

**Joshua Tree National Monument  
Twentynine Palms, California**

**June 1, 1958**

**Cover Sheet for Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1958, Joshua Tree  
National Monument**

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**Joshua Tree National Monument  
Twentynine Palms, California**

**June 1, 1958**

**Memorandum**

**To: The Director**  
**From: Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Monument**  
**Subject: Annual Report - Fiscal Year 1958**

**Personnel:**

**Permanent**

**Elmer N. Fladmark, Superintendent**  
**Hessel L. Earenfight, Supervisory Ranger**  
**Bruce W. Black, Park Naturalist**  
**Charles F. Adams, Park Ranger, transferred to Virgin Islands  
National Park, December 12, 1957**  
**John B. Chasman, Jr., Park Ranger, reported for duty  
January 16, 1958**  
**Lawrence F. Knowles, Landscape Architect**  
**Mildred I. Miller, Administrative Aid**  
**Jean E. Pavelka, Clerk Typist**  
**Alva D. Conner, Mixed Gang Foreman**  
**John R. Bianco, Operator-general**  
**Paul E. Kats, Caretaker**  
**Kenneth A. Van Tassell, Truck Driver, Lt.**

**Seasonal:**

**Ronald D. Miller, Information-Receptionist, W.A.E.**

**Two seasonal rangers are employed November through April,  
and two fire control aids are employed May through October.**

**One additional seasonal ranger was employed February 10  
through May 11, for the purpose of making a traffic flow study.**

File A 2625  
Report No. 10A8

**Joshua Tree National Monument**

**General:** According to old timers, the display of desert flowers this spring was the best in thirty years.

**Joshua Tree National Monument**

**Travel:**

Travel to this area increased tremendously since the first of the calendar year. The main reason was the outstanding growth of flowers. Another, and more lasting reason, is the explosive growth of population in southern California. This growth is said to average fifteen hundred persons per day. These people are all within two hundred miles of this Monument.

Joshua Tree National Monument

Lands:

There is great and growing demand for desert land for homesites. Prices of desert lands have increased to unbelievable figures in the past two years. Six hundred dollars per acre is not uncommon. Five years ago this land was selling for five to ten dollars per acre.

There is much demand for private land within the Monument. Most of the prospective buyers want this land for base land in working out exchanges with the Bureau of Land Management for other public domain land. A number of exchanges have been started this past year. Nearly twelve sections of land are involved in newly initiated exchanges. This is in addition to fourteen sections owned by the Southern Pacific Railroad, and which will soon be included in an exchange also.

Condemnation Action, Civil 18045 HW is progressing satisfactorily. This involves 10,838.50 acres.

An approximate summary of acreages in exchanges, or under condemnation, plus land acquired by purchase in the past year is as follows:

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Various exchanges now in progress, or<br>about to be initiated | 22,561.12 acres     |
| Condemnation Action, Civil 18045 HW                            | 10,838.50 acres     |
| Lands acquired by purchase in the past year:                   |                     |
| Carl D. & Leona D. Hanson                                      | 640.00 acres        |
| Charles L. & Ruth R. Stokes                                    | 450.09 acres        |
| Beth A. McCall   | 65.00 acres         |
| Raymond Embry  | 25.00 acres         |
| Dr. Allen Halcott  | <u>240.00 acres</u> |
| Grand Total  | 34,819.71 acres     |

File A 2623  
Report No. 1048

**Joshua Tree National Monument**

**Public Relations:**

In general, public relations are very good. The Monument is very popular, and we receive many favorable comments on the area.

**Joshua Tree National Monument**

**Encroachments:**

There is still pressure from a small Riverside County and Coachella Valley group for construction of the Blue Cut Road through the center of the Monument from Indio to Twentynine Palms.

The Western Mining Council would still like to have the area opened to mining, but pressure for this is not strong at this time.

There was some pressure last summer for establishing a TV translator station in the Monument. The request was denied, and a suitable location has now been found outside the area.

Joshua Tree National Monument

Improvements:

A thirty mile hiking and riding trail was completed. Equestrians<sup>1</sup>, Incorporated of California held their state ride on this trail on May 30 and 31. This trail was the first MISSION 66 project for this area, and dedication ceremonies were held on the 31st of May.

As a part of this same project 3.8 miles of fire protection road was also constructed.



Joshua Tree National Monument

Protection:

We still have only two men on our permanent protection staff. To date, we have had over 220,000 visitors since January 1. Our protection staff is entirely inadequate to cope with this volume of travel in this area, which covers over  $\frac{1}{2}$  million acres. The area suffers from this lack of protection as plants and rocks are constantly being removed, and much damage is done to signs, tables and camping areas. Also, protection and information for the visitor is seriously lacking.

**Joshua Tree National Monument**

**Interpretation:**

Our one naturalist is unable to render the interpretive service we would like to give our visitors, especially the campers. However, a great deal of benefit to the Service is being derived from his efforts, and many thousands of visitors, and local residents, are being helped to have a better understanding of the area.

Our nature trails have been improved. The naturalist has developed more complete guides to these trails, and many thousands of people are making use of this service.

**Joshua Tree National Monument**

**Wildlife:**

Several gentle rains, and a heavy growth of annuals has resulted in much better conditions for wildlife. There is a decided increase in small mammals. Water has been available all winter at numerous natural tanks throughout the area. This is a temporary situation, and it would be most desirable to develop dependable sources of water at various places.

**Joshua Tree National Monument**

**Plans, Maps, Surveys:**

Surveys were made, and master plan drawings completed for Belle Campground, Sheep Pass Group Camp, the Ryan Riding and Hiking Camp, the Cap Rock Junction, and the Pinto Wye Junction.

The Winona and Mastodon claims were surveyed and mapped. Private property lines between Hidden Valley Campground and the Joshua Tree entrance were located.

The Upper Covington Flat fire protection road was surveyed and constructed.

The master plan drawing for the Oasis Headquarters area was revised.

Project Construction Proposals for 1960 and 1961 were prepared and submitted to WDC for recommendation.

The completely revised MISSION 66 prospectus for this area was approved on April 25.

**Joshua Tree National Monument**

**Research and Observation:**

The University of Southern California has been investigating Indian Camp sites in the Monument. Dr. Wallace has been supervising these studies. There still remains much to be done, and final result will not be known until perhaps late next fiscal year.

Some infestation of *Ips confusus* in pinyon pine was discovered about midwinter. It is not considered epidemic, and is declining.

Heavy growth of annuals this spring has resulted in an acute fire hazard in the west half of the Monument.

State Fish and Game employees assisted in making a thorough census of Bighorn sheep last fall and summer.

Eimer N. Fladmark  
Superintendent

**Joshua Tree National Monument  
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**July 1, 1958**

**Cover Sheet for Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1958 Supplement,  
Joshua Tree National Monument**

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**Joshua Tree National Monument  
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**July 1, 1958**

**Memorandum**

**To: The Director**  
**From: Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Monument**  
**Subject: Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1958 Supplement**

**Lands:**

**E. A. Lenning, option signed 5 acres**

**This parcel is in the Pinto Basin**

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**Encroachments:**

On June 17, Associate Director E. T. Scoyen conducted a meeting on the proposed Blue Cut Road. There was overwhelming opposition to this project. The minority group in favor of this project is very insistent, and we can expect their continued efforts to make the Park Service build this road. We believe their next proposal will be for a road up Berdoo Canyon to the east of the Blue Cut route. The heavy construction here would be outside of the Monument. We continue to feel that no more roads should be built. After existing roads are improved as planned, our road system will be adequate.



A 2623  
Report No. 1048

**Joshua Tree National Monument**

**Plans. Maps. Surveys:**

In late June, a topographic survey of part of the Oasis Headquarters was completed.

Plans for employee quarters, and a visitor center are in the making, and should be complete well ahead of availability of funds.

**Elmer N. Fladmark  
Superintendent**