

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1989

The calendar year 1989 was a difficult year for the staff at Joshua Tree National Monument. Without exception all five divisions operated short-handedly. Generally, ranger patrols were only on weekends. Interpretive programs were limited to two or three per weekend and Keys Ranch tours conducted by the Natural History Association tour leaders. Entrance stations were closed Memorial Day weekend and did not reopen until October losing a considerable amount of revenue. The Cottonwood Springs Visitor Center was open through the busy season only with the assistance of volunteers and was closed during most of the summer months. Again a record in visitation was set for the Monument with a total of 994,255 visitors recorded. The large percentage of foreign visitors, primarily European, continue to be a factor.

The California Desert Protection Act was again introduced by Senator Alan Cranston with a near identical Bill introduced by Congressman Mel Levine in the House. Congressman Jerry Lewis introduced an opposing Bill in the House representing the Bureau of Land Management's position. Housing Congressional Appeal Hearings were held in Ridgecrest, Barstow and Burbank, California, with large turn-outs representing both those in favor and opposed to the California Desert Protection Act.

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center located at Twentynine Palms continues to grow with the move of the 7th Marines to this facility. The marines now number 10,000 - 11,000 strong. Excellent communications and cooperation exists with the Marine Base personnel. However, young marines on liberty still account for numerous acts of vandalism, destruction of government property, disorderly conduct, and vehicle accidents, generally associated with speed and/or alcohol. Its obvious that Joshua Tree National Monument is becoming better well known throughout the United States as well as European nations by the steady increase in visitation. The year 1979 recorded 593,002 visitors compared to the near 1,000,000 in 1989.

The following pages contain reports from the division chiefs of Administration, Protection, Interpretation, Maintenance and Resource Management. These reports address significant accomplishments because of dedicated employees but also identify severe shortages in both manpower and money. Hopefully, the future is bright for Joshua Tree National Monument for it certainly is one of the crown jewels of the National Park Service.


Rick Anderson

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - PERSONNEL & FINANCE

In 1989 our problems with the Accounting Operations located in Reston, VA continued and we have had some severe repercussions caused by delays in paying bills. A growing number of the small local vendors are unwilling to service our requests because they cannot afford to wait for payment. In an effort to upgrade our part of the process, Joshua Tree switched to the more progressive AFS program which seems to be a much improved system. It does not change the initial problem of delays in paying the bills for us, however.

The need for additional personnel in the Administrative Division continued to be a pressing problem. In cooperation with the Maintenance Division, a permanent position was developed to do the combined MMS and AFS programs as well as training for all personnel to make our in-house tracking run smoothly in these projects. Funding was split between the two divisions.

In addition, this new position has given invaluable assistance in covering two vacancies which occurred when the GS-9 Administrative Officer retired in mid-September and Personnel Assistant was promoted to fill the position. No new Personnel Assistant was selected by year end in a cost conserving effort.

The Procurement program continues with approximately 430 purchase orders but the efficient use of 38 blanket purchase orders belies the true workload.

The final O.N.P.S. budget at the end of the 1989 fiscal year stood at \$1,264,255. This final figure reflected withdrawal of all management assessments and addition of any special funding given and was a drop from the previous years ending balance of \$1,527,127.

In the field of personnel, Joshua Tree had a continuation of its Hispanic Outreach Program with the promotion of the incumbent in the previous intake position. He is now a WG-8 Maintenance Worker and the training and support received from the Regional Office has produced an extremely worthwhile result.

The statistics presented last year remain essentially the same except that the Black Male we had under a Coop-Ed program has now graduated from college with a BA in History and is now a permanent GS-5 Park Ranger at Joshua Tree.

We have a handicapped employee, a GS-11 female Resource Management Specialist, a GS-9 female Administrative Officer, a Black GS-9 Ranger in Law Enforcement and a general EEO profile of a very balanced ethnic mixture.

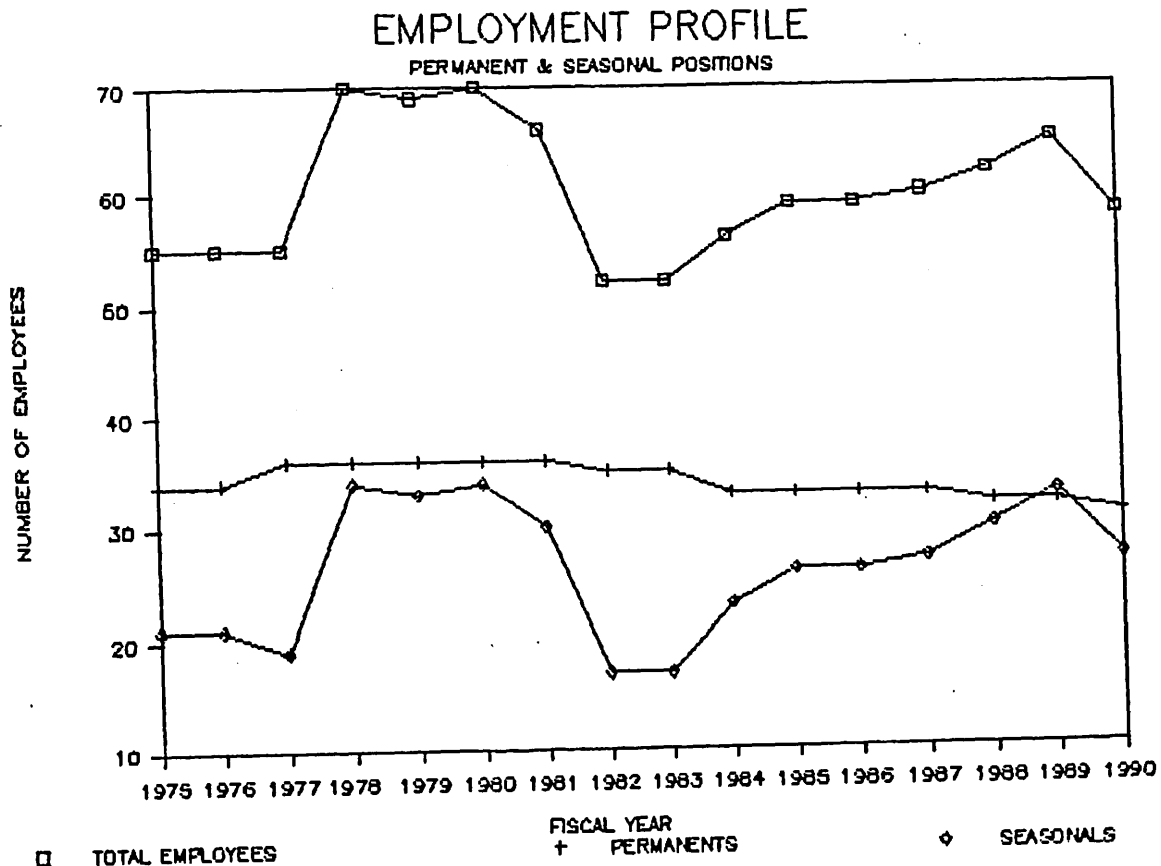
Joshua Tree has been very short of funds this year and there have been many vacant permanent positions because of the scarcity of funds. Some duties have had to be taken on by seasonal personnel

hired to work in permanent slots for short periods where they can be paid from special project funds accomplishing various short term needs. It is felt this is a poor way to cover the requirements of the park but without proper funding, adjustments must be made in order to deal with our situation.

In spite of shortfall in funds and thin coverage in some areas, the morale of the park remains quite high and the personnel make every effort to pull together with a good spirit of teamwork.

The following statistics showing the employment profile for Joshua Tree National Monument since Fiscal Year 1985 shows the affects of sporadic funding and the needs to service the Park and Public have continued to rise. Visitation for 1989 was just under 1,000,000.

You will note the need for seasonal employees has risen constantly since 1983 and without the funds to support permanent personnel we have lapsed several positions. In 1989 there were just not enough funds available to keep up with the usual seasonal hiring. Joshua Tree remains in need of more realistic financial support.



FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL EMPLOYEES	PERMANENT EMPLOYEES	SEASONAL EMPLOYEES
1975	55	34	21
1976	55	34	21
1977	55	36	19
1978	70	36	34
1979	69	36	33
1980	70	36	34
1981	66	36	30
1982	52	35	17
1983	52	35	17
1984	56	33	23
1985	59	33	26
1986	59	33	26
1987	60	33	27
1988	62	32	30
1989	65	32	33
1990	58	31	27

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT
74485 NATIONAL MONUMENT DRIVE
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA 92277

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 20, 1990

To: Superintendent

From: Chief Ranger

Subject: Annual Superintendent's Report


In 1989, the Protection Division had a reorganization due to budget constraints. Mike Brinkmeyer became the Cottonwood District Ranger, Kip Knapp the Lost Horse District Ranger, Karl Pearson was promoted to the Indian Cove Ranger position as a GS-05 and Tom Patterson became the Fire Management Officer and the Search and Rescue Coordinator. Todd Swain was hired as a permanent GS-04 Clerk-Typist.

Monument personnel handled 34 search and rescue incidents which included 22 involving injury and one fatality. Sixteen emergency medical incidents were responded to, of which 6 required Advanced Life Support.

There were 26 motor vehicle accidents in the Monument. Six of these were injury accidents and 2 involved serious injuries to the occupants. Ten of the accidents resulted in major to total damage to the vehicles. Total citations issued in the park were 431 of which 71 were Mandatory Appearances before the Federal Magistrate.

In 1989, the fee collection program collected \$461,517 as compared \$430,738 in 1988. This figure does not include the monies collected by Ticketron terminals outside the Monument. The operation was terminated in mid June due to lack of funds and resumed operations again in October 1989.

Our fire operation responded to two wildland fires within the Monument which burned approximately 2 acres and one fire near the boundary which burned approximately 1500 acres. Two prescribed fires were conducted, a 30 acre burn in Covington Flats and a 1 acre burn in the Oasis of Mara. The Monument fire crew and other personnel responded to 38 fires in 1989. Tom Patterson was chosen to spend a 6 month tour of duty on special assignment to the Redding Hotshot Crew.


D. Paul Henry

INTERPRETATION AND VISITOR SERVICES
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT
SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1989

INTERPRETATION

Visitation to Joshua Tree National Monument increased again in 1989, however interpretive contacts decreased due to the elimination of fee revenue funds for interpretive programs and visitor center operations this year. Visitor center closures resulted in contacts being down 29%, while interpretive program contacts were down 41% from 1988. The Joshua Tree Natural History Association again provided a tremendous amount of assistance this year, funding full and part time visitor center help especially during the spring and summer, when no National Park Service seasonal staff was available; providing the funding to obtain an extra Student Conservation Aide; funding the Fee-Interpretive Historic Tours; and funding the Environmental Education Programs.

One of the bright notes for the year was the record number of 80 Volunteers in The Parks working at Joshua Tree, with 20 assisting with the Interpretive activities, including visitor center operations, evening campfire talks, visitor center auditorium talks, special star programs, and roving campgrounds as Camphosts.

Training received by Division personnel included Dennis Vasquez attending the FLETC Law Enforcement Course; Vasquez and Maria Gillett attending the Regional Career Development Workshop; Gillett attending VIP Coordinators and Special Emphasis Program Managers Workshops; and Rosie Pepito and Stephanie Stephans attending Managing the Search Function training.

Chief Interpreter William Truesdell was detailed to Cabrillo National Monument as Acting Superintendent from August 6 to August 20, 1989.

Cyclic Maintenance funds were obtained this year for the Jumbo Rocks and Indian Cove Campground amphitheaters, and for the Arch Rocks and Jumbo/Skull Rock nature trails.

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

Visitor Centers	110,954
Tours and Walks	67/693
Talks	114/3460
Environmental Education	53/1675
Fee Interpretive Tours (NHA)	147/1943

CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Cultural Resources Cyclic funding was obtained to continue inventory and accession work on the museum collections. Approximately 67,000 articles were inventoried.

The Palm Springs Desert Museum, cooperating with the National Park Service, presented a three month special exhibit on Joshua Tree from January through March, 1989. A number of artifacts were on loan from our collections.

A major mine shaft collapsed at Lost Horse Mine necessitating temporary closure then the installation of fencing before reopening the area. A number of other historic mine sites were also visited by park staff members, Regional employees, Mine Safety personnel from the Denver Service Center and the Death Valley Mine Safety Crew. The Death Valley Crew worked in the Monument for several weeks netting some of the hazardous sites.

The Monument hosted a special International Museum Day commemoration on May 18, 1989, with professional anthropologists and archeologists, Native Americans, and local interest groups in attendance. Talks on the significance of Joshua Tree's archeological resources, historic resources and the Monument collections were presented and tours offered through the collection room all day for the 150 people attending.

A Collection Management Planning Team was in the Monument in October to begin developing a Collection Management Plan for the area.

Significant archeological resources and artifacts continue to be discovered in the Monument. During this past year two ollas were found, one was reported to the Park and recovered for our collections, while the other was stolen, but tracked down and recovered. An Archeological survey is badly needed at this time.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
memorandum

DATE: January 29, 1990
REPLY TO: Chief of Maintenance, Joshua Tree National Monument
ATTN OF:
SUBJECT: Maintenance Division FY89 Accomplishments and Achievements
TO: Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Monument

Again this past fiscal year, the Maintenance Division accomplished a lot with so few.

The year started out with the approval of two Rehab/Repair projects and two cyclic projects which enabled us to accomplish major needed facility improvements.

The first project was the replacement of a potable water distribution system at one of our major campgrounds, Black Rock. This was determined to be one of the Monument's highest priorities due to system failure and possible contamination with adjacent sewer lines. A complete design was completed by a contracted A & E firm. This project was only partially funded and only half of the project was completed this past fiscal year. We are still awaiting appropriations to complete this project. Additional funds were not approved for FY90 to complete this project.

The second special project was the replacement of a deteriorated underground LP gasoline system at our Cottonwood residential complex. The old system had numerous leaks and was a potential fire hazard.

The third special project was the 3rd phase of the upgrading of the Oasis of Mara Handicap Trail system. Approximately 450 feet of concrete walkway was constructed with several interpretive viewing areas.

The fourth special project was the replacement of 30 of the 130 vault toilets throughout the Monument. The old toilets were very unsightly and badly deteriorated. This also included the replacement of handicap toilet facilities and the construction of a designated handicap campsite in our Jumbo Rock Campground.

The continuation of an awarded contract from FY88 was finally completed. This project was the 3 miles of 8 miles of chip and seal road work which was awarded to an 8A contractor, Delgato & Sons. Five miles of road is still pending due to incomplete funding authorization.

The above projects, except for the Chip and Seal road work was all completed by day labor.

During FY89 another special project, the rehab of two of our amphitheaters, was funded and is still under construction.

Equipment replacement brought about the replacement of one of our two generator systems at our remote Lost Horse complex. We also purchased a push plow for our snow removal operation.

Throughout this year not only these special projects took the majority of our time, but our routine accomplishments were many.

Campgrounds and roads are always on our high priority list to maintain a safe and acceptable standard for our park visitor. Over 4,000 hours were spent on our campgrounds, which barely made them acceptable, but being understaffed and trying to cover a 7 day a week operation is almost impossible. Over 450 tons of asphalt was used on our roads, just patching. Our out dated and deteriorating road surface is a constant problem with over 300 miles of roads and only four individuals trying to maintain them, it's a never ending battle.

After two years of studies and delay in our Federal Highway Road projects, the Cottonwood Canyon Low Water Crossing and resurfacing of Route 11 was finally awarded. This was awarded to an 8A contractor, Delgato & Son's for completion in FY90.

Our over-all 7 year Federal Highway program, which was started back in 1984, has only seen 3 years of funding. This was partially due to the result of a rejected Federal Highway Road project, Route 11, Cotton Canyon. Three years of NPS negotiations with the Federal Highways and numerous on-site reviews and studies, resulted in the reconstruction of 2 of our 11 low water crossings still leaving several others needing major repairs.

With these delays in our Federal Highway program the rest of the Park roads are deteriorating at such a fast rate that maintenance on them is high and almost impossible to maintain them in a safe condition.

Other activities such as routine maintenance along with assisting other divisions, including Regional fire support, equipment support for parkwide Resource Management projects, and daily work orders accounted for the rest of FY89 accomplishments.

Administrative and personnel actions included Maintenance Management System Task 20 closeout with extremely high marks and accomplishments. The authorization to competitively promote a Hispanic employee from a WG 05 Maintenance Worker to a WG 08 Maintenance Worker.

Hired three seasonal employees from minority groups, an American Indian, a Female Hispanic and a Black male.

Medical retirement of WG-05 Maintenance Worker, Art Ayala, due to an on the job injury.

Out of park training enabled us to send two of our Maintenance Workers to a two week Building Maintenance course put on at Mott Training Center sponsored by the State of California. Two employees to a Water Certification seminar to prepare them for future Class I and II Water Certification. One employee to a two week Building Trades course which was put on by the Grand Canyon staff. Two employees to NPS Orientation at Death Valley.

We also took advantage of local training. The entire Roads and Trails crew attended a Road Maintenance course put on the United States Marine Corps here in Twentynine Palms.

Again this past fiscal year, we are very fortunate to have such versatile and dedicated employees on our Maintenance staff. Their accomplishments are very commendable and when called upon they are always ready to produce to their fullest ability with no complaints. "A very effective team."



John A. Gentry

cc: Irv Dunton
Maint files
Maint employees

DIVISION OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT FOR FY89

- N01 JOTR-Ground-Squirrel Monitoring and Control (RM8):
Monitoring was conducted in two problem campgrounds. Public information and grounds rehabilitation continue to provide necessary population regulation. Additionally, two years of drought have impacted rodent populations reducing densities even further. As a result, direct reduction has not been necessary in the past five years. (\$500 from Parkbase).
- N02 JOTR-Bighorn Sheep Management (RM2A):
No funds were available for helicopter census work in FY89. However, spring counts and observation cards did provide some data on population trends. Additional progress was made by the formation of a Mojave Desert Bighorn Sheep Working Group made up of staff from Lake Mead N.R.A., Death Valley N.M., Joshua Tree N.M. and the CPSU at Los Vegas, Nevada. While this group was formed primarily to facilitate communications, it work to resolve common problems such as the lack of a standardized monitoring protocol for desert bighorn. (\$5000 from Parkbase).
- N02 JOTR-Guzzler Monitoring and Maintenance (RM4A):
Maintenance was performed on five rain catchment guzzlers. The coxcomb adit was scheduled for reconstruction work to improve on recent modifications for more efficient water retention in the storage chamber. However, a constant water supply did provide water for a small family unit of bighorn throughout the critical summer months. It was decided to postpone rehab work until more moderate temperatures could allow sheep to move to alternate water sources. All building materials were procured, and helicopter time obligated for use in the wet months of Jan.-March. (\$2000 from Parkbase, \$3500 from Regionbase).
- N02 JOTR-Tortoise Recovery Program (RM9):
The tortoise recovery program has been greatly modified this year in response to concerns over recently documented disease problems discovered in tortoise populations in the Mojave Desert. Additionally, the desert tortoise has been federally listed as an endangered species which places additional constraints on management of these animals. Relocations have been limited to returning animals brought in by the public to the location they were removed from when appropriate or turning animals over to California Department of Fish and Game. (\$3000 from Parkbase).

- N02 JOTR-Tortoise Monitoring (RM19):
Radio tracking equipment was procured to implement monitoring of animals in a closed relocation population as per recommendations from contracted research (N-31). However, the recent listing of the tortoise has stimulated increased interest in additional research efforts for JOTR's tortoise populations. Two proposals both submitted in cooperation with CPSUs (Cooperative Parks Studies Units) at Los Vegas and Tucson, are currently under consideration. Deployment of transmitters has been postponed until the outcome of the pending research is known. (\$500 from Parkbase, \$4000 from Regionbase).
- N03 JOTR-Vegetation Monitoring (RM24):
Results from an endangered plant survey (N30) were used to complete NEPA compliance on several projects including highway realignments. (\$3000 from Parkbase).
- N04 JOTR-Burro Management (RM6):
All areas of historical trespass were surveyed. Burros continue to use winter foraging areas within the Monument. However, most animals left the Monument during critical summer months. Funds were not available to remove burros this past summer. (\$4000 from Parkbase).
- N04 JOTR-Non-Native Aquatic Wildlife Control (RM17):
A goldfish infestation has plagued the impounded water behind Barker Dam for three years. According to our approved plan, control of exotic fish is restricted to years of natural low water conditions to minimize impacts on other resources. The past two winters have been extremely dry with rainfall at 40% of normal. In December water the level was a small fraction of normal (less than 1% of capacity). A 5% solution of rotenone was applied as per approved plan and all fish were removed. (\$1000 from Parkbase)
- N04 JOTR-Native Plants Nursery Operations (RM18):
Nursery production continued to provide revegetation stock for a variety of restoration programs in the Monument. In addition to propagation efforts detailed in RM-5 and RM-20, native plants were grown for restoration work in Death Valley NM. (\$7500 from Parkbase)

- N05 JOTR-Exotic Plant Control (RM7):
Fourteen sites were surveyed for tamarisk and new plants were removed from seven of these known sites. Additionally, two sites in the Johnny Lang Canyon were found with the largest concentrations of tamarisk found in the Monument. The size and density of these plants precludes the use of direct removal and a cut-stump herbicide application program has been developed and approved for implementation in the spring of 1990. (\$2700 from Parkbase, \$3000 from Regionbase)
- N06 JOTR-Rehabilitation of Road Construction Areas (RM20):
Existing rehabilitation sites were monitored and plants replaced as necessary. Additionally, a major perennial grass planting along park route 12 was developed to evaluate restoration techniques for application over approximately seventeen miles of park route 12, an area scheduled for reconstruction in 1992. Survey work included development of revegetation plans for future construction as well as environmental assessment of impacts data for NEPA compliance on several proposed realignment projects. (\$35800 from Federal Highways)
- N07 JOTR-Fire Management (RM-10):
The Resources Management division administers the prescribed fire portion of fire management for the Monument. Two prescribed burns were conducted (Oasis of Mara and Nolina Cove). A Service wide moratorium on prescribed natural fire precluded any fires of this type. However, no ignitions occurred in the natural fire zone, so no fires were suppressed in this management unit. (\$6000 from Parkbase, \$6000 from Firepro)
- N10 JOTR-Mines and Minerals Management (RM12):
The Resources Division continued to assess mine sites to provide information for prioritizing safing and rehabilitation of existing hazards. (\$2000 from Parkbase)
- N10 JOTR-Rehabilitate Borrow Pits (RM14):
Severe drought conditions precluded planting additional nursery grown material this year. Nursery material will be prepared for planting next winter in an effort to complete rehabilitation of the West Entrance borrow site. This site has been selected for development of a series of experimental plantings to look at new methods for revegetation of severely damage sites. (\$1000 from Parkbase)

- N12 JOTR-Water Resources Monitoring (W3):
Monthly monitoring of test wells in the Oasis of Mara was conducted throughout the year. Although we have experienced two years of drought, no water table drops of any significance were recorded this year. Careful monitoring will watch for water table drops that could trigger initiation of emergency irrigation system. (\$500 from Parkbase)
- N14 JOTR-Air Quality Monitoring (AQ2):
Visibility as well as ozone monitoring sites are maintained in the Monument. In addition to the standard instrumentation at our ozone site, a biomonitoring garden provides information on visible injury to native plant species. This year, the native plants nursery provided nursery specimens to complete research documentation of ozone impacts on Rhus trilobata. (\$2000 from Parkbase, \$10500 from Air Quality)
- N14 JOTR-Rhus Trilobata Survey (AQ3):
Field surveys for ozone damage in known wild specimens of Rhus were conducted. Biological specimens as well as photos were used to gather information on the extent of impacts to the species. Evidence of foliage damage detected on specimens in the biomonitoring garden was used to signal additional field sampling. (\$2500 from Parkbase)
- N16 JOTR-Fan Palm Oasis Management (RM5):
Rehabilitation of vegetation in the Oasis was completed this year as the final effort of a three year NRPP project. Prescribed fire and nursery grown native plants have been used to re-introduce extirpated species. (\$16000 from NRPP)
- N18 JOTR-Coyote Management (RM21):
Public information program and monitoring have significantly reduced occurrence of begging coyote from campgrounds and roadsides. (\$1000 from Parkbase)
- N18 JOTR-ORV Monitoring and Rehabilitation (RM22):
Historical trespass areas were monitored for impacts. Closure sites were monitored to determine compliance and effectiveness of revegetation. (\$2000 from Parkbase)

N23 JOTR-Resources Management Administration (RM3):

Supervisory activities included:

- update of Resources Management Plan
- supervision of staff
- preparation of reports to WRO and WASO
- responses to public inquiries
- review proposals from other agencies review
- proposals from private industry
- fiscal and property management

The Resources Division was comprised of three permanent staff positions as well as approximately 4.0 FTE of temporary and seasonal positions. (\$34,500 from Parkbase)