

BACKBONE TRAIL

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area



Los Angeles & Ventura County
Total Population: 10,840,000

Mojave
Desert

San Gabriel Mountains

San Fernando
Valley

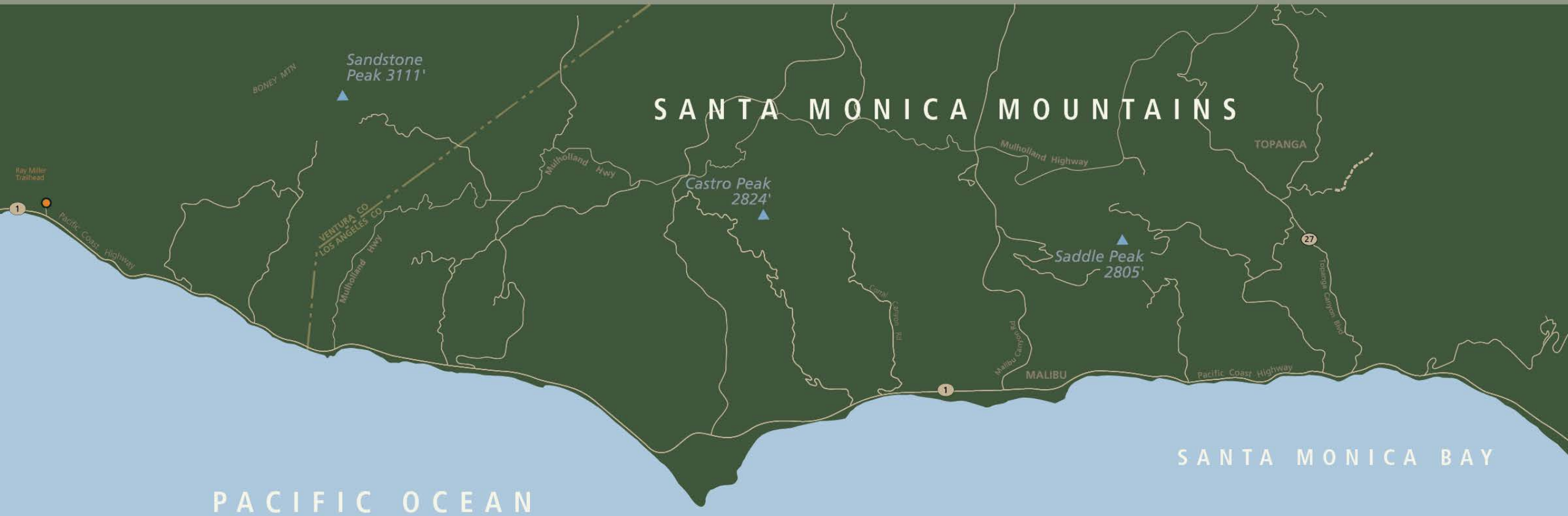
Backbone Trail

Santa Monica Mountains

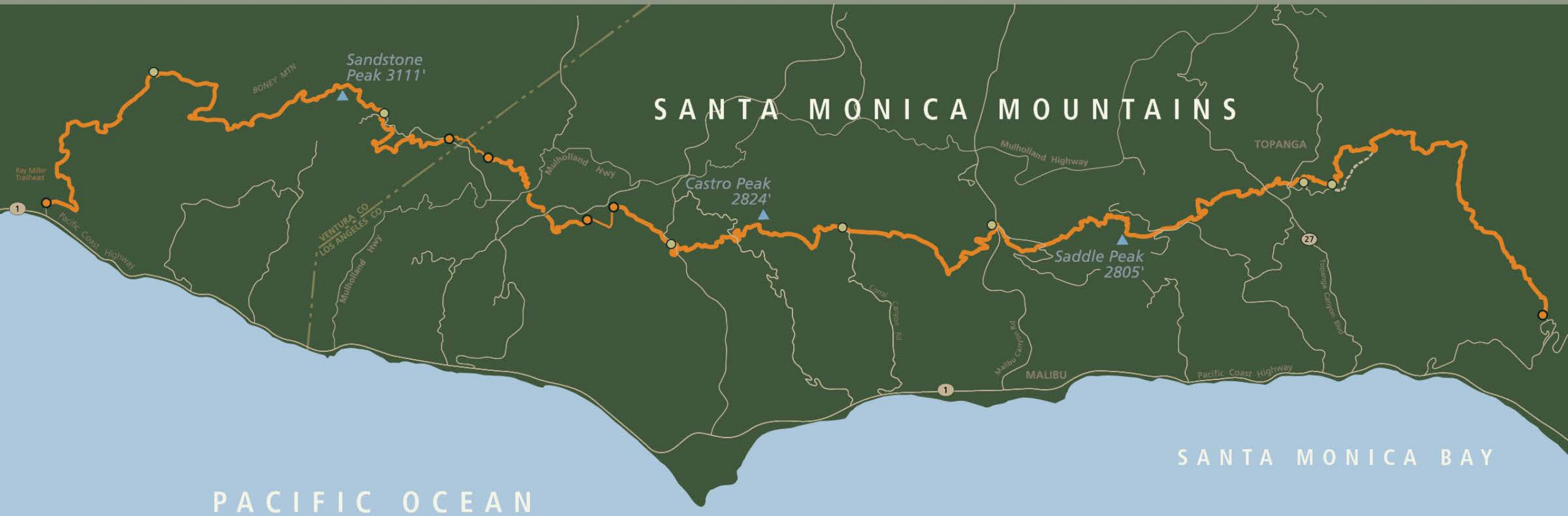
Los Angeles Basin



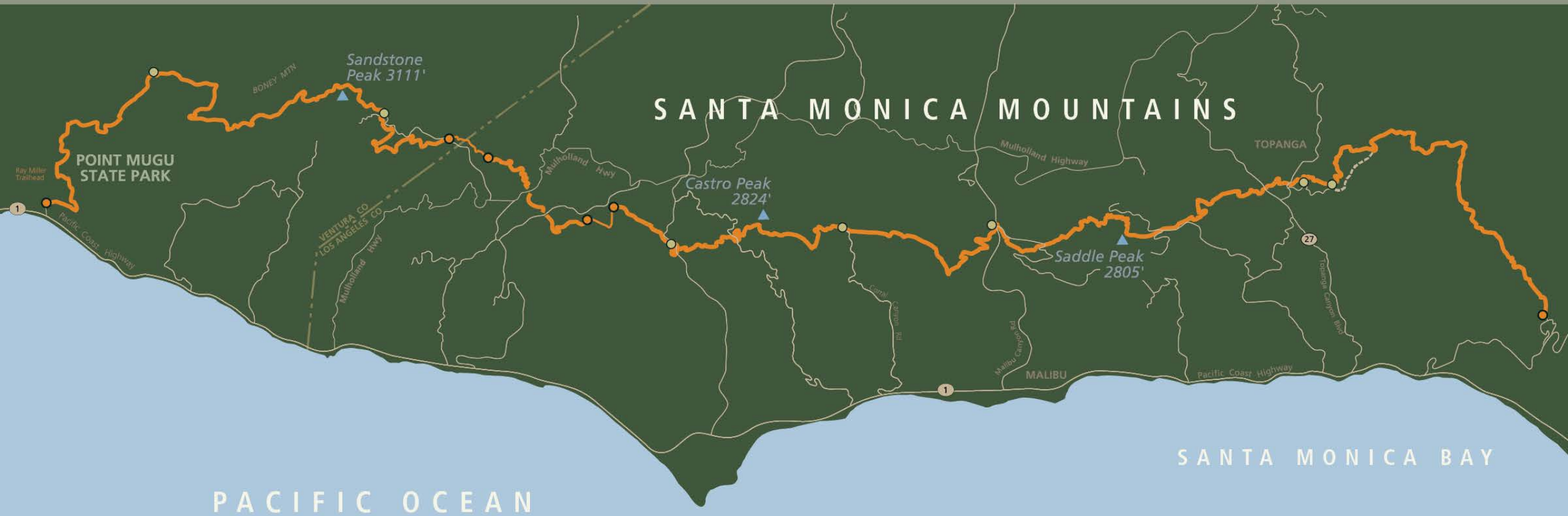
67 Miles of Backbone Trail



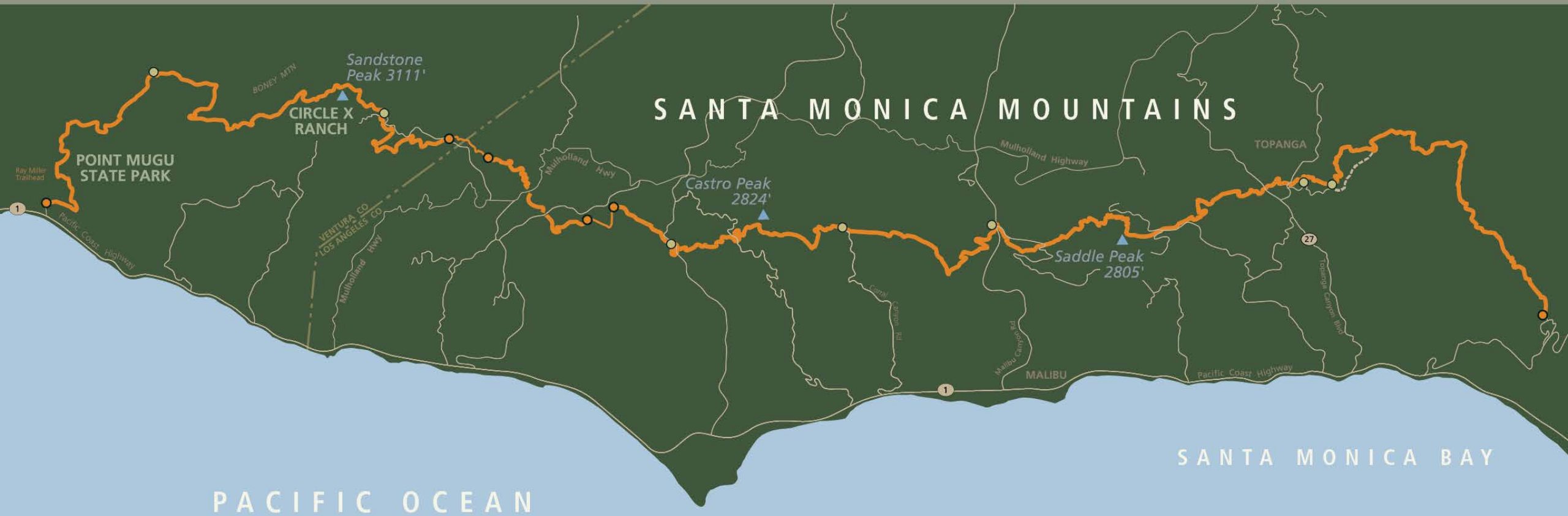
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Final Segments to Construct



Sandstone Peak
el. 3111'

Castro Peak
el. 2824'

Saddle Peak
el. 2805'



PACIFIC OCEAN

SANTA MONICA BAY





Sandstone Peak Trail





Triunfo Pass

Proposed Backcountry Campsite

32-year Los Angeles City Councilmember
Marvin Braude

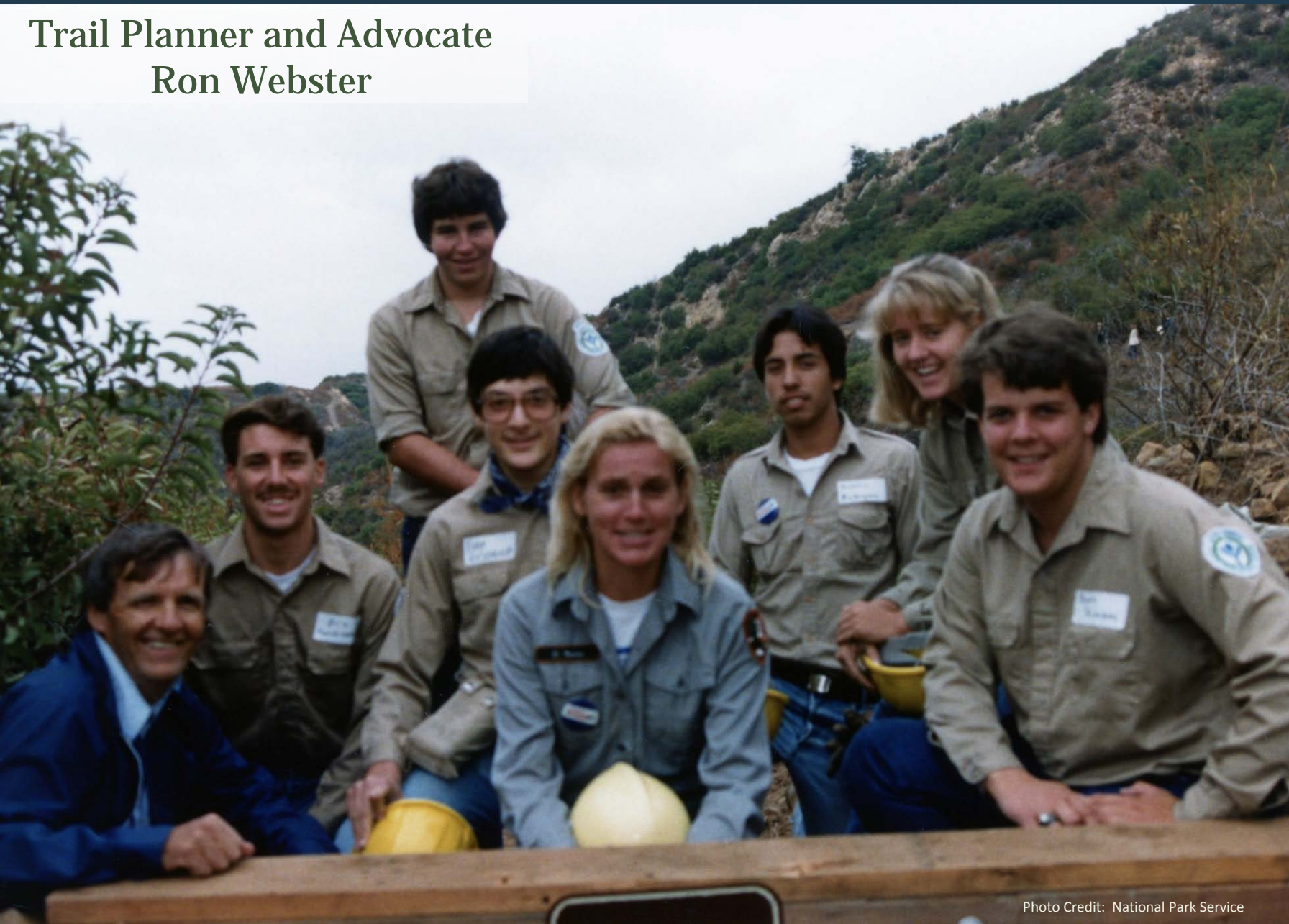


1986

Dedication of
Latigo Canyon

Photo Credit: National Park Service

Trail Planner and Advocate
Ron Webster



1986

Dedication of
Latigo Canyon

Photo Credit: National Park Service



Newton Canyon

Los Angeles Times

February
1939

Your Hike Today

In direct contrast to the higher ranges, with a different rock formation, vegetation and flora, that part of the Santa Monica Mountains known as the Malibu has some of the finest scenery to be found in Los Angeles county. For those who prefer lower altitudes and shorter hikes, with beauty equal to the best, let's turn to that area between Ventura Highway and the coast and west of Topanga Canyon.

Drive Topanga Canyon road to the ranger station at Fernwood. Here turn west up the hill, around the mountain on a winding road, passing the head of Tuna Canyon to a point directly east of Saddle Peak and about six miles from the ranger station. Here take the trail one mile west to the summit or a half-mile farther on to the west summit of this double peak. If a longer hike is desired there are several trails leading down into canyons or interesting wooded areas.

The peculiar and interesting rock outcroppings through the dense green of the mountain-side makes



Photo Credit: Mike Maki, 2012

Acquisition & Construction History 180 Parcels



Acquisition & Construction History

1944



Acquisition & Construction History

1944



Acquisition & Construction History 1945 - 1977



Acquisition & Construction History 1945 - 1977



Acquisition & Construction History 1978 - 1993



Acquisition & Construction History 1978 - 1993



Acquisition & Construction History 1994 - 2000



Acquisition & Construction History 1994 - 2000



Acquisition & Construction History 2001 - 2007



Acquisition & Construction History 2001 - 2007



Acquisition & Construction History 2008 - 2016



Acquisition & Construction History 2008 - 2016



1944

Will Rogers State Historic Park

Eastern Terminus of Backbone Trail



1977

California State Parks
announces intention to build
a 55-mile continuous trail

across the Santa Monica Mountains

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—THE RESOURCES AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO 95811



THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS - BACKBONE TRAIL
A PILOT PROJECT OF THE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

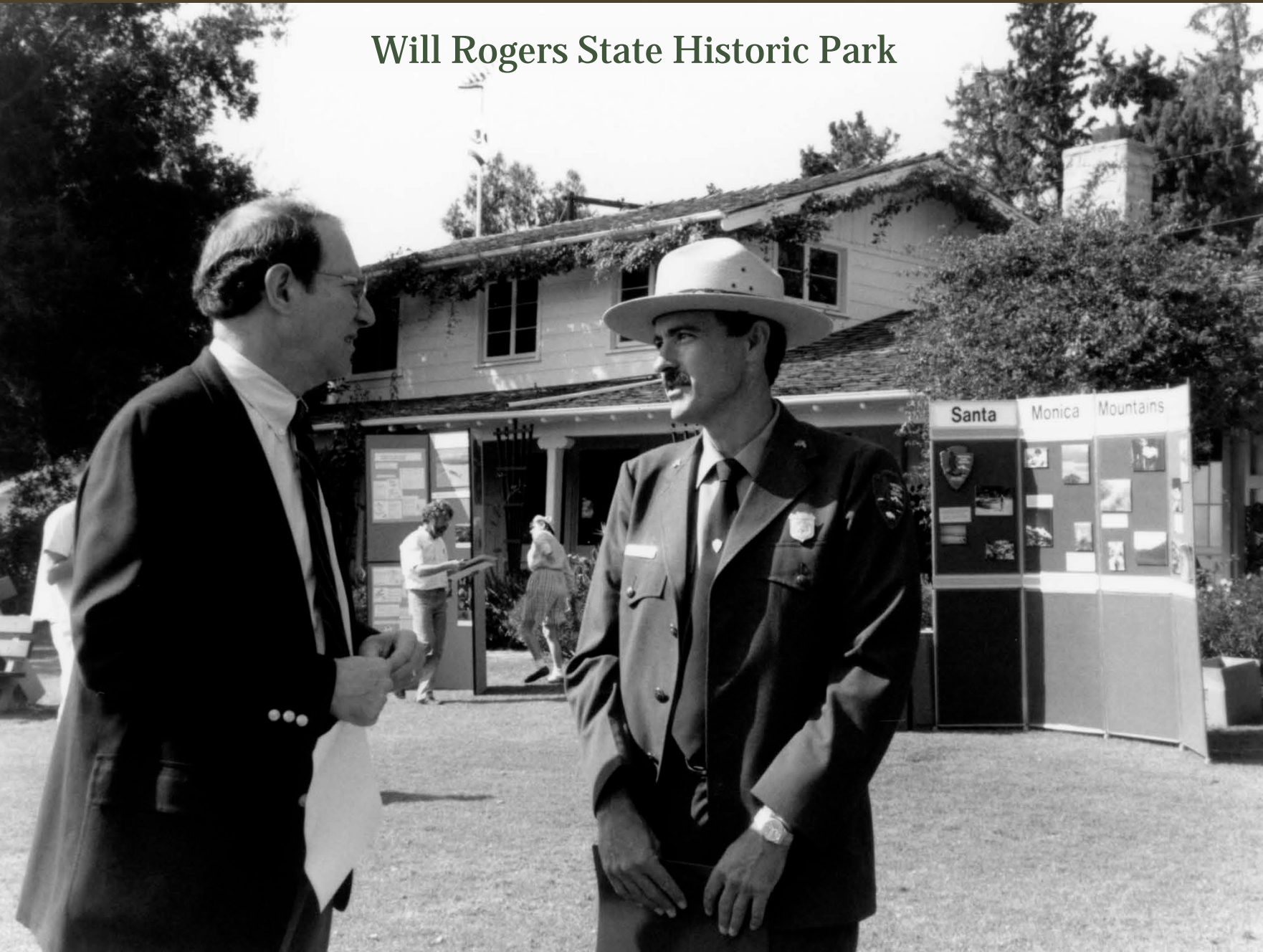
The Backbone Trail is an important element in the Department's efforts to provide and protect a natural, scenic and recreational resource for public use and enjoyment in the Santa Monica Mountains.

A 55 miles continuous hiking and horseback trail is planned, starting in Will Rogers State Historic Park at the western edge of the metropolitan Los Angeles area and proceeding westward, generally along the crests of the mountains, to terminate at the mouth of Sycamore Canyon in Point Mugu State Park. Please refer to the attached map.

From Will Rogers State Historic Park, the trail would proceed westward through Topanga State Park, across Topanga Boulevard, climb the head of Hondo Canyon, over the top of Saddle Peak, descend to Malibu Creek and Tapia County Park, pass through Malibu Creek State Park, climb along the ridge to Castro Peak, pass through the headwaters of Zuma and Trancas Canyons, follow the ridges to Triunfo Pass, over Boney Mountain and descend through Point Mugu State Park to follow Sycamore Canyon out to State Route 1 and the Pacific Ocean.

Fifty percent of the trail route as planned passes through the lands of existing State Parks in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Will Rogers State Historic Park



1978

National
Recreation Area
is created

Legislation by
Congressman
Anthony
Beilenson

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk trail winding through a dense forest. Two hikers are walking away from the camera. The hiker in the foreground is wearing a light blue shirt, khaki pants, a wide-brimmed hat, and a backpack. The hiker behind is wearing a light blue shirt and khaki pants. The boardwalk is made of wooden planks and has wooden railings on both sides. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating dappled shadows on the path.

Dead Horse Trail, Topanga

1980

Santa
Monica
Mountains
Conservancy
established

First new
trail segment
constructed

1966

Point Mugu Historic Park Western Terminus of Backbone Trail





Chamberlin Trail

Point Mugu
State Park



Ray Miller Trail



Topanga State Park 1967



Rogers Road

“Chicken
Ridge”



Malibu Creek State Park 1974







Upper Solstice Canyon

Photo Credit: Joel Schulman, 2004



Zuma/Trancas Canyons 1985 ±



Trail Dedication 1994



Photo Credit: National Park Service



Photo Credit: Ralph Waycott, 2015



P-2
2002



Trancas Canyon

Etz Meloy Motorway



BACKBONE TRAIL



Santa
Monica
Mountains
National
Recreation
Area

Joseph T. Edmiston
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

David Szymanski
National Park Service

Craig Sap
California State Parks

