
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK ANNUAL WORKPLAN FY97

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 Park 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.

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 of man's early existence. Two major periods of aboriginal occupation separated by thousands of years occur, the post Pleistocene "early man" site and the more recent prehistoric native people.

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.

The Park will have a current, approved wilderness management and a system to assess the "minimum tool requirement" for actions within wilderness. .

Accountability for wilderness management is clearly identified within the park's organizational structure.

WORK UNIT: ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

DESIRED CONDITIONS:

The Assistant Superintendent pledges to protect the integrity of the Park's Natural and Cultural Resources by managing private rights and planning for nonfederal lands in the park, with the assistance of Field Area and third party cooperators.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/OBJECTIVES:

- * Facilitate the Nature Conservancy and Wildlands Conservancy land donations, involving nearly 15,000 acres.
Target Date: March, 1997
- * Consummate an agreement with Metropolitan Water District to Quit Claim to the United States nearly 100 acres in the East Coxcombs.
Target Date: August, 1997
- * Effect the trade out of any State of California interests that may remain in the park AFTER the BLM concludes its current land exchange package with the State Lands Commission.
Target Date: September, 1997
- * Prepare Final Legal Descriptions and Official Boundary Maps of 1994 Wilderness.
Target Date: March, 1997
- * Initiate process to redesignate 1976 legislated Potential Wilderness to Wilderness.
Target Date: March, 1997

- * Review NPS land status maps with BLM so that the BLM official records show land in the park that the NPS has acquired over the past several decades as "Lands Reconveyed to the United States."

Target Date: September, 1997

- * Ensure that Right-of-Way holders in the park are billed.

Target Date: March, 1997

- * Inform all Mining Claimants of how they may obtain access to their claims in park.

Target Date: March, 1997

- * Request that BLM invalidate any mining claims that fail to meet procedural requirements for recordation year 1997.

Target Date: March, 1997

- * Contact all private landowners in park by letter or telephone to determine interest in selling lands.

Target Date: March, 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:

- * Ensure efficient execution of all maintenance operations at Joshua Tree National Park.
- * Execute campground rehabilitation program. Identify needs and set timetables. Complete Hidden Valley Campground and initiate Indian Cove Campground.
- * Purchase and in stall six new vault toilets at Jumbo Campground, Ryan Mt. Parking and Hidden Valley day use area. (universally accessible) .
- * Implement Recycling Program at three additional locations. Coordinate partnership for recycling with VFW Post 9431.
- * Repair park roadways; place 1,250 tons of Class II base aggregate and 1,250 tons SC 800 cold mix asphalt on deteriorated park roads, crack seal approximately 15 miles of roadway and restripe approximately 65 miles of park raids and parking areas.
- * Work with Backcountry personnel in the establishment of trail standards and work plans. Establish trail standards site specific for JOTR. Purchase supplies, materials and equipment to initiate a park trail program.
- * Expand Joshua Tree's commitment to universal accessibility. establish eighteen universal campsites: Hidden Valley (6), Blackrock (6) and Jumbo Rocks (6) in compliance with Universal Outdoor Recreation Use Standards.

- * **Work with Pacific West Field Area office personnel in the design of Cottonwood Comfort Station and Visitor Center.**
- * **Conduct a 10 enrollee YCC Camp to work on parkwide Resource Management and Operational projects.**
- * **Continue to pursue funding for photovoltaic off-grid power system for Cottonwood visitor use and housing complex.**
- * **Hold bi-annual divisional meetings and monthly foreman meetings. Encourage all maintenance personnel to participate in parkwide programs.**

WORK UNIT: ADMINISTRATION

DESIRED CONDITIONS:

The Administrative Services Work Group manages and provides all services in human resources, budget and finance, procurement and contracting, property management, information management, and telecommunications to ensure an outstanding level of service and primary support to the park staff in a manner compliant with fiscally sound practices and legal standards.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/OBJECTIVES:

- * Recruit and fill Administrative Support Assistant position; incorporate the following responsibilities into the position:

- parkwide payroll coordination and training of timekeepers
- training of program assistants and supervisors in FPPS personnel action requests and approvals; personnel action processing
- coordination of parkwide training procedures
- administration of uniform authorizations and orders

Target Date: May, 1997

- * Update park wide property inventory, adding recently acquired equipment and deleting surveyed and disposed property. Reestablish Board of Survey. Dispose of excess property through small lot sale or other means.

Target Date: April, 1997

- * Install new phone system and relocate phone equipment and computer network fileserver/router to electronics closet adjacent to Chief of Admin. office.

Target Date: April, 1997

- * **Successfully incorporate accounting and reconciliation of accounts into Administrative Services with resulting bi-weekly status of funds and smooth year end closeout. Continue this accounting practice as standard operating procedure in subsequent budget years.**
Target Date: September, 1997 and ongoing

- * **Update and finalize Position Management Plan.**
Target Date: March, 1997

- * **Rewrite and update Housing Management Plan.**
Target Date: June, 1997

- * **Formalize and tighten up contracting and purchasing procedures and deadlines particularly in the areas of large contracts, IMPAC purchases, and third party draft issuance.**
Target Date: April, 1997

- * **Develop Administrative Handbook which would provide guidance to park staff on procedures to follow for purchasing, training, personnel actions, timekeeping, computer assistance, recruitment, finance, and accounting.**
Target Date: September, 1997

- * **Update and standardize New Employee Welcome and Orientation packages and ensure they are mailed to all new employees. Seasonals' packages may differ from permanent' packages.**
Target Date: September, 1997

- * **Develop acceptable and potentially affordable long-term solution to park's computer support needs whether through help from the Marine Base, shared position specific to Joshua Tree, or see other approach.**
Target Date: September, 1997

WORK UNIT: RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DESIRED CONDITIONS:

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

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/OBJECTIVES:

- * Complete a Keys Ranch Management Plan, including rewriting the National Register Nomination to include prehistoric elements and that portion of the plan that addresses needs for stabilization.
Target Date: September, 1997
- * Revegetate disturbed sites throughout the park, including Lost Horse Mine site, tortoise habitat in the Pinto Basin, and abandoned roads that lie in wilderness or closed areas.
Target Date: September, 1997 for Lost Horse, several sites in Pinto and several roads in wilderness areas.
- * Complete third year of NPS tortoise survey, inventory and monitor tortoise populations.
Target Date: September, 1997
- * Complete research at Nursery for improved germination survival techniques.
Target Date: September, 1997
- * Inventory threatened and endangered plant populations in park.
Target Date: September, 1997

- * Let a contract for a study that examines the propriety, feasibility and effects of reestablishing Pronghorn Antelope into the park, including the initiation of consultation under the Endangered Species Act.

Target Date: September, 1997

- * Implement a Health Advisory Notification Program for days when concentrations of ozone of other criteria air pollutants exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Target Date: September, 1997

- * Conduct an inventory of Abandoned Mine Lands in the park and write a plan for the management and restoration of such lands.

Target Date: September, 1997

- * Complete inventory of park water resources, with analysis of water quantity and quality.

Target Date: September, 1997

- * Convert all park area topographical data into electronic GIS format for use in providing maps for planning efforts and data on park acreage in various management categories.

Target Date: September, 1997

- * Obtain data for the preparation of a Park Vegetation Map.

Target Date: September, 1997

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:

- * Identify and coordinate clean-up projects over the next ten months which will improve the wilderness areas of the park. These projects will include removing illegal dump sites, marking boundaries and blocking illegal access.
- * Implement division reorganization (combine Special Use and Fee Supervision position) to enhance fee collection operation to expand hours of operation.
- * Create a data base for IBM and Film information. Research feasibility of automating the film permit process. Review park SUP Policy.
- * Document Backcountry Visitor Use through a backcountry patrol program. Develop Backcountry/Wilderness patrol report forms for staff to use in documentation.
- * Begin tracking program for park radios and schedule annual maintenance on park repeaters.
- * Prepare for FIREPRO Audit. Prepare for 1997 fire season by participating in the draft of the Fire Operating Plan for the California Desert. Provide mandatory training and physical fitness test for the 1997 fire season.
- * Conduct annual update on the Superintendent's Compendium. Work with Sheriff Departments on combined NPS MOU.
- * Implement expanded patrol shifts during the Spring Visitor season.

- * Continue SAR Team building through monthly training sessions. Insure proper SAR equipment use through development of equipment history and proper training technique.
- * Set-up an internal visitor use data collection system.
- * Continue to work on the completion of the Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan.

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, continue exhibit planning process for Oasis VC Major Repair/Rehab project. Coordinate exhibit planning meetings scheduled at park for FY97.

Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation

Completion date: September 30, 1997

- * Update Division 10-238s to reflect recent changes in park management strategy as well as recent project accomplishments. Bring Interpretation 10-238 packages in line with approved General Management Plan.

Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation

Completion date: September 30, 1997

- * Working together with the SSO and HFC staff, complete work on campground wayside exhibit package. Work with park staff on wayside exhibit installation.

Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation

Completion date: September 30, 1997

- * Convert term positions to some type of permanent status.
Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation
Completion date: September 30, 1998
- * Prepare and submit documentation for programmatic increase to complete implementation of the approved Division Position Management Plan.
Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation
Completion date: July 31, 1997
- * Complete work on existing 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. Work with artist, SSO, and park staff through design, fabrication, and installation process.
Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation
Completion date: September 30, 1997
- * Assist the Joshua Tree National Park Association with the implementation of their new sponsorship program.
Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation
Completion date: June 1, 1997
- * Identify new audiences and user groups for park interpretive programs outside the confines of the traditional park visitor population. Develop strategies and increase the effectiveness of marketing interpretive programs. Increase overall program attendance by 10%.
Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation, Interpretive Operations Supervisor
Completion date: September 30, 1997

- * Develop a minimal level of interpretive program offerings to be offered year-round, i.e. one daily patio talk, Friday-Sunday one daily Keys Ranch tour, Saturday-Sunday one daily campfire program, Friday-Saturday

Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation, Interp. Operations Supervisor

Completion date: September 30, 1997

- * 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.

Responsible person: Education Specialist

Completion date: September 1, 1997

- * Work cooperatively with the San Bernardino County Museum and the Joshua Tree National Park Association to complete production of the desert tortoise education kits.

Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation, Education Specialist

Completion date: September 30, 1997

- * Devise an implementation strategy with other California desert NPS sites for the "What's a Desert Worth?" curriculum. Execute and monitor contracts. Print and distribute final curriculum. Prepare final report for National Park Foundation on project completion.

Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation, Education Specialist

Completion date: June 30, 1997

- * Complete the planning for interpretive media for the Colorado Desert Nature Trail. Seek additional funding for exhibit production and trail construction materials.

Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation, Interp. Operations Supervisor, Cottonwood Area Interpreter

Completion Date: July 31, 1997

- * Complete revisions for the following 25 cent brochures: Cholla Cactus Garden, the Geology Tour Road, and Cottonwood Springs.

Responsible person: Interp. Operations Supervisor, Cottonwood Area Interpreter

Completion date: June 30, 1997

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

Responsible person: Interp. Operations Supervisor, Interpretive staff

Completion date: Ongoing

- * Develop and implement "Adopt-A-Raven Transect" program. Recruit schools, teachers, and mentors into the program.

Responsible person: Education Specialist

Completion date: October 1, 1997

- * Work with community partners on the inaugural Joshua Tree March for Parks event. Recruit target of 250 marchers.

Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation

Completion date: April 20, 1997

- * Develop and seek approval from park management and the JTNPA for a funding strategy for the park Art-in-the-Park program.

Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation

Completion date: September 30, 1997

- * **Work together with the Division of Resources Management on the design and implementation of a Joshua Tree National Park Association Annual Research Grant. Develop and seek approval from park management and the JTNPA for a funding strategy for the Research Grant.**

Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation

Completion date: September 30, 1997

- * **Develop a plan for a Keys Ranch fee interpretation program. Seek approval and adoption by park management.**

Responsible person: Chief of Interpretation

Completion date: September 30, 1997