

**SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL MONUMENT**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY
December 3, 2005**

United States Department of Agriculture United States Department of the Interior

MEETING LOCATION: PALM DESERT CITY HALL
73-510 Fred Waring Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260

DATE AND TIME: Saturday, February 5, 2004
9:02 a.m. to 1:24 p.m.

ATTENDING:

Monument Advisory Committee Members:

BUFORD CRITES, Mayor, City of Palm Desert

DANELLA GEORGE, Designated Federal Official; Santa Rosa and San Jacinto
Mountains National Monument Manager

FRANK BOGERT, former Mayor, City of Palm Springs

TERRY HENDERSON, Councilmember, City of La Quinta

JEFFREY MORGAN, Sierra Club, Local Conservation Organization

BARY FREET, Palm Springs Fire Chief

BOB LYMAN, Regional Office Manager, County of Riverside

MARY ROCHE, City of Indian Wells

ROBERT BROCKMAN, City of Rancho Mirage

DAWN WELLMAN, Pinyon Communities Council

ALLAN MUTH, expertise in natural science and research, University of California,
Riverside, Philip Boyd Deep Canyon Research Center

BARBARA GONZALES-LYONS, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Barbara Bergman, alternate for Pinyon Communities Council

Absence:

GARY WATTS, District Superintendent, California Department of Parks and Recreation

KATHIE BRENNAN, Building Industry

BILL HAVERT, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

ROB PARKINS, General Manager, Winter Park Authority

STAFF AND PRESENTERS:

ROB ROUDABUSH, acting California Desert District Manager

GAIL ACHESON, Bureau of Land Management Palm Springs-South Coast Office Field
Manager

STUART BREMNER, Friend of the Desert Mountains, CEO

JOHN LADLEY, U.S. Forest Service, Outdoor Recreation Officer

JIM FOOTE, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner

PAM HANSEN, USFS, National Monument Visitor Center Public Contact

FRANK MOWY, BLM, National Monument Writer-Editor

AGENDA

Call To Order: Terry Hendersen, MAC Vice Chair presiding

Roll Call: See above for names of members in attendance. With a quorum present, the meeting continued.

Old Business: Members present voted to approve the minutes from the last Oct. 1, 2005, MAC meeting.

Status of MAC appointments, DFO advised: Five pending appointments up for renewal in July 2006 are in Washington, DC awaiting appointment this includes: Paul Marchand, replacing Bary Freet representing Cathedral City; Ric Sevice, replacing Rob Parkins, representing Winter Park Authority; Bill Havert, representing Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy; Bob Lyman, representing Riverside County; and Mary Roche, representing Indian Wells. The next group of five up for appointment will expire in March 2007 and include: Frank Bogert, representing Palm Springs; Kathie Brennan, representing the local building and industry; Terry Henderson, representing La Quinta; Jeff Morgan, representing local conservation; and Gary Watts, representing California State Parks as well as Dept. of Fish and Game

Status of MAC Charter, again DFO advised, copy of the Federal Register Notice renewing the MAC Charter has been provided to all members however, a comeback copy of the signed charter has yet to be received. But the MAC Charter has been renewed for another two years.

Vice Chair requested review of MAC meeting schedule, DFO advised next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2006, followed by June 3, 2006, Sept. 9 2006, and finally Dec. 6, 2006.

New Business: DFO of new addition to National Monument products, a children's book *A Monument To Treasure* which was debuted at the October 5th Anniversary Celebration of the National Monument.

DFO provided quick review of the agenda.

Mr. Morgan requested agenda item update regarding noxious, nonnative, invasive species for next meeting, and what the financial status was on these projects.

Vice Chair requested information on acquiring additional copies of book, and anniversary mug. DFO advised products should/could be available through FODM bookstore; books will also be available throughout valley.

Vice Chair also questioned use and/or restriction of use of official logo (CD of logo was provided to all members). DFO advised usage guidance could be found in Interpretive Plan, which was provided at last meeting. Agreed to copy logo information from plan and provide directly to all members, additionally future copies of logo CD will include this material in a separate file. Important thing, is to ensure everyone has a copy of the official logo.

Communication Plan Assessment – Workshop

Over the next couple of hours Mary Roche, chair of the Communications Work Group took the MAC members through several exercises engaging them in the communications assessment process. Please see the minutes for details on this workshop activity.

Public Comment

Speaking during the Public Comment were:

1. Mr. Geary Hund, with the Wilderness Society, speaking about the pending Federal Budget Reconciliation Act, specifically the plans for mining claims and permits. Please note, since this meeting the specific provision referred to during the meeting has been withdrawn from the Act. For details on this discussion please see the full minutes.
2. Mr. Joe Ingram, who lives within the national monument in the Pinyon Communities area. His concern was the messages, the perhaps conflicting messages regarding the national monument's identity. So many different messages, go in so many different ways creates some confusion. It appears to him one of the missing elements on our communications process is connecting with the original creativity of individuals like Jim Wellman and others in order to capture their awareness of these mountains as part of the communications process.
3. Ruth Watlling, member of the Pinyon Communities Council, spoke on the pending plans to build a 32-unit hotel/spa/restaurant just below Spring Crest, which would be surrounded by the national monument. This is just off Highway 74, and could have an impact on the safety of the road, as well as the environment. Members of the MAC were urged to voice their opinions at an upcoming Planning Commission meeting. Please note, since the MAC meeting, the decision was made not to grant building permits for this project, as it did not meet necessary requirements. However, this issue is not finished and may re-appear in the future.

Workshop continued after Public Comment, please see minutes for details of the workshop.

Updates:

BLM, Ms Acheson, Palms Springs-South Coast Field Manager advised again of the pending visit by the BLM state director and USFS regional forester on 19 and 20 Dec. Pending departure of Elenia Misquez, associate field manager, return of student conservation area association crews for the season, upcoming meeting of Desert Managers Group in Palm Springs, a pending Desert Advisory Council meeting in Borrego Springs, both meetings MAC members are invited to attend, and additional information will be provided by the field office.

USFS, John Ladley, USFS recreation officer attending for Laurie Rosenthal who is on annual leave. Budget appears to be going from \$30 million in FY05 to \$5 million in FY06, for fuels reduction/hazardous fuels reduction arena. Strategy is to focus on in-house resources, not contraction out. Most affected are in national monument is up on Santa Rosa Mountain, with hazardous tree removal. Within recreation the focus will be on operations and management, keeping areas open, maintained, safe and sanitary. A reminder of Pam Hansen's pending retirement.

Mr. Morgan brought up an issue with USFS maps, showing an error on a specific trail. He recommended someone go GPS the trail prior to reprinting the map.

FODM, Mr. Bremner advised they have just hired a new volunteer coordinator and a full-time employee for the bookstore. Plans are to purchase some new software to help with inventory at the bookstore, continuing to seek additional grants on behalf of the national monument. Please note, since this meeting Mr. Bremner has left the FODM, they are currently in process of hiring a replacement.

National Monument, Danella George, monument manager advised documentary DVD is in final processes of being completed and printed for distribution. Departures of Pam Hansen, as noted; also will be saying goodbye to David Korzilius, leaving on Dec. 20. Two emergency hires have been undertaken, Gail Hevron with USFS, and Valerie Franklin for BLM. After five year anniversary, decision has been made to shift annual celebrations to Presidents' Day in February and hold more of an open house event. Next annual birthday celebration would be on the 10th anniversary.

We have successfully completed an MOU with the City of Palm Desert to provide additional financial support at the Visitor's Center. And the Agua Caliente is providing extra funding for several projects this coming year.

Hang Gliding, Pending completion of an issue paper on the recommendation of the MAC to look into the possibility of doing an amendment to the management plan. From the USFS side, a plan of work was submitted to develop the potential hang gliding take-off and emergency landing sites however, this will all depend upon available funding.

Unexpectedly Mr. George Zelenz addressed the MAC regarding the hang gliding issues, providing some handouts and seeking additional support for an amendment and the removal of ban on using Vista Point. Please see full minutes for details.

Dunn Road, Jim Foote, BLM recreation planner provided a quick update to the condition of the road. After the last meeting adverse weather conditions altered the status of the planned spot maintenance project. At this point the recommendation is to have engineers look at the road and make a determination as to what needs to be done and provide some cost estimates for evaluation.

Final Comments and Review to capture any scheduled agenda items for next meeting.

Meeting Adjournment

Complete minutes and all submitted written comments are available for public review at the Palm Springs/south coast Field Office during business hours: P.O. box 581260, 690 West Garnet Avenue, North Palm Springs, CA 92258; 760-251-4800