Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

OMB Control Number: 0596-0236; Expiration Date 3/31/2024

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. The purpose of this study is to understand your preferences for outdoor recreation and your views on the benefits of the Angeles National Forest, San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and San Dimas Experimental Forest. Your answers will help land managers develop effective management practices and establish baselines for future visitor needs.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE - A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with an information collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, unless the information collection has a currently valid OMB Control Number. The approved OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0596-0236. Without this approval, we could not conduct this survey. Public reporting for this information collection is estimated to be approximately 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. All responses to this information collection are voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the U.S.D.A. Forest Service email address SM.FS.InfoCollect@usda.gov.

Note that you must be 18 years or older to participate in this study. Your participation is completely voluntary, and you may withdraw your consent at any time without penalty.

I am aware that I am being asked to participate in a research study, and I voluntarily agree to participate in this study. To indicate that you agree to participate, please click the "next" button to continue with the survey.

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Background Information

The Angeles National Forest provides a scenic backdrop for the larger Los Angeles population. The forest offers shelter for wildlife and a place for surrounding communities to experience wilderness areas and enjoy outdoor recreation opportunities.

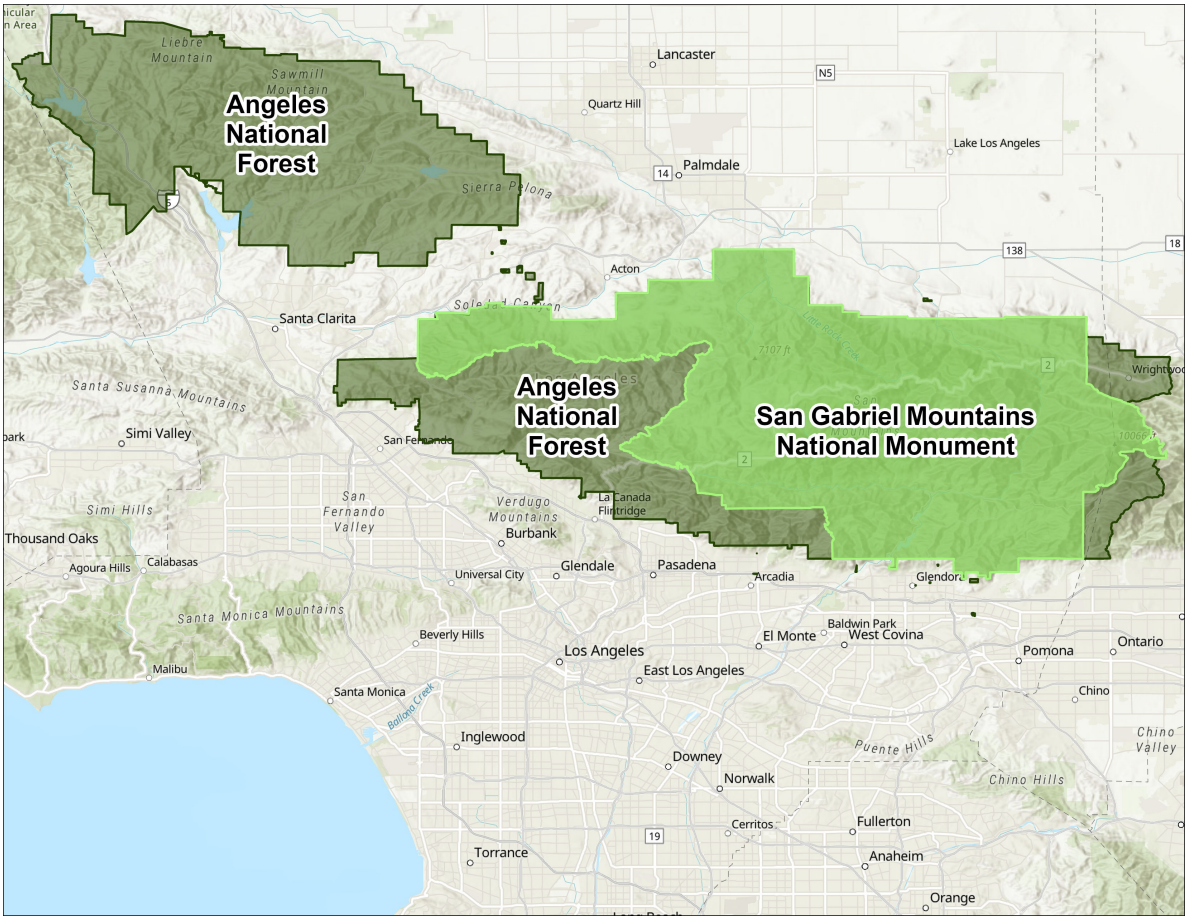
The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument is the heaviest used area on the Angeles National Forest, receiving over 4 million visitors per year. In 2014, the area was designated a national monument based on its natural, cultural, and historical importance.

The Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument are within 90 minutes of 15 million people in the Los Angeles Basin and are part of the few remaining open space areas in Southern California. With millions of visitors annually, these are some of the busiest and most urban areas in the United States.

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Map of Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

First, we would like to ask a few questions about your past visits to the Angeles National Forest and/or the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Please see the map below.



Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

How many times did you visit the **Angeles National Forest** and/or **San Gabriel Mountains National Monument** for outdoor recreation in the last 12 months (for such activities as hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, etc.)?

- ◯ 0
- ◯ 1
- ◯ 2-4
- ◯ 5-10
- ◯ 11+

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

Which of the following activities do you participate in on the **Angeles National Forest** and/or **San Gabriel Mountains National Monument**? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Backpacking/camping
- ☐ Bicycling/mountain bikes
- ☐ Developed camping
- ☐ Gathering (mushrooms, berries)
- ☐ Hiking or walking
- ☐ Horseback riding
- ☐ Nature study
- ☐ Picnicking and family
- ☐ Primitive camping
- ☐ Relaxing/Hanging out
- ☐ Viewing historic areas
- ☐ Viewing natural features
- ☐ Visiting nature center
- ☐ Viewing wildlife
- ☐ Other (please specify)

  [ ]

- ☐ None of the above

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

How many times during the past 12 months have you used **trails** in the **Angeles National Forest** and/or **San Gabriel Mountains National Monument**?

- ◯ 0
- ◯ 1
- ◯ 2-4
- ◯ 5-10
- ◯ 11+

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement regarding your concerns while using the trails in the **Angeles National Forest** and/or **San Gabriel Mountains National Monument**.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
Too many other hikers	○	○	○	○	○	○
Adequate information and signs at the trailhead	○	○	○	○	○	○
Difficult to find the trailhead	○	○	○	○	○	○
Adequate information about trails before arriving at the trailhead	○	○	○	○	○	○
Adequate signs marking the trail route	○	○	○	○	○	○
Adequate parking at the trailhead	○	○	○	○	○	○
The actions or behaviors of other hikers (noise, leaving trash, going off trail, etc.)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Poor trail surface quality (too deeply eroded, muddy, rough, uneven, too wide, too narrow)	○	○	○	○	○	○

Too much litter on the trail	○	○	○	○	○	○
Too many informal (visitor-created) trails	○	○	○	○	○	○
Sufficient number of trails that go to the places I want to go	○	○	○	○	○	○
Trails too difficult (too many hills/too steep)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Lack of accessibility for people with disabilities	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other (please specify below)	○	○	○	○	○	○

Other (please specify)

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

How many times during the past 12 months have you used **visitor centers** in the **Angeles National Forest** and/or **San Gabriel Mountains National Monument**?

- ◯ 0
- ◯ 1
- ◯ 2-4
- ◯ 5-10
- ◯ 11+

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

How many times during the past 12 months have you used **historical sites or buildings** in the **Angeles National Forest** and/or **San Gabriel Mountains National Monument**?

- ◯ 0
- ◯ 1
- ◯ 2-4
- ◯ 5-10
- ◯ 11+

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

Are there any recreational activities of any type -- whether opportunities for them are currently available or unavailable -- that you have not engaged in on the **Angeles National Forest** and/or **San Gabriel Mountains National Monument** during the past 12 months but would have liked to?

- ◯ No, I have been able to engage in all activities
- ◯ Yes, there have been activities that I did not engage in, but would have likes to

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

Of those recreational activities you did not engage in during the last 12 months, which would you have liked to engaged in on the **Angeles National Forest** and/or **San Gabriel Mountains National Monument**? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Backpacking/camping
- ☐ Bicycling/mountain bikes
- ☐ Cross-country skiing
- ☐ Developed camping
- ☐ Downhill skiing/snowboarding
- ☐ Driving for pleasure
- ☐ Fishing (all types)
- ☐ Gathering (mushrooms, berries)
- ☐ Hiking or walking
- ☐ Horseback riding
- ☐ Hunting (all types)
- ☐ Motorized water travel
- ☐ Nature study
- ☐ Nonmotorized water travel
- ☐ Picnicking and family
- ☐ Primitive camping
- ☐ Relaxing/Hanging out

- [ ] Resorts/cabins/accommodations
- [ ] Riding off-road trails
- [ ] Riding on motorized trails
- [ ] Snow machine travel
- [ ] Viewing historic areas
- [ ] Viewing natural features
- [ ] Visiting nature center
- [ ] Viewing wildlife
- [ ] Other (please specify)

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

Do any of the following explain why you did not engage in the recreational activities you identified in the previous question on the **Angeles National Forest** and/or **San Gabriel Mountains National Monument**? (Select up to 3)

- [ ] Couldn't get reservation at preferred site
- [ ] Helicopter noise
- [ ] Lack of access or transportation to the site
- [ ] No or difficult road access
- [ ] No or difficult trail access
- [ ] No or limited facilities (bathrooms, picnic tables, bbq grills, etc.)
- [ ] No or limited services (rangers, information kiosks, etc.)
- [ ] Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) noise in summer
- [ ] Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) noise in winter
- [ ] Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) use in summer
- [ ] Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) use in winter
- [ ] Overcrowding campgrounds/cabins
- [ ] Resource damage due to overuse
- [ ] Unsatisfactory condition of facilities
- [ ] Other (please specify)

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

San Dimas Experimental Forest Background Information

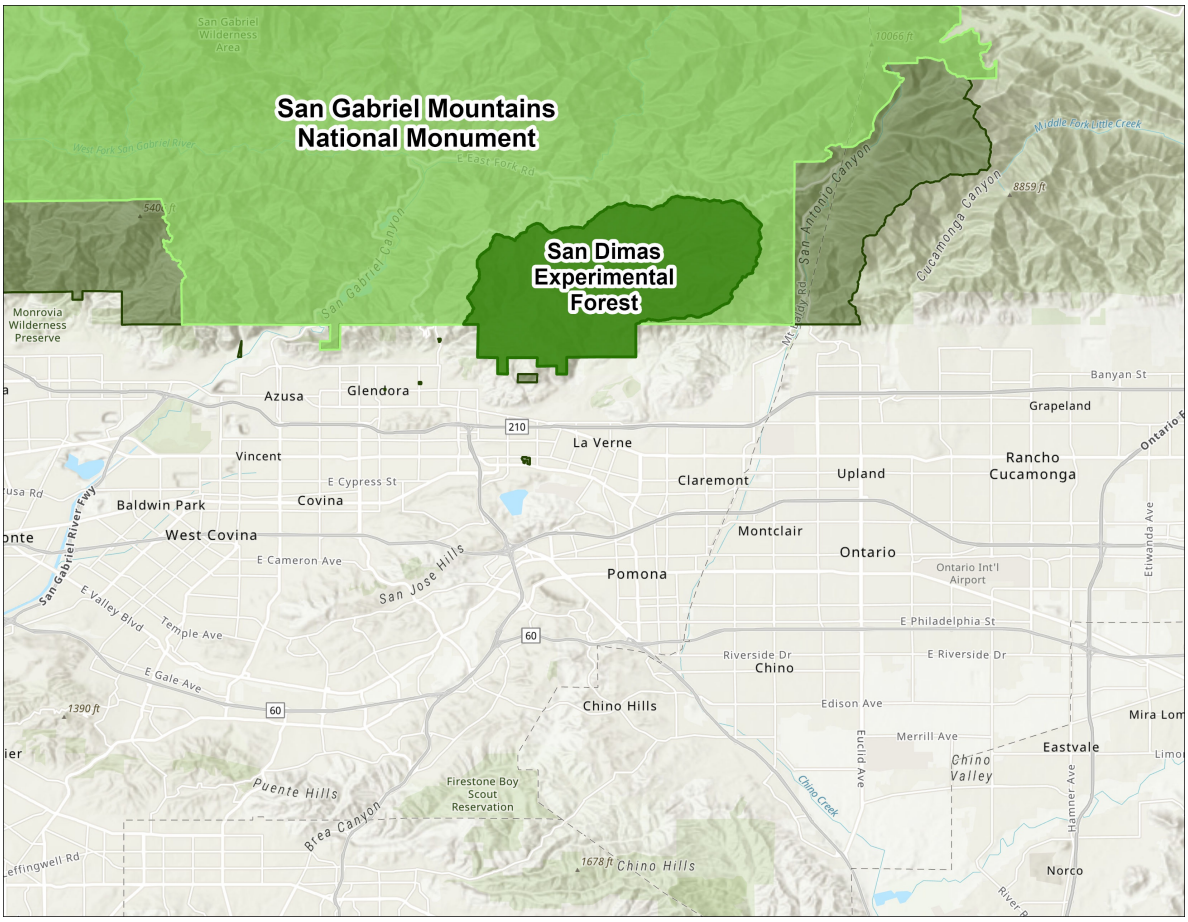
The San Dimas Experimental Forest is located about 30 miles northeast of Los Angeles, in the front range of the San Gabriel Mountains. Since its establishment in 1933, it has been used for scientific research on topics such as water, air, soil, and the effects of fire. It is the only research forest in Southern California. This Experimental Forest contains the historic Tanbark Flats community, which includes a laboratory, residences, offices, and other facilities. In the past, scientists lived and conducted research on-site. The Tanbark Flats facilities contain some of the earliest and longest records of water research in the United States.

Public access to the San Dimas Experimental Forest has been unauthorized for the past 90 years. However, there has been recent consideration of the Experimental Forest offering limited outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public. We would like to know how your past visits for outdoor recreation and experiences might influence the type of recreation you would like to participate in on the San Dimas Experimental Forest in the future, and which environmental features are important to you.

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Map of San Dimas Experimental Forest

Next, we would like to ask you some questions related to the San Dimas Experimental Forest which lies within the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Please see the map below.



Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

San Dimas Experimental Forest

Which recreational activities would you likely be interested in on the **San Dimas Experimental Forest**?

- ☐ Backpacking/camping
- ☐ Bicycling/mountain bikes
- ☐ Developed camping
- ☐ Gathering (mushrooms, berries)
- ☐ Hiking or walking
- ☐ Horseback riding
- ☐ Nature study
- ☐ Picnicking and family
- ☐ Primitive camping
- ☐ Relaxing/Hanging out
- ☐ Viewing historic areas
- ☐ Viewing natural features
- ☐ Visiting nature center
- ☐ Viewing wildlife
- ☐ Other (please specify)

  _____

- ☐ None of the above

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

San Dimas Experimental Forest

Please indicate the extent to which each of the following activities or factors would influence your decision to visit the **San Dimas Experimental Forest**.

	Not at all influential	Slightly influential	Somewhat influential	Very influential	Extremely influential	Don't Know
Learning center	○	○	○	○	○	○
Educational programming	○	○	○	○	○	○
Walking/short hikes (less than 1 hour)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Day hiking (more than 1 hour)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Trail running	○	○	○	○	○	○
Picnicking	○	○	○	○	○	○
Wildlife viewing	○	○	○	○	○	○
Bicycling	○	○	○	○	○	○
Historical elements	○	○	○	○	○	○
Cultural elements	○	○	○	○	○	○
Citizen/community/participatory science	○	○	○	○	○	○
Interpretive trails	○	○	○	○	○	○

From the list above, which is the most important reason for you to visit the San Dimas Experimental Forest?

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

San Dimas Experimental Forest

How many future visits will you make to the **San Dimas Experimental Forest** per year if there are opportunities for the activities and/or factors you are interested in?

- ◯ 0
- ◯ 1
- ◯ 2-4
- ◯ 5-10
- ◯ 11+

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

San Dimas Experimental Forest

How important do you believe are each of the following purposes of the **San Dimas Experimental Forest**?

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	Don't Know
A place for recreation (hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, etc.)	○	○	○	○	○	○
A place for wildlife	○	○	○	○	○	○
A place of high economic value for tourism and guiding	○	○	○	○	○	○
A place of high economic value for energy development	○	○	○	○	○	○
A place for wilderness	○	○	○	○	○	○
A place to explore America's history and cultural heritage	○	○	○	○	○	○
A place for adventure	○	○	○	○	○	○
A place for remoteness and isolation	○	○	○	○	○	○
A place for quiet and natural sounds	○	○	○	○	○	○
A place to						

understand the effects of climate change	○	○	○	○	○	○
A place that protects water and air quality	○	○	○	○	○	○
A place to compare the effects on the environment, with and without human actions	○	○	○	○	○	○
A place where natural processes continue, without human control or manipulation	○	○	○	○	○	○
A place for restraint of human activities	○	○	○	○	○	○

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

San Dimas Experimental Forest

If the opportunity exists to visit the **San Dimas Experimental Forest**, how important are each of the following characteristics or resources to you?

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	Don't know
Clean air	○	○	○	○	○	○
Geologic/rock formations	○	○	○	○	○	○
Scenic drives	○	○	○	○	○	○
Scenic views	○	○	○	○	○	○
Recreational opportunities (hiking, camping, biking, etc.)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Human/cultural history	○	○	○	○	○	○
Solitude	○	○	○	○	○	○
Sounds of nature	○	○	○	○	○	○
Plants and animals	○	○	○	○	○	○
Dark, starry night sky	○	○	○	○	○	○
Learning/educational opportunities	○	○	○	○	○	○

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

San Dimas Experimental Forest

If transportation was offered to **San Dimas Experimental Forest**, would you be interested in taking a guided tour of the site?

- ◯ No
- ◯ Yes

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

San Dimas Experimental Forest

Should the number of people allowed to hike on the **San Dimas Experimental Forest** each day be limited if it is needed for any of the following reasons, even if it limits when you can hike the trail?

	Yes	No	Don't Know/Not Sure
To protect the quality of visitors' experiences (i.e., prevent crowding)	○	○	○
To protect visitors' safety	○	○	○
To reduce wildlife impacts	○	○	○
To reduce environmental impacts	○	○	○

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

San Dimas Experimental Forest

For each of the following items, please rate your level of concern that it will impact resources at the **San Dimas Experimental Forest**.

	Not at all concerned	Slightly concerned	Moderately concerned	Very concerned	Extremely concerned	Don't Know
Air pollution from cities, roads, etc.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Crime	○	○	○	○	○	○
Drought	○	○	○	○	○	○
Light pollution from cities, roads, etc.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Noise pollution from cities, roads, etc.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Water pollution from cities, roads, etc.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Wildfires	○	○	○	○	○	○

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

San Dimas Experimental Forest

How important is each of these items to your acceptance of the **San Dimas Experimental Forest** management decisions?

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	Don't Know
Actions help support the local community	○	○	○	○	○	○
Actions will protect natural resources at the San Dimas Experimental Forest	○	○	○	○	○	○
I trust in the decisions of the Forest Service management	○	○	○	○	○	○
I understand the objectives of a proposed management action	○	○	○	○	○	○
Science plays a role in management decisions	○	○	○	○	○	○
The decision is based on economic impacts	○	○	○	○	○	○
The decision is based on environmental consequences	○	○	○	○	○	○
The decision improves access for recreation	○	○	○	○	○	○
The decision protects natural resources over human use	○	○	○	○	○	○

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

San Dimas Experimental Forest

What could the managers at the **San Dimas Experimental Forest** do as they plan for future recreation on site? Please be specific.

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Thank you for answering the questions regarding your preferences for outdoor recreation, environmental features, and forest management. Now we would like to ask a few questions about your background.

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Background Information

What is your gender?

- ◯ Male
- ◯ Female
- ◯ Other (please specify)

What is your age?

- ◯ Under 18
- ◯ 18 – 24
- ◯ 25 – 34
- ◯ 35 – 44
- ◯ 45 – 54
- ◯ 55 – 64
- ◯ 65+

Which categories describe you? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ White
- ☐ Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Some other race, ethnicity or origin, please specify:

Which one language do you and members of your personal group primarily use to communicate with each other?

- ○ English
- ○ Other (please specify)

Where do you live?

City

Zip Code

Please indicate the highest level of education you have completed.

- ◯ Less than high school
- ◯ High school graduate/GED
- ◯ Vocational or Technical School certificate
- ◯ Some college
- ◯ Associates Degree (two year college degree)
- ◯ Bachelor's degree (four year college degree)
- ◯ Graduate degree or professional degree (MA, MS, PhD, JD, MD, MBA, etc.)

What is your current employment status?

- ◯ Full-time employed
- ◯ Part-time employed
- ◯ Self-employed
- ◯ Homemaker
- ◯ Student
- ◯ Retired
- ◯ Not currently employed
- ◯ Unable to work/disabled

Which category best represents your annual household income (before taxes) last year?

- ◯ Less than $25,000
- ◯ $25,000-$34,999
- ◯ $35,000-$49,999
- ◯ $50,000-$74,999
- ◯ $75,000-$99,999
- ◯ $100,000-$149,999
- ◯ $150,000-$199,999
- ◯ $200,000 or more
- ◯ Do not wish to answer

Preferences for outdoor recreation in Southern California landscapes

Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

If you have questions about this study, please contact the principal investigator, Jose Sanchez at jose.sanchez2@usda.gov.