



East El Capitan is part of scenic preservation efforts along East County's mountain ridges.

Scenic Ridgeline in East County Preserved

Nearly 115 acres of a hillside property preserved by San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) protects an unspoiled mountain view and a habitat where threatened coastal California gnatcatchers may find a new home to spread their wings.

The utility donated the land to the U.S. Forest Service in March 2013 who has incorporated it into the National Forest system to be managed as public lands. The East El Capitan property is located high above El Capitan Reservoir on the eastern slopes of El Cajon Mountain, also known as El Capitan for its prominent rocky southern face.

With its native chaparral, coastal sage scrub and coast live oak, East El Capitan is potential habitat for the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher. The dusky gray bird seeks out insects in the dense scrub, typically flitting in and out of its undergrowth. Adjoining a golden eagle nesting site, the area provides a wide-open hunting ground for the raptors which prey mainly on rabbits and other small animals.

East El Capitan also supports sensitive plants including felt-leaved monardella, a member of the mint family, which grows fuzzy white fragrant flowers, and Moreno currant, a chaparral shrub that grows in the shade of large rocks and is distinguishable by its wide, bowl-shaped flowers in dense clusters.






Conserving Essential Habitat for Wildlife

“The addition of the East El Capitan parcels will not only enhance the scenic value of the Cleveland National Forest but also conserve essential habitat for its wildlife.”

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

View of El Capitan Reservoir below East El Capitan.

East El Capitan | Breaking It Down

LOCATION	West of El Capitan Reservoir in the Cleveland National Forest
SIZE	Approximately 115 acres
WILDLIFE	<p>Potential habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher:</p>  <p>Coastal California Gnatcatcher</p>
VEGETATION	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub and coast live oak woodland. Its sensitive plant species include Moreno currant and felt-leaved monardella.
MANAGER/OWNER	United States Forest Service
PUBLIC ACCESS	Because of the property’s remote location, public access is not available. To learn more about the Cleveland National Forest call 858-673-6180, or visit www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland .

Preservation Lands Leave a Living Legacy

SDG&E is preserving forever over 11,000 acres of critical habitat in San Diego and Imperial counties. 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 area physically disturbed by construction of its Sunrise Powerlink transmission line.

For more, see www.sdge.com/environment.