cont.)  
**Biological Resource Reports**

**References:**

USDA Forest Service. 2000. Biological Assessment for Forest Plans. 3 notebooks. Cleveland National Forest files.

USDA Soil Conservation Service. 1973. Soil Survey, San Diego Area, California.  
USDA Soil Conservation Service and USDA Forest Service. Parts I and II plus maps.

Appendix B (cont.)  
 Biological Resource Reports

APPENDIX A – PLANT LIST

Dicots

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Acacia greggii</i>	Catclaw	Fabaceae
<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	Chamise/Greasewood	Rosaceae
<i>Ambrosia acanthicarpa</i>	Annual burweed	Asteraceae
<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	Western ragweed	Asteraceae
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	Indigobush	Fabaceae
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel	Pimulaceae
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	Coast sagebrush	Asteraceae
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	Mugwort	Asteraceae
<i>Astragalus deanei*</i>	Deane's locoweed	Fabaceae
<i>Athysanus pusillus</i>	Athysanus	Brassicaceae
<i>Bebbia juncea</i> var. <i>aspera</i>	Sweetbush	Asteraceae
<i>Brickellia californica</i>	Brickelbush	Asteraceae
<i>Calandrinia ciliata</i>	Red maids	Portulacaceae
<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	Morning glory	Convolvulaceae
<i>Camissonia historta</i>	California sun-cup	Onagraceae
<i>Camissonia californica</i>	False mustard	Onagraceae
<i>Camissonia hirtella</i>	Field sun cup	Onagraceae
<i>Cardamine californica</i>	Milkmaids	Brassicaceae
<i>Castilleja exserta</i>	Prpl. owl's-clover	Scrophulariaceae
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	Tocalote	Asteraceae
<i>Centaurium vemustum</i>	Canchalagua	Gentianaceae
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Mouseear chickweed	Caryophyllaceae
<i>Chaenactis artemisifolia</i>	White pincushion	Asteraceae
<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i>	Yellow pincushion	Asteraceae
<i>Chamaesyce polycarpa</i>	Smallseed sandmat	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Chorizanthe fimbriata</i>	Fringed spineflower	Polygonaceae
<i>Chorizanthe procumbens</i>	Prostrate spineflwr.	Polygonaceae
<i>Cirsium californicum</i>	Thistle	Asteraceae
<i>Clarkia purpurea</i> var. <i>viminea</i>	Large clarkia	Onagraceae
<i>Collinsia concolor</i>	Chinese houses	Scrophulariaceae
<i>Cneoridium dumosum</i>	Spicebush	Rutaceae
<i>Crassula comata</i>	Pygmy-weed	Crassulaceae
<i>Croton californicus</i>	Croton	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Cryptantha intermedia</i>	Large-flowered popcorn flower	Boraginaceae
<i>Cuscuta californica</i>	Dodder	Cuscutaceae
<i>Daucus pusillus</i>	Rattlesnake weed	Apiaceae
<i>Delphinium parryi</i>	Blue larkspur	Ranunculaceae
<i>Dicentra chrysacantha</i>	Golden Teardrops	Papaveraceae
<i>Epilobium canum</i>	California fuschia	Onagraceae
<i>Eremocarpus setigerus</i>	Doveweed	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Eriastrum sapphirinum</i>	Blue starflower	Polemoniaceae
<i>Erigeron foliosus</i>	Wild daisy	Asteraceae
<i>Eriodictyon crassifolium</i>	Thickleaf yerba santa	Hydrophyllaceae
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	Polygonaceae
<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	Golden yarrow	Asteraceae
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Red-stem filaree	Geraniaceae
<i>Eucrypta chrysanthemifolia</i>	Eucrypta	Hydrophyllaceae
<i>Filago californica</i>	California filago	Asteraceae
<i>Filago gallica</i>	Filago	Asteraceae
<i>Frasera parryi</i>	Green gentian	Gentianaceae

Appendix B (cont.)  
 Biological Resource Reports

<i>Galium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved bedstraw	Rubiaceae
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Goose grass	Rubiaceae
<i>Galium nuttallii</i>	San Diego bedstraw	Rubiaceae
<i>Gayophytum diffusum parviflorum</i>	Hairy-leaf gayophytum	Onagraceae
<i>Gutierrezia californica</i>	Calif. matchweed	Asteraceae
<i>Hazardia squarrosa</i> var. <i>grindeliodes</i>	Sawtoothed golenbush	Asteraceae
<i>Helianthemum scoparium</i>	Peak rush rose	Cistaceae
<i>Helianthus gracilentus</i>	Slender sunflower	Asteraceae
<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	Telegraph weed	Asteraceae
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Mediterranean must.	Brassicaceae
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Smooth cat's-ear	Asteraceae
<i>Keckiella antirrhinoides</i>	Bush penstemon	Scrophulariaceae
<i>Lasthenia coronaria</i>	Royal goldfields	Asteraceae
<i>Lasthenia californica</i>	Gold fields	Asteraceae
<i>Layia platyglossa</i>	Tidy tips	Asteraceae
<i>Lepidium nitidum</i>	Peppergrass	Brassicaceae
<i>Lessingia filaginifolia</i>	Cudweed aster	Asteraceae
<i>Linanthus dianthiflorus</i>	Ground pink	Polemoniaceae
<i>Lonicera subspicata</i>	Southern honeysuckle	Caprifoliaceae
<i>Lotus argophyllus</i>	Silver leaf lotus	Fabaceae
<i>Lotus hamatus</i>	San Diego lotus	Fabaceae
<i>Lotus purshianus</i>	Spanish clover	Fabaceae
<i>Lotus scoparius</i>	Deerweed	Fabaceae
<i>Lupinus bicolor</i>	Dove lupine	Fabaceae
<i>Lupinus hirsutissimus</i>	Hairy lupine	Fabaceae
<i>Lupinus truncatus</i>	Collar lupine	Fabaceae
<i>Machaeranthera juncea</i> **	Rush-like brstlwd.	Asteraceae
<i>Malacothammus fasciculatus</i>	Bush mallow	Malvaceae
<i>Malosma laurina</i>	Laurel sumac	Anacardiaceae
<i>Marah macrocarpus</i>	Wild cucumber	Cucurbitaceae
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Horehound	Lamiaceae
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Bush monkeyflower	Scrophulariaceae
<i>Mimulus brevipes</i>	Slope semaphore	Scrophulariaceae
<i>Mirabilis californica</i>	Wishbone bush	Nyctaginaceae
<i>Navarretia hamata</i>	Hooked navarretia	Polemoniaceae
<i>Opuntia littoralis</i>	Coastal prickly pear	Cactaceae
<i>Osmadenia tenella</i>	AKA calycadenia t.	Asteraceae
<i>Paeonia californica</i>	California peony	Paeoniaceae
<i>Penstemon spectabilis</i>	Notable penstemon	Scrophulariaceae
<i>Phacelia cicutaria</i>	Caterpillar phacelia	Hydrophyllaceae
<i>Phacelia parryi</i>	Parry's phacelia	Hydrophyllaceae
<i>Phacelia ramosissima</i>	Branching phacelia	Hydrophyllaceae
<i>Phoradendron macrophyllum</i>	Big leaf mistletoe	Viscaceae
<i>Phoradendron villosum</i>	Oak mistletoe	Viscaceae
<i>Physalis crassifolia</i>	Greene's ground cherry	Scrophulariaceae
<i>Plagiobothrys californicus</i>	Popcorn flower	Boraginaceae
<i>Platystemon californica</i>	Cream-cups	Papaveraceae
<i>Polygonum arenastrum</i>	Oval-leaved knotweed	Polygonaceae
<i>Porophyllum gracile</i>	Odora	Asteraceae
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	Holly leaf cherry	Rosaceae
<i>Pterostegia drymarioides</i>	Granny's hairnet	Polygonaceae
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak	Fagaceae
<i>Quercus berberidifolia</i>	Scrub oak	Fagaceae
<i>Rafinesquia californica</i>	Calif. Chicory	Asteraceae
<i>Rhamnus ilicifolia</i>	Holly leaf redberry	Rhamnaceae
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	Sugar bush	Anacardiaceae

Appendix B (cont.)  
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<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Squaw bush	Anacardiaceae
<i>Ribes indecorum</i>	Whiteflower currant	Grossulariaceae
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly dock	Polygonaceae
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Arroyo willow	Salicaceae
<i>Salvia apiana</i>	White sage	Lamiaceae
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland's fragrant sage	Lamiaceae
<i>Salvia columbariae</i>	Chia	Lamiaceae
<i>Sarcostemma cyanchooides</i> ssp. <i>hartwegii</i>	Climbing milkweed	Asclepiadaceae
<i>Scrophularia californica</i>	California figwort	Scrophulariaceae
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Common groundsel	Asteraceae
<i>Sisymbrium orientale</i>	Oriental mustard	Brassicaceae
<i>Solanum douglasii</i>	White nightshade	Solanaceae
<i>Solanum parishii</i>	Parish nightshade	Scrophulariaceae
<i>Stachys rigida</i>	Rigid hedge-nettle	Lamiaceae
<i>Stephanomeria virgata</i>	Wand chicory	Asteraceae
<i>Streptanthus heterophyllus</i>	San Diego jewel flower	Brassicaceae
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	Poison-oak	Anacardiaceae
<i>Trichostema parishii</i>	Parish bluecurls	Lamiaceae
<i>Trifolium microcephalum</i>	Maiden clover	Fabaceae
<i>Trifolium variegatum</i>	Whitewick clover	Fabaceae
<i>Uropappus lindleyi</i>	Microseris/Silverpuffs	Asteraceae
<i>Urtica dioica</i> var. <i>holosericea</i>	Common nettle	Urticaceae
<i>Vicia ludoviciana</i>	Vetch	Fabaceae
<i>Vitis girdiana</i>	Southern California grape	Vitaceae
<i>Xylococcus bicolor</i>	Mission Manzanita	Ericaceae

Monocots

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Achnatherum coronatum</i>	Giant needlegrass	Poaceae
<i>Allium haematochiton</i>	Red-skinned onion	Liliaceae
<i>Avena barbata</i>	Slender wild oats	Poaceae
<i>Bloomeria crocea</i>	Common goldstars	Liliaceae
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Ripgut grass	Poaceae
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft chess	Poaceae
<i>Bromus madritensis</i>	Foxtail chess/Red B.	Poaceae
<i>Calochortus splendens</i>	Splendid Mariposa lily	Liliaceae
<i>Calochortus weedii</i>	Goldenbowl Mariposa lily	Liliaceae
<i>Chlorogalum parviflorum</i>	Soap plant	Liliaceae
<i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum</i>	Soap plant	Liliaceae
<i>Dichelostemma capitatum</i>	Blue dicks/Brodiaea	Liliaceae
<i>Gastridium ventricosum</i>	Nitgrass	Poaceae
<i>Hordeum species</i>	Barley	Poaceae
<i>Juncus mexicanus</i>	Mexican rush	Juncaceae
<i>Melica imperfecta</i>	Melic grass	Poaceae
<i>Muilla maritima</i>	Common muilla	Liliaceae
<i>Nasella lepida</i>	Foothill needlegrass	Poaceae
<i>Schismus barbatus</i>	Mediterranean grass	Poaceae
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Blue-eyed grass	Iridaceae
<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>	Six-week fescue	Poaceae
<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	Rat-tail fescue	Poaceae
<i>Vulpia octoflora</i>	Eight-week Vulpia	Poaceae
<i>Yucca schidigera</i>	Mohave Yucca	Liliaceae
<i>Yucca whipplei</i>	Chapparal Yucca	Liliaceae

Appendix C

**Soil Analysis for EAST (Existing) and WEST (New Construction) Trailhead Projects**

TO: Al Colby  
USFS R-5 Palomar District  
Recreation and Lands Officer

FROM: Victoria Anne  
Soil Scientist  
USFS Soil Scientist  
R-5 (Detail Assignment)  
R-2 (ARNF-PNG Permanent)

DATE: May 29, 2008

**RE: Soil Analysis for EAST (Existing) and WEST (New Construction) Trailhead Projects**

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Thanks for the opportunity to review soils in your River Gorge Trail Projects. I am not sure that I will have the time before I leave (Wednesday) to view the area, but based on a relatively rapid review, (1/2 day) using GIS and the San Diego County Soil Survey of 1973, it appears that the location selected for the public restroom and parking spaces may need special consideration, ie. a vaulted, self-contained toilet, and parking area with a hardened surface. I would also suggest careful consideration for how the new trail is laid out, as the soils where it is planned are rated poorly for paths/trails by NRCS.

Based on the ratings (details all shown below), I recommend placing erosion control measures wherever possible to avoid runoff and erosion during rains.

- The trails (East and West) are planned on erodible soils:
  - The Cienba-Fallbrook are rated as “severe” with regards to use for paths/trails. One of the main reasons is because of slope gradients ranging between 30-65%. However, these soils, formed from granitic rock, are also easily eroded because of their sandy texture, and their high runoff potential.
  - The Sheephead series that formed from micaceous shist and gneiss, are also easily eroded because of the moderately weak structure of micaceous shist, their sandy texture, high runoff potential, and high slopes (~ 40% gradients and above).
- NRCS rated the Fallbrook soil series as poorly suited for public sewage or effluent systems, and as having moderate to low shear strength for road construction related projects. The Unified System rating for these soils is CL (clays and silts with low liquid limit) suggesting the series may not hold up well as a road surface due to erosion.

Mitigation possibilities include installing water bars; minimizing ground disturbance when creating or repairing the trails; using boardwalks or steps from tree slabs, etc. for areas where erosion is already present; and/or creating “ditches” to direct excess water flow where possible.

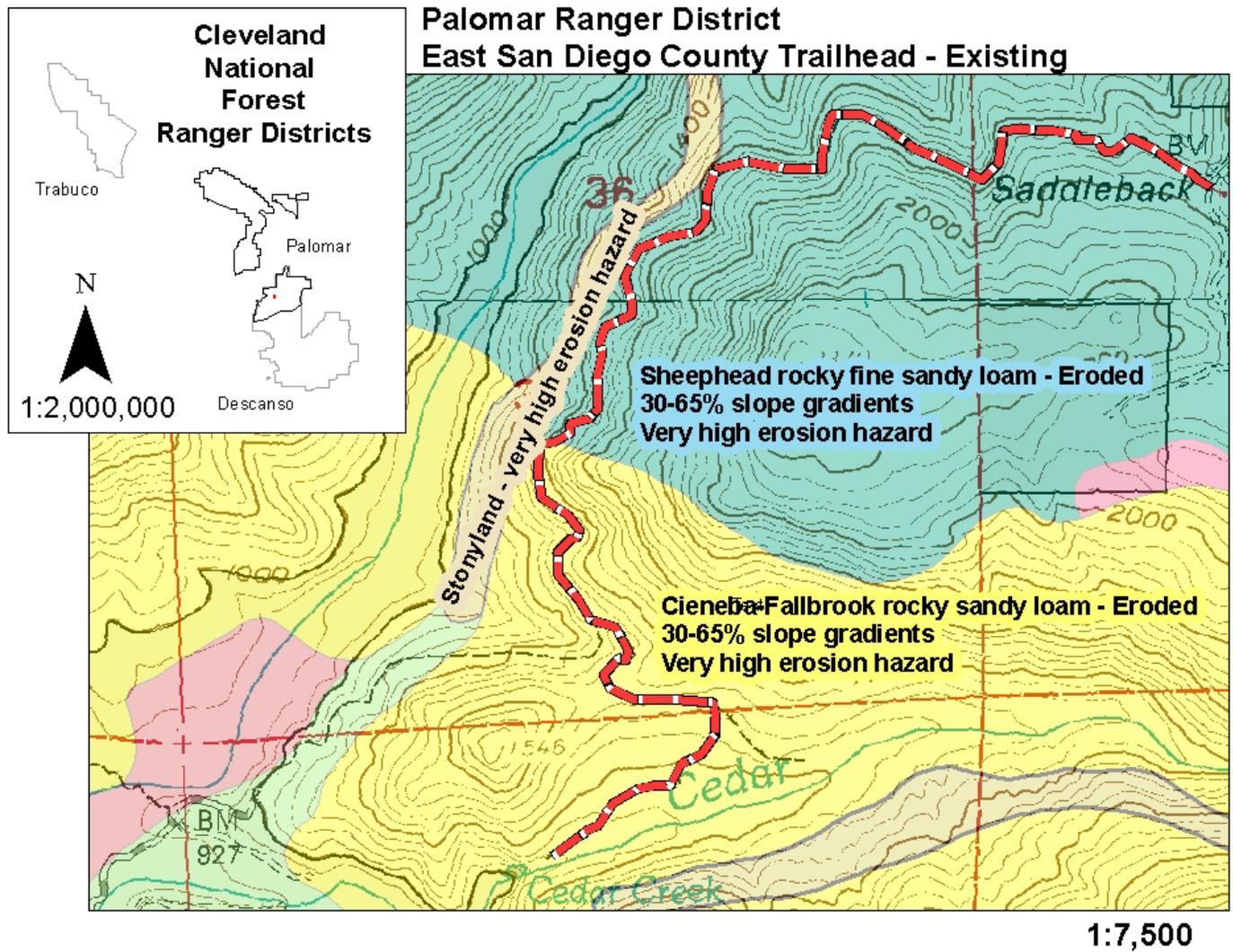
If you need me to do more research on this for you, let me know. I’ll do my utmost.

Thanks,

*Victoria Anne*



Figure 1. GIS Analysis East Project: USGS Santa Ysabel and Tule Springs Topographic Maps



GIS Analysis West – Located on USGS El Cajon and Tule Springs  
Topographic Maps

Palomar Ranger District  
West San Diego County Trailhead  
New Construction

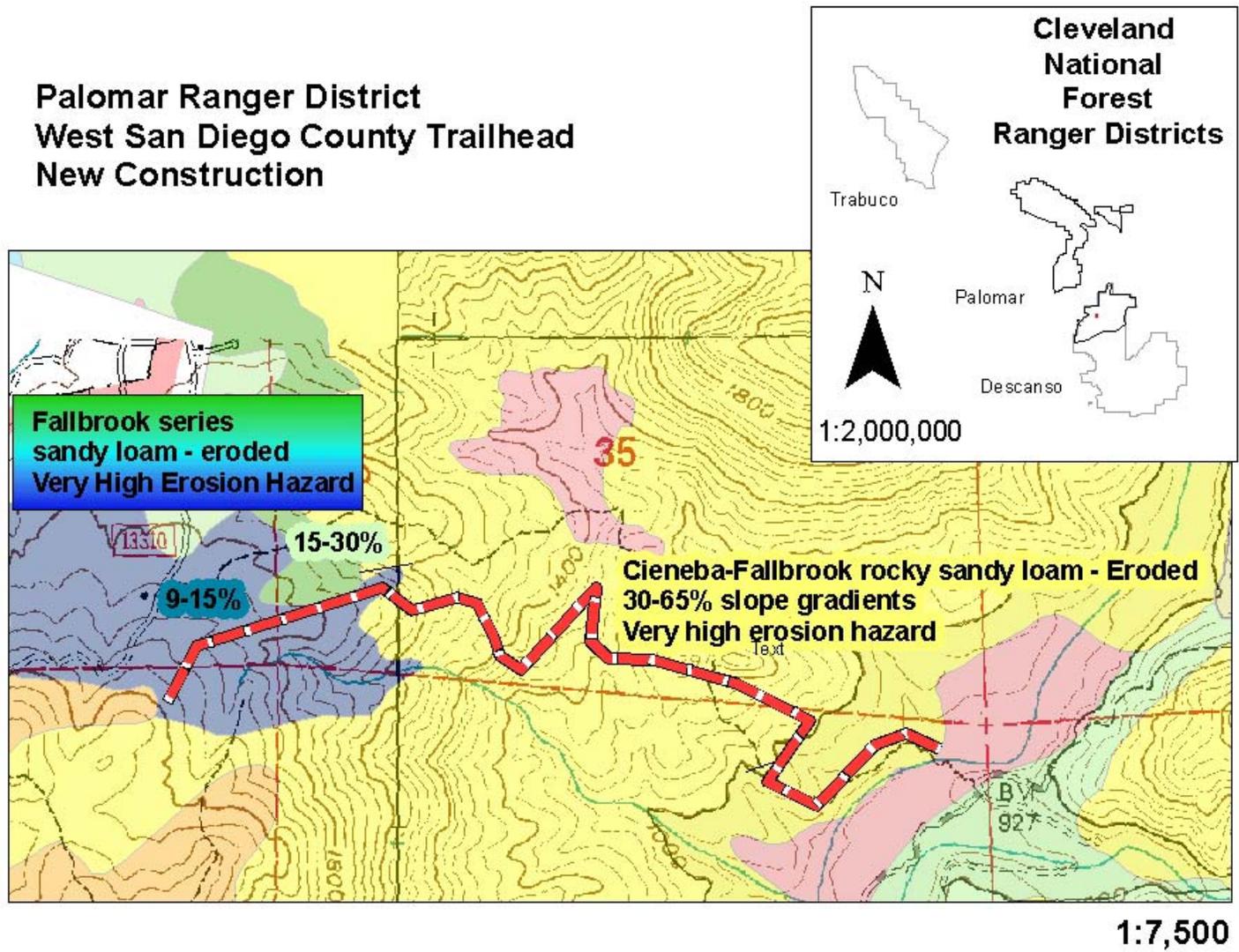


Table 1. East and West Trailhead Projects soil ratings for path/trail stability, hydrology (runoff), erosion hazard, and sewage/effluent.

Soil Series MUID	Path/Trail Stability Use	Slope Gradient %	Hydro Code	Erosion Hazard Rating	Sewage/ Effluent Systems
CnG2 Cieneba- Fallbrook	<i>Severe</i> <sup>a</sup>	30-65	C – slow infiltration rate; moderate to high runoff potential	Severe - Slope	Severe – Slopes, erosive
FaD2 Fallbrook	<i>Slight</i> <sup>c</sup>	9-15	C – slow infiltration rate; moderate to high runoff potential	Severe - Soil texture	Severe – Slopes, erosive
FaE2 Fallbrook	<i>Moderate</i> <sup>b</sup>	15-30	C – slow infiltration rate; moderate to high runoff potential	Severe - Soil texture	Severe – Slopes, erosive
Sheephead SpG2	<i>Severe</i> <sup>a</sup>	30-65	C – slow infiltration rate; moderate to high runoff potential	Severe - Slope	Severe – Slopes, erosive
Stony land SvE	<i>Severe – stony</i> <sup>a</sup>		A – high infiltration rate when thoroughly wetted, low runoff potential	Severe - Slope	Severe – Slopes, alluvium

<sup>a</sup> *Severe*: (Path/trail) Poor to very poor drainage; water table is above 20 inches and often near surface for a month or more; floods more than 3 times per year during typical season of use; and has more than 50% of surface covered with stones and/or 25% covered with rocks.

<sup>b</sup> *Moderate*: (Path/trail) Somewhat poor drainage; water table is above 20 inches for short periods; floods 2-3 times per year during typical season of use; and has 20-50% of surface covered with stones and/or 10-25% covered with rocks.

<sup>c</sup> *Slight*: (Path/Trail) Excessive to moderately good drainage; water table is below 20 inches during season of use; floods once per year during typical season; and has less than 20% of surface covered with stones and/or less than 10 covered with rocks.

For trailhead improvements, possible concerns exist with regards to soils for a public restroom, shaded picnic area, and parking spaces constructed on Fallbrook soil series. Both series, differing basically in slope gradient ranges, are rated as poor for public sewage or effluent systems due to erosive and stony/rocky soils and slope gradients, and have a Unified system rating of CL, indicating the soils contain silts and clays that have a high “liquid limit.” As such, developing parking spaces and a public restroom may require adding appropriate road/rock fill, water bars, culverts, etc, for proper drainage where soils are erosive and tend to be impermeable.