

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters



## City of Palm Springs

Office of the Mayor  
3200 Tahquitz Canyon Way • Palm Springs, California 92262  
TEL (760) 323-8200 • FAX (760) 323-8207 • TDD (760) 864-9527

June 19, 2003

Ms. Danella George, Secretary  
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Advisory Committee  
PO Box 581260  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258

Re: Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. George:

The City Council, at its June 18, 2003 meeting adopted the City Council Resolution No. 20639. This Resolution and its attachment represent the City's comments and recommendations on the Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The primary issues included in the City Council Resolution are as follows:

- Draft Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan allows issuance of take permits and the National Monument Plan needs to clearly reflect this.
- The National Monument Plan needs to reflect and clearly state that the National Monument Act of 2000 clearly states that it does not affect private land, municipal plans, and the rights to develop private property within and adjacent to the National Monument.
- The City encourages Bureau of Land Management to continue to evaluate hiking, equestrian, mountain bike, and restrictions regarding dogs. Any restrictions must be based upon documented adverse impacts and ongoing monitoring is the preferred management strategy.
- The City encourages the Bureau of Land Management to add a section to the National Monument Plan which encourages use of the Palm Springs Visitors Center as a National Monument Visitors Center. Future funding and grant opportunities should be supported by the National Monument Plan.
- The National Monument Plan needs to clearly outline, assess, and acknowledge areas within and adjacent to the National Monument which may be developed in the future (Palm Hills, Canyon Hotel, Chino Canyon (Shadow Rock)).

Post Office Box 2743 • Palm Springs, California 92263-2743

Page 2 of 2  
Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
June 19, 2003

In addition to the comments and recommendations, on behalf of the City Council, I want to thank you and your staff for your efforts to complete a comprehensive plan and keep it on schedule.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Douglas R. Evans, Director of Planning & Zoning at (760) 323-8245.

Sincerely,

William G. Kleindienst  
Mayor

cc: City Council  
David Ready, City Manager

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Resolution 20639  
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RESOLUTION NO. 20639

OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA COMMENTS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE  
SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO  
MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the proposed Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000 (National Monument Act) and the Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (National Monument Plan); and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the proposed National Monument Plan affects extensive areas within the City of Palm Springs including, but not limited to, mountainous property, alluvial fans, and valley floor; and

WHEREAS, the City's General Plan has identified biological, scenic, and other environmental resources within and adjacent to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, which resources are a vital part of the City's world-wide reputation and appeal as a resort destination, and whose protection is vital to the City's future; and

WHEREAS, the City has, by its own actions, acquired and set aside for preservation, conservation and recreational purposes more than 3,000 acres of land within the boundaries of the National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the City had a hillside zoning category for more than 20 years only allowing one unit per 20 acres, and has restricted development to protect hillside lands which form the City of Palm Springs urban growth limits adjacent to the San Jacinto Mountains; and

WHEREAS, the City of Palm Springs has approximately 51 square miles of territory within and immediately adjacent to the boundaries of the National Monument, which is approximately 55% of the City, and is the municipality most affected by the proposed National Monument Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City has approved certain resort development projects which have been in the planning process for more than ten years and is currently processing development permits for proposed projects which take advantage of the scenic and recreational opportunities of their sites and embody extensive environmental mitigation measures and which projects are a vital part of the City's economic future as a world-wide tourism destination; and

WHEREAS, some persons have owned land with the National Monument boundary for many years, and their rights to develop this property have been specifically protected in the National Monument Act; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is concerned that the National Monument Plan as proposed may have a significant impact on the City's economic future and on private property rights, and that prior to approval of the National Monument Plan certain changes must be made; and

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WHEREAS, the City Council desires to work with the Bureau of Land Management to craft a National Monument Plan which offers significant protection of natural resources, enables public use of hiking and equestrian trails, and allows prudent and reasonable use of private lands for economic development; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has held a public meeting on June 18, 2003 for the purpose of receiving public comment and reviewing the proposed National Monument Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Palm Springs, California that it recommends that the proposed National Monument Boundary Plan be amended to include the recommendations contained in Exhibit A.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council that the City Manager and City staff are to work with the Bureau of Land Management to craft a National Monument Plan which is consistent with the recommendations of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs.

ADOPTED this 18th day of June, 2003.

AYES: Members Oden, Reller-Spurgin and Mayor Kleindienst  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Members Hodges and Mills

ATTEST: CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

/s/ PATRICIA A. SANDERS  
City Clerk

/s/ DAVID H. READY  
City Manager

Reviewed and Approved as to Form: AMC

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE COPY OF  
RESOLUTION No. 20639 DULY ADOPTED BY THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS IN A MEETING  
THEREOF HELD ON THE 18th DAY OF June, 2003  
DATED AT PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA,  
THIS 19th DAY OF June, 2003.  
[Signature]  
CITY CLERK  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

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# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

Exhibit A  
City of Palm Springs  
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains  
National Monument Plan  
and Draft Environmental Impact Report  
Comments and Recommendations

Page:    Comments:

ES - 3 113	The CVMSHCP will designate habitat conservation areas and establish a review process for issuance of take permits. Urban development may be permitted within preserve areas subject to findings. The portion of this paragraph stating "facilitating urban development outside the reserve system" should be revised accordingly. Revise pages 1-4.	PC 017
ES - 4	Planning Criteria. The provision which clearly states that the plan does not affect private property needs to be added to this Section. See Section 2 (5) and (6) and Section 3 (C) and (E) of the SRSJNM Act of 2002. This was a key issue in establishing this National Monument. See page 1-3, paragraph 3.	PC 041
ES - 9 114	General Plans developed by...Municipalities -- A statement clarifying that the National Monument Plan will have no force and effect on private land and that Municipal General Plans will not be affected by the National Monument Plan needs to be added to the Plan. Current language in the text implies that this is the case but clarification is needed.	PC 043
ES - 15	Preferred Plan: Biological Resources -- Monitoring Program -- Add "local agencies" to the second sentence. The City of Palm Springs owns approximately 3,000 acres in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains and should be involved in monitoring and implementation programs.	PC 059
ES - 21	Support hang gliding prohibition.	
ES - 22	Support ban on recreational paint ball in National Monument.	
ES - 27	The City supports ongoing efforts to evaluate and debate the issue of dog restrictions on trails within PBS environmental habitat. Any restrictions and/or closures must be based upon documented adverse impacts and ongoing monitoring is a preferred management strategy until sufficient information is available. Any restrictions or prohibitions should be limited to those absolutely necessary to protect PBS.	PC 148
ES - 28	Support Alternative B	
ES - 30	The Strategic Recreation Plan should be based upon a primary premise that recreation, including hiking, equestrian, and other outdoor experiences, are the most important element of the National Monument. Any restrictions upon such recreation activities must be based upon documented monitoring of biological conditions. Any restrictions or prohibitions should be limited to those absolutely necessary to protect Peninsular Bighorn Sheep. These comments are also made regarding Pages 2-21 and 2-22.	PC 114

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Exhibit A  
City of Palm Springs  
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains  
National Monument Plan  
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Comments and Recommendations

Page:    Comments:

ES - 35	Management Visitation...Private Property Concerns. The City supports ongoing voluntary collaborative efforts provided the BLM, in its decision-making process, underscores the fact that the management plan does not affect private lands.	
ES - 36	Management of Visitation...Facility. Add a section which designates and encourages cooperative efforts and joint use facilities such as the Palm Springs Visitors Center. The City would prefer an even stronger statement, possibly a Specific Plan option similar to the Highway 74 Statement. The Highway 111, Palm Springs Visitors Center, may be the best opportunity to showcase the National Monument in the Coachella Valley. Future funding and grant opportunities should be supported by a strong policy statement.	PC 170
ES - 39	Acquisition Strategy Criteria. The City of Palm Springs General Plan designates several areas within the Plan boundaries which are planned for urban development. Additionally, several of these areas have approved, private development or development permits which are currently being reviewed. These development areas are either private land or within the ACBCI reservation. Development potential in these areas was made known during the National Monument legislative process and contributed to the strong statement that the National Monument does not affect private land. The Plan needs to recognize this condition and the Plan should not be allowed to be used as a vehicle or tool to interfere in any way with private land and private development opportunities which are consistent with local or county plans and programs.	PC 225
ES - 53	Scenic Resources. The Plan should acknowledge that there will be private development within and adjacent to the National Monument. This Section should include a statement that any such effect upon National Monument Scenic Resources are not covered, addressed, or regulated in any manner by the Plan.	PC 1106
ES - 62	BLM Land Tenure: Acquisition Criteria. Add to the end of #2 the following: "...and that acquisitions be consistent with the local agency's General Plan."	PC 226
1 - 7	1.D.1. Planning Criteria from the National Monument Legislation. See comments for page ES - 4. Add this information into this Section.	

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Exhibit A  
City of Palm Springs  
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains  
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Page: Comments:

1 - 11	The National Monument Act requires adequate access to non-federally owned land and further requires providing property owners reasonable use and enjoyment. Additionally, access for governmental services such as fire control, code enforcement, and monitoring need to be ensured. The National Monument Plan should include policies and programs to reopen Dunn Road to meet the intent of the National Monument Plan and for governmental services. Acquisition of rights of way to ensure that Dunn Road is reopened (closed in 2000) should be added to the Plan. As currently drafted, the Plan does not provide sufficient protection for the public to experience and enjoy recreational resources contained in the National Monument and adequate provisions for governmental and private property owner access to lands within the National Monument.
2 - 28	Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses – Private Property Concerns – Preferred Plan. The National Monument Plan needs to acknowledge and address private property development rights. The City General Plan allows private development within the boundaries of the National Monument. Areas where development is planned within the National Monument include the Northern Santa Rosa Mountains and the lower elevations of the San Jacinto Mountains including Chino Canyon. A new strategy should be added to this Section which clearly states the intent of Section 2 (5) and (6) and Section 3 (C) and (E) of the SRSJMNM Act of 2002. This new section needs to clearly state the rights of municipalities and private land owner to develop private lands within and adjacent to the National Monument.
2 - 30	Add a new section "Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses – Visitor Use with Regard to Highway 111" – Highway 111 between I-10 and Tram Way provides access to the desert floor and one of the most dramatic views of the National Monument. Opportunities for signage, visitor facilities, and other programs including cooperative grants with local, city, and transportation agencies should be considered. There is an opportunity to utilize and expand upon the new Palm Springs Visitors Center located at Highway 111 at Tram Way.
2 - 34	2.B.10. Acquisition Strategy – Preferred Alternative (2). The National Monument legislation included specific references to development opportunities and potential. This Section needs to soften its tone (threat level) to meet the intent of the legislation.
2 - 82	3.Q. Socio-Economic Considerations – This Section should address private lands within the National Monument and the likelihood that they may be developed. The City of Palm Springs General Plan calls for development within several areas of the National Monument and areas immediately adjacent. The attached project descriptions and location maps are provided to assist BLM/USFS in preparing the additions to the Plan.

PC 201

PC 179

PC 227

PC 238

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Exhibit A  
City of Palm Springs  
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains  
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Page: Comments:

4 - 73	Population Trends and Tourism Growth and Impacts to Resources. This Section should be expanded to specifically reference proposed and approved projects located within and adjacent to the National Monument boundary. As currently written, the document does not disclose future development opportunities located on private property. This Section should also conclude that the National Monument Plan has no effect on private property and future development potential.
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PC 242

Attachments:

1. Palm Hills Specific Plan
2. Shadow Rock Specific Plan
3. Canyon Specific Plan

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

**Citizens Against Recreational Eviction-USA**

7441 S Rich Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84121  
Telephone 801.733.6042

RECEIVED  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
03 JUN 23 4 20 09  
PALM SPRINGS-SOUTH COAST  
RESOURCE AREA

June 16, 2003

Ms. Danella George, Manager  
Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument  
P.O. Box 581260  
690 West Grant Avenue  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258

Dear Ms. George;

Please accept the following comments with regard to the Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Our first concern is with regard to the tremendous duplication of effort that this document represents. How many layers of protection does this region need? We strongly question the need for this additional management planning effort when there are so many planning efforts that already overlay the same lands. The document consistently refers to how it will defer to other agency planning efforts that will be incorporated into the final document. This level of micro-management is expensive and unrealistic. Never the less, the legislation establishing this National Monument was passed and the public will have to live with the consequences of that action. With these comments in mind, it is the consensus of the group of user groups that make up CARE-USA that Alternative D is the preferred alternative for implementation.

PC 021

The existence of an advisory council whose members are appointed and so are not held accountable to the population directly affected by their actions is unacceptable. The process, as outlined in this document, unnecessarily adds a layer of bureaucracy to an already complex mosaic of jurisdictions and planning activities that are taking place. Land Management responsibilities must devolve to the units of government that are closest to and most responsive to the affected populace. Throughout this process there has been a glaring lack of recreational user group and private property inholding representation as stakeholders. The DEIS focuses on preservation and conservation at the expense of recreational representation in the planning process. It totally ignores negative impacts to private property owners whose property lies within the Monument boundaries. The layers of restrictions placed upon these lands are making it increasingly difficult for the public or property owners to enjoy them now or in the future.

PC 009

PC 034

PC 108

PC 200

Visitation in state and national parks in California has been level or declining for the past ten years in spite of burgeoning population growth. The legislative language establishing the Monument clearly indicates it has been established for the enjoyment of current and future generations. The legislative language that established the Monument recognizes the abundance of recreational opportunities that are an important regional economic resource and promises that designation of the Monument by this Act is not intended to impact existing or future growth in the Coachella Valley. However the Preferred Plan Alternative A, B, and C restrict recreational activities, such as, hang-gliding in a location that has been used for thirty years with no significant impact. It proposes to prohibit paintball even though this activity has not been measured and is probably insignificant and is not expected to change.

**Citizens Against Recreational Eviction-USA**

Page 2 of 3

Throughout the discussions of potential impacts on recreation that will be created by the Strategic Recreation Plan, the document states that alternative A, B, or C will have no impact on recreational usage. However, the DEIS states that upon development and identification of specific actions, effects on recreational resources would be analyzed (emphasis added). This does not eliminate or even propose to mitigate the potential for future restrictions, closures, or limitations to general public access. The establishment of a multi-jurisdictional working group to address changing circumstances would place another layer of bureaucracy that would block the ability of the public to hold agency staff and elected officials accountable for their actions regarding recreational management practices. There is discussion in the DEIS of the pending trails management plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains. Until such time as this document (yet another layer of bureaucracy) is completed trail users are being requested to voluntarily refrain from using a significant number of miles of trail from January 1 through September 30. This effectively eliminates trail usage for nine months of the calendar year. If this restriction becomes mandatory under the pending plan it will have a tremendous negative impact on recreation in the area.

PC 113

PC 237

PC 142

The preferred alternative stated in the DEIS requires the establishment of a five hundred foot trail corridor for the Pacific Crest Trail. This determination has the potential to negatively impact equestrian trail users, especially those with pack stock, by limiting their ability to camp, feed, rest and water their stock to the area within the designated trail corridor.

PC 151

There is discussion in the DEIS concerning Cultural Resources. Tribal Council members have expressed concerns about the potential for negative impacts on ancestral and ceremonial sites located within the monument. There is also discussion of a land swap that is currently in process that will exchange Bureau of Land Management held parcels of land that contain portions of the Skyline, Garstin, Shannon, Berns, and Wild Horse Trails for parcels of Tribal lands that have not yet been identified. Several Tribal members have expressed their concerns that their ancestral and ceremonial sites not be shared with the general public. While we support the desire of Tribal members to keep these sites sacred, the potential need to reroute trails currently in use away from Tribal lands would severely impact equestrian and other recreational use and will need to be mitigated. We strongly encourage the establishment of proscriptive easements for all existing trails.

PC 221

The DEIS discusses, at length, the issue of invasive and/or non-native species. We submit that any additional efforts to manipulate the species found within the monument boundaries must reflect authoritative science subject to review by members of the National Academy of Science. The current non-native species argument is based on a social construct that has no merit. The introduction of different species into an ecosystem is a process of evolution and biodiversity. The very act of choosing one species over another is an extension of human manipulation of the environment without regard for allowing natural processes to continue untrammelled by man. The DEIS discusses the potential restoration of so-called native species that are chosen based on cultural preferences. This negates use of the coarse filter model that is the basis of the restoration arguments made in the Southern California Mountains and Foothills Assessment. Alternative D which continues current BLM and Forest Service control programs and works in coordination with other agencies and at least one Tribal Council provides positive impacts on biological species, vegetation management and habitat management without the need for a programmatic environmental assessment or an ESA Section 7 consultation. The proposed requirement for a Section 7 consultation under the preferred alternative A, B, and C would create additional demands on field staff and budget

PC 080

PC 081

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Citizens Against Recreational Eviction-USA

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that are not warranted given the level of planning and coordination of efforts that are already taking place.

The DEIS discusses the need to monitor visitor use which, if implemented by selecting preferred alternative A, B, and C will set the precedent to determine visitor use in a given area is high and so requires increased protection, enforcement and monitoring (emphasis added). This is unacceptable. If the founding legislative language of the Monument is, "to secure now and for future generations the opportunity to experience and enjoy the magnificent vistas...and recreate therein..." then monitoring that results in the denial of access to visitors based on high usage will have negative impacts. With regard to water resources the preferred alternative A, B, and C that would use visitor use information to alter visitor use to avoid sensitive water resources. This will have a significant negative impact on visitors if their access to water resources is restricted.

PC 055

PC 210

While a unified recognizable logo and architectural style for buildings and signage might be desirable, the level of coordination and cooperation already demonstrated by the BLM and Forest Service negates the need for an additional management structure. Most of the proposed outreach programs outlined under the preferred alternatives are simply more detailed descriptions of programs that are already being implemented under Alternative D. Therefore the preferred alternative A, B, and C is an unnecessary and expensive duplication of effort.

PC 035

PC 157

The closure of 16 miles of Dunn Road has negative impacts on motorized recreational users and on owners of private property who now face significant difficulty accessing their properties. If the issue of closure of the road is due to changes in property ownership, then BLM should work with affected property owners to relocate the road on public land. Since Dunn Road was established prior to October 1976 and has been maintained, isn't it considered a right of way under the RS 2477 statute? Due to the importance of access for fire control and municipal government services it should be granted open status by right of proscriptive use.

PC 189

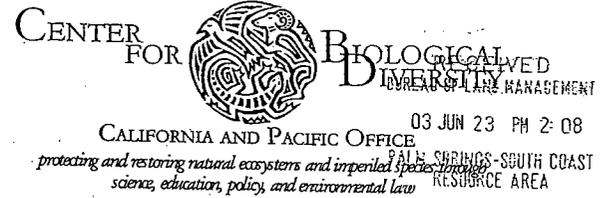
PC 190

PC 191

In summation, we assert that our preferred alternative with regard to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument Draft Environmental Impact Statement is Alternative D for the above listed reasons. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments at this time. Please direct any further information and future planning documents to the address listed in the letterhead, as they become available.

Sincerely, Candace Ricks-Oathout, Chair

Cc: M. Bono, R. Pombo, C. Camon, J. Matheson



03 JUN 23 PM 2:08

VIA FAX AND CERTIFIED MAIL: RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 20, 2003

Danella George, Monument Manager, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, PO Box 581260, 690 West Garnett Ave., North Palm Springs, CA 92258, Fax (760) 251-4899

Re: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Dear Ms. George:

The Center for Biological Diversity ("CBD") submits the following as our comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS") for the Land and Resource Management Plan ("LRMP") for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. We also incorporated herein by reference the comments of the Sierra Club.

The CBD is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats in the Western Hemisphere through science, policy, and environmental law. The CBD has over 7500 members throughout California and the western United States, including many in Southern California.

We believe that the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") and the Forest Service ("USFS") have drafted a plan that inappropriately defers monitoring and management actions and does not include enough protection for the Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep. For these reasons, among others, the DEIS is inadequate and would result in a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") if adopted. The reasons for these violations are set forth fully below.

PC 048

PC 064

Tucson • Phoenix • Silver City • Idyllwild • San Diego • Berkeley

Monica Bond, Biologist, PO Box 493, Idyllwild CA 92549, TEL: (909) 659-6053 x304 • FAX: (909) 659-2484, Email: mbond@biologicaldiversity.org • www.biologicaldiversity.org

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

## I. The DEIS is Inadequate under NEPA

NEPA requires federal agencies to prepare a detailed EIS for "all major actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(C). "NEPA ensures that the agency . . . will have available and will carefully consider, detailed information concerning significant environmental impacts; it also guarantees that the relevant information will be made available to the larger [public] audience." *Idaho Sporting Congress v. Thomas*, 137 F.3d 1146, 1149 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1998) (quoting *Robertson v. Methow Valley Citizens Council*, 490 U.S. 332, 349 (1989)). The information in an EIS "must be of high quality." 40 C.F.R. § 1500.1(b). "Accurate scientific analysis, expert agency comments, and public scrutiny are essential to implementing NEPA." *Id.* As set forth below, the DEIS is inadequate under NEPA, and the BLM and USFS must prepare a new DEIS (or at a minimum a supplemental DEIS) prior to adopting the LRMP for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.

## II. Section 2.B.1. Management of Biological Resources

In several sections of the Preferred Plan, the BLM and USFS defer important management actions. Unfortunately, the Plan suggests that agencies managing the Monument will "enhance current efforts" and "seek partnership opportunities" and "work with partner agencies to update existing inventories...and coordinate monitoring." DEIS at 2-5, 2-6, and 2-7. This language insinuates that the BLM and USFS will not conduct their own monitoring and management actions and instead will simply participate in existing efforts. This is an issue of concern given that the DEIS offers no information about the adequacy of existing inventories and current efforts to monitor and manage invasive and sensitive species. In addition, new species may be added to the Special Status list and should be monitored as well. If existing inventories and efforts are inadequate, there is no provision in the Preferred Plan that requires the BLM or USFS to fill in data gaps or expand upon current monitoring and management efforts as necessary.

In order to comply with the requirements of NEPA, BLM and USFS must "describe the environment of the areas to be affected or created by the alternatives under consideration." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.15. Establishing baseline conditions of the affected environment is an essential requirement of the NEPA process. The Ninth Circuit has stated that "without establishing...baseline conditions...there is simply no way to determine what effect [an action] will have on the environment, and consequently, no way to comply with NEPA." *Half Moon Bay Fisherman's Marketing Ass'n v. Carlucci*, 857 F.2d 505, 510 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1988)

To avoid violating NEPA, the BLM and USFS must mandate in the Final LRMP the development of an updated, comprehensive inventory and accuracy-checked GIS map of: 1) distribution of all invasive species; 2) distribution of all sensitive species and suitable habitat; 3) groundwater and surface water locations; and 4) vegetation and fire history. In addition, annual monitoring must be conducted for biological resources throughout the Monument by trained employees of the Monument.

The BLM and USFS must provide more than just general statements that some impacts will occur. *Neighbors of Cuddy Mountain v. USFS*, 137 F.3d 1372, 1380 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1998) ("General statements about 'possible' effects and 'some risk' do not constitute a 'hard look' absent a justification regarding why more definitive information could not be provided."). "Reasonable forecasting and speculation is . . . implicit in NEPA, and we must reject any attempt by agencies to shirk their responsibilities under NEPA by labeling any and all discussion of future environmental effects as 'crystal ball inquiry,'" *Save Our Ecosystems v. Clark*, 747 F.2d 1240, 1246 n. 9 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1984). Thus, the BLM "cannot avoid NEPA responsibilities by cloaking itself in ignorance." *Fritiofson v. Alexander*, 772 F.2d 1225, 1244 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1985).

The Final LRMP should also include language that all actions conducted by the BLM and USFS on the Monument will comply with the Recovery Plan for Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges, California (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2000, Portland, OR) as well as with the Sikes Act and the Endangered Species Act ("ESA").

## III. Section 2.B.3. Management of Recreational Resources

The current Trails Management Plan being developed in conjunction with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan includes trails into essential bighorn sheep habitat (i.e., Art Smith Trail, Dunn Road, Guadalupe Trail, and Boo Hoff Trail). DEIS at 3-33. Use of these trails constitutes unauthorized trespass onto state and private lands. The Dunn Road should be closed permanently and re-vegetated as use of this road as a trail would advocate trespass onto private land.

Camping also should be prohibited in critical and essential bighorn sheep habitat. In addition, hang gliding over bighorn sheep habitat should be prohibited. If hang gliders utilize the Vista Point launch site, they have no choice but to land either on the Bighorn Institute Property or the state ecological reserve. Due to potential harassment of bighorn sheep at the Bighorn Institute facilities, hang gliding should be prohibited in the Monument.

In the Final LRMP, all dogs (both pets and working dogs) should be prohibited within essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Monument, especially within designated critical habitat. Also included in this prohibition should be the general vicinity around the BLM Visitor Center adjacent to Highway 74, because it too is located in essential bighorn sheep habitat. DEIS at 2-19. Dogs should be managed in accordance with the bighorn sheep strategy described in BLM's CDCA Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley and in accordance with the existing closure order and bighorn sheep recovery plan. Feral animals and uncontrolled pets should be immediately trapped and removed from Monument lands.

## IV. Section 2.B.9. Management of Water Resources

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

Rather than relying on "enhancement of current efforts" (DEIS at 2-33), the BLM and USFS should develop and implement a Monument-wide program to eradicate tamarisk, fountain grass, oleander, and other noxious weeds and invasive species in the Monument.

PC 079

### IV. Section 2.B.10. Acquisition Strategy

All acquisition pertaining to the Monument must be consistent with the Sikes Act. The two land exchanges currently being processed are both inconsistent with the Sikes Act and also constitute federal actions inconsistent with the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"). The LMRP is inconsistent with the Sikes Act Plan because it fails to propose closure of all trespass roads within the bighorn sheep habitat in the Monument, especially Dunn Road. This issue must be immediately addressed by the Monument to avoid violating these statutes.

PC 217

PC 019

### V. Section 2.C.1 Adaptive Management and Monitoring - Implementing the Plan

The adaptive management provisions in the Preferred Plan are abysmal and reflect a lack of understanding of this concept. The drafters of this DEIS seem to think that "adaptive management" involves incorporating measures from plans under development (e.g., Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan's Trails Management Plan and the LRMP Revision for the San Bernardino National Forest) into this LRMP, and to "facilitate the development of a Technical Review Team to include all partners such as Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, California State Parks, Tribal Administrators, State and Federal land representatives, to implement strategies resulting from the National Monument Management Plan." DEIS at 2-35. Likewise, the coordination and prioritization of the monitoring of resources does not, by itself, constitute adaptive management. DEIS at 2-36.

In theory, adaptive management provides managers with the flexibility to adapt otherwise rigid standards to the site-specific needs of a given site, and allows for activities to go forward even when the environmental effects are uncertain. The manager is to monitor the effects of the activity and if the monitoring data show unanticipated adverse effects, the activity is to be modified or suspended so as to address the effects. Therefore, adaptive management in the Final LRMP should include provisions for the incorporation of data from monitoring and any other pertinent scientific research being conducted either within the Monument or elsewhere (as well as into all future management actions) to eliminate or moderate adverse effects of the current management scheme. The formation of any Technical Review Team should include scientific experts on sensitive species, invasive species, and vegetation in the Monument.

PC 233

PC 235

To the extent that the BLM and USFS believe that they can defer their analysis of impacts to subsequent NEPA processes associated with future site-specific management and monitoring, that argument has been flatly rejected by federal courts. As the Ninth Circuit recently held in Kern v. Bureau of Land Management:

PC 024

An agency may not avoid an obligation to analyze in an EIS environmental consequences that foreseeably arise from an [LRMP] merely by saying that the consequences are unclear or will be analyzed later when an EA is prepared for a site-specific program proposed pursuant to the [LRMP]. "[T]he purpose of an [EIS] is to evaluate the possibilities in light of current and contemplated plans and to produce an informed estimate of the environmental consequences. . . . Drafting an [EIS] necessarily involves some degree of forecasting." City of Davis v. Coleman, 521 F.2d 661, 676 (9th Cir. 1975) (emphasis added). If an agency were able to defer analysis discussion of environmental consequences in an [LRMP], based on a promise to perform a comparable analysis in connection with later site-specific projects, no environmental consequences would ever need to be addressed in an EIS at the [LRMP] level if comparable consequences might arise, but on a smaller scale, from a later site-specific action proposed pursuant to the [LRMP].

284 F.3d 1062, 1072 (9th Cir. 2002); see also County of Suffolk v. Secretary of Interior, 562 F.2d 1368, 1377 (2d Cir. 1977) ("[T]he EIS must consider all significant environmental consequences that can reasonably be expected to flow from the decision to which the EIS relates. An EIS cannot safely ignore clear environmental consequences of the decision at hand on the ground that another statement will be forthcoming later.")

### VI. The DEIS Fails to Take Into Account Cumulative Impacts

"'Cumulative impact' is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. . . ." 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7; Neighbors of Cuddy Mountain v. United States Forest Service, 137 F.3d 1372, 1379 (9th Cir. 1998). NEPA requires that where "several actions have a cumulative . . . environmental effect, this consequence must be considered in an EIS." City of Tenakee Springs v. Clough, 915 F.2d 1308, 1312 (9th Cir. 1990). To "consider" cumulative effects, some quantified or detailed information is required. Without such information, neither the courts nor the public, in reviewing the BLM's decisions, can be assured that the BLM or USFS took the hard look that is required by NEPA. Muckleshoot Indian Tribe v. U.S. Forest Service, 177 F.3d 800, 810 (9th Cir. 1999); Neighbors of Cuddy Mountain, 137 F.3d at 1379; see also 40 C.F.R. § 1502.24 (requiring agencies to ensure the scientific integrity of information and analyses used in EISs).

The DEIS contains no cumulative impacts or growth inducing impacts analysis. As discussed in Section II above, the DEIS lacks the necessary baseline data on the affected environment to even begin this analysis. Such an inadequacy does not excuse the responsible agency from assessing and reporting the cumulative impacts of the plan as required by NEPA.

PC 025

### VII. The DEIS Fails to Consider the Full Range of Alternatives

NEPA requires that an EIS contain a detailed statement of alternatives to the proposed action. The discussion of alternatives, including the proposed action, is the "heart" of the EIS. 40

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters



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Barbara J. Ferguson

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P. 1

C.F.R. § 1502.14; Druid Hills Civic Ass'n, Inc. v. Fed. Highway Admin., 772 F.2d 700, 712 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1985). See also NRDC v. Callaway, 524 F.2d 79, 92 (2d Cir. 1975) (citing Monroe County Conservation Society v. Volpe, 472 F.2d 693 (2d Cir. 1972)) (recognizing that the alternatives analysis is "the linchpin of the entire [EIS]"). Specifically, NEPA requires that the preparing agency "[r]igorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives, and for alternatives which were eliminated from detailed study, briefly discuss the reasons for their having been eliminated." 40 C.F.R. §1502.14. Failure to include the full range of alternatives renders the EIS inadequate as a matter of law. Dubois v. U.S Dept. of Agriculture, 102 F.3d 1273, 1289 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 1996) ("existence of a non-*de minimis* 'viable but unexamined alternative' renders [an EIS] inadequate") (emphasis in original) (quoting Resources Ltd., Inc. v. Robertson, 35 F.3d 1300, 1307 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1993)). See also Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Ass'n v. Morrison, 67 F.3d 723, 729 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1995).

The DEIS does not analyze a reasonable range of alternatives for all resources. Specifically, the BLM and USFS have arbitrarily excluded a true conservation alternative for biological and cultural resources from consideration under its NEPA analysis. With regard to dirt roads, for instance, the DEIS contains no conservation alternative with closures to protect resources from damage. The BLM and USFS must include a conservation alternative in order to comply with NEPA's requirement that the DEIS discuss the full range of alternatives.

PC 045

VIII. Conclusion

For the above stated reasons, the CBD believes that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument is inadequate and would violate NEPA if adopted. We find, among other things, that the BLM and USFS have drafted a plan that inappropriately defers monitoring and management actions, fails to take into account cumulative impacts, fails to consider the full range of alternatives, and does not include enough protection for the Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep or other sensitive species in the plan area.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please feel free to contact me at any time at (909) 659-6053 x304 to discuss them further.

Sincerely,

Monica J. Bond

Monica Bond  
Staff Biologist

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

Barbara J. Ferguson  
Vice President Public Lands  
32352 Auberry Road  
Auberry, CA 93602  
Tel. & Fax: 559.855.2125  
e-mail [biferguson@psnw.com](mailto:biferguson@psnw.com)

SENT VIA FAX: 760.251.4899

June 19, 2003

Danella George  
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Manager  
P. O. Box 581260  
690 West Garnet Avenue  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258-1260

REGARDING: Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Plan and Draft EIS Comments

By way of background, the Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) is a state-wide organization of over 4,000 members whose purpose is to improve and promote the use, care and development of California backcountry trails, campsites, streams and meadows and to keep the backcountry trails and forage areas open to horsemen on all public lands. We also have extensive educational programs and literature for our membership and the public on good trail manners and wise use of public lands. Our organization contributes significant labor to trail maintenance and other volunteer efforts on both federal and state public lands on an annual basis.

The Monument was established in to allow all of us to "experience and enjoy" and to "recreate therein". The overlap of "essential habitat" for the Bighorn Sheep eliminates access of over 53% of the 271,400 acres of the Monument to through "voluntary" trail closures from January 1 through June 30 with additional closures of five trails from July 1 through September 30 due to "hot season closures". All of the values listed in section 2 (b) of the Act should be considered equally. The closing of the majority of the National Monument to recreational use for the protection of the Bighorn Sheep does not follow the intent of the Act. The *Recovery Plan for the Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges* notes that there is insufficient data to correlate human activity as an impediment to the recovery of the Bighorn Sheep. The closure of over 50% of the National Monument for nine months of the year without solid data that humans and not mountain lions are impeding the recovery of the Bighorn Sheep is precipitous and unjustified.

PC 143

Table ES-1 (page ES-22) states: "Establish a 500-foot wide management corridor encompassing the Pacific Crest Trail." (Page ES-25 appears to be a duplicate of page ES-22.) The text description on pages 2-17 & 18 states: "Management activities

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

barbara J. Ferguson

5598552125

P. 2



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

affecting Federal lands within the corridor, including actions relating to forest health, water quality, wildlife habitat, trail maintenance, and trail construction or reconstruction, would be analyzed for effects on the PCT... What is the purpose of the 500 foot wide corridor? All trail maintenance, construction and reconstruction projects are done with the protection of the resource as part of the project. What is lacking in the normal project procedures that necessitate the corridor and the revision of the MOU with the PCTA?

PC 152

Table ES-1 (page ES-24) and Page 2-21 Initiates a Strategic Recreation Plan within one year of the completion of the National Monument Plan. The Plan would be coordinated with the National Advisory Committee. The Act specifically states that the advisory committee shall cease to exist when the Plan is officially adopted or later at the discretion of the Secretaries. Has the Carter of the Committee been revised?

PC 010

The planning team for the Monument has delegated responsibility of the trails plan to others. Why is it now necessary to have another level of "coordination"? The implication is that the trails plan might not be "consistent with" the Monument Plan or other plans.

Chapter 4, 4.C, page 73, states "Because the focus of this Management Plan is the protection and preservation of National Monument resources and limited recreation use, there will be no impacts to long-term productivity of resources from the proposed actions." (My emphasis added.) The purpose of the Act was to preserve the resources and "to secure now and for future generations the opportunity to experience and enjoy ...and to recreate therein..." Section 2 (b). The Monument was established for use by the public. To establish a plan that focuses on protection and preservation at the expense of recreation is not the intent of Congress.

We urge you to consider access and recreational activities as a resource worth consideration on an equal basis with the other values that you intend to protect.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Ferguson
Barbara J. Ferguson
Vice President, Public Lands

cc: Congressional Representative Mary Bono
Senator Dianne Feinstein
John Keyes, President, BCHC

June 20, 2003

Danella George
National Monument Manager
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument
Bureau of Land Management
690 West Garnet Avenue
P.O. Box 581260
North Palm Springs, CA 92258

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan (CEQ # 030103)

Rating: Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information (EC-2)

Dear Ms. George:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Our detailed comments are enclosed.

EPA supports the goals and objectives of the proposed Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan. We commend the scope of the proposed plan. Of special note are proposals for comprehensive surveys and actions plans for a range of issues (e.g., special status species, recreation, watersheds, cultural resources, invasive species); prohibition of recreational shooting and paintball; and management actions to improve conditions for the endangered Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep.

Given the scope and ecological importance of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan, it is important to ensure the preferred management plan, potential impacts, and mitigation measures for these impacts are fully considered and disclosed. We recommend additional disclosure and clarification in the Final EIS (FEIS) of the preferred alternative, tribal consultation, mitigation for impacts to recreation, implementation schedule and funding, land exchanges, acquisition strategy, existing conditions, Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation, and water resources.

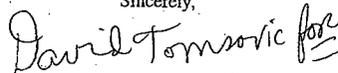
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## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

Because of the importance of the above additional information, we have rated the preferred alternative and DEIS as Environmental Concerns-Insufficient Information (EC-2). EPA's rating and a summary of our comments will be published in the *Federal Register*. Please see the enclosed Rating Factors for a description of EPA's rating system.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS. When the FEIS is released for public review, please send two copies to the address above (mail code: CMD-2). If you have any questions, please contact me or Laura Fujii, the lead reviewer for this project. Laura can be reached at (415) 972-3852 or fujii.laura@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Lisa B. Hanf, Manager  
Federal Activities Office  
Cross Media Division

Enclosure: EPA Summary Rating Sheet

cc: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Augustine Band of Mission Indians  
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians  
Cahuilla Band of Indians  
Los Coyotes Band of Indians  
Morongo Band of Mission Indians  
Ramona Band of Mission Indians  
Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians  
Soboba Band of Mission Indians  
Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians  
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians  
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Field Office  
South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Colorado River Basin Region, Regional Water Quality Control Board

2

## SUMMARY OF EPA RATING DEFINITIONS

This rating system was developed as a means to summarize EPA's level of concern with a proposed action. The ratings are a combination of alphabetical categories for evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposal and numerical categories for evaluation of the adequacy of the EIS.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE ACTION

#### *"LO" (Lack of Objections)*

The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

#### *"EC" (Environmental Concerns)*

The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. EPA would like to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

#### *"EO" (Environmental Objections)*

The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that must be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

#### *"EU" (Environmentally Unsatisfactory)*

The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potentially unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the CEQ.

### ADEQUACY OF THE IMPACT STATEMENT

#### *Category 1" (Adequate)*

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

#### *"Category 2" (Insufficient Information)*

The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analysed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

#### *"Category 3" (Inadequate)*

EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analysed in the draft EIS, which should be analysed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the NEPA and/or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.

\*From EPA Manual 1640, "Policy and Procedures for the Review of Federal Actions Impacting the Environment."

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

EPA DETAILED COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE DRAFT SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN, JUNE 20, 2003

## Preferred Alternative

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) describes three management intensities (Alternatives A, B, C), combined management strategies for specific issue areas (e.g., special status species, cultural resources), and the No Action alternative (Alternative D). It is not clear what level of management intensity will be applied for each combined management strategy or what components, strategies, and management intensities constitute the preferred Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan (Monument Management Plan).

### Recommendation:

The preferred alternative should be an individually distinct alternative. The Final EIS (FEIS) should describe the components and management intensities for all management actions proposed in the preferred Monument Management Plan. For example, describe the proposed management actions (e.g., management of pets) and the proposed intensity of management (Alternative A, B, or C) for each of these actions. We recommend Table ES-1, Executive Summary of Alternatives, include a separate column for the preferred alternative which lists the proposed management actions and the management intensities for these actions.

PC 026

## Consultation with Indian Tribes

1. The preferred plan for Native American Coordination and Consultation for management of cultural resources would assist the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in its efforts to develop and promote its role as a conduit for sharing information and resources between the Cahuilla Bands and with the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (Monument) (pg. 2-15). The DEIS does not state whether other Cahuilla Bands have agreed to this role for the Agua Caliente.

### Recommendations:

Each affected Tribe should be consulted on a "government-to-government" basis to determine whether they agree to have the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians as the main Tribal conduit regarding cultural resource management matters in the Monument. The FEIS should state the positions of other Tribes regarding this role for the Agua Caliente.

PC 084

1

EPA DETAILED COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE DRAFT SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN, JUNE 20, 2003

The affected Tribes and Monument management should develop a mutually agreed upon process to gather, manage and use tribal cultural information. This process or the means to develop such a process (e.g., formation of a Tribal/Monument staff working group) should be described in the FEIS.

PC 085

The FEIS should also state how the confidentiality of cultural resource information will be assured if confidentiality is requested by the Tribes.

PC 086

2. The DEIS states that government-to-government consultation with the Tribes was initiated by letter with follow-up meetings with members of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service also attended several Tribal Association of Sovereign Indian Nations meetings to solicit comments regarding management of the Monument (pg. 5-5).

### Recommendations:

The FEIS should describe or provide in an appendix the BLM and Forest Service regulations or guidelines on consultation with Tribes.

PC 087

To ensure adequate government-to-government consultation with Tribes, we recommend BLM and the Forest Service pursue meetings with each affected Tribe.

PC 088

## Mitigation for Potential Impacts to Recreation

Proposed management of hang gliding, paintball, recreational shooting, and free-roaming pets would restrict these activities on national monument land. The DEIS does not appear to describe the effects of increased management restrictions on these recreational activities or mitigation for these effects.

### Recommendations:

The FEIS should describe how management restrictions may curtail the above recreational activities and possible mitigation options for the loss of these recreational opportunities. If the current level of these recreational activities is unknown, we recommend the Strategic Recreation Plan include a survey to quantify such activities. Mitigation could include a list of off-Monument areas where these activities can be pursued, collaboration with others on the creation or enhancement of off-Monument areas for these sports, and educational brochures

PC 103

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# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

EPA DETAILED COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE DRAFT SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN, JUNE 20, 2003

describing the environmental and monument goals achieved through the increased management restrictions.

Enforcement measures to ensure implementation of the more restrictive management policies should be described in the FEIS. For example, proposed management will require all pets be on leash within the Monument. The DEIS states that 76% of Monument users currently allow their dogs to roam free (pg. 4-38). Therefore, initial education and enforcement regarding the new restrictions may be necessary.

PC 104

## Implementation Schedule and Funding

1. The proposed Monument Management Plan is broad in scope, describing a wide range of management actions. The DEIS does not provide an implementation schedule for the majority of these actions.

### Recommendation:

To encourage timely implementation and progress, the FEIS should provide target dates for execution of specific management actions.

PC 028

2. The preferred plan would discontinue the Forest Service Adventure Pass currently required for vehicles parking on Forest Service Monument lands. Although the fee for this Pass is nominal, the fees have provided funds to support maintenance activities (pg. 4-40).

### Recommendations:

Given the scope of the Monument Management Plan, we recommend consideration of a fee to help generate funds for timely and adequate implementation of management actions.

PC 029

Concerns are expressed in the DEIS regarding the ability to easily obtain a Monument Pass or collect fees (pg. 4-40). We recommend Monument staff seek suggestions and information from the public (e.g., citizen workgroups, hiking groups, environmental organizations, local communities) on ways to collect fees or on other sources of funds to support the Monument Management Plan. For instance, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Advisory Committee suggested providing boxes at trailheads for recreational users to voluntarily register (Appendix B, pg. B-10). Such boxes could also be used to collect voluntary or required fees for maintenance activities.

EPA DETAILED COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE DRAFT SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN, JUNE 20, 2003

Indian Tribes have expressed a concern with access to the Monument for traditional uses, especially if a pass or fee is required (pg. 4-10). Monument staff and the Tribes should develop a procedure for providing easy access to the Monument for traditional uses. The means to develop this procedure should be described in the FEIS.

PC 089

If fees are not proposed, the FEIS should describe availability of funds and other sources of funds for implementation of the Monument Management Plan.

## Land Exchanges

Parcels of BLM land have been identified for exchange with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. These lands include portions of the heavily used Skyline, Garstin, Shannon, Berns and Wild Horse Trails (pg. 3-81). Recreational access to these trails would be governed in accordance with Tribal decisions. Impacts to recreation would be contingent on the extent of restrictions, if any, that may be imposed. The DEIS does not describe a process for public review of this land exchange or the evaluation of environmental and recreational impacts.

### Recommendation:

The BLM should commit to NEPA analysis and public review of the proposed land exchange with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. We recommend this commitment be made in the FEIS. In addition, the FEIS should provide more information regarding the purpose and need for the land exchange and the proposed time frame for the exchange.

PC 214

## Acquisition Strategy

The DEIS states that the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) was created by the State of California to acquire and protect lands in the Coachella Valley, including the Monument (pg. 2-33). However, the role of the Conservancy is not described in the preferred acquisition strategy.

### Recommendation:

The FEIS should describe the role of the Conservancy in implementing the preferred acquisition strategy.

PC 215

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

EPA DETAILED COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE DRAFT SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN, JUNE 20, 2003

### Existing Conditions

1. The DEIS provides short descriptions of natural communities on the Monument (Section 3.B.1 Natural Communities, pg. 3-11). Although listed in Table 3-1 Vegetation Communities and Associated Special Status Species, the desert scrub alkali community is not described.

#### Recommendation:

The FEIS should provide a short description of the desert scrub alkali natural community. | PC 046

2. Special Status Species are described in the DEIS (pgs. 3-17 to 3-23). At least one of these species, Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep, are described as fully protected species under California State Law (pg. ES-8). The DEIS does not describe the California fully protected species requirements or state whether there are other fully protected species.

#### Recommendation:

Provide a description of the California fully protected species requirements in the FEIS. All other species fully protected under California State Law should be identified. | PC 047

### Section 7 Endangered Species Act Consultation

Formal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act was initiated in March 2003 (pg. 5-6).

#### Recommendation:

The FEIS should describe the status of formal Section 7 consultation and provide in an appendix the Biological Assessment, and, if available, the Biological Opinion. | PC 027

### Water Resources

The preferred plan for water resources includes coordination with water management agencies and water users to enhance current efforts to manage surface and groundwater (pg. 4-44). The DEIS states that this management action would have no direct effect on recreational resources.

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EPA DETAILED COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE DRAFT SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN, JUNE 20, 2003

#### Recommendation:

Improved management of surface and groundwater resources could significantly improve the quantity and quality of water resources for wildlife and habitat. Thus, recreational activities such as wildlife viewing and hiking in desert riparian areas would be improved. The FEIS should include these effects in the evaluation of potential impacts of the preferred plan for water resources management. | PC 213

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# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
03 JUN 23 PM 3:18  
PALM SPRINGS SOUTH COAST  
RESOURCE AREA

June 19, 2003

FAX (760)-251-4899 AND FED EX

Ms. Danella George  
National Monument Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
690 W. Garnet Avenue  
Post Office Box 581260  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258  
(760) 251-4800

Re: **Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments**

Dear Ms. George:

On behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (National Trust), we appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments regarding the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Final Environmental Impact Statement ("Draft RMP/EIS") for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.

The National Trust has a strong interest in the preservation of our nation's historic resources. Congress chartered the National Trust in 1949 as a private charitable, educational, and nonprofit organization to "facilitate public participation in the preservation of sites, buildings and objects significant in American history and culture," and to further the purposes of federal historic preservation laws. 16 U.S.C. §§ 461, 468. The National Trust has grown to include more than 250,000 individual members and approximately 3,500 member organizations. In addition to our headquarters in Washington, D.C., the National Trust operates seven regional and field offices throughout the country, as well as 21 historic sites open to the public.

We would first like to commend BLM for embracing its new management role – the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). Under the NLCS, BLM has an opportunity to preserve the natural landscapes for their significant value. Congress certainly recognized the value of Santa Rosa, designating it a National Monument for the purpose of "preserve[ing] the nationally significant biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational and scientific values. . . to secure now and for future generations the opportunity to experience and enjoy the magnificent vistas, wildlife, landforms and natural and cultural resources. . ." Pub. L. No. 106-

*Protecting the Irreplaceable*



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Ms. Danella George  
Bureau of Land Management  
June 19, 2003  
Page 2

351, 114 Stat. 1362, Sec. 2(b) (Oct. 24, 2000). Overall, the Santa Rosa draft RMP's emphasis on cultural and historic resources, especially with respect to Native American traditional ties and presence in the area, is very impressive. BLM has also gone to great lengths to not only consult with Native American tribes, as is required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and other Executive Orders, policies and procedures, but also to include the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians as a partner in the cultural resource planning process and as a co-manager. BLM has also indicated its interest to establish partnerships with other tribes, and co-create a Cultural Resource Management Plan as a means of protecting cultural resources. RMP at ES-18. BLM's recognition and commitment to its role as a steward of the incredible cultural resources of Santa Rosa is commendable.

The RMP raises many important issues related to cultural and historic resources. Nevertheless, we would like to point out a number of concerns. We provide these recommendations in an effort to help create a better management plan with respect to cultural and historic resources.

#### A. Inadequate Examination of OHV Use

We are pleased that BLM's preferred alternative does not designate any areas as "open" for OHV use. OHV use has the potential to adversely affect the qualities Congress found important enough to preserve and protect – "the nationally significant biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational and scientific values. . . to secure now and for future generations the opportunity to experience and enjoy the magnificent vistas, wildlife, landforms and natural and cultural resources. . ." Pub. L. No. 106-351, 114 Stat. 1362, Sec. 2(b) (Oct. 24, 2000). Although we commend BLM's efforts to control OHV use, we do have several concerns we would like BLM to address in the final RMP.

First, BLM does not adequately examine the cumulative impacts of OHV<sup>1</sup> in accordance to FLPMA, NEPA, and NHPA. BLM designated certain areas as "limited" OHV use, prohibiting cross-country travel off of these designated routes. RMP at 3-38. In the environmental consequences section, however, BLM makes no mention of OHV impacts on cultural and historic resources. See RMP at 4-7 – 4-13. FLPMA's regulations require BLM to establish land use designations within the RMP. 43 C.F.R. § 1601.05(k)(1). FLPMA regulations also require resource management plans to estimate and display "the physical, biological, economic, and social effects of implementing each alternative considered in detail," a process guided by NEPA. *Id.* § 1610.4-6.<sup>2</sup> Because OHV use has the potential to adversely impact

<sup>1</sup> Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV), as a term used by BLM, is misleading. We believe that BLM should draw a distinction between OHV, i.e. vehicles licensed for road use, and four-wheelers, dirt motorcycles, etc.  
<sup>2</sup> NEPA requires an agency to discuss the environmental impacts and effects of each alternative that cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented. 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(C); 40 C.F.R. § 1502.16.

PC 180

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

Ms. Danella George  
Bureau of Land Management  
June 19, 2003  
Page 3

cultural and historic resources, BLM is required to examine the impacts associated with designative activities.

In addition, BLM should conduct a Section 106 review of areas designated for OHV use before approving the RMP. Section 106 of the NHPA requires BLM to take into account the effects of its actions on all affected historic resources and to provide the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment prior to making its decision. 16 U.S.C. § 470f. Section 106 review is triggered when a federal agency is approving an undertaking. *Id.* Generally, the RMP establishes a written document of land use limitations, resource condition goals and objectives, support action, and several other agenda items. *See* 43 C.F.R. § 1601.0-5(k). With respect to these decisions within the RMP, the regulations state that “[i]t is not a final implementation decision on actions which require further specific plans, process steps, or decisions under specific provisions of law and regulations.” *Id.*

We believe that designating an area open or limited for OHV use constitutes a site-specific activity – undertaking, thus triggering Section 106 review before approval. Designating an area open for OHV use is a final implementation decision, which does not require further specific plans. OHV use has the serious potential to impact identified, and unidentified, cultural and historic resources on or eligible for the National Register. Therefore, it is important that BLM comply with Section 106 prior to approving the RMP, which designates OHV limited areas.

Our second concern with BLM’s examination of OHV use is that it fails to provide definitive boundaries for “limited” OHV use. The RMP simply states “[m]ost BLM lands in the National Monument are designated as ‘limited’ for OHV use.” RMP at 3-38. Such a description fails to comply with required specificity under FLPMA and NEPA. In addition, the public is not given an adequate opportunity to examine information relating to areas designated as “limited” OHV use. FLPMA’s regulations require the BLM to provide the public with “opportunities to meaningfully participate in and comment on the preparation of plans, amendments and related guidance. . . in conform[ance] to the requirements of [NEPA].” 43 C.F.R. § 1610.2.

### Recommendation:

BLM must supplement the draft RMP with an adequate discussion of cumulative impacts associated with OHV use in those areas designated as “limited,” especially OHV’s impacts on cultural and historic resources. BLM should also comply with the mandates of Section 106 of the NHPA prior to approving OHV designations. Finally, BLM should supplement the draft RMP with a more descriptive analysis of what areas will be designated as “limited” OHV use. Maps detailing such designations would be most useful.

Ms. Danella George  
Bureau of Land Management  
June 19, 2003  
Page 4

### B. Deferring Analysis of a Recreational Management Plan Is Contrary to the Intent of FLPMA

We want to reiterate that BLM’s intention to protect and preserve cultural and historic resources is clear, and its efforts are commendable. Despite BLM’s good intentions, we are concerned that deferring analysis of cumulative impacts associated with recreational activities is contrary to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). More specifically, recreational designations, created after approval of the RMP, could impact cultural resources without an adequate examination of impacts. FLPMA provides guidance on what activities will be permissible, requiring BLM to examine the impacts and allow for meaningful public participation. 43 C.F.R. §§ 1601.0-6, 1610.1, 1610.2, 1610.4-6. Deferring discussion of such activities until after the RMP is approved takes the public out of the process. In short, we are concerned that deferred plans could bypass analyses of cumulative effects and remove not allow the public an adequate opportunity to participate in the recreational plan, as well as other plans.

### Recommendation:

BLM should provide the public with an adequate opportunity to participate in the creation of the specific plans discussed within the RMP, i.e. the Strategic Recreational Management Plan, and other plans intended to be integrated into the RMP upon completion.

### C. Recreational Shooting

We support Alternative C, the preferred alternative, with respect to recreational shooting. RMP at ES-43. Alternative C bans recreational shooting, but allows for hunting to occur in accordance with California Department of Fish and Game regulations. *Id.* We are not opposed to controlled hunting, however, we are concerned with destructive activities sometimes associated with hunting, i.e. use of rock art panels as target practice. BLM does not adequately examine the cumulative impacts associated with controlled hunting.

### Recommendation:

BLM should discuss ways to control such activities, e.g. increased patrol and ensuring that a buffer between rock art panels and access roads is adequate.

PC 031

PC 181

PC 182

PC 030

PC 118

PC 119

PC 119

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

Ms. Danella George  
Bureau of Land Management  
June 19, 2003  
Page 5

The National Trust appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments on the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan and draft EIS. We believe that the resource management planning process is a critical step in the stewardship and protection of cultural and historic resources, as well as carrying out the specific mandates created by Congress. If we can provide you with additional information or otherwise be of assistance, we will be happy to do so.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Smith  
Public Lands Counsel

cc: Dr. Knox Mellon, California SHPO, Sacramento  
Carol Legard, ACHP, Denver, Colorado  
Holly Fiala, NTHP Western Office  
Mike Buhler, NTHP Western Office



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Idaho Fish and Game

Raul Valdez, Ph.D.  
New Mexico State University

## Bighorn Institute

Dedicated to the conservation of the world's wild sheep through research and education

June 18, 2003

Danella George  
Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains  
National Monument Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 581260  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258

Dear Danella,

The following are Bighorn Institute's comments on the Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Our main concerns with the plan involve activities near the Institute captive breeding recovery center, particularly the issues of pets and hang gliding.

The Institute is opposed to any and all pets inside critical Peninsular bighorn sheep habitat, particularly on the lands adjacent to our property. We are equally opposed to pets on a leash versus no leash, as it is the presence of the pet that can negatively affect the bighorn, both in the wild and at our captive breeding facility.

The Institute is also opposed to all hang gliding launches, landings and over-flights in critical Peninsular bighorn sheep habitat, especially flights over the Institute's pens and landings on lands adjacent to our property near the BLM Visitor Center. The EIS states that the land adjacent to Bighorn Institute's property has historically been used only as an emergency landing site when the wind was insufficient for longer hang gliding flights when launched from Vista Point. We feel this is not factual, as hang gliders routinely landed on our property. Regardless, the Institute is opposed to hang gliding launches from Vista Point, since the potential remains for unpredictable landings on lands adjacent to us.

Sincerely,



James R. DeForge  
Executive Director  
Research Biologist

cc: Mike Pool

P.O. Box 262 • Palm Desert, California 92261-0262  
Email BI@BighornInstitute.org

Tel (760) 346-7334  
www.BighornInstitute.org

Fax (760) 340-3987

PC 069

PC 070

PC 130

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
Eastern Sierra & Inland Deserts Region  
4775 Bird Farm Rd.  
Chino Hills, CA 91709  
(909) 597-5043

RECEIVED  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
03 JUN 30 AM 11:12  
PALM SPRINGS-SOUTH COAST  
RESOURCE AREA



19 June 2003

Ms. Danella George  
National Monument Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
690 West Garnet Avenue, P.O. Box 581260  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258

Dear Ms. George,

The California Department of Fish and Game (Department) has reviewed the **Draft Resource Management Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument and Draft Environmental Impact Statement** (Draft Plan/EIS). The Draft Plan/EIS describes and analyzes a range of alternatives for managing the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. The Department appreciates the opportunity to review this document and has the following comments:

**Page 2-27 2.B.6. Management of Scientific Resources**

Please indicate that researchers must obtain a Scientific Collecting Permit from the Department in addition to the shared BLM-Forest Service permits for any research involving the collection of plants or animals.

PC 061

**Page 3-21 Peninsular Range Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis Canadensis nelsoni*, Federal Endangered, State Threatened)**

Please state that this species was state listed as Rare in 1971, state listed as Threatened in 1984 and is designated as a Fully Protected Species by the state.

PC 016

**Page 3-32 3.D.2. Hiking, Biking and Equestrian Trails (including the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail)**

**Mountain Biking:**  
Please indicate that bicycles are prohibited on Department Ecological Reserves.

PC 154

Page 2  
Ms. Danella George  
19 June 2003

**Collection of Materials Within the Monument**  
**Page 3-37 Plants and Animals**

In addition to BLM and Forest Service permits, a fishing license from the Department is required for the collection of non-listed reptiles and amphibians, with specified limits outlined in California Code of Regulations, Title 14 §5.05 and §5.60.

PC 060

**Page 3-37 3.D.10. Art Smith Trailhead**

Please add that the portions of the Art Smith Trail that cross the Magnesia Springs Ecological Reserve are currently closed from June 15 - September 30.

PC 154

**Page 3-37 3.D.11. Pets**

Please state that dogs are not permitted in Carrizo Canyon, Hidden Palms, and Magnesia Springs Ecological Reserves.

PC 128

The Department looks forward to continued coordination with the BLM on the management of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Any questions regarding this letter should be directed to Mr. Eddy Konno, Associate Biologist at (760) 200-9174.

Sincerely,  
*Glenn Black*  
Glenn Black  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Eastern Sierra/Inland Deserts Region

cc: E. Konno

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

JUN 19 03 09:34a

CA Wilderness Coalition 530-758-0382

p. 2

JUN 19 03 09:34a

CA Wilderness Coalition 530-758-0382

p. 3



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2655 PORTAGE BAY EAST

SUITE 5

DAVIS.

CALIFORNIA 95616

(530) 758-0380

FAX

(530) 758-0382

EMAIL

June 19, 2002

National Monument Manager  
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument  
Palm Springs - South Coast Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
690 West Garnet Avenue  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258

Dear Manager,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (Monument) Management Plan. The California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) represents more than 3,500 individual members and 200 conservation organizations and businesses throughout the state, and we appreciate your consideration of our views.

We submit the following comments and concerns regarding the DEIS and we also incorporate into this letter by reference the comments submitted by Monica Bond - Staff Biologist, Center for Biological Diversity. We feel that the DEIS is lacking in detailed management prescriptions and significantly incomplete in covering many issues. Some of our thoughts are as follows:

### Wilderness

In Chapter 2-34 the DEIS states "No actions pertaining to Wilderness are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan". We believe that the drafting of the Management Plan for this National Monument is precisely the time to take action on the Wilderness within the Monument. The National Monument was created for the purpose of protecting the resources within the Monument in a manner that might not be assured through the general management processes of either the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service.

Page 2 of 6 California Wilderness Coalition comments Re: SRSJMNM DEIS

If the Monument's management staff decides that the long-term management of the Monument will be conducted by simply adopting the management prescriptions of the BLM and Forest Service general plans, we wonder what the point of special designation was.

We believe that the lands and species within the Monument will be far better served if the Monument planning staff recommends increased wilderness designations and protections as part of the Monument's management plan process.

The DEIS references the proposed Wilderness Study Area identified by the Forest Service but fails to commit on whether or not this WSA designation would be consistent with the Monument Act of 2000, or important for the desired condition of protection of the Monument's resources. Additionally, in our scoping comments for this management plan we provided information highlighting an expanded version of this proposed WSA. This expanded area sought to protect all lands that qualified for such status and also provide essential long-term protected habitat for the myriad of threatened and sensitive species that are found within the Monument.

The important logistical problem that has been created by the findings of the DEIS are troubling to us. That is, by delaying a decision on the proposed WSA in the Monument until the plan revision for the four Southern California National Forests is completed, and failing to provide guidance for these areas, the Monument planning staff is failing in their responsibilities to the lands that the public expects them to effectively steward. A general plan revision process and the goals and prescriptions of the subsequent management proposals are not going to take into consideration the precise language and purpose for the enhanced and special protections allotted the Monument's lands and species. Since the Monument was created to ensure greater protection for the resources found within, we believe that contrary to the conclusions reached in the DEIS, it is in fact the duty and responsibility of the Monument planning staff to provide the baseline level of protection that will supercede the determinations and management prescriptions of the general management plans of the BLM and Forest Service.

We believe that the proposed WSA that was described and mapped in our scoping comments (included at the end of this section for reference) for this DEIS is not only deserving of consideration but also important for the prolonged protection of the Monument's vital resources.

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

Page 3 of 6 California Wilderness Coalition comments Re: SRSJMNM DEIS

We urge the Monument planning staff to revisit this important issue and make a determination regarding the management of wilderness and the designation of a new WSA based on the needs and requirements of the Monument's lands and its binding legislation.

### *Palm Canyon Proposed Wilderness Study Area*

*We urge the BLM and Forest Service to extend new administrative protection to the Palm Canyon Proposed Wilderness Study Area (map is attached). This proposed WSA is almost entirely made up of an existing Inventoried Roadless Area within the San Bernardino National Forest. While the entire proposed WSA makes up 29,700 acres, the acreage within the Monument is 24,900. This roadless unit provides a core habitat in the west-central portion of the Monument for hundreds of species. This Monument is being managed jointly by the BLM and Forest Service, and a joint effort to address all potential Wilderness must be completed. When linked with the San Jacinto Wilderness to the northwest and the Santa Rosa Wilderness to the southeast, the Palm Canyon Proposed WSA will complete the high-elevation protected area extending from the north end of the Monument to the south that the unique species of the Monument require for intact habitat.*

PC 230

*The boundary of the Palm Canyon Proposed WSA provides for a continuity of habitat from an altitude of 7,035 feet at Pyramid Peak to 1,640 feet in Dry Wash. This unit is home to species such as peninsula bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, mule deer, mountain lion, southern rubber boa, red diamond rattlesnake and many others. The area also is home to large oases of native palm trees stretching from the unit namesake of Palm Canyon westward into several other canyons.*

*The entire proposed WSA provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The multitude of canyons allow many remote settings for backcountry recreation. At nearly 30,000 acres the proposed WSA offers ample opportunities to get away from the extensive urban setting of the surrounding region. Outside of existing Wilderness Areas in the Monument the proposed WSA is the best example of naturalness that the landscape offers. The unit has been primarily affected by the processes of nature and offers a true wilderness experience.*

Page 4 of 6 California Wilderness Coalition comments Re: SRSJMNM DEIS

### Recreational Resources

**Hang Gliding** – We agree with the preferred plan of the DEIS regarding hang gliding. Hang gliding is currently not allowed in or over designated Wilderness and we believe that stopping its operation in scientifically recognized bighorn sheep habitat is also very important. Hang gliding has long been a recognized recreational use within the lands in the Monument but increased regulation of its activities is consistent with the purposes of the Monument's designation. No recreational use in the Monument should take precedence over the health and longevity of wildlife species. All areas not in bighorn sheep habitat but also containing important ecological functions and cultural resources should be looked at for removal from areas open to hang gliding activities.

PC 131

**Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail** – The National Trails System Act states “...efforts...to the extent practicable...should be made to avoid activities incompatible with the purposes for which such trails were established” [16 U.S.C. 1246 (7)(a)(2)(c)]. We believe that the establishment of a 500-foot wide management corridor on the PCT within the Monument will go a long way to ensuring that all proposed activities receive the public oversight that the PCT requires. We support the requirement that the Pacific Crest Trail Association should be notified of any and all activities proposed within this management corridor.

**Recreational Paintball** – Gas and air propelled weapons are in our view not consistent with the needs and purposes of the Monument. We recommend the planning staff ban all weapons that dispense paintballs, or similar substances for the good of the Monument's resources. Cultural artifacts, wildlife forage, and scenic values are all adversely impacted by this “recreational activity”.

PC 122

**Recreational Shooting** – We do not believe that it is in keeping with the purposes of the National Monument to continue to allow recreation shooting throughout these protected lands. Allowing the discharge of licensed firearms in conjunction to California Department of Fish and Game hunting regulations is the only use of firearms that supports the long-term protection of the Monument's resources. Random recreational firearm discharge takes away from the wild and natural experience of the monument, disturbs wildlife, damages vegetation and artifacts, and is not conducive to the type of experience that the Monument was established to promote and protect.

PC 123

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

Page 5 of 6 California Wilderness Coalition comments Re: SRSJMNM DEIS

Off-Highway Vehicle Use – Unregulated and unfettered off-highway vehicle access can be one of the most destructive activities on any ecosystem. These impacts are especially apparent when occurring in arid climates. The lands within the National Monument should be kept clear of this threat through active management and enforcement. Some areas in the Monument have seen illegal off-highway vehicle trespass in recent years leading to substantial disturbances to the soils, flora, and fauna within the Monument's boundaries. We recommend that off-highway vehicles be limited to use on existing open-monument roads, and that any signs or examples of trespass be dealt with quickly and convincingly. There are numerous locations surrounding the National Monument for off-highway vehicle users to partake in this motorized recreation. We do not believe that the National Monument was designated to support such activities and any legitimate effort to ensure the long-term protection of the Monument's resources must not include any off-highway vehicle use. We support the continued closure of Dunn Road and would like to see the Monument staff monitor any illegal access in the Windy Point area and enforce the "closed" status of that area.

PC 177

PC 178

Mountain Biking – Mountain biking is an ever increasing recreational use on our public lands. Currently mountain bikes are permitted on any trail that is outside of designated Wilderness. In some areas within the Monument, agency staff have placed signs that ask users to stay off certain trails that impact bighorn sheep during lambing season. The entirety off these "voluntary closure" trails do not amount to much in the overall mileage that mountain bikers have access to in the Monument. We suggest that the Monument staff seriously consider closing to mountain bikes, all trails that have impacts on bighorn sheep and other threatened and sensitive species. The notion that all trails must be open to all uses, is inconsistent with the language designating the National Monument calling for the managing Secretaries to "allow only those uses of the National Monument that further the purposes for the establishment of the National Monument". This statement requires the Monument staff to curb uses either altogether, or in certain areas, if those uses are inconsistent with the protection of the Monument's resources. Mountain bikes cause erosion, habitat impairment, and various threats to the health of individual wildlife species. While we feel that in general, mountain bikes are a use consistent with the needs and requirements of the Monument, they do cause some problems that require them to be eliminated from some sensitive areas and trails. We believe mountain bikes should not be permitted on any trail leading into wilderness. This can cause trespass into a wilderness area either on purpose, or on accident due to poor signing. Trails leading into sensitive or critical habitat for endangered or threatened species should also be closed to mountain bikes. Any trail within a recognized roadless area of 1000 acres or greater, or any proposed Wilderness Study Area within the Monument should be closed to mountain

PC 140

PC 141

Page 6 of 6 California Wilderness Coalition comments Re: SRSJMNM DEIS

bikes as well. Ensuring the current naturalness of these areas is vitally important in ensuring their potential future inclusion in the Wilderness Preservation System, as well as maintaining the benefits that wild, unroaded landscapes offer to the plethora of species residing within the Monument.

In concluding our comments, we feel that the DEIS for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument does not do an adequate job of prescribing the manner in which the Monument will be managed in the future. In too many instances the planning staff has deferred management decisions to various other documents, planning processes, and uncoordinated proposals. We believe that the Monument was designated in order to protect the vital resources recognized and referred to in the legislation creating the Monument. In order to accomplish this, the Monument planning staff must lay out in more detail how the Monument Act's goals are to be reached. We agree with several of the preferred plans identified in the DEIS, but we are unclear how these goals will be reached or enforced.

PC 039

By deferring decision making to the management prescriptions reached in the National Forest Plan revision process, and other planning processes, we believe the Monument planning team is not fulfilling its duty to define what the needs of the Monument's resources are. Considering that the area within the Monument was justifiably protected in special designation status via a National Monument identification, we believe that the Monument's management plan should supercede any general plan for the surrounding BLM and Forest Service lands. The resources within the Monument must be considered on different terms from the lands surrounding them that have not been identified as deserving Monument status.

PC 022

We appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments regarding the DEIS and look forward to further management plan analysis and interaction with the Monument planning team.

Sincerely,

  
Jason B. Swartz  
Policy Analyst

P. 02

Joe Ingram  
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18 JUNE 03  
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760-  
251 4899

IN REPLY TO: 6240/1610 DP CA. 668.70

S.P. & S.J. MATHE. NAT MONUMENT  
(Public Law 106.351 OCT 24 2000) ORIGINAL

DEAR WRITERS & BLM PARTNERS:

MY GENERAL criticism OF THE DRAFT Management PLAN seems to focus on my latest realization that on Figure #3 MAP (Land ownership) three communities OF ROYAL CARRIZO, CHADMAN RANCHES, and SPRINGCREST are "in the monument" - PINYON, PINYON CREST and ALPINE OR OUT OF THE MONUMENT. READ Public Law 106.351. (B) (A) (D) (E) (F). 114 STAT. 1369. This boundary issue would be directly to the Dept of Agriculture secretary - discretion.

PC 013

I UNDERSTAND that this decision was made in meetings Spring 1999 BEFORE MONUMENT LAW was even PASSED!!! I or my neighbors (A PCC representative) don't remember any discussion or meetings. This was a "COVERT" decision by a group of BLM PARTNERS. This inclusion was made because NO ONE objected? NO ONE WAS AWARE! NO LIST OF PROS OR CONS then and now. NO ONE KNOWS?

PC 014

ONE REASON to be excluded was to keep Hordes of tourist off your private roads/property.

SOMEONE decided we wouldn't have that protection or choice. We still don't have a monument representative.

PC 012

I see the monument LAW as OUT OF KILTER with what is happening on the ground.

INFRASTRUCTURE in NATIONAL PARKS/MONUMENTS is in deplorable condition. This is a PUBLISHED FACT. NO MONEY? MANAGEMENT?

- 2 -

IN OUR SPRINGCREST SECTION (a full 640 acres) we have two tracts 2947-3380 with 198 lots. We have well lots in 2947-3380 with paved roads and water distribution system. The other 320 acres is where our water tanks, wells, springs, watershed are. This 1/2 section is zoned for conservation by I believe RIVERSIDE COUNTY. We live in RIVERSIDE COUNTY, we have RIVERSIDE COUNTY ROADS. WHY weren't we included and RIVERSIDE COUNTY in BOUNDARY DECISIONS ????

WHEN there is a MAJOR FOREST FIRE Like "The PALM 1994 FIRE" the TANKERS, FIRE FIGHTERS LINE UP and hook into our water distribution system and "TAKE" water. I have lived here THIRTY YEARS. I have never seen any GOVERNMENT AGENCY other than RIVERSIDE COUNTY or the PUC (STATE OF CALIFORNIA) contribute a penny or any help in maintaining this VITAL INFRASTRUCTURE WATER SYSTEM with 300,000 gallons of water for FIRE PROTECTION. SHAME ON YOU! YOU didn't even include us in the (COVERT) decision making meeting in 1999. ?? NOW in 2003 we are surrounded in a forest of DEAD TREES and brush. Is this a less important issue NOW??

PC 207

The only answer I see is we were deleted by "THE PARTNERS" to make LAND ACQUISITION OF one of their 320 acres EASIER. IS THIS NOW to be POLITE to the private landowners? IS THIS STRATEGY AN ONE OF THE MANY PLANS?

-3-

P. 84

I want it to be known SPRINGCREST water company should be listed as a utility in the NATIONAL MONUMENT. Why NOT? I want it to be known RUISSEUR Water District should be included as a utility entity in the monument,

FOR FIRE PROTECTION, WILDLIFE PROTECTION, OH YES FOR HUMANS ALSO, perhaps to fill a canteen, WHAT ABOUT the other communities ??? Do they know?

I look at "LAND ACQUISITION" in the name of conservation as an attempt to correct bad Land PLANNING and ZONING OF THE PAST. MANY OF THE subdivisions were passed with little thought to concepts of ENVIRONMENTALISM, OPEN SPACE for plants/animals/water. without water you don't have plants, animals, or humans. Like the civil war, GENOCIDE OF NATIVE AMERICANS we all have to live with these wounds. I read the words, concepts of (NEPA 1969) and I don't see it being done. YOU CANNOT "TAKE" LAND and REMOVE TAX BASE and EXPECT INFRASTRUCTURE TO NOT HURT. LOOK AT GRAND CANYON, JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK!! We don't want to end up worse than we are now. DON'T DIVIDE and CONQUER US, any more. IT DIDN'T WORK FOR THE BRITISH and it won't work here!! We want LOCAL REPRESENTATION in the monument — NOT BLM'S PARTNERS to divide and intimidate us. They don't live here!! They don't represent the people HERE. WE DON'T LIVE IN COACHELLA VALLEY!! REDEVELOPMENT FOR CONSERVATION??

-4-

P. 85

ANOTHER water issue. Wild and scenic waterways? Who is pushing this and what is the GOAL? IT ACTUALLY Lists the main watershed originating on Vandevetter FLATS on the SANTA ROSA RES. WHAT? All water COURSES along western SANTA ROSA, SANTA CREEK, Dutch Charlie (ASBUSTOS) HORSE PORTERS etc. drain. Why focus OUT OF the monument into the Reservation?? The "BLM partners" choose not to even stop the dumping OF TRUCK LOADS OF TRASH in the watershed of Dutch Charlie. The TRASH is still in the ground in 2003. They are in some kind of DENIAL I suppose? AND they continue to "ACQUIRE" LAND all around for "CONSERVATION" ??? I Admit I AM IGNORANT. VERY MISINFORMED. WHAT IS YOUR EXCUSE?? NO MORE ACQUISITION without LOCAL REVIEW!!!

A Bighorn Ambassador has nothing to do with sheep but everything to do with outside ECO. LEGAL zealots and anti terrorist GOVERNMENTAL organization (Peep) and the Sierra to make the BLM honest ??? How much money has been spent ?? Lawsuit? Ambassadors ?? Did this AMOUNT OF MONEY SAVE ONE Bighorn ?? Now I read "TAKE" is being considered. IF ONLY the money could be used for what it is intended for. For this AMOUNT OF MONEY you could have built MANY Bighorn sheep SPAS with lush green fields of their NATIVE veggies — with a full time NAVAHO or native Herdsman to watch over them against cats and dogs. Be CREATIVE — think what you are doing!!! I see ONLY FAILURE. All the Kings HORSES, and all the Kings men !!

- 5 -

LONG MICH 11  
121



JUN 19 2003 18:48

SIERRA CLUB

P.01

I don't have time to take each section in the book and explain what I see as incorrect - ALTERNATIVE A, B, C etc.

THIS REACTIONARY PARTICIPATION IS A WASTE OF TIME. MOST PEOPLE WOULDNT EVEN REACT AT ALL DUE TO INTIMIDATION AND WORRY OF BEING SIMPLED OUT BY THE POWERS TO BE.

IN THIS SENSE IT IS NECESSARY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION FROM RESIDENTS. BY LIVING HERE YOU ARE THE RULER - YOU DESERVE TO BE A PART OF THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

TO MAKE LAND ACQUISITIONS A PRIORITY BY OUTSIDE GROUPS YOU ARE GOING AGAINST THE INTENT OF FEPA 1969, AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS YOU CITE AS FOLLOWING.

WE NEED A core project of relevance now. THIS PROJECT MUST BE IN CONTROL BY RESIDENTS AND NOT THE GROUPS OF OUTSIDE FRIENDS AND NON PROFITS WORKING COVERTLY. YOU MIGHT NOT CONSIDER IT COVERT YOU HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE WE DON'T!!! WE DON'T KNOW!!!

WE NEED RIVERSIDE COUNTY TO STEP FORWARD. WE ALL USE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PEOPLE DEAD AND GONE TO NOT RECOGNIZE THIS IS AN INSULT TO YOURSELF AND YOUR EFFORTS.

19 JUN 03 [Signature]

Friends of the Earth  
Sierra Club  
The Wilderness Society  
U.S. Public Interest Research Group

FAX 760.251.4899

June 19, 2003

Danelia George, Manager  
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument  
PO Box 581260  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258

Re: Comments on Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan

Dear Ms. George,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft Resource Management Plan and its accompanying Environmental Impact Statement ("dRMP/EIS") for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.

On behalf of the above-listed organizations and our millions of members nationwide, we submit these comments as a complement to any comments submitted individually by our organizations and local field offices. The undersigned organizations are part of a larger coalition dedicated to the preservation and proliferation of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) as a system - "created to conserve, protect, and restore these nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values." The comments represent each organization's many members who use and enjoy Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument. We intend for these comments to facilitate not only the protection of the NCA, but also the entire NLCS of which the national monument is a key unit.

We recognize the challenges faced by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service in developing a management plan for this national monument. The national monument is a treasure of enduring value to all Americans and the management plan will set the tone and direction for the long-term management of this special place. The Resource Management Plan represents an opportunity to demonstrate the ability of both agencies to work cooperatively toward a commitment to land stewardship.

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

JUN 15 2005 10:48 SIERRA CLUB

P. 02

JUN 15 2005 10:48 SIERRA CLUB

P. 03

In keeping with the philosophy and spirit of the legislation, the comments that follow focus on key elements that must be part of any plan to manage Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument in a way that reflects the philosophy and spirit of the legislation which created it. These include a strong conservation alternative, a plan that has specific strategies to implement resource protection, and improved cultural and historic site protection.

**The Plan is a lacking Conservation Alternative**

The NM Plan does not analyze a reasonable range of alternatives for all resources. Namely, a true Conservation Alternative is missing for biological and cultural resources, among others. With regard to dirt roads, for instance, the NM Plan has no conservation alternative with closures to protect resources from damage.

PC 045

**No Strategies**

This document appears to be a "plan to plan." Few, if any, definitive strategies are articulated; instead further planning is outlined and deferred to some rather indefinite future process. Sometimes the participants in the future process are named, often not. And rarely is any real guidance provided for this future planning. For instance, under Cultural resources - Access, no guidance is given with regard to developing a policy for Tribal member access for traditional gathering.

PC 039

There are no planning timelines that would insure that the plan gets implement in a timely manner.

PC 028

The plan should include education and interpretation actions, which highlight biological, geological, and cultural resources.

PC 158

The agencies should ensure that sufficient funding is provided and outlined in the plan for mitigation, monitoring, restoration, enhancement, reclamation, and other protective actions to ensure the preservation of the National Monument's values. Furthermore, if a particular management activity is not granted funding for associated mitigation, monitoring, restoration, enhancement, reclamation, or other protective actions, then the activity should be prohibited from going forward

PC 244

Due to the urban nature of the national monument, a no cumulative impacts or growth inducing impact analysis should be preformed as part of the planning process. This would help to keep protect the resources for future generations.

**Cultural and Biological Resources**

Establish measures to protect petroglyph sites from potential degradation associated directly and indirectly with designated activities, including enforcement to prevent vandalism.

PC 091

There should also be a policy developed for Tribal members access for traditional gathering activities. This would insure protection of the resources while still recognizing tribal traditions and rights.

PC 090

The NM Plan fails to propose substantive management actions for protection and preservation of biological resources, as are proposed for cultural and geological resources.

PC 050

**Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Suitability**

The plan completely ignores its responsibility in determining areas with wilderness and wild and scenic river quality. A process for moving forward with a complete inventory should be laid out in the plan.

**Development of Facilities**

Proposals for new facilities and land uses are deferred under the NM Plan. In the spirit of the vision for the NLCS "Great American Landscapes - healthy, wild and open" we would like to see very little increased development with in the monument. All new facilities should be placed in surrounding communities if at all possible. The plan should address any upcoming plans for facility development.

PC 169

This plan is too reliant on future plans. Without many specific strategies it makes it hard to fully comment on future management. We would like to see a real conservation alternative with resource protection and mitigation as its focus.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument resource management plan. We believe that adherence to applicable laws and regulations present the best opportunity to protect and conserve the special values of the national management in accordance with the legislation. We look forward to working with you on further development of the RMP that will ensure the protection of the healthy, wild, and open landscapes of this truly wonderful National Monument.

Sincerely,

Kristen Sykes  
Interior Department Watchdog  
Friends of the Earth

Wendy Vanasseit  
NLCS Project Director  
The Wilderness Society

Melinda Pierce  
Lands Protection Program  
Sierra Club

Tiernan Sittenfeld  
Conservation Advocate  
U.S. PIRG

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters



**Sierra Club  
San Gorgonio Chapter**

Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties  
Tahquitz Group • Los Serranos Group  
San Bernardino Mtns. Group • Mojave Group  
Moreno Valley Group

RECEIVED  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
03 JUN 19 PM 3:26  
PALM SPRINGS-SOUTH COAST  
RESOURCE AREA

June 19, 2003

Danella George, Manager  
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument  
PO Box 581260  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258

HAND DELIVERED

Re: Comments on Santa Rosa & San Jacinto National Monument Plan and Draft EIS (NM Plan)

Dear Ms. George:

The following comments on the NM Plan are submitted on behalf of the Tahquitz Group of the Sierra Club.

- The NM Plan does not analyze a reasonable range of alternatives for all resources. Namely, a true Conservation Alternative is missing for biological and cultural resources, among others. With regard to dirt roads, for instance, the NM Plan has no conservation alternative with closures to protect resources from damage. PC 045
- The NM Plan relies almost entirely on the Coachella Valley (CV) Plan Amendment or the CV Multiple Species HCP for substantive actions to manage the Monument's resources. One problem with this approach is that the CV Plan Amendment and its EIS are grossly flawed [Sierra Club's protest is herein incorporated by reference]. The other problem is that the CV Multiple Species HCP is unavailable to review, is unlikely to be finalized for at least a year, and there is no guarantee that it will actually be approved by all the jurisdictions involved in the National Monument, that it will be adopted at all, or that it will be consistent with recovery. What then? PC 018
- This document appears to be a "plan to plan." Few, if any, definitive strategies are articulated; instead further planning is outlined and deferred to some rather indefinite future process. Sometimes the participants in the future process are named, often not. And rarely is any real guidance provided for this future planning. For instance, under Cultural resources -Access, no guidance is given with regard to developing a policy for Tribal member access for traditional gathering. What measures will ensure that such access will not affect endangered species, etc? PC 028  
PC 090

- There appears to be no funding component of the NM Plan. Yet few if any of the future planning actions can be realized without funding. Under Cultural resources there is brief mention of budgeting. Neither budgeting nor actual funding mechanisms appear to be found elsewhere in the NM Plan. PC 243
- The NM Plan appears to have few if any deadlines for its proposals, save for geologic soil mapping.
- There appears to be no cumulative impacts or growth inducing impacts analysis.
- The NM Plan's analysis of consistency with other related plans is inaccurate and incomplete. The NM Plan is inconsistent with the Sikes Act Plan because it fails to propose closure of all trespass roads within the PRBS habitat in the Monument, especially Dunn Road. The NM Plan analysis of the Agua Caliente HCP is inaccurate and mischaracterizes the Mountains and Conservation Zone of that HCP, which has not been distributed for public or NEPA review. The NM Plan's analysis of consistency with the Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep (PRBS) Recovery Plan is unsupported. With regard to fire management, no mention is made of the San Jacinto Ranger District's ongoing prescribed burn program. PC 019  
PC 020  
PC 073  
PC 202
- The NM Plan fails to consider the suitability of its lands for wilderness, deferring their consideration to the Forest Service and/or future wilderness bills. Neither of these processes will produce a complete inventory.
- Likewise for Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- The NM Plan fails to propose substantive management actions for protection and preservation of biological resources, as are proposed for cultural and geological resources. PC 050
- Likewise, no real interpretation and education plans are proposed with regard to biological resources. PC 051
- Proposals for new facilities and land uses are deferred under the NM Plan. Have there been any applications or pre-application discussions for such? If so, these potential projects need to be considered in the Plan. PC 169
- The BLM should do the same for any land exchanges being contemplated in the Monument. There is at least one large land exchange proposed between the BLM and the Tribe. The BLM lands identified for exchange need to be described and the potential environmental effects of such an exchange analyzed now, instead of piecemealing the analysis. Any proposed or pending USFS land exchanges need to be addressed in the NM Plan as well. PC 216
- The NM Plan asserts that the Dunn Road is necessary for fire protection, tamarisk eradication, etc. These statements need to be substantiated, and the effects of continued vehicular use of this trespass road on PRBS need to be weighed. The alternative of closure and rehab of Dunn Road in PRBS habitat needs to be analyzed as the environmentally preferable alternative. Statement of Mark Jorgensen re Dunn Road enclosed. PC 187
- Under management of water resources, the data from the summer Sheep Ambassadors' surveys of water source for PRBS needs to be included for analysis. PC 208
- The NM Plan's assertions about trail use based on data gathered by Sheep Ambassadors should be qualified by the fact that this data was gathered without proper protocol and has little, if any, statistical validity. To compound the PC 150



Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

statistical invalidity of this information, it should be noted that it was common knowledge among trail users what type of vehicle the Sheep Ambassadors drove, and the ambassadors were regularly spotted and avoided.

- The NM Plan does not propose trail management prescriptions to protect resources. Nor does it propose conceptual guidance to enhance non-motorized trail use. For example, it could propose that, if biologically appropriate, trails and trail heads serving the Monument would interconnect with Coachella Valley floor trails and regional recreational amenities where feasible. There are other such guidelines which would benefit trails amenities in the Monument.
- The NM Plan summarizes various other recommendations of the PRBS Recovery Plan, but appears to carry the matter no further. Has the Monument Committee considered Recovery Plan recommendations such as prohibition of goats on trails, implementing fire management to maintain PRBS habitat, maintaining a uniformed agency presence to educate, monitor and enforce trails management prescriptions? The NM Plan should address these, and other, recommendations of the Recovery Plan.

PC 145

PC 071

The basically amorphous nature of the NM Plan makes it difficult to assess either the efficacy or the environmental impacts of the Plan. There are few true conservation alternatives, plus deferral and piecemealing of actions, faulty and inadequate information on other related plans, and inadequate assessment of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,



Jeff Morgan, Conservation Representative to the National Monument Committee and Conservation Vice Chairman, Tahquitz Group of the Sierra Club

Enclosure

1 James L. Fitchton (CA Bar # 150908)  
 2 EARTH LAW  
 3 Univ. of Denver-Forbes House  
 4 1714 Poplar Street  
 5 Denver, CO 80220  
 6 Telephone: (303) 871-6034  
 7 Fax: (303) 871-6991  
 8  
 9 Brendan Cummings (CA Bar # 193952)  
 10 LAW OFFICE OF BRENDAN CUMMINGS  
 11 2325 Carleton St, Suite B  
 12 Berkeley, CA 94704  
 13 Phone: (510) 848-5486  
 14 Fax: (510) 848-5499

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Case No: C-00-0927-WHA

11 CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL )  
 12 DIVERSITY, a non-profit corporation; )  
 13 SIERRA CLUB, a non-profit corporation; )  
 14 and PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FOR )  
 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY, )  
 a non-profit corporation, )  
 15 Plaintiffs, )  
 16 v. )  
 17 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT )  
 18 Defendant. )

DECLARATION OF MARK C. JORGENSEN IN SUPPORT OF STIPULATION AND PROPOSED ORDER CONCERNING INJUNCTIVE RELIEF FOR THE PENINSULAR RANGES BIGHORN SHEEP

21 I, Mark C. Jorgensen, do hereby declare as follows:

22 1. The facts set forth in this declaration are based on my personal and professional  
 23 knowledge and if called as a witness, I could and would competently testify thereto under oath.  
 24 As to those matters that reflect an opinion, they reflect my professional opinion and judgment  
 25 upon the matter. I submit this declaration in support of the Stipulation and Proposed Order

26 DECLARATION OF MARK C. JORGENSEN  
 IN SUPPORT OF STIPULATION AND PROPOSED  
 ORDER CONCERNING INJUNCTIVE RELIEF FOR

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

1 Concerning Injunctive Relief for the Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep.

2 2. I am currently employed as an Associate State Park Resource Ecologist for the  
3 California Department of Parks and Recreation. I have studied Peninsular Ranges bighorn  
4 sheep in depth in the California desert for approximately 33 years. Since 1998 I have been the  
5 Chair of the Technical Staff of the Desert Bighorn Council, Inc. I have been a member of the  
6 Technical Staff for about fifteen years. I have authored or co-authored eleven publications on  
7 bighorn sheep. I am a member of the Recovery Team for the Peninsular Ranges bighorn  
8 sheep. Since 1982, I have worked with the Bighorn Institute to conduct annual bighorn surveys  
9 in the Santa Rosa Mountains and San Jacinto Mountains. A complete description of my  
10 background and experience relating to Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep is contained in the  
11 declaration I submitted in support of the Plaintiffs' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment in  
12 the case.

13 3. In this declaration I address the impacts of human disturbance on Peninsular  
14 Ranges bighorn sheep, in particular the impacts of human trail use and the Durrn Road on the  
15 species.

16 4. In my 25-plus years of working at Anza Borrego State Park I have had significant  
17 first-hand experience dealing with the impacts that humans, on foot, on horseback, with dogs, or  
18 in motor vehicles can have on bighorn sheep. If trail use is generally confined to a canyon  
19 bottom, and use does not preclude bighorn access or use of water in hot months, bighorn tend to  
20 tolerate human presence in their home range. However, when trail activity occurs above bighorn  
21 or when trails create situations where bighorn are suddenly surprised to find hikers or mountain  
22 bikers very close by, then the trail can be very disruptive to the species. Bighorn are particularly  
23 sensitive to disturbance during the lambing season and will abandon areas if there is too much  
24 human presence in the area. Similarly, roads, particularly paved roads and dirt roads with  
25 significant vehicle traffic can disrupt and drive away bighorn sheep as well as act as barriers to

26 DECLARATION OF MARK C. JORGENSEN 2  
IN SUPPORT OF STIPULATION AND PROPOSED  
ORDER CONCERNING INTERIM RELIEF FOR

1 dispersal. It has been clearly demonstrated in recent studies that roadways form the boundaries  
2 of several of the ewe group home ranges in the Peninsular Ranges. Such fragmentation of  
3 habitat is one of the biggest impediments to the recovery of the species.

4 5. Based on this knowledge and experience dealing with the impacts of human  
5 disturbance on bighorn sheep, Anza Borrego has taken actions to protect the species. For  
6 example, in my early years at Anza-Borrego, I worked with BLM to close the desert slopes of the  
7 McCain Valley Conservation Area to motor vehicles. From 1974 to 1982, I assisted in the  
8 establishment of State Wilderness within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park to safeguard roadless  
9 areas to better protect bighorn sheep. In 1987, I helped obtain the closure of the Lower Willows  
10 riparian area of Coyote Canyon in the park to motor vehicles to safeguard a bighorn watering  
11 site. We rerouted a road to bypass this fragile riparian system. In 1996, we closed the riparian  
12 habitat in Middle and Upper Willows of Coyote Canyon to all motor vehicles to protect bighorn  
13 sheep and other species. My experience is that with proper management and well thought-out  
14 placement of roads and trails, and the closure when necessary of certain roads and trails,  
15 recreational and other access can be compatible with bighorn sheep survival and recovery.

16 6. Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep at the northern end of their range face many of  
17 the same impacts and threats that the sheep in the Anza Borrego area face and consequently  
18 need similar protective management measures. These sheep also face the additional threat of  
19 loss of habitat due to urban development. Given the greatly reduced numbers of bighorn  
20 currently occupying the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, I feel we need to take a  
21 conservative course regarding impacts to the species in this area.

22 7. Trail proliferation in the northern Santa Rosa Mountains and the lower slopes of  
23 the San Jacintos has negatively impacted bighorn sheep. The trails generally rise up slope from  
24 the valley floor, climb up the steep terrain one or two thousand feet, and then traverse along  
25 contours to the next canyon, then joining up with the trail system in that drainage. Thus, a

26 DECLARATION OF MARK C. JORGENSEN 3  
IN SUPPORT OF STIPULATION AND PROPOSED  
ORDER CONCERNING INTERIM RELIEF FOR

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

1 network of trails within sheep habitat has been woven all along the ranges above the Coachella  
2 Valley, reaching virtually every lambing and watering area.

3 8. Trails can be maintained and managed within sheep range if prudence and  
4 common sense are exercised. However, most of the trails in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto  
5 Mountains that negatively affect bighorn sheep were built without the benefit of any  
6 environmental review or consideration for their impacts on bighorn. As such, seasonal  
7 restrictions on trail use or rerouting of trails located in or near likely lambing grounds and  
8 watering spots is necessary. Such restrictions would impact less than twenty percent of the trail  
9 mileage in the area. Without such restriction, heavy recreational use by hikers, vehicles, horses  
10 dogs, and mountain bikes is a prescription for losing desert bighorn from the area.

11 9. One of the most significant negative impacts to the Peninsular Ranges bighorn  
12 sheep in the northern portion of the range is the continued use of the Dunn Road. This road was  
13 illegally created with no environmental review and placed in just about the worst possible  
14 location in terms of impacts to bighorn sheep. The lower elevation portion of this dirt road  
15 bisects prime bighorn habitat, including lambing areas. Bighorn were once common in the area  
16 of the Dunn Road. I observed bighorn running across and along this road and observed quite a  
17 few in the hills adjacent to the Dunn Road in the early 1980's. They are rarely observed in the  
18 area today. In the years since it was built, this illegal road has gained quite a constituency. Had  
19 the BLM closed this illegally constructed roadway at the time it was built, we would not be having  
20 to address the many recreational uses existing and proposed on it today. Currently, the Dunn  
21 Road is home to jeep tours, mountain bike tours, hikers, horseback riders, and landowners and  
22 innumerable others who drive up and down it and assume they have an entitlement to use this  
23 illegal road. All this use has had a significant negative impact on bighorn sheep in the area,  
24 serving as a barrier to movement and driving ewes away from traditional lambing areas and into  
25 the urban interface below where mortality is significantly higher. In my opinion, continued use

26 DECLARATION OF MARK C. JORGENSEN 4  
IN SUPPORT OF STIPULATION AND PROPOSED  
ORDER CONCERNING THE DUNN ROAD

1 of the Dunn Road at current levels is incompatible with the recovery of the Peninsular Range  
2 bighorn sheep. The best future for the Dunn Road would be obliteration and revegetation. At  
3 minimum, in the interim, access to the road must be greatly reduced. This is not a radical  
4 concept; the FWS Recovery Plan for the species likewise calls for restrictions on the Dunn Road  
5 as an important step in bighorn recovery.

6 10. It is my belief that road maintenance activities in bighorn habitat, and on the  
7 Dunn Road in particular, have the potential to seriously disrupt bighorn sheep in a manner  
8 above and beyond simple use of the road. I am personally aware of a situation where road work  
9 has negatively impacted the species. I have been involved with recording radio telemetry  
10 locations of ewes traveling to the Coyote Mountains for several lambing seasons. Each lambing  
11 season a group of ewes goes to Carrizo Mountain in the Coyote Mountains from the Carrizo  
12 Canyon area to give birth and begin rearing their young. Recently, however, road grading activity  
13 on the peak by the Creole Mine resulted in the displacement of several ewes. Such activity if  
14 carried out on the Dunn Road would likely further disrupt the tenuous bighorn populations in  
15 the area.

16 11. In preparing this declaration I have reviewed the Declaration of Jim Cornett  
17 submitted in opposition to the Stipulation. I strongly disagree with many of Mr. Cornett's  
18 contentions. His statement that Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep are not "unduly stressed" by  
19 the presence of hikers simply does not comport with the reality that various bighorn researchers,  
20 including myself and other members of the Recovery Team, have observed over the past three  
21 decades. Heavy human presence in lambing and watering areas during lambing and watering  
22 seasons results in stress to the sheep and avoidance or abandonment of the areas. Mr. Cornett  
23 also states that the Lykken and Bear Creek Trails do not impact bighorn habitat. Again, this is  
24 simply not the case and these trails are identified by the Recovery Plan as being in conflict with  
25 sheep. These statements by Mr. Cornett, while inaccurate, are not surprising. I have witnessed

26 DECLARATION OF MARK C. JORGENSEN 5  
IN SUPPORT OF STIPULATION AND PROPOSED  
ORDER CONCERNING THE DUNN ROAD

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

1 him offer testimony in public hearings and in public documents at least two times where he ha  
 2 stated that proposed developments would have no impact on bighorn because the areas to b  
 3 developed were not bighorn habitat nor used in any way by bighorn. In each case, this testimo  
 4 was contradicted by reality: observations, photographs, and radio telemetry data showed bighor  
 5 use of the areas Mr. Cornett deemed not to be habitat.

6 12. While this declaration has focused on trail impact to bighorn and the Dunn Road  
 7 these are of course not the only problems facing bighorn sheep in the Peninsular Ranges. The  
 8 Recovery Plan envisions a holistic approach to look at an entire suite of issues affecting the  
 9 sheep, and to deal with them all, in time. Other priorities of the Recovery Team are land  
 10 acquisition, fencing of the interface between bighorn habitat and development along the front o  
 11 the Santa Rosas in the Coachella Valley, continued research and population monitoring  
 12 implementation of a prescribed fire program to recover high elevation habitat, researching and  
 13 possibly controlling cougars, develop captive breeding strategies, monitoring diseases which ma  
 14 limit bighorn productivity, re-establishment of wildlife corridors across highways, and rura  
 15 roads, and acting to limit the number of bighorn losing their lives due to improper fencing  
 16 poisonous landscape plants, and other effects of civilization. The Recovery Plan was pu  
 17 together by a multi-disciplinary team of bighorn specialists from many agencies, a Nativ  
 18 American Tribe, university researchers, and the Bighorn Institute. Collective experience wit  
 19 desert bighorn natural history among this team amounts to over 100 years of field work. Th  
 20 team has worked for several years to develop a strategy which meets the future recovery needs of  
 21 the Peninsular bighorn sheep, realizing all the time that many of the impacts on the species can  
 22 never be remedied. In areas where the team sees possible solutions which will benefit the  
 23 bighorn, we have placed these strategies into the Plan. The Dunn Road, and the uncontrolled  
 24 nature of the trail system, in my opinion, falls into the category of impacts which hold hope for  
 25 remedy. Unless we as a community of residents and scientists are willing to change some of our

26 DECLARATION OF MARK C. JORGENSEN 6  
 IN SUPPORT OF STIPULATION AND PROPOSED  
 ORDER CONCERNING THE PROTECTIVE ORDER FOR

1 recreational habits, and are willing to make room for native inhabitants such as the bighorn, w  
 2 will fail in our attempt to recover this Endangered population of desert bighorn sheep.

3 I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and wa  
 4 executed \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001, at Borrego Springs, California.

5 \_\_\_\_\_  
 6 Mark, C. Jorgensen  
 7

26 DECLARATION OF MARK C. JORGENSEN 7  
 IN SUPPORT OF STIPULATION AND PROPOSED  
 ORDER CONCERNING THE PROTECTIVE ORDER FOR

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

SCHLECHT, SHEVLIN & SHOENBERGER

JAMES M. SCHLECHT  
JOHN C. SHEVLIN  
JOHN A. SHOENBERGER  
DANIEL T. JOHNSON  
DAVID A. DARRIN  
DOUGLAS D. SANDERS

RECEIVED  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
03 JUN 18 PM  
801 EAST TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY, SUITE 100  
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 92262  
PALM SPRINGS-SOUTH COAST MAILING ADDRESS  
P. O. BOX 2744  
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 92263-2744

TELEPHONE (760) 329-7161  
TELECOPIER (760) 323-1758  
E-MAIL ssslaw@ssslaw.com

OF COUNSEL  
RICK M. STEIN  
IN REPLY REFER TO:  
9517.7

SCHLECHT, SHEVLIN & SHOENBERGER

A LAW CORPORATION  
LAWYERS

Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
June 18, 2003  
Page 2

June 18, 2003

Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office,  
Bureau of Land Management,  
690 West Garnet Avenue,  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258;

Subject: Comments on the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (SRSJMNM) Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement, March 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

Our law firm represents several private landowner interests within the boundaries of the SRSJMNM. We appreciate having had an opportunity to review the subject document and on their behalf hereby offer the comments that follow.

The clients we represent control privately owned land located within the Santa Rosa Mountains. One property, located in the foothills at the fringe of urban development, is currently undergoing Specific Plan review in the City of Palm Springs. Historically, our clients have taken a keen interest in any proposed governmental or private actions with potentially significant adverse direct and/or indirect environmental, resource preservation, and/or private property rights impacts. With regard to the SRSJMNM, our clients have closely monitored its development from the time of its inception to the present day all the while maintaining their focus on the aforementioned three primary areas of concern.

Important to note is that the interests of our clients in this regard seemed to also closely reflect issues of concern articulated by Congresswoman Mary Bono when first presenting H.R. 3676 (the proposed creation of the subject SRSJMNM) to the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands for consideration. In that presentation Congresswoman Bono, when citing the challenges faced in developing the proposal, indicated the following (emphasis added):

*"I have developed a profound respect for the people who, over the past century, have served as stewards of these lands. They have done a marvelous job in balancing the*

*preservation of these mountains with the inevitable development that has occurred in Southern California."*

*"How could we balance the traditional uses and private property rights that the people of the region enjoy with the need to preserve these mountain vistas?"*

*".....I went directly to the people of the 4<sup>th</sup> District and sought their participation and input on how best to draft legislation that would reflect their commitment to both environmental preservation and private property protection."*

In addition, Congresswoman Bono endeavored to be even more specific regarding how H.R. 3676 addressed some of the same concerns and others of interest to our clients. An example follows (emphasis added):

*".....when I recently met with the Secretary (referring to Bruce Babbitt) I agreed to .....making modifications to the sections governing the protection of private property rights and interests, public utilities, water rights and withdrawals."*

Based on the foregoing, our clients were reasonably confident that if approved, Congresswoman Bono's proposed legislation would contain the provisions necessary to address their primary areas of concern. Their confidence was reinforced upon a review of the text of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000 as enacted by Congress on October 24, 2000. In light of the foregoing, our clients were of the opinion that it would naturally follow that the then forthcoming Draft RMP/DEIS would necessarily expand on the administrative and operational rules and procedures pertaining to their three primary areas of concern. A review of the subject Draft RMP/DEIS revealed a notable absence of any expanded discussions regarding their issues of concern. In fact, in some instances, it appears that the Draft RMP/EIS provides even less detail than the Act itself. The comments that follow express their concerns in these regards:

Comment No.1

Private property development and access rights are specifically addressed under the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000, but are only summarily alluded to in the Draft National Monument RMP/DEIS. In order to ensure that private property development and access rights are sufficiently respected in the subject Draft RMP/DEIS we recommend the following:

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

SCHLECHT, SHEVLIN & SHOENBERGER  
A LAW CORPORATION  
LAWYERS

Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
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Comment No. 1A.

Sec. 2 (5) of the National Monument Act of 2000 states: "The designation of a Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument...is not intended to impact upon existing or future growth in the Coachella Valley".

PC 040

This statement should be included verbatim among the planning criteria presented on Pages ES-4 and 1-7 of the subject Draft RMP/DEIS.

Comment No. 1B.

Sec. 3 (c) and (d) of the National Monument Act of 2000 respectively state: "Nothing in the establishment of the National Monument shall affect any property rights of any Indian reservation, any individually held trust lands, any other Indian allotments, any lands or interests in lands held by the State of California, any special district, or the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority, or any private property rights within the boundaries of the National Monument...", and "The management of the National Monument shall be subject to valid existing rights".

PC 041

These statements should be included verbatim among the planning criteria presented on Pages ES-4 and 1-7 of the subject Draft RMP/DEIS.

Comment No. 1C.

Sec. 5 (d) of the National Monument Act of 2000 states: "The Secretaries shall provide adequate access to nonfederally owned land or interests in land within the boundaries of the National Monument, which will provide the owner of the land or the holder of the interest the reasonable use and enjoyment of the land or interest, as the case may be".

PC 042

This statement should be included verbatim among the planning criteria presented on Pages ES-4 and 1-7 of the subject Draft RMP/DEIS.

Comment No.2

Sec. 6 (a) through (d) of the National Monument Act of 2000 articulates the protocols associated with the acquisition of land within the National Monument boundary with regard to "Methods",

SCHLECHT, SHEVLIN & SHOENBERGER  
A LAW CORPORATION  
LAWYERS

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"Use of Easements", "Valuation of Private Property" and "Incorporation of Acquired Lands and Interests".

The discussion of land acquisition in the subject Draft RMP/DEIS occurs on Pages ES-5, 1-8 and 2-33. In the Final RMP/DEIS, each discussion should, at a minimum, be expanded to include the full text of above-referenced Sections of National Monument Act of 2000. The purpose would be to emphasize to the owners of private lands within the National Monument the government's intent to only acquire lands from willing and/or interested parties and that in the event such acquisitions transpire that adequate compensation based on fair market values shall occur.

PC 218

Comment No. 3

Page 2-33 of the subject Draft RMP/DEIS presents a rather vague land acquisition strategy and a resulting vague impact analysis. It is our opinion that a preliminary set of target lands for acquisition should be identified in the subject document. By doing so, all potentially affected private land ownership interests within would be afforded a sufficient basis upon which to affect long-range planning for their respective properties and to ascertain the potential future disposition of other proximal lands targeted for acquisition.

PC 219

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Monument RMP essentially incorporates by reference an amalgam of Federal and State Laws, Rules and Regulations and Policy Planning documents which will guide RMP implementation. Some are only in draft form at this time. The overlapping (and thus potentially competing) nature, as well as the current draft status of such diverse land use control sources, could be problematic for the future disposition of lands our clients control. Notable land use control documents in this regard include, but are not limited to: the San Bernardino National Forest Plan Revision (in progress), BLM's California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley (completed December 2002), the Coachella Valley MSHCP/NCCP and attendant Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Trails Management Plan (Draft expected Summer 2003), the Agua Caliente Tribal HCP, and The Recovery Plan for the Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep, among others. (Pages ES-4 through ES-10) and (Pages 1-10 through 1-15). Given the foregoing, we offer the following comments:

Comment No. 4

Item vii, Appendix F, "Recovery Strategy for Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep", of the subject document, states "Maintain or re-establish connectivity throughout all habitat". Many of our client holdings are entirely within designated "Essential Habitat" for the subject species. While it is

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

06/18/2003 11:12 91663598/8

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

PAGE 82

SCHLECHT, SHEVLIN & SHOENBERGER  
A LAW CORPORATION  
LAWYERS

Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
June 18, 2003  
Page 5

believed that this policy will apply specifically to Federal lands only under the Plan, it is unclear whether or not this would actually be the case. We hereby request that the Final RMP/DEIS provide clarification of this concern.

PC  
072

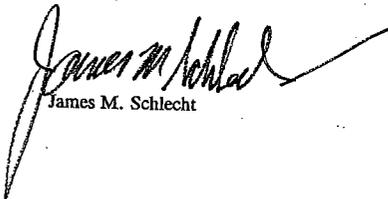
Comment No.5

With regard to trails and scenic resources, the aforementioned Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Trails Management Plan (Draft expected Summer 2003) identifies numerous trails on and in the vicinity of lands under our client's control (e.g. Claire Burgess Trail and Dunn Road, among others). While a constituent component of the Monument Plan, the unapproved status of the Trails Management Plan may be unforeseeably problematic for them. The extent to which this may be so will likely be determined by the extent to which BLM will protect trail view sheds from activities on any proximal or abutting client holdings. It is requested that clarification of this dynamic be provided in the Final RMP/DEIS.

PC  
146

On behalf of our clients with privately owned lands within the National Monument, we appreciate this opportunity to comment upon the Draft RMP/DEIS. Should you have any questions or comments regarding any aspect of this submittal, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at 760-320-7161.

Sincerely,

  
James M. Schlecht

The Wildlife Society  
Western Section  
Dr. Lowell Diller  
P.O. Box 68  
Korbel, CA 95550  
707-668-4428  
ldiller@simpson.com



June 17, 2003

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Manager  
P.O. Box 581260  
690 West Garnett Ave.  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258  
Fax (760) 251-4899

**Subject: The Western Section of The Wildlife Society Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument**

The Wildlife Society is an international organization comprising professional wildlife biologists employed in the private and public sectors, natural resource management agencies, and academia. The Western Section of The Wildlife Society (TWS-WS) currently consists of about 1,000 members in nine chapters in California, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands. TWS-WS members include field biologists, wildlife managers, and policymakers from a broad range of disciplines who are regularly engaged in resolving land use and conservation issues stemming from impacts on wildlife and the habitats on which they depend.

Our goal is to enhance the capability of wildlife professionals in conserving natural diversity, sustaining productivity, and ensuring responsible use of wildlife resources for society's benefit. The principal objectives of The Wildlife Society are developing and promoting sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environments on which wildlife and humans depend, taking an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation, increasing awareness and appreciation of wildlife values, and seeking the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

We commend the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for developing a management plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument in such a timely manner. We are submitting the following comments on the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan" and hope that these comments are helpful in the development of a final plan.

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

## Section 2.B.1. Management of Biological Resources

### 1. *Management of Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep*

The DEIS states that "...the CDCA Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley outlines measures that the BLM will follow to protect and promote the recovery of Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep in the Monument..." (page 2-5). We suggest that the final plan include language that all actions undertaken by the BLM and the USFS will be consistent with the goals and objectives of the recovery plan for bighorn sheep.

PC 073

### 2. *Management of Noxious, Non-Native, and Invasive Plant Species*

The Preferred Plan in the DEIS stipulates that the "...BLM and USFS would seek partnership opportunities to enhance current efforts [to manage invasive plant species]" (page 2-5). We recommend that the BLM and USFS fund and implement their own proactive monitoring and eradication programs rather than relying on current efforts and the possibility of future partnerships.

PC 052

### 3. *Management of Special-Status Species*

Again, we recommend that the BLM and USFS fund and implement their own plant and animal inventories as a primary means of gathering data. This effort could then be augmented by "...working with partner agencies, Tribes, and volunteer groups to update existing inventories..." (page 2-7). The DEIS does not describe the scope, quality, or frequency of existing inventories or whether these inventories currently include all special-status species. In addition, status designations may change and the DEIS should account for possible changes and require appropriate inventory and focused survey efforts for all special-status species.

PC 053

### 4. *Monitoring Program*

The Preferred Plan's monitoring program described in the DEIS suggests a lack of commitment on the part of BLM and USFS to develop a comprehensive, Monument-wide monitoring program for biological resources. The Preferred Plan states that the BLM and USFS will "...continue to participate in the development of an interagency monitoring program..." and "...continue to coordinate the implementation of the interagency monitoring program..." and "...work with partner agencies to coordinate monitoring..." (page 2-7). As described above, we recommend that the final plan mandate a stand-alone surveying and monitoring program for the Monument to complement and expand on ongoing efforts while ensuring no resource monitoring gaps.

PC 054

## 2.B.3. Management of Recreational Resources

### 1. *Non-Motorized Recreation*

Camping should be prohibited in critical and essential bighorn sheep habitat (page 2-16). In addition, hang gliding over bighorn sheep habitat has the potential to harass or disrupt sheep and should be prohibited. We support Alternative C with regard to hang gliding activities (page 2-17) because it would disallow hang gliding launches from, and landing on, BLM or USFS lands within the Monument, including Vista Point, and therefore ensure no harassment or disruption of the bighorn sheep in the vicinity. Hang gliders must land on Bighorn Institute property or the state ecological reserve if they are launching from the Vista Point site, potentially disturbing or harassing sheep in the Bighorn Institute captive breeding and lambing facility.

PC 129

### 2. *Pets*

Within essential bighorn sheep habitat, dogs should be managed in accordance with existing closure order and recovery plan recommendations, as well as the bighorn sheep strategy described in BLM's CDCA Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley (page 2-19).

PC 125

The Preferred Plan states that leashed dogs would be allowed in designated areas, including the visitor center (page 2-19). The Monument visitor center on Highway 74 is located in essential bighorn sheep habitat and adjacent to the Bighorn Institute; therefore, dogs should be prohibited in that location. In addition, the Preferred Plan notes that other sites may be designated following the completion of a trails plan.

The most recent trails plan proposes to allow dogs in essential bighorn sheep habitat, which is inconsistent with recovery of bighorn sheep and inconsistent with management of large mammals. Finally, the Preferred Plan would allow authorized, but unleashed, working dogs (page 2-20) outside of essential bighorn sheep habitat. Please clarify whether this includes hunting dogs.

PC 126

Overall, we recommend that the final plan prohibit dogs completely—working, hunting, or otherwise—in all essential and critical bighorn sheep habitat throughout the entire Monument.

### 3. *Feral and Uncontrolled Domestic Animals*

The Preferred Plan would establish a protocol to "address" feral and uncontrolled domestic animals (page 2-20). We suggest the establishment and implementation of a protocol to control and manage these animals. The plan should address methods for discouraging abandonment and prohibiting creation or support of human-supported feral animal colonies.

PC 137

### 4. *USFS Adventure Pass*

We encourage the adoption of Alternative C with regard to the Adventure Pass fee on both USFS and BLM lands within the Monument (page 2-21). These Adventure Pass fees could fund biological resource inventory and monitoring programs.

PC 109

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

5. Strategic Recreation Management Plan

We recommend adding language stating that the Strategic Recreation Management Plan be consistent with the bighorn sheep recovery plan and the Sikes Act (page 2-22).

PC 112

2.B.6. Management of Scientific Resources

The Preferred Plan requires maintenance of current spatial data in the form of Geographic Information System (GIS) coverages or layers (page 2-27). We wholeheartedly support this approach; however, the DEIS should describe the scope and extent of current and target data, their intended use, availability of metadata, and data limitations. The DEIS should also describe data validation methods and provide an assessment of data quality and scale.

PC 162

The Preferred Plan stipulates that permits would be required for research activities in the Monument. The Plan states the intent of the permit requirement is to monitor data collection activities (page 2-27). Please clarify this issue with respect to state and federal wildlife resource agency access to Monument lands.

PC 163

2.B.8 Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses

1. Fire Plan

The Preferred Plan states that the BLM and USFS will "...address established vegetation and species-based needs for fire management throughout the National Monument..." (page 2-31). We recommend that the final plan explicitly require the implementation of fire management to meet the needs of target species.

PC 203

2.B.9. Management of Water Resources

The Preferred Plan states that the BLM and USFS will coordinate with other entities to "...enhance current efforts to manage surface and ground water..." by several actions (page 2-33). As suggested above in our comments on Management of Biological Resources, we recommend that the BLM and USFS fund and implement their own inventories of surface water and groundwater resources rather than relying on current efforts and partnerships. In addition, we suggest that the BLM and USFS develop and implement their own program to eradicate tamarisk, fountain grass, oleander, and other invasive species in the Monument.

PC 209

PC 079

2.B.10. Acquisition Strategy

We suggest including consistency with the Sikes Act to the criteria list for the BLM and USFS acquisition process (page 2-34).

PC 220

2.C.1 Adaptive Management and Monitoring - Implementing the Plan

The Preferred Plan states that the BLM and USFS will "...facilitate the development of a Technical Review Team to include all partners such as Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, California State Parks, Tribal Administrators, State and Federal land representatives, to implement strategies resulting from the National Monument Management Plan" (page 2-35), and will "...coordinate monitoring of resources..." and "...prioritize monitoring of resources to address those associated with highest levels of threat..." (page 2-36). Section 2.C.2 notes that the final plan will also be updated with regard to the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan's Trails Management Plan and the Forest Plan Revision process (page 2-36).

The adaptive management section of the Plan contains no actual provisions or mechanisms for true adaptive management. "Adaptive management" means allowing ongoing monitoring and research to guide future management actions. In other words, adaptive management is specifically data-driven rather than simply including provisions from pending plans.

The final Plan should require that the data obtained from surveys and monitoring, as well as scientific research, be examined on a regular basis by a Technical Review Team and that subsequent management actions be revised to reflect the data. In addition, the Technical Review Team should include scientists whose job it is to monitor biological resources in the Monument, and managers with the expertise, responsibility, and authority to make management decisions.

PC 234

Thank you for considering these comments. Please contact me to discuss our comments, answer questions related to our recommendations, or provide technical assistance as required.

Sincerely,

*Lowell Diller*  
Lowell Diller, President  
The Wildlife Society - Western Section

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

**Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians**

56310 Highway 371, Suite B



P.O. Box 391372 • Anza, CA 92539 • Office (909) 763-4105 • Fax (909) 763-4225 • E-Mail: ramona41@gte.net

RECEIVED  
LAND MANAGEMENT  
03 JUN 14 AM 11:17  
PALM SPRINGS-SOUTH COAST  
RESOURCE AREA

June 10, 2003

**Danella George, Monument Manager**  
Palm Springs South Coast Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 581260  
Palm Springs, CA. 92258

**Re: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument's Draft Management Plan.**

Danella:

Please let this letter serve as the Ramona Band's formal comments concerning the Draft Plan noted above.

As you know, the Ramona Band is developing an Ecotourism Center within its existing Reservation boundaries for the purposes of promoting environmental principals and tribal economic self determination. We request that this facility be recognized as a "portal" to the National Monument as there is a commonality between your goals and our goals.

PC 005

While we are now aware that the Ramona Reservation cannot physically be a part of the National Monument due to geographic distance, we feel that we fall within your "sphere of influence" and that you fall within ours.

As a general statement, we would encourage proponents of the National Monument to consider that the Ramona's have taken a bold and decisive step into the arena of ecotourism and deserve the help of all those who are friends of the environment. What we need more than anything is exposure in the right circles not only of the Ecotourism Center's existence but of our righteous ecological cause in general. In short - *the more promotion the better*. For this reason they request inclusion into your news letter and the opportunity to do "piggyback" mailings when National Monument promotional materials and announcements are sent out. The Ramona's ask for the consent of the National Monument to display information pertinent to their facility as the National Monument's Visitor Centers and the identified "portals" In kind, we are most willing to promote the National Monument at our Ecotourism Center and place of business.

PC 005

PC 006

Specifically, we applaud the Draft's thorough handling of Cultural Resources (items 2-C.2.1 thru 2-C.2.7) and frequent mention of *all Cahuilla Bands*. We would request that the language of item 2-C.27. **Cultural Resources - Native American Coordination Consultation** be modified to include mention of the Ramona Band's Ecotourism Center and our desire to be involved with the National Monument and in the sharing of information and resources with all neighboring Mountain, Pass, and Desert Cahuilla Bands.

PC 093

Thank you for the time you will expend to review these comments and we wish the National Monument continued prosperity and success.

Sincerely,

Manuel Hamilton  
Tribal Chairperson

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

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State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
Inland Empire District  
17801 Lake Perris Drive  
Perris, California 92571

Gray Davis, Governor

Ruth G. Coleman, Acting Director

June 17, 2003

Danella George  
National Monument Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 581260  
690 W. Garnet Avenue  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258

Re: Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement, SCH #2003044001

Dear Ms. George:

The Inland Empire District of the Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

State Parks' mission in part is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by preserving the state's extraordinary biodiversity and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.

As the office responsible for the stewardship Mt. San Jacinto State Park we have a significant interest in the future management of this area. Our interest is great because we recognize that MSJSP is only a part of the larger landscape which is collectively known as the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Both the biotic boundaries of this area and the available recreational activities extend well beyond the jurisdictional boundaries of the park. The success of our programs and the health of our ecosystems are dependent in part on the successful management of the National Monument.

Our comments on the draft Management Plan/DEIS are as follows:

Generally, we wish to express our support and appreciation for the planning efforts of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in the development of this plan. We also wish to acknowledge the efforts of each of the agencies and entities which have land within the National Monument and which contributed to the development of the Management Plan including the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the California Department of Fish and Game.

The plan addresses the pertinent management issues and it provides a framework for continuing co-ordination and cooperation between the land managers within the National Monument.

Ms. Danella George  
Draft Management Plan and DEIS, SRSJM National Monument  
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### State Park Acreage in the National Monument

Page ES-1 of the Executive Summary states that the National Monument encompasses 12,900 acres of California Department of Parks and Recreation Land. As stated in the letter from the Colorado Desert District of State Parks, dated May 19, 2003 this figure appears to be in error due to a mapping error which included 4,400 acres of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Nonetheless, the area of Mt. San Jacinto State Park that is within the monument is less than 12,900 acres and is closer to the 8500 acres referenced in the Monument Committee Advisory Report "background" section.

PC 015

### Plan Alternatives

State Parks agrees with and supports the Preferred Plan for each of the Biological and Cultural Resources Categories. In the biological resources categories concerning the management of special status species, inventory and monitoring, the development and implementation of an action plan for exotic species removal, and the reintroduction of indigenous species (ES-14, 15); we ask that State Parks be included in interagency cooperation and co-ordination efforts including opportunities to participate in working groups focused on these issues.

PC 007

Regarding cultural resources, we ask that State Parks be included in the interagency cooperation and coordination efforts related to cultural resources including research, inventory, site stewardship, education and interpretation, management planning, native American coordinating and traditional collecting and gathering. In the area of collecting and gathering, State Parks has existing policy (ES-17 through 20). We ask that the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management work with State Parks to develop a compatible policy.

PC 094

State Parks agrees with and supports the Preferred Plan for the following Recreational Resources categories:

- Recreational Paintball
- Pacific Crest national Scenic Trail (PCT)
- Recreational Shooting
- Strategic Recreation Management Plan
- Forest Service Adventure Pass
- Feral and Uncontrolled Domestic Animals

We ask that State Parks be given the opportunity to participate in the development of the Strategic Recreation Plan including the development of a monitoring program and that the BLM and Forest Service coordinate with State Parks in establishment of consistency in trail signage.

PC 007

PC 155

State Parks prefers Alternative C for hang gliding. Hang gliding activities can affect the sense of solitude which hikers and other users seek when visiting the backcountry and wilderness areas of the National Monument. Even though impacts to bighorn sheep would be reduced with hang gliding prohibitions in and around bighorn sheep habitat, other wildlife could be impacted

PC 134

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Ms. Danella George  
Draft Management Plan and DEIS, SRSJM National Monument  
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as a result of stress responses to airborne gliders and wildlife and plants (from trampling) could be affected by persons hiking cross country into and out of remote areas from landing points.

Given the explicit and implicit higher level of resource stewardship associated with the classification of this area as a National Monument, State Parks suggests that Alternative C be considered for Recreational Resources – Pets (ES-28, 2-20). Also, the language regarding pets needs to be clearer and more consistent. In some cases (including within the same Alternative) the general term pets is used while in other text the more specific term dog is used. It is not always clear if the author is talking about pets in general or dogs in particular.

PC 124

State Parks agrees with and supports the Preferred Plan for the Geological Resources categories. We ask that inventory, mapping and education efforts be coordinated with State Parks.

PC 007

State Parks agrees with and supports the Preferred Plan for the Educational Resources categories. We ask that the Forest Service and BLM work with Mt. San Jacinto and Inland Empire District park staff to coordinate signage efforts and other appropriate aspects of education and interpretation.

PC 007

State Parks agrees with and supports the Preferred Plan for the Management of Scientific Resources (2-27, ES 34). We ask that the Forest Service and BLM work in coordination and cooperation with State Parks in this area and we hope that reciprocal agreements for data sharing can be developed.

PC 007

We generally support the Preferred Plan for the Management of Facilities, Visitation and Uses categories and we wish to work in a cooperative and coordinated manner with the Forest Service, BLM, and other National Monument partners.

PC 007

For the Preferred Plan, Management of Visitation, Facilities, and Uses – Fire Plan (ES-37, 2-31) we ask that State Parks be included in the coordinated effort to develop a Comprehensive Fire Plan for the Monument.

PC 007

State Parks agrees with and supports the Preferred Plan for Water Resources – Surface and ground Water Resources. We would appreciate the opportunity to participate in the inventory and monitoring process and the watershed assessment.

PC 007

State Parks generally supports the Preferred Plan for Land Acquisition and we would appreciate the opportunity to coordinate acquisition priorities and strategies.

PC 007

State Parks agrees with and supports the Preferred Plan for Adaptive Management and Monitoring Program – Implementing the Plan. We appreciate the inclusion of California State Parks on the proposed Technical Review Team.

Ms. Danella George  
Draft Management Plan and DEIS, SRSJM National Monument  
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## Invasive Weeds and Pests

In the section of the document describing invasive weeds and pests (3-15) we suggest that European starlings be added to the list of invasive exotic animals. Starling compete with native cavity nesting birds and their reduction in montane forests has resulted in re-colonization or areas by purple martins (*Progne subis*) (P. Jorgensen, personal communication).

PC 078

## Special Status Species

Pages 3-17 to 3-23 of the document discusses Special Status Species, defined as those endemic to the Plan area, Federal and State species of special concern and State and Federal listed threatened and endangered species. Based on our understanding and knowledge of local endemics, there are species and/or subspecies which need to be added to each category as follows:

PC 057

### Endemic Species

Hidden Lake Bluecurls (*Trichostema austrorontanum ssp. compactum*)  
San Jacinto Bedstraw (*Galium angustifolium subsp. jacinticum*)  
San Jacinto Prickly Phlox (*Leptodactylon jaegeri*)  
Shaggy-haired Alumroot (*Heuchera hirsutissima*)  
Straw var. jacintensis (*Keckiella rothrockii ssp. jacintensis*)  
Tahquitz Ivesia (*Ivesia callida*)

The bioregional distribution for each of the above plants is limited to the San Jacinto Mountains (Jepson 1993). Hidden Lake Bluecurls, San Jacinto Prickly Phlox, and Shaggy-haired Alumroot are found in the State Park portion of the National Monument (State Parks 2001 field surveys) and Tahquitz Ivesia occurs in the vicinity of portions of the western boundary of the National Monument (M. Hamilton, personal communication.). We suggest that the above listed plants that are known to occur in the National Monument be added to the endemics list in the final EIR/Management Plan and that those that are likely to occur be referenced in the document.

### Species of Special Concern

Lemon Lily (*Lilium parryi*) – this species is found on National Forest and State Park lands within the National Monument (State Parks 2001 field surveys). It is a State species of special concern.

### Federal and State Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

*Trichostema austrorontanum ssp. compactum*; Hidden Lake Bluecurls – In addition to being endemic to the monument (Hamilton 1983, Jepson 1993), Hidden Lake Bluecurls is listed as Federally listed as Threatened.

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Ms. Danella George  
Draft Management Plan and DEIS, SRSJM National Monument  
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Animal Collection

On page 3-23 of the document under the heading Animal Collection the document says "the State of California does not require permits to collect insects." This is not true for State Parks. Collecting insects in a State Park is illegal, Title 14, California Administrative Code 4305, unless a valid Scientific Investigations/Collections Permit has been issued to and is in the possession of the collector. We ask that the final EIS make this correction.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The staff of the BLM, Forest Service, and other National Monument partners is to be commended for their efforts to develop this plan. It most certainly will mark the beginning of a new era of professional and cooperative management of this extraordinary natural area. Please contact me or our District Ecologist, Geary Hund at (909) 6578-0676 if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Gary Watts  
District Superintendent

cc: J. Frates  
G. Hund  
D. Van Cleve

PC 062

Tanet Waters  
15443 Camino Del Rey  
Indian Wells, CA 92210

RECEIVED  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
03 JUN 17 PM 12:35  
PALM SPRINGS-SOUTH COAST  
RESOURCE AREA

page 1 of

DRAFT PLAN: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto  
Mountain Monument Plan,  
BLM

20 Box 581240  
290 West Garnet Ave.  
Palm Springs, CA 92258

June 13, 2003

RE: Public Comments

To Whom it May Concern;

I have comments on the Recreational  
resources part of the Management Plan.  
They are as follows:

- A. Hang Gliding  
I'm in favor of Alternative A
- B. Recreational Paintball  
The Preferred Plan
- C. Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail  
The Preferred Plan
- D. Recreational Shooting  
Alternative A (Preferred Plan)

page 2 of

E. Strategic Recreation Management Plan

The Preferred Plan

F. PETS

1. Within Essential Bighorn Sheep Habitat

The Preferred Plan

2. Outside Essential Bighorn Sheep Habitat

The Preferred Plan

G. Feral and Uncontrolled Domestic Animals

The Preferred Plan

H. Forest Service Adventure Pass

The Preferred Plan

And now some comments of a more personal note. Recreational use of lands within the National Monument by people should be given every consideration. Bighorn sheep habitat and existing recreational resources, have co-existed for a long time in the Coachella Valley and surrounding mountains. In other areas where man and sheep have come into conflict, issues have been resolved so both man and sheep use the same area. Closing recreation areas during the best weather seems unwise. Visitors to the Monument are less likely to have heat related

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problems during those cooler months. The Sheep seem to benefit more from limiting pets than people. These lands are public, for public use. Why preserve this unique environment if they are the only ones to use and enjoy it are sheep. The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument is for people to experience. Recreational use is one of the ways to do that.

Sincerely,

Janet Waters

Janet Waters

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

TOM AND JOYCE LIEGLER  
P.O. Box 3322  
Rancho Santa Fe, CA. 92067  
858-756-3585

FAX TO Ms. Danella George  
AT: 760-251-4899  
National Monument Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
690 W. Garnet Avenue, Box 581260  
North Palm Springs, CA. 92258

June 15, 2003

THANK YOU for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

CONGRATULATIONS for bringing the entire program to its present state with apparent decisions, planning, and implementation forthcoming at an early date.

While reviewing the lengthy, detailed document somewhat thoroughly, I find the material all encompassing but complex and difficult for a layperson such as myself to truly comprehend all aspects and nuances, as would the professionals involved like yourself. Therefore I relate to the overall good program from a broad interested taxpayer profile and not from the details of the overall United States Departments of Interior and Agriculture, but rather from the viewpoint of an "entrepreneur" or private operations and marketing approach. Please understand that I feel the program is warranted, needed, and deserved, however the conditions and hopes of achieving total ultimate success is in error.

- The basic administrators of the program, as I understand it, are two (2) major departments of the US Federal Government, both continually competing with themselves and other Federal Departments for annual FUNDING, a genesis of the eventual accepted program. Each of the two (2) Federal Departments are already in conflict for annual funding and it appears to me, with the new Federal Homeland Defense Department, funding will be even more difficult for some years to come when Congress prioritizes allotments of spending priorities for each and all Departments. Under current worldwide conditions, Departmental allocations will certainly NOT be equal, in my opinion.
- We recently returned from a lengthy trip through Federal and State Parks and what we understand to be National Monuments. In each case, the maintenance, repair, and house-keeping were substandard in each case due, we are told, to "budget cuts and annually getting worse each and every year!" The public, interested in our Parks, Forests, Land and Monuments, me thinks, DESERVES the very best conditions in all elements of your forthcoming program, as they are PAYING for it through taxes and then again willingly by "user fees!"

*"May the care of the people be the supreme rule!" - Cicero*

- Please bear in mind that I have been involved in the Public Assembly Facility service business (Major Stadiums, Convention Centers, Sports Arenas, Golf Courses, etc) for over fifty (50) years, a lifetime of hosting and caring for all guests and users, just as you and yours provide in your individual programs. During that 50+ year career, I have been employed just about fifty-fifty by a governmental employer and the other one half of the experience by private enterprise. There are major differences between the two approaches, primarily in Human Resource programs, Purchasing routines, and certainly in the Marketing, Sales, Publicity, Advertising and Promotion areas. "Government" (Federal, State, County, and Municipal units) simply do not have the abilities in my opinion to PROPERLY "manage, operate, promote, market, publicize, and account" for such an exhaustive NEW program that you and yours offer. Without precise experience and textbook rules, regulations, guidelines, the FUTURE of the program, it seems to me, will be by "trial and error!" Good ADMINISTRATION is the KEY to ultimate success or failure over the years, I feel.

- Please accept my sincere thoughts then, for the maximum ongoing PUBLIC results that:

A. The US Departments of Interior AND Agriculture act as the joint "Administrator" of an Operational, Marketing, Sales, Maintenance, and Capital Improvement program achieved through a complete specification and solicitation process, with incentives for quarterly review and inspection. The award-winning firm would be through the negotiation process after submission of details in accordance with a defined Request for Proposals process. CONTROLS of the program conditions would continue to rest with the joint Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management - Forest Service Executive Committee. Thus Departmental Employment would be minimal over and above present staffing levels and primarily reserved for PLANNING, ACCOUNTABILITY, and program ENHANCEMENT. Specifications should call for high levels of STANDARDS!

PC  
245

B. Annual budgets call for ample expense areas for! Marketing, Sales, Promotion, Advertising, Community Relations, and Public Relations dollars to "Make the public AWARE" of your new, but enticing program, and 2. Adequate Maintenance, Repair, and Modernization upgrades to properly CARE for the public with high STANDARDS as they do come forward. "You never get a second chance to make a good FIRST impression!" along with "First and last impressions, are lasting impressions!"

PC  
246

PC  
174

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to express my appraisal of your forthcoming finalized public program. The "JOINT" authority seems to me to be a built-in ongoing problem, but then open, fair, intelligent, and understanding administrators can overcome that dilemma. We wish all of your participants well, particularly those who have been involved in the long and difficult written process thus far. Truly the total concept is beyond the assimilation of most of us and we must respect the opinions and decisions of the dedicated, professional administrators like you and yours. Good fortune!

*"When they say that money talks, all I have ever heard it say is—GOODBYE!"*

*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty and power of their dreams!"*

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters



VinRoseAire@aol.com  
06/12/2003 09:34 AM

To: ca\_srsj\_nm@ca.blm.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Attn: Danella George

COPY

06/12/03

Ms. George:

This is regarding the *Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan*.

When traveling up Highway 74 from Palm Desert there are 5 communities known as the Pinyon Communities within the boundaries of the National Monument. They are: Chapman Ranchos/Royal Carrizo, Pinyon Crest, Pinyon, Alpine Village and Spring Crest. I am a resident of Spring Crest which is a development with it's own privately owned water company, Spring Crest Water & Power Company, which is under the California Public Utilities Commission.

When looking at all the maps in the draft document from Figure 1 through Figure 9 all of the above mentioned communities except Spring Crest have been excluded from within the boundaries of the monument. Is this an error that was made during the drawing of the map? If it is not an error I would like to know how it was decided to exclude these communities from the boundaries but it seems that in all fairness it should be an exclusion of either all or none. It appears discriminatory that one community has been left out of this process of exclusion.

PC 013

As I mentioned, Spring Crest has it's own water company with water shed property on the mountain above the community. This water shed needs to be protected to maintain our water quality.

PC 212

Thus, I ask that before the plan for the National Monument is finalized the community of Spring Crest be excluded from the monument boundaries as all the other communities have been.

Thank you for your time.

Linda L. Lane  
67115 Ribbonwood Dr.  
Spring Crest, Mt. Center CA 92561



SNOWCREEKPRES@aol.com  
06/13/2003 07:07 PM

To: ca\_srsj\_nm@ca.blm.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Comments: Santa Rosa & San Jacinto National Monument Draft Resource Mgmt. Plan

COPY

To Whom It May Concern:

The following are my comments re the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

At the foot of the dramatic north face of Mt. San Jacinto, the Snow Creek area, where Interstate 10 and Highway 111 converge, is an impressive entrance to the desert cities and a landmark prelude to the scenic beauty of the land that lies ahead.

Drivers however are distracted from this spectacular view by high profile industrial windfarms that dominate the landscape of the San Gorgonio Pass and by their high rate of speed exiting the freeway.

I would like to propose an idea originally suggested by Tracy Liegler that a scenic turnout be constructed directly east of Snow Creek Road so that drivers entering the Coachella Valley can pull over and stop for a moment to enjoy one of the valley's most arrestingly beautiful views. Signs could provide information on the National Monument, snow melt contributing to our aquifer, the Pacific Crest Trail and the ancient life and geology of the Snow Creek area. A telescope for close-up viewing of the waterfall and mountaintop would be a nice addition. It would be a perfect introduction to the desert and the National Monument and the first scenic photo opportunity for visitors entering the valley at the Palm Springs Highway 111.

PC 167

The portal sign for the Monument's westernmost entrance should occupy a prominent place at or near the junction of Snow Creek Road and Highway 111 and in proximity to the proposed scenic turnout. Hopefully it will be impressive enough to take precedence over the billboards that dot Highway 111.

Rules prohibiting offroad vehicles should be enforced at all times in the Snow Creek area.

PC 177

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,  
Les Starks  
Snow Creek Village

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters



Desert Adventures Jeep Eco-Tours  
67-555 East Palm Canyon Drive, Ste. E-106  
Cathedral City, CA 92234

June 6, 2003

Danella George  
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Palm Springs South Coast Field Office  
690 W. Garnet Ave., P.O. Box 581260  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258-1260

Re: Comments from Desert Adventures Jeep Eco-Tours on the Draft Resource Management Plan (DRMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.

Dear Ms. George:

Having reviewed the March 2003 Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement, we at Desert Adventures Jeep Eco-Tours are taking this opportunity to again preserve for the public record our comments and concerns with regard to management of the Monument in a manner consistent with the National Monument Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-351).

Desert Adventures Jeep Eco-Tours is a Cathedral City based commercial tour operation that provides ecologically oriented tours of some of the few wilderness areas left in the Coachella Valley. Our tours are not thrill rides, but "adventures in knowledge." We take people beyond the artificially semi-tropical microcosm of the Palm Springs desert resort communities and into natural desert wilderness areas. We take great pride in educating the public about the natural environment, including the plight of the peninsular bighorn sheep, and have received many awards over the years for instilling environmental awareness and supporting the environmental movement. Our guides are not just drivers, but highly trained naturalists whose educational backgrounds are augmented by an impressive amount of experience in the field.

Those who have been involved with land access, commercial recreational use, and sheep recovery issues in the Santa Rosa Mountains on a long-term basis will recall our past involvement with the BLM, USFWS, and other federal and state agencies with regard to these and other issues. Our principal area of concern remains the viability of a recreational use permit for operating jeep tours on the Dunn Road.

RECEIVED  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
03 JUN 11 AM 11:01  
PALM SPRINGS-SOUTH COAST  
RESOURCE AREA

COPY

Motorized commercial recreational access to the Monument and, specifically, the Dunn Road was addressed in the December 2002 California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley, which effectively precludes Desert Adventures from conducting tours up the Dunn Road at present. We understand that the CDCA Plan is brought forward unchanged into the National Monument RMP. Nevertheless, we would like to use this opportunity to reiterate for the public record some of the same questions and concerns we have voiced for over five years, particularly since they remain applicable today to the ancillary issues of trail closures and the Coachella Valley Multispecies Habitat Plan.

We long ago asserted, in earlier efforts to achieve a reasonable balance between commerce and ecology in protecting the Northern Santa Rosa Mountain subpopulation of the Nelson bighorn sheep, that USFWS relied on scientific data cited selectively and/or out of context in order to support a predetermined conclusion. Our opinion has remained unchanged as the labyrinthine processes of formulating the CDCA Plan, the Monument Plan, the Trails Plan, the peninsular bighorn sheep Recovery Plan, and the Coachella Valley Multispecies Habitat Plan (and the attendant EIS and BO processes) have continued to drag on over the years. It appears, for example, that the opinions of noted sheep expert John Wehausen, as well as those of peer reviewer Dr. Rob Ramey, continue to be dismissed.

We are also steadfast in our belief that first-hand anecdotal evidence relevant to the local NSRM PBS herd, i.e., our guides' personal observations, has not been fairly weighed in evaluating sheep disturbance and habituation.

#### Familiarity with the NSRM PBS Herd

We doubt that any group, outside the Bighorn Institute, is more familiar with the habits and habitat of the NSRM bighorn sheep than our Desert Adventures tour guides. We operated jeep tours on the Dunn Road for over a decade. Company policy required guides to report sheep sightings by radio, maintain a distance, allow sheep right-of-way, and minimize any disturbance. Sheep were very rarely sighted on the Dunn Road, and our guides are unanimous in their conviction that the sheep were generally unfazed by the presence of our jeeps on those rare occasions.

For example, Larry Cunningham, who holds a B.S. in Wildlife Management from Utah State University (with minors in Biology and Zoology), has been with Desert Adventures for over 15 years. Larry conducted tours on the Dunn Road from September 1989 until June 2000, averaging four to six days per week, 10 months per year (excluding July and August). Larry's sightings tended to be seasonal, depending on availability of preferred food sources, but "conservatively averaged four to eight per season." Larry reports that "our presence was tolerated" by sheep feeding on the roadside, and that the sheep "were tolerant of a slow moving vehicle" even during breeding season. (Statement of Larry Cunningham, attached.)

Aaron Coons drove tours on the Dunn Road for many years and reports:

Looking thru old journals of tours, 1991-1997 I only spotted 3 sheep in all those years. First one was Feb 17th 1993. This ram was grazing by the side of the Dunn Rd near mile 4. I

PC 195

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

stopped nearly 60 yards from him and shut my engine off telling my clients to be quiet. He continued there for some time before crossing the road to the other side and climbed 30ft or so up the right side. We drove our jeep by slowly and were still within 40ft but the ram never gave us much concern. "...just went about his day."

Aaron, by the way, conducts tours in Denali National Park in the summer months, which he describes as follows:

... I work in Denali thru the summer. This is a place of one of the last intact ecosystems in the world. A place where Grizzly bears and wolves still live free. There is one road thru there and we drive tours there everyday. The animals never seem to perceive us as threat, partly because we never leave the road, people are never to get out on foot, we always cut our engines when close, and clients are ask to not use their voices. Of course stopping and doing these things the animals crosses the road if it feels like it, the road never seems to be the issue.

(Statement of Aaron Coons, attached.)

Jim Viglione has been with Desert Adventures for over a dozen years and has lived in Pinyon Pines for more than eight years. On his many travels up and down Hwy. 74 he has occasionally spotted sheep that seem to be oblivious to traffic. Jim has even observed a bedding-down area "less than 100 yards from the busy Highway [74]" where he has observed sheep lying placidly "in the brush chewing their cud completely undisturbed by the traffic passing on the highway." (Statement of Jim Viglione, attached.)

Additional observations of our highly experienced guides are attached.

### Intent and Purpose of the National Monument Act of 2000

In reviewing the Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan, what strikes us as most obvious—and most egregious—is that the original intent and purpose of the Monument Act has been obscured. The cliché "unable to see the forest for the trees" comes to mind.

The original bill (H.R. 3676) proposing monument status was introduced in order "to preserve the nationally significant biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational and scientific values found in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains and to secure now and for future generations the opportunity to experience and enjoy the magnificent vistas, wildlife, landforms and natural and cultural resources of these mountains and to recreate therein."

Desert Adventures upholds each of the above-enumerated values on a daily basis and instills and/or heightens such values in our clients. Furthermore, we provide the intended "opportunity to experience and enjoy ... these mountains and to recreate therein." The great majority of visitors to the desert resort communities lack the physical ability to hike or bike into wilderness areas. For these visitors, our jeeps provide a valuable service and the additional benefit of a "mobile seminar" on the environment visited. Without our valuable service, literally thousands of beaming grandparents with awe-struck grandchildren in tow would not have had the opportunity to experience and enjoy these areas. By effectively denying commercial motorized access, access is likewise effectively denied to the majority of the public. Limiting

3

access to those capable of hiking, biking, or perhaps riding on horseback is discriminatory and "environmentally elitist."

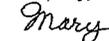
The Monument Act notes that "the National Monument provides a 'picturesque backdrop' and an abundance of recreational opportunities that are important regional economic resources for the Coachella Valley and mountain communities." The fact that our business has suffered a severe economic blow from the ramifications of Monument status is proof that "regional economic resources" have not been protected, again reinforcing our belief that the original intent and purpose of the Act has not been served.

PC 240

We have expended vast amounts of time, money, and energy in our efforts to preserve access to the Monument for the paying public and will continue to do so, despite lacking the resources for ongoing legal representation at every stage of the processes previously referenced. While we freely admit to being motivated partly by commercial interest, we are secure in our knowledge that we are equally motivated by our desire to maintain our ability to share and impart our passion for the environment with our clients in a manner consistent with the original intent and purpose of the Monument Act of 2000 and in a way that fairly balances the interests of commerce and science.

Thank you for once again taking into consideration our comments and concerns.

Sincerely,



Mary & Charlie Dungans  
Owners

Desert Adventures Jeep Eco-Tours

PC 111

4

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

### GUIDE STATEMENTS

#### Statement of LARRY CUNNINGHAM, Lead Guide

On September 10, 1989, I started doing Desert Adventure Jeep Eco-Tours (D.A.) on the Dunn Road, with my last Santa Rosa Mountain excursion on June 3, 2000. My frequency of tours on the Dunn access was usually 4 to 6 days per week, approximately 10 months per year (off July & August).

The D.A. company procedure was to immediately report a Bighorn Sheep sighting via our radio system, stating location / mile mark and situation. The policy was to maintain a distance, allowing total right-of-way, and to minimize any disturbance.

After several years of observations, it became evident that my frequency of sheep sighting were somewhat seasonal at various elevations. One vary apparent controlling factor in their movement was the availability of their preferred food sources, especially jojoba, burro bush, Mormon tea, agave stalks, etc. If a sheep was busy feeding on roadside vegetation and we kept a distance, our presence was tolerated. I also evidence a less timid behavior through the breeding season, but they were tolerant of a slow moving vehicle. An immediate or abrupt stop, a loud noise, or an approach on foot would usually elicit an alarmed response. If I encountered sheep on the road in "switchbacks," they would usually scramble up the rock slope, until a distance was established, then stop to gaze. The sheep movement on, across, or along the roadside seemed to be dictated by the surrounding terrain. They preferred steep rock slope terrain and were rarely observed on a flatland situation. The only sheep I observed on the open land were the "collared/tagged" ones. And yes, there was one that was imprinted to humans hiking along the Art Smith Trail!

My sightings were usually between the 2-9 miles marks on the Dunn Road. We did, however, observe sheep in the Cathedral Canyon Cove residential area at least twice. My frequency of the sightings again were seasonal, but conservatively averaged four to eight per season (10-month period). This estimate is discounting the sometimes "repeated" sightings of the collared sheep that appeared somewhat territorial. The largest single grouping I observed along the Dunn Road (6 mile mark) was 9 non-collared sheep vs. 22 at one time (mostly collared) at the Ritz Carlton Resort. Beyond visual sightings, I would frequently observed browsed vegetation, scat, bedding, tracks, etc., when traversing on foot. I qualify all of the above, as my personal observations and recollections, during the above-dated period of time.

My education background includes a B.S. degree from Utah State University with a major in Wildlife Management and minors in Biology and Zoology. My graduate study toward my M.S. degree was also in Wildlife Management at Pennsylvania State University.

Prior to my employment with Desert Adventures, I worked for the Ohio Division of Wildlife as a District Supervisor. I supervised programs/budgets for a 20-county area, prepared/reviewed E.I.S.'s etc.

Spending every day out of doors and serving as an interpretive naturalist to the public has become my primary focus with Desert Adventures.

/s/ Larry Cunningham



## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

P.S. I have attached a photograph of a typical sighting near Dunn Road, 6 mile mark.

Statement of AARON DOUGLAS COONS, Senior Guide

FROM AARON:

From: douglas coons [mailto:aarondouglas7@hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, April 18, 2003 10:15 PM

To: Mary@red-jeep.com

Subject:

Mary

Looking thru old journals of tours, 1991-1997 I only spotted 3 sheep in all those years. First one was Feb 17th 1993. This ram was grazing by the side of the Dunn Rd near mile 4. I stopped nearly 60 yards from him and shut my engine off telling my clients to be quiet. He continued there for some time before crossing the road to the other side and climbed 30ft or so up the right side. We drove our jeep by slowly and were still within 40ft but the ram never gave us much concern. "...just went about his day".

Second sighting was Nov.22 1995. Mile 3. This ram was rather far away and did not stay in view very long.

Last sighting was March 12th 1996. A female near the Art Smith Trail. She was pretty far down the trail, I never let my clients out of the jeep to keep from disturbing her.

James Simons recalls a time (he doesn't remember when--"mid 90's") when an apparent released bighorn sheep was following people around trying to get drinks from their drinking bottles. The poor animal had no fear of people what so ever. This was on a large group tour, and I'm sure there may be other guides who remember that day.

One other thought Mary. You know I work in Denali thru the summer. This is a place of one of the last intact ecosystems in the world. A place where Grizzly bears and wolves still live free. There is one road thru there and we drive tours there everyday. The animals never seem to perceive us as threat, partly because we never leave the road, people are never to get out on foot, we always cut our engines when close, and clients are ask to not use their voices. Of course stopping and doing these things the animals crosses the road if it feels like it, the road never seems to be the issue. The caribou, fox and wolves even use the permissive road as their corridor to travel.

Anyway hope any of this may help. Take care Mary. Aaron

Statement of JAY BROWN, Senior Guide

April 30, 2003

Dear Mary:

Sorry this is so late getting to you NO excuses, just bad manners. I sincerely hope that it helps in getting us back on the Dunn road or anywhere up on the mountain.

I don't have a lot of information for you but here is what I have: I drove the Dunn road an average of three times a week from September 1996 through the expiration of our permit. I did not see any big horns on any of those trips. However, I did on numerous occasions find evidence of sheep activity in the areas that my passengers and I had been. One memorable occasion occurred in January 1998. I had taken a small group (3 or 4) to the mountain after a light rain. I stopped at a foot trail just past the Cholla Garden, we walked a short distance along the trail to look at some Cholla, barrel cactus, and yucca. We left the area after a short time and completed our trip. The following morning I took another small group on the same trip and stopped at same location for the same purpose. I was explaining the various plant and habits of the Big Horns and I looked down and saw a sheep track on top of my own shoe track from the previous day. That caused me to look around more completely and I discovered more tracks, scat, and evidence of feeding in the area. There were no other human shoe tracks in that area except the ones my small party and I had left the previous day. I placed a new track next to one with the sheep track so that my passengers could see that the sheep had indeed stepped on my track. Yes, I know the difference between deer and sheep tracks.

I always liked to stop in that area as I often saw evidence of Big Horn activity. Another area that I liked to stop and take passengers on short walks or hikes was the picnic tables at our 2hr turnaround spot, the old Dunn dozer at the Art Smith trail. Sheep activity was also prevalent in this location. I was always sorry that I did not see sheep up there, I was able to see all the other animals on the road except cats and big horns. I often saw sheep grazing along Highway 111 near the Thunderbird CC and would use pictures I took of them there to show clients what they looked like.

Mary, I hope this helps, it is not much but all I have.

/s/ JAY

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

Statement of JIM VIGLIONE, Senior Guide

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Vincent Viglione [mailto:vicenzo2@earthlink.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2003 12:00 AM  
To: Mary Dungans  
Subject: Sheep stuff

Hi Mary,

Here's my comment about habituation of the sheep

I've been driving Highway 74 to the desert and back for nearly 8 years. I do occasionally see big horn sheep. One was a ewe crossing the highway at around 1200 feet elevation. Another ewe grazing by the highway with her backside in the northbound traffic lane. Three sheep we seen browsing on the slope at the Vista Point. A young ram attempted to cross but turned back up-slope. On a cold winter morning I observed three sheep lying on the east side of a large boulder sunning themselves by the highway.

The interesting part of all of this is that I've discovered a bedding down area. It is 1.8 miles above Vista Point on the east side of Highway 74 looking across to Hidden Palms. I discovered it while hiking the area to see a Palm Oasis which is down in Deep Canyon. The area was heavily littered with sheep droppings. One afternoon I saw a young ram on top of a boulder. I parked in a turn out and walked over the side berm. There, less than 100 yards from the busy Highway were an adult ram, a ewe with a lamb, and the young ram I had seen earlier lying in the brush chewing their cuds completely undisturbed by the traffic passing on the highway. I know the Big Horn Institute is aware of this site since I've seen their jeep parked there on more than one occasion. Since there were in the brush it was difficult to tell if they were collared or not. After reading some of the reports, it makes me sad to think that the Big Horn Institute is growing pen raised Cougar Chow.

Mary, I'll keep you abreast of any other incidents as they come to mind.

Jim V

## DESERT RIDERS

THE PIONEER RIDING CLUB of PALM SPRINGS  
FOUNDED 1930

POST OFFICE BOX 4063; PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 92263-4063

June 11, 2003

Danella George  
National Monument Manager  
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Manager  
Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office  
United States Department of the Interior  
690 West Garnet Avenue  
P.O. Box 581260  
North Palm Springs, California 92258-1260

Re: Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan and Draft EIS Comments.

Dear Ms. George:

On behalf of the Desert Riders and the Desert Riders Trails Fund, Inc., I make the following comments regarding the Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan and Draft Impact Statement, dated March 2003 ("Monument Plan"). Comments regarding trails management will be addressed when the Trails Management Plan Draft is released for public comment.

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000. 16 USC 431.

Congress stated that the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument ("National Monument") was established "[i]n order to preserve the nationally significant biological, cultural, recreational, geographical, educational and scientific values found in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains and to experience and enjoy the magnificent vistas, wildlife, land forms, and natural and cultural resources in these mountains and recreate therein..." (16 USC 431, § 2 (b)). Congress expressly assigned national significance to these specific resources and Congress declared that the public should "experience and enjoy" these resources within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains. (16-USC 431, § 2 (b)). Therefore, the federal government should apply similar standards of assessment and protections for each public value found by Congress and such similar standards should apply to all federal laws.

PC 044

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

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Danella George  
June 11, 2003  
Page 2

### 3.B. Biological Resources

The Monument Plan has taken steps to overcome public distrust of the science being utilized for bighorn sheep recovery in the National Monument. The Monument Plan has accomplished this by not parroting opinion and, it appears, by more closely scrutinizing both research activities and scientific literature. (3-21-22). The Monument Plan can do more. The USFWS Recovery Plan for Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges, California ("Recovery Plan") perpetuated scientific theory that had been disproved. Throughout the Recovery Plan USFWS referred to "Peninsular bighorn sheep," maintaining the old common name of a non-existent sub-species of bighorn sheep. While the Monument Plan does not refer to sheep as Peninsular bighorn sheep, the sheep's scientific classification is still ambiguous. Bighorn sheep in the Peninsular Ranges are Nelson bighorn sheep. ("Recovery Plan", P 3). California Department of Fish and Game ("CDFG") refers to "Nelson Bighorn Sheep" and not to the mountain range the bighorn sheep inhabit (See attached Big Game Hunting Tracks, title and P-32). "Peninsular bighorn sheep" is a deception upon the public to advance a philosophical designation rather than the sheep's current taxonomy.

PC 066

### 3.C.2 Cultural Resources

Native American trails of the Cahuilla are identified as cultural concerns by the Monument Plan. (Pg. 3). Numerous trails improved and maintained by Desert Riders are Cahuilla trails and should be identified as historic "linear sites." (3-7). The Art Smith and Boo Hoff are two of those trails. Until the early 1900's the Art Smith connected with the Boo Hoff and together they were a primary trail in the transportation network between Cahuilla villages in and around the Santa Rosa Mountains.

PC 100

A goal of the Monument Plan is to provide information regarding the historical use of the Monument including ranching, mining, and recreation. (ES-18) The Monument Plan should include a separate heading for recreational history in the National Monument Plan. Sub-headings should include Desert Riders, which pioneered European American recreational use of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, and Palm Springs Atajo.

PC 101

Desert Riders was formed and began riding the prehistoric Cahuilla trails in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains in 1930. Using organization funds, Desert Riders began a regular program of trail maintenance and improvement in 1932 and expanded the program of improvement and maintenance as sponsors and funding was secured. Desert Riders has mounted their horses each Tuesday, October through May, since 1930 to ride the mountains that have become the National Monument. Attached is a list of the trails to which Desert Riders has devoted its resources for over seventy years and which are essential to the ongoing tradition of Desert Riders.

A recreational history sub-heading should also include Palm Springs Atajo. Palm Springs Atajo explains Dunn Road. The planned communities of Palm Springs Atajo were an

Danella George  
June 11, 2003  
Page 3

early attempt in the 1960's to develop "environmentally oriented communities" and attract the public with the finest recreational amenities. Of note, the bighorn sheep provided a romantic marketing concept for Palm Springs Atajo. Like many other entities in the Desert, the Nelson Bighorn Sheep was its logo.

### 3.D. Recreational Resources

Critical Habitat for the Nelson Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges consists of 782,049 acres. (3-2) Of the 271,400 acres in the National Monument, 187,685 acres, approximately sixty-nine percent (69%) of the National Monument, is designated as "Essential Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat." (ES-9). Currently, recreation is being addressed by a "reasonable opportunity" standard and bighorn sheep recovery by a "potentially could affect" standard. The disparity between the two standards and their application to resource value is arbitrary under the National Monument Act. In addition, what are the distinctions between "critical habitat" and "essential habitat" and is one more inclusive than the other?

PC 067

PC 068

### The Economy is Dependant Upon and Abundance of Recreational Opportunities

Congress found that the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains contained "nationally significant" recreational value. (See 16 USC 431, §1 (a)(1)). "As noted in the Act, the National Monument provides a 'picturesque backdrop' and an abundance of recreational opportunities that are important to regional economic resources of the Coachella Valley and mountain communities." (Monument Plan ES-2, P 2). With the economic health of municipalities and communities dependent upon an abundance of recreational opportunities within the National Monument, a more precise balancing of actions, and of federal laws that impinge on recreational opportunities in the National Monument, is required.

Specifically, the National Monument must hold USFWS accountable to both its duties under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to the public, then balance endangered species with the recreational mandate of the National Monument Act.

PC 117

USFWS used a baseline analysis to assess the economic impact of Critical Habitat for the Nelson Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges. This approach for considering the economic impact has been rejected and critical habitat overturned by the tenth circuit in *New Mexico Cattlegrowers Assn. v. USFWS*, 248 F.3d 1277 (2001) and most recently in the Eastern District of California in *Home Builders Assn. v. USFWS* (2003). It is not an unreasonable assumption that areas with substantial national recreational values would be excluded from Nelson Bighorn Sheep Critical Habitat. This is especially true when USFWS fails other mandatory obligations under the ESA. The Monument Plan must validly assess the economic impacts to businesses and local governments that depend heavily on income from recreation. Monument managers must take a hard look at the economic, as well as other impacts not analyzed by the USFWS in making recreation and private land use decisions that affect the availability of conventional types

PC 056

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

Danella George  
June 11, 2003  
Page 4

of recreation.

### 3.F Educational Resources

There is strong interest in and demand from the public for interpretation and education of the National Monument's resources through experience. (3-45). A goal of the Monument Plan is to identify and interpret "magnet" sites to attract visitors and satisfy their desire to experience the history of the area. (BS-17). Trails that historically connected the Cahuilla villages and clans should remain open and interpretive materials made available. Prehistoric connecting trails that can still be located, should be identified and considered by the National Monument and Cahuilla peoples for improvement.

PC 102

### 3.N. Transportation, Vehicle Access and Section 5(d) Access to State and Private Lands

Section 5(d) of the National Monument Act stated that "[t]he Secretaries shall provide adequate access to nonfederally owned land or interests in land within the boundaries of the National Monument, which will provide the owner of the land or the holder of the interest the reasonable use and enjoyment of the land or interest, as the case may be." (16 USC 431, 5(d)). Desert Riders Trails Fund, Inc.; as well as many other private entities, own property that has been inaccessible to them since August 2000. BLM should provide reasonable access across public lands. If reasonable access to private lands is not available due to private ownership change after BLM's closure of the Dunn Road the federal government should use its powers of condemnation to reopen portions of the Dunn Road that secured access to all private lands in the National Monument for fire control, access for municipal government services, and private property access that were closed in 2000.

PC 185

PC 196

### Revised Statute 2477

Application of federal law R.S. 2477 concerning public rights-of-way "could potentially affect" trails that have been constructed, maintained or improved by Desert Riders. Those trails should remain open until public rights are determined.

The "non-consensually supported recommendation" not to grant new or R.S. 2477 rights-of-way at Appendices B-11 is inconsistent with section 5(d) of the National Monument Act and cannot be considered.

PC 186

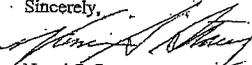
### Conclusion

The first European American recreational use of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains was equestrian use. The equestrians that loved "...the magnificent vistas, wildlife, land forms, and natural and cultural resources..." of the Mountains formed Desert Riders in 1930 and began a long tradition of investment of both labor and capital into trails. (16 USC 431, 2(a)(2)). Desert Riders followed the highways of the Cahuilla and the beaten routes brought

Danella George  
June 11, 2003  
Page 5

about by commerce in cattle and minerals. Both Desert Riders history of use and stewardship of the land merits consideration when making decisions in the National Monument.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS.

Sincerely,  
  
Nanci S. Stacey  
Executive Director  
Desert Riders Trails Fund, Inc.

NASS/as  
enc.

cc: John Schoettler, President, Desert Riders  
Don Abel, President, Desert Riders Trails Fund

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

Danella George  
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Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Trails  
Constructed, Improved, Used and Maintained by Desert Riders

### Cahuilla Trails Improved and Maintained

1. Dripping Springs Trail
2. Vandeventer Trail
3. Palm Canyon Trail
4. Murray Canyon Trail
5. Andreas Canyon Trail
6. West Fork/Pelton Trail
7. Art Smith Trail
8. Boo Hoff Trail
9. Eagle Canyon Trail
10. Pond Trail

### Trails Improved since the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's

1. Lykken Museum Trail
2. Maynard Mine Trail
3. Wildhorse Trail
4. Araby Trail

### Trails Constructed by Desert Riders Prior to 1973

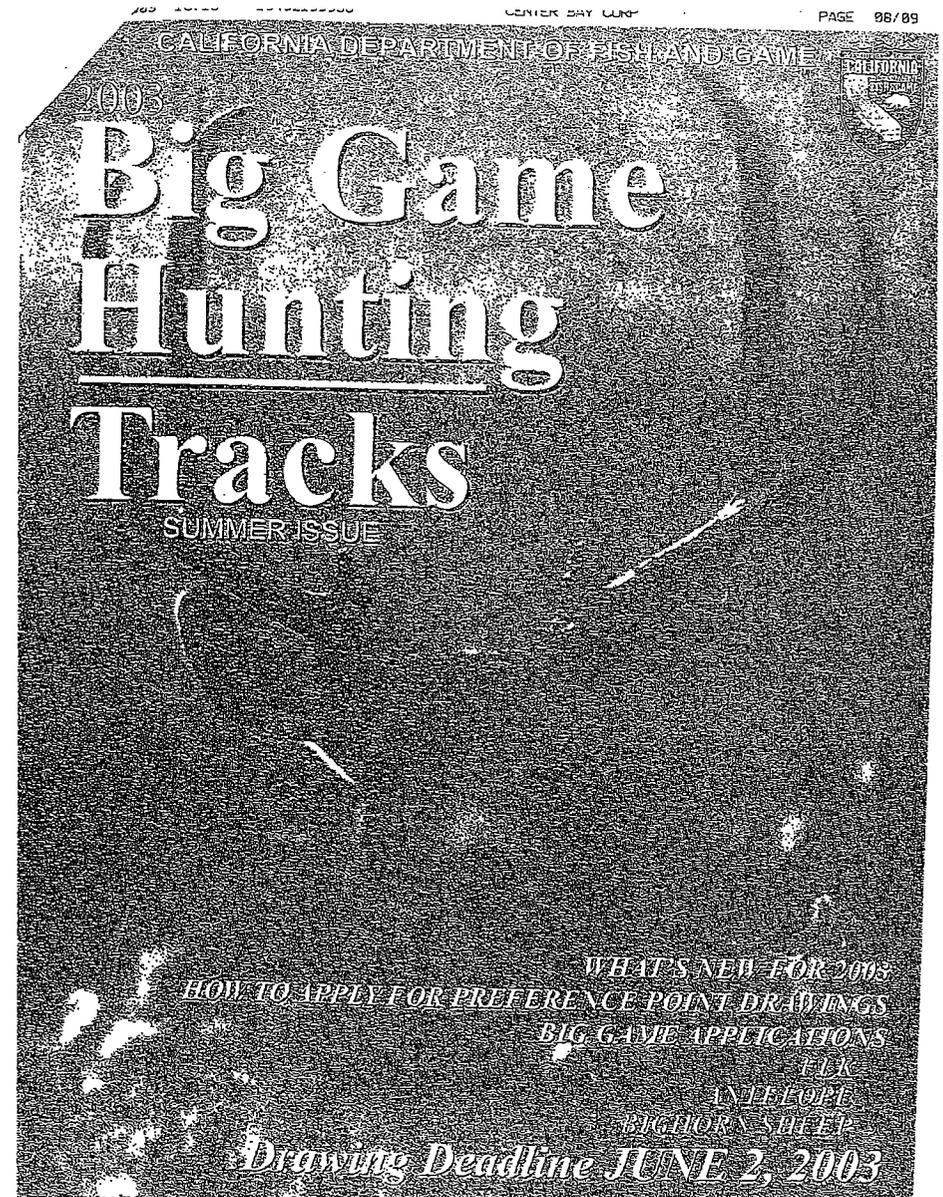
1. Alexander Trail - 1963
2. Garstin Trail - 1963
3. Shannon Trail - 1964
4. Henderson Trail - 1968
5. Coffin Trail - 1968
6. Berns Trail - 1971
7. Lykken Trail North - 1972

### Trails Constructed by Desert Riders Prior to 1976

1. Victor Trail - 1974

### Other Trails Constructed by Desert Riders

1. Hahn Trail
2. Bud Furer Trail
3. Clara Burgess



Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

CENTER BAY CORP

PAGE 09/09

HER BIG GAME HUNTS FOR 2003\*

HUNT CODE	2002		2003		INFORMATION
	APPLICANTS/TAGS	HUNTER SUCCESS (%)	TAG QUOTA	SEASON	
<b>Zone 4 - Lassen</b>					
735 Archery Buck	81/8	38	2-20**	Aug 09-17	Antelope on public and private land. Private access may be restricted or fee required. (530) 233-3581
Period 1					
740 General Buck	3,156/52	88	25-150**	Aug 23-31	Antelope on public and private land. Private access may be restricted or fee required. (530) 233-3581
Period 2					
742 General Buck	1,461/52	67	25-150**	Sept 06-14	
<b>Zone 5 - Big Valley</b>					
750 General Buck	815/10	50	3-150**	Aug 23-31	Antelope on public and private land. Private access may be restricted or fee required. (530) 233-3581
755 Archery Buck	11/1	0	1-15**	Aug 09-17	
<b>Zone 6 - Surprise Valley</b>					
760 General Buck	881/10	100	3-20**	Aug 23-31	Antelope on public and private land. Private access may be restricted or fee required. (530) 233-3581
780 Ash Creek Junior Hunt (Either-sex)	236/2	56	1-10**	Aug 23-26	
<b>Zone 7 - Honey Lake Valley</b>					
790 Honey Lake Junior Hunt	11/2	100	1-10**	Aug 23-26	Public land. Mandatory hunter orientation prior to hunt day. Adult chaperon required. (530) 294-5824
<b>NEELSON BIGHORN SHEEP</b>					
501 Zone 1 - Marble Mountains	1,563/3	67	3	Dec 06-Feb 01	Vehicle access limited to designated routes. (760) 240-1372
502 Zone 2 - Clark & Kingston Mtn. Ranges	2,282/2	50	1	Dec 06-Feb 01	Vehicle access limited to designated routes. (760) 240-1372
503 Zone 3 - Clark & Kingston Mtn. Ranges	1,450/1	100	1	Dec 06-Feb 01	Vehicle access limited to designated routes. (760) 240-1372
504 Zone 4 - Sheep Hole Mountains	448/1	100	1	Dec 06-Feb 01	Extremely rugged terrain. Vehicle access very limited. (760) 240-1372

\* This information is subject to final approval by the California Fish and Game Commission on April 4, 2003. For information on approved hunts, please contact your nearest DFG office after April 7, 2003.

\*\* Tag ranges used until population survey data is analyzed in March, 2003. For final tag quotas, contact DFG offices after April 7, 2003.

\*\*\* Success range reported over a five-year period.



ESTABLISHED IN 1918 AS A PUBLIC AGENCY

RECEIVED  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

OFFICE BOX 4881 COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA 92236 • TELEPHONE (760) 398-2651 • FAX (760) 398-3711

DIRECTORS: PALM SPRINGS SOUTH COAST RESOURCE AREA  
JOHN W. McFADDEN, PRESIDENT  
PETER NELSON, VICE PRESIDENT  
TELLIS CODEKAS  
RUSSELL KITAHARA  
PATRICIA A. LARSON

May 21, 2003

OFFICERS:  
STEVEN B. ROBBINS, INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER-CHIEF ENGINEER  
JULIA FERNANDEZ, SECRETARY  
REDWINE AND SHERRILL, ATTORNEYS

File: 1150.05  
0613.12

National Monument Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
690 West Garnet Avenue  
North Palm Springs, California 92258

Gentlemen:

Subject: Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains  
National Monument Management Plan and  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

We have received the above-mentioned document dated March 2003, and have no comments at this time.

If you have any questions, please contact Dan Charlton, Stormwater Engineer, extension 2316.

Yours very truly,

*Steve Robbins*  
Steve Robbins  
General Manager-Chief Engineer

DC:maveng\swm\land management

TRUE CONSERVATION  
USE WATER WISELY

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

\* June 19<sup>th</sup>



Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument  
 P.O. Box 581260  
 690 West Garnet Avenue  
 North Palm Springs, CA 92258  
 phone: 760-251-4800 fax: 760-251-4899  
 www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings

COPY

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument  
 Comment/Mailing Address Form  
 www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings

Date: 5-27-03

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office on during regular business hours (7:30a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Would you like to be added to the list for future mailings concerning the Monument? (YES) NO

If yes, please provide a mailing address:

Name: Bud Wellman

Affiliation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: P.O. Box 4

City: Mountain Center State/Zip Code: CA 92561-0004

Phone: 909-761-1353 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Interest: MULTIPLE USE ACCESS

Comments: (Please mail to DRAFT PLAN: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Monument Plan, BLM, P.O. Box 581260, 690 West Garnet Avenue, Palm Springs, CA 92258 or email: ca\_srsj\_nm@ca.blm.gov)

Table ES-1 ES page 26

alternative B Preferred plan

working dogs

may be permitted on federal lands

with NO leash required would greatly

help us.

PC 127



State of California • The Resource Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Gray Davis, Governor  
 Ruth G. Coleman, Acting Director

Colorado Desert District  
 200 Palm Canyon Drive  
 Borrego Springs, CA 92004

May 19, 2003

Danella George  
 National Monument Manager  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 P. O. Box 581260  
 690 W. Garnet Avenue  
 North Palm Springs, CA 92258

Re: Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement, SCH #2003044001

Dear Ms. George,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan/DEIS (Plan). Overall, we are pleased with the scope of the Plan, and commend the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service for their thoroughness. We agree with most of the "preferred alternatives," but have a few points we would like to address. We have one suggestion on the layout of the "alternative" matrix: It would be easier to read if all of the pages were read from the same direction.

We will begin our comments by again questioning the inclusion of 4,400 acres of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP) within the boundaries of the National Monument (NM). Once again, we reiterate that we believe this to be a mapping error which should be corrected. We note in Appendix B-1 of the subject document that the Monument Committee Advisory Report "Background" section mentions that 8,500 acres of California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) lands were scheduled in the original legislation to become part of the National Monument. We believe this refers to lands within Mt. San Jacinto State Park, and that an undetected mapping error resulted in the inclusion of ABDSP lands within the boundary. We also note that the Executive Summary of the Plan (page ES-1) now lists 12,900 acres of CDPR lands within the NM. This discrepancy is obviously caused by the unplanned addition of ABDSP land. The ABDSP lands in question are all located within the designated critical habitat for the Federal Endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep and contain no recreational resources or access. There seems to have been no practical reason for including these few stair-stepped parcels within the NM, and California State Parks was unaware of this inclusion prior to receiving scoping inquiries for the Plan in October 2002. At that time, we questioned whether this was the result of a mapping error. We provided your staff with GIS information, but were never

PC 015

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

notified of any resolution of this issue. We have also been unable to locate a legal description of the lands within the NM as required by the enabling legislation. This enabling legislation, Public Law 106-351 (Appendix A), allows the Secretary of the Interior to correct clerical errors in the map and legal descriptions. Therefore, California State Parks hereby officially requests that these lands within ABDSP be expunged from the National Monument.

PC 015

General Comments: The NM also borders the existing Santa Rosa Mountains State Wilderness, a sub-unit of ABDSP, along the Monument's southern boundary. As is the case in the property described above incorrectly included within the NM boundary, there are no trails, roads or other facilities in this area of the Park. In general, Alternative C, which provides for the most intensive management, limits to recreational activities, and protection of the resources, is the most compatible with management concerns in a State Wilderness. Therefore, we would encourage the adoption of this Alternative for management of National Monument lands in the "zone of impact" or buffer zone along the boundary with ABDSP.

PC 016

Regarding the specific alternatives and strategies described in Chapter 2 of the Plan, we have the following comments:

### 2.B.3. Management of Recreational Resources

#### Recreational Resources - Non-Motorized Recreation

We recommend that all campfires, when and where allowed, be enclosed in a container, and ground fires should not be allowed within NM lands.

PC 110

#### Recreational Resources - Hang Gliding

If Hang Gliding is allowed in certain areas of the Monument as described in the Preferred Plan (Alternative B), we request that all launching and landing sites be located an adequate distance away from State Park boundaries to ensure that "accidental" landings do not occur. Vehicles will not be allowed to enter State Wilderness to retrieve gliders.

PC 135

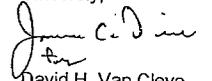
#### Recreational Resources - Recreational Paintball

We support the Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C), which would not allow gas or air propelled weapons or simulated weapons (including paintball and paintball-like weapons in the NM at any time.

#### Recreational Resources - Recreational Shooting

We support the Preferred Plan (Alternative C), which would not allow recreational shooting except for hunting where it is currently legal. Hunting is illegal within the boundaries of the State Park.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Please contact Senior State Park Resource Ecologist Jim Dice at (760) 767-3074 or [jdice@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jdice@parks.ca.gov) or Park Superintendent Mark Jorgensen at (760) 767-4399 or [mjorgensen@parks.ca.gov](mailto:mjorgensen@parks.ca.gov) if you have questions about or comments, or you require further information on the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® lands in question. If there is a formal process which should be followed to ensure that your maps are corrected and these lands are excluded from the National Monument, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
  
David H. Van Cleave  
District Superintendent

cc: Jim Dice  
Mark Jorgensen  
Geary Hund, Inland Empire District  
Gary Watts, Inland Empire District  
Bill Havert, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Plan  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 581260  
690 West Garnet Avenue  
Palm Springs Ca. 92258

RECEIVED  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
03 MAY 33 PM 2:39  
PALM SPRINGS-SOUTH COAST  
RESOURCE AREA

May 30, 2003  
re: Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan.  
Need for definitions in the Plan.

Connell Dunning:

I have reviewed the Draft Plan and still find no definitions. I wrote to you in January of 2002 and suggested some basic definitions be included in the draft plan which was yet to be drafted at that writing. What follows is an expansion of some suggested definitions. This listing is not intended to be comprehensive but only a starting point. You will note that I have included definitions for terms such as "private property" and "jurisdiction" which are currently not defined in the draft Plan. I also think that the Plan, as currently drafted, strongly implies there are Primary Management Areas (PMA) and Secondary Management Areas (SMA). I have therefore included such designations in the attached definitions.

PC 001

My concern here is that definitions be included in the draft plan. Without definitions it will be difficult, if not impossible, to understand what is being discussed or proposed. Terms used throughout the current Draft Plan document that have no definition include, but are not limited to, the following: Preserve, Secure, Significant biological, recreational, geological, educational, "wildlife land forms" (pg ES-2), managed etc, etc.

I strongly recommend that definitions, and a possible glossary, be included in the Plan.

## Glossary/Definitions for the National Monument

The definitions listed below apply to both areas within the Monument and outside the Monument unless otherwise noted.

**Accepted agricultural practice:** A mode of operation that is common to farms or ranches of similar nature, necessary for the operation of such farms or ranches to obtain a profit in money and customarily utilized in conjunction with agricultural use.

**Accessory building:** A building or structure whose use is incidental and subordinate to that of the main use of the property, and that is located on the same parcel as the main building or use.

**Active wildlife site:** A wildlife site that has been used within the past 5 years by a sensitive wildlife species.

**Agency official:** The federal, state, or local agency head or designee who has authority over a proposed project.

**Agricultural structure:** A structure located on a farm or ranch and used in the operation for the storage, repair, and maintenance of farm equipment and supplies or for the raising and/or storage of crops and livestock. These include, but are not limited to: barns, silos, workshops, equipment sheds, greenhouses, wind machines (orchards), processing facilities, storage bins and structures.

**Agricultural use:** The current employment of land for the primary purpose of obtaining a profit in money by raising, harvesting, and selling crops; or by the feeding, breeding, management, and sale of, or production of, livestock, poultry, fur-bearing animals or honeybees; or for dairying and the sale of dairy product; or any other agricultural or horticultural use, including Christmas trees. Current employment of land for agricultural use includes:

1. The operation or use of farmland subject to any agriculture-related government program.
2. Land lying fallow for 1 year as a normal and regular requirement of good agricultural husbandry.
3. Land planted in orchards or other perennials prior to maturity.
4. Land under buildings supporting accepted agricultural practices.

Agricultural use does not include livestock feedlots.

**Anaerobic:** A condition in which molecular oxygen is absent (or effectively so) from the environment.

**Aquatic area:** The water area of a stream, pond, or lake measured at the ordinary high water mark.

**Archaeological resources:** See cultural resource.

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

**Archival research:** Research in primary documents that is likely to yield information regarding human occupation of the area in question, including but not limited to deed, census, cartographic, and judicial records.

**Bed and breakfast inn:** An establishment located in a structure designed as a single-family dwelling where more than two rooms but fewer than six rooms are rented on a daily basis. Bed and breakfast inns are clearly incidental to the use of a structure as a single-family dwelling and are owner occupied and operated. Bed and breakfast inns operate as transient accommodations, not as rooming or boarding houses.

**Best management practices:** Conservation techniques and management measures that (1) control soil loss and reduce water quality degradation caused by nutrients, animal waste, toxins, and sediment; (2) minimize adverse affects to groundwater and surface-water flow and circulation patterns; and (3) maintain the chemical, biological, and physical characteristics of wetlands, ponds, streams, and riparian areas.

**Biodiversity (SMA):** A diversity of biological organisms at the genetic, species, ecosystem, and landscape levels.

**Buffer zone:** An area adjacent to a wetland, stream, pond, or other sensitive area that is established and managed to protect sensitive natural resources from human disturbance. In instances that involve a wetland, stream, or pond, the buffer zone includes all or a portion of the riparian area.

**Building:** Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy.

**Camping or recreational vehicle:** A vacation trailer, camper, self-propelled vehicle, or structure equipped with wheels for highway use that is intended for recreational purposes, but not for residential purposes, and is equipped with plumbing, sink, or toilet. A camping or recreational vehicle shall be considered a dwelling unit if it is connected to a sewer system (including septic tank), water, and electrical lines or is occupied on the same parcel for more than 60 days in any consecutive 12-month period.

**Campsite:** Single camping unit, that usually consists of a cleared, level area for a tent, and may include a parking spur, fire ring, table, and other amenities.

**Capability:** The ability of land to produce forest or agricultural products due to characteristics of the land itself, such as soil, slope, exposure, or other natural factors.

**Catastrophic situations (SMA):** Forces such as fire, insect and disease infestations, and earth movements.

**Childcare center:** A facility providing daycare to three or more children, but not including:

1. The provision of care that is primarily educational, unless provided to a preschool child for more than 4 hours a day.
2. The provision of care that is primarily supervised training in a specific subject, including but not limited to dancing, gymnastics, drama, music or religion.
3. The provision of short-term care related to or associated with group athletic or social activities.
4. The provision of daycare in the provider's home in the family living quarters for less than 13 children.

**Santa Rosa & San Jacinto National Monument Graphic Signing System:** Sign design standards developed for the National Monument for public signs in and adjacent to public road rights-of-way.

**Commercial development/use:** Any facility or use of land or water whose function is primarily retail buying or selling of goods or services or both. This does not include fruit or produce stands.

**Commercial forest products:** These include timber for lumber, pulp, and firewood for commercial purposes.

**Commercial recreation:** Any private (non-governmental) recreational activity or facility on privately owned land, including nonprofit facilities. This does not include operation of a public recreation facility by a private vendor.

**Community facility:** Basic utilities and services necessary to support public service needs, including but not limited to water and power utilities, sanitation facilities, public microwave stations and communication facilities, schools, roads and highways. This does not include sanitary landfills.

**Consulting parties (cultural resources):** Organizations or individuals who submit substantive written comments to a local government in a timely manner because they are concerned with the effects of a proposed use on cultural resources.

**Contiguous land:** Parcels or other lands that are under the same ownership and have a common boundary, regardless of whether or not portions of the parcels have separate tax lot numbers, lie in different counties, lie in different sections or government lots,

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

lie in different land use or zoning designations, or are separated by public or private roads. Contiguous land does not include parcels that meet only at a single point.

**County:** Riverside County.

**Cultivation:** Any activity that prepares land for raising crops by turning, breaking, or loosening the soil. Cultivation includes plowing, harrowing, leveling, and tilling.

**Cultural resource:** Evidence of human occupation or activity that is important in the history, architecture, archaeology or culture of a community or region. Cultural resources include, but are not limited to, the following:

Archaeological resources. Physical evidence or ruins of human occupation or activity that are located on or below the surface of the ground and are at least 50 years old.

Archaeological resources include, but are not limited to, the remains of houses, villages, camp and fishing sites, and cave shelters; rock art such as petroglyphs and pictographs; artifacts such as arrowheads, utensils, tools, fragments of tools and utensils, obsidian flakes or other material byproducts from tool and utensil-making activities; and graves, human remains, corrals, and associated artifacts.

Historic buildings and structures. Standing or above-ground buildings and structures that are at least 50 years old.

Historic buildings and structures include, but are not limited to, cabins, barns, canals, flumes, pipelines, highways, and tunnels.

Traditional cultural properties. Locations, buildings, structures, and objects that are associated with cultural beliefs, customs, or practices of a living community that are rooted in that community's history and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

Traditional cultural properties include, but are not limited to, a location associated with the traditional beliefs of a Native American group about its origins or its cultural history; a location where a community has traditionally carried out artistic or other cultural practices important in maintaining its historical identity; and a location where Native American religious practitioners have historically gone, and go today, to perform ceremonial activities. Objects may include petroglyphs, pictographs, rock cairns or other rock structures, trees, and rock outcrops.

**Cumulative effects:** The combined effects of two or more activities. The effects may be related to the number of individual activities, or to the number of repeated, activities

on the same piece of ground. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

**Cut:** An area where soil or earth is excavated or removed in conjunction with development activities.

**Dedicated site:** An area actively devoted to the current use and as delineated on the site plan.

**Deer and Big Horn Sheep winter range:** Areas normally used, or capable of being used, by deer and elk during their seasonal migrations.

**Destruction of wetlands:** Loss of the wetlands or any of its component parts, including the filling, draining, or other adverse effect to the sustainable functioning of the wetland.

**Developed recreation:** Recreational opportunities characterized by high-density use on specific sites and requiring facilities installation. Density of use, amount of site development, and type of recreation site can vary widely across the spectrum of recreation activities.

**Development:** Any land division or structure, including but not limited to new construction of buildings and structures, and mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, and excavation.

**Diameter at breast height (dbh):** The diameter of a tree as measured at breast height.

**Duplex:** A building containing two dwelling units and designed for occupancy by two families.

**Dwelling, single-family:** A detached building containing one dwelling unit and designed for occupancy by one family only.

**Dwelling unit:** A single unit designed for occupancy by one family and having not more than one cooking area or kitchen.

**Effect on Treaty Rights:** To bring about a change in, to influence, to modify, or to have a consequence to Indian treaty or treaty-related rights in the with the Agua Caliente and Santa Rosa Indian tribes executed between the individual Indian tribes and the Congress of the United States and as adjudicated by the Federal courts.

**Endemic:** Plant and animal species that are found only in the vicinity of the National Monument.

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

**Enhancement (natural resources):** A human activity that increases one or more functions of an existing wetland, stream, lake, riparian area, or other sensitive area. Enhancement is generally limited to a wetland, stream, lake, riparian area, or other sensitive area that is degraded. Enhancing an area that is in good or excellent condition may reduce biological diversity and eliminate other natural functions and may not be desirable.

**Ethnography:** The descriptive and analytic study of the culture of particular groups. An ethnographer seeks to understand a group through interviews with its members and often through living in and observing it.

**Existing use or structure:** A legally established use that existed before the effective date of the National Monument Act, the Management Plan, or a land use ordinance established pursuant to the National Monument Act. *Legally-established* means established in accordance with the law in effect at the time of establishment of the use.

**Exploration, development (extraction and excavation), and production of mineral resources:** Includes all or any part of the process of surface, underground, or submerged mining of mineral resources. Minerals include soil, coal, clay, stone, sand, gravel, metallic ore, oil and gases and any other material or substance excavated for commercial, industrial or construction use. For the Management Plan, this definition includes all exploration and mining, regardless of area disturbed or volume mined. Production of mineral resources means the use of portable crushing, onsite stockpiling, washing, milling, screening, or sorting equipment or other similar methods of initial treatment of a mineral resource to transport to another site for use or further processing. Secondary processing such as concrete or asphalt batch plants are considered industrial uses.

**Fill:** The placement, deposition, or stockpiling of sand, sediment, or other earth materials to create new uplands or create an elevation above the existing surface.

**Fire break:** A break in ground cover fuels, adjacent to and surrounding buildings.

**Forbs:** Broad-leaved herbs, in contrast to ferns, fern allies, and grasses and grasslike plants.

**Foreground (SMA):** One-half mile on either side of a traveled road or trail.

**Fully screened:** A description of the relative visibility of a structure where that structure is not visible as viewed from a specified vantage point (generally a key viewing area, for the purpose of the Management Plan).

**Grade (ground level):** The average elevation of the finished ground elevation as defined by the Uniform Building Code.

**Grading:** Any excavating or filling of earth materials or any combination thereof, including the land in its excavated or filled condition.

**Height of building:** The vertical distance from the grade to the highest point of the roof.

**Herbaceous:** A plant with no persistent woody stem above the ground, with characteristics of an herb.

**Herbs:** Nonwoody (herbaceous) plants, including grasses and grasslike plants, forbs, ferns, fern allies, and nonwoody vines. (Note: Seedlings of woody plants that are less than 3 feet tall shall be considered part of the herbaceous layer.)

**Historic buildings and structures:** See cultural resource.

**Historic survey:** Actions that document the form, style, integrity, and physical condition of historic buildings and structures. Historic surveys may include archival research, architectural drawings, and photographs.

**Horses, boarding of:** The stabling, feeding, and grooming for a fee, or the renting of stalls for and the care of horses not belonging to the owner of the property, and related facilities, such as training arenas, corrals, and exercise tracks.

**Hydric soil:** A soil that is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.

**In-lieu sites:** Sites acquired by the Army Corps of Engineers and transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for treaty fishing, in lieu of those usual and accustomed fishing areas lost by inundation from reservoir construction. These sites were acquired under the provisions of Public Law 14 and Public Law 100-581; Section 401. Additional in-lieu sites will be provided for.

**Indian tribal government:** The governing bodies of the Agua Caliente and Santa Rosa Indian tribes.

**Indian tribes:** The Agua Caliente and Santa Rosa Indian tribes.

**Industrial uses:** Any use of land or water primarily involved in:

1. Assembly or manufacture of goods or products,
2. Processing or reprocessing of raw materials, processing of recyclable materials or agricultural products not produced within a constituent farm unit,

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3. Storage or warehousing, handling or distribution of manufactured goods or products, raw materials, agricultural products, forest products, or recyclable materials for purposes other than retail sale and service, or
4. Production of electric power for commercial purposes.

**Interpretive displays:** Signs and structures that provide for the convenience, education, and enjoyment of visitors, helping visitors understand and appreciate natural and cultural resources and their relationship to them.

**Jurisdiction:** Jurisdiction means any public body such as Federal, State, City, County or special district authorized by State, City, County or Federal law or ordinance to impose restricts and/or tax on private property.

**Key components:** The attributes that are essential to maintain the long-term use and productivity of a wildlife site. The key components vary by species and wildlife site. Examples include fledgling and perching trees, watering sites, and foraging habitat.

**Key viewing areas:** Those portions of important public roads, parks, or other vantage points within the Monument Area from which the public views Monument Area landscapes. These include:

Sheep Mountain  
Martinez Mountain  
Toro Peak  
Santa Rosa Peak  
Dolomite mine  
Sugarloaf Mountain  
Black Hill  
Asbestos Mountain  
etc.

**Land division:** The division or redivision of contiguous land(s) into tracts, parcels, sites or divisions, regardless of the proposed parcel or tract size or use. A land division includes, but is not limited to, short subdivisions, partitions, and subdivisions.

**Landscape setting:** The combination of land use, landform, and vegetation patterns that distinguish an area in appearance and character from other portions of the Monument Area.

**Livestock feedlot:** Stockyards and commercial livestock finishing yards for cattle, sheep, swine, and fur bearers. Feedlots do not include winter pasture or winter hay-feeding grounds.

**Lot line adjustment:** Transfer of a portion of a parcel from one owner to the owner of an adjacent parcel resulting in no increase in the number of parcels.

**Mitigation:** The use of any or all of the following actions:

1. Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
2. Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
3. Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.
4. Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.

**Multifamily dwelling:** A dwelling constructed or modified into two or more single-family units.

**Native species:** Species that naturally inhabit an area.

**Natural resources:** Naturally occurring features including land, water, air, plants, animals (including fish), plant and animal habitat, and scenery.

**Natural resource specialist:** A person with professional qualifications, including an academic degree or sufficient professional experience, in the subject matter the specialist is being asked to analyze or evaluate.

**Natural resource-based recreation (SMA):** Recreation activities, uses, or facilities that essentially depend on the unique natural, scenic, or cultural resources found within the Monument Area. Campgrounds, trails, boating and windsurfing facilities, swimming beaches, picnic sites, viewpoints, interpretive parks, and similar outdoor recreation facilities are considered resource-based; golf courses, tennis courts, and rental cabins are not.

**Nonprofit organization:** An organization whose nonprofit status has been approved by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

**Ordinary high water mark:** The mark on all streams, ponds, and lakes that will be found by examining the bed and banks and ascertaining where the presence and action of waters are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to mark upon the soil a vegetative character distinct from that of the abutting upland. In any area where the ordinary high water mark cannot be found, the line of mean high water shall substitute.

**Parcel:**

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1. Any parcel legally created by a short division, partition, or subdivision.
2. Any unit of land legally created and separately described by deed or sales contract prior to October 24, 2000 if there were no applicable planning, zoning, and land division ordinances or regulations.
3. A unit of land shall not be considered a separate parcel simply because the subject tract of land:
  - a. Is a unit of land created solely to establish a separate tax account;
  - b. Lies in different sections or government lots;
  - c. Lies in different land use or zoning designations; or
  - d. Is dissected by a public or private road.

**Partial retention:** A visual quality objective that provides for management activities that may be evident but must remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Activities may repeat form, line, color, or texture common to the characteristic landscape, but changes in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc., shall remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

**Practicable:** Able to be done, considering technology and cost.

**Preexisting:** Existing prior to the adoption of the National Monument Management Plan.

**Private Property:** Land, whether improved or vacant, under the ownership of private individuals, trusts, companies, living trusts, clubs, charitable organizations [Sec. 501 (c) 3] etc, environmental groups, and Indian tribal lands. "Private Property" is understood to mean, in the context of this Management Plan, property under such private ownership subject to the limitations imposed by Federal, State, City, County, and special districts such as water and lighting districts. Such limitations imposed by the various jurisdictions may include, but not be limited to lot size, building setbacks, use, structure size and height, restrictions on pets and animals, limits on fencing, limits on landscape removal and planting, limits on signs, limits on parking, limits on outdoor storage, limits on development of wells and a myriad of other limitations.

**Project area:** The geographic area or areas within which new development and uses may cause changes in the character or use of cultural resources, if any such resources exist.

**Public use facility:** Recreation development(s) that meet the definition of "recreation facility" in the Management Plan and are open for use by the general public. Private

clubs and other facilities limited to members or otherwise restricted in availability shall not be considered public use facilities.

**Rare plant species:** Used in a generic sense to refer to various categories of sensitive plants cited in federal and state programs.

**Recreation facility:** A cluster or grouping of recreational developments or improvements located in proximity to one another, and that are not separated in distance by more than 1/4 mile of land that does not contain any such developments or improvements, except for roads and/or pathways.

**Reconnaissance survey:** Actions conducted to determine if archaeological resources are present in an area that would be affected by a proposed use. Reconnaissance surveys may include archival research, surface surveys, subsurface testing, and ethnographic research.

**Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS):** A means of classifying areas in relation to the types of recreation opportunities and experiences they provide or are appropriate for. The spectrum ranges from primitive (wilderness areas) to urban (highly modified areas).

- Primitive: Remote, inaccessible areas with a high degree of solitude and with resources essentially unmodified.
- Semiprimitive: Areas accessible only by primitive transportation routes, with low to moderately infrequent human encounters and with only subtle modifications to the natural setting.
- Roded Natural: Roded areas with moderately frequent human encounters and with resource modifications evident.
- Rural: Roded areas with moderate to highly frequent human encounters and with the natural setting dominated by cultural modifications.
- Suburban: Areas representing the rural-urban interface, with urban-like roads, structures, highly frequent human encounters, and dominant resource modifications encroaching into the rural landscape.
- Urban: Highly accessible, roded areas dominated by human encounters and human-related structures.

**Recreation resources:** Areas and facilities that provide recreation opportunities and experiences. Recreation resources include semiprimitive areas with few facilities and developed sites.

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**Rehabilitation (natural resources):** A human activity that returns a wetland, stream, buffer zone, or other sensitive area that was disturbed during construction of a permitted use to its natural or preconstruction condition.

**Repair and maintenance:** An activity that restores the size, scope, configuration, and design of a serviceable structure to its previously authorized and undamaged condition. Activities that change the size, scope, and configuration of a structure beyond its original design are not included in this definition.

**Resource-based recreation:** Those recreation uses that are essentially dependent upon the natural, scenic, or cultural resources of the Monument area and that do not adversely affect those resources upon which they depend.

**Retention:** A visual quality objective that provides for management activities that are not visually evident to the casual visitor. Management activities may only repeat form, line, color, and texture that are frequently found in the characteristic landscape. Changes in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc., shall not be evident.

**Review uses:** Proposed uses and developments that must be reviewed by a county planning department, the BLM, or the Forest Service to determine if they comply with the policies and guidelines in the Management Plan.

**Riparian area:** The area immediately adjacent to streams, ponds, lakes, and wetlands that directly contributes to the water quality and habitat components of the water body. This may include areas that have high water tables and soils and vegetation that exhibit characteristics of wetness, as well as upland areas immediately adjacent to the water body that directly contribute shade, nutrients, cover, or debris, or that directly enhance water quality within the water body.

**Road:** The entire right-of-way of any public or private way that provides ingress to or egress from property by means of vehicles or other means or that provides travel between places by means of vehicles. "Road" includes, but is not limited to:

1. Ways described as streets, highways, throughways, or alleys.
2. Road-related structures that are in the right-of-way, such as tunnels, culverts, or similar structures.
3. Structures that provide for continuity of the right-of-way, such as bridges.

**Scenic Area:** An area designated in the plan that provides views and vistas of features that have scenic value.

**Scenic travel corridor:** Those portions of Highway 74 located in the Monument Area and specifically designated to be managed as scenic and recreational travel routes.

**Secretary:** The Secretary of Agriculture.

**Sensitive plant species:** Plant species that are (1) endemic to the Monument and vicinity, (2) listed as endangered or threatened pursuant to federal or state endangered species acts, or (3) listed as endangered, threatened or sensitive by the State of California. In the SMA, sensitive plant species also include plant species recognized by the BLM or Forest Service as needing special management to prevent them from being placed on federal or state endangered species lists.

**Sensitive wildlife species:** Animal species that are (1) listed as endangered or threatened pursuant to federal or state endangered species acts, (2) listed as endangered, threatened, sensitive, or candidate by the State of California, (3) listed as sensitive by the California Fish and Wildlife Department, or (4) considered to be of special interest to the public, such as, but not limited to, the Great Blue Heron, osprey, Big Horn Sheep, Vireo, Tortoise, Bats, and Golden Eagle.

In the SMA, sensitive wildlife species also include animal species recognized by the Regional Forester as needing special management to prevent them from being placed on federal or state endangered species lists.

**Service station:** A business operated for the purpose of retailing and delivering motor vehicle fuel into the fuel tanks of motor vehicles.

**Serviceable:** Presently useable.

**Shall:** Action is mandatory.

**Should:** Action is encouraged.

**Shrub:** A woody plant usually greater than 3 feet but less than 20 feet tall that generally exhibits several erect, spreading, or prostrate stems and has a bushy appearance.

**Sign:** Any placard, poster, billboard, advertising structure or inscribed surface, pattern or artificial lighting, pictorial or symbolic ornament, emblematic structure, banner, fluttering apparatus, statue, model, ornamental figure, or other visually communicative or expressive device that is visible from an out-of-doors position and is used to advertise or call the public's attention to any public, business, commercial, industrial, recreational or any other activity, object for sale, or lease, person or place, or to bear any kind of message. It includes any surface on which a name, text, device, signal, ornament, logotype, or advertising matters is made visible. The meaning of "sign" shall also include any sign currently in disuse, but still visible from an

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out-of-doors position, and any frame or support structure erected specifically to bear or uphold a sign.

**Significant cultural resource (SMA):** A cultural resource that is included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. (The criteria for evaluating the eligibility of properties for the National Register of Historic Places appear in "National Register Criteria for Evaluation" [36 CFR 60].)

**Skyline:** The line that represents the place at which a landform, such as a cliff, bluff or ridge, meets the sky, as viewed from a specified vantage point (generally a key viewing area, for the purpose of the Management Plan). In areas with thick, unbroken tree cover, the skyline is generally formed by the top of the vegetative canopy. In treeless areas or areas with more open tree cover, the skyline is generally formed by the surface of the ground.

**Soil Capability Class:** A classification system developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service to group soils as to their capability for agricultural use.

**Special habitat area:** Stream beds, canyons, ravines, oases and riparian vegetation that have high values for birds, raptors, songbirds, upland game, and reptiles.

**Special streams:** Streams that are primary water supplies for fish habitat or endemic plants generally sourced from springs.

**Stand:** A group of trees possessing uniformity in regard to type, age, vigor, or size.

**Story:** A single floor level of a structure, as defined by the Uniform Building Code.

**Streams:** Areas where surface water produces a defined channel or bed, including bedrock channels, gravel beds, sand and silt beds, and defined-channel swales. The channel or bed does not have to contain water year-round. This definition is not meant to include irrigation ditches, canals, storm or surface water runoff structures, or other artificial watercourses unless they are used to convey streams naturally occurring prior to construction of such watercourses.

For the Management Plan, streams are categorized into two classes: perennial streams and intermittent streams. Perennial stream means a stream that flows year-round during years of normal precipitation. Intermittent stream means a stream that flows only part of the year, or seasonally, during years of normal precipitation.

**Structure:** That which is built or constructed, an edifice or building of any kind, or any piece of work artificially built up or composed of parts joined together in some

definite manner. This includes, but is not limited to, buildings, walls, fences, roads, parking lots, signs, and additions/alterations to structures.

**Subsurface testing:** Any procedure that removes material from beneath the ground surface for the purpose of identifying cultural resources, such as shovel tests, posthole digger tests, and auger borings.

**Suitability:** The appropriateness of land for production of agricultural or forest products or for recreation, considering its capability for production; surrounding uses and features associated with development; compatibility with scenic, cultural, natural and recreation resources; compatibility among uses; and other cultural factors, such as roads, powerlines, dwellings, and size of ownership.

**Travelers accommodations:** Any establishment having rooms rented or kept for rent on a daily or weekly basis to travelers or transients for a charge or fee paid or to be paid for rental use or use of facilities.

**Treaty rights or other rights:** Rights reserved by the Indian tribes through the Treaties. These include the right of fishing at all usual and accustomed places, as well as the privilege of pasturing livestock and hunting and gathering on open and unclaimed lands in common with the citizens of the states.

**Tributary fish habitat:** Streams that are used by anadromous or resident fish for spawning, rearing and/or migration.

**Undertaking:** Any project, activity, program or development or change in land use that can result in changes in the character or use of a cultural resource, if any such cultural resources are located in the area of potential effects. For federal undertakings, the project, activity, or program must be under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a federal agency or licensed or assisted by a federal agency. Undertakings include new and continuing projects, activities, or programs and any of their elements [36 CER 800.2(o)].

**Unimproved lands:** Lands that generally do not have developments such as buildings or structures.

**Upland:** Any area that does not qualify as a wetland because the associated hydrologic regime is not sufficiently wet to elicit development of vegetation, soils, and/or hydrologic characteristics associated with wetlands.

**Uses allowed outright:** New uses and developments that may occur without being reviewed by a County planning department, the BLM, or the Forest Service to determine if they are consistent with the Management Plan.

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**Utility facility:** Any structure that provides for the transmission or distribution of water, sewer, fuel, electricity, or communications.

**Viewshed:** A landscape unit seen from a key viewing area.

**Visual Quality Objective (VQO):** A set of visual management goals established by the Forest Service to achieve a desired visual objective. These objectives include retention and partial retention in the National Monument Management Plan.

**Visually subordinate:** A description of the relative visibility of a structure where that structure does not noticeably contrast with the surrounding landscape, as viewed from a specified vantage point (generally a key viewing area, for the Management Plan). As opposed to structures that are fully screened, structures that are visually subordinate may be partially visible. They are not visually dominant in relation to their surroundings.

**Wetlands:** Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. This does not include riparian areas, rivers, streams, and lakes.

**Wetlands functions:** The beneficial roles that wetlands serve, including storage, conveyance, and attenuation of floodwaters and stormwaters; groundwater recharge and discharge; protection of water quality and reduction of sediment and erosion; production of waterfowl, game and nongame birds, mammals, and other living resources; protection of habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive species; food chain support for a broad range of wildlife and fisheries; educational, historical, and archaeological value protection; and scenic, aesthetic, and recreational amenities.

**Woody plant:** A seed plant (gymnosperm or angiosperm) that develops persistent, hard, fibrous tissues.

Again, a large part of my concern is that the Monument Plan be legally defensible.

Sincerely,



Nick Steffanoff Charter Member AICP  
61777 Yucca Road  
Mountain Center Ca. 92561

Phone: (760) 349-3568

email: nicksteffanoff@yahoo.com

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Plan  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 581260  
690 West Garnet Avenue  
Palm Springs Ca. 92258

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RESOURCE AREA

May 28, 2003

re: Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan

Connell Dunning:

The purpose of this letter is to make comments, observations and recommendations for the referenced National Monument in two specific areas.

1. Practical planning application of the term "private property rights" as cited in the enabling legislation and,
2. The "checker board" character of the existing various public and private ownerships in the Monument boundary.

I reviewed the draft Plan and EIS and attended various meetings concerning the development of the plan. I have prepared the attached maps to illustrate my concerns.

**L. Private property rights.** First I want to address the term "private property rights" as cited in the Monument legislation. I have included SEC. 3. (c) as follows for context. (emphasis mine.)

114 STAT. 1364 PUBLIC LAW 106-351-OCT. 24, 2000

(c) PROTECTION OF RESERVATION, STATE, AND PRIVATE LANDS AND INTERESTS.—Nothing in the establishment of the National Monument shall affect any property rights of any Indian reservation, any individually held trust lands, any other Indian allotments, any lands or interests in lands held by the State of California, any political subdivision of the State of California, any special district, or the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority, or any private property rights within the boundaries of the National Monument. Establishment of the National Monument shall not grant the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture any new authority on or over non-Federal lands not already provided by law. The authority of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture under this Act extends only to Federal lands and Federal interests in lands included in the National Monument.

The Plan needs to add some discussion and definition as to what "private property rights" means in the context of the Plan and in relation to contemporary planning and zoning regulations. Some people feel, rather than think, that they have unlimited rights to their "private property" which is obviously a false premise. (I will use the term "feel" in this

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document to describe people who fail to actually think. Feeling is an emotional response whereas thinking is a rational response.) For example, the State regulates water rights so that a person has no inherent "right" to drill or create a well. The State also prohibits the burning of trash on private property out of concern for air quality and, hopefully, fire safety. And of course the County imposes zoning regulations that prohibit unwanted uses, confines use to single family use, requires certain health and safety regulations be met as a condition of construction, establishes building setbacks and a myriad of other restrictions that restrict "private property rights". This is as it has been and as it should be.

Owning real estate, whether vacant land or a developed parcel, is similar to owning an automobile. That is, a person can buy a Jaguar, capable of 120 mph, but the State, Cities and Counties impose restraints on that "private property". In the same way that the State/City/County establishes a maximum speed limit zone of say 65 mph, restricting a person's "right" to exercise their Jaguar at 120 mph, those same jurisdictions enforce land use zoning restrictions on "private property" prohibiting the "exceeding the speed limit" on land use. The "land use speed limits" can include confining use to single family use, minimum lot sizes, minimum building setbacks, landscape requirements, parking requirements, prohibition of mobile homes, prohibition of outdoor storage of RV vehicles, prohibition of automobile wrecking, prohibition of maintaining livestock or horses, maintaining more than three dogs constitutes a kennel which is prohibited in single family zoning, drug labs, etc. etc. In some jurisdictions these restrictions include regulating exterior colors of homes, the ratio of windows area to wall areas, noise restrictions, light restrictions etc. And, of course, a property may not be developable at all due to its inability to meet sub-surface sewage disposal requirements, insufficient land area under applicable zoning requirements or inability to achieve the minimum compaction requirements for foundations.

The public jurisdictions can also change the limitations on private property use by changing the restrictions at any time in the future. For instance the 65 mph limit can be reduced to 55 mph. This, obviously, has occurred historically and is cited here as an example of changing requirements to personal private property. Nobody was granted any "grandfather rights" by claiming that since they purchased their 120 mph Jaguar before there were such speed limit requirements that they should be allowed to drive more closely to the design capacity of the vehicle. (Nevada had no speed limit during the 1960's and it was only during the gas crunch in the 1970's that forced Nevada to follow the Federal 55 mph guideline.)

The point of this discussion is that the legislation's term "private property rights" must be discussed in the Plan to explain the limits and restrictions regarding these "private property rights". Many private property owners feel that because they have "private property" that they are entitled to do anything they want on their land and to demand anything they want from governmental entities. More specifically this discussion should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. A listing of the inventory of existing restrictions and limitations on private property within the Monument Boundary. One such restriction is the Mount Palomar lighting district that attempts to limit the amount of outdoor light emanating from private properties to mitigate the 'skyshine' which compromises the observatory. The Palomar lighting district appears on the Riverside County tax assessors annual statement. Another existing restriction is the Riverside County "leash law" that requires dogs to be on a leash.

Publishing this Riverside County requirement in the Plan could raise public awareness of the leash law and perhaps assist in preserving the Bighorn Sheep population. (Many dog owners are unaware of the licensing and leash law requirements in the county. Some people in the Monument feel that the leash law is only for people in the urban areas and since they live in a rural area that their dogs should be allowed to run at large. This is not the way the leash law was constructed. Publishing the Palomar lighting restrictions in the Management Plan would also assist in preserving the views. (stars are one of the views within the Monument)

2. A discussion on the limits of access to and through various private properties within the Monument. Currently there are numerous private properties that have no access. I am not proposing that this be changed. This is the intentional result of the "checker board" ownership pattern created by the government. (See "checker board" discussion that follows.) This "checker board" pattern was created to prohibit access between full sections (one square mile) of land. The Agua Caliente Indian Reservation ownerships in the valley and in the Monument demonstrate this ownership pattern. Additionally there are numerous private ownerships completely surrounded by other public ownerships with no provision for access by easement or otherwise. Many of these private owners knowingly purchased 'landlocked' lands and now want (or feel that) government to 'bail them out'. This access discussion will inevitably resurrect the Dunn Road controversy. Opening of Dunn Road to public access is not in the Public interest. Opening Dunn Road would compromise the habitat and the Bighorn Sheep.

3. A discussion of the likely impacts on private lands of the management, or implementation, provisions of the National Monument needed to meet the objectives of the legislation. (i.e. preserve views, flora and fauna, cultural values, etc.) The Draft Plan discusses, at length, how the various plan options will affect the management of public lands in the area but there is no real discussion of private land impacts. This means that certain activities and access to and on private lands will need to be restrained. Several of the existing residential communities within the Monument have extensive deed restrictions regarding architectural style, exterior color, prohibition of fencing and other limitations beneficial to the flora, fauna and general scenic value. This is unavoidable and pretending there will be no impacts to private lands will result in a case of "Over-promising and under-delivering." It is always better to under-promise and over-deliver.

4. A discussion of what private property rights actually means with a listing of the existing restrictions on those rights and what other restrictions may be imposed while still preserving private property rights in the context of contemporary land use regulations.

5. A listing of the existing limits to access and the consequence of those limits as it impacts both public and private access to and through the Monument. (i.e. If landlocked property owners want access through public lands to their private property are they willing to grant public access through their private property to adjoining public lands within the Monument? If so what will be the quality of the monument and can the preservation/conservation objectives of the Monument be sustained?)

II. The "checker board" pattern. The "checker board" ownership pattern created by the government in order to control access and development in the area. This "checker board"

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pattern was created to prohibit access between full sections (one square mile) of land. The Agua Caliente Indian Reservation ownerships in the valley and in the Monument demonstrate this ownership pattern.

I have prepared the attached maps to outline the concern for how this checker board pattern may be critical in the success of the Monument. The numerous private ownerships completely surrounded by other public ownerships with no provision for access constitute a large block of land in the approximate center of the Monument. They have no current access. This is, in part, why Dunn Road has been a 'controversy'. Many of these private owners knowingly purchased 'landlocked' lands and now want government to 'bail them out'. This access discussion will inevitably resurrect the Dunn Road controversy.

What follows are some concerns with the mapping and the "mind set" that mapping often times creates by virtue of how various features are portrayed.

1. **Map discrepancies.** The Legend to the "land Ownership" map (Figure 3 in the Draft Plan.) show a solid black line around the Monument Boundary. That same solid black line is applied around two separate areas of private property, approximately three full sections of land, in the Pinyon area just north of Highway 74. (Pinyon Flats, Alpine Village, Spring Crest, Pinyon Crest.) One interpretation in the local area is that this solid black line means these areas are "outside of the National Monument". Is this the intent? Or is the intent just to outline where private properties are located within the Monument? There are other residential 'communities', such as Royal Carrizo, that are not outlined in this heavy solid black line.

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Regardless of the answer to the aforementioned question about the status of the private property within the solid black lines the map lacks consistency and therefore contains discrepancies in how private properties are depicted. The current map nomenclature implies that some private lands are given 'discretionary' treatment while others are ignored. This depiction needs to be consistent. In other words there are approximately 42 other full sections of private land shown on the Land Ownership map (Figure 3.) I have outlined those sections in a solid black line for consistency on the map and its legend. (My Exhibit B.) This mapping nomenclature would be disastrous. The conceptual "mind set" generated by this type of map implies, to some people, that these private properties are "outside of the monument". There is nothing in the Monument legislation language that suggests that this is the intent.

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The point here is to demonstrate how the private ownership fragments the Monument and creates a "Swiss cheese" pattern that frustrates implementation of the Management Plan objectives of preservation and conservation. Again, most of these private ownerships have no access through adjoining public lands nor do they have any access easements from private property owners due to their common section line corners. (i.e. they all meet only diagonally at the corners of sections so they have no ability to grant each other access easements even if they wanted to do so.) The "black squares" on my map (Exhibit B) demonstrate this aspect of ownership and lack of access.

I recommend that solid black lines around the private property in the Pinyon area be removed so that those areas appear the same as all the other private property (the 42 sections) within the monument.

2. **Definition of "private property rights".** Interpreting the legislative language that: "*Nothing in the establishment of the National Monument shall affect any property rights..... or any private property rights within the boundaries of the National Monument.*" to mean that private property will not be impacted by the Monument is ludicrous. Given the nature of limits and restrictions on private property in the context of contemporary land use controls of general plans and related zoning combined with the lack of access and water to these checker board patterned properties demands that there will be impacts. Without some impact there will be no Monument.

For instance, some owners interpret that their "private property rights" include the right to trespass on other private or public lands to gain access to their landlocked properties in order to hunt, target practice or perhaps build a home. This, obviously, has an impact on public safety and raises sever issues with habitat maintenance. Such activities often include letting a dog run loose, riding a horse or use of a motorized ORV not confined to established ORV trails. These illegal activities need to be eliminated. Turning this Monument into a "playground" under the guise of protecting private property rights and maintaining the public's "right" to "recreationize" the area will destroy it. The five listed animals will not survive.

**Conclusions/Recommendations.** I recommend the following:

a.) That the Management Plan and the Advisory Committee find that it is not in the public interest to establish new access to or through private properties within the Monument. There is no positive public interest served by encouraging or permitting as public policy the establishment new access to or from private property within the Monument.

b.) That a definition of "private property rights" be established and published in the Management Plan. This definition needs to outline the limits of those "rights" as constrained by contemporary planning regulations including State, City and County. i.e. Overtly publish a "private property right" definition that acts as both a legal definition within the plan management policies and as an educational tool for people involved in the Plan.

c.) Adopt Alternative C. (See following discussion.)

It should be obvious, at this juncture, that I support Alternative C which is supposed to provide the most intensive management. Alternative D, the "no action alternative", is not an option but I recognize under Federal guidelines the BLM, Forest Service, USDA et. al. are obligated to "consider" no action. I also recognize that the combined A,B,C Alternative is likely the most locally politically palatable plan regardless of whether Alternative C would more fully achieve the intent of the Monument legislation. The Advisory Committee and the BLM/Forest Service, in light of the continual history of litigation on these "management decisions", should give serious consideration to Alternative C which best accomplishes the purposes of the Monument. Failure to endorse the C alternative could result in future court

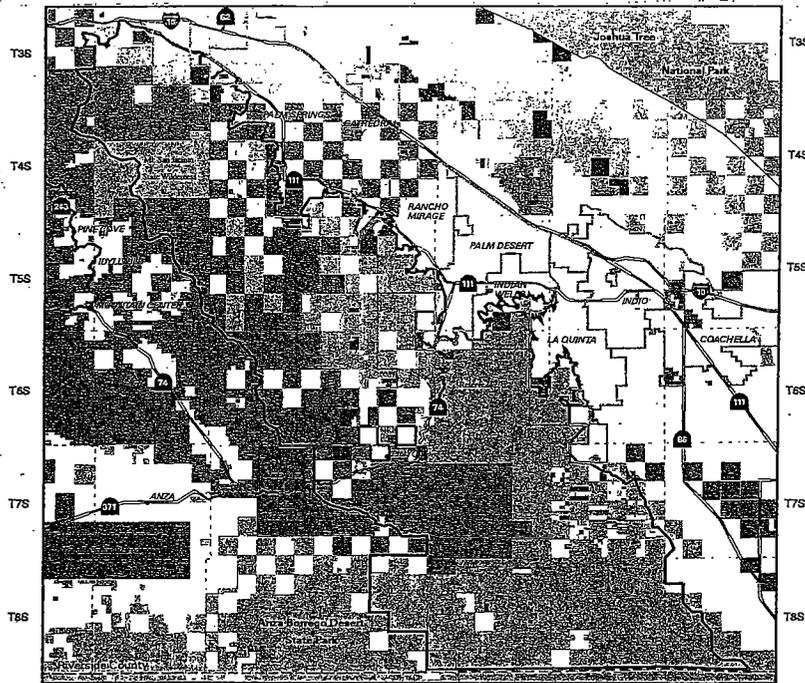
5



Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains  
National Monument - Draft Plan/DEIS

Land Ownership

Exhibit C Existing Map - solid black line private property within



Scale  
1: 375,000  
0 2 4 8  
Miles

Data Sources:  
Bureau of Land Management  
USDA Forest Service  
Riverside County  
Coachella Valley Association of Governments

Date: February 27, 2003

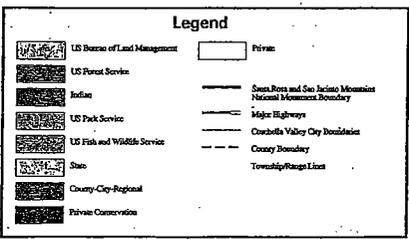
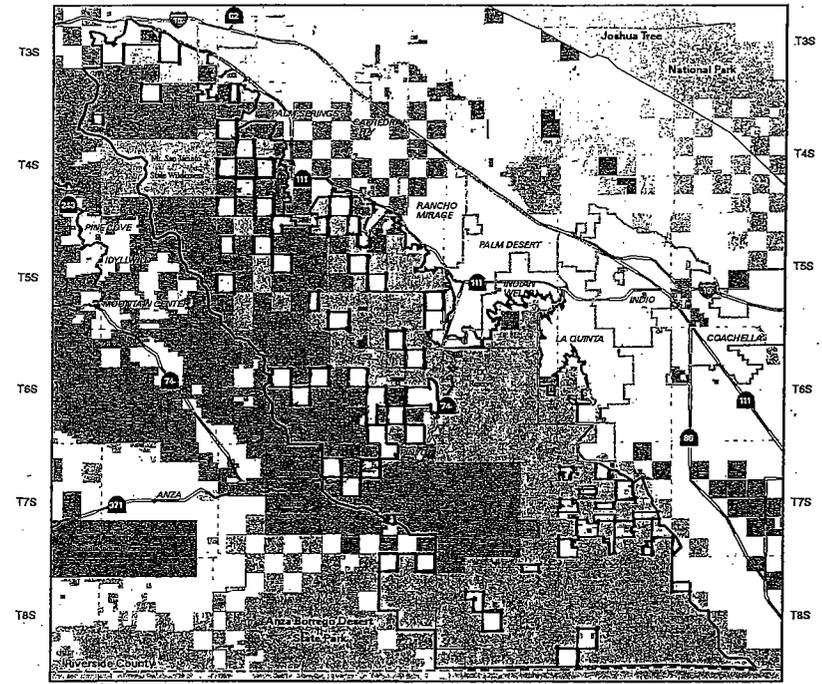


Figure 3

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains  
National Monument - Draft Plan/DEIS

Land Ownership

Exhibit B The checkerboard pattern of private property



Scale  
1: 375,000  
0 2 4 6  
Miles

Data Sources:  
Bureau of Land Management  
USDA Forest Service  
Riverside County  
Coachella Valley Association of Governments

Date: February 27, 2003

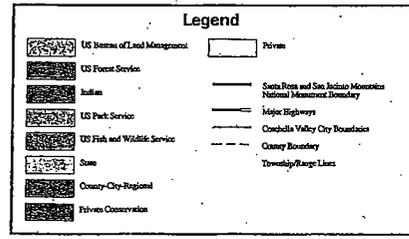


Figure 3

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

MAY-13-03 TUE 09:06 PM A SIEMENS

FAX NO. 760 324 4448

P. 01

ADP SIEMENS

47 PRINCETON DRIVE  
RANCHO MIRAGE, CALIFORNIA 92270  
(760) 324-5037  
FAX (760) 324-4448

May 12, 2003

Danella George, Monument Manager  
Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, BLM  
P O Box 581260, 690 W. Garnet Avenue  
North Palm Springs, CA 92258

Fax only 760.2514899

Subject: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument-- Draft Resource Management Plan

Dear Ms. George,

I am writing regarding hiking trails in the subject area. Please make my comments part of the public record.

The subject report refers to the possibility of closing hiking trails and restricting human access in order to benefit bighorn sheep.

- 1. The city of Rancho Mirage recently spent \$1,042,000 to build a fence along Highway 111 to prevent sheep from trampling from the mountains to populated areas. The sheep responded by trying to crawl under the new fence.
- 1. Sheep are frequently seen munching on the flowers at the Lodge, a fino hotel just up the hill from Highway 111.
- 1. The trails are an important economic resource for both year round residents as well as winter visitors. I have often hiked on virtually all of the trails in question, often in the company of winter visitors. **PC 244**
- 1. Human beings are also part of the ecology of the area. Where do we fit into the plan? **PC 075**
- 1. There is no demonstrated harm to sheep by human foot travel in the subject area.
- 1. Trail closures are a solution in search of a nonexistent problem. Sheep which wander into populated areas are not disturbed by occasional hikers.

I am obviously opposed to the possibility of restricting foot access by humans to the subject area.

*Adp Siemens*



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
TRANSPORTATION AND  
LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Transportation Department



RECEIVED  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

03 MAY - George A. Johnson, P.E.  
Director of Transportation

PALM SPRINGS-SOUTH COAST  
RESOURCE AREA

April 28, 2003

Danella George  
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains  
National Monument Manager

RE: Draft Santa Rosa and San Jacinto  
Mountains National Monument Management Plan and  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
6240/1610P - CA668.70

We have received the Draft Resource Management Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountain National Monument and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Your transmittal letter requested collaboration from the local governments.

Within the boundaries of the National Monument the County of Riverside has twenty-one County Maintained Road with a combined total mileage of 10.43 miles of paved and dirt roads that provide access to the residences in this area. These roads are routinely repaired. The culverts and other drainage structures are cleaned seasonally and occasional there is need for snow removal in the higher elevations. **PC 168**

These roads have functional classification by the State of California of a Rural Local. For the most part these roads are short and do not plateau, but provide access to small isolated pockets of residential development.

The Transportation Department would like to continue to maintain these roads with a minimum of additional treatments as a result of this area being designated a National Monument. Enclosed is your information and use data sheets for each of these roads, together with map sheets highlighting the affected roads.

If you have any question about these comments please contact me at (909) 955-6767

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely

*Edwin D. Studor*

Edwin D. Studor

EDS:RPG:jas

Enclosures

cc: Carolyn Sims Luna  
Karin Watts Bazan

4080 Lemon Street, 8th Floor • Riverside, California 92501 • (909) 955-6740  
P.O. Box 1090 • Riverside, California 92502-1090 • FAX (909) 955-6721

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters



"Jane Udall"  
<jkudall8@mailstation.com>

04/30/2003 10:29 AM

To: ca\_srsj\_nm@ca.blm.gov  
cc:  
Subject: 6240/1610 DP CA668.70

Dear Ms. George:

I am writing to comment on the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I attended one of the meetings held to introduce the public to the plan and proposed actions. Thank you for making the opportunity available and please express my appreciation especially to Connell Dunning and Jim Kenna for their presentations and handling of public questions and comments. You have selected some excellent people to work with you.

I have reviewed the Executive Summary fully and also the listing of additional planning topics which are covered in the BLM CDCA Plan Amendment and Forest Service San Bernardino National Forest Plan Revision. Combined, they make a very comprehensive blueprint for the future. I am particularly pleased to see the following proposed actions on the National Monument Resource Management Plan:

1. Eliminating the need for an Adventure Pass
2. Expanding the Indian cultural sites and activities
3. Allowing leashed dogs in certain areas
4. Prohibiting off-road vehicle use

In all aspects of the plan, I saw considerable emphasis on engaging volunteer groups, adjacent private landowners, and other agencies in working toward attainment of the goals. Such an emphasis expands and deepens the commitment of a broad group of people to the Monument's purposes. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan.

Sincerely,  
Jane Udall

9 White Sun Way  
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

### *Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Advisory Committee*

*June 7, 2003 Meeting*

### **Comments and Recommendations on the Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument**

**Background:** In order to preserve the nationally significant biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational and scientific values found in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, and to secure now and for future generations, the opportunity to experience and enjoy the magnificent vistas, wildlife, landforms and natural and cultural resources of these mountains, the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress agreed by unanimous consent to the establishment of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (Monument). The passage of this legislation and the signing into law by President Clinton on October 24, 2000 established a 272,000 acre National Monument encompassing 86,400 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands, 64,400 acres of U.S. Forest Service lands, 23,000 acres of Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians lands, 8,500 acres of California Department of Parks and Recreation lands, 34,500 acres of other State of California agencies lands, and 55,200 acres of private land.

**Monument Advisory Committee:** The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-351) further established a Monument Advisory Committee (Committee) "To advise the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture with respect to the preparation and implementation of the management plan for the conservation and protection of the National Monument..." This Committee was created in November 2001 consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and consists of the following individuals, who have generously contributed their time and experience (without compensation) over the past two years to assist in the development of the Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

- Frank Bogert, former Mayor, City of Palm Springs
- Robert Brockman, Community Development Director, City of Rancho Mirage
- Buford Crites, Council member and former Mayor, City of Palm Desert

## Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

- Bary Freet, Palm Springs Fire Chief, resident of Cathedral City
- Barbara Gonzales Lyons, Vice Chairman, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Larry Grafton, Senior Planner, City of Indian Wells (2002)
- Bill Havert, Director, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
- Terry Henderson, Council member, City of La Quinta
- Edward Kibbey, Building Industry Association, local building organization
- Bob Lyman, Regional Office Manager, County of Riverside
- Jeffrey Morgan, Sierra Club, local conservation organization
- Dr. Allan Muth, Director, University of California Deep Canyon Desert Research Center
- Rob Parkins, General Manager, Winter Park Authority
- Mary Roche, Council member, City of Indian Wells (2003)
- Ruth Watling, Chair, Pinyon Community Council
- Gary Watts, District Superintendent, California State Parks

**Overview of Committee's Process:** The Committee has met many times since its creation to identify relevant issues and responsive management strategies for managing the newly created National Monument. The Committee developed detailed recommendations for addressing each of the identified issues in a formal report that was submitted to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in December 2002.\*\* USFS and BLM considered the Committee's recommendations in developing the Draft Monument Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft Plan), which was published for public review in March 2003.

The Committee recognized that their recommendations might not be accepted as decisions or proposed actions from the USFS or BLM and that some of the recommendations and advice provided may not be addressed in the jointly prepared BLM/USFS Draft Plan given the scope of related planning efforts currently in progress (e.g., Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (MSHCP/NCCP), San Bernardino National Forest Plan Revision, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indian's Habitat Conservation Plan, and the Coachella Valley California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment). However, the Committee believed strongly that the recommendations covered a wide range of important topics that must be addressed in order to adequately care for the Monument.

\*\* The Committee's Recommendations for Management Plan Consideration Report is included as Appendix B to the Draft National Monument Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

This document provides the Monument Advisory Committee's recommendations and/or questions on the Draft Monument Management Plan and Draft EIS. These recommendations and/or questions do not constitute decisions or proposed Forest Service/BLM actions.

**Committee's Review of the Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement:** With publication of the Draft Plan, the Committee agreed to continue to rely on work groups to review specific aspects of the Draft Plan and to prepare written comments for the entire Committee to consider. Similar groups had been used to identify issues and develop potential management strategies earlier in the Committee's deliberations. Building on this success, a number of Committee members volunteered to serve on a variety of specific work groups, identified below:

- **Biological, Scientific, and Geological:** Dr. Allan Muth and Jeff Morgan
- **Cultural and Educational Resources:** Barbara Gonzales Lyons, Bary Freet, and Ruth Watling
- **Recreation and Visitors Access:** Frank Bogert, Buford Crites, and Jeff Morgan
- **Hazards and Fire:** Bary Freet
- **Water Resources and Acquisitions:** Bill Havert and Jeff Morgan

Each Working Group reviewed the Draft Plan and the Biological, Scientific, and Geological Working Group, the Cultural and Educational Resources Working Group, and several individual Committee members provided written comments to BLM/USFS staff. The Recreation and Visitor Access, Hazards and Fire, and Water Resources and Acquisitions Working Groups did not provide written comments, but indicated that members retained the right to provide comments during the public comment period, which ends June 19, 2003. Many of the reviewers expressed appreciation of the BLM/USFS's efforts in preparing the Draft Plan.

**Committee's Consolidated Comments on the Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement:** With the assistance of the Center for Collaborative Policy, BLM staff compiled all received comments into a summary document that was presented to the Committee. To ease the Committee's review of this document, the comments are sorted by the chapter of the Draft Plan to which they apply. In addition, comments which apply to the overall contents and/or format of the document are presented in a "General Comments" section.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the consolidated Working Group's comments at its June 7, 2003 meeting. The remainder of this document presents the Committee's consensually agreed upon formal comments on the Draft Plan. The Committee understands that USFS/BLM staff will use these comments

This document provides the Monument Advisory Committee's recommendations and/or questions on the Draft Monument Management Plan and Draft EIS. These recommendations and/or questions do not constitute decisions or proposed Forest Service/BLM actions.

# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

and questions, in addition to the comments received during the public comment period, to produce the final National Monument Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

## General Comments

1. The entire Draft Plan needs a careful reading by a good editor to catch minor editorial, punctuation, and grammatical errors.
2. There are too many strategies that focus on "seeking partnerships" to accomplish objectives (pages 2-10 through 2-13 for example). While the Committee understands that many policies and strategies cannot be successfully implemented without other agency assistance, the emphasis should be on the desired action not the partnering process. The Committee supports the federal agencies' promotion of collaboration and recommends the use of "in partnership with..." language where appropriate. PC 008
3. Be consistent throughout Draft Plan. Make sure document is consistent with usage of the words Tribe, Tribes, Native Americans, and various acronyms. PC 095

## Executive Summary

4. Table ES1-1 Pacific Crest Trail, Preferred Alternative is duplicated on pages ES-22 and 25.
5. Pg. ES-23, 26 Recreational Shooting alternative strategies are duplicated on both pages.
6. Pg. ES-24, 20 Strategic Recreation Management alternative strategies are duplicated on both pages.
7. Pg. ES-30 Strategic Recreation Management elements presented on ES-30 are not numbered in sequence.

## Chapter 2 – Alternatives and Strategies

8. Pg. 2-8 Bottom of page - Reference to Section 2-C.3 is misleading as the more informative description of how Native American coordination and consultation is provided on page 2-14. Description of policy and management guidance included in Table 2-1 on page 2-37 should be included in a more robust discussion on page 2-14.

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9. Pg. 2-9 paragraph #2 - add Soboba Band to list of consulted tribes. PC 096
10. Pg. 2-9 "Preferred Plan (Alternatives A, B, and C)", 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet - change "...significant cultural and historic sites and events" to "...significant cultural and historical events". PC 097
11. Pg. 2-9 2nd to last paragraph - change "Desert District" to "CDCA".
12. Pg. 2-10 last paragraph, last sentence - change "Native American" to "Native American Tribes as identified during the public scoping process and thru consultation".
13. Pg. 2-11 paragraph #3, 4<sup>th</sup> sentence - replace "fencing" with "protective barriers to".
14. Pg. 2-11 paragraph #4 - Review Section 304 National Historic Protection Act and provide more detailed description of what law provides for. PC 098
15. Pg. 2-12 "Alternative A, B, and C", 5<sup>th</sup> bullet - change the word "ceramics" to "pottery".
16. Pg. 2-13 1<sup>st</sup> bullet - capitalize "Cultural Resources Management Plan".
17. Pg. 2-14 last paragraph, 4<sup>th</sup> sentence - remove "(in most cases)". Add clarifying language if maintained. PC 099
18. Pg. 2-24 "Management of Educational Resources"- The cultural resources work group would like the Committee to further discuss the proposed approach and consider including more specific actions. PC 159
19. Pg. 2-25 last sentence - delete the sentence "The following would be implemented as a sign strategy." as it is unnecessary.
20. Pg. 2-26 Under "Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)", 8<sup>th</sup> bullet - add "tribal organizations" to list of parties to coordinate with. PC 095
21. Pg. 2-27 "Management of Scientific Resources," 4<sup>th</sup> bullet - "... all applications for research with in the National Monument would be addressed and approved by the National Monument Manager." This wording could be interpreted to mean that the manager would approve all applications for research. Delete the quoted sentence and insert a new bullet with this wording: "All applications for research within the Monument would be reviewed by the National Monument Manager and approval or denial of a permit application by the National Monument Manager would be based on compliance with the conservation objectives, Land Health Standards, and Standards and Guidelines for the area of interest." PC 165
22. Pg. 2-27 "Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses-Access" - The narrative begins with a description of access to non-federally owned land across public land. The preferred strategy addresses access to federal land PC 183

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# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

- across non-federal lands. There is either narrative or another policy missing. Please clarify.
23. Pg. 2-33 In light of the attempted exchange of Department of Fish and Game land that the Committee opposed, a policy against the disposition of federal land in the Monument was discussed. On page 3-81 there is a summary of two land exchanges and the statement that "no other land is currently available for exchange within the National Monument". This would imply that other exchanges could be considered later. This reinforces the Committee's suggestion that an exchange policy be addressed. The legislation should be referenced when addressing future land exchanges applying to BLM and Forest Service lands. The committee recommends that future land exchanges involving federal lands be brought to the attention of the Monument Advisory Committee for comment. The Committee recommends that it be a notifying agency in NEPA documentation. The MAC would then request cooperation with other non-federal land-managing entities within the National Monument in providing information about future land exchanges. **PC 228**
24. Pg. 2-37 "Adaptive Management and Monitoring Program - Plan Monitoring" - There is mention of "the task force" at the top of page 2-37. We could not find an earlier reference to this task force. The task force needs to be described in greater detail in the Draft Plan. **PC 233**
25. Pg. 2-37 Table 2-1 on that page should have introductory language that describes the table. **PC 036**

**Chapter 3 – Affected Environment**

26. Pg. 3-17-18, Appendix G – Species accounts are incomplete. Page 3-18 indicates that accounts for endemic, sensitive and proposed species are in Appendix G. American Badger is not listed in the text (3-17 and 18). Jerusalem cricket is duplicated. Black-tailed gnat catcher has no account. **PC 063**
27. Pg. 3-23, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph - The California Department of Fish and Game has additional requirements for collection in a Game Refuge. Insert the following: "Game Refuges are a specific exclusion on Scientific Collecting Permits. Collecting within a Game Refuge requires a specific amendment to the Permit by Fish and Game."
28. Pg. 3-23 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 4<sup>th</sup> sentence - change "are be" to "will be".

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29. Pg. 3-23 last paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence - replace "Eastside" to "Diamond Valley Lake".
30. Pg. 3-25 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph - who are Garces, Diaz and Bautista? Add relevance to the plan. **PC 037**
31. Pg. 3-25 last paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence - add "garnet" and "tourmaline" to list of minerals.
32. Pg. 3-25 last paragraph, 6<sup>th</sup> sentence - change "cement" to "concrete".
33. Pg. 3-26 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph - insert description of earlier attempts to establish a National Monument in the 1920's. This can be added to page 3-3. **PC 038**
34. Pg. 3-27 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, 6<sup>th</sup> sentence - add comma in 9,850.
35. Pg. 3-28 Under Section 3.C.3 text - change references to "Tribe" to "tribal members".
36. Pg. 3-29 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sentences - add "Monument" after the word "National".
37. Pg. 3-29 Under Section 3.D.1 - add the geographic location of the Visitor Center. **PC 173**
38. Pg. 3-29 Under Section 3.D.1, 7<sup>th</sup> sentence - delete the word "volunteer".
39. Pg. 3-29 Under Section 3.D.1 - Change to summer season.
40. Pg. 3-45 Under Section 3.F - add "& Environmental Education" between the words "Interpretive" and "Concept".
41. Pg. 3-45 Section 3.F. – The work group believes this section should be re-written. **PC 160**
42. Pg. 3-46 What are "short trail signs"? This needs to be clarified. **PC 156**
43. Pg. 3-47 The work group believes this section should be re-written. **PC 160**

**Chapter 4 – Environmental Consequences**

44. Pg. 4-73 As part of the discussion of population and tourism impacts to resources beginning on this page, some mention should be made of the recently installed bighorn sheep fence in Rancho Mirage. This fence is a good example of the cooperative efforts of federal, state, local and private entities to protect bighorn sheep from the impact of growth. Maybe in the **PC 077**

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# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

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- second paragraph on page 4-75. Use the term protective barrier here and add to definitions.
- 45. Pg. 4-7-13 Change references to "tribe" to "tribal members".
  - 46. Pg. 4-7 Under Section 4.B.2 - the work group believes this section should be re-written. **PC 160**
  - 47. Pg. 4-8 1<sup>st</sup> sentence - add a period (.) to "outlined below".
  - 48. Pg. 4-10 Include a reference to a tribal member gathering policy for collecting in areas within the National Monument. Policy will apply to tribes with traditional ancestral gathering areas within the National Monument.
  - 49. Pg 3-43 Correct San Jacinto spelling
  - 50. Recreation Section Geocaching - incorporate language to address monitoring this activity with future management changes to be added as needed. Include a component of education for this activity. **PC 115**
  - 51. Pg 2.5 Management of noxious, non-native, etc. : Add the word animal. Use the word invasive species. **PC 082**
  - 52. Pg 3.72 Maintain pinyon campground road forward to the Forest Service to incorporate into the current Forest Service Planning process. **PC 172**
  - 53. Recreation Section Terminology : ultralight, parasailing, hang gliding, Need to consider other gliding sports. **PC 133**

Non-consensus Recommendation:

*Several Monument Advisory Committee members recommended that a permit system may be adequate to address hang gliding needs as well as the biological needs of the sheep and other wildlife. A study would be required to analyze impacts to the environment. A recommendation was provided that the preferred should be changed from Alternative B to Alternative A. This was not supported by consensus vote from the entire Monument Advisory Committee.*

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6 SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO  
7  
8 MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT  
9  
10 DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN MEETING  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17 LOCATION: IDYLLWILD TOWN HALL  
18 25925 Cedar Street  
19 Idyllwild, California  
20 DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, April 22, 2003  
21 6:15 p.m. - 7:20 p.m.  
22 REPORTED BY: Sonja Chapman, CSR  
23 CSR No. 11504  
24 JOB NO.: 62325  
25

This document provides the Monument Advisory Committee's recommendations and/or questions on the Draft Monument Management Plan and Draft EIS. These recommendations and/or questions do not constitute decisions or proposed Forest Service/BLM actions.

**GILLESPIE REPORTING AND DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT INC.**  
3333 Central Ave. Ste. D, Riverside, CA 92506 • 909-682-5686 • Fax 909-682-4990  
Email: grdm@earthlink.net



# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

1	A P P E A R A N C E S
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3	
4	CONNELL DUNNING, National Monument, (Bureau of Land Management/Forest Service)
5	JIM FOOTE, Bureau of Land Management
6	GREG HILL, Bureau of Land Management
7	LAURIE ROSENTHAL, Forest Service, San Jacinto District of the San Bernardino National Forest - District Ranger
8	RUTH WENSTROM, Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest
9	JERALD FRATES, California State Parks
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GILLESPIE REPORTING & DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT, INC.

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# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

1 IDYLLWILD, CALIFORNIA; TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2003

2 6:15 P.M.

3 -000-

4  
5 MS. DUNNING: We do have a court reporter  
6 here tonight. I want you guys to be aware, to let  
7 you know. The reason that we do that is so we can  
8 properly characterize your comments regarding the  
9 Draft Plan.

10 The purpose of the meeting this evening  
11 is to give you information about the plan, to give  
12 you a chance to comment on the plan, and also to  
13 give you a chance to ask any questions that you  
14 might have regarding it.

15 We're going to go through the meeting and  
16 have a brief presentation followed by some  
17 comments. We'll give you guys an opportunity to  
18 comment for five minutes, because that's how we do  
19 it at each of the meetings. If you want to say  
20 more later, we can do that.

21 We have to get into the habit of saying  
22 our names. It's a habit I'm not used to doing.

23 MS. ROSENTHAL: I'm Laurie Rosenthal, the  
24 district manager. I really appreciate you coming  
25 out on a nasty night like tonight.

4

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1 You can scratch the "nasty."

2 We have an interesting agenda tonight in  
3 that you'll have a chance to formally participate  
4 if you want to. And also if you want to give us  
5 written comments or if you want to talk to us one  
6 on one, that's also available.

7 We're such a small group, we're going to  
8 do some introductions. Why don't we start with  
9 this lady right here.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I'm Gabrielle and  
11 I'm with the Town Crier.

12 MS. WENSTROM: Ruth Wenstrom. I know  
13 most of you. I'm the forest public affairs  
14 officer.

15 MR. FRATES: Jerry Frates with State  
16 Parks.

17 MR. HILL: I'm Greg Hill with the Bureau  
18 of Land Management planning.

19 MR. FOOTE: I'm Jim Foote, BLM planning,  
20 Palm Springs office.

21 MR. SHERMAN: Tom Sherman, Bureau of Land  
22 Management out of our Palm Springs/South Coast  
23 office.

24 MS. VELEZ: My name is Valerie Velez.

25 MS. MEYER: Sheila Meyer. I'm a resident

5

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# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

1 of Pine Cove.  
2 MR. BLAKE: John Blake, resident of Pine  
3 Cove. I'm here representing California off-road  
4 vehicles.  
5 MS. ROSENTHAL: Sir, would you like to  
6 introduce yourself?  
7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Oh. I'm just visiting  
8 from New York City -- the Becks. They live here.  
9 I'm just coming down to watch.  
10 MS. ROSENTHAL: This is a real live  
11 small-town meeting. A quaint little meeting.  
12 We were just going to give introductions,  
13 if you want to.  
14 MR. BECK: Bob Beck, Idyllwild. My wife,  
15 Lynn O'Neill, Idyllwild.  
16 MS. ROSENTHAL: Thank you all for coming.  
17 MS. DUNNING: Okay. My name is  
18 Connell Dunning. I'm the community planner with  
19 the Monument. For those of you who just came in,  
20 we're going to give a brief presentation about  
21 what the plan is and how to comment.  
22 After that we're going to have a time for  
23 people to make public comments. You'll have five  
24 minutes each to do that.  
25 And then following that we're going to

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1 open it up for questions and answers. The meeting  
2 might not go all the way to 8:30, depending upon  
3 the interest level and if more people come.  
4 So I'm going to jump into the  
5 presentation here. Maybe not. Here we are.  
6 Okay. So first I'd like to say where are we in  
7 this process and how about did we get here.  
8 We started with some public scoping  
9 meetings that were back in the spring. The  
10 National Monument was designated in October of  
11 2000. With its designation, we were required to  
12 complete a plan, which is why we're here.  
13 The first step was public scoping  
14 meetings, which is when we met back about a year  
15 ago. We used all the information we got from the  
16 public to identify issues and to put them into a  
17 proposed plan.  
18 What we've done since then is taken all  
19 of your input and put it into a draft plan. We  
20 were able to publish that March 21st. Our goal is  
21 a "final" plan. "Final" is in quotes here because  
22 plans can always be amended and can always be  
23 updated. This will be our final that we begin to  
24 work on in terms of what our next actions are  
25 going to be.

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1 We'll move quickly into this  
2 implementation phase where our meetings are going  
3 to consist more of we're going to start doing  
4 this, and we want you to help us. So the next  
5 time that you see us up here, we're going to be  
6 ready to go with some actual projects that we'll  
7 want your help with as volunteers and your input.

8 Adaptive management is a term that we  
9 use. We kind of use the plan as a living  
10 document. We will judge the situations and use  
11 adaptive management for making changes should there  
12 need to be a change to what we're doing, depending  
13 upon different circumstances.

14 One of the questions that we're striving  
15 to answer with the Monument is how can we balance  
16 the protection and preservation of biological,  
17 cultural, recreational, geological, educational,  
18 scientific, and scenic values while providing  
19 multiple use and enjoyment of the Monument.

20 This comes directly from the  
21 legislation. So we were sent to do this because  
22 the law that established the Monument established  
23 it for those purposes. So a large part of what  
24 you're holding is how we are proposing to protect  
25 and preserve those resources.

8  
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1 So for those of you learning about the  
2 Monument for the first time or many of you already  
3 are aware of this, there's a complex land  
4 ownership. The green squares are the Forest  
5 Service lands. The light yellow are the BLM  
6 lands.

7 The plan that you're holding today will  
8 be talking about solely Federal lands. So the  
9 actions that we're proposing as the BLM and as the  
10 Forest Service, we can only propose actions that  
11 apply to Federal lands.

12 So we're holding these meetings, and  
13 we're communicating with many different agencies  
14 so that we can work together and hopefully have a  
15 similar view on how we're addressing resources.

16 So the red squares here are the Native  
17 American lands. The blue are state of California  
18 lands. Parks & Recreation. Up here,  
19 Mt. San Jacinto State Park. We've got some  
20 Fish & Game land. And there's some private  
21 conservation lands. So there's quite a bit of  
22 ownership within this green line, which is the  
23 boundary of the Monument.

24 As I mentioned, we started our public  
25 scoping last spring. Now we've published this

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1 draft plan. We're taking comments until June 19th  
2 on the content of the draft plan. So we're  
3 accepting comments on what's in here until  
4 June 19th.

5 At that point, we'll take a look at your  
6 comments and make the final plan a better plan.  
7 Your comments will help us address things that we  
8 missed or clarify things that are confusing in  
9 that plan.

10 We hope to have this proposed final plan  
11 out in September. And then following that,  
12 there's a protest period, and a record of decision  
13 will be the final document that we'll send out.  
14 That will be what will guide us for the next five  
15 to ten years in the Monument.

16 The Forest Service is also undergoing a  
17 planning process, which you guys are aware of. If  
18 you're not, there's an information sheet in the  
19 back that's labeled "How Can I Stay Involved."

20 There's a Web page, which will direct you  
21 to it, I believe it will, for information about  
22 that Forest Service plan. It kind of looks like  
23 this. It says "How Can I Stay Involved." There's  
24 information about how to find out about the status  
25 of the Forest Service plan.

10

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1 Okay. So what's in this plan. It's  
2 mainly a lot of coordination strategies for how  
3 we're going to work together with all the  
4 different entities that manage the landscape, some  
5 non-trail recreation issues.

6 There is another planning process going  
7 on regarding trails right now, and that started  
8 prior to the Monument being designated. So  
9 there's a separate trails plan going along  
10 concurrently with the monument plan.

11 Those issues are not in this plan.  
12 Education, outreach, partnerships are in this plan.

13 Some tribal relationship building and facilities, for  
14 example.

15 The non-issues of what's in other plans  
16 or in the legislation are route designations,  
17 specific rode designations. BLM has a wild horse  
18 and burro program, other special area  
19 designations. Land health standards, how we're  
20 going to manage species, that's a really big  
21 concern, and it's addressed in our other planning  
22 processes. Energy.

23 Mining is addressed specifically in the  
24 legislation. Lands are withdrawn from mining,  
25 except for those existing rights that currently

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1 exist.

2           Off-road vehicles are addressed in our  
3 other plans. Grazing allotment issues are  
4 addressed in other plans.

5           So a lot of things are in other plans.  
6 What we're trying to do in this Monument plan is  
7 to identify how we're going to work together, how  
8 we're going to coordinate.

9           So one of the goals for tonight is when  
10 you leave, you're not going to be so overwhelmed  
11 by the weight and the length of this plan. So  
12 what we're going to do is we're going to just kind  
13 of run down what's in it and where you need to go  
14 for what your interests are.

15           There's an Executive Summary at the  
16 front. I'll be using this little handout tonight,  
17 which is just the Executive Summary of the plan.  
18 I'll be using it during the presentation.

19           Chapter 1 provides an introduction to how  
20 we got where we are. It provides kind of the  
21 criteria behind what's in the plan. It describes  
22 in detail its relationship to the other planning  
23 processes.

24           Chapter 2 is where you'll find all your  
25 input, how we addressed what you provided to

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1 us. Safety on Highway 74, for example. Chapter 2  
2 is how we responded to that, what actions we  
3 propose.

4           Chapter 3 is the affected environment,  
5 which is the existing conditions. If you don't  
6 see something in Chapter 2 and you're wondering  
7 why we didn't address it, then chances are it's  
8 described in Chapter 3, which is the existing  
9 conditions, what's out there, the existing  
10 management. Some things we're not going to  
11 change.

12           Chapter 4, we took a look at how do our  
13 actions impact with the existing management out  
14 there. It's a really important step in this  
15 process. Before we could propose actions, we  
16 needed to take a look at how they're impacting air  
17 quality, noise, how they're impacting recreation.  
18 Things like that. So that's what Chapter 4 is.

19           Then chapter 5 summarizes how we  
20 coordinate. It provides kind of a summary of who  
21 was involved in the different meetings. And it  
22 has your meetings listed that we had during the  
23 public scoping period.

24           Then there's some figures, maps, a  
25 glossary, some references, and then some

13

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1 appendices that include the legislation. If  
2 you're wondering how we got here, the legislation  
3 is an important thing to go back to.

4 So the legislation stated that we would  
5 protect these following values: Biological,  
6 cultural recreational, geological, educational,  
7 scientific values.

8 So the plan is organized around just what  
9 the legislation wanted us to do to show how we're  
10 going to protect these things. In addition, from  
11 the scoping comments, we gathered information  
12 about visitation, facilities, access and uses, all  
13 the concerns that people had. And we propose some  
14 additional actions here.

15 Okay. So this is the whole plan, this  
16 slide. Even though what you're holding is very  
17 thick, the whole plan regarding actions that we're  
18 proposing is broken down into a number of issue  
19 areas.

20 So if you open up Chapter 2, I'm going to  
21 refer now to this executive summary. I'll refer  
22 to page ES-14. ES-14 is a summary of those  
23 actions that we've proposed regarding these  
24 different issue areas.

25 So according to your interests, you can

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1 find actions associated with the different value  
2 areas. Private property, facilities, Highway 74.  
3 How we're going to monitor visitors, hazards, law  
4 enforcement. How we're going to manage hazards,  
5 fire, water and acquisitions.

6 So moving to the next slide, looking at  
7 table ES-14 or page ES-14, the first thing you see  
8 on there is a number of columns -- Alternative A,  
9 B and C, and then Alternative D.

10 Throughout the plan, Alternative D is the  
11 no action or what's existing. So if we don't  
12 change -- if we don't propose any change to  
13 anything, that's what Alternative D is. So every  
14 time we propose an action, we compare it to what's  
15 currently happening, and that's Alternative D.

16 A number of the actions that we are  
17 proposing range -- there's only one action ranging  
18 across the columns A, B and C. In some cases we  
19 have three separate actions.

20 Flipping ahead to page ES-22, you'll see  
21 there we have a proposal regarding hang gliding,  
22 and that spans across four columns. So we have  
23 Alternative A, which is different than B, which is  
24 different than C. And those range from intensive  
25 management to a less intensive management. Or

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1 excuse me. From less intensive management to more  
2 intensive.

3         So in some cases we don't have a change.  
4 It's either we're going to do it or we're not. It  
5 didn't make sense to have that range. And where  
6 it's shaded, that's the preferred. That's what  
7 we're proposing to do with the plan.

8         So jumping back to ES-14, this is the  
9 first action that we're proposing. This is within  
10 biology. It's how we propose to manage noxious,  
11 non-native and invasive plant species.

12         We've heard from a number of people that  
13 there's a concern for non-native species. So that  
14 summarizes vegetation management. The proposed  
15 action is here on the left, and we compare it to  
16 the new action.

17         So if you turn to page ES-15, you can see  
18 the second two proposed actions under the biology  
19 section, which are how we're going to manage  
20 special status species followed by what's our  
21 monitoring program going to be. So those are the  
22 three actions that we're proposing under the  
23 biological section.

24         And next, ES-16, is cultural resources.  
25 That begins our section on cultural resources and

16

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1 how we're going to manage cultural resources.  
2 You'll see here on the slide, we've summarized  
3 it.

4         We propose to research and inventory  
5 cultural resources. We propose an existing  
6 assessment for cultural resources. We propose how  
7 we're going to protect and preserve them,  
8 including a collections policy for any artifacts  
9 that are found in the Monument.

10         We propose ways we're going to coordinate  
11 with the tribes and with volunteers and with other  
12 agencies for interpreting cultural resources. And  
13 we propose a management plan. Each of those  
14 actions can be found on pages ES-16 through  
15 ES-20. Sorry. ES-21.

16         So this is the general organization.  
17 That was the main thing I wanted to show you. We  
18 don't have the time to go through every single one  
19 of these page by page. What I wanted to do is  
20 give you a summary here, and then you can go and  
21 find your interest area and know how to comment on  
22 that.

23         In recreation, we propose limiting hang  
24 gliding in bighorn sheep habitat. We propose to  
25 prohibit paint ball. Does everybody know what

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1 paint ball is? It's someone running out with paint  
2 guns and putting up little barriers and shooting at  
3 things. We're proposing that the Monument isn't  
4 the best place to do that.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do they do that now a  
6 lot?

7 MS. DUNNING: I don't know. Actually,  
8 that's under impact analysis, if you go to that  
9 section before that I told you. It's not  
10 currently an activity that we see happening very  
11 often at all. But it's a good point to say,  
12 "Okay. We don't want that to happen in the  
13 future."

14 We propose a Pacific Crest trail  
15 corridor. We propose to prohibit recreational  
16 shooting within the Monument. It's already  
17 prohibited throughout half of the Monument because  
18 of the State Wildlife & Game refuges. So the  
19 additional areas are very difficult to get to with  
20 vehicles.

21 We propose that pets be allowed in the  
22 Monument only on leashes. And that's separated  
23 between when they're in bighorn sheep habitat.

24 We propose a method for dealing with  
25 feral animals. We propose that no adventure pass

18

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1 be required in the Monument.

2 And we propose a future strategic  
3 recreational plan to help to put our arms around  
4 all these different planning processes that are  
5 going on right now. So a year from now, we can  
6 take a fresh look at what recreation-wise should  
7 happen in the Monument long-term.

8 In geologic, we propose an inventory to  
9 help us with baseline methods for outreach, and  
10 additional protection measures, including not  
11 collecting certain types of rocks within the  
12 Monument.

13 Educational. Just to locate you where we  
14 are in the executive summary right now, we are on  
15 page ES-30.

16 The preferred plan for educational  
17 resources for public information, we're proposing  
18 how are we going to get information out to the  
19 public. Most of the people don't even know  
20 there's a Monument, and how we're going to get  
21 information out. This is how we propose to do  
22 that.

23 Signage. Also from the public, we heard  
24 signs, signs and more signs. People just need to  
25 know where we are.

19

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1           Scientific. We propose permits for  
2 research. We propose ways to help secure access  
3 to the Monument because it's hard to get to. We  
4 propose ways to work with our private property  
5 owners nearby and to have that private  
6 property/federal relationship strengthened over  
7 time.

8           And we proposed criteria for future  
9 facilities within the Monument. On Highway 74, we  
10 had big concerns about the safety of that road as  
11 going through a National Monument. So we propose  
12 to work with Caltrans long-term.

13           We propose ways to monitor, how we're  
14 going to figure out how many people are coming to  
15 the Monument year after year.

16           We propose ways to deal with hazards in  
17 the Monument, to work with search and rescue  
18 teams, how law enforcement will coordinate.

19           For fire, we've proposed an interagency  
20 fire plan to be completed between all of the  
21 different entities that manage land in the  
22 Monument. Not just BLM. Not just Forest Service,  
23 but taking all of those groups together and  
24 actually getting that started now, getting those  
25 people talking.

20

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1           They do meet about once a year, all the  
2 different entities that manage fire, but we don't  
3 have one set fire plan. So that's a goal.

4           How to manage water resources, we propose  
5 watershed assessments and some guidance for  
6 acquisitions, how we're going to acquire land from  
7 willing sellers in the future.

8           So that is the plan in a nutshell.  
9 Obviously, if you haven't read it yet, you need to  
10 take some time and go through those proposed  
11 actions that we have.

12           We have until June 19th. So that should  
13 be a sufficient amount of time for you to read  
14 those parts of the plan that you're interested in  
15 and also to see if we adequately address those  
16 issues.

17           There's a few forms in the back that have  
18 information on how to contact us. If you leave  
19 this meeting and make a verbal comment, or if you  
20 don't, how to get information to us following this  
21 meeting. That's on the back.

22           We have a public comment form. It looks  
23 like this. You can grab one those in the back  
24 when you leave. You can e-mail them. The e-mail  
25 address is on there. You can fax them to us. You

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1 can mail them to us.

2 And of course, we're accepting verbal  
3 comments. We have a court reporter present in  
4 Idyllwild, Pinyon and Palm Desert. So you can  
5 verbally comment as well. Every comment that you  
6 make is going to be captured.

7 All comments are due by June 19th,  
8 postmarked by that date. If you e-mail it, you  
9 can get it in at 11:59 p.m. And if it has that  
10 date, we'll still take it, but we'd really like to  
11 get them early. It's nice for us. It's a little  
12 easier. So if you want to get them in early, go  
13 for it. We'll take them.

14 The public meetings, there will be a  
15 meeting on Thursday at Pinyon at the Elks Lodge  
16 and a meeting down in Palm Desert.

17 After June 19th what we're going to do is  
18 compile all of the comments and respond to them  
19 and incorporate what we need to add to the final  
20 plan. There will be some reviews at the regional,  
21 state and Washington-level folks who kind of review,  
22 wave their hands and give it their blessing. That  
23 will happen in August. And then we hope to have  
24 this proposed plan published in September.

25 So what we're going to do now is have a

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1 very structured time for people who filled out the  
2 yellow card to comment for five minutes. Those of  
3 you who have read the plan and would like to  
4 comment, you can do so. You can also comment  
5 regarding the areas as you see them here.

6 Following that time period, we're going  
7 to have an open question-and-answer period. If  
8 you feel like making a comment at that point, too,  
9 let us know, and you can fill out a card too.  
10 This is the easiest way to track your comments.  
11 We'll give you a full five minutes to talk  
12 uninterrupted.

13 The question-and-answer session, it's a  
14 little harder for us to interpret your comments.  
15 We don't want to misinterpret them. So that's why  
16 we give you a five-minute time frame.

17 So I'm going to turn it over to Ruth for  
18 that, and I'll collect the yellow cards.

19 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Like I said, my  
20 name is Ruth Wenstrom. I'm the planner at the  
21 public affairs office for the Forest. I want to  
22 let you know that besides the recording by the  
23 court reporter, Connell is going to try to take  
24 some brief notes on the flip chart. Don't worry  
25 too much about that.

23

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1 This is what is going to count on the  
2 public record. The flip chart notes are for us to  
3 use to try to go through and work on the issues as  
4 best we can before we get the official record from  
5 the court reporter. So your word-for-word  
6 comments will go into the record.

7 If you didn't get one already and you do  
8 want to speak, fill out a speaker card. What's  
9 going to happen is I'm going to call you up one at  
10 a time in the order that we receive the cards.

11 You can have five minutes to talk if you  
12 want that much. You don't have to use it all. If  
13 you would rather not talk but have comments after  
14 this evening, you're welcome to write just your  
15 comments on the back of your card.

16 Fill out your name and let us know that  
17 you don't want to speak, but turn in the comment.  
18 We'll be happy to accept it or accept it on like a  
19 piece of paper.

20 I see a number of you just picked up the  
21 plan tonight and will be going, "How can I comment  
22 because I haven't even read it yet?" If that's  
23 the case, please feel free to mail it. We give comments  
24 equal weight if you mail them in.

25 You way want to look at the plan, you can

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1 come to another meeting. The one advantage of  
2 verbal comments is if we need clarification when  
3 you're done with your comments, one of us may ask  
4 you to clarify what you meant by such and such.  
5 So don't be surprised if we do that.  
6 It's not intended to embarrass you or intimidate  
7 you in any way. It's just to make sure that we're  
8 clear and understand what you said. I do  
9 sometimes do that to people. So don't be  
10 alarmed.

11 Let's see. It may seem a little odd to  
12 have the question-and-answer period later, but we  
13 wanted to make sure that the No. 1 thing we got  
14 was that you did have a chance to give your  
15 comments in that you wanted to.

16 So with that, I'm going to going call  
17 Sheila Meyer.

18 MS. MEYER: Oh, me first? I'm inherently  
19 shy.

20 MS. WENSTROM: One thing I forgot to say  
21 is Connell is doing the time. If you run out of  
22 time, I'll give you a sign.

23 MS. MEYER: Okay. I would just like to  
24 say that going back to why the Monument was  
25 designated in the first place, which I didn't hear

25

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1 tonight, I think that it was designated to protect  
2 the natural resources in general in providing a  
3 backdrop for the Coachella Valley.

4 I think one of the motivations for the  
5 National Monument, correct me if I'm wrong, the  
6 Coachella Valley is being developed at an alarming  
7 rate. I shouldn't say "alarming," but it's being  
8 developed quite a bit.

9 I think that people down there felt that  
10 looking up at the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto and  
11 so on, they wanted to have a natural backdrop for  
12 the desert. I think that was one reason.

13 And also a big one is protecting the  
14 bighorn sheep I think was a major motivation. I  
15 think there are others, but I think protection is  
16 what I'm trying to say.

17 And maybe sometime this evening someone  
18 from your staff could say why this happened in the  
19 first place. I think it would be helpful. I  
20 could be off base, but I thought it was for  
21 preservation in general.

22 And I just want to say one thing about  
23 the recreational use side of it. I feel that  
24 recreational use definitely is compatible. That's  
25 one of the things about national monuments. You

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1 can go to Joshua Tree or many other national  
2 monuments in our country, and certainly there is  
3 recreational use.

4 However, I think it should be definitely  
5 of a low-impact nature so that it does protect the  
6 natural resources so that future generations will  
7 be able to enjoy nature and what it's all about.  
8 That's why I think the Monument was designated in  
9 the first place.

10 So I feel real strongly that we need to  
11 look carefully at recreational uses. I'm not  
12 saying that they shouldn't be there, because I  
13 think that's part of all of this, but I just think  
14 they need to be looked at carefully.

15 That's all I had to say. I would like to  
16 hear from Connell about how this all came to be in  
17 the first place, the Monument.

18 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Thank you. When we  
19 get done with the extraordinary amount of  
20 testimony that we have, please remind us that you  
21 want Connell to address that.

22 Okay. Next is Valerie Velez.

23 MS. VELEZ: My name is Valerie Velez.  
24 I've lived in Idyllwild with my family for almost  
25 16 years and had the wonderful opportunity to

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1 appreciate the environment here to a great extent  
2 and raise our children in this community. So I'm  
3 very grateful for the opportunity to comment, and  
4 I'm very grateful for the existence of the  
5 Monument and that this process exists.

6 I will study the document further. But  
7 in general, I would say that I would be in favor  
8 of the most restrictive or the most aggressive  
9 form of management. How is it termed in here?  
10 The most intensive form of management, so that  
11 looks like it's basically Plan C.

12 Along with Sheila, I think there's many  
13 ways that we can enjoy the Monument with making  
14 minimal impact at the same time to the natural  
15 environment.

16 So I would be in favor of basically  
17 having that be what is steering our course in  
18 terms of the management.

19 Yeah. I would say especially given the  
20 rate and pace of development in our region of the  
21 world, that the existence of places like this are  
22 exactly designated for basically conservation and  
23 preservation. So I would want that to be the  
24 emphasis of the plan. Thank you.

25 MS. WENSTROM: All right. Thank you.

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1 Okay. Monica Bond.

2 MS. BOND: I'll just stand here.

3 Monica Bond. I'm a biologist for the Center of  
4 Biology University here in Idyllwild. I just want  
5 to raise one quick concern.

6 One of the things that we're concerned  
7 about right now is that it appears that we're  
8 doing a lot of punting of some kind of key issues  
9 off to the BLM and Forest Service management  
10 revision processes.

11 For example, there's a grazing allotment  
12 on Forest Service lands in the Monument. It says  
13 in the plan that nothing is going to be done about  
14 this now. It's just going to be taken care of in  
15 the San Bernardino National Forest revision  
16 process.

17 Also, there's a wilderness study area  
18 that incorporates both BLM land and Forest Service  
19 land. We believe that this Monument is it's own  
20 entity, and it's entirely appropriate to deal with  
21 these issues in this plan. It appears we're sort  
22 of being punted off to a later time. We would  
23 like to see some of these key issues being dealt  
24 with in this management plan rather than putting  
25 them off further down the line.

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1 MS. WENSTROM: All right. Thank you,  
2 Monica.

3 Anybody else that hasn't filled out a  
4 speaker card that would like to speak? Okay.  
5 Lawrence Peabody.

6 MR. PEABODY: I'm interested in public  
7 access to our public lands. At the very least,  
8 I'm suggesting, as I did at the last meeting, that  
9 there be no net loss at the very least of trails  
10 and roads into our public lands.

11 At the very best, we could ask for a few  
12 more trails and roads. But "no net loss" is the  
13 phrase I want you to stick in your mind and make  
14 that a policy in the management plan.

15 I'm also concerned that the bighorn sheep  
16 are becoming an overly-managed issue, taking too  
17 much precedence away from existing use of the  
18 public lands. That's all.

19 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you very much.  
20 Anyone else that wants to speak?

21 MR. BECK: I'd like to make a comment.

22 MS. WENSTROM: We'll need your name for  
23 the record so she can put it down.

24 MR. BECK: Yeah. Bob Beck. I'm all for  
25 recreational use in our public lands. I think

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30.

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1 that we should be allowed to use what we have, but  
2 somehow I hear comments that human beings are much  
3 more important than the animals and the trees and  
4 the creeks and things like that. I do not believe  
5 that. I think there should be a balance where the  
6 animals are just as important as human beings  
7 are.

8 I think the only comment that I can make  
9 on top of that is that the environment is the most  
10 important thing that we have. You have to protect  
11 the environment. If we don't protect the  
12 environment, then I think we're all going to go  
13 down the tubes in time to come.

14 So that's my comment. Environment first,  
15 the other things like recreation and so forth are  
16 secondary. Thank you.

17 MS. WENSTROM: All right. Thank you.  
18 Anyone else that wants to speak right now?

19 MR. WELLMAN: I don't have a card.

20 MS. WENSTROM: What?

21 MR. WELLMAN: I don't have a card.

22 MS. WENSTROM: If you would like to talk,  
23 you can fill one out later.

24 It's Bud Wellman.

25 MR. WELLMAN: I heard comments about the

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1 mountain sheep being over-studied. I can't agree  
2 more than that. Ten years ago we had trouble with  
3 Fish & Wildlife and Fish & Game, and their problem  
4 was the mountain lion, not human beings, not  
5 cattle.

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6 There's a little proof of that in the  
7 last couple of weeks. They've found five mountain  
8 sheep killed by a mountain lion just recently.

9 The other thing that's brought up in  
10 there is the dogs. I don't see anything to take  
11 care of the feral dogs. That is another big  
12 problem with the sheep and other game.

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13 Several times I've talked to different  
14 people that should be concerned about it. They  
15 say, "Well, if you get a chance, shoot them." But  
16 nobody will tell me that in writing. I think it's  
17 a pretty important point. That's about all I've  
18 got to say.

19 MS. WENSTROM: All right. Thank you,  
20 Bud.

21 Okay. Anybody else?

22 Kevin, we are going to put you on the  
23 spot. We've been doing testimony. Did you want  
24 to testify?

25 MR. BRENNAN: No.

1 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Then we'll move  
2 right on. We didn't want you to miss the first  
3 round. If anyone should change your mind and  
4 decide that you would like to, please just take a  
5 speaker card from the back. They'll bring it to  
6 me, and we'll give you another chance.

7 Okay. Let's start. We do have a  
8 question for Connell. Let's get Sheila's question  
9 answered by Connell about the purpose of the  
10 Monument. And I picked up a couple of other  
11 points that I wanted to address too.

12 MS. DUNNING: The question was why was  
13 the Monument established. We usually try to start  
14 the meetings with that, spending a little bit of  
15 time going over that.

16 There's a copy of the legislation sitting  
17 at the back table. There's also a copy of the  
18 legislation in the back of the big plan. It's the  
19 first appendix, Appendix A.

20 In a section of the legislation it states  
21 the establishment and purposes of the monument. I  
22 usually end up reading this once a meeting, so you  
23 can sit tight and listen.

24 "The monument was established  
25 in order to preserve the nationally

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1 significant biological, cultural,  
2 recreational, geological, educational,  
3 and scientific values found in the  
4 Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains  
5 and to secure now and for future  
6 generations the opportunity to  
7 experience and enjoy the magnificent  
8 vistas, wildlife, land forms, and  
9 natural and cultural resources in  
10 these mountains and to recreate  
11 therein."

12 Thank you for asking that question and  
13 clarifying that, because that is really what  
14 guides us and has been guiding us in how we  
15 drafted and how we organized this Monument. So  
16 that is why it was established, which makes it so  
17 important to think about how we coordinate all the  
18 different values.

19 MS. WENSTROM: I wanted to address  
20 something that Monica brought up about why aren't  
21 we looking at some of this in more detail now.  
22 I'm just going to answer what I believe that  
23 answer is for the Forest Service. Then if Connell  
24 or somebody from the BLM wants to add to it from  
25 their standpoint, they can.

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1 One of the things that happens when you  
2 have multiple planning efforts is if people like  
3 the result, then they want it to be done the first  
4 time. But if they don't like the result, you get  
5 to invent it again and again and again.

6 We really don't want to revisit the same  
7 decisions. We're trying to make sound decisions  
8 with good input and only put people through the  
9 pain and agony one time.

10 I realize this being the first plan would  
11 be the best time to do it and get it addressed  
12 right up front.

13 The reason for us, what we wanted to do  
14 with the land management plan with a lot of these  
15 things, when we start analyzing what we'll be  
16 looking at, we're trying to make standards. In  
17 fact, we have standards in our current plan that  
18 are things we live by.

19 For example, standards for grazing. They  
20 might be standards related to how we address T&E  
21 species. So we can actually do a better job of  
22 analysis if we're going to be changing those  
23 standards.

24 We want those standards to be consistent  
25 so we don't have different standards applied in .

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1 different locations. So actually, we think it's a  
2 more well thought-out decision with all the parts  
3 in place if we do it for the plan.

4 I appreciate your concern in wanting it  
5 to be addressed early, but part of the reason is  
6 because we think it's a more (inaudible).

7 You had a question?

8 MS. O'NEILL: I do. I still don't  
9 understand why, for instance, grazing rights are  
10 not addressed in the plan. I just don't  
11 understand that.

12 MS. WENSTROM: Why they're not addressed  
13 in the Monument plan?

14 MS. O'NEILL: Yeah.

15 MS. WENSTROM: There are standards that  
16 we would apply to all grazing allotments. It's  
17 kind of the same issue. We'll be looking at that  
18 in the forest plan. We will be specifically  
19 looking at the Monument as an individual unit in  
20 the forest plan as well.

21 So we want to clarify what type of  
22 standards we're going to have for all grazing  
23 before we make decisions on whether grazing in any  
24 one location is appropriate. So we are in the  
25 process of looking at it now. We clearly don't

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1 want to do it multiple times and keep revisiting  
2 the same decision.

3 So that's the reason. I understand that  
4 everyone may not agree with that, but I wanted to  
5 explain it to you.

6 MS. DUNNING: I'd like to add to that as  
7 well just to give a complete picture. The term  
8 "punting" in this case for the BLM side of  
9 things, we've got all these different agencies  
10 that manage land.

11 For the BLM side of things, the BLM had  
12 begun a planning process addressing the land prior  
13 to the Monument even though it had been designated. It  
14 existed under its own area called the California  
15 Desert Conservation Area.

16 We made decisions regarding grazing  
17 across the entire desert and in areas including  
18 the Monument. There don't happen to be any  
19 grazing allotments in the plan for the Monument,  
20 but we addressed that planning process, which  
21 finished in December of 2002.

22 So when they designated the Monument, it  
23 required that we had a plan. There was already  
24 these other plans in the works. We realize it  
25 makes it very difficult for the public, very

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1 confusing. That's what we've been dealing with.

2         So the Forest Service has undergoing  
3 these lands use plans, and the BLM is undergoing  
4 the same things. The Monument really gives us an  
5 opportunity of how can we better coordinate  
6 between these different agencies who are very  
7 different to continue to manage things according  
8 to different budgets as we start to move  
9 together.

10         So this first plan really provides a  
11 bridge between these different plans that are  
12 already going on. So we're certainly not punting  
13 the issues from the BLM. We just made a decision  
14 in December 2002 for the BLM. And the Forest  
15 Service is going to come to a decision in --

16         MS. WENSTROM: Our draft plan will be out  
17 it's looking like early fall.

18         MS. DUNNING: -- early fall. So it's a  
19 matter of months from when the Monument plan is  
20 coming out.

21         MS. O'NEILL: Just one comment. Why has  
22 the Monument taken place? What's going to be  
23 different about the Monument? I think that some  
24 of us hoped that there would be more protection in  
25 the Monument plan so that any grazing areas that

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1 fell under that Monument plan would be, you know,  
2 looked at again.

3         MS. WENSTROM: Let me address that  
4 specifically for grazing, because the Monument  
5 legislation said that nothing in the legislation  
6 would affect the grazing law.

7         So within the legislation, we will be  
8 looking at other issues like species conflicts  
9 with grazing, which is one of the big issues. And  
10 we'll be doing that in the context of our land  
11 management plan.

12         But the legislation found specifically  
13 there were not going to be decisions on changes as  
14 a result of a Monument designation, because that's  
15 one the legislation makes.

16         MS. DUNNING: What you have long-term is  
17 that legislation. It's law. So the Forest  
18 Service and BLM have to comply with the law. The  
19 establishment and the purposes of that law,  
20 whether it's called the Monument plan or called  
21 the Forest Service plan or called the BLM plan, we  
22 will be achieving those objectives set forward for  
23 the Monument. So we have that law to guide us.

24         MS. WENSTROM: Let me get Monica's  
25 questions. Then I want a clarification of

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1 something.

2 MS. BOND: So I hear what you're saying  
3 about the grazing issue or the T&E species, you  
4 want consistent management. That's entirely  
5 understandable. But wilderness is actually a  
6 different issue because, correct me if I'm wrong,  
7 it doesn't take a land resource management plan to  
8 designate wilderness. That would be independent.  
9 It doesn't have to be in this process.

10 Let's say that this Monument was  
11 designated five years ago, and the Forest Service  
12 and BLM weren't providing these plans. You should  
13 still be able to designate a wilderness area. I'm  
14 just kind of wondering why that one wasn't done.

15 MS. WENSTROM: Let me clarify.  
16 Wilderness actually can be designated by  
17 congress. Right now there are two concurrent  
18 processes going on. One is legislation, and that  
19 is independent of the Forest Service and BLM  
20 planning processes.

21 The other is as part of the plan, we are  
22 looking at wilderness designations as part of  
23 that. I guess we could have -- I think it comes  
24 from not wanting to make the decisions twice.  
25 Plus the analysis that goes with that to do the

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1 technical analysis, we're doing that with the  
2 planning process. I appreciate the concern very  
3 much.

4 One other clarification. The existing  
5 wilderness, that legislation already remains in  
6 effect. That is unchanged.

7 So let me get a clarification on  
8 something. One of you said something about feral  
9 dogs. I thought I heard Connell mention that that  
10 was in there. So I want her to let you know where  
11 that's addressed so you can look for that and make  
12 any comments that you might want to.

13 MS. DUNNING: Feral dogs are addressed on  
14 page -- I should have this memorized.

15 MS. WENSTROM: I'm not asking you to jump  
16 up and say something now. I want to make sure you  
17 know where to look so you can check it out.

18 MS. DUNNING: Yeah. On page ES-27,  
19 there's an action proposed, "BLM and Forest

20 Service would establish a protocol  
21 in cooperation with Riverside County  
22 and cities of the Coachella Valley  
23 to address feral and uncontrolled  
24 domestic animals. Management of pets  
25 would be consistent with the pending

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1 trails management plan."  
 2 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. So what that means  
 3 is we haven't really set up a protocol as of this  
 4 point.  
 5 MS. DUNNING: Right. We stated that we  
 6 will work with the county as part of our  
 7 implementation of this plan starting immediately  
 8 as to what that is going to be.  
 9 MS. WENSTROM: So we're not there yet.  
 10 MR. WELLMAN: I hope you have better luck  
 11 with them than I have.  
 12 MS. EDWARDS: Okay. I have a question.  
 13 The term was used "to preserve." Is there a  
 14 definition of what "preserve" means?  
 15 MS. DUNNING: I think we used the term.  
 16 I don't think it's in our glossary. That's a good  
 17 point. We can put it in our glossary and define  
 18 that.  
 19 MS. EDWARDS: You might compare and  
 20 contrast that to "preserve and protect."  
 21 MS. DUNNING: Yeah. That's a good  
 22 comment. In terms of preserving, we want to  
 23 maintain what is currently there in balance.  
 24 MS. EDWARDS: And then another comment  
 25 would be made is to establish the baseline. What

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1 is it that you are trying to preserve in the  
 2 baseline?  
 3 MS. DUNNING: Preserving conditions,  
 4 something that you see now. What are the future  
 5 desired conditions.  
 6 MS. EDWARDS: I haven't read the plan.  
 7 I'm just looking at what's going to be achieved in  
 8 terms of the land.  
 9 MS. DUNNING: Certainly the existing uses  
 10 are of importance to a number of people, those who  
 11 frame the legislation. There's currently  
 12 recreation. People want to continue to have  
 13 recreation. So in terms of preserving that in the  
 14 current status, I think -- what was the comment  
 15 that somebody made? I think it was keeping -- no  
 16 net loss.  
 17 MR. FEABODY: No net loss.  
 18 MS. DUNNING: No net loss. So preserving  
 19 what's there, maintaining what's there.  
 20 MS. WENSTROM: I want to add to that a  
 21 little bit. When you look at what was the  
 22 intention of the law, because we didn't write it,  
 23 you have to look at what was the intention of the  
 24 entire congress that passed it.  
 25 So one of the things that I have seen

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1 done before is to go back, you know, to the  
2 discussion that happened in congress around the  
3 law, and you can see if there's anything in there  
4 that sheds light on what their intent was.

5           That's normally what the lawyers do. I  
6 would hesitate for us to answer as to what it  
7 means.

8           MS. DUNNING: Yeah. There's certainly a  
9 huge, huge role for us to establish what's out  
10 there right now. We don't even have really good  
11 baseline data.

12           I'm using the term "baseline" as to what  
13 is happening right now as opposed to what was  
14 happening 10 years ago as opposed to what is going  
15 to happen 10 years from now.

16           We might not have data from 10 years ago,  
17 but we can start right now and start monitoring,  
18 start figuring out what's there to establish at  
19 the point the Monument was designated, this is  
20 what it looked like. A snapshot in time almost.  
21 So that's really one of the goals of this plan, to  
22 fill in the holes.

23           MS. WENSTROM: Any questions? Yeah.

24           MS. VELEZ: I have a comment. I don't  
25 have a question. In terms of your reviewing that

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1 mission statement, for lack of a better term, and  
2 kind of using the term "balancing" a lot and  
3 specifically balancing relative to recreational  
4 use, because that is basically a controversial  
5 issue, I just would say that my impression from  
6 hearing the purpose of the establishment certainly  
7 weighed very heavily on the natural resources that  
8 were being sought to be preserved.

9           And there were three words at the end,  
10 "and recreate within," that almost implies within  
11 the context of this rare and important natural  
12 resource finding appropriate ways to recreate  
13 within that. So I just kind of want to make that  
14 as my impression from what I'm hearing.

15           And then a second one was just a factual  
16 question. I'm curious why you all chose -- and I  
17 have no axe to grind here. It's not a rhetorical  
18 question -- why you all chose to recommend not  
19 continuing the adventure pass. That's one  
20 differentiation of the plan. I was curious. What  
21 was your thinking?

22           MS. WENSTROM: Do you want me to address  
23 that? Laurie, do you want to address it?

24           MS. ROSENTHAL: One thing we were trying  
25 to do was provide some consistency. We want to

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1 make this as seamless as possible. I don't think  
2 people really care whether they're on BLM land or  
3 state land or Forest land. They care if they're  
4 on private land.

5 The point is that it gets very confusing  
6 for somebody oh, this is the Forest part of the  
7 Monument. This is the BLM part. So since BLM  
8 doesn't have the adventure pass, it was one way of  
9 doing the consistency aspect so it didn't confuse  
10 people.

11 Do you want to add anything?

12 MS. WENSTROM: No.

13 MS. VELEZ: Is the plan to retain the  
14 adventure pass on Forest Service lands, though?

15 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes.

16 MS. VELEZ: So there still would be a  
17 differentiation?

18 MS. ROSENTHAL: Not in the Monument.

19 MS. WENSTROM: We had to make a choice  
20 between being consistent across all Forest Service  
21 lands and being consistent within the Monument  
22 boundaries.

23 Quite honestly, there's not a lot of  
24 parking within the Monument boundaries anyway.  
25 And it doesn't make a lot of difference because of

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1 that, because most parking is actually outside of  
2 the Monument boundaries itself.

3 So the forest supervisor opted for  
4 consistency within the Monument boundaries for  
5 those visitors. It doesn't reflect the need for  
6 funding. Those kinds of things haven't changed.  
7 We're not seeing big bunches of money coming in.

8 Other questions? Yes.

9 MS. MEYER: Are there any plans in the  
10 works for more turnouts along Highway 74 for  
11 interpretive educational type things?

12 MS. WENSTROM: Connell is more familiar  
13 with the plan than I am because I've been working  
14 on the forest plan. I'm going to let Connell  
15 answer that question.

16 MS. DUNNING: I'm familiar with what  
17 Caltrans has proposed for the next three years or  
18 so. They plan pretty far in advance in terms of  
19 funding and projects.

20 Over the next few years they do have a  
21 proposal to upgrade and I think add two new  
22 turnouts and upgrade six. I'm going to have to  
23 check the numbers. If you want to contact me --

24 MS. MEYER: Is that strictly to let some  
25 cars go by or is that for interpretive plaques?

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1 MS. DUNNING: That's step one. They have  
2 that plan. That's Caltrans. We need to work with  
3 Caltrans to do that. The next phase is working  
4 with them to determine now that we have those  
5 turnouts, which are safe enough to have  
6 interpretive things next to them.

7 So that's the next thing that we have to  
8 do. They planned these turnouts before the  
9 Monument was even designated. They plan pretty  
10 far in advance.

11 Now we're kind of jumping in and saying,  
12 "Okay. Now that you're going to be managing  
13 Highway 74 and it happens to go through a national  
14 monument, we have a need. Our need is where are  
15 there places for safe interpretive  
16 opportunities?"

17 So that will take some time to feed into  
18 their planning processes, but we will be talking  
19 to Caltrans to work together. We certainly  
20 wouldn't pick a spot and just do it. We have to  
21 work very closely with Caltrans to do that.

22 There is an interpretive plan that was  
23 completed about a year ago. It's serving as a  
24 baseline to help us kind of get started on  
25 interpreting.

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1 We have those available. If you want  
2 one, I could mail one to you. I don't have copies  
3 of those, but that was completed a year ago. So  
4 we have that as a starting point. It has  
5 potential areas for future interpretive places.  
6 MS. VELEZ: Is there funding to support  
7 that?

8 MS. DUNNING: We've requested funding,  
9 yeah. BLM and Forest Service are both requesting  
10 funding. Interpretation and getting public  
11 information out is a huge void. No. Not a void.  
12 We're doing it currently.

13 But it's a huge need. And it will  
14 continue to be a huge need, especially when the  
15 Monument -- in it's first few years, we'll start  
16 building up that program.

17 We have started -- there's a few fliers  
18 in the back -- interpretive things, basically the  
19 Visitors Center and throughout the Monument. So  
20 we're slowly building our interpretive program.

21 MS. WENSTROM: The interpretive part of  
22 it is part of the Forest plan too. We've had lots  
23 and lots of comments from the public about people  
24 wanting to see more emphasis on that. I'm  
25 surprised how so many different people still want

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1 to see more of that. So yeah.

2 MR. CLAYTEN: You said earlier, when you  
3 first started regarding to recreational shooting,  
4 that half of the Monument is already closed  
5 because of refuge.

6 Where specifically is the other half  
7 that's not closed? For instance, regarding Black  
8 Mountain and Santa rosa Mountain, how much of that  
9 is in the refuge or not in the refuge? You talked  
10 about recreational shooting quite a bit.

11 MS. DUNNING: This is the plan. It's  
12 Figure 7. This is a real huge version of Figure 7  
13 in the back of the plan. Currently there's a  
14 state game refuge that encompasses a large portion  
15 of the San Jacinto wilderness.

16 There's also a state game refuge that  
17 encompasses the Forest Service Santa Rosa  
18 Wilderness Area and quite a bit of the BLM lands.

19 These are the areas I was referring to  
20 that are currently off limits to recreational  
21 shooting.

22 MR. CLAYTEN: This is the refuge, but  
23 where is the road?

24 MS. DUNNING: Black Mountain, the right  
25 side here, right up here. Those are outside of

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1 the refuge.

2 MR. CLAYTEN: Those areas and down at the  
3 bottom of the hill is where it is. In here, too,  
4 we talked about shooting out of these areas.

5 MS. DUNNING: Right. So what we would be  
6 proposing to do in this plan is look for areas  
7 outside of the Monument boundary that we can  
8 direct people. Whether it's this area here, or we  
9 need to work with our recreational shooting folks  
10 to help us find areas outside of the Monument that  
11 we can direct people.

12 So we're proposing that in those areas  
13 outside of the state game refuges that there not  
14 be recreational shooting.

15 MR. CLAYTEN: This is the first time I've  
16 seen it, so I'll make a comment.

17 MS. DUNNING: Good. This is the first  
18 time that a lot of people have seen it. That's  
19 why we have until June 19th to take a look at  
20 that.

21 MR. CLAYTEN: Has there been a proposal  
22 to have shooting areas outside of the Monument?

23 MS. DUNNING: Currently they're all  
24 over. Recreational shooting is allowable outside  
25 of the Monument. So currently the proposal

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1 wouldn't be to -- currently recreational shooting  
2 is allowed on all BLM lands outside of the  
3 Monument. That's the current existing plan. So  
4 that will continue to occur.

5         If there is a need for specific locations  
6 to shoot, that we haven't established. So if  
7 there's a need from the community to do that, we  
8 can look into that outside of this planning  
9 process.

10         MR. CLAYTEN: Okay. Because there's  
11 areas up there on Blank Mountain that I know of  
12 and Santa Rosa, you know, where people who go  
13 camping want to do some recreational shooting  
14 while they're up there.

15         MS. WENSTROM: I think a lot of what  
16 you're talking about is not in the Monument.

17         MS. DUNNING: I think it's outside.

18         MS. WENSTROM: When you're talking about  
19 Black Mountain, it's pretty much on this side of  
20 the Monument. We may have to get a different map  
21 for you.

22         MR. CLAYTEN: I'd like to see the  
23 specific line.

24         MS. DUNNING: We can bring that out.

25         MS. WENSTROM: Can we kind of like do

52

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1 that during the break so we don't hold the whole  
2 room up with the discussion?

3         MR. CLAYTEN: Sure.

4         MS. WENSTROM: Okay. You had a question  
5 here?

6         AUDIENCE MEMBER: Connell keeps using the  
7 phrase "recreational shooting" as if to imply  
8 hunting.

9         MS. DUNNING: It does not. Hunting will  
10 continue to occur everywhere it is now allowed  
11 according to Fish & Game.

12         AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is this gentleman aware  
13 that there's a significant difference between  
14 hunting and recreational shooting?

15         MR. CLAYTEN: Absolutely.

16         MS. WENSTROM: I'm sure he is.  
17 "Recreational target shooting" would probably be  
18 a more complete term that would help us establish  
19 the difference that you're talking about.

20         Any other questions? You guys are making  
21 this real easy. Anyone else that would like to  
22 speak? We'll be around for awhile if you want to  
23 talk one on one with anybody.

24         MS. DUNNING: Remember, June 19th is the  
25 date to get comments to us regarding the draft

53

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Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

1 plan specifically.  
 2 (Off the record.)  
 3 (The meeting concluded at 7:20 p.m.)  
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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE  
 2  
 3 STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
 4 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE ) ss  
 5  
 6  
 7 I, SONJA CHAPMAN, a certified shorthand  
 8 reporter within and for the state of California do  
 9 hereby certify that the foregoing 54 pages  
 10 comprise a full, true, and correct transcription  
 11 of the proceedings that were taken before me at  
 12 the time and place therein set forth.  
 13 Dated this 1st day of May, 2003.  
 14  
 15 *Sonja Chapman*  
 16 Sonja Chapman, CSR #11504  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

CERTIFIED COPY

COPY

SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS  
NATIONAL MONUMENT

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN MEETING

LOCATION: PINYON ELKS MOUNTAIN RETREAT  
69-950 Elk Trail  
Mountain Center, California

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, April 24, 2003  
6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

REPORTED BY: Sonja Chapman, CSR  
CSR No. 11504

JOB NO.: 62326

GILLESPIE REPORTING AND DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT INC.  
3333 Central Ave. Ste. D, Riverside, CA 92506 • 909-682-5886 • Fax 909-682-4990  
Email: grdm@earthlink.net



1	<u>A P P E A R A N C E S</u>
2	
3	
4	CONNELL DUNNING, National Monument, (Bureau of
5	Land Management/Forest Service)
6	JIM FOOTE, Bureau of Land Management
7	DANELLA GEORGE, Bureau of Land Management
8	JIM KENNA, Bureau of Land Management
9	RACHELLE HUDDLESTON-LORTON, Bureau of Land Mgmt
10	LAURIE ROSENTHAL, Forest Service, San Jacinto
11	District of the San Bernardino National Forest -
12	District Ranger
13	RUTH WENSTROM, Forest Service, San Bernardino
14	National Forest
15	KATE KRAMER, Forest Service.
16	JERALD FRATES, California State Parks
17	TRACY LEIGLER, Interpretive and Outreach program
18	
19	
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14 Meeting adjourned 113

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1 PINYON, CALIFORNIA; THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2003

2 6:30 P.M.

3 -000-

4

5 MS. WENSTROM: There was some

6 miscommunication about the time. So we're getting

7 the feeling that most people thought it started at

8 6:30. So we kind of held off.

9 With that, Danella, would you like to

10 kick this off?

11 MS. GEORGE: Ruth Watling wants to say

12 something.

13 MS. WENSTROM: Okay.

14 MS. WATLING: Welcome to the Santa Rosa

15 and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Draft

16 Management Plan Meeting. And even more than

17 welcome --

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Could you maybe

19 introduce yourself?

20 MS. WATLING: My name is Ruth Watling.

21 I'm on the Pinyon Community Council. I'm the

22 Pinyon representative to the Santa Rosa National

23 Monument Advisory Committee.

24 More than welcome, a strong thank you to

25 every person in this room who has had input into

4

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1 the plan. It's really important that this plan  
2 has come together with everyone having a say so.  
3 This evening has been organized to  
4 provide the opportunity for public review.  
5 Tonight the Forest Service and BLM staff will  
6 present the plan to ensure that each individual  
7 concern has been considered and included.  
8 Danella, where did you go?  
9 MS. GEORGE: I'm right here. I'm right  
10 here. Give me a hug.  
11 I'm Danella George. I'm the National  
12 Monument manager -- Santa Rosa and San Jacinto  
13 Mountains National Monument manager. We are  
14 pleased that you are all here tonight. We're  
15 pleased that you have participated throughout this  
16 process to get to a draft National Monument plan.  
17 We have had quite a few meetings here. I know  
18 Connell and Ruth have worked with you all  
19 extensively.  
20 I wanted to introduce a few folks  
21 tonight. Some real general ground rules. Connell  
22 will go into them into greater detail along with  
23 Ruth Wenstrom.  
24 But first with the introductions, we have  
25 our ranger for Mt. San Jacinto Ranger District,

5

1 Laurie Rosenthal.  
2 We have the new botanist for the ranger  
3 district, Kate Kramer. We have  
4 Rachelle Huddleston-Lorton, who is a biologist  
5 with the Bureau of Land Management and is an  
6 expert in Peninsula Ranges bighorn sheep.  
7 Of course, we have Connell Dunning, our  
8 community planner. We have Tracy Leigler, who is  
9 the joint Forest Service/BLM interpretive outreach  
10 specialist.  
11 We have the Monument Advisory Committee  
12 chair here, Mr. Ed Kibbey. Who am I missing?  
13 Jim Foote, the recreation planner for the  
14 Bureau of Land Management, and he participated a  
15 great deal in this plan.  
16 We have Mr. Jim Kenna, who is the field  
17 manager for the Bureau of Land Management, Palm  
18 Springs/South Coast Field office. Jim is here to  
19 show his support of the National Monument. He  
20 kind of feels like he gave birth to this as well.  
21 During the question-and-answer period, if  
22 we get to a place where folks have some questions  
23 about the future trails plan, we're going to defer  
24 those over to Jim Kenna, because he's working that  
25 planning process. And then we have

6

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1 Ruth Wenstrom.

2 I just want to say you folks are very  
3 lucky to have Ruth Watling on the Monument  
4 Advisory Committee. Ruth has contributed many  
5 Saturdays -- lots of Saturdays to the Advisory  
6 Committee meetings. She's also been a member of  
7 several of the working groups, which folks are  
8 always welcome to come to those.

9 We have the meetings placed on our Web  
10 page so folks know about them, the work groups as  
11 well as the committee meetings. So she's been a  
12 really awesome member of the committee. We thank  
13 you, Ruth.

14 MS. WATLING: Thank you, Danella.

15 MS. GEORGE: Tonight I just want to let  
16 you know we have a court reporter during this  
17 process. This is a little bit more formal than  
18 the prior workshops that Ruth and Connell have  
19 conducted.

20 Sonja is our court reporter. What we're  
21 going to ask, folks, when we get to that public  
22 comment period, Q-and-A period, several things.  
23 One, we're going to ask you to raise your hand so  
24 that somebody can pick you.

25 We're going to ask you to then come up

7

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1 here where I'm standing, say your name, spell it  
2 out so that Sonja can hear you. That's the one  
3 thing that we ask of you all.

4 So I thank you, and I'm going to hand  
5 this over to Connell and to Ruth.

6 MS. DUNNING: Okay. So tonight's meeting  
7 is going to be structured such that I'm going to  
8 give a short presentation. I'm going to say  
9 "short" because I'm not here to speak tonight.  
10 We're here to hear you guys talk.

11 So the goal of what I'm going to talk  
12 about is how to kind of break down this plan.  
13 It's kind of weighty. We hope you guys use it as  
14 paperweights.

15 But more so, what we're going to do is  
16 kind of guide you through and how to pick out  
17 pieces of the plan and kind of how to digest it  
18 into little pieces and to kind of direct you into  
19 what's the best way to get your comments to us.  
20 June 19th is the end of the comment period for  
21 this plan. We'll talk more about that.

22 After that brief presentation, we will  
23 open up the meeting to a time for public  
24 comments. We have these public comment cards.  
25 They are public speaker cards. There will be time

8

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1 for each speaker to talk for five minutes.  
2           Following that, we'll open to up to a  
3 question-and-answer period following the time for  
4 everyone who wants to give a five-minute talk.  
5           This really helps you structure your  
6 comments so that we're not wading through a  
7 question-and-answer session trying to characterize  
8 what your comment is. It gives you a full five  
9 minutes to just talk and get your comments out.  
10           So I'm going to go ahead and start with  
11 the presentation.  
12           Did you have any comments?  
13           MS. WENSTROM: I just wanted to add to  
14 some folks that I know you may have questions  
15 during the presentation. We may take a couple of  
16 brief questions for clarification only, but we  
17 want to keep that short because we want to make  
18 sure -- a lot of times you start asking questions,  
19 and then it goes on and on and on and on.  
20           We want to make sure we allow the time  
21 for you to talk. That's why it seems a little bit  
22 backwards in terms of the order. We're just going  
23 to try to work with that as best we can. So with  
24 that, let's get started.  
25           MS. DUNNING: Thank you. And the

9

1 bathrooms, most of you know where the bathrooms  
2 are. I didn't the first time I came and was kind  
3 of wandering around for awhile. Out that back  
4 door and around the corner, there are some  
5 bathrooms.  
6           And there's a sign-in sheet. It's a  
7 green sign-in sheet. So if you didn't get a  
8 chance to sign it and you happen to leave early --  
9 we know you won't because you want to hear how  
10 exciting everything is that we have to say. But  
11 before you leave, be sure and sign in on that  
12 green sign-in sheet.  
13           MS. WENSTROM: If anybody wants to go  
14 ahead and fill out -- if you know you want to  
15 speak and you want to fill out a speaker card --  
16 Jim, you're not listening. If they raise their  
17 hands, you'll bring them a speaker card; right?  
18           MS. DUNNING: Yes. Jim Foote will  
19 deliver a speaker card to you if you would like to  
20 speak.  
21           MR. FOOTE: Is there anybody that would  
22 like one?  
23           MS. WENSTROM: You can turn those in at  
24 any time. So if you hear something and decide  
25 later on that you're going to want to speak,

10

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1 you'll be able to do that.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: One quick question. At  
3 one Pinyon meeting we pledged allegiance to the  
4 flag.

5 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. There's a little  
6 one up here. We can do that.

7 (Off the record.)

8 MS. DUNNING: I feel so inspired now. So  
9 just a brief summary of how we got here. We were  
10 here almost exactly a year ago today, starting out  
11 getting scoping comments and just kind of opening  
12 up to figure out what you guys were interested in  
13 terms of the federal lands, establishing a  
14 Monument and how to manage that.

15 You helped us identify a bunch of  
16 issues. We took all those issues, along with some  
17 letters that we got, and we used those to create  
18 our public draft plan, which is the document that  
19 you're holding today and that we're talking  
20 about.

21 It's open for a 90-day review period  
22 until June 19th. We are going to take all the  
23 comments that we get regarding the content, and  
24 we're going to respond to those comments. And  
25 hopefully with the comments that we get, we'll

11

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1 have a better plan.

2 That will be the "final" plan. I'm  
3 putting "final" in quotes here because somebody  
4 had a concern that that means it's over and from  
5 this point on, that's all we're ever going to do.  
6 Actually, that plan can be amended through time.

7 The next phase using that plan is going  
8 to be the implementation of what's in that plan.  
9 We'll be coming back and having more meetings to  
10 see how we can use the community, how we can use  
11 people that are interested to help us and how we  
12 can help you as we manage this Monument  
13 long-term.

14 The term "adaptive management" is in  
15 there in response to that term being final. What  
16 we're doing over time is, as we manage and we  
17 learn different things and we get different  
18 information, we try to be flexible. And we can  
19 change the plan over time.

20 So the word "final," whoever brought that  
21 up before, it allows us to get it out and have a  
22 document to be working off of.

23 So the Monument was established to  
24 protect and preserve the biological, cultural,  
25 recreational, geological, educational, scientific,

12

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1 and scenic values.

2           So we use that goal and those purposes in  
3 the establishment of the Monument. I can direct  
4 you to the legislation. It's Appendix A of this  
5 document. So when you're forming your comments,  
6 it's good to read back and kind of see why it was  
7 established.

8           So we use that to kind of help frame how  
9 we structured the Monument plan. What we've tried  
10 to do is address how we are protecting and  
11 preserving each of these different values. So  
12 kind of keep that in the back of your head when  
13 you're reading through the plan.

14           As most of you know, the Monument is  
15 right here. The light green boundary is the  
16 Monument boundary. We do have some small maps in  
17 the back. It is a complex land ownership. The  
18 green, Forest Service. The yellow here is BLM.  
19 The blue is State Parks and Fish & Game, Agua  
20 Caliente land with the Santa Rosa Indian  
21 Reservation on the border here.

22           So there's quite a number of people that  
23 we've been involving over the time of creating  
24 this plan through interagency meetings. So coming  
25 to the public is adding to -- getting public

13

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1 comments is also adding to getting the comments  
2 from all these different land managers.

3           An important point to note when you're  
4 reading this plan is the actions apply only to the  
5 green and this light yellow here, only to the  
6 Forest Service and the BLM lands, because BLM  
7 signed the document, and Forest Service. We're  
8 comanaging it.

9           Those actions apply only to federal  
10 lands, but we worked closely with other land  
11 managing entities to help write the plan.

12           Again, the Pinyon community here is not  
13 within the boundaries of the Monument, even though  
14 you're completely encompassed. So recognizing  
15 that, we sometimes get questions about that. So  
16 this is not considered within the Monument  
17 boundary right here.

18           So like I said, we started back in March  
19 with our scoping meetings. We had the workshops  
20 here. We just published our draft plan with  
21 comments due June 19th.

22           The next thing that will happen is we  
23 will put together a final plan. That will go  
24 through a review period, and the next time that  
25 you'll see something from us will be around

14

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1 September. That's when we will respond to your  
2 comments and include each of your comments that we  
3 get and how we respond to them in the final plan.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Will you come back here  
5 again with the final plan?

6 MS. DUNNING: What we'll do when it is --  
7 when we come up with the next version, what we'll  
8 do is we'll have a series of meetings to figure  
9 out how we want to involve the community in the  
10 implementation.

11 There's going to be a number of  
12 strategies where we propose a lot of volunteers  
13 and a lot of partnerships. So that next step will  
14 be now that we have this document, how do you guys  
15 want to be a part of it. So we will have a forum  
16 for that.

17 Okay. So it's important to know what is  
18 in this plan. It's a lot of coordination  
19 strategies along with all those different  
20 entities, all the different folks that manage land  
21 within the Monument, how we're going to  
22 coordinate.

23 There's some specific non-trail-related  
24 recreation actions, because there's a separate  
25 trails planning process going on right now. So

15

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1 when that separate trails planning process is  
2 done, we as a Monument will be able to address  
3 those through another recreation plan that will  
4 kind of -- we'll be able to come to you with  
5 everything that's been decided up to that point.

6 Education, outreach and partnerships is a  
7 focus. Tribal relationships, facilities.

8 What's not in the plan and what is also  
9 in the legislation, things that were just  
10 legislated and not things we're making decisions  
11 on, are route designations. BLM took care of in  
12 their previous plan. So we're just pulling that  
13 information forward.

14 Wild horse and burro, special  
15 designations -- special land use designations for  
16 the Forest Service and the BLM. Land health  
17 standards and air quality management, how we're  
18 going to do those things.

19 The Monument is withdrawn from mining  
20 outside of those existing mining claims. That's  
21 in the legislation. Vehicles have to stay on  
22 designated routes. That was something that the  
23 legislation stated. And grazing is being taken  
24 care of through the Forest Service and the BLM  
25 outside of the Monument plan.

16

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1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Will there be a  
2 situation where there will be a debate on the  
3 issues that haven't been finalized?

4 MS. DUNNING: I think the question that  
5 was asked was is there going to be a debate over  
6 anything that hasn't been finalized. At this  
7 point, we have come forward with some proposed  
8 actions. The way that we get comments is verbally  
9 in this setting and written comments. It's not a  
10 debate forum.

11 What we do is we respond via writing. In  
12 the final version, we will respond to the comments  
13 that we get. So you'll be able to see how we  
14 respond to that.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. The only thing I  
16 was getting at is the final decision, as long as  
17 everyone agrees on it on both sides, will there be  
18 a debate? We don't want to be in the middle of  
19 arbitration on something that's going to affect  
20 all of us. I'm sorry. Go ahead. I'm done.

21 MS. DUNNING: Okay. At the end of this,  
22 as I said, there's going to be a  
23 question-and-answer period. So let me finish  
24 this, and then we'll have the five-minute  
25 comments. Let's get back to that. I want to make

17

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1 sure that everybody understands kind of what the  
2 processes are here.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: All right. Thank you.

4 MS. DUNNING: Okay. Thanks. So the plan  
5 is structured -- at the beginning there's an  
6 Executive Summary. We brought these here today.  
7 These are a nice, easy-to-read version of the  
8 Executive Summary, the plan.

9 Chapter 1 is an introduction to how we  
10 got to where we are in the plan, the relationships  
11 to other planning processes, and kind of the  
12 criteria behind what is in the plan. It lists out  
13 what the legislation requires and that kind of  
14 thing.

15 Chapter 2 is where you're going to find  
16 our response to what you brought forward in terms  
17 of your comments and your suggestions of what  
18 you'd like to see in the plan. A lot of it is  
19 going to be in Chapter 2 where we propose our  
20 actions. That's a good place to look and see how  
21 we responded to your interests.

22 Chapter 3 explains the existing  
23 management, what are BLM and Forest Service  
24 currently doing. And if you don't see something  
25 that you proposed and that you're interested in in

18

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1 Chapter 2, we explained it in Chapter 3 because  
2 we're not proposing changing it.

3           So if you had an interest in a certain  
4 area and don't see an action in that area, look at  
5 Chapter 3 because it's probably in there, and  
6 we're not proposing changing the existing  
7 management.

8           Chapter 4, we looked at our proposed  
9 actions in Chapter 2 and determined how are they  
10 impacting our existing management. That helps us  
11 to make a decision on what's a proposed action and  
12 what we can make a decision on. So this impact  
13 analysis is very important. It kind of lays out  
14 what all the impacts are.

15           Chapter 5 is a summary of how we  
16 coordinated with different groups that we worked  
17 with, who helped prepare the plan, how we  
18 consulted with different interest groups. It's  
19 followed by some figures, a glossary, references,  
20 and a number of appendices to help support the  
21 plan.

22           The rest of this evening, I'm going to  
23 focus on Chapter 2 and help you kind of wade  
24 through that, because that's where we need your  
25 comments on how you feel about these decisions

19

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1 that we're proposing. We're not changing anything  
2 in the others, but these help provide background.

3           So as the legislation stated that it was  
4 going to protect -- or that we are to protect and  
5 preserve these values, these are the same order  
6 that the decisions are laid out in Chapter 2.  
7 Biological, cultural, recreational, geological,  
8 educational, scientific, followed by a number of  
9 areas where through scoping, there was an interest  
10 in us addressing different issues -- visitation,  
11 facilities, access, and uses.

12           So this is the plan in a nutshell of  
13 Chapter 2, our proposed decisions, with each of  
14 these different areas being an interest area.

15           So what I'm going to do is go through a  
16 couple of examples of how it's laid out in the  
17 Executive Summary so you can understand how we got  
18 there.

19           If you could turn to page ES-14, ES-14 is  
20 the first summary of a proposed action. It says  
21 across the top there "Preferred biological  
22 resources habitat management, management of  
23 noxious, non-native and evasive plant species."

24           You can see that there's an  
25 Alternative A, B and C column. In this case we

20

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1 have one action that we're proposing as opposed to  
2 a suite of three to choose from. This is our one  
3 action. We're proposing either we're going to  
4 have a weed control program or we're not.  
5         Alternative D, no action, that means  
6 existing management. So all throughout here, if  
7 you read what Alternative D is, that's what is the  
8 current management. So we would propose not to  
9 change it if we chose Alternative D.  
10         So you can see there to manage and  
11 control the spread of non-native, noxious weeds,  
12 we have listed a suite of actions here. So these  
13 are the actions, the kinds of things we need your  
14 input on as to did we adequately address your  
15 concerns here regarding non-native species and  
16 unwanted plants.  
17         So that's the first one on vegetation and  
18 management. If you turn to the next page, ES-15,  
19 the second proposed action there is "Biological  
20 resources management of special status species."  
21         So these four bullets, this is how we're  
22 proposing to manage special status species,  
23 threatened and endangered and enlisted species.  
24 That's followed by a monitoring action.  
25         Okay. I'm going to jump ahead here. I

21

1 want you to look and see an example of an action  
2 where we have three separate alternatives.  
3         On page ES-22, we have a suite of actions  
4 here. Alternative A through C, with Alternative C  
5 being the most intensive management, hang gliding  
6 would not be allowed in the Monument.  
7         Alternative B, hang gliding would be  
8 prohibited within bighorn sheep habitat. And  
9 Alternative A, it wouldn't be prohibited, but  
10 there would be a certain direction we have to  
11 take. Our preferred action here is  
12 Alternative B.  
13         So as you go through here, look to see  
14 where it says "preferred plan." Then you know  
15 that's what we're proposing is going to be the  
16 plan.  
17         So does everyone understand we have  
18 either a suite of three to choose from, or we have  
19 either/or? We're either going to do it or we're  
20 not.  
21         CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Connell, is the shaded  
22 area the preferred?  
23         MS. DUNNING: It is. The shaded area is  
24 the preferred. If you look in the big plan, the  
25 shading didn't come out very well, but it still

22

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1 says "preferred plan" in front of it. So be sure  
2 and look for the words "preferred plan," and then  
3 you'll know what the preferred is.

4 I'm on page ES-16 now. What I'm going to  
5 do is run through what we've addressed, and you  
6 can follow along in here. We proposed to research  
7 and inventory cultural resources. We proposed an  
8 existing assessment of what's out there so we can  
9 improve our knowledge of what cultural resources  
10 we have.

11 Protection and preservation. We proposed  
12 a collection policy and ways that we can preserve  
13 cultural resources long-term.

14 Methods for interpretation about cultural  
15 resources, ways to include tribes, volunteers  
16 interested parties in doing so with a site  
17 stewardship program.

18 A management plan. Taking what we have  
19 as a start here, and then having a document  
20 long-term that we can add to as to how we manage  
21 cultural resources long-term.

22 In recreation, specifically, limiting  
23 hang gliding, we just went over that action.

24 We're also proposing no paintball.

25 Does everybody know what paintball is?

23

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1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's a good idea. No  
2 paint ball.

3 MS. DUNNING: Good idea. Okay. That's a  
4 comment. "Good idea. No paint ball." Okay. The  
5 third action we're proposing is Pacific Crest  
6 Trail, a management corridor to better coordinate  
7 with any time there's a budget going on in that  
8 trail.

9 We propose no recreational shooting  
10 within the Monument. That applies to those areas  
11 outside of the state game refuges where there  
12 already isn't shooting allowed.

13 We're proposing that pets, when they're  
14 in the Monument, be on leashes.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Cats too?

16 MS. DUNNING: Cats as well. Any pet in  
17 the Monument needs to be on a leash.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's a little hard to  
19 control that. We live within the Monument.

20 MS. DUNNING: That would be hard to  
21 control, yeah. Specifically on trails and places  
22 where pets are. This applies only to federal  
23 lands, remember. So obviously, we're not going to  
24 tell you that if you live within the Monument, you  
25 need to keep your pet on a leash all the time.

24

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1 This is only when you're on federal lands within  
2 the Monument.

3 We've proposed a method for dealing with  
4 feral animals. We propose that there be no  
5 Adventure Pass required within the boundaries of  
6 the Monument.

7 We propose a strategic recreation plan.  
8 As I mentioned, there's a trails plan that's  
9 currently being developed with a number of  
10 individuals, a number of groups and cities in the  
11 county. After that is completed, we're going to  
12 initiate a strategic recreation plan only for the  
13 Monument.

14 We proposed inventory for geological  
15 resources so we can have a better understanding of  
16 what's there. Outreach about geological  
17 resources, additional protection measures for  
18 those sensitive geological resources that are  
19 there.

20 So where are we now?

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Page 30.

22 MS. DUNNING: ES-30. Good. Who said  
23 that? Somebody gets a prize for following along.  
24 Okay. So education resources, how we are going to  
25 get public information out. We heard a lot of

25

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1 that up here. "I don't know where the Monument  
2 is. There's not enough signs."

3 We're proposing how to get signs out.  
4 That was one of the biggest comments we got from a  
5 number of people -- better signage. If we're  
6 going to propose certain restrictions or areas  
7 that are open or closed, we need to have signs.

8 Education and outreach program. Again,  
9 just the fact that there is a Monument. A lot of  
10 people don't know that. So we've proposed ways to  
11 help get the message out.

12 To protect scientific resources, we  
13 propose permits for research that would be shared  
14 between the Forest Service and the BLM that we can  
15 add toward our information database regarding what  
16 we've developed so far for the Monument.

17 This was a big concern. Access. Why  
18 have a Monument if you can't even get there? So  
19 we've proposed some ways to work with security  
20 access and ways to work with the city and  
21 conservation easements.

22 Private property rights and private  
23 property issues were certainly something that we  
24 heard when we came up here last year and also at  
25 the other public meetings.

26

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1 We need to work long-term to build our  
2 private property and federal relationship so that  
3 there's a lot of feedback back and forth between  
4 what's going on and how it's going to impact  
5 private land owners.

6 We proposed criteria for future  
7 facilities in the Monument. Highway 74 was a big  
8 concern. We do need to work with Caltrans. So  
9 following this Monument plan, we propose to  
10 develop an agreement with Caltrans where we can  
11 identify how we will work long-term and continue  
12 to talk back and forth regarding the needs of  
13 Highway 74.

14 Monitoring visitors. How are we going to  
15 know long-term how many people are out there. We  
16 proposed a method for that.

17 Search and rescue and law enforcement,  
18 certainly a big concern. So that's an element of  
19 the plan that's important.

20 We proposed an interagency fire plan so  
21 that all the entities who manage fire will come  
22 together no matter where a fire is, and all will  
23 act accordingly the same way. So that's a big  
24 need that we propose happen following this plan.

25 We proposed a soil survey and watershed

27

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1 assessment to protect water resources. And  
2 there's some guidance for land acquisition for  
3 willing sellers and how we go about doing that.

4 Okay. So that's it. You're all ready to  
5 comment; right? Okay. So understanding that it's  
6 quite a bit to read, going through this Executive  
7 Summary is a really great way. Then it's  
8 important to go back to the big document and find  
9 in Chapter 2 where that information is and read  
10 that.

11 One thing to mention is how to comment.  
12 We accept written comments mailed to us or faxed  
13 comments, e-mailed comments. Somebody asked me at  
14 the last meeting, "What is a comment? What do you  
15 consider a comment?"

16 We respond to comments that are  
17 substantive, that have reference to content.  
18 Certainly, responding with grammatical errors is  
19 great, because then we can fix them. So that's  
20 good. But think about the content and think about  
21 how we addressed your concerns when you're writing  
22 your comment letters.

23 So June 19th. Have I said it 10 times  
24 yet? I told John I was going to say that 10 times  
25 tonight. So June 19th is the last time we can get

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1 the comments in.

2 There's another meeting next Tuesday in  
3 Palm Desert. We'll be taking verbal comments.  
4 That meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:30 at the  
5 Palm Desert City Hall.

6 After June 19th, we'll be compiling and  
7 responding to comments and making the final plan a  
8 better plan. And you'll see that in September.  
9 That's the next time that you'll see something.

10 Does everybody who signed in today want a  
11 final plan mailed? Is there anybody who doesn't  
12 want a plan mailed directly to them? Okay. So be  
13 sure and sign in. If you sign in, we'll make sure  
14 you get a plan directly and you won't have to wait  
15 and get one. So if you sign in on that green  
16 sheet, we'll have one mailed directly to you.

17 Okay. So at this point we're going to  
18 open up the five-minute comment period. Again,  
19 after this five-minute comment period, we'll have  
20 a time for questions and answers. So if you can  
21 hold your questions until that time.

22 Go ahead.

23 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Great. Okay. Let  
24 me talk real briefly about how this is going to  
25 work. I'm going to call you up from the yellow

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1 speaker cards you turned in. So if any of you  
2 came in late and want to speak, please get a card  
3 from the back and give it to Jim Foote, and he'll  
4 get them up here to me and we'll call on you.

5 If you want to make comments but don't  
6 really like getting up in front of everybody to  
7 talk, you're welcome to write them out on a piece  
8 of paper or the back of the card and say, "I don't  
9 want to speak, but here's my comment" or anything  
10 like that and turn them in.

11 They all count the same. They will go  
12 into the record here with the court reporter, but  
13 if you write them, we treat them the same.  
14 Different people like to do it different ways.

15 Also, if you make your comments and then  
16 you go home and you go through the document and  
17 you find more things you wished you commented on  
18 because you didn't know it was in there, feel free  
19 to write again.

20 You're not limited to commenting only the  
21 one time. Send a letter or come next Tuesday to  
22 Palm Desert if you still want to get up in front  
23 of us some more, and we'll be glad to get your  
24 comments. We want your comments.

25 I want to tell you real briefly, Connell

30

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1 is going to be taking notes on this flip chart.  
2 That's for our use to start kind of digesting what  
3 we heard before we get the official version back  
4 from the court reporter. So don't panic.  
5 Okay. The way this is going to work is  
6 I'm going to call the first person up. We're  
7 going to ask you to state your name for the record  
8 and spell it for the court reporter. Then you  
9 have five minutes. We're going to time you. If  
10 you run out of time, we'll politely call time.  
11 You can finish your sentence and that sort of  
12 thing.  
13 It depends on you if you use your whole  
14 five minutes or not. If we have time at the end  
15 and somebody got cut off, we can maybe allow more  
16 time or if somebody needs more than the five  
17 minutes. The idea is to give as many people as  
18 possible equal time and plenty of time to share  
19 their comments.  
20 With that I want to just get started.  
21 Michael Watling.  
22 MR. WATLING: My name is Michael Watling,  
23 W-a-t-l-i-n-g. I've lived in this neighborhood  
24 for almost 30 years. I've been involved in this  
25 process since the very first meeting when it was  
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1 called something four or five names ago.  
2 The reason I got involved in it was  
3 because I talked it over with myself, and I said  
4 this neighborhood is going to change. I wish it  
5 wouldn't. I wish it would always be the same as  
6 it is today, but it isn't.  
7 It's 120 miles from the second largest  
8 city in the United States and the next development  
9 area, and it's going to change. So I got involved  
10 in this process to try to make that not happen.  
11 I've been glad about my involvement from  
12 the beginning. I am now. It seems to me that the  
13 way things are going right now is about what I  
14 expected. It's not the same as the good old days,  
15 but it's a hell of a lot better than a couple of  
16 golf courses and 25,000 people in the Pinyon  
17 Flats.  
18 So I'm involved in it not because I want  
19 things to change but because I don't want things  
20 to change. And I know they're going to change, so  
21 let's see how much. It looks to me like this is  
22 working. That's all.  
23 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you very much. Let  
24 me clarify one thing. If anybody in the Forest  
25 Service -- if you say something that we need  
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1 clarification on or if you would like to respond  
2 to this information or have a question, please get  
3 my attention and we may ask for some  
4 clarification.

5 I just realized I forgot to say that. So  
6 don't be offended if we ask you a question. It's  
7 intended to make sure that we understand your  
8 comment.

9 Okay. George Reeves.

10 MR. REEVES: My name is George Reeves,  
11 R-e-e-v-e-s. My only comment after reading  
12 through this, and I was on the Web site, I'm not a  
13 hang gliding enthusiast. I've never done it. But  
14 I also do not think it should be limited.

15 Permits, yes. And whether it lands in sheep  
16 habitat, you know, that's the way the winds blow.

17 My question really along that line is  
18 what is the maximum altitude that sheep normally  
19 run to, Rachele? I heard it was 3,000 feet.

20 MS. DUNNING: We can respond after.

21 MS. HUDDLESTON-LORTON: The critical  
22 habitat line is designated at 4,600 feet. Where  
23 we expect to find them is closer to about 3,400  
24 feet.

25 MR. REEVES: That's what I have been

1 told.

2 That brings up my comment about closing  
3 Dunn Road, because that is at the 4,000 foot  
4 level. Dunn Road is used by Desert Adventures and  
5 several other commercial companies. Now, I don't  
6 see any reason why you can't shut them down. But  
7 I live on Dunn Road at the other end of it. If  
8 you're shutting down Dunn Road, that's the end of  
9 my street. So I don't see any reason to shut down  
10 Dunn Road to us who live in that part of the  
11 country.

12 I also agree with no shooting, no paint  
13 balls and basically do not limit the recreational  
14 aspects that are nonhazardous to the environment.  
15 I don't think hang gliding is. Thank you.

16 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you very much.

17 Okay. Kate Reeves.

18 MRS. REEVES: I don't have anything more  
19 to say except I don't understand the closing of  
20 Dunn Road. We live on Dunn Road.

21 MS. WENSTROM: Is that all you want to  
22 say?

23 MRS. REEVES: Uh-huh.

24 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Thank you, Kate.

25 Bud Wellman.

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1 MR. WELLMAN: I didn't know you had my  
 2 card already.

3 MS. WENSTROM: Maybe this is from last  
 4 time. It is. Never mind. Did you want to talk?

5 MS. DUNNING: He's holding it.

6 MS. WENSTROM: Did you want to talk since  
 7 I called you, Bud?

8 MR. WELLMAN: Yeah.  
 9 Bud Wellman. I think you've got it from  
 10 last time.

11 I've got a question on the geological --

12 MS. DUNNING: Bud, could you face this  
 13 way?

14 MS. WENSTROM: So she can hear you  
 15 better.

16 MR. WELLMAN: Now you got me all  
 17 confused.

18 MS. DUNNING: I'm sorry.

19 MR. WELLMAN: In the past we've had  
 20 several incidents where they supposedly did  
 21 scientific work like on the Southwest Willow Fly  
 22 Catcher.

23 Are we going to have a way of getting  
 24 good science on anything that is put on the  
 25 endangered species list? This business of

35

1 political science is what I call it, it's nothing  
 2 more than politics to shut things down.

3 Can we have an outlet such as National  
 4 Academy of Science or somebody that can review  
 5 scientific reports if there's some question of how  
 6 good it is?

7 Another thing, hang gliders was  
 8 mentioned. Shooting. If it's supposed to be a  
 9 multiple use, why can't we include them some place  
 10 along the line? If it is multiple use, everyone  
 11 should have a chance to use the Monument. I guess  
 12 that's enough yapping. Since you wanted my card,  
 13 you can have it.

14 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you. Thanks, Bud.  
 15 Okay. Janice Christian.

16 MS. CHRISTIAN: My name is  
 17 Janice Christian, C-h-r-i-s-t-i-a-n. This is kind  
 18 of old business, but it's something that hasn't  
 19 been resolved yet. I've been locked out of my  
 20 land on Dunn Road, 40 acres that I have up there,  
 21 for way over a year. I had received letters  
 22 saying that I would receive a key again.

23 I've had a key for years and years to get  
 24 up there to my own place. And there's three  
 25 solidly-locked gates now going up there that I

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1 can't get through. I don't think that's right.  
2 I've had it appraised by the BLM. They  
3 wouldn't allow me to have my own appraiser. I had  
4 to use a BLM appraiser. I was unhappy with the  
5 low appraisal. So they did offer to buy it. I  
6 can't sell it to any outside sources. It was an  
7 investment for me I had hoped for my future.  
8 I can't sell it to outside sources with  
9 locked gates. It's ridiculous. I own half a mile  
10 of Dunn Road myself. I own the road and across it  
11 on both sides. I haven't had any satisfaction at  
12 all.  
13 I realize that I can drive down to the  
14 BLM office and get a key and sign it out and drive  
15 back up and go up there, but I have to go back  
16 down and sign the key back in again. That makes  
17 it difficult for me to go to my place. So that's  
18 all I need to say. Thank you.  
19 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you very much,  
20 Janice.  
21 Okay. Nick Steffanoff. We don't want  
22 you to you trip on the cord, so go around, if you  
23 would.  
24 MR. STEFFANOFF: Okay. I'll come up this  
25 way. I'm Nick Steffanoff, N-i-c-k

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1 S-t-e-f-f-a-n-o-f-f. I've been to several of  
2 these meetings. I have reviewed the plan, and I  
3 have sympathy for the work you're doing here.  
4 Been there, done that. It's a tough job. I think  
5 it's kind of headed in the right direction.  
6 I have one kind of generalized comment.  
7 I have reviewed the Executive Summary, and I'm  
8 wading my way through the thicker document. I do  
9 have it on CD ROM, as a matter of fact. So  
10 between them, I'm getting back up to speed.  
11 My general concern is probably one that  
12 I've heard here over and over, but is how the land  
13 use element is going to play out in this.  
14 It's easy enough to talk about saving  
15 scenic values, cultural values, the sheep, the  
16 five endangered animals and those things. But  
17 after all is said and done and with the mix of  
18 ownerships that you see and the staff of the BLM  
19 and the Forest Service everybody is more than  
20 aware of, I'm a little concerned about the land  
21 use element.  
22 I'm going to assume that what's going to  
23 happen is there's going to be probably some  
24 inventories taken. And hopefully with some sort  
25 of centralized plan, there will be some way of

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1 getting even at the county-level how their land  
2 use plan might be affected.

3 That's a question I'm sure they'll answer  
4 later, if not tonight or in the draft plan, on  
5 what is going to happen to the land use aspect of  
6 it that has to do with tribal lands, private  
7 property owners like myself and probably most of  
8 you and then all the ones in between, which are  
9 probably easier to deal with.

10 I think it comes down to what's going to  
11 happen to the private lands. I realize that the  
12 act is written, and that we are commenting on the  
13 plan, and the plan is not supposed to affect  
14 private lands.

15 Well, we've heard that before, and as you  
16 say, yeah, it does. It sounds like rather than  
17 let it hang and be affected indirectly, if you  
18 express it more directly as to what should  
19 happen -- that's what I would advocate, that it be  
20 more clearly expressed as to what are those  
21 impacts rather than what Janice was up here  
22 talking about with the road being closed, that  
23 kind of thing.

24 She's been impacted apparently directly  
25 by what's going on. So if there was a plan to

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1 start to deal with the checkerboard pattern of  
2 ownership and so forth, what does that really  
3 mean?

4 The business about dogs in the National  
5 Monument and the impact on sheep is a viable one.  
6 But it doesn't have much meaning if it's confined  
7 to federal lands and people have feral dogs  
8 running over their individual properties.

9 Riverside County has a leash law. There  
10 needs to be some enforcement on that. I'll shut  
11 up. Thanks.

12 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you very much,  
13 Nick.

14 Okay. Shawna Hawkinson.

15 MS. HAWKINSON: I think my question is  
16 going to be answered as it goes on. Thanks.

17 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you.

18 Ray, I think it's Barmore. Did I get it  
19 right? Did I murder it?

20 MR. BARMORE: Ray Barmore. More bars.  
21 First of all, I'd like to compliment everyone  
22 involved in this process, Connell and Jim. They  
23 have been out here to all hours of the night. And  
24 I think they deserve a steak dinner after all this  
25 work. They've done an outstanding job,

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1 Mr. Kenna.

2 That said, I think the frustration I have  
3 with this is that when all this planning process  
4 started, everyone jumped up and down and said,  
5 "Don't worry. Nothing is going to change.  
6 Nothing is going to change."

7 I couldn't open up the CD, so I had to  
8 glance through this tonight. Though the changes  
9 aren't earth-shaking, they are for those of us who  
10 enjoy certain recreational activity. They do  
11 restrict our activities.

12 I'm going to agree with Mr. Reeves on the  
13 hang gliding. It's very hard for me to understand  
14 how a silent glider gliding over the top of the  
15 mountains would affect the sheep.

16 Noisy helicopters, net dragging, jabbing  
17 and poking all these sheep all the time, that's  
18 perfectly good in the name of science. But a  
19 silent hang glider is going to disrupt their  
20 habitat, and they'll never breed again, that kind  
21 of gets me.

22 MRS. REEVES: Amen.

23 MR. BARMORE: On the dog issue, Pinyon  
24 Flats is roughly 4,000 or 4,500 feet. If you can  
25 control the dogs, you're going to be doing a

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1 better job than Riverside County has ever been  
2 able to. Personally, mine are inside a yard, but  
3 a lot of people do different things.

4 I guess my big point of this is I saw  
5 recreational shooting. There are those who have  
6 been shooting responsibly for a whole lot of  
7 years. If I can read what it says here on  
8 recreational shooting.

9 The impact of wildlife occupying habitat  
10 adjacent to designated shooting areas may include  
11 disrupting of feeding and displacement.

12 Is there any kind of evidence of any of  
13 that ever occurring in Pinyon because of  
14 recreational shooting? If not, why would you  
15 restrict that from shooters? Do we have any good  
16 biological evidence that recreational shooters are  
17 wiping out the living creatures in that area? If  
18 so, I'll go along with it.

19 Most of us set targets up, and we pling  
20 at tin cans. We're not out there trying to shoot  
21 Tweety Bird. We're siting in for hunting season.  
22 We're not trying to kill anything that moves.

23 Okay. Designations of shooting areas  
24 would help minimize illegally dumped -- actually,  
25 if you will talk to the recreation office,

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1 designated shooting areas have a massive amount of  
2 dumps, and you get every piece of garbage that you  
3 can possibly dump off -- refrigerators, car  
4 bodies -- while people are shooting them all up.

5 We don't have that problem in this area  
6 because our shooting is in the Forest Service  
7 land, San Bernardino National Forest. We have not  
8 had that problem.

9 So you're putting in here that problem  
10 may happen, and there is no evidence to my  
11 knowledge that it ever has happened. So someone  
12 said it could, so we have to get rid of that.  
13 Other than that, good job, guys.

14 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you. I'll give you  
15 my boss's phone number so you can tell him about  
16 the steak dinner.

17 Okay. Elizabeth Webster.

18 MS. WEBSTER: I'm Elizabeth Webster,  
19 W-e-b-s-t-e-r. I haven't had a lot of time to  
20 look at this. We got a lot of copies from the BLM  
21 where we met people there, and they put a lot of  
22 copies of this at the fire station as well. So  
23 there's, I'm sure, still extras.

24 I agree with a lot of what other people  
25 had to say; so I won't go over all of that. But I

1 had a specific comment on this document. It's  
2 Chapter 3 under "Affected Environment."

3 First of all, there are definitions of  
4 biological community I think that go down through  
5 all the -- Mesquite bosque, Desert dry wash  
6 woodland. This is page 3-14 to 3-15. 3-15 is the  
7 one I'm looking at. This relates in my mind to a  
8 later page which is 3-66 which has to do with fire  
9 management categories.

10 I cannot find anywhere here a definition  
11 of our area. We have a Peninsular Juniper  
12 Woodland and Scrub, which says it is a somewhat  
13 dense woodland dominated by California juniper  
14 rather than pinyon pine.

15 Everybody else seems to be a higher  
16 elevation, or we might have all of this plant life  
17 throughout the area. But our community, as far as  
18 I can see here, has no definition.

19 I'm sure we know that I think that's  
20 probably really important when you begin to apply  
21 fire management responsibility.

22 So we are still a non-entity in some  
23 way. Because if we are defined as a pinyon  
24 juniper woodland under fire management in  
25 Category B on page 3-66, then that requires

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1 immediate suppression as opposed to fire  
2 management Category C.

3           So if you really look at this, I have a  
4 problem with that because even under a new system  
5 of cooperation between government agencies, if our  
6 community is not defined in here, then what kind  
7 of fire management category do we fall under?

8           So that's my initial comment. And I'll  
9 give other written comments about things to do  
10 with noise and air pollution and things like  
11 that. So that's my question. Thanks very much.  
12 I'm still not through it all.

13           MS. WENSTROM: Thank you very much,  
14 Elizabeth.

15           Okay. Joe Ingram.

16           MR. INGRAM: My name is Joe Ingram,  
17 I-n-g-r-a-m. I haven't read every word of the  
18 draft, but what I did read, some of it was quite  
19 pretty well-written, parts of it. Other parts had  
20 very serious flaws, I would say, almost to a point  
21 of innuendo. By that, I mean hard to really pin  
22 down or understand what was being said. At times  
23 stuff being said was absolutely meaningless.

24           I've noticed on and on and I've expressed  
25 myself before about flawed land policies,

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1 especially from the Coachella Valley Mountains  
2 Conservancy, the people that seem to be  
3 representing us on the council, a clique of people  
4 that I believe that are doing disservice to the  
5 very thing that they claim that they're  
6 protecting -- bighorn sheep, animals, lizards,  
7 birds, whatever.

8           One thing I found particularly  
9 interesting in the draft was the history of land  
10 acquisition -- in 1917, land acquisition by the  
11 state of California. 1917. Exactly when the  
12 British were invading Iraq. It just blew my mind  
13 reading that.

14           Now, here I think it was 96,915 acres  
15 were acquired in 1917 to protect the large herds  
16 of bighorn sheep and animals, and look at the end  
17 result.

18           I read literature that I got at the BLM  
19 the day that I picked up the book there with the  
20 owl on the front by the Coachella Valley Mountains  
21 Conservancy. They have big plans to acquire  
22 another 1.2 million acres for \$150 million. I  
23 don't see any of our policy.

24           I see a guy with a jeep at the bottom of  
25 the hill that's in a \$1 million house. I see him

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1 parked up by the old drinking fountain. From what  
2 I hear from people, he kills more sheep than he  
3 saves. The sheep are -- you look at them this  
4 year and last year, they hang out around Vista  
5 Point. I've never seen them hanging out along the  
6 highway, along that elevation.

7 So the sheep are not really sheep  
8 anymore. They're just captivated,  
9 screwed-around-with animals, which is against the  
10 Federal Endangered Species Act, I believe.

11 So environmentally, I think what has  
12 happened, there are some so many groups. I mean,  
13 there are so many different abbreviations and  
14 groups in this book that they're not even in the  
15 glossary or abbreviations section.

16 So it's really hard to understand. I  
17 mean, you've really got to study this to even  
18 understand what is being discussed in the book.  
19 That's what I mean by innuendo.

20 Another point, reinterpretation of  
21 history. Whoever wrote the section on history,  
22 parts of the history are very specific about Palm  
23 Springs. There were some good parts, but there  
24 were also some parts that just left out whole  
25 sections, whole generations of people, value of

1 where the county and where the state was at at the  
2 time.

3 You can't look at history and leave out  
4 whole decades of people and things happening.  
5 Values and people change over the years. So that  
6 was very distorted.

7 The cultural aspect. "Cultural" means  
8 Indians or Native Americans. I don't know what to  
9 think about that, but it doesn't seem right to me,  
10 parts of it.

11 And I think the whole Monument plan could  
12 have been a lot better. People could have  
13 concentrated and really got into it if there  
14 wouldn't have been this clique and this outside  
15 Center for Biological Diversity lawsuit that  
16 distorted and has shut Dunn Road off and put the  
17 gates up, so we're told.

18 I still don't believe the Center for  
19 Biological Diversity is just working by  
20 themselves. I think they're a part of this  
21 clique. That's my opinion.

22 There's an article -- if you ever read  
23 the Desert Weekly, there's a whole article in the  
24 Earth Day section by Patterson, which is one of  
25 the head people in the Center for Biological

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1 Diversity.

2 If you read that, he kind of shows you  
3 some of his values. He attacks Bush, Bush's  
4 policies, but he really basically doesn't know  
5 anything about the environment, especially here.  
6 He's not from here. That's my opinion.

7 MS. DUNNING: One minute left.

8 MR. INGRAM: Okay. One more minute. And  
9 one thing I would ask from the Monument staff or  
10 the Forest Service, please give us the addresses,  
11 names, telephone numbers, fax, Web sites of who  
12 this plan is going to be sent to in congress. Who  
13 are the people in congress that are going to read  
14 this, and also in the president's advisory  
15 committee. We want to know the names, telephone  
16 numbers of the people that this plan is going to  
17 be sent to. That's it.

18 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you, Joe.

19 Okay. Darryl James.

20 MR. JAMES: I'm Darryl James, and I'm on  
21 the Pinyon Community Council. Ray, you're a  
22 pretty hard act to follow. You're pretty  
23 dynamic. But I agree. I think that you've done  
24 an excellent job in trying to put all the elements  
25 of what is needed to make this plan work. I think

1 you've got -- as it's been indicated here tonight,  
2 I think you've got a long way to go, but I think  
3 you've got a good foundation laid.

4 Just some questions that I had to ask.  
5 I've been a resident of the community for  
6 12 years. I think it's very important for us, for  
7 the residents who are here.

8 Did I understand you right? Did you say  
9 that we are not in the boundary? I looked at your  
10 boundary. It looked like the Pinyon communities  
11 were in the boundary.

12 MS. WENSTROM: By definition the  
13 community itself is excluded from the Monument.  
14 That's defined in the legislation.

15 MR. JAMES: But so far as the actual  
16 geographics, we are in it, but not --

17 MS. WENSTROM: You are within it, but you  
18 are excluded by legislation from the Monument.

19 MR. JAMES: All right. What I'd like to  
20 know, I think that we need to know what are the  
21 projections of the influx of tourists -- of people  
22 coming into the area? I think as residents, this  
23 is the thing that has everyone up here concerned.  
24 Are we looking at thousands, tens of thousands,  
25 hundreds of thousands?

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1 I think that somehow this commission  
2 needs to address itself to that point, because if  
3 we see that this is really going to be somewhat  
4 similar to what's happening over in Joshua Tree,  
5 then we better get ready for a big influx of a  
6 tremendous amount of people. That means we have  
7 to make changes in the way we live. There's no  
8 doubt about it.

9 So the second thing I'd like to know is  
10 are you envisioning a gateway city or a gateway  
11 community? Is it going to be the community down  
12 at the bottom of the hill? Because people are  
13 going to be scattering all over.

14 They're going to be stopping at the Sugar  
15 Loaf. They're going to be stopping at the fire  
16 station. I know there's going to be some changes  
17 made over at Vista Point. What about a gateway  
18 community?

19 The third thing I have to ask, and these  
20 are all dovetailed together into the same problem,  
21 the same question, the same thing that influences  
22 us as a community. That is what about our  
23 security? Are they're going to be some directives  
24 as to what type of law enforcement is going to be  
25 in effect? Because it's going to be needed if the

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1 numbers are big.

2 Again, we need to know what kind of  
3 security as far as the police is concerned. And  
4 what kind of security -- how are you going to beef  
5 up our fire protection? Thank you.

6 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you.

7 Okay. Dale Hodges.

8 MR. HODGES: Hi, neighbors. I'm  
9 Dale Hodges. I live here. I haven't really lived  
10 here long enough to figure out the difference  
11 between Pine Crest or Pinyon Crest and Alpine  
12 Village.

13 I've been on earth for 50 years, and I've  
14 seen the beaches eroded, and I'll use the  
15 euphemism here of "rock hounding." There are no  
16 sea shells from Santa Barbara to Mexico. There  
17 are no orange trees anymore. It's because the  
18 place has been cemented over.

19 The original gentleman that suggested  
20 that we're going to be able to stop some golf  
21 courses, all power to that.

22 For me personally, I think the absence of  
23 anybody from Mary Bono's office or a supervisor's  
24 office, I think that tells a lot to me  
25 personally. I'm disappointed not to see a little

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1 further participation from those offices.

2 I have a couple of things here marked in  
3 the book. I'm on page A-4, which is the  
4 appendices just after the maps in the big book. I  
5 have a little bit of a problem with the words  
6 "general" and "substantially" under the part of  
7 management plan. It says "Development of a  
8 Management Plan, in General." And then down at  
9 the bottom of that page there, it says,

10 " -- National Monument substantially  
11 consistent with current uses  
12 occurring on such lands and under  
13 the general guidelines and  
14 authorities of the existing  
15 management plans" -- then it goes to the  
16 next page --"of the Forest Service and  
17 the Bureau of Land Management  
18 for such lands, in a manner consistent  
19 with other applicable federal  
20 law."

21 Well, for me that's a red flag because  
22 the BLM doesn't have a really good track record  
23 for managing land. They're very much an  
24 extractive, almost even lobbying group, if you  
25 will. Nothing personal to the folks that are

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1 employed there. But, you know, the mining and so  
2 forth. Extraction.

3 The Forest Service, same thing. They  
4 build more roads than anybody on the planet to get  
5 these logging trucks in and out all over. So to  
6 put the management plan under their guidelines and  
7 auspices generally and substantially, it's a bit  
8 of a red flag for me.

9 Then just going down there on  
10 Appendix A-5, "Cooperative Agreements,  
11 General Authority. Consistent  
12 with the management plan and  
13 existing authorities, the  
14 secretaries," meaning Gail Norton and  
15 somebody else, probably, "may enter  
16 into cooperative agreements  
17 and shared management  
18 agreements which may include  
19 special use permits." Reed Enrond,  
20 somebody like that. That's my concerns. Okay.  
21 That's that page.

22 If you care to follow along to  
23 page 2-24 -- and as long as you're looking at this  
24 page here, I agree that the gliders got hosed on  
25 this. That's just brutal to the hang glider

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1 people.

2           So what am I reading about here? Leave  
3 No Trace. Okay. This comes from my spiritual  
4 place a little bit. I'm not into -- I think the  
5 word "natural resource" is an oxymoron. I mean,  
6 we have got this planet here, and to be taking  
7 things from it as if it were a resource for us to  
8 grind up and utilize to make even our species  
9 better, I have a little bit of a problem with  
10 that.

11           Growing food on the land and giving back  
12 to the land in a stable manner, I can work with  
13 that. But here it says "encourage geologic  
14 research in the National Monument." To me, that's  
15 about academia. If you've ever heard of Ishi,  
16 what happened to him after they found him?  
17 U.C. Berkeley found Ishi, and he was dead in  
18 10 years.

19           Restrict the collecting of rocks and  
20 minerals. Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and  
21 C.)" Halfway down the page, "Geologic  
22 Resources."

23           Again, geological resources is an  
24 oxymoron to me. Okay. "Restrict the collecting  
25 of rocks and minerals within the tufa and coral

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1 reef formations located along the watermark of  
2 Lake Cahuilla."

3           Maybe it doesn't apply to us, but the  
4 point is made. I've heard the number of maybe  
5 50,000 people coming up here to visit. If you get  
6 50,000 people taking two or three rocks back to  
7 Idaho, back to Minnesota, wherever it's going to  
8 go, it's going to be just like the beaches of  
9 California. There are no shells there.

10           These lichens -- the biologist, please --  
11 how long does it take for a lichen to grow?  
12 10,000 years maybe. 100,000. Wow. It's nice and  
13 green. It matches the carpet at the house. Boom!  
14 There it goes. There's language in here that says  
15 a reasonable amount of rocks can be taken by  
16 individuals.

17           MS. DUNNING: One minute.

18           MR. HODGES: One minute coming up. And  
19 then if you want to do it commercially, you've got  
20 to get a permit. So I don't know if you can  
21 translate that.

22           Somewhere in here it talks about  
23 cross-country bike riding. That's ridiculous. It  
24 says no cross-country bike riding. I think it's a  
25 recommendation from some committee. But it says

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1 it's okay to do cross-country horseback riding.  
 2 No for the same reason. The Monument is  
 3 too fragile. It's been here for too long, and  
 4 there are some people -- actually, these bigger  
 5 rocks are relatives, and they have a message for  
 6 us. I'd encourage you to consider their message.  
 7 But if they do start bringing in 50,000  
 8 people up here, there's a thing called an air  
 9 toilet so we don't have to use any water. Just  
 10 let the record show there's a thing called the air  
 11 toilet. It's certified by the Forest Service, if  
 12 you can imagine that, something sustainable by the  
 13 Forest Service. Thank you for your time.  
 14 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you, Dale.  
 15 Okay. Charles Clayten.  
 16 MR. CLAYTEN: I'm Charles Clayten. I'm  
 17 from Idyllwild. I'm a 32-year resident of  
 18 Idyllwild. I've been recreating on the National  
 19 forest land and within the Monument -- proposed  
 20 Monument area.  
 21 Anyway, I understand how you talked about  
 22 the Forest Service and the BLM was addressing  
 23 other issues like OHVs and shooting. But I just  
 24 want to see that the language regarding those is  
 25 in that Monument document.

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1 For instance, I'd like to see no more  
 2 closures of existing roads and spurs, which are  
 3 currently legal for travel by street-legal  
 4 four-wheel-drive, motorcycle and SUVs. That's to  
 5 keep the roads open for recreational use and for  
 6 fire fighting needs.  
 7 I would like to propose a redesignation  
 8 of Santa Rosa Mountain Road to allow for OHV use.  
 9 I want to continue hunting opportunities per the  
 10 Department of Fish & Game regulations. I realize  
 11 there's a lot of game refuge in the Monument, but  
 12 I don't want to lose any more hunting  
 13 opportunities.  
 14 I'd like to continue dispersed  
 15 recreational target shooting as opposed to  
 16 designated areas. As Ray was saying, all the  
 17 trash stays in those designated areas as opposed  
 18 to dispersed. In my opinion, less use.  
 19 The one thing the guy was talking about,  
 20 maintain forest health and the fire issues, which  
 21 we talked about at those other meetings -- you  
 22 know, sustainable yield of the forest. There's a  
 23 big timber stand that's all dead on Santa Rosa.  
 24 I'd like to see some kind of maintenance happening  
 25 up there. That's within the Monument.

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1 I'd like to continue mountain bike  
2 opportunities on existing roads and trails. I'd  
3 also like to reopen Dunn Road for street-legal  
4 access and fire fighting personnel as well.  
5 That's it. Ray gets the rest of my minutes.  
6 Thank you.  
7 MR. REEVES: Dunn Road is open for fire  
8 fighting.  
9 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you. Is there  
10 anybody else that hasn't done a speaker form that  
11 would like to? Okay. Go ahead and give your  
12 name.  
13 MR. WOODS: Good evening. My name is  
14 John Woods, conventional spelling. I don't have a  
15 lot of comments, but I do have a lot of  
16 questions. I think that since the people that are  
17 here tonight that are from this community are  
18 basically the only voices this community has  
19 regarding this plan, then you all should be asking  
20 at least some of these questions.  
21 I'm concerned about -- first of all, I've  
22 been concerned all along about on this plan, how  
23 do our comments affect the plan? Who makes the  
24 decisions on those comments? Is this a political  
25 process that's voted on?

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1 Is this a process whereby the Advisory  
2 Committee says, "That's what we're going to do.  
3 Let's do it." The BLM makes the decisions? I  
4 really don't know the answer to that. I don't  
5 know how many people here do.  
6 We have an issue about access that I  
7 think Darryl James brought up. The access that  
8 I'm concerned about is where is the access up here  
9 in the Pinyon communities? Highway 74 cuts right  
10 through the Monument. We're dead smack in the  
11 middle. Although we're not in the Monument, we're  
12 completely surround by the Monument.  
13 So when people come up here to access the  
14 Monument, how do they do that? The proposal, or I  
15 should say the Monument Advisory Committee at one  
16 point -- I don't know where it's at now -- advised  
17 that there be an access point off of Palm Canyon.  
18 This would be coming in from Highway 74 to the  
19 gate at Palm Canyon where it starts Dunn Road.  
20 Now, that means traffic, facilities,  
21 health issues, PM-10 dust issues, a lot of issues  
22 to be looked at. Alpine Village. Palm Canyon  
23 runs right through the center of the Alpine  
24 Village tract.  
25 Alpine Village is a private tract, and

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1 those are private roads. So it's a question you  
2 might ask. How are the people going to access the  
3 Monument when they come off of Highway 74?

4 I'd like to know when we're talking about  
5 sheep habitat, Connell brought up an issue that  
6 was in the Executive Summary that I guess was  
7 talking about the hang gliders and referred to the  
8 essential bighorn sheep habitat.

9 Rachele, you brought up an issue about  
10 the critical bighorn sheep habitat. One of the  
11 questions that I'd like to know -- and I know a  
12 lot of people here know it, and I probably could  
13 pull it up if I remembered it -- how many acres  
14 are the entire Monument? Out of those total acres  
15 of the entire Monument, how many of those acres  
16 are critical sheep habitat? How many of those  
17 acres are essential sheep habitat?

18 If you have a restriction on use, say  
19 like with the hang gliders, due to essential sheep  
20 habitat, what about the rest of the acreage in the  
21 Monument? Or is the whole Monument essential  
22 sheep habitat? I really don't know.

23 I think for any use of the Monument, I  
24 think when we have the huge acreage that we have,  
25 unless that whole acreage of the Monument is

1 concerned with essential or critical sheep  
2 habitat, than this plan proposes to shut down a  
3 lot of legitimate uses of that acreage of those  
4 square miles, one of them hang gliding.

5 I know everybody has their pros and cons,  
6 but if we can be as objective as possible, these  
7 are public lands. If you're going to manage  
8 public lands, then why are we restricting the  
9 reasonable use of those public lands to the  
10 public?

11 So things like hang gliding, recreational  
12 shooting, things that have been in effect legally  
13 in areas of the Monument, this plan is proposing  
14 to shut that use down. I certainly disagree with  
15 that. Public lands. The public should be able to  
16 use them.

17 Now, Janice Christian brought up an issue  
18 about her property. What happened to the doctrine  
19 of the willing seller? How is that corrupted by  
20 the process where the BLM is the only person or  
21 only entity that's going to appraise that private  
22 property? So what good is it being a willing  
23 seller?

24 These are all questions I have. They're  
25 not really comments, but I think they're things we

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1 all need to take into consideration. Thanks.

2 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you. Okay. Anybody  
3 else that wants to do a speaker card? Okay.

4 MS. DUNNING: Okay. We're going to take  
5 a short break for a couple of minutes.

6 MS. WENSTROM: And then we'll do  
7 questions and answers after that.

8 (Off the record.)

9 (Brief recess taken.)

10 MS. DUNNING: This is a time that we're  
11 going to have for questions and answers. A lot of  
12 you might have the same questions. So if you  
13 could all kind of quiet down, get your question  
14 all ready in your head. Okay.

15 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Who has a  
16 question?

17 MR. HODGES: I do. Dale Hodges again.

18 MS. DUNNING: Actually, could you come up  
19 to the front? I know it seems kind of odd, but  
20 it's hard for our court reporter to hear you.  
21 Thanks.

22 MR. HODGES: Thanks for this. This is  
23 good. So did I read this properly that it was two  
24 years after the fact that you invited indigenous  
25 people to get into the process, and that you're

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1 primarily hooked into the Agua Caliente tribe for  
2 resources? Did I read that properly?

3 MS. DUNNING: Okay. So the question was  
4 did we wait two years to involve interested  
5 tribes?

6 MR. HODGES: No. The question was the  
7 initial letter sent to the indigenous two years  
8 after? The initial letter.

9 MS. DUNNING: I'm not sure what letter  
10 you're referring to. They were invited to be  
11 involved in the process prior to the Monument even  
12 being designated.

13 MR. HODGES: Okay.

14 MS. DUNNING: Yeah. There's been a  
15 series of consultations prior to the Monument  
16 being designated, at the Monument's designation.

17 I think the letter you're referring to is  
18 a letter for consultation purposes. We did send  
19 out letters to 11 tribes. We did so for the  
20 scoping process. We have a  
21 government-to-government relationship with the  
22 tribes. So that letter tracks that.

23 The second part of your question was are  
24 we mainly working with the Agua Caliente tribe?  
25 Because the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

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1 falls within the boundaries of the Monument, there  
2 certainly a large part of how we're working  
3 together and how we hope to coordinate within the  
4 boundaries of the Monument.

5 And Agua Caliente is mentioned within the  
6 legislation. They actively wanted to be a part of  
7 that legislation and worked to do so.

8 Now, Michael Kellner is here with Agua  
9 Caliente. He's been a part of what we've been  
10 doing to try to bring in all of the other tribes,  
11 and Agua Caliente has offered to kind of serve as  
12 a conduit to help bring in additional tribal  
13 interests and concerns.

14 MS. WENSTROM: We have made visits to  
15 various other tribal forums. I know we did a  
16 meeting specifically with the Santa Rosa tribe  
17 after this meeting here last year.

18 They're mentioned in the legislation.  
19 The Agua Caliente do have a spot on the Advisory  
20 Committee by the legislation. Thank you for the  
21 question and the clarification. We appreciate the  
22 opportunity to clear that up.

23 Any additional questions? Yeah.

24 MR. BARMORE: Something near and dear to  
25 all of us up here, and that is fire management and

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1 fuel management. What is the Monument plan for  
2 proper fuel management in the way of fuel breaks,  
3 added crews?

4 With all these people coming up, we have  
5 the increase of fire hazards. What are you doing  
6 to lessen the impacts on that? What is in there  
7 in the way of help from the BLM for the Monument  
8 for fire suppression and fuel management?

9 MS. DUNNING: The question was from  
10 Ray Barmore. It was concerning fire and fuels.  
11 There's an interagency fire group that will be  
12 meeting to address those concerns specifically.

13 It was important for that group to have  
14 the BLM and the Forest Service establish land  
15 health standards and habitat conservation  
16 objectives specific to fuels management and what  
17 habitat needs are there in terms of fire,  
18 long-term and looking at fire history.

19 That overlaid what structures need to be  
20 defended in a fire situation. That interagency  
21 fire group is going to look at all of that stuff  
22 together and develop an interagency fire plan  
23 following the Monument plan. They're just getting  
24 started.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is Tom Sherman involved

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1 in that?

2 MS. DUNNING: Tom Sherman will be  
3 involved with that, yes.

4 MS. WENSTROM: I know right now fuels is  
5 a tremendous issue on the Forest Service plan  
6 because we have so much dead trees and dead  
7 brush. We actually have been working in both  
8 counties on the forest to try and address fuels  
9 treatment. This is independent of the Monument.  
10 It is not exclusive to the Monument.

11 In fact, the Monument, having a lot of  
12 wilderness, is probably not going to receive quite  
13 as much attention. But we are doing some work.  
14 We are doing a triage to try to address the most  
15 critical areas.

16 Those include fuel breaks around  
17 communities, making sure we try and take hazard  
18 trees down off the evacuation routes. So if we do  
19 get an incident, we can get people out of there.  
20 And trying to protect our communication sites, so  
21 that we'll maintain radio contact and that kind of  
22 thing if needed in an emergency.

23 We've done fuel breaks in Idyllwild, and  
24 we're starting to work on the Pine Cove area.  
25 Laurie was telling me Pinyon is a little bit more

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1 complex to do, but Pinyon is on the books also.

2 It is still triage. We can only do what  
3 we have the resources to do, and there isn't  
4 enough people for every tree out there. But I did  
5 want you to know, because I know that's a concern.  
6 for everybody up here.

7 If you have more questions, Laurie or  
8 myself can talk to you. Jim, do you want to talk  
9 about it?

10 MR. KENNA: Well, it's the perfect  
11 opportunity. I want to also do one other thing,  
12 because I do this in a lot of the communities. I  
13 want to plug fire safe councils.

14 This is something that is really  
15 important to both the BLM and the Forest Service.  
16 We're working around Southern California with a  
17 lot of communities on these issues. And a key  
18 mechanism for that is the Fire Safe Council.

19 So I know that's going to get going up  
20 here. I guess I'm trying to tell you we're  
21 supporters of that forum and encourage your  
22 involvement. I think that could provide some good  
23 opportunities as we work through the issues that  
24 Ray talked about.

25 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you for jumping in.

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1           Okay. Additional questions?

2           MR. STEFFANOFF: I'd be curious to hear a

3 quick overview of Dunn Road, the history and it's

4 current status. I keep hearing all this stuff

5 about Dunn Road. So from somebody at BLM or

6 whoever.

7           MRS. REEVES: Can I add to that? I know

8 California state law does not allow land locking

9 property. I realize the feds trump the state, but

10 it just doesn't seem right that they closed a road

11 that we use always.

12           MS. DUNNING: Okay. That was

13 Nick Steffanoff before.

14           MR. STEFFANOFF: Yeah. Sorry.

15           MR. KENNA: I can do that. Jim Kenna,

16 BLM. Dunn Road, a couple of things. The Dunn

17 Road situation in history is complicated, and

18 probably most of you know that better than I do.

19 But let me talk a little about the about recent

20 history, specifically some comments that came up

21 tonight about the lawsuit.

22           The lawsuit clearly had some impacts on

23 Dunn Road and it's availability and its use. It

24 placed some fairly significant constraints on BLM

25 as to who could have a key to the gate.

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1 Traditionally, gate keys were available a lot more

2 easily.

3           Well, we signed a record of decision on

4 the Coachella Valley Plan Amendment which includes

5 Dunn Road. The designation of that road under

6 that plan is it has been acknowledged as a road in

7 a road system. It will be available for

8 administrative use, and it will be available for

9 other uses under a permitted basis.

10           Dunn Road has been locked behind a locked

11 gate since it was built in the 60's.

12           MRS. REEVES: Not from our end.

13           MR. KENNA: That's the second point that

14 I was going to make. There's a portion of Dunn

15 Road to which we have no control -- the BLM. This

16 was mentioned I think in John's comment.

17           There's a portion between Highway 74 and

18 when you get to the point where you reach public

19 land which there is no public easement across. So

20 obviously, we don't have control over all of Dunn

21 Road if you take it out to Highway 74.

22           What we will do, we will work with the

23 land owners who are behind the gate. That

24 particular piece of the lawsuit changed once we

25 got out from under it and sign the record of

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1 decision in December. So I do have some  
2 flexibility that I didn't have before. We will  
3 work with land owners behind the gate on keys.  
4 Was there another aspect of Dunn Road  
5 that somebody asked a question of?  
6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: If you'll have jeep  
7 tours come through, will they have to go back the  
8 way they came so they go through to the finish?  
9 MR. KENNA: I don't know the answer to  
10 that.  
11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: There are portions of  
12 that.  
13 MR. KENNA: Yeah. There are two reasons  
14 that I can't tell you the answer to that. One is  
15 we don't have a current active application. We do  
16 have a decision in the Coachella Valley Plan  
17 Amendment that says Dunn Road will be available  
18 for permitted uses in the fall months, which is  
19 outside of sheep landing.  
20 But it does have to go through a  
21 biological opinion process. I couldn't tell you  
22 what the outcome of that is going to be until we  
23 have an application and went through it.  
24 That really would deal with some of the  
25 specifics like what you're asking about, exactly

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1 what would be the constraints on use.  
2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: They're using our  
3 neighborhood.  
4 MS. DUNNING: I don't know that that's  
5 true. It may not be. Obviously, we don't have  
6 the ability to give authorization to use a road  
7 that does not have a public easement.  
8 MS. WENSTROM: I'm hearing a question  
9 that what you would really like to get across is  
10 that -- am I correct that you don't really want  
11 your neighborhood used for the tours?  
12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No. I think they  
13 should have to turn around and go back the way  
14 they came. They shouldn't be able to use the  
15 roads that we have to maintain for their being  
16 paid for. They get paid to go up and down the  
17 road whether we want them there or not.  
18 MR. KENNA: Fair point.  
19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's like the  
20 bicyclists using our community. Same thing, you  
21 know.  
22 MR. REEVES: Historically, Desert  
23 Adventures came in through the Cathedral City gate  
24 and came up as far as the picnic benches where the  
25 Art Smith Trail dead-ends. They would come on

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1 down a couple more miles and turn around and go  
2 back. I don't think I ever saw them come clear  
3 across.  
4 MS. WEBSTER: Well, I did. I live on  
5 Palm Canyon. I used to see them come all the  
6 way. I've seen them come by my house.  
7 MS. DUNNING: If you have a question, I  
8 know it breaks the conversation, but we need you  
9 to step forward or stand up to project your  
10 question so that you will be able to make sense of  
11 this when you read it. There's about 15 minutes  
12 left for some questions.  
13 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Joe.  
14 MR. INGRAM: I'd like an explanation. Do  
15 I have to come up here?  
16 MS. DUNNING: Yes, please.  
17 MR. INGRAM: I'd like an explanation of  
18 what is meant by "landscape level approach,  
19 landscaped base approach, landscape species  
20 protection" in regards to the CVMSHCP and the  
21 NCCP. Thank you.  
22 MS. WENSTROM: Thank you for asking for  
23 clarification of all that jargon.  
24 MS. DUNNING: The first question.  
25 Landscape level approach is a term that we use as

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1 opposed to looking solely within the BLM box of  
2 land ownership and putting lines on a map that are  
3 BLM lines of boundary, we're trying to expand that  
4 and think rather than these imaginary lines of  
5 boundary, we're trying to think of the landscape,  
6 the whole region.  
7 We tried to erase all the lines in our  
8 heads and think what does the landscape need. So  
9 when we use that term landscape, you can  
10 substitute the word "regional" or "overview" or  
11 "large scale." That's what that's referring to.  
12 CVMSHCP refers to the Coachella Valley  
13 Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.  
14 That's a plan that isn't out to the public yet for  
15 review. It should be sometime in the summer.  
16 That plan started several years ago and  
17 is a plan that the cities are working on with the  
18 county and BLM together. That trails plan that I  
19 mentioned is a part of this.  
20 It's important to have all the cities,  
21 each of the cities who own land, to all agree on  
22 where the trails are going to go, because you  
23 don't want to start and walk two feet and come to  
24 a sign, and there's Agua Caliente land, and then  
25 come to a sign, and then there's Palm Springs

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1 land.

2 So we're trying to all work together

3 through this process. That's a habitat

4 conservation plan of which there are several going

5 on in different areas.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is there a

7 representative of the Pinyon area on that?

8 MR. INGRAM: That's what I was going to

9 ask.

10 MS. DUNNING: I believe every fourth

11 Thursday, there's a meeting that's open to the

12 public. I don't know if any Pinyon community

13 members have come to that or have been. But they

14 have them at 9:00 every fourth Thursday down at

15 the Coachella Valley Association of Governments.

16 There's a sheet of paper in the back.

17 It's called "How can I stay involved?" If you

18 turn on the back, there's a Web page for that

19 specific plan.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is that 9 a.m. when

21 working people have to be at their jobs?

22 MS. DUNNING: It is at 9 a.m.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So how is it truly an

24 invitation to us to have a meeting at a time

25 that's unaccessible?

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1 MS. DUNNING: I think there are other

2 avenues of getting input and updates on that

3 plan. It's at a point now where the scoping

4 period -- you know, we came last year and we got

5 scoping comments. So that period is kind of

6 ended.

7 But what these meetings are is a general

8 update. They post everything word-for-word. They

9 have a person, you know, taking all of that

10 information. They post those on their Internet

11 site.

12 You can go and download that and see

13 exactly what was talked about and what the update

14 is. But they're not at a point now where they're

15 opening it up for comment. They did that.

16 Now they're working on kind of

17 fine-tuning it. And the next step where there

18 will be a time for you to go physically will be

19 when that's open or when there's a public draft,

20 which we think will be in the summer or fall.

21 This fall. So that will be a real important

22 opportunity. They will have meetings, many

23 meetings, to explain that plan.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We feel like all the

25 cities down there who get to be involved are all

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1 making plans for what they're going to do with our  
2 lives, and we don't get to be involved. I think  
3 that's the problem.

4 MS. DUNNING: I'm not going to debate  
5 that you feel that way, of course. A lot of their  
6 issues do revolve around the lower elevation  
7 areas, a lot of issues and the potential trail  
8 impacts.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: At the moment, because  
10 they haven't really looked and seen them.

11 MS. DUNNING: Well, I think in terms of  
12 being a part of the processes that are going to  
13 affect your landscape, the fact that there's so  
14 much Forest Service land nearby and your being a  
15 part of the forest planning process is really a  
16 very good place for you guys to be right now.

17 Certainly, take a look at that Web page  
18 for that plan. We'll make sure that you're  
19 notified of when that becomes available to the  
20 public.

21 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Different question  
22 over here?

23 MS. WEBSTER: Elizabeth again. I had two  
24 questions. One was related to this fire safe  
25 council. How is that a mechanism for helping to

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1 determine what the kind of response would be to  
2 the larger numbers coming into the Monument?

3 My comment had to do with if we're not  
4 defined, but immediate suppression is a goal. So  
5 is that fire safe council something that feeds  
6 into the larger picture that way and is not just  
7 something that has to do with, you know, weed  
8 trimming?

9 And then I'm curious about how all of  
10 you -- what you see as defining our community?  
11 You talk about community and community boundaries  
12 or within the Monument or how you see, you know,  
13 we're not a city. So we're not recognized in that  
14 way. I feel that that's an ongoing problem.

15 Someone said how do comments we make feed  
16 in so that they are actually reflected? Is it  
17 numbers of comments on an issue? So those are my  
18 two questions.

19 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. The first one was  
20 about fire safe councils. Okay. Fire safe  
21 councils give the community an avenue to discuss  
22 what's important to them. So they only deal just  
23 with maybe clear around your home or something if  
24 that's what you want them to do.

25 They give the community an avenue to work

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1 on the problems that are most important to them.  
2 So in some areas it might be education for  
3 community members on how to clear around their  
4 home. I know a lot of that is going on in the  
5 Arrowhead side of the San Bernardino forest.

6 In other areas it might be need for  
7 street signing so the fire engines can find your  
8 home, or it might be something else. But what it  
9 does is give you organization, discussion, a  
10 regular forum with the agency folks to talk about  
11 the places where the lands interchange and the  
12 issues, where they interchange.

13 I think it makes you part of involving  
14 yourself and working on the fire issues as opposed  
15 to just sitting back and saying, "Agencies, you  
16 need to do a better job of that."

17 So that's in general the concept. There  
18 are Web sites about fire safe councils. I'm not  
19 sure what all has been going on here.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER. The Community Fire Safe  
21 Council meets the second Thursday of every month,  
22 Lot 51, Pinyon Crest, 7 p.m.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Lot 90.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Oh, Lot 90? Okay.  
25 Lot 90.

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1 MS. WENSTROM: So if that was the issue  
2 the community wanted, to really work with the  
3 agencies better on anticipating impacts of these  
4 additional folks, then I'm certain that the  
5 agencies would work with you on that. It gives  
6 you like an avenue to do that.

7 We kind of heard loud and clear the last  
8 time we were here that folks didn't want all those  
9 visitors in this community. I heard that quite a  
10 lot.

11 MS. WEBSTER: If they are coming through,  
12 say we have 74 on Santa Rosa Mountain,  
13 particularly, you know, let's say that's a  
14 reality, the signage or whatever that we have that  
15 increased volume, it is going to have an impact.  
16 Fire will happen. It just seems that it happens  
17 throughout everywhere that is a large public  
18 area.

19 This is such -- I mean, when you look at  
20 Santa Rosa Mountains, that's the concern. It does  
21 affect our community, even though it is -- you  
22 know, this is where we are, but we are not of, but  
23 because it is, but it isn't.

24 MS. WENSTROM: We sure hear that you want  
25 to be involved. We're really glad that

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1 communities are getting involved. As Jim said, it  
2 makes things a lot easier. Thank you for pointing  
3 that out. I appreciate your getting involved.

4 I heard you ask a question. Now I get to  
5 ask a question. It was about -- oh, shoot. It's  
6 in my head.

7 MS. DUNNING: Right here.

8 MS. WEBSTER: How you're defining our  
9 community.

10 MS. WENSTROM: Oh.

11 MS. WEBSTER: In other words, the  
12 community boundary, that definition. And how,  
13 then, all the comments that are being made --  
14 what's the weight of the comments?

15 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Okay. When I refer  
16 to your community in terms of a fuel break that  
17 will be going in for community protection, that's  
18 probably a little different than the legislation  
19 defining a distinct area that is exempt.

20 But essentially, I guess in terms of the  
21 community -- in terms of your involvement, it  
22 doesn't matter. The definition of who is in the  
23 community and who is out does not matter. We want  
24 to hear all the comments. We want to involve and  
25 address your concerns.

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1 Hopefully, the folks that are doing the  
2 planning for the fuel break that I mentioned,  
3 particularly if you had a fire safe council, then  
4 we will be doing that work with you involved and  
5 be sure that we put that in a place that's going  
6 to affect everybody.

7 We can look at the private land  
8 boundaries and kind of look at the topography, but  
9 I don't think anybody is saying, "No. These  
10 people are in and these people are out, and those  
11 people are legislated out, and their comments  
12 there count," if that's kind of what your concern  
13 is.

14 The comments, we don't take votes. So  
15 sending 10,000 postcards with the same thing on it  
16 is not particularly helpful. What's most helpful  
17 to me is hearing folks say, "Hey, I really have a  
18 concern about this, and the plan isn't clear about  
19 that" -- we heard some those things tonight -- so  
20 we can make a plan that we can work with.

21 We want to be able with the community to  
22 implement it. You are key to implementing it.  
23 It's the content and things that help us improve  
24 it.

25 In general, comments that say, "I like

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1 this or I don't like that" are more difficult than  
2 the comments that say, "You know, this is a  
3 concern to me and this is why." It's more helpful  
4 because it helps us understand what's behind it  
5 and to improve the plan.

6 Does that kind of address your concern  
7 about how comments are used?

8 MS. WEBSTER: Yeah.

9 MS. WENSTROM: There's not more weight to  
10 the Coachella Valley than up here.

11 MS. WEBSTER: That's really the gist of  
12 the question in terms of the weight that had to do  
13 with all these other questions and meetings.

14 MS. WENSTROM: No. There's not a  
15 meeting. Typically, where you have an area that's  
16 this large, your comments will relate more to the  
17 area that you're closest to, and theirs may be  
18 more about the general geographic area. That kind  
19 of goes to the issue of the habitat.

20 But we try to address each and every  
21 comment and look at the concerns for what they  
22 are, and we don't look at your address, except to  
23 make sure you get the finished plan.

24 Okay. Yeah. Question here, then I'll  
25 get back to the back.

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1 MR. WOODS: I would like to say, first of  
2 all, that I do appreciate this process. Questions  
3 were asked about the processes of various agencies  
4 and how we kind of get overlooked up here. But we  
5 do that with every agency.

6 I think if you just think about it a  
7 little bit, how often do you see, you know, a  
8 local, a county, a state/federal agency or any  
9 kind of process where they come up here and have a  
10 meeting for public comment from us? So I do  
11 appreciate this process.

12 You've been giving some answers to the  
13 questions, and you've said a lot of "we's." I  
14 think that kind of leads to answering one of my  
15 questions in terms of the comments affecting the  
16 plan and who makes the decisions.

17 So I'm guessing that this plan is  
18 something that the BLM and Forest Service together  
19 work to decide based on their history and  
20 experience, background, the comments from the  
21 public, and internally they make a decision on  
22 each of these items in the plan. The plan comes  
23 out.

24 The draft plan that you have now, what  
25 I'd like to know is just what is the plan? Is the

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1 plan something that is like an ordinance? Is it  
2 something that is a guideline for BLM and the  
3 Forest Service? Does it have the weight of law?

4 The Forest Service and the BLM, do they  
5 enforce everything in this plan once it's adopted  
6 by the BLM and Forest Service? There's no  
7 political process here in terms of approval for  
8 this other than internally with the BLM and Forest  
9 Service?

10 That's some of my questions.  
11 Additionally, I'd like to go back to the issue  
12 about the habitat. If you can tell me how many  
13 square miles or acres are included in the entire  
14 Monument boundaries, and how many of those are BLM  
15 and Forest land.

16 And of the BLM and Forest land, which is  
17 what we're here to talk about tonight, how many of  
18 those acres are essential or critical sheep  
19 habitat? And define the difference so we all  
20 understand what the restrictions are.

21 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. I'm going to hold  
22 that one, and Rachele, you remember all the parts  
23 of that for me.

24 MS. HUDDLESTON-LORTON: Connell is  
25 writing it down for me.

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1 MS. WENSTROM: As far as the decisions,  
2 the Forest Service and the BLM do make the  
3 decision. It doesn't have to get congressional  
4 approval. It doesn't go back to them to say yes,  
5 you did right or you did wrong.

6 The Advisory Committee is there to assist  
7 us and to provide input and help in sorting out  
8 some of the discussion, and they have done that.

9 Danella, do you want to clarify anything  
10 more?

11 MS. GEORGE: The Advisory Committee does  
12 have a great deal of weight on that legislation to  
13 specifically advise the Secretaries in the  
14 preparation and the implementation of the plan.

15 So that committee does have a lot of  
16 weight. And it's very participatory, just like  
17 these meetings here. The public is always  
18 welcome. They meet every other month on the first  
19 Saturday. We have been for a year; right, Ed?

20 We have public comment periods. We have  
21 it now from 11:00 to 12:00. We have them on  
22 Saturdays because we wanted to be responsive to  
23 people that work. So that is very, very  
24 important.

25 The record of decision that will be

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1 signed by the Regional Forester and the State  
2 Director, State Director of Bureau of Land  
3 Management and the Regional Forester for the U.S.  
4 Forest Service for Region 5 will sign the record  
5 of decision.  
6 It will be with a lot of discussion with  
7 Jim Kenna and Gene Zimmerman and Laurie Rosenthal  
8 and myself and the community planners for what  
9 those final alternative decisions would be or  
10 strategies that are in the document.  
11 And there will be an appeal period or  
12 protest period that Connell can talk about. It  
13 was on the time line.  
14 Does that answer some of it, John?  
15 MR. WOODS: Yes.  
16 MS. GEORGE: All right.  
17 MS. WENSTROM: There was another piece  
18 that you asked. It was does it have the force of  
19 law? In the things that we do, there's law and  
20 there's regulation that implements the law, and  
21 then there's the plan, which is for direction.  
22 For the most part, yeah, it's a  
23 requirement. It doesn't just get overturned by  
24 political pressure, but it can change a little  
25 more easily than law, for example, because it's

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1 within our control as opposed to having to go back  
2 to congress to change pieces of it.  
3 One thing about plans is they give us a  
4 direction to go. I know this with our land  
5 management plan. We don't always implement  
6 everything in it. That's just a piece just to  
7 know that we can use it as a direction to go.  
8 It's kind of like your county general  
9 plans and zoning plans. It tells you what kinds  
10 of things are allowed where. We don't write it  
11 just for putting a paper together. We do it to  
12 implement it and enforce it.  
13 Now, let's get to the habitat portion of  
14 your question.  
15 Can you help me with that?  
16 MS. HUDDLESTON-LORTON: Sure. The total  
17 acreage in terms of the Monument is 272,000.  
18 About 90,000 of that is BLM. It looks like 65,000  
19 is Forrest Service, and there's about 187,685  
20 acres of essential habitat. That's within the  
21 Monument boundary.  
22 MS. DUNNING: Slow down.  
23 MS. HUDDLESTON-LORTON: Sorry. In terms  
24 of essential habitat versus critical habitat,  
25 essential habitat was defined and delineated by

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1 the Fish & Wildlife Service in the recovery plan  
2 which was released in October of 2000 by the Fish  
3 & Wildlife Service.

4 That line was drawn based on elevation,  
5 based on where they have seen sheep historically  
6 and trying to encompass all habitat that's  
7 necessary for bighorn sheep to have all the  
8 necessary requirements for feeding or foraging --  
9 same thing -- bedding, mating, and rearing of  
10 their young. So there's a real biological  
11 definition to essential habitat.

12 Critical habitat is pretty much the same  
13 thing except that it is in the regulatory  
14 context. It's something that Fish & Wildlife  
15 Service has the authority to do under the  
16 Endangered Species Act. It requires the Federal  
17 Register notices apprising the public that it has  
18 been propose. They take public comments, and then  
19 they publish their final rule. So that's  
20 basically the difference.

21 MS. WENSTROM: I believe critical  
22 habitat, we have to consult if we make changes to  
23 the habitat and not just direct changes to the  
24 animals; is that correct?

25 MS. HUDDLESTON-LORTON: If federal action

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1 has the potential to adversely modify critical  
2 habitat, yes. We have to consult with the  
3 Fish & Wildlife Service, yes.

4 MS. WENSTROM: I do want to clear up  
5 something that was said earlier, because somebody  
6 asked a question about designation of habitat.  
7 That is not within the purview of either the BLM  
8 or the Forest Service. That is done by the U.S.  
9 Fish & Wildlife Service. I know there are  
10 concerns about that in this case. We appreciate  
11 that. We were not the ones.

12 MS. HUDDLESTON-LORTON: If I could  
13 just -- Elizabeth, your comment about leaving  
14 Pinyon Pine's vegetation community out of the  
15 plan, that was an oversight and that will be  
16 corrected. Thank you very much for bringing that  
17 to our attention. That's a done deal.

18 MS. WEBSTER: That would be great.

19 MR. WOODS: I have a question regarding  
20 the example that Connell gave for hang gliders  
21 based on that essential habitat. The reason I was  
22 asking is because you're dealing with BLM and  
23 Forest Service lands and not the overall.

24 So the question had to do with of those  
25 90,000 acres BLM manages, how much of that is

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1 critical or essential habitat? And if it's all  
2 critical or essential habitat, I can see where the  
3 restriction in your plan would be hang gliders  
4 aren't going to go there because it's essential  
5 habitat.

6 MS. WENSTROM: What I'm hearing is we  
7 need to identify where that doesn't apply so  
8 people can tell. Is that what I'm hearing?

9 MR. WOODS: No. I think if you identify  
10 the acreage where it doesn't apply, it would give  
11 people a much better idea of how much acreage  
12 should be available for recreational use.

13 MS. WENSTROM: Right. Because right now  
14 you can't look at the plan and tell where you can  
15 hang glide or not.

16 MR. WOODS: Right.

17 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. That's very  
18 helpful, because then we'll know how to fix it.

19 Okay. I was going to go back here after  
20 you. Did you have a question?

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My concern is with  
22 safety in the neighborhood. Right now who is  
23 going to govern --

24 MS. WENSTROM: Come on up so we can hear  
25 you, and give us your name so we can get you in

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1 the record. I'm hearing a comment.

2 MS. PETIT: Just one comment, but I do  
3 have a question. My name is Mary Petit. I'm  
4 concerned with the safety and the privacy of the  
5 community.

6 Who is going to protect us from the  
7 influx of people in our neighborhood and also  
8 protect us from the crime that comes with the  
9 influx of people?

10 MS. DUNNING: Okay. I think the first  
11 step of that is monitoring. How do we know how  
12 many tourists are coming up here, and where are  
13 they going. We need a feedback loop to know are  
14 you getting five tourists at your door knocking  
15 and not knowing where they're going?

16 Our way of responding to that is to work  
17 with you to get signs posted. We can't put signs  
18 that say "Do Not Enter" on non-federal property.

19 So that would be something that we would  
20 work together long-term to identify where are  
21 these spots where it looks like people are heading  
22 off in the wrong direction. So those are ways  
23 that we would kind of deflect and defer.

24 What we think about in terms of the  
25 Pinyon community and you not wanting people here

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1 is think about Highway 74 as a big people mover  
2 and how you keep them going, going, going.

3 One way we can do it with our signs is  
4 "Visitor Center, 10 miles." That way people know  
5 if they turn left and they head down your road,  
6 they're not going to come to the visitor center.  
7 So we have ways of trying to help direct tourists  
8 as they come. That's step one.

9 Step 2 is we do have law enforcement  
10 rangers -- Forest Service and BLM rangers assigned  
11 to the federal lands within the Monument. We need  
12 to know are there trouble areas? Are there places  
13 where we need more control? That's also feedback  
14 that we need information from you in terms of  
15 those federal areas, and are things happening  
16 where we need a little bit more enforcement? We  
17 don't know until a problem comes up.

18 MS. PETIT: So you'll work with us?

19 MS. DUNNING: Yes.

20 MS. PETIT: Now, I think having bicycle  
21 riders on the Sawmill Trail, which is already  
22 established, is a very good idea. However, when  
23 they're in our neighborhood, because we don't have  
24 sidewalks and gutters, they don't recognize this  
25 as a neighborhood. So they feel they can go

1 wherever they please. They would not want us in  
2 their neighbor, you know, picnicking on their  
3 lawn. So that's the concern with that.

4 How do we keep them off of there?

5 MS. DUNNING: One good thing to do is  
6 there's a lot of really good bike shops that they  
7 send people up, and they send people a map. They  
8 say you can go up there.

9 Informing them starting at that level and  
10 saying, "Definitely don't picnic up there. Don't  
11 go off the streets," and helping with the  
12 information at that level is another way we can  
13 deal with that.

14 MS. WENSTROM: Or find a good spot just  
15 past. Go to here. There's a great picnic spot.

16 MS. DUNNING: We will work with you to  
17 help find out where the problem areas are.

18 MS. WENSTROM: I want to add one thing to  
19 that. That is that both agencies law enforcement  
20 folks work with the local jurisdictions as well.  
21 I know they have agreements and work with -- I  
22 presume you would be sheriff?

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

24 MS. WENSTROM: I know that they already  
25 have those agreements in place to do that.

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1 Additional questions? Right here.  
2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just wonder what  
3 kinds of plans they have for the campground that's  
4 up here in Pinyon Flats. Are they planning on  
5 expanding it?  
6 MS. WENSTROM: Related to the Monument or  
7 in general?  
8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No. Just the  
9 campground.  
10 MS. ROSENTHAL: Well, we put in to try to  
11 upgrade it a little bit. Has everybody been to  
12 the campground? It's kind of falling apart. It's  
13 not real pretty. It's the only campground in the  
14 Monument. We did put in for some money.  
15 There was steep competition, and we  
16 didn't get it. We're looking at possible other  
17 ways of just making it more inviting. So if you  
18 make it more inviting, also you might get a  
19 different type of camper in there, if you know  
20 what I'm saying.  
21 So we really don't have a clear vision at  
22 this point other than wanting to upgrade, have  
23 better bathroom facilities, things like that. But  
24 we don't have the funding right now. So until we  
25 get the funding, it's kind of, unfortunately,

1 we're going to have to just maintain it as it is.  
2 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Question here. You  
3 were next.  
4 MS. WOODS: Okay. Sandy Woods. Let's go  
5 back to the sheriff.  
6 MS. WENSTROM: Okay.  
7 MS. WOODS: Are they going to designate  
8 us a sheriff up here like we used to have?  
9 MS. WENSTROM: See, we're not responsible  
10 for the sheriffs because that's done by the  
11 county. What we do is where we identify problems,  
12 we contact the sheriff and try and work with  
13 them. There's relationships there.  
14 MS. WOODS: Okay.  
15 MS. WENSTROM: So I probably overstepped  
16 my bounds in implying that.  
17 MS. WOODS: Okay. The other thing is as  
18 far as the campground goes, is there anything that  
19 says that we can't put up signs that post that  
20 this is a private community? Because with  
21 campgrounds, we have a lot of people on quads  
22 running up and down our dirt roads. That's not  
23 only just noise, but it's the dust.  
24 We're saying if the campground has more  
25 people, a lot of those people are going to be

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1 pulling trailers with quads and motorcycles and  
2 things like that.

3           So can we put up signs coming into our  
4 community saying that this is a private community  
5 and this is not part of the National Monument?

6           MS. DUNNING: My response to that is  
7 they're private roads under the jurisdiction of  
8 Riverside County; right?

9           MS. WOODS: Right.

10           MS. DUNNING: There's probably some  
11 county sign ordinances. There are probably signs  
12 that they have for private roads. It's going to  
13 be something the community is going to have to  
14 work with, because again, the federal -- we can't  
15 put signs on non-federal lands.

16           MS. WOODS: Okay. Got you.

17           MS. DUNNING: So it would be something  
18 that you could talk about at the Pinyon community  
19 council level. We can help in terms of locations  
20 and stuff, but we can't put them in.

21           MS. WOODS: Okay.

22           MS. WENSTROM: We can do things like, you  
23 know, if we have any interpretive materials or put  
24 something on the bulletin board at the campground,  
25 put something there that says "Please respect the

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1 private neighborhoods." You know, try and help  
2 that way with the messages we give out and the  
3 things that we tell people.

4           MS. GEORGE: We can also work with them  
5 on our lands, the public lands, your lands. You  
6 know how you have those "Leaving the National  
7 Monument" signs? We can have those "Leaving the  
8 National Monument" signs.

9           It would be the private landowners'  
10 responsibility to post their own property through  
11 working with the county.

12           MS. WOODS: That's a good idea.

13           MS. GEORGE: Okay.

14           MS. WENSTROM: I want to give somebody  
15 else a chance.

16           MR. REEVES: A quick question on the  
17 campground. What happened to the Santa Rosa  
18 campground up at the peak? It's always been  
19 there. That's also within the boundaries. You  
20 said only Pinyon Flats.

21           MS. ROSENTHAL: Those are yellow post  
22 signs, which are more dispersed camping as opposed  
23 to a developed site.

24           MR. REEVES: Okay. So you can still go  
25 up and camp at the Santa Rosa campground?

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1 MS. ROSENTHAL: Unless we're in fire  
2 restrictions, yes.

3 MR. REEVES: I realize that, yes. It's  
4 always closed at that time. Okay.

5 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. A question.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm with the fire  
7 council, both Pinyon community and I sit on the  
8 board with the mountain communities. I was  
9 wondering if you're contemplating closing the  
10 Monument for fire protection this summer.

11 MS. DUNNING: What's your name?

12 MS. BOWLES: Oh, I'm Jeri Bowles,  
13 B-o-w-l-e-s. I reside in Pinyon Crest.

14 MS. ROSENTHAL: That's a good question.  
15 As you know, last year we did have some  
16 restrictions. We got to the point where the fire  
17 behavior -- we have folks that have been in fire  
18 now for 30-plus years, and they've never seen fire  
19 behavior like this before.

20 So they got to the point where they felt  
21 that the ability to evacuate, and the initial  
22 attack was just not working. In the past,  
23 90 percent of the fires in this area in Southern  
24 California, they got with initial attack.

25 This past year, 90 percent of the fires

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1 they did not get with initial attack. So you can  
2 imagine how our concern level went up. So as a  
3 result, we have started a process of -- really  
4 what we're doing is we're balancing the community  
5 safety. Saving lives and property is the most  
6 important thing. Obviously, everyone probably  
7 would agree with that.

8 How do you balance that with tourism and  
9 the economics and the recreation and visitor uses  
10 and so on? There is no answer that is a perfect  
11 answer.

12 We have started a dialogue with -- I  
13 don't know if anybody was here from this area.  
14 The invitation did go out. We have started a  
15 dialogue with community members that are  
16 representing different organizations.

17 We're going to have a larger meeting  
18 coming up in May where we're going to really talk  
19 about how to balance, and we're really open for  
20 creative ideas. I'm really being quick because I  
21 know we're running out of time.

22 For example, the possibility of having  
23 something where you have every single exit point  
24 you have somebody stopping traffic, and that  
25 eyeball contact, you know. Handing them something

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1 and saying, "We're in great fire danger." Those  
2 kinds of education.

3           So we've been listening to all of this.  
4 We don't want to make our decisions in a vacuum.  
5 We want to be balanced. So it's a process that's  
6 happening. It's a process that's in the works.

7           MS. WENSTROM: Let me add a little bit to  
8 that because I'm working on the process.

9           MS. ROSENTHAL: Ruth is coordinating this  
10 next meeting.

11           MS. WENSTROM: The decision of whether to  
12 close or not, is really based a lot on the weather,  
13 the field moisture, all the factors that have to  
14 do with burning.

15           What we're trying to do with this process  
16 is we heard that we could have done some things  
17 better, and we're trying to figure out what those  
18 are.

19           For example, we left areas in the  
20 communities so there would be something -- we  
21 didn't send communities like Idyllwild, and I know  
22 Big Bear has a huge concern that we put them  
23 completely out of business. They depend on the  
24 tourists for their livelihood. The minute we say  
25 the word "closure," everyone cancels out of their

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1 motel reservations even though they can still go  
2 to town and do a lot of things.

3           So we want to look at are there areas  
4 that are kind of essential to keep open for the  
5 benefit of the communities. Are there ways we can  
6 do it better. Are there way we can announce it  
7 better. Just all of those factors.

8           And are there ways we can work better  
9 with the community on fire prevention. Because I  
10 think we haven't even begun to tap to where we,  
11 you know, have all the messengers in the community  
12 helping us make those contacts.

13           I don't want to get totally off on that  
14 track, but this is forestwide. It's a forest  
15 issue. What we don't want to do is -- in this  
16 part of the forest, we're doing it based on  
17 activity level. And in this part of the forest,  
18 we're doing it based on something else, because it  
19 confuses the heck out of the people down the  
20 hill.

21           MR. BARMORE: She talked about the  
22 balance.

23           MS. WENSTROM: Right.

24           MR. BARMORE: I guess for some of us up  
25 here, it's hard for us to understand why the sign

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1 over here on 74 to this day -- if you drove up  
2 here, you went by it -- I think it still  
3 says "Campfires permitted outside of  
4 campgrounds."

5 Now, here we are spending our time  
6 volunteering on the fire council to cut down dead  
7 trees up in Idyllwild and everywhere else, and  
8 here we're inviting people. We're finding them  
9 out on the back roads out here with fires. It  
10 doesn't make any sense to us if we're so sensitive  
11 that, gee, 10/90, 90/10.

12 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Laurie is hearing  
13 that loud and clear, and I'm hearing that.

14 MR. BARMORE: Is there some way that the  
15 sign could be "Campfires not permitted"? It makes  
16 sense to us.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It look us 110  
18 telephone calls to BLM to get that sign taken down  
19 for Memorial Day two years ago. 110 phone calls.

20 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Is it a BLM sign or  
21 Forest Service?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We were so terrified of  
23 everybody coming up here for Memorial Day weekend.

24 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. He'll fix it.

25 MS. DUNNING: Okay. Can we talk about --

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1 we're going to have this May meeting. If you guys  
2 have specific fire concerns, can you bring them to  
3 this meeting? Then we'll also hear them as we're  
4 developing this interagency fire plan. It sounds  
5 like there's a meeting coming up specific to this.

6 MS. WENSTROM: There's a different issue  
7 that's Forest Service wide to deal with the issue  
8 of whether we need forest closures and how to do  
9 it better if we do get in that boat.

10 I don't want to get everybody saying  
11 they're going to close the forest tomorrow,  
12 because that's not the case. But we're trying to  
13 at least think ahead this time so we can do a  
14 better job of it if we get in that position  
15 again.

16 I want to get back to the Monument. If  
17 any of you want to ask Laurie or I about the  
18 closure issue afterwards, do that. That's a  
19 little bit separate from this process.

20 So let me go to Joe.

21 MR. INGRAM: On page 4-74, it states --  
22 and this ties in to what we're discussing --

23 "An extrapolation of data from  
24 various access points in the  
25 Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains

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1 provide an estimate of 2.3 million  
2 visitors and pass-through commuters  
3 (via State Highway 74) annually."

4 So we're getting 2.3 million every year  
5 driving through here, plus whatever the Monument  
6 is going to bring in extra. Then you go back to  
7 page 4-6, and it discusses pollution. It says  
8 there will be no impact of pollution. So figure.

9 MS. WENSTROM: We need to look at that.  
10 The real question is how do we know how many  
11 additional folks there are, because that's what  
12 the real impact of the Monument will be.

13 MR. INGRAM: You're saying 2.3 million,  
14 but we know we're going to get more. Then it  
15 gives the figures of people that go into the  
16 Indian Canyons. It's says 90,000, and then  
17 Tramway, 375,000. We might get another 150,000.

18 MS. DUNNING: We're off the record for  
19 about two seconds.

20 (Off the record.)

21 MS. DUNNING: Okay. John Woods.

22 MR. WOODS: I'm John Woods. This is  
23 specific to more than just the Monument. It's the  
24 local area, specifically regarding the Pinyon  
25 Flats campground and the Pinyon Road coming in,

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1 the four blocks of paved roads the campground is  
2 off of.

3 That is, when we have, for example, I  
4 think it's Wednesday afternoons typically, we'll  
5 have a whole lot of bicycles come up and park  
6 along the side of the road there. On weekends,  
7 we'll have parties where your campground, as  
8 attractive as it is, we have people that decide  
9 that they don't want to pay the fee or whatever  
10 they have to do to go in there. So they'll park  
11 outside. When they leave, they don't necessarily  
12 take everything with them. I've seen a lot of  
13 national parks that restrict parking along the  
14 entrances to the park.

15 Is there some way maybe through  
16 interagency use -- none of the Pinyon residents up  
17 here use that area for parking. It's always  
18 visitors, and it's people that don't want to go  
19 into the campground. They just want to hang out  
20 outside and park, leave their trailers with their  
21 RVs or their quads or whatever, their bicycles.  
22 When they leave, it's a mess a lot of the time.

23 So is there something you can do  
24 interagency that you can talk to maybe the county  
25 or whoever is involved and see about maybe

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1 restricting parking on the outside of the  
2 campground?  
3 MS. ROSENTHAL: I'll talk to you  
4 afterwards.  
5 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. We have one more  
6 question.  
7 MS. DUNNING: Okay. One more.  
8 MS. WENSTROM: Two more.  
9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is  
10 Joe (inaudible). What I'd like to ask is the  
11 designation that we're going to go into, is there  
12 any funding changes as to fire suppressions and  
13 fire fighting? And is the county involved with  
14 any of this?  
15 If you would have heard the radio  
16 transmissions between the federal government,  
17 county and state as to who is going to take care  
18 of the fire that came through here awhile ago, it  
19 was rather unsettling.  
20 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Your question was  
21 will there be additional funding for fire fighting  
22 as a result of the Monument designation?  
23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I was just being  
24 sarcastic on that one.  
25 MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Well, the answer  
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1 for the Forest Service is we have been seeing  
2 additional funding in the last couple of years  
3 related to the overall national fuels issue, not  
4 directly to the Monument.  
5 How about you guys? Is money coming down  
6 the tube?  
7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The only reason I asked  
8 about the funding part is will the federal  
9 government, county and state be arguing about  
10 whose fire it is?  
11 MS. DUNNING: Part of our proposal action  
12 is following the Monument plan that there be a  
13 stand-alone interagency plan where everybody has  
14 agreed what will happen. So everybody will be at  
15 the table discussing it. So when this happens,  
16 you won't hear that kind of a radio transmission,  
17 hopefully.  
18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What type of vegetation  
19 should be fought in what particular way?  
20 MR. WOODS: Does that really concern the  
21 BLM and Forest Service?  
22 MS. DUNNING: No. Interagency.  
23 MS. WENSTROM: No. We work with  
24 Riverside County. CDF does Riverside County  
25 fire. We work with them quite closely. You  
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1 sometimes hear that at the beginning of a fire,  
2 especially when there are multiple fires.

3           Sometimes they'll share even different --  
4 they assist each other automatically. And  
5 sometimes when there's multiple fires, it gets  
6 reported in three different jurisdictions. So we  
7 have to figure out exactly where it is, because  
8 the reports come in messed up.

9           The other thing that I have seen  
10 happen -- in fact, it happened with the Palm fire  
11 in 1194. That started out in CDF's jurisdiction,  
12 and they handed it off and said, "Oh, by the way,  
13 it's yours."

14           And that partly has to do with other  
15 activity going on and the ability of folks to  
16 manage it just because there's other multiple  
17 fires.

18           So you will sometimes still hear that,  
19 but that doesn't mean they're not talking. They  
20 do talk a lot. And they're talking even more  
21 about ways to prepare in advance now because of  
22 the increased hazardous fuels that we have right  
23 now.

24           With the Monument, there's a lot more  
25 conversation. The fact that they're trying to

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1 sort that out, don't take that as a bad thing. I  
2 think it's a good thing. You want to get the  
3 lines of communication really clear so they're not  
4 stepping on each other's toes.

5           AUDIENCE MEMBER: Exactly. And if they  
6 can all agree at the start of the process and work  
7 it out.

8           MS: WENSTROM: Well, usually you'll hear  
9 that with some of the manager types. The engines  
10 are still going to work, and all the different  
11 colors of engines show up and do their thing.  
12 While they're sorting that out, that's usually a  
13 whole different set of people than the ones  
14 squirting water and doing all of that.

15           I think that process actually works  
16 pretty well with different jurisdictions helping  
17 each other during fires. We've sure benefited  
18 from it.

19           Yeah.

20           AUDIENCE MEMBER: Just a quick comment.  
21 On that fire at that time, there were a lot of  
22 fire engines sitting along the road that they  
23 wouldn't let help. We lost a lot of property  
24 because of that lack of cooperation. You can see  
25 a lot of dead stuff.

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1 We saw hundreds -- I don't know if it's  
2 hundreds, but 30, 40 fire engines parked along the  
3 road here that they said, "Buzz off. It's not  
4 your fire." Hopefully they'll fix that because  
5 that was terrible when you saw all those engines.  
6 MS. WENSTROM: I know because I took a  
7 lot of your phone calls, and we didn't have good  
8 information all the time. I hope we have learned  
9 from that. I think it's going a lot better. I  
10 understand and appreciate your frustration.  
11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My question was what  
12 about water? We're all up here worried about  
13 water. If you bring in 90,000 people and they all  
14 flush their toilet once, that's going to take a  
15 lot of "our" water. "Our," I put that in quotes.  
16 There's only so much in the ground here,  
17 and there's plenty of us using it. It would seem  
18 to me it's going to put a strain on it. I don't  
19 know. I've got a well that went from six gallons  
20 a minute to two. Now, if we start bringing in  
21 people, I don't know if I'll have a well that will  
22 work at all.  
23 MR. WOODS: The County of Riverside  
24 Health Department --  
25 MS. DUNNING: If you want to say

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1 something on the record, you've got to stand and  
2 speak a little more slowly. Just so you know.  
3 MR. WOODS: John Woods. The County of  
4 Riverside Health Department has a moratorium on  
5 new hookups at Alpine Village for the water  
6 system.  
7 MS. WOODS: Sandy Woods. Is Hurkey Creek  
8 not in the Monument?  
9 MS. DUNNING: Not in the Monument.  
10 MS. WOODS: It is not in the Monument?  
11 MS. DUNNING: Not in the Monument.  
12 Are there any other Monument questions  
13 for the record?  
14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What was the answer?  
15 What do you think about the water?  
16 MS. DUNNING: Oh, sorry. We just skipped  
17 right past that, didn't we?  
18 MR. RICH: And the name is Paul Rich..  
19 MS. DUNNING: Ritz?  
20 MR. RICH: Rich, R-i-c-h.  
21 MS. DUNNING: Rich. Well, the air toilet  
22 suggestion by Dale Hodges. I mean, those are  
23 things that we need to think about,  
24 sustainability.  
25 If we're going to be bringing folks up

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1 here, we need to have the facilities that can meet  
2 those, including water, electricity, structure.  
3 So we're not going to put a big ad in the paper  
4 right now that says "Hey, go see the Monument.  
5 Show up in Pinyon and drink lots of water."

6         So we need to think about that. If we  
7 were to improve the campground, we need to provide  
8 a water source. Any project -- any future  
9 projects that we do, we're going to have to go  
10 through this kind of analysis of can we support it  
11 and what are the impacts going to be? And the  
12 water up here is a No. 1 issue.

13         So any future projects of the Forest  
14 Service and the BLM in the Monument together,  
15 water will be of concern. It's certainly one of  
16 the highest priorities to think about if we're  
17 going to be bringing more people up here.

18         So I don't mean to not answer it, but  
19 what we will have to do is address those in the  
20 future as we monitor and as we start to see where  
21 people were going, what water are they using, and  
22 how can we work to fit the people that are  
23 coming. So it will be kind of an adaptive  
24 process.

25         Okay. So if that's it, I wanted to

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1 remind people that June 19th is the final date  
2 that we can be e-mailed, mailed or faxed  
3 comments. If you call us on the phone and say  
4 something, we'll talk. But it won't be a comment  
5 that we'll be able to respond to. So thank you  
6 for coming.

7         MS. WENSTROM: Thank you so much.

8         MS. DUNNING: Thank you.

9         (Off the record.)

10         (The meeting concluded at 9 p.m.)

11         -o0o-

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GILLESPIE REPORTING & DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT, INC.

Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA            )  
  )    ss  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE        )

I, SONJA CHAPMAN, a certified shorthand reporter within and for the state of California do hereby certify that the foregoing 114 pages comprise a full, true, and correct transcription of the proceedings that were taken before me at the time and place therein set forth.

Dated this 8th day of May, 2003.

Sonja Chapman  
Sonja Chapman, CSR #11504

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GILLESPIE REPORTING & DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT, INC.

**In The Matter Of:**

*BLM California Desert District  
Advisory Council Meeting*

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*Hearing  
April 29, 2003*

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*Gillespie Reporting & Document Management, Inc.  
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(909) 682-5686   FAX: (909) 682-4990*

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# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

BLM California Desert District  
Advisory Council Meeting

Hearing  
April 29, 2003

(1)  
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(5) SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS  
(6) NATIONAL MONUMENT  
(7)  
(8) DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN MEETING  
(9)  
(10)  
(11)  
(12)  
(13)  
(14)  
(15)  
(16) LOCATION: PALM DESERT COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
73510 Fred Waring Drive  
(17) Palm Desert, California  
(18) DATE  
AND TIME: Tuesday, April 29, 2003  
6:06 p.m. - 7:35 p.m.  
(19)  
(20) REPORTED BY: Sonja Chapman, CSR  
(21) CSR No. 11504  
(22) JOB NO.: 62327  
(23)  
(24)  
(25)

(1) INDEX	(2)	(3)	(4) TOPIC	(5) PAGE
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(16) Adjourn	(17)	(18)		(19) 75

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(1) APPEARANCES  
(2)  
(3)  
(4) CONNELL DUNNING, National Monument, (Bureau of  
(5) Land Management/Forest Service)  
(6) DANELLA GEORGE, National Monument, (Bureau of Land  
(7) Management/Forest Service) - National Monument  
(8) Manager  
(9) JIM FOOTE, Bureau of Land Management  
(10) GREG HILL, Bureau of Land Management  
(11) JIM KENNA, Bureau of Land Management  
(12) RACHELLE HUDDLESTON-LORTON, Bureau of Land  
(13) Management  
(14) LAURIE ROSENTHAL, Forest Service, San Jacinto  
(15) District of the San Bernardino National Forest -  
(16) District Ranger  
(17) RUTH WENSTROM, Forest Service, San Bernardino  
(18) National Forest  
(19) JERALD FRATES, California State Parks  
(20)  
(21)  
(22)  
(23)  
(24)  
(25)

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(1) PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2003  
(2) 6:06 P.M.

(3)  
(4)  
(5) MS. GEORGE: Okay. Good evening,  
(6) everyone. For those of you that are public,  
(7) welcome to the last Santa Rosa/San Jacinto  
(8) Mountain National Monument Draft Plan public  
(9) meeting. This is a series of three meetings. One  
(10) was held in Idyllwild. Last week there one was  
(11) held in Pinyon, and then tonight's meeting.  
(12) I'm going to talk very briefly. I'm  
(13) Danella George. I'm the Santa Rosa/San Jacinto  
(14) Mountains National Monument manager.  
(15) As some folks know, the Monument has a  
(16) Monument Advisory Committee associated with it.  
(17) We almost have a quorum here tonight. We have  
(18) Bary Freet, who represents the city of Cathedral  
(19) City. We have Barbara Gonzales-Lyons, who  
(20) represents Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla  
(21) Indians. Allan Muth, who represents the  
(22) University of California, UC Riverside Deep  
(23) Canyon.  
(24) We have Terry Anderson, who represents  
(25) the city of La Quinta. Buford Crites, who

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(1) represents the city of Palm Desert.  
(2) We also have Jim Kenna, the field manager  
(3) of the Palm Springs BLM South Coast Field office.  
(4) We have Rachelle Huddleston-Lorton, who is the  
(5) wildlife biologist and sheep biology is her  
(6) specialty. She has been working here for the last  
(7) two and a half years.  
(8) We have Jim Foote, who is our recreation  
(9) planner from BLM. We have Tom Sherman  
(10) representing the Forest Service and BLM with  
(11) fire. We have Greg Hill, who is working with  
(12) planning for BLM.  
(13) We have Steven Stoddard, who has just  
(14) come on board to work with both the Forest Service  
(15) and BLM in the National Monument trails.  
(16) This National Monument is both US Forest  
(17) Service, Department of Ag., BLM, Department of  
(18) Interior. It's a mixed bag for those of you that  
(19) are new to this process. There's a lot of other  
(20) land owners. Connell will go into that in her  
(21) overview about the National Monument. So it's  
(22) very unique.  
(23) Our court reporter tonight is Sonja. I  
(24) guess I would ask that people identify themselves,  
(25) spell your name, speak slowly. This would be

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(1) helpful for Sonja. And she will also raise her  
(2) hand — or let us know if you need us to repeat  
(3) something.  
(4) Okay. So just briefly, I'm going to go  
(5) through two slides, and then I'm going to hand it  
(6) over to Connell. Connell will walk you through  
(7) some background of the National Monument.  
(8) We will then take public comments. The  
(9) yellow cards that you were handed, if you will  
(10) hold those up if you haven't turned them in,  
(11) somebody will pick them up from you. You'll be  
(12) called up. We'll take your comments. They will  
(13) be on the record.  
(14) After that we'll go through a Q&A  
(15) period. Then we'll be finished for the evening.  
(16) We have plans, if you don't have one, up on the  
(17) top where you came in up there. Draft National  
(18) Monument plans. I think everybody picked one up.  
(19) Okay. There we go. I'll give you a  
(20) little National Monument history.  
(21) Did we miss a slide there, Connell, or  
(22) did we go to history?  
(23) MS. DUNNING: History.  
(24) MS. GEORGE: History. We went straight  
(25) to history. Okay. The National Monument. There

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(1) was first an effort to create one back in the  
(2) 1920s. This made it all the way to congress. It  
(3) was a federal effort. If focused on Palm Canyon.  
(4) But what happened was folks had failed to  
(5) consult with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla  
(6) Indians. What they were hoping to do in 1922 was  
(7) to purchase the land. They had never gone through  
(8) a consultation, and the tribe wasn't interested.  
(9) So it just kind of went to rest for a period.  
(10) There were efforts with the California  
(11) Department of Fish & Game. There were  
(12) acquisitions. We'll show you the maps of the  
(13) checkerboard patterns of land ownership of the  
(14) National Monument.  
(15) Many of those lands that are now public  
(16) lands, BLM, and state lands were the efforts of  
(17) folks in the '60s under the California Department  
(18) of Fish & Game.  
(19) Then we became a national scenic area in  
(20) 1990. At that point the boundary for the National  
(21) Monument excluded the Forest Service lands in  
(22) 1990. So it just had BLM lands, state lands, Fish  
(23) & Game lands, and local jurisdictions.  
(24) Back in about the late '90s, there was an  
(25) effort to create National Monuments. Ours at one

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(1) point was almost proposed to go through executive  
(2) order.  
(3) Many of the folks who are in this room  
(4) became involved with the creation of legislation  
(5) at the local level so that our National Monument  
(6) has it's very own legislation. It's part of the  
(7) appendix to the draft plan. It's in there. It's  
(8) very unique.  
(9) Most monuments adhere to the Antiquities  
(10) Act. Ours doesn't. Much of what we're doing and  
(11) what this plan is about — in fact, all of what  
(12) the plan is about was found in the legislation.  
(13) The legislation was designated October the 24th,  
(14) 2000.  
(15) We consider the planning process to be  
(16) what we call community-based planning. We've met  
(17) with our public starting last spring. We've tried  
(18) to get the word out as much as possible through  
(19) the newspaper, through radio, through ads, through  
(20) word of mouth to get folks involved with this  
(21) planning process.  
(22) We had a series of workshops where people  
(23) gathered information, the Monument staff did, of  
(24) what were relevant issues to the public. We then  
(25) had additional workshops to go over some issues

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(1) that arose from that.  
(2) And tonight we are still in this  
(3) community process, and you all are here. So with  
(4) that, I'm going to hand it over to Connell, who is  
(5) the community planner who has helped us through  
(6) this draft plan.  
(7) MS. DUNNING: Thanks, Danella. I guess  
(8) the good thing about this planning process is I'm  
(9) wearing the same shirt in that photo. So it  
(10) hasn't been that long. So that's kind of neat.  
(11) Some of these plans tend to take a really long  
(12) time. So I'm proud of that fact.  
(13) Can you hear me without the microphone?  
(14) Okay. I tend to move around a bunch.  
(15) The Monument was established to protect  
(16) and preserve the biological, cultural,  
(17) recreational, geological, educational, scientific  
(18) and scenic values within the Monument while  
(19) providing multiple use.  
(20) The Forest Service and BLM have had a  
(21) multiple-use mandate. So the goal of our Monument  
(22) is to try to meet that goal of protecting and  
(23) preserving all of the different values.  
(24) If you look in the legislation — there's  
(25) a copy of the legislation in the back, Appendix 1,

Page 9

(1) of the plan. There's also a separate legislation  
(2) that you can pick up. If you read that in  
(3) "Establishment and Purposes," it says exactly  
(4) this.  
(5) So what we try to do in trying to get  
(6) input from the public is getting input in all  
(7) these different areas and try to identify how we  
(8) can protect and preserve these values while  
(9) finding a balance between all of them.  
(10) So as Danella mentioned, there's a  
(11) complex land ownership in the Monument. The green  
(12) is Forest Service lands. There's a light green  
(13) boundary all the way around this map, which is the  
(14) boundary of the Monument. The brown are the BLM  
(15) lands.  
(16) So actions that we're proposing apply  
(17) solely to Forest Service and BLM lands, yet we're  
(18) working closely with other groups that manage land  
(19) within the Monument.  
(20) The red squares are Agua Caliente land,  
(21) Cahuilla Indians. The blue are some state parks,  
(22) Anza Borrego and Mt. San Jacinto state parks. And  
(23) there's also some other Department of Fish & Game  
(24) lands.  
(25) There's quite a few cities right along

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(1) the edge there whose boundaries go into the  
(2) Monument. So we work with all of our partners,  
(3) but our actions apply only to Forest Service and  
(4) BLM lands.  
(5) So we started back in March of 2002.  
(6) Public scoping meetings were held here in this  
(7) facility. There's also two other places in the  
(8) valley, up in Idyllwild, up in Pinyon.  
(9) We had from March until October to go to  
(10) the public and ask what are your interests for  
(11) these mountains, what are your interests  
(12) long-term, what are your visions for these  
(13) mountains.  
(14) We took all of that input and used that  
(15) to develop the draft plan. So what you see today  
(16) was in a large part — we helped write this by the  
(17) input that we got from the public scoping  
(18) meetings.  
(19) The deadline for comments is June 19th.  
(20) So that's a full 90-day period between March 21st  
(21) and June 19th. And I'll be talking today about  
(22) how we can get those comments from you.  
(23) There will be a review period once we  
(24) think we have a proposed final plan, an internal  
(25) review period during the month of August.

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(1) Then we'll come out with a proposed  
(2) final. That proposed final plan will be available  
(3) again for review. And we'll have hopefully a  
(4) record of decision before the end of this year  
(5) which will be our management plan, which will  
(6) guide us long-term in how we're going to  
(7) coordinate along with the different agencies that  
(8) manage the Monument and how we're going to protect  
(9) and preserve those values.  
(10) So an important distinction to make right  
(11) now are the issues that are addressed in the plan  
(12) and those that are addressed elsewhere. As we  
(13) mentioned, there's many different land owners  
(14) within the Monument.  
(15) So our main focus is how are we going to  
(16) coordinate, and what strategies do we have to work  
(17) with those different land-managing entities.  
(18) There are some specific nontrail-related  
(19) recreation actions. We'll go through those  
(20) today. Education, outreach and partnerships is a  
(21) big focus. Our tribal relationships and how we're  
(22) going to build those long-term and continue to  
(23) work with those relationships that we have. And  
(24) facilities management.  
(25) Non-issues, those things that are

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(1) addressed in other plans or are addressed in the  
(2) legislation and are not up for discussion or up  
(3) for change are things like route designations.  
(4) The Bureau of Land Management on  
(5) December 27th, 2002, finished a land use plan for  
(6) the BLM lands that fall within the Monument. A  
(7) number of items were determined — a number of  
(8) decisions were determined through that plan.  
(9) So route designations, wild horse and  
(10) burro management areas. And for the Forest  
(11) Service, special designation, special areas.  
(12) The Forest Service is going through a  
(13) forest plan revision right now, so they'll be  
(14) addressing similar things. Their planning  
(15) meetings are still ongoing. They're expecting a  
(16) draft, I think, in the fall of this year.  
(17) Is that right? Okay. So the fall of  
(18) this year, the Forest Service will come out with a  
(19) plan.  
(20) We also addressed land health standards,  
(21) energy. Mining was addressed in the legislation.  
(22) The federal lands within the Monument are  
(23) withdrawn from mining, excluding any existing  
(24) mining claims and applications that are out.  
(25) And off-road vehicle areas were also

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(1) addressed through the CDCA plan, BLM's other  
(2) plan. But specifically, the Monument legislation  
(3) states that vehicles are only allowed on  
(4) designated roads. So because of the legislation,  
(5) there can be no open play areas or no vehicles  
(6) driving off the routes.  
(7) There's a grazing allotment mentioned  
(8) specifically in the legislation. That is the  
(9) Wellman Allotment. And the designation of the  
(10) Monument did not affect that grazing allotment.  
(11) So going back to the issues that are not  
(12) addressed, I mentioned that we have specific  
(13) non-trail recreation actions in this plan. Trail  
(14) actions are being addressed through the habitat  
(15) conservation plan.  
(16) Many of you may have read about that in  
(17) the paper or are aware of that. Decisions  
(18) regarding trails specifically, we're waiting to  
(19) make decisions on those because all of the trails  
(20) are multijurisdictional in nature. We look to  
(21) work with the cities and the county at the same  
(22) time to make decisions on trails.  
(23) So that process is ongoing. They expect  
(24) to have a draft plan in the fall of this year. So  
(25) there will be another plan that will come out and

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(1) address trails.  
(2) So just to look at the draft plan  
(3) structure and how it's organized, at the  
(4) beginning, there's an executive summary. We also  
(5) have executive summaries that we brought today  
(6) that are kind of plastic with binding that look  
(7) like this. This is what we'll be using today.  
(8) We'll be using this to go through. It's a little  
(9) easier to hold, a little easier to read. So we'll  
(10) be going through this for the purpose of today's  
(11) talk.  
(12) Chapter 1 is an introduction to how we  
(13) got to the information that we have in the plan,  
(14) what is the criteria that we used, and what is the  
(15) relationship between this plan and other plans.  
(16) So if it sounds like I'm talking about a lot of  
(17) plans today, I am. Chapter 1 will help explain  
(18) how those are all interrelated.  
(19) Chapter 2 includes all the proposed  
(20) strategies and actions that we are proposing. So  
(21) Chapter 2 is where you can look for decisions that  
(22) we're proposing making. And that's what we need  
(23) your input on regarding whether or not those  
(24) decisions adequately address your concerns.  
(25) Chapter 3 contains what we call affected

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(1) environment. That's the existing management,  
(2) what's currently happening out in the Monument  
(3) now.  
(4) So if you look at Chapter 2 and you think  
(5) there should be an action under a certain  
(6) category, chances are it's described in Chapter 3  
(7) and we're not proposing changing what that  
(8) existing management is. So look at Chapter 3 for  
(9) a more flushed-out explanation of different  
(10) existing actions.  
(11) Chapter 4 is what we call impact  
(12) analysis. We looked at the actions that we're  
(13) proposing compared with what the existing  
(14) management is, and we have to determine what's the  
(15) impact of those actions that we're proposing.  
(16) That's Chapter 4.  
(17) Chapter 5 is a summary of how we  
(18) coordinated the different scoping meetings that we  
(19) had, the different people that were involved in  
(20) writing it, our interagency working group. So  
(21) that's a good one to read if you're curious as to  
(22) how we all worked together with the different  
(23) groups to get this plan.  
(24) There's a number of figures in the back,  
(25) a glossary, references, and a number of

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(1) appendices.  
(2) So as I mentioned, we'll be focusing on  
(3) Chapter 2 today. Does everybody have one of  
(4) these? Raise your hand if you don't. Okay.  
(5) We've got helpers. Okay.  
(6) So as I mentioned, the Monument was  
(7) established to protect the biological, cultural,  
(8) recreational, geological, educational and  
(9) scientific values. So those are how the plan is  
(10) organized. It's organized according to those  
(11) values, and we're saying how we're going to  
(12) protect and preserve those.  
(13) In addition, through the scoping meetings  
(14) and through discussions with our interagency  
(15) groups, there are a number of other areas that  
(16) were of interest. Visitation, impact of visitors,  
(17) facilities, access and other uses.  
(18) So at the end, you have also a number of  
(19) other actions in response to our scoping meetings  
(20) and other things that we were able to bring  
(21) forward of interest.  
(22) AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you say where  
(23) Chapter 2 begins? I'm totally lost.  
(24) MS. DUNNING: We're going to go through  
(25) that. Yeah. We'll go through that. This is an

Page 17

(1) executive summary. I think the question was in  
(2) this, where does Chapter 2 start. It actually  
(3) starts on page ES-14. We're about to jump right  
(4) into that. So we'll get there.  
(5) AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.  
(6) MS. DUNNING: Okay. So the management  
(7) plan, as I mentioned, was broken down into  
(8) different areas. If you look at this slide, this  
(9) shows the different topics of each of the actions  
(10) we're proposing. We've got biological, cultural,  
(11) recreational, geological, educational and  
(12) scientific.  
(13) We also have access actions, actions  
(14) associated with private property, facilities,  
(15) Highway 74. There were concerns about Highway 74,  
(16) specifically, how to monitor visitors, how we're  
(17) addressing hazards in the forest, how we're  
(18) addressing fires, how we're addressing water, and  
(19) then land acquisitions.  
(20) So these are the different areas that are  
(21) addressed in Chapter 2. Depending upon your  
(22) interest area, you can look up those actions. You  
(23) can also see in Chapter 3 how we describe the  
(24) existing environment of those actions.  
(25) So we're going to go through a couple of

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(1) examples here in the table so you can see how we  
(2) organized them. So this is each of those  
(3) different action areas broken down into the  
(4) actions within.  
(5) If you open to page ES-14 — everybody  
(6) there? Okay — that's the first action that we're  
(7) proposing under "Biological Resources." So  
(8) habitat management, management of noxious,  
(9) non-native and invasive plant species. If you  
(10) look at that box, there's a number of bulleted  
(11) items. This is how we're proposing to address  
(12) noxious, non-native and invasive plant species.  
(13) You can see that this action spans across  
(14) these columns — Alternative A, B, and C — such  
(15) that there's only one action that we're  
(16) proposing.  
(17) Alternative D is what we're comparing  
(18) that action to. Alternative D is the no-action  
(19) alternative. What that means is if we weren't  
(20) going to do anything else, we were to do no action  
(21) right now, the current action would continue to  
(22) occur.  
(23) So Alternative D is our existing action.  
(24) So everything that we're proposing, we're  
(25) comparing against what's currently happening right

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(1) there.  
(2) So if you jump ahead, I want to show you  
(3) an example of where we have an Alternative A, B,  
(4) C, and D. Page ES-22. Here we have a range of  
(5) actions. We have more than just one action. We  
(6) have an invasive weed management program versus  
(7) not doing it.  
(8) We have more options to choose from  
(9) here. We developed a range of alternatives  
(10) ranging from less-intensive to more-intensive  
(11) management. So we have a less-intensive  
(12) management proposed for hang gliding. You can  
(13) read that there. We do have hang gliding able to  
(14) occur throughout all of the Monument with some  
(15) specific restrictions off of Vista Point.  
(16) Alternative B proposes that hang gliding  
(17) would be allowed throughout the Monument except  
(18) for within and adjacent to essential bighorn sheep  
(19) habitat.  
(20) Alternative C proposes that hang gliding  
(21) would not be allowed on BLM and Forest Service  
(22) lands.  
(23) So here we have a range of alternatives.  
(24) This was a specific action where we thought that  
(25) we could have a wider range. We thought it was

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(1) necessary to have a wider range to choose from.  
(2) So a number of these, you'll see an action.  
(3) Going back to table ES-14, as you read  
(4) through these, there's a number of them where  
(5) there is one. We're proposing to do one thing  
(6) versus to not do something. So that's how they're  
(7) organized differently.  
(8) Turning to ES-15, that's the second  
(9) action propose underneath our biological section.  
(10) That's how we're going to manage special status  
(11) species. So there are some bulleted items there.  
(12) That's how we're proposing managing special status  
(13) species.  
(14) The third action, the bottom of ES-15, is  
(15) how we propose to monitor, what's our monitoring  
(16) program going to be for biological resources.  
(17) Turning to ES-16, I'm going to refer just  
(18) to the slide now, but you can follow along in the  
(19) book. We have proposed research and inventory,  
(20) how we're going to research and inventory cultural  
(21) resources.  
(22) We've proposed how we're going to do an  
(23) existing assessment of the cultural resources to  
(24) better understand what's happening now and add to  
(25) our baseline understanding of what we have out

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(1) there.  
(2) We have a specific action for protecting  
(3) and preserving our cultural resources including a  
(4) site stewardship program involving the community  
(5) and involving the local tribes and involving  
(6) volunteers.  
(7) We have actions for how we're going to  
(8) interpret, how we're going to get the cultural  
(9) resources message out there by working with the  
(10) tribes and working to identify what that message  
(11) is going to be.  
(12) And finally, we propose to use what we  
(13) have in this plan as a starting point to establish  
(14) a stand-alone cultural resources plan.  
(15) Moving to "Recreation," we're proposing  
(16) limiting hang gliding in bighorn sheep habitat.  
(17) That was the example that we just went through.  
(18) Our section action, we're proposing to  
(19) prohibit paintball. Does everybody know what  
(20) paintball is? Guns with paint. Okay. So we're  
(21) proposing that not happen in the Monument.  
(22) The Pacific Crest Trail, we propose  
(23) establishing a management corridor to work with  
(24) our partners in managing that trail long-term. We  
(25) propose to prohibit recreational shooting within

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(1) the Monument. It's already prohibited in the  
(2) state game refuges which take up quite a bit of  
(3) the Monument. We're proposing to prohibit it in  
(4) those areas — outside of those areas and also  
(5) within the Monument. So there would be no  
(6) recreational shooting in the Monument.  
(7) There would, however, still be hunting.  
(8) We treat those differently. Hunting would  
(9) continue to occur where the Department of Fish-  
(10) & Game currently have hunting areas.  
(11) We're proposing that pets be on leashes  
(12) when they're in the Monument. And we're proposing  
(13) to work with the county to establish a protocol  
(14) for dealing with uncontrolled and feral animals.  
(15) We're proposing that there would be no  
(16) Adventure Pass required on the Forest Service  
(17) lands within the Monument. They're currently  
(18) required. We're proposing that they'll no longer  
(19) be required. And we're proposing that we develop  
(20) a strategic recreation plan.  
(21) Once all of those other plans that I  
(22) mentioned earlier are done — we've got a number  
(23) of planning efforts going on out there that are  
(24) making it a little confusing now. Once those are  
(25) done, we want to take another look at all

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(1) recreation within the Monument and have a  
(2) strategic recreation plan addressing all types of  
(3) recreation.  
(4) Moving on to geological values and how  
(5) we're going to protect and preserve those, we're  
(6) proposing an inventory to help understand what we  
(7) have out there. We're proposing ways to outreach  
(8) about the geological resources that we have.  
(9) We're proposing some additional  
(10) protection measures to protect those geological  
(11) resources, including identifying specific areas  
(12) for acquisition that may hold special geologic  
(13) values.  
(14) Okay. Moving on to "Educational." Who  
(15) is following along? Where are we?  
(16) AUDIENCE MEMBER: ES-30.  
(17) MS. DUNNING: Okay. Good. You win the  
(18) prize. Okay. We're on page ES-30 at the bottom  
(19) now. For education values, we're proposing a  
(20) strategy for public information. How are we going  
(21) to get information out to the public regarding  
(22) where you can hike, when you can hike, what is  
(23) open, what is closed. We definitely need a  
(24) strategy for that.  
(25) There's a lot of confusion. We've heard

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(1) that in the public meetings. People just don't  
(2) know things. So we have ways that we can be more  
(3) active in getting information out.  
(4) Signage. We have proposed actions for  
(5) how we're going to sign areas in the National  
(6) Monument to help get that information out.  
(7) Education and outreach. We have an  
(8) interpretive plan that was written last year. We  
(9) have that as a base, and we're kind of going to be  
(10) building upon that over the next few years. We  
(11) propose how we're going to do that in this  
(12) section, how we're going to build our education  
(13) and outreach program in the Monument.  
(14) For scientific values, we propose having  
(15) permits for research that are the same for both  
(16) Forest Service and BLM lands so that we can work  
(17) together to coordinate that. We're proposing  
(18) keeping our GIS database and adding to one  
(19) stand-alone database of information that we can  
(20) keep adding to long-term.  
(21) Access was another issue that the public  
(22) was very interested in. It was our No. 1 issue at  
(23) our scoping meetings. We've proposed ways to work  
(24) or methods to proactively secure access and to  
(25) work with private land owners and cities and

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(1) counties to identify conservation easements and  
(2) that kind of thing.  
(3) Private property concerns were also a big  
(4) interest of the community. We proposed a method  
(5) for improving and working on the good  
(6) relationships that we have, ways of communicating  
(7) with private property owners within the Monument.  
(8) We always say that the Monument doesn't  
(9) affect private property. Very specifically in the  
(10) legislation, we are only going to be addressing  
(11) federal lands, but we're aware that the actions  
(12) that we have do affect private property owners  
(13) indirectly. So we want to work with the private  
(14) property owners side by side as we manage this  
(15) Monument.  
(16) We propose criteria for future  
(17) facilities. Highway 74 concerns. Highway 74 is  
(18) under the jurisdiction of Caltrans. So we can  
(19) work to make sure that we are continually  
(20) communicating with Caltrans about improvements and  
(21) safety and getting in their radar screen for  
(22) concerns that we have.  
(23) We propose ways to monitor visitors so we  
(24) can know if we are getting more visitors in the  
(25) Monument and where are they going. It's going to

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(1) be real important long-term to see what kind of  
(2) impacts they may be having.  
(3) And we propose search and rescue protocol  
(4) working with the county and also ways to  
(5) coordinate with local law enforcement. For fire  
(6) management, we have proposed an interagency fire  
(7) plan including all the different entities that  
(8) manage fire within the Monument.  
(9) For water resources, we propose a  
(10) third-order soil survey and also a watershed  
(11) assessment. Again, this is to add to our  
(12) knowledge of what's out there now and how can we  
(13) better manage the land. We proposed some guidance  
(14) for acquisitions.  
(15) So I've blazed through that. That's the  
(16) first table here. That's a summary of all the  
(17) actions that we proposed.  
(18) Chapter 2 of this plan has the extended  
(19) version of that. So you can refer to Chapter 2  
(20) and use this to look. The same executive summary  
(21) is also in the beginning of this book as well.  
(22) So the important thing is understanding  
(23) how to get comments in, and when comments need to  
(24) be in by. They need to be in by June 19th, and  
(25) they need to be in written format. If you give us

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(1) a call, we'll certainly talk. We'll answer your  
(2) questions. But to get your concerns down in  
(3) writing is what we need in order to respond to  
(4) them in the final plan.  
(5) You can e-mail. You can fax. You can  
(6) send them via mail to this address. There is a  
(7) comment form up on the table above. If you  
(8) comment tonight or have more comments when you  
(9) leave, you can send it to us.  
(10) If you don't comment tonight and you read  
(11) through and have some things to say, this is our  
(12) last chance for verbal comments, but it doesn't  
(13) mean this is the last time you can get input in.  
(14) So the key message to take away is all  
(15) input needs to be in by June 19th, June 19th. So  
(16) this is the last of our public meetings, as I  
(17) said.  
(18) In July, following June 19th, we will  
(19) take the comments that we get and compile those  
(20) and respond to them, and we'll make the final plan  
(21) a better plan. This is when we say all comments  
(22) are good comments because it helps us make this  
(23) final plan a better plan.  
(24) If you like it, tell us you like it.  
(25) We'll feel good. If you don't like it, offer

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(1) suggestions. Don't just say, "I don't like that  
(2) section of the plan." Offer suggestions and ways  
(3) to make it better. That really helps us when we  
(4) respond to those comments. As I mentioned, in  
(5) September we hope to have a proposed final plan.  
(6) So at this point, we're going to open up  
(7) the comment time period. Is there anybody in the  
(8) room who needs a yellow card? Anybody who wants  
(9) to fill out a card? You need to fill out one of  
(10) these if you want to comment.  
(11) Is there anybody in the room who wants to  
(12) comment? You need a yellow card? Okay, Jim can  
(13) bring those to you.  
(14) I want to introduce Ruth Wenstrom. Ruth  
(15) had a flat tire on the way here and she still  
(16) came. So she deserves the award. Ruth works for  
(17) the Forest Service in the supervisor's office in  
(18) San Bernardino. We've been doing these meetings  
(19) in pairs throughout the way. So I'm glad Ruth  
(20) came. She's going to run you through the comment  
(21) period.  
(22) MS. WENSTROM: Okay. If you should  
(23) decide later on in the evening that you want one,  
(24) just get a comment card. We'll make sure we'll  
(25) give everyone a chance to speak if you want to.

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(1) I wanted to let you know a couple of  
(2) things. First, we're going to obviously have your  
(3) comments recorded for the record. At the same  
(4) time, Connell is going to record some notes that  
(5) may help us during the meeting or to really kind  
(6) of get a handle on what the comments are before we  
(7) actually get the official record.  
(8) What I want to do is not worry that every  
(9) word you say isn't on Connell's notes, because it  
(10) is going to be on the official notes that we're  
(11) going to receive. And we will address the  
(12) entirety of your comments when we actually  
(13) respond.  
(14) So with that, the way this is going to  
(15) work is for anyone that I have a speaker card, I'm  
(16) going to call you up here. We're going to give  
(17) you five minutes. Many of you won't use the  
(18) entire five minutes.  
(19) If you do use the five minutes, we'll  
(20) kind of give you like a one-minute warning. And  
(21) then when your time is up, we'll let you finish  
(22) your sentence. We won't throw you out of the room  
(23) immediately. But we'll let you finish up, and  
(24) then we'll move on to the next person.  
(25) The intent of that is to make sure that

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(1) everyone has a chance to speak and that no one  
(2) stays up here for a very long time and uses the  
(3) entire time.  
(4) So we're going to go through these. Like  
(5) I say, if you should decide when you hear somebody  
(6) else's comments that you want to comment, they're  
(7) happy to keep bringing me cards.  
(8) When you come up, we would like you to  
(9) state your name and spell it for the record for  
(10) the court reporter. With that, we'll just get  
(11) started because you don't want to hear me. We  
(12) want to hear you.  
(13) So James Blakley, please.  
(14) MR. BLAKLEY: Hi, my name is  
(15) Jim Blakley. It's spelled B-l-a-k-l-e-y. I live  
(16) at 1754 East Sonora part of the time, I came to  
(17) this meeting thinking we're going to talk about  
(18) trail closures and found out I'm kind of at the  
(19) wrong meeting for that, but that I can have  
(20) comments on trail closures anyway. Then there  
(21) will be a record. So I'm going to do that.  
(22) First of all, just a comment on what was  
(23) presented. That is, I'm a part-time resident of  
(24) this area. I know a lot of other part-time  
(25) residents too. I notice that the public scoping

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(1) on the plan is done between March and October,  
(2) which is when most part-time residents aren't in  
(3) the valley. So by design, it almost excluded  
(4) input from a lot of people. That's just a  
(5) comment.  
(6) Also with regard to the trails thing,  
(7) it's not been done yet. It's going to come out, I  
(8) guess, in September or October. And most of the  
(9) opportunity for public input on that is going to  
(10) be when those of us who are part-timers aren't  
(11) going to be here.  
(12) It seems to me that, you know, you have  
(13) an economy here that's somewhat — I don't want to  
(14) say dependent, but it's certainly nice to have all  
(15) of the visitors down here. To make public policy  
(16) without their input I think is not the best way to  
(17) go. Anyway, just an opinion.  
(18) I've been coming down here for about five  
(19) years and have really enjoyed hiking the trails.  
(20) I live in Palm Springs, and I particularly like  
(21) being able to hike the trails that are close to  
(22) where I live.  
(23) I have seen the document that proposes  
(24) to — it's already, in fact, closed some of the  
(25) trails that I routinely hike. For example, Murray

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(1) Peak, which I can't hike right now until June.  
(2) I don't know how many of you here are  
(3) hikers, but June here is pretty warm. Even if I  
(4) was here, I probably wouldn't be hiking Murray  
(5) Peak, which means that, you know, the time  
(6) available to hike Murray Peak is really limited  
(7) from after the summer until the first of the year,  
(8) which is a very limited time as far as I'm  
(9) concerned.  
(10) One thing is that the pending closures  
(11) are reducing the number of trails that people can  
(12) hike for free. You can get a ticket up at the  
(13) tram and hike up there. You can go out on the  
(14) Indian Canyons and pay a fee and hike, but some  
(15) people don't have the resources to pay those  
(16) fees. So the opportunity for hiking is really  
(17) being limited.  
(18) I think that's not a good plan,  
(19) especially when you consider that hiking is really  
(20) good exercise that any of you can do, as long as  
(21) you're reasonably healthy. And it has good  
(22) cardiovascular results. According to a lot of  
(23) studies that have been done on it, it's very  
(24) helpful with regard to staying healthy.  
(25) Any diet plan I've ever read, exercise is

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(1) a component of losing weight. So on one hand we  
(2) have a society which is becoming more and more  
(3) obese and more and more unhealthy, resulting in  
(4) higher and higher healthcare costs, yet we're  
(5) talking about public policy is going to limit  
(6) options for people.  
(7) Another thing is that since I'm a  
(8) part-time guy and haven't been around that long,  
(9) I'm a little bit confused about the rationale for  
(10) closing the trails.  
(11) You know, I understand there's an  
(12) Endangered Species Act and we're trying to help  
(13) some of the endangered species grow in number and  
(14) multiply. But at the same time, I wonder about  
(15) some of the things that are being argued with  
(16) regard to trail closures.  
(17) To give you an example of my confusion,  
(18) earlier this year I hiked up Magnesia Falls. How  
(19) many of you have ever hiked in that area? Okay.  
(20) We were very lucky because we noticed  
(21) there were about 17 bighorn sheep that were going  
(22) down to that watering hole. So we stood and  
(23) watched the bighorn sheep for about a half an hour  
(24) as they watered. We probably got within 30 yards  
(25) of them. They weren't spooked by us. They were

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(1) aware that we were there. I think if we tried to  
(2) get closer, they would run off, but they didn't.  
(3) So my question is really how sensitive  
(4) the sheep are to human beings.  
(5) I also ran into a Bighorn Institute staff  
(6) member who said that hiking there wouldn't be a  
(7) problem with regard to a sheep as long as I didn't  
(8) have a dog.  
(9) I know that we have gotten fences in  
(10) Rancho Mirage to keep the sheep from coming into  
(11) our areas and getting hit by cars and so forth,  
(12) but what we're doing is proposing to close a lot  
(13) of trails which a lot of us really like to hike.  
(14) I haven't seen any sheep signs in most of  
(15) this area, so I wonder whether there's really  
(16) going to be a benefit. There's certainly going to  
(17) be a cost. Thank you.  
(18) MS. WENSTROM: Thank you very much.  
(19) Okay. Skip Goodell.  
(20) MR. GOODELL: Let somebody else speak  
(21) first.  
(22) MS. WENSTROM: Let somebody else speak  
(23) first? Okay. We'll come back to you.  
(24) Tracy Kupferberg.  
(25) MS. KUPFERBERG: I'm Tracy Kupferberg. I

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(1) live at 45-447 Rain Court in Indian Wells. I also  
(2) am a hiker. I just want to reiterate mostly what  
(3) Jim Blakley has said. We spend a great deal of  
(4) time hiking in our immediate area. If we have  
(5) trail closings, it's going to affect us. It's  
(6) going to affect many of us greatly.  
(7) We're very sympathetic to the bighorn  
(8) sheep. We want to see them. I'm very  
(9) ecologically minded as are many of my hiking  
(10) friends. We just don't see adequate reasons why  
(11) we can't hike up there if we don't have dogs.  
(12) We really enjoy the Art Smith trail, and  
(13) we want to be able to continue hiking up there.  
(14) And we introduce our visitors here to this  
(15) wonderful area, and we want to have them back in  
(16) those areas and be able to see and enjoy the  
(17) things that we try not to take for granted. So  
(18) that's my comment. I hope it will be given due  
(19) consideration. Thank you.  
(20) MS. WENSTROM: Thank you.  
(21) Okay. Abe Siemens.  
(22) MR. SIEMENS: Hi. My name is  
(23) Abe Siemens, S-I-E-M-E-N-S. I'm at 47 Princeton  
(24) Drive, Rancho Mirage, California. I'm a permanent  
(25) resident of this area and have lived here for some

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(1) 20 years. I do not escape the summers. I endure  
(2) them, and I can enjoy them most of the time.  
(3) I am also an avid hiker, and I've hiked  
(4) on many of the trails which are closed in this  
(5) area. I think the trails, as one of the previous  
(6) speakers said, encourage physical fitness and  
(7) hopefully reduce obesity. They're also a  
(8) prominent tourist attraction.  
(9) I think human beings as well as bighorn  
(10) sheep are a part of the natural ecology of this  
(11) region, and I do not think that human beings when  
(12) hiking without dogs really interfere with the  
(13) bighorn sheep.  
(14) We see that the bighorn sheep seem very  
(15) content to much on the flowers which are  
(16) generously raised by The Lodge, one of our  
(17) prominent resorts here. They are frequently seen  
(18) there. When we reach the point where we have to  
(19) build a fence to keep them out of the city, they  
(20) are obviously not afraid of the human population  
(21) in this area.  
(22) So I object to the closing of the trails,  
(23) and I think this is an acute case of overkill. It  
(24) is totally needless. It is a major detriment to  
(25) the human population, and I don't think it has any

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(1) significant impact on the sheep population. So I  
(2) would advocate keeping the trails open. Thank  
(3) you.  
(4) MS. WENSTROM: Thank you very much, Abe.  
(5) Okay, Mr. Goodell. We're back to you.  
(6) MR. GOODELL: Thanks.  
(7) MS. WENSTROM: Sure.  
(8) MR. GOODELL: My name is Skip Goodell.  
(9) It's G-o-o-d-e-l-l. I live in Cathedral City,  
(10) California. I think there is — I'm working on a  
(11) project in Cathedral City right next to Palm  
(12) Springs. I just basically have a little  
(13) question.  
(14) Is the Fish & Wildlife working well with  
(15) the BLM — I mean as far as how to handle the  
(16) trails, et cetera?  
(17) MS. DUNNING: Sure. Was your question  
(18) are we working well together?  
(19) MR. GOODELL: Yes.  
(20) MS. DUNNING: Yes. We meet regularly.  
(21) MR. GOODELL: Okay. To give you an  
(22) example of what's going on is when I initially  
(23) designed my project — it's like over 100 acres —  
(24) I noticed right away there were trails, hiking  
(25) trails, and I could see people going across the

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(1) property and having a good time.  
(2) I got aerial photographs and looked at  
(3) the trails. So I included trails to continue  
(4) connectivity from the populated areas to the  
(5) unpopulated areas. I thought that was a pretty  
(6) wise decision. Then I got beat up by Fish  
(7) & Wildlife, "No. Don't do that. We're trying to  
(8) protect the bighorn sheep."  
(9) I said, "Well, BLM would like to have  
(10) these trails open." So I've got two agencies kind  
(11) of bucking heads or antlers or horns, whatever,  
(12) over this situation.  
(13) So I would like to have a little bit of  
(14) flexibility and continuity and I think a certain  
(15) amount of freedom in providing a good design for  
(16) the connectivity of our private property with the  
(17) existing trails which I think ought to be  
(18) recognized and preserved as much as I can. I  
(19) think fencing is an issue too.  
(20) Do you deal with fencing here in any of  
(21) this, or is that a technical thing?  
(22) MS. HUDDLESTON-LORTON: We address that  
(23) in the CDCA plan amendment on BLM lands.  
(24) MS. DUNNING: The question was do we  
(25) address fencing in the management plan that we're

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(1) talking about here tonight. The answer is through  
(2) BLM's most recent plan amendment to the California  
(3) Desert Conservation Area of which the Monument is  
(4) part of, we proposed a bighorn sheep strategy.  
(5) Part of that strategy was the potential  
(6) to have fencing. So we provide in that bighorn  
(7) sheep strategy the ability to work with the city  
(8) at specific locations specific in the future for  
(9) fencing should we need that.  
(10) MR. GOODELL: Okay. Well, I'd just like  
(11) to report that Fish & Wildlife did a good job  
(12) working with me on fencing. We still need to  
(13) complete the design of it. But I've located it on  
(14) our particular project, and they're nice people to  
(15) work with. Even within their agency, they have  
(16) different views about the bighorn sheep, whether  
(17) they're timid or they're very friendly with  
(18) people.  
(19) So I would venture to agree with you. A  
(20) human being without a dog is okay around the  
(21) bighorn sheep. I've seen a whole bunch of them in  
(22) Rancho Mirage going down the street. They don't  
(23) seem to be intimidated by any means.  
(24) So I would say conserve the property and  
(25) manage it well. That's what we're here to do with

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(1) the checkers. But what I would hate to see is,  
(2) you know, a bureaucratic nightmare or an  
(3) imposition on human beings to execute it. So  
(4) minimize the red tape and the bureaucracy and  
(5) maximize the effect of the plan is my suggestion.  
(6) Thank you.  
(7) MS. WENSTROM: Thank you very much.  
(8) Is there anybody who would like to speak  
(9) who hasn't yet filled out a card? You guys are  
(10) going to make it easy.  
(11) What I want to do now is remind you that  
(12) I know some of you haven't asked to speak because  
(13) you agreed to take that fat thing home and really  
(14) digest what it says.  
(15) So I want to remind you that we treat  
(16) your comments the same whether it's in writing or  
(17) whether you got up here at the podium and spoke.  
(18) We would like to encourage you to send your  
(19) comments in if you have comments after you get  
(20) this home and go through it.  
(21) I also want to encourage you if you have  
(22) questions after you get this home and go through  
(23) it, Connell will be available to you by phone.  
(24) And you can also use e-mail to get your questions  
(25) answered.

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(1) So now since everybody has had their time  
(2) to speak, we would like to open it now and give  
(3) you a chance to ask us questions if you have  
(4) questions that we didn't answer at first. We like  
(5) to get right to having you speak so that we make  
(6) sure we allow everybody plenty of time. If there  
(7) are unanswered questions, we'd be happy to do that  
(8) since we've done all the speaking.  
(9) Yeah. Back here.  
(10) MS. GEORGE: Ruth, there's one thing.  
(11) There are quite a few that have specific questions  
(12) on the trails and the trails plan. Jim Kenna is  
(13) here to be the expert to answer those questions.  
(14) MS. WENSTROM: Thank you, Danella. I  
(15) didn't even realize that was you back there.  
(16) What I would like to do is see if there  
(17) are questions specifically on the Monument before  
(18) we get into the trails plan, so we can make sure  
(19) we answer all the Monument-related questions  
(20) because the trails plan is separate.  
(21) So let's do Monument-plan-related  
(22) questions if there are any. And then if after  
(23) that we have trails questions, we're going to put  
(24) Mr. Kenna on the spot and let him answer those.  
(25) So Monument-related questions. Anybody

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(1) have any? My gosh. My hardest thing today is  
(2) changing a flat.  
(3) MS. DODD: Name is Jane Dodd. I live in  
(4) Rancho Mirage. I'm just curious about the visitor  
(5) center as a facility. I saw that new facilities  
(6) were addressed in the plan but not existing  
(7) facilities, as least as presented by Connell. I  
(8) personally think it needs some updating and  
(9) improvement.  
(10) MS. WENSTROM: Thank you for the comment  
(11) part of that.  
(12) Connell, do you want to address that?  
(13) MS. DUNNING: Yeah. The proposed  
(14) criteria for future facility development, in the  
(15) plan we didn't propose any specific changes to the  
(16) visitor center. That doesn't mean that we can't  
(17) do those changes in the future.  
(18) Those would require additional  
(19) environmental review of any additional impact to  
(20) the ground. We would go through a process of  
(21) determining potential impact to cultural resources  
(22) or to biological resources with any future  
(23) changes.  
(24) In terms of space, we didn't include any  
(25) changes specifically for the visitors center for

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(1) this plan. So that is correct. We do continue to  
(2) use the visitor center. We propose to continue to  
(3) use that as a facility to provide information and  
(4) to continue in the way it is now. I think Danella  
(5) wanted to provide a little bit more information.  
(6) MS. GEORGE: The visitor center has very  
(7) limited actual acreage. We're sandwiched between  
(8) the Bighorn Institute and the City of Palm  
(9) Desert.  
(10) There is going to be a nice loop trail  
(11) that the City of Palm Desert is putting in. We'll  
(12) work in partnership with them for interpretive  
(13) opportunities on that trail. It's about two  
(14) miles. We'll have set walks, and we'll have  
(15) different folks that will be able to give talks.  
(16) We are going to go into a process of a  
(17) facility plan. Most federal facilities have  
(18) facility plans, and we've just initiated that  
(19) internally. And Jim Foote is going to take the  
(20) lead on that. And hopefully in about a year,  
(21) we'll have a nice facility plan that our public  
(22) can look at. Thank you.  
(23) MS. DUNNING: Greg Hill just reminded me  
(24) that we do mention the visitor center in our  
(25) interpretive plan. So if anybody would like a

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(1) copy of that, we can get you a copy of that.  
(2) AUDIENCE MEMBER: Well, I'm just a naive  
(3) citizen here, but I can tell you that the  
(4) abundance of plans is way confusing. There's a  
(5) whole separate one just for bighorn sheep, which  
(6) has a huge impact on the trails. I mean, how do  
(7) you get all this information?  
(8) MS. DUNNING: The bighorn sheep  
(9) management strategy is actually within the BLM's  
(10) plan that I've been talking about that will be  
(11) finished in December.  
(12) AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's in here?  
(13) MS. DUNNING: No. We finished it in  
(14) December of 2002. It's the CDCA plan amendment.  
(15) It's the California Desert Conservation Area  
(16) Plan. We do have a proposed final now. We  
(17) haven't come out with a printed final plan, but we  
(18) hope to soon because it was just finished. But we  
(19) can get you a copy of that.  
(20) MS. WENSTROM: The CDCA plan covers a  
(21) larger area than just the Monument, and it was  
(22) started before the Monument plan was started. We  
(23) didn't want to just stop it in the process and  
(24) change everything around for the Monument.  
(25) In terms of timing, this Monument plan is

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(1) coming around at a time that makes it most  
(2) confusing because of the fact that both BLM and  
(3) the Forest Service are revising their general  
(4) plans. So it is very confusing.  
(5) I sympathize because I even find it  
(6) confusing. And I just encourage you if you need  
(7) help unraveling that confusion, we would be happy  
(8) to try and help you find the right places. We  
(9) acknowledge that and appreciate your patience.  
(10) Other questions? Yeah.  
(11) AUDIENCE MEMBER: Where can I get one of  
(12) the plans, the CDCA plan? Where can I pick up a  
(13) copy?  
(14) MS. WENSTROM: Where can they pick up a  
(15) CDCA plan, Connell?  
(16) MS. DUNNING: You can contact me.  
(17) There's an information sheet on "How can I stay  
(18) involved." You can contact us via e-mail, and I  
(19) can get you a copy of that plan. We'll mail  
(20) them.  
(21) MS. WENSTROM: Anybody else? Yeah.  
(22) AUDIENCE MEMBER: Just a question. If  
(23) you have a general plan which is broader than this  
(24) one and sets the parameters, will you deviate from  
(25) the specific plan?

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(1) The question is you've got the CDCA plan,  
(2) which is a general plan. And then it's got a  
(3) bighorn sheep management component to it, if I  
(4) understand correctly. So now you have the general  
(5) plan set up, which would seem to me, if you're  
(6) following it logically, that it defines the  
(7) parameters of what you can do within the specific  
(8) plan. It seems to me like that's backwards.  
(9) MS. WENSTROM: Okay. First of all, can  
(10) you give us your name for the record?  
(11) MR. BLAKLEY: Yeah. It's Jim Blakley  
(12) again.  
(13) MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Thanks. The answer  
(14) is the broader plan sets the overall plans, and  
(15) the very specific plans get more specific. So no,  
(16) it cannot go against the overall plan which sets  
(17) sideboards and maybe standards, things that you  
(18) can't exceed.  
(19) It can refine it more. It can set  
(20) additional direction. That's probably why we  
(21) haven't tried to repeat it, and we tried to  
(22) separate the topics to reduce the confusion, even  
(23) though it's still very confusing.  
(24) Unless we amended that plan through this  
(25) process, that would be the only way that we could

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(1) go against what's already in the overall plan.  
(2) MR. BLAKLEY: That's my point.  
(3) MS. WENSTROM: Because they're so close  
(4) together in terms of time, we've tried to get the  
(5) decisions and carry them forward and not be  
(6) amending it immediately, at least until we've had  
(7) time to monitor and find out that, you know, maybe  
(8) there need to be changes. So we're not even in  
(9) that time frame.  
(10) Do you have another question?  
(11) MR. BLAKLEY: Just a comment. It seems  
(12) to me like you're letting the function control  
(13) what's happening, rather than, you know, what the  
(14) facts are and what really should be happening.  
(15) MS. WENSTROM: Well, both the general  
(16) plans should be based on what the facts are and  
(17) what's happening also. It's just a little bit  
(18) different tone and direction. The Monument has a  
(19) lot of interpretation and additional things that  
(20) may not be covered in such detail in the general  
(21) management plans.  
(22) We can talk in more detail afterwards if  
(23) you have a specific issue.  
(24) Is that all the general Monument  
(25) questions?

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# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

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(1) MS. DUNNING: Just an additional comment  
(2) to your concern. The San Bernardino National  
(3) Forest is very large. Within that, there's the  
(4) San Jacinto Ranger District. The Monument is a  
(5) subset of the San Jacinto Ranger District.  
(6) MR. BLAKLEY: I understand.  
(7) MS. DUNNING: I'm doing this kind of for  
(8) everybody's purposes.  
(9) MR. BLAKLEY: All right.  
(10) MS. DUNNING: So the Monument is a small  
(11) part of the San Jacinto Ranger District. From  
(12) BLM's perspective, the California Desert  
(13) Conservation Area is huge.  
(14) MR. BLAKLEY: Right.  
(15) MS. DUNNING: Then we have the Palm  
(16) Springs resource area of which the Monument is a  
(17) small section. So the Forest Service had already  
(18) begun its forest plan revision. They're already  
(19) looking at facts and looking at what needed to be  
(20) revised in that plan, as was the BLM.  
(21) Long-term, the Monument plan can serve as  
(22) a bridge. That's what we're really seeing it as.  
(23) We can use this to further refine what needs to be  
(24) refined at a smaller level. We can look for ways  
(25) to better coordinate.

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(1) We can look for ways to use those  
(2) overlying strategies and the kind of general plan  
(3) ideas to now refine it and look at it on a smaller  
(4) scale. That's what this plan is.  
(5) We asked ourselves if we're going to do  
(6) this long-term, BLM and Forest Service working  
(7) together long-term, what's the best way that we  
(8) can do that. So that's kind of where we came  
(9) from. That's really what is in this plan.  
(10) There is a piece of paper to help that  
(11) you may have picked up — issues addressed in the  
(12) Monument plan. Issues addressed in other plans.  
(13) So when you leave here today, this will help kind  
(14) of guide you in where the different topic areas  
(15) are being addressed.  
(16) So really this management plan is for the  
(17) Monument. It's more refined, and it's a smaller  
(18) scale focusing on coordination.  
(19) MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Another question up  
(20) here, and then we'll go back.  
(21) You want to talk, Danella?  
(22) MS. GEORGE: Yes. Just to go with what  
(23) Council was saying, it's almost like we look at it  
(24) like an ops guide. This plan is operational guide  
(25) between the different entities, the agencies.

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(1) What Connell said, coordination.  
(2) And the legislation came in the year  
(3) 2000. It directed us to have a management plan.  
(4) That's why we're doing this, which is good, this  
(5) coordination that the agencies should work  
(6) together, the BLM and Forest Service.  
(7) So those planning efforts were already  
(8) under way. The forest plan and CDCA plan revision  
(9) had already started prior to the legislation  
(10) creating the Monument, and then directing both  
(11) agencies to create a management plan, if that  
(12) makes a little bit more sense.  
(13) MR. BLAKLEY: I understand it, but my  
(14) point is still the same. It's like once you  
(15) decide to fight the war, then that decision has  
(16) been made. Then on a lower lever, you can decide  
(17) how to fight it.  
(18) MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Let us get back to  
(19) you. You had a comment or a question?  
(20) AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just have a comment.  
(21) I can understand what's happening. I can  
(22) understand all the agencies. I can understand how  
(23) it works. But when you have a specific issue, and  
(24) I'm a trail-user myself, it makes it almost  
(25) impossible for us to have our specific area or our

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(1) specific issues addressed.  
(2) We are always turned away or this isn't  
(3) the right time for this, or this isn't the right  
(4) time for that.  
(5) Now, I honestly know how the plans work.  
(6) I have gone to the Rancho Mirage trail commission  
(7) meetings. You have to work with so many agencies  
(8) to try to keep one trail open that it makes it  
(9) almost impossible for someone who actually cares  
(10) to even take interest in it.  
(11) I have tons of people — I collected  
(12) 150 signatures on Bump and Grind trail in one day  
(13) in a matter of three hours on people who used it,  
(14) but none of that is even addressed in any of these  
(15) issues. There are tons of trails out there.  
(16) How do we go about keeping them open?  
(17) Can't there be one place that we can go to be  
(18) heard?  
(19) MS. WENSTROM: I want to do two things.  
(20) I want to get your name so that comment gets in  
(21) the record officially so we can address it. And  
(22) then I think we're going to the trails  
(23) discussion. Mr. Kenna is already on his way up  
(24) here.  
(25) MS. WATERS: My name is Janet Waters,

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(1) Waters. I live at 45-443 Camino Del Rey in  
(2) Indian Wells.  
(3) MS. WENSTROM: Thank you very much.  
(4) MS. WATERS: You're welcome.  
(5) MS. WENSTROM: Okay, Jim, you're up.  
(6) MR. KENNA: I hope I won't muddy the  
(7) waters. I will hopefully answer your question  
(8) about what is the best way to get to the middle of  
(9) this.  
(10) I think the opportunity is still coming.  
(11) What we have in the biological opinion that the  
(12) Bureau of Land Management got on our plan  
(13) amendment that she talked about in December says  
(14) that we have to prepare a multijurisdictional or  
(15) participate in a multijurisdictional trails  
(16) management plan.  
(17) The venue for that is being managed by  
(18) Coachella Valley Association of Governments. We  
(19) are working together with them and also with the  
(20) wildlife agencies, Fish & Wildlife Service and  
(21) California Department of Fish & Game, to address  
(22) the sheep issues and to address recreation  
(23) opportunities. That process is ongoing.  
(24) The public draft for that is scheduled  
(25) for October 1st at this point as I understand.

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(1) Again, this is a CVAG or Coachella Valley  
(2) Association of Government managed process, which  
(3) we are a cooperater in.  
(4) What we put in our plan amendment was an  
(5) overarching strategy that will allow the trails  
(6) management plan, derived together with the cities  
(7) and the county through CVAG, to fit up underneath  
(8) it. It really has three elements to the  
(9) strategy. They're fairly broad.  
(10) The elements to the strategy include  
(11) directly addressing habitat issues. That could be  
(12) things like places where you might need water. Or  
(13) you might need to open up an area that Tamarisk  
(14) trees have taken over the water so the sheep won't  
(15) go down in there. That's an example.  
(16) The second part of the strategy does deal  
(17) with disturbance issues. Some of that has been  
(18) discussed in some of the comments tonight as to  
(19) what are the issues relevant to how the sheep are  
(20) affected or aren't affected by hikers, horseback  
(21) riders, or mountain bikers or various kinds of  
(22) trail users. That's the second part of the  
(23) strategy.  
(24) But the plan that we've already done did  
(25) not make the decisions on those issues because

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(1) under our opinion and under the recovery plan for  
(2) the sheep, it says it will be a  
(3) multijurisdictional plan and a multijurisdictional  
(4) decision.  
(5) So the cities and the county through CVAG  
(6) get to play a role in the decision as well. And  
(7) that's appropriate because many of the trails  
(8) cross jurisdictional boundaries — Bump and Grind  
(9) was mentioned. Bump and Grind, there's no BLM  
(10) land involved in Bump and Grind.  
(11) MS. WATERS: Yes. I understand that.  
(12) MR. KENNA: If you take that example of  
(13) Bump and Grind, it's still part of an overall  
(14) system of trails in the entire mountains. So the  
(15) concept is that we should come to an agreement on  
(16) a trails management plan that addresses all of the  
(17) trails in the mountains as a system.  
(18) That makes sense from a recreation  
(19) standpoint because what happens on one could  
(20) affect another. We don't want to ask the public  
(21) to try and figure out what six different cities  
(22) might be doing in the county and the BLM and the  
(23) state. So we should all get together and try to  
(24) make sense of all that so it's an easily  
(25) understood and understandable approach to trails

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(1) management.  
(2) So that's the direction this is heading.  
(3) The specifics are yet to come. There is a first  
(4) indication, which came out when BLM's draft  
(5) environmental impact statement came out last  
(6) year.  
(7) The purpose of that draft statement was  
(8) not to be a final draft for public review. But  
(9) when we're talking about a sheep strategy, we  
(10) wanted to show people the range of four  
(11) alternatives that were under discussion. They  
(12) were included at that time.  
(13) Now, does that mean that those  
(14) alternatives or one of those alternatives will be  
(15) the final decision? No. Because it has to go  
(16) through that multijurisdictional process.  
(17) When all is said and done, it needs to be  
(18) the cities, the county, the BLM, the state, and as  
(19) you get to the higher elevations, the Forest  
(20) Service as well, but all of us working together on  
(21) the whole system of trails.  
(22) We started into this thing with two  
(23) goals, and we still have them. They're to provide  
(24) reasonable opportunities for recreation and to be  
(25) consistent with recovery of bighorn sheep

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# Appendix M. Public Comment Letters

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(1) populations. Both of those are very achievable.  
(2) I think the process — the part that you  
(3) just want to get into the middle of and get a hold  
(4) of, you're going to get that shot. I promise  
(5) you'll get that shot. You're going to get it with  
(6) a whole lot of additional information.  
(7) That's the purpose of stepping down from  
(8) that big umbrella strategy of the three elements,  
(9) stepping it down to some very, very specific  
(10) things so you can say what this plan means for  
(11) Bump and Grind or Art Smith or the trail up toward  
(12) the top of Murray Hill or whatever the place may  
(13) be or that you're concerned about and want to know  
(14) specifically how is that going to be affected.  
(15) You're going to be able to see that.  
(16) You're also going to be able to see the  
(17) rationale that underlies each of the alternatives  
(18) and what the affects at the agencies and cities  
(19) and so on think they would be. All that's going  
(20) to be disclosed as part of the public process.  
(21) You're going to get to look at it at that  
(22) point this fall and say, "That makes sense to me"  
(23) or "It doesn't." We're not quite there, but we're  
(24) getting close. So at that point you'll be able to  
(25) see a lot more.

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(1) I think what is important, and I think  
(2) you are doing the right thing by making sure you  
(3) get your voices in the room, making sure that we  
(4) understand and we know that you stood out on Bump  
(5) and Grind and got 150 signature in a day.  
(6) We understand that someone is very  
(7) interested in being able to hike on the top of  
(8) Murray Hill, and they do it on a regular basis.  
(9) Those kinds of things are important.  
(10) MS. WATERS: That isn't exactly what I'm  
(11) saying. I hike Murray. I hike all over. What  
(12) I'm saying is how can you inform a public of  
(13) hikers that hike all different places when they  
(14) can't — you know, the Coachella Valley  
(15) Association of Governments is a whole bunch of  
(16) areas.  
(17) Well, how can we become involved before  
(18) you all make a decision?  
(19) MR. KENNA: When the draft comes out in  
(20) October, it won't be a decision. It will be a  
(21) draft.  
(22) MS. WATERS: I'm not saying that. But  
(23) don't you think we should have some — how many  
(24) people — I mean, there's a lot of people in here  
(25) that are hikers. Shouldn't we have some input or

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(1) some way to give you some input before that comes  
(2) out?  
(3) MR. KENNA: Well, actually, I don't want  
(4) to —  
(5) MS. WATERS: The Bighorn Institute gets  
(6) to say what they like.  
(7) MR. KENNA: Yeah. Well, she's not with  
(8) the Bighorn Institute.  
(9) MS. HUDDLESTON-LORTON: I'm BLM.  
(10) MS. WATERS: Everybody gets to say what  
(11) they want but us.  
(12) MR. KENNA: Not to take anything away  
(13) from those folks that have become engaged here,  
(14) because we really want everyone engaged, but we  
(15) started here with the scoping meeting on trails at  
(16) the Living Desert in 1999.  
(17) MS. WATERS: And I understand. But you  
(18) know, it has taken me this long and I've hiked the  
(19) trails for four years to find out about any of  
(20) them. Thank you. I'm serious.  
(21) MS. WENSTROM: Let me share something  
(22) that's going to help a little bit. It won't help  
(23) everyone in the whole valley. One of the things  
(24) we're going to do, we know that everybody that has  
(25) come to the Monument meetings, we hear over and

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(1) over how interested you are in trails.  
(2) MS. WATERS: Right.  
(3) MS. WENSTROM: So we're going to make  
(4) sure that — Connell just assured me that she will  
(5) take all the names that are signed up for Monument  
(6) meetings and make sure they are on the list to  
(7) receive that draft.  
(8) So when the draft comes out, it will be  
(9) at the same point that we are with the Monument  
(10) plan. You'll get to see kind of what's laid out  
(11) there, what's been resolved. Some of it you might  
(12) be happy with. Some of it you might still have  
(13) concerns with. And you'll have a chance to  
(14) comment just like you are here.  
(15) So it will not be a done deal by any  
(16) means, but it will have a little more meaning to  
(17) it than what you're looking at now. I think it  
(18) should work very well. And like I said, we'll  
(19) make sure everybody get on that list. I think the  
(20) frustration is people don't know how to get into  
(21) the process.  
(22) MS. WATERS: That's right.  
(23) MS. WENSTROM: So you will get into the  
(24) process if you signed the mailing list for the  
(25) Monument tonight or some other time.

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(1) MR. KENNA: I want to emphasize that  
(2) there will be lots of additional opportunity. The  
(3) cities are going to take positions on issues, but  
(4) there are going to be plenty of comment periods to  
(5) work on these issues. This has been an  
(6) extraordinarily open process.  
(7) MS. WATERS: I understand that, and I  
(8) appreciate your efforts.  
(9) MR. KENNA: In the old way we used to do  
(10) business, this part of the process wouldn't have  
(11) even been open, and it's been open for years.  
(12) We've had over a dozen meetings with the trails  
(13) working group and a number of interests.  
(14) We'll take anybody's input. We're  
(15) looking for information if there's something. We  
(16) don't want to miss anything. So if there's  
(17) something that you feel that you can get to us  
(18) that will help, we're willing to take it.  
(19) The CVAG process, they meet on the last  
(20) Thursday of every month. There's a policy  
(21) advisory group that meets then. That's an open  
(22) forum as well. I know it's during the day and  
(23) some folks can't make that. I can't help that  
(24) part. It's not my forum. We have had Monument  
(25) Advisory Committee meetings on the weekends on

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(1) Saturdays.  
(2) MS. WATERS: I'm not questioning that  
(3) you've done everything in the public process.  
(4) MR. KENNA: Well, what I'm trying to say  
(5) is we're really trying, and we really do want to  
(6) hear what you have to say.  
(7) AUDIENCE MEMBER: I think the problem  
(8) with hikers is that we're all a bunch of  
(9) individualists. We're just out there with our  
(10) hiking boots hiking. We're not, you know,  
(11) necessarily reading all the newspapers and  
(12) checking out all the public meetings we should be  
(13) going to.  
(14) So another approach might be for those  
(15) jurisdictions who are doing trails to reach out  
(16) to, you know, the Coachella Valley Hiking Group  
(17) and the Desert Trails Hiking Group — they've all  
(18) got databases of all their memberships — and have  
(19) a big meeting with all of the hikers, at least  
(20) with those two groups.  
(21) MR. KENNA: Okay.  
(22) AUDIENCE MEMBER: Because you're relying  
(23) on a bunch of individuals to interface with the  
(24) government, and it isn't going to happen. At  
(25) least that's been my experience.

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(1) AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm not really  
(2) interested in trails, but I've been to those CVAG  
(3) meetings. I know the attorney for Desert Riders  
(4) is there at the meetings, but I think those people  
(5) don't tell their own membership about the  
(6) meetings.  
(7) MS. WATERS: That's what I'm saying. We  
(8) just never know.  
(9) MR. KENNA: Well, if we can find —  
(10) AUDIENCE MEMBER: There's no paid staff  
(11) at these clubs. They're just volunteers.  
(12) MR. KENNA: Yeah. Okay. If there's  
(13) anybody who has — I mean, we have gone to the  
(14) trails club meetings. We have done some of those  
(15) things. If that isn't working, help us find  
(16) something else. Because we're not trying to keep  
(17) anybody out. We're interested in everybody's  
(18) comments and everybody's perspectives.  
(19) So if something different will work  
(20) better for you, I think that we can probably  
(21) figure out a way to do that. You can talk to me  
(22) afterwards if you've got ideas you don't want to  
(23) express here in the open. We're certainly open.  
(24) There will be a lot of different kinds of  
(25) forums, everything from written to — I'm sure the

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(1) city councils will look at these trail issues.  
(2) The county will look at this. We'll have formal  
(3) public meetings and comments. There will be  
(4) plenty of opportunity. I guarantee it.  
(5) You can write, you can speak at the  
(6) meetings. We'll try and do workshop types of  
(7) things. Our interest is that nobody is going to  
(8) try to sneak anything by anybody. Our interest is  
(9) to make sure that we have everybody's voice in the  
(10) room as the decision process goes on.  
(11) Yes, sir.  
(12) AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah. One thing that  
(13) troubles me is that everything you say — I mean,  
(14) this is a complicated plan. There's a lot of work  
(15) that has gone into it. I don't think there's  
(16) anyone here that doesn't really appreciate the  
(17) time and energy that's gone into it. You know,  
(18) it's a very complex issue.  
(19) But also what I hear you saying that  
(20) bothers me is that everything is couched in the  
(21) context of the sheep, you know. It seems to me  
(22) that, you know — whatever happened to the  
(23) constitution — life, liberty and the pursuit of  
(24) happiness?  
(25) Why aren't human beings primary in this

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(1) equation? Why don't we have a primary emphasis on  
(2) constitutional rights rather than, you know, a  
(3) piece of legislation that may or may not over time  
(4) hold up?  
(5) MR. KENNA: Well, for better or worse,  
(6) we're going to have to deal with the sheep issue  
(7) because it's been listed as a species under the  
(8) Endangered Species Act. That does not mean that  
(9) we're trying to depreciate getting out into the  
(10) mountains and people using the trails. We've  
(11) always tried to keep those things open to  
(12) everybody.  
(13) We're trying to find the appropriate  
(14) opportunities for recreation, and we're trying to  
(15) figure out how to make sheep recovery and the  
(16) recovery of those populations work. They don't  
(17) have to be mutually exclusive.  
(18) I would hope that you won't take away  
(19) from here the idea that we're trying to somehow  
(20) diminish or decrease the importance of the  
(21) recreation part of this equation. It's in there.  
(22) It's part of the discussion. It will be part of  
(23) the decision.  
(24) MR. BLAKLEY: From my point of view, it's  
(25) not broken. Why fix it?

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(1) MR. KENNA: Well, I can't tell you what  
(2) the decision ought to be at this point because we  
(3) haven't even gotten to the point of putting a  
(4) public draft out yet.  
(5) MS. WENSTROM: I heard you say something  
(6) about maybe not being upheld?  
(7) MR. BLAKLEY: I'm saying that conceivably  
(8) could be down that line.  
(9) MS. WENSTROM: Okay. I understand that.  
(10) I understand that you may or may not disagree with  
(11) that. I'm not going to challenge that at all.  
(12) But what I want to tell you is Mr. Kenna here and  
(13) the Forest Service line officers are charged with  
(14) enforcing the law while it's on the books. So  
(15) he's got to do that.  
(16) So what you can help us most with to make  
(17) it successful as possible is to try and find  
(18) solutions that will make it work for everybody so  
(19) that we don't have to make it about one or the  
(20) other.  
(21) We as agencies -- and nobody said it  
(22) would be easy, but our goal is to try and figure  
(23) out if there's ways we can do a better job of  
(24) doing both. I think that's what Jim is telling  
(25) you that he's trying to do. I would kind of ask

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(1) you to let BLM work through the plan and get it  
(2) out on the streets before you assume that we've  
(3) totally forgotten you.  
(4) It's just that way. We're charged with  
(5) following the law as government servants. You're  
(6) welcome to try and change it, but while it's on  
(7) the books, we follow it.  
(8) MR. KENNA: Okay. There's two things  
(9) here, just to sum them up. If you've got an issue  
(10) about the ability to get involved, let's figure  
(11) out how to fix it. There's plenty of ways to fix  
(12) that.  
(13) If you've got an issue about what you  
(14) think the direction ought to be or how the  
(15) decision out to be thought about or what issues  
(16) need to be on the table or specific things you do  
(17) or don't want to see in the final plan, that's  
(18) what the process is for.  
(19) So I can't tell you what the answer is  
(20) going to be on that part yet. That would be  
(21) predecisional. It would be probably unfair to all  
(22) the rest of the participants in the process  
(23) ranging from the interest groups -- the hikers,  
(24) the horseback riders -- to the cities, the state,  
(25) and all the other jurisdictions that have to be

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(1) part of that decision.  
(2) That decision will come when it's time.  
(3) We're just not there yet. So you still have a lot  
(4) of opportunity here. If you can't find the one  
(5) that fits you, let's figure out one that will. We  
(6) can do that. Okay.  
(7) MS. GEORGE: Danella George. Just two  
(8) points. We need to get back in the process just  
(9) to ask people for the court reporter to please say  
(10) your name before you go into your discussion.  
(11) That's all for Sonja.  
(12) And then what Jim said, we also have an  
(13) access work group, part of the Monument Advisory  
(14) Committee. There's work groups that assist the  
(15) Monument Advisory Committee. There's one for  
(16) access and trails. Frank Bogert and Buford Crites  
(17) are on that.  
(18) Is there anybody else in here that is in  
(19) that work group? That would be a place, if you  
(20) came to a Monument Advisory Committee Meeting.  
(21) Our next one would be in June. Public comment is  
(22) at 11:00. But if you came prior to the meeting,  
(23) and you're interested in being in that work group,  
(24) you can talk to Frank Bogert or Buford Crites.  
(25) Thank you.

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(1) MR. KENNA: Okay. Let me ask a  
(2) question. Is there anything else, particularly if  
(3) there's information I can give you? I don't want  
(4) you to feel like I'm up here to debate anybody,  
(5) because I really don't want to. I value your  
(6) ideas. You're entitled to what you think, and we  
(7) need to hear it. But if there's information I can  
(8) help you with, that I'd really like to do too.  
(9) MS. UDALL: By name is Jane Udall. I'd  
(10) like to find out who at CVAG is the person that we  
(11) contact about the trails situation.  
(12) MR. KENNA: The director who handles that  
(13) at CVAG is Jim Sullivan. Do you want a telephone  
(14) number?  
(15) MS. UDALL: No. I can manage that.  
(16) Thanks.  
(17) MR. KENNA: Okay.  
(18) Yes, sir.  
(19) MR. MAC ARTHUR: I'm Karl MacArthur with  
(20) UC Extension. The news bites that the BLM puts  
(21) out online gives notices of these meetings. You  
(22) can get that any time. It's real easy. You can  
(23) subscribe to it, and they'll send you weekly  
(24) updates. Here we go. I can't see it.  
(25) <http://www.ca.blm.gov>.

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(1) MR. KENNA: Good.  
(2) MS. DUNNING: Jim Sullivan's information  
(3) can be found on the Web page for the HCP. There's  
(4) a piece of paper that you guys picked up. It says  
(5) "How Can I Be Involved." On the back of that  
(6) there's a Web page for the HCP down at the  
(7) bottom. If you go to that Web page, Jim Sullivan  
(8) is the contact. You can also see minutes from  
(9) every meeting that they've had. So that's all on  
(10) the piece of paper that you guys picked up.  
(11) MR. KENNA: Anybody else I can help?  
(12) MS. DUNNING: Coachella Valley Multiple  
(13) Species Habitat Conservation Plan. That's the  
(14) long name. We say "HCP."  
(15) MR. MAC ARTHUR: I might mention the news  
(16) bites, you can you subscribe to that. If you  
(17) subscribe to it, then instead of having to go  
(18) through it every time, they will send it to you.  
(19) MR. KENNA: Anything else? Well, I  
(20) certainly -- yes. I'm sorry.  
(21) MR. VALORIC: My name is George Valoric.  
(22) I'm a property owner within the Monument. I've  
(23) been here all my life. I understand the trails.  
(24) I've walked a few trails in my time, and I'm a  
(25) horse man.

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(1) What I want to say is I see this meeting  
(2) as a milestone for you, the staff here. I've  
(3) watched most of the meetings. I want to  
(4) compliment Connell and Ruth and Jim and Danella  
(5) with your competence and levelheadedness in some  
(6) very difficult situations. I want to congratulate  
(7) you on your work. I needed to get that in there.  
(8) MR. KENNA: Thank you very much.  
(9) Anything else we can do for anybody? Barbara, my  
(10) buddy from Agua Caliente.  
(11) MS. GONZALES-LYONS: I'm  
(12) Barbara Gonzales-Lyons, Agua Caliente Band of  
(13) Cahuilla Indians. Again, I wanted to reiterate  
(14) the same thing. I want to commend the staff --  
(15) Connell, Danella, Jim, and everybody -- on your  
(16) working with the tribes. This has been the first  
(17) for BLM and forestry of including the tribes in  
(18) the process. I want to say keep it up, and thank  
(19) you very much for doing it and setting the pace on  
(20) this and setting standards now to working with  
(21) tribes. I know the other tribes also thank you  
(22) for working very hard in making them part of the  
(23) process. Thank you.  
(24) MR. KENNA: Thank you. Anyone else?  
(25) MR. HODGES: I'd like to ask a question.

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(1) Dale Hodges. Thanks for your service. So what  
(2) the lady is saying is that you're to enforce the  
(3) laws per the Forest Service? And are there any  
(4) laws on the books now that you are able to enforce  
(5) that would minimize or even eliminate the taking  
(6) of -- I think the term you might use is natural  
(7) resources, but I think that's an oxymoron -- but  
(8) just the taking of rocks and cactus out of the  
(9) Monument?  
(10) Are there laws on the books now that we  
(11) don't have to worry about that you are able to  
(12) enforce? And if there are, what are you doing to  
(13) enforce them?  
(14) MR. KENNA: The taking of rocks and  
(15) minerals? Is that what I understood? Cactus and  
(16) plant materials?  
(17) MR. HODGES: Yes.  
(18) MR. KENNA: Those are a discretionary  
(19) permit under law. Areas can be open or not open  
(20) to them. A management plan can make decisions  
(21) about those things, and it is discretionary.  
(22) There's nothing that says an area has to be open  
(23) or should be closed. So that's the legal  
(24) framework that you're talking about.  
(25) MR. HODGES: Whose discretion?

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(1) MR. KENNA: The discretion of the  
(2) management.  
(3) MS. WENSTROM: Let me add something to  
(4) that. Just to clarify, most of those things like  
(5) cactus or plants you would need to get a permit.  
(6) That's how we regulate so you don't take plants  
(7) that are listed or sensitive. We will not give  
(8) you a permit for something that we have a concern  
(9) about the future of.  
(10) On the rocks and minerals, I think you  
(11) meant mostly casual rock hounding. But do  
(12) understand that there is also the 1872 Monument  
(13) law that we are all subject to.  
(14) Now, the Monument is withdrawn from  
(15) additional mineral entry. So within the Monument,  
(16) the only place where folks would have rights to  
(17) larger scale minerals is where they have an  
(18) existing claim. But we do have laws that we do  
(19) have to follow regarding removal of minerals that  
(20) we are subject to.  
(21) So there's a variety of laws that provide  
(22) for both agencies. And on top of that, we each  
(23) have our own sets of regulations. And then we  
(24) each take our own specific circumstances like  
(25) identifying which plants will come in and which

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(1) ones won't within the agency. So if there's a  
(2) specific issue, we'd be happy to talk with you  
(3) afterwards, either agency. But yeah. There's a  
(4) bunch of them.  
(5) MS. GEORGE: Danella George. Ruth, did  
(6) you get the gentleman's name?  
(7) MS. WENSTROM: He said it. It was  
(8) Dale — I forget your last name.  
(9) MS. GEORGE: Were you able to get that,  
(10) Sonja?  
(11) THE REPORTER: Yes.  
(12) MS. WENSTROM: Okay. Any additional  
(13) questions, trail or otherwise? Any person who has  
(14) decided now that they still want to get their  
(15) comments on the record? Because I will give you  
(16) one last shot of getting up here and talking if  
(17) you want to do that since we have lots of time.  
(18) Okay. I wanted to remind you before I  
(19) let you go that if you didn't pick up a copy, the  
(20) plans are back there. The comment deadline is  
(21) June 19th.  
(22) Make sure you take one of the sheets that  
(23) tells you how to find out more and how to stay  
(24) involved. It will have the number where you can  
(25) ask questions.

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(1) We'll stick around for a little while  
(2) afterwards if you have questions. We really  
(3) appreciate your turnout tonight and your  
(4) questions. I appreciate your frustrations to the  
(5) folks that expressed frustrations.  
(6) MS. WATERS: I'm sorry.  
(7) MS. WENSTROM: No. That's fine. It  
(8) really is. We need to know that. When there are  
(9) frustrated people, we need to try and do better.  
(10) So did you have anything else, Council?  
(11) MS. DUNNING: Yeah. I was going to say  
(12) that even though trails aren't in this plan, a lot  
(13) of you have an interest in trails and we  
(14) appreciate that. But there are a lot of things  
(15) that we need your comments on in this plan.  
(16) So don't just not look at it because it's  
(17) not going to be addressing trails specifically.  
(18) Take a look at it and ask yourself have we  
(19) adequately addressed how we're going to protect  
(20) and preserve those values long-term in the  
(21) Monument. Take a look at that.  
(22) If we haven't, then provide some  
(23) substantive comments of ways we can do that  
(24) better. So think about that when you're  
(25) addressing your comments by June 19th. Thanks.

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(1) MS. WENSTROM: Thank you very much.  
(2) (Off the record.)  
(3) (The meeting concluded at 7:35 p.m.)  
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(1) REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE  
(2) STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
(3) ) ss  
(4) COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE )  
(5)  
(6) I, SONJA CHAPMAN, a certified shorthand  
(7) reporter within and for the state of California do  
(8) hereby certify that the foregoing 75 pages  
(9) comprise a full, true, and correct transcription  
(10) of the proceedings that were taken before me at  
(11) the time and place therein set forth.  
(12) Dated this 10th day of May, 2003.  
(13)  
(14)  
(15) Sonja Chapman, CSR #11504  
(16)  
(17)  
(18)  
(19)  
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(21)  
(22)  
(23)  
(24)  
(25)

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