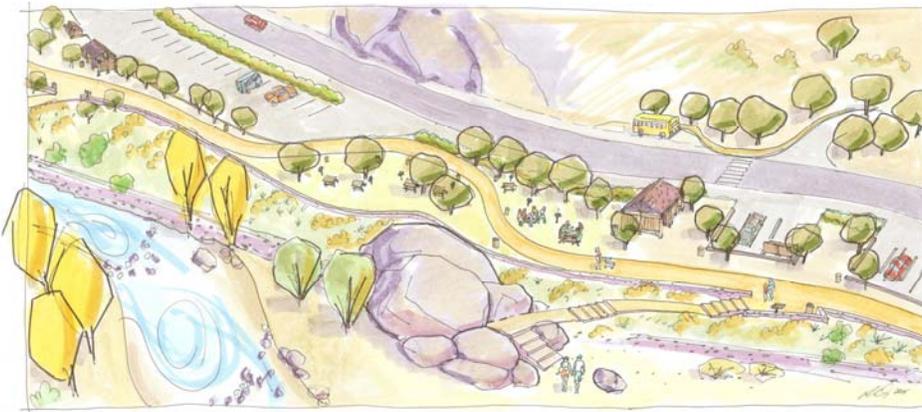


The East Fork San Gabriel River Project

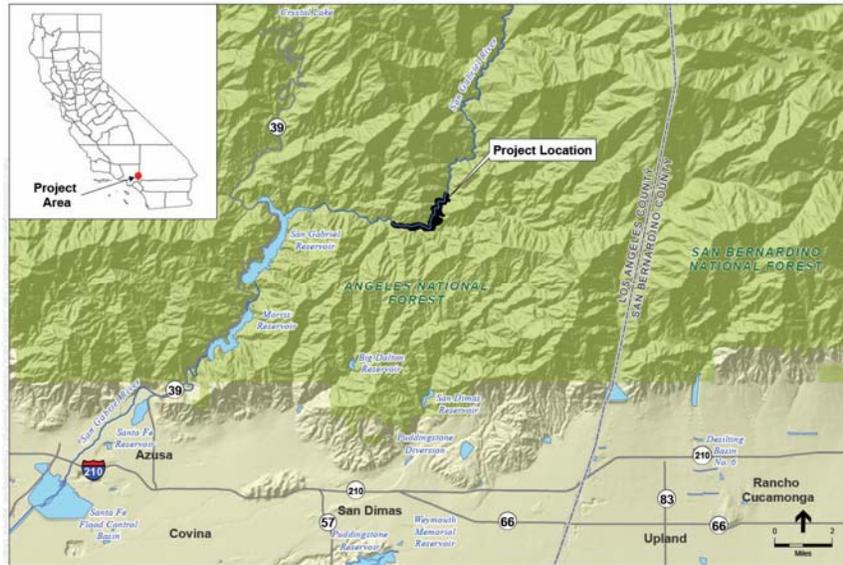
San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project



Overview

- Introduction
 - Project Background
 - Purpose and Need
 - Proposed Action
 - Alternative 1 and 2
 - Parking Considerations
 - Design Features and Mitigation Measures
 - Effects Analysis
 - Overview and Conclusions
 - Recreation and Environmental Justice
 - Biological Resources
 - Cultural Resources
 - Consideration of Comments and Objections
 - Next Steps
-

Vicinity Map



Collaboration

Agency Leads



Watershed Conservation Authority
(Local Public Entity / Joint Powers Authority)



&
Angeles National Forest,
San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

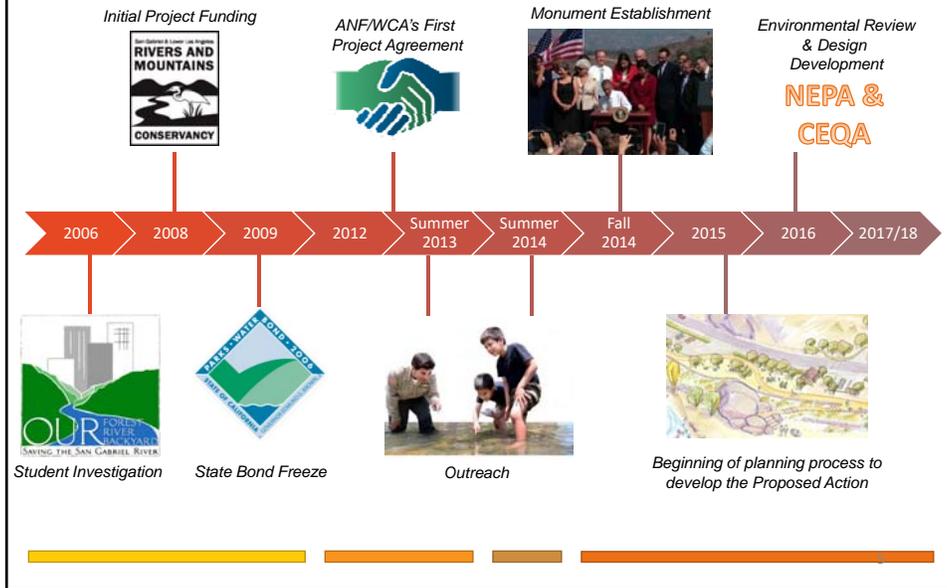
Engaged Stakeholders

Non-Profit Organizations
Regulatory Agencies

Consultants

BlueGreen Consulting
Landscape Architecture / Planning
Environmental Science Associates
Environmental Consulting

Project Background



Existing Condition



↑ Visitors navigate steep terrain to access river

← Recreational use near Oaks Picnic Area



← Trash in river.

← Near East Fork Trailhead, hikers walk along road to return to their vehicles.

Purpose and Need

- **Provide recreation facilities and infrastructure that are high quality, well-maintained, safe, and accessible** to visitors.
- **Shift and concentrate recreational use** to certain areas in order to minimize adverse effects over a broader area.
- **Promote stewardship** of public land by providing quality and sustainable recreation opportunities that result in increased visitor satisfaction.
- **Allow for better management** of the recreation resources on the forest.
- **Improve riparian habitat conditions** in certain areas and make progress toward enhancing stream habitat conditions by restoring vegetation, minimizing invasive plants and noxious weed presence, and developing management strategies to regulate access.

Alternative 1: Proposed Action

SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FINAL CONCEPT SITE PLAN

JANUARY 30, 2017

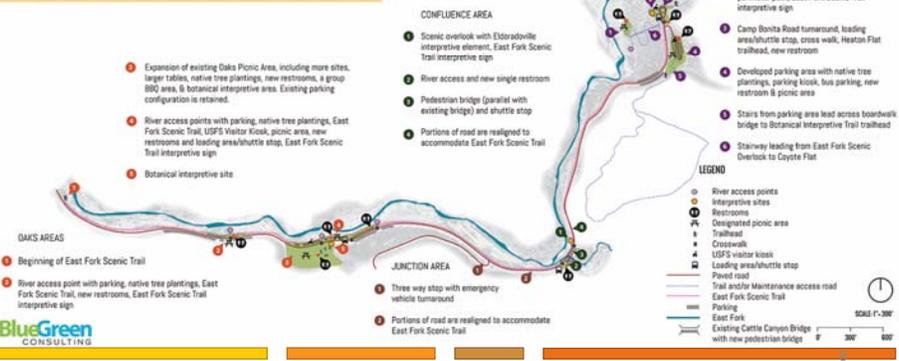
DESCRIPTION
Site use recreation is enhanced by a continuous 2.0-mile "East Fork Scenic Trail". The trail is located adjacent to the road with views of the river and provides access to scenic views, river access points and backcountry trailheads. Loading/shuttle stops are provided.

PROJECT AREA TOTALS

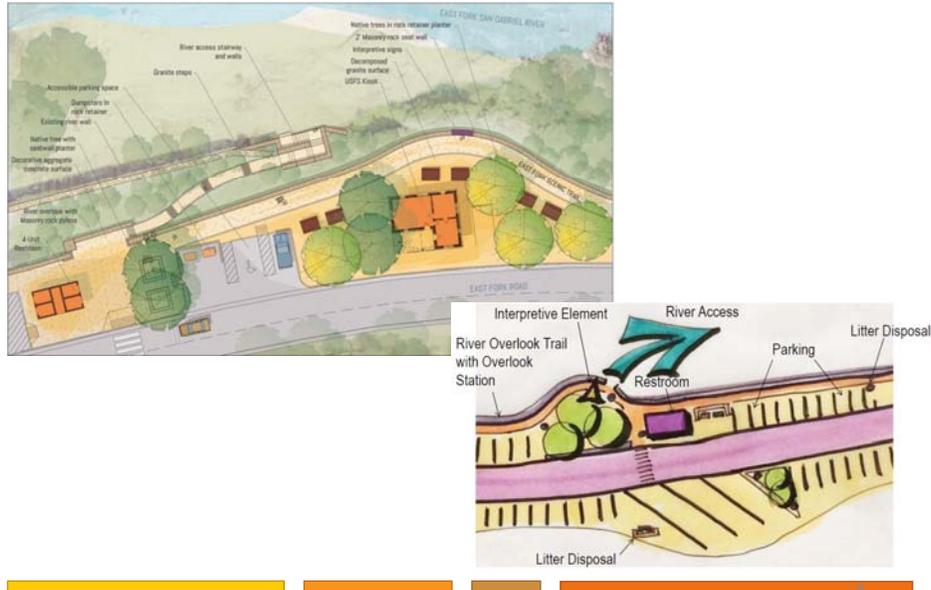
Tentative	4
Restrooms	19
Overlooks	7
Designated Picnic Area	6
East Fork Scenic Trail (mi)	2.0
Interpretive Sites	4
River Access Points	4
USFS Visitor Kiosk	1
Backcountry Sites	1
Parking	270

DESCRIPTION
Site use recreation is enhanced by a continuous 2.0-mile "East Fork Scenic Trail". The trail is located adjacent to the road with views of the river and provides access to scenic views, river access points and backcountry trailheads. Loading/shuttle stops are provided.

- River access: 4 locations with restrooms, dumpsters & signage
- Parking: Improved and expanded trailhead with picnic tables, limited vehicle parking, parking lot in former Fire Station area with tree planting
- Interpretive: Improved interpretive trailhead, interpretive signs, interpretive sites including 2 interpretive trails, scenic overlooks, biological signage including wetland and trail signage, trailheads, designated loading/shuttle area
- Restrooms: 19 restrooms located near river access points and other popular areas
- Trailheads: Small trailhead restrooms to be located at all river access points and at picnic sites. Signage to be set within each location.
- Areas to bring back to natural condition or restore through native revegetation: Multiple riparian back to back and riparian along roadbed, revegetation on east side of road, stream habitat in tributary behind Oaks Picnic Area, phase out non-native "Spanish" plantings



Sustainable Site Access Model

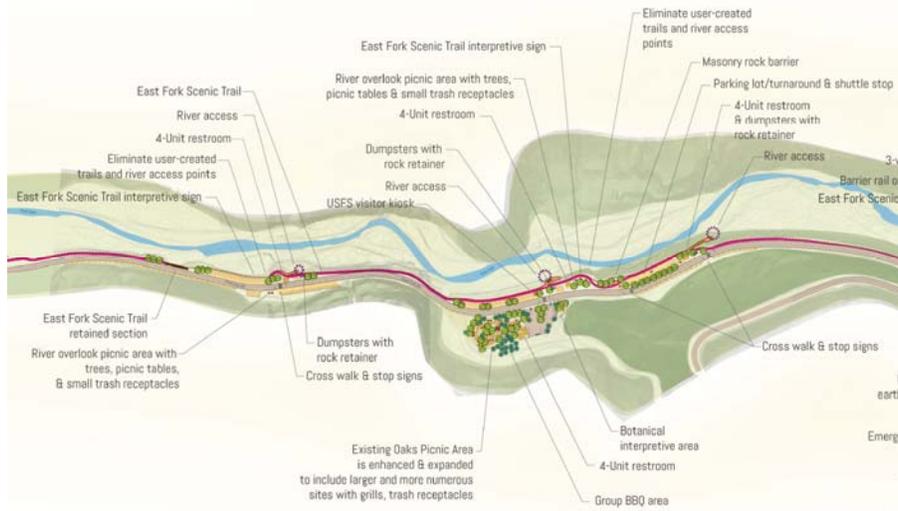


Changes since Public Scoping

- **Change East Fork SGR to a Day Use Only area**
-overnight stays will still be allowed in wilderness areas with a permit
- **Glass Ban**
- **Removal of gate at the intersection with GMR**



Oaks Area



Oaks Area

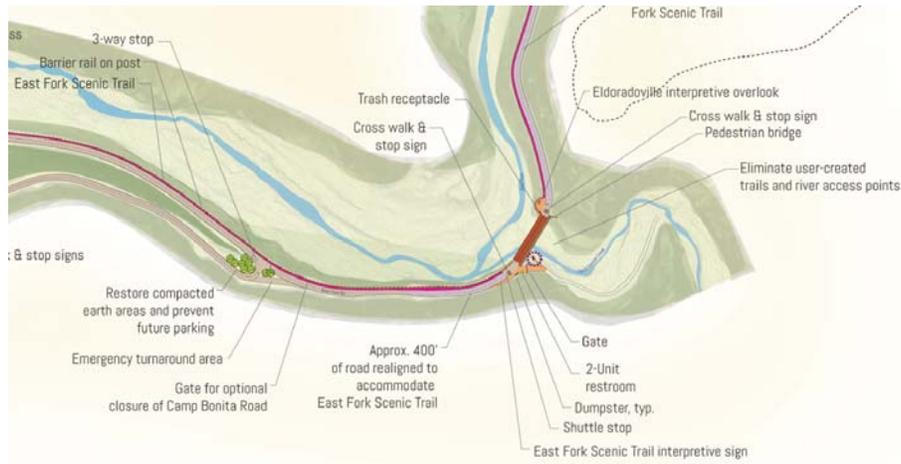


North to South Section at Oaks Picnic Area
Section extends from river, through river access stairs, restroom, East Fork Road and the Botanical Interpretive Area at Oaks Picnic Area.

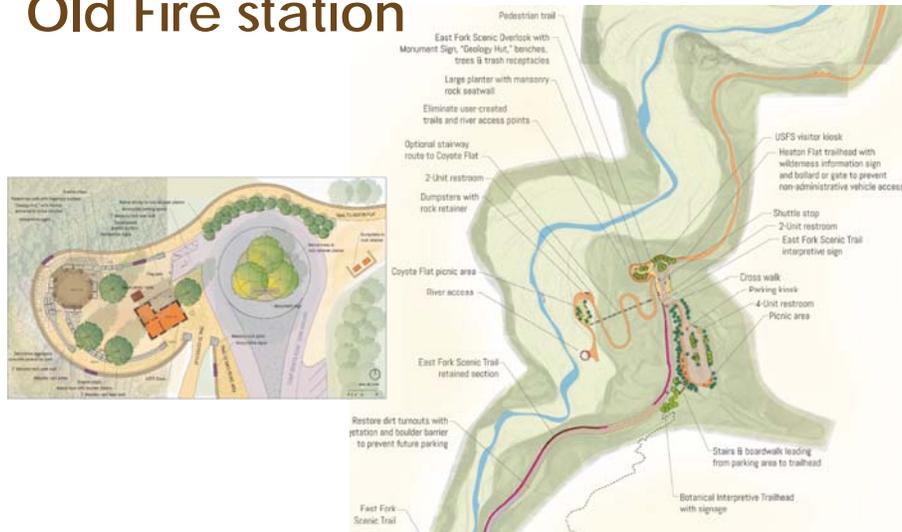


North to South Section at Parking Lot with Turnaround, Upper Oaks Picnic Area

Junction & Confluence Areas



Coyote Flat, Overlook, & Old Fire station



Coyote Flat, Overlook, & Old Fire station

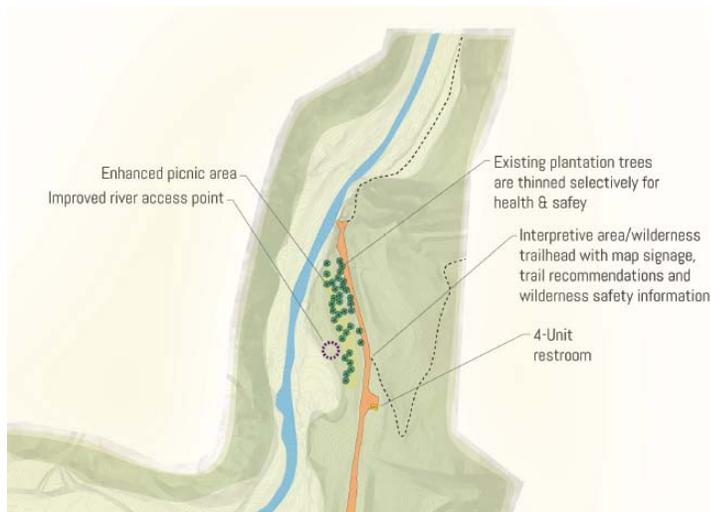


West to East Section across East Fork Overlook and Camp Bonita Road Roundabout

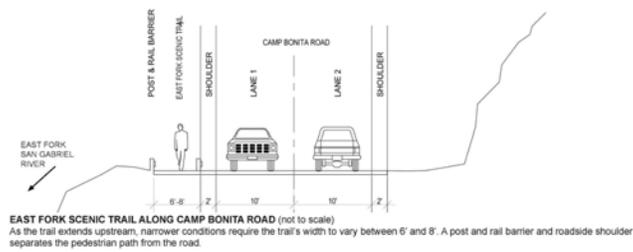
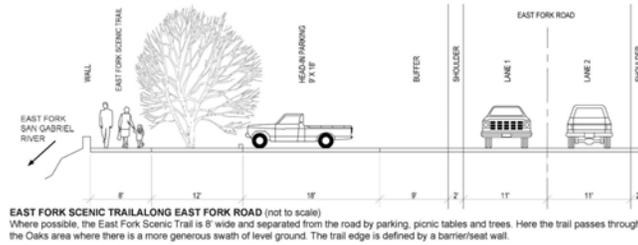
Scale: 1/16" = 1'



Heaton Flat



East Fork Trail Schematic



Parking Considerations: Concerns

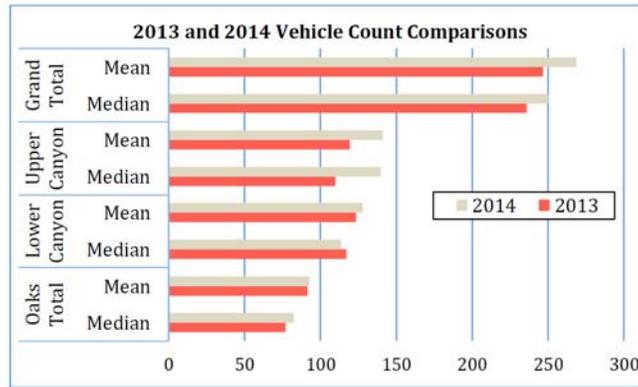
Concerns with existing parking patterns:

- **Parking reaches capacity** early during peak seasons
- **Recreation is dispersed** in areas that cannot be easily maintained
- **Pedestrian safety** is compromised
- **Maintenance** access to dumpsters and restrooms is reduced
- **Emergency vehicle access** is impacted
- Current signage **prohibiting parking** is often ignored



Parking Considerations: Counts

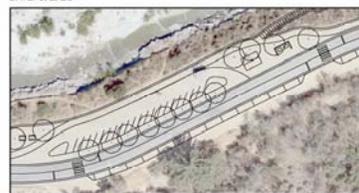
VEHICLE COUNTS



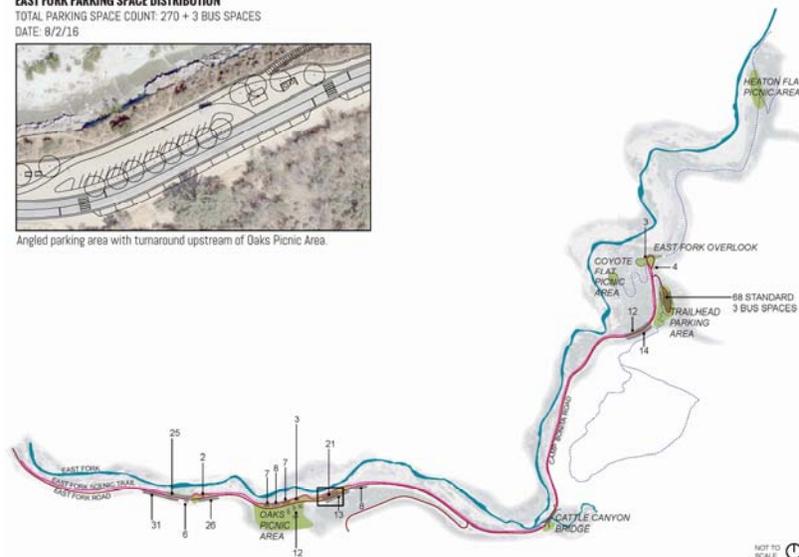
- During peak use on summer weekends in 2013 and 2014 there were on average **273** total vehicles per survey day across the project site.
 - Averaging 131 vehicles on the Lower Canyon and 142 vehicles along the Upper Canyon.
- Vehicle counts obtained from the Cattle Canyon Visitor Use Survey conducted by Robert Brown, Ph.D., of California State University, San Marcos.

Proposed Parking: Distribution

EAST FORK PARKING SPACE DISTRIBUTION
 TOTAL PARKING SPACE COUNT: 270 + 3 BUS SPACES
 DATE: 8/2/16



Angled parking area with turnaround upstream of Oaks Picnic Area.



Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR)

- Evaluated the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative
- Evaluated the following environmental resources in detail:
 - Recreation and Environmental Justice
 - Biological Resources
 - Cultural and Paleontological Resources
 - Hydrology and Water Quality
 - Air Quality, Greenhouse Gases, and Climate Change
 - Noise
 - Public Safety, Hazardous Materials, and Fire
 - Transportation and Traffic
 - Visual Resources
- Effects Not Found Significant Include:
 - Agricultural and Forestry Resources
 - Geology and Soils
 - Land Use and Planning
 - Mineral Resources
 - Population and Housing
 - Public Services and Utilities
- All environmental impacts were determined to have no impact, be less than significant, or less than significant with mitigation.

Effects Analysis: Recreation & Environmental Justice

- Temporary closure to existing recreational resources during construction.
- Design Measures include restricting construction on weekends and major holidays and notifying the public of closures.
- Potential new fees for parking (adventure pass), in areas with improved amenities. Not an entry fee.
- Majority of visitors are from minority or low-income populations.
- Beneficial effect to existing recreational users, including minority and low-income populations.
- No high percentage of minority or low income populations reside within the project area.

Effects Analysis: Biological Resources

- Studies included a jurisdictional delineation, Biological Assessments, and Biological Evaluations
- Informal consultation with USFWS and coordination with other agencies
- Sensitive biological resources include:
 - Designated critical habitat for Santa Ana sucker (SAS)
 - Stream and riparian habitats
 - SAS, arroyo chub, Sana Ana speckled dace, coast range newt, and other aquatic wildlife
- Project Design Measures protecting sensitive biological resources include:
 - Habitat enhancement
 - Native plantings
 - Fish relocation
- Mitigation measures include:
 - Mitigation for unavoidable impacts to rare plants
 - Relocation of special-status aquatic wildlife
 - Compensatory mitigation for impacts to jurisdictional resources



Photo
Credit:
USFWS

Effects Analysis: Cultural Resources

- Study included records searches, archival research, survey, and sensitivity assessments
- ANF conducted Section 106 consultation with Native American Tribes (one formal request for comments/)
- 13 cultural resources were identified within the project APE, mainly related to historic mining. Avoidance and protection measures may be required for 8 that could potentially be affected by the Proposed Action
- No paleontological resources, human remains, or tribal cultural resources have been identified within the project area
- Treatment of resources will be guided by Project Design Measures, which require implementing assessment, avoidance and protection protocols per USDA R5 Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 Compliance
- MM CR-1 and MM CR-2 require cultural resources sensitivity training for construction personnel and measures to be enacted in the event of inadvertent discoveries of archaeological resources



NEPA Process: Comment & Objection

Comment

- 45 day comment period
- After the comment period, we will consider the comment and issue a final EIS/EIR along with a draft Record of Decision (ROD)

Objection (36CFR218)

- Additional 45 days for objection filing period
- Definition of “Standing”
- Objection Resolution
- At the end, issue final ROD

Next Steps

- 45-day Comment Period
- Comments analysis / Incorporate changes
- Prepare Final EIS/EIR, Mitigation Monitoring Report Program (MMRP), and Draft Notice of Determination (NOD) and Draft Record of Decision (ROD)
- Final EIS and draft ROD available for objection
- Objection filing and resolution period
- Issue final ROD/Sign decision (planned for August 2018)