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SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS  
NATIONAL MONUMENT  
MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCATION: PALM DESERT CITY HALL  
73-510 Fred Waring Drive  
Palm Desert, California

DATE  
AND TIME: SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2006  
9:02 A.M. - 1:07 P.M.

REPORTED BY: SONJA CHAPMAN  
CSR No. 11504

JOB NO. 65203

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A P P E A R A N C E S

MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC):

BUFORD CRITES: Councilmember, City  
of Palm Desert

GARY WATTS: MAC chair, District Superintendent, California  
Department of Parks & Recreation

TERRY HENDERSON: MAC vice chair, Councilmember, City of  
La Quinta

JEFF MORGAN: Sierra Club

BOB LYMAN: Regional Office Manager, County of Riverside

BARY FREET: City of Cathedral City

MARY ROCHE: Councilmember, City of Indian Wells

ROBERT BROCKMAN: City of Rancho Mirage

AL MUTH: University of California

DAWN WELLMAN: Pinyon Community Council

JIM FOOTE: BLM Recreational Planner

JEAN WADE-EVANS: San Bernardino National Forest  
Supervisor

GAIL ACHESON: Field Manager, BLM

LAURIE ROSENTHAL: San Jacinto District Ranger, Forest  
Service

FRANK MOWRY: BLM writer/editor

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1 PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA; SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2006

2 9:03 A.M.

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4

5 CHAIRMAN WATTS: It's 9:00. I'd like to call  
6 to order the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains  
7 National Monument Advisory Committee.

8 If I can have a roll call, Mr. DFO.

9 MR. FOOTE: Okay. See here? I also  
10 anticipated you would be doing that. My list is -- this  
11 is embarrassing.

12 CHAIRMAN WATTS: We can just walk around the  
13 room.

14 MR. CRITES: Things were more organized the  
15 last time.

16 MR. FOOTE: Forgive me. I'm on a steep  
17 learning curve. I'll do this alphabetically.

18 Frank Bogert? Not present.

19 Robert Brockman?

20 MR. BROCKMAN: Here.

21 MR. FOOTE: Kathie Brennan? Not present.

22 Buford Crites?

23 MR. CRITES: Present.

24 MR. FOOTE: Bary Freet?

25 MR. FREET: Present.

1 MR. FOOTE: Barbara Gonzales-Lyons? Not  
2 present.  
3 Bill Havert?  
4 MR. HAVERT: Here.  
5 MR. FOOTE: Terry Henderson?  
6 MS. HENDERSON: Here.  
7 MR. FOOTE: Jeff Morgan?  
8 MR. MORGAN: Here.  
9 MR. FOOTE: Alan Muth?  
10 MR. MUTH: Here.  
11 MR. FOOTE: Rob Parkins? Not present.  
12 Mary Roche?  
13 MS. ROCHE: Here.  
14 MR. FOOTE: Gary Watts?  
15 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Here.  
16 MR. FOOTE: Dawn Wellman?  
17 MS. WELLMAN: Present.  
18 MR. FOOTE: And alternative for Pinyon,  
19 Barbara Bergman? Not present.  
20 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Great. If I could just as a  
21 reminder to everybody, I know this is redundant. But we  
22 have to remember that our transcriber is trying to  
23 record everything that's said.  
24 It really helps if you speak up and speak  
25 slowly and that only one person at a time talks. A lot

1 of the background information or the conversations that  
2 go on tend to really distract Sonja. So if we could  
3 help her out, that would be a big plus.

4 Secondly, anyone that wishes to speak during  
5 the public discussion period -- public comment period at  
6 11:00, please fill out an information sheet. You can  
7 get one of those out at the table, I believe.

8 Frank, is that correct?

9 MR. MOWRY: Yes. There's a clipboard out  
10 there.

11 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. There's a clipboard  
12 out there, or you can contact our staff person,  
13 Frank Mowry, who is sitting in the middle of the room  
14 right now.

15 We will allow you to speak at the 11:00 public  
16 comment period. Anybody on the MAC -- on the committee  
17 that has not received a copy of the DVD the Voices of  
18 the Monument, please let Frank know. We've already  
19 recorded that Jeff did not get a copy yet. If you  
20 haven't got one, let Frank know.

21 Frank, if you want to look around, I think  
22 they'll indicate. Bary doesn't have one either.  
23 Bob Lyman.

24 Before you leave today, we have fresh posters  
25 for you to take regarding the Monument. They're up here

1 on the table. Please feel free at the break or at the  
2 end of the meeting to grab a handful or whatever works  
3 and keep your poster supply updated and fresh.

4 If we can move to old business. Jim, if you  
5 could maybe introduce some of the --

6 MR. FOOTE: Yes. Also at the table today we  
7 have Jeanne Wade-Evans, who is the San Bernardino  
8 National Forest supervisor. And we have Gail Acheson,  
9 the BLM Palm Springs/South Coast field office manager.

10 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Welcome.

11 MR. FOOTE: I think you're going to do the  
12 approval of the minutes.

13 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Approval of the minutes.

14 MS. HENDERSON: So moved.

15 MS. ROCHE: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Moved and seconded. Update  
17 and status of appointments.

18 Jim?

19 MR. FOOTE: I'll yield the floor to  
20 Frank Mowry.

21 MR. MOWRY: Thank you. Just to let everybody  
22 know, we have five appointments that are in Washington.  
23 Right now we're waiting for the signature on the letter  
24 from the Secretary of the Interior with concurrence from  
25 the Secretary of Agriculture.

1           Those are for the new appointments that expire  
2 on July 16 of this year. I think everybody knows who  
3 you are.

4           Coming up on March 17th, I think it is or 16th  
5 of 2007, we have five more positions that will be  
6 expiring. Those positions are -- do you have one of the  
7 notices? I cannot remember what they all are.

8           The City of Palm Springs, Local Developer  
9 Building Organization, City of La Quinta, Conservation  
10 Organization, and California Parks & Recreation or Fish  
11 & Game. Those are the five positions that will be  
12 opening up in March of next year.

13           Because it takes so long for us to get the  
14 Federal Register Notices approved, we are going to start  
15 that process next week. We've already got the Federal  
16 Register Notice ready to go.

17           As soon as it gets published, I will send out  
18 application packages to the five members whose terms are  
19 going to be expiring next year.

20           You can either self-nominate yourself or have  
21 someone from your organization nominate you or open it  
22 up to the public. We'll discuss all those items later.

23           Any questions? That's basically it.

24           MR. FOOTE: Thank you, Frank.

25           I think Frank also did touch on the next issue

1 of call for nominations. Obviously, we are going to be  
2 issuing the Federal Register here and publishing that.

3 That is the call for the nominations for the  
4 five positions that he indicated. Those nomination  
5 packets are available from BLM. They're on the Web. If  
6 you would like to receive that package, certainly  
7 contact me, and I'll be glad to provide that.

8 Next item under "New Business" was documenting  
9 minutes. This regards how we're recording the minutes  
10 of the MAC meetings.

11 There has been some discussion regarding the  
12 use of a court reporter versus some alternative method,  
13 recognition that a court reporter is very expensive.

14 I'll tell you, it's to the tune of about  
15 \$1,700 per meeting. We wanted --

16 Pardon me?

17 Sonja just said she does not get all that.  
18 Obviously, Sonja works for someone else, and they  
19 probably get the lion's share of that amount of money.  
20 But it is an expensive proposition.

21 Before we would make a decision to modify how  
22 we do this, we'd want to get some feedback from the MAC  
23 in terms of how they feel about some alternate way of  
24 recording minutes.

25 The standard that we must meet is recording

1 and having detailed minutes, whatever that means. It  
2 may not necessarily mean a word-by-word transcription,  
3 but the minutes must be detailed.

4 I'd like to open this up for a little  
5 discussion by the MAC to get a sense of how the members  
6 feel about having a word-by-word transcription as  
7 recorded through a court reporter or some alternate  
8 means of doing that.

9 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Comments?

10 Mr. Morgan.

11 MR. MORGAN: I like the court reporter  
12 process. It's detailed. It's a good, clear indication  
13 and recording of everything that's been said, who said  
14 what when.

15 I generally read them all. I have found them  
16 very accurate. They're also a good source of reference  
17 for going back several meetings or a couple of years ago  
18 to make sure did we really do that kind of thing. So  
19 I'm in favor of keeping the system as it is.

20 CHAIRMAN WATTS: We'll go off the record here  
21 for a minute. I'm not sure we want to come to a  
22 decision right now.

23 Would it be all right if we sent you by e-mail  
24 or telephone or other communication each member  
25 individually if they have thoughts or if they have a

1 preference on that?

2 MR. FOOTE: That would be fine. I'm not sure  
3 we were necessarily looking for a motion or  
4 recommendation from the MAC as a whole. We just wanted  
5 to hear some feedback from the membership.

6 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Bill?

7 MR. HAVERT: Is the most likely alternative  
8 you would tape-record the meeting, and somebody from  
9 your office would attempt to do a short summary of each  
10 of the, you know, items on the agenda?

11 MR. FOOTE: That's certainly one alternative.  
12 More typically what happens is you would have a staff  
13 person perhaps with a laptop that would record as the  
14 meeting is in progress, recording the most pertinent  
15 points of the discussion and certainly the issues as  
16 they arise and the recommendations and the end  
17 discussion of those issues and recommendations.

18 I don't know as if we would be using a  
19 tape-recorder, but that's certainly a consideration.  
20 The thing that involves, of course, is more  
21 post-processing time, which is a staff requirement.

22 In terms of BLM's capability of doing  
23 something like that, we really can't say we have that --  
24 getting a staff person here that would take those kinds  
25 of detailed minutes.

1                   We may need somebody that typically might be  
2 more on the city staffs who are used to doing that and  
3 that are more accomplished in that just to make sure we  
4 don't miss the discussion in those detailed minutes.

5                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: Terry?

6                   MS. HENDERSON: Well, I have a couple of  
7 questions. The first one goes to your reaction a minute  
8 ago when you said, "I think we'll go off the record  
9 here."

10                  My question is did we go off the record? What  
11 does that mean, "I think we'll go off the record?" I'm  
12 talking to the chairman.

13                  CHAIRMAN WATTS: I was confused and made a  
14 mistake on that. I thought we needed to. It wasn't a  
15 topic of discussion --

16                  MS. HENDERSON: Oh.

17                  CHAIRMAN WATTS: -- while the court reporter  
18 was present. Let me go off the record real quick and  
19 confer and get this thing straightened out before we go  
20 any further.

21                               (Discussion off the record.)

22                  CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. We'll go back on the  
23 record. The off the record was merely something that  
24 needed to be discussed. It wasn't pertinent to the  
25 group discussion as a whole.

1                   So, Terry, I'll get back to you again. What  
2 did you want?

3                   MS. HENDERSON: Well, I don't understand going  
4 off the record. What does that mean and why did we?  
5 But going on, I in a sense will agree with Jeff.

6                   Minutes are important to me. I do keep them  
7 all. I do refer to them on occasion. Maybe not as much  
8 as I used to, but I do refer to them on occasion.

9                   I think it's important that we have detailed  
10 minutes. I'm not necessarily sold that it has to be a  
11 transcript. I would ask the question of the staff, have  
12 we shopped around, if you will, for a lesser cost, or  
13 are we locked in with the folks that we're dealing with  
14 who we all love dearly? But do we know whether or not  
15 we can get this kind of service at a lesser cost?

16                  MR. FOOTE: I don't know that. I don't know  
17 what happened prior to this. Gail has an answer.

18                  Gail?

19                  MS. ACHESON: I think the cost is probably not  
20 much different. We went through this same discussion  
21 with the Desert Advisory Committee meeting. The costs  
22 are similar.

23                  So it's not really -- if we were going to keep  
24 a court reporter, we might as well keep the court  
25 reporter we've got now.

1 MS. HENDERSON: Sure.

2 MS. ACHESON: I don't think it's that much  
3 different. I think it's just whether we wanted an  
4 alternative. They're all pretty expensive. Our  
5 meetings, of course, go two or three days. So it's that  
6 much more expensive.

7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Mary?

8 MS. ROCHE: Thank you.

9 I personally don't see the necessity of having  
10 a transcript, a court reporter. I guess it comes in the  
11 city position where we function with so many  
12 developments and so many very critical things where we  
13 come in and we do a lot of discussion in here.

14 We spend a lot more time, coming from a city  
15 position where we have a city clerk, and we have a  
16 program. And I don't know whether La Quinta or Palm  
17 Desert or one of the others have the same kind of thing.

18 But our city clerk has a program for minutes.  
19 We do tape-record, and we keep those forever. So people  
20 can really get a feeling of the meeting with the system  
21 we have.

22 It documents where in the whole agenda and  
23 where in the agenda that was addressed. You can go  
24 right to it, and you can access it on your own computer.  
25 I think that's a much better system.

1 I think that it's really overboard. This is  
2 not a court of law where we're going back. And for sure  
3 the cities have a lot more to lose in lawsuits I think  
4 than this organization.

5 I think for whatever reason I think that works  
6 very well. I think there could be an alternative  
7 system. Obviously, you have to have detailed minutes.  
8 You want to know all the actions you've taken.

9 But to have a court reporter for so much of  
10 our informative discussion items, I don't think it's  
11 necessary personally.

12 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Thank you, Mary.

13 Dr. Muth?

14 MR. MUTH: Al Muth. I think we do need some  
15 detailed minutes. How we could achieve that goal is a,  
16 you know, matter of discussion.

17 But I think if you look at the economics of  
18 this thing, is it going to be any less expensive to  
19 record, transcribe those minutes, store the files,  
20 curate those tapes for years and years and years on down  
21 the line?

22 So is \$1,700 a meeting really extravagant, or  
23 is that pretty much the cost of doing business?

24 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Any other comments? If you  
25 do have further comments, please get in touch with

1 Jim Foote. Let him know.

2 I personally figure it's a BLM/Forest Service  
3 decision. They made it early on. In giving feedback  
4 from the committee, I tend to agree with what's been  
5 said -- that the value is pretty apparent. And I'd  
6 hate, frankly, to see you go to a staff member taking  
7 the minutes.

8 I've been in enough agency meetings to know  
9 how horribly inefficient that works. Anyway, for  
10 whatever that's worth, those are my comments.

11 With that, Jim, can we move on?

12 MR. FOOTE: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN WATTS: We'll move on. We're a  
14 little ahead of schedule, but we'll keep moving. Next  
15 on the agenda we have a presentation by a staff member,  
16 Mr. Doug Rischbieter, of California State Park.

17 This is an informational item for the  
18 committee. He will be making a presentation on a  
19 project that we currently are proposing that lies within  
20 the boundaries of the National Monument and within the  
21 boundaries of the state park.

22 At the end of his presentation, if any of the  
23 committee members have any questions or need any more  
24 information, I'm sure Doug will be happy to answer those  
25 questions.

1           We won't take any comments from the public  
2 during this presentation. If you have questions or  
3 concerns regarding this particular issue, you're welcome  
4 to address them at the 11:00 public comment period.

5           One other further item. We put out a  
6 Mitigated Neg dec for this project. The public closing  
7 date was passed on March 1st, I believe -- 2nd.

8           I have extended that date until a week from  
9 today, which will be next Saturday the 11th for anybody  
10 if they want to submit any written comments on this  
11 project.

12           You're welcome to do so. We'll accept them  
13 all the way up to Saturday of next week for those  
14 members of the audience or anybody on the committee if  
15 they're so inclined.

16           Doug.

17           MR. RISCHBIETER: Thanks, Gary. Good morning.  
18 As Gary mentioned, my name is Doug Rischbieter. I've  
19 worked for California State Parks since the day I  
20 graduated from high school.

21           I'm a fishery biologist, and I've done an  
22 extensive amount of work for the department on  
23 hydrologic issues in numerous parks statewide.

24           I brought along a poster presentation of a  
25 similar project that we did at Caliveras Big Trees in

1 the central Sierras where I'm located.

2 And I have a Power Point presentation, if Jeff  
3 wouldn't mind clicking on the bottom there and going to  
4 the view show.

5 Will you be advancing the slides for me?

6 MR. MOWRY: Sure.

7 MR. RISCHBIETER: Great. I wanted to try to  
8 illustrate for you a problem that we feel we identified  
9 and the general planning phase for the State Park back  
10 in the late '90's and into 2000.

11 I'm making this presentation to the committee.  
12 I know the State Park is just one part of a very large  
13 National Monument.

14 So I'm not sure who here in the audience has a  
15 very close familiarity on the scale of Jeff here, who I  
16 spoke with a couple of days ago. So I'll go through a  
17 couple of introductory slides.

18 I think right off the top, my bias or my  
19 predisposition or my experience as a resident of the  
20 Sierras is going to come forth.

21 In my life I've walked virtually the entire  
22 length of the Sierras, and I think of Mt. San Jacinto as  
23 an island like an island of the Sierra in the middle of  
24 the desert.

25 So, you know, the park centerpiece mountain,

1 Mt. San Jacinto, is a high profile element of the  
2 Monument.

3 Jeff, go ahead and click onto the next slide.

4 CHAIRMAN WATTS: It's Frank.

5 MR. RISCHBIETER: I'm sorry. Frank.

6 Those of you that have been to the park know  
7 that there's a diversity of habitats in the park's  
8 13,500 acres that include forest, mixed coniferous  
9 forest. And there's a few jewels of mountain meadows.

10 Go ahead and zoom in a little bit more. That  
11 transitional zone occurs at a place called Round Valley,  
12 which is about 9,100 feet at the head of that valley.

13 As a reference, those of you that have ridden  
14 the tram to Long Valley know that that's about  
15 8,400 feet. So a good 3-mile hike.

16 Maybe a little more than halfway on your hike  
17 from that tram station up the mountain, you would pass  
18 right alongside Round Valley.

19 Round Valley is a unique habitat type little  
20 microecosystem within the State Park. Those of you who  
21 know mountain meadows know that they support usually a  
22 greater diversity of species than the upland areas do.

23 They're characterized by wetland conditions  
24 that persist through much of the year. To use the  
25 analogy of conventional wisdom almost to the point of

1 cliche is that California has lost 95 percent of its  
2 riparian areas. We've lost 90 to 95 percent of our  
3 wetland areas.

4           Again, analogously throughout the high  
5 elevation Sierra meadows, we've lost a proportional or  
6 at least similar in the same order of magnitude in these  
7 undisturbed wetland habitats that over the last century  
8 have been impacted by various things including logging,  
9 road building, and increase of sediment yield.

10           Cattle grazing is a big impact on Sierra  
11 meadows. And even visitor foot traffic has damaged  
12 them. There's a number of ways that damaged meadows  
13 occur.

14           We felt in 2000, when we did the researching  
15 for it, we identified an erosion to an unnatural degree  
16 at the foot of Round Valley.

17           Those of you who know the hydrologic lingo,  
18 this is referred to as a headcut. It branches up there  
19 in the background of the picture into a couple of  
20 different headcuts going in different directions.

21           That erosional work is in large part done by  
22 nick points in the stream, which are little waterfalls  
23 that would otherwise be a flat, low-velocity hydrologic  
24 system.

25           We looked at this problem during the period of

1 resource inventory. Again, from our experience and  
2 other parks and from other water sheds both in and out  
3 of wilderness in the national forests throughout  
4 California, we recognized this as a problem that posed a  
5 risk to the rest of the meadow. I'll show you how in  
6 subsequent slides.

7 I refer to the general plan for the state  
8 park. Many of you here may be familiar with that  
9 planning after several years ago.

10 It was rather broad and it addressed natural  
11 resource issues and all disciplines. It addressed the  
12 recreational use.

13 It looked at the long-term planning and how  
14 the resources of the park might be best protected yet  
15 fulfill State Park's mission of preserving their  
16 availability of recreational opportunity for future  
17 generations of California.

18 Including the hydrologic and topographic and  
19 wildlife studies I've mentioned, we did decide with a  
20 lot of public input which areas are appropriate for  
21 public use. The upshot of that -- I show this better in  
22 a later slide.

23 The lower left -- the middle unshaded or  
24 darker area is the approximately 9,900 acres of  
25 designated state wilderness that is within this greater

1 state park.

2           Again, up in the upper left, I've listed some  
3 of the objectives that were stated in the general plan.  
4 That was the protection of the park's resources and to  
5 work with groups like this and neighboring landowners  
6 and other interest groups to try to preserve the park's  
7 resources and to make sure that it meets the cumulative  
8 and collective needs for the people of California.

9           In getting into the specifics of our  
10 hydrologic studies, this is the picture from last year  
11 that shows the ample wetland growth that emerged  
12 following a near-record wet year last year.

13           But still in the middle of that slide as  
14 depicted by the arrows, was the remnants of a volunteer  
15 trail that occurs in the middle of that trail virtually  
16 every summer.

17           It was much more dramatic and a much greater  
18 contrast to the surrounding vegetation in 2000, a more  
19 typical dryer year.

20           But this visitor activity of trampling up the  
21 middle of the meadow to what's in most cases the water  
22 source at the head of the meadow has damaged the  
23 vegetation.

24           It allowed a point for the water that's in the  
25 meadow that courses generally over land without

1 collecting very long in any one spot to actually start  
2 running down that trail.

3           This trail dumps right into that headcut. So  
4 we're channeling more water down there than would be  
5 natural in the natural hydrologic process in that  
6 meadow. And that is what we feel has contributed to  
7 that level of erosion that I showed you earlier.

8           Upstream from that earlier very eroded point,  
9 I showed maybe 100 feet upstream are those other nick  
10 points I mentioned.

11           In the middle of the photo, that's a little  
12 8-inch field notebook. It's placed at the point at what  
13 you might characterize as a 3-foot waterfall in that  
14 little eroded gully.

15           Just maybe 25 yards upstream from that point  
16 is another little one-foot nick point. That one-foot  
17 nick point and another one peripherally are currently  
18 arrested in small tree roots.

19           Those tree roots have imposed a certain amount  
20 of stability at that point. So these nick points have  
21 persisted at those locations, at least since we did the  
22 resource inventory in 2000.

23           So there hasn't been a rapid progression. But  
24 we recognize that this continuing process poses a risk  
25 to the greater meadow, because those are essentially the

1 last tree roots protecting that water course.

2           Once those get undermined the nature of that  
3 decomposed granite material that forms the meadow is  
4 highly erodible when you have concentrated water.

5           So we were looking at what we could do to  
6 repair this or to prevent this process from running  
7 away. It had been -- from our experience, it's not a  
8 naturally-induced process.

9           The park philosophy does not aim towards  
10 single species management or single resource management.  
11 We want to try to evoke and protect the natural  
12 processes that create the topography and create area and  
13 create the habitat.

14           From our experience from all those meadows in  
15 the Sierras that I mentioned that have been degraded  
16 over centuries and decades, this is how they start.

17           This water level at the bottom down in the  
18 headcut now where this ditch is cut is the new what we  
19 call hydraulic control.

20           It is the level to which the water is going to  
21 work up through the head of that meadow. This is a  
22 relatively steep meadow. It has a significantly greater  
23 slope than this example that I have here. I hope you  
24 take an opportunity to view this during the break.

25           It has pretty dramatic before and after photos

1 of what I would say are innovative techniques that we  
2 use to repair problems like this.

3 Here is just an example of the tree roots at  
4 one of those nick points that I mentioned. Upslope and  
5 upstream from that, we don't have that protection.

6 I don't pose these slides as an exaggeration  
7 of the end of our outcome of the process that I  
8 described. This is an example of a meadow in the  
9 national forest that's been the subject of what I call  
10 Band-Aid erosion control efforts for a couple of decades  
11 now.

12 Just for scale this mullein plant right here  
13 is about 5 feet tall. This meadow is about the same  
14 size in order of about 10 or 12 acres.

15 It's the same slope or generally steeper than  
16 what you would expect a meadow slope to be. This damage  
17 occurred at a much faster rate than has occurred at  
18 Round Valley.

19 Nevertheless, the processes are the same. The  
20 parent material in the water shed is the same. At  
21 approximately 5,500 feet elevation, would I say that  
22 there is more precipitation in this water shed, but it's  
23 still in the same order of magnitude.

24 It's maybe twice as much annual precipitation  
25 at this location. But nevertheless, this is what we

1 considered as possibly being the fate of Round Valley if  
2 that headcut at the bottom is not repaired.

3           When we start looking at different methods and  
4 we evaluate the alternatives for repairing this problem,  
5 we would have to consider a number of factors.

6           There's a number of techniques to try to stop  
7 erosion on eroded banks with willow, which doesn't  
8 appear to occur naturally in Round Valley as a natural  
9 option.

10           This technique that I referred to that we feel  
11 is rather innovative, it's the use of fill material to  
12 restore what we call the thalweg elevation and  
13 essentially fill the ditch and put the stream back up on  
14 top to the natural elevation where the meadow formed.

15           At Calivera Big Trees we imported fill  
16 material from off-site on a scale that is similar to  
17 Round Valley. We did this project in three phases.

18           This poster board depicts two of the phases.  
19 We just finished the third one last fall. But we had to  
20 bring in several hundred yards of fill material for each  
21 one of these phases.

22           The chasm that I showed you in the earlier  
23 slide is a void of about between 700 and 900 cubic yards  
24 of material. That is the scale of the type of work that  
25 we've undertaken for this case.

1           At Big Trees we could back up a transfer truck  
2 20 yards at a time and dump fill material and have crew  
3 laborers spread it and compact it.

4           At Round Valley, obviously, bringing in fill  
5 material from off-site wasn't a realistic option. So we  
6 looked nearby to the -- here's the headcut area that is  
7 depicted when we measured the locations of these nick  
8 points and the stream elevations during the resource  
9 inventory in 2000.

10           We identified a couple of small upland areas  
11 that are very sparsely vegetated both with overstory  
12 vegetation, which is relatively discontinuous, and the  
13 understory vegetation is very sparse. Nothing really of  
14 meadow quality.

15           Nevertheless, it's the same type of parent  
16 material that's been deposited there. If you do the  
17 math, I'll let on that this small area here is a little  
18 over a tenth of an acre.

19           This one here is about two-thirds of an acre.  
20 That one about .6 of an acre. So between half and  
21 two-thirds. We looked at those areas potentially  
22 providing us material to fill this chasm.

23           And again, I allude to the math of those areas  
24 as roughly two-thirds of an acre in total. We want to  
25 take about an average of one foot. So obviously more in

1 some areas and less in upland areas that have tree roots  
2 and that sort of thing.

3 But an average of about one foot over that  
4 two-thirds acre would give us that 750 to 800 yards that  
5 we would like to move into that chasm.

6 How do you do that? Do we do that with  
7 shelves and wheelbarrows? Here I had the help of a  
8 small backhoe loader or a medium-sized backhoe loader.

9 Weighing the pros and cons of different  
10 alternatives to do this work, we've thought that the  
11 best solution to accomplish this project in a reasonable  
12 time frame -- and that doesn't just mean in a short  
13 period of time, but at the right time of year when the  
14 water conditions are low and when the meadows is not  
15 wet.

16 Again, I don't want this picture to be  
17 considered representative. In most years that meadow  
18 browns out and the surface is dry when there's only a  
19 trickle of water when that thalweg is virtually dry.

20 So we're looking at doing a project in the  
21 fall. In the fall the weather is getting iffy. The  
22 days are getting shorter.

23 We've got CCC crews available that are  
24 available that are crews of 12. You've seen the kids in  
25 blue hats and a crew leader. They have a lot of

1 experience working trails, but they do a lot of forest  
2 work.

3           Their mission isn't just resource protection.  
4 They do a lot of educational work too. So in our  
5 contacts with them, they have expressed a willingness to  
6 tackle this project.

7           We propose to bring a crew up by tram. They  
8 work what they call spikes of up to 10 days in the back  
9 country in the wilderness where they camp on site.

10           So we want to bring a crew of a dozen kids and  
11 their hand tools -- wheelbarrows, shovels, chainsaws --  
12 up by tram probably.

13           We'll probably have two successive spikes of  
14 about 20 days. That's already roughly a three-week work  
15 window. But they need help.

16           Our best experience in order to do this  
17 project right to move that 700, 800 yards of material a  
18 total distance on that earlier figure was up to 450 feet  
19 from that large area is going to take a piece of  
20 mechanized equipment.

21           That again brings us to the first  
22 contemplation of introducing the use of mechanized  
23 equipment into state wilderness. We haven't done it  
24 before.

25           There's a limited number of state wildernesses

1 in California. I think that probably goes to part of  
2 the reason that this hasn't been done.

3 Our department's operation manual offers  
4 circumstances under which the department has determined  
5 that use of mechanized equipment in wilderness is  
6 appropriate.

7 Just for illustration this actually is the  
8 actual piece of backhoe loader equipment that we propose  
9 to use. It's not simultaneously a backhoe and a loader.  
10 It has an attachment backhoe that goes there when the  
11 bucket comes off.

12 Gary's district environmental coordinator is  
13 standing next to it for scale. It's on a trailer right  
14 there. But we're contemplating delivering that piece of  
15 equipment.

16 I think for redundancy and for project  
17 assuredness and for efficiency, a second piece of  
18 equipment identical to that and a container of cargo --  
19 to have those airlifted into our wilderness site -- the  
20 earlier photo I showed of the post-staging area right  
21 there next to the headcut.

22 We would like to do that this fall and knock  
23 out this project in approximately a three- to four-week  
24 period. Again, given the weather, the hydrology, the  
25 circumstances, it's probably the limit of what we could

1 think of as a construction period at that elevation.

2           Again, the issue of exemptions to mechanized  
3 equipment in the wilderness is illustrated on the next  
4 slide.

5           Frank.

6           Gary is the district superintendent. He  
7 essentially needs to assure that there aren't reasonable  
8 alternatives to the use of mechanized equipment for a  
9 project.

10           Again, for the volume of the material and the  
11 amount of time we have to do this and the construction  
12 season, wheelbarrows and shovels -- 10 wheelbarrow loads  
13 400 feet to get one cubic yard of material on average  
14 using 18- to 25-year old kids would be pushing it.

15           We feel that there's a significant resource  
16 management need here, as point No. 2. That being that  
17 if the erosion accelerates -- if it gets past those  
18 points where it's arrested now in those tree roots, the  
19 scale of the project would not allow this technique to  
20 work. The only technique in our disposal is to try to  
21 slow it down.

22           We want to repair it. We want to put the  
23 stream back on top. We want to fill that void and do it  
24 in a way that the natural hydrology in the meadow will  
25 support the vegetation on our repair area and that the

1 headcut will not restart.

2           No. 3, the use of this mechanized equipment  
3 needs to be nonrecurring. It can't be a long, drawn-out  
4 process. Best case scenario this shouldn't require any  
5 maintenance.

6           If we place our large wooden debris, which is  
7 going to contribute to grade control or restored stream  
8 elevation -- if we do that right, it shouldn't take any  
9 maintenance.

10           If it does -- if a new small nick point  
11 initiates, it's something that could be accomplished by  
12 more traditional methods like hand tools and just  
13 seasonal maintenance.

14           And then ultimately it's Gary's -- as the  
15 district superintendent, it's his decision whether these  
16 conditions are met and that our department  
17 administrative corroboration manual conditions are  
18 applied.

19           Just to close, I wanted to show you this.  
20 This is a picture of a similar-sized meadow, although  
21 not as steep. This is less than two percent slope at  
22 Big Trees. It's roughly about 10 acres.

23           This is a picture in very early spring. You  
24 can see the sages and grasses and brushes aren't  
25 sprouted up yet. When I was a teenager and I started

1 working there as a park aide, in the summer this meadow  
2 was brown.

3           You could play frisbee and softball in it. In  
4 the last 10 years, we have a completely functioning  
5 wetland meadow now. Come visit me anytime in the summer  
6 now.

7           In the last couple of years, we have wild  
8 flowers that are waist high. Those persist in a green  
9 state. This meadow doesn't brown out anymore.

10           This used to be a 6-foot deep ditch that ran  
11 the entire length of the meadow several hundred yards  
12 from a nick point that was created in the early 1930s  
13 when the Federal Civilian Conservation Corps built a  
14 campground around the meadow.

15           There were two campsites. We backed dump  
16 trucks at this point and dumped dirt and spread it for  
17 hundreds of feet. We re-vegetated it.

18           We had this level of re-vegetation within two  
19 growing seasons, essentially in a year and a half  
20 following the project completion.

21           When you come up here and look at our very  
22 early preproject picture -- this is about a 4-foot  
23 waterfall that was where the headcut had progressed  
24 ahead of that 6-foot ditch.

25           Through my whole career there since '79, the

1 headcut had been arrested in the roots of this one giant  
2 sequoia. It progressed several hundred yards in a  
3 matter of 30, 40, or 50 years.

4           Nevertheless, that's a temporary stopping  
5 point as the stream seeks it's lower elevation and  
6 spreads out.

7           The very last slide from this is just a  
8 cropped view of the same scene. It's cropped to the  
9 exact dimensions of this last photo here just because  
10 this post project photo shows the hydrology during the  
11 winter.

12           That's the exact spot the way it grows in the  
13 spring. So I wanted to offer that as an example of the  
14 success that we have had using this technique that isn't  
15 common in other places.

16           You don't see this approach used usually  
17 because the problems are too big before you catch them.  
18 I think at this point we've got an opportunity to catch  
19 this problem in Round Valley early and bring it back to  
20 a condition that nobody would notice that we were ever  
21 there.

22           I think the only thing I didn't mention is  
23 that those disturbed areas that we borrow material from,  
24 we will re-contour those and re-vegetate those.

25           It's our hope that nobody will know that we

1 were there after we've been there. I know that maybe  
2 we'll stay ahead of agenda.

3 If I could ask Frank to plop that back up  
4 there at the break -- that very last photo. And just  
5 again, compare it down here at the bottom right if you  
6 would like to look at the series.

7 At this point I'll entertain any questions  
8 from the committee with, again, my thanks for inviting  
9 me today.

10 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Bill.

11 MR. HAVERT: In terms of your understanding of  
12 what originally caused the problem there, what might you  
13 do to ensure that it didn't happen again in the future?

14 Are there other areas where you could try to  
15 be in a preventative mode?

16 MR. RISCHBIETER: Great question. We've  
17 addressed that in our environmental document. The  
18 project description includes not just interpretive  
19 signage but additional interpretive information to  
20 people traveling into the wilderness and into Round  
21 Valley.

22 But we also want to use a few strategic  
23 points. Have the CCC put up a little pole rail fence  
24 using natural pole that's back there. I don't want you  
25 to picture a split-rail fence or anything like that all

1 around the meadow.

2           But at those points where we've identified  
3 convenient stepping over -- stepping off the existing  
4 trail to get out into the meadow -- to put a bit of a  
5 deterrent there and to amplify our interpretive and  
6 resource protection measure to the visitors back there.

7           The points at which this occurred are  
8 essentially here along the margins of this headcut point  
9 and then right up the middle of the meadow to the water  
10 source.

11           So I think I answered the second part of your  
12 question first. As far as what initiated this headcut,  
13 you know, we don't have enough detailed historical  
14 information to point right at it.

15           To be honest with you, at other meadows that  
16 have been destroyed and degraded, resource specialists  
17 tell you it's decades of cattle grazing.

18           Cattle ranchers will tell you that it's the  
19 freeze/thaw cycles that don't allow the vegetation to  
20 really establish and the continual erosion.

21           Here, based on our resource inventory in 2000  
22 and the traffic pattern that was apparent then in the  
23 meadow in the dry year, it looked to me like it had been  
24 foot traffic from the foot bridge.

25           There's a foot bridge at the foot of the

1 meadow that crosses over to the camp site. Folks  
2 stepping off that bridge and walking up to the middle of  
3 the meadow to where the water source was when it was dry  
4 years.

5           There has been some anecdotal information  
6 about cattle rarely occasionally having been at Round  
7 Valley decades ago. Because they weren't there all the  
8 time, maybe that's the reason the problem is not bigger  
9 than it is.

10           Cattle hooves going to that only convenient  
11 source of water into the meadow is a process that can  
12 damage a meadow. But it's speculative.

13           I certainly can't say what triggered it with  
14 confidence. I can with confidence say that a headcut at  
15 that scale is not created by a natural process. It's  
16 some disturbance. I think I made too long an answer for  
17 a short question.

18           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Mr. Brockman, you had your  
19 hand up.

20           MR. BROCKMAN: Bill asked my question, and  
21 Doug answered it. Thank you.

22           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Terry Henderson.

23           MS. HENDERSON: I'm not sure if maybe you  
24 didn't answer mine too. What I jotted down here is how  
25 do you tell the difference between a volunteer trail --

1 and I understand seeing that in today's world -- and  
2 what would be a natural trail?

3 How do you know that the natural trail at one  
4 time wasn't a volunteer trail?

5 MR. RISCHBIETER: We'll, I'm not sure what you  
6 mean by a natural trail. But at the park trails are  
7 part of our recreational resources.

8 Trails are developed and maintained in the  
9 areas where they do the least if any environmental  
10 damage.

11 There is a trail network. It's mapped. So it  
12 serves a purpose in the park and at Round Valley. That  
13 trail is in an area where we don't manage for heavy  
14 visitor use. We don't develop a trail there. We don't  
15 build one. We don't maintain one.

16 It is established -- what I call a volunteer  
17 trail through the middle of the meadow is established as  
18 a convenience for visitors who see the shortest distance  
19 between two points is a straight line rather than using  
20 the developed established trail around the meadow.

21 MS. HENDERSON: Okay. I may have used the  
22 wrong terminology when I said "natural trail." What I  
23 meant really is the natural run of the water.

24 How do you know that that originally was not a  
25 volunteer trail?

1                   MR. RISCHBIETER: Well, I think in the  
2 undisturbed area of the meadow where I showed a picture  
3 of last year -- not as dramatically as 2000, but where I  
4 showed the lower vegetation where that trail had been  
5 and the water was collecting there. The water seeks the  
6 lowest point.

7                   MS. HENDERSON: Right.

8                   MR. RISCHBIETER: Water will travel a straight  
9 line downhill if you let it. But looking at the other  
10 undisturbed areas of that meadow and also relying on  
11 studies and research that was done in the Sierra  
12 National Forest in the late '80s and early '90s.

13                   The natural hydrology of those types of  
14 mountain meadows where you have thick vegetation and a  
15 relatively laterally level topography that is not just  
16 sinuous. It's braided. It's diverging and converging.  
17 It's all over.

18                   We actually observed that flow of water even  
19 in August when I took Gary and his superintendent Eddie  
20 and some other staff on site. You couldn't walk  
21 anywhere in that meadow without being wet to your  
22 ankles. Because of resistance provided by vegetation  
23 and the large wooded debris, it doesn't flow that  
24 straight line down.

25                   It moves laterally back and forth. And that's

1 the condition that we want to try to restore at the foot  
2 of the meadow to prevent that erosion from continuing.

3 Does that answer your question?

4 MS. HENDERSON: Close.

5 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Al Muth.

6 MR. MUTH: It's a little late in the process,  
7 but thalweg, I guess that's a German word. Thalweg?

8 MR. RISCHBIETER: Boy, being German and  
9 experienced in hydrology, I should know the answer to  
10 its origin, but I don't. Thalweg is the lowest point in  
11 a stream channel.

12 In a creek it's the place where you have water  
13 where it flows at the absolute lowest before it stops.

14 Does that define it adequately? It's the  
15 lowest point in the stream channel. In the case of the  
16 eroded area, it's right there.

17 In the case of a big meadow, you really may  
18 not have and in many meadows you don't have a thalweg  
19 where you have over land a lateral flow of water. If  
20 it's not concentrated in one place, it doesn't have a  
21 thalweg per say.

22 MR. LYMAN: If we have another wet year and  
23 you put in all that fill, how does it stay there?

24 MR. RISCHBIETER: If we have another wet year  
25 now we probably won't be able to do this project. If we

1 had planned to do this project last year, the conditions  
2 were too wet to have ever done it. All the previous  
3 years it would have been readily doable.

4           The material that we put in will be put in in  
5 layers. It will be compacted. I should mention as  
6 described in our environmental document, in addition to  
7 the one or two backhoe loaders, we will be using  
8 chainsaws to recruit both dead and live woody debris.  
9 And we will have a pneumatic compactor commonly called  
10 "the whacker" if you're familiar with that construction  
11 equipment.

12           So we will compact that fill and lift. We'll  
13 have a little bit of water on site to aid in compaction  
14 and dust control. It will be internally stabilized with  
15 some logs.

16           Here at Big Trees, I think there are a couple  
17 of illustrations. We'll layer logs at the bottom of the  
18 headcut and at the bottom of the thalweg, fill it to  
19 that log level with dirt, compact it, and put another  
20 foot higher. Do it in layers like that. At the very  
21 top gets added topsoil.

22           As far as re-vegetation goes, at the bottom of  
23 this ditch if you remember that photo with the yellow  
24 notebook in it. There is some green stuff that is in  
25 areas that we're going to want to bury.

1           The first step which I haven't mentioned is  
2   that we will send the CCCs in with their spades. We  
3   will pull out plugs of sod about this size and stockpile  
4   those on the side.

5           When we reach the near elevation that we want  
6   to achieve, we will put the topsoil on top and put those  
7   sod plugs back in to jump-start the re-vegetation  
8   process. We'll use small pieces of wood to keep the  
9   water from shooting to help it move laterally.

10          To conclude this long answer to your short  
11   question, we won't allow that flow to converge on that  
12   fill site. The flow essentially is going to be directed  
13   around that fill site.

14          But it's going to converge at the foot down  
15   here below where the photo was taken where the hydraulic  
16   control is established by boulders, forest tree roots  
17   where you're actually in the forest environment instead  
18   of meadow area.

19          Our plan is to make it stable for any range of  
20   natural flows that we'd expect in that location.

21          MR. LYMAN: Thank you.

22          CHAIRMAN WATTS: Jeff, do you have any  
23   questions?

24          MR. MORGAN: I don't really have any questions  
25   because I have spoken with him. I have some comments.

1 I can make them now or I can make them at the public  
2 comment period.

3 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Well, you're a member of the  
4 committee. You can make them now.

5 MR. MORGAN: Okay. This project you mentioned  
6 it to me last year, Gary. I visited the site with you.  
7 When the document came out I read that.

8 Then I sought advice from knowledgeable  
9 persons, and I talked extensively with Dr. Mark Hamilton  
10 who runs the University of California Games Reserve up  
11 on the mountain and has also studied San Jacinto  
12 Mountain for probably 30 years.

13 He did his Ph.D. on rare plants in the state  
14 park and the state park wilderness and the adjacent  
15 national forest wilderness.

16 A lot of his work included looking  
17 specifically at high altitude meadows, this one as well  
18 as several others that are in the area. I also talked  
19 to Eric, the back-country ranger up there.

20 MR. RISCHBIETER: Eric.

21 MR. MORGAN: Eric. Yes. I can't remember his  
22 last name. I've also visited the site a lot myself in  
23 the last 30 years. Probably hundreds of times.

24 A couple of points. Since about 2000 the  
25 trail that went up the creek and through the meadow has

1 disappeared because most of the people have been  
2 rerouted with the foot bridge and have been told to keep  
3 out of the meadow. Most of them tend to do so.

4           So that seems to be going away. It could even  
5 be made to go away further by the round-post little  
6 diversion fence.

7           There's another point too. That headcut has  
8 not moved since 2000. We know that for sure. I talked  
9 to Eric again, who was there many, many times. I've  
10 been there many times.

11           I've talked to other people who have been  
12 there many times. It's just stayed exactly the same.  
13 So, you know, nothing much is happening with it right  
14 now.

15           I talked to Mark Hamilton. He said little has  
16 happened to it since 1980. He says it's virtually  
17 exactly the same now as it was in 1980.

18           My own nonscientific anecdotal observations  
19 also show it pretty much the same since 1975. So  
20 there's no great rush on this.

21           As for the vegetation, the Big Trees project  
22 was a lot lower altitude, completely different  
23 vegetation. Probably a lot more susceptible to  
24 washouts, headcuts, whatever.

25           So I don't think that's a good balance for

1 this. Last year was one of the wettest years on record  
2 in the San Jacinto Mountains. There was a heck of a lot  
3 of water.

4 If this headcut was going to accelerate or get  
5 any bigger, I think last year would have been one of the  
6 years it would have been. It didn't. It stayed the  
7 same. So again, I don't think this -- I don't know any  
8 great hurry again.

9 I read the document, the Mitigated Negative  
10 Declaration. Myself and others who read it thought it  
11 was an insufficient document for a project of this  
12 magnitude. There are damaged and threatened species out  
13 there.

14 It's the perfect habitat for the southern  
15 rubber boa. They have been found in Round Valley.  
16 That's their habitat. I don't know if there's any  
17 actually on the site where you're going to be cutting  
18 and digging or not. I don't know. But you need to find  
19 out before you do any digging.

20 There's also the mountain yellow-legged frog,  
21 which the only place it lives in the world is in those  
22 creeks in the San Jacinto State Park and the adjacent  
23 national forest.

24 There's very few of them left. Probably 100.  
25 I don't know if they occur in Tamarack Creek, but I

1 don't see why they don't because they occur just over  
2 the ridge at Scenic, which is only, what, a mile away.

3           So, you know, they need to be surveyed. So  
4 the Mitigated Negative Declaration is not sufficient for  
5 you to do this.

6           You need to prepare an EIR. Then during the  
7 preparation of that EIR, you need to do a study to see  
8 if the actual thing is moving.

9           We don't seem to think it is moving. But it  
10 needs a survey. It's not expensive to do. You put a  
11 couple of sticks, and you have a measuring point, and  
12 you measure it every six months or whatever.

13           You take photographs from the same point every  
14 year or every couple of years. That way you find out if  
15 this thing is actually moving.

16           Doug seems to think it is. We don't think it  
17 is, as I've already said. So anyway, you do all of  
18 that. Do your EIR.

19           Then if you determine it's necessary to move  
20 forward on this project, I suggest you do a minimal tool  
21 analysis.

22           In other words, you know, see if you can do it  
23 with less invasive equipment rather than your little  
24 backhoes or bobcats or whatever they are. Whatever  
25 they're called.

1           As you know, Gary, this would be the first  
2 time ever for non-emergency use in state wilderness with  
3 any of these mechanized types of equipment be used.

4           This would be totally new ground for working  
5 in wilderness and state parks. So that needs to be  
6 reconsidered also.

7           Any questions, I'm open.

8           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. Thank you for your  
9 comments. Like I said, we'll be accepting written  
10 comments all the way up to next Saturday. Jeff, I  
11 expect we'll probably get a letter from you. That will  
12 be great.

13           Our stance is, you know, we think we've done a  
14 good study. We've put out the environmental document.  
15 We'll certainly evaluate all the comments that come back  
16 and reevaluate those things and take them into  
17 consideration before we decide our final course of  
18 action.

19           I'll say this with tongue in cheek. I'm sure  
20 glad we ruled out that super center -- Wal-Mart Super  
21 Center in the middle of Round Valley and decided to just  
22 restore a beautiful montane meadow.

23           But that being said, I understand your  
24 concerns. I know there's a lot of big issues in the  
25 world. This one probably elevated itself onto your

1 priority list. But either way, we will take all those  
2 comments into consideration.

3 In closing because I need to move on with the  
4 agenda, I just want to point out to the committee that  
5 Jeff is right.

6 This project is somewhat unusual and somewhat  
7 controversial because we are introducing mechanized  
8 equipment into the wilderness. That's not something we  
9 do lightly.

10 It's not something the federal government does  
11 in their wilderness unless I think they have some very  
12 unusual circumstances that do allow it.

13 We did confer with the national forest folks  
14 before we went forward with this thing to make sure we  
15 were not going sideways with their management and that  
16 type of thing.

17 As Doug pointed out, our system in the state  
18 as well as our stewardship responsibility with State  
19 Parks does allow under extreme situations or  
20 circumstances for us to do this for the benefit of the  
21 resource.

22 Our best educated method at this point, we  
23 feel this is the way to do it. We frankly are afraid  
24 that this unique resource will reach the point of  
25 non-repairability.

1           That's pretty much why we've decided that we  
2 need to act soon as opposed to waiting 10 more years and  
3 then reaching the point where we simply won't be able to  
4 do anything about it.

5           The second thing I want to bring up for the  
6 committee's benefit is that I think this illustrates the  
7 beauty of the construction of the National Monument.

8           All of its different members and entities,  
9 everybody is doing different things, but it contributes  
10 to the big picture -- to the entire Monument.

11          The Tribes is doing things. Fish & Game is  
12 doing things. Dr. Muth is doing things. BLM and Forest  
13 Service are doing things that help the resource or  
14 protect it or improve recreation.

15          But it all comes together what we're all here  
16 about, and that's the National Monument. I just wanted  
17 to on behalf of State Parks bring this project, what I  
18 think is very, very important, to your attention and let  
19 you know that we're proceeding along the lines of what  
20 we think is best.

21          But in the long run, we're trying to protect  
22 the upper gems of the Monument as well. And you all  
23 have a part in that.

24          Originally, I wanted to bring it in the  
25 December meeting, but it just didn't work. So if any of

1 you have any comments that you would like to voice to  
2 us, we will accept those gladly. I appreciate all the  
3 committee's comments on that.

4 Doug, thank you very much for your  
5 presentation.

6 With that we'll move on to the next item,  
7 which is a presentation of awards.

8 Jim, will you take it from here?

9 MR. FOOTE: Yes, I will. We're going to do  
10 this in two parts. I will present some awards to very  
11 deserving recipients this morning to be followed by  
12 Buford.

13 We're going to do this to present awards.  
14 We're going to do this in this order because I certainly  
15 don't want to follow Buford and his eloquence in  
16 presenting these kinds of things.

17 So with that said, I'll go first. Let me just  
18 start this by saying this is really a special time where  
19 we get to recognize folks who have done a lot.

20 It really does take advocates of one nature or  
21 another to really make things happen because there are  
22 people that have real passion for things out there.  
23 That's why we get things done.

24 Today we have some of those in the room with  
25 us today. These particular folks that I'll be

1 acknowledging are those that do have a passion for  
2 trails.

3 Part of that certainly has been expressed by  
4 their participation in the latest Multiple Species  
5 Habitat Conservation planning process and the  
6 development of the Trails Plan for the Santa Rosa and  
7 San Jacinto Mountains.

8 They've participated at great length and in  
9 fact had affected a very important change from what was  
10 the preferred alternative plan to what is now the  
11 proposed plan.

12 We still have a little ways to go with that  
13 before approval. However, I think in particular with  
14 the four groups to recognize, today really goes to their  
15 efforts for what has been the Art Smith Trail reroute  
16 and start of the Hop-Along Cassidy Trail. But in  
17 particular the reroute.

18 Back when I arrived here in the Palm Springs  
19 office in 1997, I went to Coachella Valley trails  
20 council meetings. There were these discussions about  
21 trying to reroute the Art Smith Trail and nothing really  
22 ever seemed to happen. It just was more and more  
23 discussions.

24 Well, we came to the correct point in time  
25 where I guess the time was right to do this. It took a

1 lot of compromise by the participants and active  
2 engagement in the process.

3           And it happened certainly with tremendous  
4 resources in terms of monetary from the City of Palm  
5 Desert. And contributing to that were monetary  
6 resources from the Desert Riders that actually allowed  
7 us to contract to get the work done.

8           And then several weeks ago we needed to really  
9 finish off the project and tie the Art Smith trailhead  
10 to the newly-constructed trail.

11           I put out a call to the trail groups, and they  
12 responded. They came out. They helped construct a  
13 trail. They put in signs.

14           I'll tell you one thing. Gary Luedders put  
15 this post pounder on his back and carried it up. I  
16 thought well, that's good. I appreciate that, Gary.

17           Last week I went out and put the same post  
18 pounder on my back, and it about brought me to my knees.  
19 Now I really appreciate the effort that went in.

20           This is extremely difficult work in this kind  
21 of terrain, and it takes that kind of dedication to do  
22 that kind of work.

23           If I could I'd like to pull up to the front  
24 here the representatives for the Desert Riders. We have  
25 Gary Klein and we have John Schoettler. Some of you may

1 recognize John from the Monument video.

2 We have Christy Anderson from the Desert  
3 Trails Hiking Club. Representing the Coachella Valley  
4 Hiking Club is Al Dempsey. And we have Gary Luedders  
5 from the Desert Bicycle Club.

6 These are little plaques that were purposely  
7 made so they can actually stand on a desk, and they can  
8 maybe move them around to their various membership.

9 This one in particular is the Desert Bicycle  
10 Club. They all read the same -- except for the name, of  
11 course. "In appreciation of your advocacy for trails in  
12 the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National  
13 Monument 2006."

14 So, Gary.

15 MR. LUEDDERS: Thank you very much.

16 MR. FOOTE: This one is for the Desert Riders.  
17 To both Gary and John.

18 MR. KLEIN: Thank you.

19 MR. FOOTE: This one for the Coachella Valley  
20 Hiking Club. Al.

21 MR. DEMPSEY: Thanks.

22 MR. FOOTE: And Christy from the Desert Trails  
23 Hiking Club.

24 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you.

25 MR. FOOTE: With that we'll turn it over to

1 Buford.

2 MR. HAVERT: Whose got the camera?

3 MR. FOOTE: I don't have the camera.

4 MR. CRITES: Thank you, Jim.

5 MR. FOOTE: Do you want me to assist you with  
6 these?

7 MR. CRITES: No. I was going to mention that  
8 before we go anywhere else, the various trails groups  
9 were able to bring to the US Fish & Wildlife Service a  
10 sense of reality that the local government was unable to  
11 do in terms of presenting preferred alternatives for  
12 hiking.

13 So now we have an HCP out for comment and  
14 final approval. What happens to all of our trails work  
15 in terms of BLM should this not happen?

16 I ask this simply because I think it's  
17 important for the trails groups to know how important  
18 passage is in terms of what we finally achieve in terms  
19 of trails use in the future.

20 MR. FOOTE: Currently BLM is operating under a  
21 biological opinion issued by the US Fish & Wildlife  
22 Service on its California Desert Conservation Area Plan.

23 That biological opinion includes continuation  
24 of the voluntary trails avoidance program. Among other  
25 issues -- and that may kind of -- let me see if I can

1 say this.

2 I think there's a little potential confusion  
3 right now of where we are if one were to visit the  
4 trails understanding what's happened with the Habitat  
5 Conservation Plan.

6 We have before us a proposal that would allow  
7 unlimited use during certainly the lambing season of  
8 trails. The permits would be free. They would be  
9 unlimited, and they would be available for trail heads.  
10 They're simply for tracking the use that's occurring on  
11 the trails.

12 However, at the same time they're seeing signs  
13 that say "please do not use certain trails." That's an  
14 artifact of our continuation under the biological  
15 opinion terms and conditions for our CDCA plan.

16 That's an interim biological opinion until  
17 such time that we have approved a multi-jurisdictional  
18 trails plan.

19 If that does not occur, the expectation is BLM  
20 will need to re-consult with the US Fish & Wildlife  
21 Service on the effects of the actions on BLM lands on  
22 Peninsular bighorn sheep.

23 The outcome of that would be unknown at this  
24 point. We don't know what conditions may be imposed as  
25 a result of that action.

1                   So I guess with no approval of the HCP, we  
2 would have uncertainty about what a federal action  
3 trails plan would be at this point. We just don't know.

4                   MR. CRITES: Okay. Thank you.

5                   MR. FOOTE: With that said, I'll assist Buford  
6 with these heavy ones.

7                   MR. CRITES: We have done a rare thing. That  
8 is to lure Mike Schuller into actually coming in to a  
9 meeting. We were only able to do it by promising one  
10 thing -- that we wouldn't pay him for all the trails  
11 that he's already built and he has never collected his  
12 checks for.

13                   They're still tucked away for you.

14                   But Mike has been not only for Desert Riders  
15 but for all of us a source of inspiration and our go-to  
16 person for making our mountains available for  
17 recreation.

18                   So on behalf of this committee, this  
19 particular plaque says "When you build trails you open  
20 paths to understand our past, to experience our present,  
21 and to imagine the future."

22                   With respect and appreciation on behalf of  
23 your National Monument, we say thank you, Mike.

24                   MR. SCHULLER: I never believed in it that you  
25 build it and they will come. That's true. It happens.

1 We just finished a portion of trail up on the Bump and  
2 Grind. The moment we finished it, people were there. I  
3 mean, it was unbelievable how much use that got.

4 I also want to thank the Desert Riders. And  
5 in particular a good friend of my, Mr. Art Smith.  
6 Because without his involvement in my life, I'd have  
7 never gotten this far. I want to thank the Desert  
8 Riders one more time. Thank you very much.

9 MR. CRITES: As a matter of fact, one of  
10 Art Smith's favorite quotations was, "Ask  
11 Mike Schuller."

12 The other one goes to Palm Springs Life and  
13 specifically to Frank Jones for their help not just for  
14 the Monument but with the book and everything else.

15 They're not able to be with us today. So they  
16 sent a letter. During the break I'll just make about  
17 20 copies of this so everyone in the committee has that.

18 MR. FOOTE: Do you want to read what that  
19 says?

20 MR. CRITES: The inscription reads as follows.  
21 It starts with a quotation from a Senegalese poet.

22 "In the end we conserve only what  
23 we love. We will love only what we  
24 understand. And we will understand  
25 only what we're taught. Frank and

1           the Palm Springs Life staff, thank  
2           you and your colleagues for helping  
3           us to know our National Monument.  
4           You have been our teachers."

5           MS. HENDERSON: Beautiful.

6           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Thank you all for your  
7 enthusiasm and your dedication and most of all your  
8 participation. You're all making the community much  
9 better by your efforts. We all appreciate it.  
10 Congratulations.

11           Mr. Crites.

12           MR. CRITES: Would it be possible to ask that  
13 in your next packet of information that we include The  
14 Press Enterprise article that focussed on Mike Schuller  
15 and the building of the Hop-Along Cassidy trial? It's  
16 an excellent article and perhaps not one that everyone  
17 here has seen.

18           MR. FOOTE: We shall research that.

19           MS. HENDERSON: It's a great article.

20           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. Very good. With that  
21 we'll take a break, and we'll get started at 10:00  
22 promptly with the clock on the wall.

23                           (Off the record.)

24                           (Brief recess taken.)

25           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. We're going to go back

1 into session or order or whatever you want to call it.  
2 I'm going to pass this letter around. Buford referenced  
3 it in regard to the recognition for Frank and Palm  
4 Springs Life. So I'll pass it around. Make sure you  
5 take your copy.

6 With that we'll go to the next agenda item  
7 with Jim Foote on the National Monument assessment.

8 MR. FOOTE: Thank you.

9 I think it probably would be appropriate to  
10 set the stage for what happened. Back in December, if  
11 you recall Bernie Weingard, the regional forester, and  
12 Mike Poole, the BLM state director for California,  
13 toured the area, visited a number of spots, met with the  
14 Monument Advisory Committee, and concluded after that  
15 tour that it was a very appropriate time for there to be  
16 a National monument Assessment looking at where we are  
17 and/or where we've been and where we are now and where  
18 we think we ought to be going.

19 As a consequence of that, we did then  
20 establish a BLM/Forest Service assessment team. During  
21 the week of February 6th, it did conduct a number of  
22 interviews with a number of people.

23 We'll go through the specifics of that as we  
24 go through this presentation. I want to take this  
25 opportunity right now to thank everybody who

1 participated from the MAC in that effort.

2           This was somewhat of a last-minute thing. We  
3 didn't get a lot of notification. We pulled this  
4 together in about three weeks. It happened very  
5 quickly. So we certainly appreciate everyone's effort  
6 to make themselves available to be interviewed.

7           The information that they received was  
8 wonderful and really an eye opener for certainly the BLM  
9 and Forest Service from the outside.

10           Certainly a lot of that information we were  
11 aware of. But to hear it again and present it in a  
12 little different format was and will be extremely  
13 helpful for us.

14           With that said I want to distribute for your  
15 note-taking a copy of the slides you'll be seeing -- the  
16 presentation. This hopefully will allow you to take  
17 notes as we go through.

18           I'd like to have the discussion occur at the  
19 end of the presentation. Certainly if there are some  
20 clarifying points as we go through the presentation,  
21 please speak up and we'll try to clarify those issues  
22 that you may have questions about.

23           But in the end we'll have a discussion.  
24 However, I'd also like in the end for Gary to have an  
25 opportunity to present the assessment conducted

1 independently by the Monument Advisory Committee.

2 I think these two pair up very well together,  
3 and the discussion that follows should be quite good.  
4 I'd like to encourage the participation of Gail and  
5 Jeanne as we go through this.

6 Before we begin, I'd just like to give Jeanne  
7 an opportunity as the San Bernardino National Forest  
8 supervisor just to provide a few words of introduction  
9 to the process.

10 MS. WADE-EVANS: Thank you, Jim.

11 First of all, I want to echo Jim's sentiments  
12 and say thank you to all of you who spent time with the  
13 review team and provided feedback.

14 I want to just say as far as the Monument is  
15 concerned, although I'm new here -- I actually got  
16 officially started January 4th after Gene Zimmerman's  
17 retirement on June 3rd -- I knew about the Monument in  
18 advance of showing up in Southern California.

19 My husband is a desert rat. He had read the  
20 Monument Plan before we even left D.C. Our first trip  
21 to Southern California on a weekend was to the Monument  
22 Visitor Center.

23 Contrary to what many people think, we didn't  
24 head straight up to the top of the mountain. We looked  
25 around the lower regions and saw what was going on here

1 because we are pretty interested in this model of the  
2 Monument.

3 So we realized it's a gem early on. It's just  
4 an honor for me to be part of this partnership in the  
5 Monument.

6 In terms of the federal agency partners in  
7 general, we had a chance to do the field review, as Jim  
8 mentioned, field visit in early December.

9 It was an opportunity for me to meet many of  
10 you and understand how much passion you have about the  
11 Monument as well and to think about how we discover  
12 what's working well in the Monument, what might need  
13 improvement, and where do we go in the future.

14 How do we sort of together as federal partners  
15 to this larger partnership that's called a Monument move  
16 ahead in a way that works?

17 So what you're going to see now is a synopsis  
18 of that review that was, you know, talked about and  
19 encouraged in early December.

20 It was quickly deployed in February, which I  
21 think was fun. I mean, you don't want to spend too much  
22 time worrying about these things and deploying them  
23 slowly.

24 It's just sort of rapid in and out, but an  
25 opportunity for us to honestly get some feedback, you

1 know, and look at ourselves, the federal role in the  
2 Monument, and have the opportunity to discover sort of  
3 all sides of how we look in the Monument and move  
4 forward.

5           So it's an open, honest review. There are  
6 some words there, and we're aware of that. We want to,  
7 you know, learn by this experience and move forward.

8           So with that, I'll just open it up to Gail.  
9 Then I'll have some closing remarks after we look at it,  
10 after you all have a chance to see what was found and  
11 sort of the cumulative voice that was heard. Add more  
12 if you need to. Then we can figure out where we would  
13 go in the future.

14           MS. ACHESON: I echo Jeanne's sentiments. We  
15 were really happy to have this review or assessment.  
16 It's been five years since the Monument was formed.

17           We've done a lot of good things. I think we  
18 learned a lot in the their presentation to us. But we  
19 also knew a lot of things. It just helped to bring it  
20 all together.

21           I think by sharing this with you today in this  
22 open forum, I think we can all look at it and see the  
23 things that worked, see the things that we need to  
24 improve on, and hopefully look forward to the future to  
25 do what's best for our Monument. Because it's all of

1 our Monument. It's not the federal agencies.

2 We want to be seamless, and we want to be seen  
3 as seamless in how we operate the Monument. We can't do  
4 it without the help of the MAC as well as many other  
5 groups that have been involved. Some of those we  
6 recognized today.

7 So I'm very excited about this process of how  
8 we move forward. So we'll go through it and have some  
9 discussion.

10 We're very excited also about the process that  
11 the MAC went through. I thought that was a real good  
12 feedback to us, and we needed that. So let's see how  
13 those marry out.

14 MS. WADE-EVANS: I just want to mention these  
15 comments are on behalf of Steve Borchard was well -- the  
16 new district manager. We had a chat yesterday, and he  
17 couldn't be here today.

18 He and I worked together in D.C. I don't know  
19 for better or worse. He felt okay with me sharing the  
20 remarks on the behalf of the federal agency part.

21 MS. ACHESON: Just to add one more comment  
22 about Steve because he did want to be here. I think  
23 you're going to see more of him. He's very much a  
24 people person and very much a partnership kind of person  
25 and very interested in this Monument.

1                   So we're excited to have him as a district  
2 manager, but also I think you're going to enjoy working  
3 with him. And the two of them already have that  
4 relationship. So that's great.

5                   MR. FOOTE: I think it's important to  
6 recognize that we're about mid-year in our fiscal year.  
7 We're in the process of trying to establish priorities  
8 for finishing out the year now that a lot of our budget  
9 issues are finally becoming more apparent -- how much we  
10 have to spend where, how we're going to do that.

11                   We'll be looking to this review to prioritize  
12 our workload, what we want to accomplish here.  
13 Certainly we look to the MAC.

14                   This will be a great opportunity at the  
15 conclusion of this to also express your ideas about what  
16 priorities you think we should be doing. We'll take  
17 that discussion forward, look at what we have internally  
18 to do, and decide on some kind of action plan to move  
19 forward, get things done with the monies we have before  
20 the end of the year.

21                   So with that said, why don't we go ahead and  
22 turn on the projector.

23                   Can you go back one? There we go.

24                   As you know this occurred during the week of  
25 February 13th through the 16th. We had this team

1 running all over the place. They were quite active.  
2 Working late at night, meeting with people into the  
3 evening.

4 This presentation here is what they prepared.  
5 This wasn't something we did here. The team actually  
6 put this together before they left. They were extremely  
7 busy and found time to do this. It's that important.

8 Diamond in the rough. These again are the  
9 assessment team's considerations of what they saw here.

10 Next, please.

11 That's an overall impression. This is a  
12 diamond in the rough. The team was comprised of  
13 Rob Roudabush, BLM, Washington office group manager for  
14 the National Landscape Conservation System.

15 Jan Engert, Forest Service, Washington office  
16 director for the National Partnership Office.

17 Valerie Guardia, Forest Service, acting  
18 regional director for Recreation, Wilderness, and  
19 Heritage.

20 And Carolyn Shelton, BLM, Assistant Monument  
21 Manager for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National  
22 Monument.

23 These were the tasks that they were handed  
24 when they arrived. To assess and validate specific  
25 issues identified by management through review of

1 documents and interviews.

2           And present to local Forest Service and BLM  
3 management the review team observations and  
4 recommendations with a follow-up report.

5           I want to point out here that this was the  
6 tasks given to them. They would not be doing a  
7 follow-up report. Really this is it. These are their  
8 recommendations. This is if you will the follow-up  
9 report.

10           The issues to be validated and assessed.  
11 Again, these were presented to them. These were the  
12 Monument accomplishments to date, strategy for  
13 implementing goals and objectives of the Management  
14 Plan, Success of BLM and Forest Service cooperative  
15 effort in the management of the Monument.

16           Success of collaboration with the MAC, Tribe,  
17 Friends of the Desert Mountains, et cetera. Success of  
18 connecting the Monument to the communities.

19           The groups interviewed were the external  
20 groups. Of course, the Monument Advisory Committee and  
21 certain of its members, Friend of the Desert Mountains  
22 and its members.

23           Linda Valter, Congresswoman Bono's chief of  
24 staff. City Council members and others from local  
25 communities. Bighorn Institute and other interested

1 groups.

2 Internally the team spent considerable time  
3 discussing and talking to and interviewing the BLM  
4 district and field office managers, the BLM field office  
5 staff, acting monument manager and staff, Forest Service  
6 district ranger and staff, chairmen and other members  
7 and staff from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla  
8 Indians.

9 The interview process is where they asked  
10 questions. They were looking for initial thoughts and  
11 input. What is the value of the Monument?

12 What have been the successes in the last five  
13 years? What would success look like in the next five  
14 years? And they discussed partnership opportunities.

15 First impressions. Passion, opportunity,  
16 desire, and envy. If we can pull in these other little  
17 pieces, we'll see a little more detail on these.

18 It was without question that the passion for  
19 the Monument both internally and externally -- and  
20 internally, of course, we mean within the agencies -- is  
21 really strong. There's no denying that.

22 Opportunity is ripe for what they called a  
23 harmonic convergence. We're at kind of a new day here.  
24 Time to move forward. People are ready to do it.  
25 Desire. Everybody wants to do more for the Monument.

1 It's very clear.

2 And the envy. Our unique juxtaposition of the  
3 Monument next to cities with educated, affluent, active,  
4 and supportive population is not the common thing we see  
5 in many other national monuments.

6 Certainly Carolyn Shelton coming from Grand  
7 Staircase-Escalante National Monument saw this as a  
8 completely different situation.

9 MS. ACHESON: She didn't want to go home.

10 MR. FOOTE: There they have questions of  
11 support for the National Monument. Do you have local  
12 officials who are battling them constantly?

13 That's not the case here. This is just a  
14 complete difference, and they are envious of our  
15 circumstance. I think that envy -- we need to certainly  
16 take advantage of this situation and make the best of  
17 it.

18 First impressions. Everyone was positive  
19 about the assessment itself. A great willingness to  
20 participate. A great desire to say we want to talk with  
21 you folks to tell you what we think.

22 They saw here a model of Tribal/federal  
23 coordination and cooperation that is not always the  
24 case. The relationships that we have with the Agua  
25 Caliente are to be again envied.

1           They're very unique. We work very well with  
2 coordination and cooperation. That is a model here that  
3 many look at again with envy.

4           We've come a long way in five years. Here  
5 they recognize we face a difficult challenge of  
6 balancing endangered species recovery -- Peninsular  
7 bighorn sheep -- with development and a growing demand  
8 for access and recreation. Lots of opportunity, but  
9 will never have enough staff. Therefore, partnerships  
10 are critical.

11           I think we recognized this for a long time.  
12 It still remains true. It will always be true. The  
13 Monument does not yet exist.

14           This concept of the Monument, in their first  
15 impression, is we're not quite there in understanding  
16 what is the Monument.

17           And it's all about relationships. Without  
18 those relationships probably the Monument will not exist  
19 as we need to develop it.

20           So in looking at the issues to be validated  
21 which was their task, for each they presented what was  
22 working. They presented some findings, and they made  
23 recommendations. We'll go through those now.

24           Accomplishments. What's working? Well, we  
25 completed a Management Plan. That was done in 2004.

1 The Monument Advisory Committee was established and is  
2 working.

3 We've had national media exposure. This says  
4 for example, magazines. Certainly the Palm Springs Life  
5 contribution. We've been recognized in other magazines  
6 as well.

7 The land acquisition partnerships resulting in  
8 purchase, easements, and exchange. Certainly a lot of  
9 that through Friend of the Desert Mountains, Coachella  
10 Valley Mountains Conservancy. There's been a lot of  
11 land acquired, exchanged in the National Monument.

12 Cultural resources surveys and training  
13 accomplished through partnerships. That's ongoing.  
14 That's a tremendous effort with the Agua Caliente Band  
15 of Cahuilla Indians. That's ongoing and it's been a  
16 success to date.

17 Outreach. We've had interpretive programs.  
18 The development of the "Voices of the Monument" DVD, the  
19 educational book. That would be the children's book  
20 that was recently published, and the school programs  
21 that are ongoing.

22 That's a tremendous work that's been  
23 connecting the children in the community with the  
24 resources of the National Monument.

25 In findings, proud of accomplishments. Lots

1 of passion here. The energy, coordination, and  
2 involvement initiated through the planning effort has  
3 not continued since the plan was completed.

4 These again are what they're seeing through  
5 these interviews. These are their findings.

6 The partnership efforts and successes for some  
7 resource programs lag behind others. Where they see  
8 heritage, fire, lands programs looking good, the  
9 wildlife, wilderness, recreation, trails, interpretation  
10 and education needs attention. There's more that can be  
11 done there.

12 There's potential here for immediate action.  
13 We'll see some of that later as we go through the slide  
14 program.

15 Communication about what has been accomplished  
16 has been spotty. In other words, we're not sufficiently  
17 getting the word out about what we're doing, what we're  
18 doing well.

19 Terry.

20 MS. HENDERSON: Yeah. Can I comment on some  
21 of those last findings?

22 MR. FOOTE: Uh-huh.

23 MS. HENDERSON: Was there a sense at all that  
24 the energy doesn't seem to still be at the same level it  
25 was is somehow due to the anticipation of the adoption

1 of the Multispecies Habitat Plan, and how much of what  
2 the Monument on a touch-me-feel-me basis -- hence, the  
3 trails -- and knowing where we're going with those  
4 trails depend on that document?

5 MS. ACHESON: I don't recall them bringing  
6 that up at all.

7 MS. HENDERSON: Okay.

8 MR. FOOTE: Yeah.

9 MS. HENDERSON: Okay. Thank you.

10 MR. FOOTE: I've been reminded that at 11:00  
11 we'll have the opportunity for public comment after  
12 which we will continue.

13 So we'll go through this part of  
14 accomplishments and recommendations here before we move  
15 onto the next section, and we'll take the break at that  
16 point.

17 Recommendations about accomplishments. Let  
18 everyone know what you've done and what you're doing.  
19 Again, that goes back to their finding of it's been a  
20 bit of a spotty job of letting people know what we're  
21 doing.

22 I think since we're at a No. 2 here, why don't  
23 we use this as the opportunity for the public comment  
24 period, if that's suitable.

25 CHAIRMAN WATTS: That's great, Jim.

1 I have one speaker slip right now. Were there  
2 any more? Frank, are you aware?

3 MR. MOWRY: That's it.

4 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. I have one. Are there  
5 any other speaker slips? I have a speaker slip from  
6 Geary Hund.

7 Geary, you have three minutes.

8 MR. HUND: I was going to ask -- my comment  
9 will take about four minutes, and I was going to ask the  
10 group if I can have an additional minute.

11 I'm speaking on the state park restoration  
12 project. We have some significant information to share  
13 with you. So if that's possible, I'd appreciate it.

14 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Does anyone object to that?  
15 You have four minutes.

16 MR. HUND: Okay. I'd like to give a copy of  
17 our comments to both State Parks and to the committee.  
18 So who should I give those to?

19 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Frank.

20 MR. HUND: Good morning. I'm Geary Hund. I'm  
21 the California Desert and Monument's program director  
22 for the Wilderness Society, a nationwide conservation  
23 organization.

24 I reside in Idyllwild, California. I'm  
25 speaking on the State Parks' proposed project in state

1 wilderness that you heard a presentation on earlier.

2 I'm also representing the Center for  
3 Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club, and the Audubon  
4 Society.

5 First, we agree that the Round Valley meadow  
6 is very important resource. Montane habitat is very  
7 rare. It contains a high diversity of plant and animal  
8 species.

9 We appreciate the concern State Parks has  
10 shown for this resource. We have great respect for the  
11 State Parks personnel who are involved in the project.

12 Doug and I used to be colleagues. Formerly I  
13 was the district ecologist for the Inland Empire  
14 District with responsibility for Mt. San Jacinto State  
15 Park and wilderness.

16 Doug has experience with similar restoration  
17 projects. However, upon reviewing the proposal and  
18 talking with Doug and consulting with Dr. Mike Hamilton,  
19 a noted expert on the ecology of the San Jacinto  
20 Mountains, we have significant concerns and questions.

21 First and foremost, is the project necessary?  
22 Is it a natural rate of erosion that's occurring, or is  
23 it largely or completely an unnatural process?

24 As you heard State Parks' premise is that a  
25 human-caused unnatural rate of erosion is occurring

1 largely due to the concentration of runoff resulting  
2 from an unauthorized social trail running the length of  
3 the meadow.

4           The presence of erosion is not in and of  
5 itself evidence that an unnatural process is occurring.  
6 There are headcuts or dropoffs and other meadows in the  
7 San Jacinto Mountains, areas that have been appreciably  
8 affected by human activity such as cattle grazing or  
9 unauthorized trail development and use.

10           Generally without human alteration the erosion  
11 process would occur very slowly, if at all. The most  
12 certain indicator of unnatural conditions is an  
13 accelerated rate of erosion from that which occurred  
14 historically.

15           In the case of Round Valley, very little  
16 erosion is occurring or has occurred at the site since  
17 the 1970s. Last year, one of the wettest years on  
18 record, a year when dramatic changes would be expected,  
19 if unnatural erosion were occurring, there was little if  
20 any change.

21           As you heard the state's hypothesis is the  
22 current lack of significant erosion is due to the  
23 presence of tree roots that are holding the soil in  
24 place.

25           When they are undermined, they will not hold.

1 The channel will rapidly erode up the meadow. The  
2 natural water table will drain, and the meadow will be  
3 irreparably altered.

4           However, there is not significant data to  
5 support these assertions. In fact, the presence of what  
6 appeared to be stable headcuts in other meadows and the  
7 fact that the social trail discovered in 2000 had nearly  
8 disappeared once the drought broke in 2004 and 2005  
9 suggests that this may simply be a natural process.

10           If there are human factors which caused or are  
11 causing some unnatural erosion to occur, they are not  
12 significant enough to be an immediate threat to the  
13 meadow, and they might be obtainable through a less  
14 drastic means.

15           Two. There are significant values at risk.  
16 Round Valley is a state wilderness area. State and  
17 federal wilderness areas have been set aside to protect  
18 the most untravelled primeval landscapes and to preserve  
19 their wild character for future generations.

20           In addition, database records, literature, and  
21 personal observations by Dr. Hamilton indicate that  
22 sensitive species may be impacted by the proposed  
23 project including the state-listed southern rubber boa  
24 and federally-listed mountain yellow-legged frog.

25           No focus surveys were completed for the

1 project. Surveys conducted during the general plan  
2 process were for general inventory for planning  
3 purposes, and they are dated.

4 When suitable habitat exists for listed  
5 species within their known range, project-specific focus  
6 surveys are needed.

7 The use of heavy mechanized equipment in  
8 wilderness will compromise wilderness value in the short  
9 term by the presence of the equipment and in the long  
10 term from effects like soil compaction.

11 The use of heavy equipment would set an  
12 undesirable precedent. Cutting down dead and live trees  
13 and removing top soil from borrow areas would compromise  
14 wilderness values. And it could result in direct  
15 impacts to sensitive and listed species.

16 CHAIRMAN WATTS: You have one minute left,  
17 Geary.

18 MR. HUND: The proposed work period may  
19 include the summer monsoon season. A heavy thunderstorm  
20 could cause large amounts of sediment to be washed  
21 downstream from the fill area, potentially impacting the  
22 mountain yellow-legged frogs and other aquatic  
23 organisms.

24 The potential impacts of the project on  
25 wilderness, plants, and wildlife are too great to

1 proceed with the project in the absence of data to  
2 support the conclusions which were reached.

3           At the current rate of erosion, it's not  
4 likely that the trees in question will be undermined,  
5 fall into the creek and be washed away anytime soon.

6           There is sufficient time to collect and  
7 analyze data from the site and similar sites and to  
8 research the literature in order to make a more informed  
9 decision. Given what's at stake, it's important that a  
10 more comprehensive and measured approach be taken.

11           In the meantime, there are alternative  
12 preventative measures that could be employed including  
13 measures to prevent the social trail from being  
14 reestablished in the meadow.

15           If at some point data were to demonstrate the  
16 need for an erosion control project in the stream bed,  
17 we would ask that a minimum tool analysis be conducted,  
18 using a similar methodology to that of the Forest  
19 Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

20           This process systematically evaluates the  
21 feasibility of using alternative means and have fewer  
22 impacts on wildlife.

23           CHAIRMAN WATTS: You need to wrap it up.

24           MR. HUND: In addition, focused surveys for  
25 listed and special status species would need to be

1 conducted and the appropriate regulatory agencies  
2 consulted.

3           Once again, we appreciate State Parks'  
4 intention and their concern about the resource, and we  
5 are willing to work together with them to ensure the  
6 protection and preservation of Round Valley, its native  
7 species, habitats, and it's wilderness values. Thank  
8 you.

9           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Thanks, Geary.

10           Our next speaker is Ruth Watling, a  
11 distinguished former member of this committee.

12           MS. WATLING: I just want to make you aware  
13 that George Muller has a proposed development. He's  
14 back at it again and has filed an appeal. So this issue  
15 is not yet gone. This is just primarily for awareness.  
16 The hearing is Wednesday, 1:30 at La Quinta --

17           MR. CRITES: City Hall.

18           MS. WATLING: -- City Hall.

19           MR. MORGAN: Is this where the grading has  
20 been done where the guy wanted to build a hotel?

21           MS. WATLING: Yeah.

22           MR. MORGAN: Okay.

23           MS. WATLING: Same project. It's a 32-unit  
24 spa, hotel, bed and breakfast combination. The  
25 community is strongly against it because of the fire

1 damage.

2           It's right in the chute coming up Palm Canyon.  
3 The highway would need to be seriously reconstructed at  
4 that point to make safe left turns into it. There's a  
5 raft of real concerns.

6           The community has been real active in opposing  
7 it, and a group will go again to the hearing on  
8 Wednesday.

9           But I think it would, for one, start a very  
10 poor precedent in the mountains and constitute a real  
11 danger to people who aren't aware of the hazards of the  
12 highway, of the fire danger, of the water resources  
13 being limited.

14           It would overburden our trash collection area.  
15 We have a transfer station run by Waste Management. All  
16 in all, we can't think of a good reason to have it there  
17 and can think of a lot of reasons not to. But he's a  
18 persistent fellow, Mr. Muller, and he's back again.

19           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Buford.

20           MR. CRITES: Question of the Forest Service.  
21 I know there was an enforcement action against this  
22 gentleman for bulldozing into the national forest.

23           MS. ROSENTHAL: That's correct. A lien was  
24 put on the property. So that lien has been lifted  
25 because the work has been done.

1 MR. HAVERT: The restoration?

2 MS. ROSENTHAL: The restoration work.

3 MR. CRITES: So he has tidied up his issue.

4 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Bill.

5 MR. HAVERT: So I want to ask Ruth a question.

6 This is a project that has gone to the county

7 before and been denied?

8 MS. WATLING: Right.

9 MR. HAVERT: And now he's appealing that

10 denial?

11 MS. WATLING: Right.

12 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Terry Henderson.

13 MS. HENDERSON: Yes. To verify, that's that

14 the same project --

15 MS. WATLING: Same project.

16 MS. HENDERSON: -- under appeal?

17 MS. WATLING: Yes.

18 MS. HENDERSON: Okay.

19 MS. WATLING: I'll go look to see what

20 restorations have been done. But, boy, it's not a lot

21 if he has. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Thank you, Ruth. It's nice

23 to see you again.

24 MS. WATLING: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Anybody else in the public

1 wish to address the committee? Seeing none, we will  
2 resume our discussion on the assessment.

3 Mr. Foote.

4 MR. FOOTE: Thank you, Gary. I'd like to  
5 recognize that Laurie Rosenthal has joined us, the San  
6 Jacinto district ranger.

7 MS. ROSENTHAL: Better late than never.

8 MR. FOOTE: We'll pick up where we left off.  
9 The second item here is BLM and Forest Service  
10 coordinated strategy for implementation and management.

11 What's working. The sheep research and  
12 BLM/Institute relationship is positive. The Trails Plan  
13 and the Coachella Valley Multispecies Habitat  
14 Conservation Plan they see as working, which I guess as  
15 we indicated earlier still remains to be seen whether or  
16 not that will come to approval.

17 But this was what they recognized at the time  
18 of the assessment based on their interviews. Trail head  
19 and trail construction has moved forward.

20 Salt Cedar eradication and Tribal partnership,  
21 numerous outreach efforts, cultural resources  
22 surveys/Tribal outreach.

23 Friend building -- MAC, Friends, trails, State  
24 Parks, Visitor Center. All those things were perceived  
25 by the assessment team as working.

1                    Their findings. A lack of a game plan for the  
2 on-the-ground management and plan implementation.  
3 Although we have a plan, they did not see that there was  
4 a clear on-the-ground strategy for implementing that  
5 plan.

6                    A lack of overall leadership internally. A  
7 lack of connection between the Monument goals,  
8 objectives, workload priorities and the budget.

9                    Forest Service/BLM staff are not well  
10 coordinated. Externals see the Forest Service as a  
11 minor player. External groups believe the Monument  
12 manager leadership is critical and must be provided the  
13 authority and budget to get the work done.

14                   Continuing with the findings. The Monument  
15 budget is seen as confusing. It's redirected and  
16 reprogrammed. Forest Service leadership from the valley  
17 perspective is not engaged.

18                   From the valley perspective, that's to  
19 distinguish it from those that are living in the Pinyon  
20 and Idyllwild area.

21                   There's no master plan for outreach. Feels as  
22 if it's ad hoc. There's three parts, really. The  
23 Idyllwild/Pinyon area, the users, then the valley  
24 people. There's a lack of guidance from management to  
25 staff.

1           Recommendations coming from those findings.  
2     Define the role/skills of a successful Monument manager.  
3     Fill the position and provide the tools to be the  
4     federal face of the Monument.

5           A little explanation there. They thought the  
6     federal face of the Monument was a little too spread  
7     across, various management entities. There wasn't a  
8     single federal face.

9           Lay out the management vision. Develop a  
10    universal message. Make it "the Monument." Going back  
11    to what we recognized earlier, what they recognize, yet  
12    there is no defined "the Monument."

13          Identify clear and concise work priorities and  
14    annual budget, tiered off the plan, and the common  
15    vision with BLM/Forest Service/MAC/Friends. Provide  
16    feedback on accomplishments.

17          Forest Service management needs to send a  
18    clear message to their staff that the Monument is a  
19    priority and then follow up with support.

20          Continuing with recommendations, the Monument  
21    manager should schedule the BLM and Forest Service  
22    program coordination.

23          Develop a needs assessment for outreach --  
24    what they called a master plan. Determine what is  
25    needed for who, and then determine the tools needed to

1 deliver.

2           The Monument offers significant opportunities  
3 for BLM and Forest Service to get out of the traditional  
4 agency box. Staff should manage people and change,  
5 train, and mentor volunteers and back off of the  
6 hands-on approach.

7           They recognize here the Golden Gate model is  
8 one that might be aspired to and that we should consider  
9 that.

10           Successes of collaboration. What's working.  
11 Support and kudos from many on collaboration efforts.  
12 Strong, supported, committed, and talented MAC. The  
13 community voice.

14           Active Friends of the Desert Mountains with  
15 strong commitment to land acquisition for the Monument.  
16 It's a model for positive Tribal and federal relations.

17           The BLM and Bighorn Institute have a good  
18 relationship in terms of research and education.

19           Their findings. Monument and the MAC need to  
20 regain focus on setting priorities and achieving them.  
21 The MAC provides benefit in advising, problem solving,  
22 and building bridges.

23           The agencies do not utilize the MAC  
24 efficiently. Opportunity for involvement by other  
25 Tribes exists. For instance, the Santa Rosa, Morongo

1 Valley, Torres Martinez, and others.

2           Continuing with the findings. The valley  
3 provides a unique opportunity for collaboration and  
4 partnership with a number of other groups. For example,  
5 trails and equestrian groups, new cultural history  
6 museum, tourism groups, business community.

7           Opportunities with State Parks are not being  
8 seized. They appear ready to be more involved with  
9 Monument management. There are endless opportunities.  
10 The Monument has only scratched the surface.

11           Continuing with the findings. Opportunity to  
12 provide interpretation at many locations such as other  
13 visitor centers, libraries, hotels, tram, et cetera.  
14 Plus multiple partner presence at Monument Visitor  
15 Center are not being fully pursued.

16           Right now it's clearly a Forest Service/BLM  
17 facility. The Friends of the Desert Mountains through  
18 the bookstore has a strong presence, but you really  
19 don't see the other potential partners being represented  
20 there.

21           The Friends of the Desert Mountains are  
22 evolving their interpretation and education mission and  
23 not effectively communicating their expanded mission.

24           They have a small membership. Communities  
25 have an interest and the dollars and want to help and be

1 involved, and this is not being utilized.

2           The Monument Advisory Committee and agencies  
3 work together -- this is their recommendations.  
4 Monument Advisory Committee and agencies work together  
5 to focus their relationship to make it more efficient  
6 and strategic. No more of these, and they quoted  
7 "laborious budget reviews."

8           MS. HENDERSON: I wonder who they heard that  
9 from.

10           MR. FOOTE: Invite the public to speak at the  
11 MAC. Encourage the MAC to go on a retreat and review  
12 other partnership successes -- visitor center  
13 partnerships, philosophy, the Golden Gate, Timucuan.

14           The other one they put down, the Timucuan -- I  
15 can't even pronounce it. It's a national park service  
16 unit -- I Googled this last night -- in Florida.

17           We didn't know what it was. Apparently they  
18 have some good things -- a model partnership  
19 relationship going on there.

20           They recommend that we actively engage other  
21 tribes in monument management and actively engage State  
22 Parks in monument management.

23           The Friends of the Desert Mountains needs to  
24 communicate their mission more clearly, that they are  
25 more than land acquisition.

1           The Friends of the Desert Mountains needs to  
2 increase membership. And we need to explore with the  
3 Friends the possibility of establishing a foundation.

4           Continuing with recommendations regarding  
5 collaboration. Grow and expand interpretation/education  
6 programs through partnership efforts -- Friends,  
7 museums, volunteers, and others.

8           Include a Monument staffer as official liaison  
9 or ex-officio board member with Friends of the Desert  
10 Mountains. Pursue other off-site marketing and  
11 education opportunities. For instance, at the tram and  
12 other visitor centers.

13           Find ways to tap into community interest and  
14 dollars. For instance, boundary signs would be one  
15 thing -- to do that.

16           Low hanging fruit. I think by this they mean  
17 those things that are easily grabbed. Easy pickins.  
18 Things we could do quickly.

19           Oral histories. Branding and common vision.  
20 One Monument. Monument DVDs and book distribution.  
21 Signs and boundaries.

22           Trail groups as volunteer potential. Land  
23 acquisition. Year-round recreation. Law enforcement  
24 and marijuana eradication.

25           Visitor center staff uniforms. Visitor center

1 staff knowledge of Monument rules, programs, and  
2 policies. These are things they feel are ongoing  
3 already. We can continue those efforts or easily  
4 initiate some other things pretty quickly.

5 At which point it opens it up for discussion.  
6 This I think would be perhaps a good opportunity for  
7 Gary to daylight the Monument Advisory Committee's  
8 internal assessment. And then perhaps we have a  
9 discussion following that.

10 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Sure. I don't know if it's  
11 necessarily daylighting. As the committee should know  
12 at least by e-mail, a group of us discussed putting  
13 together sort of a consensus issue paper or opinion  
14 paper, I guess you would call it, as it related to  
15 probably the most important items in my mind that the  
16 MAC had been either discussing or frustrated with or  
17 observed.

18 I've sort of, and I think everybody that was  
19 involved, tried to gather all that information,  
20 coordinate it, put it into one concise document, and  
21 then forward it to the two agencies during this review  
22 process to hopefully provide some positive  
23 recommendations and observations and evaluations as far  
24 as what I could see coming from the majority or most of  
25 the membership of the MAC.

1           We did that. I went ahead and submitted an  
2 issue paper. I'm not going to go into details on it  
3 because I did send a copy to pretty much everybody on  
4 the committee. I hope you all got it, got a chance to  
5 review it and see it.

6           But in summary, many of the issues have been  
7 covered on the evaluation. So real quickly for the  
8 benefit of those that don't know, we felt as a committee  
9 that the Monument message was really important -- "be a  
10 Monument," which is referenced up there.

11           And the fact that it has to be certainly much  
12 more vigorous as far as the approach to getting the  
13 Monument out in front of the public and the area and  
14 take advantage of its unique capabilities and assets and  
15 contribute to peoples betterment of lives as well as  
16 contribute to the economic conditions in the valley and  
17 on top of the mountain as well and that type of thing.

18           So there were a significant number of  
19 recommendations that I took the liberty of consolidating  
20 from the thoughts from the MAC and putting forward. I  
21 hope that those were received well as it related to that  
22 particular issue.

23           We also recognized -- I think it's pretty  
24 clear that we felt that there probably was room for  
25 improvement on the two federal agencies that have

1 responsibility to work a little more closely.

2 A little more in cooperation. I'm really  
3 pleased to see that the evaluation pretty much validated  
4 that thought as well. I'll mention something on that  
5 just at the end of this.

6 The budget. Although I know the reference up  
7 there was no more of these budgets here -- whatever it  
8 is. I forget what it is.

9 MS. HENDERSON: Laborious.

10 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Laborious. There still  
11 continues to be -- at least in the five years that I've  
12 been sitting here, there continues to be a level of  
13 frustration I think amongst most of the committee on  
14 just how your budget works and how it affects the  
15 Monument.

16 More importantly how it affects the programs  
17 on the ground. I sort of gathered from that that we  
18 needed to be educated a little. Not in the laborious  
19 details as my esteemed colleague says to the right.

20 But just a little better idea of how we  
21 understand it works so that however possible the MAC can  
22 be utilized to assist you in being more effective and  
23 more efficient and more importantly getting more dollars  
24 to actually put on the ground in the Monument.

25 So I think that was more or less the intent of

1 the committee was how can we help. We certainly can't  
2 help if we don't understand and we don't know.

3 Acquisitions. The MAC continues to believe  
4 that there are key acquisitions that need to be made.  
5 We're here to assist you in that regard. I don't think  
6 acquisition considerations ever end.

7 So we'll always be considering what key  
8 parcels are critical to acquiring in the Monument and  
9 how can the MAC be of assistance to help you do that.

10 There was a feeling that the Monument needed  
11 more reporting relationship or whatever you wanted to  
12 call it. But it needed more recognition of its  
13 importance there seem to be.

14 And believe me. I see it's reflected in the  
15 evaluation. So it looks like we were pretty close on  
16 that one as well.

17 Then the MAC really wanted to see you folks  
18 concentrate over the next few years on working out some  
19 of the details on the Management Plan that I think we  
20 worked hard on to get completed, and we did.

21 Particularly we want to see more emphasis on  
22 visitor serving components of that plan put into place.  
23 Sometimes that involves capital outlay investment.

24 And I understand it takes a while in getting  
25 dollars and actually putting buildings up and that sort

1 of thing. But I think the MAC feels that that's really  
2 critical and important.

3           So that in summary is what we felt. We tried  
4 to condense it down into some -- you know, not all the  
5 issues. I didn't want to start addressing issues that  
6 we weren't in agreement on.

7           And there are some out there that we certainly  
8 don't agree on such as restoration efforts in high  
9 mountain meadows sometimes.

10           But these I felt that most of the committee  
11 was on the same page on. I want to first of all thank  
12 the evaluation team. I thought they were wonderful.

13           Second of all, I want to thank Jeanne for  
14 coming today and representing the Forest Service.  
15 Laurie has done an admirable job of attending nearly  
16 every meeting.

17           It's nice to see the Forest supervisor here.  
18 So that's a positive development already. And I want to  
19 compliment through Gail and Jeanne also the upper  
20 management -- Bernie and Mike in particular for their  
21 quick reaction.

22           If I remember correctly, I think Buford is the  
23 one that stimulated the idea that the higher-ups in the  
24 agencies needed to come down and talk to this group and  
25 others and find out where we were and where we're going.

1           It was kind of a key point in our existence.  
2   Credit needs to be given to those two. I'm sure there  
3   are others involved, but they probably are the ones that  
4   deserve the most for, you know, being receptive to that  
5   and then implementing something very quickly with a very  
6   positive acceptance.

7           Instead of worrying about what would be said,  
8   they grasped it like "this can help." And I recognize  
9   that's been infused throughout the agencies now. I want  
10  to compliment you all for that as well.

11           So that's enough expounding. But I do think  
12  you need some credit there. On behalf of the MAC, I'm  
13  really, really pleased how quickly this came about and  
14  the way it came about as well.

15           I had a very positive interview with the team.  
16  I'm sure many others around this table did as well.  
17  That's a long version of what you asked for, but you  
18  asked for it.

19           MR. FOOTE: Thank you.

20           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Mr. Crites.

21           MR. CRITES: Mr. Chair, if there is no  
22  objection, I would ask that the Chair send letters of  
23  appreciation both to the regional forester and state BLM  
24  director and to the specific members of the review team  
25  to thank them on behalf of us for their effort and their

1 cooperation and their interest.

2 MS. HENDERSON: Here here.

3 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Absolutely.

4 MR. CRITES: Thank you, sir.

5 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Gail.

6 MS. ACHESON: I just would like to say the  
7 review team when they first got here they coalesced very  
8 well it seemed. They were not only excited to be here,  
9 but when it was over they were so upbeat.

10 I've never seen a team that enjoyed their  
11 visit here and were so awed by what we have here.

12 So it was a very positive experience for them  
13 too. They really enjoyed it. They also said they would  
14 continue to be a resource for us if we needed to get any  
15 additional help or clarification.

16 So they really enjoyed their time here and  
17 thought it was very positive for them as well as for us.  
18 I just wanted to pass that on.

19 CHAIRMAN WATTS: It probably didn't hurt that  
20 it was 80 degrees here and 3 feet of snow in Washington.

21 Any other comments?

22 Bill.

23 MR. HAVERT: Are we going to do some  
24 discussion at this point? I was just going to put out  
25 an idea. One of the things that we might do at future

1 meetings is have standing report items.

2           The underlying assumption of that actually in  
3 order to identify what those would be, we would be  
4 really collectively agreeing on certain priorities.

5           These are some things that we collectively  
6 think are doable or some of those low hanging fruit  
7 items, as an example.

8           So having the standard report each time we  
9 meet is one way of ensuring that we're actually making  
10 progress in those particular areas and seeing what else  
11 can we do to continue to make progress in some of those  
12 areas.

13           Just to give you some examples of some things  
14 that were occurring to me about those, some of them  
15 might be really practical sorts of things like signage.

16           You know, that's something that hopefully  
17 there's an end point there. So if we're tracking that,  
18 we know that here's what needs to be done. Are we doing  
19 it, et cetera.

20           Another one might be the arena of budget from  
21 the standpoint that obviously there are certain key  
22 times during the year as the budget process is going  
23 through.

24           There are some things that are primarily  
25 agency activities. But there are other times of the

1 year when it really requires outside support groups to  
2 be doing some things to help make sure that the budget  
3 that is needed is in fact provided.

4           So just as an example, Buford was back in  
5 Washington just about a month ago, early February, and  
6 was meeting with a variety of different folks there  
7 primarily regarding acquisition funding.

8           There's no reason why there couldn't be some  
9 other connections being made at the appropriate times of  
10 year by Buford or whoever else happens to be back there.  
11 Obviously different cities have, you know, visits that  
12 they make back there.

13           With some additional coordination, there might  
14 be an opportunity to utilize some of those visits to,  
15 you know, meet with the right people, put in the right  
16 word at the right time of year about "here are some  
17 really specific funding needs that the Monument has.  
18 These are some of the areas where we have shortfalls.  
19 These are some of the areas that we have enormous  
20 opportunities, and maybe there's even some matching  
21 money out there."

22           Those sorts of things. So keep that kind of  
23 high profile for the Monument in Washington at the right  
24 time of year.

25           Another area might be that of visitor services

1 outreach, interpretive education things. What are we  
2 doing? What are the opportunities? Just making sure  
3 again that we're tracking those sorts of things.

4 Obviously this is sort of a two-part concept.  
5 One is let's get some consensus on what are some of  
6 those really key things that we can be doing, should be  
7 doing in which the MAC can play an important support  
8 role.

9 Then we have that feedback loop. So every  
10 time we meet we see, yep. This is the progress we're  
11 making. This is what else needs to be done. This is  
12 how we can help with those things.

13 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Terry.

14 MS. HENDERSON: Something just crossed my mind  
15 playing off of what Bill brought up. It's the signage  
16 issue. Very often I sit here and think we all need to  
17 go back to those agencies that we're representing and  
18 find out if they're willing to step to the plate because  
19 it's going to take money to get signs out.

20 I mean, you know, let's face it. It's not  
21 going to take that much money. I fail to do that.  
22 However, maybe the way to get that initiated is at  
23 today's meeting we request the Chairman with staff's  
24 help to address a letter that we could then -- in the  
25 case of City Councils take back to our City Council and

1 have it get on agendas.

2 So that way we can have that conversation as  
3 an official request from the Chairman on behalf of the  
4 MAC to approach the subject of financial commitment  
5 towards the signage program. So I would see if there's  
6 any support for that concept.

7 MS. ROCHE: Mary Roche. Absolutely. It's  
8 something we talked about before. It seemed the  
9 starting point in our discussions before was always that  
10 template of what we're going to give.

11 Because the cities can either contribute the  
12 financing or they -- I would think it would even be  
13 better if we were able to say, "This is how high the  
14 sign should be, and this is what should be on it. We  
15 would like you to be responsible for identifying each of  
16 these spots that are within your city boundaries where  
17 you are entering the Monument" --

18 MS. HENDERSON: Either/or.

19 MS. ROCHE: -- and let the cities do it. But  
20 we need that signage program universally identified and  
21 approved before we can go ahead.

22 But I think that that would be the proper way  
23 to do it. And let the cities do it in their own way.

24 MS. HENDERSON: And that works in some cases.  
25 But there are certainly more than cities that are

1 represented on this board.

2 MS. ROCHE: Absolutely.

3 MS. HENDERSON: There could be potential  
4 participation by those other agencies and funding. But  
5 either/or. I certainly would support either/or.

6 Maybe Mary is right. Maybe we really need to  
7 really buckle down and find out what's on the sign, how  
8 big is it, period. Over and done. I'm not talking  
9 about big Monument signs. I'm talking about ones that  
10 skirt the base of the Monument.

11 MS. ACHESON: We were just thinking or I just  
12 had the thought that as long as we're consistent -- I  
13 mean, we need to have that consistency.

14 Sometimes it is easier for other entities to  
15 get those signs, get them more quickly, and get them up.  
16 So we know that for a fact. But we certainly want to be  
17 consistent.

18 MS. HENDERSON: In the wording or in the style  
19 or everything?

20 MS. ROCHE: In the size.

21 MS. ACHESON: Style and everything.

22 CHAIRMAN WATTS: So if I understand this  
23 correctly, the MAC sends out a request to each of the  
24 entities in the Monument asking for a commitment  
25 financially for signage?

1 MR. MORGAN: Or put the signs up themselves.

2 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Or put the signs up  
3 themselves under some sort of consistency guideline or  
4 directive or assistance provided by the Monument folks.

5 Are you folks capable of getting something  
6 done along those lines in a fairly quick manner so that  
7 we would be prepared to seize on the opportunity should  
8 people respond positively to the letter from the MAC?

9 MR. FOOTE: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay.

11 Buford had his hand up first.

12 MR. CRITES: It's March. Cities are doing  
13 budgets. This needs to hit peoples desks very, very  
14 soon. It simply needs to say what you want on it and  
15 where you want it.

16 And that you'll offer staff assistance if the  
17 city needs it to figure out exactly where and so on and  
18 so forth to do it. I mean, we're doing it right now  
19 without any of that stuff. Just get it done.

20 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. It's sounds like we'll  
21 work together quickly to get a letter out. I'll need  
22 some guidance from you folks on behalf of the MAC,  
23 assuming that there's no objection to that letter going  
24 out.

25 In the meantime, parallel to that staff will

1 be working on the specifics on what works and what  
2 should be implemented?

3 MR. FOOTE: Uh-huh.

4 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Mary.

5 MS. ROCHE: In lieu of what Buford brought  
6 up -- and it was what I had raised my hand for -- was we  
7 are doing our budgets for the year. They will all be  
8 approved and complete in June.

9 We have to have that in. So maybe it's urgent  
10 to get a letter out initially. And then, say, within a  
11 two-week period of time, four-week period of time,  
12 you'll have the particulars to each city.

13 Because each of us has a different number of  
14 entry points too, where you have a lot more than we  
15 would. Or Rancho Mirage has a lot more.

16 But you need to identify what those are. But  
17 they need to start plugging in money, or it's not going  
18 to happen next year.

19 MS. HENDERSON: I think the suggestion was a  
20 place-setter. The first letter of place-setter, and a  
21 follow-up with the language. I don't know how we're  
22 going to establish a potential budget.

23 MS. ROCHE: I don't know either.

24 MR. FOOTE: If I may contribute. One of the  
25 things that comes to mind, because the consistency issue

1 is certainly one -- and I don't know about from city to  
2 city what their capabilities are internally of sign  
3 production.

4 But certainly there is local expertise in sign  
5 production. And if one sign company was identified as  
6 the source, they could have a template.

7 It's a matter of each city coming in, "We're  
8 ready to contribute money. We need 50 signs. Produce  
9 them." They know exactly what to produce. Every one  
10 that comes out is consistent. And then the cities go  
11 ahead and install those at identifying points.

12 MR. CRITES: Said letter also needs to go to  
13 the county, the Tribe, and State Parks.

14 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I think I referenced all  
15 entities within the Monument.

16 MR. MORGAN: Also the tram, I think.

17 MS. HENDERSON: Yeah. The tram.

18 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I think that's a marvelous  
19 opportunity to seize on the recommendations that are  
20 coming out of the assessment and certainly put you on a  
21 commitment that you folks need to come through on, if I  
22 may be so blunt.

23 MR. FOOTE: We already are there.

24 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Laurie.

25 MS. ROSENTHAL: Are we done with the signage?

1 I don't want to skip around and go back. I want to go  
2 back to respond to Bill, which was much more broad.

3 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I think we're done with  
4 signage.

5 MS. ROSENTHAL: I didn't hear any response  
6 really to Bill's recommendation. I was at the close-out  
7 for the Monument review.

8 When you saw the thing about not using the MAC  
9 efficiently, what was heard by MAC members and by agency  
10 people was that they're not being used efficiently  
11 really meant that there's just this huge talent and  
12 ability. It's a diamond in the rough right here.

13 The frustration by a lot of MAC members was  
14 that when we had this plan that we were working towards,  
15 everybody was rolling up their sleeves. We had working  
16 groups.

17 But once the plan was done, it was like why  
18 are we here? Where do we go? You know, we have this  
19 again kind of mission which is implementation of the  
20 plan. But, you know, the Monument is a huge place.

21 We can really scatter ourselves collectively.  
22 So there was this feeling that maybe the Monument  
23 Advisory Committee might want to focus on a few things  
24 rather than stay real broad.

25 So you know, roll up our sleeves and work

1 together. That's what I think I heard Bill say. He was  
2 indirectly maybe adopting three things that he thought  
3 the MAC might want to get involved with on a much deeper  
4 level, which was signage, budgets, and visitor services.

5 I want to see if that's what I'm hearing you  
6 say. Not just to put it on the agenda, but that these  
7 are three areas at least maybe for the next year that  
8 you're saying that the Monument Advisory Committee might  
9 want to adopt on the deeper commitment level.

10 MR. HAVERT: Yeah. And I didn't mean to  
11 suggest there were only three. Acquisition would be  
12 another immediate forth. And there may be a fifth and a  
13 sixth.

14 But my point was simply that if we have a  
15 consensus that these are some definite things that we  
16 can focus on, and each entity represented here can  
17 probably bring some different things to the table in  
18 terms of implementing those, that at least it would give  
19 us the focus.

20 That would give us all a way to contribute  
21 maximally and be providing support to the Monument and  
22 at the same time getting all the agencies directly  
23 involved in the Monument both focus and assistance as  
24 well.

25 MS. HENDERSON: Well, I would support having

1 consistent agenda items that we would discuss and get  
2 reports back on.

3 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I guess I kind of view it as  
4 we're an advisory committee. So I think that's a  
5 two-way street. I think this committee can -- and this  
6 is strictly my opinion.

7 I think the committee can advise you on issues  
8 they consider to be of importance, significance, that  
9 they have concerns about.

10 The other thing is we're an advisory committee  
11 that you can come to us on issues that are internally  
12 generated and seek advice or actions or that type of  
13 thing. So I agree with what's been said, but I don't  
14 want to just lock us into just specific items all the  
15 time.

16 I had one more comment as far as the general  
17 discussion if we can move past now. Using Laurie's  
18 example, are we done with that discussion?

19 Jeff.

20 MR. MORGAN: I have something maybe related  
21 going back to that laborious budgeting process and also  
22 something which Bill said regarding trying to ensure  
23 further funding.

24 What came out of the House Interior  
25 appropriations budget hearing on Wednesday was that the

1 Santa Rosa/San Jacinto Mountains National Monument  
2 operating funding has been cut by over \$500,000 for  
3 2007.

4 That is the biggest cut of any of the NLCS  
5 units in California. It's a huge cut. It's almost  
6 30 percent of the operating funding for this Monument  
7 next year.

8 So somehow somewhere, unless we can get some  
9 of that money put back, which I've attempted to do so  
10 through my contacts in Washington, it's going to be a  
11 very difficult time to accomplish anything new unless  
12 some of that money gets put back.

13 And this is separate from land and water  
14 conservation funds. This is actual operating budget  
15 funds. A huge cut.

16 So if you know anybody in Washington that can  
17 influence, you know, the house interior appropriations.  
18 This was supposed to go through the senate yesterday. I  
19 don't know what happened because I was busy all day.

20 MR. CRITES: Well, there's the example Bill  
21 speaks to where there are a lot of entities here from  
22 whom a letter to Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer and  
23 both Jerry Lewis and Mary Bono would carry some weight.  
24 Without that we're just one more agency sitting out  
25 there waiting to see what happens.

1                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: How would you propose we  
2 implement that, Buford? Some members can certainly  
3 speak up for that. Other members cannot.

4                   MR. CRITES: Right. Those that can, everyone  
5 can be provided with the information about what happened  
6 as well as the address to contact people and the  
7 deadline to do it by.

8                   While you can write on behalf of your agency,  
9 as private citizens you're quite welcome to make your  
10 comments known. As would be Al and other people who  
11 represent groups that will not take a stand but have  
12 interest.

13                  MR. HAVERT: Two things on that. I'd be happy  
14 to put together a little short list. Here's the names  
15 and addresses of the key people you want to send letters  
16 to. And maybe through the Chair, that could be  
17 disseminated to everybody.

18                  I guess the second question is, is there  
19 anything that precludes the Monument Advisory Committee  
20 from saying that it is our, you know, collective thought  
21 process recommendation that the Monument needs to be  
22 adequately funded, and a budget cut of that magnitude  
23 does not represent adequate funding?

24                  And then the MAC itself could send a letter to  
25 each of those entities and cc the agencies and so on.

1 So that would be step one is the MAC could do it just by  
2 consensus today.

3 And then two, we would provide the information  
4 to each of the member entities so that those who can and  
5 are so inclined can send their own separate letters.

6 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Is there anything federally  
7 that would prohibit the MAC as an entity from doing that  
8 type of activity, or do you need to research that?

9 MR. FOOTE: I don't know.

10 MR. MOWRY: No, there isn't.

11 MS. ACHESON: There isn't.

12 MR. MOWRY: The MAC is responsible for  
13 advising the Secretary of the Interior and Agriculture.  
14 And as such you're allowed to make that type of  
15 advisory.

16 Normally advisories are done through the  
17 Monument manager. But there's nothing that says in the  
18 charter or in the legislation that you cannot go  
19 directly.

20 MS. ACHESON: In fact, that does happen quite  
21 often in BLM.

22 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Should that motion be made  
23 and approved, somebody that has got some real skill at  
24 drafting one of those letters would be a big help to  
25 volunteer if that happens.

1 MR. HAVERT: Consider the motion made and the  
2 volunteer.

3 MS. HENDERSON: Seconded.

4 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Anyone object?

5 MR. MORGAN: Just one more point on this.

6 What came out in this budget, if you go down to the  
7 bottom of the page, it says "Consistent with.

8 the president's executive order

9 under cooperative conservation,

10 the NLCS has a number of high-priority

11 partnership projects."

12 You know, it's supporting advisory councils

13 completely in this. If you read through the lines, it's

14 kind of saying go get your own money as well. I'll make

15 this available to everyone afterwards.

16 MS. HENDERSON: Mr. Chair?

17 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Ms. Vice Chair.

18 MS. HENDERSON: I would request that Bill

19 share that letter via e-mail with the rest of us. I

20 think if I went back to the city, they would want some

21 of the technical facts behind what we're talking about

22 here.

23 I assume you will have taken care of that in

24 the letter?

25 MR. HAVERT: Yeah. I'll get the information

1 from Jeff and provide the basic information as well as  
2 the response.

3 MS. HENDERSON: Okay. Thank you very much.

4 MR. MORGAN: You can get it off the computer,  
5 you know, from -- it's posted on the computer almost  
6 immediately after these things happen.

7 MS. HENDERSON: Yeah.

8 MR. CRITES: Do you wish a second to Bill's  
9 motion?

10 MS. HENDERSON: I did.

11 MR. CRITES: Oh, she did.

12 CHAIRMAN WATTS: She did. All right. We have  
13 a motion. It's been seconded. Any discussion on that?  
14 All those in favor? Anyone opposed? The motion  
15 carries.

16 Okay. Are there other areas within the  
17 assessment that you would like to discuss?

18 Mary.

19 MS. ROCHE: Just one thing. When we worked  
20 together as the MAC group -- in preface, before we went  
21 in with the assessment -- one thing that you didn't make  
22 very clear in the summary that I thought that we  
23 discussed pretty thoroughly that I think should be  
24 brought forward here today is that we felt the Monument  
25 advisor has to be a higher-level functioner equal with

1 what we figured a regional director.

2 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I think in the paper we  
3 recommended that the reporting relationship go directly  
4 to the California Desert Director rather than the South  
5 Coast Field Office.

6 MS. ROCHE: Right. I think it's really  
7 important to point that out. Because there were those  
8 who felt it should be even higher than that.

9 What we did as a group was make a conscious  
10 compromise to say let's go for what we can go for. But  
11 it has to be a higher level than has been in the past.  
12 I just thought that should be on the record.

13 MS. ROSENTHAL: I'd like a little bit more  
14 clarification. If that happened what would you see  
15 different as a result of reporting to a higher level?

16 MS. ROCHE: Jeff, go ahead.

17 MS. ROSENTHAL: What is the underlying issue  
18 here?

19 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Jeff.

20 MR. MORGAN: Well, right now we kind of work  
21 as a board of directors for the Forest Service, the BLM,  
22 and the designated federal official acting Monument  
23 manager at that point.

24 It seems like there are several people all  
25 making individual decisions without -- how can I put it.

1 There's no consensus with one person moving forward and  
2 saying, "I'm the Monument manager and this is what we  
3 are."

4 I mean, it's vague and diversified. A strong  
5 Monument manager would be the face of the Monument, I  
6 guess, and would be able to make a decision and stick to  
7 it and not have to, you know, turn around and say to  
8 someone, "Here. Well, I've done this, and you shouldn't  
9 have done that."

10 So if you report to a higher level -- I  
11 suggest reporting to the state director, and you might  
12 not necessarily agree with me on that. As I say, it's  
13 just to try and get some consistency.

14 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Laurie, I think that there  
15 was a feeling that the Monument being as big as it is  
16 and as important as it is, it should be dealt with as a  
17 separate entity rather than being a part of the Forest,  
18 for example.

19 MS. ROSENTHAL: I see.

20 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I'm trying to explain. It  
21 should be considered maybe on equal footing with the  
22 Forest. I don't think the intent was to shift it away  
23 from one agency to another.

24 MS. ROSENTHAL: Right. Right.

25 CHAIRMAN WATTS: But still we recognize that

1 it was more to have it recognized as a more important or  
2 a higher-level entity with your structures.

3 And feeling that because of that, it would get  
4 a little more attention from, you know, mid-management  
5 on up. If I can -- if that's a --

6 MS. HENDERSON: Fair assessment.

7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Yes.

8 MS. ACHESON: That could be looked at. The  
9 workings of it are a little more difficult than what you  
10 imagined. Because really this Monument is not a  
11 stand-alone unit like a park unit or a national forest  
12 or something like that.

13 It's integrated into both of our offices as  
14 far. As the collateral help that the Monument gets,  
15 it's very small staffed. The likelihood of getting a  
16 lot more staff is very unlikely.

17 So I know that the San Jacinto ranger district  
18 staff that works for Laurie and my staff work a lot for  
19 the Monument. The budgets are integrated to a degree.

20 If the Monument manager reported to a higher  
21 authority, it would be very difficult for them to get  
22 staff-level support.

23 Be it admin -- whatever it might be. Biology.  
24 Any of the level of support that we would need, it would  
25 be hard to get that, say, from the district office.

1           I'm just trying to talk about the logistics of  
2 it actually working and whether you would actually get a  
3 better bang for the buck so to speak for the Monument, I  
4 don't know.

5           I think it would be quite difficult. But that  
6 doesn't mean it wouldn't be considered. Because this  
7 went up to Bernie and to Mike.

8           But we have other monuments in the state. We  
9 have five or six. I don't think any of our monuments in  
10 the National Landscape Conservation System report to the  
11 state director.

12           They all report to whatever the local field  
13 office is. I'll give you one example, though, that we  
14 do have. And it is a little difficult.

15           We have the California Coastal National  
16 Monument, which is all the rocks offshore. Well, it was  
17 protected before. Now it's a national monument.

18           The monument manager works for the deputy  
19 state director for resources in the California state  
20 office because it spans the whole coast.

21           We couldn't have that person working for five  
22 field managers so to speak. And the coordination of  
23 that is very difficult. Because you've got a person  
24 working for somebody in the state office, yet they need  
25 the resources from the field office to get things done.

1                   So I'm just trying to point out, it's not that  
2     it might not be some more visibility to it. I don't  
3     know that it's going to get you any more budget or  
4     support staff.

5                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: Buford.

6                   MR. CRITES: I would suspect that probably  
7     both Forest Service and BLM have had a learning curve in  
8     terms of internally how to put this new room not only on  
9     the house but partly in the house. It's an addition  
10    that's both internal and external.

11                  I think we've had personnel adjustments. I  
12    suspect if we give this a year to be looked at in terms  
13    of "the visibility" of a person to be the face of the  
14    Monument, I'm willing to bet that we're going to be a  
15    lot happier than we have been in the past in terms of  
16    how that coordination works.

17                  CHAIRMAN WATTS: Well, we certainly have some  
18    new players at the table. So I would tend to agree with  
19    you, Buford.

20                  With that, if we can --

21                  Jeanne.

22                  MS. WADE-EVANS: Just because of the  
23    recommendation and the agreement with you all that the  
24    Monument needs to be highlighted, spotlighted, elevated,  
25    I just want to acknowledge I agree with that.

1                   At the same time being the Forest Service  
2 rep -- a Forest Service rep on this working with Steve  
3 and Gail and Jim and Laurie, I'm a little apprehensive  
4 about not being able to play a leadership role in the  
5 Monument.

6                   It's exciting to us as well in terms of the  
7 expertise and the resources we can bring to the table  
8 for this. So I feel somewhat like Buford. I realize  
9 there's been some challenges.

10                  I would also like the opportunity to play a  
11 role in highlighting the Monument and bringing attention  
12 and resources to the Monument over the next year or so.

13                  CHAIRMAN WATTS: As I mentioned earlier, just  
14 having your presence here is a great sign already,  
15 Jeanne.

16                  Buford.

17                  MR. CRITES: I think we need to have Jim Foote  
18 as the face of the Monument person who literally  
19 consistently has his feet in the sand, and at least in  
20 symbolic fashion has the top of his head above tree  
21 level.

22                  MR. FOOTE: Thank you, I think. Thank you, I  
23 think.

24                  CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. I've been told that  
25 lunch is here. So we're going to break at this point in

1 time. It's a working lunch. I ask that you go in as  
2 usual.

3 MS. HENDERSON: Oh. Come on. Come on. Where  
4 does it say "working lunch"?

5 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Right there. "Lunch  
6 working."

7 MR. FOOTE: If I can make one last comment  
8 here on the agenda, Gary Schneider has been called away.  
9 He got a phone call during our meeting that his father  
10 went to the hospital. He had to leave. So it will no  
11 longer be part of the agenda.

12 CHAIRMAN WATTS: So does that mean Terry's  
13 wish is granted, and we can actually sit down and eat  
14 without hurrying?

15 MS. HENDERSON: Give us five minutes.

16 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Well, yeah. Take your time  
17 and get your food. Then come on back in.

18 (Off the record.)

19 (Brief lunch recess taken.)

20 CHAIRMAN WATTS: All right. We are going to  
21 go ahead and get started. Jeff, Buford, have a seat. I  
22 have vowed to make sure we get out of here at 1:00 like  
23 the agenda says.

24 Since I failed miserably on my first attempt  
25 at chairing the meeting, I'm gaging it by that. We've

1 got two remaining items that we need to get through  
2 quickly.

3           So I will ask your cooperation and indulgence  
4 to try to maximize our time that we have remaining. We  
5 want to wrap up the assessment part.

6           I'll let Jim just touch on that, but I think  
7 what they're looking for right now is what specifically  
8 does the MAC want to see done over the next period of  
9 time. A year or something like that.

10           Remember, we did make some specific  
11 recommendations in the letter that went to the agencies  
12 in the evaluation. They have assured me that they've  
13 looked at those, and they're going to be incorporating  
14 some of those.

15           So now is your chance to take within  
16 10 minutes -- no more than that -- to let Jim and the  
17 rest of the staff know what you'd like to see done.

18           Jim, take it from here.

19           MR. FOOTE: Okay. I'm going to start with the  
20 signs. Based on our conversation before, it sounds like  
21 a high priority. We're really looking at what can we  
22 accomplish here and what do we want to do in this second  
23 half of the fiscal year, which takes us to the end of  
24 September.

25           That's really the time frame we're looking at.

1 We want to look at the recommendations what you're  
2 having here rolled into action plan.

3 And I think what's really interesting is  
4 Gail's fortune cookie, which says "new financial  
5 resources will soon become available to you."

6 Mine says "someone is interested in you. Keep  
7 your eyes open."

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That would be us.

9 MR. FOOTE: So right now I'm looking for a  
10 list of what you consider priorities for the agency to  
11 work on in the next half year.

12 Really what we're thinking of is what can we  
13 do on the ground. What is it you want to see in  
14 particular on-the-ground tangible things that we can  
15 start to develop.

16 Now that we've kind of worked through and are  
17 just about wrapping up some of our budget issues in  
18 terms of what's available for us to spend on these  
19 things. And then we'll start to pursue some of those  
20 partnerships working with you.

21 But what is it based on what you saw this  
22 morning, what you're thinking now as to where we need to  
23 go?

24 CHAIRMAN WATTS: We need to seize on some of  
25 those opportunities. One thing I would encourage you to

1 do over the next year or so or less is we can speak in  
2 here as a committee all we want and managers all we want  
3 about how united and cohesive and supportive and  
4 passionate and everything else.

5 But the key component in the National Monument  
6 are the people that work there, that have uniforms that  
7 spend every day that interact with people.

8 This is delicate. I don't know how you do  
9 this. You need to give it some thought. But I would  
10 suggest you have a one-day retreat or something like  
11 that.

12 Get the key people -- it doesn't have to be  
13 everybody -- the key people from all the representatives  
14 that actually are providing services every day and start  
15 working on how are we going to incorporate the big  
16 picture Monument message across the entire boundary and  
17 still respect each other's respective missions or  
18 authorities or existence and that type of thing.

19 Really the key component is if people on the  
20 ground don't buy into the concept, it's really difficult  
21 to get that across to people. So I hope that  
22 long-winded concept makes sense to you, Jim.

23 MR. FOOTE: If I can translate this correctly,  
24 we're looking at disseminating a message that's  
25 consistent, but at the same time preserving the

1 independent jurisdictions, identities, and messages?

2 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Yeah. For instance, in the  
3 evaluation it mentioned that there needed to be more  
4 involvement with State Parks. I'll leave it at that.  
5 It didn't say that exactly.

6 State Parks should have a representative. The  
7 tramway should have a representative. Forest Service  
8 and BLM and others. We should talk about how can we  
9 improve the message at the top of the tram and start  
10 working along that line.

11 It may not happen this month or within a year,  
12 but we need to start discussing amongst staff members  
13 how that works at the same time recognizing that there's  
14 still these independent autonomous identities. And we  
15 don't want to squelch that.

16 MS. ROCHE: Is there a way along with that  
17 that we can come up with some identifying part of a  
18 uniform -- a badge or something -- that the other  
19 entities could also -- maybe it's a badge you put on or  
20 something that says that you're in the National Monument  
21 and you're representing that as well as your own entity?

22 I know you have uniform standards for each of  
23 your entities. But if there were some other way of  
24 saying while you're here, I'm also representing the  
25 National Monument.

1 MS. ROSENTHAL: Or ask me about the National  
2 Monument.

3 MS. ROCHE: Well, that's fine. Maybe that's  
4 the way to do it. An ask-me pin.

5 MS. ACHESON: Mary, are you talking about  
6 other than the visitor center?

7 MS. ROCHE: Yes. I'm talking about other than  
8 the visitor center. Yes.

9 MS. ACHESON: I want to go back to the first  
10 part of your question. Forest Service and BLM, we both  
11 do have uniforms. But we really I think both feel there  
12 should be a Monument uniform.

13 MS. ROCHE: Right.

14 MS. ACHESON: There's probably something we  
15 can do immediately which is not costly until we decide  
16 if there is something more we want to do.

17 We have T-shirts up there right now. Pick a  
18 color and put on some pants. At least in the interim so  
19 everybody knows that they work for the Monument. At  
20 least at the visitor center.

21 I don't see a problem with coming up with  
22 something for representatives of other agencies at other  
23 locations.

24 CHAIRMAN WATTS: There may be. But in the  
25 interest of time rather than flushing out this

1 discussion, let's throw the ideas up.

2           You guys can go back and look at them, come  
3 back with a report. And we can get as much up there as  
4 we need to, if that's okay.

5           MS. ACHESON: Yeah.

6           MR. FOOTE: Right now I have the issue of the  
7 boundary signs, the thought that Gary had about  
8 dissemination of the Monument message to discuss among  
9 the various entities, but don't squelch the individual  
10 identities.

11           Mary's thought about the uniform and badge to  
12 represent the National Monument while respecting  
13 individual jurisdiction identities, and then Forest  
14 Service/BLM National Monument uniform.

15           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Bill.

16           MR. HAVERT: Is there consistent material  
17 information, whether it's in the form of displays or  
18 printed materials or whatever that are available and  
19 distributed to people in the matter where they're  
20 approaching the Monument from, whether at the tram, the  
21 visitor center, et cetera, et cetera? Is that something  
22 that's doable?

23           MR. FOOTE: I'd say the latter. I don't think  
24 we've taken full advantage of disseminating that  
25 information. I think part of that hopefully comes back

1 to all the partners, the entities starting to recognize  
2 themselves as part of the Monument and have this  
3 willingness to start to push out that information.

4 I think that's a key component. It goes back  
5 to this idea of us what is the National Monument? Who  
6 are we? Well, "we" is not just Forest Service, BLM, and  
7 the Tribe. "We" is the City of La Quinta, Indian Wells,  
8 State Parks, the tram. That's the Monument.

9 So once I think people embrace the "we"  
10 concept, they will be more than willing. I think that's  
11 a quick solution to start to find venues for what we're  
12 distributing from the Monument.

13 MR. HAVERT: Especially if you start at the  
14 highest point of the visitor location, which is probably  
15 the tram, Indian Canyons, visitor center where you  
16 probably have the vast majority of the people heading in  
17 the Monument.

18 MR. FOOTE: So information dissemination at  
19 multiple locations would probably seize on that  
20 opportunity pretty quickly I would hope.

21 That comes to -- I don't think in the sense of  
22 we need to establish some formalized agreements  
23 necessarily up front. A lot of these places would just  
24 accept information for distribution.

25 I knew we certainly do for other agencies at

1 the visitor center. It's just a matter of saying,  
2 "Yeah. We'd be glad to do that." Put it in the proper  
3 location. That would be a good start.

4 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Buford.

5 MR. CRITES: Go gather funding so that you can  
6 leap on a new trails map the second it's approved.

7 MR. FOOTE: You and I had this discussion.  
8 You're right. The trails map issue, I think this is one  
9 where we don't need to be waiting in my mind for  
10 resolution of the Trails Plan.

11 This trails map as we've seen developed for,  
12 for instance, Joshua Tree National Park recently through  
13 National Geographic has trails illustrated, is something  
14 that we can move on.

15 If we have issues with rules and regulations  
16 that might change as they come up, that's simply an  
17 insert type of provider. But we need a base map that we  
18 can start working on. So I think that's a good one we  
19 can at least start working on and see where it takes us.

20 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Jeff.

21 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. When you put together that  
22 trails map, I think you should at the Skyline trail put  
23 the full trail on it, and don't just show it going up a  
24 couple of miles and stopping in the middle of nowhere.

25 It's one of most popular trails in the

1 Monument. It's gets hundreds or thousands of visitors  
2 that go up that trail anytime there's no snow and ice.  
3 It's used every month of the year. All the other maps  
4 that I've ever seen just show it going up and stopping.

5 MR. FOOTE: I agree. I just had a  
6 conversation with Eddie -- I can't remember how to  
7 pronounce his last name.

8 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Barracha.

9 MR. FOOTE: Barracha. Thank you. I have his  
10 card right here. We had this discussion before. This  
11 is an issue where it's nationally known people will  
12 continue to come.

13 The issue of safety and search and rescue --  
14 all those kinds of things -- just need to be addressed  
15 to the satisfaction of State Parks. Some of that may be  
16 signing, may be something so that people can safely use  
17 the trail.

18 We're going to have a discussion with Eddie  
19 and local interested citizen George Alia, who is pushing  
20 the issue and trying to help and who wants to help to do  
21 what they can. We'll see if we can follow through on  
22 that.

23 MR. MORGAN: Just one more request. More of a  
24 long-term plan is go ahead and start making plans for  
25 the trail head near Snow Creek --

1 MR. FOOTE: Okay.

2 MR. MORGAN: -- so that you will get rid of  
3 two problems: People illegally parking and people in  
4 the village getting fed up with people illegally  
5 parking. You have the land available, and it's already  
6 disturbed land.

7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. Any last-minute items?

8 MR. FOOTE: That's enough.

9 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Feel free to carry this on  
10 next time, Jim, if you feel that your plate isn't full  
11 enough.

12 MR. FOOTE: Just a quick comment on the Snow  
13 Creek issue. We have had discussions before. Right now  
14 there's an optimal location review going on by the Park  
15 Service, Forest Servicer, BLM and others relative to the  
16 PTC in that area.

17 But there may be certainly a short-term  
18 solution that is easy to follow through on. We've  
19 already discussed a few years ago the residents of Snow  
20 Creek. And I think you're right. It's not a difficult  
21 one.

22 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. While Jim makes his  
23 way back, I'd like to thank Bob Brockman and the City of  
24 Rancho Mirage for providing lunch today. It was very  
25 good. Thank you.

1 MR. BROCKMAN: I'll pass that along to my  
2 assistant. She was instrumental.

3 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay.

4 Jim, you have some National Monument updates  
5 for us.

6 MR. FOOTE: Okay. First one is hang gliding  
7 decision. October 1st, 2005. I'll read that directly  
8 what that recommendation was.

9 "The BLM initiate consideration  
10 of an amendment process that  
11 would allow something equivalent  
12 to a special use permit for  
13 hang gliding at Vista Point  
14 while not at all aborting the  
15 Forest Service efforts of  
16 looking for an alternative  
17 without prejudging how that  
18 should be done, funding issues  
19 or anything else."

20 That was the motion that was made. It was  
21 voted seven in favor, three in opposition, one  
22 abstention.

23 "The National Monument board of  
24 directors, which is comprised of  
25 the San Bernardino national forest

1 supervisor, the San Jacinto  
2 district ranger, the BLM California  
3 desert district manager, BLM Palm  
4 Springs/South Coast field manager,  
5 and the National Monument manager  
6 considered at length whether to  
7 pursue an amendment to the National  
8 Monument Plan as regards to the  
9 decision prohibiting hang gliding  
10 and similar activities in and  
11 adjacent to essential Bighorn sheep  
12 habitat."

13 "At this time this amendment will  
14 not be pursued. There are many  
15 other important tasks to be  
16 accomplished this year with the  
17 available BLM and Forest Service  
18 resources. Pursuing a Plan  
19 amendment would divert these  
20 resources at the expense of  
21 accomplishing higher priority tasks."

22 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay.

23 MR. FOOTE: That's the decision.

24 MS. ROCHE: That means nothing is going to  
25 happen.

1                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: Dawn asked what that means.

2                   So it simply means that hang gliding will still be  
3                   prohibited within the National Monument.

4                   MR. FOOTE: The current decision stands.

5                   MR. MORGAN: Within Peninsular bighorn sheep  
6                   habitat and not just been the National Monument?

7                   MR. FOOTE: Right. As indicated in the last  
8                   MAC meeting, John Ladley reported that it had been put  
9                   on the Forest Service work plan for '06, but it was  
10                  unlikely that it would be approved and funded for '06.  
11                  I'm assuming that would be considered in the next year's  
12                  work plan.

13                  MS. ROSENTHAL: Right. Especially in light of  
14                  the fact that we were going to look at this amendment  
15                  first. So it is not on the '06 program of work, but we  
16                  can certainly look at it for '07.

17                  MS. HENDERSON: And '08 and '09.

18                  MR. FOOTE: Buford.

19                  MR. CRITES: How long does the committee have  
20                  to wait before we might choose to make that  
21                  recommendation again?

22                  MR. FOOTE: Before the committee would like to  
23                  make a recommendation again?

24                  MR. CRITES: Uh-huh.

25                  MR. FOOTE: I think that's the prerogative of

1 the committee to make a recommendation. We won't govern  
2 in what time that would be.

3 MR. CRITES: So if we want this back on the  
4 next meeting agenda for the next year, we can so ask for  
5 it to be there; right?

6 MR. FOOTE: I'll defer to the MAC chair.

7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: You can ask to put it on the  
8 agenda.

9 MR. CRITES: Yep.

10 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I would just say that the  
11 management committee or what did you call it? The board  
12 of directors, it looks like they made a pretty clear  
13 decision.

14 I'd think we'd have to weight. And  
15 certainly -- I just think we need to weigh if we're  
16 going to go right back and ask for it again.

17 Al Muth.

18 MR. MUTH: So the decision was simply based on  
19 inavailability of funding to pursue it at this time?  
20 It's not based on any reexamination of data or new data  
21 that's has come about?

22 MR. FOOTE: Correct.

23 MR. MUTH: So the management decision is not  
24 based on science?

25 MR. FOOTE: The management decision is based

1 on the need to accomplish priority tasks. That is, of  
2 course, some of those that we see on the board here that  
3 the MAC has identified and that we've seen before.

4 Understanding that undertaking plan amendments  
5 involves considerable resources and those resources, and  
6 those resources, the Board of Directors feels would be  
7 better spent certainly accomplishing the tasks that  
8 we've identified, for instance, here.

9 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I'm going to ask a quick  
10 question. Did the Board of Directors take into  
11 consideration the voting on the recommendation?

12 MR. FOOTE: Whether it was seven to three or  
13 whatever the vote was?

14 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Yes. As opposed to  
15 unanimous.

16 MR. FOOTE: No.

17 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. Anyway, we can bring  
18 it again if you'd like to at the next agenda and discuss  
19 it at that time.

20 MR. CRITES: It's hard for me to say my  
21 opinion. We have now effectively through what I  
22 considered a flawed initial process excluded a  
23 recreational group.

24 I think had we done as good a job as we  
25 probably should have done in terms of outreach and input

1 on that, we would never have been in this position.

2 And now because we're in this position and  
3 because it's a pain to undo this position potentially  
4 should that be the right decision, we won't do anything.

5 Just as one person, I understand resources and  
6 everything else. But I think we have told one group who  
7 has no alternative.

8 The Forest Service thing will not happen in my  
9 lifetime, nor is it probably even a reasonable idea to  
10 try something off the top of Santa Rosa Mountain. We've  
11 in essence told them, "you're out of business in your  
12 National Monument."

13 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. If we can -- as I  
14 said, we can bring this up at another meeting. We'll  
15 try to wrap this up.

16 Terry.

17 MS. HENDERSON: I know you were waiting for me  
18 to put my hand down. I think it sends a pretty  
19 dangerous message out there on amendments to plans,  
20 based on what is currently going on with the Coachella  
21 Valley with the Multispecies Habitat Plan and the  
22 ability of local control over potential future of the  
23 preservation area by local people and the ability if  
24 it's reasonable to make amendments.

25 This document was approved under the same

1 knowing circumstances that amendments can potentially go  
2 through the process. It doesn't mean that the end of  
3 the process it will be granted, but it can go through  
4 the process.

5 Now, I'd like to have just briefly other than  
6 manpower in perhaps filling up the necessary paperwork,  
7 what are the substantial resources that it's going to  
8 take from you, for instance, or whoever has to do this  
9 to go forward with an amendment?

10 MR. FOOTE: Do you want me to answer that?

11 MS. ACHESON: You can go and can take a stab.

12 MR. FOOTE: Okay. And I'll ask for assistance  
13 if that's necessary, or they can chime in. The  
14 undertaking of an amendment is very much like the  
15 planning process in and of itself in that you identify  
16 your proposal. You identify alternatives.

17 For us it would be a National Environmental  
18 Policy Act document that would be circulated for public  
19 review and comment.

20 We get comments back. We create a final plan.  
21 We issue a decision record, all which takes considerable  
22 time and money to do.

23 Right now we're looking at balancing,  
24 obviously, trying to do various things. I think perhaps  
25 one of the key phrases -- I don't know if you picked up

1 on that in what I was saying. I said "at this time."

2 That does not mean never. Certainly at this  
3 point we have an obligation, and I feel a very strong  
4 obligation, to make things happen on the ground.

5 To the degree that I or others would be  
6 diverted into an action such as this means that some of  
7 this would not occur. We can't do it all.

8 The Board of Directors has determined that the  
9 best use of these resources at this time is to pursue  
10 accomplishing some of these tasks on the ground.

11 MS. HENDERSON: That sounds very reasonable  
12 and very logical. But it also supports the fear that  
13 people have on these kinds of documents when the  
14 terminology "amendments" is used.

15 MR. FOOTE: Uh-huh.

16 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. Just to present the  
17 other side of the coin, since I'm the chair, I still  
18 stand by the fact that the community had a chance to  
19 come in when we were developing the plan and provide  
20 input. That wasn't done.

21 The MAC made the recommendation based on the  
22 information we had at the time. There seemed to be no  
23 discussion or issue with the facts.

24 So I know there were dissenting votes on that  
25 motion that went forward. I for one think the

1 management committee made the right decision on that.  
2 Whatever the reason they came up with, it still is the  
3 right decision in my mind.

4 So that being said, if Buford, you want to  
5 agendize that for the next time and talk further, we  
6 certainly will.

7 MR. CRITES: I do. If we can't take this as  
8 an amendment, then I think Terry's comment about the  
9 lack of resource means we won't do amendments.

10 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Fair enough.

11 Okay. Can we move on to Dunn Road now?

12 MS. HENDERSON: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN WATTS: It's a less controversial  
14 thing.

15 MS. HENDERSON: Oh, yeah.

16 MR. FOOTE: Dunn Road assessment. And  
17 evaluation of the Dunn Road condition with regards to  
18 the project scope and estimated costs of repair has not  
19 been completed.

20 A Forest Service engineer from the  
21 supervisor's office did make one visit to the road and  
22 needs a return visit to finish that process.

23 The next item was the Web page or sites.  
24 We're looking to modify the National Monument Web page  
25 and be able to provide kind of like a download of

1 information about the Monument on issues as they arise,  
2 some of which are raised by the MAC, some of which might  
3 be minor issues that can simply be some discussion on  
4 the Web page.

5 We don't want to be lengthening MAC meetings  
6 by talking about 15 different items that can be  
7 described or discussed on the Web page at least as an  
8 initial process.

9 So we're looking at doing something along  
10 those lines to again partly help facilitate the Monument  
11 meetings moving quicker to dispense in another forum of  
12 some issues and discussions.

13 Community Wildlife Protection Plan. As you  
14 may know, the development of the CWPP was authorized  
15 under the Health Forest Initiative, but it's not a  
16 federal action.

17 The Forest Service and BLM did participate,  
18 but neither agency was the lead in this community  
19 effort. The signatories of the plan are the Riverside  
20 County Board of Supervisors, the Idyllwild fire chief,  
21 and the California Department of Forestry.

22 Comments on the draft plan were received and  
23 have been analyzed, and a final draft will be sent to  
24 the Board of Supervisors on March 15th.

25 BLM and Forest Service updates. The permit to

1 replace the billboard Monument sign on Highway 74 has  
2 been granted by Caltrans.

3 MS. ROCHE: Thanks, Buford.

4 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Halleluiaah.

5 MR. FOOTE: Before the sign can be replaced,  
6 we're waiting for two things. One, the temperature  
7 needs to be stay warm so the concrete can set properly.  
8 And additional staff is needed as the project will take  
9 two weeks of dedicated staff time.

10 It's anticipated that in the next few months  
11 the Forest Service will have staff on board and the  
12 temperature will climb.

13 MS. ROCHE: For sure.

14 MR. FOOTE: The BLM has attempted to contract  
15 Caltrans with regards to the installation of a Monument  
16 sign on Highway 111 immediately west of Snow Creek Road,  
17 but the telephone call has not yet been returned. We'll  
18 continue to pursue that.

19 Rescoping has begun for the Pinyon fuels  
20 reduction project. The reason for rescoping in Pinyon  
21 is due to the potential land exchange with the Friends  
22 of the Desert Mountains. An additional mile of fuel  
23 break is needed to protect the community.

24 At the last MAC meeting, since then we've had  
25 changes in personnel at the visitor center.

1 Bonnie Atkins remains as the one lone permanent employee  
2 of BLM.

3 Pending filling of other positions to  
4 emergency hires, one from each of the agencies are  
5 filling in. Initially Gail Hevron worked for Forest  
6 Service, while Valerie Franklin worked for BLM.

7 Now that their emergency appointments have  
8 expired, Gail will be working for BLM while Valerie will  
9 work for Forest Service. This will take us into May.

10 The Art Smith Trail reroute project has been  
11 completed, including the fencing in Dead Indian and  
12 Chorizo Canyons.

13 Construction of the Hop-Along Cassidy trail  
14 which will ultimately connect the Art Smith with the  
15 Bump and Grind is continuing, though the segment between  
16 the Art Smith Trail and existing Hoppy Trail at Homme  
17 Adams Park is on hold until after the bighorn sheep  
18 lambing season. The entire trail should be completed by  
19 the end of this year.

20 Educational programs -- one last note -- for  
21 elementary school children are underway with assistance  
22 from Friends of the Desert Mountains.

23 These programs are very well-received and very  
24 effective in connecting children with the National  
25 Monument resources.

1                   One final note on personnel issues. Those  
2 that are familiar with Lisa Wirtz, our BLM law  
3 enforcement ranger, she is leaving at the end of the  
4 month. Jody Schertell, who is a law enforcement officer  
5 also with BLM in our office, will be taking her place.

6                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: Bill, you first.

7                   MR. HAVERT: Just a quick note. There is an  
8 initiative measure being circuited to qualify a resource  
9 protection initiative for the state ballot in November.

10                   It's much like Propositions 12 and 40, park  
11 and open space type of measure. This particular one  
12 includes \$36 million for the Coachella Valley Mountains  
13 Conservancy for land acquisition.

14                   If anyone is interested in looking at the  
15 measure and incidentally signing it or getting other  
16 people to sign it, see me. There are copies here.

17                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: Buford.

18                   MR. CRITES: The signage up on 74.

19                   MR. FOOTE: Uh-huh.

20                   MR. CRITES: Are they also going to while  
21 they're their work on the gate on the mountain road?

22                   MR. FOOTE: Do you know any more about that,  
23 Laurie?

24                   MS. ROSENTHAL: What gate?

25                   MR. FOOTE: Which gate?

1                   MR. CRITES: The Santa Rosa Mountain Road is  
2 100 yards away, and you guys need to reinforce the  
3 concrete and do some fixing there if you ever want to  
4 use it. It just seems like while you're there.

5                   MS. ROSENTHAL: Oh. I see what you're saying.  
6 Good idea.

7                   MR. CRITES: You're a hundred yards away and  
8 you're done.

9                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: Mr. Brockman.

10                  MR. BROCKMAN: On the Monument video, I'm  
11 assuming that there are no restrictions that any of us  
12 have in being able to disseminate that throughout the  
13 community at this point.

14                  The City of Rancho Mirage, we have already  
15 started talking about how we were going to do our part  
16 to disseminate the video.

17                  We're thinking of showing it in council  
18 chambers before council meetings. We're thinking of  
19 having it rebroadcast through our cable affiliates after  
20 council meetings to get it around to more of our  
21 constituents.

22                  We're even talking to Time Warner about  
23 including it as one of the video on demand services.  
24 For those who subscribe to that, that might be  
25 available. And have it at the library and maybe even at

1 our schools. So that will help get it out to at least  
2 to a portion of our community.

3 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Response?

4 MR. FOOTE: As I understand it, it's copyright  
5 to BLM.

6 MR. MOWRY: Well, yeah. Correct. As far as  
7 I'm aware, there should be no restriction of you being  
8 able to do that.

9 I would simply suggest that you contact  
10 Frank Jones and let him know the plans with Time Warner.  
11 Because I was under the impression that that was part of  
12 the marketing plan that he was going to be doing, but I  
13 may be wrong because I don't remember.

14 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Could we ask BLM to do that?

15 MR. MOWRY: Yeah. We can follow up on that.

16 MS. ACHESON: We'll follow up on that.

17 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. Great.

18 MR. BROCKMAN: Well, let me know if there's  
19 anything that is really an obstacle. Some of us have  
20 already had conversations about doing this in our  
21 community. It's something that we all want to do. But  
22 if there's a copyright problem, let me know.

23 MR. MOWRY: I don't think there should be.  
24 Because the original concept behind this project was to  
25 make it available to all the cities and all the city

1 councils and all the public libraries and all the  
2 visitor centers for continual use and running.

3           So as far as I know, there should not be any  
4 kind of copyright problem. I will follow up on that,  
5 I'll let everybody know in that process.

6           MR. FOOTE: The only thing that immediately  
7 comes to mind is if there was commercial use of the  
8 video, that could become an issue.

9           If someone decided they were going to screen  
10 this and charge money, that probably would be what would  
11 raise it's ugly head at that point.

12           MR. MOWRY: Yeah.

13           MR. FOOTE: But short of that, I can't see any  
14 problems.

15           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. Well, we'll look  
16 forward to you following up on that.

17           Anything else, Jim?

18           Jeff.

19           MR. FOOTE: No.

20           MR. MORGAN: I have a question for Jim.

21           On that Community Wildfire Protection Plan,  
22 You said the final draft is going where?

23           MR. FOOTE: Board of Supervisors.

24           MR. MORGAN: Is that final draft available to  
25 the public at this point?

1 MR. FOOTE: Is that, Laurie?

2 MS. ROSENTHAL: Not quite yet.

3 MR. MORGAN: When will it be available?

4 MS. ROSENTHAL: I think the week of the 15th.

5 MR. MORGAN: Okay.

6 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yeah.

7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Are there any agenda items  
8 for the next meeting? I would ask that you send them to  
9 Jim Foote or to me so that we can get that incorporated  
10 as we put the agenda together.

11 I was just thinking of the old man in the  
12 mountain back in New Hampshire, and I'm going to start  
13 thinking of you as the Foote in the Monument.

14 MR. FOOTE: But remember the old man in the  
15 mountain lost his nose.

16 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Any summary and review and  
17 our next meeting, Jim.

18 MR. FOOTE: Summary? I think it's fair to say  
19 that this was a very productive meeting with regards to  
20 issues that came forward and gives us some direction to  
21 move in completing our plan of work for the fiscal year.

22 Then we'll, I think in line with what Bill is  
23 indicating, be reporting on these accomplishments on a  
24 MAC-by-MAC meeting where we are on those, how we're  
25 doing. I think that works very well.

1                   Again, the agenda items to be scheduled.  
2     Please send those to me if you have some additional  
3     ones. We've already heard the one on the hang  
4     gliding -- to consider that as an agenda item for the  
5     next meeting.

6                   With that, thank you all for coming.

7                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: We'll also be putting out  
8     thank-you letters to the review staff. We'll also be  
9     putting a letter together to go to the entities in the  
10    Monument on the signs.

11                  And probably some other things in there that I  
12    forgot. I know I've failed. We're seven minutes after  
13    1:00.

14                  Is there anything else before we adjourn?

15                  MR. FOOTE: One last point on the sign issue.  
16    I think at this point we will try to identify or create  
17    a prototype that then we can take to the various  
18    entities with a source and say, "Here it is. Does  
19    everybody like what this is?"

20                  At which point you simply have to identify  
21    that you need so many. We're going to kind to identify  
22    where they go. You can go to the source, pick them up  
23    and put them in.

24                  MS. ROCHE: That's fine.

25                  MR. FOOTE: That will be our plan of attack.

1 CHAIRMAN WATTS: The date of our next meeting?

2 MR. FOOTE: Is June 3rd, I believe. Is that  
3 the first Saturday?

4 MS. HENDERSON: Yep. June 3rd.

5 MR. FOOTE: June 3rd is our next meeting.

6 CHAIRMAN WATTS: With that we stand adjourned.

7 (The proceedings concluded at 1:10 p.m.)

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