

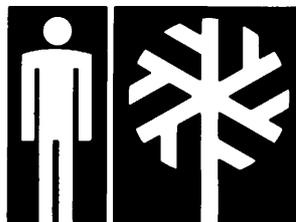
wilderness recommendation

JOSHUA TREE



NATIONAL MONUMENT • CALIFORNIA

WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION



**Joshua Tree
National Monument
California**

August 1972

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RECOMMENDATION

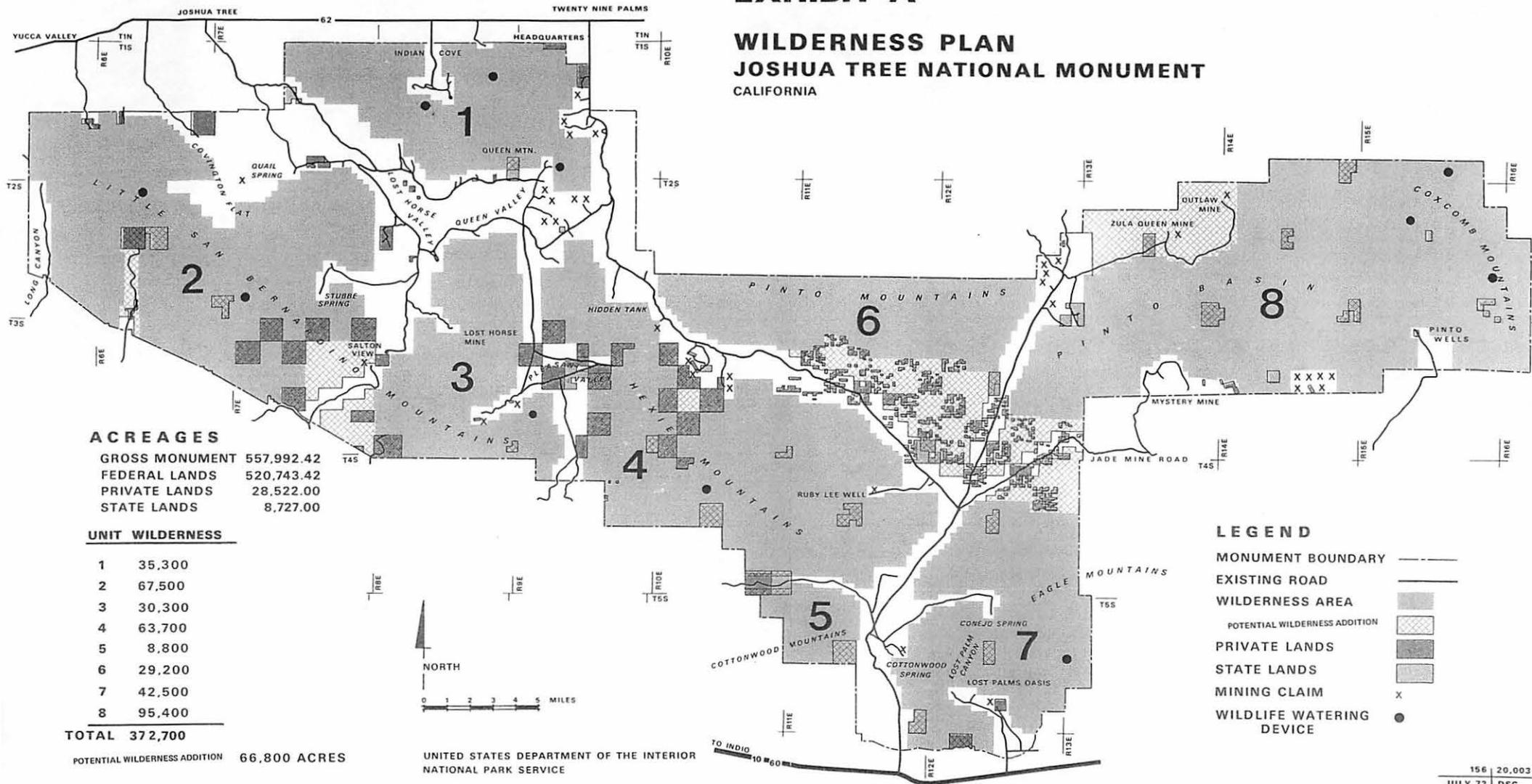
1

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT A TOTAL OF 372,700 ACRES WITHIN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT, CALIFORNIA, AS DEFINED IN EXHIBIT A, BE DESIGNATED AS WILDERNESS BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS.

THIS RECOMMENDATION IS BASED UPON CAREFUL STUDY OF THE MONUMENT, THE VIEWS PRESENTED AT THE PUBLIC HEARING, AND THE WRITTEN RESPONSES CONCERNING THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL DESCRIBED IN THE APPENDED HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT.

EXHIBIT A

WILDERNESS PLAN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT CALIFORNIA



A NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

Public Law 88-577, of September 3, 1964, establishing a National Wilderness Preservation System, provides, in part, as follows:

POLICY

"It is . . . the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

2

AREAS FOR STUDY

"Within ten years after the effective date of this Act the Secretary of the Interior shall review every roadless area of five thousand contiguous acres or more in the national parks, monuments and other units of the national park system . . . , under his jurisdiction of the effective date of this Act and shall report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or unsuitability of each such area . . . for preservation as wilderness."

SYSTEM

"... there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as 'wilderness areas'"

DEFINITION

"A wilderness, . . . is . . . an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean . . . an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which: (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

MANAGEMENT

"The inclusion of an area in the National Wilderness Preservation System notwithstanding, the area shall continue to be managed by the Department and agency having jurisdiction thereover immediately before its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System unless otherwise provided by Act of Congress."

3

USE

"Nothing in this Act shall modify the statutory authority under which units of the national park system are created. Further, the designation of any area of any park, monument, or other unit of the national park system as a wilderness area pursuant to this Act shall in no manner lower the standards evolved for the use and preservation of such park, monument, or other unit of the national park system in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916, the statutory authority under which the area was created, or any other Act of Congress which might pertain to or affect such area, including but not limited to, the Act of June 8, 1906, (34 Stat. 255; 16 U.S.C. 432 et seq.); section 3(2) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796 (2)); and the Act of August 21, 1935, (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.)."

MASTER PLAN POLICY
FOR NATURAL AREAS OF THE
NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM (REVISED 1970)

4

DISCUSSION

It has long been the practice of the National Park Service to prepare and maintain a Master Plan to guide the use, development, interpretation, and preservation of each particular park. Graphics and narrative specify the objectives of management. In a sense, these Master Plans are zoning plans. They not only define the areas for developments, they also define the areas in which no developments are to be permitted.

Parks do not exist in a vacuum. It is important in planning for a park that the teams take into account the total environment in which the

park exists. Of particular significance are the plans for and the availability of other park and recreation facilities within the region at the Federal, State, and local levels, as well as those of the private sector for the accommodation of visitors, access to the national parks, the roads within them, wildlife habitat, etc. Accordingly, the Master Plan Team first analyzes the entire region in which the park is located and the many factors that influence its management.

Moreover, where national parks and national forests adjoin, such as Mount Rainier, Yellowstone, and Grand Teton National Parks, the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service formalized, in 1963, a joint effort to analyze the resources and visitor needs and develop cooperative plans for the accommodation of these requirements which will best insure the achievement of both of our missions. This program formalizes and broadens the informal efforts made for many years by many park superintendents and forest supervisors to coordinate management programs, including visitor facilities and services. Such cooperative programs are authorized by section 2 of the act of August 25, 1916, establishing the National Park Service.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Master Plan

A Master Plan will be prepared for each area to cover specifically all Resource Management, Resource Use, and Physical Development programs. An approved Master Plan is required before any development program may be executed in an area.

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Master Plan Teams

All Master Plan Teams should be composed of members having different professional backgrounds, such as ecology, landscape architecture, architecture, natural history, park planning, resource management, engineering, archeology, and history. Where available funds and program needs permit, the study teams for the national parks should include outstanding conservationists, scientists, and others who possess special knowledge of individual parks. Also, the teams should consult with authorized concessioners during the Master Plan study.

Land Classification

A sound system of evaluation and classification for lands and waters in a park or monument is a prerequisite for master planning. This is necessary to provide proper recognition and protection of park

resources and to plan for visitor enjoyment of the values of the area. The system serves, also, as a basis for recommending lands for "wilderness" classification in accordance with the Wilderness Act and provides a basis for making many other Master Plan judgments.

The land classification system to be used is similar to that proposed by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission and prescribed for application to Federal lands by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Under this system, lands may be segregated into any one of six classes:

Class I—high density recreation areas; Class II—general outdoor recreation areas; Class III—natural environment areas; Class IV—outstanding natural areas; Class V—primitive areas, including, but not limited to, those recommended for designation under the Wilderness Act; and Class VI—historic and cultural areas. Consistent with the Congressionally stated purpose of national parks, a park contains lands falling into three or more of these classes.

Classes I and II identify the lands reserved for visitor accommodations (*both existing and proposed*), for administrative facilities, formal campgrounds, two-way roads, etc., of varying intensities. Class I and II lands occupy relatively little space in any of the national parks.

Class III identifies the "natural environment areas." As the name of the category implies, these are "natural environment" lands. These lands are important to the proper preservation, interpretation, and management of the irreplaceable resources of the National Park System. These irreplaceable resources are identified in Class IV, V, and VI categories of lands. It is the existence of unique features (Class IV), or primitive lands, including wilderness (Class V), or historical or cultural lands (Class VI) in combination with a suitable environment (Class III) and with sufficient lands "for the accommodation of visitors" (Classes I and II) that distinguish natural and historical areas of the National Park System from other public lands providing outdoor recreation.

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In the natural areas (national parks and national monuments of scientific significance), Class III lands often provide the "transition" or "setting" or "environment" or "buffer" between intensively developed portions of the park or monument (Classes I and II) AND (a) the primitive or wilderness (Class V) areas; and (b) the unique natural features (Class IV) or areas of historic or cultural significance (Class VI) when these two categories exist outside of the Class V lands.

In the historical areas (the administrative policies for which are included in a separate booklet), the "environmental" lands (Class III) serve a similar role in providing the "setting" or "atmosphere" essential to preserving and presenting the national significance of historic properties included in the National Park System.

Often, Classes III and V lands both represent significant natural values. Generally, these values are different in type, quality, or degree. Accordingly, lands having natural values that do not meet Service criteria for primitive or wilderness designation may be classified as Class III even when they do not involve the environment of either Class IV, Class V, or Class VI lands. In natural areas, "natural environment" lands are sometimes referred to additionally as "wilderness threshold" when they abut or surround wilderness.

The "wilderness threshold" lands afford the newcomer an opportunity to explore the mood and the temper of the wild country before venturing into the wilderness beyond. Here, in the wilderness threshold, is an unequalled opportunity for interpretation of the meaning of wilderness.

Class III lands also serve important research needs of the Service, as well as of many independent researchers and institutions of higher learning.

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The only facilities planned in these "natural environment" lands are the minimum required for public enjoyment, health, safety, preservation, and protection of the features, such as one-way motor nature trails, small visitor overlooks, informal picnic sites, short nature walks, and wilderness-type uses. Such limited facilities must be in complete harmony with the natural environment.

Class IV lands are those which contain unique natural features. These lands usually represent the most fragile and most precious values of a natural area. Class IV identifies the terrain and objects of scenic splendor, natural wonder, or scientific importance that are the heart of the park. These are the lands which must have the highest order of protection so that they will remain "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Nothing in the way of human use should be permitted on Class IV lands that intrude upon or may in any way damage or alter the scene. The sites and features are irreplaceable. They may range in size from large areas within the Grand Canyon to small sites such as Old Faithful Geyser or a sequoia grove.

Class V are the primitive lands that have remained pristine and undisturbed as a part of our natural inheritance. They include in some instances, moreover, lands which, through National Park Service management, have been restored by the healing processes of nature to a primeval state. There are no mining, domestic stock grazing, water impoundments, or other intrusions of man to mar their character and detract from the solitude and quiet of the natural scene. The protection and maintenance of natural conditions and a wilderness atmosphere are paramount management objectives. The only facilities allowed in these lands are of the type mentioned in the *Wilderness Use and Management Policy* statement.

Class VI are the lands, including historic structures, of historical or cultural significance, such as the agricultural community of Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Wilderness Hearings

One of the finest new public land planning procedures introduced by the Wilderness Act is the opportunity for the public to express its views on the preliminary wilderness proposals prior to these proposals being firmly established for recommendations to the Congress. These hearings are held in the State in which the wilderness is proposed.

Notice of such public hearings is published in the "Federal Register" and newspapers having general circulation in the area of the park at least 60 days prior to the hearings. During this 60-day period, the Master Plan documents are available for public review at the park, in the appropriate Regional Office, and in the Washington Office. Moreover, public information packets explaining national park wilderness proposals are available at the same time for distribution to all those requesting them.

The Wilderness Act requires that the public hearing be held on the wilderness proposals only. However, it is the practice of the National Park Service to make available the general development plan for the park or monument at the time the preliminary wilderness proposal is released. The Service welcomes public comments and views on these plans. Moreover, once the Congress has defined the wilderness areas within the national parks and monuments, it shall be the practice of the National Park Service to give public notice of 60 days on any proposal to change the classification of any Class I, Class II, or Class III lands within the park or monument. In this way, the Service shall afford the public a continuing opportunity to participate in the planning and management of its national parks and monuments.

SUMMARY OF THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

THE MONUMENT AND ITS ENVIRONS

Location

Joshua Tree National Monument, 150 miles east of Los Angeles, lies in the center of the great California desert. The monument is accessible by Highway 62 and Interstate 10.

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Surroundings

Situated near the outer edge of the Los Angeles region, in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, Joshua Tree National Monument is within easy weekend driving distance of one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world. Ten million people now live within this region.

Joshua Tree National Monument is one of several major natural desert preserves; two others are Anza Borrego Desert State Park and Death Valley National Monument. Together these three areas total 4500 square miles of a 14,000 square mile desert.

Resources

Joshua Tree National Monument encompasses over 500,000 acres of the California desert's finest areas. Spectacular geologic features,

complemented by a diverse assembly of desert plants and animals, constitute the major resource values. Archeological and historical sites supplement the desert environment.

The monument exhibits some of the most outstanding geology in southern California, the results of repeated uplifts, successive lava flows, and relentless erosion. The westward part of the monument embraces several mountain masses, with a number of peaks over 5000 feet high, interlaced with medium-elevation plateaus and valleys. To the east, the nearly flat intermountain plateaus drop off to a low, bowl-shaped Pinto Basin.

Joshua Tree National Monument embraces two large ecosystems: the Mohave or high desert, and the Colorado or low desert. Few areas in the country illustrate more vividly the contrast between high and low desert. Lying generally below 3000 feet, the Colorado Desert is dominated by the widely distributed creosote bush. The higher, slightly cooler and wetter Mohave Desert is the special habitat of the Joshua tree.

Visitor-Use Facilities

Facilities for visitor use include a visitor center, three campgrounds, three group campgrounds, an amphitheater, and other interpretive facilities. There are a number of nature trails and many miles of hiking trails. Approximately 120 miles of road give the visitor an opportunity to reach large portions of the monument.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

The preliminary wilderness proposal of about 325,200 acres comprises approximately 60 percent of the monument. Scattered private land, State land, mining claims, and public-use facilities for the most part dictate the wilderness units which are proposed. These wilderness units are essentially core units and, as conflicting wilderness factors such as private and State land and mining claims are eliminated, these lands will be restudied for possible wilderness designation and added to the proposed wilderness cores.

All proposed wilderness units have a minimum of 1/8-mile offset from all monument boundaries and from all private inholdings. This 1/8-mile zone is considered the minimum essential for present and future management needs.

CONCLUSIONS

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INTRODUCTION

As required by the Wilderness Act, a public hearing was held on the preliminary wilderness proposal at Twentynine Palms, California, on February 16, 1972. Notice of the public hearing appeared in the *Federal Register* on December 10, 1971. Eighty-seven people attended the hearing and 24 oral statements were presented. Oral statements plus responses in letters received accounted for a total of 955 responses.

Of the agencies, private organizations, and individuals testifying or submitting written views, three out of nine agencies, five of the 25 organizations, and 26 of the 921 individuals supported the preliminary wilderness proposal with no suggestions for change. Five agencies and three individuals acknowledge receipt of copies of the wilderness

proposal. Twelve organizations and 841 of the individuals commenting favored a larger wilderness; 24 individuals favored wilderness with no specific recommendations. One agency, four organizations, and 20 individuals recommended less wilderness. Four organizations and seven individuals opposed the establishment of wilderness.

Alternate proposals are described in the appended Hearing Officer's Report and are indicated on Exhibit D.

Careful study of the statements presented at the hearing, the letters received, and management consideration, has prompted the following revisions of the preliminary proposal.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS

All management zones shown in the preliminary wilderness proposal are added to the recommended wilderness since it is believed that actions needed for the health and safety of wilderness travelers, or for the protection of the wilderness area, utilizing the minimum tool, equipment, or structure necessary, may take place within the wilderness. The management zone additions are identified by the letter P and acreages are identified in the following discussion of the individual wilderness units.

Unit 1

Two parcels of land totaling 1300 acres, identified by the letters A and B on Exhibit B are added to include more of the Indian Cove area. One parcel of 1900 acres, identified by the letter C is added to take in more of the Queen Mountain features. Twelve hundred acres of management zone are added. Additions to Unit 1 total 4400 acres.

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Unit 2

Two parcels totaling 1440 acres, identified by the letters D and E on Exhibit B are added in the Covington Flat area. Identified by the letter F, 6100 acres are added to include more of the San Bernardino Mountains between Stubbe Spring and the monument's southern boundary. The management zone addition is 2460 acres. Additions to Unit 2 total 10,000 acres.

Unit 3

Three miles of road into the Lost Horse Mountain area have been closed. A parcel of 1760 acres, identified by the letter G on Exhibit B is

therefore added. Two other portions of the Little San Bernardino Mountains are added, which total 4840 acres, and are identified by the letters H and J. The management zone addition comprises 800 acres. Additions to Unit 3 total 7400 acres.

Unit 4

A portion of the Hexie Mountains immediately east of Pleasant Valley is added. This parcel contains 7000 acres and is identified by the letter K on Exhibit B. The management zone addition is 3800 acres. Additions to Unit 4 total 10,800 acres.

Unit 5

Two thousand five hundred acres of management zone are added.

Unit 6

One thousand four hundred acres of management zone are added.

Unit 7

Three thousand nine hundred acres of management zone are added.

Unit 8

Four miles of road in the Pinto Basin Mystery Mine area have now been closed. With this road closure, two units of wilderness are joined by addition of a 1200-acre parcel identified by the letter L on Exhibit B. A 3500-acre parcel around Pinto Wells, identified by the letter M is added to Unit 8. Also, 2900 acres of management are added. Additions to Unit 8 total 7600 acres.

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POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

A total of 66,800 acres not now qualified are proposed as potential wilderness. It is recommended that a special provision in the legislation establishing wilderness at Joshua Tree National Monument be included giving the Secretary of the Interior the authority to designate these lands as wilderness at such time he determines it qualifies. These lands are primarily in State and private ownership, but are to be acquired.

RECOMMENDED DELETIONS

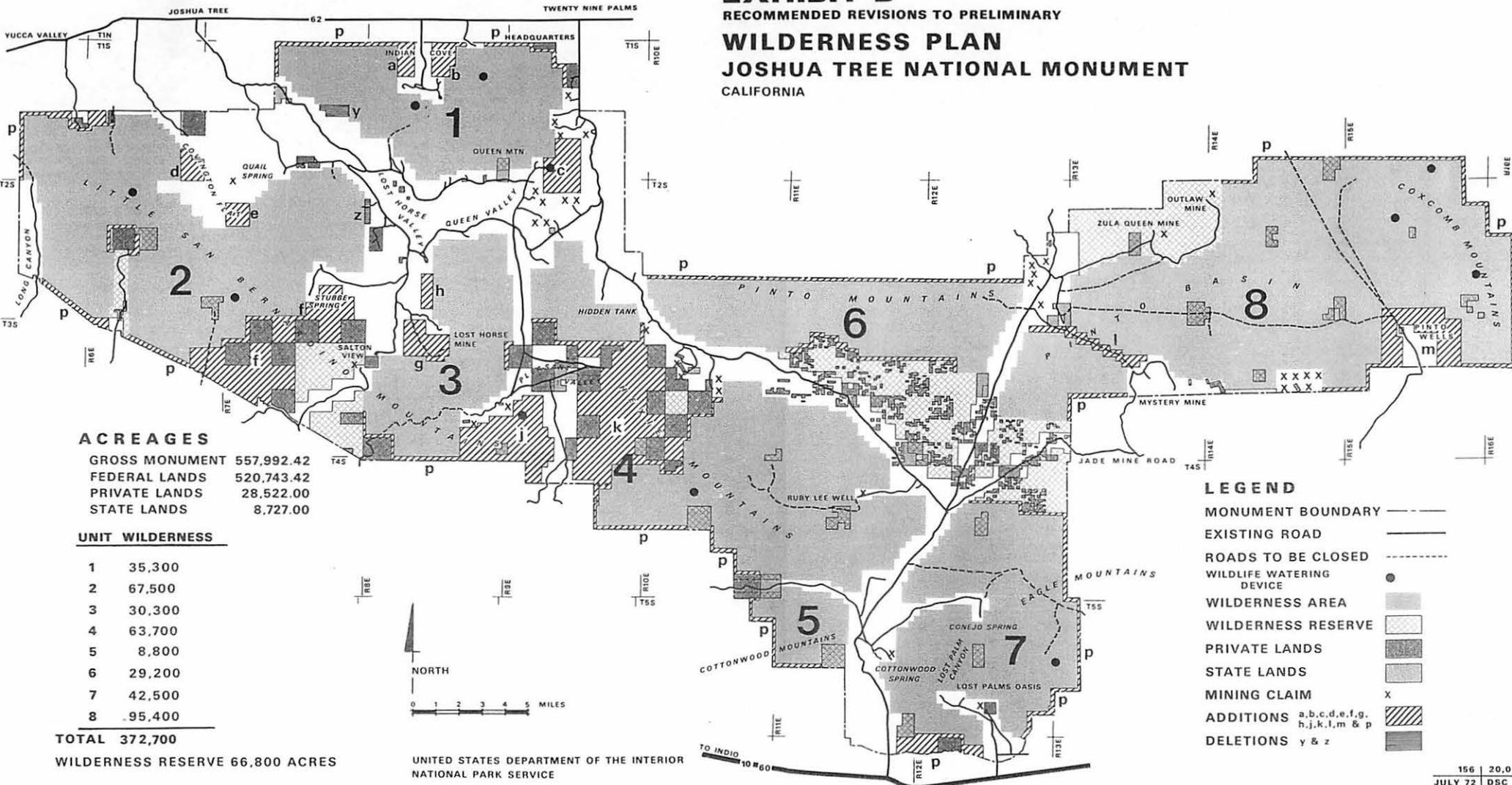
A parcel of land 300 acres in size in Unit 1 identified by the letter Y and a parcel of land 200 acres in size in Unit 2 identified by the letter Z

EXHIBIT B

RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PLAN

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

CALIFORNIA



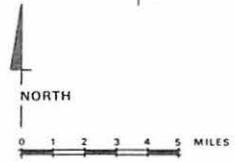
ACREAGES

GROSS MONUMENT	557,992.42
FEDERAL LANDS	520,743.42
PRIVATE LANDS	28,522.00
STATE LANDS	8,727.00

UNIT WILDERNESS

1	35,300
2	67,500
3	30,300
4	63,700
5	8,800
6	29,200
7	42,500
8	95,400

TOTAL 372,700
WILDERNESS RESERVE 66,800 ACRES



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LEGEND

- MONUMENT BOUNDARY - - - - -
- EXISTING ROAD ———
- ROADS TO BE CLOSED - · - · -
- WILDLIFE WATERING DEVICE ●
- WILDERNESS AREA [Solid Grey Box]
- WILDERNESS RESERVE [Cross-hatched Box]
- PRIVATE LANDS [Dark Grey Box]
- STATE LANDS [Medium Grey Box]
- MINING CLAIM X
- ADDITIONS a,b,c,d,e,f,g, h,j,k,l,m & p [Diagonal Hatched Box]
- DELETIONS y & z [Dark Grey Box]

are recommended for deletion. Proposed campgrounds in these locations will require this additional space.

IDENTIFICATION OF WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT FACILITIES AND PRACTICES

Administrative policies provide for the management of natural areas to minimize, give direction to, or control those changes in the native environment and scenic landscape resulting from human influences on natural processes of ecological succession. Native environmental complexes will be restored, protected, and maintained, where practicable, at levels determined through historical and ecological research of plant-animal relationships. Therefore, it is recommended that the act designating wilderness provide for the use of necessary manipulative techniques in order to maintain or restore natural ecological conditions to the wilderness area.

An active wildlife management program primarily for Bighorn Sheep is being carried on in Joshua Tree National Monument. As a part of the program there are 11 existing or proposed artificial watering devices within the proposed wilderness. A specific provision in the designating legislation is recommended to provide for their continuation.

The area northeast of Covington Flat was excluded from wilderness since at some future date a transportation system for visitors may be necessary in this area.

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The lands needed to provide for developments and general public use of the monument are not recommended for management as wilderness.

SUMMATION

With the additions totaling 48,000 acres and the deletions totaling 500 acres, the recommended wilderness consists of 372,700 acres.



Director, National Park Service

APPENDIX: HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

A public hearing on the proposal to establish wilderness areas within Joshua Tree National Monument was held in the Twentynine Palms High School, Twentynine Palms, California, on February 16, 1972.

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Two hearings were held — one at 1:00 p.m. and one at 7:15 p.m. by the Hearing Officer, Mr. John C. Preston, 6961 Oakmont Drive, Santa Rosa, California. A total of 87 persons were present, 24 of whom presented oral statements. Mr. Jimmie O. Crumley, 1833 West 8th Street, Los Angeles, California, recorded the hearing.

THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

The Monument and Its Environs

Joshua Tree National Monument, 150 miles east of Los Angeles, lies in the center of the great California desert. This monument encompasses over 500,000 acres of the California desert's finest areas. Spectacular geologic features, complemented by a diverse assembly of desert plants and animals, constitute the major resource values. Archeological and historical sites supplement the desert environment.

The monument exhibits some of the most outstanding geology in southern California, the results of repeated uplifts, successive lava flows, and relentless erosion. The westward part of the monument embraces several mountain masses, with a number of peaks over 5000 feet high, interlaced with medium-elevation plateaus and valleys. To the east, the nearly flat intermountain plateaus drop off to the low, bowl-shaped Pinto Basin.

Joshua Tree National Monument embraces two large ecosystems: the Mohave or high desert, and the Colorado or low desert. Few areas in the country illustrate more vividly the contrast between high and low desert. Lying generally below 3000 feet, the Colorado Desert is dominated by the widely distributed creosote bush. The higher, slightly cooler and wetter Mohave Desert is the special habitat of the Joshua tree.

Indians once occupied this land; ancient stone weapons and petroglyphs – manuscripts on the rocks – record their occupancy.

Modern man's influence was less subtle. Gold fever once gripped the land: mines were dug and stamp mills constructed. Cattle ranching supplanted mining. Many of the structures associated with these activities have deteriorated; some structures remain, however, and provide an important link with a bygone era.

The Region

Situated near the outer edge of the Los Angeles region, in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, Joshua Tree National Monument is within easy weekend driving distance of one of the largest megalopolitan areas in the world. Ten million people now live within this region and population projections estimate a regional population of 13 million by 1980. The monument is accessible by automobile on Highway 62 and Interstate 10, which pass through the towns of Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms. Eighty percent of the visitation is on weekends.

People within this region – one of the wealthiest regions in the world – have a variety of life-styles and cultural pursuits. But southern California also experiences significant social and economic problems related to congestion and pollution.

The Los Angeles region has four types of outdoor recreational environments serving its recreation needs: beaches, parks, forests, and the vast California desert. Of the four environments, the desert has been

the last to feel the pressures of mass use, and is in large measure the most fragile and least protected of all the recreation lands.

The desert serves as a dramatic contrast to the home and work environment of the Los Angeles resident, and it is in the public desire for this contrast that Joshua Tree National Monument finds its role. Joshua Tree National Monument is one of several major natural desert preserves; two others are the beautiful Anza Borrego Desert State Park and the superlative Death Valley National Monument. Together these three areas total 4500 square miles of a 14,000-square-mile desert that extends from Death Valley to the Mexican border.

Fortunately, much of the California desert lies in the public domain under the Bureau of Land Management, which has produced a regional plan for the California desert. A number of recreational and natural areas around the monument are included in the plan. These new recreation lands will help relieve much of the great pressure upon Joshua Tree.

The Roadless Study Areas

Some of the finest high- and low-desert scenery and ecological habitats are contained within the 538,600 acres of roadless area within the monument. There are 13 roadless areas, all of which are primarily mountainous with the exception of the large Pinto Basin Wash. Portions of these 13 roadless areas qualify for possible inclusion within the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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In this desert area, many roads were constructed to mining and ranching properties, and developed for public use. The main road system is being retained for public interpretive use. Several sections of road within the monument are rights-of-way to private land and mining claims, which are to be retained while private rights exist. Unneeded management roads are to be closed.

There are 37,249 acres of State and private inholdings that the Service is actively seeking to eliminate. Some of these lands are scattered in the Little San Bernardino Mountains; some are concentrated in the Hexie Mountains; and some lie in the western portion of Pinto Basin. The 8727 acres of State land are being exchanged by agreement for public domain land outside the monument. The State of California is in the process of selecting this exchange land.

Prior to its establishment in 1936, the entire monument had been prospected and mined. Following establishment, over 2000 claims were invalidated. Only a few claims have been patented and are now private tracts within the monument. There are about 40 known claims, the validity of which are being determined at this time.

There are two water rights within the monument: one in the southeast part of the monument is leased by Kaiser Steel from the Metropolitan Water District; the other is in the south part of the monument at Lost Palm Canyon and Munson Canyon. Both of these water rights are close to the monument's boundary. Several water impoundment structures in the monument are to remain for wildlife protection. These structures are concrete dams, formerly used by cattle, and metal catchments for wildlife. None of these structures lie within proposed wilderness units.

Preliminary Wilderness Proposals

Ten units of wilderness, totaling 325,200 acres, are proposed for Joshua Tree National Monument, as shown on Map No. 156/20,000-A, May 1971. Some of these wilderness units are made up of portions of more than one roadless area through the closure of roads.

Roadless	Unit	Wilderness
49,500	1	30,200
134,400	2	57,700
17,000	3	22,900
95,500	4	7,800
	5	46,100
12,300	6	6,300
53,800	7	27,800
33,600		
5,300	8	38,600
16,700		
17,100	9	8,900
25,900		
40,700	10	78,900
36,800		
TOTAL 538,600		325,200

All of the proposed wilderness units have a minimum of 1/8-mile offset (management zone) from all monument boundaries and from all private inholdings. State lands are not bounded by 1/8-mile management zones, since they will soon become part of the monument through exchanges that are now being made. Once acquired, most of the State lands are to be added to the proposed wilderness units.

The monument's boundaries are almost exclusively drawn on section lines that cross and recross topographic features. For this reason, and also because of the lack of easily defined topographic features in many areas of the monument, all wilderness lines with the exception of 1/8-mile management zones are drawn on section lines.

Unit 1

This proposed 30,200-acre wilderness will preserve an outstanding geologic area. The main feature of this rugged area is the Wonderland of Rocks, a display of gigantic monzonites.

The wilderness line on the east, north, and west sides of this unit is generally 1/8 mile from the monument boundary, with Indian Cove, a campground area, being excluded. On the south, the wilderness line is drawn to exclude mining claims, State land, and a future development site north and west of Lost Horse Valley.

Approximately 1 mile of management road on the south edge of this unit, formerly a mining road, is to be closed.

19

Unit 2

Within this proposed 57,700-acre wilderness is a large portion of the Little San Bernardino Mountains, a magnificent erosional display, possessing a fine desert plant community and the Nelson bighorn sheep range.

From the northwest corner of the monument, the wilderness line runs south to Long Canyon and around the east side of the canyon to 1/8 mile from the monument's south boundary. The wilderness line continues east, along the north side of private land, around Stubbe Spring to Lost Horse Valley, then west around Quail Spring and Covington Flat, returning to the 1/8-mile offset at the monument's north boundary. The line then continues west to the point of beginning, excluding private lands.

Six segments of jeep road to old mining sites, totaling 7 miles, are to be closed.

Two pieces of private land near the center of the area just described are excluded from wilderness, along with an access corridor to these lands from the monument's south boundary. Two parcels of State lands are also excluded.

Unit 3

This proposed wilderness unit of 22,900 acres is also a portion of the Little San Bernardino Mountains. It is made up of portions of two roadless areas, and forms the backdrop for Lost Horse and Pleasant Valleys.

This wilderness unit is bounded on the north by Queen Valley and on the west by the Salton View access road, Lost Horse Mine, and private lands. The south boundary of this unit is drawn 1/8 mile from the monument boundary. The east side of this unit is drawn around private land and along the access road from Queen Valley to Pleasant Valley.

Nine miles of former mining access road, Pushwalla jeep road, are to be closed.

Unit 4

This proposed unit comprises a 7800-acre section of the Hexie Mountains, which serve as a scenic backdrop for Pleasant Valley.

This unit is bounded on the north and east by major monument roads and by Hidden Tank. The west and south lines of this unit are drawn around private lands.

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Unit 5

Within this 46,100-acre proposed wilderness lies the major portion of the Hexie Mountains. These mountains provide the scenic backdrop for Pinto Basin, Pleasant Valley, and part of the bighorn sheep range.

This unit is bounded on the east and north sides by major park roads and private land. The west boundary is on section lines 1/8 mile from private lands and the monument boundary. Going from west to east, the wilderness line first is drawn 1/8 mile from the monument boundary, and then is drawn on the north side of private land, State land, and the access road to the private land.

A corridor on the east side of this unit is excluded to provide access to Ruby Well. Three parcels of State lands within this wilderness unit are also excluded.

Two miles of jeep road to an old mine above Ruby Well are to be closed.

Unit 6

This proposed small wilderness occupies a 6300-acre section of the Cottonwood Mountains, a backdrop for the valley to the east.

The west and south sides of this unit are drawn 1/8 mile from the monument boundary; the east and north boundaries are formed by the access road mentioned in Unit 5.

Unit 7

The Pinto Mountains on the monument's north boundary form a panoramic backdrop for the Pinto Basin. The wilderness proposed in this unit is 27,800 acres.

The north boundary is drawn 1/8 mile from the monument boundary. The wilderness line on the west is along a major monument road, and on the south is formed by private land. The east boundary of this unit is along the access road to mines in the monument.

A historic mining road 3 miles long in the east part of this unit is to be closed.

Unit 8

A portion of the Eagle Mountains lies within this proposed 38,600-acre wilderness, which is made up of sections of three roadless areas. The draws within this rugged mountain mass contain some of the finest palm oases in the monument.

The wilderness line on the east side of this unit is drawn 1/8 mile from the monument boundary. The north side is bounded by private land, and the west side is bounded by a major monument road and Cottonwood Springs. State and private lands form the south side of this unit.

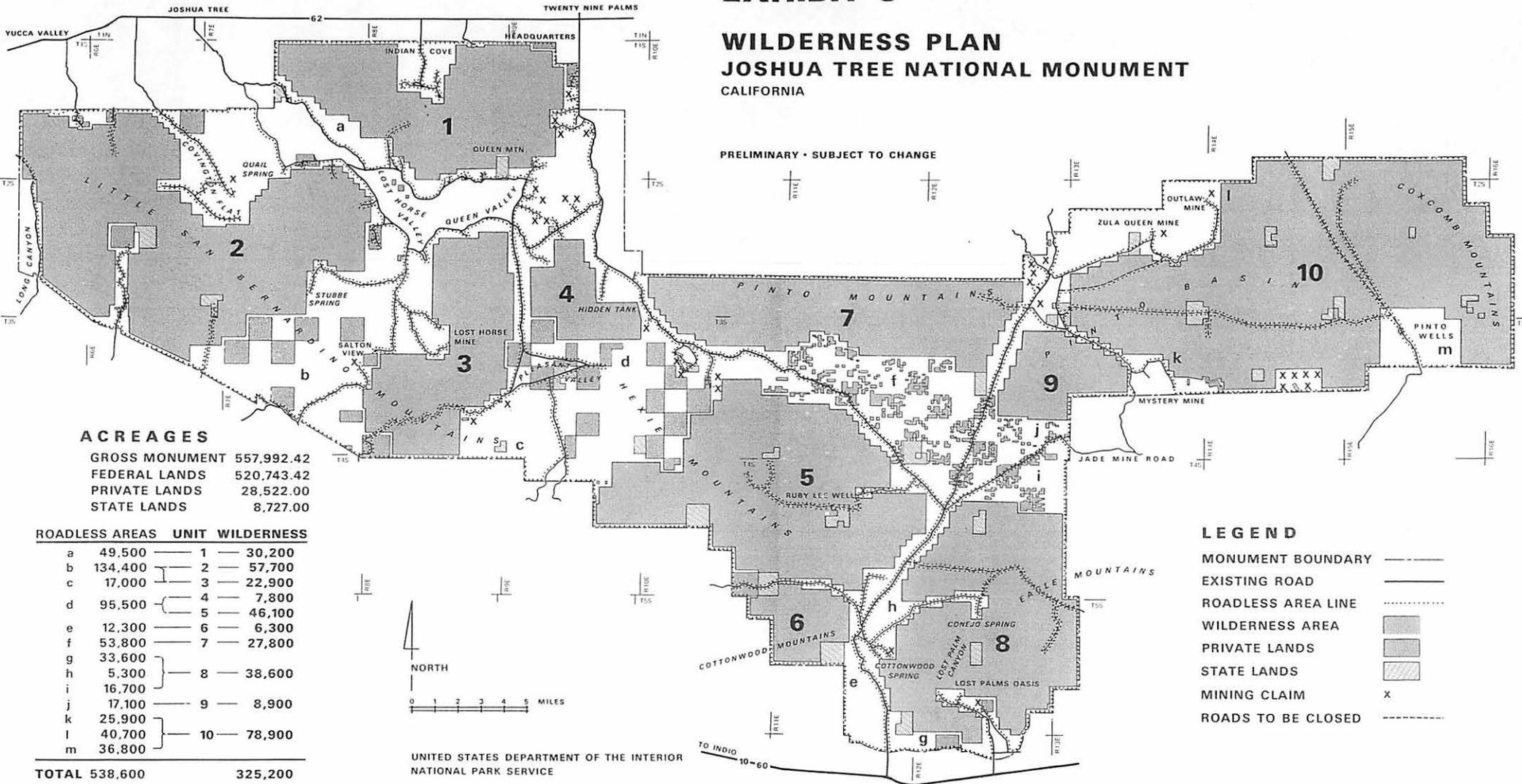
Excluded from this unit are two corridors, one to Conejo Spring and the other to Lost Palm Canyon. Two parcels of State land are also excluded.

Twelve miles of road and jeep trails, formerly to private lands, are to be closed.

EXHIBIT C

WILDERNESS PLAN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT CALIFORNIA

PRELIMINARY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE



ACREAGES

GROSS MONUMENT	557,992.42
FEDERAL LANDS	520,743.42
PRIVATE LANDS	28,522.00
STATE LANDS	8,727.00

ROADLESS AREAS UNIT WILDERNESS

a	49,500	1	30,200
b	134,400	2	57,700
c	17,000	3	22,900
d	95,500	4	7,800
e	12,300	5	46,100
f	53,800	6	6,300
g	33,600	7	27,800
h	5,300	8	38,600
i	16,700		
j	17,100	9	8,900
k	25,900	10	78,900
l	40,700		
m	36,800		

TOTAL 538,600 325,200

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LEGEND

MONUMENT BOUNDARY	---
EXISTING ROAD	—
ROADLESS AREA LINE	⋯
WILDERNESS AREA	■
PRIVATE LANDS	■
STATE LANDS	▨
MINING CLAIM	X
ROADS TO BE CLOSED	- - - -

Unit 9

This proposed 8900-acre wilderness forms a part of the scenic backdrop for Pinto Basin.

The wilderness line on the east, north, and west is along access roads to mining claims and private land. The south boundary is on section lines 1/8 mile from private land and the monument boundary.

Unit 10

Within this proposed 78,900-acre wilderness, embracing portions of three roadless areas, are the Coxcomb Mountains, a magnificent display of majestic peaks that enclose a part of the large Pinto Basin. The basin itself is included in this proposed wilderness unit, which will ensure the preservation of an extensive undisturbed desert wash with Colorado Desert plant communities.

The south, west, and north boundaries of this unit are 1/8 mile from the monument's boundary. Mining claims, private land, and access to these form the west boundaries. Pinto Wells, a future development site in the southeast corner, is excluded from this unit. Also excluded are nine parcels of State lands.

Old mining access roads totaling 37 miles are to be closed.

ANALYSIS OF THE RECORD OF PUBLIC HEARING AND WRITTEN RESPONSES

22

Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society Recommendation

This alternative proposal was advanced by the Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society and supported by the majority of organizations and individuals who recommended an enlarged National Park Service wilderness proposal. They recommended six units of wilderness of substantially more acreage. Their proposal had the following nine specifics:

1. In the Indian Cove area, bring the wilderness boundary down to the shoulder of the road and to the campground limits.
2. Close the 5 miles of north-south road to the Southern Pacific and State inholdings in Unit 2. Make the area wilderness, and acquire the inholdings.
3. Close the Covington Flat road, and add the entire area to wilderness.

4. Add the entire area between Unit 2 and 3 to the wilderness, acquire the inholdings, and close the road that leads to the mining claim below Salton View.

5. Add the entire area between Units 3, 4, and 5, with exception of Pleasant Valley, to the wilderness, and close approximately 3 miles of road across this section. Also acquire the inholdings.

6. Close the road between Units 5 and 6, and add the area to wilderness. Acquire the inholdings.

7. In Unit 8, close the road to Conejo Springs, and add the area to wilderness.

8. Close the road between Units 9 and 10, and add the area to wilderness.

9. In the Pinto Wells area (Unit 10), bring the wilderness boundary to the road shoulder, and leave 200 acres at Pinto Wells for development of campgrounds and ranger facilities.

The map submitted with the proposal is included in the official record. The additions proposed are shown generally by the letter Z on Exhibit D.

Other Recommendations

There were several recommendations that no wilderness be established at Joshua Tree National Monument, or that the recommended wilderness acreage be reduced. Organizations that made such expressions were the California Association of Four-Wheel-Drive Clubs, the National 4-Wheel Drive Association, the Western Rockhound Association, and the Western Wood Products Association. These organizations felt that no existing roads should be closed, so that lands could be placed in wilderness. They believe the past and present procedures of protecting monument areas should be continued rather than making most of the monument a wilderness area. They are concerned with the eroding of public lands into a dominant singular classification as wilderness which dictates a use which, they feel, discriminates against the majority of the public.

Supporting Organizations

Agencies and organizations that supported or had similar positions to the National Park Service include: the City Council, City of Adelanto,

EXHIBIT D

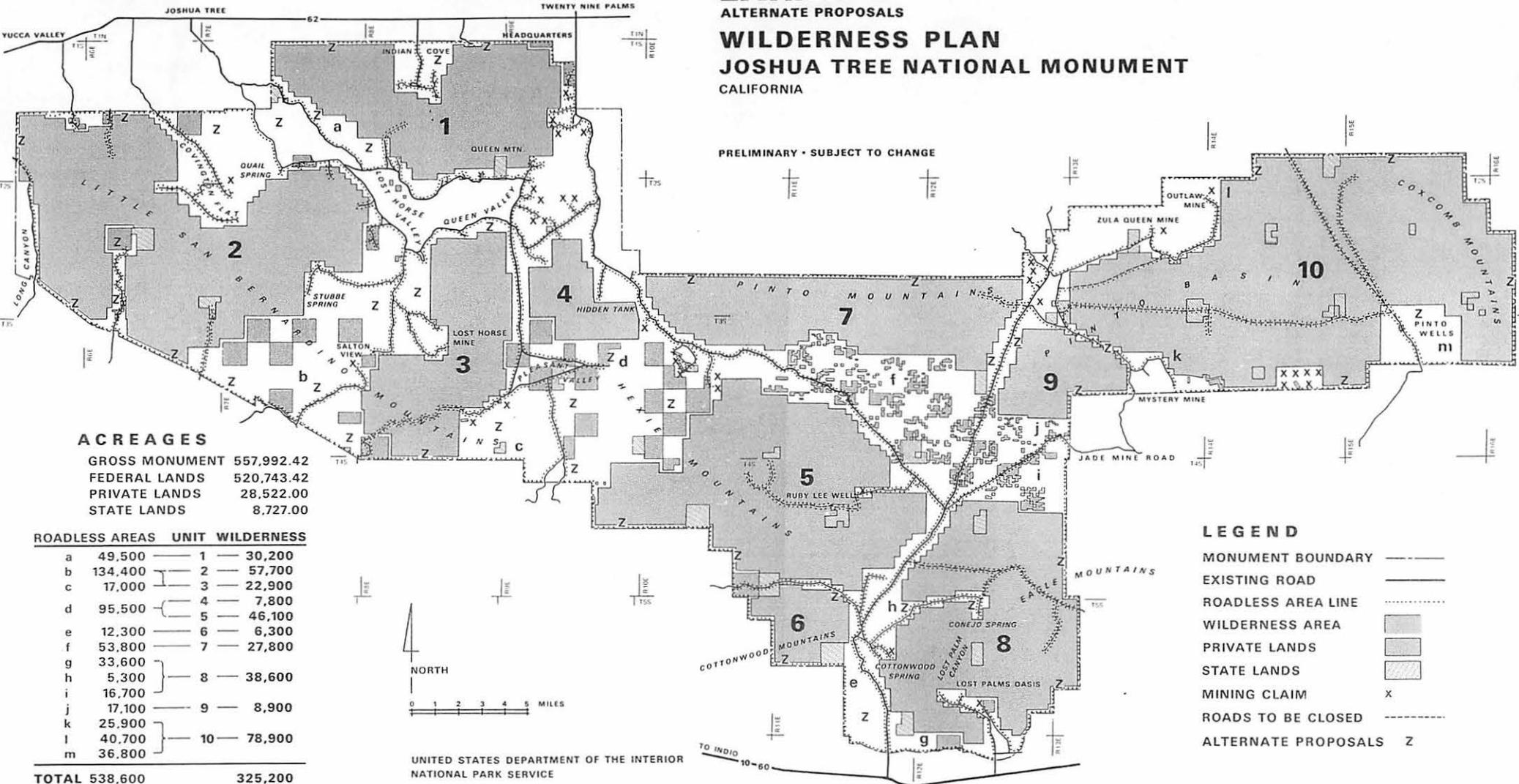
ALTERNATE PROPOSALS

WILDERNESS PLAN

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

CALIFORNIA

PRELIMINARY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE



ACREAGES

GROSS MONUMENT	557,992.42
FEDERAL LANDS	520,743.42
PRIVATE LANDS	28,522.00
STATE LANDS	8,727.00

ROADLESS AREAS UNIT WILDERNESS

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g	33,600	7	27,800
h	5,300	8	38,600
i	16,700		
j	17,100	9	8,900
k	25,900	10	78,900
l	40,700		
m	36,800		

TOTAL 538,600 325,200

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LEGEND

- MONUMENT BOUNDARY ———
- EXISTING ROAD ———
- ROADLESS AREA LINE - - - - -
- WILDERNESS AREA [shaded box]
- PRIVATE LANDS [darker shaded box]
- STATE LANDS [lighter shaded box]
- MINING CLAIM X
- ROADS TO BE CLOSED - - - - -
- ALTERNATE PROPOSALS Z

California; the Inland Counties Comprehensive Health Planning Council; the Mountain Desert Planning Agency; the California Garden Clubs, Inc.; the Joshua Tree Community Association; and the Moronga Basin Conservation Association.

Summary of Responses Received

Recommendation	Public Agencies	Private Organizations	Individuals	Total	
National Park Service Proposal	3	5	26	34	
Enlarge NPS Proposal	0	12	841	853	
Less Wilderness	1	4	20	25	
Wilderness, General; No Specific Recommendations	0	0	24	24	
No Wilderness	0	4	7	11	
Acknowledgements Received; No Specific Comments	5	0	3	8	24
TOTALS	9	25	921	955	

DISPOSITION OF HEARING RECORD AND WRITTEN RESPONSES

The official record, including letters received by the Hearing Officer, the park, the Pacific Northwest Regional Office, and the Washington Office of the National Park Service, has been assembled and is available for review in the Washington Office.



Hearing Officer

**VIEWS OF OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ON THE
PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL**

The following letters, statements, and resolutions are from the agencies listed below:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Deputy Chief, Forest Service
Forest Supervisor, San Bernardino National Forest

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Hydrologist, Geological Survey
Assistant Director, Bureau of Land Management

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION

Secretary

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Wildlife Manager-Biologist, Department of Fish and Game
Superintendent, District 6, Department of Parks and
Recreation

CITY OF ADELANTO, CALIFORNIA CITY COUNCIL

INLAND COUNTIES, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

MOUNTAIN DESERT PLANNING AGENCY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Washington, D. C. 20250

2320



Director, Western Region
National Park Service
450 Golden Gate Avenue
Box 36063
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Sir:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment upon the Wilderness Study and Draft Master Plan for Joshua Tree National Monument in California. We have reviewed these documents and the draft environmental statements. Our comments follow.

We concur with your conclusion that units 4, 6, and 9 are suitable for wilderness designation. The facts presented in the Wilderness Study raise questions as to whether the other units are suitable for wilderness and meet the definition of wilderness as contained in the Wilderness Act. This question is raised by the inclusion within the proposed wilderness units of roads and jeep trails which are to be closed to public use. Further questions are raised by references in the Study to the old mining structures which remain within the National Monument, and, we assume, within some of the proposed wilderness units.

The Wilderness Act (Sec. 2(c)) partially defines wilderness as, "...an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions...." Section 4(c) of the Act prohibits permanent roads, temporary roads, structures, and installations within wilderness. In view of the constraints posed by the Act, we believe that some 71 miles of old roads contained within proposed units 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 10 should be excluded from the proposed wilderness. The old roads are not the "primeval character and influence" which the Act provides shall be retained within wilderness. Simply closing the roads in a desert area will not cause them to disappear. Such works of man, along with old structures and installations, will be very noticeable for decades in this arid area. We believe such works of man make areas unsuitable for wilderness designation.

Sincerely,

E. W. Schultz
Deputy Chief

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

144 North Mountain View Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92408

2320
December 22, 1971



Mr. Peter L. Parry
Superintendent, Joshua Tree National
Monument
Twentynine Palms, California 92277

Dear "Pete":

Thank you for sending us a copy of your proposal and master plan for the long range development and management of Joshua Tree National Monument. It strikes me as being very well prepared and presented. We will be looking forward to reviewing it and passing along our comments to you in the near future.

Please extend our best Christmas wishes to your fine staff and our friends on the Monument.

Sincerely,


DON R. BAUER
Forest Supervisor



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Water Resources Division
13245 Harbor Boulevard
Garden Grove, California 92643

January 4, 1972

Peter L. Parry, Superintendent
Joshua Tree National Monument
Twenty-nine Palms, California 92277

Dear Mr. Parry:

Thank you for your letter of December 20, 1971, inviting our comments on the Wilderness Proposal and Master Plan. Our few comments, primarily related to water resources in the Monument, are outlined below.

A. Wilderness Proposal

1. Page 4, paragraph 5. The concrete dams referred to here are an important potential source of water for this water-short area. Retaining these structures will enhance the readily available supply of water.
2. Page 18, paragraph 1, Research. Access should be provided for to areas for activities related to the study and evaluation of water resources in this desert area. Water supplies are very limited in several of the proposed wilderness units and nearby areas, it may be necessary to install gages, drill test holes, and carry on other work in order to properly evaluate, protect, and insure proper utilization of these limited supplies.
3. Page 19, Water Development Projects. Several important water sources in the general area of the Monument, in particular those for wildlife, have been diverted for other uses or otherwise diminished by mans activities. Alternative supplies for wildlife, especially for bighorn sheep, during extended dry periods are thus considerably reduced. Provision should be included in the Wilderness Proposal to allow study, evaluation, and limited development of available supplies in order to insure a reliable supply of water for wildlife.

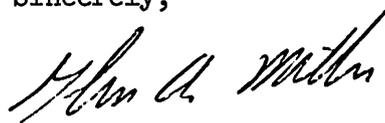
B. Master Plan

1. Page 9, paragraphs 2-6. These paragraphs, which properly discuss the dependance and influence of the desert ecosystems on the availability of water, perhaps should be strengthened to emphasize this relationship.

2. Pages 16-24. Existing wells and other water supplies in these areas proposed for development should be protected and retained.
3. Page 31. Comments in A2, A3, above apply here.
4. Page 35, paragraph 3, Water Right Lands. In many areas within the Monument, deep wells may not yield significant amounts of water. The water from shallow sources, in many areas, is lost to evaporation or moves out of any area vital to Monument vegetation and wildlife within a short distance downgradient from the source. Thus, utilizing excess shallow water for non-wildlife purposes at many sites would not affect the vegetation-wildlife supply. In many areas, these shallow sources constitute the only known local water supply.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on these two documents. If you have any questions regarding my comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Glen A. Miller
Hydrologist



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1792.2 (220)

Hearing Officer
c/o Superintendent, Joshua Tree
National Monument
P.O. Box 875
Twentynine Palms, California 92277

Dear Sir:

This is in reply to your request for review and comments on the draft environmental statements for the proposed master plan and designation of ten wilderness areas within the Joshua Tree National Monument.

Both draft statements are short on identification and quantification of basic resources, present use, needs for protection and opportunities for enhancement, proposed actions, and the effects proposed changes from present use may have on other federal, state, and private lands.

Close coordination on implementation of the master plan between the Park Service and adjacent federal and state land owners is needed to minimize adverse effects. For example, if 71 miles of existing road is eliminated or if the ten wilderness areas are established, the reports recognize this could shift present use from the Monument to the public lands for off-highway vehicles, camping, etc. Public lands are presently experiencing over use in some areas and in some cases no organized facilities or campgrounds exist.

You may wish to ask such organizations as the American Mining Congress and the Southern California Mining Operator's Association for comments.

Sincerely yours,

Director

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Joseph C. Rumburg, Jr.
Director, Western Region
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Mr. Rumburg:

This refers to your notice of December 10, 1971, with which you furnished information for the public hearing on the appropriateness of the proposal for establishing a wilderness area within Joshua Tree National Monument, California.

Since the proposed wilderness would be situated entirely in an existing national monument, its establishment would not affect any responsibilities of the Federal Power Commission. Therefore, the Commission will not be represented at the public hearing on this proposal.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth F. Plumb

Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

1416 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814



January 21, 1972

Mr. Peter L. Parry, Superintendent
Joshua Tree National Monument
Twentynine Palms, California 92277

Dear Pete:

Thank you for sending me the preliminary drafts of the Master Plan and the Wilderness Study for Joshua Tree National Monument. I appreciate the opportunity to comment. I wish I had this material before I wrote up the bighorn investigations in that area. It seems to me that wildlife has been considered adequately. I do have a few questions.

It is not clear to me from reading these two documents, how Wilderness classification could affect the ability to construct and maintain facilities like the Rattlesnake guzzler and the Coxcomb addit. This is a program that needs to be continued and conducted in the proposed wilderness areas. My concept of the Wilderness classification, is that it is rather inflexible as far as any manipulating or adding of facilities. What will the wilderness do for wildlife that the Monument does not do?

I think that Long Canyon and the West end of the Monument is an important bighorn area, and vehicular travel restriction would be desirable, but it was not included in Area 2 and it is not clear to me, why. I feel that it is unfortunate (for the sheep) that the area west of the Monument was deleted in 1950, as the Monument affords bighorn better protection.

On the other hand, you are proposing to close the road through the Monument north of Pinto Wells. Assuming that most people obey the regulation and stay on the road, I don't think this road has much effect on wildlife or other resources. I agree there should not be an East-West route through Pinto Baisin, but I think the values are different here along the bottom of the drainage. I don't understand why you did not have to leave a corridor to that block of private land in Pinto Baisin--do you expect to acquire it?

I think the closing of the old roads east of Canejo Well will benefit bighorn both in and adjacent to the Monument.

In the Master Plan, page 35, it states that you should acquire the water rights in the Lost Palms area. One of the most important things you could do would be to make this water available to wildlife. If the owner is willing to sell and it is just a matter of meeting the price, I think private funds could be solicited for this purpose. I am acquainted with some people that could help toward this end if necessary.

Richard A. Weaver
Wildlife Manager-Biologist

dw

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
District 6 Headquarters
1350 Front Street, Room 6054
San Diego, California 92101



February 18, 1972

Peter L. Parry, Superintendent
Joshua Tree National Monument
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Twentynine Palms, California 92277

Dear Superintendent Parry:

Thank you very much for an opportunity to review
the Park Wilderness Proposal for Joshua Tree
National Monument.

Though I have no specific comments to make, I can
agree completely with the concept of the proposal.

Again, many thanks for your giving us the
opportunity to review the proposal.

Sincerely,

JW:jk


J. WHITEHEAD
Superintendent
District 6

RESOLUTION NO. 72-28

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF ADELANTO SUPPORTING PROPOSED MASTER PLAN
AND WILDERNESS AREA STUDY FOR JOSHUA TREE
NATIONAL MONUMENT

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior has prepared a proposed Master Plan and Wilderness Study for Joshua Tree National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, proposes that 325,300 acres within Joshua Tree National Monument be designated as wilderness and added to the National Wilderness Preservation System; and

WHEREAS, said proposed Wilderness Area will preserve an outstanding geologic area in the Desert, provide for scenic views of mountain ranges and desert valleys, preserve desert plant life and bighorn sheep range areas, and provide for recreational areas where visitors can seek the positive attraction of natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, the City of Adelanto is aware of the need for additional recreational areas that not only serve visitors but also contribute to the preservation of our desert through proper development, management, and use; and

WHEREAS, the City of Adelanto has declared the week of March 19, 1972, as National Parks Centennial Week in said City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Adelanto, that the City of Adelanto completely supports the proposed Master Plan and Wilderness Area Study for Joshua Tree National Monument for the aforementioned reasons;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk be and is hereby directed to send copies of this Resolution to the National Park Service, the County Board of Supervisors, and all cities in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties urging their support of said proposal.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of March, 1972.

Rex Bean.

Mayor of the City of Adelanto and of the
City Council thereof.

ATTEST:

Arnest Allen

City Clerk of the City of Adelanto and of
the City Council thereof.

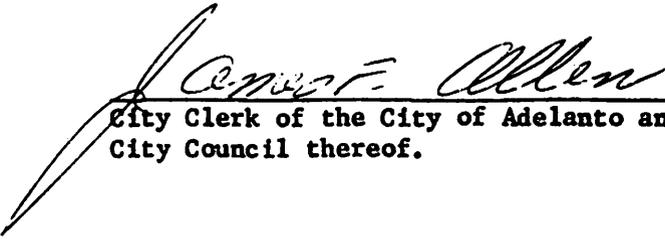
STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO) ss.
CITY OF ADELANTO)

I, JAMES F. ALLEN, City Clerk of the City of Adelanto, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of said City at the regular meeting of the City Council held on the 22nd day of March, 1972, and that it was so adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Chamberlaine, York, Bean, Fatino, Ronnebeck

NOES: None

ABSENT: None



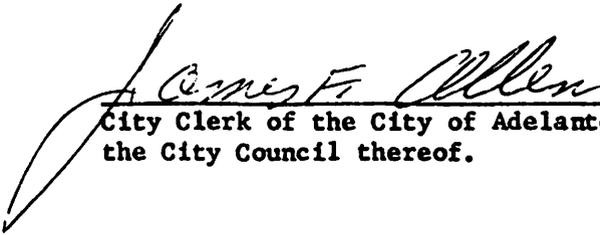
City Clerk of the City of Adelanto and the
City Council thereof.

(SEAL)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO) ss.
CITY OF ADELANTO)

I, JAMES F. ALLEN, City Clerk of the City of Adelanto, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 72-30 of said City Council, and that the same has not been amended or repealed.

DATED: March 22, 1972



City Clerk of the City of Adelanto and of
the City Council thereof.

(SEAL)



INLAND COUNTIES COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

P. O. Box 305 • 175 W. Fifth Street • San Bernardino, California 92402 • Telephone: (714) 884-1806

Member Counties

Inyo
Mono
San Bernardino

March 10, 1972

Mr. John C. Preston
Hearing Officer
c/o Superintendent
Joshua Tree National Monument
P. O. Box 875
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Dear Mr. Preston:

The Environmental Committee of the Inland Counties Comprehensive Health Planning Council has reviewed your well-prepared "Wilderness Study and Master Plan for Joshua Tree National Monument." We can appreciate the time and effort needed to develop and prepare such a comprehensive study and commend the quality of the Master Plan Teams' product.

The committee recognizes the importance of Joshua Tree National Monument to the United States public in general and the harried Southern California resident in particular. This fragile, beautiful environment requires special management to protect it from destruction while at the same time serving the maximum number of people possible.

In line with this statement, we suggest that you strongly consider the semi-isolation of the Covington Flat area. It is recognized that the area is particularly unique in wild plant growth requiring special protection that preserves the botanical environment. We recommend the elimination of the interpretive loop and in its place provide a limited access spur road ending at Covington Flat and requiring a permit to enter. This road should be posted against general entry and should not be indicated on public maps. Thus, the road from Yucca Valley could be closed as proposed.

The particulars of your plan indicate to us this maximum use compatible with protecting the resource will basically be accomplished. Special administrative problems such as may arise from small, isolated wilderness areas are not within our expertise to comment on, but we agree with the general management direction.

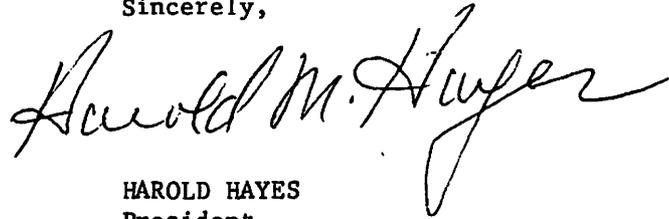
Another item we did notice was the lack of a reference to coordination with the County and State Health Departments regarding such items as sewage

disposal, solid waste disposal, etc. We realize this may have been done and not referenced in this plan. However, they were not included in the list of agencies notified of the public hearing.

Although the county and state health agencies have no jurisdiction on federal lands unless invited, the Environmental Health Committee felt rather strongly that coordination with local agencies is essential to ensure consistent health standards.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to comment on the proposed plan. The Environmental Committee is on record as approving this management proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold M. Hayes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

HAROLD HAYES
President

HH:bjg

MOUNTAIN DESERT PLANNING AGENCY

316 MT. VIEW AVENUE SAN BERNARDINO CALIFORNIA 92401
Telephone (714) 383-1417

• GOVERNING BOARD •

PAUL R. SMITH
Chairman

WILLIAM A. BETTERLEY
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HERBERT MARTIN
JAMES A. WEAVER

• AGENCY MEMBERS •

ADELANTO
BARSTOW
NEEDLES
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
VICTORVILLE

NEIL B. PFULB
Executive Director

February 24, 1972

Peter L. Parry, Superintendent
Joshua Tree National Monument
29 Palms, CA 92277

Subject: Joshua Tree National Monument Master Plan and Wilderness
Proposal

Dear Mr. Parry:

The ~~Mountain Desert Planning Agency~~ is a regional planning entity whose membership includes the County of San Bernardino and the cities of Adelanto, Barstow, Needles and Victorville. The Agency jurisdiction covers the mountain and desert portions of San Bernardino County; an area of approximately 19,680 square miles. The Agency has been formed to provide a vehicle by which comprehensive area-wide planning can be developed as a systematic and continuing process designed to help solve current problems and provide for future needs. The Board recognizes the increasing recreation demand in our desert areas as the result of an expanding population with more leisure time. We actively support those agencies involved in planning and developing needed recreational areas while retaining the beauty of the fragile desert environment.

The Mountain Desert Planning Agency Governing Board, by formal action on February 2, 1972, acknowledged its support of the proposed Master Plan and Wilderness Area Study for the Joshua Tree National Monument.

MOUNTAIN DESERT PLANNING AGENCY


Paul Smith, Chairman

PS:CB:tjt

cc: MDPA Board Members