

# What's Next? Restoration & Recreation



## Recommendations for the Future of the Range of Light

Much has happened to the Sierra National Forest, which make industrial extractive use not viable for the economy or the environment. We need to lean into this. Now is the time to restore trails, plant trees, open up the campgrounds, and recreate an interconnected ecosystem that serves both people and wildlife. The Park Service employs 10 times more people in the realm of protection, restoration, and visitor services management. There is so much to do and many people with existing forestry skills are needed to do those jobs.

How about funding? The appropriations process is another step on the long march to restore this region. Congress must vote to fund the Range of Light and work is need to ensure that happens. Here is what we are working towards:

- Build and rebuild an interconnected trail system for a diversity of front-country users. Post signs, install maps, and work with local organizations on this revival.
- Protect mature and old growth forests, which are most resilient to fire.
- Halt post-fire habitat logging, which is one of the most damaging logging activities and one that also decreases fire-resilience.
- Restore native plant species, which secure soil health and ensure forest rejuvenation, and may slow fire spread by acting as a wind block.
- Reintroduce cultural burning with Native American tribal leadership and encourage controlled burns.
- Close rarely used roads and logging spurs to restore the forest ecosystem and make the forest more manageable for human-caused fires.
- Keep popular 4WD routes like Dusy-Ershim and many more to retain the character and rugged charm of the region.
- Reestablish wildlife corridors which will mitigate forest fires caused by humans while providing habitat for wildlife.
- Carefully manage human-wildlife interaction during the fire season to prevent human-cause fires.
- Support a diversity of existing recreational activities.

Because the National Park Service, specializes in the management of people in natural settings and restoring the ecosystems, which it oversees, it is the most appropriate manager of this landscape and the future Range of Light National Monument. The NPS will protect and restore the ecology of the region and ensure the health and fire safety of local communities, which will best serve the environment, the economy and the people who live in the region.