



From Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, Greetings!

The past couple of months have proven to be busy for us at the National Monument, as we continue to move forward with implementation of our Management Plan. Our Trials Plan, part of the Coachella Valley Multi-Species Plan, is still in the review process, and we'll be sure to keep you posted on its progress.

The next big steps we're going to be making are the development of a National Monument nonprofit, in partnership with the Friends of the Desert Mountains, and the scheduling and creation of a National Monument Business Plan. Once again our National Monument has been chosen to lead the way with development of a model business plan to act as a template for all other National Monuments.

The two National Monument portal signs were actually installed in February, and we want to take a few moments to extend a special thanks to our own Bonnie Adkins for all of her hard work on this project. The next step is to create a National Monument Signage sub-committee to work on the design and installation of future entry signs. We'll be working with the MAC, National Monument, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service staffs, along with interested members of the public.

Educational outreach has never been better at the National Monument. Student in public schools have had a number of hands-on lab activities, where they have learned about wildflowers and the ecology. With Tracy Liegler on our team we've started a monthly theme designation program; April is 'Heat and Fire Awareness Month.'

There are several special events planned throughout the month, like 'Smokey Bear Storytime' and an 'RV Fire Safety Program,' you may get more information on these and other programs calling the National Monument Visitor Center, 862-9984, or visiting us on the Internet, our Web site address is [w] <http://www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings>. Wildflowers are still blooming throughout the National Monument, if you'd like to learn more about them, take a look at our 'Wildflower' Web page.



North face of Mt. San Jacinto, one of the many beautiful sites found in our National Monument.

The annual 'trails avoidance programs' began in January, the idea, of course, is to reduce human impact on the Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep. A number of new signs and kiosk are being installed at the various trailheads to help everyone better understand what areas we're trying to avoid. The important thing to remember is the bighorns need our help and they are now in their lambing season. More information on

this is available at Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, four miles up on the left side of the road from Highway 111 in Palm Desert, or you may call them at 862-9984.

We'll soon be posting this information on the Web site. Thank you all for your caring and understanding in compliance with the trails avoidance programs, as we continue striving for bighorn recovery within the National Monument.

Earth Day is 22 April, and the National Monument Visitor Center is planning on celebrating with some special events. Things begin at the crack of dawn, when our own David Korzilius, leads visitors off on a special walking tour of the Visitor Center grounds at 6:30 a.m.

Later in the morning Steve Kupferman, a Bureau of Land Management geologist, is going to coming out to the Visitor Center, to talk about earthquakes and land faults which can be found within the National Monument and the Coachella Valley. After lunch our own Bonnie Adkins, is going to be leading a discussion about the new grass garden, being planted at the Visitor Center.

Earth Day promises to be a busy and informative day for all, and to help make things go smoothly the Friends of the Desert Mountains are planning to have refreshments available throughout the day. So be sure to come out and help us celebrate the environment.

Our next scheduled MAC meeting is 5 June, at 9 a.m., in the Palm Desert City Council building. Our focus this time is going to be on a future soil resource inventory and landscape management for the National Monument. There are a number of agencies working together on the problem of noxious non-native, invasive species management. It is a complex and complicated issue, which crosses a number of jurisdictions. I'm sure everyone will find this next MAC meeting interesting and informative.

That just about covers everything for this update, be sure to come out to the Visitor Center on Earth Day; and take advantage of all the special April events we have scheduled.

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