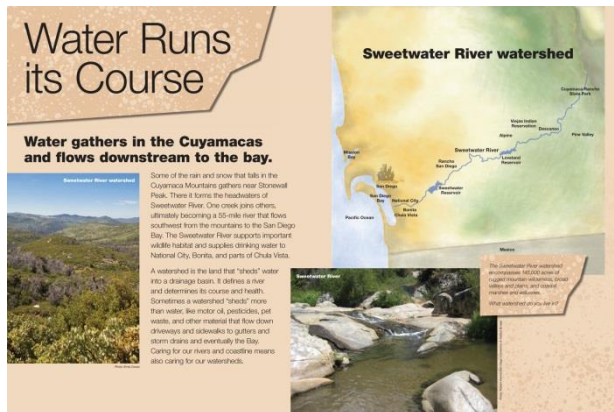


Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Stonewall Peak Trail, California

The Acorn Group worked with staff of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and its Interpretive Association in the development of interpretive signage along Stonewall Peak Trail. We created six panels for the trail—three alone at the summit.

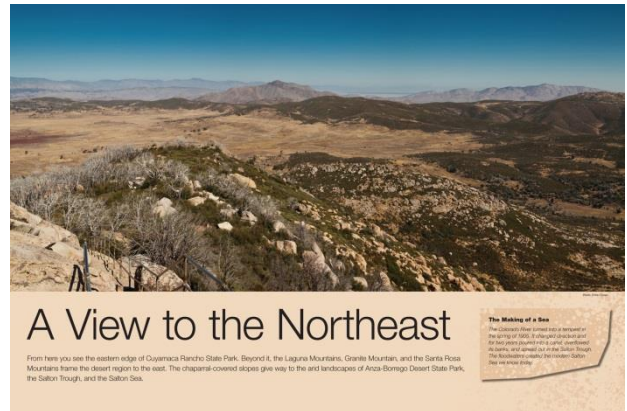
We intentionally focused on physical processes and forces that have shaped the land, rather than the stories of people who have lived here, such as the Kumeyaay. Those stories are better told elsewhere at the Park.



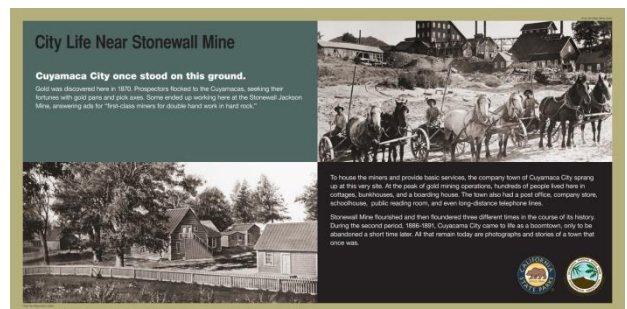
This project posed some serious challenges. The massive 2003 Cedar Fire eliminated most of the trail's tree cover. As a result, it is currently a sun-bathed walk to the top. Further, weather conditions cannot be ignored. While beckoning the visitor to stay and savor the remarkable views, we needed to be mindful that Stonewall Peak is the highest point in the immediate region.

Visitors standing at the summit are vulnerable to lightning strikes during electrical storm events. This information needed to be conveyed at the trail base. Respecting the interests of Park staff, we kept interpretive panels to a minimum along the trail. There were few openings for their placement along the narrow passages and further, all team members agreed that

protecting the visitor's experience in nature required limiting the number of signs.



The peak itself offers stunning 360-degree views of the Cuyamaca Mountains, North, Middle, and Cuyamaca Peaks, Palomar Mountain, Lake Cuyamaca, the Laguna Mountains, and on a clear day, the desert region and Los Coronados Islands. It is indeed the "rooftop of San Diego County."



A seventh panel was designed for the site of Cuyamaca City, the 19th c. boom town near Stonewall Mine.