

PROPOSED PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

MAY 1979

**Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area**



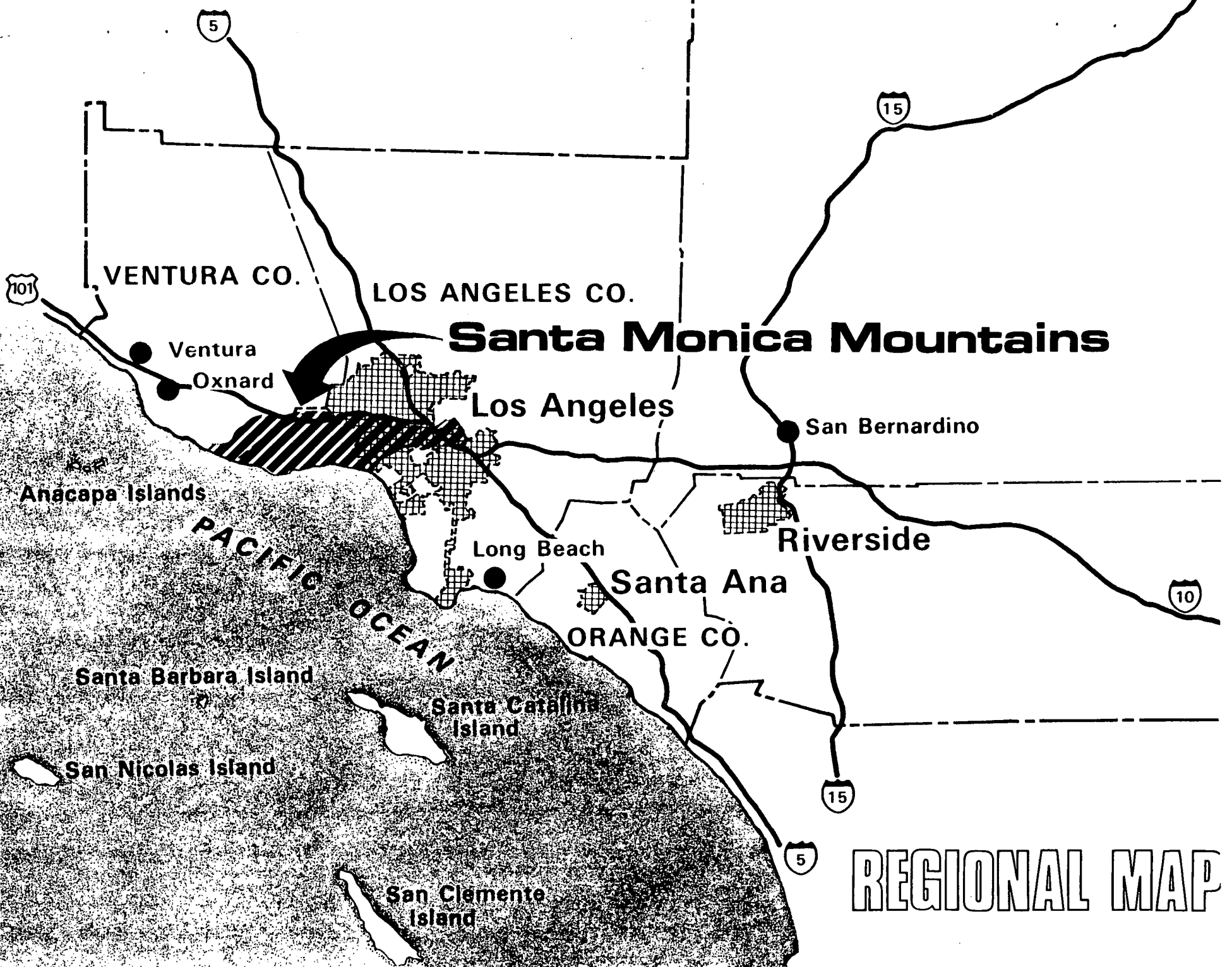
**Department of Interior
National Park Service**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

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Santa Monica Mountains

REGIONAL MAP

INTRODUCTION

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area was established by Congress and signed into law by President Carter on November 10, 1978 (P.L. 95-625, Sec. 507, the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978). This legislation recognized that the Santa Monica Mountains and the coastline adjacent to the Los Angeles metropolitan area have significant natural, cultural, and recreational value and that the Federal Government could play a role in their preservation. The National Park Service has been given the initial responsibility to preserve the mountains' qualities by creating, planning, and managing a new park in this area of southern California.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

According to the law, the Secretary of the Interior must first "identify the lands within the recreation area which must be acquired and held in public ownership" for park purposes. This identification, to be completed within six months of the law's enactment, is a preliminary but important step in the formation of this unit of the National Park System.

The legislation requires that the lands identified for future public ownership are to be acquired for the following purposes:

- Preservation of beaches and coastal uplands.
- Protection of undeveloped inland stream basins.
- Connection of existing parks and other publicly-owned lands to enhance their use for public recreation.
- Protection of existing park roads and scenic corridors including the Mulholland Parkway scenic corridor.
- Development and interpretation of historic sites and recreation areas for uses such as riding and hiking trails, picnicking, campgrounds, and scenic overlooks.
- Protection of the public's health and welfare.

The type or level of public ownership needed will be determined by the uses planned for each specific area. Full fee acquisition will be necessary in many areas especially where recreational facilities or public use is contemplated. In other areas, where open space preservation is most important or compatible land uses exist, a scenic easement, purchased from the landowner, may be sufficient for park purposes. The kinds of land acquisition will be determined on the basis of a land acquisition plan to be prepared with public participation during the next few months and a general management plan for the national recreation area.

The National Park Service must submit a comprehensive land acquisition plan, including a final boundary map and a five-year acquisition program, to Congress by January 1, 1980. This plan will guide the Park Service's land acquisition program by establishing a priority of acquisition as funds become available for a five-year period. It will also form the basis for developing the general management plan for the recreation area which must be accomplished two years from enactment of the law.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Workshops will be an integral part of the planning process leading to the development and completion of this land acquisition plan and subsequently to the general management plan for the national recreation area. These workshops will begin this summer to allow the general public, organizations and other Federal, State and local agencies to voice their opinions and suggestions on the kind of park they would like to have, the lands they recommend for acquisition, and how their interests and needs can best be served by the new recreation area.

LANDS PROPOSED FOR PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

In accordance with the requirements of the National Parks and Recreation Act, the National Park Service has identified lands in the Santa Monica Mountains and the adjacent seashore that should be acquired in some form and held in public ownership for park purposes. To accomplish its task within the time specified in the legislation, the Park Service has relied on a variety of sources in developing its preliminary recommendations. Previously completed studies of the Santa Monica Mountains, legislative requirements, public agency recommendations, public meetings held on these studies and recommendations, and the opinions of organizations and individuals who have knowledge of land use and resource values in this area were considered. These sources, in conjunction with general field reconnaissance verification by National Park Service staff, provided the background necessary to make a preliminary determination of which lands within the national recreation area possess sufficient park values for public ownership. These lands are depicted as "Proposed Public Ownership" on the accompanying map, SMM-NRA, 80,002; May 79, WRO-PP. This preliminary map will no doubt change as a result of input from other agencies, organizations and the public.

OTHER CATEGORIES OF LAND AND AUTHORIZED BOUNDARIES

AS DEPICTED ON THE MAP

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

This is the approximate boundary of the recreation area as authorized by Congress. The National Park Service is authorized to acquire fee title to unimproved properties within this boundary. Fee title of improved properties used for residential or agricultural purposes will not be acquired unless the National Park Service finds these properties are being used in a way that is detrimental to the national recreation area or they are needed to fulfill the purposes of the Act. An example would be an improved property that might be in a location where recreational facilities are planned. Less than fee title, such as scenic easement, may be purchased on either improved or unimproved properties.

This preliminary park lands identification delineates several areas for public ownership adjacent to but outside the authorized boundary. These lands are part of a larger land resource unit, an area with potential for recreational facilities development or they are necessary for the scenic integrity of this park area. The boundary will be changed to include these lands in the national recreation area. The legislation provides that the Secretary of the Interior may make minor revisions in the recreation area's boundary when necessary to further the purpose of the national recreation area.

The Santa Monica Mountains Zone

The national recreation area is only part of the Santa Monica Mountains range. The Act designates the entire mountain range and watershed as the Santa Monica Mountains Zone. The State-legislated Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Commission has responsibility for planning the future use of this zone to insure land use compatible with the national recreation area. City, county, and State agencies will be responsible for implementing land use planning decisions and managing new park acquisitions within this zone.

Existing Park Lands

All significant existing local, county, or State parks and beaches in the Santa Monica Mountains Zone and national recreation area are shown on the map. These park units will continue to be managed by the respective land managing agencies.

Planned State Acquisitions

These lands have been authorized for purchase by the State of California through Assembly Bill 3663, signed by Governor Brown on September 27, 1978. They are watershed and scenic buffer lands for Malibu Creek State Park; lands to provide an adequate trail corridor linking Malibu Creek and Topanga State Park; lands to provide trail linkage between urbanized Los Angeles and the Santa Monica Mountains, and lands to provide intensive recreational sites within the Los Angeles portion of the Santa Monica Mountains. The Act appropriates \$20,467,000 for this acquisition, subject to reimbursement by the Federal Government.

Other Public Lands

Within this category are special purpose open space lands that are in public ownership. They are dedicated to uses such as water supply reservoirs, sanitary land fill, schools, detention camps, sewage treatment, power generation, and significant highway right-of-way. These areas all contribute to the open space character of the national recreation area and have some potential for future compatible recreational uses.

Urbanized/Developed Areas

Lands where significant identifiable development has occurred for residential, commercial, and industrial uses are in this category. Almost all types of developed land identified lack park values and, therefore, will be excluded from the national recreation area. In general as stated above, the National Park Service will not acquire single-family residences and agricultural lands in fee. However, in certain agricultural or residential areas less-than-fee title, such as purchase of easements to maintain low density zoning for scenic purpose or to insure compatible land use, may be obtained by the National Park Service.

Mulholland Scenic Parkway Corridor

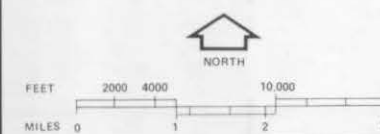
Mulholland Drive/Highway has been proposed by various agencies and citizens advisory commissions as a prototype for a scenic parkway in the Santa Monica Mountains. This roadway has an important function in the national recreation area, serving as a vital transportation link between existing and proposed park and recreation lands. A system of strategically located scenic overlooks, interpretive pullouts, trail access points located and developed along this transportation corridor is contemplated to serve the motoring public as a unifying factor for the many diverse elements of the national recreation area. Designating strategic scenic views for protection by easement and determining location of adjacent roadside facilities will be functions of the land acquisition plan and the required general management plan.

Areas of Further Study

The remaining lands within the authorized national recreation area boundary which have not been otherwise designated are reserved for further study. In many cases these are lands that have not revealed obvious park values in this preliminary land use analysis. Other areas have not been assessed due to the time constraints of this first land acquisition proposal and the extent of the area to be assessed within the authorized boundary. A determination of their status with respect to the national recreation area will be made for the land acquisition plan and the final boundary map submitted to Congress on January 1, 1980. In some cases, lands in this category will be recommended for Zone designation and subsequent State and local regulatory jurisdiction. In other cases, some lands presently not identified as such may, after further study, prove to be significant for park purposes. They would then be recommended for public ownership.

This map and the input that is received during this summer's public workshops will form the basis for the start of planning for the national recreation area. The assistance of other agencies/organizations and individuals is vital to the success of this important planning effort.

- LEGEND**
- SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS ZONE
 - ▬▬▬ SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
 - ▨ EXISTING PARK LANDS
 - ▩ OTHER PUBLIC LANDS
 - ▧ PROPOSED PUBLIC OWNERSHIP
 - PLANNED STATE ACQUISITIONS
 - URBANIZED-DEVELOPED AREAS
 - AREAS OF FURTHER STUDY
 - ~ MULHOLLAND SCENIC PARKWAY



PROPOSED PUBLIC OWNERSHIP
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS
 NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
 CALIFORNIA

