Future of the Four Forests

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USDA Forest Service
Southern California Forests

1. Scenery
Southern California Forests

2. Habitat – last refuge for animals and plants

Steve Maslowski

CalFlora
Southern California Forests

2. Habitat – unique communities

CalFlora
Southern California Forests

3. Recreation

Nation’s most culturally diverse population
Southern California Forests

3. Recreation – fishing and hunting
3. Recreation – hiking and camping
Southern California Forests

3. Recreation – horseback riding
Southern California Forests

3. Recreation – snowplay and biking

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3. Recreation – astronomy

NASA
4. Economic Benefits – clean drinking water

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4. Economic Benefits – quality of life

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Southern California Forests

4. Economic Benefits – tourism

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Challenges to the Forests

1. Regional Sprawl and Population Growth

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Challenges to the Forests

2. Urban-Wildland Interface

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Challenges to the Forests

3. Unmanaged Recreation

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Background

USFS failed to consult with USFWS regarding listed species

Management plans were woefully out of date
CBD Lawsuit

Outcome and Agreement

Relocation of and some restrictions on management activities and recreation

Interim stopgap measures

Southern California Conservation Strategy (Forest Plan Revision)
Conservation Alternative

1. Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Species Protection and Recovery
Conservation Alternative

1. Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Species Protection and Recovery – control of invasive species
2. Focal Species Management – each species represents landscape or site-specific management issues
Desert Bighorn Sheep: *desert montane – disturbance*

Michael Francis
Desert Bighorn Sheep: desert montane – disturbance

Least Bells’ Vireo: riparian habitat – livestock grazing

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Desert Bighorn Sheep: desert montane – disturbance
Least Bells’ Vireo: riparian habitat – livestock grazing
Bells’ Sage Sparrow: shrublands – fire management

Mike Danzenbaker
Desert Bighorn Sheep: desert montane – disturbance
Least Bells’ Vireo: riparian habitat – livestock grazing
Bells’ Sage Sparrow: shrublands – fire management
Red-diamond Rattlesnake: desert scrub – roads

Brian Kenney
Desert Bighorn Sheep: desert montane – disturbance
Least Bells’ Vireo: riparian habitat – livestock grazing
Bells’ Sage Sparrow: shrublands – fire management
Red-diamond Rattlesnake: desert scrub – roads
California Spotted Owl: large trees/snags – logging
Desert Bighorn Sheep: desert montane – disturbance

Least Bells’ Vireo: riparian habitat – livestock grazing

Bells’ Sage Sparrow: shrublands – fire management

Red-diamond Rattlesnake: desert scrub – roads

California Spotted Owl: large trees/snags – logging

Townsend’s Big-eared Bat: caves/mines – disturbance
Desert Bighorn Sheep: desert montane – disturbance

Least Bells’ Vireo: riparian habitat – livestock grazing

Bells’ Sage Sparrow: shrublands – fire management

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Mule Deer: habitat generalist – game species
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Southwestern Pond Turtle: aquatic – exotic species, water diversions, pollution

William Flaxington
Conservation Alternative

3. Vegetative Community Management

   Fire Management
   Water Management
   Invasive Species Management
   Human Impacts (recreation)
Conservation Alternative

3. Vegetative Community Management

Chaparral

Marc Hoshovsky
Conservation Alternative

3. Vegetative Community Management

Coastal Sage Scrub

Marc Hoshovsky
3. Vegetative Community Management

Hardwood Forests and Woodlands

Marc Hoshovsky
Conservation Alternative

3. Vegetative Community Management

Conifer and Conifer/Hardwood Forests

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Conservation Alternative

3. Vegetative Community Management

Sensitive Communities

Tecate Cypress

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Conservation Alternative

4. Watershed Protection

William Flaxington

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Pyramid Lake

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Conservation Alternative

5. Habitat Linkages
Conservation Alternative

6. Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers

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Conservation Alternative

7. Fire Management
Conservation Alternative

7. Fire Management - undergrowth reduction/prescribed burns

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Conservation Alternative

7. Fire Management - education and urban-wildlands interface
Conservation Alternative

8. Public Access and Recreation
Conservation Alternative

9. Education – coordinate with local schools, outreach to diverse groups
Conservation Alternative

10. Restrictions on Commercial Use – grazing, mining, oil and gas drilling, timber harvest

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What is Next?

DEIS in Spring 2003

FEIS in 2004?

Implementation
What is Needed?

Public awareness, support, and ongoing participation
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Public awareness, support, and ongoing participation

Funding
What is Needed?

Public awareness, support, and ongoing participation

Funding

Research
“National Forests exist today because the people want them. To make them accomplish the most good, the people themselves must make clear how they want them run.”

Gifford Pinchot 1907