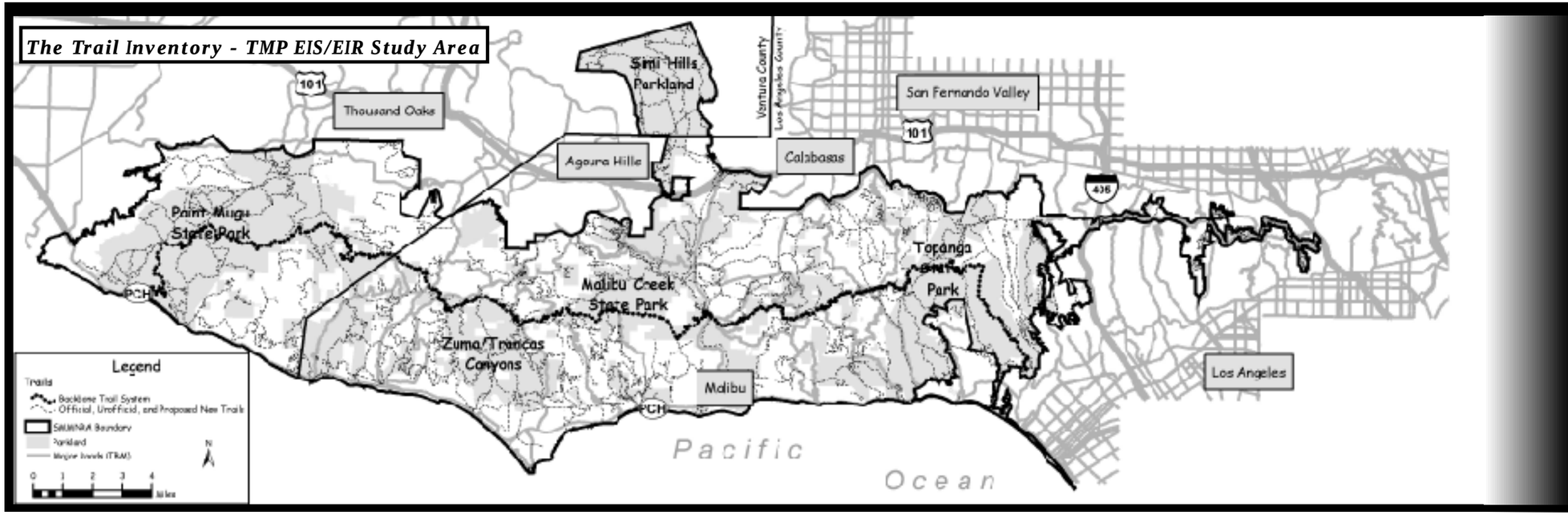

Trail Status *	Miles
Official	321
Unofficial	359
Proposed New	147
Trailheads	96

Trail Network Features +	Miles
Trails	
Hiker Only	36
Hiker/Equestrian	85
Multiuse	47
Roads	
Dirt	132
Paved	16

*Includes all trail circumstances:
Official = Open to public
Unofficial = No public right-of-way
Proposed New = No trail, proposed new construction
+Statistics represent only Official Trails

Recreational Trail Use Survey!

In July, 2002, a comprehensive visitor survey was undertaken by the Sustainable Cities Program at the University of Southern California. The USC team, park staff, and volunteers from NPS, State Parks, and SMMC surveyed park visitors at 33 locations over two weekends and two days during the intervening week. Some 12,388 visitors were counted, and over 900 surveys were represented in the final data analysis.

The survey gathered information on user demographics, recreational use patterns, attitudes toward protecting the national recreation area, attitudes toward other users, travel distance, and barriers to park access.

Here's a brief summary of some of the results. For more information, you can view a slide presentation of the survey on our website at *www.nps.gov/samo/trails*.

Trail enthusiasts at Topanga State Park filling out visitor survey

Why Protect SMMNRA

53%: To provide habitat for plants & animals

22%: To provide recreational opportunities

22%: Both habitat and recreation

Typical SMMNRA Trail User

40 Years Old, White, College-educated, U.S.-born, and a Repeat Visitor

Recreational Activity

Activity	%
Hiking	49.5
Mountain Biking	18.7
Jogging	8.2
Sightseeing	6.1
Dog walking	4.7
Horseback riding	3.4
Picnicking	2.8

User Attitudes toward Others

- Approximately 30% of users had "no problem" with other users, and for the most part, users viewed other users favorably or were neutral. 70% of users, however, cited the following problems.

28.1%: uncooperative behavior
24.9%: leaving animal wastes
22.2%: littering
20.5%: collisions or injury
20.5%: startling people
19.6%: damaging plants
17.7%: frightening wildlife
14.9%: making too much noise
6.3%: scaring horses

What is UTAP?

A major accomplishment of the trail inventory process was surveying 284 miles of public trails and service roads in the national recreation area using the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP). "UTAP'ing" the trails means using scientific equipment and trained personnel to gather data on trail grade, cross slope, width, surface material, obstacles, maintenance features, and any other data characterizing the condition of a trail. Just a few uses for the data include assigning maintenance costs to trails, identifying overly steep trails subject to severe erosion, identifying trails that may be suited to persons with special use needs, and rating trails that may or may not meet grade standards for multiple use.

NPS Volunteer Burt Elliot demonstrates UTAP equipment

Sample UTAP Data from the Backbone Trail System

	Hiker/Equestrian Hondo Canyon Trail	Multiple Use Corral Canyon Trail
Grade Ranks (%)	Percent of Total Trail	
0-4	15	28
5-10	32	41
11-15	28	24
16 or more	25	8
Trail Features	Number of Features	
Switchbacks	16	4
Water Bars	7	13
Trail Junctions	18	5
Stream Crossings	1	11
Incidences of Rocky Terrain	2	12
Obstacles Ex. low hanging branches, boulders on trail, etc.	2	1