

SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT  
MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF ORAL PROCEEDINGS

LOCATION: County of Riverside  
Permit Assistance Center  
Second Floor Conference Room  
38686 El Cerrito Road  
Palm Desert, CA 92211

DATE AND TIME: Monday, September 20, 2010  
3:05 p.m. to 5:25 p.m.

REPORTED BY: DIANE CARVER MANN, CSR  
CSR NO. 6008

JOB NO.: 69386DM

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A P P E A R A N C E S

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT:

NAME :	REPRESENTING:
JEFF MORGAN (Vice Chair)	Local conservation organization
CORRIE KATES	City of Indian Wells
RUTH WATLING	Pinyon Community Council
AL MUTH	Regional college or university
BOB LYMAN	County of Riverside
JEFF WATTENBARGER	Local developer or builder organization
JOHN CRISTE	City of Rancho Mirage
TOM DAVIS	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
KURT LEUSCHNER	Regional college or university
GARRATT AITCHISON	California Department of Parks and Recreation

ALSO PRESENT:	REPRESENTING:
JIM FOOTE	Bureau of Land Management
TOM GILLETT	Acting Forest Supervisor for the San Bernardino National Forest
LAURIE ROSENTHAL	District Ranger for the San Jacinto Ranger District
JOHN KALISH	Field Manager for the Palm Springs South Coast Field Office
JACK HAMBY	Associate District Manager for the California Desert District
GRETCHEN GUTIERREZ	Friends of the Desert Mountains

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1 PALM DESERT, CA MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

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3 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

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5 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay, everybody,  
6 welcome. The chair is not available today. As the  
7 vice chair, I am going to be the acting chair of this  
8 meeting. It's 3:05 or 3:06. I'm calling the meeting  
9 to order, and we'll do a roll call. Mr. Chairman can  
10 do that.

11 MR. FOOTE: Representing the city of  
12 Rancho Mirage, Bob Brockman, absent.

13 As alternate representing the city of  
14 Rancho Mirage, John Criste.

15 MR. CRISTE: Present.

16 MR. FOOTE: Thank you. Representing the  
17 local conservation organization and current vice  
18 chair, Jeff Morgan.

19 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Present.

20 MR. FOOTE: Representing city of  
21 Palm Desert, Jim Ferguson, absent.

22 Representing the city of Indian Wells,  
23 Corrie Kates.

24 MR. KATES: Here.

25 MR. FOOTE: Representing the city of

1 La Quinta, Mark Weber, absent.

2 Representing the Agua Caliente Band of  
3 Cahuilla Indians, Debra Olinger, absent.

4 Representing the Pinyon Community Council,  
5 Ruth Watling, absent.

6 Representing a regional college or  
7 university, Al Muth.

8 MR. MUTH: Here.

9 MR. FOOTE: Representing the California  
10 Department of Parks and Recreation, Ron Krueper,  
11 absent.

12 Representing the Parks and Recreation as  
13 alternate, Garratt Aitchison.

14 MR. AITCHISON: Present.

15 MR. FOOTE: Representing the County of  
16 Riverside, Bob Lyman.

17 MR. LYMAN: Here.

18 MR. FOOTE: Representing a local  
19 developer or builder organization, Jeff Wattenbarger.

20 MR. WATTENBARGER: Here.

21 MR. FOOTE: And in terms of other  
22 alternates, representing the city of Palm Desert,  
23 Buford Crites, absent.

24 Representing the Agua Caliente Band of  
25 Cahuilla Indians, Tom Davis, absent.

1                   And alternate region college or university,  
2 Kurt Leuschner.

3                   MR. LEUSCHNER: Present.

4                   MR. FOOTE: Yes, we have a quorum.  
5 Under the rules established in the Omnibus Bill last  
6 year, a quorum is established by a majority of the  
7 appointed members, which in this case we have 11  
8 primary appointed members, five alternates. Today we  
9 do have six members in attendance representing major  
10 groups, so we do have a quorum.

11                   I'd like to also acknowledge Tom Gillett,  
12 the acting forest supervisor of the San Bernardino  
13 National Forest.

14                   MR. GILLETT: Present.

15                   MR. FOOTE: Present. Laurie Rosenthal,  
16 district ranger for the San Jacinto Ranger District.

17                   MS. ROSENTHAL: Present.

18                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: John Kalish, field  
19 manager for the South Coast Field Office.

20                   MR. KALISH: And Jack Hamby for the  
21 California Desert District representing Teri Raml, the  
22 district manager.

23                   MR. HAMBY: Present.

24                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay. That being  
25 done, the roll call, we have a quorum, and everybody

1 is here. We have a first action item. We need to  
2 discuss the minutes and approve them. If there are  
3 any changes to the minutes I sent out, let us know  
4 right now and we can make any necessary changes.

5 That being said, no changes made, we need a  
6 motion to approve the minutes of the September 21st  
7 meeting of 2009.

8 MR. CRISTE: So move.

9 MR. LYMAN: Second.

10 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay. We have a  
11 motion. We have a second. All in favor? Any  
12 opposed?

13 (A voice vote was taken.)

14 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Any abstentions?

15 MR. MUTH: Abstain.

16 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: One. So now we go  
17 to the DFO.

18 MR. FOOTE: Let me just also, oversight,  
19 introduce Gretchen Gutierrez, who is the CEO of  
20 Friends of the Desert Mountains. She wasn't on my  
21 list because I typically put MAC members and the board  
22 of directors, but welcome, Gretchen.

23 MS. GUTIERREZ: Thank you.

24 MR. FOOTE: In your package you'll find  
25 the revised Charter for the later Charter, the Bylaws

1 and Standard Operating Procedures in MAC composition,  
2 MAC attendance. Let's focus on those for right now.  
3 As you know, the last Charter expired last December.  
4 Due to delays, it took about one year for the Charter  
5 to get renewed. So it was not renewed until this last  
6 June. And of course, we cannot conduct any business  
7 as an advisory committee until such time that the  
8 Charter is in place.

9           So now we do have that in place, and so,  
10 well, I encourage you to read that, go over that at  
11 your leisure, also the Bylaws and Standard Operating  
12 Procedures, which are separate from the Charter but no  
13 less an important document.

14           One of the other pieces of information in  
15 your packet is the composition as of the current time.  
16 You can see we have eleven primary members appointed,  
17 we have five alternates appointed, which leaves a  
18 number of positions still vacant on the Monument  
19 Advisory Committee. And we'll get to that in the next  
20 action item on the agenda.

21           But also we want to call your attention to  
22 the attendance record. Just for your information, you  
23 can see how the various interests were represented  
24 since February of 2005. I think so far we have one  
25 perfect-attendance record. That's Sierra Club, with

1 Jeff Morgan being here every meeting. That's on the  
2 list here. And following right behind that, I think,  
3 is Bob Lyman. He only missed one meeting back in  
4 2006.

5 So if anyone has any questions on the  
6 Charter, Bylaws, composition, attendance record before  
7 we go to the next item.

8 MR. WATTENBARGER: Mr. Chairman?

9 MR. FOOTE: Yes.

10 MR. WATTENBARGER: Do we need to act on  
11 these Bylaws, or are they already approved, the  
12 Bylaws? And what's the other thing? The Charter.

13 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: These are what  
14 we're under right now.

15 MR. WATTENBARGER: This group doesn't  
16 need to vote on it?

17 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Not at this point,  
18 no.

19 I do have a question, Jim, and that is, are  
20 there any major changes in these than the last ones?

21 MR. FOOTE: No, there are no major  
22 changes. Any changes are fairly minor. They did make  
23 a few operational changes but one to reflect the  
24 change in the quorum requirement, which came as a  
25 result of the Omnibus Bill last year changed the

1 quorum from eight as identified in the National  
2 Monument's establishing legislation to a majority of  
3 the appointed.

4           In this particular case, had we been  
5 operating under the previous requirements, we would  
6 not have a quorum today. Under the new requirements  
7 from the Omnibus Bill, we do have a quorum. And just  
8 for further information, Jeff, just so you know, the  
9 Charter itself, as you see on the third page, they're  
10 actually approved by the Department of Interior and  
11 Agriculture. And this Charter was filed on June 11,  
12 2010. At the same time that the Washington office  
13 sent us this, they also sent us the updated Bylaws and  
14 Standard Operating Procedures.

15           MR. WATTENBARGER: So do all the  
16 monument groups like ours throughout the country  
17 operate based with the same charter?

18           MR. FOOTE: No. This is unique. In  
19 this in particular case with regards to composition,  
20 the membership was identified in the Monument's  
21 establishing legislation, the 15 positions. Unlike  
22 some advisory councils, which have open positions that  
23 might represent some general activity such as  
24 recreation, we don't have that here. They have been  
25 specified in the legislation, and they continue to be

1 reflected in the charter.

2 MR. WATTENBARGER: Thank you.

3 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: So in most of the  
4 national monuments that have been established in the  
5 last 12 or 15 years, they were established not through  
6 legislation but through proclamation by the President.  
7 So the rules are somewhat different because, when you  
8 have legislation, when you go to establish something,  
9 you write how it's going to operate in the  
10 legislation. And this is the only recent one that I  
11 know, if any.

12 MR. WATTENBARGER: The legislation?

13 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Yeah. And it's  
14 one of the few that has both the Forest Service and  
15 the BLM. Usually they're all BLM. There's a few  
16 others that are both BLM and Forest Service, but often  
17 they operate in two different parts separately.

18 MR. WATTENBARGER: Thank you.

19 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay. We're  
20 moving on pretty quickly today. Next item, election  
21 of a chairperson and a vice chairperson. There are  
22 two options. We can do that now, or we can defer it  
23 until the next meeting. We don't know when that may  
24 be. The previous chair -- I'm sorry. The current  
25 chair is not here, and this would have been his first

1 meeting as a chair, so we have the option of going  
2 forward with the election, or we can defer it to the  
3 next meeting. And if anyone has any comments on that,  
4 I'm open.

5 MR. WATTENBARGER: Well, I assume you  
6 two want to, so why can't we just elect you?

7 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: I don't know. Bob  
8 has not been in communication with me if he wants to  
9 serve or not. Has he spoken with you?

10 MR. FOOTE: Not in this regard. The  
11 Bylaws say the committee will annually elect a chair  
12 and vice chair among its primary members. As Jeff  
13 reflected, it's an unusual circumstance where you meet  
14 once a year to elect a chair and vice chair and then  
15 they serve one meeting and then you have a new  
16 election. There's not a whole lot of continuity  
17 there.

18 And so I think your options are that, if  
19 you want to defer that, particularly since  
20 Bob Brockman, current chair, is not in attendance,  
21 that you may want to choose to do so and defer that to  
22 the next meeting, whenever that may be.

23 MR. LYMAN: Assume we're looking for a  
24 motion? I move that we defer to the next  
25 semi-scheduled meeting.

1 MR. WATTENBARGER: Second.

2 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: We have a motion.  
3 We have a second. All in favor that we defer the  
4 election until the next MAC meeting? Any opposed?  
5 Any abstentions?

6 (A voice vote was taken.)

7 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: No. Motion  
8 carries.

9 MR. FOOTE: I just want to let the  
10 record reflect that Tom Davis, the alternate  
11 representative for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla  
12 Indians, has arrived.

13 MR. DAVIS: Sorry I'm late.

14 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay. The next  
15 action item calls for nominations to fill vacancies on  
16 the MAC. Jim will be able to explain how this process  
17 works.

18 MR. FOOTE: Before I do, so also let the  
19 record reflect that Ruth Watling, the representative  
20 for the Pinyon Community Council, has arrived.

21 MS. WATLING: Thank you, with apologies.

22 MR. FOOTE: The next action item is a  
23 call for nominations to fill vacancies. If you look  
24 at the composition table, at the end you'll see that  
25 we do have a number of vacancies. Of this group here,

1 the first group to expire will not be until December  
2 of 2011. So we do have some time.

3 As you know, we've gone through some delays  
4 when we've come to appointments. They've been very  
5 lengthy. I believe one of the last sets took about 14  
6 months. We've been assured that will not occur again.  
7 We will get them appointed sooner than that.

8 For your information, too, a couple of the  
9 other handouts indicate an Advisory Committee packet  
10 flowchart. This will give you a sense of the process.  
11 Once we do submit packages for nominations, this is  
12 the process it goes through, all the hands that see it  
13 before we get down to appointment. And this one  
14 indicates at the bottom, Secretary of Department of  
15 the Interior. Well, in terms of member appointments,  
16 that is also done with the concurrence of the  
17 Secretary of Agriculture.

18 On the other sheet entitled "BLM Advisory  
19 Committee Charter Renewal and Member Nominations,"  
20 this gives you a sense of the timeframe, again, it  
21 takes to do this that from the expiration date, which  
22 in this case would be December of 2011. Normally we'd  
23 be out 240 days in advance of that in order to make  
24 the appointments before terms expired. However, again  
25 you can see that we do have a number of vacancies, and

1 it is our option at any time to post a notice in the  
2 Federal Register calling for nominations. Typically  
3 that's a 90-day call for nominations, after which  
4 point I do assemble the packages, move them up through  
5 the State office to the Washington office. And then  
6 again, going back to the flowchart, with everyone that  
7 gets their hands on it, it goes through this process.  
8 Ultimately the appointments are made.

9 All of you have received a letter from the  
10 Secretary of the Interior indicating your  
11 appointments. And again that was done with  
12 concurrence with the Secretary of Agriculture. So  
13 it's really a decision whether we want to go ahead  
14 and, in fact, now initiate the process and call for  
15 the nominations for these positions here.

16 Now, some of them -- for instance, the  
17 alternate for the Pinyon Community Council, which  
18 happens to be the only vacancy in the first group  
19 which would expire December 16th, 2011. By the time  
20 that appointment was made, the normal three-year  
21 period for appointments would be much less than that.

22 In the next group, those that expire  
23 July 21st, 2012, by the time we got the 240 days down  
24 the line here, we are going to be certainly into next  
25 year. So those appointments would probably be, at

1 most, a year and a half as opposed to into the  
2 three-year period. That has happened here before.

3 In fact, Corrie was in an interesting  
4 position in that he had applied at one point and his  
5 appointment essentially expired before he ever got  
6 appointed, so he had to go through the process again.  
7 But again that was an unusual circumstance that we  
8 don't anticipate will occur again. That was unduly  
9 long.

10 So this body would choose, then -- I can go  
11 ahead and initiate the call for nominations if you'd  
12 so desire.

13 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Quick comment on  
14 that. We have four primary vacancies right now and  
15 nine or ten alternate vacancies right now. That's 14  
16 people that we would probably have to process. So we  
17 might as well get started on it now.

18 MR. FOOTE: We can do that.

19 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: But does anyone  
20 has any other thoughts regarding this?

21 MR. KATES: I say start now because they  
22 don't want to end up like me.

23 MR. FOOTE: Corrie's situation was  
24 really unusual in that his would have been an  
25 abbreviated appointment to begin with and it just

1 never made it through the process. He was in that  
2 original batch that took 14 months from the time that  
3 I submitted them up the chain. This was not including  
4 the call-for-nomination period before the appointments  
5 were, in fact, made.

6 MS. GUTIERREZ: Jim, I have a question  
7 about the city seats. Are those supposed to be filled  
8 by someone who actually works or with a staff person  
9 within the city as they're designated or just a  
10 resident of that city?

11 MR. FOOTE: Typically with the cities,  
12 the city councils have supported the nomination  
13 because, along with the application, we do get a  
14 letter of support from whatever organization or  
15 jurisdiction that they represent.

16 In two cases the City of Palm Desert and  
17 the City of Cathedral City have indicated or decided  
18 that only sitting council members can be appointed to  
19 the Monument Advisory Committee. The other cities  
20 have made no such determination, and it would be  
21 anybody that they so choose to nominate or support.

22 MR. WATTENBARGER: Mr. Chairman, excuse  
23 my newness, but all the cities aren't represented, or  
24 did the charter specify what cities are going to be on  
25 this board?

1                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: The legislation  
2 specified which cities would be allowed to have a  
3 representative or an appointment to the Advisory  
4 Committee, and it included the county of Riverside.

5                   MR. FOOTE: In essence, Jeff, they're  
6 the cities that front the National Monument as you  
7 start from Palm Springs down to La Quinta. It's all  
8 those that border the Monument. So the cities like  
9 Desert Hot Springs that is not adjacent --

10                  MR. WATTENBARGER: Coachella?

11                  MR. FOOTE: Yes, correct. It actually  
12 doesn't front the Monument.

13                  MR. MUTH: No?

14                  ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: No. When you get  
15 south of about 54th. Okay. Well, Jim, if you want to  
16 go ahead and start this process, I'm sure it will take  
17 a month or two to get together with notes in the  
18 Federal Registry.

19                  MR. FOOTE: I will do that. The process  
20 is drafting a Federal Register Notice, moving it on up  
21 through the chain ultimately to the Washington office,  
22 and it will get seen by many individuals before it  
23 makes its way for federal publication. I will make  
24 everyone know that really what's important is to have  
25 your assistance in identifying, encouraging whoever it

1 is that might want to get involved in this  
2 organization. Oftentimes we can't rely on the cities  
3 themselves or any of the organizations because they're  
4 not either aware of it or not sufficiently encouraged  
5 to prompt an individual to apply. So hopefully we  
6 will have some assistance from the MAC members.

7 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Further comment on  
8 that is that just because you get nominated doesn't  
9 mean you're going to get appointed. We put forward  
10 candidates for appointments and they get rejected by  
11 the President because maybe he doesn't like their  
12 politics. I don't know. They don't have to get a  
13 reason for rejection, and this has happened on several  
14 occasions, at least a half a dozen.

15 MR. WATTENBARGER: Is there a date  
16 certain that we should submit like an alternate name  
17 to you so we can keep the process moving?

18 MR. FOOTE: It can only be submitted  
19 during the open call for nominations. Once the notice  
20 is published in the Federal Register, that opens the  
21 period and we can take the applications.

22 MR. WATTENBARGER: So you'll let us know  
23 when that happens?

24 MR. FOOTE: Yes, I'll be sure to let  
25 everyone know when that gets published, and it will be

1 out for the typical 90-day period.

2 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: So basically you  
3 will inform the existing MAC members when this happens  
4 and we can then recruit our alternates or other  
5 possible MAC members to apply.

6 All right. We're well ahead of the time  
7 for public comments.

8 MR. WATTENBARGER: Way to go.

9 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Pardon?

10 MR. WATTENBARGER: Way to go.

11 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Some people have  
12 come a long way. They need to feel their time hasn't  
13 been wasted. So we'll delay the public comments until  
14 the appointed 4:00 p.m. time slot, and we can move on  
15 to the action item, the role of the MAC function and  
16 establishment of MAC groups and meeting schedule. And  
17 we can do that in any order right now.

18 MR. FOOTE: Let me just give you a  
19 little background, and then I'll turn it back to the  
20 Chair to initiate the discussion. For those that may  
21 have read the minutes of the last two MAC meetings  
22 which occurred in 2009, considerable discussion was  
23 brought forward by the membership regarding the role  
24 of the MAC and whether the MAC itself should continue.

25 Without getting into any details here, the

1 decision is the Monument Advisory Committee will, in  
2 fact, be moving forward. We are serving under a new  
3 Charter, and it's really the charge of this group to  
4 determine how best to help the agencies fulfill our  
5 mission. And I think we do have a significant role  
6 for the MAC, and it's just a matter of how we approach  
7 that, how the MAC feels it can best support the  
8 agencies, the National Monument in moving our programs  
9 forward. Jeff and I have had some discussion about  
10 this. And I'll turn it back to Jeff to lead that  
11 discussion.

12                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Yeah. Well, it's  
13 been one year ago today since we last had a meeting,  
14 and what we discussed at the last meeting that was  
15 supposed to be accomplished in the last year, nothing  
16 has happened for various reasons. There were no work  
17 groups established to do anything. There was no  
18 additional MAC meetings, as said.

19                   We went to a one-year schedule. It doesn't  
20 quite work on a one-year schedule because all of this  
21 stuff has to be done after September and before March,  
22 particularly regarding budgets and political aspects  
23 of budgeting and things like that. And so I suggest  
24 that we have a meeting in the March kind of timeframe.

25                   I don't know, Jim. Maybe you might have a

1 better idea when it will be best to have this meeting.

2 MR. FOOTE: Probably the best point from  
3 here is to talk first about the role of MAC and how  
4 that fits into the schedule.

5 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay. Well, the  
6 role of the MAC is to, I guess, advise the agencies,  
7 BLM and Forest Service, on what we need to accomplish  
8 to implement the -- how do I put it? -- the -- I'm  
9 trying to get it.

10 MR. FOOTE: Management Plan.

11 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: The Management  
12 Plan needs to be implemented, and we all need to  
13 discuss what parts of it need to be implemented more  
14 and what parts of it are being neglected. So that is  
15 something that needs to be looked at.

16 When it comes to work groups, particularly  
17 regarding our budget and what the Forest Service wants  
18 to do, say, upon Santa Rosa Mountain or what the BLM  
19 wants to do, you know, in Chino Canyon -- or Martinez  
20 Canyon, all these things come up. There are problems  
21 in these areas, like off-road vehicles in  
22 Martinez Canyon driving off the roads.

23 MR. CRISTE: Do we have categories they  
24 can be broken down into?

25 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: The Advisory

1 Committee can form work groups on any subject that  
2 falls within the purview of what we're dealing with.  
3 So if we have a problem, we should be able to form a  
4 work group and get a couple of people, maybe more, to  
5 discuss then bring it back to the MAC for action.

6 MS. WATLING: Jeff, maybe explain why  
7 we're work groups and not committees.

8 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Oh, it's a federal  
9 ruling that we can't make committees because then they  
10 would have to be --

11 MS. WATLING: Published?

12 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Yeah. They would  
13 have to be published ahead of time meeting and noticed  
14 in the Federal Register and things like this. That's  
15 why we call them working groups and not committees or  
16 subcommittees.

17 Am I saying that correctly, Jim?

18 MR. FOOTE: Yes, you are, Jeff. Let me  
19 shed a little light on the role that, perhaps, best  
20 serves the agencies. And I would certainly welcome  
21 our federal managers here, Jack and Tom and John, to  
22 jump in, particularly with regards to timing.

23 On an annual basis the agencies go through  
24 a work planning process as to what we hope to  
25 accomplish in the following fiscal year, and that has

1 budget ramifications. And so there's a real need from  
2 our perspective of having a group such as this weigh  
3 in on what we see as our primary work responsibilities  
4 for the upcoming year.

5                   We don't like to make those kinds of  
6 decisions in a vacuum. We prefer public involvement.  
7 That's exactly what this group is here to do, is to  
8 make recommendations to us as to how best for us to,  
9 one, implement the Monument Management Plan; two,  
10 whatever routes the group feels may be a priority for  
11 the public in terms of managing this national monument  
12 and in light of what the potential budget constraints  
13 may be.

14                   Timeliness is really important here. The  
15 September meeting is not a great meeting for that kind  
16 of input. We pretty much worked through a lot of our  
17 budget and planning cycles. So what may work best for  
18 us is something earlier in the fiscal year so this  
19 group can be involved.

20                   Now, with that said, the full body here,  
21 it's always difficult to get a lot of work done in a  
22 body like this. That's why we establish work groups  
23 or should establish work groups, and that is that more  
24 informal types of discussion on a more regular basis,  
25 which ultimately, then, would bring a recommendation

1 back to this group to weigh in on.

2                   The working groups cannot make  
3 recommendations to the agencies directly. They must  
4 come through this organization. This is the only  
5 organizational charter as a group to make a  
6 recommendation to the agencies with respect to the  
7 National Monument.

8                   So I think the process here is something we  
9 need to look at closely, again, the role, and I'd  
10 certainly invite Tom or Jack or John to again weigh in  
11 as to how they may see the role of the Monument  
12 Advisory Committee refined a bit, where they could  
13 best see the input, and on the timing issues -- well,  
14 when is a good time to meet. And Laurie. I'm sorry.

15                   MS. ROSENTHAL: I knew you meant me.

16                   MR. FOOTE: I looked right over you.

17                   We really do want to make the most of this  
18 group. We don't want to waste your time in coming  
19 here and listening to reports and go away. We can do  
20 that via the e-mail. It's great tool for doing that,  
21 but the e-mail is not a good tool for the group such  
22 as this to come together and make a recommendation.  
23 We can't do it that way.

24                   We really need to meet our requirement  
25 under the establishing legislation of at least one

1 meeting per year. This is that meeting for 2010. It  
2 does not mean we cannot meet more frequently, that  
3 should work groups come to decisions and need to get a  
4 full recommendation to the agencies through this  
5 board, then we can call additional meetings of the  
6 Monument Advisory Committee. And those are not  
7 difficult to call.

8           The process for publishing a notice in the  
9 Federal Register simply for meetings is fairly  
10 expeditious versus things like calls for nomination,  
11 publishing charters, things such as that. That's a  
12 more lengthy process. But the meetings themselves can  
13 be called fairly quickly.

14           Sow anyway, comments from any of our board  
15 of directors?

16           MR. HAMBY: You first.

17           MR. GILLETT: Well, you know, I guess I  
18 struggle with the parameters of meeting once a year  
19 and really having kind of a rich discussion and really  
20 getting traction on any issues from this body. So I'm  
21 throwing that out there. I think timing is important,  
22 Jim. I think this, you know, representation of the  
23 group here is fantastic, a great cross-section of our  
24 constituents for the Monument. So I think, you know,  
25 the right players are around the table with the makeup

1 of the MAC.

2                   And I think using the MAC to help guide the  
3 two agencies in terms of setting a program of work and  
4 where our priorities ought to be is a great  
5 suggestion. Some of that information can be passed  
6 via e-mail, but I still think having that discussion  
7 around in this sort of a forum is important.

8                   In terms of timing, you know, we're right  
9 now kind of embarking on developing our program of  
10 work for this coming fiscal year, and 2010 ends the  
11 end of September, and October 1 is our fiscal year,  
12 2011. But we won't be getting a budget, more than  
13 likely, until sometime early springish, March, when we  
14 actually get our appropriations from Congress, which  
15 is our true marching orders in terms of program.

16                   So you know, the September meeting, really,  
17 in my view in terms of setting the stage and having  
18 initial discussion of what the agencies are proposing  
19 for this coming fiscal year may not be too far off.

20                   MR. FOOTE: You mentioned that the  
21 frequency is an issue. This is the first time we've  
22 ever gone a year between meetings. We haven't gone  
23 this long, and I can certainly sense that and perhaps  
24 there might be need for a meeting back in March.

25                   Last year -- or 2009 we had a March

1 meeting, we had a September meeting. And if we have a  
2 budget by March, perhaps that would be a good  
3 opportunity again to reflect on work plan. Say if we  
4 can't do everything we wanted and we only have so many  
5 dollars to do some of this, then get a sense from this  
6 Advisory Committee what those priorities may be, where  
7 to spend those dollars even if we can't do it all.  
8 That's one possibility.

9 MR. GILLETT: And then some futuring in  
10 terms of that's setting the stage for the next fiscal  
11 year as well.

12 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Another thing  
13 regarding this, the agencies -- Forest Service,  
14 BLM -- may have things in their mind that they would  
15 like to see discontinued or continued in a different  
16 manner. And those items may not be what the Advisory  
17 Committee would like to see, you know, for example  
18 closing a campground or closing a trail or, you know,  
19 shutting down a springs to save money.

20 And this has come up in the past, and we've  
21 had working groups that have discussed this and come  
22 up with recommendations to this committee and then  
23 gone on to the Forest Service or the BLM, whichever  
24 the case may be. So I think it's good that we get in  
25 this earlier than later.

1                   MR. KALISH: Yeah. One observation I  
2 have is other groups such as the District Advisory  
3 Council, which is a council that covers issues  
4 throughout the California Desert Conservation Area  
5 that are the entire district, they're really driven on  
6 issues and controversy that is brought before the  
7 council, and that really keeps that council active.

8                   One observation that I've had in being a  
9 part of this group over a couple of years is that the  
10 Monument really lacks a lot of controversial issues  
11 that would really solidify a group and kind of get a  
12 group moving in a particular direction.

13                   However, if you look at the Monument as  
14 just being such a phenomenal resource, both from a  
15 natural resource standpoint but also from the overall  
16 public value of a national monument, if the committee  
17 really focuses in on are we, as in the BLM and the  
18 Forest Service -- are we really maximizing the overall  
19 public benefit and use of the National Monument? Are  
20 we supporting the local communities to the degree that  
21 we should? You know, are we, through our management,  
22 really facilitating the overall public use of the  
23 area?

24                   I think we really look at those issues, and  
25 there may be a controversy. I can actually think of

1 an issue or two that may come along, but as far as an  
2 overall focus just looking at the, you know, the  
3 national level quality of the resource that we're  
4 dealing with and whether or not from an agency  
5 standpoint are we really focusing in where we need to  
6 be to be able to maximize the overall value of the  
7 area and public use of our National Monument.

8 MR. HAMBY: My turn? While I don't  
9 share John's sentiment about creating an issue so that  
10 we can bring everybody together, I think we can do  
11 that without a major issue. Teri does send her  
12 regrets. She wishes she could be here. Unfortunately  
13 she had other commitments.

14 We, the BLM, could not get as far as we are  
15 now without the partners, without this group. So for  
16 us to even conceive of doing something in the Monument  
17 without the support or consultation or involvement of  
18 this group would be difficult at best. Poor Jim, you  
19 know, would lose the rest of his hair.

20 FY11 budget. You know, we're in the same  
21 boat as our esteemed colleagues with the Forest  
22 Service, but what we need to do as a budget person is  
23 look multiple years out. I mean let's not look for  
24 the issue or the controversy, but let's look for the  
25 pluses, the benefits, the campgrounds, the trails.

1                   We have a deferred maintenance program that  
2 looks five years in the future to see what we can do,  
3 what we would like to do, what we should do. And  
4 that's where we need help with, again, partners'  
5 futuring of the public, and then we'll get into that  
6 pesky NEPA document stuff later.

7                   Again we need help looking at the future.  
8 I will admit that we are extremely wrapped up with our  
9 present-day issues, issues du jour, as some people  
10 call them. They'll be here a little while, but we  
11 need to be focused on where we're going. You know, I  
12 think there's a famous quote: If you're not looking  
13 where you're going, you're going to run over a cliff.  
14 So we see this as a valuable partnership.

15                   MR. WATTENBARGER: Mr. Chairman, a  
16 question. Do the agencies create a management plan  
17 then this group reviews it and comments, or are we  
18 part of an integral part of the planning process of  
19 the agencies?

20                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay. The  
21 Monument has a Management Plan, and we are first to  
22 advise the agencies on implementation of that plan.  
23 That's the big picture. Also the agencies have to  
24 manage according to how they generally manage these  
25 things. You know, the BLM does things certain ways,

1 the Forest Service does things certain ways. So they  
2 work together so that, well, now it's not an issue  
3 anymore. But that's pretty much how it works.

4 We are an advisory committee. We can  
5 advise them. If we see a need for something in the  
6 Monument that's not there, we can say to the agencies,  
7 "Hey, how about this?" which we have done in the past.

8 MR. FOOTE: Well, let me also commit  
9 I'll sit down with you Jeff and anyone else and  
10 explain the process. It's a little complicated on the  
11 layers of plans. Whereas we do have a National  
12 Monument Management Plan, there are also underlying  
13 plans that also make decisions for the area. The  
14 California Desert Area Conservation Plan overlays the  
15 Monument. Many decisions are made for the Monument  
16 through that. There's the Forest land, which the  
17 National Forest overlays that area.

18 So certainly the Monument Plan is not a  
19 stand-alone plan. It's a little complex in that  
20 regard. And I'd be glad to sit down with you and go  
21 over that, but I think one of the key things for this  
22 group to look at is, well, the Monument Plan is not a  
23 static plan. All these plans should be dynamic. They  
24 should be living documents that may need amending.

25 Six years has gone by since we adopted the

1 National Monument Plan. We should look at that to see  
2 whether those decisions are still current, whether  
3 there's a need to amend those decisions and, in fact,  
4 if that's the decision where the determination is  
5 recommended by this group, we should initiate those  
6 kinds of amendments to the Plan. Again we want it to  
7 reflect how best we move forward with management. We  
8 have had plans on a regular basis. The Monument  
9 Management Plan should be no exception to that.

10                   So I think one of the goals of the work  
11 group -- and I'll suggest certainly that we start that  
12 process -- is to look at that Monument Management Plan  
13 to determine, are the decisions current? Are there  
14 things we need to change to better take advantage of  
15 the great resources we have, how to better protect  
16 them? How do we facilitate public use of what's  
17 correct public protection of that? What can we do to  
18 make this or more fully realize what the intent is  
19 with the Monument's establishment of legislation?

20                   So again the Monument Plan is not a static  
21 document; it's dynamic. We should be looking at  
22 changing it if necessary. And again I would suggest  
23 that that be looked at through a work group. And that  
24 can happen over the course of numerous meetings. We  
25 can start an initial discussion that may, at least

1 from a formulative standpoint, get everybody up to  
2 speed on where we are and then come back at regular  
3 intervals to discuss what changes may be necessary.

4 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Additionally there  
5 are other plans that all intermingle, one of which is  
6 the Coachella Valley Plan, which is a sub-plan of the  
7 overall CDCA Plan, and then the CVAG with its Trails  
8 Planning Process right now. Right now the Monument  
9 doesn't have a trails plan because it's subject to the  
10 Coachella Valley Association of Governments planning  
11 process regarding trails. So it's a bit complicated.

12 MR. FOOTE: Jeff is right; there are  
13 many layers here, one of which, as Jeff mentioned, the  
14 Coachella Valley Multi Species Habitat Conservation  
15 Plan, which the BLM and Forest Service have got, we're  
16 not signatories to, but through our planning efforts  
17 we support that area and make decisions in accordance  
18 with it. Again one of those multiple layers of  
19 planning that gets a little bit complicated in how  
20 this all comes together and where you need to look for  
21 decisions. And I guess that's my role, is to try to  
22 clarify that.

23 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: And there are  
24 other plans as well. We have the State Parks Plan.  
25 We have Agua Caliente with their Habitat Conservation

1 Plan and their Indian Canyons Plan, all which come  
2 together at some point. So it's probably not that  
3 simple that all that can be done with one two-hour  
4 meeting a year.

5 MR. MUTH: So it appears that we're  
6 headed to making a decision to meet twice a year.

7 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Or ten times a  
8 year, if you so choose.

9 MR. MUTH: We have to meet once a year  
10 but could meet more frequently as needed.

11 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Yes.

12 MR. MUTH: And for the agencies, which  
13 like, September, March would be good times because in  
14 September you can produce your work plans. March, you  
15 could say, "Here's our budget. This is what we can do  
16 in the work plans. And what would you recommend that  
17 we drop?" So is that sort of the gist of, where is it  
18 all heading here? And Jim will keep the plans  
19 straight.

20 MR. FOOTE: I think so. Any comments?  
21 Laurie?

22 MS. ROSENTHAL: Well, actually as a  
23 manager, what I need personally from the Advisory  
24 Committee is a little bit earlier. Our district  
25 starts working on our program of work probably in

1 June, which I know is not necessarily a good month. A  
2 lot of people are gone. But if we could present some  
3 of what we're thinking of and listen to you as  
4 representatives from the public, that would benefit  
5 me, like having a meeting in May or -- April or May if  
6 you're still around and not all gone from the desert  
7 at that time.

8                   And see, the thing is that we're kind in a  
9 vacuum right now when we do our planning, except for  
10 when we get involved in the NEPA process. And it  
11 would be a breath of fresh air for me to have other  
12 people involved in that -- in our prioritizing of our  
13 program of work before we even get into the internal  
14 part so that I can take back the message of, this is  
15 what I heard were the priorities of all these cities,  
16 the builders' association, the environmental community  
17 and the other agencies.

18                   And so that's what I would like to see.  
19 That would be meeting my needs representing the  
20 Forest Service, and I don't know if the BLM feels the  
21 same way. I imagine that they do, that that's why  
22 we're all here is because it's not just about the  
23 agencies. We need to expand out or we're not going to  
24 be really reflecting the priorities of the people that  
25 we serve.

1                   So I think I really agree, Jim, that the  
2     idea of looking at the Monument Plan is a great idea.  
3     I also maybe would see maybe a meeting in April, May,  
4     when we've had a chance to think about what our  
5     priorities might be but we just haven't really started  
6     the actual process yet, and just hear the fresh ideas  
7     of everybody of what your priorities are.

8                   We can even have, like, a mini-workshop,  
9     you know, where we get little stickers or something in  
10    addition to maybe hearing some presentations of some  
11    of the things that we've thought about, and maybe you  
12    might even want to have some presentations.

13                  MR. CRISTE: Then for the MAC wouldn't a  
14    March meeting time for us work well to then get ready  
15    for that meeting with you guys?

16                  MS. ROSENTHAL: Yeah. March or April  
17    would be perfect or May.

18                  MR. CRISTE: Is there a reporting  
19    requirement? I mean, I should know this. I'm sorry.  
20    Is there a reporting requirement on, like, the status  
21    of Monument programs and goals achieved, not achieved,  
22    some kind of biannual sort of thing that gives us a  
23    point of reference of six years ago we adopted a plan,  
24    and we're here; where we are today with regard to  
25    meeting the programs?

1                   MR. FOOTE: I do produce an annual  
2 Monument Managers' Report.

3                   MR. CRISTE: Would that be a good start  
4 for us to get an overview of where we are?

5                   MR. FOOTE: I think so, but also with  
6 Jack's comment in mind about futuring as best we can,  
7 I think that's something that I would certainly  
8 benefit from to have this group start to look at  
9 something five years down the road -- three, four,  
10 five years down the road. Where do we want to end up  
11 at that period? And then we can look at progress as  
12 we get there. Sometimes we get a little wrapped up  
13 internally on our year-to-year things and neglect  
14 looking down the road as far as we could, but that  
15 would be great input for this group to be weighing in  
16 on.

17                   Again I think that idea of establishing the  
18 work groups to really carry some of that heavy labor  
19 and then bring it back to this group, because I would  
20 envision work groups could meet on a much more regular  
21 basis than this group is.

22                   If you look at the attendance record, again  
23 going back 2005, you can see we've done fairly well,  
24 with the exception of one year, and then last year on  
25 some of these March meetings. But you know, I think

1 this is for different reasons too. We're running into  
2 some appointments being made, designations during the  
3 term. So we've had a lot of issues going on in the  
4 last few years or last couple years, at least.

5 But if you look back at 2005 and six -- and  
6 I'm hoping we can get back to that -- we were always  
7 getting a quorum. We had really good attendance. And  
8 I think a lot of that is just sparked on by interest  
9 in that idea of idea of having a good role for us to  
10 play. So I think we just need to make sure we  
11 identify that role.

12 We would make it very useful for the agency  
13 if we feel the MAC members have good input, they feel  
14 as if their input is being heard, we could kind of get  
15 back to where we were in terms of involvement. That  
16 would be a nice change. We've kind of diminished that  
17 in the last few years, as you can see reflected in the  
18 attendance. But I feel encouraged we have some good  
19 thoughts here that we can take forward and achieve  
20 some objectives.

21 MR. CRISTE: And these groups would be  
22 smaller, so it would be easier for getting together,  
23 and they wouldn't need official notices for work  
24 groups. So if we had a special area we were  
25 interested in and an issue would be identified, put a

1 group of three or four people together and start  
2 working on something to share with everybody in the  
3 coming months; right?

4 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: In the past we  
5 have had these working groups, particularly when we  
6 were developing the implementation of the Plan, and we  
7 had, I guess, working groups regarding budget,  
8 regarding recreation, regarding all kinds of smaller  
9 items that, you know, we came up with.

10 There was a working group trying to decide  
11 on whether to come up with a different name for the  
12 Monument that went on its business for about a year  
13 and a half, and it brought their findings back to this  
14 Advisory Committee. And the feeling of the Advisory  
15 Committee was at that time they did not want to change  
16 the name of the Monument.

17 MR. CRISTE: Well, you guys are  
18 intimately involved. And what comes to mind  
19 immediately is the hiking trails in the Monument and  
20 dogs, et cetera. Clearly there's a working group  
21 subject for somebody. There might be other resource  
22 management issues, the camping issue as well. I guess  
23 what I'm saying is, do we know roughly, or do you have  
24 an idea of what the first three or four working groups  
25 might be subjectwise, because I'm more than willing to

40

1 participate in one of those. I would just kind of  
2 like to get involved on forming groups that can work  
3 on specific issues.

4 MR. FOOTE: Let's throw it back to the  
5 Advisory Committee. Are there certain areas of  
6 interest that pique your curiosity that you'd like to  
7 see? You mentioned one, John, the trails. That can  
8 be one. There are other issues that really are near  
9 and dear to certain members that, if we formed a  
10 group, you could really get behind that, get excited  
11 about the direction to take.

12 I remember one working group we had -- Al  
13 will remember this one -- dealing with the issue of  
14 hang gliding and bighorn sheep, and that was quite an  
15 outcome, which, in essence, was a delay of the  
16 decision ultimately.

17 MR. CRISTE: Do you hang glide?

18 MR. MUTH: Not anymore. The sheep are  
19 great, but their landings are off.

20 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: An issue with the  
21 hang gliding was where the hang gliders land, and they  
22 were landing next to the Bighorn Institute, which  
23 seemed to be disturbing the sheep. And they were also  
24 flying over the sheep, I guess, in the northern  
25 Santa Rosa Mountains, and that appeared to be

1 disturbing the sheep too.

2 MR. CRISTE: Biological resource  
3 management, that's kind of an overall -- there's sheep  
4 and other species that would be in that.

5 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Two or three main  
6 issues that groups could work on. One is natural  
7 resources. Another one is recreation, including  
8 trails, and maybe increasing recreation opportunities  
9 as you close some down in other areas. Remember some  
10 of the Monument's trails are closed for most of the  
11 year because of bighorn sheep issues.

12 MR. CRISTE: Also cultural resource  
13 issues.

14 MS. ROSENTHAL: There was a working  
15 group of cultural resources heritage previously.

16 MR. FOOTE: I think this gives us some  
17 direction in almost two forms. One is a general type  
18 of working groups dealing with particular resources or  
19 activity. And the one example with the hang gliding  
20 was an issue specific that we formed that working  
21 group to deal with one issue come to resolution of  
22 that, and that pretty much was the end of that group.  
23 So I think we have utility for both of those.

24 If we need to address specific issues and  
25 it's time we do so, we could form that working group,

1 bring that back to the MAC and just the ongoing ones.  
2 If you want something of a general nature, like  
3 trails, natural resources, cultural resources, we can  
4 do that as well but understanding there is -- those  
5 tend to overlap as well. For instance, trail issues  
6 certainly deal a lot with the biological issues. So  
7 you can't separate the two.

8 MR. CRISTE: And cultural.

9 MR. FOOTE: And cultural as well. So to  
10 think that one particular group is going to be a  
11 stand-alone group and not cut into the issues of the  
12 others is probably a bit naive. So I'm not sure quite  
13 how best to handle that. Certainly we have those  
14 issues with trails that can be controversial. We have  
15 a number of other issues on the other side that  
16 continue to be controversial.

17 MR. CRISTE: John suggested issues. I  
18 think we could have some if we bring some of those  
19 people together.

20 MR. FOOTE: Maybe this is an opportunity  
21 if we can, before we leave today, even establish a  
22 group for -- let's just call it an initial  
23 brainstorming kind of a plan review. Let's look at  
24 where we are now with relevance to the plans and then  
25 brainstorm about these types of issues of groups so we

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1 can move forward. And that's the kind of thing that  
2 we don't need to actually pull the whole Monument  
3 Advisory Committee back together to identify what  
4 groups we're establishing because we don't need to go  
5 out with Federal Register notification on stability of  
6 a work group or to go ahead and meet.

7 We can do that just through our internet,  
8 decide how we want to meet, when we want to meet, but  
9 at least form one group to start with as the basis and  
10 then take it from there and again brainstorm how best  
11 do we want to move forward? what groups do we want?  
12 and maybe a review of where we are in planning  
13 process, how all that relates. The status of that  
14 will also create some new ideas about where to move  
15 forward.

16 There may be some ideas about plan  
17 implementation that come up during a meeting like that  
18 that the work group decides we really need to focus in  
19 this area, either for lack of implementing a plan on  
20 that basis or for whatever reason.

21 So I think maybe this group is a little  
22 premature in establishing exactly what kind of work  
23 groups need to be formed. We probably need that  
24 little, informal discussion and brainstorming to get  
25 to that point. At least that would be what I would

1 suggest.

2 MR. KATES: Do you need a motion to form  
3 a work group? Make a motion to form a work group.

4 MR. CRISTE: I'll second that. But I  
5 have a couple of questions about it. We would  
6 hopefully meet before March, as an example. So some  
7 kind of -- if the work group had, I guess, some  
8 objectives and/or at least a schedule to get to that  
9 point where we have something to present.

10 MR. FOOTE: I would be willing to  
11 formulate some objectives. I would also recommend  
12 that we meet in October, if that's possible, to get  
13 this moving.

14 MR. CRISTE: In the next 30 days, say?

15 MR. FOOTE: Yeah. To do that, pull this  
16 group together, do the brainstorming. The difficulty  
17 is always finding the common date, but we'll do the  
18 best we can. Hopefully we can do that here before we  
19 leave. And again I would establish some objectives,  
20 review the plans at that point and see where that  
21 takes us.

22 MR. CRISTE: Okay.

23 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: We have a motion.  
24 We have a second. Any further comments?

25 MS. ROSENTHAL: No. Go ahead. I was

1 just going to ask who's going to sign up.

2 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: We have to decide  
3 we're going to have a work group before you can sign  
4 up. We have a motion and a second to form this  
5 initial working group. Is everyone in favor, or all  
6 in favor? Anyone against? Any abstentions?

7 (A voice vote was taken.)

8 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Motion passes.  
9 Jim will be organizing this because we have to  
10 determine who, when and where.

11 MR. FOOTE: I would suggest that it's  
12 pretty much open to anybody who wants to come on this  
13 initial meeting. We want to make sure that we get  
14 full participation because there may be a lot of folks  
15 that aren't up to speed on where we are in the plans,  
16 how the plans all relate to one another. And I think  
17 it may be helpful. And it's also very helpful that  
18 the more people we have, the more brainstorming we can  
19 do to come up with the best ideas.

20 So I wouldn't want to limit participation  
21 certainly, and work groups, just like the Monument  
22 Advisory Committee, are open meetings, and anybody can  
23 come. It's not limited to anybody ultimately that's  
24 just appointed to that group. They're open. As I  
25 say, anybody can attend.

1                   MR. CRISTE:  So if you were to draft  
2  some objectives, when we might be able to look at  
3  those?

4                   MR. FOOTE:  How about next week?  I  
5  would endeavor to have objectives identified by next  
6  Monday, and that would be the 27th, and send that out.  
7  I guess what I'd like to hear now from the group, if  
8  possible, are there any bad times in October to meet?  
9  Are there any days where they're always horrible or --

10                  MR. CRISTE:  Halloween is not good.

11                  MR. KATES:  Thursdays are bad for me.

12                  MR. MUTH:  Out of the country.  I'm  
13  going to be in Italy.

14                  MR. FOOTE:  Thursdays are bad.  That's  
15  probably for city council meetings.  Any other  
16  constraints on regular meeting days?  Garratt, Tom,  
17  anything that doesn't work?

18                  MR. DAVIS:  Tuesdays are bad for us in  
19  general, but the rest of the time is pretty good.

20                  MR. FOOTE:  So Tuesdays and Thursdays  
21  aren't good, which still leaves us at least Wednesdays  
22  and Fridays.  Are any of these days bad for anyone?

23                  MR. LYMAN:  County is closed on Friday.

24                  MR. CRISTE:  That's a good day.  You can  
25  meet.

1                   MR. FOOTE: So what I'll do is, I'll  
2 send out with the objectives and maybe think about it  
3 now some available dates on Mondays and Wednesdays.  
4 And then based on the response I get, we'll set a date  
5 and meet before the end of October.

6                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Sounds good.  
7 Okay. We didn't have public comments at 4:00 p.m. I  
8 don't see any members of the public, and nobody has  
9 mentioned that they would like to speak in the public  
10 comments. That period is open now if anyone has any  
11 comments.

12                   MR. FOOTE: Here's our public member.

13                   MS. GUTIERREZ: I don't have anything to  
14 say. Surprise, surprise.

15                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay.

16                   MS. ROSENTHAL: Jim, you don't want to  
17 find out who would be interested to be on this group  
18 at this point? You want to wait to send out an  
19 e-mail? Is that what I'm hearing?

20                   MR. FOOTE: This is going to be, in my  
21 mind, open to everyone. And I'm hoping everyone can  
22 attend. Again the objective of the first one, one of  
23 the objectives will be to review and get a common  
24 understanding of where, what the planning processes  
25 are, how the plans overlap and also to just brainstorm

1 in general. So I'm assuming that there's interest in  
2 participating in a work group here. And I think  
3 probably who shows up at this first one would be a  
4 good indication of future participation in the work  
5 group. So I'm hoping for the best.

6                   There's always going to be times when  
7 people can't make it, but I really encourage everyone  
8 to show up to the first one. It's going to be much  
9 more informal than this, and I think it's a good time  
10 to generate discussions to start to look to forward to  
11 plans. Hopefully that will happen.

12                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Also prior to this  
13 meeting we may, I guess -- you may want to see if  
14 anyone else other than the items that you're going to  
15 put together, if anyone else has anything they want to  
16 bring forward for these work-group discussions.

17                   MR. CRISTE: We can e-mail him  
18 suggestions.

19                   MR. FOOTE: Yes. I think one of the  
20 keys here in terms of participation in work groups,  
21 again that's not anything this group actually has to  
22 desire or appoint members. These are open to the  
23 public. What we'll typically do, though, is once we  
24 get going here, we'll identify one of the committee  
25 members to chair that group. We really want a chair

1 from the MAC on the subcommittee so that person then  
2 can collect the recommendations, if you will, or  
3 suggestions of the work group and be responsible for  
4 bringing those back to this group.

5                   So it's best to, I think, determine that  
6 perhaps at the first meeting based on who shows up and  
7 what the issues are. You really want somebody that's  
8 energized and wanting to participate as best they can.

9                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: So where would  
10 these meetings be held?

11                   MR. FOOTE: We can work that out. Bob,  
12 I don't know if this room is available. We can  
13 probably do it here. Thank you, Bob.

14                   MR. KATES: We could donate space, the  
15 City of Indian Wells, if you know when.

16                   MR. FOOTE: Okay. Also Indian Wells.

17                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Then there's the  
18 BLM office in Palm Springs there.

19                   MR. FOOTE: What's easiest for people?  
20 Let me just ask this: What's easiest for people to  
21 get to? Is this location pretty convenient? Would it  
22 be better in Palm Springs, Indian Wells? Just make it  
23 as easy as possible to come to it.

24                   MR. WATTENBARGER: This is perfect.

25                   MR. FOOTE: Jeff says this is perfect.

1 I like that.

2 MR. DAVIS: I like Palm Springs, but you  
3 know what I mean, that's selfish.

4 MR. FOOTE: We're right up the street  
5 from Tom's office.

6 MR. KATES: Maybe we could donate a  
7 space if we need a space.

8 MR. WATTENBARGER: Can we alternate  
9 between?

10 MR. CRISTE: This is informal; right?

11 MR. FOOTE: Right. I think that's a  
12 good idea, Jeff. We can rotate the BLM office, here,  
13 Indian Wells.

14 MR. CRISTE: Our office would be  
15 available.

16 MR. FOOTE: You're in a new location.

17 MR. KATES: I was wondering when you  
18 were going to offer that.

19 MR. FOOTE: We can work on that.  
20 Initially when I set this up we'll just commit to  
21 using this room here to start with and then figure out  
22 from there how best to convene the meetings.

23 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay.

24 MR. FOOTE: Okay. Just to repeat, I'll  
25 be sending out objectives by next Monday, the 27th,

1 and then once I send those out with some suggestions  
2 for dates, I'd like to hear back on what dates work  
3 best on, Monday or Friday, and any additional  
4 objectives of meetings you may have that we'd want to  
5 consider.

6 MR. WATTENBARGER: Monday and Wednesday?

7 MR. FOOTE: Yeah. Monday or Wednesday  
8 is what will work of when to hold these meetings.

9 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: When you receive  
10 the notes from this, Jim, if you have any further  
11 suggestions regarding items, copy everybody at that  
12 time when you send them back.

13 Okay. Moving on, Pacific Crest Trail  
14 reroute near Snow Creek Village. This item has been  
15 coming back and forth to this Advisory Committee for a  
16 long time. In essence the problem in Snow Creek is  
17 Pacific Crest Trail takes the Water Agency road, which  
18 has a big sign on it that says "No trespassing."

19 There's another further problem there.  
20 Lots of people like to access Pacific Crest Trail from  
21 the Snow Creek location, and there are no signed  
22 parking areas. People, when they don't see the trail  
23 or find a place to park, they drive up into Snow Creek  
24 Village, and that seems to bother all the residents.  
25 Since it's a dead-end road, it means lots of extra

1 traffic that they don't want.

2                   What we are attempting to do at this point  
3 is make a small parking area prior to getting where  
4 Snow Creek Village -- it's already there. It just  
5 needs a sign. It's on BLM land. Then make a  
6 connector trail from the parking area to the Pacific  
7 Crest Trail. We've discussed this before. I thought  
8 it was going to happen in the past year, and it  
9 didn't, so I brought this forward as an action item on  
10 the agenda so maybe we can make a decision to advise  
11 the BLM to undertake this project. It would require a  
12 NEPA document. Cost is minimal, less than \$10,000,  
13 probably substantially less than that.

14                   So does anyone have any comments, questions  
15 regarding this?

16                   MR. FOOTE: Let me clarify just a bit.  
17 There are two pieces in your packets that reflect  
18 this. One is the map PCT at Snow Creek. The other  
19 shows existing conditions and photographs. Jeff is  
20 right. As you approach the PCT into Snow Creek  
21 Village, you'll see it's posted "No trespassing." The  
22 PCT at this point actually gets on a paved street  
23 within Snow Creek Village and then ultimately comes up  
24 to the Desert Water Agency gate.

25                   And you can see the signs at the bottom of

1 this sheet which indicate again posted "No  
2 trespassing." However that is the PCT up that road.  
3 This is where the confusion abounds as hikers approach  
4 these signs, read the signs, say, "Well, this must not  
5 be it," but wandering through the village looking for  
6 the PCT, when, in fact, that was it.

7           The proposal is simply to turn off of the  
8 PCT as you're heading south before you get to the  
9 Snow Creek Village, cut across Snow Creek Road  
10 probably a quarter mile to the north and reconnect  
11 with the PCT behind the Desert Water Agency gate so  
12 any of the hikers using this area do not encounter the  
13 Snow Creek sign indicating "No trespassing," they  
14 don't go to the Water Agency sign indicating "No  
15 trespassing," but instead they bypass that and we  
16 provide parking.

17           As Jeff indicated, there already is a  
18 bulldozed-out section on BLM land where it would be  
19 easy to run the trail over to that point and continue  
20 from there so we can alleviate a lot of issues.

21           The fortunate thing now is that within the  
22 last couple of months BLM has now hired the outdoor  
23 recreation planner position. This is a position that  
24 I held prior to becoming the Monument manager or  
25 acting in the Monument manager position four and a

1 half years ago and continued or attempted to do those  
2 duties as well as best I could over this time.

3 And so one of the reasons we've never moved  
4 forward on this is just lack of capacity to do so. We  
5 now have the capacity to move forward on that project  
6 from a certain planning standpoint, a NEPA standpoint.  
7 We would expect to engage volunteers from the PCTA as  
8 well as Monument volunteers in the trail construction.

9 It's an easy place to construct a trail.  
10 It doesn't require switchbacks or anything of that  
11 nature. It's fairly flat territory, hence the cost is  
12 quite low.

13 Any questions on the project? Gretchen?

14 MS. GUTIERREZ: The cost that you just  
15 mentioned was approximately \$10,000. Is that  
16 primarily for parking materials and the signage that  
17 you need to have out there?

18 MR. FOOTE: I would anticipate the cost  
19 to be less than that. Primary cost for this, given  
20 the volunteer duty, would be if we want to line the  
21 parking lot with large boulders, something of that  
22 nature and some signing that would occur at the  
23 trailhead. That would be about it. I would  
24 anticipate the NEPA document to be fairly quick and  
25 done inhouse. Again that's based on availability of

1 our staff, given priority to do that. That is a  
2 timing issue, but construction itself should be no  
3 cost.

4 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: The \$10,000  
5 estimate was mine. I came up with that because about  
6 two years ago, maybe three years ago I was applying  
7 for a grant to the American Hiking Society to do this  
8 work and their grant size is \$10,000 and increments  
9 thereof, so I just had \$10,000 there.

10 MS. GUTIERREZ: Okay.

11 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: And so that's  
12 where that amount came from.

13 MR. MUTH: Question. Desert Water  
14 Agency is at Snow Creek Canyon, and Pacific Crest  
15 Trail goes there. Is there an easement?

16 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Yes.

17 MR. MUTH: A recorded easement for the  
18 Desert Water Agency, and if there's a public easement,  
19 how can they have the "No trespassing" sign?

20 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Because they  
21 refuse to take it down.

22 MR. MUTH: That can be fixed.

23 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: This has been  
24 going on for years. They're totally non-cooperative  
25 on this issue.

1                   MR. MUTH: Okay. Why did they grant the  
2 easement in the first place?

3                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: It was imposed  
4 upon them.

5                   MR. FOOTE: The Water Agency has done  
6 much to assist the hikers. As you walk up the road,  
7 you do come to a fork where the real trail part of the  
8 PCT turns off. That is one of the few locations of a  
9 water source in this stretch of the PCT. The Water  
10 Agency has piped water down to that point. They do  
11 have a drinking fountain, so it is a critical water  
12 source. And the Desert Water Agency has been very  
13 helpful in that regard. They also don't mind people  
14 walking up the road to use the PCT.

15                   The trespassing issue is really to  
16 discourage the vehicular travel onto that area, which  
17 we would also discourage. It's just been a little  
18 confusing in this somewhat of a mixed message of,  
19 "Hikers, you're welcome, but everyone else isn't if  
20 you're on your vehicle."

21                   So we aim to remedy that by just bypassing  
22 for the hikers all of these "No trespassing" signs and  
23 make it clear that this is, in fact, the trail, and  
24 people won't be wandering into Snow Creek Village.

25                   MR. MUTH: And if you bypass the gate,

1 are you opening access to ATV's from the trailhead?

2 MR. FOOTE: We would hope not. I think  
3 that's where we have two things -- well, two things  
4 can happen. One, we do have a current project  
5 proposed posting cable along that road to discourage  
6 and prevent the off-highway vehicles from going into  
7 that area.

8 Second, the development of a trailhead. We  
9 can certainly narrow -- and would I recommend this,  
10 bringing in big boulders that would be -- the gaps  
11 would be less than the width of an ATV. Things like  
12 motorcycles, you're never going to stop them from any  
13 trail access if they so choose, so it becomes an  
14 enforcement issue. But I'm not aware that we are  
15 having ATV or motorcycle issues on this part of the  
16 PCT actually going up the PCT. We do have issues,  
17 though, with off-highway vehicles in this general  
18 area, no question, and hence the proposed project of  
19 posting cable along the road.

20 MR. LYMAN: Just because Snow Creek is  
21 in the County jurisdiction, are they comfortable with  
22 the proposal?

23 MR. FOOTE: My understanding is they  
24 worked with the County. John, do you have a  
25 recollection of that?

1                   MR. KALISH: Yeah. This has been a  
2 long, ongoing issue with the residents of Snow Creek,  
3 and it's a way to resolve the conflict between the  
4 hikers and the residents. So our understanding is  
5 there's complete agreement with the residents of  
6 Snow Creek.

7                   MR. LYMAN: Because they've become more  
8 vocal in the last six months.

9                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: I spoke to the  
10 president of the Snow Creek Homeowner's Association  
11 within the last few days, and they say they will be  
12 extremely happy if this happened. So they had a  
13 meeting in the last month or two where they discussed  
14 it within themselves. So if there was any problem  
15 with this, I think the president would have told me.

16                   MR. CRISTE: Do we have to take action,  
17 then, on this item?

18                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Yeah. I'm looking  
19 for the motion to adopt the proposal to reroute the  
20 Pacific Crest Trail and create a signed parking area  
21 in Snow Creek.

22                   MR. CRISTE: I'll make that motion.

23                   MR. KATES: Second.

24                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Any comments,  
25 questions? All in favor? Any against? Any

1 abstentions?

2 (A voice vote was taken.)

3 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Unanimous. Thank  
4 you.

5 Let's see. The next item is in the same  
6 area. This is just south of where Snow Creek Road  
7 takes off from Highway 111. We used to have a sign,  
8 and now we no longer do. The actual sign material has  
9 been removed. This is something that has also been  
10 going on for quite a long time and is something I  
11 think we need to remedy. The sign used to say "Santa  
12 Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument, Entering" or  
13 something very similar to the sign we have on Highway  
14 74, and I put this on the agenda to see if we can get  
15 the sign replaced.

16 MR. KATES: Make a motion for approval.

17 MR. DAVIS: Second.

18 MR. WATTENBARGER: Do we have money  
19 ourselves, or is it BLM?

20 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: It comes out of  
21 the Monument budget, which is BLM Forest Service  
22 money. It's not a very expensive item.

23 MR. WATTENBARGER: I wouldn't think so.

24 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: I suspect BLM will  
25 have the sign made at the BLM sign factory, which is

1 somewhere thousands of miles away.

2 MR. LYMAN: Jim, don't we still have  
3 some of the brass plaques lying around or something  
4 that were part of all the signage that we did?

5 MR. FOOTE: Small ones?

6 MR. LYMAN: I thought we had some larger  
7 ones laying around too.

8 MR. FOOTE: All I found are those these  
9 round, bronze disks about a foot wide or a foot in  
10 diameter. This sign that we had on Highway 111 was  
11 almost a billboard sign. It was quite sizeable, as  
12 you would expect on a highway where the speed limit is  
13 65 miles an hour. And interestingly, from the  
14 pictures -- and I took these a few years ago -- it  
15 appears as if a vehicle hit the left post and then  
16 that ripped apart the post on the right. And you can  
17 see these are breakaway posts by their construction  
18 necessarily. But the large aluminum sign is missing  
19 at that point, so somebody had decided that --

20 MR. CRISTE: It's in their basement.

21 MR. FOOTE: -- that this is good scrap  
22 material and took it.

23 MR. KATES: Stuck it under their car.

24 MR. FOOTE: So we'll look into, at this  
25 group's request, redeveloping this. We should

1 need -- the encroachment permit from Caltrans should  
2 still be in place for that. We'll research that to  
3 make sure it's still the case.

4 MR. GILLETT: Is that sign vandalized  
5 frequently?

6 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Vehicle accident.

7 MR. FOOTE: This was vandalized at one  
8 occasion at some point. Whether the striking of the  
9 sign was intentional, who knows?

10 MS. GUTIERREZ: I have a question. Does  
11 it look like this today?

12 MR. FOOTE: I drove by in the opposite  
13 lane the other day from the other side, and I couldn't  
14 see it.

15 MS. GUTIERREZ: Just from a liability  
16 point of view, you need to shear it off while you  
17 decide what you're going to do with it.

18 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: That's already  
19 been done.

20 MS. GUTIERREZ: I'm sure they might have  
21 done it, but if they didn't, this could be a lawsuit  
22 waiting to happen from some strange folks.

23 MR. KATES: Do we have a picture of the  
24 "before" condition in the file?

25 MR. FOOTE: I'm not aware of one. I'm

1 sure we have it at someplace and location. I haven't  
2 found that yet.

3 MR. MUTH: Do you have the sign template  
4 that went to the printer? I recall sometimes just  
5 agreeing on whose logo goes where on these darn signs  
6 takes weeks and months. So do you have an approved  
7 template?

8 MR. FOOTE: I would look at potential  
9 redesign of the sign. I think --

10 MR. MUTH: You ran over it, didn't you?

11 MR. FOOTE: Guilty as charged. I think  
12 we can always improve our signs, and I think this was  
13 one case where we could improve upon that sign.

14 MR. CRISTE: Politely put.

15 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Maybe farther to  
16 the side of the road. Yes, with BLM we can probably  
17 proceed with a new sign in the next year or two.

18 MR. FOOTE: Hopefully sooner.

19 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay. Now a few  
20 reports coming up right now. First one is from Jim,  
21 and this is regarding the proposed land exchange with  
22 the Agua Caliente Band. And the initial comment  
23 period for this was supposed to expire on the 15th of  
24 September, but it has been extended through the 15th  
25 of October. So if you will give us the report on

1 that, Jim.

2 MR. FOOTE: Not a lot to report. You  
3 recall receiving notice from me in early August when  
4 we were seeking public comments on the proposed land  
5 exchange. We developed an environmental assessment  
6 and analyzing the effects of the exchange. That's  
7 part of your packet here. I did reproduce the entire  
8 document. So we are still soliciting comments. Again  
9 that comment period closes on October 15th, after  
10 which point we will render a decision and proceed.

11 So this is not an item we would have  
12 anticipated, necessarily, that this group would make a  
13 recommendation on one way or the other. It's just a  
14 report at this point. Al?

15 MR. MUTH: Has there been opposition to  
16 the exchange?

17 MR. FOOTE: Yes, there has been some  
18 expressed in comment letters received to date but not  
19 necessarily in its entirety.

20 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Some of the  
21 comments that people that I have spoken to have made  
22 comments for are making comments on this do have some  
23 problems with some of the sections of the various  
24 reasons. One of the reasons is for the Section 36 to  
25 the north. There are two Section 36's in this

1 exchange, and then there's a Section 36 to the south,  
2 which is recommended by BLM as a Wild and Scenic River  
3 status. And it also is not adjacent or touching any  
4 other Agua Caliente lines at this point. It's either  
5 Forest Service or BLM or private, et cetera,  
6 et cetera. So it's not like it's buried like some of  
7 the sections are way deep in the canyons area well  
8 within the reservation boundaries.

9                   So that's the comments that I've been --  
10 that I've heard from people. I haven't read the other  
11 comments yet.

12                   MR. FOOTE: Certainly recommend or  
13 solicit comments from any individuals. If you care to  
14 share this document with anyone else, please do so.  
15 And we request they submit the comments by  
16 October 15th.

17                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Any further  
18 discussion? No? Okay.

19                   Tenth anniversary.

20                   MR. FOOTE: Tenth-anniversary  
21 celebration. Coincidentally this is both the National  
22 Monument's tenth anniversary and the tenth anniversary  
23 of the National Landscape Conservation System.

24                   Before I forget, I want to point out that  
25 posters are available free for your taking of the

1 tenth anniversary of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto  
2 Mountains National Mountains poster. I framed one in  
3 the corner, if you want a sense of what you can do  
4 with it in your home offices.

5 Here are copies you're free to take with  
6 you and rubber bands to roll them up. The more you  
7 take, the less I take back. Always a good thing.

8 But we do have some celebration activities  
9 coming up, and I'm going to defer to Gretchen to  
10 enlighten us on what these will be. The Friends of  
11 the Desert Mountains, of which Gretchen is CEO, is our  
12 non-support -- non-profit-supported organization for  
13 the National Monument.

14 MS. GUTIERREZ: Thanks for the support.  
15 Okay. Yes.

16 MR. FOOTE: You're welcome. And so the  
17 Friends is really organizing a lot of this and pushing  
18 it forward. They're doing the invitations, doing a  
19 whole lot involving Palm Springs Life magazine.  
20 You've seen here -- what you've been handed is the  
21 overprint or the overrun in the September issue of  
22 Palm Springs Life. This is the first of a monthly  
23 series focusing on the National Monument.

24 Now, if you want the entire magazine,  
25 you're going to have to go buy it. We didn't get many

1 of the entire magazine. But the September issue of  
2 Palm Springs Life is the one that's hardbound and is  
3 found in hotel rooms in the Coachella Valley for the  
4 next year. So we're getting headliner status out of  
5 that.

6                   And again this is the first of several  
7 issues to be highlighting the National Monument. We  
8 hope it will be the first of 12 successive issues.  
9 We're pretty certain we can at least get through the  
10 first six months. After that we're really funding  
11 dependent from donors.

12                   But with that, Gretchen, take it away.

13                   MS. GUTIERREZ: As Jim mentioned, this  
14 is the tenth anniversary for the Monument, which  
15 actually occurs on October 24th officially. However  
16 on October 18th, which is a Monday morning, we will be  
17 hosting, in conjunction with the BLM and U.S. Forest  
18 Service, as well as Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack and  
19 other elected officials, a kickoff event celebration  
20 at 10:00 in the at the Monument at the Visitor Center.  
21 And you'll be able to see all of the new projects that  
22 we currently are undertaking at this National Monument  
23 Visitor Center right at the moment.

24                   It will be the official kickoff of a  
25 yearlong series of special hikes, lectures and

1 programs. We're putting together a passport series of  
2 hikes and an actual passport to go with them that  
3 folks can go on a variety of hikes to areas that are  
4 not normally visited by people into the Monument. And  
5 there will be one specialty hike every month over the  
6 course of the next year.

7 We'll also be having a number of specialty  
8 lecture series, as well as all the usual programs that  
9 go on. But everything this year is being targeted and  
10 driven to the tenth anniversary.

11 As Jim mentioned, Friends has entered into  
12 partnership with Palm Springs Life for that particular  
13 pictorial program for the next year. We're hoping, as  
14 Jim says, to have it on a monthly basis. The October  
15 issue will feature a section in -- Black Mountain is  
16 the area that will be featured for the October issue,  
17 and it will actually have a poster in the magazine  
18 that you can pull out and again frame and hang as wall  
19 art.

20 We'll be getting copies of those as  
21 overruns too so this group can continue to see the  
22 work that is going on throughout the course of the  
23 year with the Monument and with Friends. We'll also  
24 be having a variety of other events during the course  
25 of the year.

1                   And Jim very graciously put in our website,  
2                   which is part of our restructuring internally at  
3                   Friends. We'll be updating our website with a new  
4                   rollout website design. It will be launched also in  
5                   October, and it will, of course, feature things for  
6                   the tenth anniversary.

7                   And I don't know if that's there in front  
8                   of Jim, in front of you, the magazine that you all  
9                   have. You can see -- on the back cover I think you'll  
10                  see the tenth-anniversary logo that is for the  
11                  Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National  
12                  Monument. That's going to be the official logo for  
13                  the course of the next year for the Monument.

14                  So did I hit on everything that you wanted  
15                  to talk about? Come out for the event. It's  
16                  October 18, 10:00 in the morning.

17                  MR. FOOTE: You should be receiving your  
18                  hard-copy invitations in the mail shortly.

19                  MS. GUTIERREZ: Yes. The e-mail  
20                  save-the-date went out approximately ten days ago, and  
21                  the formal invitations went in the mail today.

22                  ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Thank you.

23                  MR. FOOTE: We also did extend  
24                  invitations to higher-level agency and departmental  
25                  folks. I think we've got the regional forester

1 committed?

2 MR. GILLETT: Well, I believe we have  
3 the regional forester committed to that, if not a  
4 deputy who actually used to be the forest supervisor  
5 here. So that would be kind of a fun thing. But I'm  
6 sure they'll have representation from the region and  
7 someone from Washington as well.

8 MR. FOOTE: We're hoping for the same  
9 thing on BLM's side. Hopefully we can get state  
10 director participation. We'll see who else from the  
11 agency in Washington can attend.

12 Tom's point reminded me that those who  
13 recall Jeanne Wade Evans, who was forest supervisor  
14 and served on Monument Board of Directors, is now a  
15 deputy regional forester. So that will be exciting if  
16 Jeanne can make it back for that event.

17 MR. GILLETT: I'm sure she will.

18 MR. FOOTE: Great.

19 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Where is Vallejo?

20 MR. FOOTE: Just to the east of  
21 San Francisco.

22 MR. GILLETT: Mare Island is where the  
23 regional office is.

24 MR. FOOTE: While Gretchen pointed to  
25 the -- and I'll just do a couple of quick

1 announcements here before we move on to the Corridor  
2 Management Plan issue, because Gretchen did point to  
3 the Friends of the Desert Mountains site. This is  
4 where you can also learn about the events that are  
5 going to occur through the next year. You can see  
6 there's a link here on events, and if you click on  
7 that, that's something that gets updated about what's  
8 coming up during the year for events.

9           One of the things that's coming up quickly,  
10 just so I can acknowledge that, is this Saturday is  
11 National Public Lands Day. We've got two sheets in  
12 here. One of the events coming up is on Santa Rosa  
13 Mountain. That is to help clean up the Santa Rosa  
14 Mountain Truck Trail. That event is occurring again  
15 this Saturday from eight to four, and people will be  
16 meeting at the National Monument Visitor Center. More  
17 details are here on the handout.

18           Also beginning this weekend our National  
19 Public Land Days event, you can see with the National  
20 Forest press release. And I love this, the Parry  
21 Pinyon Pine Protection Project, "P" to the fifth. I  
22 love it. Again this is going to be a three-weekend  
23 event to help protect the Pinyon Pines on the Indian  
24 reservations. So this gives you information about  
25 where to meet, who to contact on that, should you be

1 so interested.

2                   And one final note before we get to the  
3 Corridor Management Plan. You'll see two last pieces  
4 in your packet. One is the home page for  
5 PalmSpringsLife.com/SantaRosa. This is the Monument's  
6 electronic brochure. And interestingly enough, this  
7 is now the only place where you can access a map of  
8 the National Monument in its current form.

9                   And in 2009 through the Omnibus Bill the  
10 Monument was expanded by about 8,000 acres, and that  
11 came from four locations. Right now the only place  
12 you can get a map of that expansion is on the  
13 PalmSpringsLife.com/SantaRosa site. Our electronic  
14 Monument brochure is held on that site. We just  
15 updated this with the assistance of the tribal GIS.  
16 They did the basic map for this. Then Palm Springs  
17 Life added all the little, catchy tabs and everything  
18 else that you'll see on the site itself. This also  
19 does reflect the Palm Canyon Creek National Wild and  
20 Scenic River. So this is the first place you've also  
21 seen that depicted.

22                   MR. WATTENBARGER: Is the bold green the  
23 outline of the Monument?

24                   MR. FOOTE: Yes, it is. In 2009 the  
25 Monument was expanded just north of the Snow Creek

1 area. It was expanded to include Tahquitz Peak. It  
2 was expanded down in the Santa Rosa Mountain area and  
3 then along the southeastern boundary, four locations.  
4 We had expansion totaling 8,000 acres. So in total  
5 now the Monument acreage is about 280,000.

6 And with that --

7 MS. ROSENTHAL: I'm going to give Jim's  
8 voice a rest. There's finally somebody else on the  
9 agenda. But actually I'm not an expert at this, so,  
10 Jim, feel free. I know you're not either, but between  
11 the two of us we can tell you what we know. But this  
12 is the first time either of us have gone through this  
13 process for Corridor Management planning. And I have  
14 discussed this previously at other meetings, Monument  
15 Advisory Committee meetings, but some of you are new.

16 So to give you the short version, there is  
17 the National Scenic Byway program. This is the only  
18 scenic byway program that there's actually federal  
19 grant money involved. And Highway 74 and Highway 243  
20 are already designated as Palms to Pines State Scenic  
21 Highway. And so that means that that highway is  
22 eligible to become a National Scenic Byway.

23 Now, we have a group called Recreation  
24 Solutions, which are part of the Forest Service.  
25 They're an enterprise group, and they applied for a

1 grant to do the first step to becoming a National  
2 Scenic Byway, which is a Corridor Management Plan. It  
3 took several years to get the money. I don't want to  
4 go into it. It's too involved and very boring. And  
5 they finally have received the funding to do this  
6 program.

7                   Now, this is totally community driven for  
8 communities that are on the byway, and we're talking  
9 about those that are on the byway of Highway 243 and  
10 Highway 74. There is also a focus on the gateway  
11 communities, such as Palm Desert, Hemet, Banning. And  
12 at the end of this process -- and it's a series of  
13 five workshops -- the communities will decide if they  
14 want to continue on and go to the next step, which is  
15 to apply to become a National Scenic Byway.

16                   The team who have done this before thinks  
17 they have a pretty good shot at this. They have  
18 already done some pre-meetings because there's some  
19 orientations that needed to have happened and they  
20 needed to gather -- the team needed to gather some  
21 information. So there were some pre-meetings in --  
22 last month?

23                   MR. FOOTE: Two months ago.

24                   MS. ROSENTHAL: Two months ago. There  
25 was a meeting in Idyllwild, Garner Valley and in

1 Pinyon. The ones in Idyllwild and Pinyon were, very,  
2 very well received, the one in Garner Valley, mixed, a  
3 lot of concerns. There's another project happening  
4 which has nothing to do with this, and that was  
5 brought to them up front. It was a Highway 74  
6 Caltrans project to eliminate some trees, some green  
7 trees that are too close to the highway. And so there  
8 was a lot of emotion regarding that project even  
9 though that has nothing to do with this.

10 But there will be a series of these five  
11 workshops, and the first workshop is in November.  
12 It's going to be November 8th, ninth and tenth. And  
13 the eighth is going to be in Garner Valley, the ninth  
14 in Idyllwild and the tenth in Pinyon. The team is  
15 also meeting with the Friends of the Desert Mountains  
16 at their -- they're meeting at 7:30 in the morning on  
17 the tenth.

18 My question for you -- I know in the past  
19 we brought up that some of you were interested in  
20 getting involved in this. We do have  
21 Dr. Emilyn Sheffield, and she is from Chico State  
22 University, and she's the facilitator who has done  
23 many other corridor management plans. And she's  
24 really a fantastic facilitator and very knowledgeable.

25 And my question for all of you -- most of

1 you are from the desert communities -- is, how would  
2 you like to be involved? Some of the options would be  
3 that you could attend one of these meetings in  
4 Garner Valley, Idyllwild or Pinyon when they're out  
5 here for those three days in November. The workshop  
6 meetings are in the evenings. They could create  
7 another time slot for all of you to meet with them.

8 I'm sure the Friends would be open to  
9 having you come to their presentation on the tenth.  
10 I'm speaking for them. I'm not absolutely positive,  
11 but I would think that this would be an okay thing,  
12 since we're all in this together. And so I'm going to  
13 just open it back up for questions and also how you  
14 would like to be involved.

15 You all have this handout? You can see  
16 that the first one is November. We're thinking these  
17 other dates might work, although we're going to be  
18 asking the community members whether these would be  
19 the best dates. But the week of the November 8th now  
20 is confirmed, the eighth, ninth and tenth. So I'm  
21 going to open it up for questions and how you might  
22 want to be involved.

23 MS. GUTIERREZ: Laurie, just a general  
24 question. Are all of the meetings scheduled to be up  
25 in Idyllwild, Pinyon or Garner Valley?

1 MS. ROSENTHAL: So far right now,  
2 because those are the communities that are most  
3 impacted, those that are along the byway. That's how  
4 they're traditionally done. And they're very  
5 different communities, so the thought to have one for  
6 all three didn't make sense.

7 MS. GUTIERREZ: Okay.

8 MS. ROSENTHAL: Any other questions?

9 MR. WATTENBARGER: What's the benefit of  
10 these residents to having a scenic byway go through  
11 their communities?

12 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yeah, that's a good  
13 question, and it depends. Like in a place like  
14 Idyllwild, it could be for the economic benefits of it  
15 being recognized, and there's grant monies that could  
16 come with it for all kinds of improvements along the  
17 scenic byway.

18 For a community like Pinyon or  
19 Garner Valley, it could be the safety benefits of it.  
20 There's so many accidents, as you all know, and so  
21 much concern. You know, it's like up in Idyllwild,  
22 it's almost a week doesn't go by without another  
23 motorcycle accident or something that I read about.

24 And by having this, it doesn't mean that  
25 they can necessarily apply for lots of safety issues,

1 but Caltrans, which is traditionally a player, they  
2 might not come to these meetings, but they are always  
3 informed about what happens at these meetings and  
4 these recommendations.

5           Like let's say the recommendation was for  
6 rumble strips so that people knew had they were  
7 crossing the line, because some people get really  
8 angry if there's a slow vehicle and they'll just pass  
9 on a double yellow, as we all know that drive the  
10 roads. But once it is a National Scenic Byway, then  
11 there is a pot of money through Caltrans Federal  
12 Highway funds, I believe, for safety. And so as a  
13 community and as a National Scenic Byway, they can  
14 then apply for this other pot of money for safety  
15 issues.

16           So the thing I really like about this plan  
17 is it is whatever the communities want it to be. If  
18 in Garner Valley they just want people to keep going,  
19 do not stop, that can be put in the plan in such a  
20 way. And so that's the beauty that I like is that  
21 it's totally community driven.

22           Other questions or comments?

23           MR. LYMAN: Have you involved Supervisor  
24 Stone's office?

25           MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes, he's been

1 contacted.

2 MR. LYMAN: Because there's a historic  
3 preservation overlay being done in Idyllwild right  
4 now, and it would be really valuable to tie those two  
5 together.

6 MS. ROSENTHAL: Some of the people  
7 involved with Idyllwild business round table are also  
8 involved in this process, and they're involved in the  
9 historic one as well.

10 MR. LEUSCHNER: I'm already involved, so  
11 I plan to continue.

12 MS. ROSENTHAL: I know you are.

13 MR. LEUSCHNER: I went to that Pinyon  
14 meeting.

15 MS. ROSENTHAL: I know.

16 MR. LEUSCHNER: I thought the Pinyon  
17 crowd was very skeptical about this whole thing, but  
18 maybe they can be convinced of the benefits of it.

19 MS. ROSENTHAL: Did you think that, Jim?  
20 Kind of more neutral, maybe.

21 MR. LEUSCHNER: I wasn't at the other  
22 two meetings.

23 MR. FOOTE: Coming on the heels of the  
24 Garner Valley meeting, it sounded like everyone was in  
25 love with the project.

1 MS. WATLING: Did you get a positive  
2 sense from the audience?

3 MS. ROSENTHAL: From Pinyon? My  
4 perception was that it wasn't negative, that it was  
5 more like, we'll, wait and see, and we'll participate  
6 and give our input. And that was my perception.

7 MR. LEUSCHNER: Yeah, compared to the  
8 Garner meeting I heard about.

9 MS. WATLING: See, we've grown-up.

10 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yeah.

11 MR. LEUSCHNER: Just so everybody knows,  
12 also the road is already a State scenic highway or  
13 byway. So it already has a similar designation, so  
14 this is not a new idea. It's going to add another  
15 layer and get funding opportunities.

16 MS. ROSENTHAL: Exactly.

17 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Seems like this is  
18 probably driven by the small businesses in Idyllwild  
19 as a way of getting more tourists you know, to come to  
20 Idyllwild.

21 MR. LEUSCHNER: Right.

22 MS. ROSENTHAL: As I said, you can get  
23 improvements done along the byway for all stretches as  
24 well. So there is that benefit.

25 MS. WATLING: Are you talking about

1 widening any of that? What degree of improvements?

2 MS. ROSENTHAL: No. It would be more  
3 visitor type of, like, turnouts, interpretation, those  
4 kinds of things. But that's the beauty is that you  
5 can look at each stretch of the byway and say, what  
6 could enhance the visitors' experience? Or as I said,  
7 maybe they need to be driving right on through, and  
8 how do we do that, because there are ways to do that.

9 MR. GILLETT: It can influence, though,  
10 future improvements to the highway if it has a  
11 National Scenic Byway designation.

12 MS. WATLING: I think that might be the  
13 attraction for Pinyon, because this is the same  
14 community that wanted nothing to do with anything  
15 bringing people into the community. Anyway, so we've  
16 come a long way.

17 MS. ROSENTHAL: Pinyon are so focused on  
18 the safety aspect, and rightly so. So I think in all  
19 three communities -- and you know, anybody that's  
20 involved, I think safety is going to become the  
21 overall thing because of what we've seen. And you  
22 know, we don't want just to increase the traffic  
23 without anything to balance that.

24 MS. WATLING: Offset it, yeah.

25 MS. ROSENTHAL: So my next question that

1 I asked before is, what would you like your  
2 involvements to be? I already sent a message. By the  
3 way, Jim, your mailing list that you sent about the  
4 agenda I sent to the team. I said put all of you on  
5 their mailing list so you'll get information about  
6 these workshops.

7 MS. GUTIERREZ: Well, and as Laurie  
8 said, Friends is calendaring a brief presentation --  
9 it won't be a full workshop -- at our board meeting in  
10 November, so if you'd like to come and get the -- that  
11 will be on the third day of the actual workshop  
12 sessions. Maybe come and get the Reader's Digest  
13 version of it at that point in time. You're welcome  
14 to come to the Friends board meeting, which will be at  
15 7:30 in the morning at the Friends office, and join us  
16 for that. If you'd like to just kind of start to come  
17 and get involved in it at this particular point in  
18 time, you're welcome to come to that.

19 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay. Any further  
20 comments, questions? Thank you, Laurie. Put it back  
21 to Jim.

22 MR. FOOTE: The next item is a report  
23 regarding Roy Wilson Memorial Highway dedication  
24 event. It's been just a little over a year since  
25 Supervisor Wilson passed away. There will be a

1 dedication of a portion of Highway 74 in his honor.  
2 That will be part of Highway 74 in Palm Desert and  
3 then part extending into the county up to the curvy  
4 part of Highway 74. On October 25th there will be the  
5 dedication event, which is at 11:00 at the Monument  
6 Visitor Center. That will be a fairly short ceremony,  
7 as I believe, probably about 30 minutes, but certainly  
8 encourage all of you to attend if you're available.

9 Anything to add, Gretchen, to that one?

10 MS. GUTIERREZ: No.

11 MR. FOOTE: The Friends of the Desert  
12 Mountains is, again, hosting this.

13 MS. GUTIERREZ: So come and join us two  
14 Mondays in a row.

15 MR. WATTENBARGER: Go, Gretchen.

16 MR. FOOTE: Okay. The next item is just  
17 reports and updates on Monument projects, activities.  
18 These are from our Monument Board of Directors.  
19 Anyone want to take a first stab at that?

20 MS. ROSENTHAL: I will. Well, I don't  
21 know, Tom, if you want to say anything or -- I mean  
22 you mentioned about Jeanne, but maybe it was just in  
23 passing.

24 MR. GILLETT: About Jeanne's new  
25 position?

1 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yeah.

2 MR. GILLETT: Well, yeah, I can  
3 certainly brief the group on that. Jeanne was the  
4 forest supervisor on the San Bernardino almost five  
5 years -- I think about a month shy of five years. And  
6 she recently accepted a promotion to the regional  
7 office as the deputy regional forester overseeing the  
8 program's fire and aviation management for all 18  
9 national forests in California, state and private  
10 forestry, as well, safety and acquisitions. That's  
11 contracting.

12 So there's three deputy regional foresters,  
13 and together with the regional forester they provide  
14 oversight for all of the units in California. So  
15 there's 18 national forests in California. And so I'm  
16 stepping in. I've been the deputy forest supervisor  
17 for two years, a little over two years now, and I'm  
18 stepping in as the interim acting forest supervisor  
19 until the job is filled permanently.

20 And let's see. I'm going to leave it at  
21 that, but I'll certainly kind of add to the discussion  
22 in terms of what we've been handling as the Monument  
23 Board of Directors.

24 MS. ROSENTHAL: Thank you. Just a few  
25 quick points about some of the projects we have that

1 are on National Forest land within the Monument. We  
2 had the E.A. sign for tamarisk removal. That was  
3 signed a few months ago, and that's for Palm Canyon.  
4 And then the Santa Rosa Fuel Reduction Project should  
5 be a decision probably by June of 2011 at the latest.  
6 And we've had field trips. Some of you, Jeff, have  
7 been on those field trips. Very good discussion. And  
8 that includes brush removal around the communication  
9 sites. Very important for us to have that during fire  
10 or other incidents.

11           Then we also have received some economic  
12 stimulus money to help improve some of the recreation  
13 facilities up in Santa Rosa, including getting a new  
14 restroom and picnic tables, et cetera. It's a very  
15 rustic area, but it still is in need of some  
16 replacement of some of our rustic facilities.

17           And lastly, this is not actually in the  
18 Monument, but we have had discussions in the past  
19 about the Sloan property, which does have access to  
20 the PCT. And we do have a contract for  
21 decommissioning all the facilities on the Sloan  
22 property. This in the future could be something that  
23 could be brought up as a recommendation, since it is a  
24 gateway into the Monument. This is a very, very  
25 beautiful area, if you haven't been there, and the

1 facilities should be decommissioned and gone within  
2 the next few months.

3 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay. Will there  
4 be closure of the what we use as a trail there during  
5 that period of decommissioning?

6 MS. ROSENTHAL: I don't know. I don't  
7 think so.

8 MR. GILLETT: I don't believe so. We're  
9 just removing the improvements.

10 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Right. I'm well  
11 aware.

12 MR. WATTENBARGER: Laurie, where is the  
13 Sloan property?

14 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: It's in  
15 Garner Valley. Currently the area by the lowest  
16 structure which uses the parking area for people, it's  
17 used as parking area for people using the trail, and  
18 as long as the trail remains open during the  
19 decommissioning, we can park somewhere else.

20 MR. GILLETT: I don't believe it's going  
21 to impact that. Do you want to touch on the trail  
22 maintenance that we've completed this year under AARA?

23 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yeah. We've been  
24 working. This is service first at its best. Between  
25 the two agencies we've had crews up in the wilderness.

1 We've had a tremendous amount of trail work that was  
2 badly needed for so many years and as part of the  
3 economic stimulus as well, and then we've also been  
4 working on BLM land because these crews can go back  
5 and forth because of this umbrella of service first.  
6 So it's been great, and the crew members have been  
7 outstanding, and they will be with us for a little bit  
8 longer.

9 MR. GILLETT: So I've heard from several  
10 avid hikers on the Monument and National Forest that  
11 the trails have never been in better shape since their  
12 inception. So if you haven't hiked any of the trails,  
13 I'd encourage you to go out there and witness  
14 firsthand the type of condition what these trail crews  
15 have done. It's just incredible; it really is.

16 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Do you have a  
17 start date for the tamarisk removal?

18 MS. ROSENTHAL: We have a little bit of  
19 money to do implementation. It's a very small window.  
20 It's like October, November because of T & E species.  
21 And this year, unfortunately, the project manager, she  
22 had a hip replacement, so we're going to wait until  
23 next fiscal year to start the implementation. And  
24 then hopefully between now and then we can even get  
25 some more -- apply for more grants and do more than

1 just a very small amount. And I'm open for  
2 suggestions for ways of getting more funding.

3 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: I don't know about  
4 the funding, but the start date should be as soon as  
5 possible because every year the tamarisk gets more and  
6 more and more.

7 MS. ROSENTHAL: I know.

8 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: So we need a  
9 couple of hundred acres to be removed. Waiting  
10 another year or two, you have 400 acres or whatever.  
11 You know, it grows that quick. It's just a  
12 suggestion, as soon as possible. Okay. Laurie?

13 MS. ROSENTHAL: I'm done.

14 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Mr. Kalish?

15 MR. KALISH: You want to talk about  
16 projects, Jim, or are there any others?

17 MR. FOOTE: Oh, me?

18 MR. KALISH: Sure, and then I'll wrap it  
19 up.

20 MR. FOOTE: Let me think. You caught me  
21 off guard here. And I think it's good to reiterate a  
22 point that Gretchen made earlier that at the Visitor  
23 Center we've just finished resurfacing the parking  
24 lot. There's development of pavers being lined from  
25 the access path to the Visitor Center down to the

1 Friends donor garden. We started the project. We're  
2 putting a permanent shade structure over the back  
3 patio. In previous years those that have been to the  
4 Wildlife Festival have noticed we've always tented  
5 that.

6 This last year was the last year the fire  
7 marshal said he'd allow that to occur. The tent over  
8 the back patio violates Fire Code in that it's too  
9 close to the building as a temporary structure. So  
10 we're replacing in partly reason to be able to  
11 facilitate the Wildflower Festival, but also it  
12 increases utility of that back patio.

13 Anybody that's ever been out there this  
14 time of year, it's a roasting pit. It's just way too  
15 hot, too sunny, gets underutilized as a result. So  
16 this is something that's moving forward.

17 Again the paving project and the patio  
18 cover is something that Friends is working with  
19 through grant monies that they received on those. The  
20 repaving was BLM money, but we ran that through  
21 Friends for the contracting. So Friends has been an  
22 incredible partner to get a lot of things done.

23 Those are some of the major projects we've  
24 got going on. Again we're still involved with trails  
25 planning implementation issues, most recently going to

1 each of the cities to request Municipal Code alignment  
2 with the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan,  
3 just a number of things going on. And those are the  
4 kinds of issues -- those are planning issues we can  
5 talk about in our first workshop or work group meeting  
6 and see where that takes us.

7 But anyway, those are some of the major  
8 things going on. And I'll let John wrap it up.

9 MR. KALISH: One kind of long, ongoing  
10 issue that we did come to a resolution with Riverside  
11 County Fire involves helicopter use of our parking lot  
12 there at the Visitor Center to evacuate, really,  
13 accident victims on 74, which on its surface you would  
14 think would be a positive use of our facility and the  
15 parking lot.

16 The only issue involved in that is that by  
17 bringing the helicopters in so close to the Bighorn  
18 Institute, there was quite a problem with disturbance  
19 of the sheep that are within those enclosures such  
20 that there was among -- the standpoint of Jim before,  
21 where there was some real concern about potential  
22 stress on the ewes and aborting the young and various  
23 other impacts.

24 So we've been able to -- working with  
25 Riverside County fire, been able to get an alternative

1 site across the road over in the Art Smith trailhead,  
2 which hopefully in the near future will be more  
3 developed as a helicopter landing pad for those  
4 emergency situations. So that we'll kind of avert  
5 telephone calls that we would receive very quickly  
6 upon any helicopter landing out in the parking lot of  
7 the visitor. So it seemed to be a good solution for  
8 all parties involved.

9           But as far as activities, I personally am  
10 really looking forward to the tenth-anniversary  
11 celebration for the Monument. Jim talked about all of  
12 the facility upgrades, and it's really gotten to be  
13 quite a center and just an excellent location for  
14 these types of celebrations. And I think, once again,  
15 it's a great opportunity to really highlight our  
16 National Monument, the fact that it was  
17 Congressionally designated, grassroots effort and just  
18 overall, not only of a very sizeable geographic area  
19 that's well protected with high resource values and  
20 public values, but it's also an area that really  
21 provides a lot of extra value to those of us that live  
22 here in Coachella Valley.

23           And I've always been really intrigued by  
24 the numbers of people that I run into on a day-to-day  
25 basis within Coachella Valley, including my neighbors,

1 that really know so very little about the National  
2 Monument. You know, they know the hills are there and  
3 there are some trails, and they have heard about dog  
4 issues and things like that. But even though there is  
5 a phenomenal amount of information out there on the  
6 Monument website and the Palm Springs Life website  
7 with the electronic brochure and the Desert Sun's  
8 website that lists all the trail opportunities, plenty  
9 of ways that people can learn about the National  
10 Monument and how they can really get up into the  
11 Monument and really learn to enjoy it and learn by it.

12 But I really see this as an opportunity to  
13 once again really get the word out in Coachella Valley  
14 as to the value to the residents here on the National  
15 Monument and kind of move that whole process ahead.  
16 So I think it will be a great event and great  
17 opportunity to do that.

18 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Thank you. Do we  
19 have any update on the wind farm going up on the north  
20 ridge of Mt. San Jacinto? Has there been any further  
21 applications regarding that project?

22 MR. KALISH: No. The Adams project  
23 that's proposed for an area right around the corner  
24 from Snow Creek called the Fingal's Finger -- that  
25 project is, from our standpoint, still on hold. We

1 understand that the proponents of that project,  
2 Bill Adams and his son, you know, have a desire to  
3 move it forward. They have been going through a  
4 County process, and we haven't really tracked that.  
5 But nothing is really imminent as far as their coming  
6 in with a more detailed application and project plan.

7 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay. Thank you.

8 MR. FOOTE: Tom or Jack, any  
9 contributing words?

10 MR. HAMBY: Thank you for all the hard  
11 work this year.

12 MR. GILLETT: Lots of stuff happening in  
13 the Monument, as you can hear.

14 MR. HAMBY: Lots of stuff. It is  
15 really -- I mean Jim sends me everything. And it is  
16 nice to see how much -- how many positive things are  
17 going on up there, the trail maintenance issue. That  
18 was great. I got pictures of that, especially one of  
19 the six-foot long rattlesnake. I appreciated that  
20 picture. I don't think it was quite that big, but the  
21 guy told me it was that big. It looked that big when  
22 he stepped on it.

23 But again, I mean this is -- with the  
24 alligators that are typically chewing us up at our  
25 level, it's nice to have, you know, some really good

1 alligator slayers here to keep those issues off our  
2 backs.

3 MR. CRISTE: They're endangered, aren't  
4 they?

5 MR. HAMBY: Endangered alligators, the  
6 Palm Springs alligator. So again thank you for all  
7 the good work.

8 MR. FOOTE: Just one final word on that  
9 too. One of the focus areas we have in the Monument  
10 is programs. And our staff has really stepped up to  
11 the plate, developed lots and lots of outreach  
12 programs, education programs, programs dealing with  
13 children and getting them connected to the  
14 environment. Really they've done a tremendous job.

15 And as we get into this new year and you  
16 access the Friends website and look at the event  
17 calendar, you'll be amazed at how many things are  
18 going on up there. So I certainly encourage you, when  
19 you can, to attend some of these events. There are  
20 many of them going on throughout this next year.

21 As we mentioned, there's some real  
22 signature events tied to the tenth anniversary of the  
23 Monument. So really take advantage of those if you  
24 can.

25 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Okay. Quick

1 question. How are the staffing levels? Are they  
2 still the same?

3 MR. FOOTE: Staffing since our last  
4 meeting?

5 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Since a year ago.

6 MR. FOOTE: Since a year ago we have  
7 hired on a replacement for the park ranger. If you  
8 recall, the previous park ranger was Bonnie Adkins.  
9 Emily Hoerner is now her replacement. She's up there  
10 from Forest Service side. Danielle Ortiz has been for  
11 the last couple of years, STEP employee. That's the  
12 Student Temporary Employment Program. She's now just  
13 converting to the SCEP Program, which is the Student  
14 Career Employment Program, upon her enrollment now as  
15 a student in a master's degree program. So she'll be  
16 working full time and pursuing a master's degree.

17 From the Forest Service side we could have  
18 a forestry technician, slash, recreation  
19 Stacey Wellman, who does fill in at the Visitor Center  
20 as needed but doing a lot of field maintenance work.  
21 She's also much engaged in the development of the  
22 Trail Steward Program.

23 We have now filled the position again of  
24 outdoor recreation planner, a position I used to have,  
25 with Steve Harris, so he's starting along that line.

1 And then we hope to have a vacancy at some point out  
2 for information specialist at the Visitor Center as  
3 well. That would be another Forest Service position,  
4 so we're really staffing out well.

5 I think one of the key points here is that  
6 the Friends of the Desert Mountains is now -- will be  
7 taking on the role of hiring a full-time volunteer  
8 coordinator position. This is really key to getting  
9 the volunteer program moving in the direction we'd  
10 like it to move, with lots of volunteers and very  
11 focused volunteers, and it really takes a full-time,  
12 dedicated person do that.

13 And at this last Wednesday's board meeting  
14 the Friends had decided that they will, in fact, add  
15 that to their table of organization. So that's really  
16 exciting. We'll see that program developed  
17 tremendously as time goes on here. And all that ties  
18 again with more programming, more outreach, more  
19 acknowledgment of the Monument and in the two  
20 agencies, as well as the Friends becoming more visible  
21 in the valley. And that leads to hopefully more  
22 donations. And once it is starts going, it's really a  
23 domino effect and things will happen faster than we  
24 can probably keep up with. But that's our hope.

25 That's our staffing. It's really looking

1 good, and it's better than it's been in several years.

2 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Thank you. I  
3 guess that's it from the agencies. Getting towards  
4 the end here, guys. The next agenda item is just an  
5 open forum for MAC members' discussions, questions,  
6 answers, inquiries, anything that we have not already  
7 discussed on the agenda, anything else that anyone  
8 has. No? Nothing, then.

9 MR. KATES: Hey, I'll create a big list  
10 for you for next time.

11 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Any pressing needs  
12 for future agenda items? Does anybody think we need  
13 to have something on the next agenda, or are we going  
14 to develop that during the working group?

15 MR. KATES: I think developing that  
16 during the working group will be a good way to handle  
17 that.

18 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: That was my  
19 thoughts as well.

20 MS. WATLING: Do you want to pick a  
21 tentative date for the next meeting?

22 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Yes, we'll get to  
23 that. I thought we had we discussed that earlier and  
24 it seemed to be that March was the ideal time, as far  
25 as I know there aren't any holidays in March.

1 MR. CRISTE: The Ides of March.

2 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: Probably something  
3 around the third week of March.

4 MR. FOOTE: Traditionally.

5 ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: We had the first  
6 week of March traditionally.

7 MR. FOOTE: Yes, exactly. Does the  
8 first week in March work for folks or -- it's really  
9 hard to tell, when we're six months out at this point,  
10 but we'll target that first week in March if we can.

11 MR. KATES: The seventh.

12 MR. FOOTE: Is that the first week?

13 MR. KATES: The first Monday.

14 MR. FOOTE: Okay. March 7th. We'll set  
15 that as a tentative date. And then before we adjourn,  
16 too, two final things. I just want to remind folks to  
17 take posters. Again they're on the back table. If  
18 you want to see again how well it can look in your  
19 office, look at the framed job, "Frames By Foote." I  
20 framed that -- and mats too. So if you want to  
21 approach me.

22 And finally a thank you to Diane Mann, our  
23 court reporter, who's been patient with us for this  
24 meeting and previous meetings. And I think it does  
25 take a lot of patience to deal with this group.

1                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: I don't know. It  
2 hasn't been that bad.

3                   MS. ROSENTHAL: Except for the mumbling.

4                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: I'd like to thank  
5 everyone for attending the meeting. I hope you  
6 enjoyed it. And I'm seeking a motion to adjourn.

7                   MR. DAVIS: Move we adjourn.

8                   MR. LYMAN: Second.

9                   ACTING CHAIR MORGAN: All in favor?

10                   (A voice vote was taken.)

11                   (The proceedings were concluded at 5:25 p.m.)

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1 R E P O R T E R ' S C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 I, DIANE CARVER MANN, a certified shorthand  
4 reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages  
5 comprise a full, true and correct transcription of the  
6 proceedings had and the testimony taken at the hearing  
7 in the hereinbefore-entitled matter of the Meeting of  
8 the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National  
9 Advisory Committee.

10 Dated this 7th day of October, 2010, at  
11 Chino, California.

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DIANE CARVER MANN, CSR NO. 6008

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