

Red Mountain Communication Site

Overview

The site is located near an existing County communication tower and USFS lookout tower on a prominent ridge in the southwestern San Jacinto Mountains. The site is situated in the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF), approximately 2.50 miles northwest of Tripp Flats and 11 miles northwest of Anza. The proposed project would replace the existing County facility with a new tower and equipment shelter.

Table 1: Red Mountain Communication Site

Latitude ¹	Longitude ¹	Elev ²	Address	T/R/S ³	APN ⁴	USGS Quadrangle
33°37'46.1"	116°50'54.1"	4,507	No address assigned. Site is at end of Forest Route 6S22.	6S, 1E, Sec. 23	569-050-013	Blackburn Canyon
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 known as “Red Mountain,” and is located at the end of Forest Route 6S22. An existing County communication facility is located at the site, and consists of a block building measuring 10 feet by 10 feet, with two large microwave dishes mounted to the roof. The USFS Red Mountain fire lookout tower is located 100 feet to the north of the existing County site. The USFS has maintained a lookout at this location since 1936. Numerous County antennas are currently mounted on the lookout structure. The proposed project would replace the existing County facility, and would also allow the removal of these antennas from the lookout by moving them to the tower.

Topography and Vegetation

The site is located atop a mountain in the southwestern San Jacinto Mountains. The site itself has been highly disturbed and is currently occupied by a County communication facility, the Red Mountain lookout tower, and associated roads and walkways. The area of natural vegetation around the site is maintained as a fuel break for approximately 100 feet around the site, and is regularly cut back to provide defensible space around the structures. Outside of this fuel modification zone is a mixed coastal scrub and chaparral community, including chamise, white sage, cryptantha, broad-leaved filaree, skunkbush, short-podded mustard, California buckwheat, manzanita, chaparral yucca, deerweed, giant wild rye, yerba santa, and red brome.

Land Ownership and Applicable Habitat/Land Management Plan

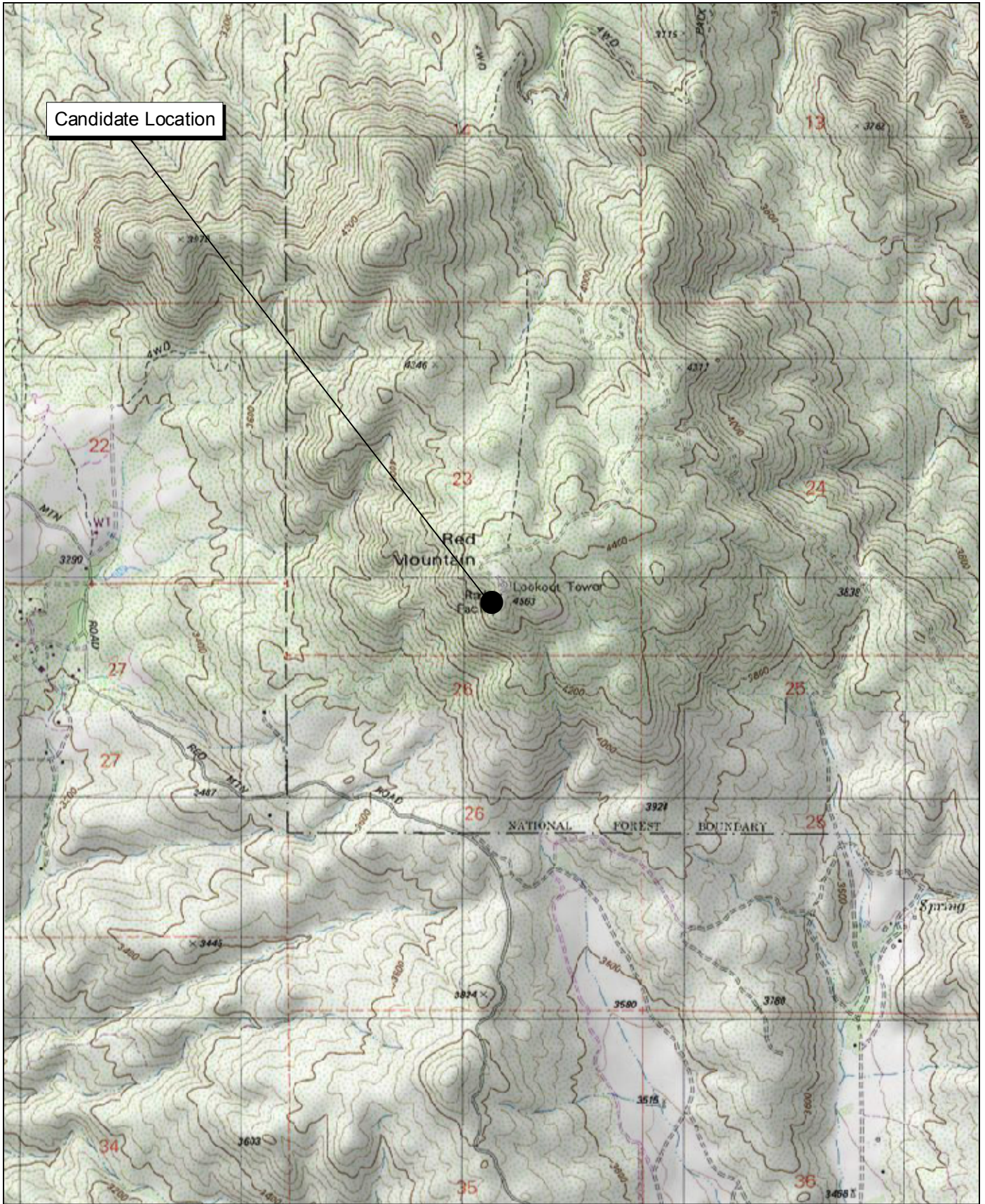
The site is located on federal land managed by the USFS, and is subject to the San Bernardino National Forest Management Plan (SBNFMP).

Road Access

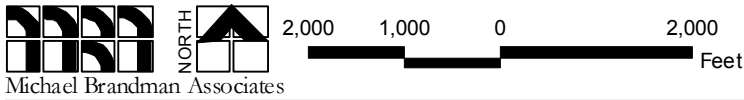
A dirt road (Forest Route 6S22) leads directly to the site.

Commercial Power Access

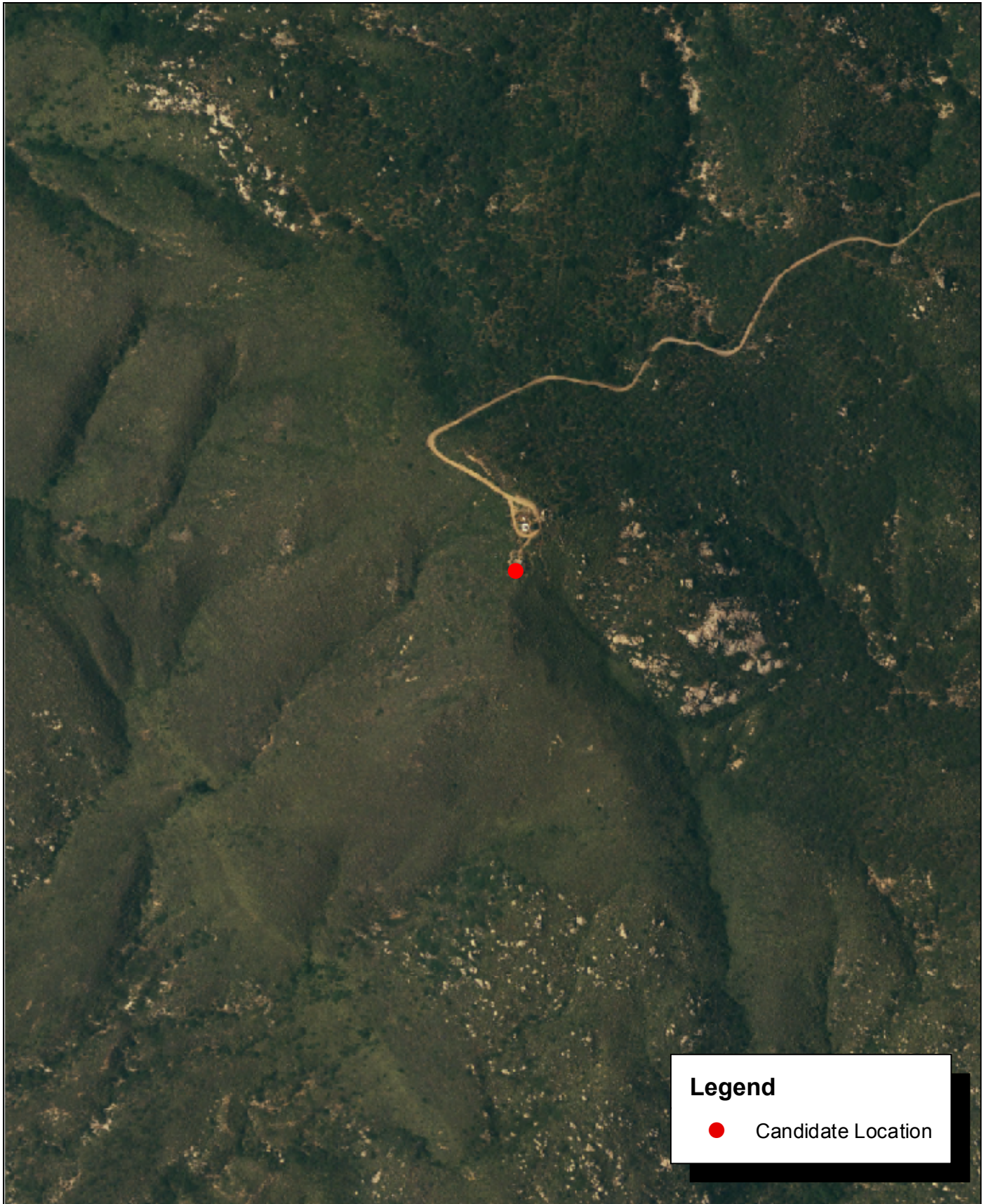
Commercial power is available at the site via an existing pole line that runs up the side of the mountain from the valley below.



Source: USGS Blackburn Canyon 7.5' Topographic Map.



Red Mountain Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map



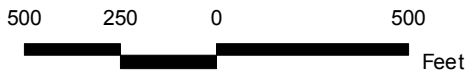
Legend

- Candidate Location

Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



Michael Brandman Associates



Red Mountain Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map



Photograph 1: View toward Red Mountain candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 2: View toward Red Mountain candidate location, facing southwest (photo taken from Lookout Tower).



Photograph 3: Overview of Red Mountain candidate location, facing north.



Photograph 4: Overview of Red Mountain candidate location, facing south.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Red Mountain Candidate Photographs 1 to 4 PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Red Mountain candidate location, facing southeast.



Photograph 6: View from Red Mountain candidate location, facing north.



Photograph 7: View from Red Mountain candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 8: View from Red Mountain candidate location, facing southwest.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Red Mountain Candidate Photographs 5 to 8 PSEC Project