

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT  
OF  
PROCEEDINGS

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

DATE  
AND TIME: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2004  
9:02 A.M. - 2:22 P.M.

REPORTED BY: SONJA CHAPMAN  
CSR No. 11504

JOB NO. 63624

## 1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2

3 MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC):

4

5

6 CHAIRMAN BUFORD CRITES, Council member and Mayor, City of  
Palm Desert7 DANELLA GEORGE, National Monument (BLM/FOREST SERVICE) -  
National Monument Manager

8

9 TERRY HENDERSON, Councilmember, City of La Quinta

10

11 MARY ROCHE, Mayor, City of Indian Wells

12

13 RUTH WATLING, Chair, Pinyon Community Council

14

15 KATHIE BRENNAN, Building Industry

16

17 FRANK BOGERT, Former Mayor, City of Palm Springs

18

19 BARRY FREET, Palm Springs Fire Chief

20

21 BOB LYMAN, Regional Office Manager, County of Riverside

22

23 JEFFREY MORGAN, Sierra Club

24

25 ALLAN MUTH, University of California, Riverside, Deep Canyon  
Research Center

26

27 ROB PARKINS, General Manager, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway,  
Winter Park Authority

28

29 GARY WATTS, District Superintendent, California Department  
of Parks & Recreation

30

31 JIM FOOTE, BLM Recreational Planner

32

33

34

35

- 1 MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) CONTINUED:
- 2
- 3 KATIE BARROWS, CVAG
- 4 JOHN LADLEY, U.S. Forest Service
- 5 PAM HANSEN, U.S. Forest Service/NM Visitor Center,
- 6 Public Information Specialist
- 7 FRANK MOWRY, BLM/NM Writer/Editor
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

	A G E N D A	
2	TOPIC	PAGE
3		
4	CALL MEETING TO ORDER	5
5	ROLL CALL	5
6	REVIEW OF LAST MINUTES	7
7	OLD/NEW BUSINESS	7
8	ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS	8
9	BLM UPDATE	
	JIM FOOTE, BLM	12
10	JOHN LADLEY, USFS	27
	CHAIRMAN CRITES	35
11		
	US FOREST SERVICE UPDATE/HAY DUDE	
12	JOHN LADLEY, USFS	36
13	TRAILS PLAN UPDATE	
	KATIE BARROWS, CVAG	62
14		
	CALENDAR ISSUES	
15		66
	NAT'L MONUMENT VIDEO PRESENTATION	
16	FRANK JONES, PALM SPRINGS LIFE	78
17	PUBLIC COMMENT	89
18	MONUMENT MANAGER'S UPDATE	
	DANELLA GEORGE	93
19		
	CELEBRATION UPDATE	
20	PAM HANSEN	98
21	NAT'L MONUMENT BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE	
	FRANK MOWRY	103
22		
	HIGHWAY 74 SIGN ISSUE CONTINUED	
23	JOHN LADLEY	122
24	CLOSING COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS	124
25	ADJOURN	133

1 PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA; SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2004

2 9:06 A.M.

3 -o0o-

4

5 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We are called to order.

6 Danella, would you call the roll?

7 MS. GEORGE: You would like me to do that?

8 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I would.

9 MS. GEORGE: Okay. Frank Bogert?

10 MR. BOGERT: Here.

11 MS. GEORGE: Terry Henderson for the City of

12 La Quinta?

13 MS. HENDERSON: Here.

14 MS. GEORGE: Ruth Watling for the community of

15 Pinyon Pine?

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: The Pinyon communities.

17 MS. GEORGE: The Pinyon Communities.

18 Rob Parkins for the Winter Park Tram?

19 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Authority.

20 MR. PARKINS: Authority. Here.

21 MS. GEORGE: Gary Watts for Mt. San Jacinto

22 State Park?

23 MR. WATTS: Actually, California States Parks.

24 But I'm present. Yes.

25 MS. GEORGE: Bob Lyman for the County of

1 Riverside?

2 MR. LYMAN: Here.

3 MS. GEORGE: Jeff Morgan for environmental  
4 communities and conservation communities'  
5 representation?

6 MR. MORGAN: Yes. I'm here.

7 MS. GEORGE: Al Muth for UC Riverside academia  
8 Deep Canyon?

9 MR. MUTH: In attendance.

10 MS. GEORGE: Kathie Brennan for the Building  
11 Industry Association or for representation of a  
12 developer?

13 MS. BRENNAN: Here.

14 MS. GEORGE: John LADLEY representing district  
15 ranger Laurie Rosenthal?

16 MR. LADLEY: Here.

17 MS. GEORGE: Mary Roche for the City of Indian  
18 Wells? Bill Havert for --

19 CHAIRMAN CRITES: For himself, apparently.

20 MS. GEORGE: Of course, we don't have Bill on  
21 here. Bill Havert for Coachella Mountains Conservancy?  
22 Barry Freet for Cathedral City?

23 MR. FREET: Here.

24 MS. GEORGE: Buford Crites, our chairman and  
25 representative for Palm Desert?

1           CHAIRMAN CRITES: I believe we have a quorum  
2 then. Review of the last meeting's minutes. They are  
3 before you.

4           MR. PARKINS: Move approval.

5           CHAIRMAN CRITES: There is a motion for  
6 approval.

7           MS. ROCHE: Second.

8           CHAIRMAN CRITES: There is a second. There  
9 being no discussion, those will then stand approved as  
10 distributed.

11           Old business, new business.

12           MS. GEORGE: Danella George, Monument Advisory  
13 Committee designated federal official. The old business  
14 is we sent the packet for the five new appointments for  
15 the Monument Advisory Committee. The packets went out  
16 this week on September 28th.

17           That will be for somebody from the Pinyon  
18 Community Council, for representation for the City of  
19 Rancho Mirage, for representation for the City of Palm  
20 Desert, for the Natural Science and Research  
21 representation, and also for a representative for Agua  
22 Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

23           So we sent the packets out. They've gone to  
24 the state director. They've gone to the regional  
25 forester. The next phase will be for them to concur on

1 who we recommended for appointment. And then it goes on  
2 to the Washington office for both agencies, both  
3 departments.

4 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Anything else?

5 MS. GEORGE: The only other item is after  
6 today's meeting, we will be without a calendar for  
7 fiscal year '05 because we have to do a Federal Register  
8 Notice. So sometime today we need to before we end  
9 think about our meetings starting next year.

10 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right.

11 MS. HENDERSON: Mr. Chair?

12 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes.

13 MS. HENDERSON: May I recommend that you  
14 agendise that so that we're sure to get to it?

15 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I just noted that we shall  
16 not partake of our lunch until we have decided that, or  
17 whoever is chair may so do.

18 MS. GEORGE: And then, of course, the next item  
19 of what we need to do -- and I'll turn that over to the  
20 Advisory Committee -- is we need to elect a new chair  
21 and vice chair because the charter requires that every  
22 year.

23 MR. PARKINS: Mr. Chair, I nominate  
24 Buford Crites to continue his leadership.

25 MR. FREET: I'll second that.

1           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Well, are there further  
2 nominations, especially with those disaffected with  
3 timing?

4           MS. ROCHE: Move the nominations closed.

5           MS. HENDERSON: Second.

6           CHAIRMAN CRITES: There being no opposition to  
7 that -- actually, I believe, Danella, you were supposed  
8 to call for the vote, to be proper, because the position  
9 of chair is vacated at this moment.

10          MS. GEORGE: Okay. So we will call the vote.  
11 What I'm going to do is the list, actually, that we  
12 have.

13          MS. HENDERSON: The one that I had?

14          MS. GEORGE: Yes.

15          MS. HENDERSON: I got it back. I'm sorry.  
16 These are the originals. So some have changed. But at  
17 least it gives you a starting point.

18          MS. GEORGE: Okay. Vote from expertise and  
19 natural science and research, University of California  
20 Riverside Deep Canyon?

21          MR. MUTH: Aye.

22          MS. GEORGE: Vote from district superintendent  
23 California Department of Parks and Recreation  
24 representing California State Parks, specifically  
25 Mt. San Jacinto State Parks?

1 MR. WATTS: Aye.

2 MS. GEORGE: Vote from the City of Palm  
3 Springs?

4 MR. BOGERT: Aye.

5 MS. GEORGE: Vote from the City of  
6 Cathedral City?

7 MR. FREET: Aye.

8 MS. GEORGE: Vote from the City of La Quinta?

9 MS. HENDERSON: Aye.

10 MS. GEORGE: Vote from the City of Rancho  
11 Mirage? Robert is absent today. Robert Brockman. He  
12 let us know that. So no vote there.

13 Vote from the City of Indian Wells?

14 MS. ROCHE: Aye.

15 MS. GEORGE: Vote from Agua Caliente Band of  
16 Cahuilla Indians? Barbara let us know she needed to  
17 attend a tribal funeral.

18 Bill Havert, Coachella Valley Mountains  
19 Conservancy? Again, he's not present today.

20 The local conservation organization,  
21 specifically Sierra Club?

22 MR. MORGAN: Aye.

23 MS. GEORGE: Vote from the Building Industry  
24 Association?

25 MS. BRENNAN: Aye.

1 MS. GEORGE: Vote from the County of Riverside?

2 MR. LYMAN: Aye.

3 MS. GEORGE: Vote from the Winter Park  
4 Authority?

5 MR. PARKINS: Aye.

6 MS. GEORGE: Vote from the Pinyon Community  
7 Council? Not present yet. Okay.

8 MS. HENDERSON: You understand it takes a full  
9 year to get comfortable on the job. So the second year  
10 is -- look at the sneer.

11 MR. PARKINS: Hence the nature of my  
12 nomination.

13 CHAIRMAN CRITES: The floor is now open for the  
14 nomination for a vice chair.

15 MR. PARKINS: Mr. Chair, I'd like to nominate  
16 Gary Watts, who is representing a long list of things,  
17 including the California State Parks.

18 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

19 MS. HENDERSON: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Is there a second to that  
21 nomination?

22 MS. ROCHE: Terry just did.

23 MS. HENDERSON: I did.

24 CHAIRMAN CRITES: There is? Okay. Are there  
25 further nominations? Hearing none, the nominations are

1 then closed. All those favorable for Gary Watts signify  
2 with an "aye." Are those in opposition? There being  
3 none, that is recorded as unanimous.

4 Now that we've done all this work, we can now  
5 take a break, apparently. And you'll notice that with  
6 the new chair, we are already almost 25 minutes ahead of  
7 time.

8 So how long do we need to be broken apart for  
9 your setup?

10 MR. MOWRY: It depends on if Jim needs a setup.

11 MS. GEORGE: What we'd like to do is let  
12 Jim Foote go first. He is going to speak for  
13 Elena Miguez, who was going to be speaking for  
14 Gail Acheson. And he's also going to give the group a  
15 update on the signage work group.

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Are you ready, Jim?

17 MR. FOOTE: As ready as I can.

18 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Good. No break needed.  
19 Let's do it.

20 MR. FOOTE: Good morning. In representing  
21 Elena Miguez, who was representing Gail Acheson, she  
22 handed me this paper the other day and said she wouldn't  
23 be able to make it.

24 It has to do with requests for reprogramming.  
25 And there are a lot of things, actually, in the Palm

1 Springs field office I don't have my finger on the  
2 pulse. This is exactly one of those. It has to do with  
3 the Pratrero Creek Project.

4           So what I think I'll do if there's interest,  
5 I'll read a short paragraph just to alert you as to the  
6 issue, what's happening there. And I probably can't  
7 answer any questions because I don't know that much  
8 about it. But at least you'll know about the project.

9           "The Pratrero Creek Project received a  
10 \$2 million appropriation in 2001 and an  
11 additional \$2 million in 2003. These  
12 appropriations were intended to  
13 facilitate the acquisition of a 9,117  
14 acre parcel from the Lockheed Martin  
15 Corporation in cooperation with the  
16 State of California and the County of  
17 Riverside to support the Riverside  
18 County Multiplespecies Habitat  
19 Conservation Plan.  
20 Following acquisition of the entire  
21 Lockheed property by the State Wildlife  
22 Conservation Board in 2003, beyond  
23 pursued several other acquisition  
24 opportunities within the Pratrero Creek  
25 basin ACEC.

1           We currently plan to close on a 320 acre  
2           parcel valued at \$1.12 million within  
3           the next month. But beyond this, I  
4           found no other viable acquisition  
5           opportunities to utilize the remaining  
6           balance of \$2,861,000."

7           CHAIRMAN CRITES: And I guess to amplify that,  
8           those monies have been sitting there for a couple of  
9           years and are "at risk" for been sent elsewhere in the  
10          United States.

11          So we've been working with congress members --  
12          Calvert from Riverside and Bono -- to have a joint  
13          agreement to request from the House Interior  
14          Appropriations Committee a reprogramming of those funds  
15          in this direction.

16          And those funds will end up going to purchase  
17          lands in the Joshua Hills acquisition so they can pay  
18          back a loan from a municipal entity of about \$3 million.  
19          So that keeps the money in the area.

20          Both eastern and western Riverside County are  
21          happy with it. That should happen sometime in the next  
22          two months. So it's a \$3 million windfall for the  
23          Coachella Valley that otherwise could have ended up in  
24          Idaho or Northern California or wherever it could have  
25          been, but certainly not here.

1 MS. HENDERSON: Is it a done deal?

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: It is as close to a done  
3 deal. It has also been endorsed by Jerry Lewis. So  
4 both members who it would affect being favorable to it,  
5 and Congress member Lewis is favorable to it. And also  
6 Senator Feinstein on the senate side being favorable.  
7 And BLM and state office being favorable. Pretty good.

8 MR. FOOTE: Thank you for expanding on that.

9 On to the next item of business, which is the  
10 sign plan update. As you hopefully all recall, the  
11 Monument Advisory Committee established a sign plan work  
12 group to address the development of a sign plan relative  
13 to the National Monument.

14 And the idea on the sign plan was to expand  
15 beyond just a federal effort to where we would just be  
16 looking at beyond the Forest Service sign to a  
17 multijurisdictional effort.

18 The primary function is going to be the  
19 branding of the National Monument from a  
20 multijurisdictional -- I'm having a hard time speaking  
21 today -- from a multijurisdictional perspective,  
22 recognizing, of course, that signs are just one element  
23 of a broader communication strategy in that branding  
24 effort.

25 Then we also wanted to look at identifying

1 overall signing needs. We did have our first meeting on  
2 July 8th. Out of that meeting we developed some  
3 assignments. It was an internal scoping type meeting.  
4 We talked about various issues dealing with signs.

5 Gary is our MAC chairperson for that group.  
6 With Rob Parkins' gracious hosting of it at the Palm  
7 Springs Aerial Tramway, we couldn't have had a better  
8 setting.

9 Some assignments that came out of that group  
10 were to look for some representative model of where they  
11 might already have a multijurisdictional sign plan from  
12 which we could borrow and use that hopefully to move us  
13 forward.

14 We once again met on September 28th, which was  
15 just this last Tuesday. We had somewhat of a light  
16 turnout, but we did have a good discussion.

17 We were not able to find a good representative  
18 model at this point that we could use to move forward,  
19 but we're going to continue to look.

20 But one of the key messages that came out of  
21 that meeting was the need to expand the participation of  
22 this meeting to all the affected jurisdictions.

23 If we're really going to have this work and  
24 we're going to have a commitment, what we need is  
25 participation in these meetings by the affected parties.

1 What I'll do to that end is next week I'll send out an  
2 e-mail message to all the members of the MAC.

3           Hopefully we can get a commitment from staff  
4 members or some representative of the various  
5 jurisdictions' city or hopefully from the tribe to  
6 participate.

7           In the end we're going to probably end up  
8 signing an MOU specific to the sign plan so we can get  
9 that commitment to get signs in the ground and get  
10 moving forward with this.

11           That's kind of it in a real nutshell. What I'd  
12 like to do is ask Gary if he wants to contribute to that  
13 and say a few words on how we're proceeding. I think  
14 it's a good group we've pulled together, and it looks  
15 very promising.

16           MR. WATTS: Well, you've done a marvelous job  
17 of recapping, so I have very little to add. But I think  
18 it's important to note that the Sign Plan as it relates  
19 to all the entities that make up the Monument is really  
20 going to vary quite a bit.

21           It just depends on what particular part of the  
22 Monument your individual agency or entity or whatever it  
23 may be involved with that particular component of  
24 signing, whether it's trail signing or portal signing or  
25 interpretive signs. Something of that nature.

1           Hopefully we'll get to a point where we can  
2    have a nice plan that will give some guidelines as to  
3    how those particular areas can relate to the Sign Plan  
4    in general, but also make sure that we as a Monument can  
5    take into account what particular sign requirements your  
6    municipality may have or something of that nature. But  
7    still try to marry that to an overarching theme that  
8    would give us some continuity or a brand, if you will.

9           So it's going to take a while. Don't be too  
10   impatient with us. Maybe we if got Buford on our team  
11   we can save 20 minutes here and there.

12          But as it is, I'm pretty optimistic about it.  
13   We've had some initial good participation, and people  
14   have come in with some enthusiasm. So I think we can  
15   make some good progress.

16          We don't have to have everybody there to be  
17   involved. But if your particular, who you represent, is  
18   concerned about how that may affect your particular area  
19   of responsibility, it might be wise if you could get a  
20   staff member at one or two of those meetings.

21          That way there's input early on rather than us  
22   developing a product that you take back and all of a  
23   sudden find that it doesn't meet your needs.

24          So it wouldn't be a huge investment on your  
25   area of responsibility. But it probably would be wise,

1 I think, to be in there early on at the table. And  
2 maybe not so much lay down the law that "We have to have  
3 this and this," but let's just have something on the  
4 record so we know we can work around what constraints  
5 there may be depending on what your sign ordinances are  
6 or something of that nature.

7 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Questions or comments? Yes.

8 MS. HENDERSON: Terry Henderson, La Quinta. I  
9 think I heard two different things. One, I understand  
10 and appreciate the concern with the local ordinances.

11 The other thing that I thought I heard is the  
12 potential that these signs may be somewhat different as  
13 they go from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. So we're not  
14 going to end up with just a sign that's consistent but  
15 different?

16 When you're in the La Quinta part of it, it  
17 might have "La Quinta" on it? When you go into Indian  
18 Wells, it might have "Indian Wells" on it? Is that what  
19 I'm hearing?

20 MR. WATTS: It may have a different design.  
21 Like I said, we're not familiar with all the different  
22 designs that exist out there. We're still going to try  
23 to have a consistent brand.

24 So whether it's in La Quinta or Indian Wells or  
25 Palm Desert or Rancho Mirage, we're still going to have

1 that brand that identifies it as a National Monument  
2 sign. But it could have some variations as to how it  
3 looks, depending on what those needs are.

4 And the other thing is don't panic yet as to a  
5 manual that will be this thick. Really at this point we  
6 don't anticipate, you know, a Monument full of millions  
7 and millions of signs.

8 We're going to, I think, try to keep that in  
9 mind as we move forward with recommendations that  
10 signage be really kept to a minimum.

11 So when we think about it, there's not a lot of  
12 areas that we're going to be worried about. There are  
13 some things that we're not going to address in the Sign  
14 Plan.

15 Interpretive signs, for instance, are probably  
16 in a different category than just informational signs as  
17 it relates to trails or names or something of that  
18 nature.

19 So we may punt that to a different work group  
20 on how they recommend something to explain Bighorn sheep  
21 or something of that nature.

22 MS. HENDERSON: It's called delegation. I  
23 might suggest as you go through the process that we hope  
24 to end up with a like sign. Not maybe just a brand, but  
25 the whole sign.

1           I think it becomes confusing for folks, anybody  
2 that does bother to pay attention to it, that as the  
3 sign changes, they may begin to have some questions.

4           MR. WATTS: Duly noted, Terry.

5           I think that's a very good point. I think one  
6 of the other things that everyone has to realize is that  
7 this is going to be a phased-in thing.

8           Signage is expensive, not only to install but  
9 to maintain. We're hoping that at some point we can  
10 bring back a Monument package for signage that would  
11 allow a multipronged approach to funding, rather than  
12 just depending on one agency that could only spend it on  
13 one area.

14           That would play into your suggestion that we  
15 have a consistent like sign. So we're moving slowly,  
16 but we're moving forward.

17           MS. HENDERSON: You may not end up there, but  
18 that would be my suggestion.

19           MR. FOOTE: I think what Gary has brought up in  
20 these meetings -- and it kind of shows how opposing  
21 forces are coming together to some degree -- is the  
22 sense that the state itself has a very aggressive  
23 branding effort on its own for State Parks.

24           This is one of our challenges, to take our  
25 needs for branding and marry them to the state's needs

1 and come up with something that's workable and  
2 acceptable by the state and that meets our needs as  
3 well. And I would anticipate you might see some of  
4 those things as we get into various jurisdictions here  
5 as well.

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Mary.

7 MS. ROCHE: Mary Roche, Indian Wells. I might  
8 suggest it seems to me with all of the different  
9 jurisdictions and knowing that we all have our own  
10 ordinances on signing and whatever that from the body  
11 that's doing it, which would be us ultimately through  
12 you, that we lay out the program that we go to cities  
13 with.

14 Because for sure we all have specific sign  
15 ordinances, but they shouldn't apply because what we're  
16 doing on the trails is totally different.

17 So if we come up with something that we can  
18 give to the cities that they could do a specific  
19 ordinance that is restricted to the Monument trails so  
20 that it doesn't violate our existing ordinances by  
21 making it so specific, then you can have it uniform.

22 But if you try and blend from the cities'  
23 perspective into this, you'll get into a quagmire, I  
24 would think. I mean, I know from our own, we're really  
25 strict on colors and sizes of letters.

1           But that's really more for real estate. It's  
2 really more for the populated areas. We're simply going  
3 to have to do a new ordinance that is strictly for this.

4           I think it needs to be uniform for all cities  
5 that comes from this body recommending that each city  
6 adopt this kind of policy on the trails.

7           MR. FOOTE: That's a good suggestion. When we  
8 initially met the first time, one of the discussions was  
9 where are we now in looking at not only what signs are  
10 out there on the ground as an inventory.

11           But also I think we need to consider first if  
12 there are any, the restrictions that any jurisdiction  
13 may have on sign development, whether it's a city  
14 ordinance, a federal regulation, state requirement.

15           Before we get moving forward, we want to kind  
16 of know where we're starting from. There may be in  
17 cities where we get to trails and say, "It says nothing  
18 about a limitation."

19           Then I think that might lead exactly to what  
20 you're looking at and say let's establish something  
21 through an ordinance that might then guide it for that  
22 city.

23           MS. ROCHE: And make it very specific just for  
24 that.

25           MR. FOOTE: We just want to make sure that as

1 we go through the process to start with to recognize if  
2 we have any hurdles where you have an existing ordinance  
3 that says we can't do something, yet we may want to move  
4 in that direction, we'll need to address that.

5 MS. ROCHE: But you might also need to alert  
6 cities that if they have something that prohibits what  
7 you're doing, they might have to go in and alter that as  
8 they amend to a new one that covers that.

9 MR. FOOTE: I hope that's where some  
10 participation from the various cities will bring that to  
11 light so we have a clear idea of how we're going to  
12 proceed.

13 CHAIRMAN CRITES: A question that goes with  
14 that. Do you have any short list of interim  
15 suggestions? I know as an example, Palm Desert, we're  
16 going to be doing signs this fall.

17 What I heard is this is going to be a year.  
18 They'll be in the ground, in the concrete, over and done  
19 by spring. Piles of trail signs and stuff just because  
20 we can't wait any longer.

21 MR. FOOTE: As a suggestion, I would say to  
22 ensure communication in terms of where you're going with  
23 your signing plan to make sure we know what that is.

24 So at least on an interim basis, we can make  
25 recommendations. That might even shed light on where we

1 may want to go.

2           But at least we'll have that with us. If it  
3 looks if it's contrary to the direction we're heading,  
4 we can alert you to that. Or we may say, "Why don't you  
5 tweak it this way a little bit."

6           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Can we get something less  
7 than like 24-, 48-hour turnaround and comments back? I  
8 mean literally.

9           MR. FOOTE: Where are you in the process? I  
10 guess that's the question.

11           CHAIRMAN CRITES: We're ready to go order them.

12           MR. FOOTE: We can turn around things fairly  
13 quickly if need be. I'll be the conduit for that, if  
14 you'd like.

15           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Thank you.

16           MS. GEORGE: Danella George, National Monument  
17 Manager. Buford, along with that, and I talked to Jim,  
18 was the need to have Jim prepare a short Power Point  
19 about the sign committee -- what we're doing, what we  
20 said -- and go to all the cities to the appropriate  
21 committees, be it recreation and planning, finding out  
22 which committee is appropriate for the different  
23 jurisdictions and giving a presentation of what we're  
24 doing so they're aware. As well as whoever you can  
25 recommend to help come to the work groups.

1           So it's two-pronged. One, us participating at  
2 the committee meetings. And two, getting folks to come  
3 from your suggestion to the work group meetings.

4           Then the other thing is we do have a final  
5 font, color, and logo that we've worked with Palm  
6 Springs Life on what the color is, what the font is,  
7 finalized and done through the Interpretive Plan, which  
8 is key to the brand.

9           So when we go to those committee meetings, we  
10 can provide a CD of that. So when people are doing  
11 signs, they have the latest and greatest.

12           It's been my experience that folks have various  
13 visions, including BLM, of what often gets printed. One  
14 is the committee meetings' participation. So people  
15 know us going -- by "us" I mean the Monument folks  
16 going -- me getting folks that the Advisory Committee  
17 recommends to go to the work group.

18           And two, getting out the logo on the CD that's  
19 been blessed.

20           MS. HENDERSON: By who?

21           MS. GEORGE: It's been blessed pretty much by  
22 me. You can take a look at it. It's similar to this.  
23 I was going to wait and cover the Interpretive Plan, but  
24 I can go through the Interpretive Plan when I give the  
25 Monument Manager's update.

1           It was time to have one logo that's consistent.  
2    Because in branding, one of the biggest issues is any  
3    organization, any agency you walk in -- I'm sure if we  
4    went to the city, we'd find different letterheads maybe  
5    on different departments.

6           Well, Palm Desert is, I guess, the gold  
7    standard there, then. So anyhow, I wanted to share  
8    that.

9           And then as long as we're on signage, I got an  
10   e-mail this week from John. Maybe you can tell  
11   everybody about the Highway 74 sign.

12          John LADLEY.

13          MR. LADLEY: This was going to be part of the  
14   update. Due to public response and comments and talking  
15   with folks on the BLM side of the Monument as well as  
16   Laurie Rosenthal, we are looking at removing the  
17   Monument sign on Highway 74 hopefully later this month.

18          Eventually we would like to replace it with  
19   something more suitable for that location. I had a  
20   couple positive comments on it and a whole variety of  
21   other comments mainly due to its size.

22          This is a sister sign to the sign on  
23   Highway 111. So our plan for the sign that we will be  
24   removing is to save it for replacement with that sign as  
25   needed. So it will not be a complete waste, although

1 there's been some extra money and time and effort  
2 expended.

3 So it will provide as a replacement for that  
4 sign. Really this sign is more suitable for an  
5 interstate or a highway with higher speeds like 111.

6 Any discussion on that, let me know. That's  
7 the direction we're planning on going.

8 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Do you plan on more than a  
9 very brief time in which there will be no sign?

10 MR. LADLEY: Possibly because our budget is  
11 decreasing. I've been told we have no money in it for  
12 signs. Our facility's maintenance, trails budget, and  
13 some of those sectors have really been slashed.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: So we will now have a sign  
15 site with no sign?

16 MR. LADLEY: Correct. If you have other  
17 recommendations, I am more than willing to listen.

18 MS. ROCHE: Why can't you leave the sign there  
19 until you have a replacement?

20 MR. LADLEY: Possibly we could. There's been  
21 quite a bit of an outcry concerning the sign. I think  
22 the longer we leave it there, the longer it's going to  
23 be there because it is there, which makes it harder to  
24 justify replacing.

25 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We have had people who have

1 offered to pay for new signs.

2 MR. LADLEY: Yeah.

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Has the Monument chatted with  
4 them about those issues -- A, about the volunteers who  
5 said they would pay for the sign, and B, about making  
6 sure we don't wait until we have all the signing done  
7 before we actually have a sign?

8 MS. GEORGE: Danella George, Monument Manager.  
9 Because the two signs, 111 and 74, were the result of a  
10 multiagency team's presentations to the MAC, that was a  
11 team effort. So I have my concerns of what message that  
12 gives the team when you take something down with the  
13 first complaints.

14 But irregardless, the folks that have offered  
15 to pay for signs, what I would do, Mr. Chair, is I would  
16 refer them to the work group. We have a signage work  
17 group.

18 I'm not a line manager to make signage  
19 decisions for the Forest Service. I can't say the sign  
20 needs to go out there. I can refer them to the signage  
21 committee. I can refer them to the Forest Service.

22 I would have deep concerns with folks going out  
23 and designing signs and putting them up that weren't a  
24 part of this team, the signage work group which comes  
25 from the plan. I know it's slow. I know we'd all like

1 it to go much faster.

2 This is the result of the Monument Plan, which  
3 we are to do the signage work. And having a team and  
4 having people together on board for it is just kind of  
5 the way I see things should be. Maybe I'm wrong. I  
6 wouldn't be the first.

7 MR. WATTS: Danella, as the Monument manager --  
8 I have to be careful here. Those signs that were put up  
9 designating that you're entering the National Monument,  
10 is that not more or less your area of responsibility? I  
11 know it's not the Forest Service.

12 MS. GEORGE: No. No. At this time not really.  
13 It would not be my responsibility, as I understand it.  
14 No.

15 MR. MORGAN: As recall, I think the Forest  
16 Service put that sign up.

17 MS. GEORGE: Backing up again, that's the  
18 result of the work group, the signs on 111 and on 74.  
19 Identical. Yes, they're huge. We know that. But it  
20 was also -- the same sign that designed that sign was  
21 presented to the MAC.

22 I went back and looked at the presentation and  
23 looked that the photos and the notebook that Bonnie  
24 kept. The sign was presented -- the design. Not the  
25 size of it.

1           That was the result of the work group of folks  
2 trying to work signage together with the complexity that  
3 Forest Service has very stringent requirements on  
4 signage. BLM has requirements on signage. Not to the  
5 degree of, say, the Parks Service.

6           So what I'm saying is that sign was the result  
7 of a team effort to put it up. You guys were all part  
8 of that in the MAC meetings.

9           MR. WATTS: The size isn't so much the concern  
10 I'm worried about here. It sounds to me like there's a  
11 consensus that you've got a sign up identifying the  
12 Monument.

13           That's a good thing from what I'm hearing. It  
14 may not be the best sign, but it would be a step  
15 backwards to not have anything.

16           It would seem that the committee, being an  
17 advisory committee, might be -- although I haven't heard  
18 a vote yet -- advising you, both the Forest Service and  
19 the BLM, that it's a good idea to have something.

20           I don't know what feedback you're getting,  
21 John, from the negative side of things. It maybe great.  
22 Maybe that pushes you to a resolution with some help, as  
23 Buford is suggesting.

24           But I'm sensing that the group here would like  
25 rather than just lose a sign, that something needs to

1 stay if you don't have something to replace it. I would  
2 recommend that we make that recommendation as an  
3 advisory committee.

4 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

5 MR. MUTH: Al Muth. I concur with Gary's  
6 comments. As soon as you take the sign down, you're  
7 going to get another wave of criticism that "We don't  
8 know when we're at in the Monument. You've got to put a  
9 sign up."

10 So it doesn't make sense to me that there's  
11 money in the budget to take the sign down, but there's  
12 no money to put a sign up, so you take it down. It just  
13 don't follow my way of thinking. Those are my comments.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Gary, the other issue in my  
15 mind, and I've gotten, as an example, lots of people  
16 unhappy about -- I mean, I suspect I've had 25 people  
17 over the course since that sign has been up tell me that  
18 that is an abomination and goes on from there.

19 But we've also had people who have offered to  
20 spend the money for a sign. Not their sign but for  
21 whatever sign we want.

22 So I guess my suggestion is isn't there a way  
23 that we can get the sign folks to figure out something  
24 that they'd like as a sign up there that doesn't take us  
25 a year of team building, lollygagering, and all the rest

1 of it so that we can get somebody to say, "Yes, we'll  
2 pay for a sign," and B, have a sign that they like in  
3 terms of size and font and everything else and get it  
4 done?

5 MS. GEORGE: I would ask John because it is a  
6 Forest Service decision.

7 Right?

8 MR. LADLEY: Being that it's in the Monument on  
9 the Forest Service side, I would assume so. I received  
10 a lot of mixed messages on this one. Basically, I've  
11 been directed to do something about it and try and  
12 define what that means.

13 From my side of things, I can take it down or I  
14 can leave it up. To be honest, I really don't care. I  
15 do think it's appropriate to have a sign out there. The  
16 biggest complaint I've heard is the size.

17 It's kind of like going to McDonald's and  
18 getting supersized. For the setting it is supersized.  
19 I think the style with the white block letters with the  
20 chocolate background is real consistent with the other  
21 informational signs. Yeah. I'd like to see something  
22 to identify the Monument.

23 CHAIRMAN CRITES: How about this. When we take  
24 a break, why don't we ask Gary and John and a couple of  
25 folks to figure out how you want to approach this.

1 After that we'll stick this on the agenda for a motion.

2 MR. WATTS: That would be fine. I would just  
3 say I certainly don't make decisions for the two  
4 agencies. I'm representing the MAC as the sign chair.

5 But having said that, it would certainly not  
6 bother me at all as we work through our process, no  
7 matter what sign ends up at that location now, if down  
8 the road we recommend something different, so be it.

9 But now is what we need to deal with. Yes.  
10 The answer to that is find something that works and get  
11 it there.

12 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. So during the break,  
13 we'll ask the folks who are interested in this issue,  
14 and then come back to a recommendation.

15 Rob, did I cut you off?

16 MR. PARKINS: No. Actually, that's a very good  
17 approach. I was simply going to suggest maybe it's the  
18 same type of sign but much smaller.

19 CHAIRMAN CRITES: The shrink-a-sign program.

20 MS. GEORGE: We can make two out of it when we  
21 take it down.

22 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. We'll have a sign  
23 slimming suggestion. All right.

24 MR. FOOTE: That probably wraps it up for the  
25 update on the sign plan. Just one other comment

1 relative to the City of Palm Desert. Jeff Winkleplect  
2 has volunteered to work with the group. We look forward  
3 to Jeff's participation.

4 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Other questions on signage?  
5 There being none, thank you.

6 MR. FOOTE: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I might add one other BLM  
8 update. That is their meetings and discussions also on  
9 the expenditure of land and water conservation funds,  
10 the federal funds within the National Monument to be  
11 looked at regardless of agency boundary.

12 As an example, right now if BLM has land and  
13 water conservation funds, they can only spend it in BLM  
14 land area. If Forest Service has it, they can only  
15 spend it above 4500 feet.

16 With the idea that it's supposed to not make  
17 any difference whether it's Forest Service or BLM and so  
18 on, that a program that would allow either agency to  
19 choose the highest priorities within the Monument  
20 regardless of whether or not it's up or down the slope  
21 apparently has not been done by the federal government  
22 but is being looked at very favorably all the way up to  
23 the state level.

24 Anyway, that's another piece I think is  
25 potential progress for all of us in terms of utilizing

1 the public's monies in an efficient fashion.

2           Okay. In our revised revision, is it the  
3 Forest Service update?

4           MR. MOWRY: I believe it's Forest Service.

5           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

6           MR. LADLEY: I'm John LADLEY, recreation  
7 officer in the San Jacinto National Forest. I'm filling  
8 in for Laurie. She's been ill for about a week. She  
9 called me yesterday and asked that I touch base on a  
10 couple of things.

11           I don't have all the details on some of these.  
12 If there are questions, I'll be happy to bring them  
13 back.

14           In the fire sector, I talked with Norm Walker,  
15 the fire chief, yesterday. He said the Direct  
16 Protection Agreement is moving forward. He's been  
17 directed to move it forward pretty quickly.

18           My understanding of what this means is that the  
19 Forest Service will have responsibility for the area  
20 north of Highway 74, and BLM will have responsibility  
21 for the area south of 74. You may be much more in the  
22 loop.

23           MS. GEORGE: Barry too.

24           MR. LADLEY: Also, this past week's Town Crier  
25 had a good article on some of the work we're doing as

1 far as community protection and fuel hazard reduction  
2 projects.

3           They put this together in a Power Point  
4 presentation, which was really interesting. I'll pass  
5 these around. Essentially, it's a series of overlays of  
6 historical fires. They can break these out by different  
7 periods of years.

8           Some of the fuel reduction projects around the  
9 community that have been done in the past. Some that  
10 are currently being done. And then also projected for  
11 the future.

12           So it makes a really interesting series of  
13 overlays to see how what we're trying to do is protect  
14 the communities and bring them with an area that  
15 hopefully won't carry high intensity fires. It's really  
16 much better on a Power Point because you can overlay  
17 them.

18           Community protection fire plan, Laurie asked me  
19 to talk about that for just a moment. Danella would be  
20 working with this group to represent the Monument.  
21 Again, I'm hoping that you'll have more information  
22 about that. Okay. Stay tuned, then.

23           The thing that I do know something about is the  
24 recreation section. Oh, one other comment. The forest  
25 is still open and hopefully we will continue to keep it

1 open.

2           Every Monday morning at the Forest Leadership  
3 Team meeting, there's a discussion that consists of  
4 upcoming weather forecasts, moisture conditions, what's  
5 happening out there, what our threats are, any fire  
6 activities in the last week.

7           What they're trying to do with that is project  
8 forward at least a week and a half to two weeks so we  
9 have information at this field level to both share with  
10 the public and also for our own preparations.

11           If we are moving towards a closure, there's a  
12 number of actions that we need to take care of. We're  
13 trying to get into a more systematic structure, and  
14 we're also trying to give the public as well and those  
15 within the agencies a little more heads-up that we're  
16 moving towards forest closures.

17           At this time we're not. One thing that could  
18 change that quickly would be weather events like Santa  
19 Ana winds or large fires in our district or in other  
20 districts. Without those events, if we're moving that  
21 way, hopefully we'll have a week and a half to two  
22 weeks' notice.

23           In recreation, a couple of things that are  
24 coming up on the Santa Rosa -- on top of Santa Rosa  
25 Mountain in the Santa Rosa Springs area, we've got a

1 1950-era pit latrine that's pretty worn.

2           It's in the works to replace that right now.

3 Hopefully in the fiscal year 2005. Minor detail. It's  
4 go to update some of these facilities.

5           Further up the road at Lake Hemet, last Monday  
6 we started to replace two very worn out toilet  
7 facilities. So we're trying to upgrade some of our  
8 facilities.

9           In other news we have got a special-use permit  
10 request from the Hay Dude Ranch. I'll be discussing  
11 this later on the agenda. I wanted to bring that up.

12           From a short discussion that I had with Danella  
13 and Frank at our last sign group meeting, what  
14 precipitated this was during the Monument Business Plan,  
15 some of the partners within that group, as we talked  
16 about the Monument and where we'd like to go in the  
17 future -- money needs, construction needs, trail  
18 needs -- what kind of came to my mind is that some of  
19 the folks down in the desert I don't think are all that  
20 familiar with the Forest Service side of the Monument  
21 and Forest Service lands beyond.

22           The inverse is true for me. I'm much more  
23 familiar with that area than the desert areas. So we  
24 talked about possibly putting together a field trip or  
25 maybe a series of field trips for interested MAC members

1 or possibly some of the Monument or BLM folks and  
2 looking at maybe one trip on the Forest Service side of  
3 the Monument and visit Santa Rosa and some of those  
4 areas, and maybe another trip that will visit some of  
5 the Forest Service areas beyond the Monument to show  
6 what that side has to offer to the public.

7           Some of the objectives I see from that would be  
8 increased understanding from the Forest Service side of  
9 the Monument to look at the existing facilities as well  
10 as opportunities and challenges for the future.

11           Maybe to share with the folks involved how the  
12 Forest Service management strategy works, where we're  
13 heading and what the Forest Service priorities are, both  
14 for the lands within the Monument and outside. Also to  
15 receive thoughts and input from interested parties.

16           So I'd just like to throw that out. That's  
17 what I was kind of brainstorming with the folks  
18 involved -- if people would be interested and would that  
19 be useful basically.

20           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Comments from anyone?

21           Yes, Jeff.

22           MR. MORGAN: A question in general. I spoke to  
23 you a couple of months ago regarding access to the  
24 Monument.

25           MR. LADLEY: Yes.

1           MR. MORGAN: My suggestion was, if you recall,  
2 to use the Yellow Post Campground as a parking area and  
3 allow pedestrian or horse use through the Sloan property  
4 through the Pacific Crest Trail in the National  
5 Monument. Because as you know, there's no access in  
6 that part down the valley to the Monument.

7           Did we move forward in any way with this  
8 suggestion?

9           MR. LADLEY: We've had no movement on that  
10 since then. Sloan property, on my program of work for  
11 fiscal year 2004, I had one day slated for that of which  
12 I used five.

13           I'm putting that back on my program of work for  
14 fiscal year 2005 and hopefully get some movement on  
15 that.

16           MR. MORGAN: It doesn't need a lot of  
17 expenditure. That's what I'm saying. It's already in  
18 place. All you need is a sign "Park here" and "Hike  
19 here," and put it on your handout maps and you'll be in  
20 business.

21           MR. LADLEY: Yeah. It's probably a bit more  
22 involved. We need to do the paperwork.

23           MR. MORGAN: Yeah. But it's something that I  
24 believe this committee would like to see move forward as  
25 rapidly as possible. We have discussed this in the

1 past. You know, it's really needed as access to that  
2 area.

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Any comments or  
4 reaction to John's idea of taking folks up to look at  
5 the "Forest Service side of the Monument"? Yes's?  
6 No's? Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes.

7 MS. HENDERSON: Terry Henderson, La Quinta. We  
8 have had other outings in the past. I'm not sure we  
9 call them "outings." I've supported every one of them,  
10 and then just to find out that things are what they are.  
11 I've only been able to make one.

12 I would certainly support this again. I don't  
13 know how we go about getting a calendar -- you know, we  
14 need to say today, "Okay. What is everybody doing on  
15 November the 26th or something," because it's just  
16 really, really hard.

17 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. When we look at  
18 scheduling for Monument meetings, we'll look at that as  
19 well and see if we can out the Forest Service.

20 MR. LADLEY: Super.

21 MR. MUTH: As a suggestion, Mr. Chair, if we  
22 know that we're going to be here on Saturdays quarterly  
23 or whatever, wouldn't it just make sense to schedule a  
24 trip on a Saturday and have the meeting up in the  
25 Monument at some facility there and then disperse,

1 rather than trying to find some weekday date that will  
2 work for 27 people? That's impossible.

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Then we'll bring that up when  
4 we look to scheduling.

5 MS. ROCHE: The court reporter might have a bit  
6 of a problem with that with her electronics.

7 MS. GEORGE: Mr. Chair?

8 Danella George. When we do the scheduling,  
9 that would be appropriate. What we're talking about are  
10 field tours. We've had several field tours. We've  
11 actually gone to Santa Rosa. We never made it to the  
12 top, John.

13 We have done a Pinyon fire four. One of the  
14 issues Ed always wanted us to do was the Indian Canyons.  
15 We still haven't pulled that one off. But they're field  
16 tours.

17 So what we could do is when we get the  
18 calendar, we could look at using a Saturday, but we  
19 wouldn't have a court reporter. We just add on another  
20 Saturday.

21 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. We'll come back to  
22 that issue.

23 Other items in the update?

24 MR. LADLEY: That wraps up my section. Thank  
25 you.

1           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Thank you.  
2           Any questions generally for the Forest Service?  
3           Monument manager.  
4           MS. GEORGE: Okay. Frank, I'm looking at the  
5 agenda. We've moved through BLM's presentation, John's  
6 presentation, and then Monument Manager's Update. But  
7 the one I'm looking at has Hay Dude Ranch update before  
8 I go.  
9           Is that what you have? Before I go, Mr. Chair,  
10 John, why don't we do the Hay Dude Ranch.  
11          CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.  
12          MS. GEORGE: We've changed agendas on you to  
13 keep you on your toes.  
14          MR. LADLEY: That's all right.  
15          MS. HENDERSON: Mr. Chair?  
16          CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes.  
17          MS. HENDERSON: Can we make sure that we get  
18 the location of this Hay Dude Ranch?  
19          CHAIRMAN CRITES: We will make sure we get the  
20 location of it.  
21          MR. LADLEY: If I don't have enough of those, I  
22 can pass out a few more. This is a copy of a scoping  
23 letter that went out a while back. Due to my oversight,  
24 the MAC committee did not get sent that. So I'd like to  
25 apologize to everybody.

1           Hopefully, since that time and once Buford  
2 helped make me aware of that oversight, which I  
3 appreciate, I hope everybody received that. I want to  
4 make sure everybody gets a copy of the maps.

5           Let me give a quick description of this. This  
6 is a special-use permit request from the Hay Dude Ranch  
7 out of Anza. This would be for an outfitter guide  
8 special-use permit to operate from the Ribbonwood  
9 Equestrian Campground and offer horse rides on the  
10 surrounding US Forest Service/Monument land.

11           Let me go ahead and give a quick description of  
12 the Ribbonwood Equestrian Campground. Basically, this  
13 is a nice facility. It was constructed just over  
14 10 years ago. It has eight individual sites which offer  
15 picnic tables, fire rings, water taps, and individual  
16 type corrals.

17           It can be rented as the entire campground or on  
18 a site-by-site basis by the public. Also out there in  
19 the campground is a toilet building with flush toilets  
20 and hot water.

21           It's really a nice little campground. It's set  
22 up well and well-designed with folks camping with  
23 horses. It's located just south of Highway 74. It is  
24 on Forest Service land. It's a Forest Service facility.  
25 It's located within the Monument boundary.

1           For us, this facility is really severely  
2 underutilized. I went back through the last 12 months  
3 of records. In the last 12 months at this facility,  
4 we've had 135 visitor use dates.

5           It was projected to be somewhere around 2800  
6 per year. That campground has brought in \$750 in the  
7 last 12 months. On the management side, I looked at  
8 that and said, "Well, that's not even worth opening the  
9 gates for."

10           And I have concerns about that because it is  
11 really a nice facility. I think it offers something,  
12 but it's not being used. On my side of things, I would  
13 really welcome more use in that facility.

14           We received a special-use permit from the Hay  
15 Dude Ranch. I've been asked to clarify something on  
16 that. It's "hay" as in horses and not "Hey, Dude."

17           It's Hay Dude Ranch. They are based out of  
18 Anza. They've got a summertime facility near Idyllwild.  
19 What they are proposing is a one-year special-use permit  
20 with an operating season of November through April.

21           They would like to offer horse rides to the  
22 public in one-, two-, and possibly three-hour horse  
23 rides during the day. It would utilize existing trails  
24 in the area.

25           I had a number of questions and comments

1 concerning trails in the area, so I'd like to clarify  
2 some of that.

3 That would be none of the canyon trails, no  
4 wilderness trails, no use crossing over to the north  
5 side of Highway 74, which means we would not be crossing  
6 the highway or utilizing that area up in there. No  
7 overnight trips.

8 What they're targeting is basically fairly easy  
9 flat areas to offer nice family rides. The location, it  
10 would be staging up to 12 horses at the Ribbonwood  
11 Equestrian Campground but not within the campground  
12 property.

13 The goal is to compliment what they're offering  
14 and not to interfere with campground operations. It  
15 would be located between the entrance gate to the  
16 campground and the campsite property. It would  
17 essentially be less than one acre of land.

18 Facilities that would be part of the  
19 special-use permit will all be removable and would  
20 include an 8 by 12-foot portable office building and an  
21 8 by 20-foot storage container, a 70-foot by 100-foot  
22 removable pipe corral.

23 Some of the Pinyon Water Board concerns and  
24 some of the responses I've received, we've talked quite  
25 a bit about water. I've worked with Paula Hunter of Hay

1 Dude Ranch. She's joined us today. Let me introduce  
2 Paula to the group. Paula is the owner of Hay Dude  
3 Ranch.

4 Correct me if I'm off base on any of my details  
5 here.

6 MS. HUNTER: You're doing pretty good.

7 MR. LADLEY: Okay. What we've talked about is  
8 instead of utilizing the water source that exists in the  
9 campground which also provides water to the Pinyon  
10 community -- essentially, we're using part of their  
11 water -- is to bring in a 5000-gallon water tank, fill  
12 it with outside sources and truck it in, and provide  
13 water for the horses from an outside source and not  
14 utilize the Pinyon community's water.

15 Hay Dude -- we've talked quite a bit with Paula  
16 and her organization. There's been a lot of  
17 back-and-forth communication on this permit request.  
18 Hay Dude would like to work with us to retain as much of  
19 the vegetation as feasible for aesthetics.

20 Buford, you brought this up with me the other  
21 day concerning vegetation removal. There would be a  
22 substantial footprint in that area clearing for the  
23 horse corral. That's a given.

24 We would like to retain as much vegetation as  
25 possible. But to put this operation in, that does mean

1 clearing some of the area, predominantly for the pipe  
2 corral.

3 I've checked up on Hay Dude Ranch. I've done  
4 some homework. It's an established business. It's been  
5 established for quite a while. They've got a branch in  
6 NaKall. They've got another branch, I believe, in  
7 Temecula.

8 It has a good reputation and a good safety  
9 record, which is something that we're concerned about.  
10 If we're going to have a permittee out there, we would  
11 like to them to offer a quality product to the public  
12 and also a safe product.

13 From what I've gathered, they've got good  
14 community relations. They'd like to work with us. They  
15 also have an interest in interpreting the local  
16 environment and the Monument to the visitors that would  
17 be there.

18 Moving forward on this permit, what I see for  
19 the Forest Service in benefits, one would be a financial  
20 benefit. We do receive receipts from the permit.

21 Secondary, I'm hoping that to have an  
22 attraction there, that will bring more use into that  
23 campground. Folks that may have horses know that if  
24 they came there for a weekend, that they would have the  
25 opportunity to have an additional horse.

1           It would also help us with advertising.  
2   Essentially for that facility, Hay Dude would do their  
3   own advertising and hopefully bring in some additional  
4   use for us as well.

5           I think it provides visitors with the  
6   opportunity -- another way to get out and see and  
7   explore that part of the Monument. It would also,  
8   through work with Hay Dude and providing them  
9   information about the Monument -- its values, why the  
10  Monument is, basically.

11          And they're willing to interpret that through  
12  our visitors. I think that would also be a good public  
13  service.

14          Just as a side note -- and this came from a  
15  conversation that I had the other day. It's something  
16  that I hadn't thought of. Local residents may want to  
17  take advantage of this as well and provide them another  
18  opportunity for recreation.

19          That's kind of my summary in a nutshell. I'll  
20  put that out for questions and comments.

21          CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes.

22          MS. WATLING: Ruth Watling from Pinyon. We  
23  have discussed this briefly in our council meeting. You  
24  are coming to our next meeting?

25          MR. LADLEY: Not that I'm aware of, but I'd be

1 happy to.

2 MS. WATLING: It would be the 11th of October.  
3 I think before you pursue with that, you really should.  
4 When this meeting was -- well, when this plan was  
5 brought up informally before the council, there was a  
6 pretty fair negative response.

7 Lack of vegetation -- taking vegetation out of  
8 an area. You would be using Pinyon water in terms of  
9 increased rest room use. And that facility wasn't built  
10 as a for-profit operation.

11 I think you really do need to come before the  
12 community and hear all of the concerns before you make  
13 steps towards accomplishing this.

14 MR. LADLEY: I'd be happy to meet with the  
15 community. I'm meeting with the Pinyon Water Board  
16 tomorrow, and I believe the Homeowners' -- I don't know  
17 what the title of it is.

18 MS. WATLING: It is the Homeowners'  
19 Association.

20 MR. LADLEY: Homeowners' Association.

21 MS. WATLING: Yeah. That's just one area of  
22 Pinyon. We have five or six communities, all of who  
23 have input on this issue. So it's good that you're  
24 meeting with one of them, but I really think you need to  
25 be exposed to the community as a whole.

1 MR. LADLEY: I'd be happy to.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Al.

3 MR. MUTH: With regard to the vegetation issue,  
4 I should point out that I am not familiar with the  
5 campground. It is really necessary to disturb a new  
6 area? Can't these facilities be moved into the already  
7 disturbed campground area?

8 MR. LADLEY: If we would do that, essentially,  
9 that would take away from the camping facility.

10 MR. MUTH: If it's severely underutilized, it  
11 doesn't matter.

12 MR. LADLEY: From my side, I'd say yes. I'm  
13 certainly willing to listen to other thoughts and  
14 suggestions. I would like to retain that facility for  
15 what it was originally intended for.

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Can you speak a little  
17 louder?

18 MR. LADLEY: Oh, I'm sorry. We do get groups  
19 from time to time, but other times we'll go a couple of  
20 months with no use at all.

21 CHAIRMAN CRITES: In that light, I'll just note  
22 that when I chatted with John, I suggested they do a  
23 one-year trial. It might be worth doing what Al has  
24 suggested for that one year.

25 Because if it doesn't work out and you

1 clear-cut an acre or whatever it is, the project is gone  
2 but the result is going to sit there for the next  
3 75 years.

4 So maybe there's a way to do an exploratory  
5 operation to see whether or not you need to do more. So  
6 at least there's some input.

7 MR. LADLEY: Yeah.

8 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Jeff.

9 MR. MORGAN: I have a question and then a  
10 comment.

11 Have you any idea what trails they're going to  
12 be riding those horses on?

13 MR. LADLEY: There's a couple of existing  
14 trails. There's a piece of the Sawmill Trail that goes  
15 up towards the wilderness. Pieces of that may be used.

16 But I believe once it starts getting to steeper  
17 grounds, it wouldn't be used. There's a trail that  
18 circulates around the backside of the campground.

19 We also have some trails out there that are  
20 used by mountain bikers. I think those could be used as  
21 well.

22 MR. MORGAN: I think the Sawmill Trail is a  
23 legal road. It's not a trail.

24 MR. WATTS: Yes.

25 MR. MORGAN: I think nonexperienced horse

1 riders on a road would not be the best idea. Also the  
2 Cactus Spring Trail is the main access to the wilderness  
3 and not part of the Monument.

4 I wouldn't think that would be appropriate,  
5 apart from the first half mile, for horse riding because  
6 that also gets steep.

7 MR. LADLEY: Right.

8 MR. MORGAN: My other comment was if you have a  
9 vastly underused campground, maybe it's because you  
10 restrict it to people with horses only. If you open it  
11 up to the general public, to campers who didn't have to  
12 bring a horse, you'd get a lot more people.

13 MR. LADLEY: We do have a campground.

14 MR. MORGAN: I know. But this one has flush  
15 toilets and showers.

16 MS. HENDERSON: This one has what?

17 MR. MORGAN: This one has flush toilets and  
18 showers.

19 CHAIRMAN CRITES: One thing maybe then from  
20 Jeff's comment is an actual exhibit, a map exhibit,  
21 showing here is the trail use area that's being  
22 proposed. That would let people know where it is and  
23 what the extent is and so on and so forth. It would  
24 probably be a useful thing for people to know.

25 MR. LADLEY: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Other comments?

2 Yes, Terry.

3 MS. HENDERSON: As a matter of fact -- Terry  
4 Henderson, La Quinta. The trail system was part of my  
5 question as it relates to the map on the back of this  
6 letter.

7 Was it going to be restricted to what I'm  
8 seeing here? And what is this distance?

9 CHAIRMAN CRITES: That's the existing  
10 campground road.

11 MS. HENDERSON: That's just the campground  
12 road?

13 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes.

14 MS. HENDERSON: Well, what is that distance  
15 anyway?

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: An eight of a mile.

17 MS. HENDERSON: Okay. It's just very short.

18 CHAIRMAN CRITES: That's an internal little  
19 loop to where the various horse camps are.

20 MS. HENDERSON: Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. FREET: You indicated, John, that the  
22 revenue for the campground for the last 12-month period  
23 was only \$750 and that this use permit would allow a  
24 significant increase in revenue, but you didn't indicate  
25 what the structure would be that would support this

1 operation.

2 MR. LADLEY: Increase in revenue two ways,  
3 hopefully. Let me explain that. One way would be if it  
4 brings more receipts into the campgrounds, more visitors  
5 utilizing the campgrounds for camping.

6 The other part is from a special-use permit,  
7 the Forest Service receives 3 percent of the gross.  
8 Now, let me clarify that.

9 Under a special-use permit, 3 percent of the  
10 gross goes into the general funds. We do not receive  
11 that directly back. Under a one-year special-use  
12 permit, I see this as being a trial period. If it's  
13 successful on both Hay Dude's part and our part, and Hay  
14 Dude as well as the Forest Service has an interest to  
15 completing it, my strategy would be to put that under a  
16 concessionaire permit.

17 If we move to a concessionaire permit under the  
18 Granger Act, the receipts that we receive would be put  
19 directly back into that facility.

20 MR. FREET: The concessionaire process, that  
21 would be more of a competitive process, would it not?

22 MR. LADLEY: Yes. It would be.

23 MR. FREET: So there would be no guaranty that  
24 the outfitter that has the permit would be the  
25 concessionaire?

1           MR. LADLEY: That's correct.

2           MR. FREET: However, they would have developed  
3 the site and made in some investments?

4           MR. LADLEY: Yes.

5           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes, Ruth.

6           MS. WATLING: Ruth Watling, Pinyon. The  
7 Monument was developed and also in particular for  
8 preservation with use as secondary. That's a  
9 distinction I think is important.

10          CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Other comments?

11          Al.

12          MR. MUTH: Following up on Barry's comments,  
13 truly there's a business plan with a revenue projection.  
14 So 3 percent of what are we talking about would be a  
15 receipt to the general fund at this point? Are we  
16 talking \$10,000 or what?

17          MR. LADLEY: I don't have those figures.

18          MS. HUNTER: I project in the first year --  
19 \$15,000 gross in the first six months.

20          CHAIRMAN CRITES: \$15,000 gross. So \$15,000.  
21 Of that \$15,000, \$450? Am I right?

22          MR. LADLEY: Yes.

23          MR. MUTH: It's a few hundred dollars is what  
24 it is.

25          MR. FREET: Your diagram does not reflect the

1 possibility of the 5000-gallon water tank. Where would  
2 that -- have there been discussions where that might be  
3 located?

4 MR. LADLEY: Not the location. Discussions  
5 have been on how do we approach that issue. There's  
6 been the agreement that we negotiate with Hay Dude. I'm  
7 going to present that to the Pinyon Water Board  
8 tomorrow. But somewhere in proximity to the horse  
9 corral.

10 MR. FREET: There would be increases in truck  
11 traffic, et cetera, to deliver water.

12 MR. LADLEY: Yeah. One truck every couple of  
13 months, basically.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Other questions?

15 Okay. Just from the Chair, one other note that  
16 the facility itself was not paid for, by the way, by the  
17 Forest Service. That facility was all paid for by the  
18 County of Riverside Open Space Monies utilized by the  
19 Coachella Valley Trails Council.

20 So the Forest Service investment in that  
21 facility is very modest. It consists of having somebody  
22 open and close the gate and such things. All the  
23 infrastructure up until -- not for repairs, but up until  
24 now -- has come from nonfederal dollars.

25 MR. LADLEY: I think the NEPA on that was

1 fairly costly.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I have no doubt that by the  
3 time you were done with documents, it cost a pile.

4 MR. LADLEY: There was a considerable  
5 investment on that side of it.

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes, Terry.

7 MS. HENDERSON: Mr. Chair, I think it's  
8 important for the record to show that while most of us  
9 in this room are very concerned about preservation, the  
10 actual public law does specifically state "With the  
11 National, significant, biological,  
12 cultural, recreational, geological,  
13 educational, scientific values found in  
14 the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains  
15 and to secure future generations' usage  
16 of the Monument, opportunities to  
17 experience and enjoy."

18 So I think it's important that what I'm hearing  
19 sounds to me like you should continue to pursue this.  
20 There's still plenty of unanswered questions.

21 The biggest concern I'm hearing is the grading  
22 of the appropriate place, if you will, to locate the  
23 facility that needs to be there.

24 There must be some way -- even if it's  
25 elevated. Instead of grading it, elevate it. Put it on

1 stilts over something. Like the path up at the top of  
2 the Tram, it's going to be on stilts.

3 But there must be some way that you can  
4 continue to look at this and see if there isn't a way to  
5 meet all these needs.

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Are there any  
7 other questions or comments from members of the  
8 committee? There being none -- Yes.

9 Would you stand up and speak very clearly for  
10 the court reporter.

11 MS. HENDERSON: And we need your name, please.

12 MS. HUNTER: I'm Paula Hunter from Hay Dude  
13 Ranch. In response to concerns regarding grading, I  
14 don't plan on having a big grader coming in.

15 We're looking at ways to remove certain brush  
16 that can easily be regrown. We want to keep the  
17 Pinyons. We want to keep the Yuccas. We want to keep  
18 anything that we feel is protected through the Forest  
19 Service or someone on your group.

20 Again, I'm very much interested in the keeping  
21 our resources and our beautiful trees and things the way  
22 they are. So we're not going to go in with a big ripper  
23 and rip it all out.

24 We want to identify certain areas and work  
25 around that. So anything that has been removed will

1 easily grow back with whatever is in there.

2 MS. GEORGE: Danella George. I e-mailed out to  
3 all the MAC members the Hay Dude Ranch Web site, which  
4 is very interesting.

5 Just of interest is Ms. Hunter works with Amish  
6 and Mennonite farmers, who I know have a great respect  
7 for soil resource and for actually how they farm today,  
8 not using mechanical equipment but still using  
9 rubber-tired equipment with horses. I guess apparently  
10 draft horses as well.

11 MS. HUNTER: My primary business right now --  
12 50 percent of my business along with our rental facility  
13 which we've been doing for the past 14 years, we've had  
14 rental horses in the San Bernardino mountains. I'm the  
15 largest supplier of draft horses and draft crosses. I  
16 supply a lot of the commercial carriage companies.

17 By the way, there will not be any wagons or  
18 carriages in the Pinyon area. I'm getting away from  
19 that. I'll sell you a wagon, but I'm not going to bring  
20 you in. Most everything will be kept on the one side of  
21 the highway. My Web site is hayduderanch.com.

22 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Thank you.

23 MS. HUNTER: You're welcome.

24 CHAIRMAN CRITES: By the way, do you have any  
25 other comments you wish to make?

1 MS. HUNTER: John has done a great job.

2 Thank you, John.

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Thank you both.

4 With that, Danella.

5 MS. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to  
6 suggest we take a short break, maybe 10 minutes. Then I  
7 will defer to Katie because Katie has been patiently  
8 sitting and waiting. She can go. And then I'll go  
9 after Katie.

10 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Well, Katie, how much time do  
11 you need? Maybe we'll do that and then take a break.

12 MS. BARROWS: Five minutes.

13 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Ms. Barrows, you are on.

14 MS. BARROWS: Good morning members of the  
15 committee. I'm Katie Barrows. I work with the  
16 Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, and I'm here to  
17 give you a very brief update on the Trails Plan for the  
18 Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains.

19 As you know, we've been working laboriously and  
20 with great vigor for many years now to put together a  
21 Trails Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains  
22 that would be an element of the Coachella Valley  
23 Multiplespecies Habitat Conservation Plan.

24 The good thing is that we have finally reached  
25 a milestone in that effort in that we are releasing the

1 public draft of the Multiplespecies Plan which includes  
2 the Trails Plan on October 15 -- or at least we're  
3 hoping that's going to happen.

4 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yeah.

5 MS. BARROWS: So that's very exciting. It's  
6 actually printed, and on it's way to Washington, DC to  
7 go through the formal review process that's required.

8 That includes the Multiplespecies Plan, which  
9 includes the permitting that will provide for the Trails  
10 Plan. And it includes the Environmental Impact Report  
11 and the Environmental Impact Statement, the local or  
12 CEQA document for CVAG, which is the lead agency on the  
13 local side, and the federal document for the US Fish &  
14 Wildlife Service.

15 That, as all of you know, has been a collective  
16 effort of all of the folks from the trails community,  
17 BLM, Fish & Wildlife Service, Fish & Game, and a whole  
18 lot of other folks.

19 Once the plan is released on October 15th, that  
20 will be a public draft. It will be posted on the CVAG  
21 Web site. There will be paper copies available. There  
22 will also be CD copies available. Those actual paper  
23 copies are these huge documents. They're way too much  
24 paper.

25 We're going to be having a three-month public

1 review process. Is that 90 days? Yes. The expectation  
2 is that we'll have a series of public workshops for the  
3 Multiplespecies Plan, and then two public workshops for  
4 the Trails Plan. I believe Mr. Crites is going to be  
5 our facilitator for that process.

6           So we'll have public workshops on the trails  
7 where we will present the Trails Plan to provide folks  
8 an opportunity to hear all about what's going on with  
9 the Trails Plan and then also an opportunity to make  
10 comments as part of that public process on the Trails  
11 Plan.

12           Those are probably going to be scheduled  
13 sometime in early November. We're working on getting  
14 the location and the date. The trails workshop is going  
15 to have one in the eastern and one in the western end of  
16 the valley.

17           So once the Trails Plan and the Multiplespecies  
18 Plan goes through that public process for the 90 days,  
19 then, of course there's another internal review in  
20 response to the comments that are made.

21           A final document would be issued. It's our  
22 expectation that the Multiplespecies Plan and the Trails  
23 Plan will be finished and signed off hopefully within a  
24 year from October. So that's the intent.

25           Now, in that time frame, where going to

1 continue to work on some of the aspects of the funding  
2 for the Trails Plan. As you know there are new trails  
3 that would be constructed as part of that.

4           Once we get the final signed off, those trails  
5 will be officially permitted. That's from the  
6 environmental side. Then we would be able to go forward  
7 with funding.

8           We're going to be working on looking for means  
9 to fund the actual construction of the trails and  
10 partnerships and grants and that kind of thing for  
11 actually putting the Trails Plan into place.

12           I know that BLM has been working as part of the  
13 Business Plan process for the Monument with Forest  
14 Service. This particular Trails Plan is really more  
15 Bighorn sheep directed. It doesn't impact as much as  
16 the Forest Service plan.

17           But they're working on the Business Plan and  
18 the budgeting that would relate to the Trails Plan and  
19 implementation on the Monument side. I'd be happy to  
20 take any questions.

21           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Questions from anyone?

22           MS. HENDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Terry  
23 Henderson, La Quinta.

24           As Chairman of the recreation work group, I  
25 would very much like to thank Katie. She attended

1 several of our meetings and gave us an extensive  
2 presentation on the trails system. It helped us move  
3 along.

4 Others of you also were there. But I know  
5 Katie is getting ready to leave. So I wanted to make  
6 sure that she did get my thanks.

7 MS. BARROWS: Yeah. That was a great process.  
8 I really appreciated the opportunity to participate.

9 MS. HENDERSON: And we certainly were able to  
10 get to where we needed to get with your input. So I  
11 thank you very much for coming.

12 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Other questions or comments  
13 from anyone? There being none, we stand in adjournment  
14 for 10 minutes.

15 (Brief recess taken.)

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Let's do the  
17 calendar, especially when there are people not here.

18 MS. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman?

19 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes.

20 MS. HENDERSON: The suggestion by Allan was a  
21 good one, except I think it got convoluted. I think he  
22 was suggesting that a meeting and a tour be the same  
23 day.

24 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Right.

25 MS. HENDERSON: Then I think I heard Danella

1 say we'll schedule another Saturday.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We can schedule many more  
3 Saturdays, but we just won't be here.

4 MS. HENDERSON: Yeah. I was going to, you  
5 know, kind of ask. Saturdays are a little precious to a  
6 lot of us.

7 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Let's find one  
8 and do what we want to do.

9 MS. HENDERSON: Okay.

10 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. This is our last  
11 meeting. This is the meeting for  
12 October/November/December/January.

13 MS. GEORGE: Mr. Chair, last year we did it  
14 February, June, and October.

15 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Great. February it is.

16 MS. HENDERSON: I don't have a February  
17 calendar.

18 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Well, those who are not  
19 prepared for the future endure the consequences.

20 MS. HENDERSON: Wait a minute.

21 MS. GEORGE: The first Saturday of February is  
22 February the 5th of the year 2005.

23 MS. HENDERSON: Okay. Is what you're saying is  
24 that would be our regularly-scheduled meeting?

25 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yeah. Any objections to

1 February the 5th? Okay.

2 MS. ROCHE: It's the anniversary of the  
3 Constitution. I just want to tell you my calendar has  
4 that on there.

5 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. We will then  
6 schedule February the 5th in the morning for the  
7 meeting. February the 5th in the afternoon -- if you  
8 think it's chilly in here, wait until you see the  
9 National Monument in February up top.

10 MR. LADLEY: If we can get there.

11 CHAIRMAN CRITES: If we can get there.

12 MS. GEORGE: Do we want to use that for the  
13 Indian Canyons that we always wanted to go to as a group  
14 in February?

15 MS. ROCHE: I thought we did that.

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We've done that.

17 MS. GEORGE: Oh, okay.

18 MS. ROCHE: We did the Indian Canyons.

19 MS. HENDERSON: I think that was one I missed.

20 MS. ROCHE: Yeah. It was wonderful.

21 MR. MORGAN: We've not had a field trip in the  
22 Indian Canyons.

23 CHAIRMAN CRITES: How about this? We will take  
24 a field trip on that day. We will let staff figure out  
25 where would be best in terms of climate and need and

1 issues and so on.

2 MS. HENDERSON: And we'll have maybe an hour  
3 meeting and then go? Is that what I'm hearing?

4 MS. ROCHE: That's what I'm hearing too.

5 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I bet it will take longer  
6 than that to philosophize around in here and listen to  
7 various updates and reports.

8 MS. GEORGE: We have follow-up updates of the  
9 agencies in February, remember?

10 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We will try to expedite the  
11 meeting. There.

12 MR. WATTS: We'll go up and put in a new sign.

13 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. So one in February.  
14 The next one, June.

15 MS. GEORGE: June. That would be June the 4th.

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Any objections to June 4?  
17 There being none --

18 MS. GEORGE: Do we want to have a field tour in  
19 the afternoon?

20 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We will have a field tour  
21 then as well.

22 MR. MORGAN: The Indian Canyons?

23 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We'll do the Indian Canyons  
24 again.

25 MS. GEORGE: No. I think that would be a good

1 one to get up into the higher elevation in June.

2 MS. ROCHE: You know what's going to happen.  
3 You're going to have a meeting in the morning, and then  
4 you're going to lose everybody. I mean, Saturday  
5 afternoons? We're going back to our all-day Saturdays?

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Well, do you want to take  
7 another weekday to do this?

8 MS. ROCHE: Well, I think you're going to lose  
9 just as many if you try to do a meeting in the morning,  
10 and then from the meeting take off. I thought the idea  
11 was --

12 MS. HENDERSON: I'll get in my car and it will  
13 start going down the road one way and then start going  
14 another.

15 MS. ROCHE: That's what will happen.

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Well, the reason we were  
17 looking at this is at least we'll have everyone here  
18 that day --

19 MS. ROCHE: Correct.

20 CHAIRMAN CRITES: -- versus trying to schedule  
21 weekdays when people can't go in the afternoon and  
22 others can't go --

23 MS. ROCHE: But isn't it wonderful now being  
24 done at lunch instead of staying until 4:00?

25 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Then we won't have any.

1 MS. GEORGE: I would concur with Mary. I  
2 really would. I would have additional days during the  
3 week that you can do all day.

4 Then we can have our federal employees be able  
5 to drive folks in government vehicles with 4-wheel  
6 drive. Otherwise, we're up against overtime and comp  
7 time and issues like that on Saturdays.

8 MS. ROCHE: It's tough. In February it's dark  
9 at 5:00. It's harder to schedule.

10 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Then we look for weekdays,  
11 and we'll do the best we can with that.

12 MR. MORGAN: I support separate days.

13 MS. HENDERSON: Yeah. I do too.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Separate days is  
15 back to where we are now.

16 MS. HENDERSON: Okay. Buford, might I make a  
17 suggestion at this point that we go out right now, plug  
18 in the day, have an opportunity maybe in the next two  
19 weeks to check our calendars and get the information  
20 back to Danella and go for a majority vote of whether we  
21 can make it or not? No? What do you want?

22 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We're just going to do a day.  
23 Those who can go, can go. Those who can't, can't.

24 MS. GEORGE: Mr. Chair, any action has to be  
25 done today because we only noted to meet and vote.

1           CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right.

2           MS. ROCHE: Are we doing October then? We've  
3 got February and June.

4           MS. GEORGE: Yeah. For clarity and for the  
5 record, we're scheduling the meeting calendar for the  
6 Monument Advisory Committee meetings.

7           We have chosen February 5th, the regular 9:00  
8 to 12:00 meeting time. June 4th, 9:00 to 12:00. And if  
9 it's appropriate to the committee, October 1st, 9:00 to  
10 12:00, 2005.

11          CHAIRMAN CRITES: Great.

12          MS. GEORGE: The next item is to calendar dates  
13 within the workweek for field tours starting at, say,  
14 8:30 in the morning to 4 p.m.

15          Is that correct?

16          MS. ROCHE: Yes.

17          CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes.

18          MS. ROCHE: Mr. Chair, we have a question.

19          MS. SELLERS: I'm sorry to interrupt. You had  
20 suggested earlier -- I thought it was a suggestion --  
21 perhaps we have the meeting elsewhere closer to the  
22 field site -- the potential field trip site.

23          The issue was brought up that that wouldn't  
24 work for the court reporter. But I don't understand why  
25 we couldn't find a facility closer to where we plan to

1 have the field trip. All she needs is a plug.

2 We could use a facility in the Pinyon  
3 community. Is that inappropriate? I'm new to this.

4 MS. GEORGE: Mr. Chair, again, going back to  
5 the need to have federal employees being able to drive,  
6 being on regular time. It's easier to do it during the  
7 workweek.

8 MS. HENDERSON: I agree.

9 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Let's do a  
10 workday -- weekday.

11 MS. HENDERSON: Generally, I would say Mondays  
12 through Fridays. But with RCP, they've taken my  
13 Mondays. So I'm looking at Fridays.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. We're looking at  
15 Fridays. Do you wish to have it in February?

16 MS. ROCHE: What are we doing first? What's  
17 the priority for field trips? Where are we going?  
18 Indian Canyons?

19 MR. LADLEY: Santa Rosa is probably not  
20 appropriate for February.

21 MS. ROCHE: Are we waiting until February? We  
22 can schedule whenever; correct?

23 MS. GEORGE: The first week of November John  
24 and I had discussed about Santa Rosa. I'll open that to  
25 the committee.

1           MR. MORGAN: Jeff Morgan. I have seen some  
2 quite deep snow on top of the Santa Rosa Mountain in  
3 November.

4           MS. WATLING: Sometimes.

5           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yeah. I was going to say we  
6 should be so damn lucky. We can plan something, and if  
7 deep snow occurs, you can have alternate B and go  
8 somewhere else.

9           MS. GEORGE: The second Friday, the 12th, is  
10 good for me.

11          MS. GEORGE: Well, until Jeff gives his  
12 presentation, the 12th would not work.

13          MR. MORGAN: No.

14          CHAIRMAN CRITES: How about the 5th of  
15 November?

16          MS. HENDERSON: I can't if it runs until 5:30.  
17 The airport show is that weekend.

18          CHAIRMAN CRITES: But if you were back by --

19          MS. GEORGE: 3:00?

20          MR. WATTS: I can't do the 5th.

21          CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. We're at the 19th.

22          MS. HENDERSON: I'm okay with the 19th.

23          MR. MORGAN: I'm not available.

24          MS. HENDERSON: Did he say he's not available?

25          CHAIRMAN CRITES: No.

1 MS. ROCHE: He's not available.

2 MS. HENDERSON: Jeff, why are you stopping us  
3 on the 12th?

4 MR. MORGAN: Well, on the 11th, 12th, and 13th  
5 of November there's a delegation coming from Washington,  
6 DC -- a congressional delegation to see the National  
7 Monument.

8 MS. HENDERSON: Would they like to take the  
9 tour with us?

10 MR. MORGAN: Well, they already have an  
11 itinerary and agenda for them.

12 MS. HENDERSON: Oh.

13 MS. ROCHE: Can't we join your group?

14 MR. MORGAN: You'll be invited. I'm going to  
15 go through it in a moment. They will arrive on Friday  
16 afternoon or Friday at lunchtime, go to the Visitor  
17 Center, take look at the Indian Canyons. In the evening  
18 there will be a reception for them.

19 MS. HENDERSON: Well, maybe if there is this  
20 event in November we need to move off of November.

21 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Well, wait a minute. The  
22 only person who can't do this on the 5th at the  
23 moment -- oh. You can't either?

24 MS. ROCHE: No.

25 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

1 MS. GEORGE: You've been to Santa Rosa when we  
2 had the flat tire.

3 MS. ROCHE: We have. That's true. I've been  
4 there.

5 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We're not going to find a  
6 Friday in which we have all of us there. So choose a  
7 day. The 12th, apparently we already have folks from  
8 Washington wandering around. That isn't going to work.  
9 The 19th isn't.

10 What do you all want to do?

11 MS. GEORGE: I say November 5th that we plan on  
12 meeting 8:30 at the Visitor Center on Highway 74. The  
13 Forest Service can have vehicles ready and folks to  
14 drive them. We're kind of short on staff right now at  
15 BLM. So if we can do that.

16 We can take off at 8:30. We can bring a picnic  
17 lunch and head on up the mountain and see the Santa Rosa  
18 and stop and take a look at the condition at Cahuilla  
19 Tewanet and maybe Ribbonwood Campground that was  
20 discussed today and walk the grounds.

21 MS. HENDERSON: And be back here at  
22 approximately?

23 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Well, we might even have  
24 people that come for the first half of the day.

25 MS. ROCHE: We're dedicating our senior housing

1 at 10:00.

2 MS. GEORGE: Mary's been a part of this tour.

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

4 MS. HENDERSON: Okay. That's the 5th? Is that  
5 what I heard?

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yeah.

7 MS. GEORGE: That's Santa Rosa, et cetera.

8 Now, what about the Indian Canyons in late February if  
9 we have a good wild flower bloom?

10 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Great.

11 MS. HENDERSON: That will depend on the  
12 tremendous amount of snow.

13 CHAIRMAN CRITES: That will keep us off the  
14 mountain. Yeah. How about February 4th?

15 MS. HENDERSON: The day before the meeting?

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: The day before the meeting.

17 MS. HENDERSON: I'm not showing anything.

18 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Great.

19 MS. HENDERSON: Those in first get the spot  
20 first.

21 MS. GEORGE: So 111-5, 8:30 at the Visitor  
22 Center. And 2-4, Indian Canyons to be arranged. We'll  
23 work with Barbara Gonzales-Lyons. Hopefully, they'll  
24 allow Ranger Rocky Toyama to take us on one of the  
25 journeys into the Indian Canyons which is always

1 awesome.

2 MS. HENDERSON: That's 11-5; right?

3 MS. GEORGE: That's 2-4.

4 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Any other scheduling issues?

5 MS. GEORGE: There's just going to be some  
6 issues we'll bring up during the Monument Manager's  
7 Update. I would like to turn this over right now to --

8 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Frank Jones. Then we'll go  
9 from Frank's presentation to public comments.

10 MR. JONES: Good morning. I'm assuming  
11 everybody is fairly familiar with this project. Right?  
12 Not really? I'll just give a very brief overview.

13 It was about a year ago that we first started  
14 talking to Danella about taking this map and the Pinyon  
15 piece that went along with it and turning it into a  
16 documentary video.

17 A year later, what we're going to show you this  
18 morning is a 4-minute clip that some of you have seen --  
19 I know Mary Roche has seen it. I know Buford has seen  
20 it -- just showing you the quality of the footage that  
21 we shot. And it's the rough overview of what's going to  
22 be included in this video.

23 We've got close to 55 hours of total footage  
24 already shot. We're about 95 percent complete on the  
25 short version -- this is going to be a two-version

1 project -- and about 50 percent complete on the long  
2 version.

3           The short version is about 24 minutes. The  
4 long version is about 50 minutes. The short version is  
5 going to be used as an overview for our visitors and  
6 residents at many of our visitor centers and cultural  
7 institutions where they have theaters.

8           Rob Parkins, who just left here, has agreed to  
9 show it intermittently with his Tram film up at their  
10 theater. They get over 400,000 people through there a  
11 year. So the short version will show there.

12           It's just about enough time to give people a  
13 really comprehensive, brief overview of the visual  
14 beauty of the Monument and what's going on there.

15           The short version is designed to provoke  
16 curiosities and provoke interest to get people to take  
17 that next step to go to the many portals of entries and  
18 investigate the Monument further.

19           It's also to inspire them to get the long  
20 version and pay for it so that you guys can get some  
21 revenue going. The long version will be much more in  
22 detail, much longer interviews of the people that are  
23 involved, and really give a broader, deeper education  
24 into the resources that this land has.

25           So that's kind of the overview of the piece.

1 What we have this morning is, again, a 4-minute clip  
2 that we shot mostly in February and March of last year.  
3 So it's old footage to us, new to you.

4 Then we have a PSA announcement that we're  
5 going to premier here. Nobody's seen it. I haven't  
6 seen it. So we're going to take a risk.

7 The PSA is going to -- you know, we'll take a  
8 look at it together. But what it's meant to do is we're  
9 going to give it to all of our TV stations.

10 Hopefully, they'll use it through the course of  
11 the year or years to, again, create awareness to what is  
12 going on here.

13 So we'll show the clip, and then we'll talk  
14 about it. Stan Essickson is here. He's with the  
15 production company Y&R that has all the equipment and

16 all the talent behind what's going on with this  
17 production. And we'll be happy to answer any questions  
18 that you have after we show this clip.

19 (Film presentation.)

20 MS. WATLING: I had a question about the fringe  
21 on the jacket. But the whole shot was so gorgeous, I  
22 don't think anybody will notice.

23 MR. JONES: Well, that's an interesting  
24 question. Right. This is not a Cahuilla Indian.

25 MS. WATLING: Right.

1           MR. JONES: But we do have a reenactment of a  
2   Cahuilla in that exact place.

3           MS. WATLING: Oh, good.

4           MR. JONES: In the beginning, we have more of a  
5   generic overview of the Monument in terms of where it is  
6   in North American. So this footage of I think it's a  
7   Plains Indian works well there in terms of how you see  
8   it.

9           Then we really focus in on something that is --  
10   well, that is very indigenous to this area and accurate.  
11   So don't worry about that. We've been told.

12          MS. WATLING: I have my own fringe jacket. I'm  
13   not an Indian.

14          MR. JONES: Right.

15          CHAIRMAN CRITES: Comments on the 60-second?

16          MS. ROCHE: The photography is fabulous. Just  
17   awesome.

18          MR. JONES: Yeah. Everybody we show it to  
19   wants Frank's phone number.

20          MS. HENDERSON: On the 60-second, I guess I was  
21   so intent on the photography. Did it say Coachella  
22   Valley?

23          MR. JONES: I didn't.

24          MS. GEORGE: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto  
25   Mountains National Monument. I actually went over the

1 notes of our last meeting when Buford asked us to be  
2 presented with Frank. I read from Mary's comments.

3 One of the goals of this eventually is that  
4 when people come, they will no longer be coming to the  
5 Coachella Valley alone but to the Santa Rosa and San  
6 Jacinto Mountains National Monument.

7 MS. HENDERSON: Well, I'm not concerned about  
8 the Coachella Valley getting advertisement as much as  
9 just geographically locating where we're talking about.

10 MR. JONES: Yeah. I think we can put some  
11 script to it.

12 CHAIRMAN CRITES: "Bordering the Coachella  
13 Valley "or "rising above it."

14 MS. HENDERSON: Yeah. Or even "In Southern  
15 California" or something.

16 MS. GEORGE: Are you talking about the short  
17 version or the 4-minute one?

18 MR. JONES: Just the PSA.

19 MS. GEORGE: The PSA. The regular 24-minute  
20 and one-hour will have all of that.

21 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yeah. We're talking about  
22 the other.

23 MS. GEORGE: Got you.

24 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Frank, I think I would dump  
25 the word "sad."

1           MR. JONES: Yeah. We will. We are going to  
2 change that.

3           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yeah. Somehow mountains  
4 don't seem sad.

5           MR. JONES: It's actually going to have  
6 something more along the lines of "a rugged loneliness."

7           CHAIRMAN CRITES: That's it. Lonely.  
8 Solitary. Whatever.

9           MR. JONES: We don't want to pick them up off  
10 the floor. We want them to be excited. Again, it's  
11 still a work in progress.

12          CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yeah. Anyone else with a  
13 comment?

14          MS. ROCHE: This gives a beautiful overview,  
15 but it doesn't tell you how to avail yourself of  
16 anything or, you know, the possibilities for enjoying it  
17 other than looking at it.

18          MR. JONES: Well, the 24-minute and the  
19 one-hour will point you in the direction to get to the  
20 portals -- to get to the Visitor Center, specifically,  
21 to get to places like the Tram, the Indian Canyons, the  
22 Living Desert -- where there's organized portals of  
23 entry.

24          That's where we've been instructed to sort of  
25 focus on. So the longer versions definitely have that.

1           CHAIRMAN CRITES: But maybe in reference to  
2 Mary's comment, in the 60-second one you have a hiker  
3 standing there.

4           MR. JONES: Right.

5           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Maybe you want to have a  
6 3-second clip of, you know, an equestrian riding over  
7 the top on a mountain bike or something or other.

8           MR. WATTS: A mountain lion chomping on a  
9 biker.

10          CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yeah. A mountain lion  
11 chomping on a biker. Something that let's you know  
12 there are multiple ways of being in the Monument.

13          MS. ROCHE: Right. I think the other thing is  
14 like that map on the wall. You kind of do have to have  
15 that reference point of where it is in that 60-second.

16          MR. JONES: Yeah. In the 60-second it might be  
17 a little difficult. In the longer versions, we have  
18 fully animated that map. We start from North America  
19 and come right into the canyons.

20          CHAIRMAN CRITES: Wow.

21          MR. JONES: It's really quite a wonderful job  
22 of orienting the Monument, and it's outlined. It's  
23 pretty magnificent in terms of orienting.

24          We'll have to work the PSA a little bit. But  
25 you can see there's such a limited amount of time. One

1 of the things we can do is, obviously, we'll have a  
2 phone number on there and a Web site. Again, it's to  
3 introduce and get people sparked, and then let them go  
4 from there.

5 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Any other comments?

6 MS. WATLING: Can we get copies?

7 MR. JONES: Certainly.

8 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Well done. Well done.

9 MR. JONES: Simultaneously we've been  
10 fund-raising for this piece. That's been an equal  
11 effort. We're in our second phase of that right now.

12 We've gotten some wonderful contributions from  
13 the cities and the Agua Caliente and some private  
14 institutions that are just starting to come in now.

15 That funding includes a full year of marketing  
16 of not only the piece but everything that goes along  
17 with it. So there will be an effort to marketing the  
18 DVDs and the VHSs and the films and its distribution and  
19 everything that goes along with that, including point of  
20 purchase like at the Tram gift shop and the Living  
21 Desert.

22 So there's a lot that goes into it. Next time  
23 we'll have a lot of that available for you to look at  
24 and see how that's all being sort of, I guess the big  
25 word is, branded or packaged. Thank you so much for the

1 opportunity.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Thank you. Thanks for coming  
3 down on a Saturday -- both of you for coming.

4 MS. ROCHE: Well, not only that, but thank you  
5 for your time and effort. I know you're doing so much  
6 of this on your own time.

7 MR. JONES: I haven't slept in a year.

8 MS. ROCHE: You're doing a phenomenal job.  
9 Without you what we have been doing isn't going to reach  
10 the public.

11 MR. JONES: We're thrilled that we've had the  
12 opportunity really. We've really been thrilled. It's a  
13 great thing. Keep up the good work.

14 MS. HENDERSON: Final comment, Mr. Chairman.

15 The long version, when it's ready to premier,  
16 do you have an event surrounding that?

17 MR. JONES: There are going to be a number of  
18 events at various locations in the valley. They will be  
19 public and private. We have had some sponsors that come  
20 in that do want private viewings for their people.

21 As soon as we get those organized, we'll  
22 announce it. There will be one for the Monument that we  
23 have been working with Danella on. Everybody is going  
24 to be included. If there's anybody alive that hasn't  
25 seen this at the end of that sort of premier

1 celebration, I'll be very surprised.

2 MR. MORGAN: What's your approximate time  
3 schedule for that?

4 MR. JONES: We're hoping that the short version  
5 is going to be finished with the next 30 to 45 days, and  
6 the long version by the first of the year.

7 I want to see where we end up on the short  
8 version. I think when we premier it -- it's going to be  
9 important for the long version to be premiered. It's  
10 really going to give you the education that I think  
11 we're looking for.

12 MS. HENDERSON: I agree.

13 MR. JONES: So we want some depth there. The  
14 exciting part about the short version is it gets people  
15 excited because they see visual beauty that they  
16 wouldn't otherwise see.

17 But the long version really gives them a  
18 perspective where they've actually learned something.  
19 To me, that's most exciting. So that's what we're  
20 hoping for.

21 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

22 MS. ROCHE: One other point. Have you  
23 coordinated at all with the PS Film Festivals? You  
24 know, we just yesterday contributed more money than we  
25 contributed to you guys, I'm sorry to say.

1           But it seems like at those premiers and with  
2 all that they're doing, whether it's the 24-minute  
3 version or whatever, it could be the preview to whatever  
4 film that they are previewing. We should really take  
5 advantage of it.

6           MR. JONES: Yeah. They're excited to have this  
7 as part of their program.

8           MS. ROCHE: Okay. I can take it back like to  
9 my city when we open up the theater at the Cal State  
10 campus that we have a showing there. It's only 300  
11 seats. But by the same token, this would be ideal for  
12 that whole series of time.

13          MR. JONES: Not only the Palm Springs Film  
14 Festival has agreed to show it, but we've talked to  
15 other film festivals. Even the Tribeca Film Festival,  
16 when I went back to New York two weeks ago, they will  
17 show it. So we're going to get some great exposure.

18          MS. ROCHE: Wonderful.

19          MS. WATLING: What about the Sundance Film  
20 Festival?

21          MR. JONES: I don't know about that. That's a  
22 little different deal, but we're working on it. They  
23 haven't said yes, but they haven't said no.

24          MS. GEORGE: What about the tennis tournament?

25          MS. ROCHE: Okay. Tennis tournament too.

1 Maybe we can get it on the big screen. We have a big  
2 screen outside the tennis stadium during the two weeks  
3 we have the tennis tournament that we can show it up  
4 there when there aren't matches on.

5 MR. JONES: Great.

6 MS. ROCHE: We'll try and work on that as well.  
7 Or we can have a booth where it's running all the time.

8 MR. JONES: Super. Great.

9 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. What else? All right.  
10 Thank you.

11 MR. JONES: Thank you again.

12 CHAIRMAN CRITES: While you're undoing your  
13 setup, we will turn to public comments.

14 Heidi.

15 MS. SELLERS: Hi. I'm Heidi Sellers. I want  
16 to introduce myself to the board and other members of  
17 the committee. I'm nominated to be the representative  
18 to take over Ruth's big shoes as her term is up.

19 I just wanted to make myself publicly known and  
20 attend the meeting. I didn't have a particular topic I  
21 wanted to discuss. I'm just saying "Hi."

22 I'm glad to know how everything works and will  
23 be attending Pinyon Community meetings to comment on the  
24 various things like the Hay Dude Ranch. And I'll be  
25 back at the meeting again in the future. That's all I

1 wanted to say.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Great. Thank you.

3 Joe.

4 MR. INGRAM: Joe Ingram. I have two topics.

5 One was I became aware of the US Forest Service Draft  
6 Land Management Plan.

7 If any of the committee members have not read  
8 it, they need to read it. It kind of sets some of the  
9 stuff that I've through the years brought up. I don't  
10 feel quite as lonely.

11 Definitely there's a lot of questions to be  
12 asked about this Monument Plan and about this National  
13 Monument.

14 The other issue was I'd like the Monument  
15 committee members to be aware of the huge harvest this  
16 year. I've lived up in the Santa Rosas since 1970.  
17 I've never seen as many helicopters and as many DEA and  
18 for as many days as tons of marijuana brought out of the  
19 Monument.

20 Are you aware of this? The third pick-up I  
21 noticed -- I mean right over my house. I'm sitting  
22 there looking at them.

23 I counted seven helicopters. One big black  
24 helicopter, a marine navy helicopter, and five smaller  
25 helicopters doing kind of a high/low assault directly

1 over the Santa Rosas.

2           It looked like they were going into Vanderbilt  
3 and into Coyote Canyon all day bringing balls -- tons  
4 and tons of marijuana.

5           So I think it's something to think about. When  
6 you're PRing the Monument, and you have something  
7 happening on the ground, what I think you should really  
8 do is talk to law enforcement, which I did. I drove  
9 over and talked to them.

10           I thought it was a fire or something happening.  
11 They said, "No. We're harvesting." And there were  
12 about 50 of them there.

13           I told them I was looking for the smoke, and I  
14 didn't mean that type of smoke. You know, basically, I  
15 think what should be done, somebody from the committee  
16 should talk to the DA or whoever did this.

17           I think you should see the damage that was done  
18 to the springs and to the areas where this was  
19 cultivated because a lot of it was in the Monument.  
20 Some of it was in Deep Canyon. I mean, UCR should be  
21 concerned about this.

22           Who the heck is actually -- I heard Mexican  
23 Cartel. Then I heard the Columbian Cartel. I heard all  
24 kinds of strange rumors and stuff.

25           I'm concerned. I live in the Monument. I want

1 to know what's happening. Why this year? Why so much?  
2 That's it.

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Thank you.

4 Is there anyone else from the public here who  
5 wishes to comment?

6 Yes, Al.

7 MR. MUTH: Al Muth. Joe, where was it in Deep  
8 Canyon?

9 MR. INGRAM: I went to the PCC meeting. Not  
10 the last one, the one before. As I was driving up  
11 Highway 74, a chopper came up out of Deep Canyon with a  
12 big ball 5 feet in diameter.

13 We were sitting at the PCC meeting watching the  
14 choppers bringing tons and tons of marijuana with the  
15 Town Crier reporter sitting there taking pictures.

16 The sheriff was sitting behind us at the  
17 meeting watching -- with the doors open at the fire  
18 station, watching the choppers come in.

19 MR. MUTH: So it was up in Deep Canyon south of  
20 Sugarloaf and that area?

21 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. The wilderness area in Deep  
22 Canyon. Below Pinyon Crest. One of them -- two of them  
23 they concentrated on the Santa Rosa Indian Reservation.  
24 The last one was towards the Indian reservation.

25 MR. MUTH: Just for the record, that is not the

1 University of California's property. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Anyone else in  
3 the public who wishes to offer comments today? There  
4 being no one, that brings us to the Monument Manager's  
5 report, I believe.

6 MS. GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Monument  
7 Advisory Committee. First I'd like to say "Happy New  
8 Year." This is the second day of the federal new year.  
9 I think we did some good work this year. I'd like to  
10 thank you guys for helping the National Monument and  
11 both the secretaries and all the rest of us.

12 Just a little update since we last met. We did  
13 follow up with a weed meeting. Tom Bergin gave the  
14 presentation to the resource conservation district of  
15 how to take from the Monument Plan our weed strategy,  
16 our preferred alternative, and move it to an  
17 implementation phase within the National Monument.

18 So we had a follow-up meeting. They developed  
19 a draft strategy paper of how to get to implementation  
20 and to take it over. The Tribe, BLM, and Fish & Game,  
21 and the Forest Service all were all present, except for  
22 one agency.

23 So we'll have a follow-up meeting in October to  
24 further discuss the strategic plan and how to start  
25 going about asking for the funding for that, which would

1 again tier directly to the Business Plan under the  
2 natural resource part of that Business Plan.

3 But everything comes from the Monument Plan  
4 into the Weed Plan, and you guys voted unanimously to  
5 support it and try to get this moving so we're not all  
6 dead before the first weed is pulled by the RC&D.

7 Then we talked about the status of the new  
8 appointments. I already shared that. We set up the  
9 calendar for the fiscal year. We're okay with that.  
10 Proposal for field tours, we did that.

11 Other update for you all is back in April of  
12 2003, we had a presentation by Tracy. It was a Draft  
13 Concept Interpretive Plan that was prepared by an  
14 enterprise group headed by Rita Cantu from the Forest  
15 Service.

16 The Advisory Committee at that meeting  
17 recommended a work group to take that concept plan and  
18 make a final interpretive plan. Barbara Gonzales-Lyon  
19 chaired that work group. There were many meetings held,  
20 and we now have a Final Draft Interpretive Plan that's  
21 gone to the line managers for review for both agencies  
22 as well as to Barbara.

23 So hopefully our February meeting it will be  
24 signed. Barry was a part of that work group. Barry  
25 attended them, and a lot of hard work.

1           Okay. I think Katie gave us an update of the  
2 Trails Plan. There will be also be a Communication Plan  
3 tiered to that which will be, which will be important to  
4 BLM at least with respect to the Trails Plan. More will  
5 be forthcoming on that.

6           If you get a chance to get to the Visitor  
7 Center, Palm Springs Life folks also helped us. I'll  
8 just pass this around. We need to send to you guys a  
9 handout that Pam prepared, but we have a display now.

10          MS. HENDERSON: We have a what now?

11          MS. GEORGE: A display. It's 8 feet high by  
12 14 feet in width. It was done by Palm Springs Life's  
13 marketing and advertising types. It's at the Visitor  
14 Center. It's very nice.

15          It's tiers to the publication that was done,  
16 Monumental Treasure. If any of the jurisdictions have  
17 some places they would like to put that on loan for a  
18 couple of weeks, Pam Hanson is trying to get that set  
19 up.

20          We're looking at places like the MaCallum, IMAX  
21 Theater. Maybe in Palm Desert you have a gallery here.  
22 But places to set that up so folks will know a little  
23 more about the Monument. So we have that.

24          Then a follow-up Item, more of a bureaucratic  
25 kind of thing with the issue of the Hay Dude Ranch and

1 concerns, et cetera, with NEPA.

2 I talked to John, and I talked with Jim Foote  
3 and with Frank, who pretty much keeps our Web site going  
4 is Mr. Frank Mowry.

5 What we hope to start doing is anything that is  
6 a project, anything that needs scoping from the public  
7 in a NEPA document, we will start to list those on the  
8 Monument Web site if it's within the Monument boundary.

9 We offer that for Forest Service and BLM. If  
10 anybody else has some project proposals, State Parks,  
11 we'd be more than happy to list that.

12 If you have projects that you need to do CEQA  
13 on, we'll be more than happy to list the document on the  
14 Web site. So hopefully that will help with sharing  
15 information.

16 The other things is Pam is going to give you an  
17 update on our celebration on October 23rd at the Visitor  
18 Center. Ruth, hopefully Frank brought your letter. But  
19 we want to invite you to be there in the morning as well  
20 as all of the MAC. Come about 9:15. We want to  
21 recognize you for all the work that you've done as a  
22 member of the MAC.

23 We'll be recognizing Palm Springs Life and also  
24 Joe Micalori, who has done a tremendous amount of  
25 volunteer work giving talks on reptiles, earthquakes, et

1 cetera.

2 But the time for the MAC, if you want to be  
3 there, is 9:15 to probably about 10:30. Buford said,  
4 "Don't get too set in your ways, Danella, with this  
5 one," but Senator Feinstein and Congresswoman Bono  
6 should be there.

7 One of the things they'll be doing is putting  
8 up a banner. Where is Bonnie? Bonnie had an idea to  
9 create a Monument banner. So we'll be flying that. It  
10 should be fun.

11 We hope that Gambi got the message.

12 MS. HENDERSON: You should have gotten the  
13 message that Gambi is going to be there.

14 MS. GEORGE: I haven't heard boo.

15 MS. HENDERSON: Well, Gambi is going to be  
16 there.

17 MS. GEORGE: Okay. So if Gambi wants to get  
18 his picture with a politician, elected official, be  
19 there by 9:30.

20 MS. HENDERSON: Well, I might be there too.

21 MS. GEORGE: All right. That's all I have.  
22 Again, thanks for the year's work, you guys.

23 Buford, congratulations and thank you for being  
24 our chair.

25 Robs' gone. Gary, we're glad you're going to

1 be our vice chair.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Questions regarding the  
3 Monument Manager's report?

4 Danella, then we also extend to you and to  
5 obviously Frank and everyone else at the bookstore and  
6 so on our thanks for the good work this year. It's been  
7 a good year, and we're making a Monument. So thank you.

8 I guess that would then take us to the  
9 celebration update, which would seem like a good place  
10 to go.

11 MS. HANSEN: Good morning. I'm Pam Hansen, I'm  
12 the Forest Service staff member of the Visitor Center  
13 staff. First of all, for our celebration, each of you  
14 should have gotten a personal copy of this. If you  
15 didn't get one, please let me know so I can have your  
16 name and address and add it to our list.

17 The celebration, as you have seen from the  
18 flyer, is going to be all at the Visitor Center this  
19 year. We're not going to break off at noon and go up to  
20 the Indian Canyons for the barbecue.

21 So we have a full day of activities lined up,  
22 and we're pretty excited about it. We're going to have  
23 lots of activities for children.

24 The Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, the Natural  
25 Science Collaborative, the nature illustrators Sue Adams

1 and Diane Versteeg, and the SCRAP Gallery are all going  
2 to have tables out on the patio, and they're going to  
3 have arts and craft events for the children.

4           Then there's going to be -- the Living Desert  
5 is going to be there, and they're going to bring a  
6 selection of their animals and display them throughout  
7 the day.

8           We've had additional people who want to become  
9 involved since the flyer was created. One of those  
10 groups is the Riverside County Desert Sheriff's Search  
11 and Rescue. They'll also be having a booth and  
12 presenting some interesting activities on outdoor safety  
13 and hiking preparedness.

14           There's going to be presentations on the  
15 Wilderness Preservation System. We have a Power Point  
16 presentation that's going to run continuously throughout  
17 the day. We're going to have handouts of wilderness  
18 posters and also other wilderness information.

19           We have a really interesting wildfire safety  
20 exhibit that's just been put together by the Forest  
21 Service. It's a traveling exhibit. It's in a trailer,  
22 and it gives you a very up-close and personal idea of  
23 what it's like to encounter a wildfire.

24           Both the audio and the visual content is very,  
25 very impressive. It's a very realistic presentation.

1 That will be set up in the parking lot.

2           They're also bringing their special little  
3 Model-T that they use in parades. Sometimes Smokey  
4 rides in the back of the little truck.

5           We're going to have a special sale of bookstore  
6 items set up. Starbuck's is going to be there to offer  
7 free coffee. We have a stipend for refreshments being  
8 provided by the Friends of the Desert Mountains.

9           And our new poster is going to be shown. The  
10 poster was created from the painting that was selected  
11 last year. David Musser was the winning artist. We'll  
12 have those available for handout. There's a small  
13 picture of it on the bottom of the flyer.

14           So as part of our outreach this year, we've  
15 done separate mailings. We've had the Chambers of  
16 Commerce do separate mailings for us.

17           The personal mailings were sent out. Over 600  
18 invitations were sent out. The schools are all going to  
19 be getting individual copies of the flyer for  
20 distribution to the school kids. So there's been a  
21 substantial increase of the outreach activities for this  
22 year's event.

23           As Danella mentioned, we're going to have a  
24 really nice kickoff at 9:30 in the morning with the flag  
25 raising. I brought the agenda for that. As Danella

1 mentioned, Senator Feinstein and Congresswoman Bono will  
2 be a part of those activities.

3           We'll have flute music by Raven Longbow. And  
4 then we'll be getting some signed copies of the poster  
5 that will be framed and put up in federal facilities.

6           So all in all, these activities will continue  
7 throughout the day. I just hope that you will be able  
8 to come and join us because I think it's going to be a  
9 very worthwhile event.

10           As part of that, in each of these envelopes are  
11 10 copies of the flyer. I would ask that you would each  
12 take an envelope and make some additional distribution  
13 of the flyer on your own.

14           MS. HENDERSON: Did I hear food at all?

15           MS. HANSEN: Yes. Yes. We will have  
16 refreshments, and there will be the Starbuck's free  
17 coffee. Any questions?

18           MS. GEORGE: Danella George. Terry, the  
19 federal government is not allowed to spend money on food  
20 unless it is for an award ceremony. And it's only \$2 a  
21 head during that ceremony.

22           MS. HENDERSON: I didn't say free.

23           MS. GEORGE: We tried to get the -- Bonnie, who  
24 did you try to get?

25           BONNIE: We looked at In-and-Out.

1           MS. HANSEN: Yeah. That was done earlier on as  
2 part of Elizabeth's efforts, but I don't think it  
3 actually turned out. It's something that we're going to  
4 do. But we will have refreshments that are being  
5 provided as a result of the donations by the Friends of  
6 the Desert Mountains.

7           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Any questions from the  
8 committee on this? I think we all will congratulate  
9 staff on a remarkably ambitious program for this. So  
10 well done to all of you.

11           As a side note, that is also the anniversary  
12 date for the Desert Protection Act. So there are  
13 ceremonies going on that day in the afternoon, I think,  
14 for that.

15           Then I believe that is the evening for the  
16 annual Agua Caliente Cultural Center Museum dinner in  
17 the canyons. So it is an environmental Saturday. Well  
18 done.

19           MS. GEORGE: Danella George. With that, yes.  
20 The Indian Canyons stole the date that we've used the  
21 last two years to have the meal out in the canyons.

22           So we hope when we get our nonprofit going that  
23 they will seize that opportunity next year, and we won't  
24 lose that as an opportunity for the nonprofit for the  
25 Monument.

1           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. That takes us to  
2 Frank.

3           MR. MOWRY: I just need to get it turned on.  
4 Okay. Anyway, first off, before I really get involved  
5 in this, I want to say thank you to all of the members  
6 of the Monument Advisory Committee for your  
7 participation in the Business Plan.

8           The NLCS, which is National Landscape  
9 Conservation System, they are the people who are really  
10 responsible for us getting into this Business Plan  
11 concept.

12           What it is really is a land use plan which is a  
13 management plan on how we come about funding for that  
14 particular plan to implement the various plans that we  
15 want to do. So basically this is a little bit of a  
16 takeoff from their process.

17           Background of the project, we started basically  
18 back in March, when we first got contacted and asked to  
19 become a pilot member of the Business Plan process.

20           In May we had our first meeting with the NLCS  
21 people from Washington, DC and started the whole process  
22 and involved members of the communities in the process  
23 in starting to come up with these worksheets from we  
24 don't want to say, but it became a complicated issue.

25           In that process over the last couple of months,

1 we have been working towards refining information and  
2 determining what kinds of projects we plan on doing,  
3 what tasks are involved that the National Monument Plan  
4 tells us we have to do.

5           And then we're going to look at plugging our  
6 funding into the process so we have an idea of what  
7 we're going to be able to ask for through BLM and what  
8 our partners can go out and ask for to assist the  
9 funding.

10           The latest changes to the worksheets you all  
11 have seen. I went to another work shop meeting in  
12 Denver last week.

13           We have now seen that all seven of the pilot  
14 programs are all going to be on the same page. They're  
15 all doing the same type of work, using the same basic  
16 format for the worksheets in this whole process.

17           The original worksheets were broken up into  
18 these various areas for where the work loads would be  
19 located, whether it be a National Monument or landscape  
20 facility or an NLCS facility.

21           Basically, you can see you have natural  
22 resources, cultural resources, energy, mineral,  
23 recreation, forestry, forage, community service.

24           Here in the National Monument, we don't have  
25 any energy and mineral, and we don't have forestry and

1 forage. So these items are not part of our process.

2 That's why we have only the four categories.

3 Any questions at this point?

4 Some of the key questions that we had to look  
5 at when we started to determine what kind of projects we  
6 were dealing with, yes -- all the projects came out of  
7 the Monument Plan.

8 But we needed to ask ourselves what are we  
9 looking at, how we have to go about getting these  
10 projects working, and then what we needed to do to put  
11 this into a snapshot or picture so we can get an idea of  
12 what we're going to be asking for in terms of support  
13 and meeting our needs.

14 At this point we've identified what projects  
15 and tasks need to be done. We've been working with the  
16 members of the community to make sure that we had all  
17 the tasks to meet the projects. That what's all the  
18 work group meetings were about.

19 At this point we're now starting to identify  
20 which projects are priority and which year they're going  
21 to be done in. That's the step we're at right now.

22 This is really a five-step process. We're in  
23 about Step 2 and 3 in that category of getting that  
24 position done. So internally at BLM, we're trying to  
25 determine which projects are priority by year and also

1 by need of being done.

2           For example, the weeds project. That's a  
3 priority that we're going to be plugging into the  
4 worksheet. I don't have them in the current worksheets,  
5 but they are going to be plugged into them within the  
6 next few weeks.

7           As I said, the next step is for us to complete  
8 the five-year plans which project out what we can expect  
9 will be the projects for the next three to five years.

10           We're going to be developing our budgets based  
11 upon speculation, of course, how much money we actually  
12 will have available. We're guessing we're going to have  
13 this much money next year and the following year.

14           We don't know for sure because you never know  
15 with federal funding whether you're going to have that  
16 money or not. So we had to base that on a flat rate.

17           This is what the folks at NLCS have suggested  
18 us to do is project what we looking at with a flat rate.  
19 So that's the funding that we're going to be able to  
20 plug into for BLM.

21           Then we can take this information and provide  
22 it to the community. The community can say, "Okay. We  
23 need to help you fundraise for specific projects."

24           If they want to be involved in that really,  
25 that will be paperwork that you can use as tools to help

1 you help us in that respect.

2           And then, of course, the last step is to  
3 develop the communications plan and documents, which is  
4 that marketing pamphlet.

5           But actually what the NLCS wants to do is they  
6 want to develop a Power Point presentation, something  
7 that can be constantly updated to reflect the current  
8 needs, which is probably a better way of taking a  
9 printed document. You can only get so many printed per  
10 year. The cost is sometimes prohibitive.

11           So they're looking more at a Power Point which  
12 can then be put onto a Web site. They're working on the  
13 template for that right now.

14           Here again is our projected time line of what  
15 we've done and what we're going to be doing. Then as  
16 for the spreadsheets, everybody has a copy of those.  
17 This is an example of one of the spreadsheets, and  
18 everybody has a copy of it.

19           What I've done is the work that we have done up  
20 to this point, I have now translated into the new format  
21 that they gave me in Denver. This is the new format.

22           So we've got our strategic goals in BLM  
23 language in these first three columns. These are the  
24 things that are automatically determined by the federal  
25 government. That's all landscape we've been dealing

1 with.

2           Then we look at the projects and the task  
3 projects. We tell where these are going to be  
4 happening. In our case we can go ahead and say, "We're  
5 going to do stuff in Deep Canyon or the Indian Canyons."

6           But instead at this point, I took it and just  
7 did it as an "Area wide" or "Select areas." We will be  
8 breaking it down eventually.

9           Then, of course, we've attempted to come up  
10 with some of the priorities on some of the items. This  
11 is the information that I'm going to be sending these  
12 sheets out to you all electronically.

13           I'd like everybody to take a look at them and  
14 make the determination of whether or not they agree with  
15 what we've come up with as projected priorities. So  
16 there would be a high priority, low priority, standard  
17 priority, whatever.

18           Vote on it. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, whatever you think.  
19 Send that information back to us. That's your  
20 involvement in this whole process is by getting your  
21 feelings as of what you think is a high-priority project  
22 or whether it's a low-priority project.

23           We integrate all this information together with  
24 what we're coming up with from our experts and with what  
25 the state and federal government says are priority

1 items.

2           We'll mix all that together and come up with  
3 our plan. And then we can actually determine what our  
4 budgets are going to be and what it's going to be  
5 applied for.

6           Does that make any sense? Any questions?

7           CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Questions on the  
8 process or the progress?

9           MR. MUTH: Back to a brief conversation that we  
10 had, do you feel we need to meet on natural resources?  
11 Do we need to meet?

12           MR. MOWRY: I did forget to mention the fact  
13 that with all of the work groups, we have finished with  
14 all but the natural resources group. However, we've got  
15 all this information in these worksheets at this point.  
16 We can do everything electronically. We don't have to  
17 get together to meet.

18           The natural resource work group, the question  
19 is on the table right now, do you want to actually meet  
20 on the 14th of October at the BLM offices? Otherwise,  
21 we can do everything electronically.

22           MS. GEORGE: Well, who is a member, Frank?

23           MR. MOWRY: Al.

24           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Al is in charge.

25           MR. MUTH: I'm the chair. Mr. Crites is part

1 of the group. Jeff is part of the group. Who else is  
2 in there? Ruth.

3 MR. MOWRY: And the other people are BLM  
4 staffers and some other outside members as well from the  
5 community.

6 MR. MUTH: From the committee, do I heard a  
7 ground swell of whether we should have another meeting,  
8 or should we do this electronically? Someone can help  
9 Mr. Crites with the technicality with that.

10 MS. GEORGE: Mr. Chair, there's no point to  
11 meeting, Al, because there are some critical things we  
12 need to have for that committee.

13 The agency is deciding which way they want to  
14 go with funding, knowing that nothing is for sure. But  
15 at least which are the key actions within this Monument  
16 Plan that they are committed to try to implement as high  
17 priority. So there's no point in pulling you guys  
18 together.

19 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Great. That answers your  
20 question.

21 Other questions for Frank?

22 MR. MUTH: Excuse me.

23 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes.

24 MR. MUTH: Frank, please tell the other people  
25 that are here we are not going to meet.

1           CHAIRMAN CRITES: We'll put it in the minutes,  
2 and they can read it in February.

3           MR. MOWRY: I will contact everybody and let  
4 them know that at this point, all the work groups  
5 involved in the Business Plan are finished with their  
6 meetings. We now will be doing everything  
7 electronically. If I need to come out and see somebody  
8 in person, I will do that.

9           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Terry.

10          MS. HENDERSON: Thank you. Terry Henderson,  
11 La Quinta.

12          What did you do with recreation?

13          MR. MOWRY: It's in there, isn't it?

14          MS. HENDERSON: I can't find it.

15          MS. ROCHE: There's some recreation, Terry.  
16 It's the third page.

17          MS. HENDERSON: Demands for recreation. But it  
18 seems to change.

19          MR. MOWRY: Well, it's the same information,  
20 believe it or not. It's just in a different format.

21          MS. HENDERSON: Okay. So it is in these  
22 sheets?

23          MR. MOWRY: It's addressing anticipating  
24 demands in recreation. The biggest change to that is  
25 that recreation also now has educational outreach.

1 MS. HENDERSON: Okay.

2 MR. MOWRY: It was in community interface. Now  
3 it's in recreation.

4 MS. HENDERSON: Okay. We didn't actually have  
5 the terminology "anticipated demands for recreation."  
6 We were spending a lot of time on trails. So this is  
7 the result of our meetings?

8 MR. MOWRY: Yes.

9 MS. HENDERSON: Thank you.

10 MR. MOWRY: It's all included in there. All of  
11 those meetings, the information that was provided has  
12 helped me tremendously. Because I'll tell you, I didn't  
13 have a clue as to what I was doing when I started this.  
14 I picked it up from Melissa, and I was trying to work my  
15 way through the process and how it works.

16 With the help of all of you, I've got a much  
17 better understanding of what we're doing. Of the seven  
18 pilot programs -- there are two regular Monument, and  
19 the other five are NLCS units -- only one of them is  
20 really at Step 4.

21 That's the Las Cienegas out of Arizona. That's  
22 because their entire state budget process is being built  
23 on a database as opposed to the other units.

24 We're the next ones who have gotten the most  
25 done. My thinking is that by the middle of this month,

1 we will be up to Step 4. The project is to be finished  
2 by either the middle to end of November. And we'll be  
3 ready to actually present you with the Power Point to  
4 show you how it works.

5           Again, the critical information that we need is  
6 the budgeting aspects of it. That I have to wait to get  
7 that information filtered down from above.

8           Of course, we can speculate on a lot of this.  
9 That's what we're going to actually be doing is go ahead  
10 and speculate on the costs of some of these items. Some  
11 of these items we know what they're going to cost.  
12 We'll just project this information out.

13           But we will have an actual set of documents  
14 available to the members of the community probably by  
15 January at the latest. My idea is to have it finished  
16 by November.

17           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Gary.

18           MR. WATTS: Excuse me, Frank, if I missed this.  
19 I noticed some of these sheets have priorities listed by  
20 year and number and cross-references, and some don't.

21           MR. MOWRY: I'm still working on plugging that  
22 information in.

23           MR. WATTS: Okay.

24           MR. MOWRY: In the cultural history aspect of  
25 it, I had Wanda help me with that, who is our

1 archeologist. She just chose those items that she was  
2 doing that were the priority items. Just the priority  
3 items. Not all the other items yet.

4 As for recreation, that's still up in the air,  
5 but I haven't had a chance to get into that. Recreation  
6 is the one that has the most work. It was the most  
7 difficult one that we went through.

8 We went through a lot of changes in that whole  
9 process, and now we have to change one more time. When  
10 I went to Denver, it just made it that much more  
11 complicated.

12 However, I will send this out to everybody  
13 electronically, and I'd like you to take a look at it.  
14 If you have a preference of what you feel should be a  
15 priority item, please go ahead and mark it.

16 MS. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, if I could.

17 Would it be beneficial if the chairmen of the  
18 working groups of this summer were to call kind of an  
19 informal electronic meeting so the members of the  
20 committee could all click in and say "reviewed, fine,"  
21 so we've got a response from the committee?

22 MR. MOWRY: You can certainly do that. I'm not  
23 going to say that's the way to go or that's not the way  
24 to go. I'll have to defer that to the various chairmen  
25 of the committees.

1           With the modern technology that we have with  
2 the wonderful use of e-mail, it's a real easy process  
3 for you to be able to communicate back and forth with  
4 each other.

5           It saves us a lot of time with the driving back  
6 and forth. So whatever is going to be the most  
7 beneficial method for you. If the chairmen want to go  
8 ahead and do that, go ahead and do that.

9           MS. ROCHE: Mary Roche, Indian Wells. Just  
10 taking off on what Terry said, I think there's a piece  
11 in there that's missing.

12           Maybe instead of the e-mails on the priorities  
13 going back to you, the e-mails should go back to the  
14 chairman so we have a central point that if there's  
15 disagreement among the members on where the priorities  
16 list, the chairman is the one who would filter it out  
17 before it got to you for input. That would be my only  
18 question. You may have mixed messages.

19           Oh, you love me.

20           MS. HENDERSON: Oh, yeah. You're just climbing  
21 right up that ladder, Mary.

22           MS. GEORGE: She's already up there. She  
23 doesn't have any more to climb.

24           MR. MOWRY: That will work fine for me. You  
25 can still certainly feel free to contact me at any time.

1 I will work directly with the chairmen if that's what  
2 the committee wants me to do.

3 MS. HENDERSON: Other than we should have some  
4 kind of a time frame on it. So you need to give us an  
5 idea what time frame will work.

6 MR. MOWRY: As I briefly showed you on my Power  
7 Point, my time frame is to get priorities -- to try and  
8 get our priorities set -- well, not necessarily set, but  
9 determined by the middle of this month.

10 MS. HENDERSON: Okay. But you're going to put  
11 them on a sheet first so we can look at that and say  
12 okay or not okay?

13 MR. MOWRY: Right.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Barry.

15 MR. FREET: I think hers is consistent with the  
16 discussion. Go ahead.

17 MS. GEORGE: There's a real critical piece of  
18 that, Frank. For your time line, that's going to be  
19 dependent upon when Gail and Laurie get together, and we  
20 can review and go over what are the priorities for the  
21 two federal agencies to sign the plan for funding.

22 That may have to wait until December. Because  
23 I think the current meeting is scheduled for November  
24 when Laurie and Gail are going to get together.

25 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Question.

1 MS. GEORGE: Uh-huh.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: They're going to talk about  
3 priorities? Wouldn't they like to have what we think  
4 ought it to happen before they talk?

5 MS. ROCHE: Of course not.

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I know it sounds odd, but  
7 wouldn't that be a nice idea to know what the committee  
8 is advising them?

9 MS. GEORGE: I'd ask you, Mr. Chair, to ask  
10 that.

11 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I'd be glad to ask that in my  
12 own delicate fashion.

13 MR. MOWRY: I can tell you that this is an  
14 issue that has come up at all of the various pilot  
15 projects. There's a concern about who determines what  
16 the priorities are.

17 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We do.

18 MR. MOWRY: The NLCS wants the priorities to  
19 come from the field going up. And they want the  
20 priorities coming from the top going down. They didn't  
21 want that all mashed together. There's a lot of  
22 question about this.

23 MR. FREET: The budget issue, I fully  
24 understand that somebody is going to have to do some  
25 considerable speculation here.

1           Frank and Danella, will you have some help from  
2 somebody so there's some level of consistency? So if we  
3 say it's going to cost \$1 million as compared to another  
4 project in another monument, that there's some  
5 consistency there?

6           MS. GEORGE: Yes. There's the ability, I  
7 think, to figure out inventory costs that have been done  
8 for project planning here. There's been a lot of work  
9 already done with the Trails Plan -- what additional  
10 costs would be.

11           You know, managers have a pretty good, I think,  
12 understanding in working with their technical staff what  
13 it costs. Wanda, for instance, knows what it costs to  
14 do a cultural inventory in this area with the kind of  
15 landscapes we have and access issues.

16           Our CS guy that presented back to you all in  
17 June, he had a budget put together for the soil  
18 inventory. We can put that in there.

19           Like with Frank, I don't think he has updated  
20 my stuff that I did yet, the natural resource stuff. I  
21 set priorities, but eventually somebody in line is going  
22 to have to say that those are our priorities -- the line  
23 officers. I'm not a line manager.

24           I agree that it would be nice to have the  
25 MAC -- what the Chair said. For me it would be nice to

1 have the MAC say, "Yeah. I agree with this priorities."

2 We can continue making this sort of gut  
3 feeling, gut draft, what Frank has just described,  
4 because it all comes from here. You guys all worked for  
5 this plan, an you directed it.

6 If you're comfortable with those priorities.  
7 But again, the line people are the ultimate make the  
8 decision, these are the priorities.

9 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

10 MS. GEORGE: Did that answer your question?

11 MR. FREET: Yes, it did.

12 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Terry.

13 MS. HENDERSON: Kind of a follow-up, if I  
14 could. I definitely think that the working group has a  
15 very significant voice in the priorities. I don't  
16 question that.

17 However, looking at these sheets and knowing  
18 what we went through this summer, the desired heritage  
19 resource conditions has this priority of importance by  
20 years plugged in.

21 I'm going to make an assumption here -- correct  
22 me if I'm wrong. But that was done from the information  
23 that was generally gathered through the process of the  
24 meetings and the discussion that were held there, which  
25 I feel that we have and you have that information?

1 MR. MOWRY: Right.

2 MS. HENDERSON: You have not gotten it on the  
3 sheets yet?

4 MR. MOWRY: Not yet.

5 MS. HENDERSON: I'd like to see you get that on  
6 the sheets from the information that you gleaned from  
7 the meetings we had this summer. Then we have the  
8 opportunity to take a look the that and say, "Well, we  
9 changed our mind."

10 I'd rather work from that rather than take this  
11 entire six pages and electronically try to plug in these  
12 priority dates.

13 MR. MOWRY: Yeah. Maybe I didn't make it  
14 clear. I'm going to try and give you that information.  
15 So when you get these sheets, these columns will be  
16 filled in.

17 MS. HENDERSON: Right.

18 MR. MOWRY: Then you can either agree or  
19 disagree. This is going to be suggestions. These are  
20 not going to be set in stone.

21 MS. HENDERSON: Right.

22 CHAIRMAN CRITES: As a suggestion, when you  
23 have all the various groups with the information and  
24 you've prioritized it, what might be really helpful to  
25 folks is then to say, "Here is the Monument Advisory

1 Committee's priorities for 2005 through 2007 right  
2 through that.

3           It doesn't make a damn bit of difference  
4 whether it's an area X, Y, or Z. Here are the things  
5 that we believe ought to be done in the next two years,  
6 the next four years, the next six years."

7           Then anybody from any area can look at that and  
8 go, "Wait a minute. Why aren't we attempting to go X in  
9 the next two years? Why is that in 2010?"

10           When we're all as a group consensus wise, I  
11 hope, comfortable with that, then perhaps Gary and I can  
12 go chat with the line managers and explain to them why  
13 those all ought to be important with them.

14           MS. GEORGE: With your monument manager.

15           CHAIRMAN CRITES: However that is appropriate  
16 to do.

17           MS. GEORGE: No worries.

18           MR. MOWRY: That's an excellent idea. In  
19 Step 3, there's another form of chart which actually  
20 breaks things down by a yearly basis.

21           CHAIRMAN CRITES: By the time all this is said  
22 and done, people want to know what we're doing the next  
23 year, and the following year, and the following year  
24 after that. Do we want to shuffle those priorities  
25 around. Then we can explain to folks, "You guys go find

1 funding and get this done."

2 MR. MOWRY: That's the form you'll be getting.  
3 You'll be getting these and that particular form.

4 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Is that comfy? Okay.

5 MR. FREET: Yeah.

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Well done.

7 MR. MOWRY: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Now, we have the ad hoc sign  
9 shrinkage committee's report.

10 John, you are the chair of said group.

11 MR. LADLEY: I'm a lucky person. A brief  
12 meeting in the breezeway came to the conclusion that  
13 yes, we do want a Monument sign out there. We agreed  
14 with that. So my task is to investigate a down-sized  
15 version similar to what we have with the now standard  
16 Monument logo.

17 I'll obtain that information. The plan is that  
18 I'm going to investigate the appropriate size sign for  
19 that location, get a cost on it. I will return that  
20 information to Buford.

21 We will look at costs, discuss the best way to  
22 go from there and approach it. If it's something  
23 smaller than what we have out there, I believe we can  
24 install that. The size that's out there, we don't have  
25 the equipment to do that. That would have to be

1 contracted.

2 But something that's probably a more reasonable  
3 size that would be acceptable to the community residents  
4 out there and others as well, I think we can undertake  
5 that. That way I believe we will meet everybody's  
6 objectives.

7 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

8 MS. HENDERSON: Good work.

9 MR. LADLEY: In the meantime, until we get to  
10 that point, we can leave that sign there.

11 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We can put up a little sign  
12 on the side that says "Coming down soon."

13 Does anybody have any feeling pro or con --  
14 underneath there's a little script line about "Visitor  
15 information 15 miles ahead" or something like that.

16 Does that do what we need it to do to let  
17 people know what's down at the bottom of the hill? I've  
18 had people say they didn't know where that is.

19 I don't have a point of view except for while  
20 we were revisiting the size of the sign, if there's  
21 anything we can do to make that one line of text better  
22 for visitors, so be it. If there isn't, so be it.

23 MS. WATLING: Specify maybe "At the Visitor  
24 Center on the right."

25 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I don't know what to do.

1 All right. Thank you for your report.

2 MR. LADLEY: One more comment, please. Any  
3 suggestions or comments, please forward that to Buford  
4 or myself. I'll pass out my business cards.

5 MS. GEORGE: I want a cc.

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: You're not a line manager.  
7 It's not your business. Okay. Thank you.

8 Anyone else want to comment on that?

9 I think that takes us to are there committee  
10 members who have issues or future agenda items or any  
11 other comments to bring before the body today?

12 Yes.

13 MS. HENDERSON: I would like to take the  
14 opportunity to thank my committee that worked very hard  
15 this summer, but most specifically also staff. We did  
16 struggle with these sheets and charts.

17 I think we finally got it mailed. And I think  
18 that ours will become the model that's used for all  
19 these programs. Again, I thank everybody for their hard  
20 work on this project.

21 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

22 Jeff.

23 MR. MORGAN: Yes. I have a couple of items.  
24 It won't take very long. On the 11th, 12th, 13th of  
25 November there is a congressional delegation coming to

1 the National Monument.

2           It will include members of the appropriations  
3 committee. It has to do with trying to sustain or to  
4 increase funding or sustain funding for the National  
5 Monument by the NLCS, the National Landscape  
6 Conservation System.

7           We are trying to get the NLCS as a line item  
8 feature in the budget and not just general BLM, you  
9 know, trickle-down money and at the same time trying to  
10 increase the funding for this Monument and all the other  
11 monuments on a guaranteed basis for every budget.

12           The budget for the BLM in the fiscal year 2006  
13 is going to be cut 10 percent. The budget for the NLCS  
14 also went down 10 percent. It seems it's an  
15 across-the-board thing.

16           This delegation is small, probably 10 or 12  
17 people. It's proposed itinerary is to go to the Visitor  
18 Center on Friday, a reception in the evening.

19           Saturday morning they get -- sorry. Saturday  
20 morning go to the Indian Canyons. And then the evening  
21 will be a dinner and reception up probably at Smoke Tree  
22 Ranch.

23           Sunday the proposed agenda is to go up the Tram  
24 and finish off with a dinner at the Elevations  
25 Restaurant.

1           To assist this delegation while they're here on  
2 their fact-finding tour, I'd like members of the  
3 Monument Advisory Committee to maybe join them on these  
4 functions. Certainly the Monument staff, BLM staff,  
5 Forest Service staff.

6           There's fairly high-level people who are  
7 coming. They could make a big impact on the future for  
8 this Monument and all the other Monuments and ACECs and  
9 the NLCS system.

10          There was talk earlier this year that BLM wants  
11 to get rid of the NLCS system. They've had a lot of  
12 meetings in Washington. A lot of lobbying was done.  
13 They have decided to keep it.

14          The next step is to get it to be like the  
15 National Park Service. You know, not run the same way  
16 but with its own department and not, you know, just a  
17 subdepartment of the BLM.

18          So that's what this is all about. When I get  
19 the agenda and everything together, you'll all be  
20 getting notice. If you could RSVP to which events you  
21 would want to go to or none or whatever, it will help us  
22 put this together.

23          It will be run professionally by people who do  
24 this all the time. People from Washington, DC will be  
25 coming out to shepherd these people around.

1           Why they chose this National Monument is  
2 because it's up and running. It's functioning. It's  
3 got the Visitor Center. All parts of it are functioning  
4 well.

5           It's kind of to let them know how, you know,  
6 National Monuments run by the BLM can function and will  
7 function if they're handled properly.

8           CHAIRMAN CRITES: BLM and the Forest Service.

9           MR. MORGAN: And the Forest Service. Yeah.  
10 This is -- how can I put it -- to get more BLM funding.  
11 So that's where we are on that one. So you will be  
12 hearing more about it.

13          CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Thank you.

14          MR. MORGAN: We will be seeking assistance from  
15 you. Let's see. Another item has come up, and it has  
16 to do with trails.

17          As you probably mostly know, there's a  
18 development in Palm Springs called the Palm Hills  
19 Project that's going through the process of approval  
20 with the city.

21          On that project there are about five miles of  
22 trails within the National Monument. These trails, if  
23 they build that project, will be lost. They're very  
24 heavily-used trails by both mountain bikers, horsemen,  
25 and hikers. Basically there's going to be nowhere else

1 to go in that area.

2           The city and the project developer is being  
3 sued by the Sierra Club. There's a referendum on the  
4 ballot in March of next year that would reverse the  
5 city's decision to change the general plan.

6           If any of these things are successful, the  
7 referendum, one of the two lawsuits that I know about,  
8 the project may not be able to move forward.

9           If that is not possible, it would seem  
10 appropriate that that should be a target for acquisition  
11 for the National Monument.

12           If we could kind of look to the future of if  
13 this property does become available, I think we should  
14 look to try to get some funds put aside to be able to  
15 purchase this property to preserve the trails and to  
16 stop the development pushing further and further back  
17 into the Monument.

18           This would push development in Palm Springs a  
19 mile and a half back into the National Monument. That  
20 means the people who use the edge of the National  
21 Monument would also be pushed back. So you would get  
22 urban usage way up past Murray Hill.

23           If people would like to think about that, it's  
24 something that I believe is an ideal acquisition for the  
25 National Monument.

1           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. I think that's  
2 something that has happened in the past over that area.  
3 For example, the Lovekin property. There was a willing  
4 seller, and those have become immediately high-target  
5 priorities.

6           MR. MORGAN: Yes.

7           CHAIRMAN CRITES: Al.

8           MR. MUTH: Al Muth. Take a wild guess of the  
9 cost of the acquisition of that property.

10          MR. MORGAN: Well, if it's entitled it would  
11 cost a lot of money. If it doesn't have any  
12 entitlements, it will cost a lot less. So we have to  
13 look at the outcome of either the referendum or the  
14 losses.

15          These things should happen within the next  
16 year. The referendum is in March. It may or may not.  
17 I have no idea what the developer would wish to sell it  
18 for, but we should keep fighting it. It's happened in  
19 the past. There comes a point when purchase is  
20 possible.

21          CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

22          MR. MORGAN: Okay. One other small item. The  
23 windmills on the north face of San Jacinto Mountain are  
24 being proposed to pop up again. That is three square  
25 miles. I think it's Sections 18, 19, and parts of 13,

1 which is where the Monument just goes around into the  
2 pass.

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: The Snow Creek area.

4 MR. MORGAN: Snow Creek. Fingal's Fingers is  
5 the rock face that comes around. They're proposing to  
6 put up about 60 windmills up both ridges and up the  
7 crests all the way to 4000 feet. That would involve,  
8 obviously, building roads to get the things up there.

9 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Well, will there will be an  
10 environmental review process that happens on that. The  
11 proposed developers have come in and chatted with CVAG  
12 and so on and were told, "Here are the issues that you  
13 need to start looking at." So I suspect there will be a  
14 long discussion period about this.

15 MR. MORGAN: That was just an information item  
16 to me to demonstrate how vulnerable the Monument is  
17 around the fragile edges. This is not on the freeway on  
18 the flat, dusty dirt. This is climbing up the sides  
19 4000 feet.

20 MR. WATTS: Do you have a name for that project  
21 component?

22 CHAIRMAN CRITES: It's the Adams family. Not  
23 that Adams family. And it's partially the old Enron  
24 lands.

25 MR. MORGAN: When Enron decided not to stay in

1 the windmill business, the proponents for this project  
2 acquired the remnants of their project.

3 The last project was stopped, I think, through  
4 Riverside County zoning it inappropriate. And then the  
5 developer sued the county, but the lawsuit was never  
6 resolved because the developer went out of business.

7 CHAIRMAN CRITES: There are variations of what  
8 happened.

9 MR. MORGAN: Do you know what happened?

10 CHAIRMAN CRITES: No, I don't.

11 MR. MORGAN: Okay.

12 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Does that respond  
13 to your question, Gary?

14 MR. WATTS: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Barry.

16 MR. FREET: For future meetings I was wondering  
17 if it would be appropriate to have a discussion on  
18 budgets and staffing members.

19 MS. GEORGE: Sure.

20 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

21 MS. GEORGE: I'll get together with you to  
22 ferret out the specifics.

23 MR. FREET: Okay.

24 MS. GEORGE: That would be for February?

25 MR. FREET: Yes.

1           CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Other requests  
2 for future agenda items or comments by members of the  
3 committee? There being none -- John.

4           MR. LADLEY: This is something we discussed on  
5 the phone last time we talked. I don't know if you  
6 wanted to bring this up.

7           I did want to announce to the committee that on  
8 August 3rd from our department, Ron Lawson retired. I  
9 don't know if everybody is aware of that.

10           We did want to make the committee aware of  
11 that. He worked in this district for roughly 13 years,  
12 and with the Forest Service for 33 years.

13           MS. HENDERSON: Wow.

14           MR. LADLEY: He did a whole lot for recreation  
15 in the San Jacinto Ranger District. I just want to  
16 acknowledge that he did retire after a significant  
17 service and a lot of service in this district and within  
18 part of the Monument area.

19           CHAIRMAN CRITES: And the suggestion has been  
20 made that we invite Ron to our next scheduled meeting to  
21 thank him for his contributions.

22           Ron, as an example, is a person who did most of  
23 the siting work on the Ribbonwood Equestrian facility  
24 and a lot of the trails work that happened over the last  
25 10, 15 years on the upper part of the National Monument

1 on Santa Rosa and over into Palm Canyon and so on.

2 If there is no objection we will ask Ron, who  
3 now lives -- I think he used to live in Garner Valley.

4 MR. LADLEY: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We'll ask him if he can just  
6 drop down and receive our thanks.

7 Yes, Al.

8 MR. MUTH: Will he get a Monument cup?

9 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We might even go beyond a  
10 single Monument cup.

11 MR. MUTH: A set.

12 CHAIRMAN CRITES: A cup and a half. Are there  
13 other items for the next agenda? There being none, we  
14 stand in adjournment, I believe, for a sumptuous repast.

15 (The proceedings concluded at 12:22 p.m.)

16 --oOo--

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

