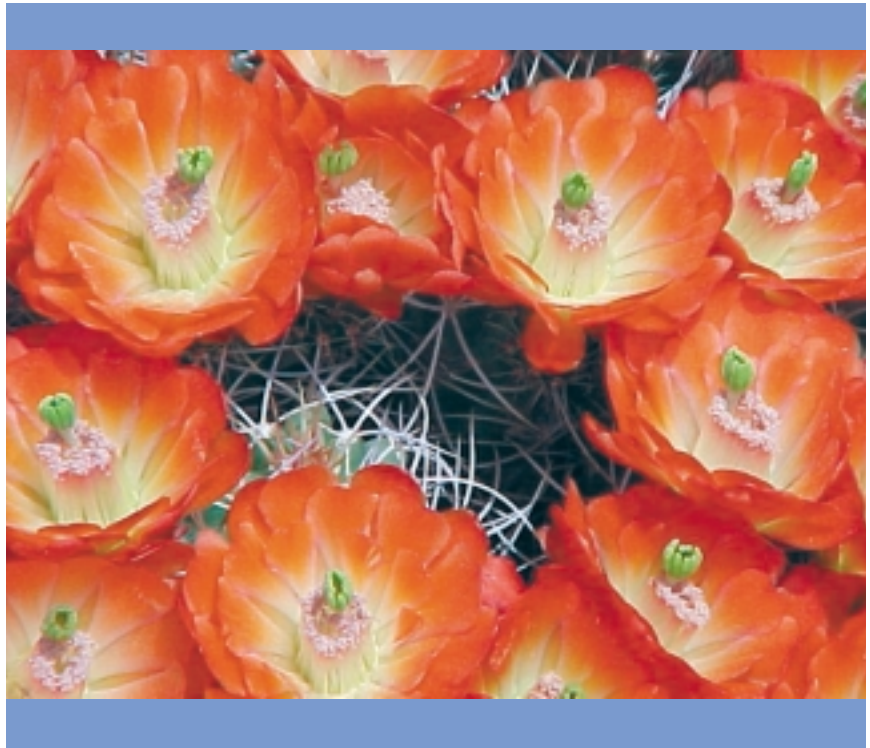
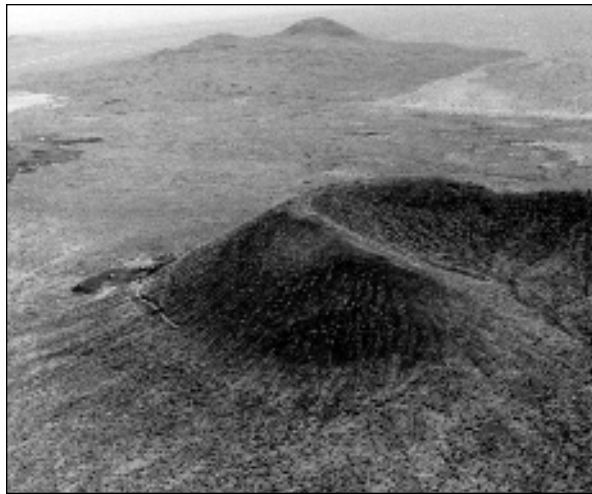
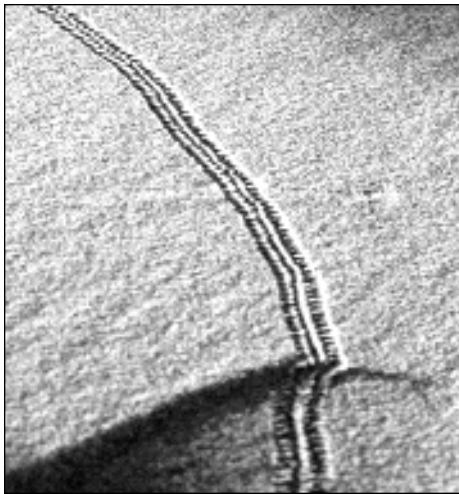


The Plan





The Plan

Overview

The vision for the Preserve is the protection and perpetuation of a natural environment and cultural landscape, where protection of self-sustaining native desert ecosystems and processes is ensured for future generations. The preservation and interpretation of historic and archeological resources pertaining to historic land use activities are an important source of visitor education and enjoyment. Educational opportunities and research activities of the natural and cultural environment are encouraged and access for all people, regardless of capability, is assured.

The plan strives to perpetuate the solitude and quiet, and the sense of discovery and adventure that now exists. The plan emphasizes minimum overall development that would detract from the setting and sense of discovery that currently exists. This means minimizing new development, including the proliferation of signs, new campgrounds and outdoor interpretive exhibits. The plan looks to adjacent communities to provide most visitor support services such as food, gas, and lodging.

Opportunities for roadside vehicle camping, backcountry camping, and access to the Preserve by existing roads consistent with the NPS mission will be provided.

A central museum and interpretive facility will be provided at Kelso Depot. The National Park Service proposes to seek funding to rehabilitate and partially restore the historic depot for visitor services, including interpretive displays.

This plan incorporates the NPS mission into the management of the resources within the 1.6 million-acre Preserve, in accordance with the 1994 Congressional designation of the area as a unit of the national park system. Stated simply, this means the primary goal is to protect the resources while providing for visitor enjoyment. However, at Mojave National Preserve, management must also consider the existence of major utility corridors and with other mandates from Congress, such as grazing, hunting, and mining under NPS regulations. Some changes are proposed for these activities, with the goal of providing for resource preservation and visitor enjoyment.

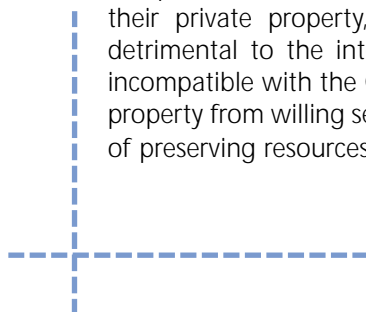
The plan would retain the ability of landowners to develop their private property, provided such developments not detrimental to the integrity of the Preserve or otherwise incompatible with the CDPA. The overall goal is purchasing property from willing sellers to enhance the primary mission of preserving resources.



ORGANIZATION:

Issues are presented under the following headings:

- Land Protection
- Management of Park Resources
- Facilities and Development
- Use of the Preserve
- Partnerships and Other Relationships
- Plan Implementation



Summary of Plan Actions

LAND PROTECTION

Preserve Boundary:

- Update boundary maps and legal description to reflect the change in status as parcels in Lanfair Valley are acquired.
- Legal description corrected to reflect that private lands in Lanfair Valley, other than Catellus, are not part of the Preserve, *until acquired*.
- No boundary changes proposed.

Wilderness Management:

- Manage wilderness areas for use and enjoyment of the American people in a way that would leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.
- Prepare backcountry/wilderness management plan to address specific management issues.
- Use minimum tool determination prior to granting approval for motorized/ mechanical equipment use within wilderness.
- Implement provisions of CDPA dealing with Native American uses, federal reserved water rights, and private property access.
- Official maps and legal descriptions will be prepared.

Fire Management:

- Current fire policy is to suppress all fires in the Preserve until fire history and effects studies are completed and a fire management plan is written and approved. Develop future fire policy based on best available science.
- Suppress all human caused fire, and implement all fire management actions using methods, equipment and tactics that cause the least impact on natural and cultural resources.
- Use minimum requirements process for fires in wilderness. Use of mechanized equipment will remain an exception to be used sparingly.
- Assess research needs and initiate long-term studies.

Disturbed Lands:

- Seek to perpetuate native plants and animals as part of natural ecosystems.
- Plantings in all areas will consist of species native to the park or appropriate for the period or event commemorated as outlined in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- Use of exotic species will conform to the NPS exotic species policy (NPS 2001).

- In natural areas, disturbances caused by natural phenomena such as landslides, earthquakes, floods, and natural fires will not be modified unless required for public safety, protection of NPS facilities, or necessary reconstruction of dispersed-use facilities, such as trails.
- Complete a comprehensive inventory of all Abandoned Mine Lands to serve as a basis for future planning and reclamation program implementation.
- Complete site assessments for Aiken Mine, Reily Camp, Kelso Dunes Mine, Death Valley Mine, New Trial Mine, and Rattle Snake Mine.

Non-federal Land and External Development:

- A Land Protection Plan serves as the basis for determining priorities for acquisitions.
- Seek funds to acquire private lands and interests in the Preserve on the basis of priorities presented in the Land Protection Plan.
- Donations and exchanges of real property from willing sellers will be a priority, and third-party acquisitions from willing sellers will be encouraged.
- Purchase of base property from willing seller ranchers is a priority over other acquisitions, in accordance with CDPA direction (section 510).
- Whenever acquisitions of private land occurs, the parcel will automatically become part of the Preserve pursuant to section 517 of the CDPA, and no boundary adjustment is needed.
- Parcels within the boundaries of wilderness automatically become wilderness upon acquisition according to section 704.
- Review permit applications and environmental documents and determine threats to park resources or visitor experience from external threats.

MANAGEMENT OF PARK RESOURCES

Resource Protection Goals and Criteria:

- Develop a set of protection goals and criteria through the inventory and monitoring program to establish a standard set of resource protection guidelines.

Inventorying and Monitoring:

- Assemble baseline inventory data describing the natural and cultural resources under its stewardship, and will monitor the resources at regular intervals to detect or predict changes.
- Develop and implement a systematic, integrated program to identify, inventory, and monitor its natural and cultural resources.

Natural Resources:Air Quality:

- Protect air quality under both the 1916 Organic Act and the Clean Air Act.
- Seek class I designation and seek to perpetuate the best possible air quality because of its critical importance to visitor enjoyment, human health, scenic vistas, and the preservation of natural systems and cultural resources.

Viewsheds/Visual Quality:

- Prepare guidelines for the built environment to establish visual consistency and themes in facility development and to create harmony between the built environment and the natural environment.
- Prepare a communication management plan to address the NPS goals and the need to establish sites for communication equipment.
- Encourage compatible adjacent land uses and mitigate potential adverse effects.

Night Sky:

- Partner with communities and local government agencies to minimize reflected light and artificial light intrusion on the dark night sky.
- Use artificial outdoor lighting limited to basic safety requirements and shielded to keep light on the intended subject and out of the night sky.
- Establish baseline light measurements for night use for monitoring changes over time.

Natural Ambient Sound:

- Preserve the natural quiet and sounds associated with the physical and biological resources.
- Cooperate with the Department of Defense to minimize impacts on visitors and resources from military overflights.

Soil Resources:

- Inventory and preserve soil resources, and prevent, to the extent possible, the unnatural erosion, physical removal, or contamination of the soil, or its contamination of other resources.
- Monitor potential impacts on soil resources as necessary.

Water Resources:

- Protect, perpetuate, and possibly restore sur-

face water and groundwater as integral components of park aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

- Work with holders of water rights to restore modified waters sources to natural conditions while still allowing for valid uses consistent with the State permit.
- Seek to restore, maintain, or enhance the quality of all surface and ground waters within the Preserve consistent with the Clean Water Act.
- Avoid occupancy and modification of floodplain and wetland areas wherever possible.
- Should the National Park Service seek to acquire private land within its boundaries, the essential water rights attached to those lands will also be sought for acquisition.

Paleontological Resources:

- Manage paleontological resources in accordance with NPS management policies and goals established by the NPS Strategic Plan.
- Inventory, monitor, protect, and preserve, and where appropriate, make available for scientific research.
- Ensure that the nature and specific location of these resources remain confidential.

Geological Resources:

- Inventory, preserve and protect geological resources as integral components of the natural systems, including both geologic features and geologic processes.
- Protect geologic features from the adverse effects of human activity, while allowing natural processes to continue.
- Address geological processes in planning and other management activities to reduce hazards to visitors, staff, and park infrastructure.

Cave Resources:

- Manage caves in a manner that protects the natural conditions such as drainage patterns, airflow, and plant and animal communities.
- Continue to work cooperatively with the California Department of Parks and Recreation to inventory, study and protect the significant cave resources that are found at Providence Mountains State Recreation Area.
- Avoid development of caves and to perpetuate natural conditions, while seeking to protect the resource.
- Develop a cave management program where significant cave resources exist.

- Enhance knowledge of cave resources through comprehensive inventory, monitoring and research.

Biological Resources:

- Minimize human impacts on native ecosystems and dynamics of naturally functioning populations.

Flora:

- Seek to perpetuate native plant life (such as vascular plants, ferns, mosses, algae, fungi, and bacteria) as critical components of natural desert ecosystems.
- Seek to develop a complete inventory of all floristic components and establish monitoring programs to serve as early warning systems for health of the system.

Fauna:

- Preserve and protect native wildlife and their natural habitat in a manner that will result in self-sustaining populations of native species.

Sensitive Species:

- Identify, inventory, monitor and promote the conservation of all federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and their critical habitats in ways that are consistent with the purposes of the Endangered Species Act.
- Identify, inventory, monitor and promote the conservation of all state and locally listed threatened, endangered, rare, declining, sensitive, fully protected, or candidate species that are native to and present in the Preserve, as well as their critical habitats.
- All management actions for protection and perpetuation of special status species will be determined through the Preserve's resource management plan.

Desert Tortoise:

- The management goal of this plan is the delisting of the desert tortoise following recovery of the Mojave population.
- Protect the desert tortoise and its habitat regardless of its location or habitat designation throughout the park.
- Implement desert tortoise recovery measures as delineated in this plan.
- If a development project is proposed on federal land within the desert tortoise category I habitat (e.g. a right-of way, mining, range development) and will disturb or otherwise modify the native plant commu-

nity or ground surface, the developer will be required to purchase equivalent habitat for the desert tortoise's preservation in accordance with the compensation formula established by the Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group.

Mohave Tui Chub:

- Develop a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California State University to identify management objectives and strategies, consistent with the recovery plan, for maintaining the Mohave tui chub population (such as cattail and other aquatic plant removal and dredging of the pond).
- Pursue funding to provide for continued maintenance of the ponds and monitoring of the population.

Desert Bighorn Sheep:

- Inventory, monitor, and protect a self-sustaining population of bighorn, while allowing some hunting as mandated by Congress.
- Conduct research to determine need for artificial water sources and predator control, impacts of rock-climbing and effects of jet noise.

Sensitive Habitats:

- Inventory, map and monitor sensitive, unusual and limited distribution habitats.
- Fire planning will address efforts to protect white fir stands from wildfire, since they are not tolerant to extremes in heat and have a thin outer bark.
- Park management goals for Joshua tree woodland include inventorying and monitoring the extent, density, and age distribution of the Joshua tree woodland; researching the long-term effects of grazing; and investigating fire management strategies that consider short and long-term fire effects on components of this community and determine appropriate strategies.
- Inventory, monitor and study "unusual" plant communities (meaning they may be particularly sensitive to disturbance, or are limited in distribution) to determine appropriate management actions.

Introduced Species:

- Nonnative plants and animals will not be used/introduced, except at historic sites where treatment plans (using the “Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Historic Properties”) have been approved by the superintendent.
- The management of populations of exotic plant and animal species, up to and including eradication, will be undertaken in accordance with NPS *Management Policies* wherever such invasive species threaten park resources or public health and when control was prudent and feasible.

Burros:

- The management goal at Mojave is to remove all burros from inside the boundary and implement actions, to the extent practicable, to ensure that they do not reenter.
- Burros will be removed in a multi-phased approach similar to that used successfully in Death Valley National Monument. Phase one consists of live capture and removal of burros up to two years. Mojave uses four capture methods and has three placement sources. Phase two consists of soliciting interested animal protection groups to begin removing the remaining few animals for a maximum of six months. In Phase three, NPS staff or contractors will eliminate the remaining few animals in a humane manner to achieve a zero population. Phase three will continue for an indefinite time.
- Fence Clark Mountain because of the adjacent BLM herd management area.

Rocky Mountain Mule Deer:

- No actions to remove this species are warranted until the genetics of the deer population are studied.

Chukar:

- Encourage reductions in this population of exotic birds by seeking a higher bag limit, as compared to the native quail population.
- No new releases of birds allowed.

Tamarisk:

- Continue to identify and remove the invasive nonnative salt cedar tamarisk (*Tamarisk ramosissima*).

- Use only authorized herbicides in tamarisk control efforts.
- Retention of athel tamarisk trees at Kelso Depot and Zzyzx as part of the historic landscape will be evaluated during planning efforts for those sites.

Cultural Resources:

- Develop and implement a systematic, integrated cultural resource management program in accordance with the NPS *Management Policies* (2001) and *Director’s Order 28*.
- Identify, inventory, monitor, and evaluate archeological sites, historic properties, cultural landscapes, and ethnographic resources; nominating significant resources to the National Register of Historic Places and manage, protect, and preserve such listed properties in a way that will preserve their documented archeological, architectural, ethnographic, historic, or research values.
- Develop partnerships with agencies and organizations with cultural resources expertise.

Baseline Data:

- Develop and implement a systematic applied cultural resource research program to ensure that (1) there will be adequate baseline information on location, condition, threats, and significance/integrity of resources; (2) interpretation and preservation treatment of resources will be accurate; and (3) appropriate means will be used to manage, protect, preserve, and interpret Native American heritage or other ethnographic resources.

List of Classified Structures:

- Maintain and update this list as necessary to reflect current research, surveys and interpretations.

Cultural Landscapes:

- Inventory the cultural landscapes and prepare nomination for those determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

National Register Properties:

- Complete a Historic Resources Study by 2005 to identify additional properties that may be nominated to the National Register such as the Ivanpah and Providence townsites and the Death Valley Mine.

Ethnography:

- Develop programs, policies, guidelines, and data to help Preserve management identify

and protect culturally significant resources.

Collections Management:

- Prepare a scope of collections statement and a collection management plan to address and document the management, protection, preservation, and use of natural and cultural specimens, objects, documents, photographs or electronic media.

Archeological Resources:

- Identify, protect, preserve, and interpret archeological resources under its jurisdiction.
- Continue to maintain Archeological Sites Management Inventory System (ASMIS) database.

FACILITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

- Management goal is to minimize development of new facilities that would detract from the setting and sense of discovery that currently exists.
- Locate some management facilities outside the Preserve.

Sustainable Design:

- Implement sustainable practices and pollution prevention activities in all its management actions, including the planning, construction and maintenance of facilities.
- Park facilities and operations will incorporate sustainable practices and elements to the maximum extent practicable in planning, design, siting, construction, building materials, utility systems, recycling, and waste management.

Visitor Information:

Information Centers and Sources:

- A small information and visitor contact desk will be staffed at the headquarters building in Barstow to serve the public and fill the needs of local communities.
- The Hole-in-the-Wall information center will continue to provide visitor information and serve seasonally as a base for interpretive programs such as ranger-led walks and talks.

Interpretive Facilities:

- Interpretive plan will be developed to provide overall direction for interpretive programs. This document will support the vision of a park mostly free of developments with opportunities to feel a sense of exploration

and discovery.

- Staffed information centers will continue to operate in Baker and Needles for the near future.
- Pursue partnerships with other agencies, tribes, and private organizations to offer a broad range of visitor information at key gateway locations.

Kelso Depot:

- Rehabilitate Kelso Depot for use as a museum and interpretive facility.
- Rehabilitate other spaces inside the depot for visitor information displays, natural and cultural exhibits, audiovisual exhibits, an auditorium, public restrooms, publication sales, working space for staff, conference/classroom space, and storage space.

Soda Springs:

- The interpretive shade structure, comfort station and parking lot will serve as the focal point for visitors coming to Zzyzx for day use.
- Explore opportunities for expanded day use trails in the area, and expand the existing self-guided interpretive program and exhibits.

Hole-in-the-Wall:

- Improve visitor information about recreational activities in the area, and provide interpretation of natural and cultural resources.
- Develop a site-specific management plan for the Hole-in-the-Wall area to address visitor and administrative facilities under guidance provided in this document.

Signing and Orientation:

- Prepare a sign plan to ensure that the vision of signs as unobtrusive, minimal, and blend with the natural environment so that the undeveloped wild character and sense of exploration remains.
- Signs on major roads will direct visitors to major points of interest.
- Secondary or backcountry roads will remain relatively free of signs.
- Portable media will be used to minimize proliferation of signs.

Wayside Exhibits:

- A minimal number of road or trailside

interpretive wayside panels will be installed along paved or other heavily traveled roads to interpret significant and interesting resources visible from each area.

- Safety and orientation panels will be provided at key trailheads, developed campgrounds and other high visitor use areas such as Kelso Dunes.

Developed Campgrounds:

- Retain Mid Hills and Hole-in-the-Wall campgrounds and continue ongoing improvements.
- Redesign trails and campsites in Mid Hills to improve accessibility.
- Consider one new semi-developed campground with fewer services and campsites in a separate planning effort.

Research and Education Centers:

Soda Springs Desert Studies Center:

- Produce cooperative agreement with California State University to manage these federally owned facilities and continue to provide desert research and education at the Soda Springs Desert Study Center.
- Buildings not routinely used by CSU may be considered for park offices or housing, especially where an NPS presence will assist in supporting and protecting facilities and provide staff to interact with public not associated with CSU programs.

Granite Mountains Natural Reserve:

- Maintain cooperative agreement with University of California to manage area for desert research and education.
- Cooperate with the Reserve to develop informational kiosks for key entry points to provide information to the visiting public about the purpose of the Reserve, the NPS mission, and the need to exercise caution when visiting the area so as to not inadvertently disturb research projects.

Park Support Facilities:

- Locate some facilities outside Preserve boundaries including headquarters site in Barstow, visitor facilities in Baker and Needles and possibly employee housing, offices or maintenance shops in Baker or Essex.

Headquarters:

- Headquarters for Mojave National

Preserve will continue to be located in the Barstow area.

Field Offices:

- Site specific development plans in areas such as Cima, Kelso, Lanfair Valley and the Hole-in-the-Wall vicinity will address the need for facilities similar to the site in Baker.

Maintenance Facilities:

- Baker currently serves as the interim central maintenance operation, taking care of most short-term maintenance needs.
- A maintenance area is being added to the new interagency fire center at Hole-in-the-Wall.
- General areas under consideration for a central maintenance function include Cima, Hole-in-the-Wall vicinity, Lanfair Valley, and Essex.

Interagency Fire Center:

- Wildland fire management operations will continue to be managed in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management.
- Replace the existing dormitory, office and garage at Hole-in-the-Wall due to their poor condition.
- A separate development concept plan and environmental assessment for the entire Hole-in-the-Wall area will consider other visitor facilities.

Employee Housing:

- When staffing levels exceed available NPS and private housing in Baker, new housing will be constructed to replace the existing double-wide trailers.
- The National Park Service will consider leases or similar agreements with private parties to ensure housing for employees.
- Employee housing will not be provided in Needles or Barstow.
- The National Park Service will evaluate acquired housing in the Preserve for use as employee housing.
- New housing construction would also be considered.
- A housing management plan is being prepared to consider the number and types of units necessary to meet the mission of the Preserve.

Access and Circulation:

Roads:

- No major changes will be made to the existing roads.
- Vehicle use will be limited to street legal vehicles. No offroad driving permitted.
- Prepare a road management plan to evaluate the need for duplicate road sections, road surface conditions, and the appropriate level of maintenance.
- San Bernardino County will continue to manage paved roads under a cooperative agreement with the NPS, as well as the graded dirt Cedar Canyon, Black Canyon, Ivanpah, and Lanfair Valley roads.
- The NPS maintains graded dirt access roads to Zzyzx, Kelso Dunes and Wild Horse Canyon road.
- High-clearance and four-wheel-drive roads will not be routinely maintained by the Preserve or the County; however, emergency repairs or limited maintenance might be undertaken by the NPS or volunteer groups under cooperative agreements.
- The Mojave Road will remain open for street legal vehicles, mountain bikes, equestrians, and hikers.
- Business permits for commercial guided tours of Mojave Road may be considered to provide visitors without the appropriate vehicle an opportunity to experience this resource.
- Large groups on Mojave Road will be required to camp at designated areas and obtain a special use permit. The number of large groups may be limited to avoid adverse impacts.

Sand and Gravel for Road Maintenance:

- Allow the collection and stockpiling of material that washes onto roads during flood events for emergency use in repairing damage.
- The National Park Service and San Bernardino County will obtain borrow from outside sources unless economically infeasible.

Trails:

- All trails are currently open to hikers and equestrian use.
- The backcountry/wilderness management plan will address trail use by hikers, equestrians, bicycles, and visitors with disabili-

ties. The plan will identify the type and intensity of trail development, including the number of signs, trails, and trailheads, long distance trails extending into Bureau of Land Management or California State Parks and other jurisdictions, and anticipated maintenance levels for developed trails.

- Existing roads now within wilderness will be examined for conversion to single-track hiking trails.

Rights-of-Way and Easements:

- Additional research and record checking over the next several years will be conducted in order to adequately document all the existing rights-of-way/easements and develop an administration plan.
- Convert existing rights-of-way to NPS standards and regulations wherever possible or relocate outside Preserve.
- Develop a procedure to administer annual fee/rental collection. At present, the BLM collects and retains all annual fees/rentals associated with rights-of-ways/easements in the Preserve.

Railroads:

- If passenger train service resumes, coordinate with Amtrak on the feasibility of placing NPS information and interpreters on trains and allowing passengers to stop at Kelso Depot.
- Support the concept of using rail as an alternative form of transportation for visitors entering the Preserve.
- Pursue cooperative agreements to address spill response, emergency operations, permitting, maintenance of flood control structures, use of pesticides and herbicides and other relevant issues.

Roads:

- Most of the roads in the Preserve were constructed without rights-of-ways or easements being granted. The county of San Bernardino contends that all established roads in the Preserve are valid RS-2477 rights-of-ways.
- The NPS retains the authority to regulate use of an RS-2477 right-of-way.

Wildlife Guzzlers:

- Retain guzzlers for native wildlife if they are

found to be necessary to replace water lost due to actions taken by previous human activities.

- Restore natural water sources to be self-sustaining.
- Modify existing water developments to prevent desert tortoise from gaining access and to ensure they are able to escape from them.

Ranching Developments:

- Specific detailed lists and maps of the locations, ownership and maintenance responsibility of all these developments will be prepared during the grazing management plan development.
- If and when a grazing permit is purchased by a third part and donated to the NPS for retirement, most ranching developments will be removed following cultural resource inventory and analysis.

USE OF THE PRESERVE

Recreational Activities:

- NPS *Management Policies* provides guidance for determining the appropriateness of recreational activities in units of the national park system.

Rock-climbing:

- The management goal will be to allow climbers to enjoy their experience with a sense of challenge in a manner that will leave the environment relatively unchanged and not impacted, allowing future climbers an opportunity for a similar experience.
- Work with groups such as the Access Fund to educate the park's climbing community.
- Power drills will be not be allowed in the Preserve at any time.
- Chipping of rock faces and gluing of holds onto the rock will be prohibited, as will intentional removal of vegetation from climbing routes.
- Climbing will not be permitted within 500 feet of any prehistoric or historic rock art site or other cultural resource.
- Existing bolts and other fixed anchors that are deemed unsafe by climbers could be replaced on a piece-by-piece basis.
- Leaving fixed ropes for extended periods for the purpose of ascending and descending (rappelling) rock walls is not allowed.
- All wilderness areas within Mojave will be closed to any further placement of new bolts

and other types of fixed anchors.

- The area immediately behind and within sight (within 500 feet) of the Hole-in-the-Wall visitor center will be closed to technical rock-climbing, including the placement of permanent climbing anchors.
- Study climbing impacts to bighorn sheep, and if necessary, impose seasonal closures on visitation to Clark Mountain in order to protect the bighorn.
- The University of California prohibits climbing on their property in the Granite Mountains Natural Reserve in order to protect research plots.
- Multiple social trails and heavily impacted zones at the base of hikes will not be allowed.

Hunting, Fishing, Trapping:

- Section 506(b) of the CDPA allows for the continuation of hunting, fishing, and trapping in the Preserve.
- The CDPA also reiterates the NPS mandate to preserve wildlife by affording the Preserve full recognition and statutory protection to establish periods when, no hunting, fishing, or trapping will be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, or compliance with provisions of applicable law.
- Goals of the proposal are to provide better protection to desert tortoise and other park resources and to enhance visitor safety. It is also to strike a balance with the mission of the park, which is preservation of resources.
- Hunting will generally follow existing CDF&G regulations, except the Preserve will seek special regulations to limit hunting to upland game birds, cottontails, jackrabbits, and big game.
- Target shooting and plinking is not allowed anywhere in the Preserve
- Trapping within the Preserve will follow California's 1998 Proposition 4 to the extent that it does not conflict with federal wildlife management.
- Sport collection of amphibians and reptiles will not be allowed since it is in conflict with our administration of the area to meet the preservation mandates of the NPS mission and regulations found at 36 CFR Part 2.
- Fishing will follow existing CDF&G fishing regulations, except the collection of nongame birds, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates will not be permitted without a valid NPS scientific collection permit issued under NPS regulations (CFR 36 2.2 b.4 & 2.5.a).

Hiking:

- The backcountry/wilderness management plan will address trail use by hikers, equestrians, bicycles, and visitors with disabilities.
- Until completion of the plan, all trails will be open for use by hikers and equestrians, except where management problems were identified and restrictions needed to be established.

Equestrian Use:

- All trails will be open for use by hikers and equestrians, except where management problems were identified and restrictions needed to be established.
- Horses may travel cross-country.
- Groups and organized events need to obtain a permit. Large horse groups may be restricted to existing roads.

Bicycling:

- Bicycles will be allowed on all open roads, but not on single-track trails, in wilderness, or off existing roads.
- The backcountry/wilderness management plan will consider the feasibility of designating dirt roads as bicycle routes.
- Groups and organized events need to obtain a permit.

Motorcycles and ATVs:

- Street legal and licensed vehicles are permitted on open roads in the Preserve, when operated by a licensed driver in accordance with State law and NPS regulations.
- All terrain vehicles are not permitted on any paved roads.
- Motorcycles must have mufflers that permit normal conversation when the engine is idling.
- Groups and organized events need to obtain a permit.

Aircraft:

- There are no designated airstrips in Mojave National Preserve on public lands.
- Landing of aircraft on roads, dry lakes, or other areas of the Preserve is not allowed.
- Use of aircraft must be in accordance with FAA Regulations, which provide for a recommended minimum altitude of 2,000 feet.

Backcountry Use and Roadside Vehicle Camping:

- Backcountry camping will continue to be allowed only in previously used areas along

open routes of travel, outside of wilderness.

- Inventory previously used campsites and prepare a backcountry/wilderness management plan that may provide additional restrictions.
- Campsites must be more than 200 yards from any natural or constructed water source.
- Groups and organized events will need to obtain a permit.
- No new campsites and no driving off roads.
- Campfires will be allowed in existing fire rings, or in a fire pan. Visitors are not allowed to collect firewood in the Preserve.
- Backcountry structures on public lands will remain available to the public on a first come basis.
- Backcountry campers may camp anywhere outside designated closed areas, but must erect tents out of view of paved roads.

Camping in High Use Areas:

- Limit camping to designated campsites in high use areas.
- Monitor resource conditions and visitor use to determine the need for designating sites such as Caruthers Canyon, Cima Dome, Cinder Cones, Clark Mountain, Granite Pass (Kelbaker Road), and Grotto Hills.

Camping in Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat:

- In sensitive areas designated as critical habitat for the desert tortoise, vehicle-based roadside camping will be confined to a limited number of designated campsites with metal fire rings or campsite markers to identify them for use.
- Modify park literature on camping in the backcountry to include information about the desert tortoise and actions the public should take when camping in desert tortoise habitat.

No Camping Areas:

No camping areas include:

- All areas within ¼ mile of paved roads, unless formally designated as a camping area.
- The access road to the Kelso Dunes, the parking lot, and the area north of the road to the crest of the dunes, or a distance of 1 mile, and the area ¼ mile south of the road.
- All areas within ¼ mile of the access road to Zzyzx, including the visitor parking lot.
- All areas within ½ mile of Fort Piute.
- All areas within ½ mile of the Kelso Depot.

Groups and Organized Events:

- A permit is required for all organized events in the Preserve, and for group activities over a certain size.

Visitor Use Fees:

- Explore options for fee collection revenues consistent with congressional direction.
- Prepare an entrance fee study.
- Camping fees for developed campgrounds and the group area at Hole-in-the-Wall are collected. Fees are also collected for special use permits.

Research and Educational Activities:Education:

- Maintain an active presence in local classrooms throughout the high desert.
- Provide staff to lead specific ranger walks and talks for school groups as requested.
- Offer educational activities for school groups at the Kelso Depot visitor center when this facility is operational.
- Encourage and support the Granite Mountains Natural Reserve and the Soda Springs Desert Study Center to continue educational activities and specific classes for students and the general public via cooperative agreements with the park.

Research and Permits:

- Promote cooperative relationships with educational and scientific institutions and qualified individuals with specialized expertise that can provide significant assistance to the park
- Cooperate with researchers and universities to identify methods and techniques that may be employed to ensure protection of research equipment and plots.
- Non-NPS studies are not required to address specifically identified NPS management issues or information needs. These studies, including data and specimen collection, require an NPS research/collecting permit.
- Published research results are required to be provided to the park as a condition of all permits and be made available for use by park staff and the public.

Natural Resource Collections:

- Natural resource collections are managed as NPS museum collections.
- Collecting in Mojave would not be permitted

if specimens could be obtained elsewhere.

- Living collections will be managed in accordance with the provisions of a park's resource management plan (when developed), the Federal Animal Welfare Act, and other appropriate requirements.
- With respect to paleontological resources, any rare or scientifically significant specimens would be collected, or stabilized and protected in situ.

Commercial Activities:Mineral Development:

- Mineral development activities may only occur on valid existing rights under existing laws and regulations applicable to such activities.
- Congress closed Mojave to all new mining claim location and all other forms of appropriation and disposal.
- Regulations governing mining on all patented and unpatented claims in park units are found at 36 CFR Part 9A, which requires operators to file a plan of operations with the National Park Service for all mineral related activities.
- During the evaluation of the mining proposal, a sensitive resource analysis based on an objective analysis of physical, biological, cultural and visitor use values relative to the project mining impacts would also be initiated.
- Each mining proposal is required to submit a detailed mining and reclamation plan and undergo separate environmental impact analysis.
- Whenever a proposed mineral development fails to meet the regulatory approval standards and no alternative development scenario is feasible, the National Park Service will seek funding to initiate acquisition of the mineral rights.
- Validity will be determined on each unpatented mining claim prior to approval of a plan of operation.

Cattle Grazing:

- Special use permits were issued to ranchers to allow continuation of cattle grazing on the portions of eleven previous BLM grazing allotments that are now partially or wholly within the boundary of the Preserve.
- The overall management goal is to achieve the permanent retirement of grazing.
- If ranchers notify the superintendent of their

willingness to sell base property, the superintendent will immediately notify the Secretary of the Interior of the priority acquisition and request Land and Water Conservation Fund funding from Congress.

- Work with conservation organizations to purchase grazing permits and/or fee property from willing sellers.
- Once a grazing permit was purchased and the new owners (i.e. conservation organizations) requested retirement, it will be permanently retired.
- When grazing permits are retired, ranching developments might eventually be removed and site restoration undertaken, subject to environmental and cultural compliance, including a determination of national register eligibility and section 106 compliance on all cultural features over 50 years old.
- The NPS portions of the Clark Mountain and Valley Wells grazing allotments will be acquired via third party conservation groups and retired. Cattle grazing will be removed from the area and the boundary of the Clark Mountain unit will be fenced.
- While acquisitions are being pursued, and for permit holders unwilling to sell, the privilege of grazing cattle on lands in the Preserve will otherwise continue to be exercised at no more than the current level (as of October 31, 1994) under several conditions identified in the GMP and the USFWS Biological Opinion.
- Grazing will be managed over the short-term under existing BLM allotment management plans, and subject to applicable NPS regulations and policies, relevant FWS Biological Opinions.

Filming:

- Filming for commercial or educational purposes may be authorized, subject to NPS policies and regulations governing such activities, including wilderness restrictions.
- A special use permit is required for all filming activities and a fee will be assessed.

Solid Waste Disposal:

- Haul solid waste generated by visitors and park operations to an approved site outside the Preserve.
- Work cooperatively with Baker and the county to find locations outside the Preserve to relocate the existing transfer site and sewage lagoons.

Visitor Services:

- A concession contract to operate a small food service facility in the Kelso Depot is being considered. No other food service facilities are being considered on park lands.
- The park will not develop lodging facilities for visitors on park lands, but will rely on gateway communities to provide these services.
- Some level of commercial services may be sought in the Kelso Depot, Cima and Hole-in-the-Wall areas to provide compatible recreation services and equipment for visitors.

Military Activities:

- Section 802 of the California Desert Protection Act (CDPA) authorizes continued low-level overflights by military aircraft over new parks and wilderness areas.
- Monitor military overflights and attempt to document where conflicts with visitor use or resource protection may exist and seek to minimize conflicts wherever possible, while recognizing the military's mission and authorized use.
- Work closely with the airspace manager and the Overflight Working Group to identify conflicts and implement solutions.

PARTNERSHIPS AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS

Education and Research Partnerships:

- Promote cooperative relationships with educational and scientific institutions and qualified individuals with specialized expertise that can provide significant assistance to the park.
- Staff will continue to pursue partnerships with school teachers and university field offices at the Soda Springs Desert Study Center, the Granite Mountains Natural Reserve, and others to provide students and the public with current information on the cultural and natural elements of the Preserve.
- A special educational outreach effort will be made to reach students that might otherwise not have an opportunity to visit national parks.
- Develop a cooperative management agreement with California State University (CSU) to provide for the management of the facilities and ensure the continuation of desert research and educational activities, consistent with laws applicable to NPS units.
- Continue a cooperative management agreement between the National Park Service and the University of California to provide for the man-

agement of lands within the Granite Mountains Natural Reserve and to ensure the continuation of arid lands research and educational activities, consistent with laws applicable to NPS units.

- Mojave supports the retention of the existing Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) at UNLV, and embraces the newer CESU concept, and will utilize them as one mechanism to provide research, inventory and monitoring capabilities to meet park objectives.

Gateway Communities:

- Encourage and support economic growth of gateway communities in ways that complement the Preserve's mission and management objectives.

California Department of Parks and Recreation:

- Seek to develop a local partnership with the State to share staff, expertise, facilities and other resources for cooperative resource management, interpretation, law enforcement and maintenance activities, share radio system repeater sites and equipment, collaborate on signing on interstates and park roads, and collaborate on planning efforts for visitor service programs.

Native American Interests and Relationships:

- Consult on a regular basis with historically affiliated tribes to accomplish its programs in ways that respect their traditions, beliefs, practices, and other cultural values.
- Any archeological, ethnographic, and historical collections of Mojave National Preserve would be managed in accordance with the *NPS Management Policies* (2001), its *Museum Handbook* (1998); and its *Cultural Resource Management Guidance* (Director's Order 28: 1998).
- Any human remains of Indian affiliation found within the National Preserve, now and in the future, would be treated under the regulations of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990.
- Any closures for traditional cultural and religious activities are to be for the smallest area practicable and for the minimum necessary period.
- Identify, preserve, and manage sacred sites.
- Identify, preserve, and manage "Indian trust resources" as specified in the aforementioned departmental order and corresponding NPS policy document.

