



## ***GREETINGS FROM THE SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT***

The Santa Rosa and the San Jacinto Mountains National Monument has had a busy summer season. Since spring and our public workshops regarding the Draft National Monument Plan the staff of both BLM and USFS replied to a variety of comments. The National Monument Plan is still on schedule for a fall release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and an expected Record of Decision to happen in January 2004. This has been a “monumental” effort with assistance from many folks both agency, community, Tribal and our National Monument Advisory Committee. The Plan will serve as a road map for future cooperative management within the National Monument. We are very proud of our relationships with the local Tribes and the input they have provided to the final plan for future conservation, education and preservation of cultural resources. The National Monument Cultural Resources work group headed by Barbara Gonzales-Lyons met for many hours to ensure a strong component within the National Monument Plan. The trails plan is still being developed with the Coachella Valley Association of Government and this important hub to recreational activities within the National Monument has a proposed draft plan date for fall 2003.

Over the summer Palm Springs Life Magazine in partnership with International Mapping developed a feature story about the National Monument. This incredible story and photo journey will be out in October which coincides with the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Celebration. The National Monument is most grateful for the gift of this article to our publics. On October 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00 AM the Highway 74 Visitor Center will host a variety of public events including basket weaving and pottery demonstration with members of the Santa Rosa tribe. The La Quinta Arts Foundation will once again have a plein air gathering of artists at the Visitor Center. The winner will be next year’s National Monument poster. Last years’ winning painting will be available at the Visitor Center as a poster. The La Quinta Arts Foundation will also be hosting a children’s art activity at the Visitor Center. We hope you will come and celebrate the National Monument’s third birthday at the Visitor Center. Starting November 1, the Palm Springs Desert Museum will be having an exhibit titled, “*Jeepers Creepers: Scary Desert Creatures*” which the National Monument and the BLM have helped to sponsor.

Tracy Liegler has continued to weave together a series of monthly activities tied to various themes and to the National Monument for our community, children and visitors to experience. This fall’s schedule looks enticing with talks ranging from Peninsular bighorn sheep to Native American creation stories as well as a series of walks.

This summer we lost our community planner Connell Dunning to the Environmental Protection Agency, Connell needed to get closer to her loved one. We have hired Melissa Bristow as our new community planner and she comes to us from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Ranger David Korzelius is developing some walks and talks for this season and is available to provide talks about the National Monument to community members. Bonnie Adkins has been busy working to get 2 key portal signs for the National Monument at Highway 74 and on Highway 111. Pam Hansen has been creating a variety of informational tools and is there to meet and greet at the Highway 74 Visitor Center. The Bobcat Bookstore at Visitor Center is a great place for gifts and information about these mountains, the wildlife and some of the characters. As always Happy Trails, Danella George, National Monument Manager, Fall 2003