


DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
for
CALENDAR YEAR 1984


Rick Anderson
Superintendent

I. GENERAL

Anticipated impacts from foreign visitors visiting the USA in association with the summer olympics in Los Angeles did not materialize. In fact, summer visitation which is normally composed almost entirely of foreign visitors was down considerably. The strength of the dollar against foreign currency most probably contributed to this decrease in visitation.

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center located at Twentynine Palms continues to grow at a rapid rate. Marines now number over 8,500 and an additional 4,000 expected within three years.

Residential development is continuing at a rapid rate on our northwest and southwest borders.

Some areas of the Monument have been effectively blocked from illegal off-road vehicle use. However in other portions of the Monument, this activity is so extensive that serious damage is occurring to the resources. Also on the increase is poaching and vandalism which appears to be closely associated with the illegal ORV activity.

Low altitude, high speed military air craft are an occasional, but continuing problem.

II. ADMINISTRATION

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A. Procurement

During 1984 the following procurement actions were conducted:

Purchase orders	432
Blanket purchase orders	14
GSA orders	49
Bill for Collection	128
Utility Payments	236
Imprest	208
Contract, Garbage	1
Base Agreement	1

B. Fee Collection

Campground fees collected at the two fee campgrounds totaled \$32,533.

Sixty-four Golden Eagle passports were sold.

Issued 446 Golden Age passports, and 24 Golden Access passports.

Statistics indicate that two out of five campers of 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 were filled during the year:

Secretary position filled by Dorothy Clements- GS-5/6
Aniceto Olais hired as Supervisory Park Ranger, Interpretation - GS-7/9
Maintenance Worker at Cottonwood R.S., Raymond Moore
Margaret Weesner filled the position of Park Ranger, Law Enforcement - GS-7
Permanent position of Management Assistant, GS-12 was abolished upon the death of incumbent Donald Colville in July.

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

26 Full Time Positions:

12 Majority Males
7 Majority Females
6 Minority Males
1 Vacancy

9 Less Than Full Time Positions:

2 Majority Males
1 Majority Female
1 Minority Female
3 Minority Males
2 Vacancies

D. Annual Operating Program

The Fiscal Year 1984 Monument budget was over-spent by \$28,500 or 2.1%.
The 1985 annual operating program is attached.

III. MAINTENANCE

A. Personnel

The Division operated with 9 permanent full time; 6 subject-to furlough; 5 seasonals; 6 ERFO and 4 cyclic employees. Ken Cheska, permanent maintenance worker at Cottonwood, transferred to Tonto National Monument on February 4, 1984. Ken was replaced by Ray Moore who transferred from Fort Jefferson on June 10, 1984.

1. Volunteers

Additional personnel were utilized through the California Conservation Corps from the Pomona Center. CCC worked 240 hours in erecting a fence around the Cottonwood water Tank.

During the summer, five SYEP-CETA personnel worked a total of 240 hours with NPS personnel at Black Rock Canyon and Headquarters, Twentynine Palms. 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 532 hours in trail maintenance, preservation of cultural resources, dam safety program and litter removal.

Community Service Workers assigned by the San Bernardino County Probation Department, worked a total of 1,480 hours in roads, campground, utility and buildings.

Camp hosts worked 2,285 hours in various campgrounds engaged in campsite and facility maintenance .

Other volunteers totaled 65 hours. Work included graffiti removal, litter pickup and campground facility maintenance.

A grand total of 4,842 hours was volunteered through the various programs identified above. Calculating wages for this work, at minimum wage, savings to the Monument would be \$16,220.70. Savings at entry level would be \$38,687.58.

2. Training

Maintenance Foreman, Joe Guevara, and Maintenance Worker Pat McFarland, completed training course Water and Waste Water Treatment in March of 1984.

Engineering Equipment Operator, Jose Loya and H.D. Mechanic Daral Bowe, completed Personnel Management for EEO Staff in July, 1984.

Nine divisional employees completed the correspondence course, "EEO, Its Place in the Federal Government".

Maintenance Foremen, Joe Guevara and Ray Morcilio attended a training course titled "Preventive Discipline" given by the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base.

B. Maintenance General

1. Roads

A FHWA project to overlay 13.5 miles of roads on Park Routes 11 and 12 was completed in July.

ERFO funding was received to correct flood damage occurring in August and October, 1983. A total of \$36,000. was spent primarily in the Cottonwood District.

A FHWA program to replace existing traffic and informational signs was used to order some 250 signs. These are now being replaced as time permits.

A Roads Classification Plan was completed in September in conjunction with FHWA and DSC personnel.

2. Buildings

Because of volunteers, we are able to keep our buildings in a safe usable condition. Because of not having a cyclic painting project, our exterior building maintenance program has been set back one year. We were able to paint the exterior surfaces of the Cottonwood buildings.

3. Utilities

The 22 KW generator sets at Cottonwood were replaced by two smaller 15 KW sets. This has reduced fuel use, noise and smoke pollution to residents and users of this area. In the Headquarters area, we continue to replace the old water distribution system and irrigation system. Pit vault toilet pumping continues in the visitor use areas. Septic tanks are checked annually. A new leach field was constructed for Quarters 534, Indian Cove. Dead-ended water lines in Cottonwood and Black Rock are flushed quarterly.

4. Virtually an entire new radio system was installed to improve communications, Monument-wide. Three new repeaters and other additional equipment will vastly improve our radio system.

A contract was let for painting the exterior/interior of the 100,000 gallon Cottonwood water tank. This job was completed in November.

Funds were advanced to FHWA to overlay the Pinto Wye Maintenance area, seal/chip Rt. 12 from North entrance to Split Rock and to re-stripe the remainder of paved roads not covered under the FHWA contract.

Cyclic maintenance projects in pit toilets, picnic tables and fireplaces continues to improve our campsite facilities.

Four large canyon areas were blocked using large boulders and the natural terrain. Some 1,000 feet of existing fencing and signs were re-erected in our boundary barrier project.

All campgrounds received new bulletin boards which standardized this facility and enhances service to our visitors.

5. Other Programs

YCC was financed in part by funding to install the Oasis Water system, cyclic boundary barriers, pit toilets and picnic table projects. Eight non-residential enrollees worked installing the Oasis water line, replacing existing water lines, cleaning roadsides and campgrounds and vistas.

IV. INTERPRETATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

A. General

Visitation during 1984 to Joshua Tree National Monument was approximately 1.1% below the 1983 visitation. Similarly Interpretive facility visitation and program attendance figures also decreased; however this decrease was primarily due to fewer hours of visitor center operations and fewer programs. Again this year the Joshua Tree Natural History Association, CETA, Student Youth Employment Program, and Volunteers in the Park Program helped pick up the slack when NPS employees were not available.

During FY 1984 the Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services operated with a budget of \$165,600, a slight decrease from the \$166,800 FY 1983 budget.

B. Personnel

The Interpretive Division operated with three permanent full time positions during 1984; however, the Interpretive Specialist position was vacant from October 1983 until May 1984. At that time Aniceto Olais from Pinnacles National Monument transferred into the position.

Seasonal interpretive positions were filled in the following way:

Winter/Spring - 6 seasonals (5 full time Park Technicians,
1 full time Park Aid)

Summer - 6 seasonals (3 full time Park Aids, 2 full time Cooperative
Education Trainees, 1 full time High School Aid)

Fall - 7 seasonals (4 full time Park Technicians, 2 part time Park
Technicians, 1 part time High School Aid)

Noteworthy personnel actions this past spring included two seasonal interpreters being offered permanent National Park Service positions. Alice Siebecker accepted a Park Ranger position at Valley Forge National Historic Park in March, 1984; and Jerry Freilich accepted a Park Technician position at Delaware Water Gap in March, however entered on duty in June, 1984.

All seasonal employees were required to take a three week LWOP break during the winter as a condition of their employment. Most were off during January, the coldest month with the least visitation.

During 1984 four Cooperative Education Students worked in the Interpretive Division. Two from the University of California at Riverside, one from Humboldt State, California, and one from the Copper Mountain College of Twentynine Palms, California.

During the summer 2 part time High School Aids, working for the CETA Student Youth Employment Program, worked at the Oasis Visitor Center. The Joshua Tree Natural History Association also funded several temporary positions throughout the year: two part time High School Aids during the winter, spring and fall and one part time Aid during the summer. In the fall of 1984 the Association also hired three tour guides to conduct interpretive tours of the Desert Queen Ranch.

During the absence of the Interpretive Specialist, due to the unfilled vacancy, Information Specialist Pat Flanagan served in an acting capacity in that position. Because of her performance she received a Superior Performance Award in May, 1984.

Mr. Aniceto Olais was also the recipient of two Special Performance Awards during the year. Both were the results of previous work but were presented after he was reassigned to Joshua Tree.

Numerous training opportunities were available during 1984. Chief Naturalist Truesdell and Information Specialist Flanagan attended the Western Region Interpreters Workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada in March. The Monument hosted the Western Region Interpretive Skills I course. Chief Naturalist Truesdell was one of the instructors and four Joshua Tree employees attended, in addition to participants from throughout the Region. Summer and fall orientation training sessions were provided for Seasonal Interpreters. Interpretive personnel Truesdell, Flanagan, and Ferrell attended the Biennial Cooperative Association Conference in Philadelphia in November.

Interpretive Specialist Olais participated as a training instructor for an International Fire Management Course offered to approximately 60 students from Spanish speaking countries throughout the world. The U. S. Forest Service coordinated the course with Mr. Olais participating from October 20 through November 3, 1984.

Interpretive staff personnel also took advantage of protection skills training during the year that included: a 2 day mountain rescue seminar at San Jacinto State Park, a fire training and hose lay session, an initial attack fire training session, an 8 hour session on the Incident Command System, helicopter orientation offered by Bureau of Land Management, the 40 hour Managing the Search Function course, attended by Chief Naturalist Truesdell, offered by the National Search and Rescue Association at Joshua Tree, a CPR course, Law enforcement refresher training, a Title 36 CFR revision training session, and search and rescue training at Barstow, California, where Interpreters Olais and Thompson assisted as instructors.

In October the Chief Naturalist completed a 6 hour EEO correspondence course entitled: EEO Its Place in the Federal Government.

In December, 1984 Interpreters Truesdell and Olais conducted a four hour training course on Government employment applications for all division personnel.

In addition to National Park Service offered training, staff members also took advantage of educational opportunities at the local Copper Mountain College. Chief Naturalist Truesdell completed a Computer Programming Lab during the spring semester and a Microcomputer Applications course in the fall. Interpretive Specialist Olais completed an Emergency Medical Technician course during the fall semester.

In all, a total of 137 training days were received by Interpretive Division personnel in 1984.

C. Operations

The main objectives of the Interpretive Division continue to be to provide education and information for visitors in order to promote visitor safety and resource preservation. In order to accomplish this we attempted to put the limited number of interpreters where the maximum visitor contacts would be accomplished. This year field interpretation in campgrounds and heavy visitor use areas was even more limited. The field interpreters spent more than half of their time helping staff visitor centers and contact stations. We were extremely fortunate in having Volunteers in the Parks in five of the major campgrounds for most of the year. These people made a tremendous number of visitor contacts and undoubtedly reduced the number of problems, vandalism or other incidents that might have otherwise occurred.

Interpretive programs were offered primarily on weekends during the winter, spring and fall (with a slight reduction in the fall of 1984 due to FY 1985 reductions). Noteworthy, during the summer of 1984 we had interpretive personnel on a part time basis in all of the five visitor centers or contact stations. This is the first time for such in several years and due solely because of the extended lapse of the Interpretive Specialist position. It should be noted that while it was good to have these stations staffed on the weekends, the summer weekday visitation barely justified it. And this year, because of the Olympics in Los Angeles, we expected there would be a greater visitation than occurred.

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

Interpretive Walks and Hikes	270/3640
Live Talks	361/9489
Presentations (Demonstrations and Skills Workshops)	30/909
Audiovisual Programs	6344/30798
Visitor Center Visitation	88,850
Contact Station Visitation	5,267

Interpretive programs were offered primarily from February 20 through May 25, 1984, and October 20 until the Christmas break.

Joshua Tree hosted the National Park Service's Charles Harper Traveling art exhibit in February. Harper's wildlife paintings were on display for two weeks in the Oasis Visitor Center.

Replacement wayside exhibit maps and labels were received for three entrance kiosks in January. Vandalism to exhibits continues to be a problem throughout the Monument.

Copies of the new Historic Resources Study were received in January and by the end of the year approximately 120 copies were distributed to libraries, historians, schools and other agencies. A few library and administrative copies were retained at Joshua Tree.

At Black Rock Canyon Visitor Center a special photo exhibit was gathered from local area photographers and put on display during April, 1984.

The official dedication of the Cap Rock Handicapped Nature Trail occurred on April 26, 1984. CCC workers, NPS employees and members of the Stokers Society participated in the dedication.

In addition to providing interpretive services during 1984, Interpretive Division personnel also assisted the Resources Management Division and the Protection Division with activities that included burro monitoring and live trap installation, prescribed burning, firefighting and participating on searches and rescues.

During the year revisions of the Statement for Interpretation, Cultural Resources Management Plan, and the Scope of Collection Statement were accomplished and submitted to the Regional Office.

The theft of the generator at the Jumbo Rocks Campground amphitheater eliminated the ability to have audiovisual programs at that site during the fall; however, live talks were still presented.

In October, 1984 an IBM-PC was added to the Interpretive Division inventory and will undoubtedly be a very worthwhile investment.

D. Volunteers in the Park Program

The VIP program continued to be extremely beneficial to the Interpretive Division. Campground Hosts were located in five major campgrounds during the spring, two campgrounds during the summer and two in the fall. VIPs participated in museum accessioning, resource management burns, worked visitor centers, collected wildlife observations and catalogued records, conducted research on past burns, assisted maintaining nature trails, and assisted with rock rescue demonstrations. A total of approximately 9,600 hours were donated by 43 active volunteers in 1984.

E. Cooperating Association

The Joshua Tree Natural History Association again operated sales outlets in five visitor centers and contact stations. Sales totaled \$76,925 in 1983 compared to \$91,799 in 1973 and \$65,000 in 1982. The decrease this year appears to be more the result of an exceptionally good 1983 sales year rather than a reversal in the overall upward trend. Association

activities included review and continued work on Julie Roller's Geology Guide, final review and delivery of the Oasis Guide to the printer, review of a new lizard key by Kathy Kummer and the initiation of fee interpretive tours at the Desert Queen Ranch. Three Association employees were hired to conduct the tours, primarily on weekends, after the earlier weekday tours proved to have too few in attendance. In addition to hiring the 3 part time tour guides, the Association also funded five additional temporary employees for Visitor Center sales and information desk operations and one permanent Business Manager.

One Association Board Meeting was held in June, 1984 and the year end meeting is scheduled for January 11, 1985.

F. Cultural Resources

Archeologist and Copper Mountain College instructor Delcie Vuncannon presented an archeological training seminar to the Monument staff during the spring.

Southwest Archeological Center staff member Marty Tagg visited the Monument during the year and accompanied staff members on an inspection of archeological sites in the Black Rock Canyon area.

G. Trends

Travel to the Monument the past three years has slightly declined each year, however, it remains steady. The expected increase in visitation during the summer 1984 Olympics did not materialize. A good spring wildflower display can make the difference in whether or not annual travel increases or decreases; and as reflected in the Association sales whether or not the Association has a good year as in 1983 spring when sales soared. Fall of 1984 showed slight increases in visitation and sales. Interpretive program attendance is likewise affected by travel; however, staffing decreases due to funding deficiencies is currently the major reason for decreases in program attendance and information station visitation. During FY 1985 the Interpretive Division budget will be reduced to \$158,300. During 1985 we expect to only have the Oasis Visitor Center opened during the summer. The four remaining contact stations and visitor centers will be closed unless the Student Conservation Association favors our application for two Aids.

V. RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

A. Planning

1. Burro Management

- a. In July an action plan for the removal of burros from the Monument was submitted to Western Regional Office.
- b. Approval of full plan was postponed until after January 1985. However, an interim live capture plan was approved on July 14, 1984.

2. Resources Management Plan

- a. The annual revision of this plan was submitted in March with three new project statements to cover burros, Oasis of Mara Action Plan, and air quality monitoring.

B. Monitoring

1. Air Quality

- a. Air quality monitoring continued for fine particulate.
- b. In May the manual teleradiometer was converted to a fully automated, solar powered unit.
- c. In September an ozone monitor was installed at the Lost Horse Ranger Station. This unit will provide data to supplement ozone impacts on vegetation study. This study is being conducted by a professor from the University of California at Riverside, and NPS air quality staff from the WSO air quality division.

2. Other monitoring included various resources management projects such as exotic vegetation, wildlife and water resources.

C. Project Implementation

1. Oasis of Mara Action Plan

- a. In July, the emergency watering system for the Oasis was installed by a CCC crew.
- b. Mesquite clearing and burning was conducted according to the approved plan.

2. Burro Removal

- a. Live trapping with a BLM trap was attempted from July through October. However, no animals were captured.
- b. An action plan for the use of immobilization drugs was developed.

D. Personnel

1. Staffing

- a. One permanent full time Division Chief and one permanent full time Resources Management Specialist.
- b. .9 MY seasonal.

2. Training

- a. Permanents - 110 hours
- b. Seasonals - 64 hours

VI. VISITOR PROTECTION

A. General

The Protection Division again experienced reductions in the budget and in manpower. The number of improvements in operations were significant in spite of these reductions.

The attempt to use Ticketron at Joshua Tree National Monument to improve our group camp reservation system has been at a standstill as the telephone company has not been able to install the necessary telephone lines to accommodate the computers. Once the lines are installed the system should work well. The campgrounds scheduled to be utilized by the reservation system are Cottonwood Group Camp, Sheep Pass Group Camp, Indian Cove Group Camp, and Black Rock Family.

A joint dispatch operation between the San Bernardino National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, and Joshua Tree National Monument has been implemented. The new dispatch center will be in San Bernardino and will be run by the USFS. This will allow Joshua Tree National Monument to have a 24 hour dispatcher 7 days per week and will also give us access to NCIC and CLETS.

B. Personnel

The Division operated with eight permanent full time positions. Park Ranger Meg Weesner accepted a position in Resources Management at Delaware Water Gap. Her vacant position will not be filled as a result of the budget cuts. Park Ranger Carol Robertson is permanently assigned to the Resources Management Division.

Ranger Mike Brinkmeyer was assigned the duties of Fire Management Officer for the Monument.

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

A Level II Park Medic program was implemented with the assistance of Doctor Bill Clem and the Hi Desert Hospital Medical staff.

C. Traffic Accidents

There were 45 motor vehicle traffic accidents with no fatalities. There were 20 injured accidents and 38 property damage accidents. The total amount of property damage was \$61,195. There were 169 traffic citations issued with three DUI arrests made. The 169 traffic citations issued represents a 100% increase from 1983.

D. Law Enforcement

This was a very busy year for law enforcement incidents in the Monument. With the decrease in funds and manpower, the work load is ever increasing and the number of major incidents are on the increase.

There were two assaults reported within the Monument. There were also two kidnapings, the Bradbury and the Fought. The Fought kidnaping was cleared by the arrest of the two suspects. The Bradbury in an ongoing case.

There were 25 larcenies reported with a loss amount of \$5,839. Fifty-eight vandalisms to government property were investigated with a loss of \$6,300. There were 105 off road travel cases investigated. This is a significant number as each case results in resource damage. There was one arson fire to government property resulting in property damage of \$40,000.

The rangers responded to three suicide attempts.

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

Illegal camping	285
Speeding citations	48
Non-moving citations	34
Written warnings	250
Citation for traffic infraction	169
Visitor assists	75
Wildland arson investigation	8
Total citations issued	291
Total arrests	15
Total of case incidents	637

E. Search and Rescue

The Search & Rescue team responded to 20 incidents, including 12 climbing accidents, and 22 lost persons. There were 2 fatalities, 10 rescues of stranded climbers with 13 injuries. The total NPS time spent in search and rescue activities was 1645 hours. The total non NPS hours of Search & Rescue time was 11,916 hours. The total cost for Search & Rescue operations was \$328,748.

The 1984 year was by far the busiest year for search and rescue operations in Joshua Tree history. The two most significant search and rescue operations were the John Romo and Laura Bradbury searches. The Bradbury search is now an ongoing criminal investigation into the possibility of Laura Bradbury being kidnaped.

F. Fire

The fire season was early and intense. The first wildland fire occurred in early March. There were two project fires, one of which was the second largest fire in the history of Joshua Tree (4120 acres). We were able to successfully prosecute the starters of two human caused fires. This season also saw the first prescribed burns conducted at Joshua Tree. Five burns included a total of 51 acres.

There were 38 fires in Joshua Tree in 1984. A breakdown of fires caused and acres burned follows:

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Lightning	24	4463
Human-caused	8	20
Prescribed burns	5	51
False alarm	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	38	4534

The prescribed fires included two palm trees and a one acre stand of mesquite in the Oasis of Mara and 40 and 10 acre fires along the dozer line on Quail Mountain.