



San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study

Final Recommendations

April 2013

Presenters:

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Presentation Overview

1. Study Background

Study Findings

**Alternatives Presented in the
Draft Special Resource Study**

**Public Comments on the
Draft Special Resource Study**

2. Selected Alternative – Final Recommendations

3. Next Steps





Background

- 2003** Congress authorized study of San Gabriel River Watershed and Mountains
- 2005** Public Scoping
- 2006-2008** Resource Analysis/Alternatives Development
- 2009** Public Review of Preliminary Alternatives
- 2011-2012** Public Review of Draft Study Report





Study Findings *(no changes from draft study)*

1. **Nationally significant resources** in the San Gabriel Mountains and Puente-Chino Hills

- *geologic resources, biodiversity, dynamic rivers systems, history of scientific study and discovery, rare native plant communities*

Mountain Building & Diverse Geology



Dynamic River Systems



High Levels of Biodiversity



Scientific Research and Discovery

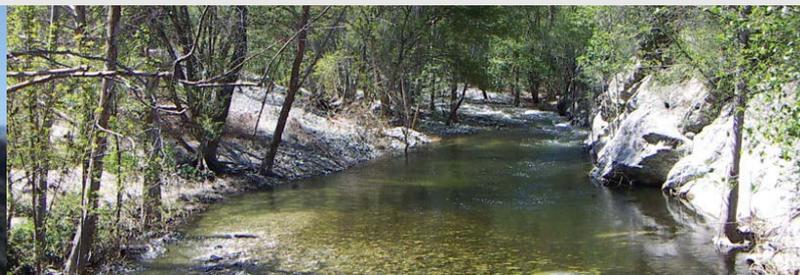




Study Findings *(no changes from draft study)*

- 1. Nationally significant resources** in the San Gabriel Mountains and Puente-Chino Hills
 - geologic resources, biodiversity, dynamic rivers systems, history of scientific study and discovery, rare native plant communities*
- 2. Suitable** for inclusion in the national park system
 - combination of themes/ resources not found in any other national park units*
- 3. Feasible roles:** manage in collaboration with partners; provide technical assistance for conservation and recreation planning; limited land acquisition
 - “traditional” NPS park with extensive NPS land ownership is not feasible*
- 4. Need for NPS Management:** NPS coordination/collaboration is best option

For further background: www.nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel





Alternatives Presented in Draft Study Report

No action: Continuation of Current Management

Alternative A: San Gabriel Mountains NRA

U.S. Forest Service National Recreation Area, including San Gabriel Mountains portion of Angeles NF (*no NPS*)

Alternative C: San Gabriel Watershed NRA

River-Based National Recreation Area, collaboratively managed NPS unit, partnership with USFS and others

Alternative D: San Gabriel Region NRA

Regional National Recreation, larger collaboratively managed NPS unit, partnership with USFS and others, conservation and recreation planning assistance to communities

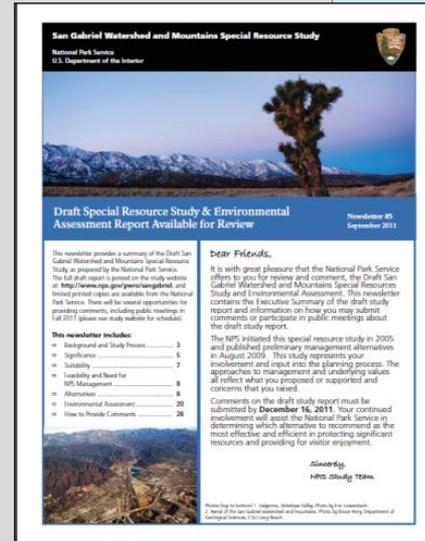
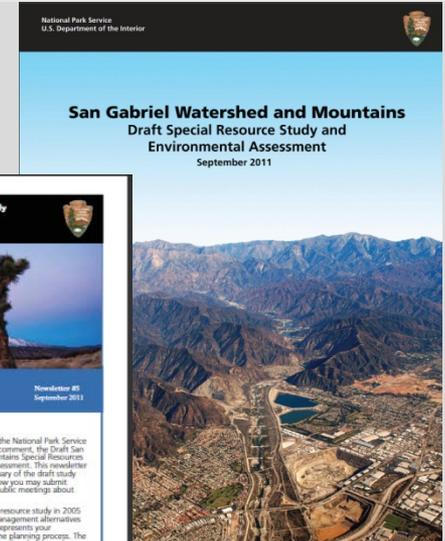
Alternative B: San Gabriel Parks and Open Space Network (*dismissed*)

Network of public and private partners engaged in collaborative planning and information sharing



Public Comments - Draft Study

- Five public meetings, 400 participants
- Over 12,000 public comments
- Most comments supported alternative D
 - NPS management & recognition
 - Resource protection & visitor use
 - Assistance to communities for close-to-home recreation and habitat corridor protection
- Some concerns were raised
 - Local control, overlapping jurisdictions, recreation uses



For further background: www.nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel



Selected Alternative

NPS Director's most effective and efficient alternative

Responds to public comments which largely supported:

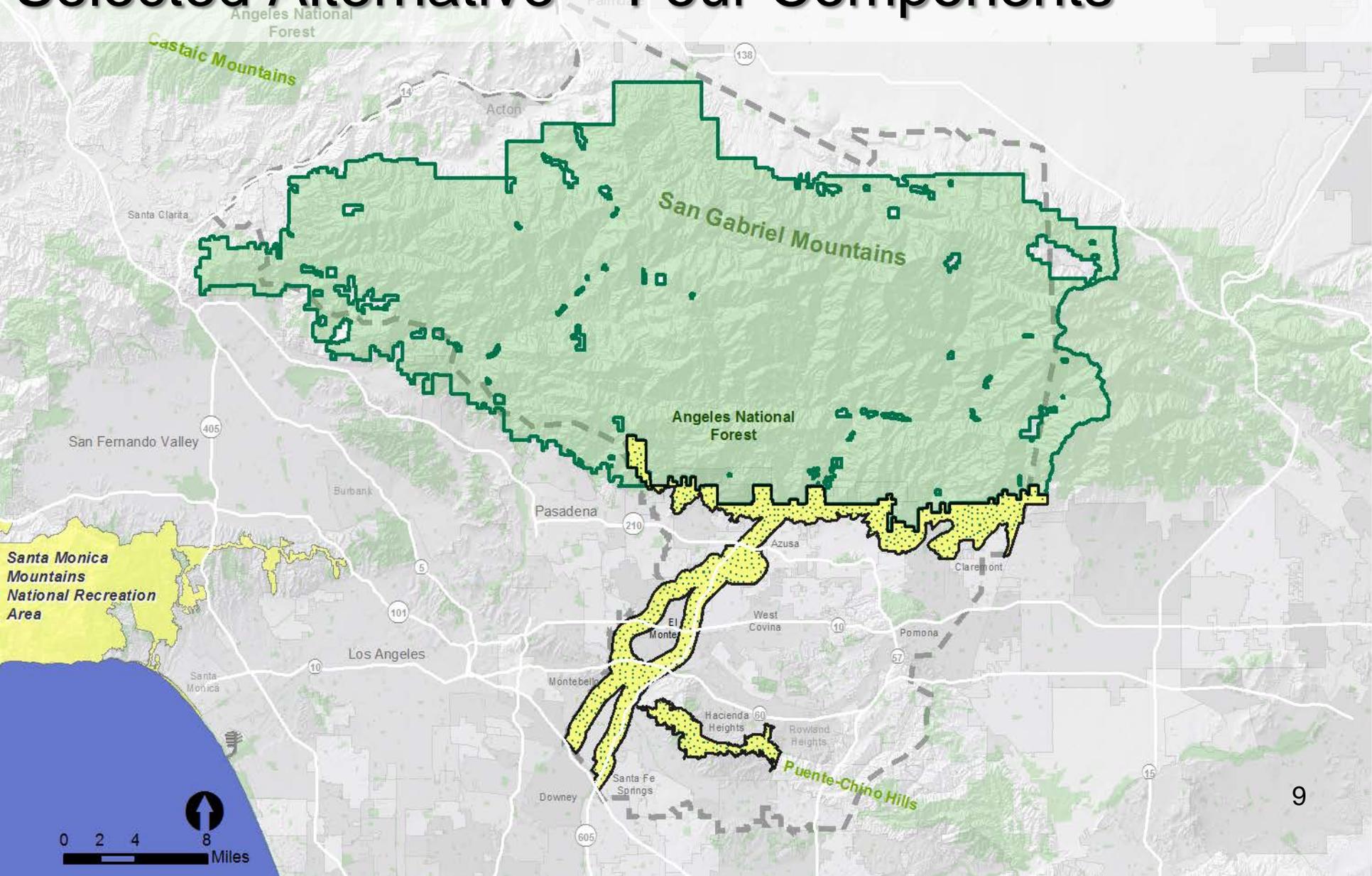
- NPS management and technical assistance in watershed and mountains
- More funding, staffing, and tools for the Angeles National Forest
- Partnerships between the NPS and USFS
- Opportunities for more close-to-home recreation in urban areas
- NPS educational and interpretive programs

Primarily a combination of management concepts from
Alternative A and Alternative D

Takes advantage of new Service First Authority for federal
agencies to partner (December 2011)



Selected Alternative - Four Components





Selected Alternative - Four Components



2. Angeles National Forest
Additional recognition, tools, and support to steward watershed resources and ecosystems improve recreational opportunities.



3. Federal Collaboration
NPS and USFS collaboration through Service First Authority



4. NPS Technical Assistance
Regional assistance to willing communities for conservation and recreation planning.



1. NPS Designation – San Gabriel Unit of the Santa Mountain Mountains NRA
Partnership-based conservation
Educational and interpretive programs





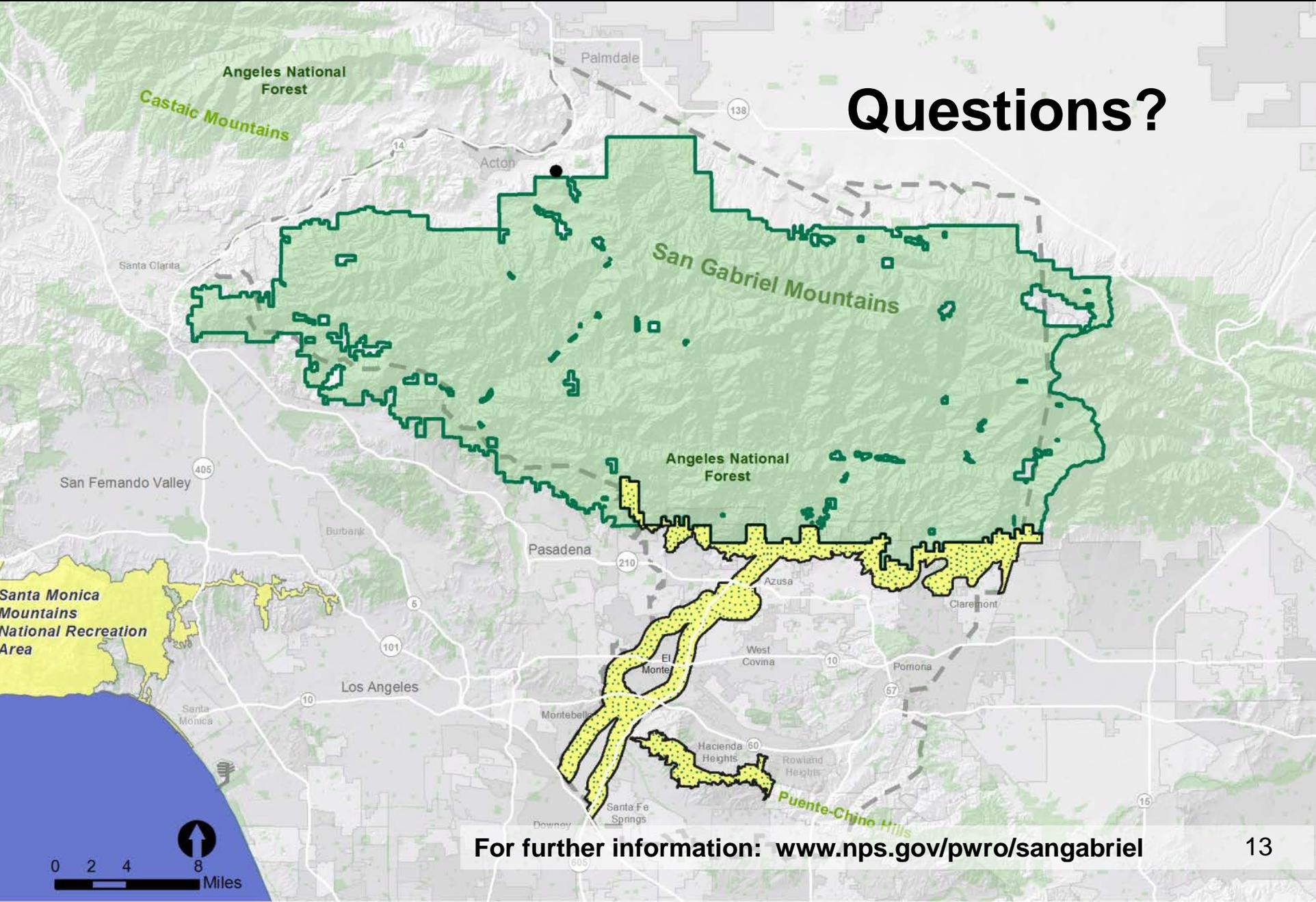
Next Steps

- **Distribute final recommendations to the public**
 - Summary report to mailing lists
 - Final documents posted on study website www.nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel
 - E-mail: pwr_sangabriel@nps.gov
- **Implementation requires Congressional action**
- **If established, the NPS would implement the recommendations, working with area partners**





Questions?



For further information: www.nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel