

**Joshua Tree National Monument
Twentynine Palms, California**

A 26

June 1, 1963

Memorandum

To: The Director
From: Superintendent, Joshua Tree
Subject: Annual Report - NPS(PI)-3

**Attached are subjects covering the most important items for 1963
Fiscal Year in Joshua Tree National Monument.**

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SGD/WM, R. SUPERNAUGH
Wm. R. Supernaugh
Superintendent

**cc:
Western Region (2)**

LANDS

There has been only small change in the land status in Joshua Tree with purchase of only a few small tracts; however, the situation looks brighter than it has for some time. With the Bureau of Land Management now cooperative in exchanges, a Realty Specialist was added to the staff to assist in exchanges. One exchange for 40 acres has been approved, with others amounting to approximately 1200 acres nearly ready to start final work.

Deaths in the Whitley and Keys families have placed both these critical inholdings on the market. This may be serious unless some means of purchase is found.

PROTECTION

This year presented some major situations in vandalism. The battery charging equipment for the radio relay station was stolen; then, after being replaced the relay equipment was stolen. These were in a locked steel box behind locked gate.

Increased camp use has caused increased overflow of the campgrounds creating the necessity for rangers to be on the alert and protect surrounding area.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Southern California colleges and universities continued to take advantage of the undisturbed desert environment at Joshua Tree to conduct research.

Notably among these is the long-term ecological research being conducted by Long Beach State College for the past three years. Three professors and four graduate students are currently engaged in studies ranging from the ecology of the sidewinder rattlesnake to the food habits of coyotes.

The initiation of a new study on the physical and cultural environment of the Pinto Basin by Bruce Young, Santa Monica City College geology instructor, promises to provide timely background information for this little investigated region of the Monument.

COOPERATING ASSOCIATIONS

The Joshua Tree Natural History Association was incorporated as a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of California in October, 1963, to better serve the needs of Joshua Tree National Monument. 5,000 copies of the Oasis Trail Guide were reprinted by the Association.

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DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

This year saw the completion of our first construction under MISSION 66. The roads and site development were completed in Jumbo Rocks and Cottonwood Springs Campgrounds but cannot be opened due to lack of comfort stations. The water and sewer systems were also completed at Cottonwood Springs and a water pickup station installed by the roadside in Lost Horse Valley.

Bids were open on May 23 for construction of the Visitor Center addition at headquarters, and a small Visitor Center ranger office at Cottonwood Springs. Three residences, a utility building and comfort stations in the two campgrounds are also included.

\$59,000 A.P.W. money was allotted for work in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, and some badly needed projects were completed. New trails were constructed in Hidden Valley and to the summit of Ryan Mountain, and the Lost Palms and 49 Palms Canyon trails were reconstructed and improved. One mile of road was constructed to the start of the 49 Palms Trail. The Utility Area was fenced and a sign program carried on, including the construction of three attractive main entrances.

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VI. RESOURCE STUDIES

A two-year contract with Ralph E. Welles, author of the Bighorn of Death Valley, will result in a study of the Bighorn Sheep within the Monument area. Special emphasis will be placed on obtaining data on its ecological requirements, including an evaluation of water, food and other major factors which may limit its distribution and well-being within the Monument area. Intensive studies will begin with the annual Bighorn census in July, 1964.

Another two-year contract, with the Long Beach State College Foundation, will provide for the continuation of the field studies of Drs. Rainey, Loomis and Sleeper of that institution. These are primarily ecological projects, dealing with such problems as the altitudinal distribution of plants within the Monument, as well as the distribution and population dynamics of the reptiles and mammals.

A number of other natural science projects are being carried on within the Monument, such as the study of the physical and cultural environment of the Pinto Basin, by Bruce Young, a geology instructor at Santa Monica City College. Mr. Roger Hope, of the University of California at Los Angeles, has started an investigation into faulting within the Monument, especially the relationship of these faults to the San Andreas Fault just south of the Monument.

VI. RESOURCE STUDIES (Continued)

A contract with Dr. William Wallace, of Long Beach State College, to conduct archeological investigations within both Death Valley and Joshua Tree has so far failed to yield any results or evidence of work accomplished.

VII. COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

Excellent cooperation was maintained with the Riverside and San Bernardino Sheriffs' Department in law enforcement and search and rescue training sessions, as well as actual searches. Several hours training was given to rangers by the California Highway Patrol on traffic control and investigation.

U. S. Geological Survey mapped the eastern portion of the Monument to correct outdated quadrangle sheets and cover some unmapped areas.