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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 4, 2003  
9:000 a.m. - 11:58 a.m.

REPORTED BY: Sonja Chapman, CSR  
CSR NO. 11504

JOB NO.: 62819



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A P P E A R A N C E S

LAURIE ROSENTHAL, Forest Service, San Jacinto  
District of the San Bernardino National Forest -  
District Ranger

GILLESPIE REPORTING & DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT, INC.

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1 PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA; SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2003

2 9:00 A.M.

3 -000-

4

5 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Good morning.

6 Welcome. Thank you very much for coming. I take  
7 it we have a quorum? Yep, we do. We'll call the  
8 meeting to order.

9 I guess we should see who is here. Let's  
10 start with Bob.

11 MR. LYMAN: Bob Lyman, County of  
12 Riverside.

13 MS. HENDERSON: Good morning.  
14 Terry Henderson, City of La Quinta.

15 MR. BROCKMAN: Bob Brockman, City of  
16 Rancho Mirage.

17 MR. MORGAN: Jeff Morgan, Sierra Club.

18 MR. WATTS: Gary Watts, California State  
19 Parks.

20 MR. HAVERT: Bill Havert, Coachella  
21 Valley Mountain Conservatory.

22 MR. MUTH: Al Muth, University of  
23 California.

24 MS. ROCHE: Mary Roche, City of Indian  
25 Wells.

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1 MR. FREET: Bary Freet, Cathedral City.

2 MR. CRITES: Buford Crites, Palm Desert.

3 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Ed Kibbey, Building  
4 Industry Association.

5 MS. GEORGE: Danella George, National  
6 Monument Manager.

7 MR. PARKINS: Rob Parkins, San Jacinto  
8 Winter Park Authority.

9 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Welcome, Rob.

10 MR. PARKINS: Good morning.

11 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Let's then review the  
12 minutes of the last meeting. Everyone has seen  
13 them. I haven't. Since I wasn't there, I can't  
14 comment.

15 MR. CRITES: I would move their  
16 approval --

17 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: You would move.

18 MR. CRITES: -- both for content and  
19 attractiveness. They're great.

20 MS. ROCHE: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: We have a second. Any  
22 comments? No. They're approved.

23 Monument manager update, Danella George.

24 MS. GEORGE: Danella George, Monument  
25 Manager. I thought first we would just cover the

1 agenda for today.

2           Today we'll have an update on the Deep  
3 Canyon land exchange, a follow-up item from our  
4 last meeting.

5           We'll have a Trail Mix presentation  
6 regarding trails management for the National  
7 Monument. This is Mr. James King from Trail Mix  
8 in Juneau, Alaska.

9           This is a follow-up from Don Able asking  
10 us to bring him down to present to the MAC how  
11 they're doing business up in Juneau. He did a  
12 presentation yesterday in Palm Desert at the  
13 library, and it was very interesting to see how  
14 they're doing business.

15           We will then have public input.  
16 Melissa Bristow will give you an update after  
17 lunch on the National Monument plan. It's  
18 basically the same briefing that we gave the  
19 regional forester and the state director. It  
20 looks like we're going to meet the deadline of  
21 October 24th for the final.

22           Buford is just going to talk to us for a  
23 wee bit on the need for camping within the  
24 National Monument.

25           We will need to have an election of the

1 new Chair and Vice Chair today for the Advisory  
2 Committee and schedule out our 2004 meetings.

3           And then other update items for you all.  
4 Following the last meeting, I had letters prepared  
5 for Dave and Austin, our consultants that helped  
6 us with the Monument Plan, for Ed to sign and for  
7 myself to sign thanking them for their work.

8           We also have something for  
9 Terry Henderson. When we went out and dedicated  
10 the trail out there, Terry, if you recall we  
11 talked about a bronze being made for the Monument  
12 logo.

13           MS. HENDERSON: Actually, for the city;  
14 right?

15           MS. GEORGE: Ruth, I don't know where  
16 your name tag is. There it is. I'm sorry.

17           This is for you to put there on the City  
18 of La Quinta trail head.

19           MS. HENDERSON: Wow. I'm trying to get  
20 to where I can kind of hold it up. It is actually  
21 quite lovely. Beautiful.

22           MS. GEORGE: I have about five or six,  
23 but we can always order more. So if any of the  
24 local jurisdictions are interested, let me know.  
25 Until we get a signage strategy and final

1 marketing agreement on the brand, this would be  
2 something that I would like to see at the Tram and  
3 at the State Park at least with a logo in bronze.

4 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Let the record show  
5 that Ruth Watling has arrived.

6 MS. GEORGE: Okay. So we've done that.  
7 The next thing I want to pass out to the group,  
8 and I was only able to obtain a few copies but  
9 they should be hitting the street this week, is  
10 the Palm Springs Life article.

11 This is in here. It starts here. You'll  
12 all get your own copy. Once we get them, they'll  
13 be mailed to you. I think we have about 2,000  
14 maps coming to us.

15 I believe the City of Palm Desert  
16 actually ordered some of the maps. Palm Desert  
17 was a sponsor. Let's see. US Filter, Friends of  
18 the Desert Mountains, Palm Springs Life,  
19 obviously.

20 And we will have Frank Jones, Jr. talk  
21 about his effort at our celebration event in the  
22 canyons on October the 25th. So I'll pass that  
23 around for you folks to look at.

24 Update on the charter. The charter has  
25 been approved I've been told by the secretary. I

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1 just do not have official notification from the  
2 Department of Interior and the Department of  
3 Agriculture.

4           The status on the Monument Advisory  
5 Committee membership, for the five that we're  
6 looking at for new appointments, they have passed  
7 the Department of Interior.

8           I received an e-mail. Melissa is going  
9 to contact them. Apparently, the Department of  
10 Agriculture is asking questions about diversity,  
11 so we had to respond back to diversity on those  
12 nominations. So that's the status of that.

13           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Danella, what does the  
14 charter really mean, the fact that it has been  
15 approved?

16           MS. GEORGE: That means that we can stay  
17 in business after November of this year. Because  
18 the Advisory Committee was only chartered for a  
19 two-year period. So by rechartering, we're still  
20 in business for two years.

21           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: That's what I was  
22 trying to get. Two more years.

23           MS. GEORGE: Yes, sir. What else. Let's  
24 see. Oh. On October the 20th at 10:00 in Palm  
25 Springs at the Bureau of Land Management, we're

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1 going to have a Tamarisk workshop. Not just  
2 Tamarisk, but any noxious weeds, a lot of  
3 noninvited weeds that are in our National  
4 Monument.

5           We hope that you'll send people to that  
6 meeting. It will start at 10 a.m. We'll have  
7 Forest Service there, Tribe there. We'll have the  
8 Desert Manager's Group coordinator for eradication  
9 of problem plants that's being dealing with this  
10 within the desert for the Desert Manager's Group.

11           And we're hoping to have the Resource  
12 Conservation District maybe take the lead on this  
13 for us. They have the staff to do it. They're  
14 able to contract. They're able to do things much  
15 quicker. So we're going to look at trying to  
16 create a weed management area for the National  
17 Monument and have them be the lead group.

18           We've also finalized and the contract is  
19 happening to have the high resolution  
20 photography. Do you remember the presentation on  
21 that about a year ago? That's in process right  
22 now.

23           Once we have that done, the map that's  
24 part of Palm Springs Life, which is a beautiful  
25 international map we did, we'll be able to give

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1 them that product. And they'll be able to do some  
2 very detailed mapping for us, including the kind  
3 of where you fly through -- you look like you're  
4 flying through the canyons.

5           We hope to do that for Martinez Canyon,  
6 for Deep Canyon, and for Palm Canyon, so that  
7 folks at the visitor center and tying in with Palm  
8 Springs Life at the airport will be able to see  
9 our canyons officially.

10           So that's an update of things we're  
11 doing. Again, the celebration event. Liz Green  
12 was going to be here to give a presentation.  
13 Hopefully she'll still show up.

14           I hope you've all received your cards.  
15 You have three additional cards in your packet to  
16 give to folks. The mailing has gone out for this  
17 through the La Quinta Arts Foundation.

18           This will start at 8:00 in the morning at  
19 the visitor center. There's free events. It  
20 should be pretty interesting. Donna Largo and  
21 David Largo of the Santa Rosas will be doing  
22 basket weaving and pottery.

23           We'll have the artists out painting at  
24 the visitor center. Our folks will be there just  
25 to welcome folks. David, who is here today,

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1 Korzilius will be out to walk people around the  
2 trail.

3 I would also like to commend  
4 Dave Heveron. For folks that have been out to the  
5 visitor center lately, it looks really nice.  
6 Thanks for the work of Dave in doing landscaping  
7 out there and eradicating our non-welcome weeds at  
8 the visitor center.

9 Then in the afternoon starting at 1:30,  
10 for those who wish to purchase lunch, we'll have  
11 the event out in the Indian Canyons again where  
12 we'll pick the winning painting.

13 We will have Manual Hamilton and Joseph  
14 talk about their vision and dream up on the Ramona  
15 reservation. We'll have Raven Longbow, who will  
16 be playing Native American flute music.

17 We'll have a great meal, and we'll be  
18 surrounded by all that beautiful art. So if you  
19 purchase your ticket by October 17th, you'll save  
20 \$30. Correction. You'll save \$5.

21 What else? Anything else, Mr. Chair,  
22 that you need to ask me?

23 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Can you touch on the  
24 trails meeting yesterday? You were there; right?

25 MS. GEORGE: Uh-huh. We had a meeting in

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1 Palm Desert. It was very interesting. We had  
2 Mike Schuller talk about the history of building  
3 trails, what he's done in this community with  
4 trail building.

5 He had a great statement that trails are  
6 one of the best land management activities that we  
7 can do to keep people from going where we don't  
8 want them to go and directing them to where we  
9 want them to go.

10 Phil Drell gave an update about the loop  
11 trail and how that process has worked with the  
12 city and all the different agencies. We had  
13 James King who has just come to talk about Trail  
14 Mix.

15 Jim Foote later talked about the  
16 Coachella Valley Trails Counsel and was able to  
17 give us a history of how they started, all the  
18 enthusiasm, then when we hit the wall regarding  
19 closures, kind of deflation of the balloon, and  
20 where can we go.

21 We talked about once we have a trails  
22 plan, once we have that done, to try to get that  
23 energy back with our community for trails.

24 David talked about the interpretive work,  
25 how we look at the BLM. Interpretive work and the

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1 Forest Service, do not go there, but why not to go  
2 there. Some educational tools in making it more  
3 friendly to the public.

4 Dr. Lamb is visiting us from USGS. He's  
5 here today. We'll give him a couple of minutes to  
6 talk about what he does. He visited with us and  
7 shared what he does in the meeting and how he can  
8 assist us with maybe some sociological monitoring  
9 with trails and recreation in the future.

10 Melissa, who else have I missed?

11 MS. BRISTOW: You didn't miss anybody.

12 MS. GEORGE: Okay. That's what we did.

13 MS. BRISTOW: Tom Davis.

14 MS. GEORGE: Oh, Tom Davis. Yes. Tom  
15 gave a history of the Indian Canyons and their  
16 Trails Plan and how they got to where they are,  
17 which is more an operational plan.

18 Fascinating piece of information about  
19 that tollgate in the '30s, why they installed  
20 that.

21 Does anybody here know why?

22 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: To control the canyons,  
23 I guess.

24 MS. GEORGE: Actually, you know how we  
25 always talk about how they tried to make a

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1 National Monument in the Santa Rosa/San Jacinto  
2 Mountains, and they never consulted with the  
3 Tribe, and they thought they were just going to  
4 buy the Indians Canyons? "They" being the  
5 government in the '20s.

6 Well, after that, they were able to block  
7 that. There was such concern. They wanted to  
8 make sure they had a place on the landscape there  
9 to let folks know these were their canyons. I  
10 thought that was an interesting little piece of  
11 history that Tom shared.

12 MR. CRITES: That's the companion piece  
13 to Joshua Tree. They were both proposed in  
14 Congress at the same time. Two National  
15 Monuments. One on one side and one on the other.  
16 They just never told the Cahuillas.

17 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Big mistake.

18 MS. GEORGE: It was very informative. It  
19 was very educational. I hope we can do more of  
20 those in the future. I just don't know how we can  
21 get to our public to have more participation for  
22 them coming.

23 MS. HENDERSON: What kind of  
24 participation did you have?

25 MR. CRITES: All the usual suspects.

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1           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: I had it on my calender  
2 to come, and another meeting took its place. I'm  
3 sorry about that. That's becoming more and more  
4 the case. Thank you very much, Danella.

5           Any comments on the report?

6           MS. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman,  
7 Terry Henderson, La Quinta. I received many, many  
8 compliments on this post card. So I compliment  
9 whoever is responsible.

10          MS. GEORGE: I will share that.

11          CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Who did it?

12          MS. GEORGE: That's a partnership with La  
13 Quinta Arts Foundation. They're the ones who  
14 basically designed the cover. We worked with them  
15 for the information on the back.

16          CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Very good. Very  
17 impressive. Any other comments?

18          Okay. Laurie. I saw her walk in. Where  
19 is she sitting?

20          MS. ROSENTHAL: I'm a little boxed in.

21          CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Oh, there she is.

22 She's hiding over there.

23          MS. ROSENTHAL: I think I'll go this  
24 way. Good morning. I'm Laurie Rosenthal, the  
25 District Ranger of the San Jacinto District. I've

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1 got some bad news and some good news.

2           The bad news is that we flew over the  
3 forest last month, and the mortality is a lot  
4 worse. We flew in April, which is about five  
5 months ago. There were 354,000 acres of  
6 mortality. Last month there were 474,000 acres.

7           Those acres that were greater than  
8 40 percent mortality in April was 103,000, and  
9 last month was 231,000.

10           It was expected that this would happen,  
11 even though we did have a little bit of range.  
12 But it's just on some kind of a roll there.  
13 There's just no stopping those beetles right now.

14           The good news is that it looks pretty  
15 imminent that Congress is going to set aside  
16 \$30 million for this situation. \$20 million is  
17 going to go to state and private for the help of  
18 the communities.

19           You know we have a situation where people  
20 with just hundreds of dead trees on their  
21 property, and each tree costs, you know, \$1,000 to  
22 get rid of. So that's the good news. And  
23 \$10 million to the forest for fuels reduction  
24 projects.

25           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Laurie, we were told

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1 yesterday that money was in the pipe, and it was  
2 actually being distributed now.

3 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yeah. It's pretty  
4 imminent. You never know. That's why I said it  
5 like this. They can take it away too.

6 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Well, that was Bono's  
7 office. Like I said, they said it's actually in  
8 the pipe and being distributed. So you should get  
9 it.

10 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yeah. A lot of that also  
11 is a challenge. For example, the homeowner needs  
12 to pay 25 percent, with a 75 percent match from  
13 federal.

14 Another piece of good news is that the  
15 district, our district, nominated the Mountain  
16 Communities Fire Safe Council for an award, and  
17 they won for leadership category for the Rural  
18 Community Assistance Award.

19 This is because they have contributed  
20 thousands of hours to helping us with our fuel  
21 break. I mean, we're talking everywhere from  
22 60-year-olds to 80-year-olds out there helping use  
23 clear brush and keeping the community safe. So  
24 we're very grateful that we received this award.

25 We're going to present it next Saturday. They

19

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1 don't know about it yet.

2 MS. HENDERSON: Does it come with money?

3 MS. ROSENTHAL: No, it doesn't. It's a  
4 really cool-looking trophy.

5 And then the Forest Plan is coming along  
6 well. In two weeks we're going to be asking our  
7 leadership team for the province for the Southern  
8 California Forest are going to be meeting with the  
9 draft in hand. So that is coming along.

10 Finally, this is something I heard. I  
11 don't know too much about it. If anybody knows  
12 more, please fill everybody else in. But the  
13 sheep recovery team is changing members.

14 Has anybody heard this? They're now  
15 going into implementation. So there was a feeling  
16 by Fish & Wildlife Service that -- you might know  
17 something about it. No? Okay. -- that there  
18 should be other stakeholders involved than just  
19 scientists and researchers. So that's all the  
20 news I have.

21 Anybody have any questions?

22 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Thank you, Laurie.

23 Jim is still out of our area, so Danella  
24 is going to report for him.

25 MS. GEORGE: Danella George, National

20

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1 Monument Manager. The word is Jim will be  
2 returning. I believe he officially comes back  
3 October 11th and reports back October 15th,  
4 according to his boss, Linda Hansen. So he'll be  
5 returning to us.

6 The big issue so far in the BLM field  
7 office -- primarily I think the energy has been in  
8 the Trails Plan. Our folks are working very, very  
9 hard to get this Trails Plan done and partnerships  
10 with all the entities.

11 There's also been a rather large mineral  
12 trespass the San Diego County. Jim Kalish has  
13 been involved with that.

14 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: What does that mean?

15 MS. GEORGE: Mineral trespass? It means  
16 somebody has been collecting rock and gravel  
17 without paying the royalties to the federal  
18 government.

19 Is that right, John?

20 MR. KALISH: That is correct. It's very  
21 close to El Cajon. It involves split estate land  
22 where the surface is owned by a private landowner  
23 and the subsurface has always been owned by the  
24 federal government.

25 Sand and gravel is a mineral resource

21

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1 that was reserved in the US. The trespass itself  
2 is very extensive and actually has been going on  
3 for quite some time.

4 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: What do you do about  
5 it?

6 MR. KALISH: Well, we're going into a  
7 trespass process where we are working with the  
8 trespassers to determine the amount of mineral  
9 reserves and the value of those reserves that were  
10 removed.

11 That process will ultimately hopefully  
12 lead to a settlement where the federal government  
13 is paid for the reserves that were taken either on  
14 a one-to-one value or a potentially punitive  
15 trespass settlement up to a three-to-one ratio.

16 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: For the record, would  
17 you identify yourself, please.

18 MR. KALISH: My name is John Kalish. I  
19 oversee the lands, minerals, and recreation  
20 programs here at the BLM in Palm Springs.

21 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Thank you, John.

22 MS. HENDERSON: Terry Henderson, La  
23 Quinta. Are we talking about a large construction  
24 firm that has been removing this?

25 MR. KALISH: Yeah. Hanson's Aggregate is

22

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1 the company that has been removing the material.  
2 Although, they are leasing the lands from an  
3 outfit called Hester's that's owned by -- really  
4 it's a family -- the McClouds.

5 MS. HENDERSON: I'm just trying to get an  
6 idea of what size you're talking about.

7 MR. KALISH: We're probably talking about  
8 potential liabilities -- if they were to have  
9 purchased the sand and gravel, very likely they  
10 would have paid well over \$1 million for that.  
11 It's quite an extensive trespass.

12 MS. GEORGE: Danella George. That's  
13 where the BLM's focus is. Have I missed much,  
14 John? Have I missed anything with our field  
15 office where our focus has been?

16 MR. KALISH: We have two transmission  
17 line projects that are ongoing. One of them is  
18 the Imperial Irrigation District has proposed it's  
19 either a 230 or 500 KV line.

20 They haven't determined what would  
21 ultimately be constructed if it were to be  
22 approved. The proposal is to construct that line  
23 from Blythe to the Dever substation right up from  
24 North Palm Springs. The EIS/EIR document is due

25 to be released this coming week. That's the

23

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1 reason I bring that up.

2           Southern California Edison also is  
3 pursuing construction of their second Dever to  
4 Palo Verde 500 KV line also along I-10 from the  
5 Dever substation over into Arizona.

6           We are launching into that process right  
7 now with the likely release of an EIS/EIR working  
8 with the public utilities commission in probably  
9 late 2004. Those are two fairly major  
10 energy-related projects that are ongoing.

11           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Does the line of  
12 potential construction already have power lines in  
13 it, or is this a new trail?

14           MR. KALISH: Well, both proposed  
15 transmission lines are within a designated utility  
16 corridor that was designated in the California  
17 Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980 that's been  
18 amended numerous times.

19           So that I-10 corridor has three gas  
20 transmission lines and fiber-optic lines, the  
21 Dever to Palo Verde 500 KV line.

22           There's a couple of other electrical  
23 transmission lines, and of course Interstate 10

24 and other utility facilities within that  
25 corridor. So it is a major recognized east-west

24

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1 corridor to handle utilities.

2 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Okay. Questions? No?

3 MS. GEORGE: Just to wrap up for BLM, we  
4 had Tim Smith who some of you met as our acting  
5 while Jim was gone. And then Mitch came in and  
6 served as acting. He did quite a good job.

7 And John Kalish has been acting over the  
8 last couple of weeks. I think I'd also like to  
9 ask Eddie Konno if Eddie has anything he'd like to  
10 provide from the California Department of Fish  
11 & Game in his part of the agenda.

12 MR. KONNO: What subject?

13 MS. GEORGE: Just if there's anything you  
14 want to share with us. Anything from Fish & Game.

15 MR. KONNO: No.

16 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Thank you, Danella.

17 MR. MORGAN: Danella, I have a question.

18 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Yeah.

19 MR. MORGAN: Just regarding the BLM's  
20 process of EAs -- you know, you issue them for  
21 various things like Tamarisk removal, opening and  
22 closing things.

23 I'm supposedly on the mailing list for

24 these things, you know, that happen within the  
25 Monument, and I haven't been getting them until

25

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1 after the comment period has ended.

2 MR. CRITES: Then the process is working.

3 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Yeah.

4 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. Also I'm curious as  
5 to why you have reduced the comment period to  
6 15 days on EAs. Is it the BLM that's doing that?

7 MS. GEORGE: Danella George, National  
8 Monument Manager. I believe there's a link, Jeff,  
9 on our Web site. I will check that out about  
10 having it up -- our Web site for EAs.

11 I need to check that out and see if  
12 that's up to date. If it's not, I need to share  
13 that information with our NEPA coordinator  
14 Greg Hill.

15 With respect to the 15-day comment  
16 period, I really don't feel I can adequately  
17 answer that. I can get back that information.

18 John, can you answer the 15-day comment  
19 period question -- Jeff's question?

20 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: If you didn't hear the  
21 question, he was asking apparently why it's been  
22 shortened.

23 Is that it?

24 MR. MORGAN: Apparently there's 15 days.

25 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Yeah. From 30 days to

26

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1 15 days.

2 MR. KALISH: And this is related to what  
3 project?

4 MR. MORGAN: The last two EAs that you  
5 guys put out only had a 15-day comment period as  
6 opposed to in prior years, every one has had a  
7 30-day period. And in both cases we received them  
8 after the comment period had ended. Someone said  
9 the system must be working for the BLM.

10 MR. KALISH: Typically on an  
11 Environmental Assessment that goes out for a  
12 public review, we would issue that EA for 30 days.  
13 Although, there are times when we shorten that  
14 comment period just due to time constraints tied  
15 into the project.

16 Typically there's a rationale why we've  
17 done that. But the intention is to get that  
18 Environmental Assessment out for review for all  
19 those interested parties and provide them the full  
20 comment period as identified.

21 So if the EA was not received until after  
22 the comment period was over, then that's something  
23 that we need to take into consideration and

24 potentially lengthen that comment period to ensure  
25 that we have adequate public input.

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1 MR. MORGAN: I'll go back further then.  
2 Can you make sure I go back on the mailing list  
3 for the EAs or other things the BLM are doing  
4 within the Monument?

5 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Danella.

6 MS. GEORGE: Danella George. I will do  
7 that definitely, Jeff. I'll make sure you're on  
8 the mailing list. Maybe at lunch you can let me  
9 know which of these EAs you're talking about so I  
10 can follow up on them.

11 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Any other comments or  
13 questions?

14 Well, John, now that we got you all  
15 warmed up, why don't you step to the front. John  
16 is going to give us an update on the Deep Canyon  
17 Land Exchange.

18 MR. KALISH: I did bring a handout.

19 MS. GEORGE: I'll pass them out for you.

20 MR. KALISH: My name is John Kalish. I  
21 oversee the lands, minerals, and recreation  
22 programs for BLM here in Palm Springs. It's a  
23 pleasure to be here.

24 I understand that at the last meeting our  
25 land exchange that we've been involved with with

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1 UCR tied into Deep Canyon came up as a topic of  
2 conversation.

3 There was interest in that project,  
4 especially for more details tied into the project  
5 itself. So if you have any questions while I'm  
6 going through the project, don't hesitate to bring  
7 those up.

8 There's a little bit of a history to this  
9 land exchange. My understanding is that the  
10 original land exchange was proposed about 13 or  
11 14 years ago. I've only been in the Palm Springs  
12 office for a little over four years, so I can only  
13 take credit for the last four.

14 One of the early things that happened  
15 when I came down from Riverside to the Palm  
16 Springs office was Al Muth came in and talked  
17 about a land exchange that had been on the books  
18 for quite a long time.

19 So we dug through all the case files.  
20 And sure enough, we found a fair amount of  
21 information about the land exchange, at least some  
22 attempts and agreements and all that had been  
23 drawn up previous to when I had arrived.

24                   We did reinstitute that land exchange  
25 process at that time, and I can go into some

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1 detail as to kind of what path that has taken us  
2 down since we've started.

3                   The scale itself is probably not the best  
4 on these maps. We do have an aerial photo here of  
5 Deep Canyon. The whole administrative complex is  
6 right here within the canyon.

7                   There's a second canyon that heads off to  
8 the southeast, Coyote Canyon. The upper stretches  
9 of Coyote Canyon are within BLM lands. In fact,  
10 Section 22 right here on the upper end of Coyote  
11 Canyon, which is very much part of the whole Deep  
12 Canyon complex, is BLM lands.

13                   It just so happens that UCR owns the  
14 section directly to the south, Section 27. The  
15 original proposal was to just flip the ownership  
16 of these two sections in order to consolidate UCR  
17 lands and make for a much more manageable  
18 situation as far as meeting the objectives of the  
19 Desert Research Center.

20                   In '94 with the passage of the California  
21 Desert Protection Act, the lands right to the  
22 south here were designated as the Santa Rosa  
23 Wilderness Area.

24           So since the passage of that act, BLM has  
25 also had the objective of acquiring lands within

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1 or right on the boundary of designated wilderness  
2 areas.

3           In fact, it's written into the act that  
4 BLM would acquire in-holdings or edge-holdings,  
5 lands on the boundary that are not under federal  
6 ownership, and incorporate those lands within the  
7 designated wilderness area.

8           So the objective since the passage of the  
9 California Desert Conservation Act is consolidate  
10 lands within the Santa Rosa Wilderness Area. And  
11 from the UCR standpoint, to consolidate their  
12 lands within the research center for both  
13 manageability and also for purposes of enhancing  
14 the work that they do there in Deep Canyon.

15           So that gives you an idea as to the  
16 overall description of the land exchange. Just a  
17 little over 40 years ago, we wrote the  
18 Environmental Assessment or at least the Draft  
19 Environmental Assessment to push this land  
20 exchange forward.

21           The two sections within that  
22 Environmental Assessment that we were at the time  
23 unable to complete were one section that dealt

24 with how we were going to handle the Peninsula  
25 Bighorn Sheep issue as a species protected under

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1 the Endangered Species Act requiring consultation  
2 with the Fish & Wildlife Service.

3           The other section within the  
4 Environmental Assessment that we were unable to  
5 complete at the time was how we were going to  
6 handle cultural resources, mainly archeological  
7 sites within the BLM lands that we would dispose  
8 of our transfer over to UCR.

9           Under the National Historic Preservation  
10 Act, for BLM to dispose of or transfer lands out  
11 of federal ownership that contain cultural  
12 resources protected under that act, that would be  
13 considered an adverse effect.

14           We would either have to mitigate those  
15 effects such as go in, excavate, gather all the  
16 data and the information from the sites, and  
17 record and curate any artifacts that were found.

18           Or we would have to work on another  
19 mechanism by which we cannot have that adverse  
20 effect, and we can get the buy-off of the State  
21 Historic Preservation Office that handles that  
22 issue.

23           Back to the Section 7 Endangered Species

24 Act issue tied into the Peninsula Bighorn Sheep,  
25 that process was initiated, a consultation process

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1 with the Carlsbad office of the Fish & Wildlife  
2 Service.

3 That overall process took about two years  
4 to finally complete that and reach an agreement as  
5 far as how the bighorn sheep and all the issues  
6 associated with bighorn sheep were to be handled  
7 within the Deep Canyon Reserve, and also what  
8 measures we would build into the land exchange to  
9 ensure protection of that habitat once the lands  
10 left federal ownership.

11 That agreement was finally reached about  
12 three or four months ago and has been signed off.  
13 So that part of the process is complete.

14 The second issue was dealing with the  
15 cultural resources. Very recently in working with  
16 the State Historic Preservation Office between  
17 Al Muth and our archeologists, we have reached a  
18 way that we can, through an agreement between the  
19 State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO, as  
20 it's typically referred to -- an agreement between  
21 SHPO, the BLM, and UCR, we can resolve that whole  
22 issue of a potential adverse effect of  
23 transferring lands out of federal ownership and

24 essentially losing the federal control over those  
25 cultural resources.

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1           During the field inventories of the lands  
2 that would be transferred out of BLM jurisdiction,  
3 several sites were found including a trail that  
4 has a potential National Register eligibility tied  
5 to it.

6           So we are in the process of finalizing  
7 the mechanism by which we would get SHPO  
8 concurrence for the action of transferring those  
9 lands out of the BLM jurisdiction or BLM ownership  
10 over to UCR.

11           So the two major hurdles that have been  
12 holding up this land exchange have been overcome  
13 as of right now. So presently Al Muth is in the  
14 process of drafting up the agreement between the  
15 three entities -- SHPO, UCR, and BLM -- as to how  
16 the cultural resources would be handled.

17           We are completing the Environment  
18 Assessment, which is still in essentially a  
19 preliminary draft stage. We expect to have that  
20 done in the next couple of weeks. We do intend to  
21 post that Environmental Assessment on our Web site  
22 and make it available for public review.

23           As part of the overall land exchange

24 process, the BLM has to complete appraisals of the  
25 involved lands. We had appraisals done about two

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1 years ago.

2           Those two sections, due to their  
3 remoteness, lack of access, similarity -- they're  
4 the same size. They're both pretty well full  
5 sections of land -- were determined to have equal  
6 value. We will, though, have to have that  
7 appraisal updated which should be a fairly routine  
8 process.

9           As with all land exchanges that BLM is  
10 currently engaged in, we have an additional step  
11 that has been built into the process fairly  
12 recently where land exchanges have to go back  
13 through our Washington office. All land  
14 exchanges.

15           It used to be there was a threshold in  
16 the dollar amount of the value of the lands where  
17 we had discretion to make those decisions within  
18 each state that BLM has lands.

19           That discretion no longer exists, which  
20 will require us to submit a report up through our  
21 state office and will be sent forward to  
22 Washington for their final review.

23                   And then after all of those pieces are  
24 all pulled together, then we have the final  
25 process where we have to do a final clearance of

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1 the land both from a potential HAZMAT standpoint  
2 just to meet regulatory requirements.

3                   Then we go into escrow, patent issuance,  
4 and recordation of patents and deeds and that  
5 process. I would anticipate that we're looking at  
6 that whole land exchange wrapping up between say  
7 nine months and maybe on the outside possibly a  
8 year.

9                   The one issue related to this land  
10 exchange is really the overall level of  
11 controversy of land exchanges as a whole, the  
12 whole process has become very controversial in BLM  
13 as an agency within the past couple of years.

14                   In fact, the program has gotten a lot of  
15 notoriety due to some audits that were done mainly  
16 tied into land exchanges that were done in other  
17 states around Las Vegas and Phoenix and other  
18 areas where appraisals were questioned about  
19 values and lands transferred out of the federal  
20 ownership.

21                   And those people that received those  
22 lands were able to turn the lands around and sell

23 them for a whole lot more than the land exchange  
24 went for.

25           So through that whole process of the

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1 audits and the reviews, some real changes have  
2 come about within the BLM land exchange program.  
3 We're still in the process of going through those  
4 changes.

5           For example, our appraisal staff is no  
6 longer within the BLM. It's been elevated within  
7 the Department of Interior. So it will be handled  
8 has an interior entity.

9           Along with that there's a lot more  
10 scrutiny of land exchanges both at our state  
11 office and Washington office level.

12           In looking at this land exchange, there's  
13 really no issues that we have come up with or that  
14 the public or any other entities or individuals  
15 have brought to us that would cause any concerns  
16 or any controversy tied into this land exchange.

17           It's a pretty straightforward exchange.  
18 The objectives of the exchange are such that once  
19 we complete it, there's obviously going to be some  
20 real benefit from the UCR and from the BLM  
21 standpoint from a manageability overall  
22 standpoint.

23                   What I would like to propose is from an  
24 advisory group standpoint, since this land  
25 exchange is within the bounds of the National

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1 Monument, if we did receive support from all of  
2 you as a group to go ahead and complete this land  
3 exchange, especially support in a formal way, then  
4 we can attach that support to the package as we  
5 move it up through our process.

6                   I would anticipate that even though we're  
7 looking at maybe nine to 12 months, that that  
8 could possibly shorten that process up fairly  
9 significantly, just given the overall community  
10 and ground base support for this overall land  
11 exchange.

12                   MR. HAVERT: Can we recommend that Al be  
13 conditioned to stay in the country until the  
14 exchange is completed in case any questions come  
15 up?

16                   CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Well, the concern is  
17 the last time Al left the country, he was seen  
18 meeting with developers. So there may be some  
19 hidden conversion plans for that land.

20                   The question that I have --

21                   MR. MUTH: Mr. Chairman, we are on the  
22 record.

23                   CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: All kidding aside, the  
24 question I have is it took two years to go through  
25 a Section 7. What developed? What took two

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1 years?

2                   MR. MUTH: May I, John?

3                   MR. KALISH: You certainly may. I really  
4 stayed out of that process.

5                   MR. MUTH: Al Muth. The draft agreement  
6 between Fish & Wildlife and the University of  
7 California was essentially -- there were only  
8 minor changes made to the draft over that two-year  
9 period.

10                   The issue of concern for Fish & Wildlife  
11 had to do with the construction of new trails on  
12 the section, because it was felt that any trail  
13 construction or access other than that which  
14 currently existed would be a disturbance to the  
15 bighorn sheep.

16                   Negotiating over the term "new trails" is  
17 what consumed the greater part of that two years.  
18 It was finally resolved by a minor bit of  
19 wordsmithing. It just took longer than  
20 anticipated.

21                   I would also point out, last night on the  
22 news I saw that the average white male life

23 expectancy in this country is 77.5 years.

24 In order to get this transaction  
25 completed by my allocated time, what I would like

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1 to see and what John has eluded to is if we could  
2 get a letter of support for this land exchange  
3 from the Advisory Committee, it would help massage  
4 its way through the process in Washington.

5 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Buford.

6 MR. CRITES: Buford Crites. One other  
7 issue that is well-known in medical literature is  
8 that having something to live for tends to expand  
9 your normal years of life in this precipitous rush  
10 through the process.

11 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Do I hear a motion?

12 MR. CRITES: So moved.

13 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: That's what I thought.

14 We have a motion. Do we have a second?

15 MS. HENDERSON: Second.

16 MR. MORGAN: I have a comment.

17 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: We have a motion and a  
18 second. Any discussion?

19 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. Before we start  
20 recommending things, maybe we should really know  
21 what we're recommending. When the EA comes out,  
22 we can read it. I believe that's probably the

23 most appropriate time.

24           This only glosses over the surface of  
25 what's happening. He has 10 years of files on

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1 this, it should be all compressed into that EA,  
2 which will be a few more pages than this. That  
3 way we'll know what's happening.

4           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Buford.

5           MR. CRITES: We're trading two sections  
6 of undisturbed land, except the section that BLM  
7 is going to get is the one that actually has a  
8 trail. The one that UCR is going to get doesn't  
9 have one.

10           MR. MUTH: Al Muth. There is a trail on  
11 the public land that we are seeking. It's an  
12 Indian trail.

13           MR. CRITES: Yeah.

14           MR. MUTH: The legal trail across UC land  
15 goes to a palm oasis, et cetera. That's the trail  
16 situation.

17           MR. CRITES: Yeah. And there's nothing  
18 else different about the sections.

19           MR. MUTH: Biologically not that I'd be  
20 aware of.

21           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other comments on the  
22 motion? I would just make one comment. I think

23 that UC, University of California, is certainly  
24 trustworthy. I don't see any downside.

25 The fact is, given the fact that it took

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1 you how many years, John, to find somebody that  
2 was digging gravel on your land in the San Diego  
3 area, at least he's there and looking it over  
4 constantly. So I would think that the land would  
5 certainly gain by that.

6 Any other comments?

7 Yes, Al.

8 MR. MUTH: I'd also point out that if at  
9 some point in the future -- I can't imagine this,  
10 but if a project or any sort of ground disturbance  
11 were considered for that section, we're under the  
12 requirement to comply with all the California  
13 Environmental Quality Act, CEQA, rules and  
14 regulations concerning cultural resources in  
15 historic sites. Those assurances also get put in  
16 that SHPO document when it's drafted.

17 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Any other comments on  
18 the motion? Those in favor say "aye." Those  
19 opposed say "nay." It passes unanimously.

20 MS. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman?

21 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Yes.

22 MS. HENDERSON: I just want to give Al a

23 little bit of encouragement. Back in 1988 I  
24 started a project here in the Coachella Valley. I  
25 received another step towards approval about a

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1 week ago from Sacramento. I may be looking at  
2 completion in about two months. So hang in  
3 there. I'm 15 years on mine.

4 MR. MUTH: Well, thank you, Terry. But I  
5 also know that the life expectancy of white women  
6 exceeds that of white males.

7 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: John, anything  
8 further?

9 MR. KALISH: No. I appreciate it.

10 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Thank you very much.

11 Mr. James King. There you are. I knew  
12 you disappeared behind me somewhere. Trail Mix  
13 presentation regarding trails management options.

14 MR. KING: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
15 like to thank Danella for inviting me here today.

16 My name is James King. I'm the director  
17 of a nonprofit organization in Juneau, Alaska,  
18 called Trail Mix. It's kind of a unique  
19 organization, and Danella asked me to come here  
20 today and share with you our experience and what  
21 we have done in an area where there's a  
22 checkerboard of ownerships and a large diversity

23 of problems and challenges that go on with  
24 multi-agencies and private ownership in an area  
25 that's trying to be managed as a system.

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1 Is this on?

2 MS. BRISTOW: It's on.

3 MR. KING: Maybe I can get you to help me  
4 while I start. Let me just give you a quick  
5 introduction while she's working on that.

6 I have some pictures. They are mostly  
7 pictures of trail work and scenery in Juneau,  
8 because I think that's more interesting to look at  
9 that than it is to look at me. So while I'm  
10 talking I'll show you some of those.

11 Let me tell you a little about Trail Mix  
12 and where we came from. We are a nonprofit  
13 organization. We are governed by a board of  
14 directors. We're largely a public nonprofit that  
15 is set up to help manage and improve trails in the  
16 Juneau area.

17 We came from a trails plan about 12 years  
18 ago I guess it was now. The community got  
19 together, three agencies that owned and managed  
20 land with trails on them in Juneau, which is the  
21 Forest Service, Alaska State Parks and the city of  
22 rural Juneau got together and said, "We're

23 struggling managing this trail system that's  
24 crossing public lines. It has a diversity of  
25 conflicts between users. We're not doing a very

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1 good job managing it as a system."

2           So they invited the National Park Service  
3 for Trails & Conservation Assistance Program to  
4 town, and they facilitated a process of creating a  
5 trails plan that ignored property lines.

6           One of the recommendations that came out  
7 of that Trails Plan was the three agencies were  
8 really struggling in managing the trails as a  
9 system.

10           What do you do with a trail crew when the  
11 trail crosses a property line? Do you make  
12 improvements to a property line and let the other  
13 agency worry about it?

14           What they all recognized was that the  
15 public didn't care whose land it was on and who  
16 the manager was. They wanted a good trail that  
17 was continuous and part of the system.

18           So the recommendation was to create an  
19 umbrella type organization that could bring the  
20 three agencies together with other land owners  
21 including native corporations and private owners  
22 and look at things together as a system, and in

23 this umbrella organization to make sure that  
24 everybody was included, and that the management  
25 decisions were created that crossed property lines

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1 and managed it as a system.

2           So this plan came out. After the plan  
3 came out, a small group of folks got together and  
4 created a nonprofit. But they were just a group  
5 of private individuals that created this  
6 nonprofit.

7           After a while the three agencies got  
8 together and said, "You know what? Our budget is  
9 really hurting. We do not have enough money to  
10 manage it."

11           It's about 250 miles of trails. It's in  
12 a rain forest. They get close to 100 inches of  
13 rain in a year. Continual battle of maintaining  
14 trails. Many agencies don't have the money, the  
15 resources, and the energy to do it, even though  
16 they'd like to.

17           They created a steering committee amongst  
18 themselves which included members of the public,  
19 worked for a year and decided that the best way  
20 for them to stretch the energy and the budgets  
21 that they had was to create this umbrella  
22 organization that was created as a nonprofit with

23 a governing board.

24           The board of directors has three  
25 ex-officio positions on it, which is a member of

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1 each of the three agencies. The rest of the board  
2 is made up of public representing different user  
3 groups and different interests.

4           One of the interesting things about our  
5 organization is that we represent all trail user  
6 groups in Juneau. That includes snow mobile  
7 owners, cross-country skiers, mountain bikers,  
8 hikers, horse riders, and back-country users. All  
9 of that. Motorcycles.

10           So there's a little inherent conflict in  
11 our mission. Our mission is to be the steward of  
12 a safe and enjoyable Juneau trail system by  
13 bringing people and resources together.

14           This is really geared towards not having  
15 enough money or energy to do what the public would  
16 like and desire.

17           So I'm going to start plowing through  
18 some of these pictures as I go, and you can just  
19 see that we have a significantly different style  
20 of trail construction than here where we have less  
21 rainfall.

22           I want to show you the pictures so you

23 can see the scale of improvements that we as a  
24 nonprofit have been able to accomplish. So if you  
25 have questions about any of the pictures, stop

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1 me.

2           Mostly I'm just going to plow through  
3 them, and you'll get an idea of what our trail  
4 system looked like before and after we've done  
5 some of the projects.

6           Trail Mix, I'm the executive director.  
7 There are three of us that are year-round  
8 employees. We have a staff of 20 that we bring on  
9 in the summer that are paid employees to work on  
10 the trails.

11           We use all the resources that we can from  
12 the different agencies. If I sit down could you  
13 see better? If I get too quiet, yell at me. You  
14 might go to sleep when I sit down.

15           So the idea was to take resources from  
16 the different agencies to accomplish -- and from  
17 the private to accomplish trail work.

18           One agency might have some funding.  
19 Another agency might have some staff. The third  
20 agency might have some equipment that could be  
21 used on a trail.

22           So we've done that. We've brought the

23 three agencies together to look at it as a system  
24 and ignore property lines and fix things up as we  
25 go.

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1           We use a lot of volunteers. We get  
2 usually about 3,000 volunteer hours a year going  
3 through the trail system, which is a huge, huge  
4 amount. It goes a long way.

5           We use a youth corps. With some of the  
6 funding that we get, we hire a youth corps and  
7 those types that are less expensive labor to get  
8 the projects done.

9           This is a group of engineers that were  
10 from the coast guard, and they helped go through  
11 the process of designing this bridge, putting  
12 together documents where it could go out to bid.

13           Then they came in once we got the bridge,  
14 and we built it in a couple of days. Again, a  
15 neat example of volunteers and the amount of  
16 improvement that can be done.

17           This happens to be a snow mobile trail  
18 that gets used with very little snow, as you can  
19 see. Another example of how we have managed to  
20 get resources out of the community to fix it up.  
21 This is what they turned it into.

22           We got a grant to pay for some

23 materials. We worked with the snow mobile club.  
24 They happened, a lot of them, to be contractors.  
25 They came in with equipment and moved a lot of the

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1 rock.

2 We paid for a lot of the fuel and  
3 culverts and things like that. They were able to  
4 fix up a facility that worked a lot better for  
5 themselves. And it turned into a multiuse trail  
6 because it's a smooth, hard-packed, well-drained  
7 facility.

8 This is just an example. We deal a lot  
9 with erosion. That road is heavily used by  
10 horses. There's a commercial horse tour on it.  
11 We went in and cleaned the ditches and fixed the  
12 drainage. I got a grant to do that. I got some  
13 assistance from the Forest Service to do that.

14 In helping with some of the management  
15 issues, there's a lot of commercial use in our  
16 community of trails because we receive almost a  
17 million visitors a year that come off of cruise  
18 ships. So we want short excursions that are  
19 guided hikes, guided horse tracks, and that sort  
20 of thing.

21 In this particular instance, this is a  
22 Department of Transportation right-of-way that no

23 longer has access by vehicles. But they aren't  
24 interested in maintaining it because vehicles are  
25 not on it.

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1           So we came in. It was a facility that  
2 was falling through the cracks. None of the  
3 agencies were going to fix it up. There were  
4 National Forest trails off the end of it, but they  
5 didn't have the resources to put money into the  
6 state right-of-way.

7           So we got a grant. We got donations, and  
8 we used volunteers to fix it up and preserve it.  
9 The other thing we did that's interesting on this  
10 project is the commercial operator.

11           There was no mechanism for the Department  
12 of Transportation to charge commercial-use fees to  
13 go back in to maintain the facility. They just  
14 aren't set up that way. Whereas, the Forest  
15 Service, city, and state all charge commercial-use  
16 fees to pay for the facility.

17           We went to the operator and said, "Hey,  
18 everybody else in this community that's operating  
19 commercially pays fees. Would you consider  
20 entering into an agreement with Trail Mix where  
21 you donate an equivalent amount of what the fees  
22 are, and we will turn around and put that into

23 maintaining the facility?"

24           They said, "Oh, sure. We'd be happy to  
25 do that."

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1           So it was a neat example of where we  
2 could go in and work with an organization where  
3 the agencies weren't able to.

4           That's a volunteer day Boy Scouts  
5 project. Due to our heavy amount of rain, almost  
6 all of our trails have to be hardened one way or  
7 other -- gravel. So we see a lot of that on our  
8 projects.

9           I also wanted to -- and I think I  
10 mentioned before that we hire about 20 crew  
11 members every summer that are paid staff. We use  
12 them as crew leaders for volunteer projects. They  
13 go out and work during the weeks that there aren't  
14 volunteers around. But it gives us some skilled  
15 crew that can go out and work on different  
16 projects.

17           We work on everything from 10-foot wide  
18 bicycle paths to back-country trails, alpine  
19 trails. That sort of thing.

20           This is at the top of our tramway in  
21 Juneau. We did a lot of planning and layout of

22 trails, trail psychology. I point out these  
23 decks. The one on the right is complete. The one  
24 on the left is incomplete.

25 They're essentially Kodak moments. We're

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1 telling the public "This is where the best  
2 possible view is." So people congregate there and  
3 take their pictures.

4 What that solves for us is this meadow  
5 area was completely trampled with trails going all  
6 over the place before we came in and created a  
7 nice system of trails with these observation  
8 platforms.

9 Once that was done, the braiding quit.  
10 We created a facility that 99 percent of the  
11 people stay on. Whereas, in the past where it  
12 wasn't fixed up so nicely, they didn't.

13 This is another volunteer project. This  
14 is a snow mobile group. This gets into where we  
15 have tried hard as an organization to be a neutral  
16 facilitator.

17 Sometimes the agencies have to take a  
18 hard stand and make some hard decisions that are  
19 not popular with the public. We try to be a  
20 neutral organization that sits down on the same  
21 side of the table with the agency and helps them

22 work through some of these conflicts.

23 I think it's important to know we were  
24 created by the agencies. We are not a nonprofit  
25 that grew up as a grass roots organization to try

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1 and enforce the agencies to do what we think their  
2 job is. That's not what we're about.

3 We are trying to sit down on the same  
4 side of the table and work with them, help them  
5 through some of these issues and be a tool in  
6 their tool box.

7 This is a parking lot that was built all  
8 by volunteers for a trail head. It's a multiuse  
9 trail head that includes snow mobiles and mountain  
10 biking and hiking. The snow mobilers built it in  
11 one week. One hundred fifty dump truck loads of  
12 material went in there.

13 We as an organization did two years worth  
14 of the work working with the neighborhood and the  
15 agencies to get this in place. Let me just spend  
16 a minute on that.

17 There was a new subdivision that went  
18 into that area about 15 years prior to that  
19 parking lot. The uppermost street was not sold or  
20 built out. So the street was there. So the snow  
21 mobilers were using that as a parking lot to

22 access a trail.

23           A few years back they auctioned off one  
24 of those lots, houses started to be built, and  
25 there was an instant conflict between the

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1 homeowners and the snow mobile users.

2           So we went in. And this was a very  
3 well-to-do -- one of the most well-to-do  
4 neighborhoods in our community. They had a lot of  
5 political clout, and they were working hard to  
6 close it as a trail head.

7           What they ran into was the fact that off  
8 the end of the street, there were three public  
9 agencies that owned land. One was the city, one  
10 was the state, and one was the Forest Service --  
11 the National Forest.

12           The state had never closed any public  
13 lands to motorized use anywhere. So they were  
14 stuck with this access. They couldn't get rid of  
15 it.

16           What we did is go in through an endless  
17 amount of meetings with the neighborhood, with the  
18 snow mobilers, with them together in the same  
19 meeting. We talked through it. We tried to act  
20 as the neutral facilitator.

21           What came out of it was that parking lot

22 that was shown. The idea was to move it as far  
23 from the end of the street and the neighborhood as  
24 we could get it, but yet close enough that it  
25 didn't attract undesirable parking and partying.

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1 Through a two-year process we were able  
2 to get that in place. We have now have a  
3 wonderful trail head for all trail users. And it  
4 was one of those places, again, that kind of fell  
5 through the cracks.

6 None of the three agencies really wanted  
7 to deal with it. This was a section in Juneau  
8 where a lot of people recreate, and it crosses  
9 three agencies -- four agencies' property lines.  
10 There's public property. All of the agencies were  
11 moving forward with plans on their land or the  
12 land they managed without talking to each other.

13 So we were getting overnight camping  
14 facilities that were right next to each other. It  
15 didn't make sense. There wasn't enough for two.

16 We went through and had some meetings  
17 with all of the agency folks, all of the private  
18 owners and other agencies like Fish & Wildlife  
19 that might be interested in the land, and we  
20 talked through a process of coming up with a  
21 master plan that made more sense -- again, looking

22 at it as a system instead of individual  
23 properties.

24 Did you have a question?

25 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Please identify

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1 yourself.

2 MR. ALENCIO: Okay. Michael Alencio with  
3 the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Which  
4 three agencies are you talking about?

5 MR. KING: The Forest Service is our  
6 largest land owner. Then we have the State of  
7 Alaska. And they have various different  
8 designations of lands, some of it being park, some  
9 of it being state general land. And we have the  
10 city general lands and the city park lands.

11 We also have a native corporation there  
12 that owns a lot of land. And there are some other  
13 private entities. But those are the biggest.

14 So through this process we came out  
15 with -- again, we're nonprofit. We have  
16 absolutely no authority over anything, but we have  
17 the ability to work with the public and come up  
18 with recommendations that can be used by the  
19 agencies to go through their formal planning  
20 processes. It's a place for them to start.

21 And in most of our efforts, we've always

22 included them at the table. So they can sit there  
23 and say, "Wait a minute. You're talking about  
24 something that does not fit within our management  
25 plan."

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1           We say, "Okay. How do we take these  
2 public comments and the desire of the public and  
3 fit it within your management plan?"

4           We have done quite a lot of them. This  
5 is an example, the Rain Forest Trail. This is  
6 kind of what it looked like before we started  
7 building trails. But this trail is an interesting  
8 one in that in our community, we had something  
9 highly controversial. That was the commercial use  
10 of the trails, guided hikes off of cruise ships.

11           What was happening is these large groups  
12 would be walking down the trail, and anybody else  
13 would be chased off the trail and left standing in  
14 the brush for minutes at a time as these large  
15 groups would go by.

16           They were having a significant impact  
17 both socially and on the physical trail itself and  
18 the environment.

19           What we did was put together what we  
20 called the Trails Working Group. And the Trails  
21 Working Group was made up of members of our

22 assembly which is equivalent to your City  
23 Council. We also had two members of each of the  
24 three agencies that I mentioned before, members of  
25 the industry, and members of the public.

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1           We went through a two-year process where  
2 we systematically evaluated all of the trails,  
3 which we have about 110 trails in Juneau. We  
4 looked at them somewhat scientifically, but mostly  
5 at a social capacity. We wanted to know what the  
6 community would put up with.

7           We did surveys. We had public meetings.  
8 We went through this process. At the end of it,  
9 we came up with recommendations that all three  
10 agencies accepted and the public accepted.

11           We've heard very little outcry since  
12 then. One of the things we did was we essentially  
13 capped commercial use of trails where they were at  
14 at that point in time, and any expansion of  
15 commercial use of trails should happen on new  
16 trails that were constructed for that purpose.

17           This trail that I've been showing  
18 pictures of was the end product of that. I just  
19 showed these pictures to show the amount of  
20 physical labor that goes on in building these.  
21 That stump was pulled by hand.

22           This is the trail that was completed. It  
23 has really solved a problem. We closed a trail  
24 that was nearby, and we put it all on this new  
25 trail that was built in an area where there wasn't

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1 existing recreational use or a lot of it.

2           There weren't serious environmental  
3 concerns where other areas did have. It's been a  
4 very successful process. The agencies have been  
5 very happy with that product, and we've received a  
6 lot of praise and a lot of respect through the  
7 community for that.

8           MS. WATLING: Did you charge the  
9 commercial users for the cost of the trail?

10           MR. KING: Yes. They do get charged.  
11 That particular trail was built on city land, and  
12 they charge them almost \$2 a person to take  
13 commercial use on there.

14           We don't directly. Again, we don't have  
15 any authority. We don't directly do that, but the  
16 city has set it up so that all of the money that  
17 they collect comes back into our organization to  
18 maintain.

19           But we do have another thing that's kind  
20 of interesting. We created -- our community voted  
21 on and created a head tax for the passengers off

22 the cruise ships, \$5 apiece. The initial seed  
23 money for building that trail came from that.

24 One of the things that we as a nonprofit  
25 can do, is we work very hard going to the

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1 assembly -- again, the equivalent of your City  
2 Council -- and telling them about the problems  
3 that were happening.

4 We have this plan, this recommendation,  
5 that we have gone through for two years to say  
6 here is what the public is saying, here's the  
7 solution. Build a new trail.

8 They give us funding from this head tax  
9 to do that. In the last four years, we've gotten  
10 almost a half million dollars out of that  
11 particular pot of money to do trails like that.

12 Again, this is another one. The native  
13 corporation in Juneau owns the tram. We have an  
14 agreement with them directly to provide funding  
15 for work up there in the environment. This is one  
16 of the Kodak moment spots that we created up  
17 there.

18 This again is just another volunteer  
19 day. Probably a quarter of the those folks in  
20 that picture are paid crew members of Trail Mix,

21 and the rest are public.

22           There's an eagle scout in there that was  
23 working on the project. The others are just  
24 members of the public that came to help on that  
25 particular project. And this was the result of

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1 it. And of course, my lovely family.

2           We've done just a lot of different scales  
3 of things. Let me talk a little bit more about  
4 planning as I go through these. This particular  
5 picture, the bridge was falling apart, and we went  
6 in and fixed it.

7           One of the neat advantages of our  
8 organization is we can take the ups and downs of  
9 agency funding and spread it across the trails  
10 system. This doesn't always work perfectly.

11           But in this particular example, the  
12 bridge was failing. It was a safety concern. The  
13 agency itself did not have enough funding to take  
14 care of that. We got some donations and went in  
15 and fixed it so that it wasn't an immediate safety  
16 concern.

17           But it allows us in a year when an agency  
18 doesn't have funding or has little funding to go  
19 out and fix a bridge before it washes out or brush  
20 a trail or cut the windfall off of it or that sort

21 of thing.

22 I want to talk a little bit more about  
23 planning. We have gone through similar processes  
24 as I shared with you about commercial use of  
25 trails with ORV groups -- motorized users versus

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1 non-motorized users in reaching a consensus as to  
2 what both can accept and making those  
3 recommendations, having the agency as part of that  
4 process so that they can guide us.

5 We've done it in areas where there was a  
6 lot of mountain biking and hiking mixed and some  
7 environmental concerns with dogs affecting  
8 wildlife and that sort of thing.

9 We went into a whole area and again  
10 ignored property lines and looked at how do we  
11 develop this as a system. How do we spread trail  
12 heads out through agency jurisdictions. How do we  
13 make it work so that the public is happy, and yet  
14 it doesn't create some of these funny situations  
15 that happen when agencies aren't working together  
16 very closely.

17 As you can see we have a lot of muddy  
18 trails. Let me talk as I flip through these next  
19 few pictures about some of the funding strategies  
20 that we use.

21           Currently we run about \$400,000 a year  
22 through our books. It's pretty easy to say that  
23 the value of that on the groundwork and the  
24 planning that is done is easily twice that because  
25 of the use of volunteers and donations and that

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1 sort of thing.

2           So over the past six years, we're getting  
3 close to \$2 million worth of cash that's gone to  
4 trails and \$4 million worth of work that's been  
5 done. So it's a significant piece of work that's  
6 come out of the organization.

7           About half of our funding comes from the  
8 agencies through cost-share agreements with the  
9 Forest Service.

10           With the state we actually have a  
11 contract with them which allows them to funnel  
12 money into the organization.

13           With the city we have an agreement. They  
14 actually set up -- the assembly created or has had  
15 an ordinance where they allowed the city to work  
16 directly with nonprofits so they didn't have to go  
17 out and bid for everything over \$2,000.

18           There's some stipulations on that, but it  
19 allows them to funnel money into us where we're  
20 taking that money and stretching it a little

21 farther.

22           That was a picture of a fund-raiser. We  
23 do a lot of fund-raisers to earn money. We're a  
24 membership organization. We get a lot of funding  
25 that way, and a lot of donations from private

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1 companies and that sort of thing. We write a lot  
2 of grants. We have a lot of different funding  
3 sources, and we bring things together.

4           We work on everything from back-country  
5 trails to front-country paved bike paths. This is  
6 a place where the roots of the trees were going  
7 under the pavement. As they expanded, they  
8 cracked the pavement and made it so you couldn't  
9 bike there. The agency didn't have funding to do  
10 anything about this.

11           So we came along and got a local utility  
12 company to come along with a Ditch Witch and cut  
13 the roots off. We went back through and put a  
14 root barrier there to preserve that paved service  
15 so it would last longer.

16           This is our community. This is downtown  
17 Juneau. This is our board of directors on an  
18 annual retreat. They spend a lot of time  
19 strategize and think about what the priorities  
20 are. We have since come through an update of the

21 Trails Plan for the community.

22           Let me give you a little history of our  
23 community. It's 30,000 people. There are no  
24 roads in and out. You have to come by ferry or by  
25 airplane.

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1           On that 36 miles of road from one end of  
2 town to the other, there's about 250 miles of  
3 trails that lead off of that road system.

4           A lot of them are old mining roads or  
5 trails that we're continually updating and  
6 maintaining. We do stuff with small equipment and  
7 with hand crews. This is a basic path that we put  
8 together.

9           I'm going to flick through some of the  
10 rest of these. I'll open it up for questions.

11           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Anyone have any  
12 questions? Yes.

13           MS. HENDERSON: Terry Henderson, La  
14 Quinta. Did you have any dog issues, and how did  
15 you solve those?

16           MR. KING: Yes. When I get back we'll  
17 start a committee. We've been talking about it.  
18 Last year we had to close a trail to dogs because  
19 no one saw any adverse impacts. It was to the  
20 wildlife. It was to the kids. It was to people

21 getting jumped up on.

22           There are dog lovers, and they don't mind  
23 being jumped up on and licked on and sniffed by  
24 dogs. And there are those who are terrified of  
25 dogs, and they can't stand it.

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1           So we felt it was important to try and  
2 create some areas both for the wildlife and for  
3 the other users where there wasn't dogs and dog  
4 droppings and those sort of things.

5           Our first attempt there was very loud  
6 objection to closing the thing to dog use. What  
7 we agreed to do with the dog user group was to  
8 create a committee and work on it representing  
9 both sides, trying to find the problem and go  
10 through a public process and come up with  
11 recommendations on how to better educate dog users  
12 so they are less offensive and some possible trail  
13 closures.

14           MS. HENDERSON: Do you have or do you  
15 know if you have jurisdictions that one allows  
16 dogs and one doesn't allow dogs and one does, so  
17 you have a dog take a part of a walk and not walk  
18 and pick up on the other side?

19           MR. KING: That's been talked about.  
20 Some agencies have said, "We're not going to close

21 a particular trail to dogs."

22           Some have said, "Well, we're going to  
23 close the trail head to dogs because the first  
24 600 feet is on our land."

25           That's the process that all the agencies

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1 and the public have agreed to come together on and  
2 say, "Okay. Let's look at it as a system and  
3 really make some decisions that make sense to the  
4 user, not just by the agency." So it's one of the  
5 things we will work through.

6           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other questions?

7           MR. FREET: Bary Freet. Both questions I  
8 have are related to funding. How are you being  
9 allowed to use federal funds on non-federal  
10 property and state funds on federal property?  
11 That's the first question.

12           The second question is through your  
13 nonprofit, are you now eligible for grants that  
14 you would not have been -- that the separate  
15 agencies would not have been eligible for?

16           MR. KING: Your second question with  
17 grants, yes. The nice thing about a nonprofit is  
18 we are eligible for some grants that agencies  
19 themselves aren't eligible for, or that agencies  
20 as they apply for have different -- they're

21 evaluated differently. It's easier for the  
22 nonprofit to get it than the agency.

23           So we work very closely with agencies.  
24 Every year we sit down and we go through the next  
25 year's plan -- what are the priorities for that

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1 agency to work on their land. Where can we help  
2 with grants. How can we do that. What are some  
3 grant ideas that they have.

4           Sometimes they help review grants.  
5 Sometimes they help write them. Again, very much  
6 we're trying to be a tool in their tool box. So  
7 yes is the answer to that question.

8           Your first question, how do you spread  
9 agency funding to other agencies, that's a little  
10 more tricky. Sometimes we've done it. A city is  
11 the easiest entity to do that with. In our  
12 community, they're relatively happy to spend money  
13 on the trails system as a whole.

14           The state is pretty willing to do that as  
15 well, particularly with equipment and sometimes  
16 staff time if it makes sense to the system as a  
17 whole.

18           The National Forest Service is a little  
19 harder, not because they don't want to but because  
20 of their regulations. We've worked closely with

21 them. We've gone clear to the national level.

22           They are working on coming up with new  
23 agreements that allows stuff like that. We have  
24 found some examples in the Midwest where they have  
25 come up with some cross-agency agreements that

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1 allows National Forest employees to work on other  
2 agencies' land. But it's a continual struggle.

3           The cost-share agreement is a pretty  
4 difficult agreement to work through with what  
5 we're trying to accomplish. Often you get the  
6 folks on the ground saying, "Hey. We want to try  
7 to do this." But you get to the agreement folks  
8 and they say, "No."

9           We've gone clear to the Washington, DC  
10 level. They're saying, "Yeah, yeah, yeah. We  
11 want this." Somewhere in the middle the system  
12 breaks down. We're trying to change that. We've  
13 had some real successes and some real headaches,  
14 as you can imagine.

15           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Buford, you've got a  
16 question?

17           MR. CRITES: I'll just make the comment  
18 that I heard the presentation yesterday, and it  
19 was well-received by the folks at the trails  
20 meeting.

21           Somewhere very soon after the Habitat  
22 Conservation Plan is in the approval process,  
23 we're going to have to look for some variation on  
24 this theme because of trails in the National  
25 Monument and trails out in the center of the

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1 valley and Indio Hills and the preserve and trails  
2 that will be over on the Joshua Tree National Park  
3 side and stuff that goes through State Parks land  
4 and so on and so forth.

5           We really don't have a particularly good  
6 mechanism right now to look at a valley-wide  
7 approach to this issue. Probably following  
8 something through the Habitat Conservation Plan is  
9 our most likely comprehensive mechanism.

10           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Any comments or  
11 questions?

12           Thank you.

13           Danella.

14           MR. CRITES: Al.

15           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Go ahead, Danella, and  
16 then we'll get to Al.

17           MS. GEORGE: Danella George, Monument  
18 Manager. I just want to share with you that  
19 yesterday when Jim Foote gave his presentation, he  
20 pulled a National Trails Day in 1995. It was a

21 newspaper article. For Alaska it says here "Trail  
22 Mix, Incorporated will host  
23 its Third Annual National Trails  
24 Day complete with another bear-iffic  
25 event with children. Learn about

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1 trails as they search for stuffed  
2 bears hidden along the path. The  
3 group will host the First Annual  
4 Point Bridget to Point Bishop NTD  
5 Bearathon from May 13 to June 3, the  
6 National Trails Day."

7 I just thought that was interesting. It  
8 shows some history. So I asked Jim if I could  
9 share that with you.

10 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Al.

11 MR. MUTH: Al Muth. With all the  
12 entities involved, how do you handle liability  
13 issues?

14 MR. KING: That's a good question. We  
15 have wrestled through that. We as a nonprofit  
16 organization with employees, of course we have  
17 workmans' comp that we pay. But we have a general  
18 liability policy that we have that covers most of  
19 it.

20 But what we have done is sit down as a

21 board of directors that again has these three  
22 agency folks on it and discussed it.

23           The agencies very much realize they're  
24 the ones that are liable. It doesn't matter how  
25 much insurance the nonprofit gets. If something

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1 happens and somebody is going to sue, they're not  
2 going to go after a piddly little nonprofit.  
3 They're going to go after the agency.

4           So what we have agreed to is yes, we have  
5 the insurance to cover ourselves, but we work very  
6 closely with the agencies. We don't just go out  
7 and do things without their permission.  
8 Everything is with their permission and under  
9 their supervision so that they're comfortable with  
10 our safety training, for example.

11           They're comfortable with the style of  
12 construction, with the structural aspects of the  
13 bridge. Those sorts of things. So that they are  
14 overseeing it, and they're willing to accept that  
15 liability.

16           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Al.

17           MR. MUTH: Just one other. For each of  
18 your projects, do you have to do an EA if they're  
19 big enough? You're working on roads and parking  
20 lots. Does that trigger an EIS? How do you

21 handle all of those sorts of complications?

22 MR. KING: It depends on the agency. At  
23 the city level, they aren't required to do a  
24 stringent Environmental Assessment. At the  
25 federal level, the Forest Service, they are.

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1 That parking lot happened to be on city  
2 land, and they didn't need to go through that  
3 process. And 300 feet away is where the trail  
4 actually entered the National Forest.

5 Where we did improvements, it was  
6 improvement to an existing trail, so we didn't  
7 need to go through that.

8 But a lot of these planning efforts that  
9 we go through and projects that we propose, it's  
10 really a preprocess for what the Forest Service  
11 may have to go through with their legal  
12 requirements to do an EA and that sort of thing.  
13 So their process is longer than some of the state  
14 and the private community facilities.

15 We try very hard to work within the  
16 rules, but yet cut the red tape as much as we  
17 can. And I think we've been very successful in  
18 being able to react in opportunities where it may  
19 take an agency a longer period of time because of  
20 money or resources, whatever, and go through

21 processes in a faster way.

22           It's not that the Forest Service doesn't  
23 want to do things. It's that they don't often  
24 have the funding and the staff to do it. And a  
25 project may take 10, 15, 20 years to go through

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1 all that process.

2           And we're saying, "Hey, wait a minute.  
3 That's generations later." Your average age of  
4 77. "Let us go out there and" -- at least in  
5 Juneau, the Forest Service approach is "Let's get  
6 a lot of money and let's completely rebuild this  
7 trail from one end to the other. It may cost us  
8 \$300,000."

9           We say, "That's great. We understand  
10 that's a 10-year process. We want to go in and  
11 fix the bridge abutment." There were safety  
12 concerns. And so that in 10 years, we can take  
13 our families and our kids out on the trails.

14           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other questions?

15           Jim, thanks a lot.

16           MR. KING: Thank you for having me.

17           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: We appreciate you  
18 coming down.

19           We'll take a 10-minute break. Please  
20 return by quarter of on that clock right there.

21 (Brief recess taken.)

22 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Ladies and gentlemen,  
23 we are back on the record.

24 Danella has an announcement.

25 MS. GEORGE: Danella George, National

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1 Monument Manager. I need to correct the return  
2 date from Jim Kenna. Yesterday he was not in the  
3 office, and John Kalish let me know we have a new  
4 date of --

5 MR. CRITES: January.

6 MS. GEORGE: -- November 11th.

7 MS. HENDERSON: I'm sorry. For what?

8 MS. GEORGE: For Jim Kenna returning. We  
9 have a new date. Scratch what we had on  
10 October 11th. It's now November 11th.

11 Linda Hanson has deemed Elena Misquez,  
12 John Kalish, and I will be rotating acting field  
13 manager.

14 MR. CRITES: So rotate on it.

15 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: That's it. Thank you.  
16 We need to waste a little time until 11:00 so  
17 let's call up Buford Crites, and he's going to  
18 talk about the need for camping within the  
19 National Monument.

20 MR. CRITES: Actually, appropriately for

21 the way we do things in the government, the time  
22 to talk about this has passed. So we can now  
23 discuss it safely.

24 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Oh, good.

25 MR. CRITES: Buford Crites. This was

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1 originally asked to be on there to get our support  
2 for State Parks moving ahead for the project.

3 So the long and short, we don't have very  
4 much if any low elevation camping on this side of  
5 the valley for the National Monument. We won't  
6 have anything aside from probably the Lake  
7 Cahuilla area.

8 State Parks was interested and now has  
9 gone beyond that and has committed to purchasing  
10 more lands out as part of the Joshua Hills  
11 acquisition. I believe they committed about  
12 \$2 million to that process.

13 So we will have the opportunity to have  
14 some significant camping facilities, albeit on the  
15 other side of the valley, but available during the  
16 prime time of the year in which people like to use  
17 the National Monument.

18 So along with expanding the State Parks  
19 system in the center mountains or hills, the Indio  
20 Hills, and some potential new trails that will

21 link up the Indio Hills with the Joshua Tree  
22 National Park, I think we'll be providing some  
23 other experiences for visitors and local residents  
24 that will have some direct benefits to the folks  
25 who want to come see our National Monument. So

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1 they're there already.

2 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Would you like to  
3 expand?

4 MR. WATTS: I'd just like to say in these  
5 tough budget times, it proves that we don't need  
6 to spend a lot of money on these high paid spokes  
7 people when we can volunteers like Buford speak  
8 for us. Thank you.

9 MR. CRITES: Thank you guys a lot.

10 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: All right.

11 MR. CRITES: So we're moving forward on  
12 that. And by the way, camping within the National  
13 Monument will be covered as part of the Habitat  
14 Conservation Plan document that will be out in  
15 about a month. There are also some issues there.

16 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Comments? Questions?

17 MR. FREET: Bary Freet. What type of  
18 camping experience is this new acquisition likely  
19 to have? Motorhomes?

20 MR. WATTS: I hate to feign ignorance on

21 this, but this is not in my area of  
22 responsibility. It's in our Anza Borrego district  
23 office at this point in time.

24 I suspect, having worked with Bill and  
25 Buford in setting up some meetings on this, that

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1 the intent of our department is to provide a high  
2 quality level, high developed type camping  
3 experience within the National Monument.

4 As you know, we provide a primitive  
5 backpacking type experience already. It's been  
6 demonstrated throughout the state that there's a  
7 tremendous lack of adequate camping facilities to  
8 meet the demand, certainly in Southern  
9 California. So this is an attempt to probably try  
10 to broaden that base.

11 MR. FREET: I thought that since Buford  
12 was bringing this up that he was going to dedicate  
13 the Civic Center here for motor home camping.

14 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Sounds positive.  
15 Buford.

16 MR. CRITES: Actually, the new Wal-Mart  
17 parking will be.

18 MR. FREET: Very good.

19 MR. CRITES: Down near the oases in  
20 existing and to-be-acquired State Parks land, the

21 idea is to have a fairly significant "developed"  
22 campground experience where people can bring in  
23 RVs and stuff.

24 I think the biggest issue will be making  
25 sure that we have time limits. Otherwise folks

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1 will come in October and we'll look like one of  
2 the -- is it LTVA -- long-term visitor facilities  
3 out near Blythe.

4 So the idea is to sort of tie into you  
5 can spend a couple of weeks or 10 days down here  
6 and go down to the Salton Sea and spend time. You  
7 can go down to Anza Borrego. So here is this sort  
8 of thread of desert camping experiences.

9 And then up at the very upper elevation  
10 of the Joshua Hills acquisition near the National  
11 Park boundary, there are some places there for  
12 primitive campground experiences.

13 Because of the topography you literally  
14 wouldn't have a clue whether you were in this  
15 valley or one of the other desert valleys  
16 100 miles from here. There's no real view of the  
17 developed valley floor. The views are up into the  
18 National Park. So I think within the State Parks'  
19 mission, we can help to do a variety of different  
20 kinds of things for different kinds of needs.

21 MR. WATTS: Gary Watts. Buford, we  
22 currently have within our regulations time limits,  
23 so you needn't worry too much about that.

24 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Comments? Questions?  
25 Danella.

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1 MS. GEORGE: Danella George. I think  
2 that that offers an opportunity to connect Morongo  
3 Preserve and Dos Palmas, the areas of critical  
4 environmental concern, at least these string of  
5 pearls for opportunities of a visitor center. How  
6 we can do that with what we talked about with that  
7 thread with Anza Borrego, Dos Palmas and Big  
8 Morongo. That's exciting.

9 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other comments?  
10 Questions?

11 MR. CRITES: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: We still have a little  
13 extra time. I think probably the election of a  
14 new Chair and Vice Chair could use up some of  
15 that.

16 So the chair then will -- go ahead.

17 MS. GEORGE: Danella George. Would this  
18 be a good opportunity, Mr. Chair, to have Dr. Lamb  
19 from USGS talk about his visit here and services  
20 USGS can offer in research to the Monument?

21           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: I didn't want to limit  
22 the good doctor.

23           Can you do it in six minutes?

24           MR. LAMB: Six and a half.

25           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: No. Six is it.

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1 Please.

2           MR. LAMB: Thank you to the Chair, Vice  
3 Chair, and the manager and members. My name is  
4 Lee Lamb. I work for the US Geological Survey at  
5 the Ft. Collins Science Center in Ft. Collins,  
6 Colorado.

7           We have at our research center the  
8 largest single collection of research social  
9 scientists in the US Geological Survey. You can  
10 imagine that in the US Geological Survey it being  
11 a geological survey, there aren't very many social  
12 scientists. But there are indeed some, and we are  
13 in Ft. Collins.

14           We have as our mission to provide  
15 research services to the land and water management  
16 agencies of the US Department of Interior.

17           Providing research services for us means  
18 providing information based on research with  
19 regard to the human dimensions of natural resource  
20 management.

21                   That's what we do. I wanted to just  
22 share with you four types of things that we do.  
23 The first of those is what we call fire social  
24 science.

25                   We talk to people who are living in the

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1 urban wildland, interface about the things that  
2 effect their fire experience -- their willingness  
3 and ability to prepare for fire. Where they learn  
4 their information about fire. The kind of  
5 activities that they intend to undertake to  
6 protect their homes and properties from fire.  
7 That sort of thing.

8                   Most recently we've been assigned to work  
9 around the Arrowhead and Big Bear area. So we're  
10 doing work there on fire social science.

11                   We do work on economics. In economics we  
12 look at the economic value of natural amenities.  
13 What are people willing to pay for the  
14 preservation of natural amenities. What is the  
15 cost benefit of the different management practices  
16 for parks and refuges and monuments and that sort  
17 of thing.

18                   We do a series of visitor studies. We  
19 talk to people about their experiences with trails  
20 and with camping and with all sorts of visitor

21 amenities. That sort of thing.

22           In that context we do two kinds of  
23 things. We do intercept surveys where we talk to  
24 people as they're using the natural resources. We  
25 also do a series of surveys on the general

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1 public.

2           So in the fourth area we work on  
3 surveying the general public. We talk to them  
4 about what do they know about natural amenities.  
5 Where do they learn these things. What are their  
6 trusted sources of information. Who would they  
7 like to work with. How would they like to get  
8 involved. A whole range of questions that we do  
9 for the general public. We do those on a regional  
10 or local or national scale.

11           So the information is to be provided to  
12 natural resource managers who work for the  
13 Department of Interior. That would include the  
14 Bureau of Land Management. The Bureau of Land  
15 Management is one of our most underserved  
16 agencies. Therefore we're required to pay  
17 attention to them nowadays.

18           I happened to run across Ms. George on  
19 the Web site. No picture, though. But it was  
20 okay. So I'm here today. And that's the sort of

21 stuff we do.

22 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Questions? Comments?

23 Buford.

24 MR. CRITES: Buford Crites. A question.

25 Have you had a chance to look at some of the

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1 planning efforts and proposed efforts in the  
2 National Monument? And does that begin to give  
3 you some thoughts or focus on ideas that you would  
4 have for participating in the National Monument?

5 MR. LAMB: The answer to that is yes. I  
6 have lots of thoughts about this sort of thing.  
7 Actually, they range quite widely.

8 As I talked about them with Ms. George, I  
9 learned that probably some of my ideas are pretty  
10 well half-baked and not worth doing.

11 But besides that, one of the things that  
12 came up after the trails meeting was -- and I'll  
13 just share this with you. It's of great interest  
14 to us. That is the use by under-represented  
15 minorities of our national parks and monuments and  
16 refuges and so on.

17 Why is it that under-represented  
18 minorities don't show up as visitors to these  
19 areas. What is it that they would like to  
20 experience when they get there. How do you reach

21 them in terms of explaining what's going on in  
22 these natural areas.

23           Now, those are three questions that we're  
24 really desperately interested in working on. It  
25 isn't just an interest in working with Latino

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1 populations, although that's a growing interest.  
2 But Asian populations, and African American  
3 populations and others.

4           These are very important segments of our  
5 society. From some earlier research done by the  
6 Forest Service, we know that these groups of  
7 people use the natural resources very  
8 differently. They perceive them and use them very  
9 differently than anglo populations.

10           So how do we communicate with them about  
11 this, and what do they expect, and how do we teach  
12 them about these things.

13           Then we're also interested in the sort of  
14 urban wildland interface. How do we talk to and  
15 teach people about natural things when all they  
16 see in their daily lives are unnatural things. So  
17 we're interested in that.

18           So those kinds of things. We're also  
19 interested in the really mundane things. How much  
20 crowding on trails can people stand. How many

21 dogs can they stand to see in a day. How much  
22 horse poop can they put up with on a trail. We've  
23 done all these kinds of research.

24           Currently we're working on people's  
25 perceptions of wolves in the Grand Teton area.

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1 You may not know this, but there are now 600 and  
2 some odd wolves in the Grand Teton area. Wolves  
3 have been delisted.

4           If you think that the Peninsula Bighorn  
5 Sheep are a problem, you should try having an  
6 endangered species that will actually eat you.  
7 And apparently they will.

8           So we're looking at some research saying  
9 for one thing, what do people think about wolves.  
10 Another thing is who do they blame. So questions  
11 like that.

12           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: We'll just interrupt  
13 you for a moment. It's 11:00. It's the required  
14 time for the request for anyone who wishes to  
15 provide public comment.

16           Is there anyone who wishes to provide  
17 public comment? Seeing none, we'll continue. To  
18 help out our record, the spelling of your name,  
19 please.

20           MR. LAMB: L-a-m-b, Lamb.

21 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Thank you.

22 Yes.

23 MS. WATLING: Ruth Watling. Do you have  
24 a Web site where we can look into your research?

25 MR. LAMB: Yes. Ms. George has that, but

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1 I'll be sure to send it to her so you can have it  
2 by e-mail.

3 MS. WATLING: Great.

4 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other questions?

5 MS. HENDERSON: Excuse me. It may be  
6 inappropriate rather than doing this during a  
7 break, but I don't know if you're leaving.

8 Do you ever have an opportunity to run  
9 into Joe Henderson?

10 MR. LAMB: Joe Henderson is our  
11 administrative officer.

12 MS. HENDERSON: He's my son.

13 MR. LAMB: You're kidding. Yes. I have  
14 run into him both figuratively and literally.

15 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: So any questions from  
16 Terry is a conflict of interest.

17 MR. LAMB: I'll be very careful of what I  
18 say.

19 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Any comments?

20 Questions?

21 Yes, sir, Buford.

22 MR. CRITES: How does the process of  
23 contracting with your organization work?

24 MR. LAMB: We're all in the Department of  
25 Interior. So we do it by interagency agreement.

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1 It's pretty straightforward. Essentially,  
2 Ms. George sends us a number and we send her a  
3 bill.

4 MR. CRITES: Okay.

5 MR. LAMB: It's pretty simply. That's  
6 too flippant. There's a Statement of Work. We're  
7 required to follow it. It's like a contract. If  
8 we say we're going to do it, we have to do it.

9 MR. CRITES: Okay.

10 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: But there is a cost?

11 MR. LAMB: There is a cost.

12 MS. ROCHE: Terry, you two should go  
13 outside.

14 MS. HENDERSON: I'll tell him to go along  
15 with it.

16 MR. LAMB: It's a negotiated cost. We  
17 negotiate with the agencies to do this.

18 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: And the Monument would  
19 be a proper recipient of your services?

20 MR. LAMB: Oh, yes.

21           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Thank you.  
22           Yes, Bary.  
23           MR. FREET: Bary Freet. I assume that on  
24 the urban wildland interfaces that you work with  
25 NIFC quite a bit?

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1           MR. LAMB: Actually, no. In fact, I'm  
2 not even sure what that means.  
3           MR. FREET: National Interagency Fire  
4 Center.  
5           MR. LAMB: Oh. I don't spell it out.  
6 But yes, we are.  
7           MR. FREET: I would assume, then, that  
8 you have interagency agreements with them that  
9 Ms. George could tap into?  
10          MR. LAMB: Yes, we do. The fellow in our  
11 shop who works with them is the chair of the fire  
12 social science subcommittee.  
13          MR. FREET: Okay.  
14          CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other questions?  
15 Comments?  
16          Danella.  
17          MS. GEORGE: Just two things. The first  
18 one is Dr. Lamb yesterday shared how -- and this  
19 is what we really need to do with the Monument.  
20 We could use the visitor center and the Tram and

21 different places. They just hand visitors a  
22 disposable camera. They say -- you tell them what  
23 you guys do with that. I thought that was pretty  
24 interesting.

25 MR. LAMB: We've developed this technique

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1 and used it around the west where we hand people  
2 these disposable cameras.

3 We, of course, have a study design. So  
4 you don't just give any person a camera. Usually  
5 there's a random sampling technique.

6 So we give them a camera and we give them  
7 a photo log. We ask them to take pictures of  
8 things that are important for their experience.

9 We generally don't tell them that we want  
10 pictures about a certain subject. We wait for the  
11 important things to emerge from the things that  
12 they have taken the pictures of.

13 This is an opportunity or an idea to have  
14 a pretty unobtrusive kind of measure so we're not  
15 intervening. Every time you ask people questions,  
16 you are intervening in their experience.

17 But we want to intervene in their  
18 experience the least possible. So we give them a  
19 camera, something they would normally do on their  
20 trip, and we ask them to take pictures of the

21 things that are important to their experience.

22           We have these cameras made up for us. So  
23 there's six, eight, sometimes ten photos in each  
24 one. We get the photo log. We interpret it. We  
25 are able to then take those pictures and connect

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1 them to a GIS.

2           So we can then say -- for the Monument,  
3 for example -- not only every time they come to a  
4 palm oasis, that's really important. Or the  
5 visitor center is really important. Or the access  
6 roads are really important. Whatever emerges.

7           But we can also hook it up to a GIS. So  
8 if there are landscape photos or viewpoints that  
9 people are taking views over the valley or that  
10 sort of thing, we can then pinpoint that with a  
11 GIS. We can then say "This point was really  
12 important to 50 percent of the visitors" or  
13 whatever. So we do that.

14           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: You said you had two  
15 parts?

16           MS. GEORGE: The second one is last week  
17 I just read an article about wolves up there in  
18 Yellowstone and the Yellowstone fires, the timing  
19 of that and the wolf predation on the ungulates.

20           They think that now that's increasing the

21 aspen growth because the ungulates fed off those  
22 aspen. They'd go around and eat the cambium,  
23 killing off the aspen. That's a fascinating story  
24 I just read. So the wolves are doing something  
25 good up there.

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1 MR. LAMB: The wolves are doing a number  
2 of things that are good. One of them is that  
3 they're driving down the coyote population. They  
4 will cross ground very rapidly to attack and kill  
5 coyotes. Same thing for dogs. So people aren't  
6 just walking their dogs out in the National Forest  
7 like they used to.

8 MS. HENDERSON: So we need some wolves.

9 MR. LAMB: So what you need is some  
10 wolves. Unfortunately, they also attack little  
11 children and other things.

12 But that's a very complicated place.  
13 It's like here. The state and federal government  
14 spending money now and have for 100 years to feed  
15 elk in the Teton area. The National Elk Refuge,  
16 feeding elk every winter. Feeding 8,000 to 12,000  
17 elk.

18 Their feeding 8,000 to 12,000 elk,  
19 that's attracted the bison. The bison then feed

20 along behind the elk. The elk, when they drop  
21 their calves, the afterbirth and so on contains  
22 brucellosis. They take that up into their feed.

23           So they're spreading brucellosis, which  
24 came to the area from cows. But now it's getting  
25 back to the cows through the wildlife which are

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1 fed because they're concentrated at these feeding  
2 zones.

3           But they're at the feeding zones in order  
4 to have hunting opportunities later. It just goes  
5 on and on. That's why we say, Mr. Chairman,  
6 that's it the human dimensions of natural  
7 resources that are doing it.

8           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: You don't fool with  
9 mother nature; right?

10           MR. LAMB: Yeah. Well, we done fooled  
11 with mother nature about 100 years ago, and we're  
12 still paying the price.

13           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Still paying the price  
14 for sure. Other comments or questions? Thank you  
15 very much, sir. Appreciate it.

16           MR. LAMB: Thank you.

17           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: I've been assured that  
18 the update of the National Monument will take  
19 about 25 minutes. So Melissa. You can take

20 longer if you want.

21 MS. BRISTOW: I'm Melissa Bristow. I'm  
22 the community planner for the National Monument.  
23 Before I get to the National Monument update, I  
24 wanted to point out -- I think everybody got this  
25 flyer.

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1 Tracy Liegler, our interpretive  
2 specialist, has been working real hard to put  
3 these out. She's taking every month of the year  
4 and designating a theme.

5 October is Creepy Crawler Month. And  
6 she's coming up with programs to go along with  
7 it. I don't know if everyone gets these flyers.  
8 All of the programs are real interesting. They  
9 only take a half an hour or an hour. So if you  
10 have some free time, I invite you to stop by.

11 We're looking at doing a Native Plants  
12 Month in November and Bighorn Sheep Month in  
13 December. So we're looking at programs to  
14 coincide with those.

15 Now, if I can ever get this computer to  
16 work again. I'm going to give you really briefly  
17 the Power Point presentation we gave to the  
18 regional forester for the state director, BLM.  
19 The briefing we gave them on the National Monument

20 Plan. We had a real nice briefing. We had the  
21 briefing in Valejo at the Forest Service office.

22 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Again, perhaps you'd  
23 remain seated so everybody over here can see.  
24 Okay. Thank you.

25 MS. BRISTOW: Okay. Laurie and Denalla

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1 were both able to go with us, and Connell was able  
2 to go to the briefing with us, since Connell was  
3 in charge of getting the whole plan done, and I  
4 just came at the end of it.

5 We kind of decided we needed to show this  
6 map to tell the Forest Service and the BLM about  
7 the complex land ownership we have in the Monument  
8 with all the different entities owning land and  
9 how it's broken up.

10 Of course, why we did it was "The Bureau  
11 of Land Management and the Forest Service should  
12 work cooperatively in the management of the  
13 National Monument."

14 A lot of this is going to be stuff you  
15 already know. So I'm going to go through it real  
16 briefly.

17 Another reason why, we pulled it straight  
18 out of the legislation, is "No later than

19 three years after the date of the

20 enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
21 of Interior and the Secretary  
22 of Agriculture shall complete a  
23 management plan for the conservation  
24 and protection of the National  
25 Monument."

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1 Our deadline, we're hoping that the plan  
2 will be out October 24th. What the plan is and  
3 what it is not is it serves as an operational  
4 guide.

5 It identifies activity level plan needs.  
6 It develops a road map for joint work with all the  
7 partners as well as the feds. It has become an  
8 opportunity to enhance tribal relations. And it  
9 describes opportunities and tools for land  
10 acquisitions.

11 The key resource values in our plan and  
12 our National Monument are: Biological, cultural,  
13 recreational, geological, educational, scientific,  
14 and scenic.

15 And this is another issue of our complex  
16 land ownership. Breaking down the acreage between  
17 the Forest Service and BLM, Agua Caliente and  
18 other state agencies. I've justify been informed  
19 our acreage has changed. So this will be updated

20 in the near future.

21           And then the goal of our plan is how can  
22 we balance the protection and preservation of  
23 biological, cultural, recreational, geological,  
24 educational, and scientific values while providing  
25 multiple use and enjoyment of the Monument.

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1           We also wanted to kind of talk about the  
2 importance of working with the tribes. So we  
3 pulled a quote from one of our public meetings  
4 from Barbara Gonzales-Lyons.

5           She basically said, "I want to  
6 commend the staff -- Connell,  
7 Danella, Jim, and everybody --  
8 on working with the tribes. This  
9 has been the first for BLM and  
10 the Forest Service of including  
11 the tribes in the process. I want  
12 to say keep it up, and thank you  
13 very much for doing it and setting  
14 standards for working with tribes.  
15 I know the other tribes also thank  
16 you for working very hard in making  
17 them part of the process. Thank you."

18           We also kind of wanted to go over who  
19 we're coordinating with to get this plan done. We

20 had partner agency meetings. We've had an  
21 informal consultation with the US Fish & Wildlife  
22 Service.

23           With had consultation with the tribes.  
24 We had committee meetings with the Monument  
25 Advisory Committee. We had our Monument working

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1 groups and interagency working groups. We had  
2 public workshops that went along with the Draft  
3 Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

4           And then issues in the Monument, each  
5 have strategies and alternatives. The same seven  
6 issues we've been going over -- biological,  
7 cultural, recreational, geological, educational,  
8 scientific, scenic.

9           And then a little bit to deal with the  
10 comment process because the regional forester and  
11 the state director didn't know all of this. But  
12 we have a 90-day comment period for the draft plan  
13 that ended March 21st, 2003.

14           We had three public meetings. One in  
15 Idyllwild. One in Mountain Center/Pinyon. One in  
16 Palm Desert.

17           As a result of the Draft Plan, we've  
18 received 30 public letters with over 240  
19 comments. We responded to each comment. When you

20 get the final plan, each comment will be in there  
21 with the response in Appendix "L".

22           Then we had the meeting with the Monument  
23 Advisory Committee. The comments and  
24 recommendations that you guys provided will be in  
25 there in Appendix "B".

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1           Most of the issues and comments from  
2 these letters were about providing adequate  
3 information to the public, increasing visitor use,  
4 Highway 74, private property concerns, recreation,  
5 maintenance of structures and motorized and  
6 nonmotorized trails, management of animal and  
7 plant pests, coordinated fire management/public  
8 safety, acquisition strategy, wilderness  
9 management.

10           Basically these are the proposed Monument  
11 plan actions. Biological, we are going to have an  
12 invasive plant strategy and monitoring.

13           Cultural, there will be collection of  
14 traditional materials, and museum collection and  
15 curation policy.

16           Recreational, to initiate strategic  
17 recreational plan, prohibit recreation target  
18 shooting and paintball, limit hang gliding. And  
19 we're not going to require the Forest Service

20 Adventure Pass on lands within the National  
21 Monument.

22 Geological, inventories, soil survey,  
23 monitoring, and limit collection of tufa.

24 Educational will provide public  
25 information, interpretation, and outreach, and a

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1 sign strategy.

2 Scientific, we are going to promote  
3 research, protect scientific resources.

4 Trail use, of course, we're going to  
5 defer all trail issues to our multi-jurisdictional  
6 Trails Plan when it comes out.

7 Dogs. To avoid conflicts with bighorn  
8 sheep, dogs will be restricted to designated areas  
9 identified in the Trails Plan and are required to  
10 be on a leash.

11 Feral and uncontrolled animals, we're  
12 going to coordinate with Riverside County and  
13 local law enforcement.

14 Access. To ensure access to private  
15 property owners, we are going to acquire key sites  
16 for public access.

17 Private property, we need outreach,  
18 collaboration, and stewardship.

19 Facilities, we're going to build an

20 architecture theme so each building looks similar,  
21 to develop a needs assessment, provide for health  
22 and safety, meet Monument goals.

23 Highway 74, we're going to develop a  
24 Memorandum Of Understanding with Caltrans, a  
25 corridor management plan, and interpretive

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1 opportunities.

2 The proposed Monument Plan actions are  
3 acquisitions - criteria is based on significance,  
4 development threats, opportunity, funding. We'll  
5 continue coordination with partners.

6 Visitor Use, we'll monitor uses and  
7 number of visitors.

8 Fire Management/Public Safety, we'll  
9 develop a fire management plan and coordinate with  
10 local law enforcement and CDF.

11 Water Resources will be complete  
12 assessments of water sources, wildlife waters,  
13 watersheds, etc.

14 Wilderness Management will be management  
15 will follow Wilderness Act and related laws,  
16 policy and guidance. Additional assessments of  
17 roadless areas will be conducted in the Forest  
18 Plan.

19                   Then this kind of just goes over the BLM  
20 plan amendment. And then the Forest plan  
21 revision, which they're expecting their draft to  
22 come out this fall.

23                   This is our planning checkpoints. We  
24 just found out there's a typo, but we're issuing a  
25 Record of Decision on January 31, 2004, not 2003.

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1 If all goes well, the plan will be released on  
2 October 24th.

3                   For Protests and Appeals, the decisions  
4 in the Monument Plan affecting the National Forest  
5 lands may not be protested or appealed. The  
6 protest period for BLM begins after the Notice of  
7 Availability is published, after October 24th.

8                   Decisions which may be protested to the  
9 director will be limits on hang gliding,  
10 restricting recreational shooting and paintball,  
11 restricting pets. All other decisions in the plan  
12 may be appealed through IBLA after the Record of  
13 Decision is issued on January 31st, 2004.

14                   MR. WATTS: Melissa?

15                   MS. BRISTOW: Yeah.

16                   MR. WATTS: What's "IBLA"?

17                   MS. BRISTOW: I always say "IBLA." I  
18 don't know what it stands for.

19 MS. GEORGE: That's okay. Interior Board  
20 of Land Appeals. It's at like an administrative  
21 judge.

22 MR. WATTS: Okay. And how do you get to  
23 the point where just those three topics are  
24 protestable to the director as opposed to others?

25 MS. BRISTOW: Actually, the topics -- I

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1 kind of came into this late. They were decided by  
2 the BLM state planning office.

3 MS. GEORGE: Because they're changes to  
4 an existing policy.

5 MR. WATTS: Thank you.

6 MS. GEORGE: Or lack of policy.

7 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Al Muth.

8 MR. MUTH: Why is it that the forest  
9 lands decisions can't be appealed, but the BLM can  
10 be appeal?

11 MS. BRISTOW: Do you know that, Laurie?  
12 It's a different process.

13 MR. HAVERT: Well, is there a separate  
14 provision somewhere else in here that relates to  
15 the Forest Service and the Department of Ag.  
16 procedures? Since this is the Department of  
17 Interior if they have a different set of --

18 MS. ROSENTHAL: I think there was just  
19 nothing in there that, again, was going to be a  
20 change of policy was the big thing.

21 MS. BRISTOW: We can find out about that  
22 and get back to you. Greg Hill, who was going to  
23 do the presentation with me, is not here today  
24 because he was out of town all week. He's the one  
25 who has been dealing with the protest and

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1 appeals. I haven't dealt much with it. I think  
2 he can give you a better explanation of that.

3 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Danella.

4 MS. GEORGE: Danella George. If there  
5 was something down the road that was protestable,  
6 it was decided it would be handled by BLM. We'd  
7 be the leading federal agency.

8 What this is, again, we went back to that  
9 one slide earlier on. This is not a land use plan  
10 in the sense that we're making land use allocation  
11 decisions. Those were made in the CDCA Plan.

12 We're tiering to the sorts of things that  
13 are appealed. There are no major changes in  
14 policy or "new policy" with respect to Forest  
15 Service lands.

16 The one item which we're probably going  
17 to need to get clarification through Greg and

18 Forest Service would be that Adventure Pass. It  
19 may be deemed by Forest Service whether we decide  
20 that wasn't appealable or protestable.

21 That was more of an administrative sort  
22 of thing. It has never been set in contract.  
23 It's been very experimental. It's not set in  
24 concrete -- excuse me. It's been an experimental  
25 thing. That's the rationale that we came up with

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1 all the folks sitting around the table in Valejo.  
2 Let's keep it simple.

3 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other questions at this  
4 time? Proceed, please.

5 MS. BRISTOW: This is just our thinking  
6 of the future. We're going to submit to Congress  
7 the final plan per legislation with a letter to be  
8 jointly signed by the Regional Forester and State  
9 Director. Right now they're in the process of  
10 signing those letters.

11 And then we'll have a commitment to  
12 future strategies and activity level plans between  
13 the agencies.

14 So any more questions?

15 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: There is no action  
16 required by Congress as I understand it.

17 MS. BRISTOW: Yeah.

18 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Bary.

19 MR. FREET: Bary Freet. Could you go to  
20 Slide No. 16. Stop. That's it. "Fire  
21 Management/Public Safety. Develop fire management  
22 plan and coordinate with local law enforcement and  
23 CDF."

24 MS. BRISTOW: Uh-huh.

25 MR. FREET: There's an omission of the

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1 local fire departments.

2 MS. BRISTOW: I'll note that was left  
3 out.

4 MR. FREET: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Gary.

6 MR. WATTS: You mentioned there had been  
7 a change on the acreage.

8 MS. BRISTOW: I just heard that  
9 yesterday. Danella mentioned it.

10 MS. GEORGE: Danella George. Yes.  
11 There's been some acquisitions, and there's been  
12 some land exchanges. So we just need to get an  
13 update of who owns what.

14 MR. WATTS: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other questions?

16 Comments?

17 Yes, Ruth.

18 MS. WATLING: Ruth Watling. What is the  
19 actual date of implementation, or do we have  
20 that?

21 MS. GEORGE: Danella George. Once that  
22 Record of Decision is signed, we can start the  
23 next phase of these strategies what we talked  
24 about there in the agreements, yes. But after the  
25 Record of Decision. We have to go through the

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1 protest period.

2 MS. WATLING: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Anticipated date?

4 MS. GEORGE: January 31, 2004. Superbowl  
5 Sunday or somewhere around there.

6 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other comments or  
7 questions?

8 Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

9 Bill, can you give us an update on the --

10 MS. GEORGE: Danella George. Sorry,  
11 Mr. Chair. I want to commend Melissa. She's  
12 doing a great job. If we don't get this plan on  
13 the street by October 22 or 24, it's only because  
14 of GPO, the Government Printing Office.

15 Also, I was kind of tickled. She made an  
16 estimate on what the printing costs would be. We  
17 were off, what, about \$100?

18 MS. BRISTOW: Yeah.

19 MS. GEORGE: I think that's pretty good  
20 for a new person. I'm sorry, Mr. Chair.

21 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Bill, can you give us  
22 an update on the MSHCP?

23 MR. HAVERT: Yes. We have identified a  
24 few lingering issues of concern, and we have  
25 another meeting this coming week with the Wildlife

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1 Agency folks to put those issues to bed.

2 And CVAG's position is that those issues  
3 will be put to bed at that meeting, essentially  
4 with our without concurrence.

5 And then the document will be transmitted  
6 to the solicitor for the Fish & Wildlife Service  
7 and to their Portland regional office, which is  
8 the department that would be most concerned with  
9 the NEPA part of this or with the draft EIS.

10 And then the plan would be printed and  
11 distributed for review by the CVAG committees in  
12 November. So it would go through E&E and the City  
13 Managers' Committee and then go to the Executive  
14 Committee at the end of it.

15 I guess it's actually December 1st  
16 because of the Thanksgiving holidays. And the  
17 intent would be then for the Federal Register

18 Notice to be published as soon thereafter as it  
19 can be.

20 I guess that takes a couple of weeks,  
21 which puts it into mid-December. And then it  
22 would hit the streets for public review. I think  
23 the intent is given that the Christmas holidays  
24 are going to be there, that effectively the time  
25 line for review will probably be started on say

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1 January the 2nd.

2 So it will get a little longer than the  
3 normal period, perhaps just to account for the  
4 Christmas holidays.

5 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Public hearings?

6 MR. HAVERT: I don't know what CVAG has  
7 in mind once it's out there on the streets for  
8 public review. Obviously at some point there  
9 would be hearings before each City Council, before  
10 the Board of Supervisors, the various districts  
11 that are participating -- CVWD, DWA, IID. Those  
12 would be obviously down the line in the spring.

13 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Any questions?

14 Yes, sir, Bob.

15 MR. BROCKMAN: Bill, what's the status of  
16 the implementing agreement part of the plan?

17 MR. HAVERT: There is a draft of that.

18 That would be coming to the committees as well.  
19 That's one of the things in particular that needs  
20 to go up to the solicitor for review, the  
21 equivalent of DFG's legal counsel.

22 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Al.

23 MR. MUTH: Al Muth. I don't think you  
24 mentioned Fish & Game and their process. I assume  
25 it's parallel with Fish & Wildlife.

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1 MR. HAVERT: Yeah. I think it's a little  
2 more localized. Therefore, I think all of their  
3 folks who really have a key participation in this  
4 have been involved.

5 Whereas, with the Service, it's got to go  
6 up to Portland. Those folks have never been to a  
7 meeting. It's got to go to their solicitor.  
8 Their solicitor has been to a meeting or two, but  
9 basically I think has been waiting for a completed  
10 draft where all of the issues have been hammered  
11 out before she gets fully engaged in this.

12 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Buford.

13 MR. CRITES: Buford Crites. Still with  
14 the idea of next fall, September or October, we'll  
15 have it signed, sealed, and done. We will have an  
16 HCP for those agencies who have chosen to  
17 participate.

18 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other questions?

19 Yes, Jeff.

20 MR. MORGAN: How was the cooperation  
21 between the cities going on? Are all cities going  
22 to be part at this point, or are some still  
23 thinking of dropping out?

24 MR. HAVERT: We are analyzing as one  
25 alternative the potential of the plan without the

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1 City of Palm Springs being in it, only because  
2 there are some outstanding issues there that are  
3 still being explored.

4 CVAG did not want to be in a position of  
5 ending up with a possibility of having to do a new  
6 EIR. So just as a precaution, we're analyzing it  
7 both ways. But there are still meetings going on  
8 to try to resolve those issues.

9 The hope is of course that every city  
10 will end up as a participant. That's clearly the  
11 goal and hopeful outcome.

12 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other questions?

13 Comments?

14 Again, thank you, Bill.

15 Election of new Chair and Vice Chair for  
16 the new year. The Chair would receive

17 nominations.

18 Would anyone like to nominate for Chair?

19 MR. PARKINS: I'd like to nominate

20 Buford Crites.

21 MS. HENDERSON: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Is there second for

23 Buford Crites?

24 MS. HENDERSON: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Okay. Any other

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1 nominations?

2 MR. CRITES: Perhaps the current Vice

3 Chair.

4 MR. PARKINS: I nominate Buford Crites.

5 MS. GEORGE: Mr. Chair?

6 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Yes, Danella.

7 MS. GEORGE: Frank Bogert asked me to

8 also nominate Mr. Buford Crites on his behalf.

9 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: You should have been a

10 little faster. You could have seconded the

11 nomination.

12 MS. GEORGE: I don't think I can.

13 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: That's right.

14 MR. CRITES: I don't think you have

15 proxy.

16 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Yes, Al.

17 MR. MUTH: Sensing a ground swell, I move  
18 nominations closed.

19 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Do we have a second?

20 MS. HENDERSON: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: All in favor? Any  
22 opposed?

23 Congratulations, Mr. Chair.

24 MR. CRITES: That happens at the end of  
25 the meeting.

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1 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Yep. That's right.

2 Now we'll receive nominations for Vice  
3 Chair. Any nominations for Vice Chair?

4 MR. CRITES: Reciprocity would dictate  
5 the nomination of the current Vice Chair.

6 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: For name purposes,  
7 that's Rob Parkins. Do we have a second to that  
8 nomination?

9 MS. HENDERSON: I'll second.

10 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Terry seconded that.  
11 Any further nominations for Vice Chair?

12 MS. GEORGE: Yes. Mr. Bogert had one.

13 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Mr. Bogert had a  
14 nomination?

15 MS. GEORGE: He did. Mary Roche.

16 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Since Mr. Bogert is

17 empty -- empty.

18 MR. CRITES: Put that in the record.

19 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: -- is not with us,  
20 would someone care to make that nomination in  
21 Mr. Bogert's behalf?

22 MS. ROCHE: No. I decline.

23 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Mary Roche declines.

24 Are there any other nominations for Vice Chair?

25 Do we have a motion to close?

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1 MR. HAVERT: So moved.

2 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Second?

3 MR. MUTH: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: All in favor? Any  
5 opposed?

6 Congratulations, Mr. Parkins.

7 That completes the election of our  
8 required officers, if you will. Now we'll turn to  
9 schedule of 2004 meetings.

10 Danella.

11 MS. GEORGE: Danella George, National  
12 Monument Manager. At our last meeting we canceled  
13 the December meeting. We still have a  
14 February 7th meeting. We did our Federal Register  
15 Notice.

16 I sensed that the committee has worked

17 awfully hard these two years, and I picked up from  
18 the last discussion maybe two or three official  
19 meetings and some field tours instead to get out  
20 and see some of the land was the sense I had.

21           The February meeting, just for the record  
22 of folks to know, will be a focus on a nonprofit  
23 foundation endowment. Gene House, who is here  
24 today, Mr. House is working for the Friends of the  
25 Desert Mountains. He'll be giving a presentation

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1 of what he has come up with and suggestions on  
2 that.

3           We've also invited Chris Ossel from the  
4 US -- well, she's not US Forest Service, but she  
5 works with them as executive director with the  
6 Friends of San Bernardino Foundation and has been  
7 instrumental on what's been going on up there with  
8 the Discovery Center.

9           We're also going to invite the executive  
10 director of the Lake Ponchartrain Foundation. Wait  
11 until you see that model, which has been in effect  
12 for about 14 years.

13           It's pretty effective. They've  
14 lined-iteded quite a bit of money federally each  
15 year. They have a pretty massive nonprofit. It's  
16 taken them a long time to get there.

17           So that will be February. And then just  
18 the thoughts I had about this, and I shared this  
19 with Buford yesterday. That will be in February.

20           To follow up maybe we can have a field  
21 tour to Anza Borrego to see what they've done, as  
22 well as to visit with Gary's counterpart down  
23 there and talk about opportunities to share things  
24 we're doing, inventories.

25           Do a briefing with their leadership team

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1 there, what we're doing within the Monument since  
2 there's Anza Borrego property within the National  
3 Monument. Have an overnighter, see the  
4 wildflowers. Maybe see what they're doing with  
5 the sheep. And then possibly early summer --

6           CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Go ahead.

7           MS. GEORGE: -- early summer we could  
8 maybe go up to the Discovery Center at Big Bear.  
9 Gary and I got to do that last summer. You all  
10 can see what they've done with their Discovery  
11 Center and what they've done with partnerships.

12           I would suggest we do not have an August  
13 meeting this year. And I look at my friend Ruth.  
14 I know she supports that. I'm open after that  
15 February meeting.

16           Do you want maybe a meeting in June, or

17 what do you want? I did bring a calendar.

18 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Comments?

19 Terry.

20 MS. HENDERSON: Just off the top of my  
21 head, my initial thought was no more than  
22 quarterly meetings. I don't know where that  
23 leaves us starting in February. I don't know how  
24 everybody else feels about that. So that would be  
25 a total of four next year. I felt that we could

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1 take care of our business.

2 MR. CRITES: How about two or three?

3 MS. HENDERSON: Two tours? Is that what  
4 you're saying?

5 MR. CRITES: Two or three.

6 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Comments?

7 MS. HENDERSON: Three would work too.

8 MR. FREET: I would like to see three  
9 maximum. Perhaps schedule three and with one of  
10 them being a field trip or one canceled.

11 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Bob.

12 MR. BROCKMAN: I was going to say the  
13 same thing. Perhaps February, May, October.  
14 Something like that.

15 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other comments?

16 Danella.

17 MS. GEORGE: Danella George. I think  
18 three would be good only because we want to keep  
19 some momentum going with all these decisions and  
20 activity level plans and actions. I feel like the  
21 agencies need to keep you guys apprised of what's  
22 happening.

23 We're also still going to need work group  
24 support. Last meeting we talked about a work  
25 group under the access group of signage.

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1 We heard the presentation today. We're  
2 going to need a work group to help us figure out  
3 how to implement these trails. So I just feel  
4 three would probably be appropriate and then a  
5 field tour. They can be short meetings, you know,  
6 get done in the morning.

7 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: One thing we have  
8 learned is it's easier to cancel a meeting than to  
9 schedule one. So I think you should err on the  
10 side of too many meetings scheduled and then be  
11 able to cancel them.

12 MS. HENDERSON: February, May, October?

13 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Any comment on  
14 February, May, October?

15 MS. ROCHE: Well, I have a conflict in  
16 May. But other than that, I'll let you know ahead

17 of time.

18 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Al.

19 MR. MUTH: Date wise would that still  
20 continue the first Saturday of the month?

21 MS. GEORGE: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other comments? Do I  
23 have a motion of -- oh, excuse me. Buford.

24 MR. CRITES: Or we could go to the first  
25 Saturday in June. That's still reasonable in

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1 terms of time and temperatures and such things to  
2 give us enough but spread them out a little bit.

3 MS. ROCHE: Yeah. That would work much  
4 better for me.

5 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Terry.

6 MS. HENDERSON: That's fine. I just  
7 didn't want to get any hotter, if you will. July  
8 and August are rough meetings. June is fine.

9 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Do I have a motion to  
10 that effect?

11 MS. HENDERSON: So moved.

12 MS. ROCHE: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: So I have a motion and  
14 a second. So that makes February, June, and  
15 October. Is that it? Do I hear you correctly?

16 MS. HENDERSON: Yes.

17                   CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Any further comment on  
18 the motion? All those in favor? Any opposed?

19                   We've now scheduled our meetings. We  
20 will turn to the wrap up of the meeting and any  
21 tickler items to Danella.

22                   MS. GEORGE: Mr. Chair, can we also  
23 schedule our field tour, the Anza Borrego? And  
24 I'd like to ask Buford because he knows that area  
25 pretty intimately what's a good time for

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1 wildflowers. We could maybe go for a Friday  
2 night -- Friday day, Friday night, Saturday. And  
3 then we can pick a day in say June during the week  
4 for our trip to Discovery Center and field tour.

5                   MR. WATTS: Well --

6                   CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Gary.

7                   MR. WATTS: -- as far as Anza Borrego,  
8 the weather dictates the flowers a lot. It's  
9 pretty early usually. I mean, March is probably  
10 peak. February sometimes. No later than that,  
11 though.

12                   MR. CRITES: Yeah.

13                   CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Terry.

14                   MS. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, as much as  
15 I love all of you, I would not be looking forward  
16 to an overnight camping trip. I don't know how

17 anybody else feels about that. I thought I would  
18 let you know.

19 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Danella.

20 MS. GEORGE: I planned on locating  
21 lodging for us with beds. So those that want to  
22 camp, they can camp. Those that want a bed, can.  
23 I need lead time because that's a popular area.

24 MS. ROCHE: Well, the other thing is  
25 March -- certainly I understand the wildflowers,

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1 but you're right in the heart of the season. I  
2 mean, talk about difficult timing for those of us  
3 who are involved to get away. It's really tough.

4 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other comments?

5 MR. CRITES: Go find the time in March.

6 MS. GEORGE: Okay. I'll find a Friday.  
7 I'll pick a Friday. Should we go ahead and pick a  
8 Friday now? Say March 19th, the Friday before the  
9 first day of spring?

10 MS. ROCHE: We have Desert Town Hall that  
11 night. Not that that matters to everybody. I'm  
12 just letting you know.

13 MS. GEORGE: March 12th?

14 MS. ROCHE: March 12th is a tennis  
15 tournament.

16 MS. HENDERSON: I think the point that

17 Mary was making is that March is kind of the  
18 season for the flowers if we have rain at the  
19 appropriate time, but it's also the season for all  
20 of us who have many activities that we need to  
21 attend.

22 MR. CRITES: It also the best time in the  
23 world to be gone from here. I love being gone  
24 during their time.

25 MS. ROCHE: I'd love to be gone, too, but

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1 I can't.

2 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other comments?

3 MR. CRITES: Call Anza Borrego and figure  
4 out when it is, and do what you need to do.

5 MS. GEORGE: Okay. I'll set a date and  
6 talk to Anza Borrego. I'll e-mail everything  
7 out. Does that work?

8 MR. CRITES: Yeah.

9 MS. ROCHE: Is Friday night the best  
10 night that you're going to do it? Would Saturday  
11 be better? I don't know. That would be the other  
12 thing.

13 MS. GEORGE: We can do it in the middle  
14 of the week. What do you all want?

15 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Al.

16 MR. MUTH: Lodging at campgrounds for

17 those might be better in the middle of the week.

18 MS. ROCHE: And since we would all be  
19 doing it on business, we could do it in the middle  
20 of the week. I mean, it's part of the job;  
21 right?

22 MS. WATLING: Yeah.

23 MS. GEORGE: Okay. How about March 17th,  
24 St. Patrick's Day?

25 MS. HENDERSON: I don't have next year's

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1 calendar with me. I'm sorry.

2 MS. GEORGE: Okay. I will pick a day.  
3 Our new Chair is asking me to pick a day. That's  
4 what I'll do. I'll get back. I'll pick the same  
5 thing for the middle of the week in June to go up  
6 to the Discovery Center. I'll call Chris and get  
7 back with you.

8 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Bary.

9 MR. FREET: I would like for the record  
10 if you could set the specific dates of our  
11 meetings for the record. We talked about  
12 February, June, and October on the First  
13 Saturday.

14 Could we have a specific date in the  
15 record for each of those?

16 MS. GEORGE: When I do the wrap up,

17 that's exactly. Thank you, Bary.

18 MR. FREET: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other comments? Now  
20 we'll turn to wrap up.

21 MR. PARKINS: Mr. Chair?

22 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Excuse me.

23 MR. PARKINS: Rob Parkins. Before we  
24 close out, I just wanted to commend Mr. Kibbey for  
25 being our Chairman and thank him for that.

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1 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: My pleasure.

2 MR. PARKINS: My only moment of glory  
3 followed surgery, so I didn't get the extra pay  
4 that you told me about. But I just want to thank  
5 you very much. You're not only the voice at the  
6 Tram, but you're also an outstanding Chairman.

7 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Well, thank you very  
8 much. Just to explain, my travel schedule is  
9 getting greater and greater and greater. I didn't  
10 think it was fair to the committee to have my  
11 absence. Last meeting was evidence of that.

12 So I felt it was better to just turn it  
13 over to folks who can make all the meetings. You  
14 guys have done a great job. I appreciate it as  
15 part of the building community and as a resident  
16 in the valley. So thank you.

17 MR. PARKINS: If you miss his voice,  
18 please come to the Tram, and you'll hear him going  
19 up and down.

20 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Yeah. Now, wrap up of  
21 meeting and any tickler items. Danella.

22 MS. GEORGE: Danella George, National  
23 Monument Manger. During today's meeting there was  
24 one resolution where I heard a unanimous vote.  
25 That was a letter of support from the Monument

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1 Advisory Committee for the exchange at Deep  
2 Canyon.

3 Is that correct, Mr. Chair?

4 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: That's correct. I  
5 would ask that John submit verbiage for that  
6 letter so we'll have it correct.

7 MS. GEORGE: We also elected a new Chair,  
8 which is Mr. Buford Crites will be the Chair for  
9 the MAC. We elected a new Vice Chair, which is  
10 Mr. Parkins.

11 We have set dates for our next MAC  
12 meetings. February 7th, 2004, which we had done  
13 at a prior meeting. We have set the date of  
14 June 5th, the first Saturday, for a meeting. And  
15 we have set the date of October 2, the first

16 Saturday in October.

17 We will need of have a room. Mr. Chair  
18 do you think -- or new Mr. Chair, do you think  
19 we'll still be able to use this facility so it  
20 will be held here at Palm Desert City Council?

21 MR. CRITES: City Hall.

22 MS. GEORGE: City Hall. City Hall.

23 Okay. What else. Terry, today I heard  
24 you asking about dogs. In your packet of  
25 material, I brought back to everyone a flyer from

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1 some folks that I met with in Australia that  
2 manage wild lands in western Australia on how  
3 they're handling it. So that's just for  
4 information for folks, your souvenir from down  
5 under.

6 I just also wanted to mention that the  
7 City of Palm Desert again along with the National  
8 Monument is cosponsoring the Jeepers Creepers  
9 Scary Desert Creatures at Palm Springs Desert  
10 Museum. It will start November 1.

11 There's posters, you guys, in the  
12 lunchroom. Posters for you to take for the  
13 celebration if you'd like to take them.

14 And just to thank you, Ed, for all you've  
15 done over these two years. You've been awesome.

16 We're going to need your help still. We're going  
17 to miss you.

18 We're going to see you at the celebration  
19 I know, so this is not your going-away gift.  
20 We're not that cheap. I only was able to scrounge  
21 a couple of copies of these right now. So that  
22 one is yours because you've helped so much with  
23 the Monument.

24 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Thank you.

25 MS. GEORGE: Okay. That's it.

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1 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Yes, Mr. Crites.

2 MR. CRITES: An issue I guess for our  
3 next meeting or at least for staff to look at  
4 between now and then. There is a surge of  
5 graffiti on Highway 74.

6 While that's probably Caltrans'  
7 right-of-way, the public won't give a hoot about  
8 whose right-of-away that is, just that it's there,  
9 and it's in the middle of "our National  
10 Monument."

11 I'd certainly like to see most of us  
12 probably -- well, it's about half below the forest  
13 line and half above it -- figure out what we can  
14 do cooperatively to get a handle on that.

15 That's certainly the theory by

16 E.O. Wilson about the broken window. You fix  
17 those and then other things don't happen with  
18 crime. Leaving graffiti is the best way in the  
19 world to get more of it.

20 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: At one time somebody  
21 was cleaning it up. What happened with that?

22 MR. CRITES: Sunline. Sunline will come  
23 up as far as Vista Point as a courtesy to a local  
24 city and will do it on call. But above Vista  
25 Point, we're out of courtesy.

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1 At one point there was a group from  
2 Idyllwild who was sort of doing graffiti removal  
3 all over the Idyllwild area, and they came down.  
4 But they haven't been around for several years, to  
5 the best of my knowledge.

6 MS. ROSENTHAL: Before my time.

7 MR. CRITES: So especially for Vista  
8 Point on up, we're out of luck, and we need to do  
9 something with some rapidity that's not in the  
10 normal cycle of how government operates over  
11 14 years.

12 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Is there any kind of  
13 money in our budget type of thing that we can pay  
14 Sunline to go farther?

15 MS. GEORGE: Mr. Chair, I have to find

16 out. It's a Caltrans, I believe, right-of-way.  
17 And there's the issue of spending federal  
18 dollars. Let's just figure out how to get it  
19 cleaned up.

20 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Yeah.

21 MS. GEORGE: I don't know what the answer  
22 is. Buford called this week. I need to call  
23 Caltrans and find out what goes on. I don't  
24 know. That's not a BLM highway. It's not a  
25 BLM/federal highway. There's issues. I don't

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1 know where the location is. I didn't get a  
2 location. I haven't seen it. I need to go out  
3 and see it.

4 There are safety issues when you have  
5 people out there on the highway, these liability  
6 issues that were discussed today with Trail Mix.  
7 So to be continued and staffed out in the future.

8 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: I think this is  
9 probably indicative of future concerns -- who is  
10 going to bite the bullet and who is going to take  
11 responsibility.

12 If I remember correctly, it is indicated  
13 in our plan that coordination is paramount. But  
14 we need to begin that coordination perhaps prior  
15 to -- I'm suggesting perhaps prior to the adoption

16 of the plan. Otherwise, you're going to find  
17 yourselves in a hole. It's just indicative.

18 MS. GEORGE: Danella George. I think we  
19 do have -- that has an MOU action. I need to find  
20 out more information. Again, I need to know  
21 locations. It would be nice if there were GPSs  
22 for us to go up and take a look. But tell me what  
23 you want.

24 MR. CRITES: I want it all.

25 MS. GEORGE: Well, I need to find out who

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1 has jurisdiction for that.

2 MR. CRITES: Buford Crites. I know. My  
3 concern is by the time you list all the things  
4 about what we have to be concerned about, the end  
5 result will be the result that we almost always  
6 have, which is nothing gets done unless a private  
7 individual goes up there with no permission and  
8 just tends to it. That's not negative. It's just  
9 how it is.

10 Even if it was a National Monument, that  
11 highway is the entrance to Indian Wells, to Rancho  
12 Mirage, to all of our valley. It's the entrance  
13 for many of the visitors to our valley.

14 Having it look like truly an urban  
15 interface is not probably the message the agencies

16 or the community -- you know. Just go down the  
17 line. None of us want it. So we just have to  
18 figure out how to do something.

19 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Danella.

20 MS. GEORGE: Heard about it two days  
21 ago. The priority is the plan. The priority is  
22 the work shop. I've been doing the best I can to  
23 get it all done with the handful of people that we  
24 have.

25 I thought there was a Highway 74 cleanup

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1 group that was part of the Friends of the Desert  
2 Mountains when I've gone to the Friends meetings.

3 MS. WATLING: There is, but we never got  
4 a response back from Caltrans.

5 MS. GEORGE: Okay. That was like a year  
6 and a half ago. So let me see what I can do.  
7 What's my life expectancy?

8 MR. MUTH: Greater than 77 and a half  
9 years.

10 MS. GEORGE: Okay.

11 MR. LYMAN: When that happened on  
12 Highway 74 and other areas of the county, they  
13 finally just had to corral Caltrans using the  
14 elected officials to get them to move on in the 74  
15 corridors. That's at the other end of the

16 county. But that was an issue.

17 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: So there may be history  
18 you can look to, Danella, by contacting the county  
19 to see how they took care of that.

20 Terry.

21 MS. HENDERSON: Maybe another source  
22 would be CVAG's transportation committee and their  
23 contact with Caltrans.

24 MS. GEORGE: Who would that person be?

25 MS. HENDERSON: Who is the chairman of

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1 transportation?

2 MS. ROCHE: Allen Waggle.

3 MR. LYMAN: John Wohlmuth.

4 MS. GEORGE: John Wohlmuth?

5 MR. CRITES: W-o-h-l-m-u-t-h.

6 MR. MUTH: Or Arora.

7 MS. ROCHE: Well, Allen Waggle would be  
8 the transportation, not Arora.

9 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: I would suggest Allen  
10 is your best bet. Let him run it up through the  
11 transportation committee and so on. That's how  
12 CVAG works.

13 MS. GEORGE: Oh, so call John.

14 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: No. Call Allen.

15 MS. HENDERSON: Waggle.

16 MS. GEORGE: Mr. Future Chair, maybe I  
17 could do a ride-along with you, and we can look at  
18 this and get out in the field.

19 MR. CRITES: Sure.

20 MS. GEORGE: Okay.

21 MR. CRITES: That was just an issue for  
22 us.

23 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other comments?

24 Yes, Bary.

25 MR. FREET: I've noted that the Joshua

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1 Tree National Monument has sought the endorsement.

2 MR. CRITES: Park.

3 MR. FREET: I'm sorry. Park. Thank  
4 you. Just a few years behind is all. Sought the  
5 endorsement of local chambers of commerce -- I  
6 don't quite know what that means -- to get the  
7 endorsements.

8 I find it interesting that the National  
9 Park has requested endorsement and our National  
10 Monument has apparently not. I'm just inquiring  
11 as to what ramifications that might be.

12 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Buford.

13 MR. CRITES: That's the National Parks  
14 & Conservation Association rather than the  
15 National Park itself.

16 MR. FREET: Okay.

17 MR. CRITES: That is the national support  
18 organization for national parks all over the US.  
19 They have just opened an office in Joshua Tree,  
20 the town of Joshua Tree, and have staff.

21 That, by the way, might make a good  
22 person -- that issue might be an interesting  
23 person to have him come down to our next meeting  
24 in February and talk about how they're supporting  
25 the National Park and what that means to us in

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1 terms of they're out doing things now.

2 MR. FREET: That would be good to get  
3 that clarification.

4 MS. GEORGE: Danella George.  
5 Interestingly enough, I mentioned that to  
6 Mr. Gross about coming in and doing a  
7 presentation.

8 MR. FREET: Good.

9 MS. ROCHE: Mary Roche. Just let me add,  
10 I have met with him also. Yes, he is out trying  
11 to garner all the support he can get, which is  
12 very interesting that it is not necessarily  
13 compatible with what we're doing, because he is  
14 trying to garner support for the park. He makes  
15 it very clear that it's totally separate from the

16 National Monument when he meets with you and the  
17 materials that he's giving out.

18 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Do you have the  
19 spelling of the gentleman's name?

20 MS. GEORGE: G-r-o-s-s.

21 MS. ROCHE: Howard.

22 MS. GEORGE: Howard.

23 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other comments?

24 Concerns? Questions?

25 Jeff.

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1 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. Jeff Morgan. A few  
2 months ago the Winter Park Authority proposed new  
3 extensive developments up in Long Valley, rumors  
4 of everything from skating rinks to people movers  
5 to all kinds of other new things.

6 I would like someone at the next meeting  
7 from the Winter Park Authority to address this  
8 matter if possible to this group.

9 MR. PARKINS: I thought at first you were  
10 going to adopt a motion of support. I was just a  
11 little nervous. Let me get with Gary. We'll talk  
12 about what makes most sense.

13 We're going through a process with the  
14 state that requires a management plan. These are

15 four capitol project proposals. The use of the  
16 term "ice skating rink" always makes me nervous  
17 because that sounds like organized hockey. We'll  
18 be happy to come back in February. Thank you for  
19 the support, Jeff.

20 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Other comments?  
21 Questions?

22 I would hope that everybody has put in  
23 their reservations for the celebration. There's  
24 the Friends of the Desert Mountains telephone  
25 number to call in your reservation. For those of

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1 you who didn't make it last time, it's a beautiful  
2 setting.

3 Yes, Terry.

4 MS. HENDERSON: Just a clarification. I  
5 had on my calendar for some reason both Saturday  
6 and Sunday, October 5th and 6th. There's nothing  
7 Sunday? Okay. I just got a day.

8 MR. CRITES: You can go to Anza Borrego.

9 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Spend the night and  
10 find out what they're doing with the sheep.

11 MS. HENDERSON: With the sheep. Thank  
12 you. I watch that up in the cove all the time.

13 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Yes, Danella.

14 MS. GEORGE: Danella George. Another

15 reason, Buford, why not to have those fake rock  
16 supports. Just something else people can spray  
17 paint.

18 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: With that, I would hope  
19 that you'll all stay for a very delicious lunch.  
20 I'm smelling it. Hopefully it's here.

21 MR. CRITES: Provided by?

22 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Provided by Las  
23 Casuelas and paid for by --

24 MS. GEORGE: The City of Rancho Mirage.

25 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: The City of Rancho

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1 Mirage. Thank you very much.

2 MS. GEORGE: And our guests are welcome  
3 too.

4 MR. CRITES: Absolutely. Guests can  
5 stay.

6 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Motion to adjourn?

7 MS. HENDERSON: Move.

8 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Second?

9 MS. ROCHE: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN KIBBEY: Any opposed? Thank  
11 you. We are adjourned.

12 (Off the record.)

13 (The meeting concluded at 11:58 a.m.)

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2

3 STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
4 ) SS  
5 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE )

6

7

8 I, SONJA CHAPMAN, a certified shorthand  
9 reporter within and for the state of California do  
10 hereby certify that the foregoing 138 pages  
11 comprise a full, true, and correct transcription  
12 of the proceedings that were taken before me at  
13 the time and place therein set forth.

14

DATED THIS 11TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2003.

14

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Sonja Chapman, CSR #11504

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