

**ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND  
TRANSITION PLAN OVERVIEW**

**MOJAVE**

**NATIONAL PRESERVE | CALIFORNIA  
OCTOBER 2017**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The park's Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) includes findings from the self-evaluation process, as well as a plan for improving accessibility parkwide. The Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan resulted from the work of an NPS interdisciplinary team, including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource, visitor safety, maintenance, and accessibility specialists. Site plans, photographs, and specific actions for identified park areas were developed. Associated time frames and implementation strategies were established to assist NPS park staff in scheduling and performing required actions and to document completed work. Park policies, practices, communication, and training needs were also addressed. The goals of the plan are to 1) document existing park barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities, 2) provide an effective approach for upgrading facilities, services, activities, and programs, and 3) instill a culture around creating universal access.

The following are the key park experiences and associated park areas addressed in the transition plan:

- 1) **Experience the scenery of prominent geological features, including mountain ranges, standings, creosote flats, great mesas, extinct volcanoes (cinder cones), and other desert landforms:** Kelso Depot Visitor Center, Kelso Dunes Trailhead, Zzyzx, Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center, Black Canyon Group and Equestrian Campground, Mid Hills Campground, Rock House, Lava Tube, Teutonia Peak Trailhead, Hole-in-the-Wall Campground, and Rings Loop and Barber Peak Trailheads.
- 2) **Witness the unique, diverse mosaic of plant and animal habitat and desert ecosystems:** Kelso Depot Visitor Center, Kelso Dunes Trailhead, Zzyzx, Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center, Rock House, Lava Tube, Teutonia Peak Trailhead, Hole-in-the-Wall Campground, and Rings Loop and Barber Peak Trailheads.
- 3) **Appreciate the remoteness, vast open spaces, near pristine vistas, natural soundscape, and dark night skies:** Kelso Depot Visitor Center, Kelso Dunes Trailhead, Zzyzx, Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center, Black Canyon Group and Equestrian Campground, Mid Hills Campground, Rock House, Lava Tube, Teutonia Peak Trailhead, Hole-in-the-Wall Campground, and Rings Loop and Barber Peak Trailheads.
- 4) **Engage in desert recreation, including hiking, nature study, camping, horseback riding, hunting, challenging wilderness exploration, and backcountry experiences by vehicle on unpaved roads:** Kelso Depot Visitor Center, Kelso Dunes Trailhead, Zzyzx, Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center, Black Canyon Group and Equestrian Campground, Mid Hills Campground, Rock House, Lava Tube, Teutonia Peak Trailhead, Hole-in-the-Wall Campground, and Rings Loop and Barber Peak Trailheads.

- 5) **Understand human history of ancient inhabitants and the Mojave and Chemehuevi life ways:** Kelso Depot Visitor Center, Zzyzx, Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center, Rock House, Lava Tube, Hole-in-the-Wall Campground, and Rings Loop and Barber Peak Trailheads.
- 6) **Learn about the opening of the western frontier, including early trade, ranching, exploration, homesteading, mining, transportation routes, and railroading:** Kelso Depot Visitor Center, Zzyzx, Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center, Black Canyon Group and Equestrian Campground, Rock House, Lava Tube, Hole-in-the-Wall Campground, and Rings Loop and Barber Peak Trailheads.

Overall, similar services, activities, and programs were found throughout park areas, as were assessment findings for physical and program accessibility.

## **PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY**

Recurring barriers to physical accessibility were generally identified for parking areas, accessible paths of travel, outdoor recreation routes, and visitor information areas, including kiosks, interpretive panels, and waysides. These findings included surfaces that were not firm and stable, slopes that exceeded allowable measurements, and undefined parking stalls and access aisles. Mechanisms to open trash and recycling receptacles were not operable with a closed fist and often exceeded allowable poundage for operation. Amenities offered for picnicking and camping, including tables, fire rings, tent spaces, and water spigots, regularly exceeded appropriate clear ground space dimensions and grades. Some signage was missing, and some had illegible content or insufficient and misplaced information.

Other physical access issues where improvements are recommended include providing signed parking for oversized vehicles and horse trailers, upgrading trailhead areas with appropriate signage detailing trail conditions, and providing braille signage adjacent to restroom doors. In addition, exhibits, such as those within the visitor center, should be altered or replaced in the future to provide appropriate knee and toe clearance and supplemented to offer a variety of tactile elements for interpretation. Trails throughout the park would be difficult to manage for a visitor using a wheelchair, with only short segments of existing trails providing accessible surfaces and grades. Teutonia Peak Trail was identified as a trail that could be made accessible with improved surfaces, parking, and signage. For trails not specifically identified in this plan, assessments for those will need to be conducted in the future. Refer to Appendix H: "Trail Assessment Protocol" for additional information on how hiking trails are assessed and what standards apply.

## **PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY**

Recurring findings related to program accessibility included font and contrast issues at interpretive waysides that require modifications to meet size and readability standards identified in Harpers Ferry Center's "Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media." In general, interpretive panels, waysides, publications, videos, and self-guided tours did not have alternate formats in braille, large print, open captioning, or audio or electronic formats. Assistive listening devices recently purchased by the park were not available for guided tours or special events. Audio description for ranger-led interpretive tours and self-guided tours that describe visual elements also were not available. Tactile exhibits were limited, with only a few located inside the visitor center.

Specific program areas would better serve visitors with increased accessible formats, such as upgrades to exhibits (e.g., tactile maps and models, new panels) and programs at the visitor center and Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center, guided and self-guided tours at Zzyzx, and additional programming at park campgrounds. Recurring ranger hikes at Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center, Rock House, and Kelso Dunes should be advertised in publications and on the park website and available in alternative formats. The accessibility page of the park website could be improved to provide information on physical conditions of trails and park areas, available alternative formats for park programs, and information for visitors on how to request sign language interpretation.

## **PARKWIDE ACCESSIBILITY**

Some of the more noteworthy parkwide accessibility challenges that were discussed by the planning team during the self-evaluation and assessment process include: providing accessible facilities in minimally-developed areas that are difficult to reach and rarely visited; making accessibility improvements to properties owned by the National Park Service but managed by concessioners, such as Zzyzx; providing programmatic accessibility of significant features and parking areas, such as the Mojave Road; and providing sign language interpretation in a large, isolated park.

It is recommended that the park employ trained consultants to assist in determining how best to address accessibility improvements parkwide and to ensure that design and implementation of alternate format programs meet the needs of the intended audiences. Notify visitors through signage placed in appropriate locations and in park publications that alternative formats are available.

Creating parkwide accessibility requires staff awareness, understanding, and appropriate action. The assessment process served as a field training tool that increases staff knowledge and commitment toward embracing accessibility as a core park value. Continued training in physical and programmatic access requirements for all park staff, particularly those in maintenance and interpretation, is strongly advised.

Because of fiscal constraints and limited park resources, staff will need to determine which park area improvements will benefit the greatest numbers of park visitors with disabilities. Suggested implementation time frames and relative costs need to be factored into all accessibility investment decisions.

Mojave National Preserve strives to be inclusive and welcoming. The Kelso Depot Visitor Center accommodates all visitors and offers conditions that help people with disabilities enjoy the site. Accessible parking and routes are level, firm, and stable, and parking was further improved when they were paved during the summer of 2016. The elevator in the visitor center is accessible and allows access to basement, first floor, and second-floor exhibits. Most exhibits are accessible, and there is an audio program and a few tactile models available. Most restrooms throughout the park are accessible; however, some small barriers are present in other areas, which require simple modifications or routine maintenance to resolve. Most parking stalls and routes to buildings and recreation facilities are firm and stable, requiring minimal upgrades to slopes and/or the surfaces. Park staff is aware of accessibility issues in their services, activities, and programs and are committed to making improvements that will accommodate a wider diversity of visitors.

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## INTRODUCTION

Since 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) has preserved, unimpaired, the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system, while also providing for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations.

Many of our national parks were founded because of their stunning views, extreme and unique geography, challenging and sensitive natural environments, and historic and fragile. This park, Mojave National Preserve, and other parks exist because of their history and resources. The NPS mission balances protection of resources (both natural and cultural) with visitation. Facilities, services, activities, and programs were designed and built within parks to accommodate our visitors and help them better understand each park purpose and significance.

Many facilities were constructed prior to the passage of laws and policies that reflect the commitment of the National Park Service to provide access to the widest cross section of the public, and to ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12207). The accessibility of commercial services within national parks is also governed by all applicable federal laws. After 100 years of operation, the National Park Service continues to work toward a more inclusive environment. The more than 400 park units that comprise the national park system today include not only the large western parks, for which the agency is well known, but also nationally significant urban parks, historic sites, monuments, parkways, battlefields, and a diversity of other park types across the country.

For a century, the National Park Service has been a leader in connecting people to both our natural and cultural heritage. Visitors today have different needs and expectations, and the agency must adapt to meet these changing demands. Modern scientific research and visitor trend analysis provide new insight into accessibility opportunities and challenges in the national park system. There are approximately 60 million people with disabilities in the United States today, and the number is expected to rise to 71 million in upcoming years as more baby boomers reach retirement age (people 65 and older). This information helps the National Park Service understand changing visitation patterns, the nexus between resource stewardship and accessibility, and the impacts of managing visitors, resources, and infrastructure against the threat of decreased funding. Adequate planning can identify solutions to challenges and provide services with the knowledge and understanding that serves as a trajectory full of opportunity for current and future visitors. The National Park Service is committed to making NPS facilities, programs, services, and employment opportunities accessible to all people, including those with disabilities.

## **PARK DESCRIPTION FROM FOUNDATION DOCUMENT**

On October 31, 1994, Congress passed the California Desert Protection Act, which established Mojave National Preserve. At 1.6 million acres, it is the third-largest unit of the national park system in the contiguous United States. The preserve is an expanse of desert lands that represents a mosaic of three of the four major North American deserts: the Great Basin, Sonoran, and Mojave. The remoteness, the vast open spaces, and near-pristine vistas instill a sense of discovery in visitors. Here, people can experience a wide variety of historical and natural features that exist nowhere else in the United States in such proximity to one another.

Located in southern California, Mojave National Preserve is bounded to the north and south by major interstate highways, I-15 and I-40. The Nevada-California state line comprises most of the eastern boundary. Mojave is only a four-hour drive from Los Angeles and a 90-minute drive from Las Vegas. Death Valley National Park lies to the north, Joshua Tree National Park to the south, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area to the east. Because of its relative proximity to urban centers and attractions, it is an area that many people have viewed through their windshields but relatively few have taken time to truly explore. Mojave National Preserve headquarters are located in Barstow, 60 miles from the western boundary of the preserve.

Collectively, Mojave National Preserve protects an immense expanse of relatively intact desert ecosystem and a diverse assemblage of cultural resources, while also providing a wide variety of experiences and opportunities for the public to explore and enjoy the Mojave Desert.

## **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS**

In 2013, Mojave National Preserve completed a foundation document. Foundation documents provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions by identifying the park purpose, significance, and fundamental resources and values. The Mojave National Preserve foundation plan identifies special mandates and administrative commitments and provides an assessment and prioritization of park planning and data needs. Understanding these elements helps set the stage for appropriately integrating accessibility into the overall park priorities and plans. The following foundation elements were identified for Mojave National Preserve.

### **Park Purpose**

Mojave National Preserve protects a diverse mosaic of desert ecological communities and functions, and evidence of a 10,000-year history of human connection with the desert. By offering extensive opportunities to experience a wide variety of desert landscapes, the preserve promotes understanding and appreciation for the increasingly threatened resources of the Mojave Desert and encourages a sense of discovery and connection to wild places.

## **Park Significance**

1. Mojave National Preserve protects a large, relatively intact ecosystem of the eastern Mojave Desert from continuing threats associated with expanding development and provides connectivity between other protected natural areas within the larger Mojave Desert ecoregion.
2. Mojave National Preserve offers exceptional access to remote, wild places and provides a unique sense of discovery for visitors throughout its 1.6 million acres.
3. The preserve encompasses a wide variety of classic desert landforms, including mesas, bajadas, dry lakes, sand dunes, and cinder cones. These exposed geological features exemplify the rugged beauty of the West.
4. Mojave National Preserve provides opportunities for solitude, exemplified by natural sounds and dark night skies, functioning as an increasingly rare refuge from nearby urban areas.
5. Mojave National Preserve has a long, robust history as a well-traveled corridor across a harsh and foreboding desert, linking the Southwest with the coast of California from ancient times to the present.
6. Mojave National Preserve protects a continuous record and remnant sites of the resilient people who have adapted to and manipulated the desert through evolving relationships with the landscape—shaped by cultural values that are both ancient and contemporary.

## **ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN**

The creation of a transition plan is mandated by regulations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as they apply to the US Department of the Interior, which states that “No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance.” It specifically requires parks to document architectural barriers, solutions, and time frames for making improvements to increase accessibility.

This Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan has been prepared to provide Mojave National Preserve a tool for addressing overall needs associated with making the park accessible when viewed in its entirety. The plan is based on an understanding of key park experiences and establishes a methodical process that identifies, prioritizes, and outlines improvements to park accessibility. The plan proposes strategies for implementation over time and in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

All key park experiences and all park areas were identified to ensure that the plan would consider all park programs. Park areas were then evaluated against measurable criteria to determine which would be assessed for purposes of the plan. Each park area assessed was evaluated to identify barriers that prevented participation in park programs, and the best manner in which access could be improved. In some situations, it is not reasonably practicable to create physical or universal design solutions.

The public, including people with disabilities and organizations representing people with disabilities, was invited to provide comments on the draft Mojave National Preserve Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan process and findings. Organizations notified included: Easter Seals United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles – Orange and Santa Barbara Counties; United Cerebral Palsy of Orange County; The Ark-Bakersfield; The Ark of Riverside; American Council of the Blind-California; Autistic Self Advocacy Network-Los Angeles Chapter; Autism Society-Bakersfield; Centers for Independent Living-Communities Actively Living Independent and Free (CALIF); United Spinal Association-Southern California Chapter; National Association of the Deaf—NAD – CSU Northridge; Hearing Loss Association of America-Los Angeles Chapter; State Councils on Developmental Disabilities; and The City of Los Angeles Health and Human Services.

Mojave National Preserve notified the public of the opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan via the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment webpage (PEPC). Preserve staff also presented the accessibility plan and its purpose to achieve an accessible experience for all visitors in a video interview with Bill Comb, Desert West Media (760--508-2944) on July 14, 2017 at the Greater Hope Foundation in Barstow, CA. The final date of comment on the draft Mojave National Preserve Accessibility SETP was publicized in the newspaper, The Needles Desert Star, on August 10, 2017.

The public review period in PEPC was from July 10 through August 11, 2017. Only one comment was received, which supported NPS efforts in completing the document, therefore, no revisions were incorporated into the final plan. Once finalized, a notification was sent to the public to announce the plan's availability.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN**

One of the goals of the plan is to increase accessibility awareness and understanding among staff and volunteers of Mojave National Preserve. The park superintendent is responsible for implementing and integrating the plan. The park-designated accessibility coordinator ensures adequate communication to park employees and works with the superintendent to follow up on the implementation and relevancy of the plan by documenting improvements and keeping the plan updated.

# ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN PROCESS

## SELF-EVALUATION

The following graphic illustrates the primary steps in the self-evaluation process. Each step is further described in the following text.



### Step 1: Identify Key Park Experiences and Park Areas

Key park experiences are those park experiences that are iconic and important for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of the park unit. They are “musts” for park visitors. Park legislation serves as the foundation for key park experiences, which are identified through park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications. Key park experiences were identified at Mojave National Preserve to ensure that planned improvements were prioritized to best increase overall access to the experiences available at Mojave National Preserve.

- 1) Experience the scenery of prominent geological features, including mountain ranges, standings, creosote flats, great mesas, extinct volcanoes (cinder cones), and other desert landforms.
- 2) Witness the unique, diverse mosaic of plant and animal habitat and desert ecosystems.
- 3) Appreciate the remoteness, vast open spaces, near pristine vistas, natural soundscape, and dark night skies.
- 4) Engage in desert recreation, including hiking, nature study, camping, horseback riding, hunting, challenging wilderness exploration, and backcountry experiences by vehicle on unpaved roads.

- 5) Understand the human history of ancient inhabitants and the Mojave and Chemehuevi life ways.
- 6) Learn about the opening of the western frontier, including early trade, ranching, exploration, homesteading, mining, transportation routes, and railroading.

After key park experiences were identified, all park areas were listed. Next, a matrix was developed to determine which key experiences occurred in each park area. A park area is a place defined by the park for visitor or administrative use. All park areas within Mojave National Preserve were evaluated per criteria in step 2, to determine which, if not all, areas would be assessed.

### **Step 2: Identify Park Areas to be Assessed**

The criteria below were used to determine which park areas would receive assessments:

- 1) Level of visitation
- 2) Diversity of services, activities, and programs offered in the area
- 3) Geographic favorability (as a whole, the park areas selected reflect a broad distribution throughout the park)
- 4) Other unique characteristics of the site

The areas selected for assessment provide the best and greatest opportunities for the public to access all key park experiences. These park areas received comprehensive assessments as outlined in steps 3 and 4. Areas not assessed at this time are to be assessed and improved as part of future facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

### **Step 3: Identify Services, Activities, and Programs in Each Park Area**

Step 3 is the identification of all services, activities, and programs within each park area. This process ensured that during step 4 all visitor amenities within a park area, including both physical and programmatic elements, are reviewed for accessibility. The comprehensive lists of services, activities, and programs were the basis for conducting the 12 assessments and documenting all elements as they pertain to improving access to park experiences.

### **Step 4: Conduct Accessibility Assessment**

During step 4, an interdisciplinary assessment team identified physical and programmatic barriers and reviewed possible solutions within each park area.

Existing conditions and barriers to services, activities, and programs were discussed on-site by the assessment team. The assessment team then developed a reasonable range of recommended actions for consideration, including solutions that would provide universal

access. Barrier-specific solutions, as well as alternative ways to improve access overall, were addressed and included both physical changes and/or the addition of alternate format methods. In some cases, programmatic alternatives needed to be examined because it was not always possible to eliminate physical barriers due to historic designations, environmental concerns, topography, or sensitive cultural and natural resources. Therefore, a full range of programmatic alternatives was considered that would provide access to the key experience for as many visitors as possible. All field results, including collected data, findings, preliminary options, and conceptual site plans, are organized by park area and formalized with recommendations in the transition plan.

## TRANSITION PLAN

The following graphic illustrates the primary steps taken in developing the Mojave National Preserve transition plan. Public involvement occurred at the draft stage of the plan. The draft plan was released for a 30-day period to solicit input from the public, including people with disabilities and organizations that represent people with disabilities, to provide comments and thoughts on whether the document represents a reasonable review of the park's barriers and a feasible and appropriate strategy for overcoming the barriers. After the comment period closed, the park analyzed all comments to determine if any changes to the plan were necessary. Those changes were made before the implementation strategy was finalized. Once finalized, a notification was sent to the public to announce the plan's availability.

### TRANSITION PLAN



## Step 5: Draft and Finalize Transition Plan

The final step of the process is drafting and finalizing the transition plan and implementation strategy. Developing an implementation strategy can be complex because of a large range of coordination efforts associated with scheduling accessibility improvements. All improvement efforts need to consider park activities and operational requirements. The final plan recommends accessibility improvements, identifies improvement time frames, and identifies responsible parties for such actions.

Implementation time frames are based on the park's ability to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects. Time frames are categorized as follows:

- 1) Immediate (0-1 year):** Improvements that are easy, quick, and inexpensive to fix internally. It does not require supplemental NPS project funding.

**immediate**

- 2) Short term(1-3 years):** If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will initiate the elimination of the barrier internally; or, if a project is currently scheduled for funding, the improvement will be incorporated into the project and the barrier eliminated.

**short-term**

- 3) Mid-term (3-7 years):** The park will develop a proposal and submit it for those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding in the next annual servicewide budget call. For those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding, the park will submit a request in the next budget call. Improvements will be scheduled dependent upon the year funding is received. If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will continue the elimination of the barrier internally.

**mid-term**

- 4) Long-term (>.7 years):** The park will eliminate the barrier when other work is taking place as part of facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project..

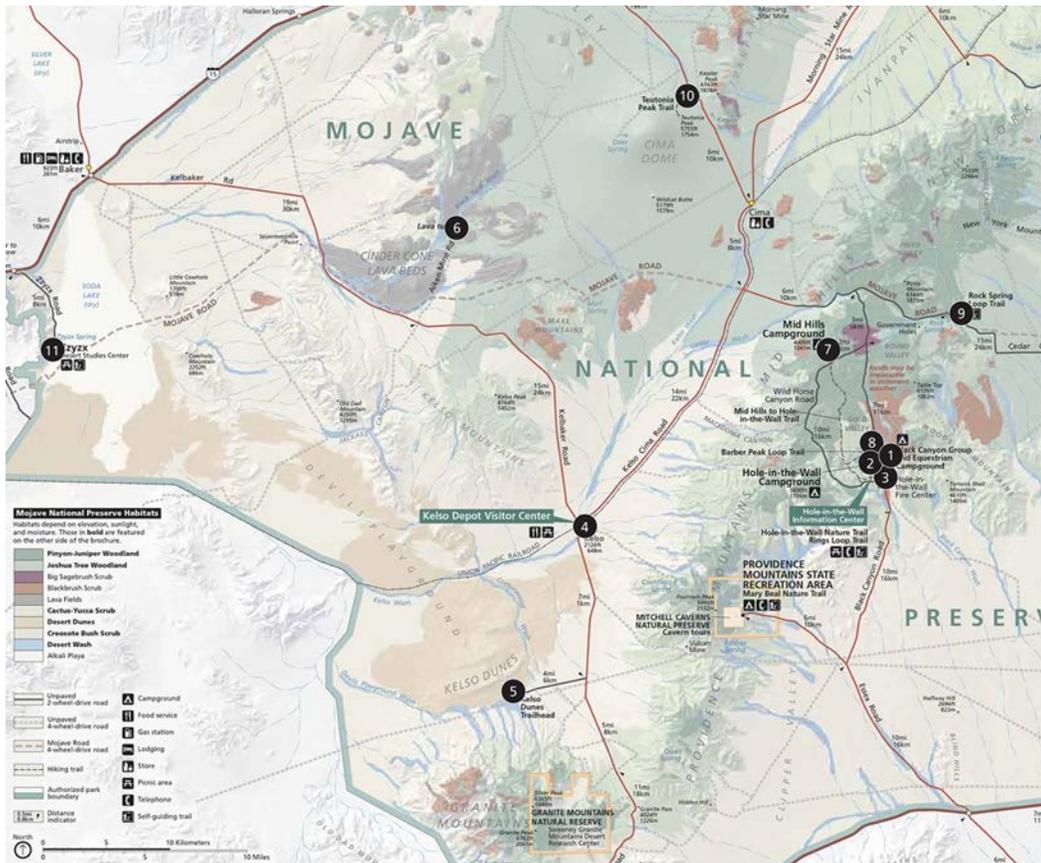
**long-term**

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE

## PARK AREAS ASSESSED

All key park experiences at Mojave National Preserve are represented within the park areas assessed. Park areas not included in the park area list will be upgraded to current code requirements when facility alteration and/or new construction is planned. Each park area identified for assessment is addressed during the implementation strategy exercise. Refer to Appendix D: "Park Areas Not Assessed" for a rationale on why park areas were determined to not be assessed in this planning effort. All park areas assessed are listed in alphabetical order and identified in the associated map below.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Black Canyon Group and Equestrian Campground                                  | 6. Lava Tube                             |
| 2. Hole-in-the-Wall Campground   | 7. Mid Hills Campground                  |
| 3. Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center (including Hole-in-the-Wall Nature Trail) | 8. Rings Loop and Barber Peak Trailheads |
| 4. Kelso Depot Visitor Center  | 9. Rock House                            |
| 5. Kelso Dunes Trailhead   | 10. Teutonia Peak Trailhead              |
|  | 11. Zzyzx                                |



Mojave National Preserve – Park Areas Assessed (June 2016)

## **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR PARK AREAS ASSESSED**

The Architectural Barrier Act (ABA) of 1968 requires that any building or facility designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds be accessible and usable by any individuals with disabilities. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) and the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were adopted for federal facilities in 1984 and 2006, respectively. Subsequently in 2011, standards for recreational facilities were incorporated into ABAAS as chapter 10.

Dependent upon the date of a building's construction or alteration, different design standards apply. In conducting the transition plan facility assessments, the 2011 ABAAS standards were used as the on-site assessments. Although a barrier may be identified by the current assessment for improvement, facilities constructed pre-1984, or between 1984 and 2011, are only required to be in compliance with the standard in place at the time of construction and/or alteration. Therefore, they may not be in violation of ABAAS. However, any renovation or upgrade of that building will be required to meet the most current standard at the time of work.

Recommended improvements for park policies, practices, communication and training are included. Park policies are adopted by the park and are those defined courses of action for reaching a desired outcome. Park practices are those habitual and/or customary performances or operations park staff employs for reaching a desired outcome. Communication and training strategies help park staff keep informed on how to best deliver services, activities, and programs to visitors with disabilities in the most appropriate and accessible formats.

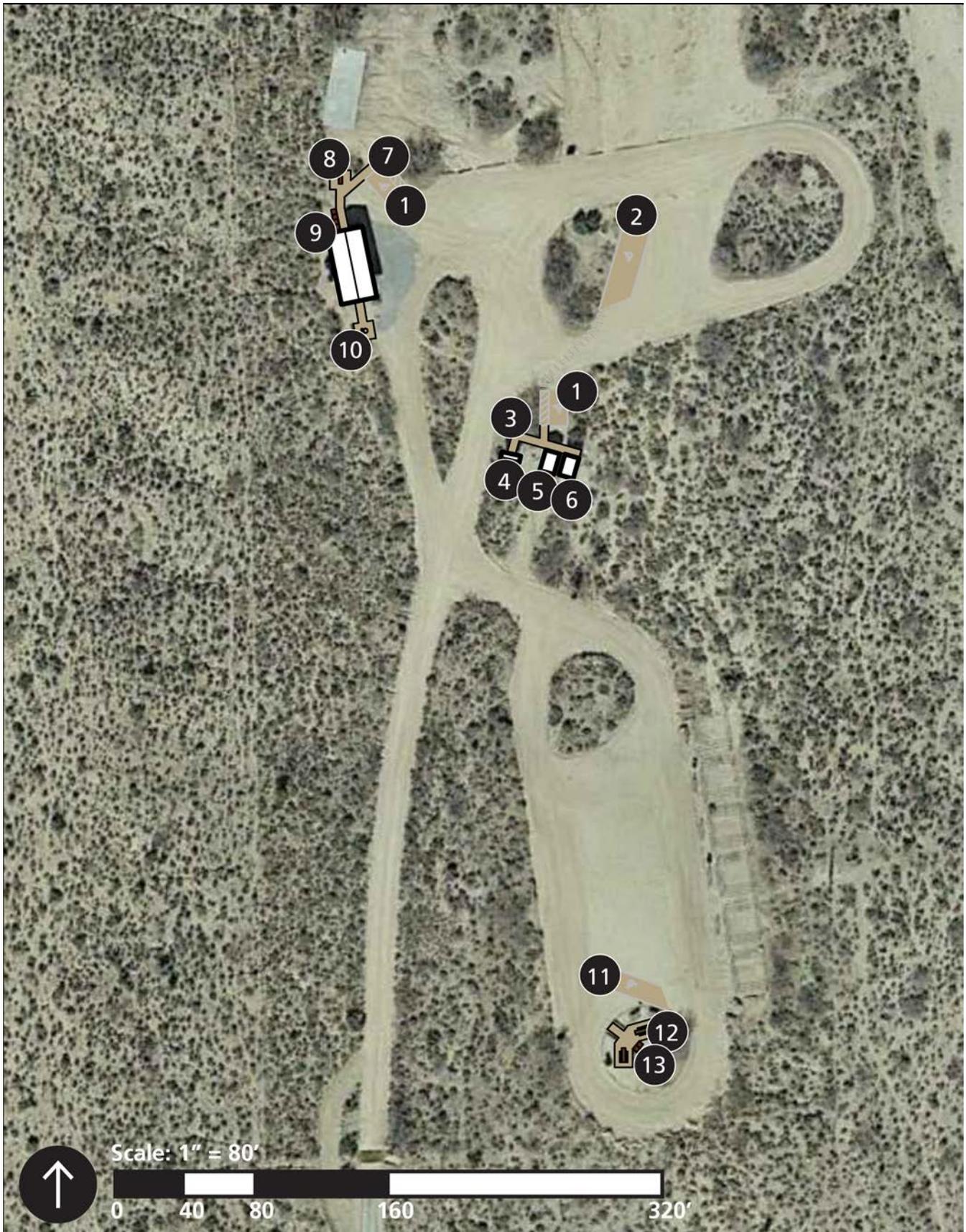
This document does not include strategies for transitioning employee work spaces to be accessible. In the event an employee with a disability is hired by Mojave National Preserve, the supervisor and employee will discuss the employee's needs. The supervisor will then determine what accommodations are reasonable within the given work environment and determine a plan of action to meet those needs.

For each park area, site plans illustrate existing conditions and recommended improvements. During the implementation phase, reassessment of the project site conditions and consultation with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards is necessary to ensure that specific design and programmatic solutions are addressed correctly. Assistance is available at the Denver Service Center and through the Pacific West Region Accessibility Coordinator.

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# BLACK CANYON GROUP AND EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUND

## Site Plan



## Black Canyon Group and Equestrian Campground Implementation Strategy

The key park experiences provided at the Black Canyon Group and Equestrian Campground are viewing prominent geological features; appreciating the remoteness, vast open spaces, near pristine vistas, natural soundscape, and dark night skies; engaging in desert recreation; and learning about the opening of the western frontier.

The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include camping, picnicking, and equestrian camping. The existing services that support these activities and programs include car parking, RV parking, accessible routes, outdoor recreation access routes, camping and picnicking facilities, an information kiosk, and restrooms.

The Black Canyon Group and Equestrian Campground parking lot, campground area, information kiosk, and restrooms are located within an expansive and typically flat, compacted, and sandy aggregate zone. There is no marked parking. Additional parking near the group picnic area is also rather flat; however, the group picnic area and amenities are located above the parking lot and scattered within a hilly site of moderate to steep slopes occurring between all features. Features within the group site include sheltered picnic tables on a flat concrete surface, a barbecue area, a fire ring, and trash/recycle services.

The following planned improvements to this park area are:

### 1 Car Parking

- 1) Provide one van-accessible stall near the picnic shelter and another near the restrooms, each at 11' minimum width with a 5' wide access aisle. The stalls and access aisles shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant with 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Install accessible parking signage to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on van-accessible stalls.

mid-term

### 2 Oversized-Vehicle Parking

- 1) Provide one accessible oversized-vehicle parking stall at 16' minimum width on a firm, stable, and slip resistant surface with a 2% maximum slope in all directions. If necessary for drainage, slopes up to 5% are allowable.
- 2) Install accessible parking signage to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign.
- 3) Establish an accessible route between the stall, restrooms, and kiosk.

mid-term

### 3 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces

- 1) Improve the route between the new accessible parking stall, restrooms and kiosk. The route shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 5% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope.

mid-term

### 4 Information Kiosk

- 1) Improve the surface underneath both sides of the information kiosk to be firm, stable, and slip resistant, at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

mid-term

### 5 Women's Restroom

- 1) Install braille signage on latch side of the restroom door with tactile characters between 48" and 60" above the finish floor. Clear floor space below this sign shall be 18" by 18" minimum.
- 2) Relocate the coat hook to be between 15" and 48" above the finish floor.
- 3) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser to be between 7" and 9" in front of the toilet measured to the centerline of the dispenser. The outlet of the dispenser shall be located between 15" and 48" above the finish floor.

mid-term

### 6 Men's Restroom

- 1) Install braille signage on latch side of the restroom door with tactile characters between 48" and 60" above the finish floor. Clear floor space below this sign shall be 18" by 18" minimum.
- 2) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser to be between 7" and 9" in front of the toilet measured to the centerline of the dispenser. The outlet of the dispenser shall be located between 15" and 48" above the finish floor.
- 3) Install a side wall grab bar 42" long minimum, located 12" maximum from the rear wall and extending 54" minimum. It shall be between 33" and 36" above the floor measured to the top of the gripping surface.

mid-term

## 7 Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Establish a firm and stable outdoor recreation access route between accessible parking, picnic shelter, grill, and fire pit at 36" minimum width with 2% maximum cross slope and 5% maximum running slope (wherever possible). Where running slope exceeds 5% up to 8.33%, the maximum segment length permitted is 50'. Where running slope exceeds 8.33% up to 10%, the maximum segment length permitted is 30'. No segment shall be steeper than 10%. Ensure resting intervals are provided at the top and bottom of each segment, regardless of segment length.

mid-term

## 8 Grill

- 1) Stabilize the surface underneath the grill to be firm and stable at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. Ensure there is 48" minimum clear ground space on all usable sides of the grill.

mid-term

## 9 Trash and Recycling (near picnic shelter)

- 1) Relocate the trash and recycling receptacles to the new route near the picnic shelter. Ensure there is a level landing in front of the receptacles, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) When an accessible trash and recycling receptacle or an adapted handle is available, improve or replace existing devices to ensure they are operable with a closed fist and no more than five pounds of force.

short-term

## 10 Fire Pit

- 1) Relocate or replace the fire pit to a firm and stable location at 2% maximum slope in all directions. Ensure there is 48" minimum clear ground space on all usable sides of the fire pit. The fire-building surface shall be 9" minimum above the ground with a cooking surface between 15" and 34" above the ground.

mid-term

## 11 Horse Trailer Parking

- 1) Provide one accessible stall in the horse trailer parking area at 16' minimum width. The stall and access aisle shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant with 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Install accessible parking signage to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign.

mid-term

## 12 Picnic Facilities (near horse troughs)

- 1) Provide a curb cut to open a route to the picnic tables. The route shall be firm and stable at a 5% maximum running slope (wherever possible) and a 2% maximum cross slope (or a 5% slope if necessary for drainage).
- 2) Provide two accessible picnic tables on a firm and stable surface with a 2% maximum slope in all directions and 36" minimum clear ground space on all usable sides. Each table shall have at least one integrated wheelchair seating space with 27" minimum knee clearance and 9" minimum toe clearance. Toe clearance depth shall be 17" minimum.

short-term

## 13 Trash and Recycling (near horse troughs)

- 1) Relocate the trash and recycling receptacles near the picnic tables. Ensure there is a level landing in front of the receptacles, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) When an accessible trash and recycling receptacle or an adapted handle is available, replace existing devices to ensure they are operable with a closed fist and no more than five pounds of force.

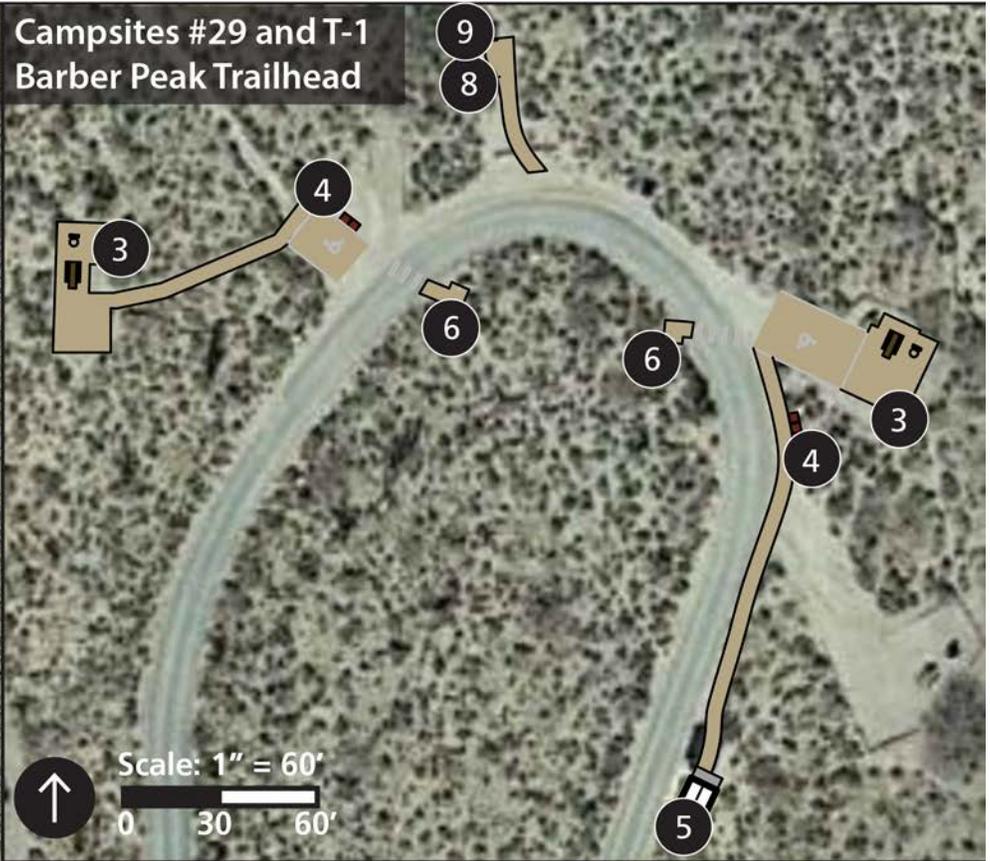
short-term

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# HOLE-IN-THE-WALL CAMPGROUND

## Site Plan





## Hole-in-the-Wall Campground Implementation Strategy

The key park experiences provided at the Hole-in-the-Wall Campground are viewing prominent geological features; appreciating the remoteness, vast open spaces, near pristine vistas, natural soundscape, and dark night skies; and engaging in desert recreation.

The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include camping, picnicking, and hiking. The existing services that support these activities and programs include tent camping facilities, RV camping facilities, water hydrants, a dump station, interpretive waysides, a trailhead, hiking trails, an information kiosk, and restrooms.

The campground entrance area has a pullout parking zone where visitors pay campground fees and view park information. This area is typically flat, with adequate room to maneuver around the information board and collection box. The campground has a good variety of camping sites equipped with picnic tables, fire rings, and tent pad areas that are generally flat, firm, and stable, with outdoor routes to accessible bathroom facilities. Some restroom entrance pads have lifted because of concrete failure and some access route slopes vary because of road drainage issues.

The following planned improvements to this park area are:

### 1 Pull-Up Space at Information Kiosk

- 1) Provide an accessible pull-up space adjacent to the information kiosk, with a firm, stable, and slip resistant surface at 16' minimum width and 2% maximum slope in all directions (or a 5% slope for drainage if needed).
- 2) Connect the pull-up space with the information kiosk, fee envelope box, and drop box via an accessible route at 36" minimum width with a 5% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope. It shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant.

long-term

### 2 Information Kiosk

- 1) Grade the area around the kiosk, fee envelope box, and drop box to a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Improve or replace waysides and panels to provide a 24-point minimum font.

mid-term

### 3 Individual Campsites

- 1) There are currently 35 recreational vehicle (RV) campsites and two tent campsites. Provide three accessible RV campsites for individuals at sites 15, 29, and 32. Provide one tent campsite at T-1. Refer to ABAAS F244.2 for the scoping requirement for campsites.
- 2) Provide one signed and marked accessible RV parking stall at each accessible recreational vehicle campsite, 20' wide minimum at 2% maximum slope in all directions. Provide one accessible stall at the accessible tent campsite, 16' wide minimum with 2% maximum slope in all directions. All parking stalls shall be firm and stable.

#### **For all accessible campsites:**

- 3) Provide a firm and stable surface with 2% running and cross slope connecting each campsite element.
- 4) Provide an accessible picnic table with 36" minimum clear space around all sides on a firm and stable surface.
- 5) Provide 48" minimum clear space around all sides of fire pit. Ensure all fire pits have a 9" minimum height fire-building surface.
- 6) Provide a living space for tents with a firm and stable surface at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

### 4 Trash and Recycling

- 1) Provide an outdoor recreation access route to accessible receptacles or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location (possibly near restrooms).
- 2) Provide a level landing in front of the receptacles, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 3) When an accessible trash and recycling receptacle or an adapted handle is available, improve or replace existing devices to ensure they are operable with a closed fist and no more than five pounds of force.

short-term

## 5 Restrooms

- 1) Establish an accessible route between accessible parking, accessible campsites, and restrooms at 36" minimum width with a 5% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope. Reduce thresholds at restroom pads to be ¼" minimum or ½" with a beveled edge.
- 2) Install braille signage on latch side of restroom doors with tactile characters between 48" and 60" above the finish floor. Clear floor space below this sign shall be 18" by 18" minimum.
- 3) Relocate the coat hooks to be between 15" and 48" above the finish floor.
- 4) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser to be between 7" and 9" in front of the toilet measured to the centerline of the dispenser. The outlet of the dispenser shall be located between 15" and 48" above the finish floor.

mid-term

## 6 Water Hydrants

- 1) Establish an outdoor recreation access route to each water hydrant near an accessible campsite at 36" minimum width with 5% maximum running slope (where possible) and 2% maximum cross slope (or a 5% maximum slope if necessary for drainage).
- 2) Establish a clear ground space 72" by 48" minimum at each water hydrant, with the long side of the space adjoining the accessible path. Locate the water spout between 11" and 12" from the rear center of the long side of the space.
- 3) Provide water hydrants that are operable with a closed fist and no more than five pounds of force.

short-term

## 7 Dump Station

- 1) Provide a pull-up space for RVs and other vehicles at the dump station at 20' minimum width on a firm and stable surface with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) If needed, improve the sewage hookup to provide a clear ground space 30" by 60" minimum with the long side of the space adjoining the pull-up space. Hookups shall be at the rear center of the clear ground space. The clear ground space shall be firm and stable at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

## 8 Barber Peak Trailhead

- 1) Improve the surface at the trailhead (also in front of wayside) to be firm and stable.

mid-term

## 9 Interpretive Wayside (at Barber Peak Trailhead)

- 1) Replace the wayside with one that contains details of all trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

mid-term

# HOLE-IN-THE-WALL INFORMATION CENTER

## Site Plan



## Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center Implementation Strategy

The key park experiences provided at the Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center are viewing prominent geological features and the unique, diverse mosaic of plant and animal habitat and desert ecosystems; appreciating the remoteness, vast open spaces, near pristine vistas, natural soundscape, and dark night skies; engaging in desert recreation; understanding human history of ancient inhabitants and the Mojave and Chemehuevi life ways; and learning about the opening of the western frontier.

The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include educational programs, ranger-led programs, learning about the park through exhibits and films, picnicking, and hiking. The existing services that support these activities and programs include car parking, oversized-vehicle parking, accessible routes, outdoor recreation access routes, picnicking facilities, a trailhead, hiking trails, interpretive waysides, an outdoor amphitheater, a bookstore, an indoor theater, and restrooms.

The Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center has a large wrap-around porch and is set high on the park site. A marked accessible parking stall is located in front of the building and access to the building, restrooms, and amphitheater is via a wooden ramp. The access route exceeds a 5% running slope and a 2% cross slope over a short distance and requires some modification. The porch around the information center offers wide maneuverability and several companion seating areas. There are accessible restroom facilities and has effective overall access to the waysides, exhibits, and indoor services. An amphitheater is located behind the building, and the route is generally flat to slightly sloping on a sand/gravel surface. A narrow, unimproved trail scattered with rocks and vegetation links the information center and two picnic sites. A separate unimproved and unmarked gravel parking lot is located down the hill near the Rings Loop Trailhead.

The following planned improvements to this park area are:

### 1 Car Parking

- 1) Provide one van accessible stall near the information center and a standard accessible stall near picnic facilities. The van accessible stall shall be 11' minimum width with a 5' wide access aisle and standard accessible stall shall be 8' minimum width with a 5' wide access aisle. Each stall and access aisle shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Install new accessible parking signage to be 60" minimum from the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on van accessible stall signage.

mid-term

## 2 Oversized-Vehicle Parking

- 1) Provide one accessible oversized-vehicle parking stall at 16' minimum width on a firm and stable surface with a 2% maximum slope in all directions. If necessary for drainage, slopes up to 5% are allowable.
- 2) Install accessible parking signage to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign.
- 3) Establish an accessible route between the stall, accessible picnic facilities, and information center.

long-term

## 3 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces

- 1) Install handrails on both sides of the ramp, with the tops of the handrails between 34" and 38" above the ground. Handrails shall extend 12" minimum beyond the top and bottom of ramp runs. OR
- 2) Regrade the route between the accessible parking stall and the porch entrance to be a 5% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope.

long-term

## 4 Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Establish firm and stable outdoor recreation access routes between accessible parking, picnic facilities, and trailhead, at 36" wide minimum width with 2% maximum cross slope and 5% maximum running slope (wherever possible). Where running slope exceeds 5% up to 8.33%, the maximum segment length permitted is 50'. Where running slope exceeds 8.33% up to 10%, the maximum segment length permitted is 30'. No segment shall be steeper than 10%. Ensure resting intervals are provided at the top and bottom of each segment, regardless of segment length.

short-term

## 5 Picnic Facilities

- 1) Improve the routes to picnic tables to meet outdoor recreation access route standards.
- 2) Replace picnic tables to provide units that offer wheelchair seating spaces at the end of the tables or within the benches. Provide 27" minimum knee clearance and 9" minimum toe clearance, with 17" minimum toe clearance depth. Set tables on a firm and stable surface at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. Provide 36" clear space around all sides of each table.

mid-term

## 6 Interpretive Wayside (at relocated Rings Loop Trailhead)

- 1) Replace or relocate the wayside near the new accessible parking stall in an accessible location.
- 2) Ensure that the wayside contains details of all trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

short-term

## 7 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces (to amphitheater)

- 1) Stabilize a 36" minimum width path between the porch and accessible spaces at the amphitheater. Ensure the porch threshold is ¼" maximum or ½" with a beveled edge.

short-term

## 8 Amphitheater

- 1) As feasible, alter the amphitheater to provide two wheelchair spaces and companion seating spaces in the bottom row. Cut the bench to provide wheelchair seating spaces adjacent to one another, each 33" by 48" minimum. Ensure the surface is firm and stable at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Alternately, clearly mark seating spaces in front of the amphitheater and away from the interpretation and performance area to provide two wheelchair seating spaces adjacent to one another, each 33" by 48" minimum, with a companion space set aside for each. Ensure the surface is firm and stable at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

## Services, activities, and programs located on the porch or inside the information center:

### Public Telephone

- 1) Replace the telephone unit with a unit that has accessible volume controls, or install a mechanism that adapts the existing unit with accessible volume controls.

mid-term

### **Interpretive Waysides (on porch)**

- 1) Relocate the bench in front of the wayside to provide a clear floor space, 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach.
- 2) Relocate information in the glass case to a location with less glare and high contrast or find a way to shade the case and reduce glare. Ensure information presented is 24-point minimum font without the use of italics. Avoid use of all caps.

mid-term

### **Women's Restroom**

- 1) Install braille signage on latch side of the restroom door with tactile characters between 48" and 60" above the finish floor. Clear floor space below this sign must be 18" by 18" minimum.
- 2) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser to be between 7" and 9" in front of the toilet measured to the centerline of the dispenser.
- 3) Install pull handles on the interior of the accessible stall door.

mid-term

### **Men's Restroom**

- 1) Install braille signage on latch side of the restroom door with tactile characters between 48" and 60" above the finish floor. Clear floor space below this sign must be 18" by 18" minimum.
- 2) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser to be between 7" and 9" in front of the toilet measured to the centerline of the dispenser.
- 3) Install pull handles on the interior of the accessible stall door.

mid-term

### **Drinking Fountains**

- 1) Adjust the stream of water at both drinking fountains to provide a flow of water 4" high minimum and located 5" maximum from the front of the unit.
- 2) Adjust the operating force to be no greater than five pounds.

short-term

### **Trash and Recycling**

- 1) Relocate the recycle bins to a different area on the accessible route where it does not block the route. Ensure there are level landings underneath, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

## Exhibits

- 1) Recommend providing audio description for touch tables and other exhibits.



## Film

- 1) Provide open captioning on the film.



# KELSO DEPOT VISITOR CENTER

## Site Plan



## Kelso Depot Visitor Center Implementation Strategy

The key park experiences provided at Kelso Depot Visitor Center are viewing the scenery of prominent geological features and the unique, diverse mosaic of plant and animal habitat and desert ecosystems; appreciating the remoteness, vast open spaces, near pristine vistas, natural soundscape, and dark night skies; engaging in desert recreation; understanding human history of ancient inhabitants and the Mojave and Chemehuevi life ways; and learning about the opening of the western frontier.

The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include educational programs, ranger-led programs, learning about the park through exhibits and films, and picnicking. The existing services that support these activities and programs include car parking, accessible routes, picnicking facilities, interpretive waysides, an information desk, a bookstore, a theater, and restrooms.

The Kelso Depot Visitor Center site is flat, with a paved parking lot and path to the visitor center and all exterior site features. A large, flat concrete patio at the visitor center entrance provides benches for seating, and a nearby grassy area offers welcomed shade. The visitor center interior is accessed via a short ramp with a running slope slightly above 5%.

The visitor center has three floors, and an elevator that provides access to 2nd floor exhibits and to accessible restrooms at the basement level. The main floor consists of a spacious entrance lobby and information desk, a lunch counter with space for wheelchair seating, an easily maneuverable theater, exhibits, and a bookstore. Closed-captioned videos, including the park film, "The Mojave Story," are available upon request. The museum has tactile exhibits of geologic formations and a Doc Springer audio exhibit.

The following planned improvements to this park area are:

### 1 Trash and Recycling (near accessible parking)

- 1) Relocate the trash and recycling receptacles to an accessible location with a firm and stable approach underneath at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) When an accessible trash and recycling receptacle or an adapted handle is available, improve or replace existing devices to ensure they are operable with a closed fist and no more than five pounds of force.

short-term

### 2 Trash and Recycling (near outdoor restrooms)

- 1) Establish a firm and stable surface leading to receptacles and provide level landings underneath, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

- 2) When an accessible trash and recycling receptacle or an adapted handle is available, improve or replace existing devices to ensure they are operable with a closed fist and no more than five pounds of force.

short-term

### 3 Family Restroom

- 1) Install braille signage on latch side of the restroom door with tactile characters between 48" and 60" above the finish floor. Clear floor space below this sign must be 18" by 18" minimum.
- 2) Although not required for outside doors, reduce the force required to open the door to be no more than 10 pounds when feasible.

short-term

### 4 Men's Restroom

- 1) Install pull handles on the inside and outside of the accessible stall doors.
- 2) Lower sinks to be 34" maximum above the finish floor with 27" minimum knee clearance underneath.
- 3) Wrap sink piping in insulating material.

short-term

### 5 Women's Restroom

- 1) Install pull handles on the inside and outside of the accessible stall doors.
- 2) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser to be between 7" and 9" in front of the toilet measured to the centerline of the dispenser.
- 3) Lower sinks to be 34" maximum above the finish floor with 27" minimum knee clearance underneath.
- 4) Wrap sink piping in insulating material.

short-term

### 6 Drinking Fountain

- 1) Lower the drinking fountain so that the spout outlet is 36" maximum above the ground, with the spout located 15" minimum from the vertical support and 5" maximum from the front edge of the unit.

short-term

## 7 Benches

- 1) Recommend improving benches to provide a backrest and at least one armrest on each bench. The armrest would be best positioned centrally on the bench to allow use of either the left or right hand for support.

long-term

## 8 Interpretive Waysides

- 1) Establish a firm and stable route to all waysides, with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope. Alternately, relocate waysides to an accessible location on an existing route.
- 2) Provide a level landing at each wayside, 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 3) Improve or replace waysides to provide 24-point minimum font with 70% minimum contrast between text and images.

mid-term

## 9 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces (ramps at building entrances)

- 1) Install handrails on both sides of each ramp, with the tops of the handrails between 34" and 38" above the ground. Handrail clearance must be 1 ½" from the walls. Handrails shall extend 12" minimum beyond the top and bottom of ramp runs.

short-term

### Services, activities, and programs located inside the visitor center:

#### Information Desk and Service Counter

- 1) Provide clipboards for visitors to fill out paperwork, sign receipts, etc.

long-term

#### Exhibits

- 1) Alter or replace exhibits to make accessible, with tactile interactive exhibits. Provide knee clearance at 36" wide minimum and 27" minimum above the finish floor. Place tactile elements within appropriate reach ranges, between 15" and 48" above the finish floor. Avoid italics on exhibit text and provide 24-point minimum font with 70% minimum contrast between text and images.
- 2) Provide audio description in the visitor center to describe exhibits, including closed or roped off rooms.

mid-term

### **Women's Restroom**

- 1) Install pull handles on the inside and outside of the accessible stall door.

short-term

### **Drinking Fountains**

- 1) Adjust the stream of water at both drinking fountains to provide a flow of water 4" high minimum and located 5" maximum from the front of the unit.

short-term

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# KELSO DUNES TRAILHEAD

## Site Plan



## Kelso Dunes Trailhead Implementation Strategy

The key park experiences provided at the Kelso Dunes Trailhead are viewing prominent geological features and the unique, diverse mosaic of plant and animal habitat and desert ecosystems; appreciating the remoteness, vast open spaces, near pristine vistas, natural soundscape, and dark night skies; and engaging in desert recreation.

The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include hiking, learning about the history and importance of the dunes, viewing wildlife, and exploring the unique dunes known for their "singing" sand. The existing services that support these activities and programs include car parking, accessible routes, outdoor recreation access routes, interpretive waysides, a trailhead, a hiking trail, and restrooms.

Parking and surrounding access routes to the waysides and restrooms are composed of compacted gravel and are generally flat, with running slopes exceeding 5% in a few areas. The unisex restrooms are mostly accessible, with only signage and minor adjustments to locations of interior elements needed.

The following planned improvements to this park area are:

### 1 Car Parking

- 1) Provide one van-accessible stall in the parking area at 11' minimum width with a 5' wide access aisle. The stall and access aisle shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Install accessible parking signage to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on van-accessible stall.

short-term

### 2 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces

- 1) Improve the route between accessible parking and the restroom to be firm, stable, and slip resistant, with a 5% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope.

mid-term

### 3 Unisex Restroom (south)

- 1) Install braille signage on latch side of the restroom door with tactile characters between 48" and 60" above the finish floor. Clear floor space below this sign must be 18" by 18" minimum.

short-term

#### 4 Unisex Restroom (north)

- 1) Install braille signage on latch side of the restroom door with tactile characters between 48" and 60" above the finish floor. Clear floor space below this sign must be 18" by 18" minimum.
- 2) Relocate the trashcan to provide a 60" by 56" minimum clear space.
- 3) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser to be between 7" and 9" in front of the toilet measured to the centerline of the dispenser. The outlet of the dispenser shall remain between 15" and 48" above the finish floor.

short-term

#### 5 Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Establish a firm and stable outdoor recreation access route between accessible parking, trailhead, and viewing areas at 36" minimum width with 2% maximum cross slope and 5% maximum running slope (wherever possible). Where running slope exceeds 5% up to 8.33%, the maximum segment length permitted is 50'. Where running slope exceeds 8.33% up to 10%, the maximum segment length permitted is 30'. No segment shall be steeper than 10%. Ensure resting intervals are provided at the top and bottom of each segment, regardless of segment length.

mid-term

#### 6 Interpretive Waysides

- 1) Establish a firm and stable surface at each wayside or move waysides to accessible locations. Provide a forward approach to each wayside, 30" by 48" minimum, with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Improve or replace waysides to provide 24-point minimum font with 70% minimum contrast between text and images.

mid-term

#### 7 Trash and Recycling

- 1) Provide a level landing at the trash and recycling receptacles, 2% maximum slope in all directions, firm and stable, and 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach.
- 2) When an accessible trash and recycling receptacle or an adapted handle is available, improve or replace existing devices to ensure they are operable with a closed fist and no more than five pounds of force.

short-term

## 8 Trailhead Signage

- 1) Provide trailhead signage at the entrance to the trail that contains details of all trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

mid-term

# LAVA TUBE

## Site Plan



## Lava Tube Implementation Strategy

The key park experiences provided at Lava Tube are viewing prominent geological features and the unique, diverse mosaic of plant and animal habitat and desert ecosystems; appreciating the remoteness, vast open spaces, near pristine vistas, natural soundscape, and dark night skies; engaging in desert recreation; understanding human history of ancient inhabitants and the Mojave and Chemehuevi life ways; and learning about the opening of the western frontier.

The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include hiking and exploring the lava tubes. The existing services that support these activities and programs include car parking, outdoor recreation access routes, a trailhead, and a hiking trail.

The parking area at the unmarked lava tube trailhead is large, with a generally flat, firm, and stable area to park. The trail quickly proceeds up a moderately steep, unmaintained dirt road with ruts and loose rock of various sizes, then takes a turn up and onto a narrow dirt trail that rambles over a wider and uneven rocky area until reaching the entrance to the lava tube. Entrance into the lava tube is via stairs with a handrail.

The following planned improvements to this park area are:

### 1 Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Establish a firm and stable outdoor recreation access route between the parking area and trailhead at 36" minimum width with a 2% maximum cross slope and 5% maximum running slope (wherever possible). Where running slope exceeds 5% up to 8.33%, the maximum segment length permitted is 50'. Where running slope exceeds 8.33% up to 10%, the maximum segment length permitted is 30'. No segment shall be steeper than 10%. Ensure resting intervals are provided at the top and bottom of each segment, regardless of segment length.

mid-term

### 2 Trailhead Signage

- 1) Provide trailhead signage at the entrance to the trail that contains details of all trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

mid-term

## **Other services, activities, and programs not on map:**

### **Interpretation**

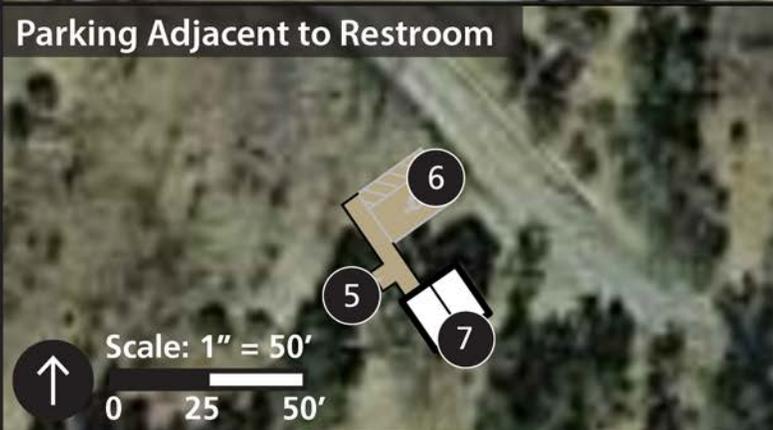
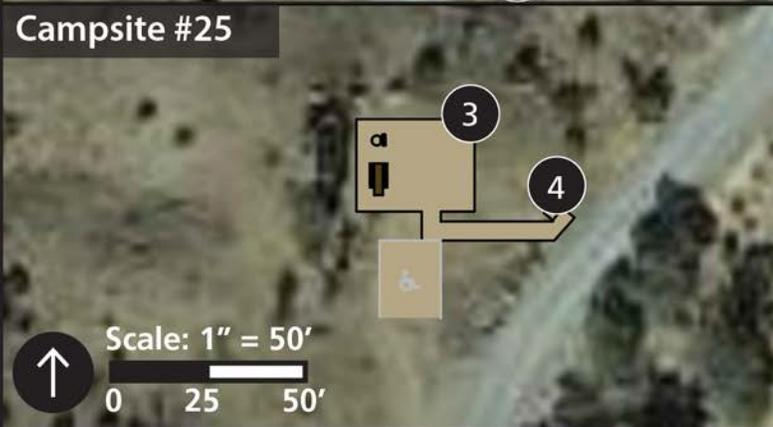
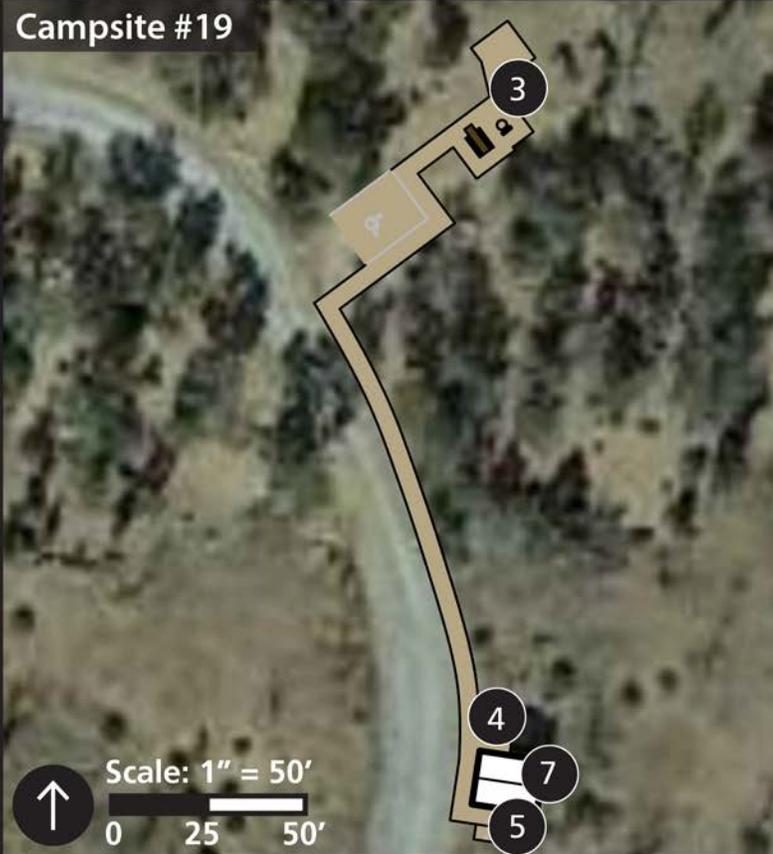
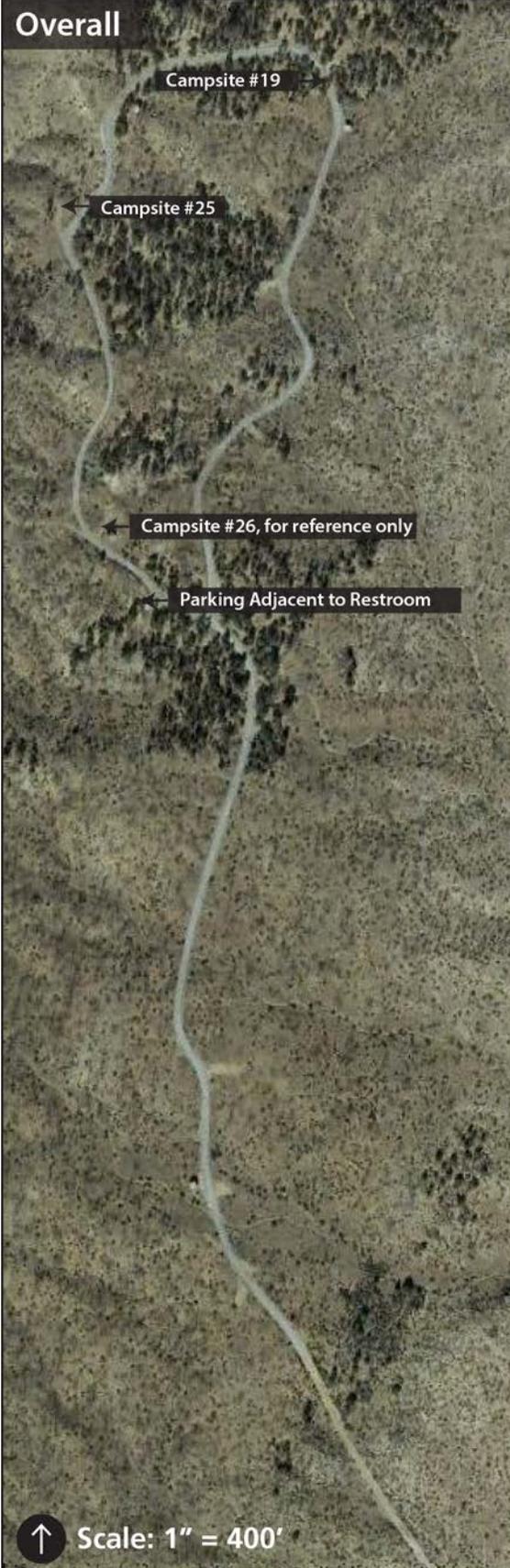
- 1) Improve interpretation at the lava tube by providing an interpretive wayside and tactile maps and models near the proposed accessible parking stall on the outdoor recreation access route. Consider providing an audio tour of the area to further enhance interpretation of the lava tube.

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# MID HILLS CAMPGROUND

## Site Plan





## Mid Hills Campground Implementation Strategy

The key park experiences provided at Mid Hills Campground are viewing prominent geological features; appreciating the remoteness, vast open spaces, near pristine vistas, natural soundscape, and dark night skies; and engaging in desert recreation.

The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include camping, picnicking, and exploring the area. The existing services that support these activities and programs include tent camping facilities, water hydrants, an information kiosk, and restrooms.

The Mid Hills Campground entrance area consists of a gravel road with parking along its edge. The information and fee station are located in a small but firm and mostly level spur off the roadside, with some sandy and uneven spots that gently slope into the surrounding landscape. A number of flat campsites are available and include picnic tables, fire rings, and ample tent space. Restroom facilities are accessible; however, some minor road drainage and earth slumping at the entry pads require maintenance for conditions to be improved.

The following planned improvements to this park area are:

### 1 Pull-Up Space at Information Kiosk

- 1) Provide an accessible pull-up space adjacent to the information kiosk, with a firm, stable, and slip-resistant surface at 16' minimum width and 2% maximum slope in all directions (or a 5% slope for drainage if needed).
- 2) Connect the pull-up space with the information kiosk, fee envelope box, and drop box via an accessible route at 36" minimum width with a 5% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope. It shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant.

mid-term

### 2 Information Kiosk

- 1) Grade the area around the kiosk, fee envelope box, and drop box to a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Improve or replace waysides and panels to provide a 24-point minimum font with high contrast between text and images (potentially replacing cover to ensure high contrast).

mid-term

### 3 Individual Campsites

- 1) There are currently 26 campsites. Provide three accessible campsites for individuals at sites 5, 19, and 25. Refer to ABAAS F244.2 for the scoping requirement for campsites.
- 2) For each accessible campsite, provide one accessible parking stall at 16' minimum width and a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 3) Provide a firm and stable surface with a 2% running and cross slope at campsite and connecting each campsite element.
- 4) Provide an accessible picnic table with 36" minimum clear space around all sides on a firm and stable surface.
- 5) Provide 48" minimum clear space around all sides of fire pit. Ensure all fire pits have a 9" minimum height fire-building surface.
- 6) Provide a living space for tents with a firm and stable surface.

long-term

### 4 Trash and Recycling

- 1) Provide an outdoor recreation access route to accessible receptacles or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location (possibly near restrooms).
- 2) Provide a level landing in front of the receptacles, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 3) When an accessible trash and recycling receptacle or an adapted handle is available, improve or replace existing devices to ensure they are operable with a closed fist and no more than five pounds of force.

short-term

### 5 Water Hydrants

- 1) Establish an outdoor recreation access route to each water hydrant near an accessible campsite at 36" minimum width, 5% maximum running slope (where possible), and 2% maximum cross slope (5% maximum slope if necessary for drainage).
- 2) Establish a clear ground space 72" by 48" minimum at each water hydrant, with the long side of the space adjoining the accessible path. Locate the water spout between 11" and 12" from the rear center of the long side of the space.
- 3) Provide water hydrants that are operable with a closed fist and no more than five pounds of force.

short-term

## 6 Car Parking (at restroom near campsite #26)

- 1) Provide a van-accessible parking stall near the restroom at 11' minimum width with a 5' wide access aisle and a 2% maximum slope in all directions. The stall shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant.
- 2) Include parking signage to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on van-accessible stall.
- 3) Connect the access aisle to the restroom with a firm, stable, and slip resistant accessible route at 36" minimum width with a 5% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope.

mid-term

## 7 Restrooms

- 1) Establish an accessible route between accessible parking, accessible campsites, and restrooms at 36" minimum width with a 5% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope. Reduce thresholds at restroom pads to be ¼" minimum or ½" with a beveled edge.
- 2) Install braille signage on latch side of restroom doors with tactile characters between 48" and 60" above the finish floor. Clear floor space below this sign must be 18" by 18" minimum.
- 3) Relocate the coat hooks to be between 15" and 48" above the finish floor.
- 4) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser to be between 7" and 9" in front of the toilet measured to the centerline of the dispenser. The outlet of the dispenser shall be located between 15" and 48" above the finish floor.

mid-term

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# RINGS LOOP AND BARBER PEAK TRAILHEADS

## Site Plan



## Rings Loop and Barber Peak Trailheads Implementation Strategy

The key park experiences provided at the Rings Loop and Barber Peak Trailheads are viewing prominent geological features and the unique, diverse mosaic of plant and animal habitat and desert ecosystems; appreciating the remoteness, vast open spaces, near pristine vistas, natural soundscape, and dark night skies; and engaging in desert recreation.

The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include hiking, picnicking, exploring the unique rock formations through the canyon, and glimpsing petroglyphs carved by early Mojave inhabitants. The existing services that support these activities and programs include car parking, accessible routes, outdoor recreation access routes, interpretive waysides, water hydrants, a trailhead, hiking trails, and restrooms.

A relatively level, gravel parking lot services the Rings Loop and Barber Peak Trailheads, picnic facilities, restroom, and waysides. The trail is clear of debris, and it gently slopes for a short distance before narrowing into the large, boulder and crevasse landscape with moderate and steep slope passages. It is not an accessible trail. A picnic area and unisex restroom are located on upper knolls a short distance away, down the access road. Access is via moderately sloped, unimproved, sandy and gravelly conditions.

The following planned improvements to this park area are:

### 1 Car Parking

- 1) Provide one van-accessible stall at the trailhead and another adjacent to the restroom, each at 11' minimum width with a 5' wide access aisle. The stalls and access aisles shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Install accessible parking signage at each stall to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on van-accessible stalls.

mid-term

### 2 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces

- 1) Improve the route between accessible parking and the restroom to be firm, stable, and slip resistant, with a 2% maximum cross slope.

mid-term

### 3 Unisex Restroom

- 1) Improve the restroom landing threshold to be ¼" maximum or ½" with a beveled edge.
- 2) Install braille signage on latch side of the restroom door with tactile characters between 48" and 60" above the finish floor. Clear floor space below this sign shall be 18" by 18" minimum.
- 3) Relocate the coat hook to be between 15" and 48" above the finish floor.
- 4) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser to be between 7" and 9" in front of the toilet measured to the centerline of the dispenser. The outlet of the dispenser shall be located between 15" and 48" above the finish floor.
- 5) Install a grab bar on the rear wall behind the toilet, 36" long minimum and extending 12" minimum from the centerline of the water closet on one side. It shall be between 33" and 36" above the floor measured to the top of the gripping surface.

short-term

### 4 Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Establish a firm and stable outdoor recreation access route between accessible parking, trailhead, picnic tables, and waysides at 36" minimum width with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope (wherever possible). Where running slope exceeds 5% up to 8.33%, the maximum segment length permitted is 50'. Where running slope exceeds 8.33% up to 10%, the maximum segment length permitted is 30'. No segment shall be steeper than 10%. Ensure resting intervals are provided at the top and bottom of each segment, regardless of segment length.

mid-term

### 5 Trash and Recycling

- 1) Relocate the trash and recycling receptacles in accessible locations near accessible parking on level landing, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) When an accessible trash and recycling receptacle or an adapted handle is available, improve or replace existing devices to ensure they are operable with a closed fist and no more than five pounds of force.

short-term

## 6 Picnic Facilities

- 1) Provide 36" minimum clear space around all sides of two picnic tables. Locate the tables on a firm and stable surface with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

mid-term

## 7 Water Hydrant

- 1) Provide a clear ground space adjacent to the water hydrant, 72" by 48" minimum with the long side of the space adjoining or overlapping the outdoor recreation access route. Locate the water spout between 11" and 12" from the rear center of the long side of the space. It shall be a 2% maximum slope in all directions or a 5% if necessary for drainage.

short-term

## 8 Interpretive Waysides

- 1) Establish a firm and stable surface at each wayside or move waysides to accessible locations. Provide a forward approach to each wayside, 30" by 48" minimum with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Improve or replace waysides to provide a 24-point minimum font with 70% minimum contrast between text and images.

mid-term

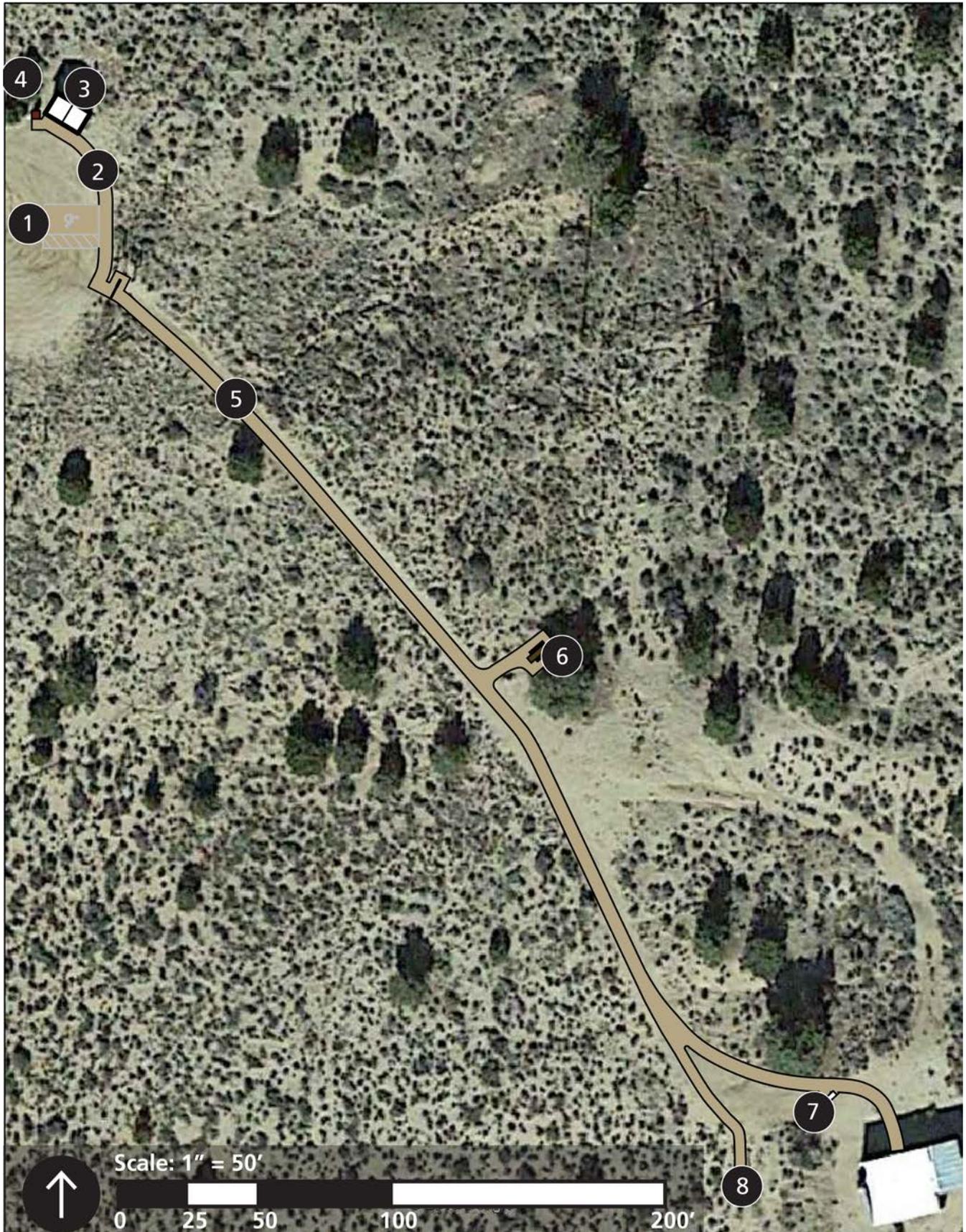
## 9 Trailhead Signage

- 1) Provide trailhead signage at the entrance to the trail that contains details of all trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

mid-term

# ROCK HOUSE

## Site Plan



## Rock House Implementation Strategy

The key park experiences provided at Rock House are viewing prominent geological features and the unique, diverse mosaic of plant and animal habitat and desert ecosystems; appreciating the remoteness, vast open spaces, near pristine vistas, natural soundscape, and dark night skies; engaging in desert recreation; understanding human history of ancient inhabitants and the Mojave and Chemehuevi life ways; and learning about the opening of the western frontier.

The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include picnicking, learning about the history of the house and its builder and inhabitant, Bert Smith, hiking on Rock Spring Loop Trail, and exploring the remote and scenic area. The existing services that support these activities and programs include car parking, accessible routes, outdoor recreation access routes, interpretive waysides, a picnic table, a trailhead, hiking trails, and restrooms.

The restroom at the parking area is spacious and accessible, and it includes proper signage with braille. The pathway surface leading to and around the Rock House is stable but uneven. The route to the picnic table and further up to the Rock House is wide, with the lower, relatively level section to the picnic table usable by most visitors.

The following planned improvements to this park area are:

### 1 Car Parking

- 1) Provide one van-accessible stall in the parking area at 11' minimum width with a 5' wide access aisle. The stall and access aisle shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Install accessible parking signage to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on van-accessible stall.

mid-term

### 2 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces

- 1) Provide a firm, stable, and slip resistant accessible route from the accessible parking stall to the restroom at a 5% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope.

mid-term

### 3 Restrooms

- 1) Improve the restroom landing threshold to be ¼" maximum or ½" with a beveled edge.

short-term

#### 4 **Trash and Recycling**

- 1) Provide a level landing underneath the receptacle at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) When an accessible trash and recycling receptacle or an adapted handle is available, improve or replace existing devices to ensure they are operable with a closed fist and no more than five pounds of force.

short-term

#### 5 **Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Establish a firm and stable outdoor recreation access route between accessible parking, trailhead, and viewing areas (with waysides) at 36" minimum width with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope (wherever possible). Where running slope exceeds 5% up to 8.33%, the maximum segment length permitted is 50'. Where running slope exceeds 8.33% up to 10%, the maximum segment length permitted is 30'. No segment shall be steeper than 10%. Ensure resting intervals are provided at the top and bottom of each segment, regardless of segment length.

mid-term

#### 6 **Picnic Facilities**

- 1) Improve the route to the picnic table to meet outdoor recreation access route standards.
- 2) Replace the picnic table with an accessible version, with an integrated wheelchair space at one end or middle of the table. Provide 27" minimum knee clearance and 9" minimum toe clearance. Install the table on a firm and stable surface at a 2% maximum slope in all directions and provide 36" minimum clear space around the table.

mid-term

#### 7 **Interpretive Waysides**

- 1) Provide a firm and stable surface below waysides at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. Connect the landings to outdoor recreation access routes.

mid-term

## 8 Trailhead Signage

- 1) Provide trailhead signage at the entrance to the trail that contains details of all trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

mid-term

# TEUTONIA PEAK TRAILHEAD

## Site Plan



## Teutonia Peak Trailhead Implementation Strategy

The key park experiences provided at the Teutonia Peak Trailhead are viewing prominent geological features and the unique, diverse mosaic of plant and animal habitat and desert ecosystems; appreciating the remoteness, vast open spaces, near pristine vistas, natural soundscape, and dark night skies; and engaging in desert recreation.

The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include hiking and learning about the history of the area. The existing services that support these activities and programs include car parking, outdoor recreation access routes, interpretive waysides, and a trailhead.

Teutonia Trail is relatively flat; however, the surface is loose and sandy. There is potential for the trail to be made accessible, offering visitors an outdoor experience not found elsewhere in the park.

The following plan improvements to this park area are:

### 1 Car Parking

- 1) Provide one van-accessible stall in the parking area at 11' minimum width with a 5' wide access aisle. The stall and access aisle shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Install accessible parking signage to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on van-accessible stall.

mid-term

### 2 Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Establish a firm and stable outdoor recreation access route between accessible parking, trailhead, and viewing areas (with waysides) at 36" minimum width with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope (wherever possible). Where running slope exceeds 5% up to 8.33%, the maximum segment length permitted is 50 feet. Where running slope exceeds 8.33% up to 10%, the maximum segment length permitted is 30 feet. No segment shall be steeper than 10%. Ensure resting intervals are provided at the top and bottom of each segment, regardless of segment length.

mid-term

### 3 Interpretive Waysides

- 1) Establish a firm and stable surface at each wayside or move waysides to accessible locations. Provide a forward approach to each wayside, 30" by 48" minimum, with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Improve or replace waysides to provide a 24-point minimum font with 70% minimum contrast between text and images.

mid-term

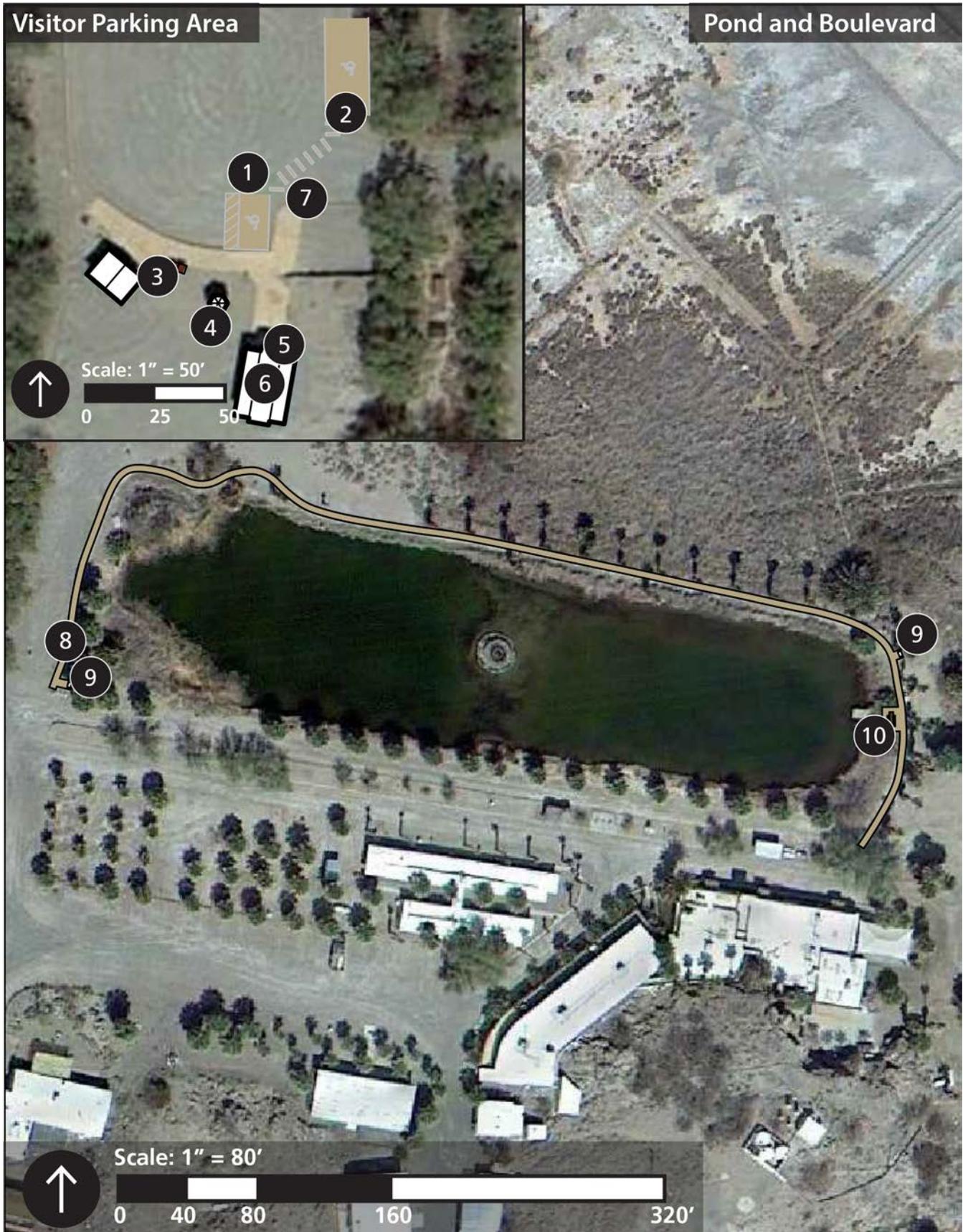
### 4 Trailhead Signage

- 1) Provide trailhead signage at the entrance to the trail that contains details of all trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

mid-term

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Site Plan



## Zzyzx Implementation Strategy

The key park experiences provided at Zzyzx are viewing prominent geological features and the unique, diverse mosaic of plant and animal habitat and desert ecosystems; appreciating the remoteness, vast open spaces, near pristine vistas, natural soundscape, and dark night skies; engaging in desert recreation; understanding human history of ancient inhabitants and the Mojave and Chemehuevi life ways; and learning about the opening of the western frontier.

The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include picnicking, exploring the ranch and nearby soda springs, viewing wildlife, and learning about the site's history, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as a mineral springs and health spa and now as the Desert Studies Center, run by California State University. The existing services that support these activities and programs include car parking, recreational vehicle parking, accessible routes, outdoor recreation access routes, interpretive waysides, picnic facilities, an information kiosk, and restrooms.

The wide concrete surface between parking, restrooms, and a covered structure is accessible and easy to use. The men's and women's restrooms are spacious and fully accessible, and they provide proper signage with braille. A wide, lined path was relatively recently constructed around a man-made pond at Zzyzx, and it was found to be mostly accessible, with the main need being maintaining the firm and stable nature of the surface. This could be corrected through regular maintenance.

The following planned improvements to this park area are:

### 1 Car Parking

- 1) Provide one van-accessible stall in the parking area at 11' minimum width with a 5' wide access aisle. The stall and access aisle shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Install accessible parking signage to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on van-accessible stall.

mid-term

## 2 Oversized-Vehicle Parking

- 1) Provide one accessible oversized-vehicle parking stall at 16' minimum width. The surface shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant, with a 2% maximum slope in all directions. If necessary for drainage, slopes up to 5% are allowable.
- 2) Install accessible parking signage to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign.
- 3) Establish an accessible route between the stall, restrooms, and picnic facilities.

long-term

## 3 Recycling Receptacle

- 1) Relocate the recycling receptacle to the edge of the sidewalk and adjacent to the trash receptacle. Provide a firm and stable level landing underneath the receptacle at a 2% maximum slope in all directions and 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach.
- 2) When an accessible trash and recycling receptacle or an adapted handle is available, improve or replace existing devices to ensure they are operable with a closed fist and no more than five pounds of force.

short-term

## 4 Information Kiosk

- 1) Improve or replace waysides to provide a 24-point minimum font.

mid-term

## 5 Benches

- 1) If the bench is retained, recommend cutting the end of the bench to provide a companion space, 36" by 48" minimum.

long-term

## 6 Picnic Facility

- 1) Relocate two or more picnic tables underneath the shade structure near the parking lot. Provide wheelchair spaces at the end of each table or middle of the bench with 27" minimum knee clearance, 9" minimum toe clearance, and 36" minimum clear space around each table.

mid-term

**7 Wayfinding and Orientation Signage**

- 1) Provide signage identifying the route to other areas at Zzyzx and noting the characteristics of the road (e.g., gravel, general running and cross slope).

mid-term

**8 Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Improve the path around the pond to maintain a firm and stable surface with a 2% maximum cross slope. If necessary for drainage, a 5% maximum cross slope is allowed.

mid-term

**9 Interpretive Waysides (on path around pond)**

- 1) Establish a firm and stable surface at each wayside. Provide a forward approach to each wayside, 30" by 48" minimum, with a 2% maximum slope in all directions. 2) Improve or replace waysides to provide a 24-point minimum font with 70% minimum contrast between text and images.

mid-term

**10 Picnic Table (on path around pond)**

- 1) Provide an accessible picnic table with integrated wheelchair space at the end of the table or middle of the bench, with 27" minimum knee clearance, 9" minimum toe clearance, and 36" minimum clear space around the table. Ensure that the table is located on a firm and stable surface at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

mid-term

# MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE POLICIES, PRACTICES, COMMUNICATION, AND TRAINING

## Park Features



## Implementation Strategy

Park policies and practices are specific to the park unit and provide guidance for reaching desired outcomes. Park policies are defined courses of action adopted by the park, while park practices are those habitual and/or customary performances of operations that the park employs.

## Posting and Publications

### 1 Accessibility Flyers Posted in Common Areas

- 1) Place posters in common areas of staff and visitor buildings that provide accessibility-related information, including requirements, contacts, questions, and complaints.

short-term

### 2 Publications

- 1) Provide Braille publications and tactile wayfinding maps.
- 2) Provide audio described publications.
- 3) Provide large-print format publications. Use a minimum readable typeface at 18-point font. Align flush left and rag right. Avoid hyphens. Use black or white type color and avoid red text. Avoid italicized and underlined text. Provide graphics with at least 70% contrast.
- 4) Add accessibility information in all publications, as they relate to services, activities, and programs.

mid-term

### 3 Publicly Shared Documents

- 1) Review and revise publicly shared documents to delete discriminatory language and use people-first language.

mid-term

## Staff Training and Park Protocols

### 4 Accessibility Awareness Training

- 1) Provide ongoing accessibility awareness training for all staff, including permanent and nonpermanent employees.

mid-term

### 5 Accessible Facilities and Maintenance Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for maintenance staff on planning, maintaining and constructing accessible facilities, including, but not limited to, restrooms, walks and trails, door pressure requirements, assistive devices, accessible routes, and universal design principles.

mid-term

### 6 Accessibility for Project Managers Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for project managers to address project accessibility requirements, (e.g., entering accessibility projects in Project Management Information System [PMIS], understanding universal design principles, and overseeing quality control of projects and designs).

mid-term

### 7 Accessible Interpretive Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for the interpretation and education division.
- 2) Training may include, but is not limited to, how to evaluate programs for accessibility compliance; which websites offer more information; information about service animals; information about Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs); how and when to offer live audio description programming; accessibility specifications for interpretive tactile models and maps; what assistive technologies are available; universal design principles; visitor services and communication about accessibility. It is also important to provide regular and ongoing visitor information and interpretive staff training in the use of, distribution, and procedures for wheelchairs and assistive technology—assistive listening devices, T-coil hearing loops, neck loops, and text telephone machines.

short-term

### 8 Communication with Law Enforcement

- 1) Provide a standard operation procedure that outlines methods for law enforcement to communicate with a person with a disability.

short-term

## 9 Movable Seating

- 1) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for movable cubicles and conference rooms, so there is adequate clear space and accessible routes to all elements in a room or building. Post a map in an area with accessible layout and instructions for use of the space.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for movable seating arrangements and moving things to create an accessible route and maintain integrated accessible seating. Post a map in an area with accessible layout and instructions for use of the space.

short-term

## 10 Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs)

- 1) Provide guidance outlining use of OPDMDs within the park.

mid-term

## 11 Wheelchairs

- 1) Provide a standard operating procedure or guidance for checking out and returning wheelchairs.
- 2) Provide a standard operating procedure or guidance on protocol for pre- and post-inspecting, cleaning, and maintenance of wheelchairs.
- 3) Inform visitors and program participants that wheelchairs are available upon request. Provide information on wheelchair availability in all publications and on signage.

short-term

## Audio and Visual Programs

### 12 Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs)

- 1) Purchase assistive listening transmitters and devices. Provide these devices at visitor centers, educational programs, and guided tours with audio components.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures or guidance for checking out and returning assistive listening devices.
- 3) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures or guidance describing protocol for pre -and post-inspection of the devices and for cleaning and maintaining all devices.
- 4) Provide signage and information where programs are offered stating device availability. Verbally inform visitors and program participants that auxiliary aids are available. Add information to all publications and communications stating that assistive listening devices are available and provide information on how they can be attained.

short-term

### 13 Live Audio Description

- 1) Provide live audio descriptions on guided interpretive tours when needed.

mid-term

### 14 T-Coil Hearing Loops or Neck Loops

- 1) Purchase T-coil hearing loops and neck loops. Inform visitors and program participants that auxiliary aids are available and provide information on check-out procedures. Post signage in appropriate locations and in all publications specifying availability of services.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedure or guidance for checking out and returning T-coil hearing loops and neck loops.
- 3) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures or guidance for pre-and post-inspection of T-coil hearing loops and neck loops and cleaning and maintenance of all devices.

short-term

## 15 Text Telephone (TTY) Machines

- 1) Provide a TTY machine at all locations where there is a public telephone.
- 2) Include TTY number on publications and on the park's website with the park contact information and phone number
- 3) Provide a standard operating procedure or guidance describing use and protocol for pre- and post-inspection of TTY machines. Address cleaning and maintenance of all devices.

short-term

## Visitor Information

### 16 Communication

- 1) Assign an accessibility contact at park to respond to visitor questions and requests. Provide the park e-mail address and telephone number on the park website and in publications.
- 2) Develop an accessibility guide for Mojave National Preserve that outlines accessible services, activities, and programs.

short-term

### 17 Outreach

- 1) Conduct outreach via social media (Pinterest, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.) to describe accessible programs, services, and activities available at the park.
- 2) Conduct outreach via traditional media and other advertising methods to describe accessible programs, services, and activities available at the park.
- 3) Contact groups with disabilities to inform them about the accessible programs, services, and activities that have become available at the park as solutions are implemented.
- 4) Outreach to and engage groups with disabilities to determine appropriate ways to involve them in park accessibility improvement projects as they occur (case-by-case basis).

mid-term

## 18 Reservations

- 1) On the park website, identify the following Federal Relay Service phone numbers: Voice (1-866-377-8642), Voice Carry Over (1-877-877-6280), Speech-to-Speech (1-877-877-8982), and Telebraille (1-866-893-8340). Note that for some of these services (Voice and Voice Carry Over), a user may also dial 711.
- 2) Provide an online reservation system built into the provider's website. Provide accessible formats for making reservations through the Federal Relay Service, Text Telephone (TTY), Video Phone, etc.
- 3) For each park area that requires a reservation, provide information on website reservation systems about accessible services and facilities.

short-term

## 19 Signage

- 1) Provide signage at visitor center that states availability of accessible alternative formats.

mid-term

## 20 Website

- 1) Provide information on the park's website that accessible programs, services, and activities are available, including, but not limited to, audio description, assistive listening devices, Braille/tactile features, accessible tours, open captioning, trails, etc.
- 2) Provide a manual switch on all websites to enable changing font size. Provide flush left and rag right alignment. Avoid hyphens. Use black or white type color. Avoid the use of red or green text. Avoid italicized and underlined text. Avoid use of all caps or italics. Provide graphics with at least 70% contrast. Provide Word documents as an alternative to PDFs.

short-term

## Tours, Programs, and Special Events

### 21 Tours (Guided and Self-Guided), Educational Programs, and Special Events

- 1) Upon request, provide alternative formats such as trail information in large print; audio descriptions for tours; educational programs; or special events. Provide alternative formats on park website and in publications at visitor center.
- 2) Provide information on the physical conditions of the tour, education program, or special event (e.g., number of steps, slopes, other barriers that exist, etc.) on-site, in a publication and/or on a website.
- 3) Provide designated stopping points or resting areas for the tour, education program, or special event, with a 2% maximum cross and running slopes, firm and stable surfaces, and a minimum 30" by 48" clear space.

long-term

### 22 Sign Language Interpreters

- 1) Develop the process for requesting sign language interpreters. Provide sign language interpreters within 14 days of request.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for contacting and scheduling sign language interpreters.

mid-term

### 23 Special Events

- 1) Provide a system for people to call in and request a sign language interpreter within 14 days of service. Provide assistive listening devices and a T-coil or neck loop system. Post signage indicating devices and systems are available for special events. Provide large print of any handouts or waivers being provided.
- 2) Provide information on how people can contact the park for accommodations for special events, and release event announcements in a variety of accessible methods (e.g., large-print flyers, electronic accessible PDFs, etc.)
- 3) Develop and distribute a standard operating procedure on how to post accessibility information and how to request accommodations on event announcements.

short-term

## Concessions and Partnerships

24

### **Park Partner, Lessee, and Concessionaire Services, Activities, and Programs**

- 1) Prepare a standard operating procedure for lessees and park partners about providing accessible programs, services, and activities within the park unit.
- 2) Develop and distribute a standard operating procedure for presentations provided by outside groups regarding accessibility and assistive listening devices.
- 3) Communicate with state partners to ensure that an accessibility assessment and a plan for implementing accessibility solutions is completed. The Architectural Barriers for Accessibility Standards does not apply to state partner lands; however, the Americans with Disabilities Act does. State requirements take precedence in these cases.
- 4) Architectural Barriers Act for Accessibility Standards applies to all lands funded by the federal government. Communicate with park partner and/or concessioners to ensure accessible services, activities, and programs are provided. The National Park Service will conduct an assessment, develop a transition plan, and address park partner concessioner services.

mid-term

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## CONCLUSION

Mojave National Preserve is committed to providing all visitors the opportunity to connect with and learn about the park's unique natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Accessibility improvements identified in the Mojave National Preserve Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan will make it easier for individuals with cognitive, hearing, vision, and mobility disabilities to discover, understand, and enjoy the range of experiences available at the park. Implementation of the plan will ensure that Mojave National Preserve will continue to work toward accommodating all park visitors while sustaining its legacy to preserve and protect desert ecological communities and functions and evidence of a 10,000-year history of human connection with the desert.

The Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for Mojave National Preserve is a living document intended to be used as a guiding reference for the park as it implements accessibility upgrades and documents accessibility accomplishments. As barriers to accessibility are removed and/or improved, the changes will be updated in this plan. The park will conduct periodic reviews to evaluate and update conditions to reflect accomplishments and to document new programs or other changes that occur over time. Revisions to the plan may include conducting additional assessments for areas not originally conducted as a part of this plan.

The primary goal of the transition plan is to define key park experiences and document modifications needed to provide independent program participation for the widest range of disabilities possible. As the park works towards its accessibility goals and makes the implementation strategy a reality, both physical and programmatic accessibility will improve across the breadth of key park experiences at Mojave National Preserve.

For visitors with mobility disabilities, access will be improved from the moment they enter the park. Facilities, as well as numerous programs, services, and activities the park offers will be more universally accessible. Experiences such as exploring geological features, viewing wildlife and discovering diverse ecosystems, hiking along scenic trails, camping, picnicking with friends and family, and learning about the human history and environment of the park, will be enhanced.

Park programs will be created and delivered for all visitors, including visitors with mild to severe disabilities impacting their mobility, vision, hearing, and/or cognitive abilities. Ranger led walks/talks, visitor center exhibits, films, trail waysides, and all materials that interpret park resources to the public will be provided in formats that allow visitors with disabilities to participate fully. Some of those formats include, but are not limited to: large-print transcripts for printer materials, audio description for exhibits and films, assistive listening devices and sign language interpreters for ranger-led tours and programs, and T-coil hearing loops for park films.

Over time, the results of this collective effort will make Mojave National Preserve a truly welcoming and accommodating place for all visitors and will provide equal opportunity to access the many places, resources, stories, and experiences the park has to offer.

## **APPENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY LAWS, STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND NPS POLICIES APPLICABLE TO MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE**

As a national park, Mojave National Preserve is required to comply with specific federal laws that mandate that discriminatory barriers be removed to provide equal opportunities to persons with disabilities. The following laws, design guidelines, and Director's Orders specifically pertain to Mojave National Preserve.

### **LAWS AND STANDARDS**

A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision. A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low-level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

#### **Architectural Barriers Act of 1968**

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards/guide-to-the-aba-standards>

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 requires physical access to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with federal funds. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) are the design guidelines used as the basis for enforcement of the law. The UFAS regulations were adopted in 1984. Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were revised and adopted in November 2005. Four federal agencies are responsible for the standards: the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the General Services Administration, and the US Postal Service. The United States Access Board was created to enforce the Architectural Barriers Act, which it does through the investigation of complaints. Anyone concerned about the accessibility of a facility that may have received federal funds can easily file a complaint with the United States Access Board.

#### **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

To the extent that section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 applies to departments and agencies of the federal government, the parks operated by the National Park Service are subject to the provisions of that statute. As will be discussed in the following text, both section 504 and the Architectural Barriers Act require the application of stringent access standards to new construction and the alteration of existing facilities. The Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978 (PL 95-602) extends the scope of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (PL

93-112) to include Executive Branch agencies of the federal government. As amended, section 504 states:

Section 504: No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States, as defined in Section 7 (6), shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance or under any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency or by the United States Postal Service. The head of each such agency shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the amendments to this section made by the Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Act of 1978. Copies of any proposed regulation shall be submitted to appropriate authorizing committees of Congress, and such regulation may take effect no earlier than the thirtieth day after the date on which such regulation is so submitted to such committees.

As noted above, section 504 and the Architectural Barriers Act govern new construction and alterations. However, as a civil rights law, section 504 goes further. Unlike the construction-driven ABA mandates, section 504 also requires covered entities to consider the accessibility of programs, services, and activities.

### **Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

<http://www.section508.gov/>

In 1998, Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to require federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology (EIT) accessible to people with disabilities. Inaccessible technology interferes with an ability to obtain and use information quickly and easily. Section 508 was enacted to eliminate barriers in information technology, open new opportunities for people with disabilities, and encourage development of technologies that will help achieve these goals. The law applies to all federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology. Under section 508 (29 USC §794 d), agencies must give disabled employees and members of the public access to information that is comparable to access available to others. It is recommended that you review the laws and regulations discussed in the following sections to further your understanding about section 508 and how you can support implementation.

## **Accessibility Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas**

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas>

Achieving accessibility in outdoor environments has long been a source of inquiry because of challenges and constraints posed by terrain, the degree of development, construction practices and materials, and other factors. The new provisions address access to trails, picnic and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes, and other components of outdoor developed areas on federal sites when newly built or altered. They also provide exceptions for situations where terrain and other factors make compliance impracticable. In 2013, this final rule amended the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines by adding scoping and technical requirements for camping facilities, picnic facilities, viewing areas, trails, and beach access routes constructed or altered by or on behalf of federal agencies. The final rule ensures that these facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The final rule applies to the following federal agencies and their components that administer outdoor areas developed for recreational purposes: Department of Agriculture (Forest Service); Department of Defense (Army Corps of Engineers); and Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service). The final rule also applies to nonfederal entities that construct or alter recreation facilities on federal land on behalf of the federal agencies pursuant to a concession contract, partnership agreement, or similar arrangement.

## **Accessibility Standards for Shared Use Paths**

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/shared-use-paths>

Shared use paths provide a means of off-road transportation and recreation for various users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, and others, including people with disabilities. In its rulemaking on public rights-of-way and on trails and other outdoor developed areas, comments from the public urged the board to address access to shared use paths because they are distinct from sidewalks and trails. Shared-use paths, unlike most sidewalks, are physically separated from streets by an open space or barrier. They also differ from trails because they are designed not just for recreation purposes but for transportation as well.

In response, the board is supplementing its rulemaking on public rights-of-way to also cover shared-use paths. The proposed rights-of-way guidelines, which address access to sidewalks, streets, and other pedestrian facilities, provide requirements for pedestrian access routes, including specifications for route width, grade, cross slope, surfaces, and other features. The board proposes to apply these and other relevant requirements to shared-use paths as well. This supplementary rulemaking also would add provisions tailored to shared-use paths into the rights-of-way guidelines.

## **Draft Accessibility Standards for Public Rights-of-Way**

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/public-rights-of-way>

Sidewalks, street crossings, and other elements in the public right-of-way can pose challenges to accessibility. The United States Access Board's ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines focus mainly on facilities on sites. While they address certain features common to public sidewalks, such as curb ramps, further guidance is necessary to address conditions and constraints unique to public rights-of-way.

The board is developing new guidelines for public rights-of-way that will address various issues, including access for blind pedestrians at street crossings, wheelchair access to on-street parking, and various constraints posed by space limitations, roadway design practices, slope, and terrain. The new guidelines will cover pedestrian access to sidewalks and streets, including crosswalks, curb ramps, street furnishings, pedestrian signals, parking, and other components of public rights-of-way. The board's aim in developing these guidelines is to ensure that access for persons with disabilities is provided wherever a pedestrian way is newly built or altered, and that the same degree of convenience, connection, and safety afforded the public generally is available to pedestrians with disabilities. Once these guidelines are adopted by the Department of Justice, they will become enforceable standards under ADA Title II.

## **Effective Communication**

<http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>

People who have vision, hearing, or speech disabilities ("communication disabilities") use different ways to communicate. For example, people who are blind may give and receive information audibly rather than in writing and people who are deaf may give and receive information through writing or sign language rather than through speech. The ADA requires that Title II entities (state and local governments) and Title III entities (businesses and nonprofit organizations that serve the public) communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities. The goal is to ensure that communication with people with disabilities is equally effective as communication with people without disabilities.

- The purpose of the effective communication rules is to ensure that the person with a vision, hearing, or speech disability can communicate with, receive information from, and convey information to, the covered entity.
- Covered entities must provide auxiliary aids and services when needed to communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities.
- The key to communicating effectively is to consider the nature, length, complexity, and context of the communication and the person's normal method(s) of communication.

The rules apply to communicating with the person who is receiving the covered entity's goods or services, as well as with that person's parent, spouse, or companion in appropriate circumstances.

### **Reasonable Accommodations**

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations/>

Federal agencies are required by law to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified employees with disabilities. The federal government may provide reasonable accommodation based on appropriate requests (unless so doing will result in undue hardship to the agencies). For more information, see the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's [Enforcement Guidance: Reasonable Accommodation and Undue Hardship under the Americans with Disabilities Act \(external link\)](#).

Reasonable accommodations can apply to the duties of the job and/or where and how job tasks are performed. The accommodation should make it easier for the employee to successfully perform the duties of the position. Examples of reasonable accommodations include providing interpreters, readers, or other personal assistance; modifying job duties; restructuring work sites; providing flexible work schedules or work sites (i.e., telework); and providing accessible technology or other workplace adaptive equipment. [Telework \(external link\)](#) provides employees additional flexibility by allowing them to work at a geographically convenient alternative worksite, such as home or a telecenter, on an average of at least one day per week.

Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. To request reasonable accommodations:

- Look at the vacancy announcement.
- Work directly with person arranging the interviews.
- Contact the agency [Selective Placement Program Coordinator](#).
- Contact the hiring manager and engage in an interactive process to clarify what the person needs and identify reasonable accommodations.
- Make an oral or written request; no special language is needed.

## **Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices**

<http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAREgs2010.htm>

The definition and regulation to permit the use of mobility devices has been amended. The rule adopts a two-tiered approach to mobility devices, drawing distinctions between wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices such as the Segway Human Transporter. Wheelchairs (and other devices designed for use by people with mobility impairments) must be permitted in all areas open to pedestrian use. Other power-driven mobility devices must be permitted for use unless the covered entity can demonstrate that such use would fundamentally alter its programs, services, or activities, create a direct threat, or create a safety hazard. The rule also lists factors to consider in making this determination.

## **Service Animals**

<http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/service-animals.htm>

[The following is excerpted from the Department of Justice and Americans with Disabilities Act Revised Regulations \(effective 3/15/2011\).](#)

34.104 Definitions: Service animal means any dog [or miniature horse as outlined in the following text] that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing nonviolent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

- a. General. Generally, a public entity shall modify its policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability.
- b. Exceptions. A public entity may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the premises if-
  - (1) The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or
  - (2) The animal is not housebroken.

- c. If an animal is properly excluded. If a public entity properly excludes a service animal under § 35.136(b), it shall give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises.
- d. Animal under handler's control. A service animal shall be under the control of its handler. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means).
- e. Care or supervision. A public entity is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.
- f. Inquiries. A public entity shall not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability, but may make two inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal. A public entity may ask if the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. A public entity shall not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. Generally, a public entity may not make these inquiries about a service animal when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., the dog is observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling a person's wheelchair, or providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with an observable mobility disability).
- g. Access to areas of a public entity. Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of a public entity's facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go.
- h. Surcharges. A public entity shall not ask or require an individual with a disability to pay a surcharge, even if people accompanied by pets are required to pay fees, or to comply with other requirements generally not applicable to people without pets. If a public entity normally charges individuals for the damage they cause, an individual with a disability may be charged for damage caused by his or her service animal.
- i. Miniature horses.
  - (1) Reasonable modifications. A public entity shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability if the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.
  - (2) Assessment factors. In determining whether reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures can be made to allow a miniature horse into a specific facility, a public entity shall consider:
    - i. The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;

- ii. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
  - iii. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
  - iv. Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.
- (3) Other requirements. Paragraphs 35.136 (c) through (h) of this section, which apply to service animals, shall also apply to miniature horses

### **Section 17.549 Program Accessibility: Discrimination Prohibited**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.549>

Except as otherwise provided in §17.550, no qualified handicapped person shall, because the agency's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by handicapped persons, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the agency.

The reference to §17.550 in the below quotes is intended to address exclusions available to covered entities in connection with existing facilities.

### **Section 17.550 Program Accessibility: Existing Facilities**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

**(a) General.** The agency shall operate each program or activity so that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This paragraph does not:

- (1) Necessarily require the agency to make each of its existing facilities or every part of a facility accessible to and usable by people with disabilities;
- (2) In the case of historic preservation programs, require the agency to take any action that would result in a substantial impairment of significant historic features of an historic property; or
- (3) Require the agency to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where agency personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance with §17.550(a) would result in such an alteration or burdens. The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the agency head or his or her designee after considering all agency resources available for use in the funding and operation of

the conducted program or activity, and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. If an action would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that handicapped persons receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

**(b) Methods.**

- (1) **General.** The agency may comply with the requirements of this section through such means as redesign of equipment, reassignment of services to accessible locations, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, home visits, delivery of services at alternate accessible sites, alteration of existing facilities and construction of new facilities, use of accessible rolling stock, or any other methods that result in making its programs or activities readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. The agency is not required to make structural changes in existing facilities where other methods are effective in achieving compliance with this section. The agency, in making alterations to existing buildings, shall meet accessibility requirements to the extent compelled by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended (42 USC 4151–4157) and any regulations implementing it. In choosing among available methods for meeting the requirements of this section, the agency shall give priority to those methods that offer programs and activities to qualified handicapped persons in the most integrated setting appropriate.
- (2) **Historic preservation programs.** In meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section in historic preservation programs, the agency shall give priority to methods that provide physical access to handicapped persons. In cases where a physical alteration to an historic property is not required because of paragraph (a)(2) or (a)(3) of this section, alternative, methods of achieving program accessibility include:
  - (i) Using audio-visual materials and devices to depict those portions of an historic property that cannot otherwise be made accessible;
  - (ii) Assigning persons to guide people with disabilities into or through portions of historic properties that cannot otherwise be made accessible; or
  - (iii) Adopting other innovative methods.
- (3) **Recreation programs.** In meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) in recreation programs, the agency shall provide that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. When it is not reasonable to alter natural and physical features, accessibility may be achieved by alternative methods as noted in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

## **Section 17.551 Program Accessibility: New Construction and Alterations**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.551>

Each building or part of a building that is constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of the agency shall be designed, constructed, or altered so as to be readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. The definitions, requirements, and standards of the Architectural Barriers Act (42 USC 4151–4157) as established in 41 CFR 101 – 19.600 to 101 – 19.607 apply to buildings covered by this section.

## **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR’S ORDERS AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

### **Director’s Order 16A**

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder16a.html>

Director’s Order 16A establishes the framework for meeting reasonable accommodation requirements in all areas of employment, including: application, hiring, retention, promotion, recognition, and special hiring authority. Within this framework, NPS Human Resources and Equal Opportunity Program officials will take the lead in providing specific guidance and services to applicants, employees, and supervisors and other managers with respect to the provision of reasonable accommodation.

### **Director’s Order 42**

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder42.html>

Director’s Order 42 addresses accessibility for visitors with disabilities in National Park Service programs and services. It is the goal of the National Park Service to ensure that all people, including persons with disabilities, have the highest level of access that is reasonable to NPS programs, facilities, and services. The order gives detailed guidance based on the minimum requirements set forth in laws, rules, and regulations with the goal to provide the highest level of access that is reasonable, exceeding the minimum level of access required by law. The order sets forth six implementation strategies:

1. to increase employee awareness and technical understanding of accessibility requirements
2. to ensure all new and renovated buildings and facilities, and all new services and programs (including those offered by concessioners and interpreters) will be “universally designed” and implemented in conformance with applicable regulations and standards

3. to ensure existing programs, facilities and services will be evaluated to determine the degree to which they are currently accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities
4. to ensure that barriers that limit access be identified and incorporated into the NPS Assets Management Program
5. to develop action plans identifying how identified barriers will be removed (where feasible)
6. to ensure action will be taken on a day-to-day basis to eliminate identified barriers, using existing operational funds or other funding sources or partnerships

**National Park Service Management Policies: Section 1.9.3 – Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities**

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/mp/policies.html>

All practicable efforts will be made to make NPS facilities, programs, services, employment, and meaningful work opportunities accessible and usable by all people, including those with disabilities. This policy reflects the commitment to provide access to the widest cross section of the public and ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Specific guidance for implementing these laws is found in the Secretary of the Interior’s regulations regarding enforcement and nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in Department of the Interior programs (43 CFR par 17, subpart E), and the General Service Administration’s regulations adopting accessibility standards for the Architectural Barriers Act (41 CFR part 102-76, subpart C).

A primary principle of accessibility is that, to the highest degree practicable, people with disabilities should be able to participate in the same programs, activities, and employment opportunities available to everyone else. In choosing among methods of providing accessibility, higher priority will be given to methods that offer programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate. Special, separate, or alternative facilities, programs, or services will be provided only when existing ones cannot reasonable be made accessible. The determination of what is practicable will be made only after careful consultations with persons with disabilities or their representatives. Any decisions that would result in less than equal opportunity is subject the filing of an official disability right complain under the departmental regulations cited above.

## **GUIDELINES**

A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

### **Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media**

<http://www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/>

The “Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media” is for media specialists, superintendents, and other NPS employees and contractors who develop and approve interpretive media. Publications, exhibits, audiovisual programs and tours, wayside exhibits, signage, and web-based media provide park visitors with information and context so that their experience of visiting national parks can be both safe and meaningful. Park visitors who have physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities have legally established civil rights to receive the same information and context that NPS interpretive media products have always provided to their fellow citizens.

## APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Accessibility assessment:** A process in which physical and programmatic barriers to accessibility are identified at a park unit.

**Accessibility assessment team:** This group is a subgroup of the Interdisciplinary Design Team (see definition below) and includes an accessibility specialist and/or technician, coordinators, a regional representative, the primary facilitator for the process, architect, engineer and/or landscape architect, and typically the chiefs of interpretation, resources management, and facilities management.

**Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan:** A tool that establishes a methodical process for identifying and improving parkwide access and proposes strategies for implementing the plan over time, in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

**Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS):** Standards issued under the Architectural Barriers Act apply to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with certain federal funds. Passed in 1968, the Architectural Barriers Act is one of the first laws to address access to the built environment. The law applies to federal buildings, including post offices, social security offices, federal courthouses and prisons, and national parks.

**Barrier:** Architectural and programmatic obstacles to accessibility that make it difficult, and sometimes impossible, for people with disabilities to maneuver, understand, or experience.

**Best practice:** A method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means, and that is used as a benchmark for meeting accessibility requirements.

**Consultation:** A formal or informal process for discussing an action or process for implementing a solution, such as section 106 (cultural resource compliance), or design for an Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

**Facility Management Software System (FMSS) work order:** The process for documenting work needs and collecting information to aid the work scheduling and assignment process within the Facility Management Software System. Information collected should include labor, equipment and material costs, hours, types, and quantities.

**Guideline:** A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

**Interdisciplinary design team:** This team is composed of all the people involved in the workshop at the park unit, potentially including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource (natural and cultural), visitor safety, maintenance and accessibility specialists.

**Key park experience:** For the purpose of the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, key park experiences are those experiences that are iconic and essential for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of a given park unit. They are those experiences that are “musts” for all park visitors. Key park experiences can be identified through a consideration of park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications.

**Law:** A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements:** NEPA defines a process that federal agencies must follow when proposing to take actions that have environmental impacts. NEPA requires federal agencies to fully consider the impacts of proposals that would affect the human environment prior to deciding to take an action. NEPA also requires federal agencies to involve the interested and affected public in the decision-making process.

**Park area:** A park area is the geographic location that is home to a single or multiple key park experience(s).

**Park Asset Management Plan-Optimizer Banding (PAMP-OB):** Provides a 5-year asset management strategy for park units, allowing for annual updates that coincide with the budget and planning processes already occurring in park units. As this approach includes life cycle total cost of ownership, analysis, processing, and calculations, it also helps park units and the service as a whole to manage the gap between what should be spent on facilities and what is actually being spent.

**Park policy:** A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

**Park practice:** Those habitual and/or customary performances or operations for reaching a desired outcome that the park employs.

**People-first language:** A type of disability etiquette that aims to avoid perceived and subconscious dehumanization when discussing people with disabilities. It emphasizes the person rather than the disability, noting that the disability is not the primary defining characteristic of the individual but one of several aspects of the whole person.

**Project Management Information System (PMIS) Facility:** A separate and individual building, structure, or other constructed real property improvement.

**Project Management Information System (PMIS) Nonfacility:** A project that includes anything not covered by the definition for PMIS facility

**Project Management Information System (PMIS) no. (number):** A unique Project ID Number that is automatically generated when adding a new project into the Project Management Information System

**Project planning team:** This group is a subgroup of the interdisciplinary design team and includes DSC planners and PWR staff. This team collects baseline data, facilitates calls, develops the participant guide, plans for and facilitates the workshop, and produces the draft and final documents.

**Readily achievable:** Easily accomplished and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense.

**Recommended solution:** The action to eliminate the identified barrier.

**Responsible person:** The person/position responsible for seeing that the elimination of a barrier is completed.

**Service, activity, and program:** A service, activity, or program that is undertaken by a department and affords benefits, information, opportunities, and activities to one or more members of the public.

**Standard:** A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low-level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

**Time frame:** Time frames for implementation of a recommended solution are primarily based on park's ability of the park to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects. They describe when staff will eliminate the barrier. Recommended solutions are divided into four time frames including: immediate, short-term, mid-term, and long-term.

## **APPENDIX C: CONTRIBUTORS**

### **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE**

Debra Hughson, Science Advisor, Accessibility Coordinator  
Chris (Burns) Mills, Interpretive Ranger  
David Moore, Chief of Maintenance, Accessibility Coordinator (former)  
John Piastuck, Chief of Protection  
Norma Sosa, Superintendent's Secretary  
Todd Suess, Superintendent  
Lisa Wilson, Chief of Administration

### **PACIFIC WEST REGIONAL OFFICE**

Suzanne Brinkley, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Patricia Brouillette, Project Manager/Landscape Architect  
Trung-Son Nguyen, Regional Accessibility Coordinator

### **DENVER SERVICE CENTER**

Mindy Burke, Editor  
Colin Heffern, Project Specialist/Landscape Architect  
Marc Kochheiser, Project Specialist/Landscape Architect  
Kim Shafer, Project Manager/Landscape Architect

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**MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE  
ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN  
OCTOBER 2017**

This Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan has been prepared as a collaborative effort between Mojave National Preserve, Pacific West Regional staff, and the Denver Service Center and is recommended for approval by the superintendent.

*Todd J. Swess*

*10-30-17*

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**Approved**

Date

Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

MOJA 148/137218



**ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN OVERVIEW**

# **MOJAVE**

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