
El Cariso

The El Cariso study area is located in the Orange County portion of the Cleveland National Forest (CNF), approximately 4 miles west of Lake Elsinore.

Existing Conditions

General Site Conditions

The study area is located on a graded lot adjacent to CNF employee residences. The elevation of the study area is approximately 3,070 feet above sea level. The soils present consist of a Blasinggame-rock outcrop complex, based on the USDA soil survey. The study area is bordered to the east by a paved road, and beyond the road is an open area used to stockpile woody debris. The southern and western portions of the study area are bordered by a steep, downward slope into a open valley. A drainage feature also occurs south of the study area. The northern portion of the study area is bordered by a small stand of chaparral vegetation. The study area is subject to disturbance associated with vegetation clearing and vehicle parking.

Vegetation

The vegetation in the study area consists of a disturbed stand of various mature, planted trees. The tree species observed include lemon (*Citris limon*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). A stand of bamboo (*Bambusa* sp.) was also observed on the study area. Sparse occurrences of young shrubs were also present in the study area, including plant species such as manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), and chaparral yucca (*Yucca whippleii*).

Wildlife

Wildlife activity was low during the survey. Wildlife species observed include common raven (*Corus corax*) and red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). Species expected to occur are those common in rural residential communities, such as house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), and California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*).

Sensitive Biological Resources

Sensitive Species

Federally and State Listed Species

No habitat for any State- or federally-listed threatened or endangered species occurs within the study area. Therefore, the development of the study area is not anticipated to impact any plant or animal species protected under CESA or FESA.

USFS Sensitive and Watch List Species

The study area contains suitable habitat for mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* ssp. *puberula*), heart-leaved pitcher sage (*Lepechinia cardiophylla*), Parry's tetracoccus (*Tetracoccus dioicus*), Hall's monardella (*Monardella macrantha* ssp. *hallii*), chaparral nolina (*Nolina cismontane*), and

San Miguel savory (*Satureja chandleri*), all United States Forest Service (USFS) Region 5 Sensitive List Species. None of the species were observed within the study area. Regardless, species identified as sensitive by the USFS are not directly protected by any State or federal law or policy.

CNPS Listed Species

The study area contains suitable habitat for summer holy (*Comarostaphylis diversifolia* ssp. *diversifolia*), and felt-leaved monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *lanata*), both CNPS List 1B.2 species. Neither species were observed within the study area. Regardless, plant species identified as sensitive only by CNPS are not protected by any State or federal laws or policies.

Other Sensitive Species

No suitable habitat for sensitive species not specifically protected under any other policy occurs on the study area.

Critical Habitat

The study area is not located within of any USFWS-designated Critical Habitat.

Nesting Birds

No nests or nesting activities were observed during the survey; however, the study area contains suitable nesting habitat for tree nesting avian species, such as northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*).

California Desert Native Plant Act

Development in Orange County is not subject to the CDNPA.

Jurisdictional Waters

A corrugated pipe located south of the study area runs beneath the paved road into a drainage feature that also occurs downslope of the study area. The feature contains scattered riparian vegetation and also contains intermittent bed and bank features. No portion of the drainage feature or associated riparian vegetation are located on the study area.

Wildlife Corridors and Movement

Given the limited size and minimal disturbance associated with the development of the study area, no impacts to any wildlife corridors or wildlife movement patterns are anticipated.

Applicable HCP or Land Use Management Plan

The study area is located on federal land managed by the USFS. The study area is subject to jurisdiction under the Cleveland National Forest Management Plan (CNFMP). Approval by the USFS must be obtained prior to construction.



Legend

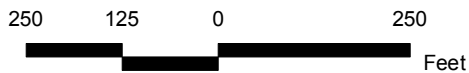
- Tower Locations
- ⊠ 50' Study Area

Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



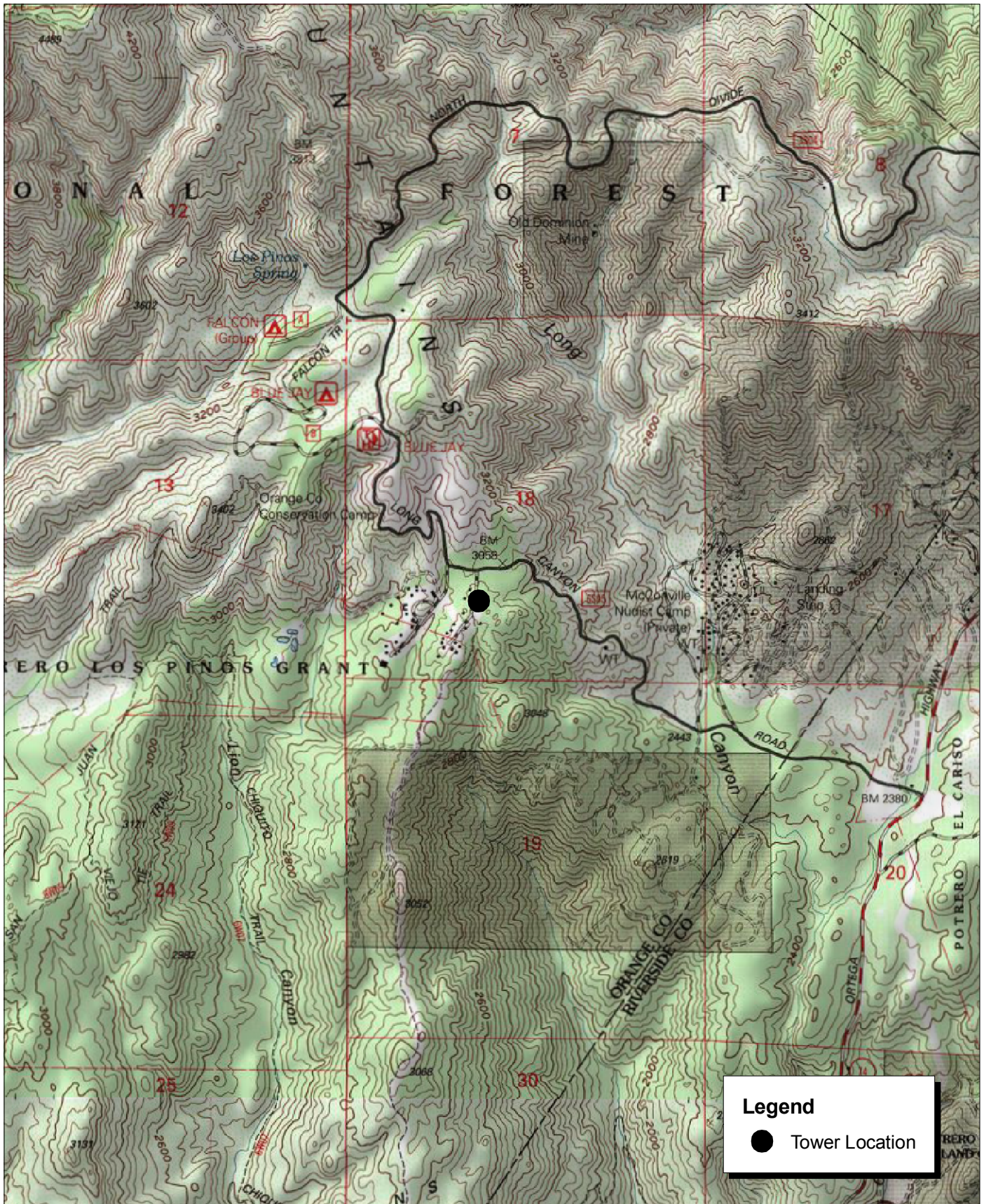
Michael Brandman Associates

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El Cariso Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Source: USGS Albers 7.5' Topographic Map.



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El Cariso Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

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Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



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El Cariso Communication Site USDA Soils Map

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Photograph 1: Overview of El Cariso Hot Shot candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 2: Overview of El Cariso Hot Shot candidate location, facing southeast.



Photograph 3: View toward El Cariso Hot Shot candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 4: View toward El Cariso Hot Shot candidate location, facing northwest.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.





Photograph 5: View from El Cariso Hot Shot candidate location, facing southeast.



Photograph 6: View from El Cariso Hot Shot candidate location, facing northeast.



Photograph 7: View from El Cariso Hot Shot candidate location, facing north.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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El Cariso Candidate Photographs 5 to 7
PSEC Project