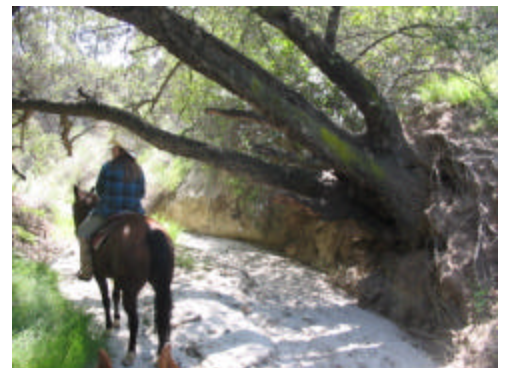




Riverbeds were once the “freeways” of California.

Journals of Spanish explorers and settlers describe using Southern California’s riverbeds (in dry weather) as roads. Even ox carts could navigate the flat, sandy streambeds. By the 1800’s, however, deforestation (for firewood & construction) and overgrazing by millions of cattle and sheep had dramatically changed the landscape forever. Because little vegetation remained to slow the course of stormwater run-off, massive erosion resulted.



Previously traveler-friendly, sandy riverbeds gave way to the steep gorges and boulder-strewn washes common today.



The streambed pictured here (near Little Tujunga) is remote enough to have escaped human interference and the introduction of non-native species. One can journey for miles along a smooth, comfortable, shady trail engineered by Nature unaided, through a timeless landscape that delights the senses.

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