

Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership

San Gabriel/Sierra Pelona All Landscape Restoration Project

2016–2018



The San Gabriel Mountains and Angeles National Forest serve as the backdrop to the City of Glendale

Along the towering mountain range, on the northern border of Los Angeles, sits the Angeles National Forest. Millions of people visit the forest every year to take in the views of the city, ride their bikes, watch wildlife, or just enjoy the mountains. The national forest also provides approximately one third of the water supply to the neighboring metropolis, the second largest in the U.S. Protecting this water supply and the infrastructure that delivers the water to the downstream communities and industry is critically important. Central to this goal is improving the health of the surrounding forests to reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildfire. With so many visitors, the forest unfortunately also averages approximately three fire starts per week. Maintaining fuelbreaks and removing accumulated fuels helps ensure safe recreational opportunities and protect local communities. This Joint Chiefs' project addressed forest health by mitigating the effects of invasive insects and weeds, as well as creating a defensible space in the wildland urban interface. In particular, invasive insects and weeds have exploited the recent droughts contributing to tree mortality and an increasing risk of fire. Community support of these forest health actions was exemplified by long-standing partners like the National Forest Foundation.

PROJECT IMPACT:

\$459,060

Dollar equivalents in partner contributions (financial and in-kind) to the project

USFS & NRCS JCLRP funds awarded 2016–2018: \$1,180,305
Total USDA and partner project funds: \$1,244,385

PROJECT RESULTS



Charlie Parsons discussing tree pruning methods with Soil Conservationist Madeline Milner and District Conservationist Philip Dixon after project implementation



Creating defensible space:

fuelbreaks were maintained and created on 477 acres to protect communities.



Invasive weed removal:

166 acres of non-native weed *Arundo* was removed and site replanted with native vegetation.



Forest health:

a 182-acre infestation of goldspotted oak borer was treated and replanted with native vegetation.

USDA's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service are working together to improve the health of forests where public forests and grasslands connect to privately owned lands. Through the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership, the two USDA agencies are restoring landscapes by reducing wildfire threats to communities and landowners, protecting water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat.

Photos in this document are public domain or stock imagery unless otherwise noted.

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SAN GABRIEL/SIERRA PELONA ALL LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT



Mount Kare campgrounds after fuels reduction and pruning treatments

Mount Kare Project Improves Forest Health, Makes Camp and Community Safer

Mt. Kare is Kare Youth League's (KYL) resident camping facility located in the Angeles National Forest near the village of Wrightwood, California. Its ease of access makes it a popular location for group events or for those who just want a quick get-away.

In 2016, after several years of severe drought, KYL was concerned about dead and unhealthy trees on the property that could endanger camp guests. Wanting to prepare Mt. Kare for any future fires, KYL got help through USDA's Joint Chiefs' San Gabriel/Sierra Pelona All Landscape Restoration Project. The NRCS worked with them to develop a Forest Management Plan and provided funding to help implement the conservation practices.

Mt. Kare manager Charlie Parsons first learned about the funding opportunity from NRCS Soil Conservationist Paul Nguyen during a presentation to landowners in the area.

Nguyen said, "Woody dead, dying, and fallen plant residues were treated to achieve management objectives and improve the likelihood of natural regeneration of desirable tree species." The goal of the treatment was to remove dangerous trees and to create a healthier forest stand that is more resilient to wildfire.

"It was a good project," said Parsons. "We got a lot of work done. I can't believe how much better it looks now."

The project was implemented at a time when drought conditions and wildfire risk was at an all-time high. USDA Forest Service personnel marked trees and assisted in fuel reduction. NRCS provided funding for masticator work. The project also assisted in defense of the Wrightwood community.

For more information, please visit nrcs.usda.gov/JointChiefsReports



Mt. Kare manager Charlie Parsons with a long-pole pruning chainsaw

Key Partners

Los Angeles County
National Forest Foundation
Arroyo Seco Foundation
Bank of America
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens

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