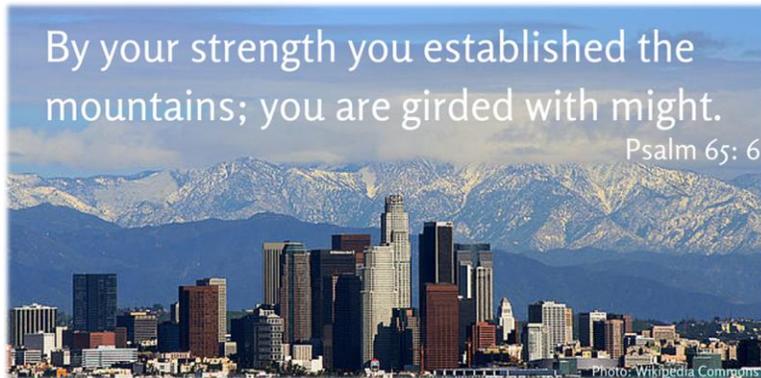


San Gabriel Mountains: A Metropolitan Oasis

Mountains remain spiritually important to faithful people of all traditions. For Christians, the significance is found in the Bible where God continually speaks to followers from the mountain. We have an opportunity to safeguard an area of spiritual significance and ensure that millions of people can experience God's love and power like those thousands of years before.



The San Gabriel Mountains are an oasis nestled in the backyard of more than 17 million Americans. Not only is this piece of Creation beautiful, it also enables the wellbeing of God's people. This area makes up 70% of the open space in LA County, provides one-third of the drinking water for LA County residents, and aids in the cleaning of the air that people breathe. Aside from God's people, the San Gabriel Mountains provide habitat and resources for many other creatures including endangered animals like Bighorn sheep, condors, mountain lions, spotted owls, and others. Preserving green spaces like the San Gabriels also helps control greenhouse gas emissions and therefore defends against the global problem of climate change.

Beyond purely environmental benefits, protecting the San Gabriel Mountains offers benefits to the people living in Southern California and beyond. Californians use these lands to hike, picnic, hunt, fish, ride horseback, and just explore. With all of this activity, the forests see about 5 million visitors each year, but are nowhere near being resourced adequately. In a park-poor community like Los Angeles, outdoor spaces and opportunities for children and families to get out into nature are sparse but vital.



Through permanent protection of the San

Gabriels, the community will experience benefits including:

- Increased facilities and staffing
- More access to trails, interpretive signs, and multi-lingual rangers
- Reducing trash, which will improve the health of waterways and surrounding wildlife
- Providing more opportunities to connect with nature

The communities around the San Gabriel Mountains deserve equal access to beautiful parts of Creation. Many people argue that they feel closer to the Divine when out in nature as opposed to a church building. It is imperative that we strive to offer places of spiritual renewal where people can connect with and learn about God.