

SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 7, 2004

United States Department of Agriculture United States Department of the Interior

MEETING LOCATION: PALM DESERT CITY HALL
73-510 Fred Waring
Palm Desert, CA 92260

DATE AND TIME: Saturday, February 7, 2004
9:09 a.m. to 2:18 p.m.

LIST OF THOSE PRESENT:

MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC):

BUFORD CRITES, Councilmember and current Mayor, City of Palm Desert
MARY ROCHE, Mayor, Indian Wells
RUTH WATLING, Chair Pinyon Community Council
KATHIE BRENNAN, Building Industry
ROBERT BROCKMAN, Planning Director, City of Rancho Mirage
BARY FREET, Palm Springs Fire Chief, resident of Cathedral City
BOB LYMAN, Regional Office Manager, County of Riverside
JEFFREY MORGAN, Sierra Club, Local Conservation Organization
ALLAN MUTH, expertise in natural science and research, University of California, Riverside,
Deep Canyon Research Center
ROB PARKINS, General Manager, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Winter Park Authority
GARY WATTS, District Superintendent, California Department of Parks and
Recreation

STAFF AND PRESENTERS:

DANELLA GEORGE, Designated Federal Official and Santa Rosa and San
Jacinto Mountains National Monument Manager
MELISSA DREW, BLM Community Planner, National Monument
EDDY KONNO, California Department of Fish & Game
TRACY LIEGLER, BLM Interpretive and Outreach program, National Monument
LAURIE ROSENTHAL, USDA Forest Service, District
Ranger, San Jacinto Ranger District
FRANK MOWRY, BLM Writer-Editor, National Monument
EDDIE GUARACHA, Mt. San Jacinto State Park, Superintendent
ANNE RHEAMS, Deputy Director, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
KRIS ASSEL, San Bernardino Nonprofit Foundation
KATIE BARROWS, Associate Director, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy; Board
member, Friends of the Desert Mountains
GENE HOUSE, Consultant, Friends of the Desert Mountains
JIM SULLIVAN, Coachella Valley Association of Governments
RON WOYCHAK, Division Chief, BLM Fire Management

AGENDA

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

REVIEW OF LAST MEET MINUTES

MONUMENT MANAGER UPDATE

AGENCY UPDATES

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL MONUMENT NONPROFIT FOUNDATION PROPOSAL

LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN

P.S. TRAMWAY MASTER PLAN

PUBLIC INPUT

LUNCH

UPDATE ON TRAILS PLAN

SAN BERNARDINO FOREST FOUNDATION

UPDATE OF FIRE DIRECT PROTECTION AREA

WRAP-UP OF MEETING

ADOURNMENT

AGENDA SUMMARY

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION-BUFORD CRITES

Welcome and introduction of BLM and USFS staff present.

REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES/OTHER BUSINESS

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved.

HOUSEKEEPING, UPDATE FROM NATIONAL MONUMENT MANAGER, AND BLM (AGENCY UPDATE)-DANELLA GEORGE

Meeting focused on building nonprofit foundation for the National Monument. Several speakers presented information about nonprofit operations, they included: Ms. Anne Rheams, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; and Ms. Kris Assel, San Bernardino Foundation; Ms. Katie Barrows, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy; and Mr. Gene House, a consultant helping Friends of the Desert Mountains in development of a nonprofit foundation. Other items of interest included information on the National Monument being chosen to be a pilot for building a National Monument business plan, with assistance from BLM Washington Office. Discussion of budget issues, reflecting changes due to current economic environment. Finally it was noted the portal signs installation had been delayed due to equipment failure, and all would be notified upon installation completion. More details are available through the full MAC meeting notes on-line.

AGENCY UPDATE-LAURIE ROSENTHAL, USFS

Laurie Rosenthal, District Ranger, provided an update to the MAC, which included discussion of budget issues. Additionally there was a discussion of the various projects dealing with removal of hazardous trees, fuel reduction, thinning projects, prescribed burns and community protection. It was also noted construction changes had been completed at the district office on Highway 243. More details are available through the full MAC meeting notes on-line.

THE REORD OF DECISION FOR THE APPROVED NATIONAL MONUMENT PLAN-MELISSA DREW

The MAC was advised the ROD for the Approved National Monument Plan had finally been completed, signed and sent to Washington for final approvals.

PRESENTATIONS

There were several presentations provided to member of the council, below is a summary of each:

Ms. Katie Barrows, Friends of the Desert Mountains and Mr. Gene House, paid consultant with Friends of the Desert Mountains: Ms. Barrows provided brief background on the Friends of the Desert and how they have been operating for the past several years. After being introduced, Mr. House began providing more details on how the nonprofit was going to evolve; what the MAC could expect from the nonprofit and how it would benefit and fit into the National Monument and the management plan. More details are available through the full MAC meeting notes on-line.

Ms. Anne Rheams, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation: Visiting from New Orleans Ms. Rheams, provided a brief history of their foundation. Other issues discussed included a comparison of issues faced by Lake Pontchartrain and those of the National Monument. Some of the many approaches being used for fundraising and what legislation existed throughout the basin in support of the foundation and its goals. More details are available through the full MAC meeting notes on-line.

Ms. Katie Barrows, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy and Mr. Jim Sullivan Coachella Valley Association of Governments: Both were in attendance to provide the MAC with an update to the Trails Plan and how it fits into the National Monument and the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, an area of some 1.1 million acres. Tribal lands are not being included in the Trails Plan however there are a number of issues with land ownership: Private, educational, state, city and public, which are being addressed within the plan. There was also a brief introduction of how trails permits might be used to assist in 'trails avoidance' issues. More details are available through the full MAC meeting notes on-line.

Ms. Kris Assel, San Bernardino Nonprofit Foundation: Ms. Assel explained how their foundation assisted the Forest Service in achieving its mission, bringing new resources to the forest. Resources such as: People, interest, and money. The foundation has strong corporate partnerships in place with a diverse group of companies like: Honda, Ducks Unlimited and Arrowhead Water. Foundation volunteers serve a variety of roles, from providing customer support and assistance at the Visitor and Discovery Center to staffing lookout sites throughout the forest to running various interpretive and environmental education programs. Additionally it was noted the foundation does provide several fire lookout locations within the National Monument, and there is also an active off-highway vehicle program. More details are available through the full MAC meeting notes on-line.

Mr. Ron Woychak, Bureau of Land Management, Fire Management Officer: Mr. Woychak provided information regarding fire management arrangements within the National Monument. A plan is being coordinated between the Forest Service, BLM, Tribal groups, state, county, and local fire departments for fire management and areas of responsibility. The main issue is in determining who pays for what, where and when. The plan being developed addresses the outline of the National Monument, BLM and Forest Service will cover everything from the base of the slope to the top of the mountain. The dividing line between BLM and Forest Service is Highway 74, everything south will be responsibility of BLM everything north will be the responsibility of the Forest Service. This doesn't in any way change the way fires will be fought, just who pays the bills. Currently a Fire Management Plan is being developed, which will dovetail

into this arrangement. For more details on Mr. Woychak's presentation and the fire management planning, go to the MAC meeting notes on-line.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

MAC MEMBER COMMENTS

The committee commented on the comment review.

SUMMARIZE MEETING AND NEXT MEETING NEEDS FROM THE COMMITTEE-DFO AND CHAIR

Meeting was summarized and the needs of the next meeting were discussed.

MEETING ADJOURNED-BUFORD CRITES, CHAIR

Meeting adjourned after scheduling next meeting for Saturday, June 5, 2004.