

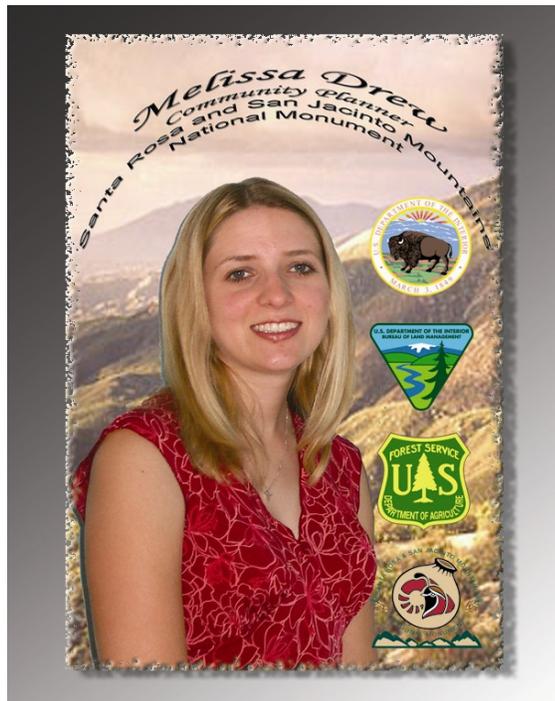
From desert oases to granite peaks, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument contains lands of contrast and stories of adaptation.



Summertime, and the living it easy..., or so the lyrics go, but for the National Monument, summer bring in visitors from around the world. Visitors who are intent on visiting the many National Monuments found within the United States.

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument is one of those places, a special place, which is near and dear to all of us living here in the Coachella Valley.

Speaking of living in the valley, the National Monument staff has recently undergone a change with the departure of our Community Planner, Melissa Drew. It is with a note of sadness that we say goodbye to our friend. Melissa was a valued asset to the staff and to the National Monument. She was here as we completed the National Monument Management Plan and proved to be the guiding force behind the completion and approval of the Record of Decision. We will all miss her, but wish her all the best as she embarks on new adventures in new places, farewell Melissa!



The Monument Advisory Committee met in Palm Desert on June 5, where Melissa made a presentation about the National Monument Business Plan. As reported previously in early May, we held a three-day workshop to lay the foundations for our National Monument Business Plan. Eventually this plan will become tool for seeking funding from Congress for National Monument projects.

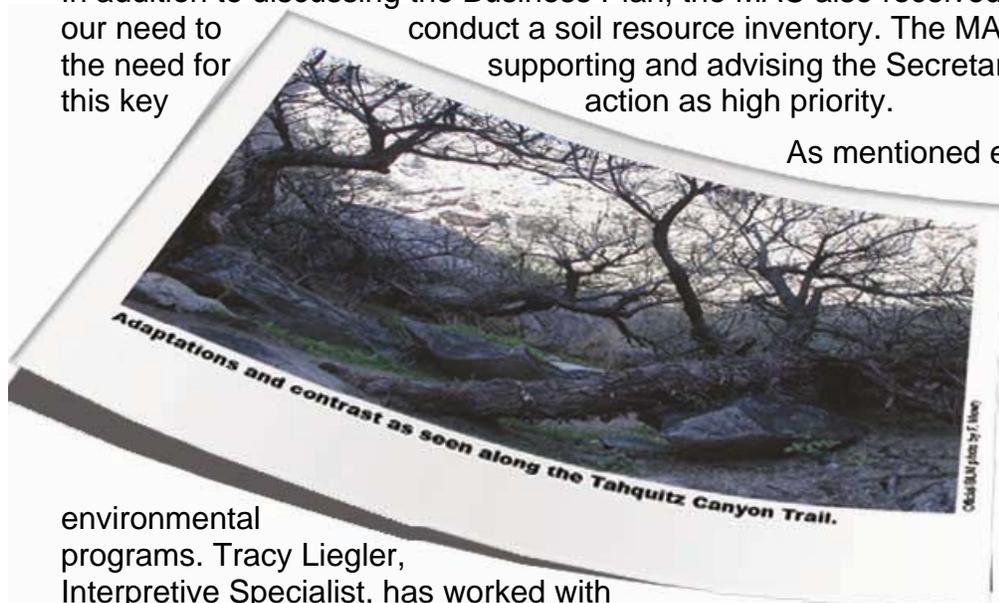
We're working closely with MAC volunteers to take these foundations and build an outline, using a series of worksheets. From there we'll have enough data to actually develop and write both a Business Plan Summary and an actual details plan.

The Business Plan currently is divided into several primary areas of interest, in accordance with the National Monument Management Plan – Recreation, Community Interface, Natural Resources, Heritage Resources, and Signage. Working with our MAC volunteers we have build individual workgroups for each of the areas of interest. These workgroups are meeting in order to discuss the program/project needs and requirements and complete the outlines using the worksheets. The current workgroup meeting schedule is:

- ❖ Recreation – July 9, 16 and 23, 9:30 a.m. at La Quinta City Hall
- ❖ Community Interface – July 9, 10 a.m. at Rancho Mirage City Hall
- ❖ Natural Resources – July 7, 10 a.m. at Deep Canyon
- ❖ Heritage Resources – July 14, 21 and Aug. 4, 10 a.m. Agua Caliente Tribal Headquarters
- ❖ Signage – July 8, 1:30 p.m. Nichols Conference Room, Top of the Tram

As with all MAC meetings these workgroup meeting are open to the public. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact or leave a message with Frank Mowry, 760 251-4800.

In addition to discussing the Business Plan, the MAC also received a briefing on our need to conduct a soil resource inventory. The MAC agreed to supporting and advising the Secretaries for setting this key action as high priority.



As mentioned earlier, it is Summer in the National Monument and a it is a 'Summer of Discovery!' for outreach and education our the National

environmental programs. Tracy Liegler, Interpretive Specialist, has worked with Monument staff to develop a series of programs and learning events for the whole family, this summer. The programs began in June and have received some great press reviews, already. Briefly the July schedule for these *Free* summer programs is:

- ❖ July 6, at the Visitor Center, Public Information Specialist, Bonnie Adkins review basic principles of fitness.
- ❖ July 10, it's Family days at Mt. San Jacinto State Park
- ❖ July 15, BLM Outdoor Recreation Specialist Jim Foote, talks about healthy and satisfying outdoor workouts at Nature's Rx.

- ❖ July 17, Interpretive Ranger David Korzilius talks about amazing adaptations at Idyllwild State Park.

A full schedule of all our Free summer programs is posted on our Web site at: [w] http://www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/santarosa/santa_rosa_national_monument.html. Be sure to log-on for more details, or feel free to visit the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, at 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, [p] 760 862-9984.

Production of a new National Monument documentary is nearing completion. Thanks to the efforts of Frank Jones at Palm Springs Life, we're hoping to debut this new film in conjunction with our annual National Monument anniversary. Additional planning is well underway for this celebration, with events schedule throughout the day, keep watching for more details.

Finally, let remind everyone of the call for nominations to the National Monument Advisory Board. Unfortunately, we had a mistake in our original Federal Register Notice, asking for a nomination from the Winter Park Authority. Actually, we are seeking nominations for a representative with expertise in natural science and research from a regional college or university. Nominations must be received postmarked no later than Aug. 9.

Finally, the next National Monument Advisory Committee meeting at the Palm Desert City council building is scheduled for Oct. 2, 9 a.m. As always all MAC meetings are open to the public, after all it is your National Monument, come out, and participates!

Until next time,

Danella George
Manager

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument