



Grassland and Engelmann oak characterize Oak Ridge Ranch.

## Rare Native Oak Species Preserved

**R**olling grassy meadows dotted by stately Engelmann oak distinguish the 448-acre mesa of Oak Ridge Ranch. Its highland habitat, including several winding tributaries to the San Diego River, serves as the front yard for the golden eagles nesting nearby on El Cajon Mountain

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) donated Oak Ridge Ranch to the U.S. Forest Service in 2013. As part of the Cleveland National Forest, the land can now be protected for the benefit of the public and the wildlife that inhabit the area.

This land donation is among more than a dozen properties that SDG&E is preserving to offset impacts on scenic quality, sensitive vegetation and listed species as set forth by the approved Sunrise Powerlink Habitat Acquisition Plan and Habitat Management Plan. SDG&E will eventually preserve over 11,000 acres – an area equal in size to nine Balboa Parks – having protected more than 10 times the space its transmission line construction physically disturbed. The project's nearly 500 acres of temporary impacts will be fully restored to pre-impact conditions.

Distinguished by their rounded or oval canopy, blue-green leaves, twisted spreading limbs and thin, scaly, gray-brown bark, Engelmann oaks only grow naturally in a narrow band that stretches along the mountain foothills of Southern California and Baja California, Mexico. This semi-deciduous oak is considered a Management Indicator Species for the Cleveland National Forest, so when it thrives, so too does the surrounding forest ecosystem.

Oak Ridge Ranch also supports sensitive plants. The Moreno currant, for instance, produces clusters of bowl-shaped flowers and only grows in a 300-square-mile range, while the San Diego milkvetch is a rare herb that shows its creamy-yellow buds in the foothills of San Diego and Riverside counties. The property's coastal sage scrub is also an ideal habitat for the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher. This small insect-loving bird can be easier to recognize by its unusual call, which sounds like a kitten's meow, than by its bluish gray feathers.



Coastal California  
gnatcatcher







# Helping Our Partners Preserve the Great Outdoors

*“The addition of Oak Ridge Ranch to the Cleveland National Forest will secure much needed habitat for wildlife and enhance the scenic value for Forest visitors to experience America’s great outdoors.”*

— Donn Christiansen, District Ranger, Descanso District  
Cleveland National Forest Service

The Engelmann oak only grows naturally along the mountain foothills of Southern California and Baja California, Mexico.

## Oak Ridge Ranch | Breaking It Down

LOCATION	Between El Cajon Mountain and El Capitan Reservoir
SIZE	448 acres
WILDLIFE	<div>Oak Ridge Ranch serves as the “front yard” for the golden eagle which nests in the adjacent El Capitan area. Threatened and protected species include:</div> <div><div><p>Coastal California Gnatcatcher</p></div><div><p>Golden Eagle</p></div></div>
VEGETATION	Grassland, coastal sage scrub and chaparral is also home to sensitive and rare plant species including San Diego milkvetch, Moreno currant and Engelmann oak.
MANAGER/OWNER	United States Forest Service

## Preservation Lands Leave a Living Legacy

SDG&E is preserving forever over 11,000 acres of critical habitat in San Diego County’s backcountry. One of the largest land preservation efforts in the region’s history, it will create sanctuaries throughout San Diego and Imperial counties for endangered and threatened species, including the arroyo toad, several species of birds and the Quino checkerspot butterfly.

Equal in size to more than nine Balboa Parks, these properties will be preserved in partnership with local environmental, recreational and government organizations. SDG&E will preserve more than 10 times the space its Sunrise Powerlink transmission line construction physically disturbed.

For more, see [www.sdge.com/environment](http://www.sdge.com/environment).