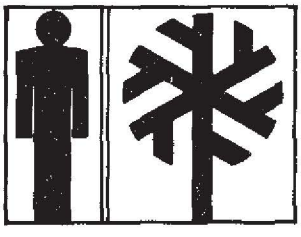
FES 75-99

final
environmental statement

PROPOSED
MASTER PLAN

PINNACLES



NATIONAL MONUMENT / CALIFORNIA

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

FES 75-99

PROPOSED

MASTER PLAN
PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT
CALIFORNIA

Prepared by

WESTERN REGION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Acting Director, National Park Service

DEC 1 1975

PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

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SUMMARY

( ) Draft Statement (X) Final Statement
Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Western Region

1. Type of Action (X) Administrative (X) Legislative

2. Description of Action
The proposed action is a master plan for the management of Pinnacles National Monument, San Benito and Monterey Counties, California. The plan recommends measures to insure preservation of the resources of Pinnacles for public appreciation and for scientific research. These measures include land acquisitions for preservation of wildlife species and relocation of visitor facilities; conversion of all facilities to day use; and the installation of a visitor shuttle during heavy visitation periods.

3. Summary of Environmental Impact and Adverse Environmental Effects
Essentially, the effect on the environment is twofold. First, a large area (14,500 acres) of the Gabilan Range will be retained in public ownership, thus, protecting it from consumptive land uses such as grazing, agriculture, or uncontrolled recreation development. Secondly, there will be effects associated with development necessary to provide access and services to the visitor. This includes roads, trails, buildings, and administrative facilities. Moreover, human use itself will erode the resource to some degree.

4. Alternatives Considered
   a. No Action
   b. Develop Additional Facilities Within the Present Monument Boundaries
   c. Encourage Private Development of all Necessary Facilities on Private Land
   d. Construct a Cross-Park Road
   e. Boundary Revisions Greater or Smaller Than Those Proposed

5. Comments Have Been Requested From the Following:

*Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	*Bureau of Land Management
Department of Agricultue	*Bureau of Mines
*Forest Service	*Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
Soil Conservation Service	*Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce	*Geological Survey
Department of Defense	Department of Transportation
*Army Corps of Engineers	*Federal Highway Administration
Department of the Interior	*Environmental Protection Agency
*Fish & Wildlife Service	Federal Power Commission
*Bureau of Indian Affairs	*State of California Clearinghouse
	*State Historic Preservation Officer

6. Date Made Available to CEQ and the Public
Draft Statement: March 8, 1974

Final Statement: DEC 1 1975

*Comments received and attached.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

The development of this unit of the National Park System has been neglected for too long, and certainly its value as a natural resource, or what these resources can impart to the visitor, has never been fully assessed. The precipitous volcanic outcroppings for which the monument was established are unique to Pacific Coast geography, and they exist in the National Park Service's only example of a complete coast range chaparral community.

Recently, as with other units of the National Park System, Pinnacles National Monument has experienced increased pressures from expanding visitation, especially from the nearby San Francisco Metropolitan Area. The present visitor facilities are inadequate, outdated, and are consistently overtaxed at peak periods of use. Visitors are often turned away for lack of space and facilities. The facilities that exist are dangerously close to and are threatening the very resources we seek to protect in this diminutive natural area. Cognizant to these facts, the National Park Service has prepared a master plan for the monument. This plan is designed to provide concepts for preservation, interpretation, administration, and development of the natural monument which will serve as a guide for its management and use in the future. Its objectives are:

1. Preserve the monument's irreplaceable natural resources for future use and enjoyment.

2. Offer only those facilities that encourage use appropriate to the monument to insure a visitor experience in keeping with the purpose of the monument.

3. Encourage development of visitor services by private enterprise outside the monument.

4. Regulate the circulatory patterns of the visitor to lessen users impact on critical zones and insure wider distribution of use throughout the monument.

Implementation of the master plan will be accomplished over a period of five to ten years. An orderly program of acquisition, development, and resource management will be formulated in a continuing planning process. This process includes the determination of carrying capacities for the backcountry areas, the prime resource zone, and the proposed developments on each side of the monument. A resource management plan for the monument and development concept plans for those areas to be developed will proceed within the framework of the master plan. Environmental impact assessments will accompany these documents and will thoroughly analyze the detailed resource the development proposals based on the master plan concepts.

LAND ACQUISITION

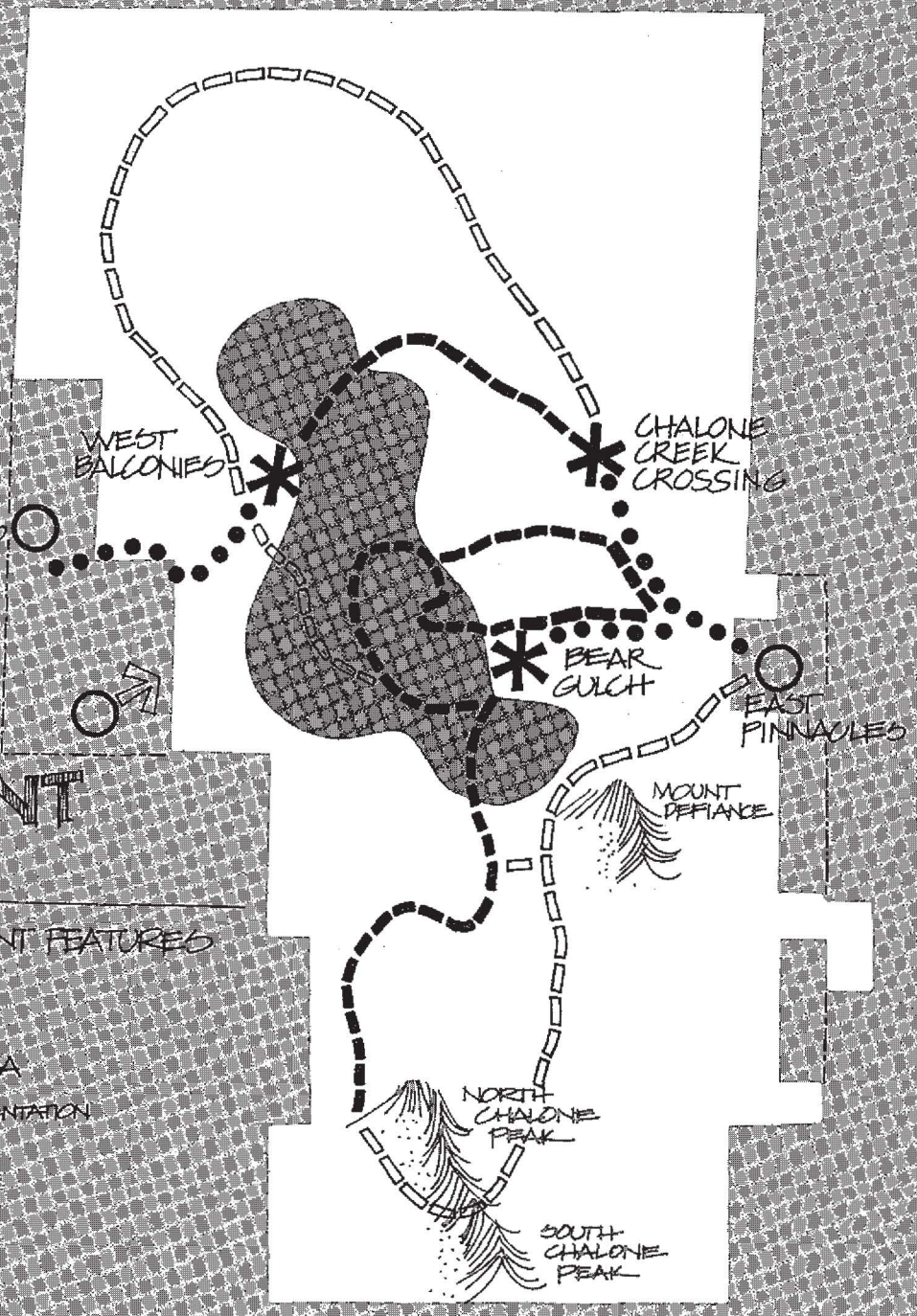
The specific proposals in the master plan to satisfy the above objectives are largely dependent upon the acquisition of approximately 975 acres adjacent to the west entrance and 460 acres adjacent to the east side of the monument. These lands, outlined in the General Development Plan (on page 3), are to be utilized as "visitor staging areas" and for the construction of facilities to replace, expand, and upgrade those to be removed from within the present boundary. The visitor use and support facilities, as the described below, are to be relocated to the new acquisitions due to their existing proximity close to the monument's primary resources. Their relocation will require no more than 20 acres of land on each side of the monument. The remaining acreage will be utilized as a natural buffer for the resource, to insure preservation of several plant and animal species in the eastern acquisition and to provide an overlook picnic area and monument entrance on the western approach to the monument. These lands are presently open grazing land, are privately owned, and have adequate level topography for anticipated developments.

REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF FACILITIES

Faced with topographical and ecological limitations within the present boundary, the National Park Service proposed to phase out and remove most visitor support facilities in the existing West Balconies development and the Bear Gulch complex to the east. On the west side of the monument it is necessary to remove only a ranger station, two trailers, and a generator from within the resource. However, 16 structures will be removed from the eastern side of the monument in Bear Gulch, Condor Gulch, and Chalone Creek. These structures are employee residences and trailers as well as maintenance and headquarters buildings. Their general location is shown on the visitor impact and existing conditions map, page 31. No structures will be removed or demolished if architectural and historic value is determined to be significant through professional evaluation.

Concurrent with the removal of these facilities from within the present developed areas, the existing parking areas will be reduced to provide only areas large enough to accommodate a shuttle terminus and trailhead, and picnicking facilities. This will reduce parking spaces to approximately one-half of the 125 spaces that now exist. Eighty-five are in the Bear Gulch developed area on the east side of the monument, and the remaining 40 are in the developed area on the west side.

The West Balconies, sometimes referred to as Chaparral, and Bear Gulch areas of the monument are to be developed simply as trailhead sites or wilderness thresholds into the primary resource area of the



GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

MAJOR MONUMENT FEATURES

DEVELOPED AREA
- PARKING
- INFORMATION & ORIENTATION
- SHUTTLE TERMINUS
- SUPPORT FACILITIES

PROPOSED TRAIL
- INTERPRETATION

EXISTING TRAIL

TRAIL HEAD
- PICNICKING
- INTERPRETATION
- SHUTTLE TERMINUS

OVERLOOK
- PICNICKING
- INFORMATION & ORIENTATION

SHUTTLE SYSTEM
- INTERPRETATION

PROPOSED ADDITION

park. The access roads into these two areas and the limited visitor parking facilities remaining (approximately 60 spaces) are to be retained for use by the public on weekdays and off-season periods when visitation is low.

This removal and relocation of facilities and parking will free 10 acres on the west side of the monument and approximately 20 acres on the east side of the monument for use by the public or for revitalization as natural buffer and open space. Picnicking is regarded as a natural activity in this area and will continue to be encouraged on both sides of the monument within the present boundary. Any increase in this activity will be confined to previously developed lands such as campgrounds. Developments will include tables, stoves, and overhead structures for shade.

In keeping with the visitor use objectives of the master plan, management and planning efforts will be directed toward converting Pinnacles into a day-use area. The monument's close proximity to the San Francisco Bay area attracts primarily day-use visitation. The conflicts which continually arise with camping vehicles competing with day users for limited parking spaces available has prompted this action. This will be done gradually. Existing campgrounds are to phased out and converted to day use facilities, such as picnicking, or the lands they occupy will be returned to a natural condition. This action would entail the elimination of a total of 45 individual and 15 group sites on the east side and 25 individual campsites on the west side of the monument. In as much as demand for camping facilities will continue, efforts will be made to assist the private sector to develop adequate public campgrounds and related facilities outthe monument boundaries. Approximately 14 acres of land on the east side and eight acres on the west side approaches to the monument would be required to relocate the number of campsites which presently exist in the monument. In all probability private developers will wish to expand upon the 85 individual and group units that would be relocated. This will require one additional acre of land for each six additional campsites constructed.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

A mini-bus shuttle system (propane or electric vehicles) will be developed to transport the visitor from the two staging areas (east and west Pinnacles) into the resource during peak visitation periods with terminal points located at the existing reduced parking area located at Bear Gulch, West Balconies and the Chalone Creek crossing. This system is shown on the General Development Concept, page 3. Adequate parking for this peak period visitation will be provided at the proposed east and west visitor staging areas. Approximately three to four of the 20 developed acres within each acquisition will be required for this purpose. The shuttle system will be 1.4 miles in lengh on the west side of the monument, all of which will be

on the existing entrance road. The eastern system is approximately 3.5 miles in length and 3 miles of this will be operable on existing paved roads. The remaining .5 mile of the system will follow the existing unpaved road from the Chalone Creek Campground to its terminus at Chalone Creek crossing on the way to the balconies formation. This portion will require paving to accommodate the shuttle vehicles. This trail is shown on the existing circulation map on page 33.

NEW AND RELOCATED DEVELOPMENT

All necessary support facilities for day-use activities will be provided at the east and west acquisitions. This will include a ranger station, fee collection facility, and maintenance structures to insure efficient operational functioning. Due to the monument's isolation, both of the entrance developments will include housing for the personnel necessary to provide 24-hour onsite protection. In addition, information and orientation structures with basic interpretation would be developed at the staging area to acquaint the visitor with the resources and how best to experience them.

Utilities in these staging areas will have to be provided concurrently with facilities development. Water will necessarily be dependent upon well development on both sides of the monument. Sewage disposal will probably be provided by a package treatment plant on each side of the monument. These plants would include effluent chlorination, treatment of residual and effluent disposal by means of spray aeration or leach field. An alternative method of disposal would be through the use of sewage evaporation lagoons. Although power is readily available on the east side of the monument, the west side development would require extension of electrical service from its present location to the west on State Route 146, a total of six miles.

Because facilities for these two staging areas have not been designed, the extent of these developments including exact dimensions and capacities cannot be given at this time. However, as stated on page 2, no more than 20 acres on each side of the monument would be needed to provide these facilities. The plan also proposes to relocate those monument administrative facilities and employee housing, not essential for onsite maintenance and protection, to a less sensitive area closer to a population center such as Soledad. The staff would be nearer to services and could take advantage of the more favorable public relation situation that is unavailable at this time due to the monument's isolated location.

Interpretive facilities will be constructed within the present boundary as well as proposed acquisitions. They will be of a small decentralized nature and will be constructed as trailside exhibits

at overlooks or small informational structures in the developed areas containing the shuttle terminuses in the picnic areas.

ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

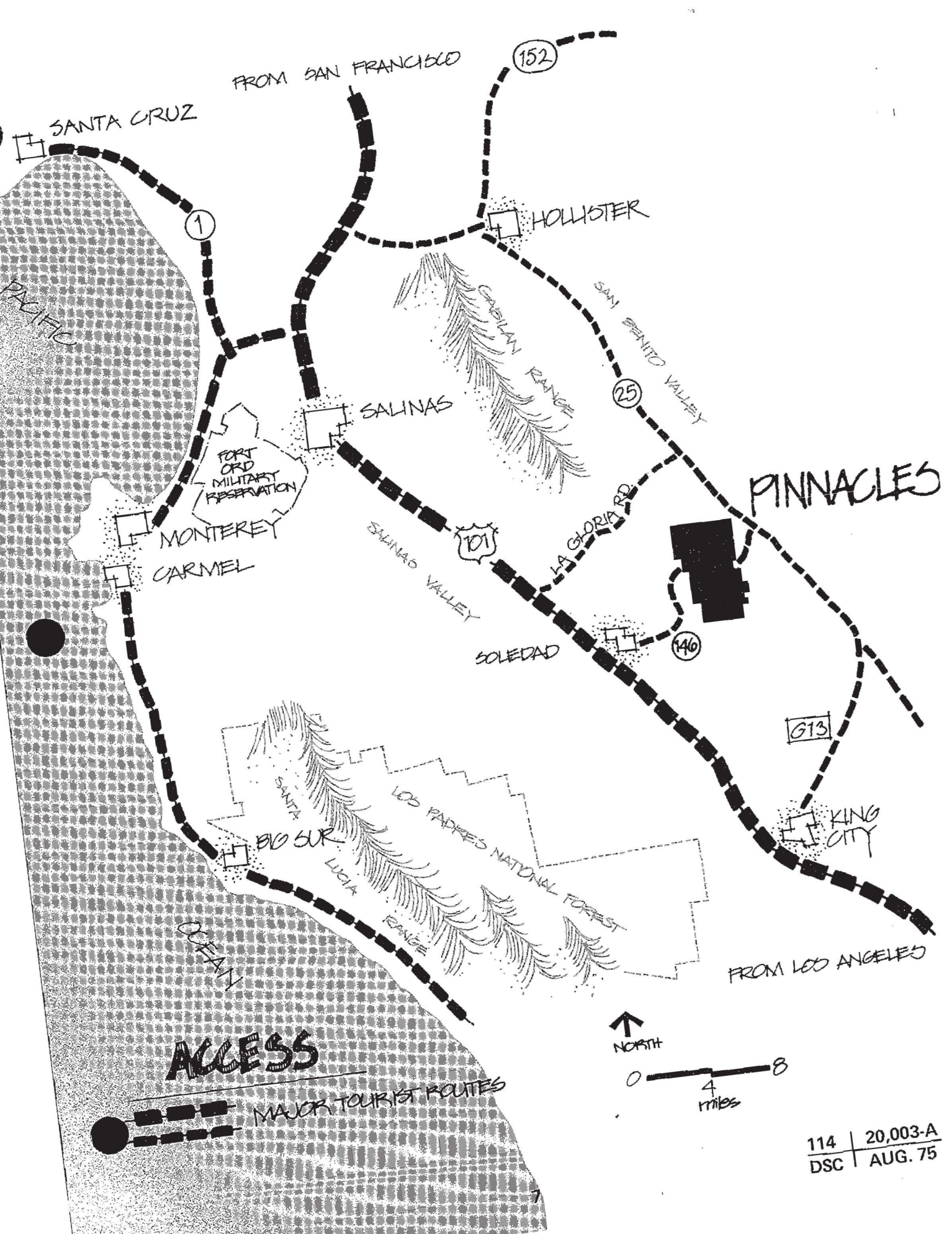
With the completion of these proposals and the removal of the automobile from within the present monument during heavy use, the expected increase in visitation within the resource will be confined to people on foot. The existing trail system within the Pinnacles formation as shown on the General Development Plan does not connect the two sides of the monument. Approximately two miles of additional unpaved trails are necessary to connect the existing trail system with the west side of the monument, to better serve the visitor in this area. The construction will connect the West Balconies shuttle terminus to the high peaks trail by way of Juniper Canyon.

A major master plan objective is to insure wider distribution of use throughout the monument. In order to make the inaccessible portions of the monument's chaparral resources available to the visitor, a system of backcountry trails is planned. One trail six miles in lengh will connect the West Balconies shuttle terminus to the Chalone Creek crossing shuttle terminus by way of Chalone Creek Canyon. Another five miles of trails are planned in the southern half of the monument to connect north and south Chalone Peaks to the East Pinnacles development by way of Frog Canyon.

Because soil limitations exist in the backcountry, all trail design will include erosion control methods, such as proper alignment in relation to slope and contour, physical barriers, revegetation, and interim fencing. Furthermore, trails will be located away from raptor nesting areas.

A shift in emphasis to the west entrance for the car-touring, short-term visitor is advocated in the master plan as well. Here, access from major tourist routes is simpler, and the monument's resources are readily accessible to the visitor. Therefore, more people who wish to visit the monument for only a short period can be accommodated here. This is readily apparent on the access map (page 7). The less accessible eastern side of the monument will be managed to encourage the visitor who wishes a more leisurely long-term visit.

Although the west side of the monument is more accessible to the motorist, the road which serves the area will have to be upgraded to handle increased traffic. Improvements will involve approximately seven miles of road and will be dependent upon the California Department of Transportation's long-range plans for upgrading Route 146. A visitor overlook is also planned on this route immediately inside the boundary of the



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and a basic informational structure. Approximately two acres of land will be developed for this purpose.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

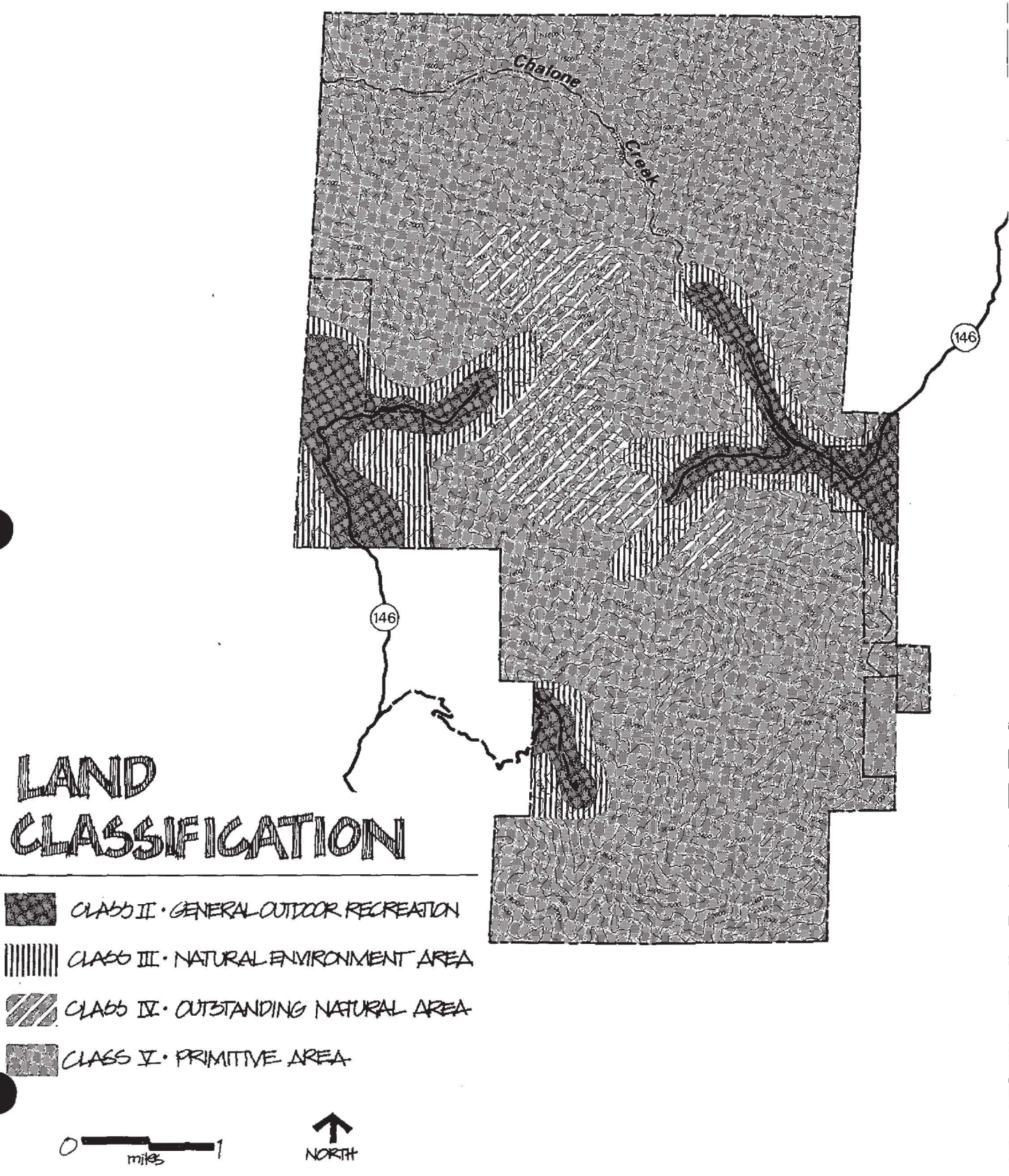
In keeping with the policies governing the management of a natural area in the National Park System, the master plan advocates measures that will reintroduce and/or maintain a natural environment within the monument.

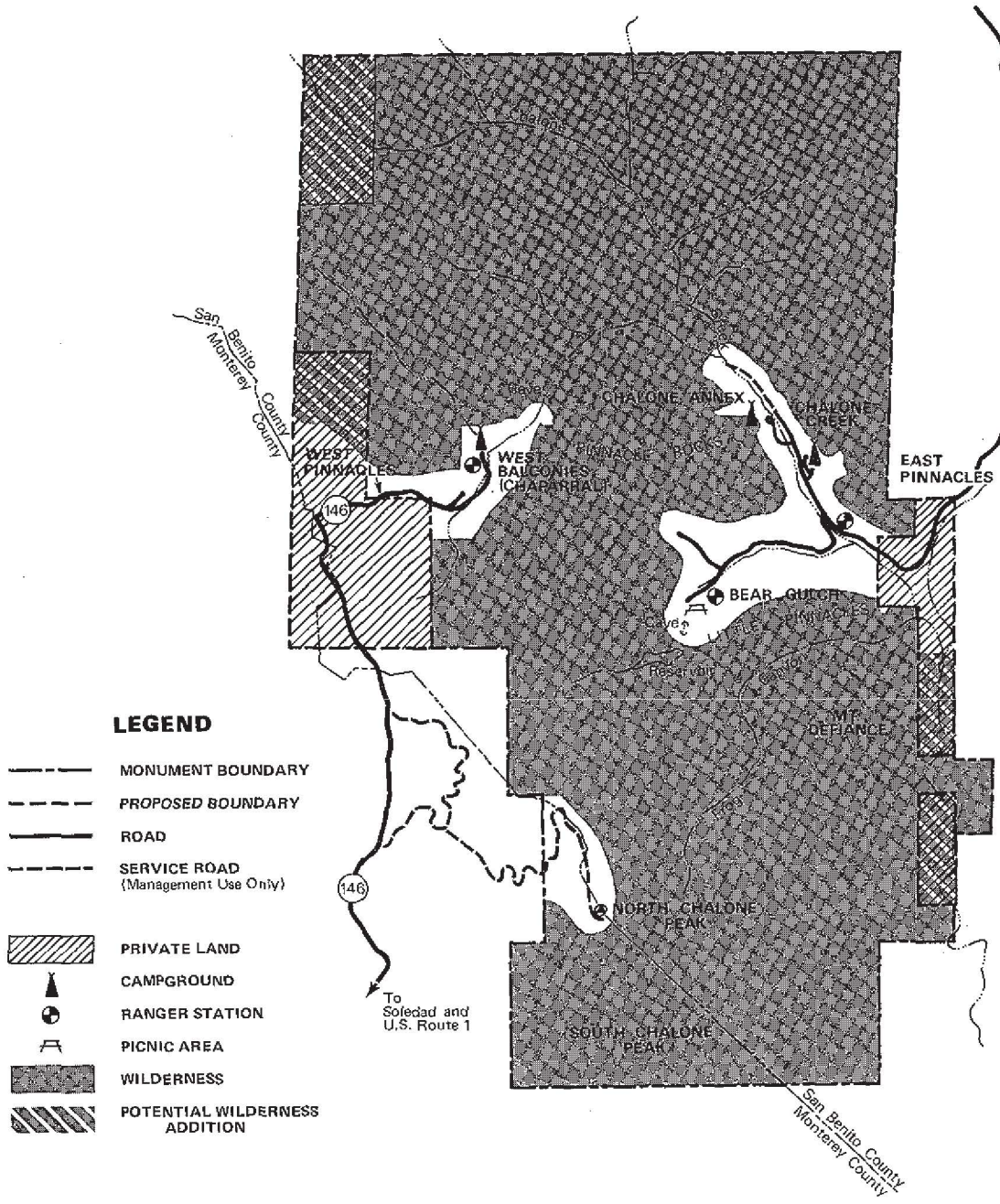
One such proposal is to repair and recondition the dam at the head of Bear Gulch to make it safe in any forseeable situation and to blend it into the natural terrain. This will be accomplished by plugging all leaks, and reinforcement where necessary and veneering the raw concrete scars with native rock.

The master plan proposes to complete the fencing of the entire monument boundary, including the additional acquisitions. This is necessary to protect the native vegetation from straying cattle and to maintain the natural environment of the monument. The perimeter of the monument with acquisition would total 23.5 miles, and approximately 3/4 of this length would need to be delineated and fenced.

Fire is a natural element in the chaparral community, and fire-adapted plant species are dependent upon it for regeneration. The chaparral vegetation at Pinnacles is presently over mature and in a state of decline due to 60 years of fire suppression. Evidence is accumulating which indicates that major vegetation shifts are also taking place, at least in the chaparral formation. Here the brush is being invaded by Digger pines. The plan advocates the reintroduction of fire into Pinnacles' ecosystem. Several methods of prescribed burning are possible: Partial firing of selected areas over a period of time or total burning in one operation. However, further research, planning, and the formation of a resource management plan is necessary before the proper method can be selected and definite action taken. Because 85 percent of the monument's vegetative cover is chaparral, it is clear that the majority of the plant communities must eventually be burned to revitalize their over-mature condition.

The master plan has classified all of the monument's land in accordance with the land-use concepts described by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission in its land classification system. The recommendations in the master plan are coordinated with these land-use designations to insure wise use and management of the natural resources of Pinnacles National Monument. (See map, page 9)


Chalone
Creek
146
146
LAND
CLASSIFICATION
CLASS II · GENERAL OUTDOOR RECREATION
CLASS III · NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AREA
CLASS IV · OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA
CLASS V · PRIMITIVE AREA
0
miles
1
NORTH



LEGEND

- MONUMENT BOUNDARY
- *PROPOSED BOUNDARY*
- ROAD
- SERVICE ROAD (Management Use Only)
- PRIVATE LAND
- CAMPGROUND
- RANGER STATION
- PICNIC AREA
- WILDERNESS
- POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITION

NORTH

2000 0 2000 4000 6000 8000

SCALE IN FEET

ACREAGE

GROSS PARK ACREAGE	15,954.51
FEDERAL LAND	14,177.77
PRIVATE LAND	1,776.74
WILDERNESS	12,952.23
POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITION	710.00

WILDERNESS PLAN

PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RELATED PROPOSALS

A wilderness plan for Pinnacles National Monument was developed in 1967. The proposal considered only those lands in the southern half of the monument for wilderness classification. This proposal became subject to revision after the Department of the Interior's guidelines for wilderness classification were revised in 1972. Subsequently, a new Wilderness Plan for Pinnacles was submitted to Congress in 1973 for review and is now being revised for submittal and final approval. This Wilderness Plan proposal is shown on page 10.

The Pinnacles Land and Cattle Company has proposed a visitor-use development on their lands adjacent to the eastern boundary of the monument. Portions of this development are to be relocated on lands the National Park Service wishes to acquire for the East Pinnacles staging area and in the riparian habitat that the National Park Service wishes to preserve. The Pinnacles Land and Cattle Company proposals would include individual and group camping facilities, recreation building and convenience store, and recreation areas including playfields, amphitheater, and picnic grounds. These accommodations and services will be provided in phases as pressure of demand indicates. A conditional-use permit for this project has been approved by the San Benito County Planning Commission.

The National Park Service joined in negotiations with the Pinnacles Land and Cattle Company in an attempt to provide the east side staging area visitor facilities in a joint public agency/private enterprise development. Although planning is in a preliminary stage, a great deal of progress has been made regarding this proposal.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

REGIONAL ENVIRONS

Pinnacles National Monument is located in Central California, 40 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, in the southern section of the Coast Range Providence. The monument is adjacent to U.S. Route 101, the main vehicular communications route of coastal California, historically called El Camino Real, or the Royal Road, by the early Spanish settlers of California.

Population centers within 30 miles of the monument include: Salinas, population 58,365; Soledad, population 6,775; Hollister, population 7,660; and King City, population 3,535. The majority of the 14,500-acre monument is in San Benito County, with approximately 1,100 acres being in Monterey County.

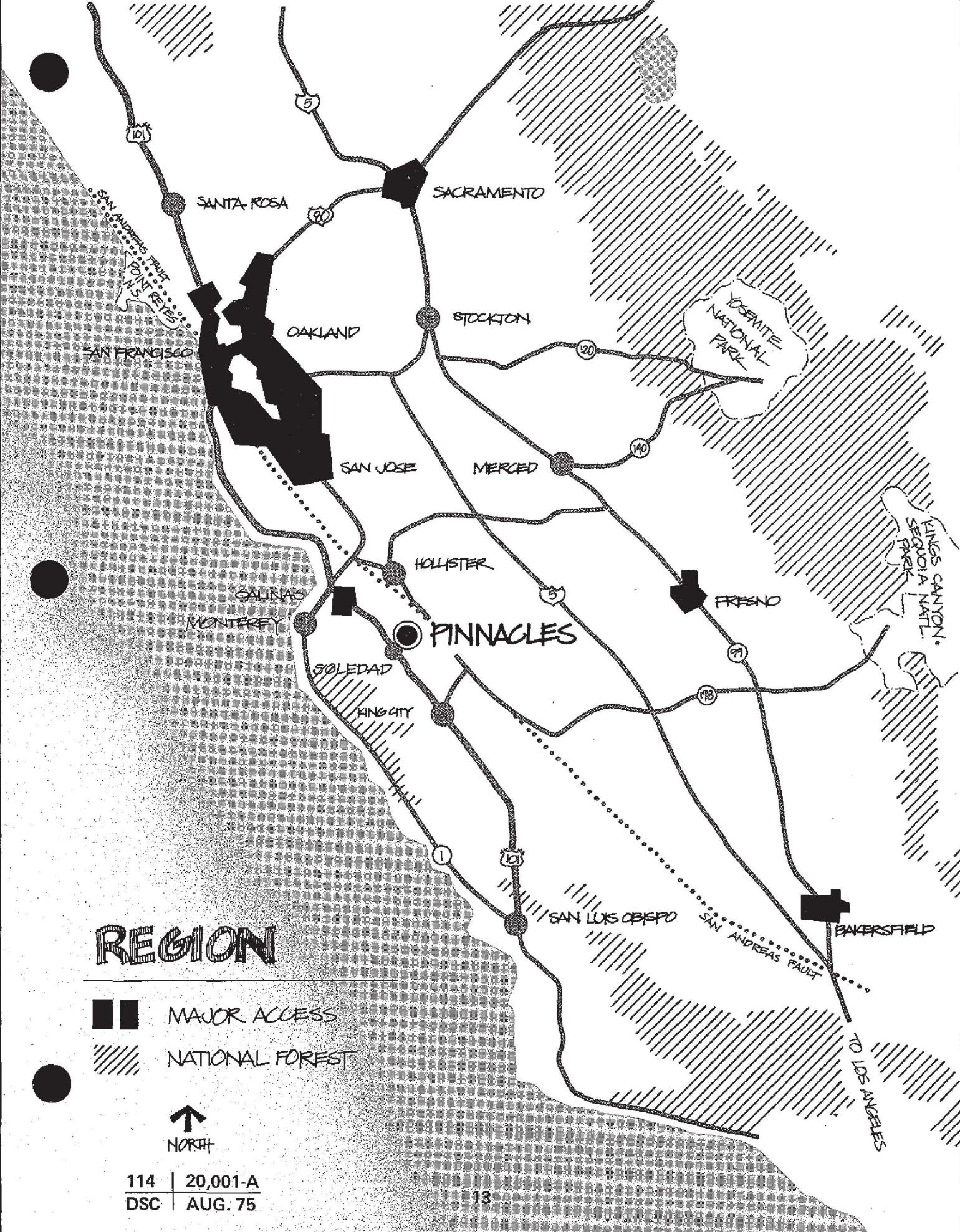
Topography and vegetation are represented by the rolling, hilly, chaparral-covered countryside of the Gabilan Range, with the exception of the unique rugged rhyolitic spines and eroded exposures from which Pinnacles derives its name. Although the terrain is mountainous with locally steep topography, the area is of generally low relief. The mean elevation of the monument is about 2,000 feet above sea level.

The monument's surroundings are quite rural and all lands are grazed by cattle and hunted during the State deer season. Due to the arid climate, the few scattered farm developments in the area are restricted to those lands where water can be obtained.

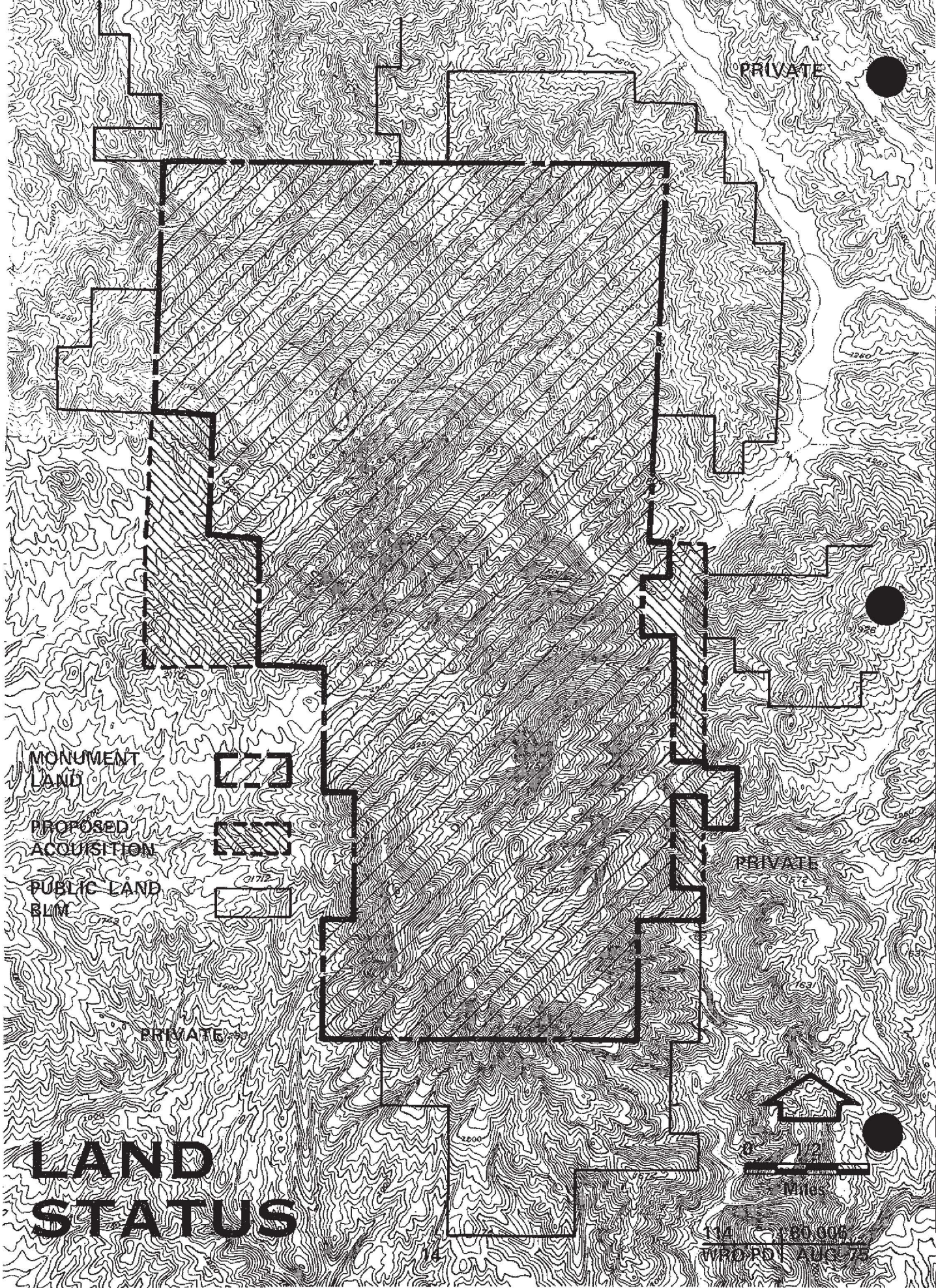
Public domain lands surround the monument in scattered parcels interspersed with private ownerships. The pattern of ownership can be seen on the Land Status Map on page 14. The public lands are federally owned and administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Grazing use on this land is controlled on a permit basis by this agency. Little farming is practical on ajacent private lands except for some dryland grain crops. The bulk of the land is suitable only for range purposes.

Although grazing is the principal immediate regional land use, extensive viticulture and truck farming are practiced in the adjacent fertile Salinas and San Benito Valleys. These agricultural valleys are the home of a relatively large percentage of Mexican-American farm laborers.

Agricultural census data for San Benito County for 1964 show that the county's acreage is devoted primarily to grape growing and cattle and chicken raising.



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PRIVATE
MONUMENT LAND
PROPOSED ACQUISITION
PUBLIC LAND BLM
PRIVATE
PRIVATE
0
1/2
Miles
LAND STATUS
14
114
WRD-PD
1:80,000
AUG '75

Acreage of Crops		Number of Livestock	
Grain & Vegetables	25,000	Cattle	49,876
Fruit trees	757,300	Sheep	14,218
Nut trees	269,900	Pigs	246
Grapevines (No. of)	1,509,000	Chickens	5,937,585

RECREATIONAL USE

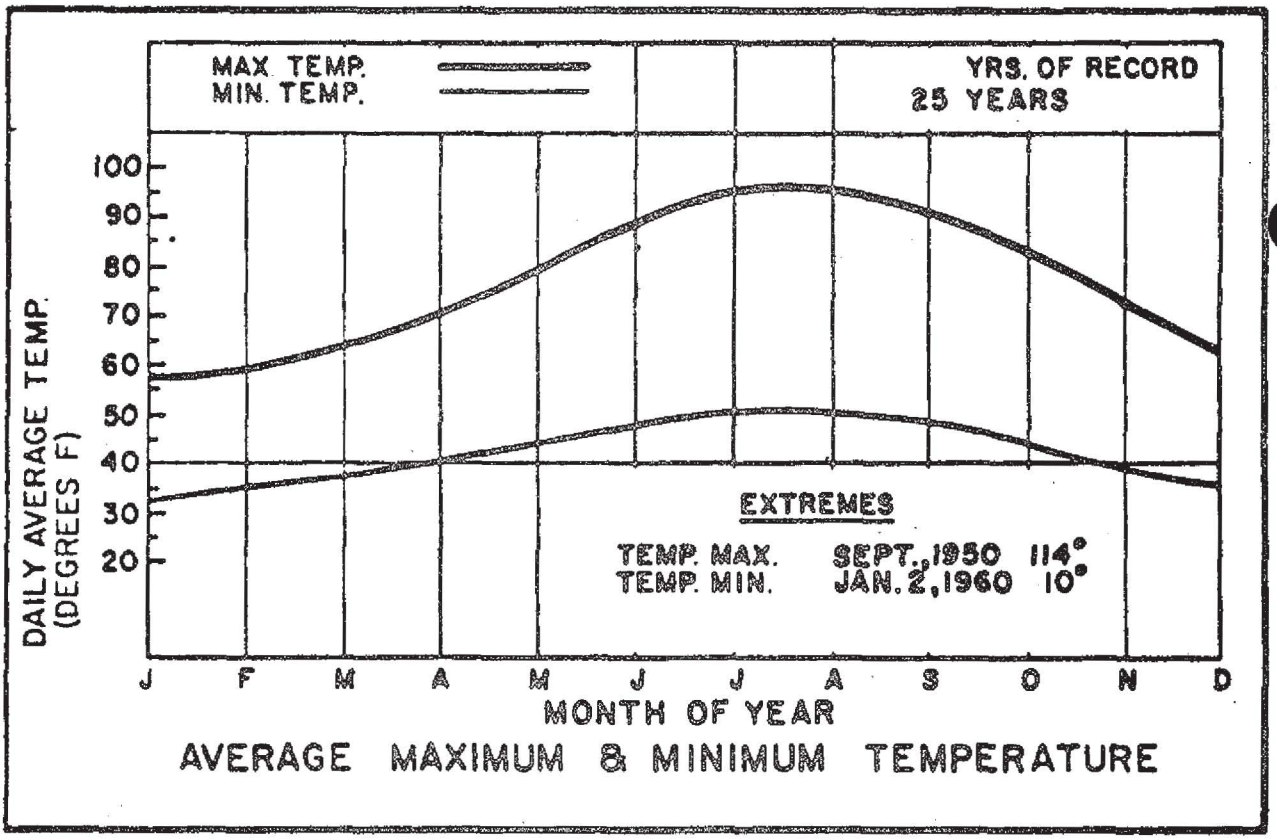
The San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose metropolitan region lies only 1 1/2 to 2 hours' driving time to the north (130 miles), and its extremely mobile population of 4 1/2 million people are placing increasingly heavy recreation pressures upon the resources in this area. Although the monument is located in an area of sparse population, there is every indication that visitor pressure on Pinnacles will continue to increase as the population of the San Francisco Bay Area expands (5.5 million forecast by 1980). The residents of this cosmopolitan western metropolis seek a diverse variety of recreational experiences. An average San Franciscan thinks nothing of going several hundred miles each way on a weekend to hunt, ski, fish, camp, hike or just to experience the relaxation and contemplative qualities that a natural environment has to offer. Scenic recreation areas within reach of Bay Area residents include the Sierra Nevada mountains, with Lake Tahoe and Yosemite National Park, and the coastal areas such as Monterey and Big Sur.

Many visitors to the Pinnacles area are attracted to this region's superb coastline. An estimated 25 million recreation days were spent on the central California coast for recreational purposes in 1970 from San Francisco to Point Conception. By 1980, a projected 36 million recreation days will be recorded at this region's dramatic rocky headlands and beautiful unpopulated beaches. Tabulations by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation indicate that within 100 miles of Pinnalces there are a total of 427,600 acres dedicated to recreation administered by Federal, State, and local agencies, and these lands provide the wide variety of leisure experiences demanded by the public.

At present, facilities to serve the camping visitor adjacent to the monument are minimal. The closest campground is a small wayside camp on State Highway 25, 11 miles south of Holister. Los Padres National Forest has numerous primitive campsites most of which are restricted to hike-in use, and all are over 30 miles distant. Fremont Peak State Park south of San Juan Batista has a small developed campground, but it is nearly a 50-mile drive from the monument. Recently, a modern private campground containing 143 spaces for recreation vehicles and tent campers was developed south of San Juan Batista, approximately 45 miles from the monument.

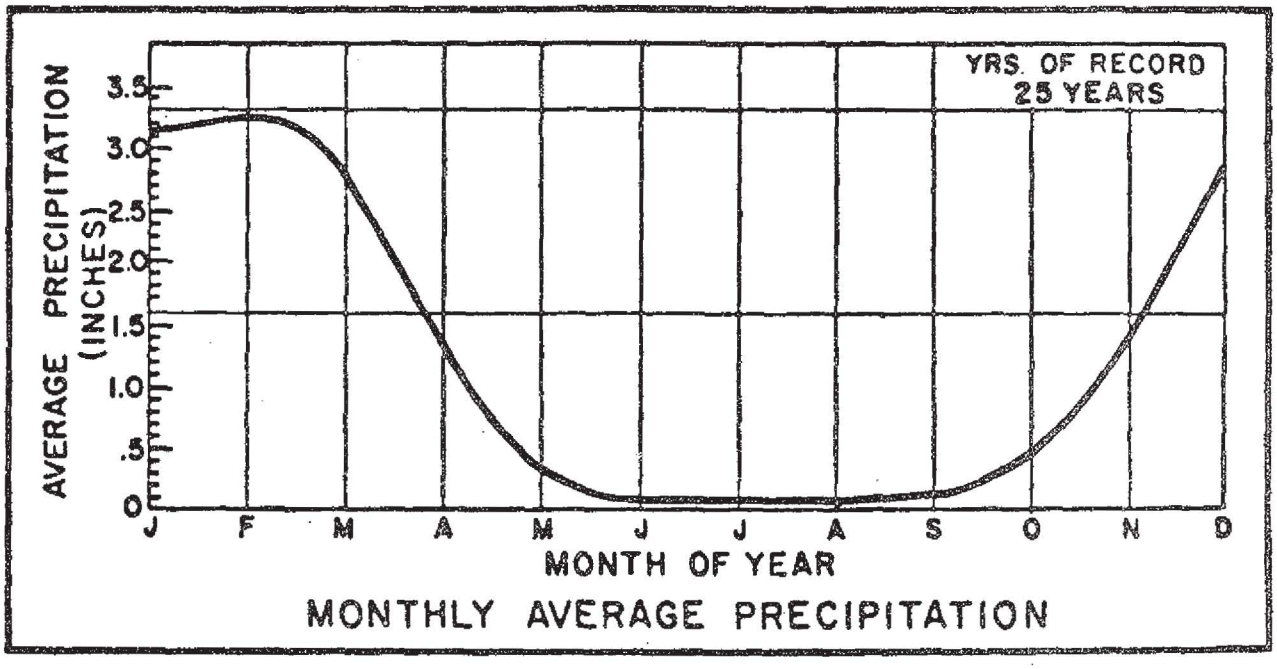
CLIMATE

The region experiences a wide range of climatic conditions during the yearly cycle. The central California coast strip is quite stable throughout the year due to the modifying effects of the Pacific Ocean. However, the immediate north-south trending Santa Lucia mountain chain prevents the ocean's influence from being felt inland. Consequently, summer temperatures of over 100 degrees are not uncommon at Pinnacles while only 40 miles to the west, the coastal strip is a scant 60 degrees. A reverse of temperatures hold true in winter. The absence of the ocean's warming effect pushes the range below freezing inland while the coast remains relatively warm.



Although the monument is less than 50 miles from the Pacific Ocean, rainfall averages only 16 inches per year since there is considerable atmospheric moisture loss due to the Santa Lucia mountains to the west. The vast majority of precipitation here occurs in winter which is typical of Mediterranean-type

climates. There is moderate to severe lack of moisture during the summer months. This lack of moisture has a profound influence on the vegetation type of the sea.



GEOLOGY

The pinnacles themselves are remains of Miocene volcanic activity. Much of its rock consists of volcanic pyroclastics mixed with rock derived from quiet flows and rock altered by thermal, chemical, or climatic activity.

They are in an advanced state of degeneration: A few thousand feet of volcanic debris have already eroded away, and earthquakes have broken what remains into jointed fragments that have weathered into the pinnacles. Since the rock itself is strong, well-consolidated breccia, the fragments are still impressively large and often rise several hundred feet in vertical fins and needles. The breccia offers poor habitat for vegetation, and only primitive species of plants such as lichens grow on it; but the jumbled rock masses do rovide good housing for advanced species of animals--such as bobcats and prairie falcons--who seek out secluded spots for dens, nests, and retreats.

Only microfossils are known in the pinnacles formation and all of these are thought to be marine in origin. The Chalone Creek fault, a major fault, extends from the middle of Pinnacles' north boundary south-eastward through Chalone Creek campground, past the east entrance station, and out of the monument about three miles from the southeast corner of the east boundary. This fault is believed to be an ancient race of the San Andreas fault. It is postulated that it became inactive about 10 million years ago when the present active trace of the fault was formed, parallel to and four miles east of this fault trace. Since then, block faulting is believed to have raised the eastern edge of the pinnacles formation adjacent to the Chalone Creek fault. During the uplift, two primary drainage channels cut water gaps through these rocks, one at the upper end of the Bear Gulch and one between the Balconies Cliffs and Machette Ridge. These gaps were later roofed over when large rocks spilled off the adjacent cliffs, slid down the slopes, and became wedged in the tops of the gaps to form the "talus caves" of Pinnacles. Beneath these boulders, spaces are usually ample for walking, although head room is low in some places. In Bear Gulch, the Civilian Conservation Corps built a trail through the talus cave which is probably the major attraction of the park for most people. The caves are more accessible than the pinnacles formations and their moist, cool temperatures offer welcome relief from the hot, open slopes in summer. The lack of sunlight severely restricted plant growth, but the presence of surface water at the bottom of the caves attracted various forms of wildlife. (See map on page 23)

Earth movement along the San Andreas fault zone has displaced the pinnacles formation some 195 miles north of their theoretical point of origin, which is believed to lie near highway 138 between Lancaster and Gorman, California. Another rock group known as the Neeach formation, and corresponding in every measurable respect to the pinnacles formation, lies at the theoretical point of origin. These rocks are still moving apart in a right lateral direction at an average rate of 4 cm/year. This movement will continue for an indefinite time and eventually, in about six million years, bring Pinnacles up to the present San Francisco Bay.

SOILS

The soils to be found within Pinnacles National Monument embody no unusual features. Throughout they are sandy loams or loamy sands, often containing an appreciable amount of gravel, typically thin and undeveloped, with a low ability to retain nutrients and water. Nutrient supply was moderately low but nutrient components are well balanced. Nutrient levels are somewhat higher on flat ground and in valley bottoms than in areas of high relief. (Soil Conservation Service, 1969)

Here water is either quickly absorbed or runs off. Little resistance is offered to root growth, potentially allowing for extensive root development. All of these properties tend to greatly increase the evaporative loss of moisture through the soil, making less water available for the plants. During the growing season, air temperatures tend to be high while relative humidity is quite low. Frequent winds of moderate velocity tend to move the evaporated moisture out of the area. These soils also erode very easily during periods of heavy rainfall. For agricultural purposes, such soils would be considered unproductive, yet they support a heavy cover of plantlife. The solution to this seeming paradox is that natural vegetation is uniquely adapted to this habitat. Such considerations raise some interesting questions about the desirability of range improvement or management by artificial means. The "soil types" on page 20 delineate types of soil present in their locations. A brief description of some of the major soil types follows:

Laniger Series

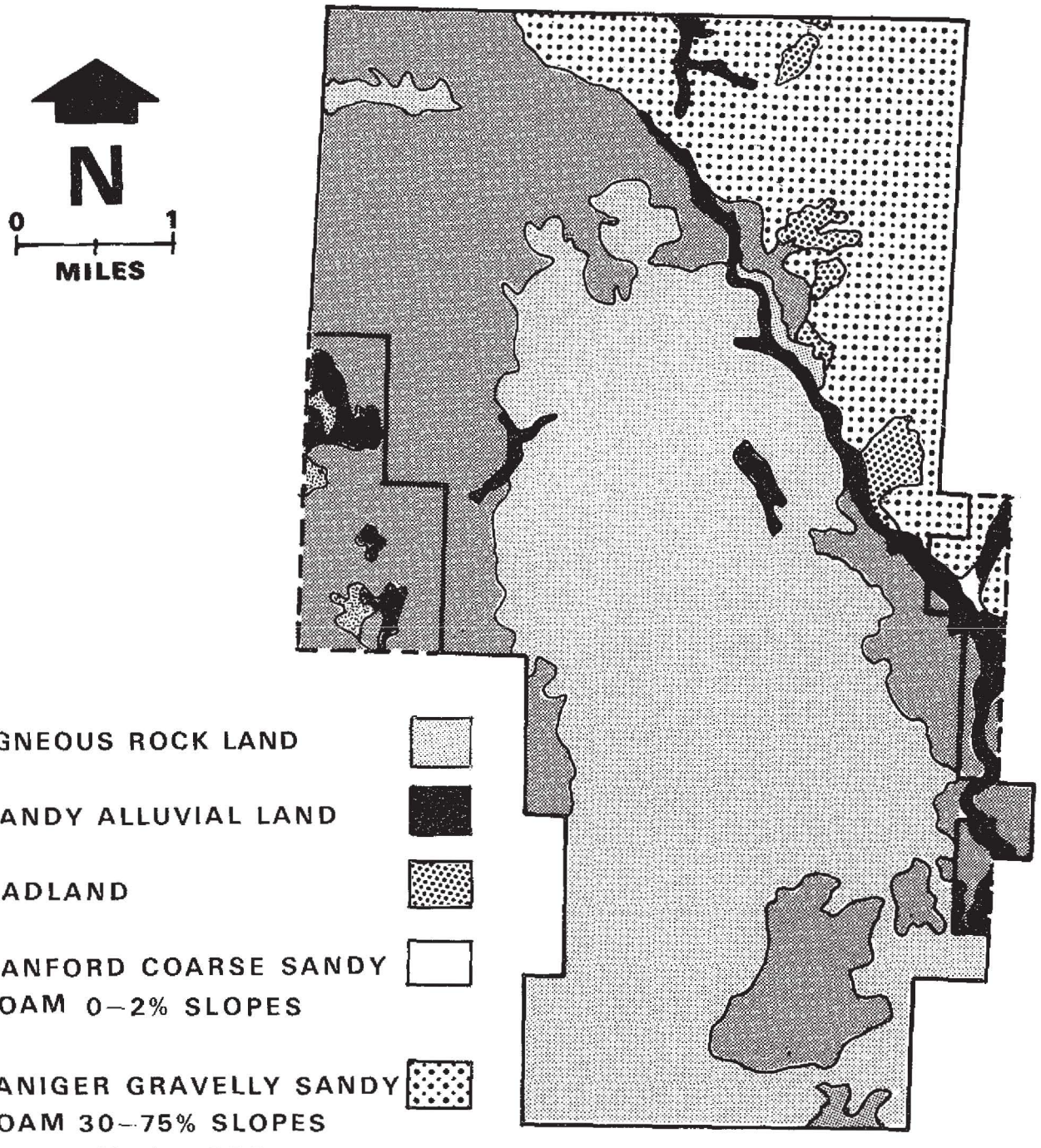
These are excessively drained, gravelly loamy soils that are underlain by semi-consolidated rhyolitic conglomerate at a depth of 20 to 48 inches. Topography is steep to very steep and the vegetation is mostly brush, but also includes some digger pine and grass/forb mixtures. The surface layer of these soils extends from 8 to 22 inches, is grayish-brown, and described as gravelly loam in texture. The subsoil is 12 to 26 inches, pale-brown and gravelly, coarse sandy loam. These soils occupy hills with narrow, winding ridgetops in the monument. The series is low in fertility, water holding capacity is 1.5 to 4 inches, permeability is rapid, and runoff is rapid to very rapid.

Igneous Rock Land

These soils are found in areas where igneous outcrops comprise 35 to 90 percent of the land area. They are shallow soils and are excessively drained. Where soils are present, vegetation includes a thick cover of brush and scattered Digger and Coulter pine with areas of grass and oak.

Sheridan Series

These are well drained to excessively drained loamy soils that are underlain by weathered granite. Vegetation includes a cover of annual grasses and forbs, Digger and Coulter pine, oak and chaparral. These soils are generally found at elevations from 1,200 to 3,800 feet. The coarse sandy loams in this series, which includes a high percentage of soil in the monument, are in areas where slopes are predominantly 45 to 50 percent, and an average depth to granite



SOIL TYPES

114	80,007
WRO-PD	AUG. 75

is 18 to 24 inches. These soils are low in fertility, have a water holding capacity of two to four inches, run off is rapid to very rapid and the erosion hazard is very severe. Both Laniger and Sheridan soils are placed in Capability Unit VIIe-14(15) which indicates that erosion potential is a major problem which makes them unsuited to cultivation and, therefore, use is restricted to grazing, or recommended for woodland and wildlife preserves (Brooks 1973). The maintenance of a close growing plant cover or plant residues is recommended at all times. Seeding and fertilization are difficult in areas within the central California coast and such programs improve the range so little that they are not practical except for the purpose of protecting soils downslope after fires.

Sandy Alluvial Land

The soils, which are found in Chalone Creek, are subject to removal and desposition as well as occasional flooding. Most slopes are less than 2 percent and the water holding capacity is four to six inches. The soils are covered with riparian vegetation, willows, and annuals. They are deep and coarse textured and their reaction is slightly acid to mildly alkaline.

Of the soils described, Laniger gravelly, sandy loams and Sheridan coarse, sandy loams appear to be the most representative of the developed soils in the monument. Igneous rock land soils are widespread; however, they are shallow and not well defined.

VEGETATION

The soils at Pinnacles support a fine stand of the remarkable broad-leafed sclerophyll vegetation. The vegetation type is best represented in the southern half of the coast ranges of California. Since Pinnacles National Monument is the only National Park Service area within the southern Coast Range Province to be set aside for the preservation of natural features, its importance is great. It is the only such area that protects this unique vegetation type. (Bennet 1972)

The broad-leafed sclerophyll vegetation type is divided into two smaller units for the purpose of this report. The first will be the broad-leafed sclerophyll forest formation (riparian community), the other being the chaparral formation. The forest formation is dominated by trees, mainly sclerophyllous evergreens, but including a number of deciduous species. A chaparral formation is made up of shrubs, the great majority being sclerophyllous evergreens. The distribution of these formations is controlled by a wide variety of factors, the two most important being moisture relationship and susceptability to fire and the processes that result from fire. Broad-leafed sclerophyll vegetation is that which has broad leaves (as opposed to needles or spiney leaves) which are hard to the touch, usually small in size, have various coatings of waxes and

oils, have hairs on their surfaces, or have other means of reducing moisture loss.

The Forest Formation (Riparian Community)

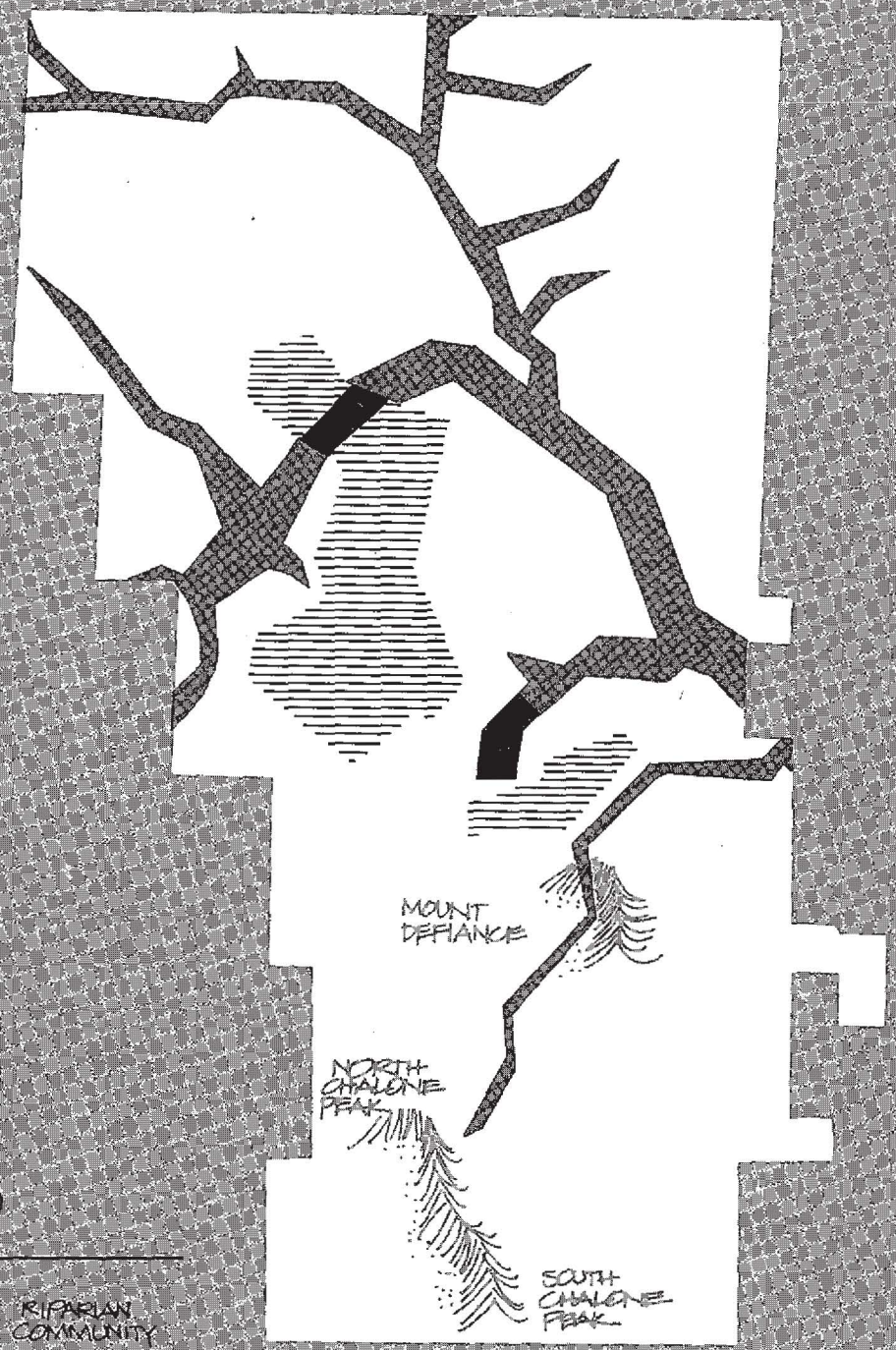
The broad-leafed sclerophyll forest formation does not dominate the countryside as does a coniferous forest. It usually occurs in small discontinuous stands. This formation increases in importance northward in California, while southward, chaparral becomes the most predominant, The change in importance is a function of moisture availability. Pinnacles lies about midway between two moisture extremes. Therefore, the forest formation is only found in the most favorable locations, such as in canyons, stream bottoms, or places receiving more than normal amounts of water or shade, or both. The extent of these riparian communities is illustrated on page 23.

Nowhere is the number of dominant (tall) species large. At Pinnacles, the dominants are coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia); valley live oak (Q. lobata); California black oak (Q. kellogii), a species very rare at Pinnacles but common nearby; digger pine (Pinus sabiniana); and California buckeye (Aesculus californica). Western Sycamore (Platanus racemosa), sand bar willow (Salix hindsianna), and blue elderberry (Sambucus mexicana), though locally common, are very uniform in distribution.

The Chaparral Formation

Coast chaparral is a biological response to the climate in the park. In California, rains fall in the winter, not in the summer. Buffered by the Santa Lucia Mountains from the moderating influence on the ocean, interior mountains like the Gabilan Range warm up and dry out under the summer sun. Vegetation consists of fast-growing annuals--mostly grasses and drought-resistant shrubs. The annuals germinate, grow, bloom, and die in the winter and spring when the mountain slopes are still well watered from winter rains. Only their seeds survive the summer to start the cycle over again. The shrubs have developed a variety of adaptations to the dry summers--deep roots to reach ground water, waxy leaves, or other features to reduce transpiration.

The chaparral formation is more complex and varied in its composition than is the broad-leafed sclerophyll forest formation. The list of dominant species is correspondingly longer; blue oak (Quercus douglasii), tree poppy (Dendromecon rigida), Chamise (Adenostoma faciculatum), mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus betuloides), holly-leaf cherry (Prunus ilicifolia), buckthorn (Ramnus corocea), buckbrush (Ceanothus cuneatus), mexican manzanita (Arctostaphylos pungens), and big-berried manzanita (A. glauca) are the major overstory species.



RESOURCES

- CANYON SYSTEM · RIPARIAN COMMUNITY
- PINNACLE FORMATIONS · XERIC COMMUNITY
- CHAPARRAL COMMUNITY
- TALUS CAVES

0 — 1 miles

NORTH

114 | 20,002
DSC | MAR. 73

Due to a long history of fire suppression, the chaparral vegetation of Pinnacles National Monument is overmature; approximately 20 percent of this vegetation is dying and no new growth is evident in these areas. Its value as browse for the resident deer herd is considerably diminished due to this condition. (Bennet 1972)

That fire is an important factor preventing the ultimate replacement of chaparral by broad-leafed sclerophyll forest has long been recognized (Cooper 1922, Crapock 1929). Broad-leafed sclerophyll vegetation burns frequently and very well. Sweeney (1967) reports "that such vegetations that are frequently burned reproduce in abundance and prosper." That fires stimulate germination of the seed of fire-adapted species has also been well established. Manzanita and Ceanothus are two examples whose seeds germinate only after heat has been applied. Some shrubs produce prolific sprouts in response to fire. Chamise root burls sprout vigorously after fire. In areas that burn frequently, non-fire adapted vegetation is eliminated or repressed or fills special roles.

At Pinnacles National Monument the climax vegetation (broad-leafed sclerophyll forest formation) is less fire tolerant than the chaparral formation and can only develop or persist on moister and less frequently burned sites. However, when fire is excluded from the ecosystem, elements of the forest formation gradually invade the chaparral. Attempts to suppress fire at Pinnacles started about 60 years ago. These attempts met with considerable success. In fact, since the area has been a national monument, it has never been completely involved in fire. As a result, the chaparral is being invaded by a series of even-aged stands of Digger pine and to a lesser extent California coast live oak. Since this pine is not fire resistant, the success of Digger pine survivorship is closely tied to fire history. Continued fire suppression will allow further spread of this species into the chaparral formation.

WILDLIFE

In comparison with the plants, the animals of the forest and chaparral communities are comparatively little known. To be sure, the presence of easily trapped or easily observed large animals is known. A good deal is known about the ecology of some species, especially those species having some economic importance such as black-tailed deer and white-footed deer mice. Little, for example, is known about the bats or the insect life or the soil micro-fauna. Yet the insects and micro-fauna undoubtedly play a larger role in the ecological scheme than do the larger mammals.

The three-spine stickleback, an interesting fish native to the area, inhabits the waters of the monument. The stickleback is a carnivorous species, feeding predominately on aquatic insect life. At the present

time, the only known permanent populations of stickleback within the monument are in the riparian communities of Bear Gulch area and the north fork of Chalone Creek. They are also found in lower Chalone Creek on the eastern side of the monument within the proposed acquisition. It is unlikely that the fish is the variety listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The endangered species, the unarmored three-spine stickleback, is native only in the headwaters of the Santa Clara River in Los Angeles County, and presumably in the Santa Maria River drainages in San Luis Obispo County, California.

The Pacific pond turtle (Clemmys marmorata) is found in the same general habitat as the stickleback. This 6-to 8-inch turtle was once commonly found in all sluggish streams of the Pacific slope. It is now greatly reduced in range and numbers. The declining populations are probably the result of stream channelization, predation by man, and generally high pesticide and other pollutant concentrations in some of its former habitat. The turtle may also occur in the Chalone Creek area proposed for acquisition in the master plan. This acquisition would insure preservation of a portion of the historic habitat of these two species. Any developments proposed in the visitor staging area on this side of the monument would be located in Bear Valley adjacent to Route 146 and at least 1/2 mile north of the Chalone Creek area containing the stickleback and pond turtle habitat.

Within the pinnacles formations and vegetative communities are found such birds as the turkey vulture, wren-tit, cliffswallow, the golden eagle and the prairie falcon. Also believed to be an occasional visitor is the endangered peregrine falcon. This bird once nested high in the more remote volcanic outcroppings of the monument. Nesting activity was last recorded in 1968. The list of mammals include black-tailed deer, bobcat, gray fox, coyote, raccoon, bats, badger, rabbit and other small rodents. The mountain lion has also occasionally been seen in this natural preserve.

HISTORY AND ARCHEOLOGY

Established in 1908 and subsequently enlarged, Pinnacles is one of the older national monuments, and evidence of past human use of the area includes both historic homestead cabin sites and 13 known prehistoric sites. While no early 20th-century homesteaders' cabins are now standing, former locations for such structures are known for upper Chalone Creek drainage, Bear Gulch, and Chaparral Campground areas. Only very sparse historic materials are observable at the last-named location. The prehistoric resources of the monument were initially examined during a brief survey of the major drainages by W. H. Olsen, L. A. Payen, and J. L. Beck accomplished in 1966. In 19

man-days of field examination, these archeologists located one site in upper Frog Canyon, six sites along the Chalone Creek within the monument, one site in Bear Gulch, two sites in the Old Balconies-Machete Ridge area, one site near Chaparral Campground and two sites near Oak Tree Spring. Descriptions of these sites were included in the unpublished report "An Archeological Survey of Pinnacles National Monument, San Benito County, California" (1967).

Of the thirteen sites, six were bedrock mortar clusters without additional evidence, three were shallow "rock shelters" or protective overhangs with questionable midden deposits, two rock shelters contained midden, and two were open midden sites. The small size and limited cultural content of these sites suggests that they may represent seasonal visits to various localities now in the monument, perhaps by Costanoan Indian peoples from the San Juan Bautista or Soledad areas. Only one site, SBn-PNM-8, near Oak Spring, contained diagnostic materials for dating, and there a projectile point of a type common early in the Christian Era was recovered. Other collected artifacts generally indicated an age of about 500 years ago for the other recorded sites. An Archeological Overview has been funded and is in preparation by a professional archeological contractor. Based on the 1966 archeological survey data and a recent evaluation of sites (June 1975) by the Service Regional Archeologist, a determination of eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places will be obtained for sites SBn-PNM-6, 8, and 9. Data on these sites are minimal and excavation to obtain additional information would not be in keeping with professional and Service archeological resource management goals, but these sites may yield information important to the monument area prehistory.

As required by the Council on Environmental Quality, Department of the Interior, and the National Park Service Guidelines, the Draft Master Plan and Environmental Statement are submitted for consultation under the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

By letter of July 24, 1974, the representative of the California State Historic Preservation Officer, Russell W. Porter, Chief, Grants and Statewide Studies Division, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, California, expressed particular concern regarding the proposed removal of 16 structures and recommended professional evaluation of the structures by an architectural historian.

The Historic Preservation Team, Western Region, National Park Service, evaluated the 16 buildings in question at Pinnacles National Monument on August 21-22, 1974, along with associated structures.

The evaluation was completed by: Historical Architect, Robert M. Cox; Historian, Gordan S. Chappell; and Acting Chief, Division of Historic Preservation, Thomas D. Mulhern, Jr.

The National Register Criteria, 800.10, as published in the Federal Register of February 19, 1974, "Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation," were applied to all structures in the evaluation process.

Director Ronald H. Walker's National Park Service memorandum of January 26, 1973, to all Field Directors on Historic Buildings also was applied to all structures. The directive requires the professional evaluation of structures proposed for alternation or removal, extending the coverage of Executive Order 11593, establishing procedures and responsibility for the consideration of the potential significance of structures.

The role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in constructing buildings within the monument was considered as was the possibility of an historic district. The structures were built between 1929 and 1936, with a majority being constructed in 1932. The National Register Criteria excludes structures less than 50 years old unless exceptional significance is present. None of these structures are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Recommendations

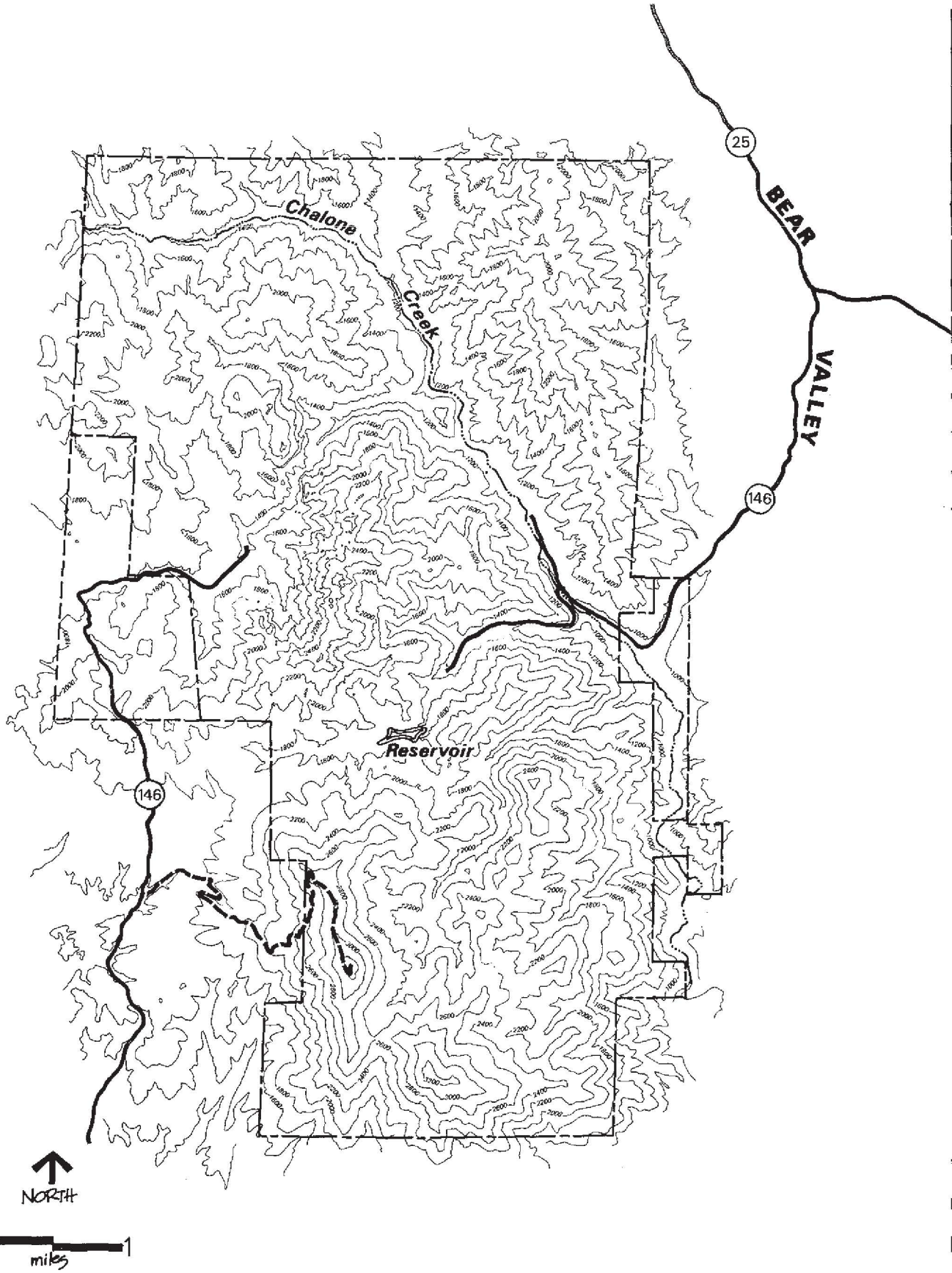
The professional recommendation of the Western Region Historic Preservation Team is that none of the structures in the monument appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Historic Preservation Team reported that two categories of structures exist at Pinnacles: those which do not meet the Criteria of the National Register but should be retained as attractive and usable space and those structures which are greatly altered, clearly lack architectural values, are intrusive in location, or substandard in fabric that they should be removed when no longer of use. The first category of structures will be recorded in the Park Service List of Classified Structures as buildings warranting retention and preservation. All structures proposed for removal are within the last category.

PROPOSED ACQUISITIONS

The 975 acres proposed for acquisition on the west side of the monument are pasture lands with some level or rolling topography suitable for development of visitor use and support facilities. Approximately 120 acres of the total are in Monterey County, the remainder being in San Benito County. All of the acreage is privately owned and is presently used for cattle grazing on a seasonal basis. Some chaparral vegetation still exists, but the vast majority of this acreage has been cut over to produce grazing lands. The grazing qualities of these lands are marginal at best, and only during the spring months after the winter rains do they produce forage of any quality. As a comparison, good grazing lands will produce 2,000 pounds of forage per acre per month. The lands in the Pinnacles area produce only 100 to 150 pounds of forage per acre per month on an average. Cattle consume approximately 800 pounds of fodder per month; therefore, these grazing lands can support only one head of cattle for each 5-10 acres. Good grazing land by comparison can accommodate two to three head per acre.

The proposed overlook area is a picturesque tree-lined meadow with good views of the pinnacles formations from State Highway 146. This road extends through the proposed western acquisition in a north-south direction for approximately two miles where it terminates with the present boundary of the monument. Other than the road, there are no structures or improvements on this 975-acre tract. Soils are Sheridan Coarse Sandy Loams, the majority being eroded, with 15 to 30 percent slopes and developable areas with 9 to 15 percent slopes. Mean elevation of this acquisition is 2,000 feet.

The eastern 460 acres proposed for acquisition consist of lands in the lower Chalone Creek drainage and level pastures at the head of Bear Valley. The acquisitions are entirely within San Benito County and are privately owned. They are comprised of grasslands, scattered with valley and live oaks, and stream bottoms. Acreage suitable for the development of visitor facilities is available. More moisture is present here in the Sandy Alluvial lands along the Chalone Creek drainage than is available in the more arid ridge tops of the western acquisitions just described. The moisture supports the riparian plant communities which provide good wildlife habitat in the southern portions of this acquisition. It's likely that both the Pacific pond turtle and the three-spined stickleback are present here.



TOPOGRAPHY

CONTOUR INTERVAL - 200 FEET

114	80,008
WRO-PD	AUG. 75

Chalone Creek runs through the proposed eastern acquisition for approximately 4 1/2 miles in the generally north-south direction from the present monument boundary. Existing development consists of a well adjacent to State Highway 146. This road passes through the northern portion of the acquisition in a east-west direction for approximately 1 mile, terminating at the existing boundary.

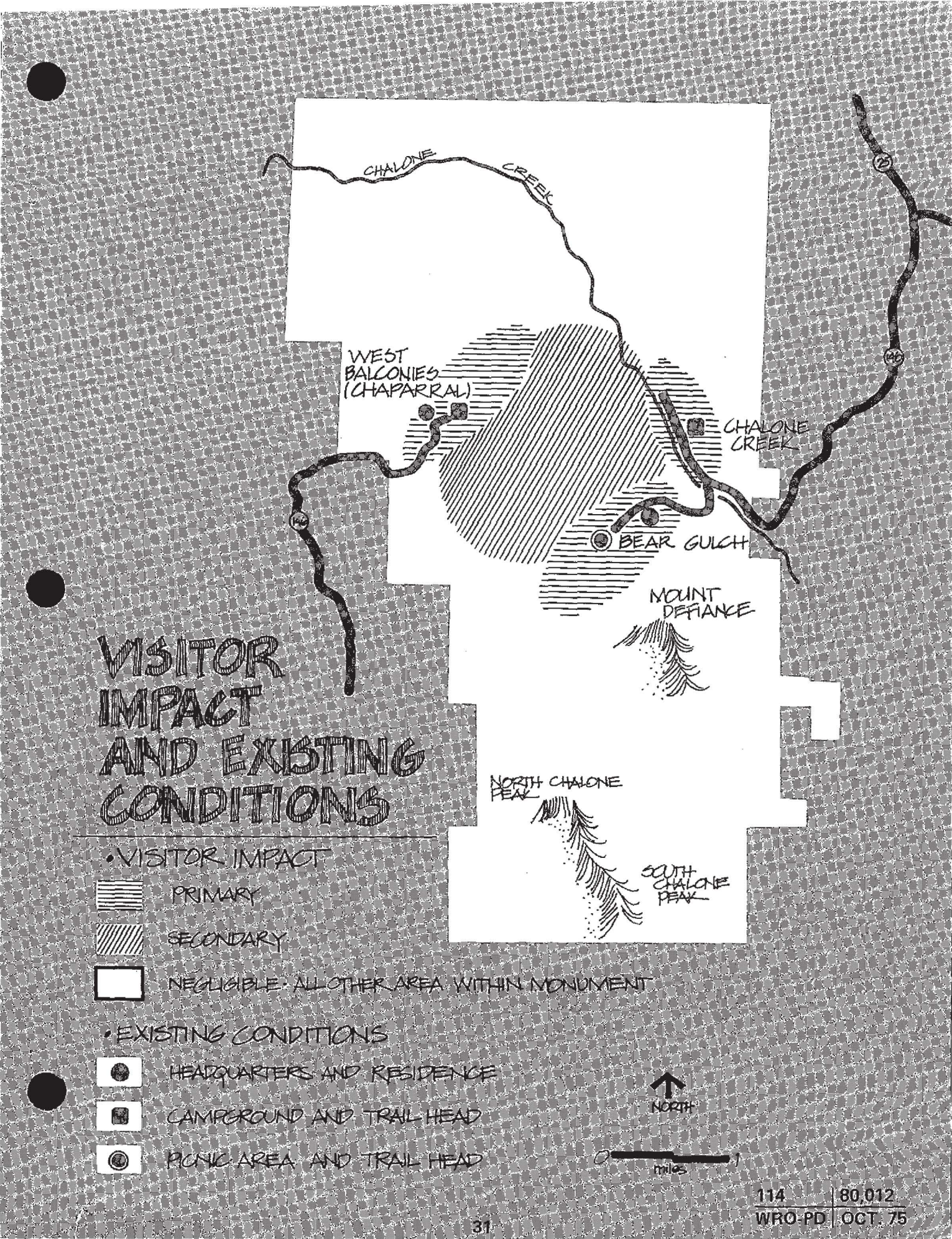
The grazing qualities of this land are comparable to those described for lands on the western approaches of the monument. One exception exists, the small area of Harford Coarse Sandy Loam centered in this proposed addition has slightly improved water holding capacity; therefore, graze qualities are improved, although fertility is still quite low. These lands are all quite flat (1 to 4 percent slope), and average 1,000 feet in elevation.

EXISTING FACILITIES

Many of the present visitor facilities at the monument were built in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and are inadequate to handle today's increasing visitor pressures. Potential visitors are often turned away during periods of heavy use due to the lack of facilities to serve them. In the months of October, November, and February through May, an average of 95 visitor vehicles per day are turned away on weekends and holidays. In 1971, the highest number of turn-aways recorded in one day was 283.

The major development at Pinnacles is located on the east side of the monument in Bear Gulch. Park headquarters, a small interpretative museum, and employee residences are in close proximity to visitor parking areas, restrooms, picnic facilities, and trailheads. Camping and maintenance facilities are located on Chalone Creek, several miles from the major development in Bear Gulch. In fact, the maintenance buildings are located within the campground itself. An abandoned one-lane service road leads from the campgrounds to a trail junction on the east side of the Balconies cliffs and caves. This road is too narrow to accommodate visitor vehicles; therefore, it is closed to vehicle traffic and used solely as a trail to the Balconies.

Minimal facilities exist on the west side of the monument. Developments here consist of the ranger station, trailer residence, and the parking area which is used by walk-in campers, picnickers, and for trailhead parking. Only one formal trail exists on this side of the monument, and



114	80,012
WRO-PD	OCT. 75

it leads to the Balconies formations and caves which are a short distance from the present development. The high peaks are presently inaccessible to most visitors in this area of the monument. General locations for the developed area are shown on the visitor impact and existing conditions map on page 31.

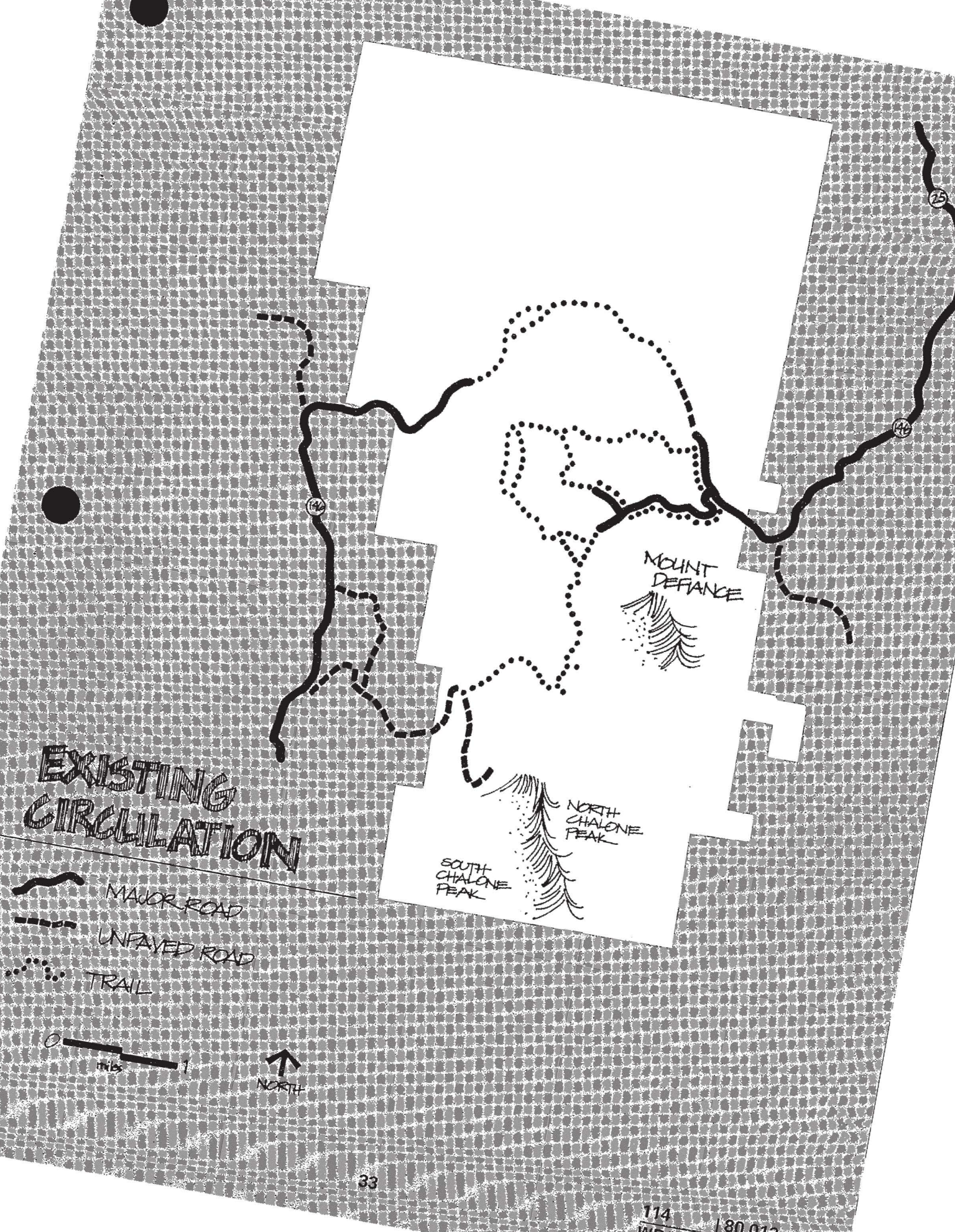
EXPANSION POTENTIAL

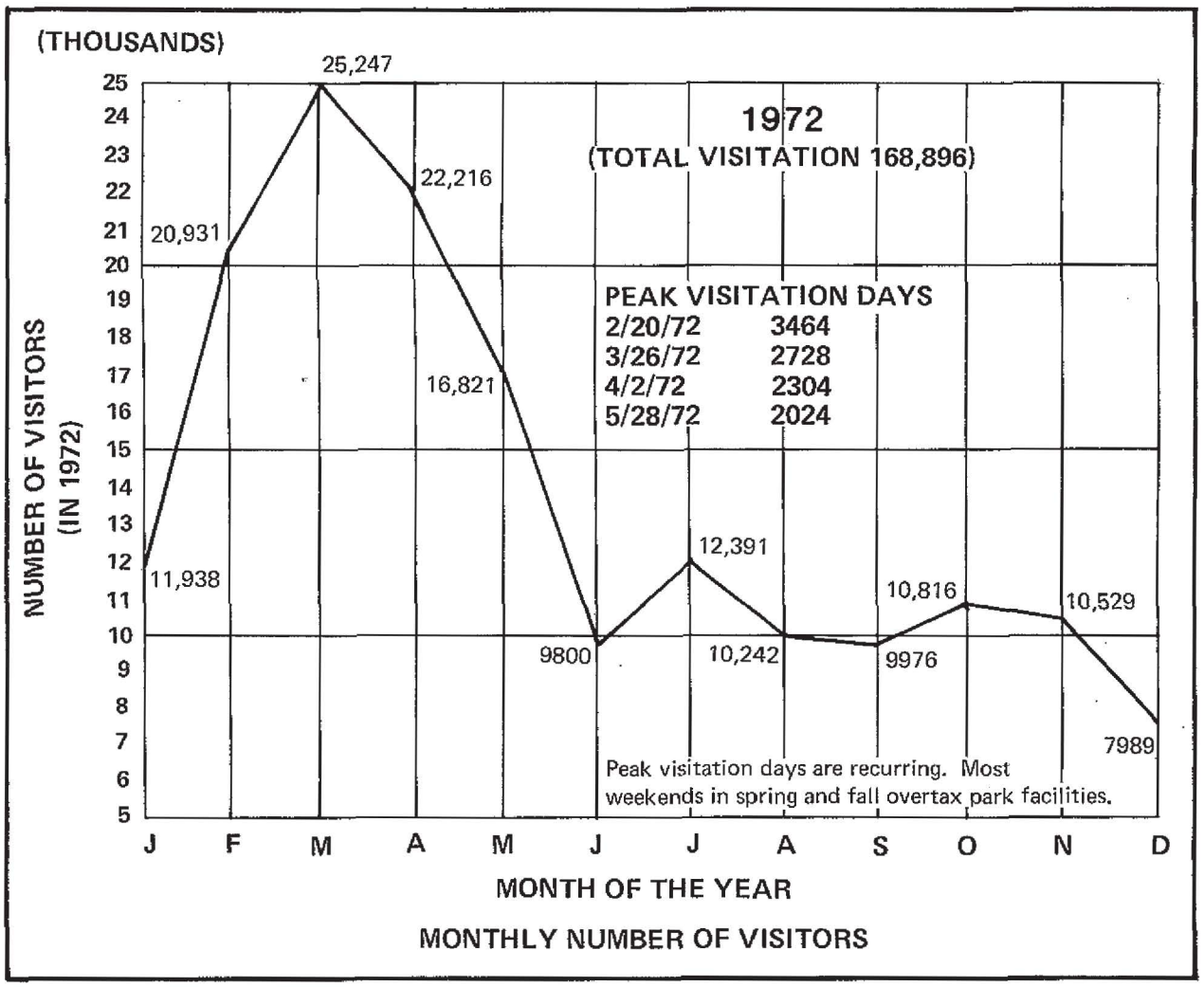
The rugged, steep terrain and narrow canyons which surround the monument's developed areas impose a virtual physical limitation upon the number of motoring visitors to be accommodated in the heavily used areas of Bear Gulch and Balconies regions. This situation is complicated in that further development potential anywhere within the present boundaries for any new or expanded visitor facilities is severely limited by the lack of agreeable topography. This situation is well illustrated on the topography map on page 29. Conflicts of use and management are evident. Administrative facilities, employee housing, visitor parking, and activities all existing side-by-side in the narrow, limited space available. These situations are potentially threatening to the wise use and management of the park's resources, and may in time negate the very reasons for which the park was established.

VISITOR USE

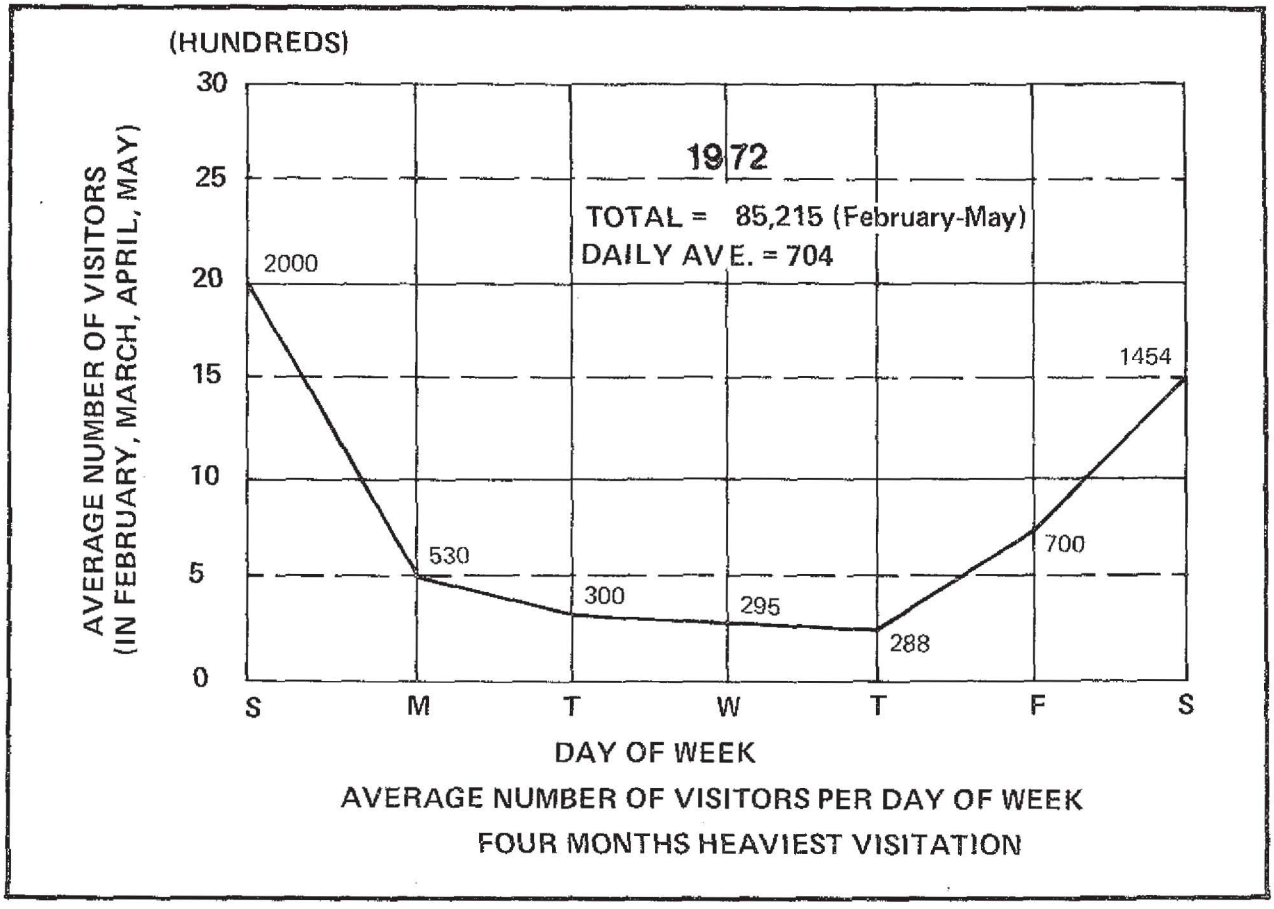
The pinnacles and caves form the heart of the park and represent an outstanding natural area of approximately 1,500 acres. The remainder of the nearly 14,500-acre park is little used by the public and consists chiefly of the rolling chaparral-clad slopes of the Gabilan Mountains, which are attractive but not spectacular. However, the backcountry represents a fine resource for the hiker and a chance to get away from the overcrowded developed areas of the park. Adequate trail systems have been developed on the eastern side of the monument, but visitors to the western side have no means of exploring the monument other than the trail to the caves area which is about one mile in length. Furthermore, much of the park's backcountry has no formal trail system. The Existing Circulation map on page 33, illustrates the extent of the present road and trail system.

Besides hiking and cave-exploring, which are the predominant visitor activities, people enjoy camping, picnicking, and rock-climbing. The latter is chiefly technical climbing on a small scale, in and around the pinnacles themselves. Since these precipitous, volcanic outcroppings jut from the mountainside at often crazily tilted angles, they offer quite a challenge to even experienced climbers.


MOUNT DEFIANCE
NORTH CHALONE PEAK
SOUTH CHALONE PEAK
14
14
25
EXISTING CIRCULATION
MAJOR ROAD
UNPAVED ROAD
TRAIL
0
1
miles
NORTH



The monument's close proximity to the San Francisco metropolitan area encourages primarily day-use activities. On weekends and holidays, the monument receives its heaviest use, and demand drops dramatically during the work week. The greatest visitation occurs from February through June when as many as 25,000 visitors are recorded each month. During this period, the monument's climate is most pleasant, and its prolific wildflowers are in bloom. High temperatures discourage use in the summer season, but demand rises again in the fall with cooler temperatures. Cold, wet winters discourage most activities, with rock-climbing being the exception. Accessibility at this time of the year when the high Sierras are snowbound makes Pinnacles a popular spot for climbing practice.



Until recently, Pinnacles has been relatively unknown, both regionally and nationally. Although the monument is located only 14 miles east of California's major tourist transportation route, the narrow, secondary highway which serves the west side of the monument has discouraged visitation from this direction to a large degree. In fact, California 146 has only recently been paved, and no visitor facilities of importance existed at the western approach to the monument until 1967. Consequently, only one-fifth of the total visitation of 170,000 was recorded at this area in 1971. Historically, only the eastern region of the monument has been developed for visitor use, but this approach via California State Highway 25 is well off the main north-south recreation routes of California 1 and U.S. 101, and as illustrated on the access map on page 7, forces a rather circuitous route upon the present visitor who wishes to enjoy the monument's established facilities. There is no road connecting these developments. The pinnacles formation act as a physical

"barrier" separating the two sides of the monument. Regardless of these facts, visitation has jumped in the last decade from 71,000 in 1960 to 170,000 in 1971, a dramatic increase by any standard.

The last decade has also seen an intensive growth pattern in the population centers that surround Pinnacles National Monument, with an accompanying growth in economic development.

POPULATION

City	1960	1970
Hollister	6,071	7,699
Salinas	28,951	58,365
King City	2,937	3,532
Soledad	2,837	6,773

The anticipated further improvement of California 146 serving the west side of the monument will undoubtedly bring greater visitor pressure to this area because of its nearness to U.S. 101. Furthermore, the west side possesses more spectacular panaramic views of the pinnacles and offers readily accessible routes to them for the short-term visitor, which do not exist on the eastern side of the monument.

FUTURE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Specific changes in the environment will occur even without the proposals in the master plan. Barring accidental fire, the chaparral vegetation will continue to decline in quality of growth due to over-maturity. Portions of the monument vegetation will be denuded as a result of unauthorized grazing of lands that do not have adequate fencing. Surrounding land uses will probably continue to remain the same although the region's acreage under cultivation could increase dramatically. This development is dependent upon readily available water supply for irrigation. Population trends for the last decade indicate that regional population centers will continue to experience accelerating growth. This population expansion could eventually affect the intergrity of the monument and its resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The impact on the environment resulting from action proposed in the master plan can be divided into two main categories: 1) that associated with the overall park, its environment and biological complexes, and 2) the more specific impact related to changes in location and size of park facilities. In the first instance, these impacts are a result of proposals for planning and managing the park as a natural area. In the second case, they are the results of attempts to provide for more visitors and to increase the quality of their experience as stated in the Description of the Proposal.

It must be noted that impacts described here can only be as specific as the proposals in the master plan, which is a conceptual document. As more detailed planning is completed for the resources management plan and the development concept plans for specific areas, more detailed environmental analyses can be accomplished in the accompanying environmental impact statement. It may be found that the entire scope or scale of impacts discussed here may change.

IMPACTS UPON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

General

The elimination of camping from Pinnacles will have a beneficial effect upon the resource. This action will allow 22 acres of presently developed land to be returned to a natural state. Vehicle associated pollution within the monument will be greatly reduced, and the additional natural environment created will enhance the visitor's esthetic experience. Soil compaction and erosion caused by campers will be reduced within the monument as well. However, the relocation of camping facilities to private lands outside the monument will have some adverse effects.

The impact of the new campgrounds upon the presently developed grazing lands will be adverse. Human and vehicle initiated impact such as soil compaction, litter, noise, air and visual pollution will occur in this area. These same impacts exist now in the monument, and this action simply shifts these impacts to a less sensitive area away from the monument's resources. Relocated campgrounds will also reduce the amount of open space that is adjacent to the monument.

Removing present administrative buildings and employee residences will have the same beneficial effects upon the monument's resources as the removal of camping. This also holds true for the reduction of parking facilities.

The removal of parking facilities and the reliance on transportation of visitors by the park-operated shuttle system from the terminal

point at the staging area to the resources will minimize intrusive elements such as air, noise, and visual pollution that motor vehicles bring to the natural environment. This will be especially evident in the close confines of Pinnacles National Monument. Limiting expansion of any necessary day-use facilities within the present monument to areas where facilities have been removed, such as parking and housing, will make it unnecessary to expand into presently natural terrain.

The development of the staging area will create impacts on the overall natural environment which can be predicted. Visitor-use impacts will be substantial in that the staging area will be the destination point of all visitor vehicles. Parking facilities, maintenance structures, fee collection facilities, and other support developments will generate uses which will adversely affect the existing environment of these lands which are now uninhabited and used solely for cattle grazing. Human initiated soil erosion, litter, and vehicle-caused noises and air pollution will be apparent. It is also presumed that the effects of the concentration of visitors and their vehicles in these staging areas will spread beyond the 20 acres to be developed. The exact degree of change (or impact) that will occur to specific elements of the present ecosystem due to the staging areas is unknown at this time, and cannot be fully analyzed until buildings and utilities have been designed, diminsions of facilities determined, and capacities are set.

The expansion of the monument's trail system will provide access to presently remote and relatively inaccessible areas of the monument. These areas for the most part, are proposed for wilderness classification which will greatly restrict the types of visitor use accommodated. There will be, however, noticeable impacts upon the natural scene if only from human initiated intrusions such as noise.

Temporary disturbance of the monument's environment will result when the trail from the Chalone Creek campground to the shuttle terminus at Chalone Creek crossing is paved to accommodate shuttle vehicles. Noise and air pollution from paving equipment will occur throughout the half-mile of trail that would require paving.

The classification of the monument's resources will create impacts on the natural environment. Classification of the monument's lands will facilitate management of these lands for their highest and best use. The effects of this classification at Pinnacles (Class II-V) is that it provides recognition and protection of the resources and allows for visitor enjoyment of the values of the area. The system also provides a basis for recommending lands for "wilderness classification" in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Vegetation

The construction of new facilities and trail networks at Pinnacles will cause impacts on the vegetative cover. The construction of picnic facilities and wayside interpretation structures at trailheads will, in effect, encourage increased foot traffic throughout the monument. Environmental impacts will occur through erosion of topsoil, increased litter, and damage to vegetation. Thirteen miles of additional trail construction will also increase this impact and open more areas to human intrusion. The High Peaks area will be opened to hikers from the west side of the monument for the first time. This area of the monument is presently inaccessible to these visitors, and consequently, receives low visitation.

With the addition of 13 miles of trails to the monument trails system, impacts to vegetation will be compounded. Vegetative cover will be damaged and present drainage patterns will be altered along the construction route. Visitors will also trample native plant growth while shortcutting or wandering from the trail proper. This has a greater impact at Pinnacles due to the slow vegetative recovery common to this hot, arid region of California.

The existing grassland vegetation in the 20 acres on each side of the monument to be developed as visitor staging areas will be substantially altered. Within this area, there will be significant vegetation removal prior to the construction of buildings, utilities, and parking areas. Although cleared, graded, and trenched areas will be revegetated, the original association of grasses, forbs, and shrubs will not be present.

Fencing the entire monument to prevent the entry of cattle, including the presently grazed additions, will effect changes in the natural plant communities. The native vegetative cover will be reestablished and natural plant succession allowed to continue. Chaparral will displace grassland in areas previously grazed by cattle. Limited disturbance of vegetation will occur along fence lines during construction.

A prescribed burning program will have obvious impacts upon the monument vegetation. Most aboveground vegetation will disappear for the first year, creating an unsightly condition, and smoke from burning will cause some degree of air pollution. Soil erosion will vary from little impact to locally severe erosion in the rainy season and require a high level of maintenance work. This action will be costly, economically; but the long-term benefits will be great. Chaparral vegetation depends upon fire to renew itself, and its plants have adapted to this purpose. Growth will begin the first spring and accelerate until mature. During this

time, forage for the deer herd will greatly increase. Species such as the digger pine will be forced back to their rightful ecological balance, and the natural development of biologic and botanic species will resume, as it should in a natural area.

We can only speculate at this point about the viability status of the unique assemblage of plants at Pinnacles whose role is to cover burns with herbaceous or semi-woody vegetation the first spring following fire. Since these plants in the chaparral only sprout following fire, some of the seed has lain dormant for 60 years. The possible failure of these plants to germinate would result in considerable hillside erosion of the bared soil, and the need for reseeding by artificial means.

Wildlife

The proposed acquisition will place 1,250 additional acres in public ownership. On the east side of the monument, this will have a beneficial effect on wildlife in that a portion of this land is to be acquired for the purpose of preserving the riparian habitat to aid recovery and restoration of rare and declining species. As a planning consideration to preserve this habitat, no visitor access or facility is proposed for this area, which is in the southern half of the eastern acquisition. This action will also insure the ecological intregrity of an additional 4 1/2 miles of Chalone Creek adjacent to the present boundary.

Fencing the entire monument will deny straying cattle additional forage; however, in order to manage the monument as a natural area, it is imperative that a natural vegetative cover be established. The resident deer population will benefit by this action by preventing hunters from wandering into presently unmarked monument lands and by providing a reestablished native plant community for food and cover. This fencing will not hamper movement of native animals.

The development of the staging areas will substantially alter the existing environment on both sides of the monument. However, the western acquisition has no known unique wildlife habitats that would require measures for protection and preservation. This is also true of those areas in the eastern acquisition that will be chosen for construction of facilities.

Perhaps the greatest effects upon wildlife will be the impacts experienced by the master plan proposals for prescribed burning. Prescribed burning of the chaparral communities will have a tremendous but temporary adverse impact. Some wildlife will necessarily be destroyed and the habitat of others disrupted. Habitats of all wildlife in the burned areas will be temporarily destroyed. However, recovery of both animal and plant life will begin almost immediately. With the return of fire-adapted chaparral

plant communities, forage for deer and wildlife cover will increase in quality above that which presently exists. Food for birds and small animals will also increase in quantity and quality above that existing in the presently over-mature chaparral vegetation.

The burning method to be used, time frame for completion and measures to mitigate adverse effects will be thoroughly researched in the Resources Management Plan now in preparation for the monument. Detailed impacts associated with this action will be discussed in the environmental assessment prepared for this plan.

An additional 13 miles of trail construction will effect the monument wildlife through increased human intrusion upon their natural habitats. Impact upon wildlife species will extend over a greater range than just the immediate area that the trails occupy. Visual contact with hikers as well as the noise they create could affect some species up to 1/4 mile away. Because trails will not be routed in the vicinity of prairie falcon nesting sites, that threatened species will remain unaffected.

Soils

The relatively high sand and gravel content of the soils have an important relationship to facilities development at Pinnacles National Monument. Soils that are high in gravel and sand are not readily compacted or physically altered by compaction. This means that visitor-use facilities constructed on such sites will have relatively little impact on soil, a situation clearly observable in the Bear Gulch picnic area, when after years of use and compaction, the soil is still aerated and the trees are still in fair to good condition. This soil property is also quite favorable for the disposal of sewage effluent by means of leach fields.

A disadvantage of such soils is that they are readily detached, that is to say, are moved about by foot traffic so that human erosion problems are relatively more severe than in fine textured soils. In such areas, devices to hold back the soil become quite important, as do devices to prevent trails cutting. Therefore, only moderate soil impacts are expected when erosion control measures are incorporated in construction plans and trail designs. Temporary subsurface soil exposure with resulting erosion problems will occur during the development of the two staging areas. However, the topography of these two areas is quite level and, therefore, extensive grading with accompanying cuts, fills, and drainage structures will probably be unnecessary.

Encouraging more visitation to the western side of the monument will require an upgrading of the present access road on this side to safely handle increased usage. Widening of both lanes will require grading and cuts and fills which will result in an alteration of drainage patterns and some visual cars along this route. The extent of these

impacts will be fully assessed when more detailed improvement plans are formulated by the California Division of Highways.

Watershed

The proposals in the master plan do not significantly affect the overall watershed and drainage systems of the monument. Several conditions could be precipitated as a result of the decision to retain the manmade dam and reservoir at the head of Bear Gulch.

If the Bear Gulch dam remains and is repaired and reconditioned, it will be safer, more esthetically pleasing, and less intrusive upon the natural scene than it is now. However, it is estimated that the dam will silt up within a period of 100 to 150 years. The siltation behind the dam will eventually result in eutrophication of the reservoir creating a soil type unlike any other in the monument. Earth movement in the Pinnacles area is another consideration. If the dam should shatter from a severe earthquake, it would release a flood and mud flow that could plug the Bear Gulch Caves with silt and rubble; could destroy natural and manmade features downstream; and could cost more to repair and clean up than the cost of removing the dam at this time.

Air Quality

Pinnacles National Monument is not within the designated critical air basin of the San Francisco Bay region. With the exception of the prescribed burning program, the master plan proposals will not overly affect the air quality of the area. In fact, the installation of a non-polluting shuttle vehicle which does not rely on fossil fuel for propulsion would cause a considerable energy saving to the monument and would effectively reduce the level of automobile-generated air pollution within the monument's resources. The vehicle would be of the type which uses propane gas or relies on battery power for propulsion.

The impact of smoke from prescribed fires is relatively small because of the number of control possibilities not available with uncontrolled fires and to some degree natural fires. The time and place of the prescribed fires can be chosen so that fuelbed arrangement, fuel moisture, and velocity and direction of wind, and other weather characteristics are such that the quality, quantity, and placement of smoke result in minimal environmental impacts. As with uncontrolled fires, particulate production from prescribed fires is the most significant problem from an air pollution standpoint. However, the problem is much less severe with prescribed fires because they consume less fuel per unit area and produce less particulate per unit weight of fuel. The ratio of wildfire/prescribed fire particulate production is roughly 10:1.

EFFECTS UPON THE VISITOR

Impacts upon the visitor to Pinnacles resulting from actions proposed in the master plan can be categorized as either affecting the pattern of visitation or the quality of the visitor's experience. These effects are linked together, however, for visitation patterns and are purposely modified in order to improve the quality of the visitor's experience.

A beneficial impact upon the visitor will result from converting to day-use. Conflicting uses between the camper and the predominant day user will be eliminated in the limited space of Bear Gulch and the western chaparral area. The greater number of day-use visitors can also be accommodated without developing presently natural areas as they require less in the way of space or support facilities. Closing the monument's campgrounds will create pressures to develop private facilities elsewhere because of the demand for camping will still exist, and no other facilities, either public or private, exist within 15 miles of the monument.

Even though private enterprise will be providing camping facilities the visitor to Pinnacles will be forced to camp in a setting which is not as unique as that presently available adjacent to the monument's prime resource attraction. The camper may also be forced to pay higher prices to camp in private campgrounds.

The development of the two staging areas on each side of the monument will have a significant impact upon the arriving monument visitor. Although these lands are not outstanding natural areas, their scenic qualities will be reduced by placing structures, roads, parking facilities, and utilities in areas that are now open space. Thus, the visual impact upon the arriving visitor will be substantially different from the open, undeveloped impression that he now receives.

The completion of the staging areas and institution of the shuttle system will create impacts favorable to the visitor. The visitor will not be subject to parking problems, vehicle initiated pollution, or pedestrian-vehicle conflicts once he enters the monument. Beneficial impact will be realized through a greater appreciation for the resource through on-transit interpretation and esthetic improvement of his experience. Safety hazards will also be greatly reduced with the automobile left behind in the two staging areas. This action will allow an increased visitation in the monument to areas of Bear Gulch and Balconies caves without destroying any additional natural features to accommodate automobiles. The shuttle system itself is also an effective means of controlling the flow of visitors into the monument during periods of heavy-use when human intrusion has its greatest effect.

Intrepretive wayside facilities will be beneficial for they will be used to elevate the visitor's knowledge of the monument and its history. Their impact upon the resource will be minimal due to their small and decentralized nature.

It is recognized that the value of Pinnacles National Monument can only be portrayed through close examination--both of the pinnacles formations and the chaparral community. Encouraging the visitor to leave his automobile behind and view the monument on foot will definitely benefit the visitor through increased environmental awareness and more intimate contact with a resource of this natural area.

Encouraging the short-term visitor to visit the west side of the monument will increase his appreciation of the resources. The pinnacles formations are readily visible from this approach and will be easily reached by a short trail from the shuttle terminus. The eastern area of the monument requires a longer, more leisurely period of visitation to obtain the same appreciation. Here the formations are relatively remote from visitor destination points and a great deal of hiking is required to experience the resources.

The relocation of park administration and employee residences to a less critical area can bring beneficial results. Locating monument headquarters and residences closer to a major population center nearby would enable the staff to carry on a more effective external affairs program and increase employee involvment in local communities and services. The close proximity of the present administrative, residence, and maintenance facilities to the prime resources of the park not only endangers their existence but the presence of facilities does not contribute to a quality environmental experience for the visitor.

ECONOMIC EFFECTS AND EFFECTS UPON SURROUNDING LANDOWNERS

The encouragement of private interests to develop overnight camping facilities outside and adjacent to the monument will benefit the economy of this mainly agricultural area. As described in the Description of the Environment, the grazing qualities of these lands are at best marginal, and the privately developed campgrounds would probably return more revenue per acre to the owners than would grazing. These commercially operated facilities would also increase the tax base of the presently unimproved lands; therefore, San Benito and Monterey counties would realize an economic gain from the developed acreage.

Acquisitions of lands on either side of the monument for staging areas by the U.S. Government would remove these lands from the respective

county tax base; therefore, an economic loss to San Benito county and to a lesser extent Monterey county would result. The monetary value of the land on the west side of the monument is approximately $200.00 per acre. Those on the eastern side are somewhat higher. This fairly low figure is due to their remoteness and limited usefulness as agricultural and graze lands, as discussed in the description of the environment section of this report. Consequently the assessed tax rate in their present state of use is rather low. Removing these lands from the county tax roles is not expected to have a very significant economic effect.

Grazing will be eliminated on these lands once they are acquired. This will deprive the former owners of this use, and although they would be paid fair market value for their land, they would not receive the potential long-range income derived from leaving them as graze lands. The master plan also advocates private development of camping facilities outside the monument; therefore, this option would be eliminated for those owners whose lands were acquired. The income realized from the use, although seasonal, could be significant.

Shifting the emphasis of short-term day-use to the west side of the monument and subsequent improvement of California State Route 146 will result in increased driving safety, which will benefit the monument visitor. Local property owners fronting the improved sections of Route 146 will benefit from the increased personal mobility and access to services in Salinas Valley, and through increased property values.

Conversely, the privacy these people now enjoy will be diminished by the increase in traffic, and they will be subject to the problems resulting from road improvements, such as increased litter, air pollution, and trespassing.

The gateway City of Soledad will also receive increased economic benefits by the shift in visitor useage and the increased demand for services and supplies. The extension of electrical power to the west side of the monument will avail this service to those residents along its route who now receive electricity by means of individual generator units.

The actions proposed in the master plan will also create a change in the economic management of the monument itself. Additional developments and an increase in visitation will result in increased maintenance and require a larger monument staff and maintenance budget. Management costs will also rise with, for example, the required maintenance of 23.5 miles of boundary fencing.

EFFECTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

Actions proposed in the master plan will benefit the preservation of archeological resources. The removal of visitor support facilities from locations within the present park boundaries will reduce the possibility of disturbing sites through visitor and maintenance activities. Near Chaparrel Campground, a site has been impacted by campers and probably by homesteaders early in this century. Removal of camping facilities will reduce potential effects. Similarly, the change in location of the eastern shuttle terminus from the East Balconies area to the existing Chalone Creek campground area will ensure preservation of site SBn-PNM 3 by increasing distance from the shuttle stop to the site area.

Removal of structures will not impact known archeological sites and should not significantly affect unknown resources as removal activities will be accompanied by field inspection and clearance procedures. Retention or replacement of facilities on disturbed areas for day-use visitors should not increase impact on any known archeological resource. One site composed of three bedrock mortar cups is located near the Bear Gulch picnic area. Natural erosion has impacted this site but effects from picnickers are minimal. Two sites (SBn-PNM-6 and SBn-PNM-8) located adjacent to existing trails in the western part of the monument will likely be inadvertently crossed by increased numbers of trail users. Surface artifacts or other distinguishing features of the sites are not visible to the average person who would not perceive the existence of the sites. Due to local terrain and stream channels, it is not possible to re-route the trails. Other sites in the western portion of the monument are away from visitor areas and facilities.

The proposed development within the present boundaries, such as picnic facilities, trails and interpretive facilities are not expected to alter the condition of the cultural resources of the monument. Acquisition and development of new lands at the east and west borders of the monument may expose new areas to disturbances and could affect presently unknown archeological and historic resources.

There will be no effect on buildings of historic or architectual significance. None of the structures within the monument qualify for nomination to the National Register.

The State Historic Preservation Officer has been contacted during the preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning the impact of the master plan on any noteworthy historic or archeological resources at Pinnacles. The following statement is his comment: "There are no State Historical Landmarks or State Points of Historical

Interest within the boundaries of the study. There are no National Register Sites, either approved or pending, within the boundaries of the study area."

Subsequent comments were received from the State Historic Preservation Officer during the preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement concerning the master plan proposals to remove existing structures from within the monument. In order to insure compliance with the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Executive Order 11593, the National Park Service conducted the Evaluation of Structures Reconnaissance as described in the Description of the Environment. The Historic Preservation Team found no structures which appear to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Correspondence from the Advisory Council on historic preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officer is attached as Appendix B.

MITIGATING MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION

Preservation and protection of Pinnacles National Monument's natural communities are of utmost importance to this master plan as well as attempting to provide a quality experience for the visitor to Pinnacles. The geologic formations for which the monument is named comprise only about 1500 acres in the central portion of this 14,500-acre preserve; however, the pinnacles and their rockfall caves generate the vast majority of visitor interest, and environmental damage, therefore, is concentrated in this area. A visitor carrying capacity will be established to determine the level of visitors to be accommodated within these resources during the periods of heavy visitation. This carrying capacity will be formulated prior to the development of specific facilities in the two staging areas. A ceiling on visitation will help insure protection of the diminutive resources of the monument from overuse and eventual destruction. This study will be completed within the next two years, depending upon availability of funds.

The proper sequence of planning events dictates that more detailed studies of the two proposed staging areas at East and West Pinnacles be prepared. These studies, called development concept plans, are schematic representations of the developed area showing circulation, allocation of space, and utilities networks. Consequently, a ceiling on maximum visitation is an important consideration in the development concept planning process for it will, in effect, set a limitation on the extent of developments in the staging area on each side of the monument. This carrying capacity will also be an excellent basis for developing management policies for the monument. A backcountry use study for Pinnacles is now in preparation by the National Park Service that will recommend maximum densities of use of the monument's wilderness areas. This study, in conjunction with the land classification system and the natural resources management plan now in preparation, will provide a basis for the establishment of this maximum visitor level. Then detailed planning of the master plan proposals can begin.

The problems associated with increased foot traffic in the monument will require instituting an ongoing program of man-initiated erosion control and native vegetation propagation. Trails will be well constructed and marked to encourage the public to confine their use to designated areas. Interpretation must also stress the delicate nature of the vegetative cover of Pinnacles and must instill a sense of environmental awareness and responsibility in the visitor to protect the resources. Trailside exhibits can also be used to encourage thoughtfulness on the part of the visitor and reduce activities such as rock throwing, littering, and trail shortcutting which endanger people or damage resources. With adequate staffing, vandalism could be less of a problem than is at the existing facilities.

Special studies programmed in the natural resources management plan will provide data concerning the habitat, nesting areas, and status of the threatened prairie falcon and the endangered peregrine falcon, as well as determine the distribution of other birds of prey in the monument. This research will direct the placement of trails and recommend limiting visitor use in certain areas during nesting periods, when necessary.

Construction of any additional facilities such as picnic grounds and trailheads to serve the day-use public within proximity of the resources will be on formerly developed land where facilities have been removed. The remaining areas will be returned to a natural condition by reestablishing natural drainage patterns, landscaping, and reseeding with native plant materials.

In the two proposed visitor staging areas on each side of the monument, every effort will be made to reduce the impact of construction of facilities. Utilities will be concealed below ground, all facilities will be landscaped and earthwork kept to a minimum. Confining vehicle traffic and major visitor activities to these areas away from the prime resources of Pinnacles will insure their continued unaltered natural state.

Location of sewage disposal facilities such as aeration spray fields and evaporation lagoons will be carefully considered in order to insure odor containment and that the facility is screened from view.

No National Park Service camping units will be removed until such time as replacement campgrounds are constructed and available for public use adjacent to the monument.

On the east side of the monument, visitor-oriented developments in the proposed staging area will be located adjacent to State Highway 146 at least 1/2 mile north of the Chalone Creek wildlife habitat to avoid disturbance and to ensure preservation of the three-spined stickleback and Pacific pond turtle.

It is also necessary for the National Park Service to consult with and provide advice to private developers who wish to build visitor facilities on land outside the monument. This is necessary to insure that conflicts of use with monument facilities do not develop and to encourage private developments that are compatible with the purposes and resources of the monument. This measure has already been initiated in connection with proposed development by private interests on the east side of the monument.

Continuing coordination with State and local planning groups both during the planning process and upon implementation is a mitigating measure to insure that conflicts concerning differing land-use policies do not develop.

The temporary adverse impacts resulting from introducing natural systems into the environment at Pinnacles will be most felt through the introduction of prescribedburning.

Adequate measures of control during burning will have to be taken to prevent fires from spreading to adjacent lands and developed areas. After burning, a concentrated effort will be made to reduce soil erosion of unprotected slopes and to hasten vegetative recovery. To minimize legal problems and to insure good public relations, the monuments neighbors including private land owners and the Bureau of Land Management, and the California Division of Forestry will be consulted on an ongoing basis during the formation of the prescribed burning program. The timing of this program will also be coordinated with the local Air Pollution Control District to insure compliance with any local, regional, State and Federal regulations concerning burning activity. As stated in the environmental impact section, more detailed methods and procedures in regard to burning portions of the monument will be researched for the resource management plan. Measures to mitigate the adverse impacts of burning will be part of this plan and its environmental assessment.

National Park Service policy in conforming with protective legislation and Historic Resource Management Activity Standards will require that the greatest amount of information and material be preserved from the archeological resource base.

In compliance with Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11593 of May 13, 1971, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment which seeks to preserve archeological and historical resources from inadvertent harm, the National Park Service, Western Region, is exercising caution until inventories and evaluations are completed to insure that Federal properties of archeological or historical interest are not sold, demolished or substantially altered. The master plan for Pinnacles National Monument does not propose to sell, demolish or substantially alter sites of archeological or historical significance on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Archeological surveys will be conducted prior to any construction of day-use facilities within the monument, such as picnic areas, interpretive facilities or trails, to locate and inventory presently unknown resources. The removal of the visitor support facilities will be accompanied by a field inspection to see if the facilities had impinged upon cultural resources and to mitigate impacts if such resources are found.

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, May 13, 1971, Section 2, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies, when new lands are added to the monument, an intensive archeological survey will be performed to locate, identify and evaluate the archeological resources, and nominate to the National Register of Historic Places, all additional sites of archeological and historical significance which appear to qualify.

This survey will be accomplished before final development facilities are chosen. If construction or development threatens archeological resources, the primary mitigating strategy will be to change these facilities to alternate locations where archeological resources will not be affected. If it is not possible to avoid archeological resources, excavation of the affected site will be performed by a competent professional archeologist. Such a project will have a well-planned research design and adequate funding. In accordance with the basic preservation policy above, archeological research within the monument will not be encouraged. Approval of any proposed archeological research will require adequate justification including documented evidence that no alternative resource for the needed information exists outside the monument and compliance with the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Procedures for Compliance with Section 106, item B(2), of the National Register of Historic Places as published in the Federal Register of February 28, 1973, along with supplements through April 30, 1974, have been consulted. No National Register properties are located within Pinnacles National Monument at this time. However, a determination of eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places of sites SBn PNM-8, 9, and 6 is underway. The National Park Service, Western Region, is exercising caution during the interim period and plans to preserve the sites.

The California State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will be afforded further opportunity to comment on future projects and plans, involving cultural resources.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game will be consulted as inventories of fish, reptiles, mammals and birds are completed for the monument. If critical habitats for threatened or endangered species are identified, recovery or resource protection plans will be developed in coordination with the above agencies.

ADVERSE EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED SHOULD THE PROPOSAL BE IMPLEMENTED

Impact upon the resources of the monument through use by the public is unavoidable. The very purpose of the master plan is to propose actions which will encourage the visitor to leave his automobile and experience at close hand the resources of the monument. Damage to plant materials, compaction of the soil, slope erosion from trail shortcutting, and vandalism of park facilities are all likely to occur and can never be entirely mitigated. Potential for man-caused accidental range fires is very high in this arid region. Fortunately, the summer months, during which fire danger is highest, is the season of lowest visitation to the monument.

With the formulation of a carrying capacity of Pinnacles, some visitors may be excluded from entering the monument's resources during periods of heavy visitation. This is unavoidable, although the visitor can be encouraged to visit the monument in mid-week when public use drops drastically.

Encouraging more auto-oriented visitors to visit the western side of the monument could create some adverse impacts upon private landowners in this area. Although they will personally benefit from the modernization of this highway, they may be subjected to the pressures that increased traffic creates such as noise, litter, trespassing and increase air pollution.

Forest or bush fires of any sort are considered by the public to be a dangerous and undesirable occurrence. Deliberate man-initiated fire is termed arson whether it to be real property or open landscape. Controlled burning as a management tool in the natural area is in its infancy and, of necessity, public education of its uses and results has a high priority. Nevertheless, adverse public opinion to this practice will always occur when it is instituted, especially on public lands. This is mainly due to the temporary adverse environmental impacts resulting from burning, namely destruction of wildlife habitat and air pollution which are unavoidable and cannot be entirely mitigated.

Adverse environmental impacts resulting from the development of new and relocated visitor support facilities in the new acquisitions on either side of the monument will still exist. Vehicle initiated pollution, litter, and vandalism problems will merely be moved away from the resources to land of lesser environmental importance. The amount of open space adjacent to the monument will be reduced by private development of visitor facilities as well as National Park Service developments on newly acquired land.

Relocation and expansion of facilities will require a larger park staff and management costs will also be higher when the master plan proposals are completed.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The use and productivity of Pinnacles National Monument in the future is keyed to a concept of preservation for high quality use and enjoyment by the public. More specifically, the long-term purpose of the monument is to maintain its natural resources in a condition reflecting as nearly as possible that in which modern man found them, to manage them for optimum use, including esthetic inspiration, scientific study, interpretative and educational values, and to provide minor recreational activities consistent with these goals.

At present, identifiable short-term uses in this area are in conflict with the basic concept of preservation of the monument's environment. By removing the temporary residences and administrative facilities from within the resources, a short-term use which is poorly planned and in both visual and physical conflict with the natural features of the monument will be eliminated. Similarly, short-term uses such as relocated facilities and the establishment of visitor staging areas are designed to enhance the long-term productivity of the monument. The adverse impacts associated with this construction must be balanced against the benefits derived, such as making it possible for incompatible uses to be removed from the prime resource area and enhancing the environmental experience of the visitor.

Coastal broadleaf chaparral, an ecosystem common to the lower elevations in the mountains of California, is becoming more scarce as land becomes more valuable for grazing, agriculture, housing, or for commercial development. For example, those lands proposed for acquisition on the western approaches of the monument at one time supported pure stands of chaparral--this vegetation has all but disappeared due to range improvement for grazing purposes. Thus, preservation of this particular portion of California's environment will have increased scientific and cultural advantages as similar landscapes diminish in the future.

With the fencing of the monument's boundary, trespass grazing and hunting will be excluded from the monument. This will allow proper management of the resident deer herd and recovery of native vegetation.

If development is planned so that excavation and unwise commitment of archeological resources are not necessitated by construction or management activities at the monument, the long-term productivity of the archeological resources will be furthered.

IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION

The recommendations for action advocated in the master plan are designed to preserve and maintain the resources of this natural area rather than destroy its fragile system through consumptive uses.

The policies governing natural areas in the National Park System preclude uses such as grazing, mining and minerals, and timber harvest unless sanctioned by law. Managing Pinnacles as a natural area will continue to prevent these uses of its resources. However, at the present time, the resources of this monument are not considered valuable for economic exploitation. Timber resources are nonexistent and no known minerals exist in quantities sufficient to warrent prospecting and removal. However, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines have made no mineral evaluation of the area; therefore, it is not presently known what potential mineral resources would be committed by the actions proposed in the master plan.

The acreage (40 acres) proposed for development on newly acquired lands have negligible value as natural lands.

The lands proposed for acquisition would be permanently unavailable for development for strictly economic benefit. This is an irreversible commitment of resources unless Congress determined it desirable to reverse its earlier action and make all or part of the monument available for private investment.

Any irreversible commitment of resources resulting from enforced excavations represents an element of cumulative adverse effects on archeological remains, since they will not be available for study in the future when excavation and analysis procedures are expected to be more advanced.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. NO ACTION

If nothing was done to improve the visitor experience and provide protection for the monument's resources, the value of Pinnacles would continue to decline. A history of neglect and no action has created the problems which exist today. Visitors would continue to be turned away and vehicle congestion would remain during heavy use periods. Visitor impact in concentrated zones would continue to threaten the resources. Administration, maintenance, and employee housing structures would still complete with visitor facilities for valuable space, and more importantly, the activities the facilities generate would continue to threaten the natural integrity of the monument due to their close proximity to the prime resources. Public demands for camping will continue to exist whether facilities are provided or not. The existing 85 campsites are inadequate to meet demands on weekends and during the months of heavy visitation. On a spring weekend an average of 100 vehicles per day are turned away due to the lack of facilities. It is impossible to expand camping in present locations due to the absence of suitable lands. Furthermore, the west entrance camping facilities serve also as the day-use parking area. This situation results in conflicts arising from the divergent activities of overnight and day-use visitors. Intrusion of large numbers of vehicles into the resources of the monument with their accompanying pollution problems would continue to adversely affect the resource experience of the visitor if no action was taken.

If no shuttle system is instituted, additional parking facilities would still be required to meet increased visitor demand. Again, as with camping, additional suitable topography within walking distances of trailheads and picnic facilities is literally nonexistent. Construction and development within the area of the prime resources would have an extreme adverse impact upon the environment. Modification of natural drainage patterns, alteration of natural terrain, visual, noise, and air pollution would result and contribute to the destruction of the resource value of this national monument.

B. DEVELOP ADDITIONAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE PRESENT MONUMENT BOUNDARIES

Consideration was given to leaving the monument boundary as is, for it would be possible to manage and plan the area in this manner. However, if expansion of facilities, as proposed in the master plan, were undertaken within the limits of the present boundaries, construction would have to be in and near the prime resources resulting in drastic modification of the monument's most valuable land. Moreover, land on the west side suitable

for development is very limited, less than 8 acres, and any major construction would require large cuts and fills immediately adjacent to the pinnacles themselves. This can be readily seen on the topographic map on page 29, as well as on the soil types map, page 20. Both illustrate the total lack of level land within the present monument that would adequately serve the requirements and proposals for development that are advocated in the master plan.

C. ENCOURAGE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL NECESSARY FACILITIES ON PRIVATE LANDS

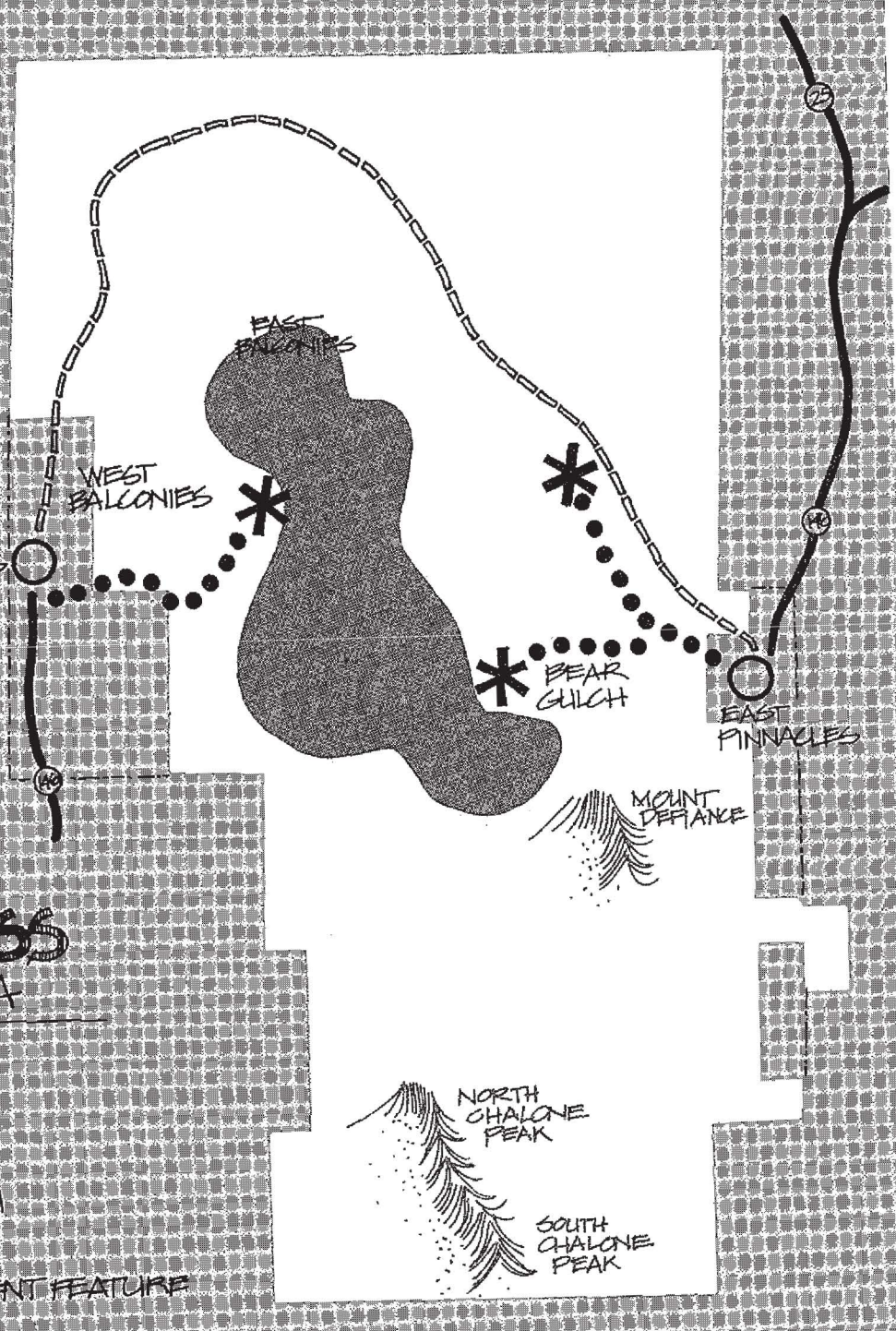
If expansion and relocation of visitor services, support facilities, and establishment of the shuttle system were accomplished on private land by private enterprise outside the monument, favorable economic benefits to the region would be evident in periods of high visitation. However, due to the wide range of visitation patterns at Pinnacles, it would be very difficult to economically justify operation of these diverse facilities during off-season periods such as summer, winter, and on weekdays. Management problems for the National Park Service would also be compounded through the lack of control of critical operations such as that presented by the privately owned shuttle system.

D. CONSTRUCT A CROSS-PARK ROAD

This alternative has long been advocated to connect the east and west entrances of the monument. Although they are only two miles apart, vehicular communication between each entrance entails a 1 1/2- to 2-hour trip via Hollister or King City. Vehicle access across the monument would greatly enhance park personnel contact and help solve many management problems. It would also allow easy roadside viewing of the pinnacles along part of its length and simplify visitor access to the two developed areas of the monument. A through road connecting both ends of California 146 would also add to local convenience by providing a direct route across the Gabilan Mountain Range.

The proposed route would parallel the Chalone Creek drainage from the present campground and the head of Chalone Canyon. It would then climb out of the canyon and traverse chaparral-covered countryside to connect with the west entrance for the total of approximately 7 miles of road construction. This route is shown on the Park Access map, Alternative A.

Due to the narrow, steep character of Chalone Canyon and the rugged chaparral-covered terrain on the west side of the park, extensive grading and earthwork would be required. Consideration for drainage and protection from flooding the Chalone Canyon



PARK ACCESS

ALTERNATIVE A

PROPOSED ROAD

SHUTTLE SYSTEM

MAJOR MONUMENT FEATURE

0 — 1 miles

NORTH

114 | 20,006-A
DSC | AUG. 75

section would require that the roadbed be adequately elevated above the flood plain to prevent its destruction. This action would entail considerable earthwork and would require extensive fill sections which would adversely affect the natural topography by altering natural drainage patterns into the canyon. Realignment of Chalone Creek would also be necessary in some areas. The chaparral area under consideration for the road alignment consists of slopes with a minimum of 15 percent gradation up to a maximim of approximately 65 percent gradation (topography map page 29). Extensive cut and fill sections would be required here, and the scars produced would result in a considerable visual impact, especially upon those hiking in the higher elevations along High Peaks Trail. Soil erosion would also increase on those fresh road scars. The proposed road would be approximately 1 1/2 miles from the High Peaks at this point; therefore, noise pollution from vehicles would probably be quite evident. The High Peaks and Balconies formation are the habitat of an endangered species, the peregrine falcon. The close proximity of this road could have a severe detrimental impact upon this species and other birds of prey due to their intolerance to man's intrusion. The noise pollution created by vehicles and their visible presence might seriously disrupt the existance of these species in the monument.

Chalone Creek is the longest drainage system within the monument and contains considerable surface water in season as well as major groundwater supplies year-round. The streambed or riparian communities are small in extent but large in effect, for many species of plants and animals make them their homes, and all animals that drink water must visit them frequently. A road located within the narrow confines of Chalone Creek Canyon would effectively disrupt the entire ecology of this natural community and greatly reduce the wildlife habitat of the monument. Air, noise, and visual pollution would have a definite impact throughout the length of the road and, to a lesser extent, be present throughout the entire northern half of the monument.

Further, construction of this road would open the backcountry to a multitude of adverse use: Poaching, off-road vehicle use, fires, illegal camping and picnicking, roadside litter--in short, all of the problems that public parks experience today with the automobile traveler having ready, carefree access to the interior of a fragile resource. Another facet of a transpark road would be the addition of management problems connected with 7 miles of roadway added to the park's operational responsibility. Road patrols, controlling commercial use, accident investigation, and traffic control--probably for at least two shifts of eight hours each on heavy-use days--would add immeasurably to the problems of an already busy, small park staff.

A cross-park road connecting the east and west entrances has potential for adverse effects on archeological resources. Intensive survey of the route selected would be necessary to determine the relative effect of this action. Designing the road to have minimum effect would require surveying the proposed route and redirecting any sections which would disturb archeological remains. Preservation of archeological resources would also necessitate archeological survey of pull-outs and parking spaces.

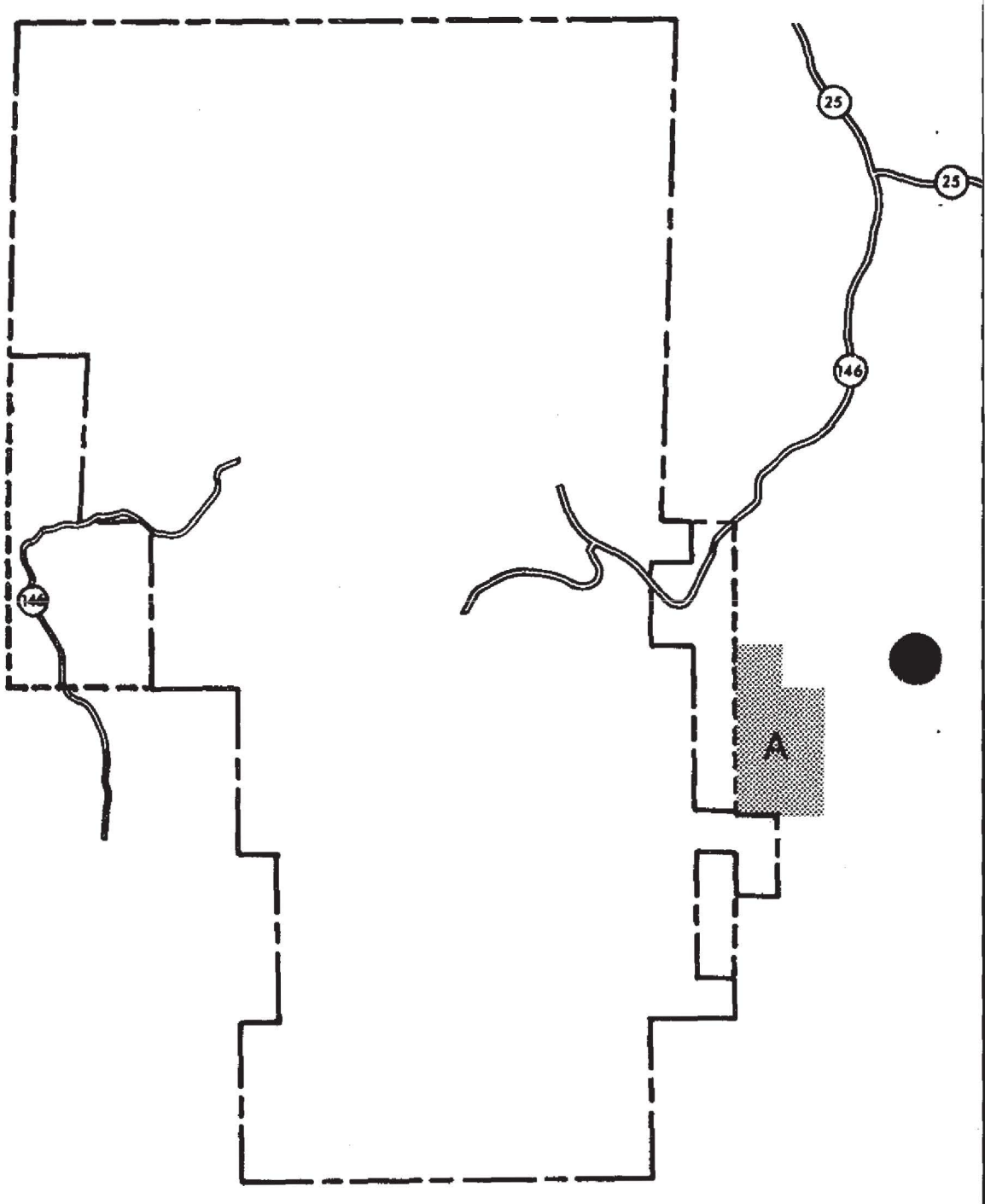
E. BOUNDARY REVISION GREATER OR SMALLER THAN THOSE PROPOSED

The proposals in the master plan are designed to acquire and manage those lands especially needed to protect the resources of their immediate environs, and to provide adequate area for visitor facilities that do not infringe upon the immediate area influencing the prime resources.

Inclusion of additional land was given consideration during the master plan study. It would be desirable to provide as much land as possible to serve as protective and visual buffer around the monument's core resources. This proposal can, however, reach the state of diminishing returns by increasing the cost of the monument management and expanding it into areas where the appropriateness of National Park Service involvement is dubious.

A specific additional parcel on the east side was considered. It includes approximately 267 acres adjacent to the east side of Chalone Creek--a small portion of the extensive grazing land immediately south of Bear Valley. This parcel is labeled (A) on the Boundary Revisions map. Addition of this land would more adequately protect park lands along Chalone Creek and add additional buffer to the east side. It would, however, remove land from grazing use, and these lands are physically remote from the prime park resources, making management difficult. Moreover, the park values inherent are submarginal except as open space.

Another aspect of this alternative would be to acquire only those lands necessary for the development of the two staging areas (20 acres on each side of the monument) and for the western approach overlook and picnic area (2 acres). This action would be more economical to the National Park Service than acquiring the proposed 1,300 acres, for this land would be adequate for all new and relocated facilities. Disadvantages of this plan would be the lack of control that the National Park Service would have over the surrounding land use still in private ownership. The situation could be disruptive to the management of the monument and the visitor's experience alike. In addition, this alternative would not insure the protection of the lower Chalone Creek wildlife habitat



BOUNDARY REVISIONS

Existing Boundary ——— ———

Proposed Additions ------

Alternative Acquisitions ▒▒▒▒

north

0 1/2 1 miles

114	80,009
WRO-PD	AUG. 75

which would be included in the master plan's east side acquisition proposal. If only the acreage necessary for development were purchased, facilities location planning would be hampered and constrained to those few acres acquired. The possibility would also exist that additional land acquisition would be necessary in the future for any anticipated facilities expansion and development.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Consultation and Coordination in the Development of the Proposal and in the Preparation of the Draft Environmental Statement

Some of the issues to which the master plan addresses itself have been discussed with local agencies and individuals for many years. On April 24, 1972, at the start of the planning study and draft environmental statement preparation, a public meeting was held in Hollister, California, to hear public comment and suggestions on the future of Pinnacles National Monument. Comments were made by individuals, representatives of local Chambers of Commerce, the Sierra Club, and California Division of Forestry. Discussion focused mainly on the possible construction of a cross-monument road. There was considerable agreement and polarization among those present on the wisdom of constructing such a road. Those individuals and organizations concerned with the economic development of Salinas and San Benito valleys favored the development of this road and conversely those with primarily environmental interests were opposed to this development.

The U.S. Soil Conservation Service was consulted during the preparation of the master plan and environmental impact statement. Data concerning soil types, drainage patterns, and land use in the Pinnacles region that this agency provided, has been incorporated in this statement.

In addition, the planning team consulted on several occasions with representatives of the Pinnacles Land and Cattle Company, the primary landowners of the east side of the monument. These meetings concerned acquisition of desirable land for addition to the monument and the development of visitor facilities by this company on their land adjacent to the monument. As stated in the Description of the Proposal, this private corporation wishes to develop its holdings including those lands which the National Park Service wishes to acquire to insure completion of its master plan proposals. Consultation on a continuing basis has been necessary to resolve any conflicts which may arise concerning the future land use of this area, and concerning the possible formation of a joint public agency/private enterprise development on this side of the monument.

The State Historic Preservation Officer has been contacted on several occasions, concerning the effects of the proposed action on any potential historic, archeological, or paleontological resources of the monument. Initial contact was by letter of October 1972. Subsequently, his comments were received in November 1972, and included in the draft environmental statement. Through the suggestion

of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the State Historic Preservation Officer was again contacted in July 1974, during the preparation of the final environmental impact statement. His response of July 1974, as well as the comments of November 1972, have been included in Apendix B of this statement.

Coordination in the Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The National Park Service conducted public meetings in Hollister, California, on May 31, 1974, and in Soledad, California, on June 1, 1974, to discuss the completed draft master plan and environmental impact statement for Pinnacles National Monument. The meetings were announced 60 days in advance. In addition, at that time the draft master plan and environmental impact statement were made available for review by other Federal agencies, interested organizations, and individuals. Written comments concerning the document were welcomed up to 30 days after the public hearings were held.

Copies of the draft environmental impact statement and a request for comments were sent to the following Federal and State agencies and private organizations:

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture
  Forest Service
  Soil Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
Department of Defense
  Army Corps of Engineers
Department of the Interior
  Bureau of Indian Affairs
  Bureau of Land Management
  Bureau of Mines
  Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
  Bureau of Reclamation
  Fish and Wildlife Service
  Geological Survey
Department of Transportation
  Federal Highway Administration
Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Power Commission
State of California Clearinghouse
  (Office of the Lt. Governor)
State Historic Preservation Officer
Metropolitan Clearinghouse
  (California Association of Governments)

California Off-Road Vehicle Association
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs
Friends of the Earth
National Audubon Society
Nature Conservancy
Pinnacles Land and Cattle Company
Sierra Club
Wilderness Society

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOLLOWING REVIEW OF THE DRAFT STATEMENT

Correspondence was received from 12 Federal agencies, two State agencies, two local governmental agencies, nine private organizations, and 82 individuals in response to the draft environmental impact statement. In addition, oral comments at the public meetings were recorded from seven private organizations and 24 individuals.

A major issue throughout the planning process has been the issue of constructing a cross-park road. Response was overwhelmingly against any such proposal. Of the total of 138 responses, only three favored construction of this road. Agreement was unanimous with the National Park Service's findings that the environmental impacts associated with this proposal were far too great to make it a viable access alternative.

Several of the master plan proposals were modified in the final master plan and environmental statement as a result of response to the draft documents. The proposal to remove the dam at the head of Bear Gulch was rescinded due to the concern voiced by governmental agencies, organizations, and individuals with regard to the possible impacts involved. In general, it was felt that the impacts associated with such action would be far greater than anticipated in the draft environmental statement, and removal was not warranted at this time.

The proposed shuttle terminus at East Balconies was also deleted and moved back to Chalone Creek crossing adjacent to the present campground because of public opposition to this proposal. Again, it was felt that the impacts associated with the provision of the shuttle turn-around and trailhead facility close to the Balconies formation were so great that the proposal was not warranted.

As a result of public comment and governmental agency review, the monument's trail system was expanded in the final planning process to include an additional 10 miles of trail to encourage wider visitor use and interpretation of the chaparral ecological community. It was generally felt that a major stated objective of the master plan was to provide wider use of the monument by the hiking public, and not enough trails had been provided in the draft master plan to satisfy this objective.

The following section examines the record of written correspondence concerning the master plan documents and the National Park Service's responses to the comments recorded. It includes all governmental agencies and private organizations responding, and a representative sampling of individual responses. Individual correspondence of an identical nature, although summarized in the

previous section, has been omitted for clarity. The comments are arranged alphabetically in the following categories: Federal agencies, State agencies, local agencies, private organizations and individuals.

Much of the individual correspondence received went beyond basic review of the environmental impact statement for adequacy of environmental analysis, to voice support or rejection of a particular proposal. This situation is welcomed as an integral part of the public involvement requirements in the master planning process. The environmental statement simply serves to analyze the impacts of proposals and provide a forum for alternative comparison and selection. Therefore, public concerns regarding the master plan proposals are included in the following comments section and responded to by the National Park Service, although they may not directly refer to the environmental impact statement.

A complete record of the correspondence cited is contained in the appendix of the environmental statement. The following is a list of agencies, organizations and individuals who submitted comments on the planning document and the environmental statement:

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture
  Forest Service
Department of the Army
  Corps of Engineers
Department of the Interior
  Fish and Wildlife Service
  Geological Survey
  Bureau of Indian Affairs
  Bureau of Land Management
  Bureau of Mines
  Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
  Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Transportation
  Federal Highway Administration
Environmental Protection Agency
State of California Clearinghouse
  The Resources Agency
State Historic Preservation Officer
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Salinas Chamber of Commerce
San Benito County Board of Supervisors
San Benito County Chamber of Commerce
American Association of University Women
Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society
Pinnacles Land and Cattle Company
Salinas League of Women Voters
Sierra Club Ventana Chapter
Southwest Parks and Monuments Association

Sportsman's Council of Central California
Wally Byam Caravan Club International Inc.
Robynn Bandy
Oscar Biblarz
Jack Bingham, Jr.
Ronald Bricmont
Alan Burrugles
Jody Cobb
Bruce and Judy Cowan
Eileen Devine
Robert S. Garing
Jack Holmgren
Reb Monaco
Donald Nesbit
Tom Price
Russell Regnier
Harry L. Silcocks
William Sirwetz
John and Joyce Todd
Gary Wells
Lea Wood

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Notes no objection to the determination that there will be no effect on historic properties and no adverse effect on archeological sites. The NPS may proceed with the undertaking.

Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Comment: The relationship of the Wilderness proposal at Pinnacles National Monument to the remainder of the plans would assist in understanding the master plan. We believe the relationships should be more explicitly identified and discussed.

Response: Since the release of the draft environmental statement for the Pinnacles Master Plan, a revised wilderness plan for the monument has been formulated using the revised Department of the Interior guidelines for wilderness proposals. This plan has been included and discussed in the final environmental statement on page 11, paragraph 1.

Comment: There is a discussion about converting use at the monument to day-use only, with the suggestion that private enterprise be encouraged to develop facilities for camping outside the monument. There is, however, no discussion or analysis of capabilities for private entrepreneurs to succeed at such a business in this region.

Response: The draft environmental impact statement discusses the relationship of present land uses and potential capabilities for income from camping developments on private lands. These lands are described as marginal for their present use which is dry land grazing and that a camping development, even on a seasonal basis would in all probability generate a higher financial return to the owner. Demands for camping facilities will also be present with the removal of National Park Service facilities. Refer to pages 11, 28, 44, and A-32 for proposed private development plans and present grazing uses.

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineers

Document reviewed without comment.

Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

Comment: The golden eagle (page 22) is not listed as endangered by the Secretary of the Interior or the California Fish and Game Commission.

Response: The correction is noted in the Description of the Environment in the final Environmental Impact Statement.

Geological Survey

Comment: The statement does not, but should, discuss water requirements and sewage disposal.

Response: Water, electrical, and sewage disposal requirements have been included in the description of the proposal and mitigating measures sections of the final impact statement on pages 5 and 49.

Comment: The plan calls for the removal of the dam on Bear Gulch so that the accumulated sediment behind the dam will be released and carried downstream gradually. The quality of sediment in the reservoir which has been in existence for several decades, may be considerable. The effect of the sediment on aquatic biota could be disruptive and could render the caves unusable for a long period of time.

Response: The final master plan advocates the retention, repair, and reconditioning of the dam and reservoir to make it safe in any foreseeable situation and to blend it into the natural environment.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Document reviewed without comment.

Bureau of Land Management

Comment: There are a few areas in the draft environmental statement in which detailed information is lacking such as in the description of the environment, including vegetation, soils, pond environment, etc., and impacts on wildlife. This leaves the reader with many questions as to the actual impacts of the proposed actions.

Response: The impacts described in the draft statement can only be as specific as the proposals in the master plan which is a conceptual document. As more detailed planning is completed for the resources, in particular the resources management plan and the development concept plans, more detailed environmental analysis can be accomplished in the accompanying documents. However, the discussion of impacts on vegetation, wildlife, and soils has been expanded in the final statement on pages 39, 40, and 41.

Comment: The increased habitat of the western pond turtle and the three-spined stickleback through land acquisition will probably be offset by concentrating park headquarters, housing, and visitor parking in these zones.

Response: The mitigating measures section of the draft environmental statement states that: The visitor oriented developments in the proposed staging area on the east side of the monument, will be located adjacent to State Route 146 at least 1/2-mile north of the Chalone Creek wildlife area to avoid disturbance and insure preservation of the historic habitat of rare and diminishing species.

Comment: Removal of the dam will eliminate aquatic vegetation and wildlife. The report does not cover these impacts when considering the present environment.

Response: The final master plan advocates the retention, repair and reconditioning of the dam and reservoir.

Bureau of Mines

Comment: We have no record of any mineral deposit or occurrence within the study area. In the absence of the mineral resource survey of the monument and the proposed addition, it is difficult to estimate the mineral potential of the area. It should be mentioned in the final statement that the Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines have made no mineral evaluation of the area and that it is not known what potential mineral resources would be committed by the action.

Response: This information has been incorporated into the final environmental statement on page 54, paragraph 2.

Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

Comment: It should be noted that there may be certain adverse impacts on the camper resulting from removal of campgrounds from within the monument boundaries. The ability to camp adjacent to the primary resource attraction of an area is important to many campers and will be lost if the proposal is implemented, also relying on private interests to provide camping facilities could possibly result in the camper having to pay more to camp in a less interesting environment.

Response: The comment is noted in the environmental impact section of the final environmental impact statement on page 43, paragraph 3.

Comment: The draft statement indicates that the backcountry represents a fine resource for the hiker and goes on to say that much of the park's backcountry has no formal trail system (page 26). However, the master plan does not appear to deal with this situation. The impact of the decision to provide or not to provide better trail access should be discussed.

Response: As a result of the public response to the draft master plan, an additional 10 miles of backcountry trails have been incorporated into the final master plan to make this resource more readily available to the visitor. This addition is discussed in the final environmental impact statement on page 6, paragraph 2.

Comment: One of the alternatives listed in the statement is entitled "Boundary Revisions Greater or Smaller Than Those Proposed," but the discussion in this section fails to consider any boundary revision smaller than those proposed.

Response: The correction is noted in the alternatives section of the final environmental statement on page 59.

Bureau of Reclamation

Comment: We do not concur with the suggestion that a cross-monument road be constructed as we believe it would be unnecessary and undesirable from an ecological and esthetic point of view.

Response: This concurs with the National Park Service's findings regarding the environmental impacts associated with this alternative action. The master plan recommends that no cross-monument road be constructed.

Department of Transportation

Comment: At the present time, the California Department of Transportation does not have any major improvement programs proposed for State Route 146 or State Route 25. Improvement of these highways could be necessitated by the improved facilities within the monument. Therefore, it is suggested that this aspect of the proposed master plan be coordinated with California Department of Transportation.

Response: The draft environmental statement recognizes that encouraging greater visitation to the west side of the monument will necessitate upgrading of State Route 146. The final environmental impact statement acknowledges that this action is dependent upon and will be coordinated with the California Department of Transportation's long range plans for highway improvements in this area.

Environmental Protection Agency

Comment: Are any mitigating measures being considered for the temporary disturbance to be caused by the paving of the road leading to the East Balconies especially in regard to the creek that runs along this road?

Response: As a result of public response to the draft master plan, the shuttle terminus at the East Balconies has been relocated back of the Chalone Creek crossing .5 mile above the existing Chalone Creek campground. This will allow the remaining 1.2 miles of the balconies caves to remain unpaved trail for foot traffic only which will have minimal impact on the area.

Comment: Mention is made of "a non-polluting shuttle vehicle which does not rely on fossil fuel for propulsion." What type of vehicle is contemplated?

Response: The final environmental statement states in the Mitigating Measures section that the shuttle vehicle will probably be propane gas powered or rely on battery power for propulsion.

Comment: Inclusion of a water resources map in the environmental impact statement would allow a more reasonable determination to be made of the effects of reservoir drainage and dam removal, not only in the Bear Gulch picnic area but also on the cave system immediately below the dam.

Response: The final master plan advocates the retention, repair, and reconditioning of the dam and reservoir at the head of Bear Gulch.

Comment: The EPA suggests that the National Park Service, in order to comply with local regulations, coordinate the prescribed burning program with the local air pollution control district before settling on a method and time of year for burning.

Response: The comment has been incorporated into the final environmental impact statement on page 50, paragraph 2.

State of California Clearinghouse

The Resources Agency

Comment: We suggest that the statement be strengthened with additional information on the impacts of the controlled burning program.

Response: The final environmental statement contains additional information concerning prescribed burning programs in the environmental impact and mitigating measures section of the statement on pages 39, 40, 42, and 50.

Comments: We suggest that more consideration be given to the impacts of reduced access and increased public use in remote areas.

Response: In effect, the installation of a shuttle system at Pinnacles during peak-use periods is designed to counteract the problems of reduced access that presently exist when all parking facilities are full. This proposal will actually enhance visitor access. The final environmental statement provides additional detail concerning impacts of public use in remote areas on pages 38, 39, and 41.

State Historic Preservation Officer

You have submitted an evaluation of structures at Pinnacles National Monument for consideration for possible nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. In your evaluation you stated that you did not believe that the structures met the criteria for the Register. We have examined the materials presented and as staff for the State Historic Preservation Officer concur with your determination that they are not eligible.

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

Document reviewed without comment.

Salinas Chamber of Commerce

Document reviewed and agreement noted.

San Benito County Board of Supervisors

Comment: This Board of Supervisors supports the adoption of the tentative master plan of development of the Pinnacles National Monument on two conditions:

1. that the East Pinnacles be given first priority for new development at the monument as the logical focus of visitor traffic for the next 20 years, and

2. that development of private lands by private enterprise be implemented as a highly desirable alternative to Federal acquisition.

Response: The master plan advocates shifting the emphasis of the short-term day-use visitor to the west side of the monument where he would be better served by the resource. Those wishing a more leisurely visit would, in all probability, still choose the east side development as their staging area for a monument visit.

The master plan advocates private development of campgrounds on private lands as a desirable alternative to Federal operation of camping facilities as delineated in the final environmental impact statement; the National Park Service is also presently negotiating

with a private company to provide monument operational and visitor use facilities on the east side of the monument in a joint private enterprise/ public agency development. The complete development of monument facilities by private enterprise on private lands is discussed in Alternative C of the final environmental statement.

San Benito County Chamber of Commerce

Comment: Similar to those of the San Benito County Board of Supervisors above, with the addition that the California Department of Transportation has no improvement contemplated for Highway 146 on the west side of the monument for the next 20 years. Therefore, East Pinnacles is the logical location for the primary focus of visitation and development.

Response: Please see the response to the San Benito County Board of Supervisors on page 74. The National Park Service is cognizant of the fact that improvements to Route 146 will be dependent upon California Department of Transportation improvement plans. Improvement of Route 146 will undoubtedly become a higher priority when the master plan proposals are implemented. The National Park Service's rationale for encouraging day-use visitation of the west side of the monument is contained in the Description of the Proposal in the final environmental statement.

American Association of University Women

Document reviewed and agreement noted.

Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society (two letters)

Comment: A cross-park road along the fragile ecology of the Chalone Creek and canyon area would be an outrage to the monument. Its costs and its unpoliceable character would make it an expensive headache to the Park Service management. It is recommended that every effort be made to encourage the development of the Gloria Road or other roads outside the park instead.

Response: Although the master plan states that no cross-monument road will be constructed, the National Park Service does not recommend that an alternate route be constructed in its place. If in the future transportation needs

dictate that a road transversing the Gabilan Range is needed, then county and State officials will investigate other route selections that are feasible including the Gloria Road alternative.

Comment: We would like to see the nesting cliffs of Prairie Falcons protected from disturbance by the increasing numbers of rock climbers. It is not known if Golden Eagles utilize cliff sites within the monument, but if so, then similar protection should be afforded.

In former years the endangered Peregrine falcon also bred there. Should this species show an indication of reoccupying its habitat, then it too should be accorded respite from climbers. All three species are susceptible to illegal removal by falconers and patrol activities should take this possibility into account.

Response: The National Park Service concurs with this comment. Measures will be taken to afford the praire falcon and other raptors full protection in Pinnacles National Monument. Please refer to page 41, paragraph 2, and page 49, paragraph 1, of this statement.

Pinnacles Land and Cattle Company

Comment: The master plan as presented at public hearings affirms the desirability of encouraging private enterprise to supply visitor facilities including some Park Service maintenance, administrative, and other facilities on private lands adjacent to the monument. The draft environmental statement, however, clearly rejects such private development on lands nearest the monument. It proposes the acquisition of these lands and development of facilities by the National Park Service.

Response: The draft master plan does not advocate development and operation of day use visitor facilities by private enterprise on private lands adjacent to the monument. The plan merely advocates that camping be removed from within the monument, concurrent with the provision of replacement facilities by private enterprise on private lands adjacent to the monument. The draft environmental statement delineates that the proposed additions are the most desirable lands for the staging areas to serve the day use visitor to the monument, and for the provision of support facilities

to serve the monument. The alternative of private development of all facilities on private lands is discussed on page 56 of the environmental statement.

Comment: We suggest that the environmental statement's proposal to confine visitor services and camping to a 20 acre area be reevaluated. This is far too concentrated a useage for such a fragile environment.

Response: As discussed in the draft environmental statement, the facilities that the National Park Service wishes to relocate will be entirely for day use operation, and will require only approximately 20 acres of land on each side of the monument for development purposes.

Comment: We question the environmental basis for leaving a half-mile buffer strip along lower Chalone Creek for protection of the stickleback and Pacific pond turtle. In the six years that we have owned the property, no one, to our knowledge, has ever sighted either of these species.

Response: The lower Chalone Creek watershed adjacent to the monument offers excellent habitat for these two species which are quite rare and in need of protection. They have both been observed in this area in the past by members of the monument staff. Adequate natural buffer is therefore warranted.

Salinas League of Women Voters

Document reviewed and agreement noted.

Sierra Club - Ventana Chapter

Comment: We oppose the extension of the shuttle system beyond the Chalone Creek Campground Annex.

Response: As a result of public response to the draft master plan, the shuttle terminus at the East Balconies has been relocated back to the Chalone Creek crossing .5 mile above the existing Chalone Creek campground This will allow the remaining 1.2 miles of the balconies caves to remain unpaved trail for foot traffic only which will have minimal impact on the area.

Comment: We oppose the development of a new trail from the East Balconies to the High Peaks Trail. This rough terrain and a trail through this area would cause unwanted erosion and undue stress to native flora and fauna.

Response: As a result of public response to the draft master plan, this proposed trail has been deleted from the final master plan and environment impact statement.

Comment: We oppose increased access to the northern area of the monument through the establishment of additional hiking trails without further study. The entire subject of the trail system requires additional detailed study and possible preparation of a separate environmental impact statement.

Response: Please refer to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's comments regarding additional trails on page 71. The final environmental impact statement discusses the impacts associated with trail construction on page 41, paragraphs 2 and 5.

Comment: We recommend that the removal of the reservoir merits more intensive consideration than it was given in the draft environmental statement.

Response: Please refer to the comment concerning dam removal by the U.S. Geological Survey on page 69.

Comment: We urge consideration of the inclusion of Parcels A and B and retention of those areas now scheduled for deletion. We urge careful consideration be given to adopting natural watershed boundaries for the most effective management of Pinnacles.

Response: Additional study by the National Park Service concerning Alternative A has revealed that this 120-acre parcel would be a desirable resource addition to the monument due to the riparian life zones which it contains along Chalone Creek. Consequently, it has been included in the final master plan as a proposed addition to the monument. This action would also nullify the reasons stated in the draft environmental impact statement for deleting the two adjacent parcels--lack of continuity with the present monument boundary and resultant management problems. Therefore, these lands will be retained within the monument. The lands identified as Parcel B in the draft environmental impact statement are still considered unnecessary additions for reasons stated in the final environmental statement. This is discussed in the alternatives section under "Boundary Revisions Greater or Smaller Than Those Proposed." In the final impact statement, this parcel is identified as Parcel A on page 60.

Southwest Parks and Monuments Association

Document reviewed and concurrence noted.

Sportsman's Council of Central California

Comment: Until such time as there is assurance that private capital will build campgrounds on the eastern and western sides of the monument, we believe that the present campgrounds in the monument should be maintained.

Response: The National Park Service intends to maintain camping facilities at Pinnacles until replacement campgrounds are provided by private enterprise adjacent to the monument. This policy is stated in the Mitigating Measures section of the environmental statement on page 49, paragraph 5.

Wally Byam Caravan Club International Inc.

Comment: We are opposed to the extension of the road up Chalone Creek to the East Balconies area.

Response: The road will be extended only as far as the shuttle terminus at Chalone Creek crossing .5 mile above the Chalone Creek Campground.

Comment: As the monument is improved there will be a need to develop hikes and walks for people of all abilities.

Response: The master plan Management Statement contains the following Visitor Use Management Objective: "Expand and rehabilitate the existing trail system and encourage this use as the most desirable form of recreation and visitor experience in the monument."

Comment: We believe that the National Park Service should not abolish any of the presently developed camping facilities and as a part of the visitor support facilities developed, the monument needs to develop and operate additional camping facilities. We feel that when this responsibility is turned over to the private sector, we lose an important part of what has come to be the heritage of all Americans who love to camp.

Response: The draft master plan and its environmental impact statement detail the reasons for removal of camping facilities from within the resource and replacement

of these facilities outside the monument. Primary reasons are: Lack of space for expansion, conflicts between day users and campers, and close proximity to the major resources and visitor attractions.

The impact section of the final environmental statement acknowledges the impact on the visitor of privately owned campgrounds on page 43, paragraphs 3.

Robynn Bandy

Comment: I do not think that it would be very good for Pinnacles National Monument to have a road put through it so that Highway 146 could be completed.

Response: The master plan for Pinnacles National Monument does not recommend that this road be constructed.

Oscar Biblarz

Comment: I recommend that the National Park Service should continue to expand the monument through acquisition of adjoining private lands. The lands surrounding Pinnacles are marginal for anything but perhaps recreation and the preservation of our environment.

Response: The environmental impact statement discusses boundary revisions greater than those proposed in Alternative E on page 59.

Jack Bingham, Jr.

Comment: It has been brought to my attention that a new road is being proposed that would bisect Pinnacles National Monument. I would like to stand on public record as being opposed to this cross-monument road.

Response: The National Park Service does not recommend that a cross-monument road be constructed.

Ronald Bricmont

Comment: The dam in Bear Gulch should be removed and the canyon restored, as much as possible to its natural state.

Response: Refer to response to the U.S. Geological Survey comments questioning the validity of moving the Bear Gulch dam on page 69. The impacts associated with its removal far outweigh those associated with its retention.

Comment: The existing dirt-road to the East Balconies should be converted to a trail with the present paved fords in the creek replaced by foot-bridges.

Response: Please refer to the response to the Environmental Protection Agency comments regarding this action on page 72, and the Wally Byam Caravan Club International Inc. comments on page 79.

Comment: The fire lookout on north Chalone Peak is an eyesore and should be removed. It should be replaced with an interpretive exhibit.

Response: This fire lookout is maintained by the California Division of Forestry as an active fire detention station for the area and its continued presence is necessary for this purpose.

Comment: Pinnacles is a small park and its area should be expanded as much as is feasible. I would recommend that the two proposed deletions not take place and would recommend further that the block of public lands adjoining the park at the south end administered by the Bureau of Land Management be added to the park.

Response: The final environmental statement discusses the alternative of a boundary revision greater or smaller than that proposed in Alternative E. The final master plan advocates the retention of the two deletions (120 acres) as desirable to retain within the monument. Please refer to the response to a similar comment by the Sierra Club on page 78, paragraph 7.

Comment: In order to make more of the park available to visitors, I propose an extensive expansion of the trail system into both the northern and southern areas.

Response: Please see the response to a similar comment by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation on page 71, paragraph 4.

Comment: The proposal to close campgrounds in the park and encourage replacement by private campgrounds outside the park is unfortunate. Commercial development only serves to degrade those parks where it is allowed. If campgrounds are felt to be inadequate, they should be supplemented within areas to be added to the park and should be planned, constructed, and operated by the Park Service.

Response: The draft environmental statement delineates the National Park Service's rationale for converting the monument to day-use operation only on page 4.

Alan Burrugles

Document reviewed and agreement noted.

Jody Cobb

Comment: The monument could be even more desirable if automobiles, campers, and trailers were prohibited and only backpack campers were allowed to camp on the grounds.

Response: The draft master plan and environmental impact statement discussed in detail the National Park Service's rationale for converting the monument to day-use operation only. Please refer to the Description of the Proposal, page 4, and Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action, page 43.

Bruce and Judy Cowan

Comment: Paving the road to the Balconies Caves would increase visitor impact and noise in that area.

Response: Please refer to the response to the Environmental Protection Agency comment on page 72, paragraph 5.

Comment: We are very much opposed to a road connecting east and west Pinnacles.

Response: The master plan recommends that no cross-monument road be constructed.

Eileen Devine

Comment: If there is really a need for better access between Salinas and San Benito Valleys, it could easily be accommodated by improving the existing La Gloria Road just three miles north of the monument.

Response: Please refer to the response to the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society comment on page 75, paragraph 6.

Comment: The Chalone Creek administrative road should be permanently closed to all motorized vehicles including shuttle vehicles.

Response: Please see the response to a similar comment by the Environmental Protection Agency on page 72, paragraph 5.

Comment: It is essential for the protection of the Chalone Creek riparian habitat that the two parcels of land not be deleted and the monument's boundaries be expanded to include Parcel A. The water rights to these lands could be guaranteed the present owner and the land would have the benefit of protection through public ownership.

Response: Please refer to the response to a similar comment be the Sierra Club on page 78, paragraph 7.

Comment: I urge that wilderness classification be considered for the entire northern portion of the monument as well as the area along the Chalone Creek administrative road.

Response: Please refer to similar comment by the U.S. Forest Service on page 68. The Wilderness Plan is presented on page 10 of this statement.

Robert S. Garing

Comment: I do not agree that the existing dam should be removed.

Response: The final master plan advocates retention of the dam and reservoir above Bear Gulch.

Comment: The tent camper or backpacker, which are usually rockclimbers are not provided for in the monument. I would recommend that an unregimented walk-in campground be available for this group.

Response: The limited extent of the resources at Pinnacles literally precludes a wilderness camping experience. If backcountry camping were allowed, the limited carrying capacity for camping in the chaparral community would restrict this use to very few individuals in order to maintain a quality wilderness camping experience.

Comment: Changing the monument to day-use activities will not change the pattern of heavy weekend use and demand for camping facilities. Camping should be expanded in the newly acquired areas.

Response: The environmental statement delineates the National Park Service's rationale for converting the monument to day-use operation only. Existing camping facilities will not be removed until replacement facilities are available on private lands adjacent to the monument.

Comment: I do not agree that park headquarters should be moved out of the monument. I believe the staff is needed in the monument to protect it and administer it.

Response: The final environmental statement includes the following statement in the Description of the Proposal: "Due to the monument's isolated location, both of the entrance developments will include housing for the personnel necessary to provide 24-hour onsite protection."

Comment: I do not recommend that visitors be "motivated" to walk on trails by converting existing facilities to "interpretive areas."

Response: The National Park Service's position concerning the role of hiking trails at Pinnacles National Monument is well documented in the environmental statement. The master plan and environmental statement do not state that existing facilities will be converted into interpretive areas.

Jack Holmgren

Comment: To protect the monument from over-use, there should be an extensive trail network through the parts which can best handle human use. The key to minimizing impact is getting people to walk. In summary, I urge the return of the monument to a wilderness state with two drive-in campgrounds and no motorized traffic anywhere else in the area, and the trail system expanded to provide direct access to and over the High Peaks area.

Response: Please see the response to a similar comment by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation regarding trail expansion on page 71, paragraph 4. The intent of the master plan proposal is to satisfy the four objectives listed in the introductory statement in the master plan. Limiting facilities to two drive-in campgrounds would only increase the present problems of conflicts with day-use visitors, lack of available space for parking, and increased visitor turnaways.

Reb Monaco

Comment: Some provisions have to be made for all types of campers. I see the need for a private campground outside the park boundary to accommodate trailer and tent camps. I also see the need for walk-in type campgrounds for backpackers and a campground within the park boundary which could accommodate limited groups as well.

Response: Please refer to the response to a similar comment by Jody Cobb on page 82. The limited extent of the resources at Pinnacles literally precludes a wilderness camping experience. If backcountry camping were allowed, the limited carrying capacity for camping in the chaparral community would restrict the use to very few individuals in order to maintain a quality wilderness camping experience.

Donald Nesbit

Comment: I think you are going to see an increased demand on the park as a site for one-day visits. We recommend more trails.

Response: Please refer to the response to a similar comment by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation on page 71, paragraph 4.

Comment: We feel that expansion costs less than limiting access to the monument. Unless you want to limit the number of overnight campers, you will have to expand other camping facilities for there is no way you are going to reduce the increasing demand for recreation parks.

Response: The actions in the master plan are intended to provide for a greater number of visitors and increase the quality of their experience while preserving the monument's irreplaceable resources. The goal is well documented in the environmental impact statement.

Tom Price

Comment: Rather than eliminate camping altogether from Pinnacles I recommend closure of the present campsites after opening new sites on lands planned for acquisition.

Response: The final environmental statement discusses as a mitigating measure that no National Park Service campgrounds will be phased out until replacement

facilities are available on private lands adjacent to the monument.

Comment: I do want to discourage extension of the shuttle system up Chalone Creek to the East Balconies. The walk to the East Balconies is modest and level, certainly no hardship.

Response: Please see the response to a similar comment by the Environmental Protection Agency on page 72, paragraph 5.

Comment: I recommend retention of the reservoir.

Response: The reservoir will be retained and rehabilitated.

Comment: The trail system is in need of concentrated attention in terms of maintenance and rehabilitation, and new construction. I recommend possible trails along the route of the cross-monument road alternative and up Frog Canyon from East Pinnacles to North Chalone Peaks.

Response: Please refer to the response to a similar comment by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation on page 71, paragraph 4.

Russell Regnier

Comment: An alternative for the road proposal would be paving the La Gloria Road so it could be used more easily. I also believe that people have gotten along without a shuttle system or road until now and can in the future, even if more people visited each year.

Response: Please see the response to a comment by Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society regarding La Gloria Road proposal on page 75, paragraph 6. A major purpose of the shuttle system is to regulate the flow of visitors into the monument's resources to lessen their environmental impact. The vehicles used will be of a non-polluting type to further lessen impacts.

Harry L. Silcocks

Comment: On page 3 of the draft environmental statement, the following appears: "Development will include picnic tables, stoves, and overhead structures . . . " while on page 35, one finds "campfire smoke will be

reduced . . ." I assume that smoke from day-use activities is "good" while smoke from campers is "bad."

Response: The inference has been deleted from the final environmental impact statement.

Comment: I regret that it is felt that there is a conflict between the camper and the day-use visitor. What conflicting uses are there?

Response: The existing facilities portion of the Description of the Environment in the draft environmental statement discussed the competition between day users and campers for the same parking spaces (especially on the west side) which also serve as trailhead destinations. Conflicts of use are unavoidable under these circumstances. Please refer to page 32, paragraph 1 for further discussion.

Comment: I would like to offer an alternative to the elimination of camping within the monument. Proceed with the development as proposed in the draft environmental impact statement, in addition, continue to allow both campgrounds to remain open. The group campground would be used by those groups that would benefit from the nature study and environmental participation aspect as mentioned on page 17 of the master plan. The other campground would remain open on a reservation system and/or a first-come first-serve basis for individuals. The users of both campgrounds would be restricted to the use of the road from the entrance station to the campground. Once in the campground, the vehicle would remain parked until the party was leaving. The shuttle bus would be used to transport the camper within the monument.

Response: A major management objective of the master plan is: "Emphasize day-use activities such as picnicking, hiking, rock-climbing, nature study and interpretive devices stressing environmental awareness in future physical developments." In addition, the proposal would be impossible to implement on the west side of the monument because the campground itself is also the day-use destination point and shuttle terminus. On the east side, a safety hazard would exist if private vehicles were allowed to use the route normally reserved for shuttle vehicles.

William Sirwetz

Comment: I would hope that the Chalone Creek administrative road not be paved and the East Balconies trail not be constructed.

Response: The master plan recommends that neither project be undertaken.

John and Joyce Todd

Comment: We desire an expansion of the monument boundaries including the entire watershed of Chalone Creek and addition of Parcel A.

Response: Please see the response to a similar comment by the Sierra Club on page 78, paragraph 7.

Gary Wells

Comment: A road through Pinnacles would cause pollution and increase camping pressures.

Response The master plan recommends that no cross-monument road be constructed.

Lea Wood

Comment: I do not think that a shuttle is necessary or desirable on the administrative road (trail) to the East Balconies.

Response: Please see the response to an Environmental Protection Agency comment on page 72, paragraph 5.

Comment: Another trail to the East Balconies in addition to the present is unnecessary.

Response: The National Park Service does not intend to provide an additional access to the East Balconies from the Chalone Creek Crossing shuttle terminus. The existing dirt road will be utilized for this purpose.

Comment: Park Service employees living in the monument can provide better protection for the area than if they were in a remote place such as Hollister or Soledad.

Response: The final environmental impact statement includes the following statement in the Description of the Proposal: "Due to the monument's isolation, both of the entrance

developments will include housing for the personnel necessary to provide 24-hour onsite protection."

Comment: I do not think any land presently under the care of the Park Service should be taken out. I would also like to see the Park Service add an additional parcel along Chalone Creek.

Response: Please refer to the response to a similar comment from the Sierra Club on page 78, paragraph 7.

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APPENDIX A

COMMENTS RECEIVED

Advisory Council
On Historic Preservation
1522 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

AUG 4 1975

Mr. John H. Davis
Acting Regional Director
Western Region
National Park Service
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Mr. Davis:

This is in response to your letter of July 22, 1975 transmitting National Park Service's (NPS) joint determinations that adoption of the Master Plan for Pinnacles National Monument, California, will result in no effect to historic properties and no adverse effect to archeological sites numbered SBn-PIN-6, 8, and 9, which appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Advisory Council staff has reviewed the material submitted with your letter and has discussed the matter further with members of your staff. Based upon its review and those discussions, we note no objection to either determination. In accordance with Sections 800.4(b) and (d) of the "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 C.F.R. Part 800) NPS may proceed with the undertaking.

In addition, we also noted in our review of the material that the Council and the California State Historic Preservation Officer will be afforded an opportunity to comment on subsequent actions generated by the Master Plan which are determined to affect cultural resources included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Accordingly, the Council looks forward to working with NPS in the future pursuant to the procedures as appropriate.

Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

John D. McDermott
Director, Office of Review
and Compliance

The Council is an independent unit of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government charged by the Act of



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Washington, D. C. 20250



JUN 4 1974

8420

Mr. Rothwell P. Broyles
Superintendent, Pinnacles National
Monument
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Paicines, California 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles:

The Draft Environmental Statement and Proposed Master Plan for Pinnacles National Monument, California, has been referred by the Office of the Secretary to the Forest Service for review.

The relationship of the Wilderness proposal at Pinnacles National Monument to the remainder of the plans would assist in understanding the Master Plan. We believe the relationships should be more explicitly identified and discussed.

Additionally, there is discussion about converting use at the Monument to day-use only, with the suggestion that private enterprise be encouraged to develop facilities for camping outside the Monument. There is, however, no discussion or analysis of capabilities for private entrepreneurs to succeed at such business in this region.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this environmental statement.

Sincerely,

R. MAX PETERSON
Deputy Chief

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
100 McALLISTER STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

SPNED-E

14 May 1974

Mr. Rothwell P. Broyles
Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, CA 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles:

This is in response to your letter dated 24 April 1974, (reference D-18) concerning review of the draft environmental statement for the proposed Master Plan, Pinnacles National Monument, California.

Your statement and master plan package was sent to our office, for review and direct reply, by the Office of the Chief of Engineers.

We have no comment on your environmental statement. Thank you for the opportunity of review.

Sincerely yours,

H. E. PAPE, JR.
Chief, Engineering Division

MAY 18 1974

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W.S. ☐
AO ☐
MTE ☐
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

1500 N. E. IRVING STREET
P. O. BOX 3737
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208

Reference: RBS

JUN 10 1974

To: Superintendent Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California

From: Acting Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
Portland, Oregon

Subject: Review of draft environmental statement for Proposed Master Plan, Pinnacles National Monument (DES-74/28)

This responds to your letter of April 24, (your reference D-18) to the Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

The golden eagle (page 22) is not listed as endangered by the Secretary of the Interior or the California Fish and Game Commission. Possibly, it was intended to cite the southern bald eagle which is endangered. Otherwise, we believe the statement adequately covers matters of jurisdictional concern to this Bureau.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft statement.

L. Edward Perry

United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DES 74-28

JUN 13 1974

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Pinnacles National Monument, Paicines, California

Through: Deputy Assistant Secretary--Energy and Minerals JUN 14 1974

From: Director, Geological Survey

Subject: Review of draft environmental statement for Pinnacles National Monument, California

We have reviewed the subject draft environmental statement as you requested in a memorandum of April 24.

Adverse environmental impacts related to geologic conditions appear to have been adequately considered in the draft statement.

The statement discusses the potential impact and proposed mitigating measures of the master plan only in general terms; the specific locations of buildings, roads, trails, parking lots, and picnic areas, etc., are not yet firm. The statement does not, but should, discuss water requirements and sewage disposal.

The plan calls for removal of the dam on Bear Gulch, so that the accumulated sediment behind the dam will be released and carried downstream gradually (p. 41). The quantity of sediment in the reservoir, which has been in existence for several decades, may be considerable. We believe that the greater part of the sediment will remain in place after the dam has been removed until the first large storm event. It will then start to move into the downstream reaches to begin intermittent

transport to the ocean. It probably will take several large storm events, and perhaps several years, to move all the sediment to the ocean. The effect of this sediment on aquatic biota could be disruptive. Also, the sudden introduction of large quantities of sediment into the caves below the dam would render the caves unuseable for a long period of time.

Acting Director Henry W. Coulter

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Land Operations
Env. Qual. NPS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Sacramento Area Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

MAY 31 1974

Rothwell P. Broyles, Supt.
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles:

We have reviewed the Review of Draft Environmental Statement and Proposed Master Plan for Pinnacles National Monument, California (DES 74/28) and found no Indian land involved. We found nothing from our particular jurisdiction or special expertise on which we feel the need to comment.

Sincerely yours,

William E. Finale

Area Director

IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

1792
C-911.3

STATE OFFICE
Federal Office Bldg., Room E-2841
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

JUL 8 1974

Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Dear Sir:

It appears, because of vacation schedules, we may have failed to respond to your request for comments on the draft environmental statement and proposed master plan for the Pinnacles National Monument. Therefore, we would like to submit the following comments for your consideration.

The plan and draft environmental statement generally appear to be adequate. However, there are a few areas in which information is lacking, such as in the detailed information in the description of the environment, including vegetation, soils, pond environment, etc., and impacts on wildlife. There is also little information in the statement covering the life zones including vegetation, soils, and wildlife. This leaves the reader with many questions as to the actual impacts of the proposed actions, particularly as they relate to impacts on wildlife.

The increased habitat of the western pond turtle and the threespined stickleback through land acquisition will probably be offset by concentrating park headquarters, housing and visitor parking in these zones. Although there are no developments planned in the Chalome Creek habitat, this area is only a short distance from the visitor parking developments.

Removal of the dam will eliminate aquatic vegetation and wildlife. The report does not cover these impacts when considering the present environment. There is also a question of downstream flooding after the dam is removed. It appears that in general the overall impacts of the dam removal are not adequately discussed.

Sincerely,

J. R. Penny
ACTING State Director
Roland A. Rash

cc:
Dir. 220

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

May 30, 1974

DES 74-28

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Pinnacles National Monument, Paicines, California

Through: Deputy Assistant Secretary--Energy and Minerals JUN 7 - 1974

From: Director, Bureau of Mines

Subject: Proposed Master Plan and Draft Environmental statement, National Park Service, Pinnacles National Monument, California

The proposed master plan and draft environmental statement outline the broad management and developmental concepts for future recreational use of Pinnacles National Monument. Under the proposal, approximately 1,200 acres would be added to the present monument; visitor facilities would be relocated and converted to day use; and a shuttle transportation system would be installed for use during heavy visitation periods.

In its review of these documents, our Western Field Operation Center, Spokane, pointed out that we have no record of any mineral deposit or occurrence within the study area. In the absence of a mineral resource survey of the monument and the proposed addition, it is difficult to estimate the mineral potential of the area. It should be mentioned in the final statement that the Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines have made no mineral evaluation of the area and that it is not known what potential mineral resources would be committed by the action.

Thomas V. Falkie

Director

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
BOX 36062
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

MAY 18 1974

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AO ☐
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FILE ☐

IN REPLY REFER TO:

E3035

May 16, 1974

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Pinnacles National Monument

From: Regional Director

Subject: Review of March 1974 draft environmental impact statement on the proposed Pinnacles Master Plan, Pinnacles National Monument, California (DES 74-28)

We have reviewed the March 8, 1974 draft environmental impact statement on the proposed Pinnacles Master Plan, submitted with your April 24, 1974 letter to Director Jim Watt. We offer the following comments for your consideration in preparing your final environmental impact statement.

Although we recognize that there will be many favorable (and possibly overriding) impacts resulting from the removal of campgrounds from within the monument boundaries, it should also be noted that there may be certain adverse impacts on the camper as well. The ability to camp adjacent to the primary resource attraction of an area is important to many campers and will be lost if the proposal is implemented. Also, relying on private interests to provide camping facilities could possibly result in the camper having to pay more to camp in a less interesting environment.

Your draft statement indicates that "the backcountry represents a fine resource for the hiker" and goes on to say that "much of the park's backcountry has no formal trail system" (page 26). However, the Master Plan does not appear to deal with this situation. Since the backcountry is recognized as an important resource, the impact of the decision to provide or not to provide better trail access should be discussed.

One of the alternatives listed in the statement is entitled "Boundary Revisions Greater or Smaller Than Those Proposed," but in actuality the discussion in this section fails to consider any boundary revisions smaller than those proposed. The alternative of acquiring the 40 acres necessary for constructing support facilities without purchasing in fee the additional 1260 acres is one alternative which should be considered.

Unless you desire advance coordination with respect to possible use of Land and Water Conservation Fund money, we will withhold formal review of land acquisition proposals until requested by the Department of the Interior's Land Planning Group.

We appreciate the opportunity to review your draft and hope our comments will be useful in the preparation of your final environmental impact statement.

Frank E. Sylvester

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY
REFER TO: 739
125.

JUN 10 1974

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Pinnacles National Monument
National Park Service

From: Commissioner of Reclamation

Subject: Review of Draft Environmental Statement and Proposed Master Plan for Pinnacles National Monument, California (DES 74-28)

This responds to your April 24 letter transmitting a copy of the subject draft environmental statement and proposed master plan for our review.

The national monument would not affect any existing or proposed Bureau of Reclamation projects.

We do not concur with the suggestion that a cross-monument road be constructed, as we believe it would be unnecessary and undesirable from an ecological and esthetic point of view.

cc:
Director, National Park Service
Director, Western Region, National Park Service
San Francisco, California

JOHNNY HORIZON 76
Let's Clean Up America For Our 200th Birthday

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION - REGION ~~SEVEN~~ Nine

ARIZONA
CALIFORNIA
HAWAII
NEVADA

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36096, San Francisco, Calif. 94102

June 4, 1974

IN REPLY REFER TO:

9ED

Mr. Rothwell P. Broyles
Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles:

We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DES 74-28) for the Proposed Master Plan for Pinnacles National Monument, California, and offer the following comment for your consideration:

The Draft Statement indicates that further improvement of State Route 146 will bring additional visitors to the Monument. At the present time, however, the California Department of Transportation does not have any major improvement program proposed for SR 146 or SR 25. Improvement of these highways could be necessitated by the improved facilities within the Monument. Therefore, it is suggested that this aspect of the proposed Master Plan be coordinated with the CALTRANS District 5 Office, 50 Higuera Street, P. O. Box L, San Luis Obispo, California 93401.

We appreciate this opportunity to review the subject Draft EIS.

Sincerely yours,

For
F. E. Hawley
Regional Administrator

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
100 CALIFORNIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111

Mr. Howard H. Chapman
Western Regional Director
National Park Service
450 Golden Gate
Box 36063
San Francisco CA 94102

APR 22 1974

Dear Mr. Chapman:

The Environmental Protection Agency has received and reviewed the draft environmental impact statement for the following proposed project, dated March 8, 1974: Pinnacles National Monument, California, Master Plan.

EPA's comments on the draft statement have been classified as Category LO-2; definitions of the categories are provided on the enclosure and our extensive comments will be found on a second enclosure. The classification and the date of EPA's comments will be published in the Federal Register in accordance with our responsibility to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Our procedure is to categorize our comments on both the environmental consequences of the proposed action and the adequacy of the impact statement at the draft stage.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to comment on this draft statement and requests two copies of the final statement when available.

Sincerely,

L Russell Freeman

Paul De Falco, Jr.
Regional Administrator

Retiring

Enclosures

cc: Council on Environmental Quality, Wash., D.C. 20460
Attn: Editor, 102 Monitor (10 copies)

Comments on the Draft Environmental Statement
Pinnacles National Monument, California, Master Plan

1. Are any mitigating measures being considered for the temporary disturbances to be caused by the paving of the road leading to the East Balconies, especially in regard to the creek that runs along this road? Also, on page 35, mention is made of, "A non-polluting shuttle vehicle which does not rely on fossil fuel for propulsion. . ." for use along the East Balconies road. What type of vehicle is contemplated? The impression is given that such a conveyance is definitely in the plans.

2. Regarding the gradual drainage of the reservoir and removal of the dam, the EIS lacks a good map showing the water resources of the Monument, especially the location of the dam and reservoir with nearby trails and cave system on the same map. With such a map, a more reasonable determination might be made of the effects of reservoir drainage and dam removal, not only on the Bear Gulch picnic area, but also on the cave system immediately below the dam.

3. Perhaps the most controversial proposal in the master plan is that of controlled burning of chaparral, which will be considered in a separate EIS. EPA suggests that the Park Service, in order to comply with local regulations, coordinate such projects with the local air pollution control district before settling on a method and time of year for burning.

N B. LIVERMORE, JR.
SECRETARY

nt of Conservation
nt of Fish and Game
nt of Navigation and
Development
nt of Parks and Recreation
nt of Water Resources

RONALD REAGAN
GOVERNOR OF
CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
RESOURCES BUILDING
1416 NINTH STREET
95814

Air Resources Board
Colorado River Board
San Francisco Bay Conservation and
Development Commission
State Lands Commission
State Reclamation Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Boards

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

JUL 9 1974

Mr. Howard H. Chapman
Regional Director
Western Region
National Park Service
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Chapman:

The State has reviewed your "Draft Environmental Statement, Proposed Master Plan, Pinnacles National Monument", which you submitted to the Office of Intergovernmental Management (State Clearinghouse) within the Governor's Office. The review was coordinated with the Departments of Commerce, Conservation, Fish and Game, Food and Agriculture, Health, Parks and Recreation, Transportation, and Water Resources, the Air Resources Board and the State Water Resources Control Board. The review fulfills the requirements under Part II of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-95 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

The statement provides useful information with respect to most of the impacts involved. We suggest that the statement be strengthened through the addition of more specific data on the impacts of the proposed controlled burning program.

As the statement suggests, more study is needed to establish an effective program of chaparral management. In the development of this program, we recommend that the Park Service work in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, the adjacent private landowners, and the State Division of Forestry.

We also suggest that more consideration be given to the impacts of reduced access and increased public use in remote areas. It would appear that this may increase the risk of wildfire which could threaten lands adjacent to the Pinnacles Monument. The Ranger Unit Headquarters in King City (408 385-5412) can provide assistance in matters of fire protection, controlled burning, and range and watershed management.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this statement.

Sincerely yours,

N. B. LIVERMORE, JR.
Secretary for Resources

By Paul L Clayton

cc: Director of Management Systems
State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

(SCH No. 74050664)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA -THE RESOURCES AGENCY EDMUND G. BROWN JR., G

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P.O. BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO 95811

April 24, 1975

Mr. John H. Davis, Regional Director
United States National Park Service
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Mr. Davis:

You have submitted an evaluation of structures at Pinnacles National Monument for consideration for possible nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. In your evaluation you stated that you did not believe that the structures met the criteria for the Register. We have examined the materials presented and as staff for the State Historic Preservation Officer concur with your determination that they are not eligible.

However, we are attaching a copy of a memorandum from the Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, wherein they request nominations of the WPA and CCC period. You may wish to consider this letter and structures at Pinnacles with respect to other like structures within the western National Parks.

Sincerely,

Russell W. Porter, Chief
Grants and Statewide Studies Division

Attachments

F-3/8

O. BOX 707, 798 CASS STREET, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA 93940 • TELEPHONE (408) 373-8477

EDWIN NORRIS, President
Councilman, Salinas
LL NELSON, Vice President
Mayor, Capitola
)SEPH ANSEL, Secretary
Councilman, Monterey

ILLIAM S. HOOD, JR.
Executive Director

ASSOCIATION OF MONTEREY
BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

DATE: May 31, 1974

TO: Rothwell P. Broyles, Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, Ca. 95043

RE: Pinnacles National Monument - Proposed Master Plan and Draft EIS

FROM: Jack Liebster, Clearinghouse Coordinator

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, as the regional clearinghouse, has made your Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report available to its member agencies and the public for review and comment.

The AMBAG Board of Directors had no specific comments on the Draft. We would however appreciate receiving two copies of the Final EIS/EIR when it is completed, with notice of the action taken on the project.

Thank you for cooperating with us in the review process.

SALINAS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 31, 1974

Mr. Ron Broyles, Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles:

On May 21, 1974, the Board of Directors of the Salinas Chamber of Commerce, by a majority vote, passed the following motion in support of Alternative B of the proposed Master Plan for the Pinnacles National Monument.

MOTION

The Salinas Chamber of Commerce supports and endorses the proposed Master Plan for the Pinnacles National Monument, prepared by the National Park Service, with emphasis on the recommendation in the Master Plan that access be by means of Alternative B, retaining the present system of two separate access roads. The committee wishes to commend the National Park Service and the Superintendent of the Pinnacles National Monument for the advanced planning concepts expressed in the Master Plan, and for the means proposed to facilitate continued public enjoyment of this unique area, and at the same time to protect and safeguard its fragile resources.

Very truly yours,

Les Dabritz

Les Dabritz
Executive Vice-President

LD/aw

ACCREDITED

Office of the Board of Supervisors

County of San Benito, State of California

The Board of Supervisors of San Benito County met at the Court House, Hollister, California, at its usual place of meeting on May 30, 1974 in adjourned regular session.

CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF TENTATIVE DRAFT)
OF THE PINNACLES MASTER PLAN)

After hearing a report by the San Benito County Chamber of Commerce following a study of the tentative draft of the Pinnacles Master Plan,

It was, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, ordered that this Board of Supervisors supports the adoption of the tentative Master Plan of Development of the Pinnacles National Monument on two conditions:

1. That the East Pinnacles be given first priority for new development at the monument as the logical focus of visitor traffic for the next 20 years; and
2. That development of private lands by private enterprise be implemented as a highly desirable alternative to federal acquisition.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an order made or resolution adopted and entered on the 30th day of May, 19 74, in Book 22 of Supervisors Minutes, at page thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Board of Supervisors affixed this 31st day of May 19 74.

RALPH G. TOWLE, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, in and for the County of San Benito, State of California.

By Ralph G. Towle Deputy

San Benito County Chamber of Commerce
Hollister, California
95023
408-637-5315

San Benito County
100 Years Old
1974

May 30, 1974

Honorable Board of Supervisors
San Benito County, California

Gentlemen:

We have reviewed the tentative draft of the Pinnacles Master Plan as you requested. Our recommendations follow.

In general, we concur with the proposals set forth in the Master Plan and we support its stated objectives. However, we take exception to two of its five principal suggestion.

Much of the Plan is predicated on a shift in visitor emphasis from the east (San Benito County) side of the monument to the west (Soledad) side. While we would take issue with any move which sought to diminish the role San Benito County plays in serving the monument and its visitors, we feel that in this case the proposal is simply unrealistic.

The expansion of the West Pinnacles, as set forth in the Plan, depends heavily on major improvements to State Highway 146 in from Soledad. As you will recall, the county was recently advised by the Division of Highways that severe cutbacks in state and federal funding meant no work beyond routine maintenance and moderate emergency repairs would be performed on highways in our area during the next two decades. That would seem to leave Highway 146 west of the Pinnacles frozen in its present state.

A telephone conversation last week with Mr. Ralph Lejonhud, Assistant District Engineer for Planning, confirmed this. Mr. Lejonhud assured us that there were no improvements to Highway 146 contemplated for the next 20 years, except necessary surfacing and maintenance. He indicated that any widening or straightening of the road, such as would be required to handle the projected volume of Pinnacles traffic, was out of the question.

It seems clear, then, that existing patterns of visitor traffic to the Pinnacles will remain largely unaltered until at least 1994. We therefore submit that the East Pinnacles will continue as the primary focus of visitation at the monument for the forseeable future, and that the wisest course of action would be to plan now to develop the East Pinnacles so that expected increases in traffic can be adequately and expeditionsly handled.

Naturally, these considerations obviate any measures for relocating administrative and residential facilities to Soledad. If the East Pinnacles is to remain the prime visitor area of the monument, then development of needed visitor accomodations and ancillary projects must be concentrated here first.

A prime objective of the plan is to "encourage development of visitor service by private enterprise outside the monument." We wholeheartedly endorse this approach, and we suggest that the National Park Service carry the idea yet a step further. The Master Plan calls for acquisition of an additional 1,250 acres for the monument, property which is to be used partly as a buffer zone and partly for development of the proposed visitor staging areas. It is our belief that these lands should stay under private ownership, and that the development of the visitor staging areas and related facilities should be done entirely by private enterprise working in cooperation with the Park Service.

There are several advantages to private development of such visitor accomodations, a chief one being that the land involved will remain on the San Benito County tax rolls. Additionally, we believe that far more efficient management can be achieved by having private interests cater to the diverse needs of campers, picnickers, and other visitors, leaving the ranger staff free to administer the 14,500 acres of the monument itself.

A further advantage is that plans for such development already exist, waiting to be implemented. We note that the Pinnacles Land and Cattle Company, which owns approximately 2,500 acres immediately adjacent to the east entrance of the monument, has advised the National Park Service of its willingness to provide camping, ranger housing, parking and visitor staging areas, and interpretive facilities for the monument in a joint venture with the park service. The land in question is part of that slated for acquisition under the master plan. Plans for development of the property are in line with the objectives and concerns set forth in the Plan, and establishment of the facilities could conceivably begin within a relatively short time. This would allow early realization of the Plan's main goals, in particular the alleviation of visitor pressure on the monument itself.

In conclusion, we recommend that the Board of Supervisors support adoption of the tentative Master Plan on two conditions: first, that the East Pinnacles be given first priority for new development at the monument, as the logical focus of visitor traffic for the next 20 years; and, second, that development of private lands by private enterprise be implemented as a highly desirable alternative to federal acquisition. If these recommendations meet with your approval, we suggest that you forward your endorsement to the National Park Service hearing officer at the May 31 Pinnacles Master Plan review meeting.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.

SAN BENITO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

American Association of University Women

SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

SALINAS BRANCH

MAY 30 1974

1186 San Marcos Drive
Salinas, Calif. 93901

May 24, 1974

Supt. Broyles
Pinnacles Natl. Mon.
Paicines, Calif. 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles:

After study of the proposed Master Plan and EIS for Pinnacles National Monument, the Salinas Branch of the American Association of University Women urges positive consideration of the following positions:

1) We support the expansion of visitor and ranger facilities to include the western side of the Monument thereby easing the congestion often felt at the eastern facilities.

2) We support the establishment of a 13,000 acre wilderness which would give ultimate protection to a large portion of this fragile area.

3) We support the concept of a shuttle system which would help to ease the impact of the automobile on the small developed area of the Monument.

4) We oppose the construction of a road through the northern sector of the Monument feeling that such a road would greatly reduce the possibilities for enjoyment of the natural environment --- both flora and fauna.

As residents of the nearby Salinas Valley we are concerned that this National Park Service area be maintained in an environmentally sound manner so that it may be enjoyed by us and our families and by all seeking a pleasant wilderness experience.

American Association of University Women

SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

SALINAS BRANCH

Please include our statement in your record for the public hearings of May 31 and June 1.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Johnson

Rosemarie Johnson
President



1184 Arroyo Drive
Pebble Beach, CA 93953
June 7, 1974

Rothwell P. Broyles, Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines , California 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles: Ref.: D18

For the record, the Audubon Society of the Monterey Peninsula wishes to recommend the following positions with reference to the Master Plan for the Pinnacles. This is in addition to my remarks at your meeting in Hollister on May 31.

First, that a cross-park road along the fragile ecology of the Chalone Creek and canyon area would be unthinkable, an outrage to the Monument. It would not be a scenic road. Little can be seen from it. It would be simply a shuttle for tourists and, worse, a shuttle across the mountains for commercial purposes. Many would take it just "because it is there." Its cost, its unpoliceable character would make it an expensive headache to the Park Service management.

Second, I would recommend that every effort be made to encourage the development of Gloria or other roads outside the Park. This would take the pressure off the cross-park road lobbyists, enhance the value of private property near that road area, and thus create a vested pressure group against future cross-park violation.

Third, that the idea of moving most of the living facilities to the edge of or outside the Park near the two entrances is commendable, especially in so small a park. If by lease or community contract the development could be kept under appropriate architectural and operational control that would be desirable. Otherwise the catch-as-catch-

MONTEREY PENINSULA AUDUBON SOCIETY

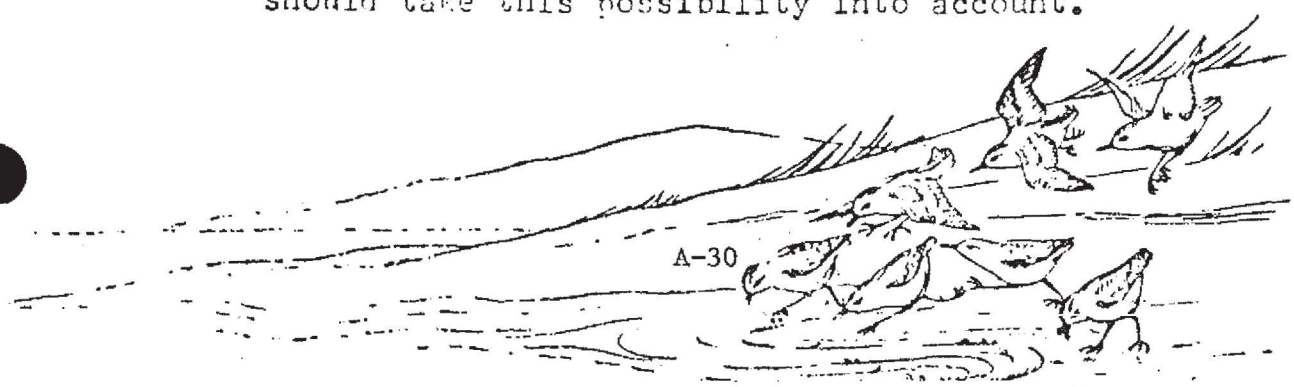
Mr. Broyles,
Superintendent,
Pinnacles National Monument,
Paicines,
Calif. 95043

June 3rd 1974

Dear Sir,

Being unable to send a representative to the hearing, the Conservation Committee of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society would like to comment on two matters relating to the Master Plan:-

1. We would like to see the nesting cliffs of Prairie falcons protected from disturbance by the increasing numbers of rock climbers. This species is suffering from increasing pressures throughout its range in the Western United States and those pairs breeding within State and National Parks should be accorded full protection. The office of Mr. Howard Leach, California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento will be able to advise on this matter. This Committee feels that any cliff which has been utilised for breeding within the last 10 years should be closed to climbers from February 1 - July 31, and open the rest of the year. It is not known if Golden eagles utilize cliff sites within the Monument but, if so, then similar protection should be afforded. We understand that in former years the endangered Peregrine falcon bred there. Should this species show any indication of reoccupying its Pinnacles habitat then it too should be accorded respite from climbers. All three species and especially the Prairie falcon are susceptible to illegal removal by falconers and patrol activities should take this possibility into account.



can development philosophy of many in the tourist trade might well produce an ugly commercial slum of jerry-built motels, hot dog and souvenir stands, and rural bars.

Firmly controlled development is good business. There are areas in beautiful country that have been so violated that tourists would drive miles to avoid them. There are tolerable areas where intelligent planning has brought a quiet beauty. Which will it be at Pinnacles?

Yours sincerely,

Philip S. Broughton

Philip S. Broughton
President-Elect
Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society

cc: Paul Howard, Western Regional Office, NAS
Judson Vandevere
Julie McKenzie, MPAS

2. This Committee wishes to go on recprd in opposition to any plan to link the two entrances of the Monument by a new road through the Monument. We wish to see preserved as much of the wilderness character as possible.

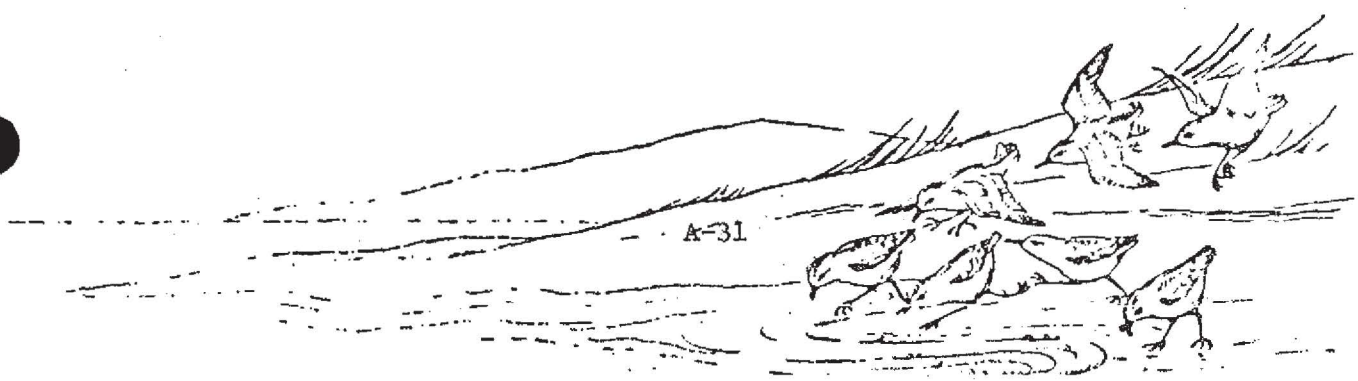
We are pleased to have this opportunity to comment and would be happy to cooperate on any other matters in which you feel we may assist.

Yours Sincerely,

Alan Baldridge

Alan Baldridge,
Committee Member,
1132 Seaview Ave.,
Pacific Grove,
Calif. 93950

c.c. F. Ruth
H. Leach



PINNACLES LAND & CATTLE CO.
155 MAPACHE DR.
PORTOLA VALLEY, CALIF. 94025

June 28, 1974

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

Attention: Howard H. Chapman, Regional Director
Western Region

Subject: Pinnacles National Monument Master Plan

Reference: D18 (NPS)

Dear Mr. Chapman:

Since 1968, we have been working with various officials in the National Park Service toward a joint Public Agency-Private Enterprise development of visitor facilities for the Pinnacles National Monument.

To this end, we have, over the years, acquired 2,553 acres adjacent to the east entrance to the Monument. This is virtually all of the land lying on both sides of State Highway 146, between its intersection with State Highway 25 and the Monument entrance--a distance of about 4-1/2 miles.

We have also gone to considerable expense to plan a low-density, high-privacy campground on our property and have secured a County Use Permit for its construction. All of this was accomplished with the encouragement and cooperation of the Superintendent of the Monument and the Regional Director's office. We have relied on the letter of January 8, 1973, from Mr. John E. Cook, as Acting Director of the Western Region, as the basis for proceeding with these plans and expenditures.

The Master Plan for the Monument, as originally published and as presented at public hearings May 31 and June 1, 1974, also affirms the desirability of encouraging Private Enterprise to supply the visitor facilities (and, indeed, some of the Park Service maintenance, administrative, and other facilities as well) on private lands adjacent to the Monument.

The Draft Environmental Statement (DES 74-28), however, clearly rejects such private development on the lands nearest the Monument (Page 48, Paragraph C). It proposes, instead, the acquisition of these lands by the National Park Service and the development of similar facilities on these lands by the National Park Service itself (Pages 5, 23, and 32).

If this is, in fact, to be the official Park Service position, then we are willing to sell the approximately 324 acres owned by us in the proposed

acquisition area on the eastern side of the Monument. However, we would insist on fair market value for this parcel (appraisal estimate - $800 per acre), as well as similar compensation for the adjacent 276 acres owned by us to the east of the proposed acquisition. This 276-acre parcel would be completely severed from our other landholdings and would be inaccessible for any use. This parcel contains a significant portion of the watershed for the proposed acquisition area and a major portion of the wildlife habitat.

On the other hand, if the National Park Service truly wishes to support the development of facilities by Private Enterprise--on privately owned lands--we are willing to work with you towards such ends.

Careful study by our planners has conclusively demonstrated that the most appropriate location for a Public Agency-Private Enterprise joint development is in the 600-acre parcel immediately adjoining the Monument. Here are the most attractive campsites; the greatest opportunities for privacy and separation of sites because of the three-level topography; the large, gravelly, flat open areas for visitor parking; the most desirable location for a visitor center and orientation area; adequate areas for Park Service administration; and the minimum distance required to shuttle visitors from parking area to trailheads.

WE OFFER YOU THE ALTERNATIVES OF JOINTLY DEVELOPING THIS 600-ACRE PARCEL WITH US OR OF BUYING IT FROM US.

We strongly suggest a re-evaluation of the Environmental Statement's proposal that visitor services and camping be confined to a 20-acre area. In our view, this is far too concentrated a usage for such a fragile environment. Instead, we would propose to spread the facilities over the 600 acres in such a way as to minimize their ecological impact.

We are questioning the environmental basis for leaving a half-mile buffer strip along lower Chalone Creek in order to protect the Three-spined Stickleback and the Pacific Pond Turtle. In the six years that we have owned the property, no one to our knowedge has ever sighted either of these species.

If you wish to proceed with a joint development, we would welcome your assistance in preparing a Conceptual Design Plan for the 600-acre area which best meets our respective needs and best preserves the environmental qualities of the area.

We are prepared to construct, to your specifications, structures and areas to replace, expand and upgrade the facilities which are proposed to be removed from within the Monument. We would be willing to lease to you, at fair market value, ranger station, fee collection, maintenance, administrative and interpretive buildings, visitor parking areas, and NPS storage areas. We would be willing to construct housing units to be offered for rental to NPS employees.

We would welcome your participation in the planning and siting of our privately-operated campgrounds, picnic areas, store, employee housing, and other facilities in order to preserve the present open and undeveloped visual impact on the visitor.

On some sort of economically-justifiable basis, we would be willing to operate a peak-season shuttle bus system between parking and camping areas and trailheads. We would willingly forego such a system if the NPS preferred to operate it, instead (see Page 48, Paragraph C).

We continue to believe that an open, honest partnership between Private Enterprise and a Public Agency can produce better results for the visitors (tax payers) than either party operating separately. We offer you such a partnership opportunity and will look forward to your early response.

Sincerely,

PINNACLES LAND & CATTLE CO.

Frank LaHaye, General Partner

ghy

cc: Mr. Rothwell P. Broyles, Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Congressman Burt L. Talcott

Judith A. Moncrief
217 Oak Steeet
Salinas, Ca. 93901

Mr. John Bowles , Superintendent
Pinnalcas National Monument
Paicines, Ca.

Dear Mr. Bowles,

Congratulations on a fine job of planning for the future of The Pinnacles. We appreciate your efforts to improve and upgrade the park in the face of a certain increase of future use.

The Salinas League of Women Voters agrees with your recommendation for adoption of Alternative "B". The shuttle system, combined with a road outside the park boundaries, does appear to be a reasonable way to make park features available to the public with a minimum of disturbance to the remainder of the park. We urge the selection of Alternative "B" as the official plan for the Pinnacles.

I apologise for the lateness of this letter. I hope it may still be of use.

Yours,

Judith A. Moncrief
Environmental Quality chairwoman
Salinas League of Women Voters

SIERRA CLUB ~ VENTANA CHAPTER

FOUNDED IN 1892

P. O. BOX 5667, CARMEL, CALIFORNIA 93921

May 31, 1974

STATEMENT REGARDING THE PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT MASTER PLAN

Mr. Chairman:

I am Rudd Crawford from Pebble Beach, California. I am Chairman of the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club and I have been authorized to speak for the Northern California Regional Conservation Committee, which represents the seven Northern California and Nevada Chapters of the Club. The NCRCC has approved the statement that I am presenting on the Pinnacles National Monument Master Plan. This Committee represents about thirty-five thousand members in Northern California and Nevada, and since it has approved this statement, it is the official policy of the Sierra Club which represents over 144,000 members across the United States.

Our members are very familiar with the Pinnacles National Monument for many of us have been hiking, camping, rock climbing, and enjoying its natural features for over thirty years. We wish to commend the National Park Service for developing this fine Master Plan. We sincerely hope that it will be approved in the Congress and that it will be implemented as needed in the future.

The Sierra Club has studied this proposed Master Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Pinnacles National Monument and we have these specific comments to make about it.

TRANS-MONUMENT ROAD

We concur strongly with the National Park Service to oppose the construction of a road through the northern sector of the Monument as a means of linking the east and west sides. Use of the Monument as a vehicle thoroughfare is incompatible with the purposes of protecting these lands under the National Park Service. In no case should any portion of the Monument be considered as an acceptable route to alleviate traffic problems. Such a road would destroy the ecological integrity of Pinnacles.

The northern portion of the Monument has a sense of remoteness and isolation far in excess of its actual distance from civilization. This makes that portion of the Monument ideally suited for low-density visitor use, with perhaps its highest value being to serve as a refuge for wildlife, particularly those species which are subject to intense pressure and harrassment outside the Monument.

There is an additional reason why no road should ever be constructed through the northern portion of the Monument. Such a road would attract casual motorists who would have little, if any, interest in Pinnacles National Monument itself, but who would simply be using the road as a convenient means of traveling between the Salinas and San Benito Valleys. If the need for such a road truly exists, it could easily be satisfied by improving the existing La Gloria Road in Bickmore Canyon. The existing road lies outside the Monument and is only three miles north of the route sometimes suggested for a new road within

the Monument.

MANAGEMENT

1. We support the concept of day use only for the Pinnacles, and the recommendations of the National Park Service that will carry out this idea.

2. We support locating resident rangers on both sides of the Monument along with the establishment of two visitor centers, one on the east and one on the west, both to be built in harmony with the natural environment.

3. We support the removal of the Bear Gulch Buildings, with possibly the retention of the present visitor center and a few of the other old stone buildings to be used for interpretive and historic purposes.

4. We recommend that the headquarters and residences for rangers be kept very near the Monument boundaries. It would be impossible for the staff to maintain a close relationship with users if the headquarters were to be located in a distant or nearby town. Security would also suffer if Park Service employees could not be near at hand.

5. We support the general concept of the shuttle system. However, we oppose the extension of the system beyond the Chalone Creek Annex. The trail as it is now is fairly level and very easy to travel by all types and ages of hikers. The scale of the Monument is so close that much would be missed by riding in a bus or car.

6. We oppose the development of a new trail from the East

Balconies to the High Peaks Trail. This is rough terrain and even a trail through this area would cause unwanted erosion and undue stress to native flora and fauna. Also, making it more accessible to hikers would tend to scare away the nesting birds: Peregrine, Prarie Falcon, and Golden Eagles.

7. We oppose increased access to the northern area of the Monument through the establishment of additional hiking trails without further study. The entire subject of the trail system requires additional detailed study and the possible preparation of a separate Environmental Impact Statement.

8. We recommend that the subject of the removal of the reservoir merits more intensive consideration than it was given in the Master Plan or the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

BOUNDARIES

1. We support the acquisition of additional private lands adjacent to the east and west entrances of the Monument and urge favorable consideration of the inclusion of Parcels A and B and the retention of those areas adjacent to Parcel A now scheduled for exclusion.

2. We urge a comprehensive study to determine the most desirable ultimate Monument Boundaries, with careful consideration of adopting natural watershed boundaries for the most effective management of Pinnacles.

MAY 20 1974

SOUTHWEST PARKS AND MONUMENTS ASSOCIATION
A PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTING ORGANIZATION SERVING VISITOR UNDERSTANDING IN MANY NATIONAL PARK AREAS.
P. O. BOX 1562 GLOBE, ARIZONA 85501
PHONE 425-4392

SUPT ☐
RNGR ☐
NAT ☐
W.S. ☐
AO ☐
MTE ☐
FILE ☐

May 13, 1974

Your File D18

Mr. Rod Broyles, Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Dear Rod:

Thanks for sending me the proposed Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Pinnacles National Monument. I think that a masterful job of thinking and preparation has been done, and to my surprise am convinced that controlled burning of a portion at a time of the over-age chaparral cover would be the best thing in nature for Pinnacles.

During my two years as superintendent of Pinnacles National Monument in the early 1950's I fell in love with the transcendental beauty of its covered canyons, majestic rock formations, and wild life which was still so abundant. Even then the pressure was on, to have a connecting road built through from the west (Soledad) side to the Old Pinnacles road end on the east side.

Realizing quickly that this marvelous hiking, scenic, and wild life area would be literally ravished if a highway were to be built through it, I went to bat in the only way I knew. I used what eloquence I possessed in pleading with then Regional Director Lawrence Merriam not to allow a trans-monument highway to be built, or to appear as a Master Plan option. To my delight, he agreed to back me, and did.

Since then, Mr. Merriam is gone; Pinnacles has suffered heavier and heavier use from week-end traffic; travel has increased phenomenally; and the National Park Service is practically desperate in its needs to prevent despoliation of the area and still make it available for the public to use and enjoy.

To some people in Hollister, the extra dollars in their tills from increased travel on a trans-Pinnacles highway would justify anything that might happen. I can only say that I pity those persons who would despoil a fabulous natural resource for the sake of a few more inflated dollars. I wish all of those folks who fail to see beyond the ends of their noses could be required to hike the Pinnacles trails, drink in the superb scenery to the west, north and northeast of the High Peaks, and then try to imagine what a roaring highway would do to the peace and beauty of the area, how it would drive away yet more and more of the wild creatures which now lend such charm to a Pinnacles experience. If these people could have their eyes opened by intensively planned nature hikes and camera fan trips, maybe they would quit struggling so endlessly for the massively cut and filled highway trauma, and its accompanying stench of gasoline fumes and trail of beer cans and trash.

If Pinnacles ever deserved National Monument status, it deserves it even more now, and in the finest of National Park traditions. For the values it still possesses grow increasingly more rare and therefore precious.

Let us never give in to this abortive trans-monument highway. Let us cheerfully accept the technical and managerial inconveniences which come from having to drive so far to get to a ranger station on the west side from the east side. Each side has its unique qualities which contribute to peace of mind and tranquility of the soul, and they are worth a great deal of sacrifice to keep.

Keep pitching, old fellow. I surely pray that you are successful in enforcing the National Park Service preference for "no through road."

Sincerely,

Earl

Earl Jackson
Executive Director

EJ/ckd

Sportsmen's Council of Central California

REPRESENTING THE COUNTIES OF:
FRESNO - KERN - KINGS - MADERA - MARIPOSA - MERCED - MONTEREY - SAN BENITO - TULARE - STANISLAUS
SAN LUIS OBISPO - SANTA BARBARA - SANTA CRUZ

815 West Gettysburg Ave.,
Fresno, California 93705

AFFILIATED WITH:
CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

June 4, 1974

Mr. Rothwell P. Broyles, Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines
California 95043

Dear Mr. Broyes:

We were unable to be in attendance at either of the public information meeting on the subject of the Pinnacles National Monument. Our opinions are:

1. AlternateB, which would retain the existing entrance system of two separate access roads. The standards of the entrance roads from the west needs to be raised.

2. We would oppose the building of a road to transverse the park and to join the two entrances.

3. We are opposed to the building of a road around the northern perimeter of the Park.

4. We are in support of the purchasing of additional lands adjacent to the east and west entrances, and especially those lands which will give protection to the riparian habitat on the east.

5. Until such time as there is assurance that private capital will build campgrounds on the eastern and western sides of the Monument we believe that the present campgrounds in the Monument should be maintained.

Respectfully yours,

Lewis E. Carpenter,
Secretary.

cc: Fresno County Sportsmen's Club President, Mr. Ken Book
California Wildlife Federation
Monterey County Sportsmen's Council.

Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc.

SAN JOAQUIN UNIT
Fred Low, Pres.
Miriam Low, Sec.-Treas.
17779-33 Vierra Canyon Road
Salinas, California. 93901

June 15, 1974

Rothwell P. Broyles, Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, Ca. 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles:

The persons signing this letter are members of the San Joaquin Unit of the Wally Byam Caravan Club International. Our president, Fred Low, and secretary-treasurer, Miriam Low, attended the public meeting on the proposed Master Plan for the Pinnacles National Monument held in Soledad, June 1st. They shared with us a copy of the Master Plan and the information gained from that meeting.

We support some elements of the Master Plan but we are firmly opposed to the establishment of a cross park road. It would not only result in severe damage to the environment, but it would take funds that could be used to better advantage in other ways in the Monument. We also oppose the extension of the road up Chalone Creek to the East Balconies area.

The Pinnacles has a great deal to offer all visitors, both day use visitors and those who are permitted to enjoy the campgrounds that are currently available. As the Monument is improved there is a need to develop hikes and walks for people of all abilities, both young and old.

The San Joaquin Unit used to hold rallies at the Pinnacles National Monument but this has been denied to our group for a number of years. We enjoyed the Pinnacles as a group, and we still enjoy the Monument as individuals. For this reason we implore you not to abolish any of the presently developed camping facilities. We believe that National Parks and Monuments belong to all the people of our nation. These points of interest and special beauty increase the knowledge and understanding of those who visit. Camping is an important element of this education. For this reason, as a part of the visitor support facilities developed, the Monument itself needs to develop and operate additional camping facilities. We feel that when this responsibility is turned over to the private sector we loose an important part of what has come to be the heritage of all Americans who love to camp now and in the future.

The Monument is now open on a year round basis and any new visitor support facilities should be open on a similar 365 day basis. Our group meets 10 times a year; like many trailerists, we wish to be able to visit the Pinnacles any month of the year.

We enjoy travel trailering and every available campsite is precious to us. We thank you for your consideration of our heartfelt concerns for the Pinnacles.

Sincerely,

The Members of the San Joaquin Unit, Wally Byam Caravan Club International



Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc.

SAN JOAQUIN UNIT
Fred Low, Pres.
Miriam Low, Sec.-Treas.
17779-33 Vierra Canyon Road
Salinas, California. 93901

The following persons may be considered as individually signing the San Joaquin Unit letter to Superintendent Broyles dated June 15, 1974.

Name	Address	City, State
Clifford E Parnell	1171 Ash	Arroyo Grande 93420
Donald E. Nilson	315 E. Michigan	Fresno 93704
Oswald W Nelson	1370 - 10th	Kingsburg Calif
Marjorie M Boswell	1171 Ash St.	Arroyo Grande 93420
Paul L Whitmore	300 Peirce St	Taft, Calif. 93268
Eleanor Campbell	1705 Ashland Ave	Visalia Calif
Marion Kunzman	1436 Wren Dr.	Visalia, Calif. 9327
Ralph Kunzman	" " "	" " "
Lea Kast	2818 E. Fedora	Fresno, Calif 9372
LYDIA NELSON	1370 - 10th	KINGSBURG CAL.
Fred H. Low	17779-33 Vierra Cyn. Rd.	Salinas, Calif. 93
L. M. Kast	2818 E. Fedora	Fresno Cal 9372
R. A. Daugherty	5809 Cypress Ft. Dr	Bakersfield Ca 93
Norma L Daugherty	5809 Cypress Ft. Dr.	Bakersfield 93
Darrell M Desmond	P.O. Box 222	Springville 93
William Bailes	14191 E. McKinley	Sanger Ca 9365
Connie Hendricks	P.O. Box 222	Springville Ca 9336
Edward E. Chapman	2553 W Paul	Fresno, Calif. 9
Lyle DuPratt	P.O. Box 222	Springville Cal 93265
George M Isenwood	P O Box 222	Springville Calif 9326



Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc.

SAN JOAQUIN UNIT
Fred Low, Pres.
Miriam Low, Sec.-Treas.
17779-33 Vierra Canyon Road
Salinas, California. 93901

Name	Address	City, State
M.H. Jensen	2447 E. Richert	Fresno Calif
D.O. Bass	3007 Los Conidos	Bakersfield Calif
Lorraine Bailey	1419 E McKinley	Sanger. 93657
Ida E. Bjornsen	408 W Malone	Hanford, Calif. 93
Naomi L. Chapman	2553 West Paul	Fresno Calif. 93
Beverly J. Nelson	315 E. Michigan	Fresno, Calif. 937
Hazel Pringle	1105 Oakland	Visalia, Ca 9327
Holger Bjornsen	408 W. Malone	Hanford Ca. 93
Laurence P. Rocha	430 No Reduction st	Hanford Ca. 93
Norma Rocha	430 No Reduction St.	Hanford Ca. 9323
Clifford Bruce	4572 E Santa Ana	Fresno Ca 93726
Catherine Perrotta	3130 Kensington Way	Stockton, Calif. 95210
Martha Bruce	4594 Santa Ana	Fresno 93726
Kevin Kast	2818 E. Fedora	Fresno 23639
Larry Kast	2818 E. Fedora	Fresno 93726
Miriam L. Low	17779-33 Vierra Cyn Rd.	Salinas 939
Benita L. Low	17779-33 Vierra Cyn Rd	Salinas, Ca 93
Janel Low	17779-33 Vierra Cyn Rd.	Salinas 9390

Salinas, Ca. 93901

May 31, 1974

Mr. Rothwell P. Broyles, Supt.
Pinnacles Nat. Monument
Paicines, Ca. 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles:

I do not think that it would be very good for the Pinnacles National Monument Park to have a road put through it so that Highway 146 could be completed. There would be more visitors and cars. That means the more cars, the more pollution and the more pollution (smog, litter, etc.) the faster the Pinnacles have a chance of getting ugly because of pollution. The park staff would work themselves to death trying keep the park clean because there would be more and more people to pollute it.

Please accept this letter for the record. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Robynn Bandy

26 June 1974

Rothwell P. Broyles, Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Reference: D18

Dear Mr. Broyles:

I would like to commend the Park Service for writing a balanced and perceptive Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. I have a few comments below which largely back up your recommendations.

I am quite in favor of the "staging-area", shuttle concept and the proposed land additions to the Park. I strongly oppose the cross-monument road. I favor the controlled burning proposal which would hopefully preserve the chaparral community.

My most important recommendation is that the Park should continue to expand through the acquisition of adjoining private lands. In its present size and location, the Park is a fragile "island" which is perhaps too vulnerable to destruction by overuse. The lands surrounding Pinnacles are marginal for anything but perhaps recreation and the preservation of our environment. More park land would further relieve some of the visitor pressure, except perhaps in the pinnacles themselves. There is, of course, no easy answer to this overuse dilemma.

Sincerely,

Oscar Biblarz

OB:epp

24489 San Marco Ave
Carmel, CA. 93921

1308 North Wilson Ave.
Fresno, California 93728
June 29, 1974

Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Dear Sir:

It has been brought to my attention that a new road is being proposed that would bisect Pinnacles National Monument. As a concerned citizen and an art educator who is dedicated to the esthetic enrichment of life, I would like to stand on public record as being opposed to the proposed cross Monument road.

At a time in history when expediency has created many irreversible situations, our commitment must be to the enrichment and preservation of our inherited resources. I do not feel this moral obligation to our declining environment should be in the form of asphalt and the internal combustion engine.

As sensitive thinking human beings, our concerns should be with the quality of our existence. In my view, a road through Pinnacles National Monument is just another compromise on the road to esthetic apathy and eventual destruction of our natural beauty.

I am sure you can sympathize with my concerns. I sincerely appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Yours truly,

Jack L. Bingham, Jr.

JLB:mb

1139 Sierra Avenue
San Jose, CA 95126

26 June 1974

Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, CA 95043

Sir

Having read both the proposed Master Plan for the Pinnacles and the Environmental Impact Statement, and having attended the meeting of 31 May, I wish to compliment the Park Service on the thoroughness and quality of their planning as well as on their public consultation procedures. As one who has visited the park frequently during the past decade and has long been concerned about its development, I find that I can enthusiastically endorse the majority of the proposals presented in the Master Plan. There are, however, a few matters which I would like to suggest as improvements, and which I am submitting for the record.

The dam in Bear Gulch should be removed, and the canyon restored, as much as possible, to its natural state.

The existing dirt road to the East Balconies should be converted to a trail, with the present paved fords in the creek replaced by foot-bridges.

The fire lookout on North Chalone Peak, an eyesore which is visible from too many areas in the park, should be removed. On its site could be placed an interpretive exhibit concerned with the role of fire in the chaparral community.

Pinnacles is a small park, especially in relation to the numbers of visitors who can be expected to make demands upon it in the years to come. Its area should be expanded as much as is feasible. The proposed additions on both the east and west sides are important in this regard. I would recommend that the two proposed deletions of territory not take place. I would recommend further that the block of public lands adjoining the park at the south end and presently administered by the BLM be added to the area of the park. This is a rugged area that can be best used as an expansion of the park. Any inholdings that might exist in this area can eventually be obtained through trade or purchase. Since the Pinnacles is the only unit of the

National Park System that contains a stand of chaparral, the addition of this area would serve to greatly enhance an already fine exhibit of this important vegetative community.

In order to make the park available to more visitors, to make more of the park available to the frequent visitors, and to improve the trail experience by reducing the traffic load on the present trail system, I wish to propose an extensive expansion of the trail system into both the northern and southern areas. The two proposed trails from the Chaparral and East Balconies areas to the High Peaks will be a valuable beginning, but much more is needed. Attached is a map of the park on which I have indicated two of several possible routes for loop trails into both ends of the park.

The proposal to close the campgrounds in the park and encourage the development of private campgrounds outside the park to replace them is an extremely unfortunate one. The Park Service should have learned long since from its experience with concessioners that commercial development has served only to degrade those parks where it has been allowed. If the present campgrounds are felt to be inadequate with regard to size or location, they should be replaced by new ones located within the areas to be added to the park; and these should be planned, constructed, and operated by the Park Service. All commercial development, either within or near the park, should be discouraged.

I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to become involved in this planning procedure, and ask that I be informed of the decisions resulting from it.

Sincerely

Ronald Bricmont

Ronald Bricmont


CHAPARRAL
1400'
CHALONE ANNEX
BALCONY
TRAIL
BEAR GULCH
TRAIL
2650'
Scout Peak
VISITOR CENTER
AND
HEADQUARTERS
PARK
PINNACLES
LITTLE
Mount Defiance
2600'
CHALONE PEAK TRAIL
3.5
NORTH
CHALONE
PEAK
3306'
2617'
South Chalone Peak
3200'
CONDOR
GULCH
TRAIL
VISITOR
CENTER
2650'
Scout Peak
HIGH PEAKS
TRAIL
RIM
TRAIL
BEAR GULCH
RESERVOIR
CHALONE
PEAK
TRAIL

National Monument Supervisor
Pinnacles National Monument

Dear Sir;

I am writing to express my views about the Master Plan proposal for Pinnacles National Monument and the E.I.R. publidhed by the Western Region Park Service. I feel that the proposed master plan is basically very good and reflects a lot of thought about the value and future purpose of the Monument. I especially like the ideas about removal of the Bear Gulch Dam and controlled burning in the Monument to help restore a more natural ecology. The Monument is especially attractive to me because of its remoteness from busy roads and quiet solitude. Campers in the Monument have never detracted from my pleasure, although I can understand why you wish to remove these campsites from the Monument and replace them with public facilities outside the Park. I hope that the dirt road through Chalone Creek and Canyon remains closed to visitor vehicles, since this road and the Canyon are one of my favorite hiking spots and is an excellent place to observe birds.

All of which brings us to the proposed road conecting the ends of Highway 146. This road should not be allowed in any form, as this is a serious degradation of Park values and directly conflicts with the interests of the people who use the Monument for hiking and finding some peace and quiet. The necessary excavation, creek channilization and rerouting, noise, dust, air pollution, trucks etc. are only the start of the deterioration of the Park from a ecological system to a polluted pile of debris and erosion worth only a minute's curiosity. The proposed route of the road is the worst choice possible since it goes right through the area richest and most important to the wildlife in the Park. I realize that the Park Service concurs with my feelings about the road, and I hope they will resist pressure from the local communities for its construction. The Park Service's job seems to me to be to protect this area and provide facilities to increase the visitors ability to explore and enjoy it, but this does not mean the destruction of the Park. Certainly the Park Service is not required to cater to those who refuse to leave the confines of their car.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. I feel confident that you will work in the best interests of the Park and its visitors.

yours truly,

Alan Ziegler

Please include this letter in the official public hearing record.

624 Alameda Avenue
Salinas, California 93901

May 28, 1974

Mr. Rothwell P. Broyles
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicenes, California 95403

Dear Mr. Broyles:

I am writing this letter in regards to the vehicles (autos, campers, trailers, etc.) that are now allowed on the Pinnacles National Monument grounds. The idea had occurred to me that this site could be even more desireable if automobiles, campers, and trailers wer prohibited on the Pinnacles grounds.

If only back-pack campers were allowed to camp on the grounds, it would certainly save the beauty of this area and encourage more people to the rustic type of life. It would conserve energy (gas and electricity) and improve the ecological theory.

I feel that I certainly am not the first to think of this. Purhaps you have some thoughts you would like to share with me. If you have any suggestions or opinions they would be most welcome.

Thank you for the time you have spent on this letter. I hope you will accept this letter and place it in your files.

I will look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Most sincerely,

Jody Cobb

Jody Cobb

1204 Shafter
Pacific Grove, Ca. 93950
June 14, 1974

Mr. Rothwell P. Broyles, Supt.
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, Ca. 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles:

We are writing to you concerning our views of the new Pinnacles Master Plan.

Removing some of the facilities and converting to a shuttle bus system is a good idea; however paving the road to the balconies caves on the east side and bringing in bus loads of people to the caves would probably increase visitor impact and noise in that area. It's better if people have to walk a little; those that do appreciate the caves more for the effort. Besides, the caves really aren't big enough to accomodate more than a few at a time.

We're in favor of the proposed trail connecting Chaparral Campground with the High Peaks. The present route is rather long and arduous for a one day hike, and this encourages people--ourselves included--to shortcut up the steep slope causing considerable erosion. We feel the trail is probably necessary.

However we are very much opposed to a road connecting East and West Pinnacles. The monument is one of our very favorite places, largely because it is still relatively quiet and peaceful. A through road would bring in a lot more people--mostly people who would find it more convenient to drive through and chalk it up on their travel lists, but who would not have enough interest to go deliberately out of their way to visit the Monument. This of course would increase congestion, noise, litter, crime(?) and other human impact, and to the benefit of no one but the chambers of commerce who are pushing for the road. Let's leave Pinnacles somewhat remote, a little inconvenient for the casual motorist, and keep it just as lovely as it is today.

Sincerely,

Bruce D. Cowan

Bruce D. Cowan

Judy H. Cowan

Judy H. Cowan

1369 N. Lucerne Lane
Fresno, California 93728
June 26, 1974

Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Dear Sir:

I was unable to attend the public meetings on May 31 and June 1 about the proposed Master Plan for Pinnacles National Monument; therefore I am writing in response.

I am opposed to a cross-Monument road; Pinnacles is so small that any more fragmenting from roads would seriously threaten the natural, scenic values that the Monument was created to preserve. Construction of the road would require considerable earthwork and would alter the natural drainage of Chalone Creek. Since the High Peaks are only one and one-half miles from the proposed road in an area of extensive cut and fill sections, scars would produce considerable visual impact. The entire ecology would be disrupted because of the narrow confines of Chalone Creek Canyon. Wildlife habitat of the Monument would be greatly reduced. The peregrine falcon and the golden eagle would be seriously disturbed; and because of the human impact, they might never return. The backcountry would be subjected to the adverse effects of noise and litter, off-road vehicle use, poaching, illegal camping, fire, and over-use.

If there is really a need for better access between Salinas and San Benito Valleys, it could be easily accommodated by improving the already existing Gloria Road, just three miles north of the proposed road through the Monument. The northern part of the Monument should be left for low-density visitor use with its main function as a much-needed wildlife refuge.

The Chalone Creek administrative road should be permanently closed to all motorized vehicles. The Park Service wisely realized that this is not an appropriate place for camping facilities, and this is not the place for a shuttle system. The closed road offers the opportunity for a pleasant, easy hike; motorized vehicles in the area would increase human impact as well as increase management problems that the Park Service has. Without the re-opening of Chalone Creek road, construction of the East Balconies Trail is meaningless.

This trail would jeopardize habitat of endangered species such as the peregrine falcon and the golden eagle. While a shuttle system in the Monument to reduce human impact seems desirable, this is not the place.

It is essential for the protection of the riparian habitat along Chalone Creek that the two eastern parcels of land not be deleted and the Monument's boundaries be expanded to include the proposed eastern area. It would ensure the protection of the three-spine stickleback and the Pacific pond turtle. Also needed to ensure protection of the riparian habitat is the inclusion of the land south of this which the Park Service finally decided against recommending for inclusion because of water rights problems with the present owner. These rights could be guaranteed the present owner during his lifetime while the land would have the protection that public ownership would provide.

In order to reduce the impact of visitors, the Monument should be converted to day use with arrangements made for camping facilities on nearby lands.

In order to minimize and help protect against the over-use which occurs on lands of such unique quality as Pinnacles, I urge that the alternative of Wilderness classification be seriously considered. The entire northern portion of the Monument as well as the area along the Chalone Creek administrative road should be included. This will help ensure that the natural value of Pinnacles be preserved. The public would have the opportunity to visit Pinnacles, but the eventual destruction from over-use that so much of our land faces could be avoided.

Sincerely,

Eileen Devine

Eileen Devine

GARING, TAYLOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.
CIVIL ENGINEERS
141 SOUTH ELM STREET, ARROYO GRANDE, CALIFORNIA 93420 PHONE 489-1321

June 24, 1974

Mr. Rothwell P. Broyles, Superintendent
National Park Service
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Gentlemen:

Please refer to the Master Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for public review for Pinnacles National Monument.

The following is a summary of my thoughts on your proposed master plan with supporting discussion after.

A. I agree with the conclusion that you "Retain the existing entrance system."

B. Do not agree about removing the existing dam.

C. Do agree that you obtain additional property for support services and camping and parking.

D. Recommend a walk-in campground.

E. Do not recommend changing to day-use only activities.

F. Do not recommend that West side facilities be "up graded" for motorized camping.

G. Do not recommend removal of Park Headquarters from the Monument.

H. Do not recommend that visitors be "motivated" to walk on trails. "Educated" yes, but not "motivated."

I. Do recommend fencing the boundary.

J. Do agree with the Management Statement.

A.

The environmental impact report's comments on the trans-monument road should be taken seriously. Our firm designs streets and highways, and are quite familiar with the aspects of road building in this type of terrain. A road would create a corridor over which animal life would have to contend and is generally not desirable for this area. Because the Pinnacles National Monument is

concerned with the preservation of flora, fauna and the terrain, I believe that a road through the monument infringes on this philosophy. If the traveling public requires to connect between the two North-South State Highways, I would suggest that the highway connection be done outside the sensitive area of the Pinnacles National Monument.

Having been to the monument dozens of times, it appears to me to be unrealistic that anyone could grasp all the meaning and beauty of the monument on one visit. A transmonument road would not accomplish an all encompassing view and knowledge of the monument. Feeling the rock and viewing the rock throughout the year from the various vantages is really the only way to know the monument.

B.

I don't think that the existing reservoir should be destroyed. It provides an atmosphere for the visitor and the age of the dam is such that it too could be classified as a relic, and an environment for the wild life that have become accustomed to it. The impact of its destruction has been discussed but I do not agree with the conclusions.

There are many man-made objects in the monument such as stairways, handrails, tunnels, bridges and asphalt paved trails. Each, too, is "an incompatible element in a natural area." The dam, however, does provide something for the wildlife whereas the other items are for man's uses.

C.

As previously stated, the East and West compsites are quite different. The campsites on the East side are regimented to motorized camper use and group camping, whereas, the campsites on the West side are generally for those willing to carry their camping gear for distances varying from 100± feet to 1,000± feet. Land acquisition will help provide a new headquarters, if needed, and new camping facilities away from the pinnacles themselves. There is an old axiom, however, that the more facilities you provide, the more people will use the park.

The greatest impact of the proposed action, in my mind, is the encouragement of visitors to the West Side. This will change the environment all the way from Soledad to and including the monument. A pattern will change for those motor home campers who now visit the easterly side. They will naturally follow the least (also shortest) path line of resistance to the West side. More facilities will

have to be constructed than that of the East because of the nearness of the major North-South Highway (101).

In general, motorized campers are a different breed than the tent campers. On cold nights (+15°) they read by gas lamps warmed by air conditioning units and sleep on mattresses. In the day time they drive to the overview, walk several hundred feet and return to the butane stove for a hot lunch. They don't leave their motor home for long.

Tent campers (on 15° nights) stand around campfires and discuss the next days plans and then sleep in a tent or outdoors on the ground, with frost on everything the next morning. They are usually the ones who take the High Peaks trail, rock climb or generally cross country hike.

I don't know the percentage of the two types of campers, but hopefully the Master Plan can be adjusted to accomodate the later. The Pinnacle National Monument has been blessed with the neat type of camper or perhaps with the guidance of the rangers, comparitively speaking, and I hope it will continue. Very little trash is seen on the trail or off the trail for that matter. I notice that in the proposed master plan, that the "West entrance facilities are more of a temporary and less developed nature." Those existing facilities are luxurious to the tent camper and quite adequate. Again, I am pointing out that the proposed use of the park is pointing more toward the mechanized visitor than the tent camper.

D and F.

The overall view of your master plan appears in concert with the purpose, as I see it, of the publics continued use of the Pinnacles National Monument.

At the present time the East side is quite heavily used by the motorized camper because of the available regimented camping facilites, and the West side appears to be used more by the picnickers and tent campers because of the lack of motorized camping facilititес and because the access road is narrow and winding. For those of us who by choice tent camp in the Monument, this is quite evident. I have never failed to find a tent site on the West side, but have been turned away and not allowed to enter the Monument by car on the East side.

The proposed master plan does imply to me that the motorized camper is being provided for, but the tent camper or backpacker, which are usually rockclimbers, are not. I would recommend that an unregimented walk-in campground also be available for the backpacker and/or rock climbers. Either one of these last two classifications of visitors, do not mind the extra walking to enjoy the monument.

E.

Changing the monument to day-use only activities, will not change the pattern of heavy visiting to the Monument on weekends and light visiting during the week. If this is the only reason for changing the pattern, you will not overcome the weekdends heavy use. The campgrounds are being heavily used and they are being appreciated. Picnic areas are lightly used in comparison, but also appreciated. Looking at it in this light it appears that camping areas should be provided, but in the new acquired areas that you propose.

G.

Moving the Park Headquarters and Administration outside the boundaries will probably "enable the staff to be more effective in external affairs and community relations, while providing them better access to services such as schools and hospitals." But do you really want to do that? I believe the staff is needed in the monument to protect it and to administer it. The amount of parking area or day use area gained by its removal is negligible to that available and proposed, and not necessary if you develop a shuttle bus system as planned. If you move the headquarters only a mile down the road from the present entrances you will only gain a mile to all of those "services."

H.

Please don't convert existing facilities to "interpretive areas." This type of facility can be constructed in your proposed land acquisition.

I agree with the master plans' statements, "Most people visit the park simply as an outing," and, "Many people leave without getting out of their cars." But, we can't and probably shouldn't try to give the visitor "motivation" to get out of his car to explore. The park service now provides self guided tours, tours with Rangers, Camp Fire Programs and an information center. If the citizen is visiting the Monument "as an outing" or "the trail system turns into just a recreational romp," you are satisfying some of the needs and it isn't a bad thing.

I have been coming to the Monument for 25 years and have gone through most all phases expected of visitors. We originally come as picnickers ("as an outing") then as campers, as hikers ("recreational romp") then with books in hand, then with geology classes and rock climbers. I feel that I am just beginning to know the Monument, and to realize that it doesn't necessarily have something to offer for all.

It isn't a place where the camper should have all the amenities of home life. It shouldn't be a place where a windshield survey is all that is offered. It shouldn't be a place where people are "motivated" to leave their car and get on the trail

Your information centers, and you need two, should provide the necessary geology information, wildlife information and trail information, and then after its perusal and the public is curious enough to look at the monument in detail, then drive them in your proposed mini-bus to the trail head, to either follow a nature trail or rock climb.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Proposed Master Plan, Pinnacles National Monument.

Very truly yours,

GARING, TAYLOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ROBERT S. GARING, JR., P.E.

RSG/sed

RNGR
NAT
W.S.
AO
MTE
FILE

May 20, 1974

Rothwell F. Broyles, Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, CA 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles,

I am a long time resident of Monterey County and a frequent visitor to "Pinnacles." As a boy, I hiked most of the trails there and bicycled the few roads that exist. Presently, I am discovering the Pinnacles all over again from the viewpoint of a rock climber. My letter concerns your proposed master plan for the future of the Monument.

I believe that every effort should be made to minimize human physical and aesthetic impact on the relatively fragile rocks, soils, water, flora and fauna of the Monument. Pinnacles is a unique area, the beautiful rock cliffs and pinnacles have influenced the ecological balance of the plant and animal communities of that area.

To protect the monument from over use, there should be an extensive trail network through the parts of Pinnacles which can best handle human use. I'm certainly not the first, but let me join those before me who have said, "the parks are for people." I will qualify that statement by adding that the parks, as unique environmental units, are for the people in perpetuity. The Pinnacles, while being open to people, should not be allowed ruined for future generations by over-use today. I believe that the key to minimizing impact is getting people to walk. If people are required to walk, there will be fewer, but the experience will be much more worthwhile. And a worthwhile wilderness experience will be available for future generations if we moderate our use today.

Another advantage of allowing only foot travel is that the area of the Pinnacles, while remaining physically small, will be increased aesthetically. Cars and shuttle buses cut distances into fractions; at the same time bluring the wilderness experience in a haze of gas and noise.

In summary, I urge the return of Pinnacles National Monument to a wilderness state with two drive-in campgrounds and no motorized traffic anywhere else in the area. I also recommend that the present fine system of trails be extended to provide direct access up to, and over the High Peaks area of the Monument.

And I would also like to thank you and your staff for the excellent job you have been doing at the Monument.

Sincerely yours,

Jack Holmgren

Jack Holmgren
3398 Taylor
Carmel, CA 93921

COPY COPY COPY COPY

June 4, 1974

Mr. Ronald Mortimore
Chief, Pinnacles Master Plan Team
National Park Service
P.O. Box 36063
San Francisco, CA 94102

Gentlemen:

I feel that the Pinnacles Master Plan has been well throught out. I agree with the plan, and can see how this long-range plan will serve to preserve this precious heritage. I feel that the National Park Service has shown a strong desire to work with the general public in establishing what will prove to be a movement of the people.

The only part of the master plan which concerns me is the limitation being placed on overnight camping. I see the need for this limitation since the park has very limited space, but I hope that some kind of compromise can be worked out. I would like to see some walk-in type campgrounds, or some backpackers campsite, within the park boundary. I see the need for a private campground, outside of the park boundary, which would accommodate trailer and tent camps. I also see the need for some type of campground within the park boundary which can accommodate limited groups (e.g. scouts, trailer clubs, and schools), on some type of reservation system.

I think that before the Park Service makes any kind of decision concerning overnight camping in or around the park, that they must remember that camping is a part of the wilderness experience. Some provisions have to be made for all types of campers, and camping must be available at a fair and reasonable expense to the camper, regardless of how he chooses to camp.

Sincerely,

(Signed by)

Reb Monaco

RM/gg

COPY COPY COPY COPY

15968 Cherry Blossom Lane
Los Gatos, CA 95030
May 18, 1974

Superintendent,
Pinnacles Nat'l Monument
Paicines, CA 95023

Sirs:

If we might add our comments before decisions are made, we would be most happy to do so. We hope this form of communique is acceptable.

We have been steady visitors since 1958. Lots more people visit the park now than before, although I can recall people being turned away at earlier times.

I think you are going to see an increased demand on the park as a site for 1-day visits. More and more people are seeking the 1-day hiking site followed up by a picnic and then the ride home. We strongly recommend more trails.

Unless you WANT to limit the number of overnight campers, you're going to have to make better use of reserved areas or expand other camping facilities or construct more camping sites. Several times we've seen people turned away but reserved areas almost empty.

We do not just visit Pinnacles. We range from Washington to Arizona and from California to Colorado. It is getting rough to find camp sites during the summer months.

My wife and I feel that expansion costs far less than limiting access. People who have no where to go for recreation usually seek other outlets to release tensions--these alternatives cost society far more than park expansion costs. The way we all live today, YOU HAVE TO GET AWAY ONCE IN A WHILE!

We don't like to see overuse of any of our recreational areas, but on the other hand there is no way you are going to reduce the ever-increasing DEMAND for recreational parks. There are too many forces at work motivating people to get out and enjoy places like Pinnacles. Persons who are turned away use an awfull lot of energy driving to other parks. They also present a danger to others because they are frustrated and in a hurry.

We recommend reasonable expansion of facilities and park-size if the latter is possible. Fee increases may be in order.

Yours truly,

Donald D. Nesbit

Donald D. Nesbit and family

847 Bedford Drive
Salinas, California

May 31, 1974

National Park Service Officials
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Gentlemen:

My name is Tom Price, a resident of Salinas at 847 Bedford Drive. I have come to this public hearing on the 1974 Pinnacles Master Plan today on behalf of myself to present a few remarks which I ask the National Park Service to carefully consider.

Much focus has been placed on the road issue. Other features of the master plan need attention as well and I will stress the other issues. Let me say at this outstart that I fully support the National Park Service's recommendation for Alternative B which retains the existing entrance system of two separate access roads but calls for no cross park route. As per the Environmental Impact Statement, Chalone Creek Canyon is much too steep and narrow in this rather small area monument to support the cuts and fill of a through road which would at least quadruple park visitation, and largely for non-park use as in recreation driving. The noise and pollution of which would only degrade the park environment and reduce the expanse of Chalone Creek wildlife habitat.

The features of the Pinnacles Master Plan of 1974 which do deserve amplification and commentary follow:

1. Availability of camping in the monument. It is true that the two present camp areas, especially Chalone Campground, are not suitable to visitor needs as they are wrongly located. The areas are too vulnerable to human foot erosion and are inadequate to meet growing needs of more camp space for more people. Rather than eliminate camping altogether from the Pinnacles, I recommend consideration of closure of present camp sites after opening new yet rustic sites on lands planned for acquisition. Please study and act on camping reservation system that suits the carrying capicity of park camp areas.

2. Shuttle system. Strong encouragement is lent to the present Pinnacles administration to incorporate a free fare shuttle patterned after mini bus systems in other national park areas such as Grand Canyon and Yosemite.

By eliminating the automobile impact during high visitation season and on weekends, the park service will reduce noise, air and visual pollution and will be able to return some acreage now devoted to the automobile to natural conditions once more. This will improve the park experience quality and will provide increased protection to resident wildlife. I do, however, want to discourage extention of the shuttle up Chalone Creek beyond the Chalone Campground. The walk from there to East Balconies is modest and level, certainly no hardship. My 60 and 70 year old in-laws have casually made this hike. The canyon is too narrow to enjoy from a mini bus that would require a wide paved road. Keep the Chalone Creek maintainence trail as is. It's better for the health of people and the Chalone environment.

3. Removal of obtrusive and extraneous visitor and support facilities. The park service's efforts to undo previous errors in park development is to be commended, yet caution must be extended to consideration now given to the removal of the Bear Gulch Reservoir. How can this be done without damage by transport and use of heavy equipment and without producing a mud choked stream for an extended period of time as the dam is removed. The expenditure involved, which could run into the 10's of thousands of dollars could be better used in much needed on-site interpretive services. In addition, most visitors on the east side appreciate and reflect upon the reservoir they reach after a hike up Bear Gulch and through the talus caves. I recommend retention of the reservoir.

4. Monument Trail System. My last remark pertains to the item most personally considered. The Pinnacles trail system is in need of concentrated attention in terms of, a. maintainance and rehabilitation, and, b. new construction. Even the casual observer hiker notices that most switch-backs of the High Peaks and Chalone Peak systems are in dire need of repair and in need of redesign to quietly and softly discourage hikers from cutting the switch-backs. Erosion if these trail systems is becoming a disgrace.

As I understand the history of the Pinnacles, the C.C. men of the '30s had only begun constructing the planned trail system when New Deal monies expired to leave the monument only half officially accessible to hikers. My final recommendation to this park administration is to open a new study of the present trails and examine original plans to devise a comprehensive trail systems plan to meet present and future park maintainence and visitor needs.

I recommend possible trails along a route similiar to the routing given the proposed cross-park road which was not recommended. Another trail to seriously consider would take the day-hiker up Frog Canyon from Chalone Creek at East Entrance to connect at North Chalone Peak with Chalone Peak Trail. The two trail recommendations by the park service connecting High Peaks Trail with Balconies are worthy of consideration; however, should the shuttle system be built all the way to East Balconies, it is believed that the East Balcony connection ought not be constructed. Too much foot traffic would concentrate in High Peaks nesting areas.

Much additional commentary could be related in this message, however the above remarks are ones I have considered most important at this time. Thank you for hearing and considering my views.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Price

MAY 30 1974

944 Sierra Madre Dr.
Salinas, California
93901

May 24, 1974

Mr. Rothwell P. Broyles
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles:

I am writing to you concerning the Pinnacles National Monument. It has been in the news a great deal lately and I oppose it very much. I think that we should keep it natural without alot of shuttle systems and roads leading through the park and bringing more pollution into it. A good alturnative for the road would be paving the La Gloria road so it could be used more easily and more months of the year. I also believe that people have gotten along without a shuttle system and new road and could now even if more people are coming each year. I think they would rather see the park natural even if they had to come back a few times to get in.

I request this letter be retained for the record.

Sincerely,

Russell Regnier

Russell Regnier

APR 1974

SUPT
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W.S.
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MTE
FILE

Harry L. Silcocks
1143 Lambaren Ave.
Livermore, Ca 94550

April 25, 1974

Superintendent,
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Dear Sir:

In the Federal Register, March 8, 1974 (39FR10002), notice is given inviting comments regarding the proposed master plan for Pinnacles National Monument (DES 74-28). I would like to comment on the proposed master plan as advanced in both the Draft Environmental Statement, Pinnacles National Monument and Master Plan Pinnacles National Monument.

On page 17 of the master plan five types of uses of the monument are listed, of these five only camping appears to be the one use that you propose to eliminate. Throughout both the master plan and the DES, numerous references are made regarding the "conflicts of activities" between the camper and the day-use visitor. The removal of "space consuming camping" is stressed throughout both publications. On page 3 of the DES the following appears, "Developments will include stoves, overhead structures....", while on page 35 Idiscover that "campfire smoke caused by campers will be reduced....". I assume from this that smoke from day-use activites is "good" smoke, while smoke from campers is "bad" smoke. Thus day-use smoke will be welcomed while camper smoke will be eliminated.

The statement "Conflicting uses between the camper and the predominant day user will be eliminated" appears. What conflicting uses are there. Have only the campers caused problems at the monument, have only campers over-taxed the facilities? I would like to offer an alternative to the elimination of camping within the monument. Proceed with the development as proposed in the DES, in addition continue to allow both campgrounds to remain open. The group campground to be used by those groups that would benefit from the nature study and environmental participation

aspects as mentioned on page 17 of the master plan. The other campground would remain open on a reservation system and/or a first come-first served basis for individuals. The users of both campgrounds would be restricted to the use of the road from the entrance station to the campgrounds. Thus the campground user would pay their fee at the entrance station and be allowed to drive only on that part of the road that connects the entrance station to the campground. Once in the campground the vehicle would remain parked until the party was leaving. The shuttle bus would be used to transport the camper within the monument.

The west side could then become the primary day-use section, while the east side could be used by those who desire to remain for a longer period of time. "The eastern areas of the monument require a longer, more leisurely period of visitation to obtain the same appreciation" (page 34). I regret that it is felt that there is a conflict between the camper and the day-use visitor. I feel that this conflict can be resolved without having to eliminate camping within the monument and hope that you will re-evaluate your position regarding this "problem".

sincerely yours,

Harry L. Silcocks

242 Las Alturas Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
June 23, 1974

Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Dear Sir:

I wish to register my support for the National Park Service in its recommendation that a road not be constructed across the northern part of Pinnacles National Monument.

In addition I would hope that the Chalone Creek Administrative Road not be opened and paved and the East Balconies trail not be constructed. The road, I understand, might promote use of the road by pedestrians, and the trail might jeopardize endangered species

I feel it is important that this unique wilderness area, which I have visited and hope to visit again, be well protected.

Sincerely,

William Pinetz

945 Matadero Ave.
Palo Alto, Calif. 94306
June 25, 1974

Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Dear Sir:

As long-time Pinnacles lovers and users, we strongly oppose the idea of a cross-Monument road. The entire northern portion of the Monument should be included within the Wilderness Preservation System.

We support:

1. Construction of a "West Balconies" trail--needed for access to the High Peaks area from the west entrance. This would be a great blessing.

2. Conversion of the Monument to day use, with camping facilities on nearby lands on both sides of the Monument. Remove most visitor and support facilities from within the present Monument boundary. Acquisition of needed adjacent lands should be speeded.

3. Expansion of Monument boundaries to better preserve the area's Natural values--including the entire watershed of Chalone Creek to the North.

4. Addition of Parcel A on east side of Monument.

We oppose reopening and paving of Chalone Creek administrative road. Please leave this lovely, level walk in peace!

Please include our letter in your hearing record of July 1. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Todd

Joyce T. Todd

732 Columbia Ave.
Salinas, Ca.93901

May 31, 1974

Mr. Rothwell P. Broyles, Supt.
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, Ca. 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles:

I am writing you about the road that is supposed to go through Pinnacles and about the campers that sleep there overnight.

I think that if they put the road through Pinnacles that it would cause more pollution for there would be more cars driving around and this would cause more pollution, than the people would stop coming because the air would be so polluted.

Being a boy scout and having camped there many times, I like it the way it is. Maybe if you do this there will be a lot more campers and they will not clean up after they camp. I would suggest putting garbage cans in a few places like up by the caves or over by the big rocks.

Sincerely Yours,

Gary Wells

June 21, 1974

Rothwell F. Broyles, Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043

Dear Mr. Broyles:

I had planned to speak at the recent hearing held on June 1st but illness prevented me from coming. I would like to offer this letter as part of the hearing record. I have spent several wonderful days at the Pinnacles over the past few years and am very interested in seeing this uniquely beautiful and interesting place protected.

After a careful study of the proposed master plan and its accompanying environmental statement, I would like to strongly support the following measures proposed by the Park Service:

1. That a cross-road linking the two parts of Pinnacles not be built. There were many excellent reasons for not having it and mere convenience the major reason for it. There is a Gloria Road north of Pinnacles which could be improved if such a crossing between Salinas and San Benito is really necessary.

2. That the expansion near the entrances be planned for plus consideration with respect to the whole boundary of the Pinnacles--that is, a study to find out the best possible boundaries to preserve the surrounding landforms.

3. That conversion to day use be made; but to have camping facilities provided on nearby lands by private interests.

4. That a West Balconies Trail be constructed so that the High Peaks area may be accessible from the western side.

I would like to make these recommendations in opposition to some of the Park Service proposals:

1. That the proposed Chalone Creek administrative road with a shuttle not be installed at this place. This section is a beautiful and easy walk along the creek on the one side and sloping and steep banks on the other and should remain as it is. I do not think putting a shuttle here is necessary or desirable; though I believe it is at the other planned locations.

2. There should not be an East Balconies trail because if the present dirt road along the creek remains as is, there would be no need to disturb the habitat of the peregrine falcon in that region by putting in a trail.

3. With Park Service employees living in the Pinnacles as they do now, I think the area is better protected than if they were in the much remoter places from it such as Hollister or Soledad.

4. I do not think any land presently under the care of the Park Service should be taken out (referring to the small parcels on the east side). Keeping these parcels would provide protection for more of Chalone Creek. Also, I would like to see the Park Service add an extra parcel along the creek. The present owner's use of this part could continue through his lifetime and then afterward the land could continue being protected by being part of the Pinnacles.

Sincerely yours,

Lea Wood

Lea Wood
1745 Cox Road
Aptos, Calif. 95003

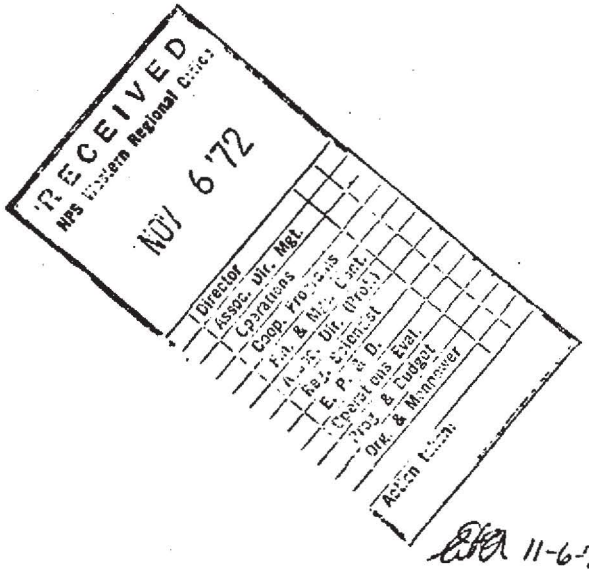
Copy to Rep. Burt Talcott

APPENDIX B

IF CALIFORNIA—RESOURCES AGENCY RONALD REAGAN, Governor

RTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
t 2390
ENTO 95811

November 2, 1972



11-6-72

Mr. John E. Cook, Acting Director
Western Region
National Park Service
450 Golden Gate Avenue
Box 36063
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Mr. Cook:

In response to your letter requesting information regarding the environmental impact of the master plan for Pinnacles National Monument upon historic and archeological resources, we offer the following information. There are no State Historical Landmarks or State Points of Historical Interest within the boundaries of the study. There are no National Register sites, either approved or pending, within the boundaries of the study area.

A search of our records indicates, however, that there are several archeological sites within the monument along Cholane Creek near the east boundary. As parking lot and facility construction is planned, we would suggest a study of archeological resources within the area proposed for addition to the monument. Although we were able to locate only a few sites near the proposed addition to the western portion of the monument, we would suggest, because of proposed construction in the area, that archeological resources also be surveyed.

Sincerely,

John H. Michael, Supervisor
History Preservation Section

H-4/1

...FORNIA—RESOURCES AGENCY

RONALD REAGAN, Governor

...ARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
...OX 2390
...MENTO 95811

Received 8-1
Chief H.T. Pres.
Historic A. Ch.
Technician
Secretary

July 24, 1974

RECEIVED 7-29-74
Action taken

Mr. John H. Davis, Acting Regional Director
National Park Service, Western Region
450 Golden Gate Avenue
Post Office Box 36063
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for affording us the opportunity to provide additional comments regarding the proposed revision of the Master Plan and Environmental Statement for Pinnacles National Monument. As mentioned in our previous correspondence, there are no State Historical Landmarks, State Points of Historical Interest, or sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

As staff for the State Historic Preservation Officer, we are pleased to know of your continuing efforts to comply with Executive Order 11593 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Compliance with Executive Order 11593 requires Federal agencies "to locate, inventory, and nominate properties under their jurisdiction or control to the National Register. Until such procedures are completed, Federal agencies must submit proposals for their transfer, sale, demolition, or substantial alteration of federally owned properties eligible for inclusion on the National Register to the Advisory Council for review and comment."

Page 3 of the Master Plan indicates that "16 structures will be removed from the eastern side of the monument." As the Master Plan specifies that no structure will be removed or demolished prior to a professional evaluation, we suggest that the evaluation report include statements from a qualified architectural historian. Ms. Joyce Stevens, Post Office Box 2166, Carmel, California 93921 is the Historic Resources Committee Representative of the American Institute of Architects for the Monterey Bay Area.

Page 38 of the Master Plan discusses possible effects upon archeological resources in the Pinnacles Monument. We recommend that consideration be given to identifying and safeguarding any potential archeological resources. It is suggested that a preliminary archeological field investigation be conducted on any undeveloped land. For information regarding archeological survey work, we recommend you contact the Department of Anthropology, Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos, California 95003.

Please feel free to contact us if we may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

B-3 Russell Porter

Russell W. Porter, Chief
Grants and Statewide Studies Division

Advisory Council
On Historic Preservation
1522 K Street N.W. Suite 430
Washington D.C. 20005

JUN

Mr. Howard H. Chapman
Regional Director
Western Regional Office
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
450 Golden Gate Ave., Box 36063
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Mr. Chapman:

This is in response to Mr. Rothwell P. Broyles', Superintendent, Pinnacles National Monument, request of April 24, 1974, for comments on the environmental statement for the proposed Master Plan, Pinnacles National Monument. Pursuant to its responsibilities under Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Advisory Council has determined that while you have discussed the historical, archeological, architectural and cultural aspects related to the undertaking, the Council needs additional information to adequately evaluate the effects on these cultural resources. The Council notes on page 38 of the draft environmental statement that "impact on archaeological resources by action proposed in the master plan could have potential for both beneficial and adverse effects." Therefore, the Council must have a report on the steps taken by the National Park Service in compliance with Section 2(b) of the Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" of May 13, 1971.

To insure a comprehensive review of the historic, archeological, architectural, and cultural resources, the Council suggests you contact the California State Historic Preservation Officer. During recent discussions of this undertaking with his staff, the Council learned that his comments on page 39 of the statement were solicited in 1972. Since that time his office has obtained more information concerning the impacted area.

Should you have any questions or require any additional assistance, please contact Michael H. Bureman of the Advisory Council staff at (303) 234-4946.

Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Webster Smith
Director, Office of Compliance

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The Department also has major responsibilities for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service