

Wilderness.net's San Gabriel Wilderness Fact Sheet



Introduction

The United States Congress designated the San Gabriel Wilderness in 1968 and it now has a total of 35,738 acres. All of the wilderness is in California and is managed by the Forest Service.

Description

Extremely rugged and scenic terrain ranging in elevation from about 1,600 feet to 8,200 feet predominates in San Gabriel Wilderness. Dense thickets of chaparral in the low country yield to mixed pine- and fir-covered slopes and ridge tops, which rise in turn to majestic peaks and meadows rich with spring wildflowers. The area lies on the southern slopes of the San Gabriel

Mountains, between the Angeles Crest highway, and the West Fork of the San Gabriel River. We are proud to mention that this wilderness area is also within the newly designated, San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. A variety of wildlife live in the higher elevations. Several paths lead into the interior of the area, where you can venture off-trail into some regions without too much difficulty. There are three entryways: Bear Creek Trail (11 miles); Mount Waterman Trail (10 miles), with a one-mile-long side trail to Twin Peak Saddle; and Devil's Canyon Trail, which drops four miles into the Devil's canyon itself. Wood fires are not permitted because high fire danger threatens year-round. Backpacking stoves are permitted with a valid fire permit. Human use is moderate. Trails within this wilderness include: - Devils Canyon - Mt. Waterman - Twin Peaks - Bear Creek

Leave No Trace

How to follow the seven standard Leave No Trace principles differs in different parts of the country (desert vs. Rocky Mountains). Click on any of the principles listed below to learn more about how they apply in the San Gabriel Wilderness.

1. [Plan Ahead and Prepare](#)
2. [Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces](#)
3. [Dispose of Waste Properly](#)
4. [Leave What You Find](#)
5. [Minimize Campfire Impacts](#)
6. [Respect Wildlife](#)
7. [Be Considerate of Other Visitors](#)

For more information on Leave No Trace, [Visit the Leave No Trace, Inc. website.](#)

Area Management

The San Gabriel wilderness is part of the 111 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System. This System of lands provides clean air, water, and habitat critical for rare and endangered plants and animals. In wilderness, you can enjoy challenging recreational activities like hiking, backpacking, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, horse packing, bird watching, stargazing, and extraordinary opportunities for solitude. You play an important role in helping to *"secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness"* as called for by the Congress of the United States through the Wilderness Act of 1964. Please follow the requirements outlined below and use Leave No Trace techniques when visiting the San Gabriel Wilderness to ensure protection of this unique area.

General Wilderness Prohibitions

Motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport is generally prohibited on all federal lands designated as wilderness. This includes the use of motor vehicles, motorboats, motorized equipment, bicycles, hang gliders, wagons, carts, portage wheels, and the landing of aircraft including helicopters, unless provided for in specific legislation.

In a few areas some exceptions allowing the use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport are described in the special regulations in effect for a specific area. Contact the Forest Service office or visit the websites listed below for more specific information.

These general prohibitions have been implemented for all national forest wildernesses in order to implement the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Wilderness Act requires management of human-caused impacts and protection of the area's wilderness character to insure that it is "unimpaired for the future use and enjoyment as wilderness." Use of the equipment listed as prohibited in wilderness is inconsistent with the provision in the Wilderness Act which mandates opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and that wilderness is a place that is in contrast with areas where people and their works are dominant.

Wilderness-Specific Regulations

Wilderness managers often need to take action to limit the impacts caused by visitor activities in order to protect the natural conditions of wilderness as required by the Wilderness Act of 1964. Managers typically implement 'indirect' types of actions such as information and education measures before selecting more restrictive measures. When regulations are necessary, they are implemented with the specific intent of balancing the need to preserve the character of the wilderness while providing for the use and enjoyment of wilderness.

The following wilderness regulations are in effect for this area. Not all regulations are in effect for every wilderness. Contact the Forest Service office or visit the websites listed on the 'Links' tab for more specific information about the regulations listed.

ALL VISITORS

- Group size is limited to no more than 25 people per party.
- Maximum length of stay is 21 days.
- Campfires are prohibited.
- Do not shortcut switchbacks.

- Dogs must be under verbal control or leashed at all times.
- Pack out all debris, garbage, or other waste.
- As with all designated Wilderness areas, mechanical transportation (including wagons, game carts, bicycles, and other vehicles) is prohibited.

Fees

The following user fee system(s) have been implemented for this wilderness: TRAILHEAD PARKING. Fees are most often used to offset the operating costs of a permit system or to help fund management activities such as trail maintenance. Contact the national forest office or visit the websites listed below for more specific information on this fee system.

Contacts

San Gabriel River Ranger District
 110 N WABASH AVENUE
 GLENDORA, CA 91741

Phone: 626-335-1251

Phone: 626-574-1613

Angeles National Forest
 710 NORTH SANTA ANITA AVENUE
 ARCADIA, CA 91006

Links to Other Websites

[Angeles National Forest, San Gabriel Wilderness](#)

Links on Wilderness.net

[National, Regional and Local Wilderness Organizations \(NGOs\)](#)

A listing of societies, organizations, coalitions and other wilderness-related advocacy and stewardship groups.

[Career and Volunteer Opportunities](#)

A listing of sites providing information about wilderness- and environmentally-related career and volunteer opportunities.

Applicable Wilderness Law(s)

Law	Date	Acreage Change (in acres)
Public Law 90-318	May 24, 1968	36,000

(No official title, designates San Gabriel Wilderness) - Public law 90-318 (5/24/1968) To designate the San Gabriel Wilderness, Angeles National Forest, in the State of California

 [download 90-318](#)