



# Foundation Statement

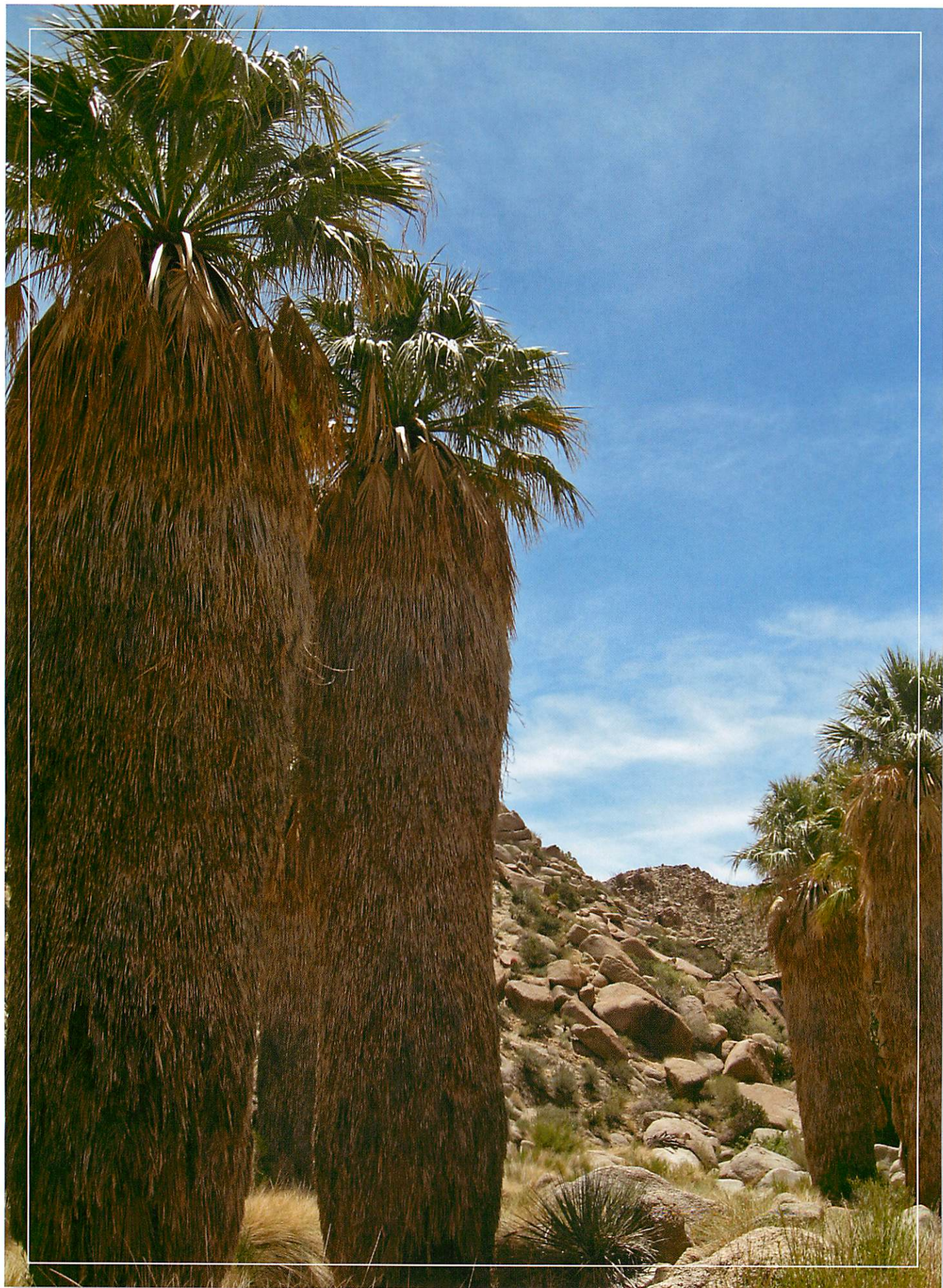
October 2011



## Joshua Tree National Park

California

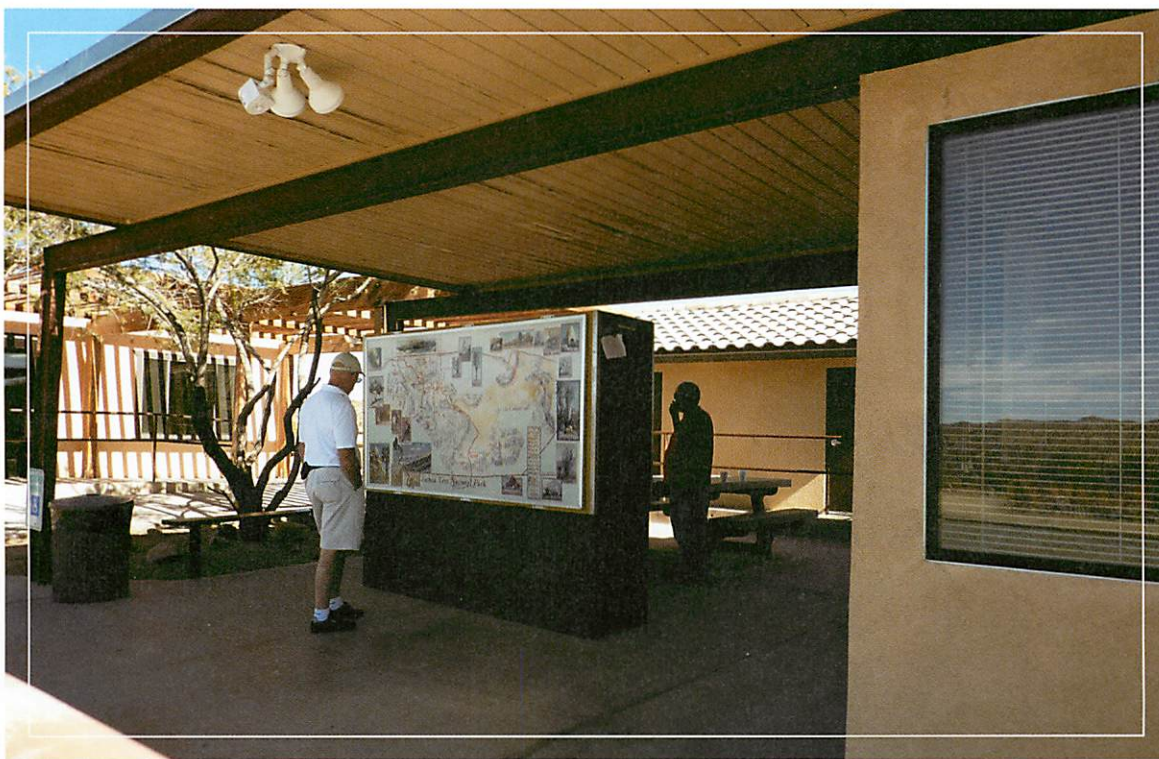




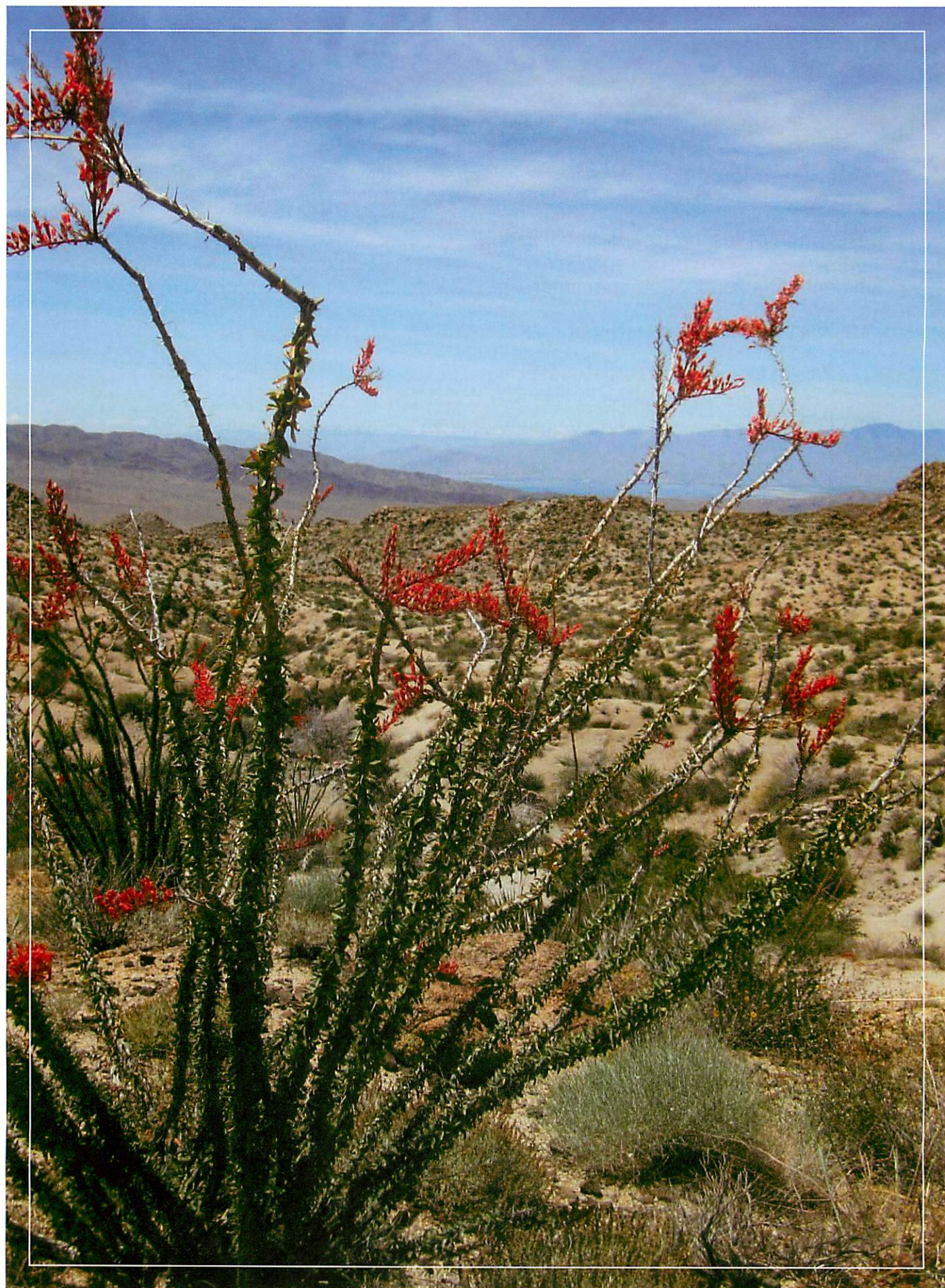


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## Description of Joshua Tree National Park

Joshua Tree National Park lies along the east-west transverse ranges of the Little San Bernardino Mountains in southern California. The southern boundary of the park follows the base of these mountains along the northern edge of the Coachella Valley; the northern boundary is defined by the Morongo Basin. Ecologically, Joshua Tree National Park lies at the convergence of two deserts—two large ecosystems whose characteristics are determined primarily by elevation. Below 3,000 feet, the Colorado Desert encompasses the eastern part of the park and features natural gardens of creosote bush, ocotillo, and cholla cactus. The special habitat of the Joshua tree is found in the higher, more moist, and slightly cooler Mojave Desert. In addition to Joshua tree forests, the western part of the park also includes some of the most interesting geologic displays found in California's deserts. The park includes five fan palm oases, which are the few areas where surface water occurs naturally.

The park lands include a rich and diverse cultural history. Human occupation dates to the early Holocene period, with what is known as Pinto culture; human occupation continues throughout the historical era with tribes known today as Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave and Serrano. In the last quarter of the 19th century, Euroamerican surveyors, cattlemen, miners, and homesteaders began to arrive and, alongside native peoples, created a set of enduring social and cultural legacies for these lands.

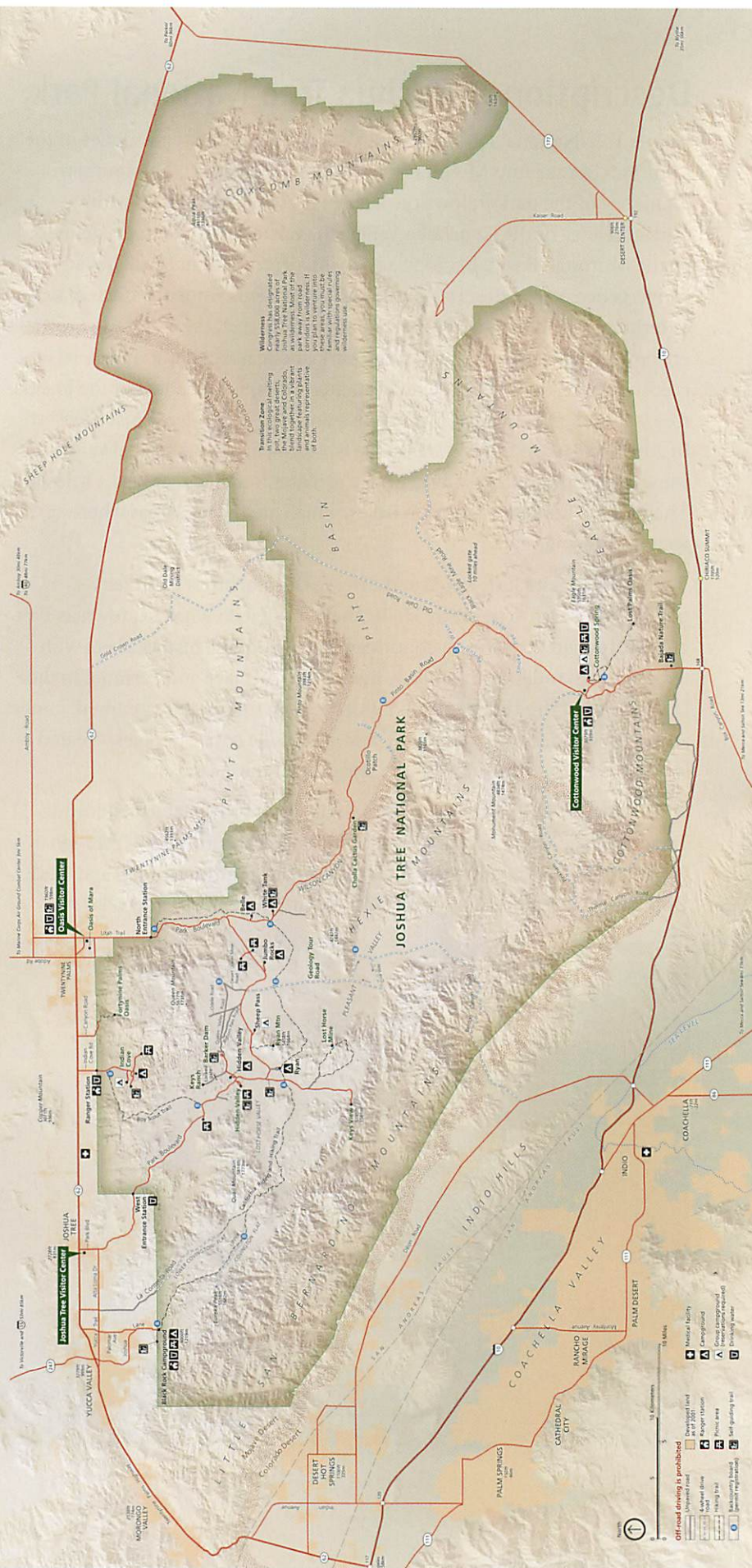
On August 10, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established Joshua Tree National Monument as a unit of the national park system through a Presidential Proclamation. After two boundary changes in 1950 and 1961, Congress designated 429,690 acres of the monument as wilderness and







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37,550 acres as potential wilderness in 1976. Then, in 1984, the monument was designated as part of a biosphere reserve system that included Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Monuments, Anza Borrego Desert State Park, Santa Rosa Mountains Wildlife Management Area, and Deep Canyon Research Center. In 1994, the California Desert Protection Act added 234,000 acres (including 163,000 acres of new wilderness) to the park, and redesignated the area as Joshua Tree National Park.

The park boundary currently contains 772,676 acres in federal ownership and 19,834 acres of nonfederal lands. Of these lands, 595,370 acres are designated as wilderness and 70,557 acres of potential wilderness. The park lies within both San Bernardino and Riverside counties approximately 100 miles from the Los Angeles metropolitan area—more than 18 million people live within a three-hour drive of the park. The natural desert expanse of the park provides ideal conditions for campers, photographers, stargazers, naturalists, as well as anyone seeking space for quiet introspection, exploration, or outdoor learning. In addition, the extensive granite rock outcrops, boulder piles, desert mountain ranges, and canyons create a world-class destination for rock climbers, as well as hundreds of miles of scenic trails for hikers and equestrians.

Given the park's location along a transition line between two desert ecosystems, the park is home to a fascinating diversity of desert plants and animals. More than 900 species of flowering plants have been identified, with the most distinctive being the ocotillo, the cholla, and the Joshua tree. The park also preserves more native palm oases than any other unit in the national park system. These oases support vegetation and wildlife distinct from other species found in the park. The park contains highly diverse fauna. More than 250 species of birds have been recorded at Joshua Tree National Park, as have many unique species of reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and invertebrates. Some examples include the desert tortoise, the California treefrog, the desert bighorn sheep, and a species of tarantula that is found only in the Joshua tree plant community.

Joshua Tree National Park protects numerous archeological sites associated with the Pinto Culture, one of the earliest prehistoric cultures found in the California desert (7,000-10,000 years old). The park preserves sites and materials associated with at least four overlapping ethnographic Native cultures—the Cahuilla, Serrano, Chemehuevi, and Mojave Indians. Other historic sites preserve information on the history of the processing of gold ore, cattle ranching, rustling, and homesteading of the southwestern deserts.





## Elements of a Foundation Statement

### What is a Foundation Statement?

Each unit of the national park system needs a formal statement of the park's core purpose to provide a basis for all decisions to be made about a park—a foundation for planning and management. The foundation statement records the shared understanding of the park's purpose, significance, resources and values, primary interpretive themes, special mandates, and the legal and policy requirements related to the management of the park.

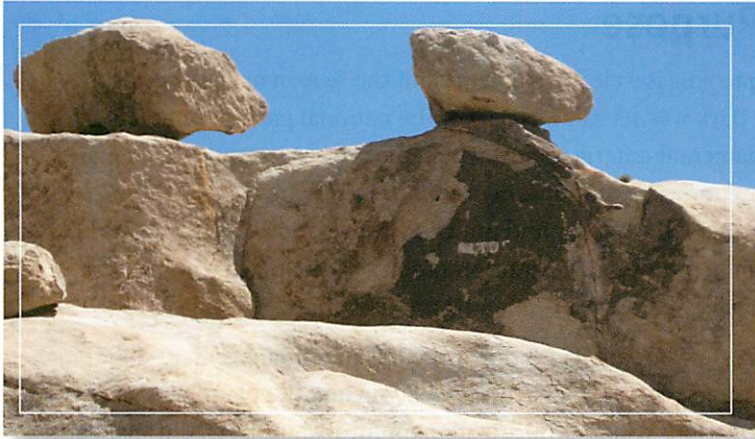
The foundation for planning and management is generally developed (or revised) early in the park planning process. Partner and public involvement as well as scholarly analysis are incorporated into the development of a foundation statement.

The primary advantage of developing and adopting a foundation statement is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate different levels of planning and decision making from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of preparing a foundation statement helps park managers, staff, and stakeholders in understanding what is most important about the park and in identifying the additional information needed to plan for the future.

The foundation statement can be used in all aspects of park management to ensure that the most important objectives are accomplished before addressing other items that are also important but not directly critical to achieving the park purpose and maintaining its significance.







### What is included in a Foundation Statement?

The foundation statement has the following elements:

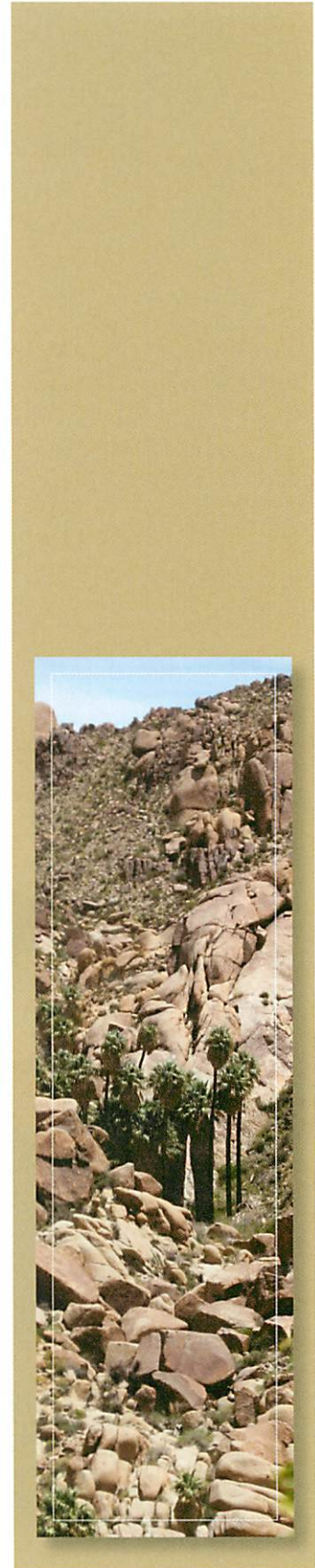
**PARK PURPOSE** is the specific reason(s) for establishing a particular park. Statements of the park's purpose are grounded in a thorough analysis of the park's legislation (or executive order) and legislative history, including studies prior to authorization go beyond a restatement of the law to document shared assumptions about what the law means in terms specific to the park.

**PARK SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS** express why the park's resources and values are important enough to warrant national park designation. Statements of the park's significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and system-wide context are directly linked to the purpose of the park are substantiated by data or consensus reflect the most current scientific or scholarly inquiry and cultural perceptions, which may have changed since the park's establishment.

**PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES** connect park resources to relevant ideas, meanings, concepts, contexts, beliefs, and values. They support the desired interpretive outcome of increasing visitor understanding and appreciation of the significances of the park's resources. Primary interpretive themes are based upon park purpose and significance.

**SPECIAL MANDATES** are legal requirements and administrative commitment that apply to a specific unit of the national park system. They are mandated by Congress or by signed agreements with other entities. They are specific to the park, and are not an inventory of all the laws applicable to the national park system.

**FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES** are the most important ideas or concepts to be communicated to the public about a park and warrant primary consideration during planning and management because they are critical to achieving the park's purpose and maintaining its significance. They may include systems, processes, features, visitor experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells or other resources and values.





## Park Purpose

The *park purpose* is a clear statement(s) of the reason or reasons for which the park was set aside as part of the national park system. It is the most fundamental criteria against which the appropriateness of all plan recommendations, operational decisions, and actions are tested. The purpose is derived from law and policy. However, developing the park purpose often requires some interpretation of the language in the park's establishing legislation or presidential proclamation.

Based on review of park legislation, previous park management documents, and discussions with park staff, and public review, the planning team generated the following purpose statement for Joshua Tree National Park:

*Joshua Tree National Park preserves and protects the scenic, natural, and cultural resources representative of the Colorado and Mojave deserts' rich biological and geological diversity, cultural history, wilderness, recreational values, and outstanding opportunities for education and scientific study.*





## Park Significance

Statements of significance clearly define what is most important about park resources and values and are based on the park's purpose(s) and what attributes make the park's resources and values important enough for the president(s) to establish this unit of the national park system. Joshua Tree National Park contains many significant resources, but not all the resources contribute to the park's significance. The significance statements are used to guide management decisions and planning alternatives, interpretive themes, desired conditions, in addition to setting priorities.

### SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

- *describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and system-wide context*
- *are directly linked to the purpose of the park*
- *are substantiated by data or consensus*
- *reflect the most current scientific or scholarly inquiry and cultural perceptions, which may have changed since the park's establishment*

The following significance statements were developed Joshua Tree National Park and these statements take into account park legislation and previous management and resource plans:

**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 1:** Joshua Tree National Park preserves a world-renowned, undisturbed population of Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*), an integral component of the Mojave Desert ecosystem.

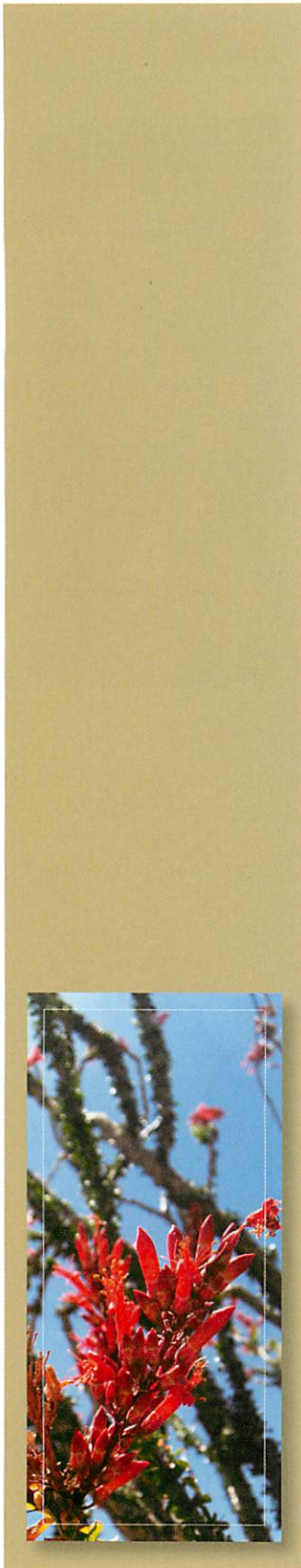
**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 2:** Outstanding examples of Mojave and Colorado Desert landscapes that converge at Joshua Tree National Park create a biologically rich system of plant and animal life characterized by iconic Joshua tree woodlands, native palm oases, and vast expanses of creosote scrub that are uniquely adapted to desert conditions. The park also contributes significantly to the connectivity of open lands and large protected areas across the California desert.

**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 3:** Joshua Tree National Park provides accessible and diverse opportunities in a remote desert to large and burgeoning urban populations.

**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 4:** Joshua Tree National Park preserves a rich array of prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources that demonstrate the integral connection between desert ecosystems, land use, and human cultures.





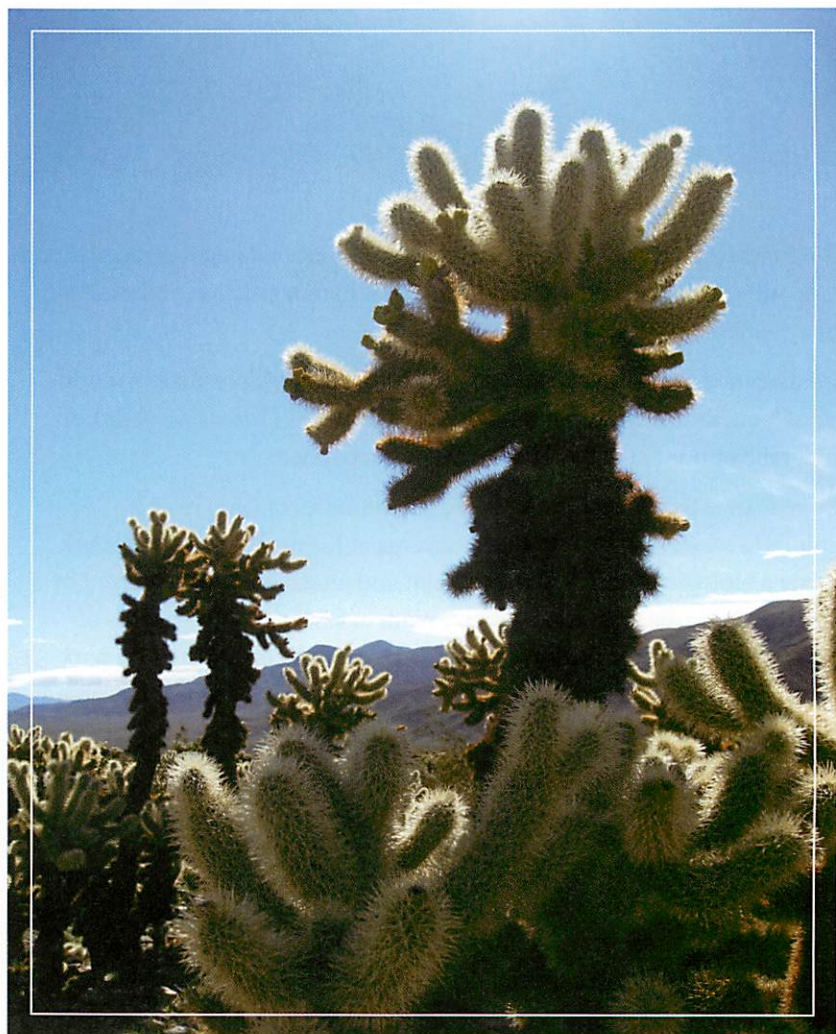


**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 5:** Joshua Tree National Park lies along of one of the world's most active earthquake faults, the San Andreas Fault. Geologic processes, including tectonic activity, have played and continue to play a major role in shaping the mountains, valleys, and basins of the park.

**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 6:** Joshua Tree National Park offers unparalleled opportunities for research of arid land ecosystems and processes, adaptations of and to desert life, sustainability, and indications of climate change. The proximity of the park to urban regions of Southern California and Nevada enhances its value for scientific research and education.

**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 7:** Huge, eroded monzogranite boulder formations are world-renowned natural features that provide unique aesthetic, educational, and recreational opportunities for Joshua Tree National Park visitors.

**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 8:** Geologic, climatic, and ecological processes create scenic landscapes unique to deserts and fundamental to the character of Joshua Tree National Park.





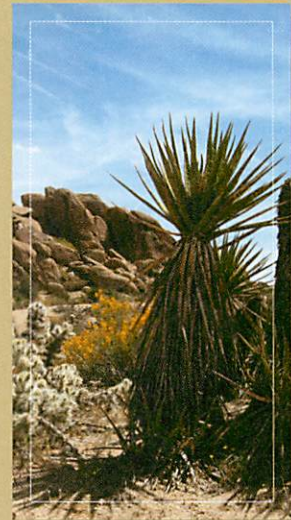
## Primary Interpretive Themes

Primary interpretive themes describe what needs to be interpreted to provide people with opportunities to understand and appreciate the park purpose and significance. Identification of primary themes is part of a park's basic foundation statement. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park significance. Additional perspectives may be obtained from the identification and analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values. It is anticipated that the primary interpretive themes may be revised through development of the park's future comprehensive interpretation plan. The following primary interpretive themes have been developed for Joshua Tree National Park:

**PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME 1:** Joshua Tree National Park encompasses two desert ecosystems within its boundaries; the higher, cooler Mojave Desert in the northwestern portion of the park merges with the Colorado Desert, a region of the lower, warmer Sonora Desert, creating an unusual ecological transition zone rich in desert biodiversity.

**PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME 2:** The Joshua tree, with its iconic shape and adaptations, is a perfect species to help us understand the interdependence of organisms living in the desert; it is an important symbol and indicator species of the Mojave Desert. Other desert plants and animals, such as the desert tortoise, creosote bush, and kangaroo rat, demonstrate creative solutions to the problems of desert survival.

**PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME 3:** The park area has been occupied since the early Holocene period by Native American groups. Habitation and ceremonial sites, petroglyphs, and bedrock mortars remind us that human cultures can adapt successfully to life in a desert environment.

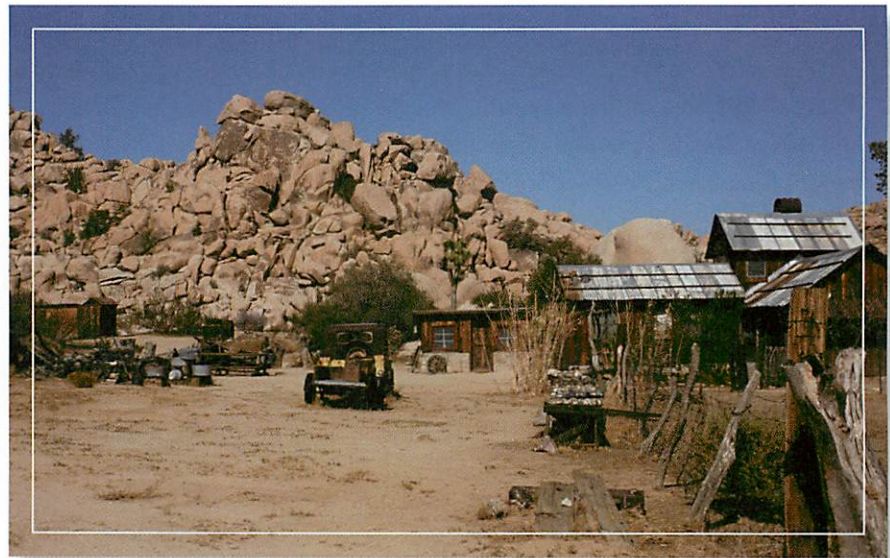






**PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME 4:** Historic properties from the late 1800s through the 1960s offer evidence for the era of prospectors, miners, cattle ranchers, and homesteaders. These popular visitor destinations help depict the challenges of rural life in an arid environment. The industry and resourcefulness of desert homesteaders, such as the William F. Keys family, in this challenging desert environment provide a compelling view of the desert's past.

**PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME 5:** Mountain ranges, desert basins, and massive rock outcrops were created by dynamic processes such as plate tectonics, volcanism, earthquakes, and erosion.



**PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME 6:** Current human activity creates external and internal forces that influence Joshua Tree and present continuing challenges for balancing public use with resource preservation.

**PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME 7:** Approximately 595,000 acres of designated wilderness make Joshua Tree one of the largest wilderness areas in southern California. The wilderness experience is characterized by both physical and intangible qualities such as solitude, freedom, isolation, refuge, and connection with nature. These qualities provide contrast to an increasingly urbanized regional landscape and emphasize the park's value.

**PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME 8:** Joshua Tree's diverse desert landscapes provide internationally significant outdoor recreation opportunities to more than 1.3 million annual visitors.

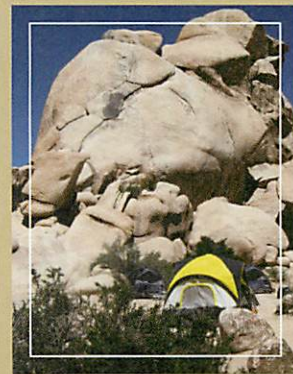
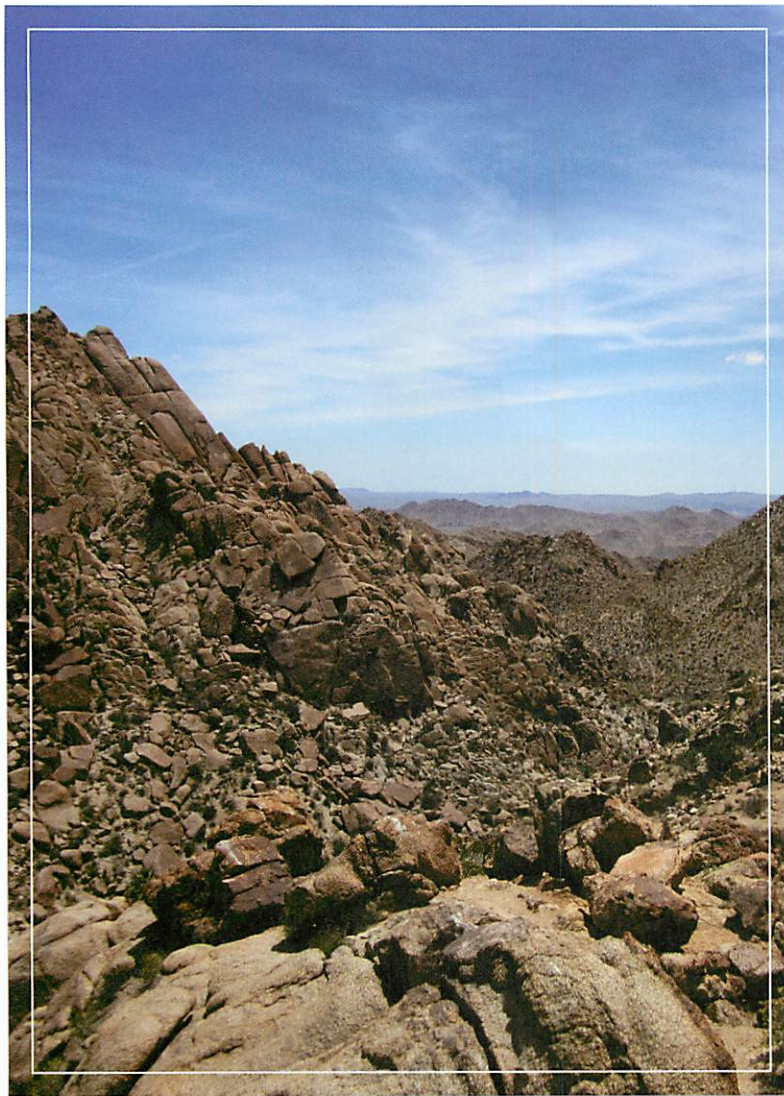
**PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME 9:** Extensive granite rock outcrops, boulder piles, desert mountain ranges and canyons create a world-class destination for rock climbers as well as hundreds of miles of scenic trails for hikers and equestrians.



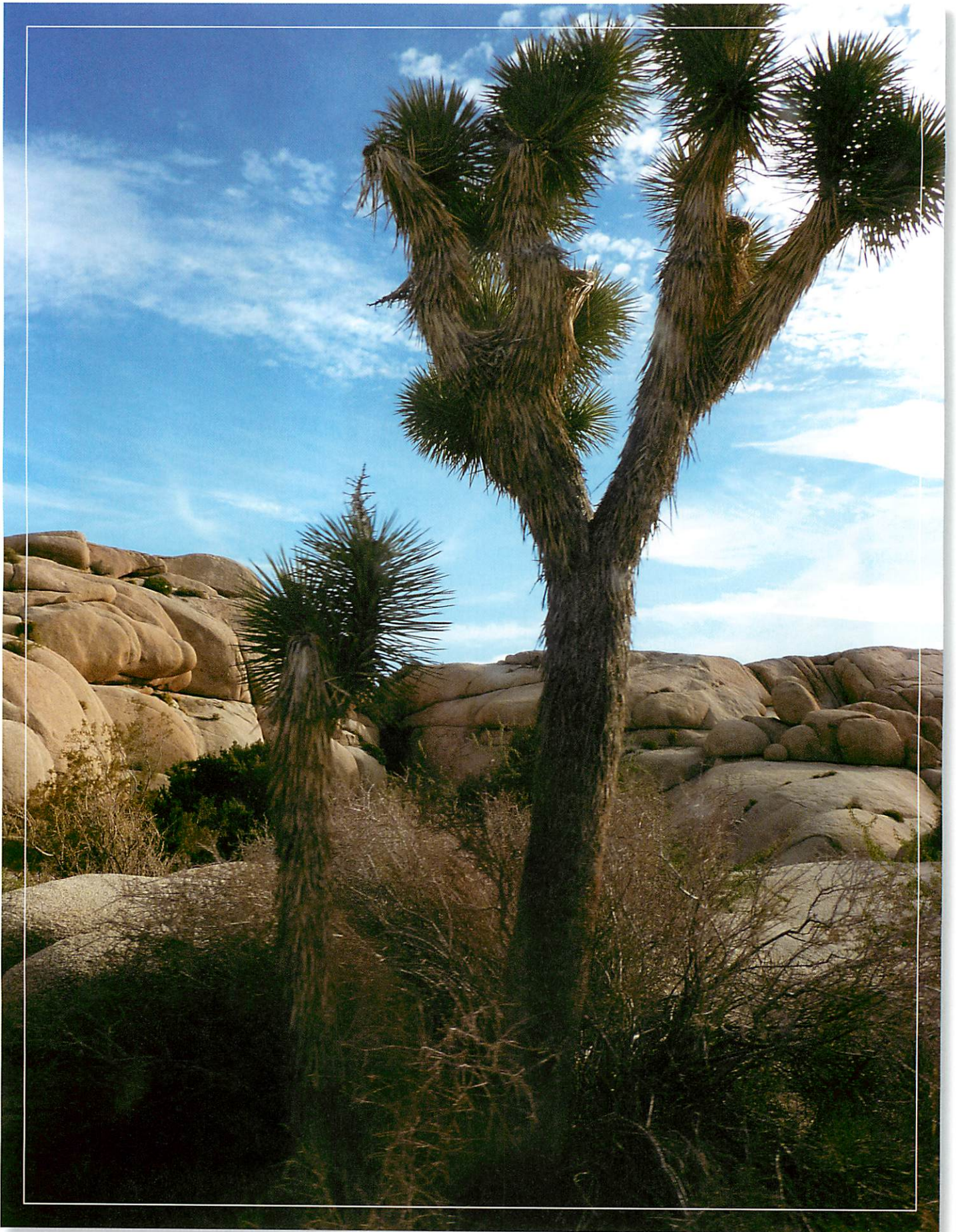
**PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME 10:** The natural setting provides ideal conditions for campers, photographers, star gazers, and explorers. The desert offers many lessons for those interested in outdoor learning and nature exploration.

**PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME 11:** The park provides opportunities for quiet introspection, reflection, cleansing, nurturing, and emotional healing. The ruggedness of the Joshua Tree landscape offers opportunities for physical exertion and the promotion of physical fitness and general well-being.

**PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME 12:** The story of the park illustrates the ongoing struggle between forces reflecting different visions for the management of desert landscapes.









## Fundamental Resources and Values

The preeminent responsibility of park managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities (features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, etc.) that are critical (fundamental) to achieving the *park's purpose* and maintaining its *significance*. These qualities are called the park's *fundamental resources and values*. Parks may also have other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the park's purpose and significance but are nevertheless determined to be particularly important considerations for general management planning. These are referred to as *other important resources and values*.



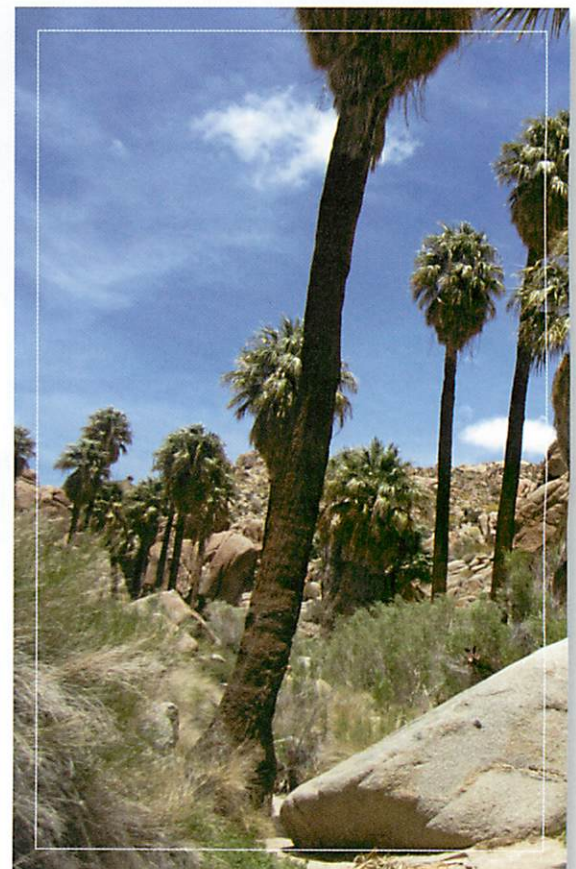
The identification of fundamental and other important resources and values should not be interpreted as meaning that some park resources are not important. This exercise is primarily done to separate those resources or values that are covered by the service-wide mandates and policies, from those that have important considerations to be addressed in the GMP. In addition current conditions and trends and current and potential threats were identified for each fundamental resource or value.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Joshua Tree National Park and are listed with their related significance statement, the current conditions and trends, and current and potential threats.



**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 1:** Joshua Tree National Park preserves a world-renowned, undisturbed population of Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia brevifolia*), an integral component of the Mojave Desert ecosystem.

| Fundamental Resources and Values | Current Conditions and Trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Current and Potential Threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Joshua trees                     | <p>Adult populations of Joshua trees are stable.</p> <p>Knowledge of community structure, distribution, etc. is incomplete and trends are unknown.</p> <p>The Joshua tree is one of a multitude of plant species in the park that has an important role in the desert ecosystem. However, in the public eye, the Joshua tree is an iconic feature of the park and is also symbolic of a healthy desert ecosystem.</p> | <p>Climate change</p> <p>Fire</p> <p>Limited seed distribution. The seed distribution for Joshua trees was previously attributed to a large ground sloth, which is now long extinct. Small mammals now serve as the primary seed distributors for the trees, but do not travel as far as the sloth had. It is uncertain whether this more limited seed distribution would allow the tree to "move" fast enough to keep up with changing climatic conditions.</p> <p>Joshua trees are a slow-growing species. Therefore, threats may outpace research and understanding of the species.</p> <p>Threats may result in an isolated "island effect" for the species.</p> |





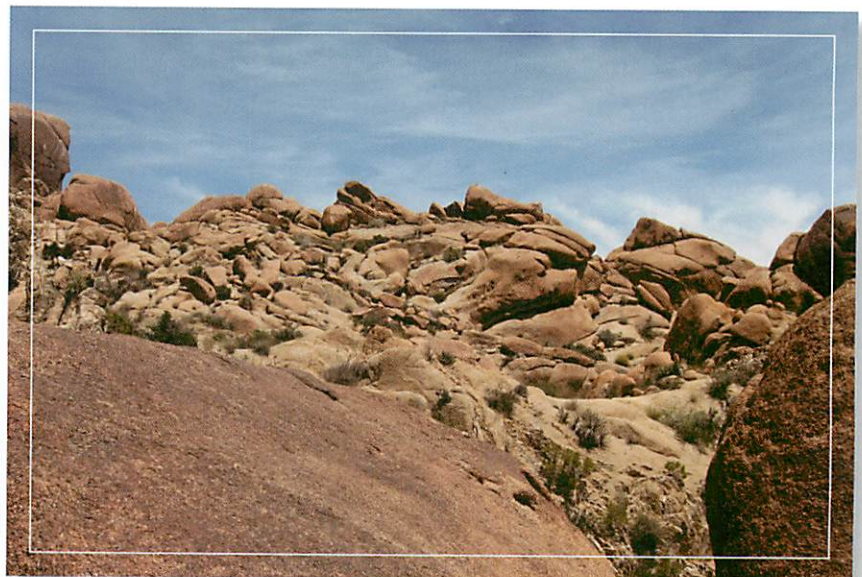
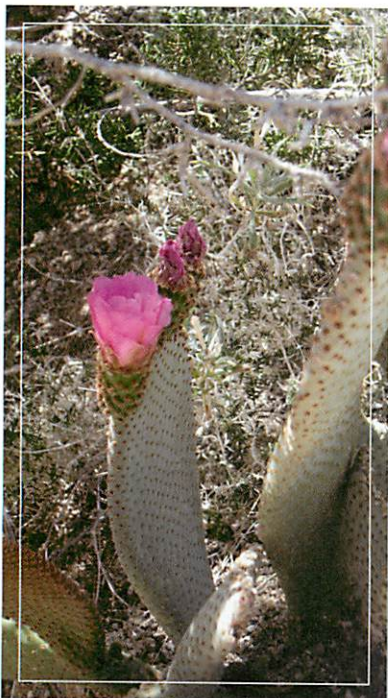
**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 2:** Outstanding examples of Mojave and Colorado Desert landscapes that converge at Joshua Tree National Park create a biologically rich system of plant and animal life characterized by iconic Joshua tree woodlands, native palm oases, and vast expanses of creosote scrub that are uniquely adapted to desert conditions. The park also contributes significantly to the connectivity of large protected areas across the California Desert.

| Fundamental Resources and Values | Current Conditions and Trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Current and Potential Threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oases and other Riparian Areas   | <p>Ecologically critical areas are threatened.</p> <p>Some oases are unspoiled and well-protected.</p> <p>Water impoundment safety is questionable (if impoundments fail, riparian areas both downstream and upstream are impacted).</p> <p>Water sources are variable.</p> <p>Groundwater table has been lowered in multiple areas.</p> <p>Oasis of Mara is likely being affected by both natural and unnatural factors. Unnatural attributes include a lowered groundwater table from adjacent water uses/drawdown and supplemental watering to sustain the oasis (by NPS and adjacent landowners). Natural attributes could include hydrogeologic changes associated with the shifting fault line that could block/reduce spring flows.</p> <p>Knowledge of local and regional groundwater hydrology is incomplete. Specific causes of lowering groundwater tables are not entirely known.</p> <p>Management of oases (especially fire management) is variable.</p> | <p>Groundwater aquifers are threatened by drawdown by adjacent domestic/urban water use and possibly from previous geological events (e.g., earthquakes).</p> <p>Inefficient urban/domestic water use adjacent to park. Several communities around park are not maximizing water conservation potential (in both supply systems and demand).</p> <p>Continued urban growth and associated increased water demands will compound matters.</p> <p>Lack of accurate baseline data and understanding of hydrogeology limits the park's ability to manage for surface and groundwater protection.</p> <p>High visitor use and impacts at Cottonwood oasis and others</p> <p>Water quality and quantity are at risk due to urban and agricultural diversions.</p> <p>Invasive species (plants)</p> |
| Habitat for the desert tortoise  | <p>Populations have dramatically declined, but have somewhat stabilized in recent years at very low numbers.</p> <p>The Mojave desert portions of Joshua Tree National Park provide roughly 266,000 acres of high-quality tortoise habitat.</p> <p>Habitat is stable within the park, but habitat is degrading outside the park.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Urban growth (habitat loss and fragmentation)</p> <p>Ravens (often correlated with urban growth) and other predators</p> <p>Upper Respiratory Tract Disease (URTD)</p> <p>Alternative energy development is resulting in habitat loss and fragmentation</p> <p>Fire threat includes increased fire intensities, sizes, and frequencies from exotic plant infestations.</p> <p>Invasive species</p> <p>Increasing vehicle traffic</p> <p>Poaching</p> <p>Climate change</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |



**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 2: (Continued)**

| Fundamental Resources and Values                    | Current Conditions and Trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Current and Potential Threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Interconnectivity of California desert lands        | <p>Certain areas of public land connectivity are already compromised by transportation corridors and urban developments.</p> <p>Collaboration on north boundary of park is acceptable, collaboration with south boundary communities could be improved.</p> <p>Most municipalities have master planning and zoning policies but limited implementation and enforcement.</p> <p>Future possible addition of two national monuments could strengthen interconnectivity.</p> | <p>Urban sprawl and transportation corridors</p> <p>Lack of comprehensive master planning and zoning implementation and enforcement in and between local communities</p> <p>Climate change may affect landscapes and natural resource populations.</p> <p>Production and development of alternative energy</p>                                                                                   |
| Biological diversity and healthy ecosystem function | <p>Biological diversity is generally high, but varies from site to site. Stability of the diversity levels is unknown.</p> <p>Intact ecosystems exist in many areas due to relatively large, unfragmented landscape.</p> <p>There is a lack of scientific information and knowledge.</p> <p>Remote sites are not regularly monitored.</p>                                                                                                                                 | <p>Climate change</p> <p>Invasive species</p> <p>Fire</p> <p>Development of social trails</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation from park development and visitation</p> <p>ORVs</p> <p>Poaching</p> <p>Impacts on water quality from visitors</p> <p>Urban growth and encroachment (edge and island effects)</p> <p>Visitation is expected to increase</p> <p>Human disturbances in wilderness areas</p> |





**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 3:** Joshua Tree National Park provides accessible and diverse opportunities in a remote desert wildland to large and burgeoning urban populations.

| Fundamental Resources and Values               | Current Conditions and Trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Current and Potential Threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wilderness values and wilderness accessibility | <p>Given the large amount of wilderness area in the park, ample opportunities exist for visitors to enjoy the solitude and untrammelled landscape that are characteristic of a high quality wilderness experience. However, during periods of high visitation or in areas radiating from popular wilderness access points, some wilderness values are diminished (e.g., social trail development, encounters with other visitors).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Dumping along wilderness perimeters</p> <p>Increased visitor use in wilderness, reducing opportunities for solitude</p> <p>Adjacent solar and wind power development</p> <p>Adjacent groundwater/ hydroelectric projects, and other similar large-scale geologic and hydrologic alterations</p>               |
| Recreational opportunities and values          | <p>Graffiti</p> <p>Fires – bonfires and campground fires</p> <p>Camping – Seasonal crowding, generally campground design not adequate for today's camping equipment or visitors. Questionable campsite inventory versus visitor expectation (climbing parties versus serene or family camping opportunities – very different expectations and desires). Difficulty managing/permitting camping (e.g. reservation system may need improvement).</p> <p>Campsite capacity averages 80% full during peak 5 months of the year.</p> <p>Hiking- Social trails forming or expanding in several high use areas. Visitors become confused as to where trails go or which ones to use, resulting in further proliferation of social trails.</p> <p>Passive uses, such as photography, night sky observing, and wildlife and nature appreciation, are being impacted by a large variety of sources (e.g. graffiti, overcrowding, external threats, etc.)</p> <p>Climbing – There is heavy use and expectations for access. Unbalanced management focus toward climbing activities. Management of routing and bolting could be improved. Climbing access areas are in need of improved signage and fencing to better direct climbers. While not a large user group (in number), climbers spend a large amount of time in the front and back country with large amounts of gear, and thus have some of the most notable impacts on natural and cultural resources.</p> <p>Picnicking – There are changing demands based on changing visitor demographics</p> <p>Parking areas are crowded.</p> <p>Road biking – Unsafe and inadequate road biking conditions exist due to road design (narrow shoulders), road surface quality (deteriorated pavement), and road signage (driver and biker education)</p> <p>Mountain biking – Mountain bikers express concern regarding lack of singletrack mountain biking trails and very limited overall mountain biking opportunities.</p> <p>Equestrian – Staging facilities are adequate, but equestrians feel trail opportunities are limited. Expansion of equestrian trails could have notable effects on natural resources.</p> | <p>Graffiti</p> <p>Biking conditions unsafe</p> <p>Overcrowding</p> <p>Vandalism</p> <p>Trash</p> <p>Noise</p> <p>Illegal campfires</p> <p>Light / air pollution</p> <p>Social trails and degradation of resources in the proximity of climbing areas.</p> <p>Spread of exotic species via animal excrement.</p> |



## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 3: (Continued)

| Fundamental Resources and Values | Current Conditions and Trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Current and Potential Threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Night sky                        | <p>The night sky is impacted in most areas of the park, except for the eastern portion of the park.</p> <p>There is a “floating baseline” regarding the night sky. Baseline data is being currently being collected and will be used to establish trends related to development around the park and areas for improvement (e.g., working with developers, lighting suppliers, and local governments).</p> <p>Declining quality of night sky experience is resulting from urban development, both near and far. Without active efforts to mitigate the threats (urban development lighting), the trend of declining quality will likely continue.</p> <p>Park staff are currently working with San Bernardino County on promoting light pollution mitigation.</p> | <p>Growing urban centers and commercial activities around the park contribute to poor conditions</p> <p>Local governments do not have effective lighting ordinances; there is also an unwillingness of local governments south of the park to enact light pollution mitigation policies.</p> <p>Where ordinances exist, there is a lack of enforcement</p> <p>Large-scale urban growth in distant areas (e.g. Las Vegas) affect the night sky.</p> |
| Clean and breathable air         | <p>Ozone levels are in nonattainment status and are not improving. Although levels have been relatively stable in recent years, they can be expected to rise as development adjacent to the park continues to expand.</p> <p>Dust (both natural and resulting from land use change). The park is in nonattainment status for fine particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5). Particulate levels can be expected to increase as the result of anticipated Salton Sea water loss.</p> <p>Photochemical smog (brown haze) effects on visibility are considerable. Levels have been relatively stable in recent years, but can be expected to rise as urban encroachment continues.</p>                                                                                    | <p>Development adjacent to the park is expected to affect ozone levels.</p> <p>Dust (both natural and resulting from land use change) is expected to increase.</p> <p>Urban encroachment is expected to continue, increasing photochemical smog (brown haze)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Natural quiet (Soundscape)       | <p>Natural quiet is altered under current conditions (as a result of surrounding land uses, aircraft, etc.). The trend may worsen as adjacent development continues.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Military activities (overflights, bombing)</p> <p>Commercial aircraft</p> <p>Construction activities for proposed energy developments near the eastern portions of the park</p> <p>Internal effects: Generators in campground, motorcycles, camping activities, noisy school groups, climbing noises (shouting)</p>                                                                                                                             |



**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 4:** Joshua Tree National Park preserves a rich array of prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources that demonstrate the integral connection between deserts, land use, and human cultures.

| Fundamental Resources and Values                                                                                                             | Current Conditions and Trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Current and Potential Threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Prehistoric sites and ethnographic resources relating to American Indian inhabitants, including the type site for Early Pinto culture</p> | <p>Frontcountry sites are showing increased negative impacts from visitation. Retroactive site treatment and interpretation of heavily disturbed sites are proving to be somewhat effective.</p> <p>Backcountry sites tend to be more stable than those in the frontcountry because of remoteness and inaccessibility. However, these same factors inhibit archaeological condition assessment and site protection.</p> <p>Surveys are ongoing in an effort to increase the archaeological knowledge base and expand site inventory (currently 4% of the park has been surveyed). Numerous reported sites are still in need of official site recording and documentation (over 3,000 reported isolates).</p> <p>There is a heavy reliance on volunteers to conduct site monitoring and stewardship activities.</p> <p>Oral history program is actively gathering interviews on a variety of topics, but is still incomplete. There is a need to complete more, particularly with tribal elders.</p> <p>Park staff is currently working with tribes on two potential Traditional Cultural Properties: Oasis of Mara and Queen Mountain.</p> <p>There is insufficient staffing to cope with the task of maintaining recorded sites, recording new sites, conducting area surveys, accessioning and processing artifacts, and completing compliance documentation.</p> <p>Several ethnographic projects have been funded, but internal limits (travel ceiling) are limiting collection of oral histories and related archival research.</p> | <p>Vandalism</p> <p>ORVs</p> <p>Development of social trails and the associated direct and indirect site deterioration</p> <p>Urban encroachment and pollution</p> <p>Expansion of park operations and facilities</p> <p>Monetary value of artifacts and commercial looting</p> <p>Advertising of archeological sites via the internet, guidebooks, and word of mouth</p> <p>Increased recreation, in terms of both the number of visitors and the areas of the park that are receiving use</p> <p>Increased visitation to the backcountry by individuals and commercial guided groups</p> <p>Wind and water erosion; bioturbation</p> <p>Lack of visitor education (e.g., signs, materials, outreach)</p> <p>Lack of law enforcement availability to patrol the many sites</p> <p>Climbing impacts (e.g., bolts, chalk) on known and unknown sites</p> <p>Potential narrators of oral history are being lost as they die or move</p> <p>Lack of park employee education and awareness relating to cultural resources and concerns</p> <p>Lack of qualified and specialized staff members to record, assess, maintain, and preserve sites in park</p> <p>Lack of funding</p> <p>Travel restrictions, which limit collection of oral histories</p> <p>Limits of government time tables and differences in tribal business culture</p> |



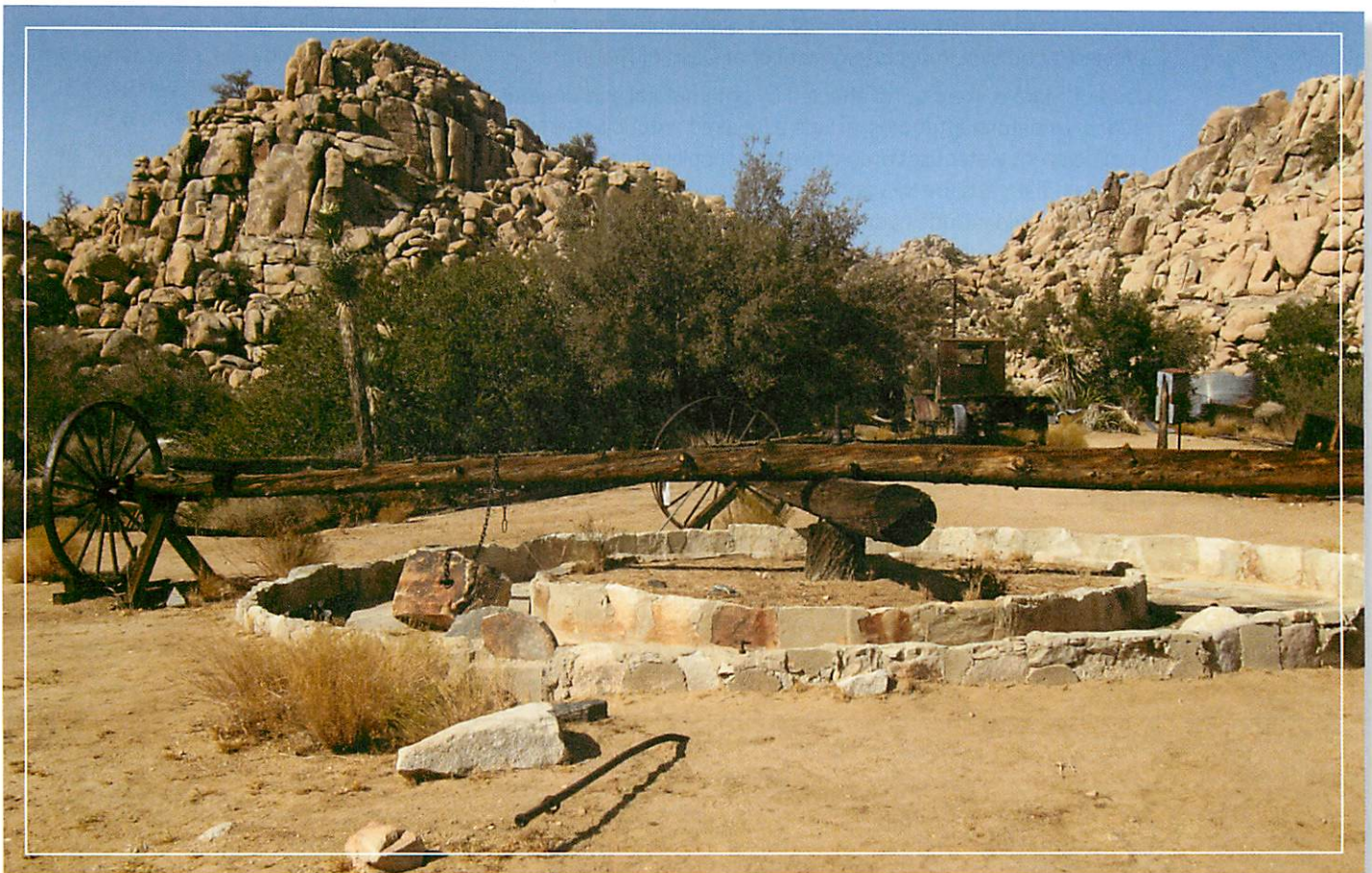
## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 4: (Continued)

| Fundamental Resources and Values                                                    | Current Conditions and Trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Current and Potential Threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Historic and ethnographic resources related to European American inhabitants</p> | <p>Although there is good representation of structures related to ranching and mining, these remain largely neglected leading to deterioration. Sites on the List of Classified Structures are better maintained.</p> <p>Oral history program is still incomplete, in spite of the active gathering of interviews on a variety of topics.</p> <p>Three historic landscapes are present, in fair condition, and are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.</p> <p>Backcountry sites tend to be more stable than those in the front country because of remoteness and inaccessibility. However, these same factors inhibit archaeological condition assessment and site protection.</p> <p>Surveys are ongoing in an effort to increase the archaeological knowledge base and expand site inventory. Currently, only 4% of the park has been surveyed.</p> <p>Historic sites, including roads, artifact scatters, dams, and mines are still in need of official site recording and documentation. Numerous other reported sites are still in need of official site recording and documentation (there are over 3,000 reported isolates).</p> <p>Because of insufficient staffing, there is a heavy reliance on volunteers to conduct site monitoring and stewardship.</p> <p>There is insufficient staffing to cope with the task of maintaining recorded sites, recording new sites, conducting area surveys, accessioning and processing artifacts, and completing compliance documentation.</p> <p>Several ethnographic projects have been funded, but internal limits (travel ceiling) are limiting collection of oral histories and related archival research.</p> | <p>Weathering, bioturbation</p> <p>Wildfires and the methods used to contain them</p> <p>Urban encroachment and pollution</p> <p>Expansion of park operations and facilities</p> <p>ORVs</p> <p>Vandalism and theft</p> <p>Monetary value of artifacts and commercial looting</p> <p>Ineffective fences, gates, and closures of structures and areas (e.g., Lost Horse Mine, Wall Street Mill, Keys Ranch)</p> <p>Advertising of archaeological sites via the internet, guidebooks, and word of mouth</p> <p>Increased visitor use and the resulting inadvertent damage</p> <p>Increased recreation, in terms of both number of visitors and the areas of the park receiving use</p> <p>Development of social trails and the associated direct and indirect site deterioration</p> <p>Lack of visitor education (e.g., signs, materials, outreach)</p> <p>Lack of law enforcement availability to patrol the many sites</p> <p>Lack of park employee education and awareness relating to cultural resources and concerns</p> <p>Lack of qualified and specialized staff members to record, assess, maintain, and preserve sites and structures in the park</p> <p>Lack of funding</p> <p>Travel restrictions, which limit collection of oral histories</p> <p>Potential narrators of oral history are being lost as they die or move</p> |
| <p>History of the desert preservation movement</p>                                  | <p>Ongoing efforts to improved public awareness of deserts due to general lack of understanding and apathy about these areas</p> <p>Renewed appreciation and understanding of deserts (i.e. Desert Protection Act 2010)</p> <p>Withdrawal of areas within the park (previously monument) prompted the establishment of park advocacy efforts and organizations</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Historic lack of appreciation of desert</p> <p>Lack of education about desert values</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |



## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 4: (Continued)

| Fundamental Resources and Values                                                                                                  | Current Conditions and Trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Current and Potential Threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Museum collections of archives, natural history specimens, and archaeological artifacts, including the Campbell Collection</p> | <p>Storage facility is providing a stable and climate-controlled environment for artifacts. However, the storage facility is nearing capacity.</p> <p>Increasing researcher use and interest in collections</p> <p>Available exhibit space is inadequate to house museum property (e.g., secure, climate-controlled)</p> <p>Museum archive collections are expanding rapidly</p> | <p>Limited artifact storage space (approaching capacity)</p> <p>Researchers who receive collecting and science permits do not complete the required processing and accessioning of collected materials</p> <p>The lack of appropriate exhibition space parkwide makes it difficult to share knowledge with visitors</p> <p>There is a lack of funding and staffing to maintain collections and catalogs, assist researchers, and create exhibits</p> |





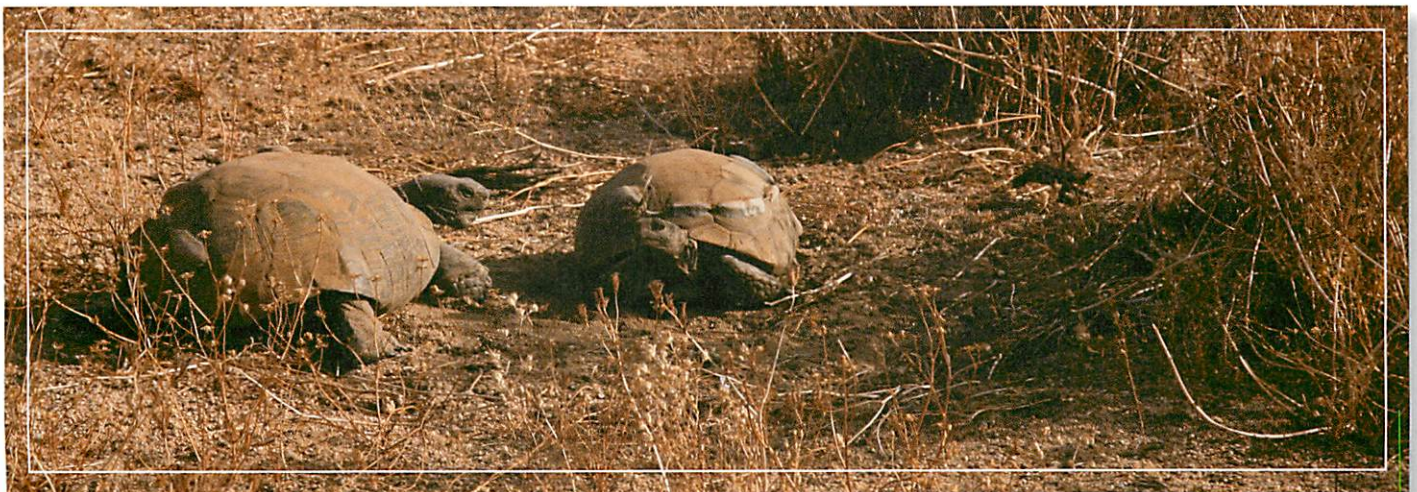
**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 5:** Joshua Tree National Park lies along of one of the world's most active earthquake faults, the San Andreas Fault. Geologic processes, including tectonic activity, have and continue to play a major role in shaping the mountains, valleys, and basins of the park.

| Fundamental Resources and Values | Current Conditions and Trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Current and Potential Threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Geological resources             | <p>Geological resources are dynamic and continuously evolving with time. The rate of change may be imperceptible on human time scales, but change is inevitable. Episodic events are anticipated (e.g., large scale earthquakes) and will likely alter the landscape considerably.</p> <p>Knowledge of paleontological resources is growing</p> <p>Geologic resources in wilderness are generally well-protected due to their isolation</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Earthquakes</p> <p>Paleo resource impacts from ORVs, visitors</p> <p>Climbing impacts (e.g. damage to lichens)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Hydrological resources           | <p>Some hydrologic resources (quantity and quality) are starting to be affected by outside impacts (e.g. aquifer at Oasis of Mara).</p> <p>Oasis of Mara is likely being affected by both natural and unnatural factors. Unnatural attributes include a lowered groundwater table from adjacent water uses/drawdown and supplemental watering to sustain the oasis (by NPS and adjacent landowners). Natural attributes could include hydrogeologic changes associated with the shifting fault line that could block/reduce spring flows.</p> <p>Most interior hydrologic resources are not being directly altered by exterior actions.</p> <p>Internal withdrawals are not being recharged (e.g., Cottonwood aquifer may be at risk due to overdraft without recharge).</p> | <p>Withdrawal / drawdown of groundwater from adjacent land uses (i.e. urban growth, agriculture, and alternative energy). For example, the eastern aquifer may be threatened by the hydropumped storage project and other energy development that uses water.</p> <p>Water quality impacts from visitors (e.g., visitor use at 49 Palms Oasis)</p> |
| Desert Landforms                 | <p>Desert varnish is being impacted by visitor use and other activities in park.</p> <p>Roads in park have altered overall desert landform.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>ORV use (especially along southern boundary areas)</p> <p>Earthquakes</p> <p>Trail construction and use</p> <p>Desert varnish is threatened by rock carving, vehicle use, graffiti, and other construction/maintenance activities.</p>                                                                                                          |



**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 6:** Joshua Tree National Park offers unparalleled opportunities for research of arid land ecosystems and processes, adaptations of and to desert life, sustainability, and indications of climate change. The proximity of the park to urban regions of Southern California and Nevada enhances the value of the park for scientific research and education.

| Fundamental Resources and Values                                                          | Current Conditions and Trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Current and Potential Threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ever-expanding knowledge base                                                             | <p>Knowledge of baselines for various resources is increasing, although still limited in hydrology and certain biological resources</p> <p>Research projects are driven by what funding is available; funding is driven by project dollars and funding calls. This leads to a lack of knowledge in certain areas</p> <p>Prioritization of resource inventories and research across the whole park is inconsistent; some resources receive more attention than others</p> <p>Inventory and monitoring efforts are improving</p> <p>Data management and technology are improving</p> <p>Research and cooperation are improving</p> <p>I&amp;M network structure allows improved communication between parks</p> | <p>Lack of funding for staff to perform resource surveys.</p> <p>Lack of accountability and deliverables (e.g. external researcher impacts site but doesn't produce results and/or extracts resources)</p> <p>Destruction of archeological sites without any research results</p> <p>Mandates redirecting resources</p> |
| Opportunity to understand, apply, and share this knowledge to benefit the park and beyond | <p>Increased awareness of the need to communicate externally and internally</p> <p>I&amp;M program has guided and provided structure for communication</p> <p>Data management and technology is improving</p> <p>Research and cooperation is improving</p> <p>Enhanced and potential for enhancing educational and research opportunities at all levels (K-old, including citizen science)</p> <p>Permitting of research and students is improving</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>There is a lack of focus in management strategies</p> <p>Priorities are a moving target</p> <p>Changing technology presents challenges to the agency</p> <p>Climate change issues (political and scientific) offer a great degree of complexity</p> <p>Threats to credibility</p>                                    |





**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 7:** Huge, eroded monzogranite boulder formations are world-renowned natural features that provide unique aesthetic, educational, and recreational opportunities for Joshua Tree National Park visitors.

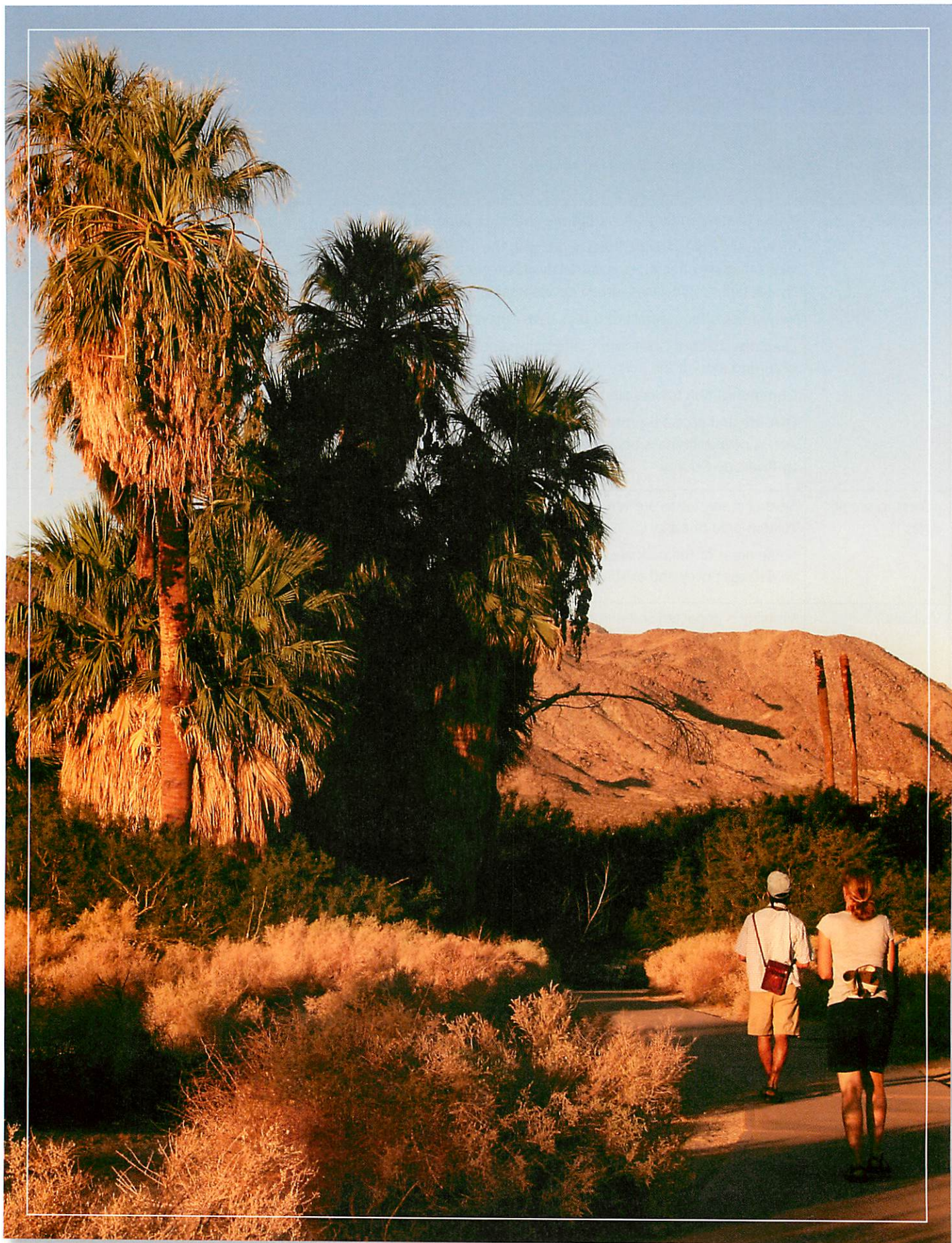
| Fundamental Resources and Values                                                | Current Conditions and Trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Current and Potential Threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Recreational activities centered around the boulders and rock formations</p> | <p>Camping – Seasonal and/or weekend crowding, and crowding during special “events” (e.g. New Year’s Eve).</p> <p>Campground design is not adequate for today’s camping equipment or visitors. Questionable campsite inventory in relationship to visitor expectation (climbing parties versus serene or family camping opportunities; groups have very different expectations and desires). Campsites get enlarged and denuded. Campsites may need better delineation and signs.</p> <p>Hiking – There is confusion regarding where trails go or which one to use (proliferation of social trails).</p> <p>Photography</p> <p>Climbing – Heavy use and expectations for access. Unbalanced management focus toward climbing activities. Management of routing and bolting could be improved. Large groups (often novice climbers, commercial and other groups) denude large areas within the formations and create social trails. Insufficient signage and fencing in and around high-use areas (e.g. providing climbers more information to direct use and/or avoid sensitive natural or cultural resources).</p> <p>Picnicking – changing demands based on changing visitor demographics</p> <p>Parking areas are crowded</p> <p>There are ample opportunities for recreational use in the rock formations</p> | <p>Overcrowding</p> <p>Vandalism</p> <p>Trash and human waste</p> <p>Noise from climbers</p> <p>Illegal campfires</p> <p>Poorly placed/managed bolts and routes</p> <p>Dispersed, heavy use (creates large networks of social trails and trampled vegetation)</p> <p>Closures for cultural and natural resource protection</p> <p>Filling all campgrounds half of the year</p> |



**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 8:** Geologic, climatic, and ecological processes create scenic landscapes unique to deserts and fundamental to the character of Joshua Tree National Park.

| Fundamental Resources and Values | Current Conditions and Trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Current and Potential Threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Viewsheds                        | <p>Views of surrounding lands from the park are poor or at risk.</p> <p>Viewsheds within the park are good, with the exception of those views that are affected by external development along boundary (water tanks, utility lines, urban developments).</p> <p>Viewsheds offer contrast to urban areas outside the park.</p> <p>Land use changes (solar farms, alternative energy developments) are occurring around the park.</p> <p>Communication towers are being developed.</p> <p>FAA use and access is protected via the California Desert Protection Act. A new antenna is being constructed for public safety purposes by Riverside County.</p> | <p>Surrounding urban development/ boundary encroachment</p> <p>Land use change (solar farms, alternative energy developments)</p> <p>Communication towers</p> <p>Facility development inside the park</p>                                                                                                                                 |
| Access to scenic vistas          | <p>Several scenic vistas are very accessible (e.g. Keys View) except in eastern area of park.</p> <p>Some areas of the park are accessible at the level defined by wilderness policy and existing road network</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>Topography is a limitation to access</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Visibility                       | <p>Visibility is impacted sometimes and in some places by particulates, smog, etc.</p> <p>Photochemical smog is a unique threat to visibility – different from ozone</p> <p>Particulate matter from Salton Sea may increase if water levels are further drawn down</p> <p>Invasive plant species contribute to increased fire frequency (emitting smoke/particulates)</p> <p>Dust from increasing land use change decreases visibility</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Urban uses, commercial uses, transportation</p> <p>Changes in climate (Salton Sea, wind)</p> <p>Photochemical smog</p> <p>Changes in water use (particulate matter from Salton Sea)</p> <p>Invasive plant species contribute to increased fire frequency (resulting in increased smoke/particulates)</p> <p>Dust (land use change)</p> |







## Appendix A: Legislation

### Legislation for Joshua Tree National Park (and Monument)

Proclamation (No. 2193) of August 10, 1936

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS certain public lands in the State of California contain historic and prehistoric structures, and have situated thereon various objects of historic and scientific interest; and

WHEREAS it appears that it would be in the public interest to reserve such lands as a national monument, to be known as the Joshua Tree National Monument:

Now, THEREFORE, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by section 2 of the act of June 8, 1906, ch. 3060, 34 Stat. 225 (U. S. C., title 16, sec. 431), do proclaim that, subject to existing rights and prior withdrawals, the following-described lands in California are hereby reserved from all forms of appropriation under the public-land laws and set apart as the Joshua Tree National Monument:

#### SAN BERNARDINO MERIDIAN

T. 1 S., R. 5 E., sees. 19 to 36, inclusive. T. 2 S., R. 5 E., sees. 1 to 6, 11 to 13, inclusive, and those parts of secs. 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15 and 24 lying north of the north boundary of the Colorado River Aqueduct right-of-way. T. 1 S., R. 6 E., sees. 19 to 36, inclusive.

T. 2 S., R. 6 E., sees. 1 to 18, 21 to 26, inclusive, and those parts of secs. 19, 20, 27, 28, 34, 35 and 36 lying north of aqueduct right-of-way.

T. 3 S., R. 6 E., that part of sec. 1 lying north of aqueduct right-of-way.

Ts. 1 and 2 S., R. 7 E. (Partly unsurveyed).

T. 3 S., R. 7 E., sees. 1 to 6, 8 to 16, 23 to 24, inclusive, and those parts of secs. 7, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25 and 26 lying north of aqueduct right-of-way.

Ts. 1 and 2 S., R. 8 E. (partly unsurveyed).

T. 3 S., R. 8 E., sees. 1 to 30, 33 to 36, inclusive, and those parts of secs. 31 and 32 lying north of aqueduct right-of-way.

T. 4 S., R. 8 E., those parts of secs. 4 and 5 lying north of aqueduct right-of-way.

T. 1 S., R. 9 E., secs. 5 to 9 and 16 to 36, inclusive.

Ts. 2 and 3 S., R. 9 E. (partly unsurveyed).

Ts. 1 to 3 S., R. 10 E. (partly unsurveyed).





T. 5 S., R. 10 E., secs. 1 to 30, inclusive, and those parts of secs. 31 to 36 lying north of aqueduct right-of-way.

Ts. 1 to 4 S., R. 11 E. (partly unsurveyed).

T. 5 S., R. 11 E., secs. 1 to 30 and 32 to 36, inclusive, and that part of sec. 31 lying north of aqueduct right-of-way.

T. 6 S., R. 11 E., those parts of secs. 1 to 6 lying north of aqueduct right-of-way.

Ts. 1 to 5 S., R. 12 E. (partly unsurveyed).

T. 6 S., R. 12 E., those parts of secs. 1 to 6 lying north of aqueduct right-of-way.

Ts. 1 to 4 S., R. 13 E. (partly unsurveyed).

T. 5 S., R. 13 E., secs. 1 to 24, inclusive, and those parts of secs. 28, 29, 30 and 31 lying north of aqueduct right-of-way (partly unsurveyed).

Ts. 1 to 3 S., R. 14 E. (partly unsurveyed).

T. 4 S., R. 14 E., secs. 1 to 11, 14 to 23, 27 to 34, inclusive, and those parts of secs. 12, 13, 24, 25, 26 and 35 lying west of aqueduct right-of-way (unsurveyed).

Ss. 1 and 2 S., R. 15 E. (partly unsurveyed).

T. 3 S., R. 15 E., secs. 1 to 19, inclusive, and sec. 24; those parts of secs. 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 30 and 31 lying north of aqueduct right-of-way (partly unsurveyed).

T. 4 S., R. 15 E., those parts of secs. 6 and 7 lying west of aqueduct right-of-way; containing approximately 825,340 acres.

Warning is hereby expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

The Director of the National Park Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall have the supervision, management, and control of the monument as provided in the act of Congress entitled "An Act To establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes," approved August 25, 1916 (ch. 408, 39 Stat. 535, U. S. C., title 16, secs. 1 and 2), and acts supplementary thereto or amendatory thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this 10th day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-six and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and sixty-first.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

By the President:

WILLIAM PHILLIPS,

Acting Secretary of State.



# 1976 Designation of Joshua Tree Wilderness

PUBLIC LAW 94-567 [H.R. 13160] : OCT. 20, 1976

## NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM-WILDERNESS DESIGNATED

An Act to designate certain lands within units of the National Park System as wilderness; to revise the boundaries of certain of those units; and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That in accordance with section 3(c) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1132(c)), the following q lands are hereby designated as wilderness, and shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act:

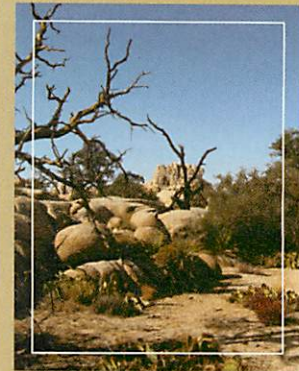
- (g) Joshua Tree National Monument, California, wilderness comprising four hundred and twenty-nine thousand six hundred and ninety acres, and potential wilderness additions comprising thirty- seven thousand five hundred and fifty acres, depicted on a map entitled

"Wilderness Plan, Joshua Tree National Monument, California", numbered 156-20,003-D and dated May 1976, to be known as the Joshua Tree Wilderness.

Sec. 2. A map and description of the boundaries of the areas designated in this Act shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director of the National Park Service, Department of Interior, and in the office of the Superintendent of each area designated in the Act. As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect. maps of the wilderness areas and descriptions of their boundaries shall be filed with the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and such maps and descriptions shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: Provided, That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such maps and descriptions may be made.

Sec. 3. All lands which represent potential wilderness additions, upon publication in the Federal Register of a notice by the Secretary of the Interior that all uses thereon prohibited by the Wilderness Act have ceased, shall thereby be designated wilderness.

Sec. 4. The boundaries of the following areas are hereby revised, and those lands depicted on the respective maps as wilderness or as potential wilderness addition are hereby so designated at such time and in such manner as provided for by this Act:







## 1994 Designation as Joshua Tree National Park

### TITLE IV - JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK.

#### SEC. 401. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that

a proclamation by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1936 established Joshua Tree National Monument to protect various objects of historical and scientific interest;

Joshua Tree National Monument today is recognized as a major unit of the National Park System, having extraordinary values enjoyed by millions of visitors;

the monument boundaries as modified in 1950 and 1961 exclude and thereby expose to incompatible development and inconsistent management, contiguous Federal lands of essential and superlative natural, ecological, archeological, paleontological, cultural, historical, and wilderness values;

Joshua Tree National Monument should be enlarged by the addition of contiguous Federal lands of national park caliber, and afforded full recognition and statutory protection as a National Park; and

the non-designated wilderness within Joshua Tree should receive statutory protection by designation pursuant to the Wilderness Act.

#### SEC. 402. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK.

There is hereby established the Joshua Tree National Park, (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "park"), as generally depicted on a map entitled "Joshua Tree National Park Boundary – Proposed", dated May 1991, and four maps entitled "Joshua Tree National Park Boundary and wilderness", numbered in the title one through four, and dated October 1991 or prior, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Superintendent of the park and the Director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Joshua Tree National Monument is hereby abolished as such, the lands and interests therein are hereby incorporated within and made part of the new Joshua Tree National Park, and any funds available for purposes of the monument shall be available for purposes of the park.

#### SEC. 403. TRANSFER AND ADMINISTRATION OF LANDS.

Upon enactment of this title, the Secretary shall transfer the lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management depicted on the maps described in section 402 of this title, without consideration, to the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service for administration as part of the National Park System. The boundaries of the park shall be adjusted accordingly. The Secretary shall administer the areas added to the park by this title in accordance with the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4).



#### SEC. 404. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.

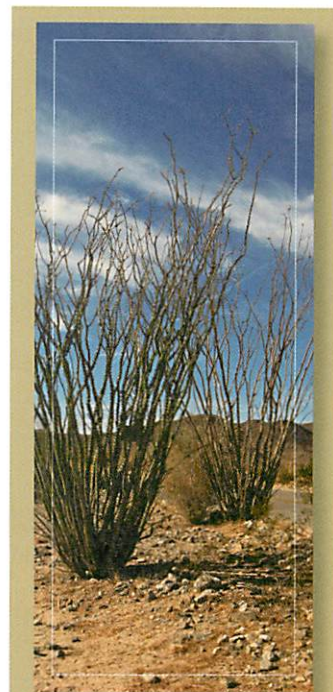
Within six months after the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary shall file maps and legal description of the park with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives. Such maps and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in such legal description and maps. The maps and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

#### SEC. 405. WITHDRAWAL.

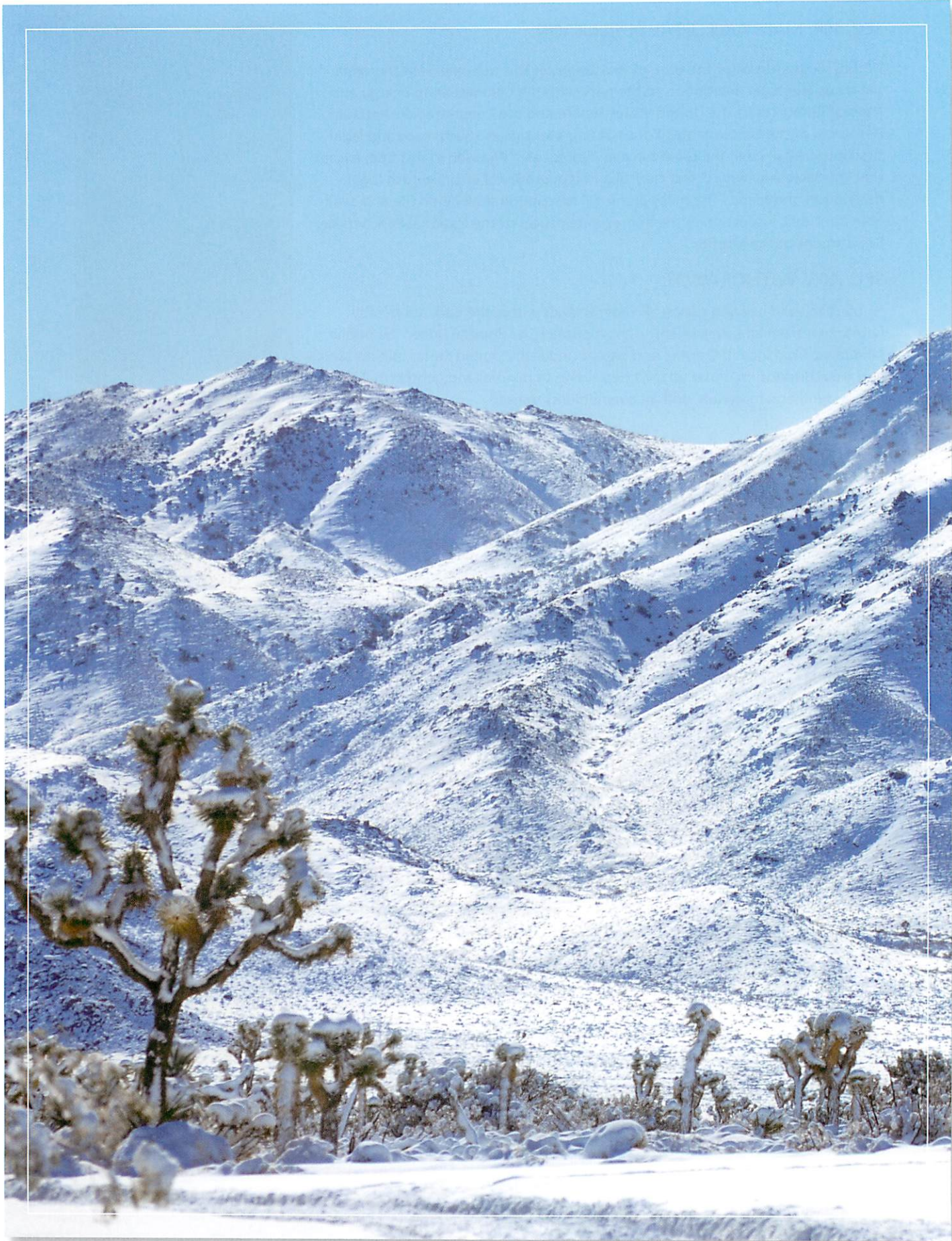
Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands within the park are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; from location, entry, and patent under the United States mining laws; and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing, and mineral materials, and all amendments thereto.

#### SEC. 406. UTILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

Nothing in this title shall have the effect of terminating any validly issued right-of-way or customary operation maintenance, repair, and replacement activities in such right-of-way, issued, granted, or permitted to the Metropolitan Water District pursuant to the Boulder Canyon Project Act (43 U.S.C. 617-619b), which is located on lands included in the Joshua Tree National Park, but outside lands designated as wilderness under section 601(a)(2). Such activities shall be conducted in a manner which will minimize the impact on park resources. Nothing in this title shall have the effect of terminating the fee title to lands or customary operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement activities on or under such lands granted to the Metropolitan Water District pursuant to the Act on June 18, 1932 (47 Stat. 324), which are located on lands included in the Joshua Tree National Park, but outside lands designated as wilderness under section 601(a)(2). Such activities shall be conducted in a manner which will minimize the impact on park resources. The Secretary shall prepare within one hundred and eighty days after the date of enactment of this Act, in consultation with the Metropolitan Water District, plans for emergency access by the metropolitan Water District to its lands and rights-of-way.









# Omnibus Public Land Management Act Of 2009

PUBLIC LAW 111-11 [H.R. 146] : MARCH 30, 2009

## TITLE I

(F) JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ADDITIONS- In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain land in Joshua Tree National Park, comprising approximately 36,700 acres, as generally depicted on the map numbered 156/80,055, and titled 'Joshua Tree National Park Proposed Wilderness Additions', and dated March 2008, is designated as wilderness and is incorporated in, and shall be deemed to be a part of, the Joshua Tree Wilderness designated by section 1(g) of Public Law 94-567 (90 Stat. 2692; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note).

(c) Joshua Tree National Park Potential Wilderness-

(1) DESIGNATION OF POTENTIAL WILDERNESS- Certain land in the Joshua Tree National Park, comprising approximately 43,300 acres, as generally depicted on the map numbered 156/80,055, and titled 'Joshua Tree National Park Proposed Wilderness Additions', and dated March 2008, is designated potential wilderness and shall be managed by the Secretary of the Interior insofar as practicable as wilderness until such time as the land is designated as wilderness pursuant to paragraph (2).

(2) DESIGNATION AS WILDERNESS- The land designated potential wilderness by paragraph (1) shall be designated as wilderness and incorporated in, and be deemed to be a part of, the Joshua Tree Wilderness designated by section 1(g) of Public Law 94-567 (90 Stat. 2692; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note), effective upon publication by the Secretary of the Interior in the Federal Register of a notice that--

(A) all uses of the land within the potential wilderness prohibited by the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) have ceased; and

(B) sufficient inholdings within the boundaries of the potential wilderness have been acquired to establish a manageable wilderness unit.









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.

NPS 156/110291; August 2011/Printed on recycled paper.



## Foundation Statement • Joshua Tree National Park

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