

Land Rights Network
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National Park Service Rim Of The Valley Park Study Announcement

The huge new Rim of the Valley National Park land grab study placing new regulations and land use controls on 158,000 private land owners in LA County and 11,000 landowners in Ventura County is announced below in the press announcement by Rep. Adam Schiff.

Below we have listed the website information and contact information for both the Rim of the Valley National Park study and the San Gabriel River Watershed study. The Rim of the Valley website is set to start by the National Park Service on Friday but may be delayed.

Eventually the Park Service plans to combine the two areas and take over the Angeles National Forest and the San Bernardino National Forest into one giant National Park. Present users of the National Forest areas are likely to be removed over time.

You can go to the Rim of the Valley website and the San Gabriel Watershed website and sign up for announcements of the progress of the two studies. It is critical that you sign up because there will be important meetings and events that you will learn about by being on the Park Service e-mail and Snail Mail mailing list. Make sure you sign up.

Rim of the Valley: www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley

San Gabriel River Study: www.nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel

The press release about the NPS announcement is below.

You can see a quality map where you can find your individual property location by going to the American Land Rights Association website at: www.landrights.org

Rim of the Valley will place a Park Service noose around the necks of 169,000 threatened landowners. 158,000 in LA County and 11,000 in Ventura County.

The regulatory cost is staggering. Landowners have no idea what is coming at them.

\$2 Billion is our projected land acquisition cost but it could easily cost much more. That will make it the most expensive national park in

history. It will jeopardize funding for other parks nationwide needing money for maintenance for years to come.

The Park Service is approximately \$10 billion behind in basic health and safety-deferred maintenance. At some point we need to take care of what we've got rather than keep adding and adding.

The Park Service is a bad neighbor when it comes to fire. They will not allow you to clean your land of fire hazard brush and will not clean their own ground. Giving the Park Service control imposes a huge fire hazard on any landowners near the Rim of the Valley.

Rim of the Valley is adjacent to and attached to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. That area's real claim to fame is that it burns every five years.

-----It will include and threaten 158,000 private parcels in Los Angeles County and 11,000 in Ventura County. These are in addition to those landowners trapped in the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and those in the San Gabriel River Watershed study area.

There are many National Forest Cabin Permittees in the proposed area. Large portions of the Angeles National Forest will be converted into National Park. The San Bernardino and Las Padres National Forests are also threatened with at least partial national park status. Call any cabinowners you know to urge that they oppose the Rim of the Valley National Park. The Park Service does not allow permit cabins.

Background on Rim of the Valley:

The Rim of the Valley National Park would surround the:

parts of the Santa Monica Mountains;
the Santa Susanna Mountains;
the San Gabriel Mountains;
the Verdugo Mountains;
the San Rafael Hills;
and adjacent connector areas to the Los Padres and San Bernardino National Forests.

The Rim of the Valley will cost over \$2 billion making it the most expensive park in American history. That is the way Santa Monica Mountains NRA started out. It was only supposed to cost \$155 million in 1978. Today it is nearly \$1 billion when you combine the National Park Service land acquisition and land acquisition by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. It continues skyward.

The legislation that created the study is called the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act and would study expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by adding a corridor of all the mountains surrounding the San Fernando Valley, La Crescenta Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, Simi Valley and Conejo Valley.

Don't be confused when they call it a study. Congress will ask the giant Park Service bureaucracy if they want more land, more money, more power and more people. What do you think any self-respecting

bureaucracy is going to say? Of course they want it. They always want more.

The Rim of the Valley consists of parts of the Santa Monica Mountains, the Santa Susanna Mountains, the San Gabriel Mountains, the Verdugo Mountains, the San Rafael Hills, and adjacent connector areas to the Los Padres and San Bernardino National Forests according to Congressman Adam Schiff.

The study area will encompass 491,518 acres. That is nearly three and a half times the size of the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area that is 153,750 acres and over two thirds the size of Yosemite. All that in an urban area.

You can see a map by going to www.landrights.org Just click on the link on the website homepage.

This map was originally produced by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. They have deliberately tried to hide the full impact of the Rim of the Valley by how they have shaded the areas in the map. They call it a corridor but it actually surrounds and includes huge areas of private land. The Park Service does not like private land within their boundaries. They will try to buy it all or regulate it all over time.

****Be sure to call your local newspapers to get them to print a map of the giant new Rim of the Valley National Park Service area.**

The Rim of the Valley National Park will put a circle of Park Service control around tens of thousands of landowners. Anyone familiar with how the Park Service works knows that is the beginning of ratcheting down the regulatory controls and land acquisition. They want it all eventually.

This writer was told by the Assistant Secretary of Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks in the Carter Administration in 1978: "If Congress puts a circle around it, we're going to own it all."

The Rim of the Valley will become a huge fire hazard. The Park Service will prevent landowners from removing vegetation and brush for fire protection and will not clean their land. The result will be fires even more massive than you are suffering now. This is not speculation. This is how the Park Service presently manages the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Be sure to go to www.landrights.org for a copy of the map of the Rim of the Valley. You can enlarge it to make it more readable. Make sure you ask your local newspapers to print a map of the proposed Rim of the Valley National Park Service area.

People in the Rim of the Valley study area and the San Gabriel River Watershed study area have no idea what is coming at them.

If you don't have the equipment to enlarge the map, take a disk with the file off the web to Kinkos and they can do it.

The Rim of the Valley National Park:

-----1. Will threatened thousands of landowners and recreation users.

- 2. Create a huge fire hazard. The Park Service will not allow you to clear your brush and they will not clear theirs. The result could be a disaster.
- 3. By our estimate, it will cost over \$2 billion dollars and perhaps a great deal more to carry out their grandiose land acquisition and regulatory scheme. It will become a never-ending money pit with Congress having to keep up with public expectations.
- 4. Would study expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by adding a corridor encircling large portions of all the mountains surrounding the San Fernando Valley, La Crescenta Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, Simi Valley and Conejo Valley in California on the North side of Los Angeles.
- 5. S 2739 includes part of the Santa Monica Mountains, the Santa Susanna Mountains, the San Gabriel Mountains, the Verdugo Mountains, the San Rafael Hills, and adjacent connector areas to the Los Padres and San Bernardino National Forests.
- 6. The study area will encompass 491,518 acres, that's two-thirds the size of Yosemite. It's nearly three and a half times the size of the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area which is 153,750 acres. It will run approximately 300 miles giving it a huge scope.
- 7. Will control land use within and adjacent corridors by threatening eminent domain (condemnation) of the land. That is how they prevent building and lots of other uses. ALRA saved a ski area in Maine recently that had been continually threatened with condemnation.
- 8. The Rim of the Valley National Park will ultimately dilute the Park Service budget meaning less care for other parks.
- 9. The combined length of these Rim of the Valley corridors is likely to run as much as 300 miles long. The Santa Monica Mountains Corridor NRA is only about 40 miles long and is already costing over one billion dollars. And this does not include all the costs associated with the San Gabriel River Watershed study and what it adds to the Rim of the Valley National Park.
- 10. The corridors will be like a series of giant nooses put around the necks of the many communities in the encircled areas. Economic and social activities will be greatly inhibited. Access people now take for granted will be lost forever. Frankly, the Park Service has a record of being a very bad neighbor. Go to www.landrights.org for several socio-cultural assessments and histories of Park Service abuses.
- 11. There will be a massive increase in regulations controlling private and community activities with the encircled areas. The Rim of the Valley National Park will interdict transportation corridors, which will mean new bridges and passageways for wildlife corridors throughout the region.
- 12. They'll use the wildlife as an excuse for substantial new regulatory controls. They'll build bridges for the wildlife over the freeways but you'll be locked out. For example over 90% of Yosemite is now closed off to most of the public. They are closing campgrounds

and parking lots and soon you will have to take a bus just to get into the park.

----13. Force the closure of hundreds of miles of exiting roadways substantially reducing motorized recreation. Your access to areas now managed by the US Forest Service will be greatly reduced.

----14. It will be hard or impossible to get communication towers and other utilities installed in these corridors.

----15. Movie and TV companies who use these areas for films will be prevented from doing their normal work. The Park Service likes naturalness. They don't really like people. They just want enough to justify their budget.

----16. Creation of the Rim of the Valley Corridor could require tougher Class I air standards that would have a negative impact on private industry throughout the San Fernando Valley and the other areas. If you like the notion of viewsheds and soundsheds, you love the Rim of the Valley Corridor bill.

----17. Even though there is very little water, what exists is valuable. The Rim of the Valley will give the National Park Service a large measure of control over all the high ground around these valleys. Historically that means the agency uses that power to interdict the goals of local communities and business.

----18. The Park Service also seeks to keep communities from allowing landowners to use their land by threatening the cities and towns with the loss of Federal funds of all kinds.

Why is the Rim of the Valley Corridor National Park so important?

It will threaten thousands of landowners and permittees in the mountains around Los Angeles. It will threaten private owners in the Angeles National Forest and may threaten owners in the Los Padres and San Bernardino National Forests as well.

When the Park Service takes over a Forest Service area, landowners and recreation users lose. The Park Service does not like private uses and has almost no permit system.

The Rim of the Valley National Park will set a standard nationwide for corridor and greenway bills involving many urban and rural communities. It will likely lead to other corridor measures in other National Forests. If you like the notion of viewsheds and soundsheds, you love the Rim of the Valley Corridor bill. If they pass it in California, it will be hard to stop in other areas.

The Rim of the Valley is a study. But it is much cheaper and easier to stop the new area as a study than to stop the authorizing bill that will most certainly come from Congress later

The Rim of the Valley Study is really creating a monster new national park. The size is huge and the cost will be even larger. The size could be a series of corridors with a total length as long as 300 miles and costing you, the taxpayer over \$2 billion dollars.

Ultimately what the Park Service will want is a giant network of corridors, some very wide, covering all the mountains around the North West part of Los Angeles and part of Ventura Counties. Some of these corridors will likely mean the conversion of multiple-use land managed by the US Forest Service to the National Park Service.

The Park Service is famous for its land grabbing and regulatory technique. One example is that Santa Monica Mountains NRA is well known for being a park where the Park Service was sued and ultimately had to pay large damages for initiating a raid against an innocent rancher, Donald Scott, who was killed in the raid. All because the Park Service wanted his land.

The Park Service has been a nightmare for landowners in Santa Monica Mountains. Relations with landowners and others who traditionally used the area have always been bad and continue that way.

It was said in 1978 when the bill creating the Santa Monica Mountains NRA It was supposed to be a “string of pearls” with most land left in private hands. But that concept largely went away as the Santa Monica Mountains NRA gradually grew and more landowners were wiped out, either by purchase or by regulation.

The National Park Service promised they would protect private property owners and that most private land would not be purchased. However, they continually expand their appetite so the scope and cost of the NRA just keeps increasing. Much of the actual land acquisition has been carried out by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. They and the Park Service work closely together to strangle landowners.

The Santa Monica Mountains NRA surrounded thousands of landowners preventing them from getting access. Then they bought out the major landowners and just left the small landowners to twist in the wind. Numerous complaints have been filed about the Park Service creating hardships and doing nothing about it.

That is what will happen in the Rim of the Valley Corridor. It will start with a small scope and gradually increase over time until the Federal Government and the National Park Service take over huge portions of the mountains around Los Angeles.

The proposed new Park Service area is likely to cost over \$2 billion in additional dollars. That could be grossly understated. The funding required would detract from existing National Parks that are already strapped for funds for basic health, safety and visitor services.

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Short LA background of Charles (Chuck) Cushman

I was appointed to the National Park System Advisory Board by President Reagan in 1981.

Chairman of LA Mayor Bradley's Education Committee in 70's.

My father worked for the Boy Scouts in both the San Fernando Valley Council and the Verdugo Hills Council in the 40's and 50's. These assignments cover a lot of the area in the Rim of the Valley.

I've camped and traveled in the Rim of the Valley area extensively.

I graduated from North Hollywood High School in 1961.

My father taught at North Hollywood High in the 50's and 60's.

I was in the YMCA in North Hollywood as well as the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorer Scouts in North Hollywood.

I was in the Deputy Auxiliary Police in Los Angeles.

I was in the insurance business in Sherman Oaks and then Beverly Hills from 1963 to 1977. A life member of the Million Dollar Round Table with 13 qualifications.

I believe I know the proposed Rim of the Valley Study area well.

Chuck Cushman

You can obtain more information on the Web by using the following search terms:

Chuck Cushman
Charles Cushman
Charles S. Cushman
American Land Rights Association
National Inholders Association
League of Private Property Voters

You can also go to www.landrights.org

Press Release , Rim Of The Valley

SPEAKING: Congressman Adam Schiff
Representing California's 29th Congressional District

Woody Smeck, Acting Deputy Regional Director, National Park Service,
Pacific West Region

Jody Norion
Forest Supervisor, Angeles National Forest

WHERE: Eaton Canyon Nature Center
1750 North Altadena Drive
Pasadena, CA 91107

WHEN: June 4, 2010, at 10 a.m.
FW: ADVISORY: Rep. Schiff, National Park Service to Kick Off Rim
of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study
From: Chuck Cushman [ccushman@pacifier.com]

Thursday, May 27, 2010 Contact: Maureen Shanahan (202) 225-4176

Rep. Schiff, National Park Service to Kick Off Rim of the Valley
Corridor Special Resource Study

Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) announced that he will host a press conference at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 4, to kick off the Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study with the National Park Service.

The study will help to determine what portions of the Rim of the Valley might be eligible to be included in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

It will also offer recommendations for resource protection, public use and enjoyment, as well as opportunities to think creatively about how to protect natural and cultural resources while enhancing the community's quality of life.

Key issues that will likely be examined in the Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study include:

- Completion of the Rim of the Valley Trail System, including major feeder trails to connect adjoining communities and regional transit to the trail system;
- Resource and other needs of communities within, or in the vicinity of, the Rim of the Valley Corridor;
- Protection of wildlife habitat and linkages between major areas of open space;
- Preservation of recreational opportunities and access to open space for a variety of recreational users; and
- Protection of rare, threatened, or endangered species and rare or unusual plant communities and habitat.

SPEAKING: Congressman Adam Schiff
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Acting Deputy Regional Director, National Park Service, Pacific West
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