

## Section 1: Location History and Environment

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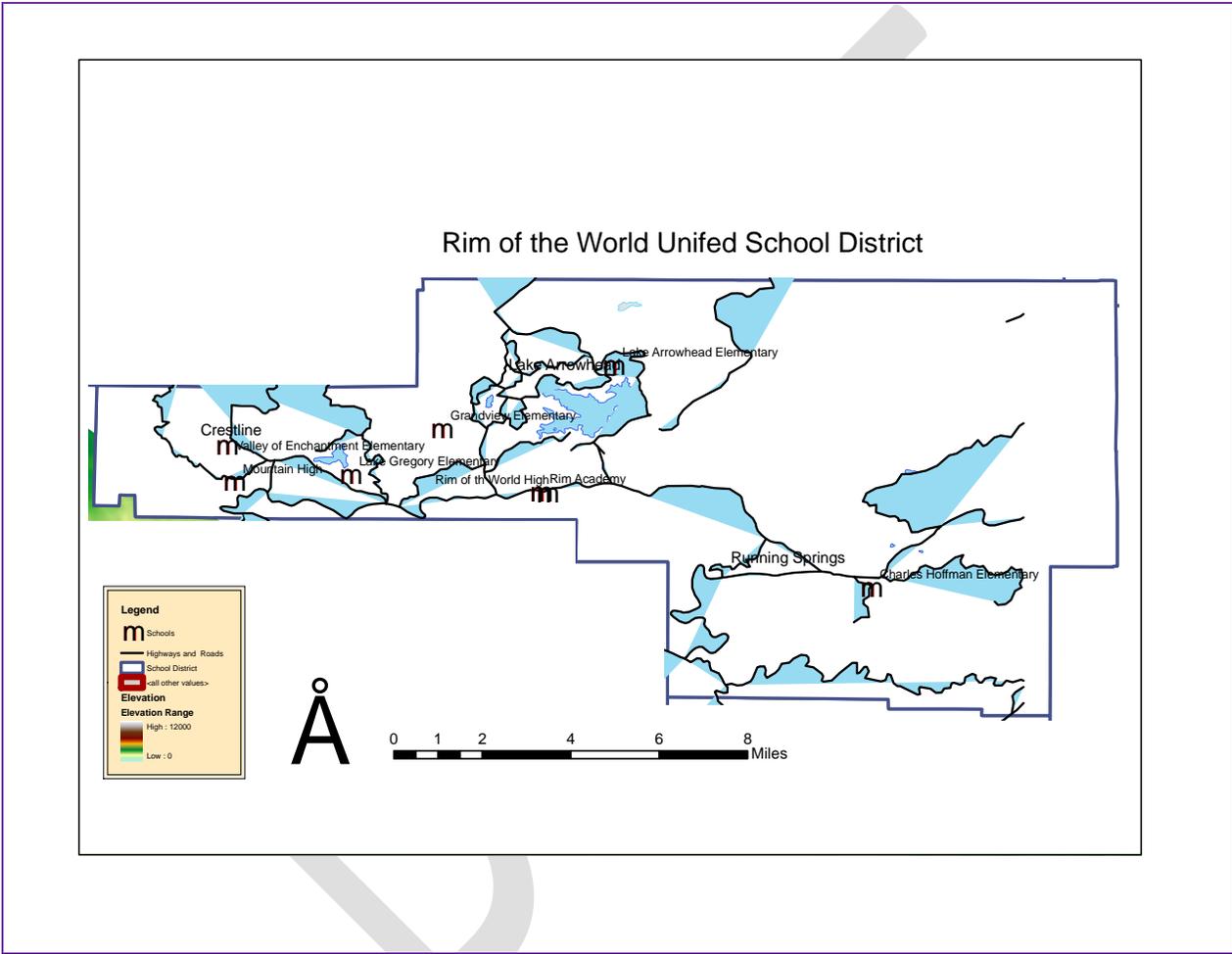
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### The Location History and Environment

#### Introduction



Rim of the World Unified School District (District) is located in the San Bernardino Mountains within the unincorporated portions of San Bernardino County. Rim of the World Unified School District consists of 110 forested square miles within the boundaries of the San Bernardino National Forest overlooking the Inland Empire Valley. Proclaimed a "Forest Reserve" on February 25, 1893, these mountains were designated as the

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San Bernardino National Forest by presidential proclamation in 1925. The elevation of the District ranges from 4,000 to 7,000 feet with pine and cedar forests. The District contains the urban areas of Crestline, Lake Arrowhead and Running Springs. The boundaries extend north to the desert districts of Hesperia Unified School District and Apple Valley Unified School District, to the South and West to the Urban District San Bernardino City School and to the east the Big Bear Unified School District.

### History and Three Communities: Beginnings and Present



In 1851, the Mormons purchased land from the early Spanish settlers and founded the City of San Bernardino there was an immediate need for lumber to build homes, churches, stores, and civic buildings. After 1860, the area was opened to logging. At various times, there were mills in Lake Arrowhead, Twin Peaks, Blue Jay, Grass Valley, and Cedar Glen. Congress enacted the Forest Reserve Act in 1890. Later in 1893 the San Bernardino Forest Reserve was established due to neglect of conservation and environmental needs.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> San Bernardino General Plan, 2007

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### Crestline Development

During 1906, a development of 50 foot by 100 foot lots for a “summer city in the pines” or a second-home area produced the beginning of Crestline. Completion of the Rim of the World Highway in 1915 improved access to the mountains. In 1923, a summer and winter resort began in Skyland and development of “The Valley of Enchantment” started. By 1928, Crest Forest began as a summer retreat. From 1936 to 1938, the Works Projects Administration constructed the dam that created Lake Gregory. The growth continues till the present, but slowly.

The Crestline area developed into a bedroom community with outdoor recreation for the county with the County Park and Lake. The median single family housing prices in the Crestline area are shown in Chart 1.01. There are a variety of lifestyles in the community, yet with common interests in the outdoors and recreation. The older clusters display interests in fishing, hunting, auto racing and golf while the younger group find biking and hiking of greater interest. The mature cluster make-up is predominately empty nesters. The household income ranges from social security retirement to an average baby-boomer salary in a range from \$60,000 to \$70,000 yearly. Another group is blue-collar workers with median incomes of \$32,000 yearly. Another group of young singles living in apartments in small towns and with lifestyles centered on sports, cars and social activities inhabits all three communities in the Rim of the World School District.<sup>2</sup>

Chart 1.01



<sup>2</sup> Claritas Prizm NE, 2007

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### Lake Arrowhead Development

Lake Arrowhead beginnings started with supplying timber for the development of San Bernardino. The Arrowhead Reservoir Company constructed Little Bear dam in 1904 to create a large reservoir in Little Bear Valley to supply water to San Bernardino. In 1912, their plans were halted by a State Supreme Court decision that water from one watershed could not be diverted to another for irrigation. Later, the Lake Arrowhead Company purchased the lake. The new owners completed the dam and developed adjacent lands into a resort. Over the next thirty years, the area flourished as a fashionable summer resort for the wealthy and famous. Since 1946, there have been several changes in ownership and most of the land has been subdivided into residential lots. The lake is now owned by the Arrowhead Lake Association, which has exclusive rights for use of Lake Arrowhead. The Annual (2006) median single family housing prices within Lake Arrowhead are shown in Chart 1.02<sup>3</sup>. A lifestyle of wealth dominates the Lake Arrowhead community. Management is the main occupation of this cluster and the greatest percentage are empty nesters, with 70% of these household incomes starting at \$80,000 yearly. The income of the retired households starts at \$40,000 annually which is over \$11,000 greater than the 65+ seniors in the Crestline area. The next major cluster in Lake Arrowhead is the young singles.

Chart 1.02



<sup>3</sup> LA Times, 2006

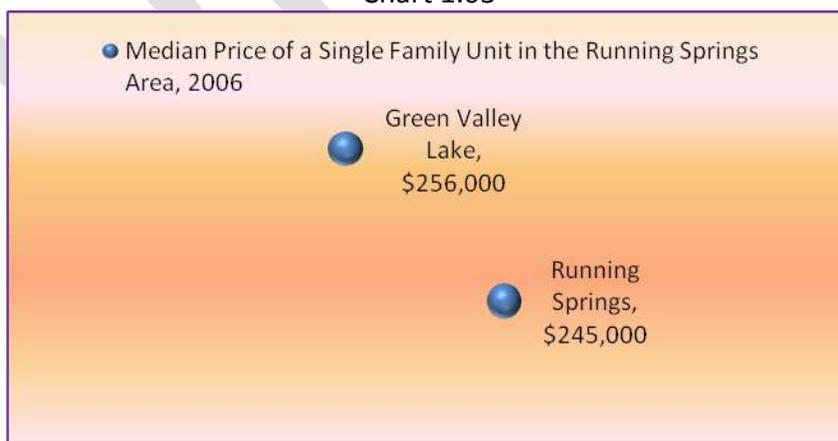
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### Running Springs Development

The Running Springs locale is east of Lake Arrowhead, and west of Big Bear Lake. It contains the communities of Running Springs, Arrowbear, Green Valley Lake and the Snow Valley ski area. The development of the Running Springs area in the 1890's smoothed the progress of lumber production. One of the first schools existed in Fredalba to serve the children of the logging and sawmill workers. In 1915 the newly constructed Rim of the World highway, from Lake Arrowhead through Fredalba and Green Valley to Big Bear Lake, opened the area for recreation and tourists. Subdividing began in 1920 with 40 acres, but water shortage stopped development. The creation of subdivisions and lakes started again in 1923 and lasted until 1929 with the beginning of the Great Depression. Improvements at Snow Valley and the opening of State Highway 30's two lanes after World War II stimulated development of the area.

The management cluster with median incomes of \$70,000 is similar to Lake Arrowhead, but consists of a younger population with the lower incomes of the population in Running Springs. A group of middle-class households combines young families with a few baby-boomers to make up an important segment of the community of Running Springs. They seek a rustic life with a positive environment for their children. Their median income of \$54,000 provides a comfortable lifestyle. A lower middle class and new baby-boomers with median incomes of \$42,000 make up another group with solid ties to the community, and along with the young singles, are the blue-collar clusters in Running Springs.

Chart 1.03



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### The District History

During the early years a few teachers would gather up a few children and start teaching. This seldom would last more than a year. There was one school that was recognized by the county at Fredalba for the children of the mill workers. Mary Putman Henck moved to the mountain in 1923 when no school existed in Lake Arrowhead. Previously Mrs. Henck served as Women's Vice Principal at Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles. She received permission to open a school from the County Superintendent of Schools.

The school opened on September 22, 1924, with 13 students through the eighth grade. The county provided desks, books, supplies and a teacher at the beginning of the second semester. Another school started in a two-room building used by a doctor during the summers. A School Board was formed in 1925 and put a bond issue on the ballot. The \$40,000 bond passed to build a school that opened in September 20, 1926. The school later became the present Lake Arrowhead Fire Department building. Lake Arrowhead's first school was built in 1938 and the the present Lake Arrowhead Elementary School was built in 1950. Crestline and Running Springs formed separate Districts and then joined to create the Rim of the World Unified School District in 1954.

### Present Impact on the District

The dominant factor that affected the community and the District is the Old Fire in October of 2003 and contained on November 4, 2003. The fire burned 91,281 acres and affected 940 homes and 30 commercial establishments. The influence of the fire continues to affect the economic status and employment opportunities in the District.

### Board of Educational Goals

1. Improve academic performance of students
2. Maintain District solvency with 3 years of positive budget
3. Improve District community communication

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4. Provide extended learning opportunities for all students in art, music, performing arts, P.E., R.O.P. & journalism
5. Utilize technology to improve student/staff performance
6. Improve English Language Learners Program

### The Mission and Goals of the School District

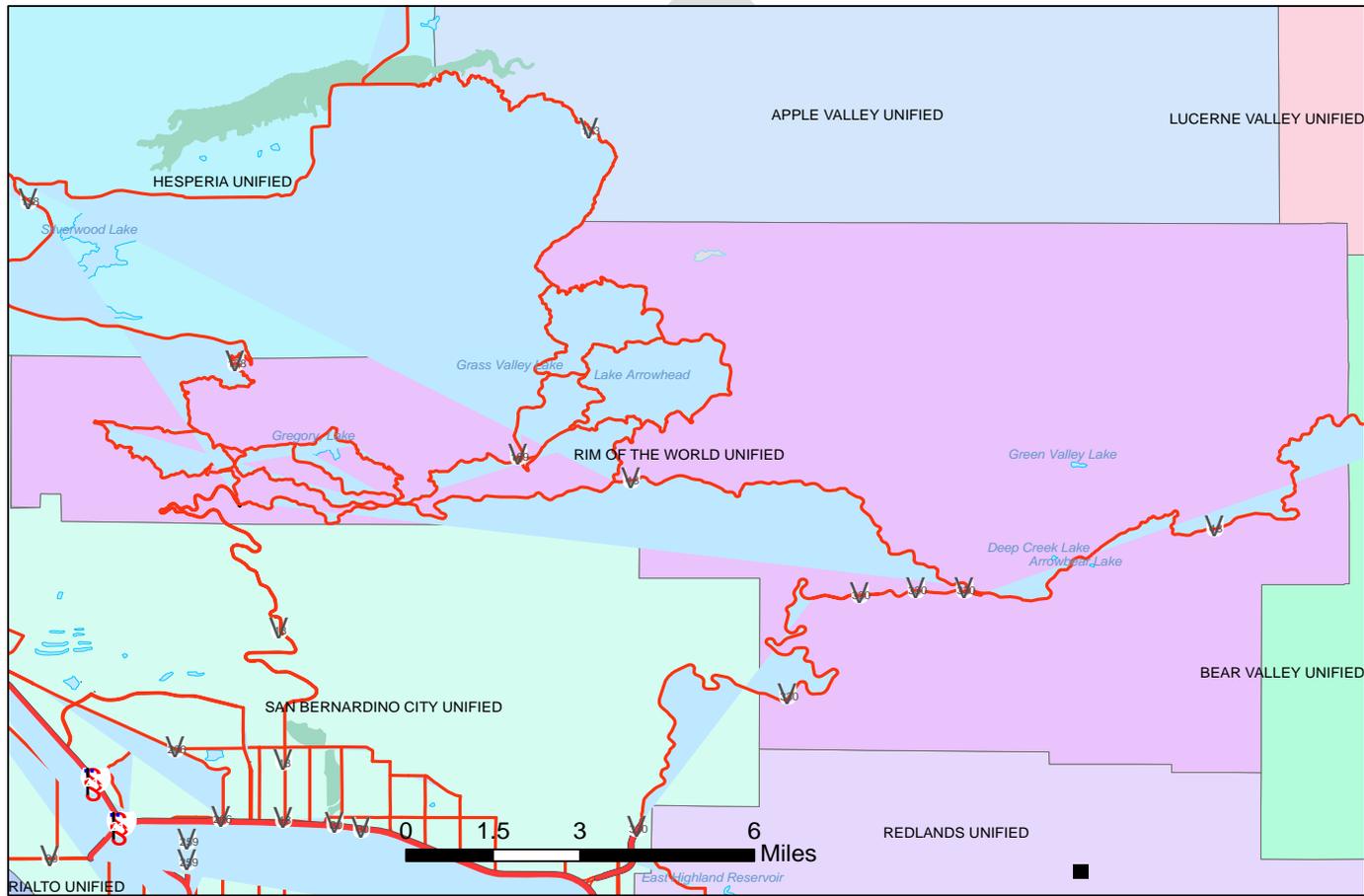
- Prepare our students to be successful citizens in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Provide a learning environment in which every child will learn and be successful
- Dedicate the District resources to the development of each child: academically, socially, and emotionally
- Encourage an understanding and awareness of our diverse society
- Foster growing respect of self and others
- Nurture interests to become life-long learners as contributing, involved members of our technological society
- Encourage development of critical thinking and problem solving skills

### Parent Involvement

Rim of the World Unified School District realizes that effective schools and productive students are the direct result of parent and community involvement. The District encourages parents to visit our schools and become active in their child's education. The District schools have a strong and active Parent Teacher Association (PTA) that supports the schools. In order to focus on parent education, the PTA conducts fundraisers and holiday activities, directs Staff Recognition Week and other activities. Parents and community play an important role in our schools. Their understanding of the school's educational program, student achievement, and curriculum, assists both schools and community to establish a continuing improvement of the District schools.

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### Map 1 Rim of the World Unified School Boundries



MAP 1

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Map 2 Rim of the World Unified School District Attendance Zones

