

FEE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Joshua Tree Takes to the Air Waves	1
A Plan for Wilderness	1
Black Rock Campground Restrooms to Meet ADA Accessibility Requirements	2
Fee Demo News from the Division of Interpretation	3
Trails Update	4
Recreational Climbing Study	4

JOSHUA TREE TAKES TO THE AIR WAVES

A NEW TRAFFIC INFORMATION SYSTEM ALERTS VISITORS TO CURRENT CONDITIONS.

Tune to 1610 AM to hear your Fee Demo dollars at work. Three new radio transmitters broadcast Joshua Tree National Park visitor information around the Morongo Basin.

The southern part of the park is served by a solar-powered transmitter at the south end of Cottonwood Canyon. The western and northern regions of the park are served by hard-wired transmitters at the Palm Springs



Radio System Sign on I-10 North of Palm Springs

BLM Office and on Copper Mountain.

The transmitters broadcast an eight-minute message on topics of interest to visitors such as current road conditions, camping information,

visitor center hours, wildlife, and wildflowers. Broadcasts are in English, with some information provided in Spanish, French, and German. The message can be updated remotely as needed.

A PLAN FOR WILDERNESS

After five years of work, Joshua Tree National Park's first Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan was approved in January 2000. The plan provides enhanced

opportunities for visitor enjoyment while preserving and protecting this outstanding California desert area. Fee Demo project money funded the development

and printing of a wilderness newspaper supplement. A wilderness kit for community groups is in the works and a *Please see Wilderness, page two*

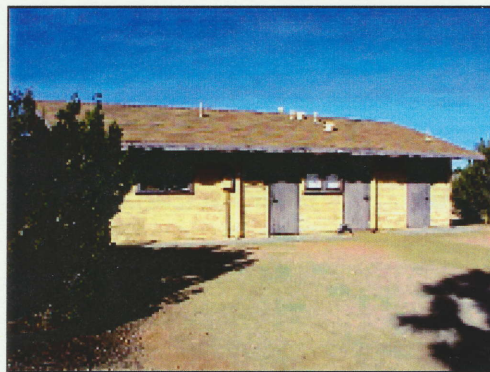


BLACK ROCK RESTROOMS TO MEET ADA ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

RESTROOMS AT BLACK ROCK CAMPGROUND ARE UPGRADED TO MEET ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS AND ARE RETROFITTED USING SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS.

When the restroom facilities at Black Rock Campground were constructed in 1970, the structures and fixtures did not meet today's Federal Accessibility and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Doorways, stalls, sinks and urinals were too narrow, lacked proper clearances, or were placed at incorrect heights. Joshua Tree National Park has dedicated \$124,566 in Fee Demo funds to address these



Restroom Building Prior to Upgrading



Completed Black Rock Campground Restroom

problems. When completed the two buildings will be retrofitted with new roofs, interior walls and partitions, and fixtures. All structures and fixtures will be replaced following ADA standards.

Improvements are made using sustainable practices and materials, including durable and low-maintenance tile roofs and stucco exteriors. Other "green" features include low-flow toilets and fluorescent lights.

Park maintenance staff completed rehabilitation on the first restroom building in September 2000, and began work on the second one in May 2001, see photo at left.

The Recreation Fee Demonstration Program puts your user fees to work on a backlog of needed visitor services, maintenance and repairs at park visitor centers, picnic areas, restrooms and trails. Some of the money will also go to restore natural resources and stabilize historic features in Joshua Tree National Park.

Wilderness, continued from page one

climbing brochure is planned. A *Leave No Trace* workshop was held for park staff in May 2001. A wilderness exhibit panel for Black Rock Nature Center is

being constructed with anticipated installation in Fall 2001. Eight different wilderness programs have been prepared for

presentation to in-park audiences, community groups, and youth groups.

FEE DEMO NEWS FROM THE DIVISION OF INTERPRETATION

THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS WERE MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE FEE DEMO PROGRAM.

Education Van

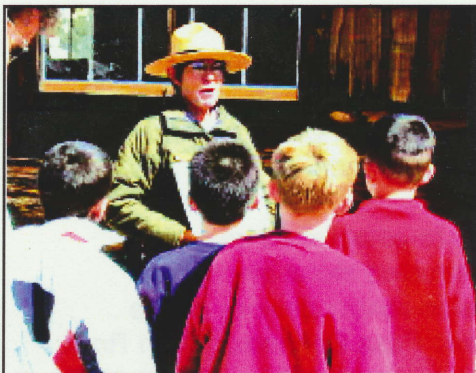
A compressed natural gas (CNG) van has been ordered for the environmental education program. The van will be painted with desert scenes by local artist Chuck Caplinger. Children from several area schools will help the artist choose what to paint. Solar panels will be installed to power on-board AV equipment. Grant money from Exxon and the National Park Foundation will provide materials for exhibits and educational activities.

Oasis Visitor Center Exhibit Rehab

Phase II of exhibit installation has been largely completed at the Oasis Visitor Center. New exhibits were installed in December 2000. Some AV components and exterior exhibits are still in progress.

Traveling Exhibit

Last year Joshua Tree National Park staff conducted 41 community programs or special events that were attended by 15,545 people. The traveling exhibit used for many of the events, shows signs of hard use and wear. Modular exhibit hardware for a replacement has been ordered and delivered. A series of exhibit materials, including mounted photos and text, are under development and should be completed later this fiscal year.



Park Ranger Deb Gaunt Leading a Tour at Desert Queen Ranch

Desert Queen Ranch Tour and Preservation Program

Desert Queen Ranch guides have conducted more than 354 tours so far this fiscal year. A new digital historic photo archive has been set up. This archive documents changes in the ranch buildings over time and will be referred to for historic accuracy when structures are stabilized.

Wayside Exhibits

A Final Project Agreement to produce wayside exhibits was signed with Harper's Ferry Center (HFC) in September 2000, and a full graphics package for over 100 exhibits was provided to HFC in January 2001. Planning and design are underway, with first exhibit production slated for fiscal year 2002.

Park Brochure Revision

Meetings have been held with HFC publications specialists to discuss revisions of the park brochure. Over 200,000 brochures are distributed every year at entrance stations and visitor centers and in written information requests. A tentative completion date for the new brochure is Fall 2002.

Under the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, 80 percent of the money collected from park visitors remains in the park where it is collected. The other 20 percent goes to a central fund for distribution to any of the 384 parks around the country.

TRAILS UPDATE

In 2000-2001, the trail crew established corridors and tread on two new trails: Covington Loop and Split Rock Loop.

They re-established tread and constructed stone steps and erosion control devices on the Sheep Pass Connector, Arch Rock Nature Loop, Fault trail, Short, High View, and the California Riding and Hiking trails.

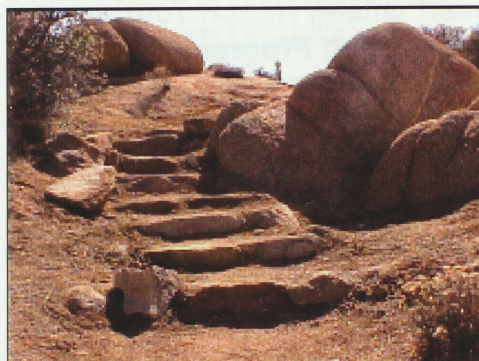


Stone Steps on Ryan Mountain Trail

They installed 316 stone steps/retainer bars, 27 stone waterbars, and a 50 foot by 20 foot stone retaining wall for a total of 1900 square feet of completed stonework.

They trimmed brush, cleaned waterbars, and repaired trail surfaces on 133,120 linear feet of trail.

In the coming months Fee Demo project money will fund trail work on the Maze Window Loop, Deerhorn, Big Pine and North View trails.



Stone Staircase on Skull Rock Nature Trail

FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE

Superintendent,
Joshua Tree National Park
74485 National Park Drive
Twentynine Palms CA
92277-3597

Check us out on the web at
www.nps.gov/jotr

Editor: Marilyn Lutz



RECREATIONAL CLIMBING STUDY

Joshua Tree hired its first climbing ranger, John Lauretig, in December 2000. His position is partially funded with Fee Demo monies.

One of Lauretig's first tasks will be to collect and analyze baseline data about climbing impacts in wilderness. The study will correlate specific climbing activities, such as installing fixed anchors, with resource impacts. This information will aid National

Park Service managers in designing recreational climbing management strategies. A temporary biological technician will also be hired to work with Lauretig on this study.

UserFee