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## **Summary of Simulated Field Trip Session**

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The Simulated Field Trips offered resource managers an opportunity to "show" Symposium attendees their resource areas. The emphasis was on recreational activities in the wildland-urban interface and on management techniques for these areas. The six presentations were in the form of slide shows and videotapes. The session was moderated by Robert Laidlaw of the Bureau of Land Management.

## Desert Areas

The first set of presentations focused on desert areas and included Veronica A. Fortun's **"Discover Your California Desert District"** talk on the vast sandscapes, unusual wildlife, swaying palms, and distinctive beauty found in this resource area. Fortun described the California desert as a source of natural, historic, recreational, and economic riches. Her slide presentation included petroglyphs to shifting sand dunes, multi-million dollar gold mines to majestic bighorn sheep, and ribbons of pipeline to wide open spaces. The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the balanced management of these public lands and resources. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield—a combination of uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources.

Emily Garber presented a videotape entitled **"The Desert as Dessert: Recreation in the Desert-Urban Interface,"** which described the Cave Creek Ranger District on the Tonto National Forest as a year-round playground for the over 2 million people of metropolitan Phoenix. The tape described the area as currently ill-equipped for the task of meeting the demands of its visitors. While boasting many attractions—two lakes, several miles of the Wild and Scenic Verde River, two wilderness areas, many well-visited archaeological ruins, and quite a few miles of well-used pedestrian, equestrian, motorcycle and four-wheel drive trails and roads—most of the heavily used areas of the Ranger District are undeveloped. The District is now planning and designing recreation facilities, and anticipates several recreation facility rehabilitation and construction projects.

## Wildland-Urban Interface

Michael J. Rogers then changed the focus with his slide presentation entitled **"The Angeles National Forest: A Forest Service Laboratory for Wildland-Urban Interface Challenges."** According to Rogers, the Angeles National Forest does not fit the image of a traditional forest, and traditional management does not work. The wildland-urban interface poses many new and unprecedented issues to recreation management on the

Angeles, including these: effective law enforcement, appropriate recreational experiences for many diverse cultures using the forest, traffic control, and public participation in decisions and activities. In addition to these clear "people management" issues, protection of natural resources on the Forest involves indirect social issues, such as water quality, litter, graffiti, and smog. None of these issues is exclusive to the Angeles, but their magnitude is much greater on this forest. Roger's slide presentation provided visual images of traditional uses of forests juxtaposed against visual images of nontraditional uses and the related issues.

Another issue in managing resources in the wildland-urban interface is the problem of conflicts. Timothy G. O'Keefe's presentation, entitled **"La Grande Forest"** addressed this issue. La Grande is a small community located in the heart of the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon. The area is historically dependent on mining, grazing, and timber. In the Blue Mountains today, interest in forest recreation is growing rapidly. This noncommodity use of the public forest resource has resulted in some conflict with traditional forest uses. Resource managers on the La Grande Forest are trying to balance commodity and noncommodity needs.

Our next look into the wildland-urban interface came from Jose M. Salinas, Jr. with his videotape entitled **"The Caribbean National Forest: Providing for a Hispanic Visitor."** This National Forest, in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, is described as much loved and heavily visited. The multicultural visitors to this resource represent many, and often conflicting, values. The level of recreation use in contrast to the level of development poses difficult management problems. The impact of managing for endangered species and the forest's long-standing policy of custodial recreation management has caused a near crisis. A continued lack of proactive management will probably result in loss of public benefits and public support, and damage to the resource.

## Partnerships

Again we changed the focus, this time to look at the value of partnerships in solving dilemmas in the wildland-urban interface. Jim Tallerico's video presentation entitled, **"Partnership in Mill Creek Canyon,"** described one example of problem solving. Mill Creek Canyon, located near Salt Lake City, suffered from overuse. Using a partnership, a user fee system was instituted. The process included public support. A minimal fee was collected as visitors exited the area, and visitors were informed that the money would be used in the canyon. The video described how the fee system was used successfully to repair the resource area.