

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
for
CALENDAR YEAR 1980

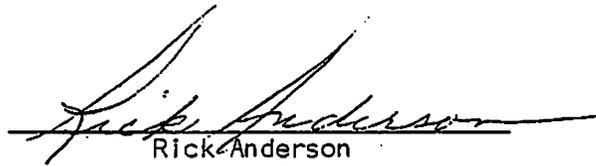

Rick Anderson
Superintendent

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
A. Important Visitors	i
B. National Park Service Visitors	i
I. ADMINISTRATION	
A. Procurement	1
B. Fee Collection	1
C. Annual Operating Program	1
D. Personnel	1
II. VISITOR SERVICES AND PROTECTION	
A. Law Enforcement	1
B. Traffic Accidents	2
C. Fire Prevention and Suppression	2
D. Backcountry/Wilderness Management	2
E. Travel Statistics	2
III. INTERPRETATION DIVISION	
A. General	3
B. Personnel	3
C. Operations	4
D. Volunteer-in-the-Park Program	4
E. Cooperating Association	4
F. Trends	5
G. Services	5
IV. MAINTENANCE	
A. Campgrounds	5
B. Maintenance General	5
C. Grounds	5
D. Buildings	6
E. Roads and Trails	6
F. YCC	6
G. Energy	6
V. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	6
VI. ENCLOSURES (ADMINISTRATION)	
A. Annual Operating Summary	
B. Personnel	

A. Important Visitors

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
01/19/80	Mrs. Nancy Groeniger	Wife of Brigadier General
01/19/80	Mrs. Romine Andalaro	Wife of Colonel
01/19/80	Mrs. Helen Williamson	Wife of Lt. Colonel
01/19/80	Mrs. Ellen Rollins	Wife of Captain
01/19/80	Mrs. Carol Glasgow	Wife of Brig. Gen. Glasgow, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms
01/24/80	Erwin Bauer	freelance photographer & writer
04/07/80	Edmond Meltzer	Director, Bureau of Criminal Identification - Germany
04/22/80	Mrs. Carol Glasgow	Wife of Brig. Gen. Glasgow, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms
04/22/80	Mrs. Pilar Rincon	Wife of Major General Rincon, Commandant, Spanish Marine Corps
04/30/80	Mrs. Virginia & Jean Adams	Wife & daughter-in-law of Ancil Adams
05/23/80	Gale Givens	BLM Area Manager, Barstow
06/13/80	Mrs. Carol Glasgow	Wife of Brig. Gen. Glasgow, as above
06/13/80	Mrs. Rusty McLennan	Wife of Asst. Commandant, USMC Lt. Gen. Rusty McLennan
07/23/80	Bud Alcar	YCC

B. National Park Service Visitors

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Duty Station</u>
04/07/80	Terry Goodrier	DSC - TWE
04/07/80	Thomas S. Lew	DSC
04/07/80	Milton Kolipinski	Western Regional Office

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Duty Station</u>
05/23/80	Ken Moore	Lands Office
06/16/80	Kay Simpson	Archeological Center Tuscon, Arizona
07/23/80	Luke McCann	Western Regional Office
07/28/80	Tom Graham	Lake Mohave Dist. Ranger, Lake Mead
08/04/80	Carla Martin	Western Archeological Center
08/28/80	Bob Mitcham	Mining engineer, Death Valley
08/29/80	Heidi Clark	Fed. Women's Program Manager Western Regional Office
09/02/80	Leslie Starr Hart	Cultural Resources Specialist Denver Service Center
09/02/80	Terry R. Carlton	Denver Service Center
09/02/80	Don Tiernan	Denver Service Center
09/02/80	Dave Bishop	Landscape Architect, DSC
09/12/80	Hank Schmidt	retired
09/23/80	Bill Werrell	Water Resources, Western Region

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Procurement

For Fiscal Year 1980, the following procurement actions were conducted: 198 purchase orders were issued, including 16 blanket orders. Seven purchase orders were issued for YCC. 97 Bills for Collection were issued, and 130 imprest fund transactions occurred. One contract was issued: garbage collection was awarded to HI Desert Disposal Company.

B. Fee Collection

413 Golden Age Passports were issued. 45 Golden Eagle Passports were sold. Statistics indicate that one out of two campers used his Golden Age Passport to obtain a one-dollar discount during the year in either Black Rock Canyon or Cottonwood campgrounds in the Monument. Campground fees collected during the year amounted to \$13,300

C. Annual Operating Program

The Fiscal Year 1980 Monument budget for Park Management was under-obligated by 1.8%. The current Annual Operating Program is attached.

D. Personnel

(See attachment)

II. VISITOR SERVICES AND PROTECTION

A. Law Enforcement

Total visitation for 1980 decreased 7.9% from the 1979 total, while overnight use showed a 4% decline from the 1979 level. Despite this decrease in volume of use, the number of law enforcement actions were comparable to 1979 totals.

The number of assists to other agencies again showed an increase which resulted from improved interagency communications capabilities and a dramatic increase in offenses during the year throughout the surrounding jurisdictions. The lack of concurrent jurisdictional authority in the Monument significantly limits the total effectiveness of the assistance the Service is able to provide, particularly in this case of outstanding warrants and failures to appear originating from other State and local jurisdictions.

The Morongo Basin Peace Officers Association continued to be active throughout the year and served as a unifying element among the various law enforcement and judicial agencies.

B. Traffic Accidents

A total of 23 traffic accidents were investigated during the year, a 53% reduction from last year's 43. Eight individuals were injured, none seriously, and no fatalities resulted compared to 27 injuries and two fatalities in 1979. Estimated property damage of \$31,000 was only \$1,000 less than last year's total which, when compared to last year's number of accidents and injuries, indicates the inflationary rate of repairs and/or the extreme good luck of passengers and operators.

C. Fire Prevention and Suppression

No structural fires were reported during the year and inspection/recharging of all fire extinguishers was accomplished on a contract basis.

Four lightning caused and one fire of undetermined origin were fought in 1980. Total acreage involved was 200 with 170 acres consumed in one fire. This pattern was more typical of the normal Joshua Tree fire experience with electrical storms igniting a series of small burns which are controlled by Monument forces alone.

Two additional slip-on pumper units were acquired for mounting on military surplus 4 X 4 trucks. In addition to improving the effectiveness of response to Monument fires, four wheel drive capability will permit the Service to make a contribution to local mutual aid agencies as a donor rather than in the usual recipient role.

D. Backcountry/Wilderness Management

No changes were made in self-registration-procedures and restricted areas remained unchanged. A total of 2,241 registered visitor nights were recorded in 1980, opposed to 1,623 visitor nights in 1979. This 41% increase in backcountry use occurred while total overnight use for the year decreased 4%.

E. Travel Statistics

Total visitation for the majority of the year was running as much as 30% below 1979 year to date levels during the early months, then began to recover toward the end of the year. A 45% increase in December travel brought the total decline for the year to 7.6%. Overnight use trends showed an opposite pattern, starting out with monthly increases and declining toward year's end, resulting in an overall 4% decrease in overnight use.

The normal visitor use patterns continue unchanged with heavy week-end and holiday use from October through May and minimal weekday and summer use.

III. INTERPRETATION DIVISION

A. General

The Division operated with a financial base of \$180,400 for FY 1980, an increase over the previous year (4.3%). There was 92.5% expended for personal services and 7.5% for support costs.

The Division used an approximate total of 2,620 mandays during 1980, up 2.7% from 1979.

B. Personnel

The Division operated with three (3) permanent, full-time positions. The seasonal positions (representing 7.6 MY) were staffed as follows:

Spring 1980 - 14 seasonals (8 full-time techs, 1 full-time park aid and 5 part-time park aids)

Summer 1980 - 2 seasonals (2 full-time techs)

Fall 1980 - 15 seasonals (7 full-time techs, 1 part-time tech, 1 full-time park aid and 6 part-time park aids)

All seasonal personnel were required to take a 3-week LWOP break during the winter as a condition of employment.

Additional personnel were utilized through the YACC program (1 clerk-typist/environmental aid) and the CETA-YSEP (2 park aids) which required no significant obligation of interpretive funds.

The Division invested approximately 211 mandays in formal training activities including the video-tape Interpretive Course, Law Enforcement, Rock Climbing/Rescue, Fire Fighting, Career Counseling, Desert Ecology, Threats to Parks, Performance Standards and general training and orientation.

We hired a total of 10 students through the Cooperative Education Program with UC Riverside and College of the Desert. Additionally, we hired three (3) high school students for the staff utilizing the Youth Opportunity Program.

In August, Ernestine Escalante, the Interpretive Specialist, accepted a position at Grand Canyon NP. The position remained vacant until Ernie Quintana filled it in October. Ernestine received a Special Achievement Award for her work at Joshua Tree National Monument.

The major problem in this area of operations continues to be the late receipt of the winter seasonal registers. While we manage to get the hiring done, we are rushed, not having lead time enough to do as much checking as we would wish. We have been lucky to hire the high calibre of seasonal employees we do, given the little time available to do it before the start of our season.

C. Operations

The Statement of Interpretation was completed for the Monument. The document gives a complete overview of the Interpretive processes and will be extremely helpful in current IVS planning and management as well as in orientation of new Interpretive personnel.

The Environmental Education movement at Joshua Tree continued to grow and develop with the completion and execution of Project OWL (Outdoor Wilderness Leadership) for the Junior High level students. The program, which included an overnight experience, was well-received by the local school district. The K thru 6 program, completed last year, was "fine-tuned" with additional activities, reproduced and sent out to all participating teachers.

German and French translations of the new Monument brochure were prepared and have been very popular with our foreign visitors.

A children's checklist (free handout) was prepared by staff for dispensing at Visitor Centers to young children. The program had a great number of rewarding moments.

Due to mileage restrictions, 80% of the Division's vehicles were red-lined during the summer months. It made overseeing of the IVS operations extremely difficult and resulted in a poor and embarrassing summer season.

Ernie Quintana, the new Interpretive Specialist, conducted rock climbing training session with the Marines from MCAGCC (across town) in an effort not only to provide training, but to instill an appreciation of and sense of responsibility for the resources at Joshua Tree. The program began late in the year and it will be some time before the results of the Monument's efforts may be noticeable.

The major problem in the field continues to be the nature trails - their message, condition and maintenance. It is an area that needs attention this next calendar year.

There were 59,150 Monument folders distributed and 1,432 requests for written information from the Division.

D. Volunteer-in-the-Park Program

There were 28 volunteers on the roles in 1980. They were primarily involved in information/contact station operations, environmental education, curatorial activities and resource management projects. There was a total of 1,565 hours of volunteer time logged for 1980.

E. Cooperating Association

The gross sales for the Joshua Tree Natural History Association was \$51,178, a 29.2% increase over FY 79. Several pertinent publications were added to the book shelf. No major projects for the Association were planned and emphasis was primarily on satisfying loan obligations incurred during the publishing of JOSHUA TREE-desert reflections.

F. Trends

Visitor hours increased 15.9% this year over last, but total visitation and camping were down 7.6% and 4.0% respectively. Visitor use of interpretive services decreased this year by nearly 13%, primarily at fixed stations. We believe that we are getting a great deal of repeat visitors who still utilize field interpretive activities because of variety, but have all the information they feel they need from fixed stations. The formal environmental education program continued to grow and the Service is becoming a high profile agency with the local school district. More time is being spent on the informal roving contact in campgrounds in an effort to reduce adverse use through visibility; this will continue as budgets get tighter.

G. Services

Routine interpretive events numbered 1,086, including loan material, with a total visitor use of 29,365. This is a decrease of 4.1% in events and 5.8% in visitor use from 1979. The average number of people attending an event was 27 (same as last year). Interpretive roving contacts accounted for 8,852, up 9.6% over 1979. Visitation at fixed contact stations numbered 86,122, down 16.7% from 1979.

In summary, the total of IVS contacts was 124,339 people, down 12.8% from 1979. This represents 22.7% of the Monument's total visitation for 1980 - 547,722 (-7.6%).

IV. MAINTENANCE

A. Camp and Picnic Grounds

Replacement fireplaces and fireplace repair continue in each campground. Because of an increase in vandalism, large amount of funds are being expended for table and toilet blind repair. Standing fireplaces were installed in Split Rock and Live Oak picnic areas.

B. Maintenance General

The Division has 9 permanent employees; 5 subject-to-furlough and 2 seasonal. One subject-to-furlough remains open. This position's entry level was reduced in grade in an attempt to provide upward mobility for minority and/or women. However, the President's freeze on hiring has delayed filling the job. A new Chief of Maintenance entered on duty June 1, 1980. A mechanic, WG-10 was hired in August, 1980. West District Foreman position was filled by an onsite employee.

C. Grounds

Presently there are 30 acres that require ground maintenance. The Oasis of Mara, located at 29 Palms Headquarters, is the single largest area that requires maintenance. During the summer of 1980, YCC enrollees spent an excess of 1544 hours in hazardous fuel reduction in the Oasis. This will make the third year of the program. There

are various species of trees in the area, including the California Palms. The clearing of the underbrush will give water from rain falls a chance to scrub the area in place of channeling. Personnel from Western Region and Western Archeological Center have also recommended the removal of the walls surrounding the Oasis.

D. Buildings

No new buildings were added this year. Cyclic painting projects continue for interior and exterior painting.

E. Roads and Trails

No major construction took place within the Monument this year. A seal and chipped project was accomplished on the Keys View Road and a one mile section of Rt. 11, Cap Rock toward Sheep Pass. Centerline was laid on the chip/seal project and approximately 17 miles of the Pinto Basin-Cottonwood Road. Continuous pot-hole patching is an ever increasing project.

F. YCC

Youth Conservation Corps, Camp 7185, has had its fourth year of operation with a budget of \$26,400. The Camp was Co-ed and non-residential with four staff members, and eighteen enrollees, including two Youth Leaders. YCC projects include:

1. Hazardous Fuel Reduction, Oasis of Mara
2. Keys Ranch Cleanup
3. Erosion Control
4. Trail Maintenance
5. Fireplace Installation
6. 49 Palms Oasis, Cleanup and Erosion Control
7. YCC Building Maintenance
8. Repair of Waterlines and Filling of Wildlife Guzzlers
9. Campground Maintenance
10. Litter Pick-up at Campgrounds
11. Trimming of Road Area - Fire Maintenance

G. Energy

Reduction in numbers of vehicles and vehicle use continues. Requests for additional funding for evaporative coolers, storm windows, insulated draperies, and wood stoves have been submitted to WRO.

V. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Resource Management Specialist's position was filled on February 25, 1980 as a permanent less than full-time (32 hours per week). On July 27, 1980, this appointment was converted to full-time subject to furlough. A part-time seasonal cooperative education aid position was filled in October to assist in Resource Management operations.

In March, a group of Joshua trees near the Monument's west entrance appeared to be dying. Severe foliage die-back was obvious on many trees. A park-wide survey indicated that the problem was located throughout the Monument population. As many as 1,000 trees were involved.

Several biologists were contacted including Dr. Douglas at UNLV. Dr. Howard Orr, a plant pathologist with U. C. Riverside's cooperative extension, conducted several field investigations to obtain samples for laboratory examination. Although he was unable to determine the exact cause, he ruled out frost, air pollution and several other environmental causes. Infected trees began to show signs of renewed growth during May. By mid-summer, 95% of the infected trees showed clear signs of survival. The incident points out how very little we know about the autecology of the Joshua tree. A study plot was created to monitor an infected cluster of trees, and provide long term data on mortality and recruitment.

In July, the Resource Management Specialist attended an "Integral Vista" workshop at Pinnacles National Monument. Subsequently, a vista survey was conducted and five integral vistas documented and proposed for the Monument.

In July, two YCC crews were responsible for a restoration project at Stubbe Springs guzzler. Heavy spring rains had severely eroded the wash adjacent to the drinker exposing a two inch plastic fill pipe and placing the security of the drinker in jeopardy. A rock retaining wall was constructed to protect the fill pipe and allow future siltation to restore the original substrate grade at the site. The crews additionally conducted a clean-up operation and maintenance on the apron and storage tanks.

YCC crews in June and July continued the mesquite removal operations in the Oasis of Mara. Approximately two thirds of the mesquite cover scheduled for removal has now been completed.

In July, a restoration plan was implemented to recover and re-engineer the adit in the Coxcomb Mountains. YCC crews removed approximately 80 cubic yards of siltation from the adit. A platoon of Marines from the local Base backpacked a ton of cement and water into the remote site to provide the construction material required for the reconstruction.

In September, the Resource Management plan was updated and revised to conform to current mandates and make it more responsive to existing resource problems.

In cooperation with College of the Desert, a wildlife management study was initiated to analyze the diet of bighorn sheep in the Monument. The project is designed to establish a data base for comparison of seasonal and spatial variations in diet. Data will additionally be used to assess forage availability versus utilization.

In October, the existence of burros within the Monument was substantiated. Since then, a census study has been initiated to provide documentation of

numbers and probable sources of introduction. It has been confirmed that at least some of the burros are "escapees" from BLM's Adopt a Burro Program. This incipient data is critical for the formulation of management alternatives.

Researchers Pat Leary and Anita Allison continued their respective burn recovery studies.

Three consecutive wet winters have had a significant impact on natural spring flow in the Monument. Important springs such as Stubbe, Quail, Covington, Pine City, Smithwater and Pushawalla are all flowing. Stubbe has produced continuous flow for over one year and some of these springs have not been reported as active for many years. Vegetation and wildlife response are being monitored.