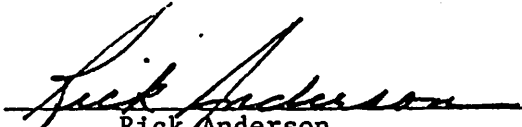


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT  
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
for  
CALENDAR YEAR 1983

  
Rick Anderson  
Superintendent

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Travel Statistics	i
Special Visitors	ii
I. GENERAL SUMMARY AND TRENDS	1
II. ADMINISTRATION	2
A. Procurement	2
B. Fee Collection	2
C. Personnel	2
D. Annual Operating Program	2
III. MAINTENANCE	3
A. Personnel	3
B. Maintenance General	4
1. Roads	4
2. Buildings	4
3. Campgrounds	5
4. Utilities	5
5. Energy Conservation	6
6. Cyclic Maintenance	6
IV. INTERPRETATION AND VISITOR SERVICES	6
A. General	6
B. Personnel	7
C. Operations	9
D. Volunteers in the Park Program	10
E. Cooperating Association	11
F. Cultural Resources	11
G. Trends	11
V. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	11
A. Planning	11
B. Monitoring	12
C. Program Implementation	12
D. Personnel	13
VI. VISITOR PROTECTION	13
A. General	13
B. Personnel	13
C. Traffic Accidents	14
D. Law Enforcement	14
E. Search and Rescue	15
F. Fire Prevention and Suppression	15
VII. ENCLOSURES (ADMINISTRATION)	
Annual Operating Program Summary	

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

USE STATISTICS

ALL VISITS

<u>Month</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>% Change</u>
January	53,791	49,886	- 7%
February	66,998	73,235	+ 9%
March	77,188	99,363	+ 28%
April	140,676	124,917	- 11%
May	58,363	76,579	+ 31%
June	38,619	32,599	- 15%
July	32,960	29,423	- 11%
August	34,713	19,961	- 42%
September	36,132	27,194	- 25%
October	47,621	41,039	- 14%
November	49,339	52,625	- 7%
December	39,710	47,563	+ 20%
Total	678,720	674,384	- 1%

VISITOR HOURS

Total	8,670,639	9,759,430	+ 12%
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OVERNIGHT STAYS

Total	164,511	170,611	+ 4%
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SPECIAL VISITORS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Duty Station</u>
02/15/83	Dave Cherry	Associate Regional Director for Resource Management & Planning
03/14/83	Jim Mills	Leader of NPS, Western Region Evaluation Study Team
04/18/83	Ray Murray	Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park
04/18/83	John Schaffer	Denver Svc Ctr
05/19/83	Howard Chapman	Director, Western Region
09/19/83	Howard Chapman	Director, Western Region
10/20/83	Noel Lloyd	General Telephone Co.

## I. GENERAL SUMMARY AND TRENDS

The rainfall experienced during the year was noteworthy. With the 12.32 inches total a new precipitation record was established for Monument Headquarters, breaking the old 1943 record of 11.2. Also during one of the August storms over 6" was recorded in a 24 hour period at Cottonwood.

Because of the heavy rains and subsequent flash flooding, road washouts and closures were common. Both of the two main roads were closed on one occasion, with the route from Twentynine Palms to Joshua Tree being re-opened the next day, while the Cottonwood road remained closed approximately two weeks. Secondary dirt roads throughout the Monument were also closed for extensive periods during that period.

The heavy rainfall played a major roll in keeping down summer visitation. All summer and fall months recorded substantial visitation decreases, however good spring and late winter visitation kept the total close to the 1982 total.

Visitation to Joshua Tree National Monument during 1983 was erratic. Overall visitation dropped slightly less than 1% from 1982.

The Monument's proximity to the Los Angeles area with over 13 million people normally results in heavy weekend visitation. This year the Los Angeles basin also experienced abnormally high precipitation and when potential visitors called the desert they were often informed that similar conditions prevailed. December, however, brought a renewed interest in the Monument as the weather cleared. The trend for spring 1984 appears to be another increase in visitation.

During the summer 1984, when the Olympics come to Los Angeles, an additional increase in visitation is also expected. An average of between 225,000 and 350,000 visitors per day are expected to attend the Olympic events, all of which are within a three to five hour drive from the Monument.

Of continued concern for the Monument is the growth of the local desert communities and the expected expansion of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. There are currently a little over 8,000 Marines at the Combat Center, however by 1985 an increase to 15,000 is planned.

New construction in the local communities has been steady. A large new modern motel was completed in Twentynine Palms and the construction of a second one has begun. One new fast food restaurant has just been constructed and two others are currently under construction. Since the end of fall, a considerable number of new housing starts have been observed. Within a half mile from the Indian Cove Ranger Station five new houses under construction can be seen. The communities of Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree on the north and Desert Hot Springs on the south are also all experiencing rapid growth. Because of this continued growth along the Monument boundaries, we can expect increased use and the potential for abuse of the resources.

Increased illegal activities by uninformed Monument neighbors pose significant threats to Monument resources. Increased poaching, vandalism and off road vehicles trespass can be expected.

## II. ADMINISTRATION

### A. Procurement

During 1983 the following procurement actions were conducted:

Purchase orders	295
Blanket purchase orders	15
GSA orders	17
Bill for Collection	118
Utility Payments	184
Imprest	131
Contract, Garbage	1
Base Agreement	1

### B. Fee Collection (calendar year 1983)

Campground fees collected at the two fee campgrounds totaled \$35,873.

Eighty-four Golden Eagle passports were sold.

Issued 485 Golden Age passports, and 21 Golden Access passports.

Statistics indicate that two out of five campers at the two fee campgrounds (Black Rock Canyon and Cottonwood Springs) used a Golden Age passport for discount camping rates.

### C. Personnel

The following permanent positions filled during the year were:

D. Paul Henry, GS-12 Chief Park Ranger  
Don Colville was reassigned from Chief Park Ranger to Management Assistant in October 1983.

Personnel hired in less than full time positions were:

Karen Clark, GS-4, Clerk-Typist

The EEO employment posture at year's end was as follows:

26 Full Time Positions:	9 LTF positions:
14 Majority Males	1 Majority Female
5 Majority Females	1 Minority Female
5 Minority Males	3 Minority Males
2 Vacancies	2 Vacancies

### D. Annual Operating Program

The Fiscal Year 1983 Monument budget was under-spent by 0.1%. The 1984 annual operating program is attached.

### III. MAINTENANCE

#### A. Personnel

The Division operated with 9 Permanent Full Time; 6 Subject to Furlough and 17 Seasonal employees for a total of 20 FTE. There were no changes in the permanent work force during the reporting period.

##### 1. Volunteers

Additional personnel were utilized through the California Conservation Corps from Mt. San Jacinto work center. CCC worked approximately 1026 project hours in campground, roadside, trail and utility maintenance.

During the summer season 3 SYEP-CETA personnel worked a total of 180 hours with NPS personnel at Black Rock Canyon. Projects included campground vegetation removal, signs maintenance, litter removal, table maintenance, painting and building custodial duties.

Various Boy Scouts of America troops from the Los Angeles basin worked a total of 494 hours in trail maintenance, preservation of cultural resources, litter removal and campground maintenance.

Community service workers, assigned by the San Bernardino County Probation Department, worked a total of 1075 hours in roads, campgrounds, utility and building maintenance.

Camp hosts, assigned in various campgrounds, worked a total of approximately 600 hours in maintenance.

Other volunteer hours totaled 150 hours. Work included fire pumper maintenance, litter cleanup, natural area cleanup and training courses.

A grand total of 3,525 hours was volunteered through the various programs identified above. If we were paying minimum wages for this work our savings to the Monument would be \$11,808.75. If we paid the volunteer entry level laborer wages, our savings would be \$28,023.75.

##### 2. Training

Division personnel are continuing to develop their skills and knowledge on their own time in such courses as carpentry, electricity, drainage, computers and engineering. One employee, who has since transferred to Tonto, New Mexico, Ken Cheska, received training in water treatment and passed the certification test for Class I California Water Treatment Plant Operator. Chief of Maintenance Fielding completed an Introduction to Computer Science Course at the College of the Desert in June 1983.

Chief of Maintenance Fielding attended the Park Facilities Management Workshop in Phoenix in February 1983.

Ten division employees received the OPM course titled "Personnel Management for Supervisors and Managers" in July 1983.

Fourteen division employees received "Defensive Driving" training from GSA in October 1983.

Alyn Helms, Project Clerk, attended "Pay/Pers" training at Yosemite in October 1983.

Robert King, Maintenance Worker, attended the "Introduction to Park Management Program" given at Channel Island National Park, in December 1983.

Seven division employees received training in "Oil and Gas Burner Controls" in January 1983.

Fourteen division employees and two volunteers received training in Standard First Aid given in April 1983.

Chief of Maintenance Fielding received "A-76 Training" in September 1983, "Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams" training in October 1983.

Fourteen division employees received certification in CPR in June 1983.

## B. Maintenance General

Operations maintenance continues in buildings, roads, trails, utilities and campgrounds. Various volunteer programs, identified in Item A, contributed an intangible value to the success of these operations.

### 1. Roads

Using limited amounts of cyclic and operations funding, we are able to repair surface problems and correct shoulder deficiencies. The severe damage resulting from the storms of August and October 1983, still remain to be corrected. ERFO funding has been requested for this problem. In the interim, personnel involved in building and campground maintenance are working on road flood damage. This then curtailed maintenance activities in these areas. Due to an overcharge by GSA for rental of two dump trucks, near the end of the fiscal year, we were able to order some \$6,500 worth of informational and regulatory signs. Vandalized and weathered signs are being replaced as time permits.

### 2. Buildings

Operations and maintenance of buildings continues. Again the volunteer has greatly enhanced our capability to present to the visitor and administrative user, a well maintained facility. Exterior surfaces of buildings in the Headquarters, Indian Cove and Black Rock Canyon developed areas, were painted with a cyclic maintenance crew. Another cyclic project enabled us to replace the roof on the Black Rock maintenance storage building.



### 3. Campgrounds

Ongoing cleaning and maintenance of these facilities are again helped very much by the work of our volunteers. Letters and verbal comments received from our visitors, confirm that the user enjoys a clean area. Ongoing cyclic table, pit toilet and fireplace projects have provided for replacement of facilities in our campgrounds. The flood damage occurring in August and October, caused a temporary set-back in the completion of these projects; however, the projects are presently being completed.

### 4. Utilities

Major repairs to our generator sets in the previous reporting period have reduced the amounts of down time for this utility. With any mechanical device, the generator sets are subject to breakdown, however it seems our problems are minor compared to previous years.

Deadended lines in the Cottonwood and Black Rock water system are flushed monthly and the remaining lines are flushed quarterly. One fire hydrant near the Cottonwood Visitor Center was overhauled and the system now is in good operating order. At Headquarters, one outdated fire hydrant has been replaced and another overhauled. Two hydrants still need line isolation valves installed. Ongoing maintenance of the secondary water service continues, replacing lines that were installed in the 1940 era.

All septic tanks are measured annually and those requiring pumping are pumped. Ongoing pumping of pit toilet vaults in our campgrounds continues. A new handicap pit vault toilet was installed at the Cap Rock trail. The design of this unit favors both the elimination of odors and lessens vandalism.

All other major utility systems are operating as designed. Safety checks and routing maintenance are performed as required by regulations.

Radio maintenance for mobiles, bases and our one repeater on Belle Mountain is performed under GSA contract with the Motorola dealer in Indio. Portables and remote control units are repaired by the radio shop in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park.

A new three year garbage collection and disposal contract was negotiated beginning FY-84.

The Interagency Motor Pool was consolidated with the Los Angeles Pool in early December 1983. With this consolidation the responsibility to obtain repair parts and materials is placed on the Monument. This consolidation has increased our mechanic's time in parts procurement and securing authorizations for repairs.

## 5. Energy Conservation

An energy retrofit project enabled the Division to purchase and install storm windows, 10° set-back thermostats, energy saving light bulbs and fixtures in our administrative and public use buildings. Other projects in ONPS maintenance include use of more efficient filters, insulation, storm windows and training in maintenance of energy use equipment.

## 6. Cyclic Maintenance

In addition to cyclic projects already identified, funds were provided for repair and installation of boundary barriers. In this project, boundary signing was reinstalled, fences repaired and rocks placed across selected washes where off-road vehicles were encroaching on the resources.

Another project provided for the rehab of four interpretive displays at Cottonwood, Headquarters and Black Rock Visitor Centers.

Funds were used to purchase materials for installation of a new septic tank system for the Lost Horse Ranger Station. Because of the flood damage occurring on the roads and other facilities, this project has been delayed. It has highest priority for completion.

The amphitheaters at Cottonwood and Jumbo Rocks were rehabed in another cyclic project. This enabled the interpreter using these facilities to present programs with interruptions during the programs.

Funds for limited maintenance at the Keys Ranch were used to hire one seasonal worker. In addition, volunteer groups assisted the Monument in slowing the degradation of this resource. The effects of winds, rain and heat are rapidly deteriorating this resource.

## IV. INTERPRETATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

### A. General

Visitation during 1983 to Joshua Tree National Monument decreased slightly less than 1% from 1982 visitation. Interpretive facility visitation decreased similarly. The hours of visitor center operations remained almost the same, due primarily to funding by the Natural History Association of positions dropped by the NPS because of budget deficiencies. The Park Service operated with two less seasonals in the spring compared to spring 1982 because of the funding shortages. Also during the spring and fall, volunteers in the Parks were assisting at Black Rock Canyon and Cottonwood Springs Visitor Centers helping to keep these two centers open almost daily. During the summer 1983, we were authorized additional funding for one more Cooperative Education Student from the University of California at Riverside. This employee has split her duties between Interpretation and Resource Management. With this assistance we were able to keep the Oasis Visitor Center open full time and the Cottonwood Visitor Center open five days a week from June through August.

The extremely wet year (over 12 inches of precipitation) contributed to some roads and trails being closed. When the southern Monument road down through the Pinto Basin and Cottonwood Canyon was closed, due to flooding in mid-August, the Cottonwood Visitor Center was also closed and remained closed till October. The self-guiding Geology Tour Road was also closed on several occasions because of summer rains, and by the end of summer was signed and recommended for four wheel drive only. This substantially reduced visitor use of this interpretive road.

During FY 1983 the Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services operated with a budget of \$166,800.

## B. Personnel

The Interpretive Division operated with three permanent full time positions and ten seasonal positions:

Winter 1983 - 8 seasonals (5 full time Park Technicians, 2 full time Park Aids, 1 part time Student Aid)

Spring 1983 - 7 seasonals (4 full time Park Technicians, 1 full time Park Aid, 1 part time Park Aid, and 1 part time Summer Aid)

Summer 1983 - 3 seasonals (1 full time Park Technician, 2 full time Cooperative Education Park Aids)

Fall 1983 - 6 seasonals (5 full time Park Technicians, 1 full time Cooperative Education Student Aid)

The winter season was begun with seven full time and one part time seasonal employees. During the spring, because of budget limits, we terminated one Park Technician and converted one full time Park Aid to part time. Fortunately, the Natural History Association was able to employ the Park Technician and prevented having to completely eliminate programs in the Cottonwood area and partially closing the Cottonwood Visitor Center.

All other seasonal employees were required to take a three week LWOP break during the winter as a condition of their employment. Jacques Carter used his LWOP plus two weeks annual leave when called up for temporary active duty in Washington. Additional personnel were utilized through the CETA - Student Youth Employment Program - two student aids; the Joshua Tree Natural History Association - the business manager, who also serves part time at the sales/information desk, the Park Technician at Cottonwood and a part time sales/information desk employee at the Oasis Visitor Center; and through the volunteers in the Park program. Campground hosts, the Smiths at Cottonwood and the Andersons at Black Rock also assisted at those visitor centers during the spring. During the fall, campground hosts Reynolds at Black Rock and Cosbys at Cottonwood assisted at the centers. Three other campgrounds had VIP hosts during the fall of 1983. In all, a maximum of ten hosts were available in five campgrounds in October and remained through the winter. These volunteers daily walked the campgrounds and made visitor contacts providing a tremendous increase in the amount of visitor assistance, information and service available. Over 3,600 hours of VIP time was donated in the last quarter of the year.

Numerous training opportunities were available during the year. Western Region Chief Interpreter Dick Cunningham and Chief Naturalist Truesdell presented a forty hour Orientation and Interpretation Training course during the first week in October in the 1983-84 season. Two Interpretive staff members attended the forty hour Rock Rescue Training course and five interpreters participated in the forty hour Law Enforcement refresher also offered here at Joshua Tree National Monument. The Chief Naturalist and Interpretive Specialist attended several Fire Protection Training sessions and in turn instructed several other Interpretive staff members in the fire weather and computer use. Interpretive Specialist Quintana completed the Emergency Medical Technician course offered at the College of the Desert, and Chief Naturalist Truesdell completed a Computer Science course at the College of the Desert. Information Specialist Flanagan attended a three day Regional Training Equal Employment Conference in Marin County in February. Other training attended by Interpreters Truesdell and Quintana included Helitac training.

In March the Chief Naturalist attended the Western Region Interpreters Conference and Western Interpreters Association Conference at Santa Monica Mountains. A two day Incident Command Systems Training course offered by the California Division of Forestry was attended by six Interpretive staff members in April. A special Archeology Training Seminar was presented to 26 Monument staff personnel by College of the Desert Instructor Delcie Vuncannon on December 2, 1983. Personnel Management for Supervisors and Managers offered by the Western Region Office of Personnel Management was attended by Interpreters Truesdell and Quintana.

All staff members, including five VIPs, participated in Defensive Driving classes offered on October 26th and 27th. A one day safety course of preventing back injuries was attended by Pat Flanagan. Interpretive Specialist Quintana participated in a Desert Survival Exercise given by Resource Management Chief Moon to the Army Special Forces Desert Survival Unit.

Seasonal Naturalist Kummer and Cooperative Education Student Corcel completed a four day Basic Firefighter Course and became part of the Monument's red-carded fire crew. Interpreters Truesdell, Quintana and Peterson were also part of the fire crew.

In all a total of approximately 191 training days were received by Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services staff members in 1983.

Supervisory Park Ranger (Interpretive Specialist) Quintana accepted a transfer to Saguaro National Monument in October 1983. His vacant position was announced in October; however, by the end of the year was still unfilled.

During the year, Interpretive Specialist Quintana was called out for Special Events Team operations in Hawaii for the marijuana harvest trials, Yosemite for the Queen's visit, to Lake Mead for the busy Fourth of July and flooding problems, and to Cabrillo National Monument during anti-nuclear demonstrations. In addition, he attended a SET training course in April.

As of October 13, 1983, Information Specialist Flanagan was designated as Acting Interpretive Specialist and took over the responsibilities of scheduling interpretive programs and supervising the staff and also supervising the VIP program.

### C. Operations

Taking advantage of the increased use of volunteers in the Parks and additional Cooperative Association employees we were able to increase some of the interpretive programs during 1983.

Interpretive programs were offered primarily on weekends during the winter, spring and fall in the major visitor use areas. By the end of the year, however, interpretive efforts had been eliminated in the Indian Cove area and reduced significantly at Cottonwood. In addition to Indian Cove Visitor Center being closed, three other visitor centers were only open on a part time basis most of the year. Only the Oasis Visitor Center was open daily throughout the year. With the increased use of VIP campground hosts many more visitors to our campgrounds were contacted. The hosts and their roving efforts contributed to increased attendance at our interpretive programs.

The following is a breakdown of programs offered and numbers of visitors contacted:

Interpretive Walks and Hikes	326/4091
Historic Tours	71/1508
Information and Orientation Talks	99/2221
General Information Talks	74/1035
Evening Programs	206/8168
Interpretive Demonstrations	33/397
Audiovisual Programs	6,868/33,523
Visitor Center Visitation	92,556
Contact Station Visitation	5,128
(Indian Cove Closed)	

Interpretive programs were offered primarily from February 15 through May 30 and October 15 until the Christmas break.

Vandalism continues to cause a lot of extra work. Nature trail label replacement was continuous. In addition, the Oasis Visitor Center glass door had a rock thrown through it and several outdoor light fixtures were smashed. Indian Cove contact station was also broken into and \$25.00 in Association funds stolen. Wayside exhibits were hard hit also. Two of the entrance area kiosks had damage to their interpretive maps. Replacements were obtained from Harpers Ferry Center. Four outdoor exhibit maps also had to be sent out for exhibit rehabilitation during the year. Noteworthy, Seasonal Naturalist Jerry Freilich completely replaced all of the Barker Dam Nature Trail labels, cemented the posts into the ground and painted them. An additional section of Nature Trail and labels was

laid out at the Cottonwood Visitor Center also the Hidden Valley Nature Trail continues to cause problems. On at least three occasions, Monument Interpretive personnel, Boy Scouts, and Maintenance personnel marked, remarked, and barricaded portions of the trail in order to try and prevent visitors from getting lost. Vandals constantly pull up the signs and knock down the barricades. Over 127,900 visitors used the nature trails of Joshua Tree during 1983.

Members of the Stokers Society (people who have suffered heart attacks) assisted Monument personnel in laying out a nature trail for the handicapped at Black Rock Campground.

During the year revisions of the Statement for Interpretation and the Cultural Resources Management Plan were accomplished. Also a Legislative History of the Monument was written and all submitted to the Regional Office.

A revised Plant Checklist was completed for the Monument by Seasonal Naturalist Alice Siebecker.

During the year major renovations were made at the Jumbo Rocks and Cottonwood amphitheaters. The Jumbo Rocks screen and projection box were replaced and several benches replaced. Wiring problems were resolved in both areas. Unfortunately, shortly after the projection box was installed at Jumbo Rocks it was burned up by vandals and had to be replaced again.

Division Chief Truesdell spent numerous days in the field locating and visiting mines, mills and other historic sites with Denver Service Center Historian, Linda Greene. Mrs. Greene produced an excellent Historic Resources Study for Joshua Tree. Because of her work the Monument recommended her for a Special Achievement Award, which she did receive.

Interpretive staff members participated in the A-76 Management Review. They also were contacted and interviewed by the Regional Evaluation Team during their visit. During the year interpreters assisted the Resource Management Division with research burning operations, and on several occasions interpreters were called out for wildfire suppression activities. Interpretive personnel also participated in drawing up proposed special regulations for Joshua Tree.

During May Regional Director Chapman visited Joshua Tree National Monument and presented a unit citation to the Monument in recognition of rescue team efforts that saved the life of a visitor on December 31, 1981. Four interpreters were part of the rescue team involved.

#### D. Volunteers in the Park Program

There were 34 active volunteers during 1983. Of these, 16 were VIP campground hosts; others worked in visitor centers, on the museum study collection, assisted with resource management burns, collected data on

wildlife observations, transcribed oral history tapes, conducted research on past burns, assisted with nature trail restoration and assisted with interpretive rock rescue demonstrations. In addition to those VIPs, there were five Boy Scout or special group work projects involving 102 volunteer workers. A total of approximately 9,085 hours were donated during 1983.

#### E. Cooperating Association

The Joshua Tree Natural History Association again operated sales outlets in five visitor centers and contact stations during 1983. Sales totaled \$91,779.06 for the year compared to \$65,000 in 1982. Association activities included review and continued work on the geology book being written by Julie Roller, review of Guide to the Oasis of Mara manuscript by Tony Beasley and continued work on the drawings for the Oasis Guide by Alice Siebecker.

The Association funded one full time and four part time seasonal interpretive employees during the year in addition to the full time permanent Business Manager who assisted with interpretive activities on a regular basis.

#### F. Cultural Resources

Southwest Archeological Center staff personnel visited the Monument during the year to provide archeological clearance for water line construction in the Oasis of Mara.

#### G. Trends

Travel during 1983 leveled off; however, an increase in visitation is expected during 1984 summer due to the Olympics being held in Los Angeles. If no additional funding is made available during FY 1985, two more seasonal interpretive positions will have to be cut. An increased reliance on volunteers in the Park and Cooperating Association employees will be occurring. However, housing is not available for VIPs and the Association funding limits for employees is close to maximum allowed. We will be concentrating primarily in 1984 and 1985 in just keeping the visitor centers and contact stations open. With the assistance of VIP campground hosts we have proven this can be done this year.

### V. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

#### A. Planning

##### 1. Fire Management

- a. As part of the Fire Management program research burns were accomplished in the Oasis of Mara. On February 2, 1983 a mesquite burn was accomplished and on February 11, 1983 a palm tree thatch burn was accomplished.

- b. During the year a Monument Dispatch and Step-up plan was developed and training was provided for staff members.
  - c. A Modified Suppression interim plan was also developed.
- 2. Boundary Intrusion/ORV Impact Study
    - a. With the cooperation of the Protection and Resource Management Divisions plans were developed for combatting boundary intrusions and identifying ORV impacts. Problem areas were identified and report procedures formulated.
  - 3. The Oasis of Mara Action Plan was completed and submitted to the Western Region.
- B. Monitoring
- 1. Air quality monitoring continued with teleradiometer visibility testing and particulate sampling accomplished.
  - 2. Fire weather monitoring was accomplished through the summer fire season.
  - 3. A burro monitoring program was formally initiated. Utilizing Protection, Resource Management and VIP staff members sightings and tracks will be carefully documented and recorded.
- C. Program Implementation
- 1. Oasis of Mara Action Plan submitted to WRO 12-21-83 and approved by WRO 12-30-83.
  - 2. Boundary Intrusion/ORV Impact Study
    - a. Scheduled ranger patrols.
    - b. Reports being submitted.
  - 3. Fire Management
    - a. Fire organization. A Fire Pro Committee was developed to facilitate training and coordinate operations. Three fire control technicians were brought on duty for the summer months.
    - b. Daily fire weather was recorded at the Lost Horse Ranger Station weather station.
  - 4. Air Quality
- An automated teleradiometer was installed on Inspiration Peak late in the year.



D. Personnel

1. Staffing

- a. One permanent full time Division Chief
- b .26 MY Seasonal

2. Training

- a. 168 hours permanent
- b. 32 hours seasonal

VI. VISITOR PROTECTION

A. General

Although the division experienced a reduction in budget of \$10,500 from the previous year, a number of improvements in operations were accomplished.

The ranger operations at Headquarters were consolidated and moved to a new location in a temporary building previously used for the YCC program. Lost-and-found, dispatch and two permanent rangers now occupy the building. It also contains approved evidence lockers.

The division is attempting to establish a full time dispatch operation, although budget constraints jeopardize the operation during the summer season.

A program to create and maintain a standard operating procedures manual was initiated and will continue through next year.

Standard operating procedures for fee collection at Black Rock Campground were established. Development of a nature trail accessible to the handicapped was also initiated at Black Rock.

B. Personnel

The division operated with eight permanent full time positions. Chief Ranger Don Colville was reassigned to Management Assistant at Joshua Tree in October. D. Paul Henry, from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, replaced him as Chief Ranger the same month.

East District Ranger Carol Metzger's law enforcement commission was suspended due to physical reasons.

Grady Arrington was designated Park Safety Officer.

Meg Weesner was selected to fill one of the vacant permanent positions in November. Duties of the revised position include fire management, backcountry coordination and producing an operations procedures manual.

Seasonal positions were as follows:

	<u>full time</u>	<u>part time</u>
Spring 1983	6	2
Summer 1983	3	0
Fall 1983	8	1

The additional full time seasonal positions were used to establish a full time dispatch operation.

Collateral duties were assigned to each of the ranger positions for fire, backcountry, property, lost and found, emergency services, training and dispatch coordination.

An intensive, in-service training program was established in October to include a full range of protection functions, such as technical rescue, intoximeter use, booking procedures, firearms, helitac operations and others.

C. Traffic Accidents

There were 31 motor vehicle traffic accidents, including one fatal accident, 15 injury accidents and 15 property damage only accidents. A total of 40 persons were injured, plus one person who was killed. The total amount of property damage was \$47,000. There were 89 citations or arrests made for hazardous traffic violations, and 210 written warnings were issued.

D. Law Enforcement

There were two assaults reported within the Monument. Three burglaries were reported, with a total loss of \$1,674.35. Twenty-one larcenies resulted in a loss of \$3,058. One motor vehicle theft was reported.

There were a total of 111 cases of vandalism resulting in \$2,763 loss to government property, \$10 loss to private property, and undetermined loss to natural features.

Other offenses that created a significant workload for the park included:

illegal camping	218
speeding	141
non-moving traffic	107
off-road travel	101

A total of 249 non-traffic citations were issued, 241 non-traffic courtesy tags, and 93 visitor assists (such as for disabled vehicles).

The emphasis in the law enforcement program is on education for voluntary compliance. Citations and arrest are used for willful, flagrant and repeated violations.

National Park Service management personnel continue to participate in the Morongo Basin Peace Officers Association. Prospects for concurrent jurisdiction showed no significant improvement during the year despite the San Bernardino County Sheriff's inability to increase work force levels.

#### E. Search and Rescue

The search and rescue team responded to 15 SAR incidents, including 11 climbing accidents, 2 lost persons, and 2 air crashes. There were 3 fatalities, 1 from solo climbing and 2 from an air crash. Eight rescues were for injured climbers and 2 additional rescues were for stranded climbers. The total NPS time spent in search and rescue was 130 hours, and the total cost was \$8,775.

The search and rescue team included personnel from both the Protection and Interpretation Divisions. Training was conducted on a regular basis. A climbing safety interpretive program was initiated in the fall to stress the hazards of climbing and demonstrate various rescue techniques. The annual technical rescue seminar held at Joshua Tree was attended by 48 persons, representing 11 different federal and state agency divisions. The rescue team also worked closely with the California State Park System by providing instruction to personnel from Mt. San Jacinto and Mitchell Caverns State Parks.

In May, the Joshua Tree Rescue Team received a Unit Citation signed by the Secretary of the Interior for a rescue in Rattlesnake Canyon. The Unit Citation was personally presented by Western Regional Director Howard Chapman.

#### F. Fire Prevention and Suppression

No structural fires were reported during the year. The inspection and recharging of all fire extinguishers was accomplished under contract.

Five small wildfires, involving a total of less than 10 acres, were reported and extinguished. Three were lightning-caused, one was arson and one was suspected arson.

The local operating plan between NPS and the California Division of Forestry was continued this year. A mutual threat zone was established in the northwest corner of the Monument adjoining the town of Yucca Valley. A new cooperative agreement with the California Desert District of the Bureau of Land Management was developed. The BLM supplied an engine to the Monument, with NPS providing maintenance and personnel. Both agencies agreed to share training and to respond to each other's fires on request.