

**Santiago Peak Communication Site**

**Overview**

The site is located in the Cleveland National Forest (CNF) at an existing communication facility atop Santiago Peak in the central portion of the Santa Ana Mountains, approximately 11 miles south of Corona. An existing communication tower and equipment shelter now occupy the site. The proposed project would remove the older tower, replace it with an upgraded tower, and expand the existing equipment shelter.

**Table 1: Santiago 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°42'41.9"	117°31'51.8"	5,601	7159 Main Divide Truck Trail, Corona, CA 92883	5S, 6W, Sec. 29	290-170-012	Santiago Peak
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 CNF. Santiago Peak houses a major communication complex with more than a dozen towers spread across its primary ridgeline. The site is currently occupied by an existing 100-foot tower and an associated equipment shelter. The proposed project will remove the existing tower and replace it with an upgraded unit. The existing equipment shelter will also be updated and expanded. The communication complex is located along the Main Divide Truck Trail (Forest Route FS3S04), which is a dirt road that generally follows the main ridgeline of the Santa Ana Mountains. The road’s principal purpose is to provide for fire control, but it also serves as a recreational conduit for visitors to the forest. The area surrounding the tower complex is used primarily for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities, such as hiking, camping, and hunting. Several hiking trails are in the vicinity. Since Santiago Peak is the highpoint of the Santa Ana Mountains, the peak is a popular hiking destination.

**Topography and Vegetation**

The site is located on a spur ridge of Santiago Peak, approximately 1,000 feet east of the peak itself. Steep slopes descend from the ridge to the north and south of the site. The site is surrounded by mountains, hills and canyons in all directions. The site itself is disturbed, and contains a small dirt parking area in addition to the tower and equipment shelter. Much of the vegetation around the site is maintained as a fuel modification zone, and is frequently cut back to provide defensible space and wildland fire protection around the tower facility. Outside of this zone, the vegetation consists of a ceanothus chaparral plant community to the southwest, a manzanita chaparral plant community to the southeast, and an oak woodland plant community to the north. The species in these areas include

whitethorn ceanothus, manzanita, and interior live oak. Other species include California buckwheat, chaparral yucca, mountain mahogany, yarrow, and creeping snowberry.

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

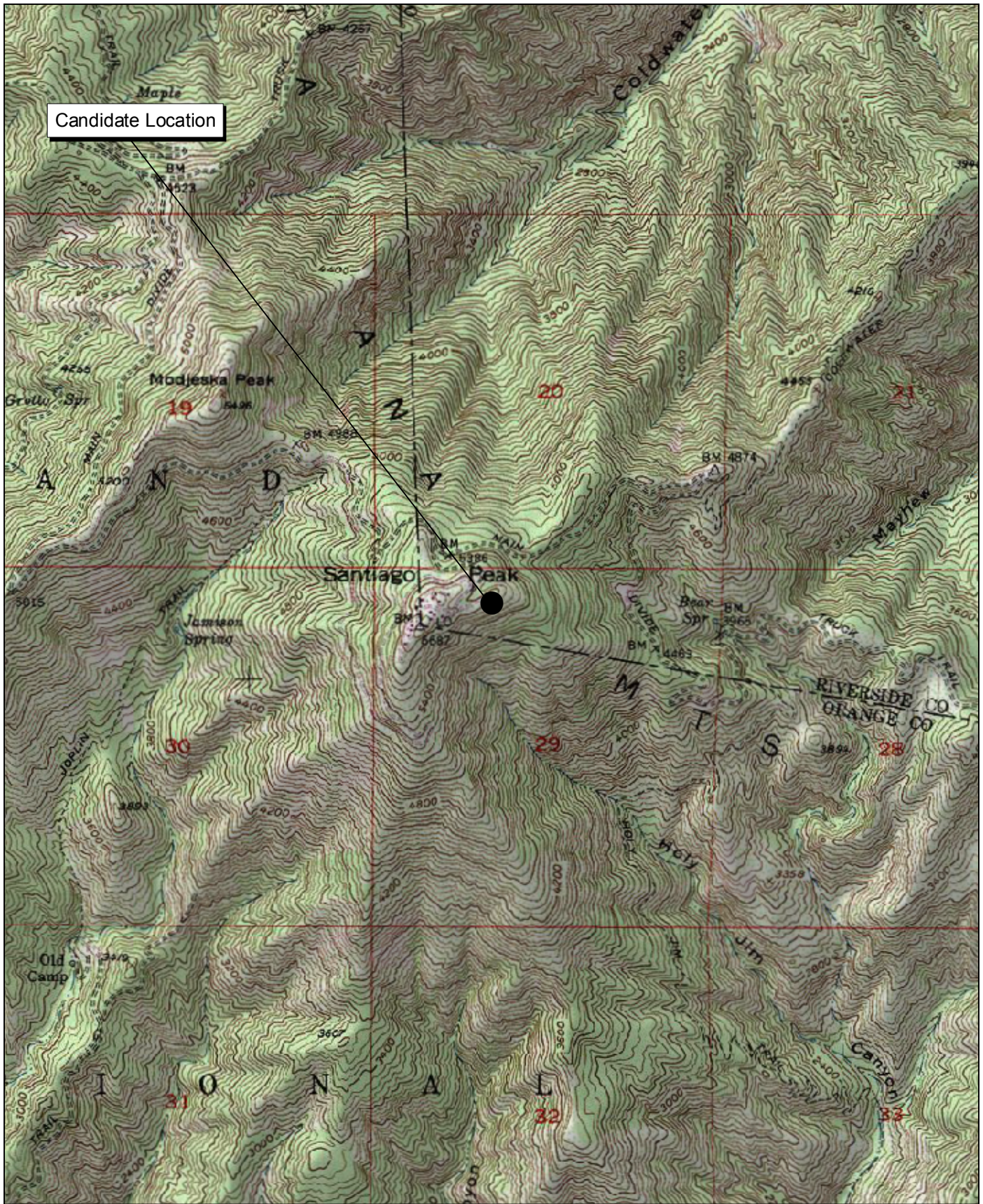
The site is located on federal land managed by the USFS and is subject to the Cleveland National Forest Management Plan.

**Road Access**

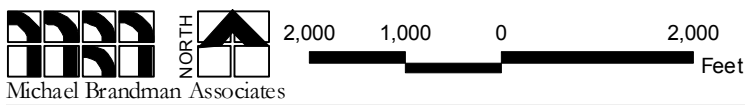
A dirt road leads directly to the site.

**Commercial Power Access**

Commercial power is already present on the property.



Source: USGS Santiago Peak 7.5' Topographic Map.



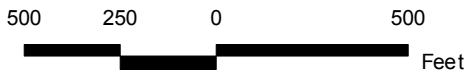
## Santiago Peak Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map



Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



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## Santiago Peak Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

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Photograph 1: View toward Santiago Peak candidate location, facing north.



Photograph 2: View toward Santiago Peak candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 3: Overview toward Santiago Peak candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 4: View toward Santiago Peak candidate location, facing east.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.





Photograph 5: View from Santiago Peak candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 6: View from Santiago Peak candidate location, facing southwest.



Photograph 7: View from Santiago Peak candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 8: View from Santiago Peak candidate location, facing north.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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## Santiago Peak Candidate Photographs 5 to 8 PSEC Project