



El Agua del Yunque Project: Field Visit Report



05/15/25

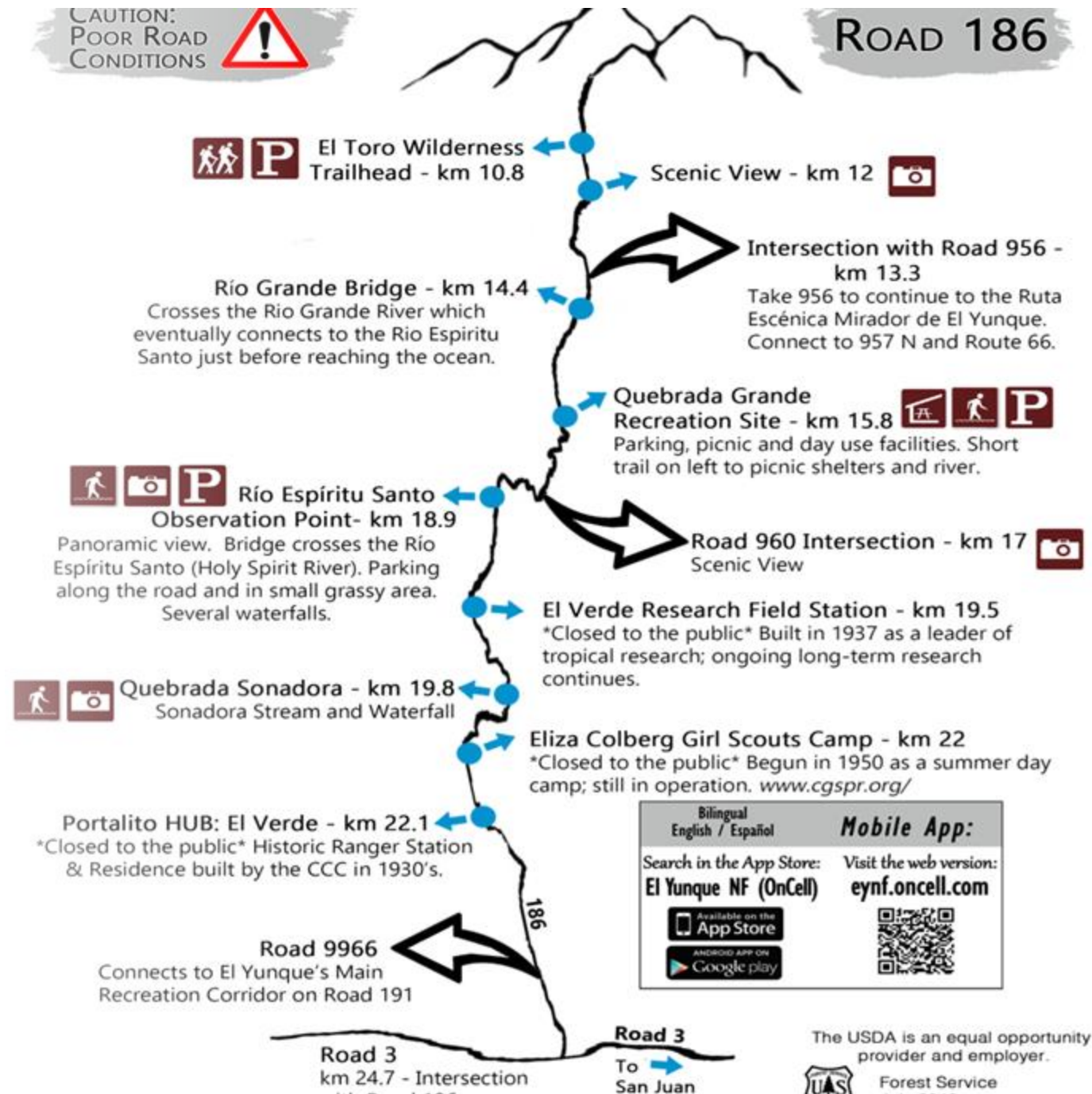
Inspection details

In this inspection we visited the Scenic Road 186, specifically:

- Quebrada Sonora
- Río Espíritu Santo
- Quebrada Grande
- Río Grande Bridge

We also made observations and took photos along the route and adjacent areas, near the forest

Inspection team: Tamaris Jordan (USFS) and Ana Trujillo (Corazón Latino)



Summary of Insights

During our visit to the National Forest El Yunque today, we observed a considerable amount of trash and several illegal dumping sites accumulating near the rivers and other recreational areas along scenic Route 186.

The waste along Scenic Route 186 appears to be linked to two main sources: recreational activities and ongoing construction projects, posing a serious threat to the local environment. Waste from recreational activities included plastics, food packaging, beverage bottles (glass and plastic); beverage cans, cups and plates (plastics), grocery bags and other debris left behind by visitors. On the other hand, construction generates small rubbles, orange construction site nest, and other building materials that can end up in natural areas if not properly managed. Additionally, we observed several small illegal dumping sites with tires and appliances.



A photograph of a paved path winding through a dense, lush green forest. The path is wet, reflecting the surrounding foliage. The trees are tall and leafy, creating a canopy overhead. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Field Visit Insights

Waste Accumulation Observations

We observed various types of waste scattered across different areas, indicating improper disposal methods and littering.

Need for Better Waste Management

The inspection highlighted an urgent need for improved waste management practices, cleanups activities, including waste collection points and develop specific waste management initiatives tailored to the areas in partners with municipalities, local tourist businesses, construction workers, communities and organizations.

Community and visitors Education and Enforcement

Recommendations involve educating the community and visitants, enhancing waste collection, and enforcing disposal regulations to address these issues effectively.



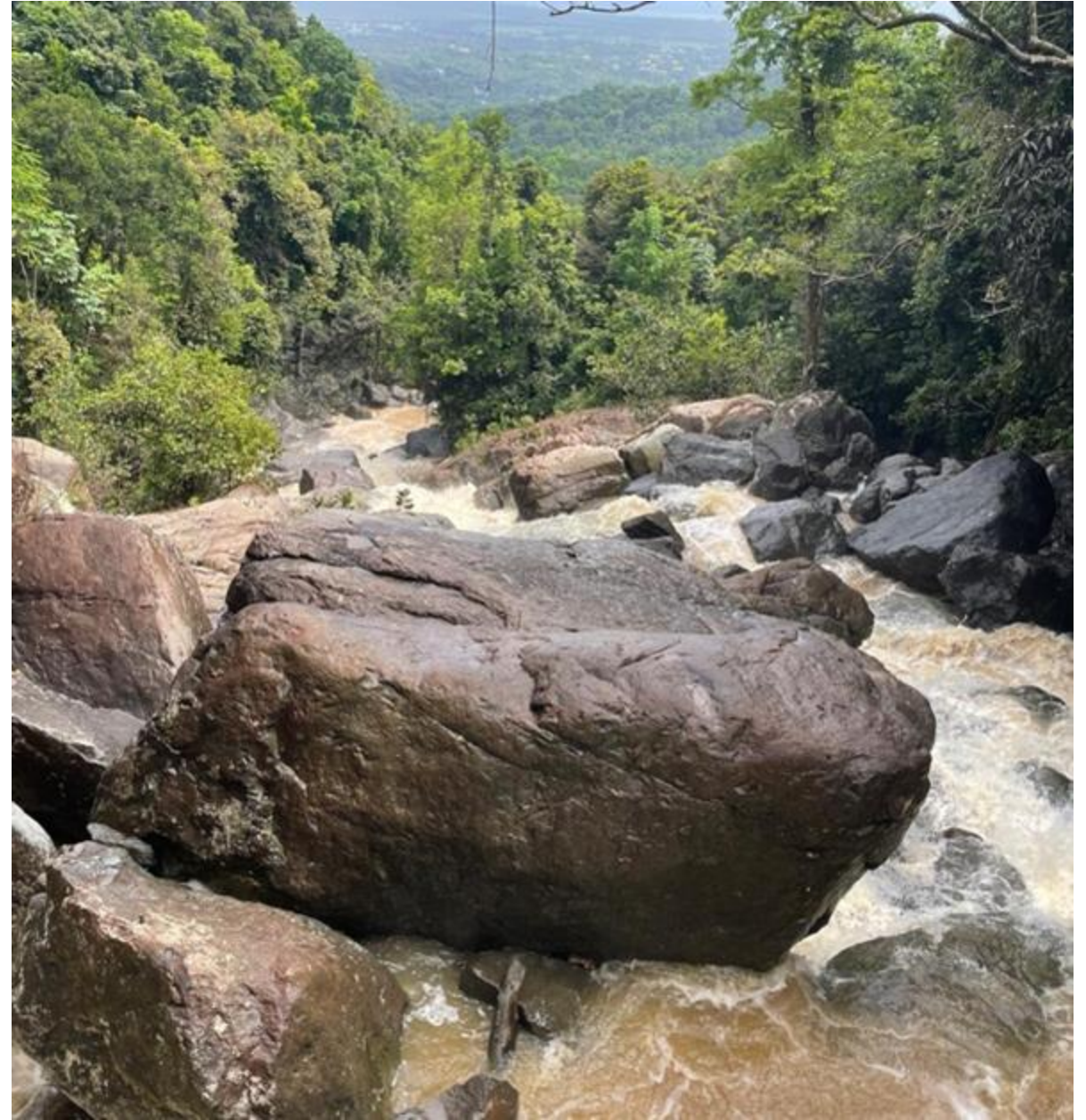
Scenic Route 186 - small illegal dumping sites (Km. 21.2 y 21.8)



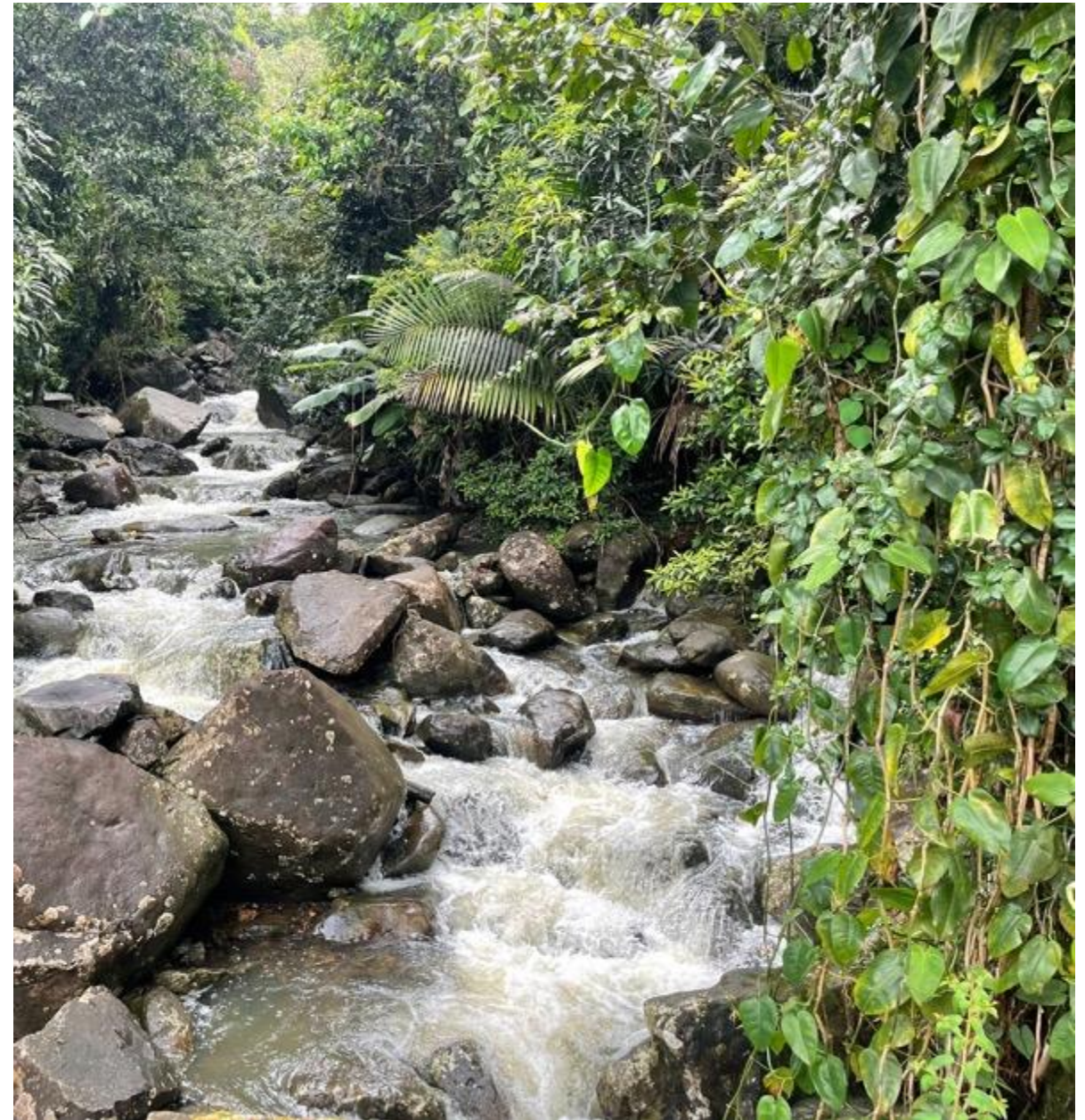
Scenic Route 186 - small illegal dumping sites (Km. 21)



Quebrada Sonadora km 19.8 – Trash associated with recreation and offering activities (ofrendas - offerings)



Quebrada Espiritu Santo km 19.8 – Trash associated with recreational activities



Quebrada Grande km 15.8 – Trash associated with recreational activities



Scenic Route 186 - small illegal dumping sites (Km. 14.9)



Río Grande - km 14.4 – Trash associated with recreational activities



Road 960 - intersection with Road 186 – Illegal dumping site



Road 960 - intersection with Road 186 – Illegal dumping site

Next steps

Cleanups in the áreas:

June 13th - Sonadora and Espíritu Santo Quebrada Cleanup.
Volunteers: 20 teachers from Humacao Educational Region.

July 19th - Sonadora and Espíritu Santo Quebrada Cleanup.
Volunteers: 20 teachers around Puerto Rico

