At a glance:
Berryessa Snow Mountain NM quick facts

**Date established:** July 10, 2015
**Established by:** Presidential proclamation, President Barack Obama
**Forest Service region:** 5, Pacific Southwest
**State:** California
**Associated national forest(s):** Mendocino
**Total Forest Service acres:** 197,360 (approximately 330,780 total acres)
**Reasons designated:** to “preserve its prehistoric and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of scientific resources, ensuring that the prehistoric, historic, and scientific values remain for the benefit of all Americans” (Presidential Proclamation, 2015)

People and visitors

**Nearest metropolitan area:** Santa Rosa, CA; 43 miles
**Population within 25 miles:** 1,192,648
**Population within 100 miles:** 19,189,783
**Annual visitors estimate and geography:** Mendocino National Forest: 254,216 estimated annual visits (2013, NVUM)
**Main recreational uses:** Hiking, sightseeing, whitewater rafting, kayaking, off-highway vehicle use

DESCRIPTION

The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument (NM) is located in Northern California, north of Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area. The 330,780-acre monument, extends north from Lake Berryessa in Napa Valley at nearly sea level, up 7,000 feet of elevation to the Snow Mountain Wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest. The monument’s scenery is dramatic and varied, characterized by mountains, hot springs, old growth forests, chaparral ecosystems, exposed rock formations, and views of the California’s Sierra Nevada Mountains. Waterways in the monument provide critical habitat for coastal Chinook salmon and northern California steelhead; some of the richest biological diversity in California is found within Snow Mountain’s upper elevations. The monument features three wilderness areas, world-class off-highway vehicle trails, and opportunities for whitewater rafting and kayaking on Cache Creek, among a variety of other recreational opportunities.

BACKGROUND

The Snow Mountain Wilderness, now incorporated within the monument, first came under protection under the California Wilderness Act of 1984, and was expanded in the 2006 Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act that also designated the nearby Cache Creek Wilderness. In 2009, the non-profit organization Tuleyome became interested in preserving the biodiversity of the area surrounding both the Snow Mountain and Cache Creek Wildernesses down to Lake Berryessa. The organization petitioned to have the Berryessa – Snow Mountain region designated as a National Conservation Area. Their effort gained national attention and the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument was officially designated by presidential proclamation on July 10, 2015 by President Obama.
Giant Sequoia National Monument (NM) is located in central California, south of Fresno near Kings Canyon National Park. The monument is named for the giant sequoia tree, the world's largest tree. Giant sequoias grow within a narrow 60-mile band on the west slope of California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. The tree sprouts from a seed less than a half-inch long and can grow more than 250-feet high and 20-feet in diameter. Giant sequoias are also important for the critically endangered California Condor, as they are the only trees large enough to provide the condors with nesting cavities.

There are 33 giant sequoia groves in the NM, making it home to nearly half the giant sequoia groves in the world. In the southern section is the Belknap Grove, a complex of several groves where visitors can hike through old-growth sequoias along Bear Creek and the Middle Fork of the Tule River, passing through trunks of giant sequoias that have been hollowed out by fires, yet are still living. The northern section includes the Converse Basin Grove, once reputed to be the largest sequoia grove in the Sierra where 60 giant sequoias, including Boole Tree, the sixth largest tree in the world, remain standing surrounded by thousands of enormous stumps. In addition to these towering trees, the NM includes scenic glacial valleys, massive granite monoliths, alpine meadows, and mountain streams.

BACKGROUND
The giant sequoias were not seen by Europeans until the mid-1800s. By 1908, the northern portion of where the park is now located had been thoroughly logged. This widespread logging of the sequoias before the turn of the century led to public outcry for protection. Subsequently, by 1940, federal parks and reserves protected over 90% of the remaining giant sequoia. However, some logging of young trees remained permissible, causing the public to fight for stronger protection. This led to President George H. W. Bush signing an executive order further protecting the giant sequoias from mining and timber protection. Eight years later, in April of 2000, President Clinton designated the Giant Sequoia National Monument, bringing permanent protection to the remaining groves within the monument.
Iconic places

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 3: Southwest
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

USDA Forest Service land
USDA Forest Service Regions
Urban areas
Interstates

Photo: Giant sequoia trees. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfsregion5/5631739299/in/album-72157626925537288/. License: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/.
MONO BASIN
NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

At a glance:
Mono Basin NSA quick facts

Date established: September 28, 1984
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 98-425
Forest Service region: 5, Pacific Southwest
State: California
Associated national forest: Inyo
Total Forest Service acres: 51,320
Reasons designated: “to help protect the unique ecological and cultural resources of the Mono Basin.” (USDA Forest Service, 2019)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Carson City, CA; 77 miles
Population within 25 miles: 17,807
Population within 100 miles: 2,080,792
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Inyo National Forest: 2,308,758 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Camping, fishing, hiking, nature viewing, outdoor learning, picnicking, non-motorized boating

DESCRIPTION
The Mono Basin National Scenic Area (NSA) is a unique high desert ecosystem located in California’s Eastern Sierra Mountains, one half-mile north of the town of Lee Vining. The area includes Mono Lake, an important desert oasis and inland sea that sits below 13,000-foot High Sierra peaks. The lake is over 700,000 years old, making it one of the oldest lakes in North America, and is two-and-a-half times as salty as the ocean. The brine shrimp and alkali fly larvae that find habitat in the lake attract millions of migratory birds as they make their way along their seasonal routes. There are many uncommon geological attractions at Mono Basin, including Panum Crater, a rhyolitic plug volcano that erupted 650 years ago, and the South Tufa area, where limestone towers protrude out of the lake surface. About half of the area’s ecosystem is characterized by a sagebrush-bitterbrush-rabbitbrush complex, with some wet meadow found along streams and dry meadows with greasewood swales covering areas with alkaline soils. Other vegetation includes open stands of Jeffrey pine and Utah juniper.

BACKGROUND
Native Americans likely occupied and utilized Mono Lake resources for thousands of years. Historically, Alkali fly larvae in Mono Lake were an important economic resource for the Mono Lake Indian Community. Now a ghost town, Mono Mills was once an active community in the basin, along with the mining town of Bodie. Title III of the California Wilderness Act of 1984 established Mono Basin as the first National Scenic Area in the United States.
Iconic places

USDA Forest Service Regions

Urban areas

Interstates

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Intermountain
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

Photo: Trona Pinnacles, California. Photo by Bob Wick, BLM. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/blmcalifornia/27515485656/in/album-72157624218061531/.
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL MONUMENT

DESCRIPTION
The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (NM) is located on the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, approximately 30 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles. The National Monument boundaries include four wilderness areas: Magic Mountain, Pleasant View Ridge, San Gabriel, and Sheep Mountain. The famous long distance hike, the Pacific Crest Trail, also traverses it. The landscape is mountainous, with steep canyons and thousands of miles of streams. The NM is located adjacent to the San Andreas Fault, and its mountains are currently migrating northwest two inches per year, on average. Biota in this Mediterranean climate is highly diverse and vegetation ranges from dense chaparral to stands of mixed pines and hardwoods to sub-alpine fir and alpine meadow. These ecosystems provide habitat for various iconic species, including the California condor, Nelson’s bighorn sheep, bald eagles, and mountain lions. The San Gabriel National Monument is estimated to provide 30% of the Los Angeles Basin’s drinking water. The San Gabriel Mountains are also significant scientific research locations with the Mount Wilson Observatory and the San Dimas Experimental Forest located within the NM’s boundaries.

BACKGROUND
The significance of the San Gabriel Mountain’s watershed was recognized as early as the late 1800’s, when local citizens petitioned to have the mountains protected specifically for conservation of the watershed. In 1892, prior the Angeles National Forest’s establishment, President Benjamin Harrison established the San Gabriel Timberland Reserve. Over one hundred years later, further recognized for their significant ecological, recreational, and watershed values, President Barack Obama designated the San Gabriel National Monument in 2014.

At a glance:
San Gabriel Mountains NM quick facts

Date established: October 10, 2014
Established by: Presidential proclamation, President Barack Obama
Forest Service region: 5, Pacific Southwest
State: California
Associated national forest(s): Angeles and San Bernardino
Total Forest Service acres: 346,177
Reasons designated: “to preserve and protect the objects of scientific and historic interest at the San Gabriel Mountains.” (Presidential Proclamation 9194, 2014)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Los Angeles/Long Beach/Santa Ana, CA; 10 miles
Population within 25 miles: 12,028,647
Population within 100 miles: 21,012,262
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Angeles National Forest: 2,879,953 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Camping, hiking, cross country skiing, hunting, nature viewing, picnicking, water activities, horseback riding

Sources used and cited for this text are listed by location starting on page 90
The Sand to Snow National Monument (NM) is located east of Los Angeles in Southern California, extending from the Sonoran Desert floor to over 10,000 feet at the summit of San Gorgonio Mountain, the highest mountain peak in California south of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The NM features a striking array of ecosystems and wildlife habitats, being one of the most biodiverse areas in Southern California, with twelve federally listed threatened and endangered animal species, over 240 species of birds, and one of the highest densities of black bears in Southern California. Some of the most rugged and steep topography in Southern California can also be found within its boundaries, including a granite ridge over seven miles long and two miles high. The soaring mountain peaks found within the monument create a variety of recreational opportunities for the large urban population less than a two-hour drive away.

The Sand to Snow NM area was first occupied by the Native Americans living at the base of San Gorgonio Mountain who depended on the mountains for gathering food, medicinal plants, and basket making materials, and to hunt deer and other game. In the late 1700’s, Europeans arrived bringing mining and grazing to the area. By the mid-1920’s, when the San Bernardino Mountains began attracting hordes of recreationalists from the nearby big cities, a movement to protect the unique and delicate area began. Inspired by the Wildlands Conservancy’s 20-year-long Sand to Snow Interface Project that had acquired over 60,000 acres of private property in the area, the NM was established in February, 2016 by President Obama through the Antiquities Act of 1906.

**At a glance:**
Sand to Snow NM quick facts

- **Date established:** February 11, 2016
- **Established by:** Presidential proclamation, President Barack Obama
- **Forest Service region:** 5, Pacific Southwest
- **State:** California
- **Associated national forest(s):** San Bernardino
- **Total Forest Service acres:** 70,942 (monument also includes approximately 83,000 acres of the Bureau of Land Management’s California Desert District)
- **Reasons designated:** to “preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the historic and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans” and to “provide world class outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting fishing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, and horseback riding.” (Presidential Proclamation, 2016)

**People and visitors**

- **Nearest metropolitan area:** Riverside/San Bernardino, CA; 9 miles
- **Population within 25 miles:** 2,473,075
- **Population within 100 miles:** 40,430,288
- **Annual visitors estimate and geography:** San Bernardino National Forest: 1,941,103 estimated annual visits (2014, NVUM)
- **Main recreational uses:** Hiking, camping, backpacking, climbing, horse packing, bird watching, hunting, fishing, stargazing, mountain biking

**DESCRIPTION**

**BACKGROUND**

The Sand to Snow NM area was first occupied by the Native Americans living at the base of San Gorgonio Mountain who depended on the mountains for gathering food, medicinal plants, and basket making materials, and to hunt deer and other game. In the late 1700’s, Europeans arrived bringing mining and grazing to the area. By the mid-1920’s, when the San Bernardino Mountains began attracting hordes of recreationalists from the nearby big cities, a movement to protect the unique and delicate area began. Inspired by the Wildlands Conservancy’s 20-year-long Sand to Snow Interface Project that had acquired over 60,000 acres of private property in the area, the NM was established in February, 2016 by President Obama through the Antiquities Act of 1906.

Sources used and cited for this text are listed by location starting on page 90
Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Intermountain
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

Iconic places
USDA Forest Service land
USDA Forest Service Regions
Interstates
Urban areas


San Jacinto and Santa Rosa National Monument
SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO
NATIONAL MONUMENT

At a glance:
Santa Rosa & San Jacinto NM quick facts

Date established: October 24, 2000
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 106-351
Forest Service region: 5, Pacific Southwest
State: California
Associated national forest(s): San Bernardino
Total Forest Service acres: 69,984
(approximately 280,022 total acres of public land)
Reasons designated: “to preserve the nationally significant biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, and scientific values found in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains” (U.S. Congress, 2000)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Indio/ Cathedral City/Palm Springs, CA; 4 miles
Population within 25 miles: 889,487
Population within 100 miles: 19,477,328
Annual visitors estimate and geography: San Bernardino National Forest: 1,941,103 estimated annual visits (2014, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Bicycling, camping, hiking, horse riding, hunting, nature viewing, scenic driving

DESCRIPTION
Jointly managed by the BLM and Forest Service, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument (NM) is located in Southern California, west of Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley. This monument features palm oases, snow-capped mountains, a portion of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, a designated wild and scenic river, and two wilderness areas. Rising abruptly from the desert floor to an elevation of 10,834-feet, the summit of San Jacinto Mountain exceeds the vertical relief in most other parts of the contiguous United States. This sudden elevation change is important for capturing significant amounts of rain and snow in an otherwise dry desert region home to millions of people. Water flowing from the San Jacinto Mountains sustains the nation's largest native fan palm oasis. This water further recharges the many hot springs downslope in the Coachella Valley, heated by geothermal activity associated with the San Andreas Fault Zone. The unique ecosystem of the NM is also a biological hotspot, providing a home to more than 500 plant and animal species and serving as a refuge for the endangered peninsular bighorn sheep, the southwestern willow flycatcher, and many other sensitive songbirds.

BACKGROUND
The NM is the traditional homeland of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the area is rich with petroglyphs, village ruins, and other archaeological sites. Efforts to protect the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains have existed since the late 1900s, when the San Jacinto Forest Reserve was established by President Grover Cleveland. Efforts to preserve the area through the early 1900s as a wilderness led to the creation of a game refuge in 1927, and the establishment of the Mount San Jacinto State Park in 1937. Following this, the Civilian Conservation Corps began developing the area, building the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway to transport visitors to the high country from the valley, over 8,000 feet below. Eventually, the San Jacinto Wilderness and the Santa Rosa Wilderness were designated (in 1964 and 1984, respectively). In 2000, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument was designated after a cooperative effort of the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, state agencies, and local governments.
Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Intermountain West
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

Iconic places
USDA Forest Service land
USDA Forest Service Regions
Urban areas
Interstates

Photo: Santa Rosa San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Photo by Bob Wick, BLM. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/blmcalifornia/15189284751/in/album-72157647007323877/.
SMITH RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:
Smith River NRA quick facts

Date established: November 16, 1990
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 101-612
Forest Service region: 5, Pacific Southwest
State: California
Associated national forest: Six Rivers
Total Forest Service acres: 323,137
Reasons designated: “the preservation, protection, enhancement, and interpretation for present and future generations of the Smith River watershed’s outstanding wild and scenic rivers, ecological diversity, and recreation opportunities while providing for the wise use and sustained productivity of its natural resources.” (U.S. Congress, 1990).

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Medford, OR; 61 miles
Population within 25 miles: 56,685
Population within 100 miles: 805,054
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Six Rivers National Forest: 184,505 estimated annual visits (2013, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Bicycling, camping, fishing, hiking, backpacking, horse riding, nature viewing, boating, swimming, tubing

DESCRIPTION
The Smith River National Recreation Area (NRA) is located in Northwestern California, stretching south from the Oregon Border. The NRA incorporates part of the Siskiyou Wilderness, the location of the Smith River’s headwaters. The Smith River is California’s last undammed, free-flowing river system, and is also the largest wild and scenic designated river in the United States. The 450-square mile area is tremendously diverse, characterized by high-elevation plateaus, peaks and meadows; densely forested mountain slopes; steep, rocky canyons through which the Smith River and its many tributaries flow; and coastal redwood forest.

The cold, emerald waters of the Smith River are considered a world-class location for fishing, being important habitat for Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead, rainbow, and cutthroat trout. Many other recreation opportunities abound, such as swimming, whitewater rafting the Smith River’s class I and II rapids, hiking, and viewing wildflowers on the forested slopes of the area.

BACKGROUND
Recognizing the value and significance of the free-flowing Smith River, California’s governor Jerry Brown requested it be given status as a National Wild and Scenic River. Over 300 miles of the Smith River were declared Wild and Scenic in 1981. Less than a decade later, Congress designated the Smith River NRA in 1990, further establishing the watershed surrounding the river as an important ecological and recreational area.
Six Rivers National Forest

Smith River at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park in California. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/jeffhollettvancouverwa/26827007890/