



The Oasis

Fall/Winter 2017

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Program Manager's Corner

What a busy and productive year it has been...

As I finish up my first full calendar year with MOJN, I am impressed with what we have been able to accomplish and I am excited for the future. I wanted to take this time to highlight some of the great work our team has been doing and talk a bit about where we are headed from here. The beginning of the year started with the hiring of Nicole Hupp as our new ecologist and vegetation protocol lead. Being without an ecologist for many years has resulted in a backlog of work related to our vegetation protocols. Thus, Nicole had a very busy year that resulted in the publication of the [Invasive Plant Species Early Detection \(IPSED\) Plan Narrative](#) document, as well as the development of a Spring Vegetation Protocol and Protocol Implementation Plans for adopting the White

Pine and Aspen protocols from the Upper Columbia Basin Network. In addition, Nicole oversaw the implementation of the Integrated Uplands (IU) protocol within sagebrush steppe habitat at GRBA. The IU field crew, led by our Lead Biological Technician, Alex Whalen, was hampered by summer storms much more than expected with one of the雨iest summers the park has seen in a long time ([page 5](#)).

Our Hydrology crew made up of three physical science technicians successfully split up project duties and worked seamlessly to ensure all hydrologic focused protocols continued to be implemented. Jennifer Bailard oversaw the continued monitoring of our Selected Large Springs protocol which included visiting 12 different springs. This included the first sample for benthic

Article continued on [page 2](#)

macroinvertebrates (BMI) at selected springs in DEVA which will now be conducted every other year. BMI samples were also collected at Blue Point Spring at LAKE and Pakoon Spring at PARA. Carissa Wilkerson coordinated the collection of BMI samples and ensured they were all shipped to Utah State University for analysis. Michael Steiner oversaw most of the work related to the Streams and Lakes protocol that is being implemented up at GRBA. The whole crew tag-teamed the start of Desert Springs monitoring at JOTR last fall, PARA this spring, and they are over half way done with DEVA (and will finish that up at the beginning of 2018). We also have an interagency agreement with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and our former hydrologist Geoff Moret, to utilize our subalpine lakes data at GRBA and assess the effects of projected climate patterns on Bonneville cutthroat trout habitat.

In addition to all of the field work that has been done, I can't forget the amazing efforts of our Data Manager Mark Lehman and Assistant Data Manager Sarah Wright for ensuring all data comes into our databases and available for future analysis. In addition, they spent a lot of time improving data flow efficiencies which will make a huge difference in the long run. Not to be outdone, Janel Brackin, our Science Communications Lead had possibly the most

successful year getting the word out about all the great work MOJN is doing ([page 3](#)). Janel (along with every member of the team helping at some point) were able to staff MOJN outreach tables at Junior Ranger Day and Energy Innovation Day at LAKE as well as at the "Get Outdoors Nevada Day" event in Henderson, NV which allowed us to make contact with a producer from Nevada Public Radio (NPR) who was interested in doing a story about the program. Nicole, Janel, and I then went into the studio earlier this month for an interview where we focused on our desert springs monitoring projects. This ended up being a fun but nerve-wracking endeavor that turned out better than expected.

In closing, I would be remiss to not mention the Network Bat Blitz we helped coordinate at PARA this summer that allowed staff from six different parks to get together and learn a bit more about bats and how to survey them. This helped kickstart our plan to also coordinate a pilot monitoring plan at MOJN parks based off of the North American Bat Monitoring Program.

I feel very lucky to be overseeing such a great program and group of people, and I look forward to new adventures in 2018!

Happy Holidays!

- Allen Calvert

Never A Dull Moment: Adventures from the Field



That one time the Hydrology crew's vehicle broke down in the backcountry of DEVA... But don't worry, MOJN office staff were able to get to them within 24 hours and bring them home. And if that wasn't possible, they were prepared to safely spend a few nights out.



That one time the springs were frozen... The crew visited some Desert Springs sites in the Nevada triangle portion of DEVA recently, and wow was it cold! A couple of the springs visited over the last few weeks have been nearly frozen solid!

Outreach Efforts & Special Events

MOJN I&M was thrilled to partake in such a large variety of Interpretation, Education, and Outreach events in 2017. Increased collaboration with MOJN Parks' Interpretation, Education, Social Media and Outreach staff has been a high priority for MOJN I&M Science Communications, and we will continue to seek out these opportunities across the MOJN Network Parks. MOJN I&M would also like to extend its gratitude to park staff who have invited us to such events thus far. If your park has any outreach events you'd like us to be a part of in 2018, please let us know - we would love to be involved!

- Janel Brackin



In partnership with LAKE Interpretation and Education (Sky McClain & Thomas Valencia; not pictured), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Clark County School District, MOJN I&M and LAKE hosted its first teacher workshop at the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Corn Creek Visitor Center in early December. During this workshop, teachers learned about water resource monitoring conducted by the Network, and experienced hands-on activities at 4 stations. Station 1 (left image) was a water quantity and staff gauge session led by Jennifer Bailard. Station 2 (right image) was a water quality and data collection session led by Carissa Wilkerson. Janel Brackin led Station 3 - BMI and Mojave Desert aquatic endemic species, and Thomas Valencia led a spring vegetation session and taught teachers how to use iNaturalist as a citizen science tool for their students.

Coming Soon: New Social Media Accounts!



@mojnnps



@mojavedesertnetwork

To kick off 2018 with a bang, we are launching both our Instagram and YouTube accounts on January 1st! Check these accounts regularly for updates, cool time lapses, and live-action shots of our monitoring, and stunning photos (taken by our field crews) of the Network Parks.

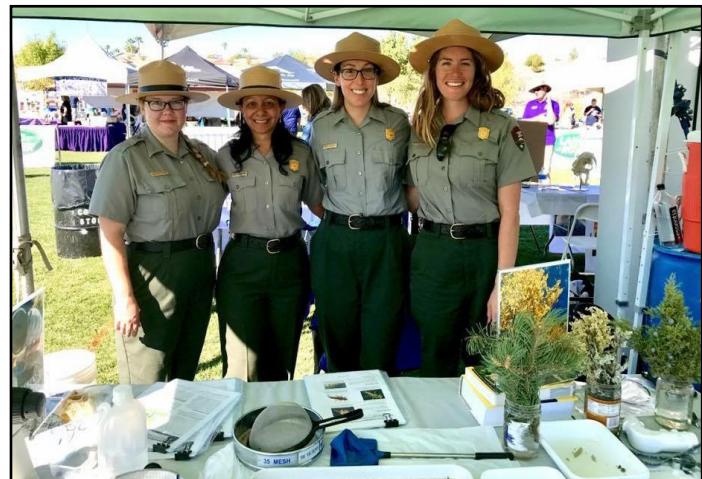
knpr KNPR's State of Nevada

Lake Mead-Based Scientists Track Mojave Desert's 'Vital Signs'

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National Park Service

Screenshot of the companion web article ([linked here](#)) for the interview Allen Calvert (MOJN Program Manager) and Nicole Hupp (MOJN Ecologist) had with the local (Nevada) National Public Radio (KNPR) station. Doug Poppel, the producer of the segment, learned about MOJN I&M's monitoring efforts while speaking with Nicole at Get Outdoors Nevada Day in October.



In collaboration with LAKE, MOJN staff (Nicole Hupp, Jennifer Bailard, and Janel Brackin; pictured here with Lizette Richardson, LAKE Superintendent) attended Get Outdoors Nevada Day, a family-friendly event highlighting Southern Nevada recreational activities, education, and volunteering opportunities in October.



MOJN added a vegetation-related component to our Springsnails tabling activity for Get Outdoors Nevada Day, where kids learned how to ID several native plants using a simplified dichotomous key.

Spring 2018 Monitoring Schedule

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July
Integrated Uplands Vegetation monitoring					PARA <i>(First IU PARA field season)</i>		
Streams & Lakes monitoring							*GRBA <i>(Streams)</i>
Desert Springs monitoring	DEVA JOTR MOJA	DEVA JOTR		PARA			
Selected Large Springs quarterly monitoring	LAKE DEVA	DEVA PARA	JOTR MOJA LAKE			JOTR MOJA LAKE	
Spring Vegetation monitoring		<i>Methods testing continuing in multiple parks throughout Winter and Spring 2018</i>					

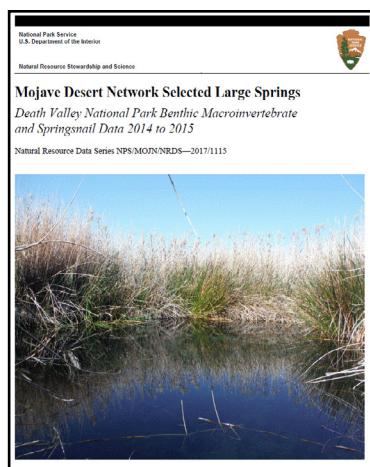
* GRBA staff does biweekly stream monitoring July - September. They also do annual stream sampling in late August - early September.

MOJN hopes to begin Aspen monitoring in PARA during the April-July season.

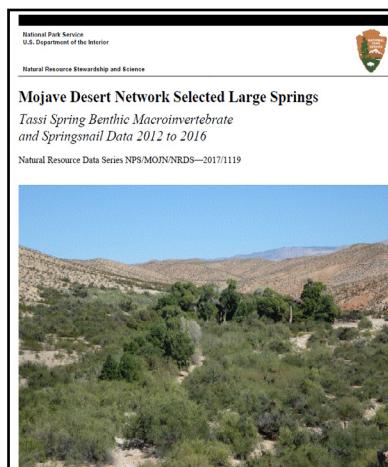
MOJN will be coordinating with Upper Columbia Basin Network (UCBN) to plan Pine monitoring implementation in 2018.

Recent Publications

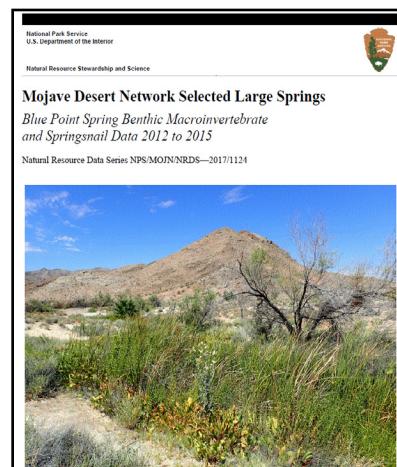
For the most up-to-date information about MOJN I&M efforts and all the latest publications and products, visit [our homepage](#) and scroll to the bottom under the "Featured Information" section.



[Click here to read the Selected Large Springs 2014-2015 Benthic Macroinvertebrate and Springsnail Data Report for Death Valley National Park](#)



[The 2012 - 2016 Selected Large Springs Benthic Macroinvertebrate and Springsnail Data Report for Tassi Spring in Parashant is now published! Click here to read.](#)



[Click here to read the 2012 - 2015 Selected Large Springs Benthic Macroinvertebrate and Springsnail Data Report for Blue Point Spring in Lake Mead.](#)

Staffing Changes

Hail...

Pierre Tsosie

Pierre is a Bureau of Indian Affairs intern who began his 6 month internship with MOJN I&M this August. Pierre enjoys architecture and spending time in nature. In his time at MOJN, he has been working most directly with the hydrology crew, joining them in Selected Large Springs and Desert Springs monitoring efforts in LAKE, MOJA, and PARA. He has also assisted the Data Management Team by organizing scanned field data sheets. Pierre will be staying in Las Vegas after his internship and plans to attend a local community college.



... & Farewell



Carolyn Mills

Carolyn completed her GBI position as a botanist this winter. She collected data for our IU protocol in GRBA, assisted pilot data collection for the White Pine protocol in GRBA, tested the Aspen protocol in PARA, tested field methods for the Spring Vegetation protocol in DEVA, and created plant ID materials for a variety of our monitoring plans and protocols. We are happy she is now doing vegetation work in MOJA!

Integrated Uplands Field Season Recap *Sagebrush Steppe monitoring in Great Basin*

MOJN implemented our IU protocol at GRBA this summer, starting in June and wrapping up in September. We installed and measured 21 macroplots, which are now on a 3-year revisit cycle to keep tabs on the health of this particular shrub community. Nearly half the time, the crew was chased off the mountain by the early afternoon due to monsoon thunderstorms - it made for these great photos though!



The Mojave Desert Network Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Program

is one of 32 networks of parks established under the National Park Service I&M Division to implement long-term ecological monitoring across multiple park units that share relatively similar ecological attributes. Data collected through this program will help inform park resource management decisions.

[Click here for MOJN I&M staff contact information.](#)

MOJN I&M monitors natural resources at 9 national park units:

CAMO: [Castle Mountains National Monument](#)

DEVA: [Death Valley National Park](#)

GRBA: [Great Basin National Park](#)

JOTR: [Joshua Tree National Park](#)

LAKE: [Lake Mead National Recreation Area](#)

MANZ: [Manzanar National Historic Site](#)

MOJA: [Mojave National Preserve](#)

PARA: [Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument](#)

TUSK: [Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument](#)

(Click on the [hyperlinks](#) to learn more about each park)

The Oasis newsletter is published twice a year for Mojave Desert Network park staff and anyone else interested in resource management in the Mojave Desert Network parks.

