

DAILY NEWS

SERVING THE COACHELLA VALLEY AND THE DESERT AREA

VIRGIL PINKLEY
Editor & Publisher777 ✓
P.O. BOX 608 INDIO-CALIFORNIATELEPHONE
DIAMOND 7-3L58
CNP

Feb. 15, 1965

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wirth

We have heard discussion among Indio area residents recently of the need to preserve some of the dunes in Coachella Valley. These people feel the dunes are a natural wonder that should not be completely obliterated by the progression of houses, golf courses, etc.

We have also heard discussion of setting off an area of date groves in the valley as a national landmark, since this valley is the only date growing country in the United States.

Desert land in Coachella Valley has ~~xxx~~ already become very costly and the financial ability to acquire an area for a national monument may soon become lost. Federal action may very well be the only agency financially able to preserve the dunes today.

Would you please inform us of the National Park Service's policy on establishing national monuments and national landmarks and of any personal views that you might have in regard to these matters.

Sincerely,

Managing Editor
Ole J. Nordland

Berns 3/14
 Bussell
 3/14

L58-CNP

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed by

Chester C.

MAR 17 1965

Chester C. Berns, Chief
 Division of National Park
 System Studies

Mr. Ole J. Nordland
 Managing Editor
Daily News
 P. O. Drawer NNN
 Indio, California

Dear Mr. Nordland:

Your letter of February 15, addressed to former Director Conrad L. Wirth concerning the dunes and date groves in Coachella Valley and requesting information on the establishment of national monuments, has been referred to this office for reply.

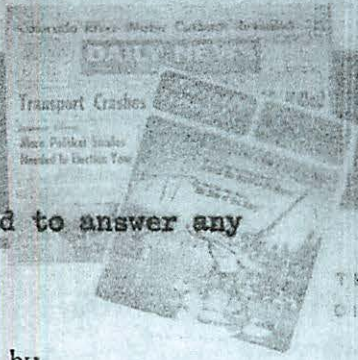
National monuments are established by congressional action or, where lands are already in Federal ownership, may be established by presidential proclamation. They contain nationally significant landmarks, structures, objects or areas of scientific or prehistoric interest in which it is in the public interest they be preserved by the Federal government for public use and enjoyment.

An investigation is made of each proposal to determine its national significance. The proposal is then submitted to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments for their approval. Following their approval, legislation is secured by congressional action or presidential proclamation to authorize establishment.

The Natural History Landmark program recognizes natural areas under private institutional or local government ownership. It does not involve a change in land ownership and the Federal government does not administer the site or provide financial assistance. The enclosed leaflet will provide you with additional information regarding this program.

We hope the above information and the enclosed leaflet will be of assistance. If you have further questions concerning the date

DAILY NEWS



groves or dunes in Coachella Valley, we will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

VIRGIL PINKLEY
Editor & Publisher

P.O. BOX 686 INDIAN WELLS, CALIF.

Sincerely yours,

TELEPHONE
DIAMOND 7-3

L58
CNP

Feb. 15, 1965

Original Signed by
Chester C. Brown

Chester C. Brown, Chief
Division of National Park
System Studies

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Wirth
Regional Director, Western w/c inc.
CNP w/c inc. have heard discussion among Indio area residents recently of the need to preserve some of the dunes in Coachella. FMBenson:ts 3/9/65 people feel the dunes are a natural wonder that Rewritten:FMBenson:fjw 3/16/65 obliterated by the progression of houses, golf courses, etc.

We have also heard discussion of setting off an area of dune groves in the valley as a national landmark, since this valley is the only dune growing country in the United States.

Desert land in Coachella Valley has ~~not~~ already become very costly and the financial ability to acquire an area for a national monument may soon become lost. Federal action may very well be the only agency financially able to preserve the dunes today.

Would you please inform us of the National Park Service's policy on establishing national monuments and national landmarks and of any personal views that you might have in regard to these matters.

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Managing Editor
Ole J. Nordland