

Grizzly Bear National Monument

Proposed for the Santa Ana Mountains
A Conservation Vision to Honor the California Grizzly Bear
and Protect the Chaparral Ecosystem



Remarkable Diversity



Western Pond Turtle



American Badger



Horned Lizard

- The Santa Ana Mountains cover nearly 700 square miles and represent one of the last intact examples of the chaparral ecosystem in Southern California.
- More than 100,000 acres of the range are considered roadless.
- There are at least 12 endemic species and more than 100 rare, threatened, or endangered species in the range, including Trabuco Blue Butterfly, Santiago Peak Phacelia, Tecate Cypress, and Fairy Shrimp.
- Grizzly bears and jaguars once roamed the Santa Ana Mountains and preyed upon pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and other small animals. Grizzlies also foraged for acorns, trout, berries, roots, and invertebrates.
- Wild steelhead trout still inhabit the most remote canyons.
- Currently, less than 40,000 acres of the 100,000 potential wilderness acres have been designated and protected.
- Hundreds of miles of trails in the range are multi-use trails shared by hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers.
- Fishing is popular within the ecosystem, including along San Mateo Creek, Trabuco Creek, Corona Lake (formerly known as Lee Lake), Temescal Creek, and in Lake Elsinore.
- Hang gliding, parasailing, canyoneering, rock climbing, and backpacking are some of the unique recreational activities pursued in the Santa Ana Mountains.



Why the Grizzly Bear National Monument?

The grizzly bear in Southern California? Most families are not aware that grizzly bears ever existed in the Santa Ana Mountains and once roamed what has now become bustling cities like Irvine and Corona.

It is time for the California grizzly to finally be recognized and celebrated for the important conservation message it represents: The grizzly bear's extinction inspires us to value and protect what is left of California's fragile native landscape. The grizzly also encourages us to explore and appreciate California's most characteristic ecosystem, the chaparral — a community of iconic native plants, rare animals, and soft, velveteen vistas.

Although we have lost the grizzly bear from the Santa Ana Mountains, we can ensure that this vast native landscape is preserved for those animals that remain, like badgers, bobcats, and mountain lions.

The Grizzly Bear National Monument will capture the public's imagination. It will increase interest in the proper stewardship of one of the last remaining wildlands in Southern California. And the Monument will increase opportunities in education, research, and recreation in a way that cannot be accomplished under current management.

Protect What Is Left



Joel Robinson

Protecting the Santa Ana Mountains as the Grizzly Bear National Monument will help ensure that the fragile, native landscape is preserved. Under current land management plans, the range is continually degraded by inappropriate development, which takes priority over habitat preservation and outdoor recreation. The Santa Ana Mountains must be protected for all, not for the benefit of the few.

The Monument will also ensure that science-based fire management plans are in place that will effectively protect life, property, and natural resources.



Dan Bannister



Joel Robinson

The Grizzly in the Santa Ana Mountains

After the first rains, an overwhelming diversity of vibrant wildflowers decorate the luscious slopes of chaparral. Lilies, shooting



Intermediate Mariposa Lily



Humboldt Lily

stars, silver lupines, currants, Matilija poppies, and mountain lilacs dazzle the eyes and fill the air with sweet perfume.

The now extinct California grizzly bear was once the most powerful and magnificent animal roaming the chaparral-covered landscape of California. For generations, the grizzly established a network of hidden tunnels through dense stands of scrub oak, red archways of manzanita, and twisted trunks of thick-leaved lilac. Tragically, in 1908, the last grizzly in Southern California was shot and killed in Holy Jim Canyon — a lonely female searching for food in a rapidly changing world.



March 12, 1908.

Mr. Andrew Joplin,
El Toro,
Orange Co., Calif.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 2nd instant arrived duly and the bear came by express today. It is an old female grizzly, and reached us in excellent condition, for which I am very much obliged. (A voucher for the amount (\$25) is inclosed herewith. Please sign your name on the middle part of this voucher and return the same to me in the accompanying envelope. On its receipt here a check for the amount will be sent you.)

We are very glad to have this specimen for our National Museum, where it will remain forever labeled with your name.

Should any other bear be killed in your part of the State we should be glad to purchase the specimens. Do you happen to know of any old skulls of grizzly, male or female, which could be got? If so, we would like to buy them. Do black bears occur anywhere in your region?



Arroyo Toad



Spotted Owl

Countless rare and endangered animals occur in the various plant communities of the range. Some species require undisturbed, old-growth chaparral for their continued existence.



California Newt

Grizzly Bear National Monument

Historical Timeline



12,000 BCE – 1542 CE

For more than 10,000 years, the Acjachemen (Juaneño), Tongva (Gabrieleño), and Pechanga (Luiseño) people occupied the pristine coastline, vast river valleys, rolling foothills, and majestic mountains of the shrub-dominated Santa Ana Mountain ecosystem. Their omnivorous diet was virtually identical to that of the grizzly bear, which included acorns, berries, roots, and wildlife. These native peoples coexisted with grizzly bears, jaguars, pronghorn antelope, condors, and mountain lions.

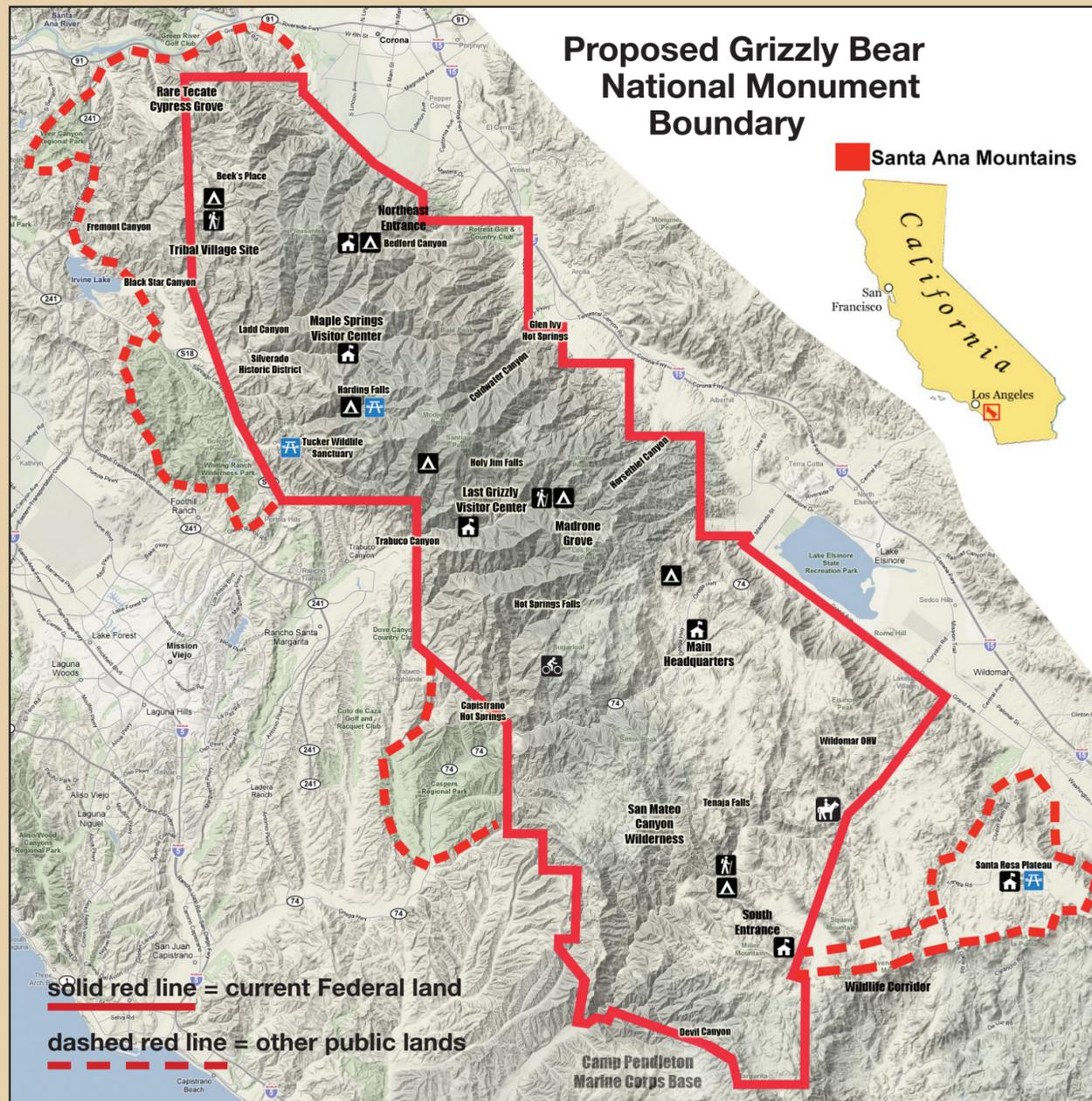
1542 CE – Present

1542 - Spanish exploration of Alta California began with the voyage of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo.

1769 - Gaspar de Portola's expedition of Spanish soldiers and Franciscan padres would be the first recorded contact in Orange County between the Acjachemen and Spanish. His party camped at the foot of the Santa Ana Mountains on Saint Anne's Day and named the area the "Valley of Saint Anne." Within a century, European settlers decimated the local Indian tribes, converted much of the predominant shrubland to grassland, drained extensive marshes for agriculture, cleared many woodlands for timber, mined for precious minerals, diverted and channelized streams for crops or flood control, and extinguished most of the top predators.

1893 - President Harrison created the Trabuco Cañon Forest Reserve, which was named for a canyon within its boundaries.

January 8, 1908 - The last known grizzly bear in Southern California was tracked and killed in Holy Jim Canyon less than 20 miles northeast of San Juan Capistrano. Its head and skin were sent to the Smithsonian to be positively identified as a grizzly bear.



July 1, 1908 - President Theodore Roosevelt established the Cleveland National Forest from the Trabuco Cañon Forest Reserve almost 7 months after the last grizzly was killed.

1937-1951 - Willis E. Pequegnat began fieldwork on the "Biota of the Santa Ana Mountains" on behalf of the zoology department of Pomona College in Claremont, California. "The range was chosen for a biotic study because it had received little attention from biologists, despite the fact that its isolation from other ranges of southern California held promise of unusual patterns of animal distribution.

Furthermore, it was attractive because of its lack of popularity among the general public. ...The wildlife of the region has retained a 'naturalness' which is inconsistent with the proximity of large population centers."

May 15, 2009 - Local conservationists held a historic meeting at Santa Rosa Plateau and decided the initial boundaries for the proposed Grizzly Bear National Monument.



SANTA ANA MOUNTAINS WILD HERITAGE PROJECT & CALIFORNIA CHAPARRAL INSTITUTE



MISSION: To preserve the wild character and function of the Santa Ana Mountains ecosystem while ensuring opportunities for solace, exploration, and discovery forever!

www.santaanamountains.org/vision.html



MISSION: A research and educational non-profit dedicated to the preservation of native shrubland ecosystems and encouraging the creative spirit as inspired by the natural environment.

www.californiachaparral.org

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Our partners in the growing coalition to protect the Santa Ana Mountains include: The California Chaparral Institute, Students of Cal Poly Pomona, Department of Landscape Architecture, Sierra Club, Wilderness4All, New National Parks Project, Endangered Habitats League, Sea & Sage Audubon Society, California Native Plant Society (San Diego Chapter), Spirit of the Sage Council, The Habitat Trust, The Docents of the San Diego Natural History Museum, James Hadley Wells, Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of Daley Ranch, San Diego Audubon Society, Canyon Land Conservation Fund...and everyone who acts to protect the Santa Ana Mountains!

ADD YOUR VOICE!

YES, please add my name to the list of supporters for a new National Monument!

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Phone: (____) _____

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