

**Ranger Peak Communication Site**

**Overview**

The site is located near an existing communication tower on a prominent ridge in the northwestern San Jacinto Mountains. The site is situated in the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF), approximately 1 mile northwest of the Vista Grande Fire Station and 0.25 mile west of Highway 243. The proposed project would place a tower and an equipment shelter at the site.

**Table 1: Ranger Peak Communication Site**

Latitude <sup>1</sup>	Longitude <sup>1</sup>	Elev <sup>2</sup>	Address	T/R/S <sup>3</sup>	APN <sup>4</sup>	USGS Quadrangle
33°50'36.5"	116°49'30.6"	5,043	47007 Poppet Flat Divide, Banning, CA 92220	4S, 1E, Sec. 1	545-130-015	Lake Fulmor
1 – All coordinates utilize NAD83 datum 2 – All elevations in feet above mean sea level 3 – Township/Range/Section (San Bernardino Base Meridian)				4 – All Assessors Parcel Numbers are located in Riverside County, unless noted: OC = Orange County; SD = San Diego County; SB = San Bernardino County		

**Surrounding Land Uses**

The site is located in a rural area of the SBNF on a prominent ridge locally known as “Vista Grande Peak” or “Ranger Peak.” An older style communication tower lies approximately 600 feet southeast of the site, and a smaller tower lies another 0.25 mile further to the southeast. This USFS Vista Grande Fire Station is located approximately 1 mile to the southeast of the site, immediately adjacent to Highway 243. The highway lies approximately 0.25 mile to the east of the site.

**Topography and Vegetation**

The site is located in a mountainous area of the northwestern San Jacinto Mountains. The top of the ridge is relatively flat. The site itself has been highly disturbed, and was used as a staging area for vehicles and equipment during the October 2006 Esperanza Fire. Ground cover is sparse and is composed mainly of ruderal vegetation and weeds such as lambs quarter, short-podded mustard, wire lettuce, California aster, and blue dick. The area surrounding the site, however, is largely covered with a mixed chaparral and coniferous forest community. The majority of this vegetation consists of large shrubs; however, scattered oak and pine trees also occur throughout. The plant species include cliff goldenbush, scarlet keckiella, chaparral whitethorn, western wallflower, skunkbush, manzanita, California buckwheat, ponderosa pine, oak, and California coffeeberry.

**Land Ownership and Applicable Habitat/Land Management Plan**

The site is located on federal land managed by the USFS, and is subject to the San Bernardino National Forest Management Plan (SBNFMP).

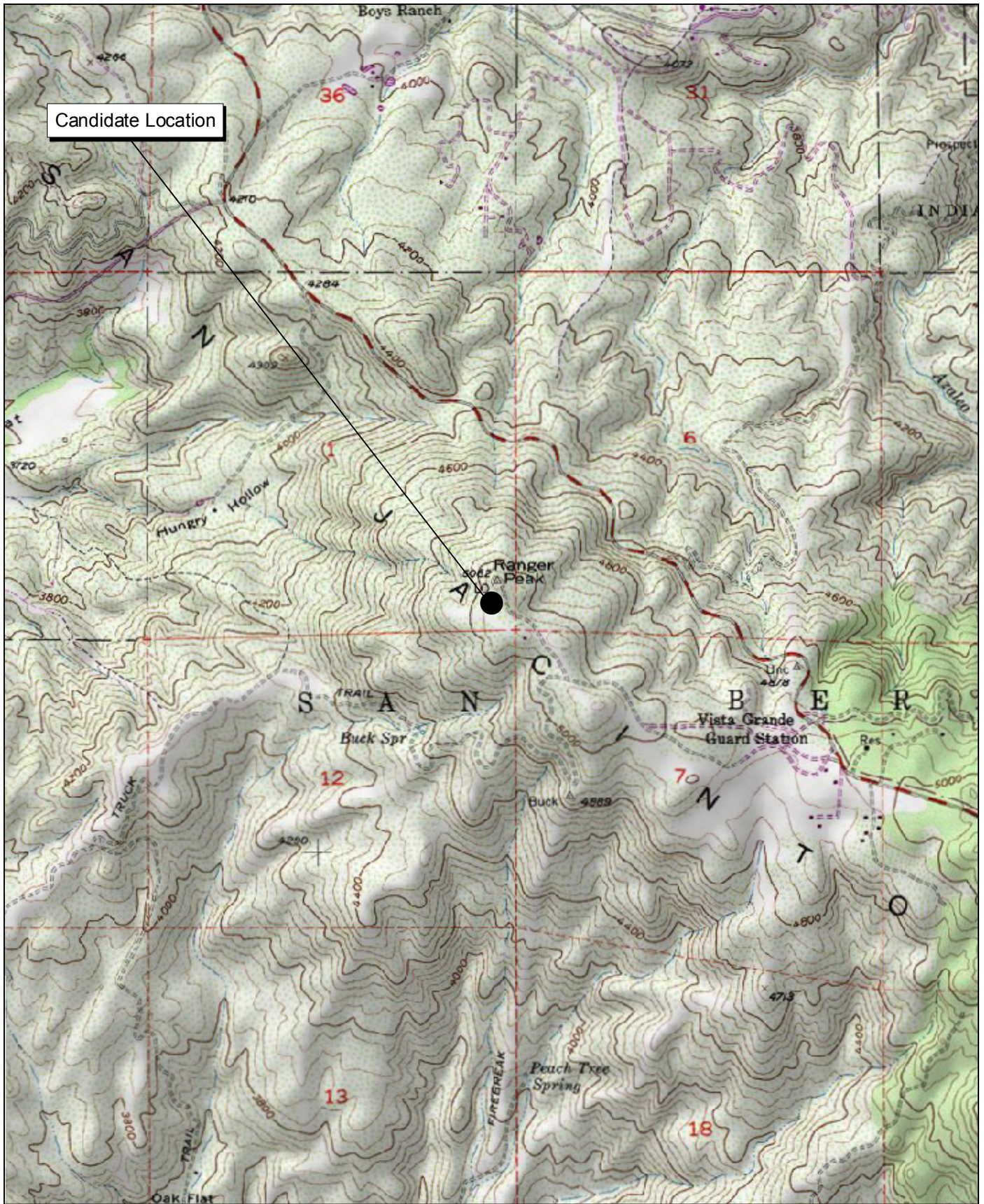
**Road Access**

A dirt road branches from the Poppet Flat Divide Road (FS 4S06), approximately 0.25 mile south of the site, and provides direct access to the site.

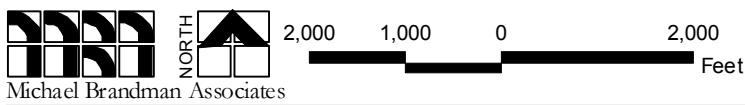
**Commercial Power Access**

Commercial power is available at the existing communication tower approximately 600 feet southeast of the site.





Source: USGS Lake Fulmor 7.5' Topographic Map.

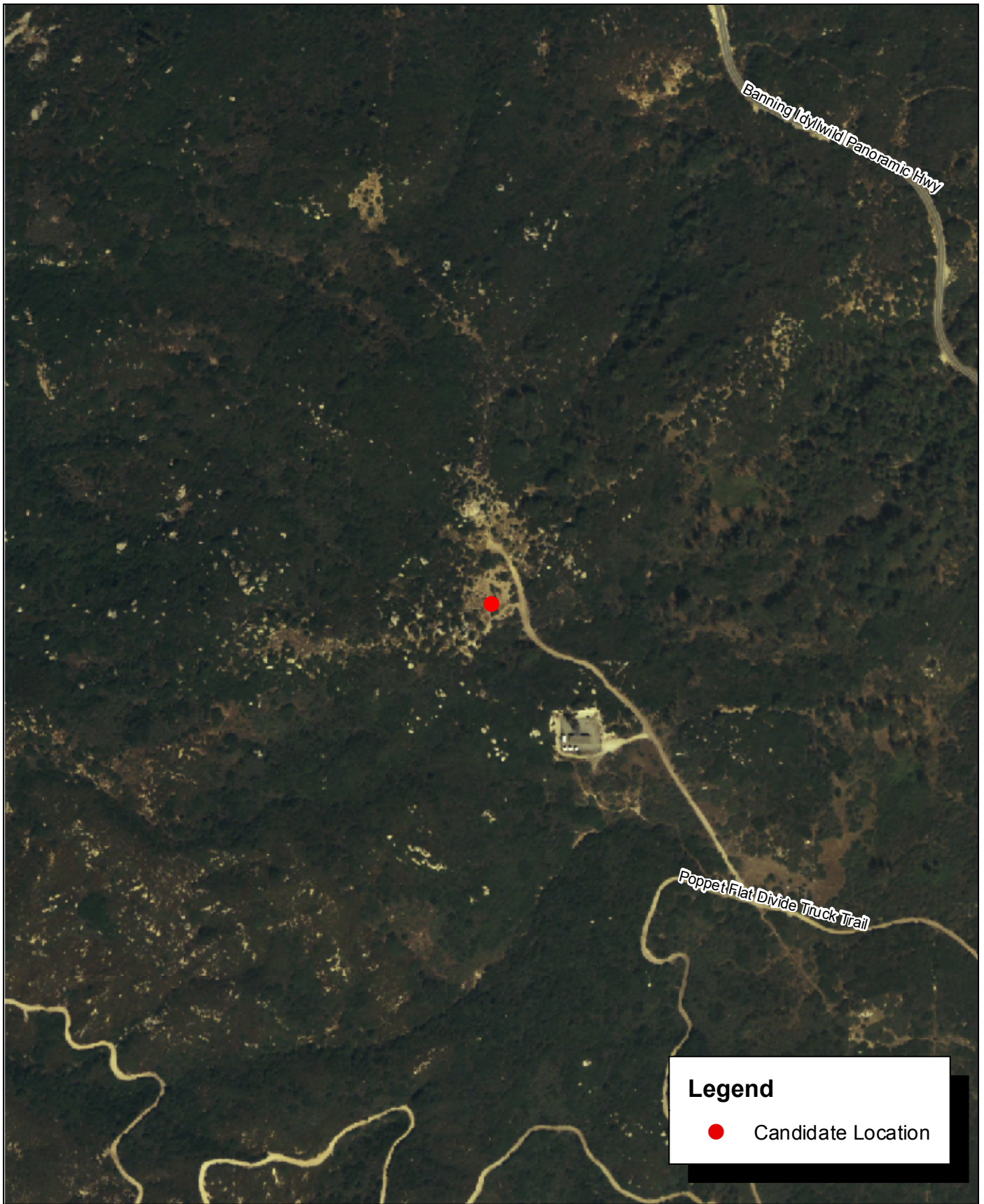


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## Ranger Peak Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
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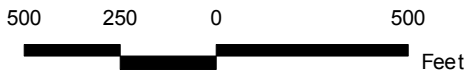


Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



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## Ranger Peak Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT





Photograph 1: View toward Ranger Peak candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 2: Overview of Ranger Peak candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 3: View toward Ranger Peak candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 4: View toward Ranger Peak candidate location, facing south.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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## Ranger Peak Candidate Photographs 1 to 4 PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Ranger Peak candidate location, facing northeast.



Photograph 6: View from Ranger Peak candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 7: View from Ranger Peak candidate location, facing southeast.



Photograph 8: View from Ranger Peak candidate location, facing southwest.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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## Ranger Peak Candidate Photographs 5 to 8 PSEC Project