

Range of Light National Monument Recreation



1. Recreation – What will happen to it?

Each National Monument designation is slightly different, and the law designates those differences in order to meet the needs of the area – both protecting and providing for recreational access and people’s enjoyment of landscape.

2. Current Uses

Nearly every activity that occurs in the monument today will continue with some exceptions – which are needed to protect resources.

YES – You can do all of the following in the proposed national monument:

- Fishing
- Hiking
- Dispersed Camping – camping outside of campgrounds.
- Boating (same as today)
- 4Wheeling (Street Legal)
- Hunting (Bow & Rifle)
- Mountain Bicycling
- Birdwatching
- Running
- Skiing/Snowboarding
- Kayaking/Boating
- Horseback Riding
- Gathering Firewood
- Rock Climbing
- Swimming
- Snowmobiling to cabins

3. What’s likely to improve?

Trails, picnic areas, viewpoints, and campgrounds should be revitalized. Today, half of the campgrounds in the Sierra National Forest are closed; they simply aren’t a priority for the agency, which spends most of its budget on logging. The Forest Service is mandated by law via the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act to log the landscape and produce an annual yield of timber, and that’s what they do.

As a result, many of the recreational sites and resources are neglected, for example – the Theodore Solomons Trail (the counterpart to the John Muir Trail) is in disrepair and is hard to follow for even the most seasoned hikers. Many trails signs are decaying or simply not present across the region.

In the front country, many users have created routes for mountain bicycling and horseback riding, and it would be helpful if these trails were incorporated into a trails system, and those trails were maintained and made a priority.

In addition, because the landscape will be nurtured back to health, these trails and recreational areas will have trees and wildlife for people to enjoy. An oasis of green trees, dirt trails, and lovely mountain lakes, streams and rivers will await adventurers. This will take time, of course, given the fires of the past two decades.