

From the DRAFT Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan. Look for the final Plan summer of 1999.

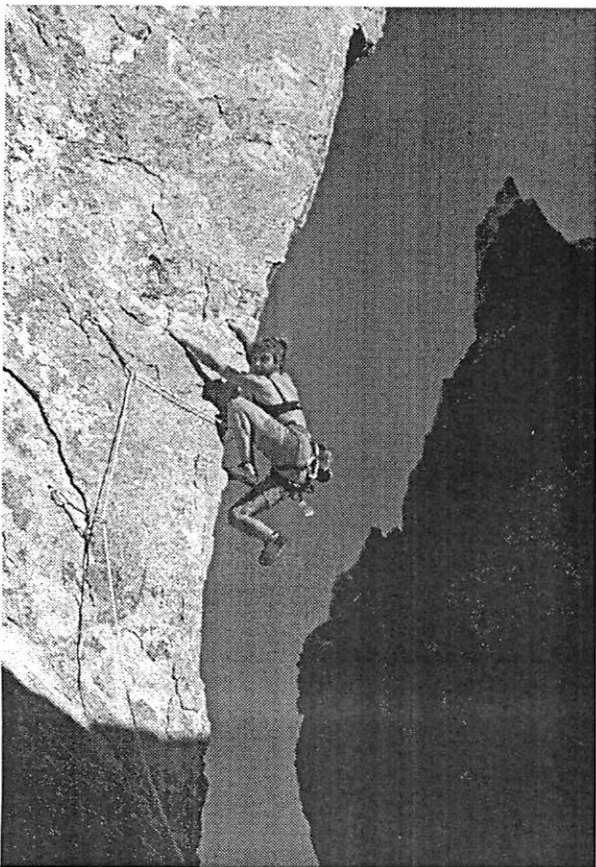
#### Allowed Without Permit:

Replacement of *existing* fixed anchors and bolts using natural colored hardware throughout the park

#### By Permit Only:

New bolted routes in the Wilderness Zone (see map inside); request for permits submitted to Climbing Committee for referral to Superintendent for final approval.

New bolted routes in Non-Wilderness Zones for an interim period of one year from the time of Plan approval.



#### REGULATIONS:

Pets must be on a leash at all times and are not allowed more than 100 yards from the road.

Do not feed the coyotes.

Bicycles are considered vehicles; ride only on roads legally open to motorized traffic.

Do not climb within 50 feet of Native American rock art.

Camping is limited to two weeks in all campgrounds in the park (Oct. 1 to May 31). Maximum 2 cars, 2 tents, 6 people per site.

Climbers may not begin or end a climb in an occupied campsite without the occupant's permission.

Park cars in designated parking areas, never off the roadway on vegetation.

Commercial climbing instruction or filming requires a commercial use license which is available at park headquarters.

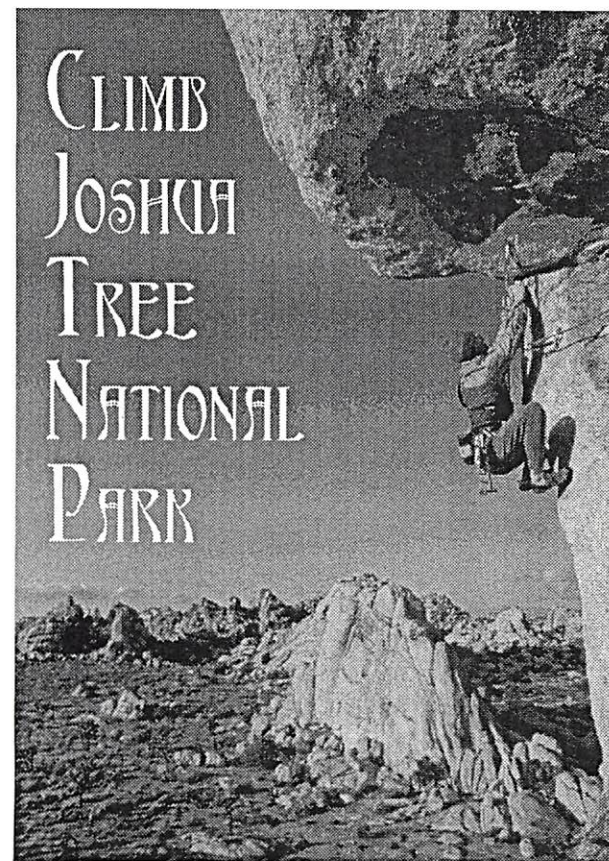
**WARNING:** The National Park Service does not maintain routes or anchors. All fixed protection found in place should be considered potentially unsafe. Use of existing bolts is not recommended.

#### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Park Dispatch (909) 383-5651  
(24 Hours — call collect)  
or call 911

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Joshua Tree National Park  
74485 National Park Drive  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277  
(760) 367-5500  
[www.nps.gov/jotr/](http://www.nps.gov/jotr/)



For the past thirty years rock climbers from Mozambique to Monterey have visited Joshua Tree for the hundreds of giant monzonite monoliths. Rock climbers have long benefited from an intimate relationship with the parks topography. They have established thousands of rock climbs in the park, many of them making innovative advancements in the style of free climbing. In the late seventies free climbing was quickly becoming the most popular style of ascent. Free climbers distained points of aid. They chose to use ropes and hardware only as a safety net and never to aid them with their ascent. Unencumbered by technology, the rock climber was free to grab hold of the stone, paste feet onto holds and swiftly scale to the summits. The free climbing style encouraged swift ascents with a minimalist's approach to fixing gear, such as bolts and pitons. Free climbing further evolved into clean climbing. A puritanical cousin of free climbing, clean climbing encourages the placement of little or no fixed gear in favor of temporary protection which can be removed from the rock after every climb.

The development of the free climbing style had its genesis in Yosemite and southern California. Smaller crags became worthy challenges because style and difficulty had become more important than the size of the crag.

The seemingly endless shapes and angles of Joshua Tree National Park's small rock formations began capturing the imaginations of free climbers. The park swiftly became a world class rock climbing destination. Thirty years ago the impact of rock climbers was minimal, but presently the park sees hundreds of rock climbers on a busy weekend.

## VERTICAL VEGETATION

Years of wandering on unmarked trails amongst challenging topography, tall brush, and fragile rocky soils have lead to (in many places) a tangled mass of unnecessary trails impacting the Park's unique vegetation. Joshua Tree National Park was originally protected for its variety of unique vegetation types. It is the Park's aim to preserve this flora while providing visitors with a quality experience.

In an unprecedented conservation effort, the park has joined hands with the Access Fund and the California Native Plant Society to work with the climbing population in a project called "Vertical Vegetation."

The goal of the project is to minimize impact to and around the base of cliffs. The project plans to accomplish this by clearly marking the most well-trafficked trail (with the aid of local climbers) while blocking off smaller, unnecessary trails. These areas will be monitored using long-term vegetation sampling to measure changes in plant conditions. This will help the Park more effectively manage resources and visitor use.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Stay on marked trails. Be aware of the fragile nature of biological (also known as cryptobiotic) soil crusts, the real victims of our footprints. This fungus/algae relationship acts as a glue that not only holds the soil together but provides vital nutrients and moisture

*Text by Anne Overlin and Jane Rodgers, Photos by Greg Epperson, Map generated by Brent Long, Graphic Design by Steve Hartman.*

## CLIMBING ETIQUETTE

**Human Waste** — In areas where outhouses are not available, choose a spot at least 50 yards from water, trails and climbs. Dig a six-inch cat hole, then cover the waste and packout toilet paper in a zip-lock plastic bag.

**Trash** — Pack out all trash and *do not leave climbing tape* at base of routes.

**Chalk** — Limit use of chalk and make an effort to brush holds and tick marks.

**Sling replacement** — Use colors that blend with the rock

**Trails** — Use existing trails whenever possible and be careful of fragile desert vegetation and wild life.

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

**Water** — There are no water facilities in the interior of the park. You may fill your water jugs at the visitor centers in Twentynine Palms and Cottonwood, and Black Rock Canyon and Indian Cove ranger stations. Water is available at the West Entrance.

**Climbing Shops** — Located in Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms.

**Visitors Center** — Three miles from the North entrance in Twentynine Palms.

## Wilderness Facts

Wilderness lands are federally designated areas, untrampled by humans, where we are only a visitor.

Approximately 80% of Joshua Tree National Park is designated as wilderness

The map below gives you a general idea of wilderness boundaries in the north-west portion of the park.

In the wilderness, you will experience solitude and quiet, with only your senses to guide you through such terrain as the Wonderland of Rocks.

## Climbs and Wilderness

