



Joshua Tree National Park
Goals and Annual Work Plan
for FY96/97

*Prepared by the staff:
Joshua Tree National Park
74485 National Park Drive
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277*

INTRODUCTION

Federal agencies have been directed by Congress and the President through the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) to become more accountable for the results of what they do. GPRA requires all federal agencies to develop long-term strategic plans and annual performance goals. Park managers will establish a shared vision of what needs to be accomplished, set priorities for allocating resources, develop work plans, measure the effectiveness of the actions taken, and learn from successes or failures.

This annual work plan outlines short and long term goals to achieving the desired conditions specified in the Service Wide and Park goals. Target dates are indicated in one and two year time intervals.

NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM SERVICE WIDE GOALS

The National Park Service Strategic Plan identifies the following service wide goals.

- * Preserve park resources.
- * Help people forge emotional, intellectual, and recreational ties with their natural and cultural heritage.
- * Perpetuate heritage resources and enhance recreational opportunities managed by others.
- * Ensure organizational effectiveness.

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

MISSION STATEMENT

To protect and conserve the scenery and the natural and cultural resources within, while providing the public with opportunities to enjoy these resources in a manner that preserves them for present and future generations.

To serve as a natural laboratory for scientific research leading to improved understanding and management of the Mojave and Colorado Desert ecosystems.

To work cooperatively with other agencies, public entities, non-profit organizations, and private citizens in partnership efforts that support the preservation of Joshua Tree National Park and the National Park System.

PURPOSE

Joshua Tree National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation on August 10, 1936, to protect in perpetuity lands containing historic and prehistoric structures, natural resources, and objects of scientific interest of the Colorado and Mojave Deserts. On October 31, 1994, legislation upgraded the "Monument" to "National Park" status.

SIGNIFICANCE

Two major life zones, the lower Colorado Desert and the upper Mojave Desert, converge within the park creating a dramatic transition between the two ecosystems. Adaptation to environmental extremes on the part of both plants and animals is graphically illustrated in this area.

Park lands contain evidence that aboriginal people lived here intermittently from the late Pleistocene era through historic times.

GOALS

Park natural and cultural resources are inventoried, monitored, analyzed and protected.

Park facilities are improved and ready for public use.

Public awareness and participation in management concerns and of the park's natural and cultural significance is enhanced.

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK ANNUAL WORK PLAN FY 1996/1997

WORK UNIT: MAINTENANCE

DESIRED CONDITIONS:

The Maintenance Division Pledges to Maintain All Park Facilities, Roads, Trails, Campgrounds, Picnic Areas, Signs, Buildings, Grounds, and Support Facilities to a Standard Commensurate with the Expectations of the National Park System and the Public We Serve:

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/OBJECTIVES:

- * Initiate the complete re-design and rehabilitation of the Ryan public campground and Equestrian camp facility.
Target Date - May 1996
- * Repair park roadways by placing 2,500 tons of Class II base aggregate and 2,500 tons of asphalt, crack seal 15 miles of roadway and re-stripe 4 miles of roads and parking areas.
Target Date - October 1996
- * Replace fiberglass pit toilets in Ryan Campground, Belle Campground, Hidden Valley Campground, Keys View, and Indian Cove Campground, with new preconstructed permanent accessible toilet facilities.
Target Date - September 1996
- * Plan and establish a park Alternative Fuel Vehicle program to convert the park's fleet vehicles to Compressed Natural Gas and/or Electric.
Target Date - October 1996
- * Host an annual Youth Conservation Corps summer employment program.
Target Date - August 1996
- * Fully implement a park wide recycling program involving public participation.
Target Date - October 1996

- * Improve public service facilities at the parks West Entrance Station; Improved public restrooms, water service station, and visitor orientation station.
Target Date - February 1997

- * Design and improve aging septic and leach field system at Park Headquarters and the Cottonwood Visitor Center facilities.
Target Date - September 1997

- * Initiate photovoltaic off-grid system program for Cottonwood District.
Target Date - August 1996

- * Establish satellite telephone service to remote areas of park. Place base stations at Cottonwood and Lost Horse. Agreement with Skycell.
Target Date - October 1996

- * Establish campground host program for Hidden Valley, Ryan and Sheep's Pass campgrounds. Upgrade Lost Horse for accommodating host.
Target Date - February 1997

WORK UNIT: ADMINISTRATION

DESIRED CONDITIONS:

The Administrative Division Pledges to Administer Fiscal Resources, Property Management, Procurement, Personnel Actions, Contracts, and Budget at a Level That Ensures a Fiscally Sound and Efficient Park Operation:

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/OBJECTIVES:

- * Update the parks electronic communication network system; replace outdated telephone system and expand the local area network and provide the park with access to DOINET.
Target Date - September 1997
- * Improve efficiency of small purchase operation; expand implementation of the VISA purchase card program.
Target Date - October 1996
- * Maintain accountability for park property; all capitalized property is recorded, assigned and accounted for.
Target Date - October 1996
- * Manage government funds within appropriated amounts.
Target Date - September 1996
- * Ensure the parks 10-238 and 10-237 documents are up to date, consistent with park GMP alternatives, and submitted in time frames requested.
Target Date - October 1996
- * Manage a Servicing Personnel Office dealing with all aspects of Human Resources Management.
Target Date - September 1996
- * Review current and implement new Position Management techniques and strategies.
Target Date - October 1997
- * Increase and formalize inter-park cooperation in Administrative Services.
Target Date - March 1997

- * Support park wide operations. Work with Division Chiefs to assist in the accomplishment of park wide goals.

WORK UNIT: RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DESIRED CONDITIONS:

The Division of Resources Management Pledges to Inventory, Monitor, Research, Analyze, and Utilize Data Relative to the Park's Natural and Cultural Resources for Enhancing the Protection of Resources and the Public's Understanding of Those Resources:

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/OBJECTIVES:

- * **Develop a Keys Ranch (National Historic Register Site) Management Plan.
Target Date - September 1997**
- * **Develop and implement strategies for stabilization of the historic Lost Horse Mill and the Huntington Mill.
Target Date - October 1996**
- * **Partner with Department of Defense and the Bureau of Land Management for Park curatorial and archival assistance.
Target Date - September 1997**
- * **Complete and update Scope of Collection Statement.
Target Date - September 1997**
- * **Complete year three of NRP tortoise survey and report results.
Target Date - September 1997**
- * **Re-vegetate disturbed tortoise habitat within the Pinto Basin.
Target Date - September 1997**
- * **Initiate Desert Bighorn Sheep habitat studies and improvement projects.
Target Date - September 1996**
- * **Initiate inventory of Threatened and Endangered plants.
Target Date - September 1997**
- * **Implement research at the Park's Center for Arid Lands Restoration for improved**

germination survival and techniques, and publish results from soil sterilizer experiment and test of mycorrhizal inoculum on *Coleogyne ramosissima*.

Target Date - September 1996

- * Initiate a study to investigate the feasibility and ramifications of reintroducing pronghorn antelope to Joshua Tree National Park.
Target Date - September 1997
- * Continue air quality monitoring, working with our air quality partners, and initiate an air quality education program.
Target Date - September 1996
- * Identify and evaluate abandoned mine sites within the park.
Target Date - September 1996
- * Monitor and report findings of the park's air quality including ozone, dry deposition, and meteorological parameters. Provide data to the public.
Target Date - September 1996
- * Bighorn Sheep census study using Canon donated equipment.
Target Date - September 1996
- * Inventory and monitor Desert Tortoise populations.
Target Date - September 1997
- * Obtain data for establishment of a park Vegetation Map.
Target Date - September 1997
- * Complete data analysis for preparation of desert tortoise research manuscripts.
Target Date - September 1996
- * Convert all park area topographical map data into electronic GIS format for use in providing maps and analysis for the Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan.
Target Date - September 1996
- * Continue to inventorying park water resources and analyzing water abundance and quality.
Target Date - September 1996
- * Complete Abandoned Mine Lands Management Plan that would establish procedure for inventory and assessment of the park's abandoned mines. Complete park mining inventory plan and initiate park's mines inventory.

WORK UNIT: PROTECTION

DESIRED CONDITION:

The Division of Visitor and Resource Protection Pledges to Safeguard and Monitor Park Natural, Cultural and Physical Resources; to Promote an Effective Special Park Use, Wildfire, and Fee Collection Program; and to Provide a Safe and Enjoyable Park Experience by the Public:

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/OBJECTIVES:

- * Through public and staff involvement prepare and release the first draft of the park's Wilderness and Backcountry Management Plan.
Target Date - September 1997
- * Using park staff and resources mark and post the wilderness and park boundaries at critical access points.
Target Date - September 1996
- * Improve patrol coverage of the park.
Target Date - September 1996
- * Explore possibilities for expanded campground and entrance fee collection systems.
Target Date - September 1997
- * Document and license commercial use of the park.
Target Date - September 1996
- * Prepare staff for wildland fire season by conducting pre-season briefing sessions and readiness inspections, facilities upgrades, and training.
Target Date - September 1996

WORK UNIT: INTERPRETATION

DESIRED CONDITION:

The Division of Interpretation Pledges to Achieve Excellence in Visitor Services by Creating a Situation Where Park Visitors and Interested Public Are Provided Opportunities to Better Understand the Significance, History, and Natural Resources of the Park.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/OBJECTIVES:

- * Working cooperatively with SSO staff, initiate exhibit planning process for Oasis Visitor Center Major Repair/Rehab project. Coordinate exhibit planning process scheduled at park for FY96.
Target Date - September 1, 1996
- * Update Division 10-238s to reflect recent changes in park management strategy as well as recent project accomplishments. Bring Interpretation 10-2378 packages in line with approved General Management Plan.
Target Date - September 30, 1996
- * Working together with the SSO and HFC staff, complete work on campground wayside exhibit package. Work with park staff on wayside exhibit installation.
Target Date - September 30, 1996
- * Work with personnel to complete classification process on Visitor Information Specialist. Develop and submit to classification position descriptions for upgrade of GS-025-5 term positions to GS-025-7.
Target Date - September 1, 1996
- * Initiate contracts and purchase orders with Larry Eifert and exhibit production contractors for development and production of new park orientation maps. Secure and obligate necessary funding.
Target Date - Ongoing
- * Work with Division of Publications at Harpers Ferry Center to complete park folder revisions and ensure new park folders are delivered on time.
Target Date - January 1, 1996

- * Assist the Joshua Tree National Park Association with the implementation of their new membership program.
Target Date - July 1, 1996
- * Complete work on the Joshua Tree National Park Association Limited Concessions Permit. Develop and implement needed reporting procedures.
Target Date - September 30, 1996
- * Develop strategies and increase the effectiveness of marketing interpretive programs. Increase overall program attendance by 10%.
Target Date - September 30, 1995
- * Identify new audiences and user groups for park interpretive programs outside the confines of the traditional park visitor population.
Target Date - Ongoing
- * Develop and write a park education plan.
Target Date - December 31, 1996
- * Develop an in-park Junior Ranger program for publication in park newspaper.
Target Date - March 1, 1996
- * Working with park partners and cooperators, coordinate completion of the Desert Wildlife Coloring Book into Spanish translation and publication as identified in FY96 PAC grant.
Target Date - September 30, 1996
- * Work cooperatively with the San Bernardino County Museum and the Joshua Tree National Park Association to complete production of the desert tortoise education kits.
Target Date - September 1, 1996
- * Devise an implementation strategy with other California desert NPS sites for the "What's a Desert Worth?" curriculum. Draft a Statement of Work. Write and execute needed contracts for services.
Target Date - September 30, 1996
- * Complete the planning for interpretive media for the Colorado Desert Nature Trail. Secure the necessary compliance work and clearances. Write a grant to obtain additional funding for exhibit production and trail construction materials.
Target Date - December 31, 1996

- * Revise the text for the following 25 cent brochures: Cholla Cactus Garden, the Geology Tour Road, and Cottonwood Springs.
Target Date - September 30, 1996

- * Replace existing exhibits in the Oasis VC.
Target Date - July 1, 1996

- * Continue to upgrade the park slide file with high quality original and duplicate slides.
Target Date - Ongoing *