

SOUTHERN OVERLAND TRAIL CULTURAL PRESERVE

Purpose and Intent of Cultural Preserve Zone

The trails that cross the Colorado Desert region are the tangible evidence of human adaptation and perseverance in Southern California's diverse and unpredictable environment. Perhaps the best known and most intensively used of these travel routes is known today as the Southern Overland Trail. From prehistoric times until the mid-twentieth century, people traveled the Southern Overland Trail from the Colorado River, through the Colorado Desert, over the Laguna and Cuyamaca Mountains, and to the Coastal Valleys and Pacific Ocean. They made the journey to harvest plants, hunt game, trade goods, participate in group events, pasture livestock, and transport news, cargo, and people. Like most trails used by early pioneers and emigrants who crossed the Colorado Desert, it was originally a Native American trail. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the trail linked points in Mexico and the American Midwest with the California Coast. While much of its evidence across the southland has been destroyed by modern development, the trail remains largely intact in ABDSP, from Carrizo Creek in the southeast corner of the park, to San Felipe in the northwest, and to the Cuyamacas on the west.

Approximately 20 miles of Southern Overland Trail intact roadbed, identified by field survey, are included within the Southern Overland Trail Cultural Preserve. This does not include 3.3 miles of intact roadbed that are protected within the two other Preserves: Hawi- Vallecito and We-nelsch. The cultural preserve width, depending on adjacent uses, varies from 10 to 120 yards to include the various alignments as they evolved through time. The segments receiving cultural preserve designation consist of highly significant intact remains of roadbed as identified by the characteristic "U" shape profile and rust scraped rocks, three Stage Station sites, and other related features such as the 1849 graffiti at El Puerto. It is important to keep in mind that the entire route is still in existence but segments not given cultural preserve designation are sections where intact traces have been "over-written" by washes, jeep roads, paved roads, OHV use, agriculture, construction, natural events, or private land use. Inclusion of segments with intact remains in the Southern Overland Trail Cultural Preserve will provide absolute protection of these fragile traces. Exclusion from Cultural Preserve designation, of sections "overwritten" by more recent uses, provides an exceptional opportunity for the public to experience Southern Overland Trail travel on horse or by vehicle.

Primary Goal

The Primary goal for this and all Cultural Preserves is to protect and preserve the numerous cultural resources located here.

"Complete integrity of the resources shall be sought, and no structures or improvements that conflict with the integrity shall be permitted." (P.R.C. 5019.74)

Guideline

SOT-G 1

- Projects, activities or facility development that may affect the integrity cultural resources or impacts the cultural landscape and or the historic viewshed within the Cultural Preserve zone will not occur.

Roads and Parking

Goal:

The use of motor vehicles in cultural preserves of the state park system ,is prohibited (PRC 5001.8).

Guidelines:

SOT-G6

- Vehicles and horses will not be allowed in the cultural preserve zone.

SOT-G7

- Within the cultural preserve, any foot traffic in groups of 25 or more people will be controlled by the State Parks “group activity permit process.”

SOT-G8

- Sections of the Southern Overland Trail have been “overwritten” by natural and human impacts and, although they are still part of the trail experience, are not included in the Cultural Preserve boundary. These courses provide excellent alternative opportunities for horses and vehicles to experience the Southern Overland Trail. From Vallecito south, generally, dirt roads provide an opportunity to encounter the Overland Trail experience by horse and 4-wheel drive vehicle. To the north of Vallecito, generally, Highway S-2 provides an opportunity to encounter the Overland Trail experience by 2-wheel drive vehicle.

SOT-G9

- Parking/staging areas to access and observe segments of the Overland Trail exist at Palm Spring camping area, Vallecito County Park, paved parking areas at the base of Campbell Grade and Box Canyon, in Box Canyon, and in Blair Valley.

SOT-G10

- A paved parking area at the base of Campbell Grade provides and opportunity for accessible access to view the trail.

Camping

Goal:

In order to protect the fragile roadbed and associated features of the Southern Overland Trail, camping will not be allowed in the cultural preserve zone. However, properly guided by interpretive information, camping outside the cultural preserve zone will provide unique educational opportunities.

Guidelines:

SOT-G3

- No camping will be allowed within the cultural preserve zone.

SOT-G4

- Backpack or vehicle camping in historical campsites outside the Trail roadbed, such as Palm Spring, Blair Valley, or Vallecito County Park, will allow for a unique educational experience.

SOT-G5

- Backpack camping outside the Trail roadbed, for reenactment travelers, will provide for a unique living history experience

Facilities

Goal:

Within the Southern Overland Cultural Preserve, “**complete integrity of the cultural resources will be sought and no additional structures or improvements that conflict with that integrity shall be allowed.**” (PRC 5019.74)

Guidelines:

SOT-G11

- No new facility development that conflicts with the integrity of the resources, the cultural landscape or the historic view shed will be permitted.

SOT-G12

- State Parks should continue to work cooperatively with San Diego County Parks to preserve and stabilize the Vallecito Stage Station, the only standing Trail-related structure within the Colorado Desert.

Social Experiences and Activities

Goal:

“Areas set aside as cultural preserves shall be large enough to provide for the effective management and interpretation of the resources” (PRC 5019.74)

Guidelines:

SOT-G1

- The name of this Cultural Preserve reflects the numerous uses through time as well as the current effort to include the Southern Overland Trail in the proposed Southern Trails National Historic Trail.

SOT-G2

- Materials/staff support necessary to tell the story of the Southern Overland Trail will include informational brochures, pod-casts, interpretive signage near segments of the trail available for public access, historic reenactments, and living history events. Interpretive messages will seek to include the voices all people who used the trail through time including Native, Spanish and Mexican, other European, and American peoples.

SOT-G13

- The Southern Overland Trail Cultural Preserve will encompass a 10 to 120-yard-wide corridor approximately 20 miles in length, and a total of 315 acres; with an additional 3.3 miles of intact roadbed and associated features within Vallecito and We-nelsch Cultural Preserves. As additional sections might be identified in the future, this length or width could be increased.

SOT-G14

- It is indisputable that the origins of the Southern Overland Trail lie with the Native Peoples of the Colorado Desert region. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park should work to include Native Americans in telling the story of the Southern Overland Trail.

SOT-G15

- California State Parks will work with the Southern Trails Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association to help bring about designation of the Southern Trail (of which the Southern Overland Trail is a part) as a National Historic Trail.

SOT-G16

- Continued cooperation with San Diego County Parks should be pursued to continue and enhance the annual Vallecito Days Living History program.

SOT-G17

- Anza-Borrego Desert State Park should continue to take the lead with neighboring agencies (Bureau of Land Management, Cleveland National Forest, and San Diego County Parks) as well as other State Parks in the region) to sponsor and implement interpretive programs that highlight the historic importance of the Southern Overland Trail and nineteenth-century frontier life.

SOT-G18

- Anza-Borrego Desert State Park should encourage historically-accurate reenactment groups to use the Southern Overland Trail for living history programs while taking care that the fragile resources of the Trail are not adversely impacted.

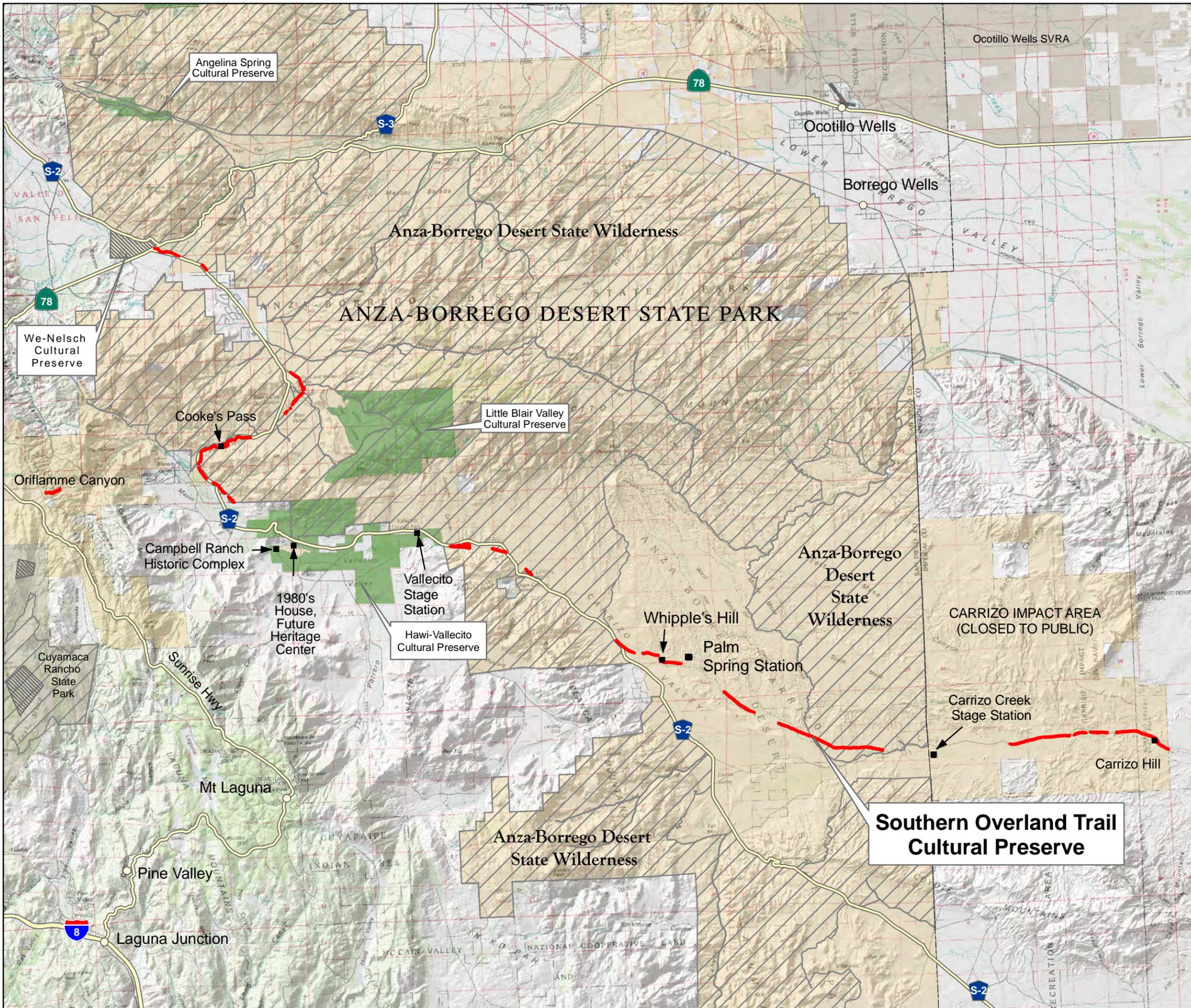
SOT-G19

- Trained archaeological site stewards will make regular periodic visits to particularly sensitive areas and report any continuing impacts so that management of the cultural preserve zone may be adjusted.

ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK

Southern Overland Trail Cultural Preserve

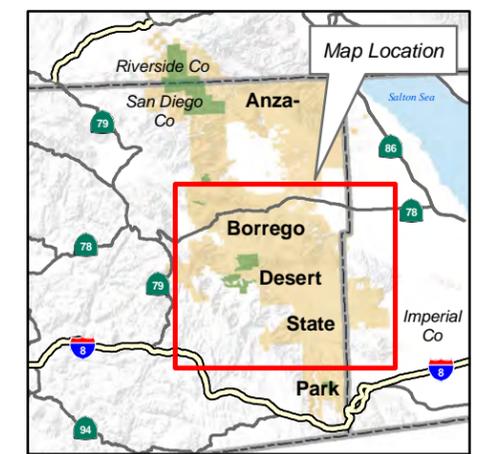
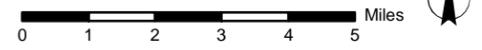
20 Miles, 315 Acres



- Proposed Southern Overland Trail CP
- Other Proposed Cultural Preserves
- Anza Borrego Desert State Park
- Existing Wilderness
- Existing Cultural Preserve
- Other State Parks
- Major Roads
- Local Roads and Trails
- Cities and towns
- Locations of Interest

Southern Overland Trail Cultural Preserve is proposed for State Park lands only, exclusive of other Cultural Preserves and existing roads.

Representative Fraction
1:174,249
1 inch = 2.8 miles



**Southern Overland Trail
Cultural Preserve**

NOTES:
Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.

PLANNING
DIVISION

GENERAL
PLAN
SECTION

Date 11/08/10
Sources:
Calif. Dept. of Parks
& Recreation,
Colorado Desert
District

