

ALTERNATIVE B — NO ACTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Management strategies and conditions would continue. Planning would be internally focused, with limited cooperative planning with other agencies. Resource damage or visitor conflicts would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Most facilities would remain basically as they are, but minor improvements would be accomplished through routine maintenance when money and staff were available. The no-action alternative documents existing conditions and provides a basis for comparing the impacts of the other alternatives.

MANAGEMENT ZONING

Present management zoning for park land, which was developed in 1978, would continue in use. Zoning would be subject to modification through such planning documents as the resources management plan and wilderness and backcountry management plan. However, neither of these documents would serve as a comprehensive means for reevaluation of all zoning issues.

BACKCOUNTRY AND WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

Threats to the backcountry, including designated and proposed wilderness units, would be addressed on a case-by-case basis. The ban on expansion bolts used in technical rock climbing in designated wilderness would continue until studies called for in the climbing management plan are completed. Inholdings would continue to be acquired from willing sellers as identified in the land protection plan.

The National Park Service would continue to work with other agencies and landowners to facilitate cooperative efforts as the opportunities arose. Current programs that provide coordination between the Park Service and Bureau of Land Management (whose land borders the park boundary) include the *Western Mojave Desert Coordinated Management Plan*, the *Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan*, the *Coachella Valley Habitat Conservation Management Plan*, and *Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan*. Limited patrol and placement of barriers and closure signs to curtail illegal access and activities in the park would continue.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Management of the park's natural and cultural resources would be guided by the resources management plan. In this alternative the resources management program would be maintained at its current level in function, staffing, and funding. Project priorities would continue to be set based on existing personnel levels and available project funding. This typically results in priority setting on an opportunistic basis, addressing only short-term objectives. Provisions for long-term monitoring or retreatment to ensure project success would be affected by staffing and funding limitations.

Archeological, Ethnographic, and Historic Resources

Evaluations of archeological, ethnographic, and historic resources for national register eligibility would continue to be opportunistic and unsystematic. Historic structures on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places would continue to be stabilized as funds become available. There would be no preservation to support interpretation of the resources.

Archeological resources would continue to be patrolled and monitored by the protection division staff. Surveying, inventorying, and evaluating archeological areas, as well as data recovery, if needed for the mitigation for any development projects, would continue to be carried out by the NPS Western Archeological and Conservation Center or by contract.

Native American Consultations

Consultation with Native American groups would continue on an as-needed basis for various projects and plans. There would be no systematic Native American consultation plan to guide consultation, or research and documentation of ethnographic resources or traditional use areas and sites. Pertinent regulations and guidelines would be followed under all alternatives.

VISITOR USE

Information and Interpretation

Interpretive facilities would not be redesigned or upgraded. Personal interpretive contact numbers would remain low. Few programs would be offered and would be limited to the busiest seasons. Formal evening programs would continue to be presented at Cottonwood, Indian Cove, and Jumbo Rocks campgrounds. Informal programs would be periodically presented at Black Rock Canyon campgrounds. There would be little or no roving interpretation. Upgrade and development of interpretive services would continue at a slow rate. Many publications would continue to be out of date.

Limited educational programs for school groups would be offered. However, the demand for these programs would exceed the available staff by a wide margin. Development of an outreach program would be a low priority and restricted to the local area.

Primary Visitor Information Facilities

The Oasis of Mara Visitor Center would continue to be the primary information, orientation, and interpretation facility. Minimal orientation and information would be provided at the west and south entrances. The west entrance would have only a fee collection station.

Interpretive Signs and Exhibits

All nature trail signs and exhibits, campground wayside, and Keys View wayside upgrades would be completed. Other waysides would be improved or replaced at the current rate.

Other Visitor Facilities

Visitor facilities such as campsites, picnic areas, and trails would be maintained. These facilities would continue to be poorly delineated and signed. The network of braided trails and denuded and eroded areas encompassing camp and picnic sites would persist and probably continue to expand. Spot placement of barriers such as rocks would continue as a means to contain use and reduce impacts. The camping reservation and registration system would not be modified. There would be no change in time limitations for camping.

PARK ROADS AND CIRCULATION

Paved roads would be reconstructed as funds became available. This would also be accomplished through a multiyear phased program. The many dirt roads throughout the park would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Dirt roads found to be unnecessary or inappropriate would be closed, but extensive revegetation efforts would not be undertaken. Signs on designated trails and revegetation of social trails would remain minimal. Restriction of visitors to designated roads and trails would continue to be difficult and inadequate based on existing staff capabilities.

Minor improvements to parking areas would be made as routine repair and rehabilitation funding allows. There would be no additional parking areas. Most lots would remain unsurfaced and poorly delineated. Vehicles would continue to sprawl out over the borders of the parking areas, resulting in incremental expansion of bare spots. Continual visitor-created expansion of parking areas would persist as would creation of pullout parking areas along the roads. Placement of rock barriers by park staff to limit parking outside of designated areas would continue.

OPERATIONS

NPS offices, maintenance facilities, and housing would be retained. There would be no expansion, relocation, or systematic replacement of these facilities. Routine maintenance would take place. There would be no design character guidelines in effect. Communications would be hampered by inadequate equipment. Curb cuts, ramps, reserved parking spaces, and other accessibility improvements to visitor facilities and Park Service support facilities for people with disabilities would continue to be made in the course of routine maintenance.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Reconstruction of the major roads, phases I-V: 19,588,000.

TABLE 5: VISITOR USE AREAS — DESIGNATED PARKING, LOST HORSE AND PINTO WYE PLANNING UNITS, ALTERNATIVE B

Parking Areas	Cars	RVs	Function
1. Desert environments	5	1	Interpretation, orientation
2. Rock climbing exhibit	6	0	Interpretation, climbing
3A. Wait lot, Keys Ranch	6	0	Trailhead
3B. Boy Scout hiking trailhead	8	0	Trailhead
3C. Rock piles, Wonderland of Rocks—orientation west	0	0	
4A. Lost Horse ranger station access road	10	0	Rock climbing, trailhead
4B. Hemingway	15	0	Rock climbing, trailhead
5. Comic Book area	10	0	Rock climbing
6. Hidden Valley, north lot	5	0	Trailhead
7. Hidden Valley trailhead	17	2	Trailhead, orientation
8. Hidden Valley picnic area	20	2	Picnicking, rock climbing
9A. Hidden Valley day use lot	25	0	Camping, picnicking
9B. Intersection Rock	40	4	Rock climbing
10. Echo "Y"	0	0	
11. Rock Pile exhibit	3	0	Interpretation
12. Mojave plants exhibit, Love Nest	0	0	Interpretation
13. Cap Rock	15	2	Picnicking, interpretation, rock climbing
14. Cap Rock south	0	0	
15. Juniper Flats backcountry trailhead	10	0	Trailhead, interpretation, orientation
16. Lost Horse Mine	8	0	Trailhead
17. Black brush hillsides	0	0	
18. Wonderland of Rocks overlook	1	0	Interpretation
19. Keys View	45	2	Interpretation, trailhead
20. Ryan Ranch	1	0	Trailhead, interpretation
21. Ryan turnout, Oyster Bar	16	3	Interpretation
22. Hall of Horrors	10	0	Rock climbing, trailhead
23. Ryan Mountain trailhead, Indian Cave exhibit	11	3	Trailhead, interpretation, rock climbing
24. Geology Tour Road; Desert Queen backcountry trailhead	5	2	Trailhead, interpretation, rock climbing
25. Wonderland of Rocks, orientation east	0	0	
26. Wall Street Mill, Barker Dam	25	0	Rock climbing, trailhead
27. Wonderland of Rocks interpretive exhibit	0	0	
28. Wonderland of Rocks backcountry staging area	15	0	Trailhead, rock climbing
29. Split Rock	6	0	Rock climbing, trailhead
30. Live Oak	6	0	Picnicking, rock climbing
31. Desert nomads exhibit	2	0	Interpretation
32. Skull Rock	5	0	Photo opportunity
TOTALS	351	21	Interpretation

Parking area numbers correspond to the Parking and Pullouts graphic. Numbers of cars and RVs are approximate. Totals do not include parking in undesignated areas along edges of roads and parking areas

HEADQUARTERS
 Main visitor center for monument
 Exhibits and displays remain outdated
 Visitor use and NPS administrative functions remain mixed, with inadequate space for either
 NPS and city cultural features remain unconnected
 Picnicking, parking, and signs remain would inadequate

INDIAN COVE
 Upgrade road
 Campground layout remains confusing, conflict between day use and camping would continue
 Signs on highway at Fortynine Palms Oasis would remain inadequate
 Restrooms would be inadequate

LOST HORSE
 Roads would be reconstructed
 Visitors would continue to choose parking locations and create pullouts
 Group site picnicking would be inadequate
 Visitor contact would remain inadequate at the west entrance

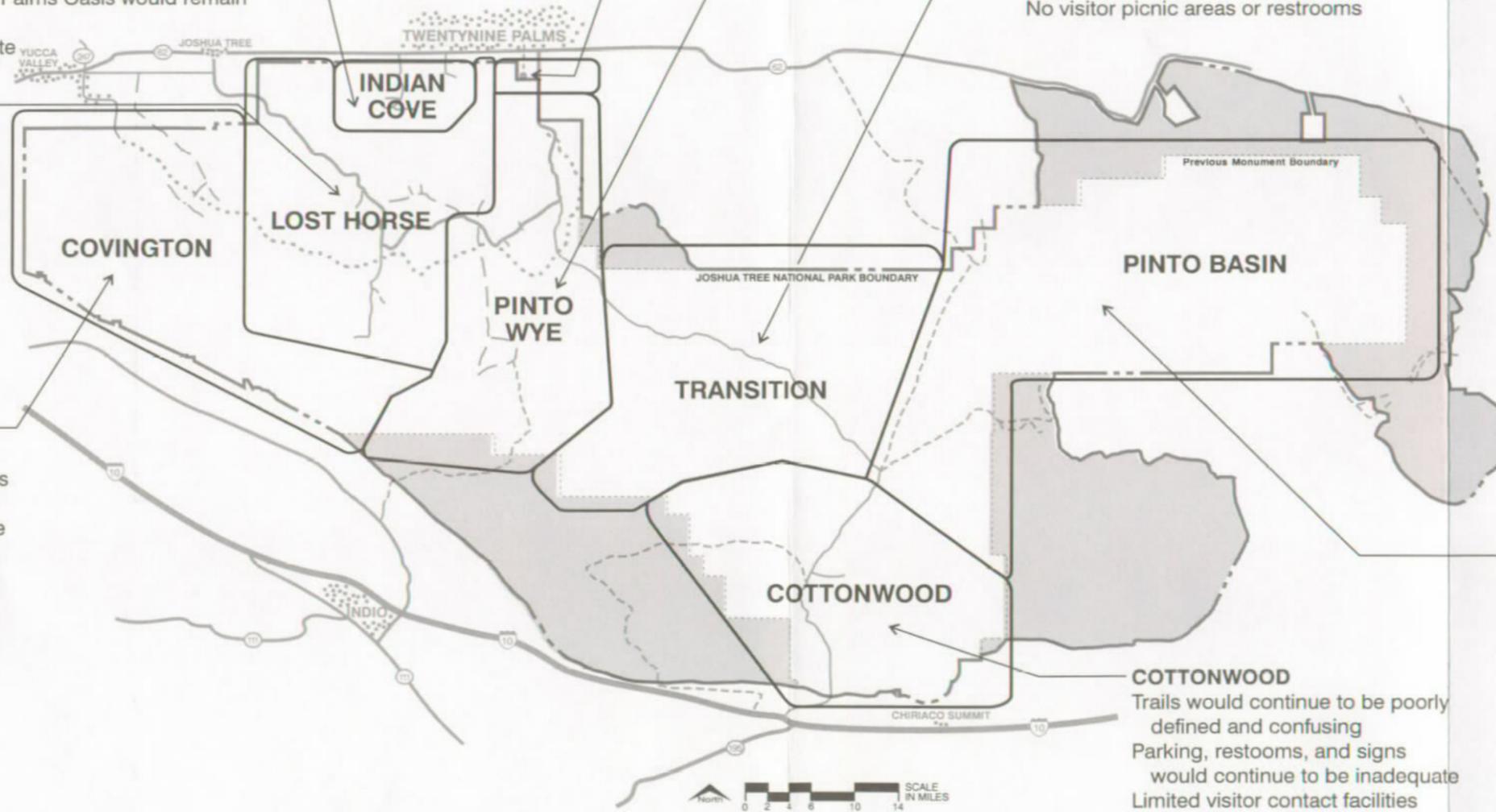
COVINGTON
 Horse users would continue to create loops on unmarked trails
 Parking and highway directional signs would remain inadequate
 Visitor contact center would contain outdated exhibits
 Black Rock visitor center would continue to be staffed by VIPs

PINTO WYE
 Illegal four-wheel-drive entrance would continue through Music Valley
 Restrooms, parking, picnic areas, signs, and exhibits would continue to be inadequate

TRANSITION
 Reconstruct road
 Numerous old roads would remain
 No visitor picnic areas or restrooms

NOTE: Management of the land added to Joshua Tree National Monument by the park legislation will be addressed in the wilderness and backcountry management plan.

— New Park Boundary
 - - - Previous Monument Boundary



PINTO BASIN
 Road traces would remain unvegetated
 Parking, signs, and exhibits would remain inadequate
 Trespassing would continue

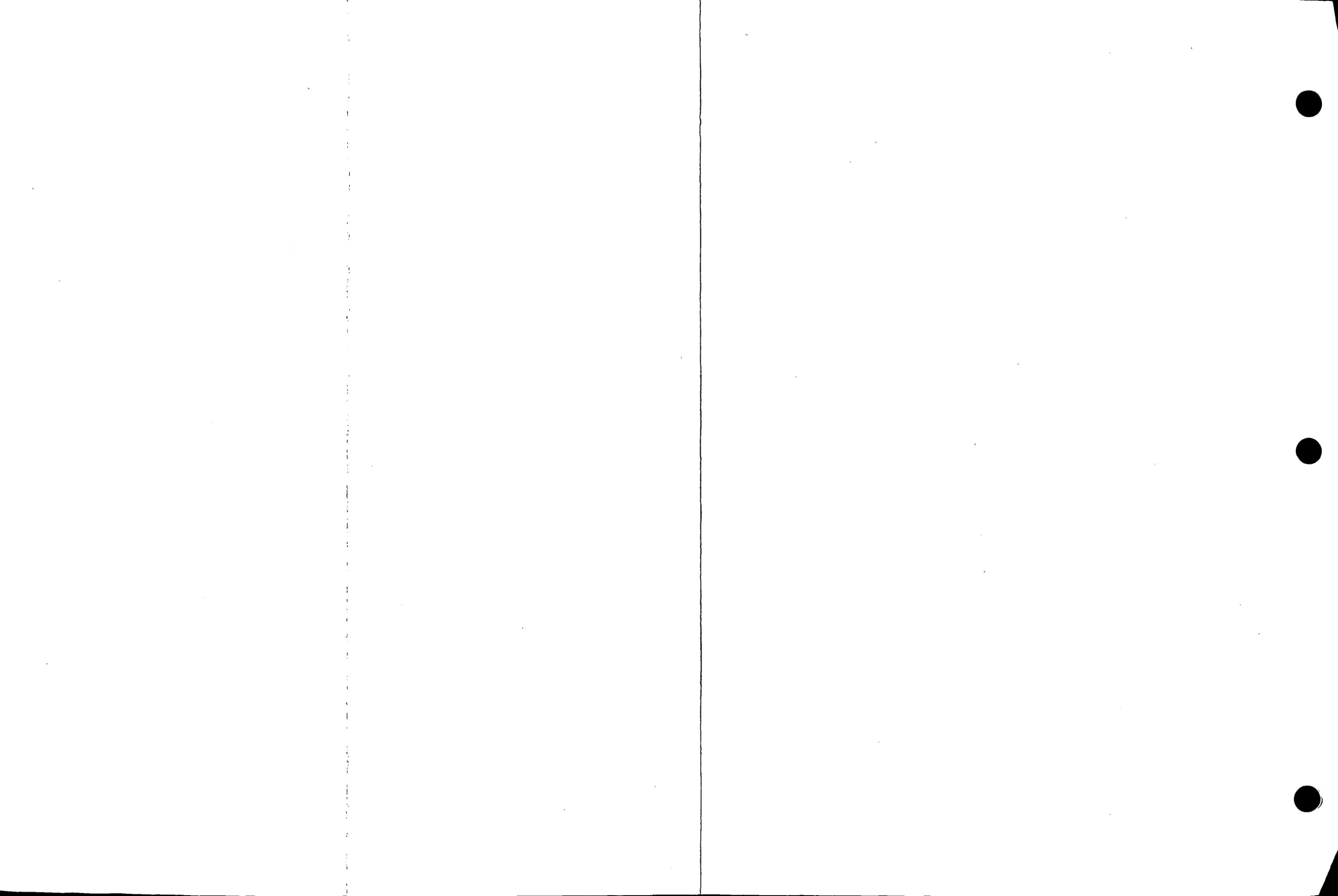
COTTONWOOD
 Trails would continue to be poorly defined and confusing
 Parking, restrooms, and signs would continue to be inadequate
 Limited visitor contact facilities

The no-action alternative documents existing conditions that would continue. Resource damage or visitor conflicts would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Facilities would remain basically as they are, but minor improvements would be accomplished through routine maintenance as money and manpower became available.

Alternative B NO ACTION

By Planning Unit

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 DSC/Dec. '94/156/20,015A



ALTERNATIVE C — MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The minimum requirements alternative outlines the limited management actions necessary to repair and clean up facilities and reduce impacts on natural and cultural resources. Day use parking would be restricted to existing designated parking areas, which would be clearly delineated. Visitor experiences and opportunities to enjoy the park would continue, largely unchanged.

As under the proposal, management would be enhanced through development of an array of implementation plans to evaluate threats to the wilderness. Appropriate uses would be identified. Cooperative planning and agreements with adjacent landowners and other agencies would be increased to preserve ecological units that extend across park boundaries. Inventory, monitoring, and research would be increased with the focus of areas of special expertise. Patrol of the boundaries would be increased.

Management of visitors primarily for the purpose of reducing impacts to the resources would be addressed by better delineating individual camping, picnicking, and parking sites and trails. No new parking areas would be provided.

The visitor center at the north entrance would be the primary entrance — offering orientation, trip planning assistance, and interpretation. A fee collection station would continue to serve the west entrance. The south entrance visitor contact station would be moderately expanded to increase information and orientation functions. Interpretive exhibits along the major roads and developed areas would be updated. Interpretive services would be increased primarily at Keys Ranch.

Park support facilities would be upgraded in their current locations to improve park operations and minimize new disturbance.

MANAGEMENT ZONING

All park land would be rezoned as under the proposed action.

BACKCOUNTRY AND WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

Management of backcountry and wilderness would be the same as for the proposed action. Threats and impacts to backcountry and wilderness values posed by various uses and development would be addressed in the backcountry management plan and land protection plan. Inappropriate development would be removed, the land rehabilitated, and the land reevaluated for placement in the wilderness zone. The ban on placement of expansion bolts in designated wilderness would remain in effect until recommended studies were completed. A proactive program of acquisition of inholdings from willing sellers would be implemented through the land protection plan. As parcels were acquired, development would be removed and the area rehabilitated and reevaluated for inclusion in the wilderness zone.

The Park Service would work with adjacent property owners and local, county, state, and other federal officials to ensure protection of the park's natural, cultural, and wilderness values. The Park Service would review, evaluate, and make recommendations to local governments concerning all proposals involving major development or activities that might affect resources. Signs, fencing, placement of barriers, and patrol of the boundary would curtail illegal access and activities.

The Park Service would actively pursue cooperative agreements with other agencies and landowners to protect ecological units that extend beyond the boundary and that still have natural integrity. These areas are along the southern and eastern boundaries and include Big Morongo Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the Coachella Valley Fringed-toed Lizard Preserve and Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and the Desert Lily Sanctuary.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This alternative would require that noncritical program elements be maintained at current levels of funding and staffing. In areas of special expertise such as arid lands restoration and museum curation, levels of funding and staffing would be increased. Overall, program priorities for the park would continue to respond to agency mandates and critical legal issues.

This alternative would also allow the resource management division be proactive in resolving resources management issues of a multipark or regional nature in areas of special expertise. For example, Joshua Tree National Park staff are now recognized as authorities in arid plant propagation and site restoration. This program would be expected to make more advancements in this field. The programmatic approach taken by the division would remain project orientated, with priorities determined largely by national or regional needs. There would be additional program support to expand the native plant nursery, grow plant materials for other desert areas, experiment with propagation and restoration techniques, or disseminate information regarding new nursery and restoration technologies.

Archeological, Ethnographic, and Historic Resources

Evaluations of properties for national register eligibility would be pursued gradually as funding allowed and as outlined on a priority basis in the resources management plan. Other historic structures on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places would be stabilized according to a priority listing.

Archeological resources would continue to be patrolled by protection division staff. The part-time ranger position would be converted to full time and other cultural resource duties would be added. Surveying, inventorying, and evaluating archeological areas as well as data recovery, if needed for the mitigation for any development projects, would continue to be carried out by the Western Archeological and Conservation Center of the National Park Service or by contract.

Native American Consultations

A Native American consultation plan would be developed to promote ongoing communication.

VISITOR USE

Information and Interpretation

The interpretive themes would be the same as in the proposed action. All waysides would be replaced as necessary to better interpret the resources on site. Visitor experiences would remain focused on the frontcountry and backcountry opportunities. However, the Geology Tour Road would be upgraded for use by two-wheel-drive vehicles to serve as the primary dirt road interpretive experience.

Information, orientation, and trip planning assistance would be available primarily at the Oasis of Mara visitor center. Limited capabilities would be maintained at the facilities at the west entrance and Cottonwood.

Keys Ranch would be stabilized and developed as the primary location for onsite services dealing with the cultural history of the Joshua Tree area. Interpretation would involve the continuum of occupation and use from prehistoric times to the present. The ranch would lend itself to costumed interpretation, and tours provided by the National Park Service would continue.

An outreach program would be developed similar to the proposed action, but would cover a smaller geographic area. The emphasis would be on local programs, with less effort directed toward southern California.

Primary Visitor Information Facilities

The major interpretation, information, and orientation functions for the park would be maintained at the visitor center at the Oasis of Mara or Twentynine Palms entrance. Administrative offices would be relocated from the visitor center building to a new building near the park support facilities immediately to the south. The current building would serve solely as a visitor center. Exhibits would be updated and expanded. Visitor contact and fee collection stations at the west and south entrances would be retained. Orientation materials would be provided at waysides adjacent to each of these facilities. Black Rock Canyon Nature Center, located at Black Rock Canyon campground, would be oriented to nature center and environmental education activities.

Interpretive Signs and Exhibits

Upgrading of all nature trail signs and exhibits, campground waysides, and Keys View waysides would be completed. Other waysides would also be improved or replaced as needed.

Other Visitor Facilities

Campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails would be improved by clearly defining sites and trails through use of barriers and revegetation. Social trails would be revegetated. Associated restrooms would be replaced with permanent facilities. The number of sites or capacity of campgrounds and picnic areas would not change. Time limitations would be established, and some sites would be maintained on a first-come, first-served basis.

PARK ROADS AND CIRCULATION

Roads, parking areas, and trails would be modified primarily to improve protection of resources and correct the highly deteriorated condition of the roads. The many dirt roads throughout the park would be evaluated as to their contribution to achieving the purposes of the park. Roads that cannot be maintained to safe standards or whose function does not serve the park's purpose would be closed. This evaluation would be made in the backcountry management plan. A trail plan would be developed to provide specific guidance for upgrading the trail system.

A more integrated network of roads, trails, and parking areas would be provided to serve the various visitor destinations similar to the proposed action. However, there would be no expansion or addition of parking areas. Clearly marked trails would be built between parking areas and other visitor facilities to provide an alternative means of access to various destinations. Visitors would be encouraged to use trails between popular areas to alleviate automobile congestion and reduce competition for parking spaces at any one area. Trails would be open to bicycles where appropriate to encourage trail use as opposed to driving between destinations.

Road Improvements

Paved roads would be reconstructed using the road guidelines outlined in the proposed action. This would also be accomplished through the same multiyear phased program.

Parking Area Improvements

Parking areas, including wayside parking areas, would be redesigned in the disturbed areas. This would prevent the uncontrolled expansion that damages resources and would provide for more efficient use of space. Design criteria would be the same as for the proposed action, except there would be no new construction. Information, orientation, interpretation, and backcountry registration would be provided at parking areas as appropriate at each lot. All unneeded or undesirable parking areas would be obliterated and access blocked. Parking in designated paved parking areas only would be strictly enforced.

Parking capacities for the seven visitor use areas of the west entrance, Wonderland of Rocks, Cap Rock, Keys View, Geology Tour Road, Ryan Mountain, and Split Rock/Live Oak are shown in the following table. Other interpretive and trailhead parking would be retained and paved along Pinto Basin Road between Pinto Wye and the south boundary.

OPERATIONS

Housing

Most employees would continue to live in nearby communities. Housing in the park would be retained and rehabilitated as necessary, except for housing at the Lost Horse ranger station and the volunteer trailer at headquarters. Permanent housing would no longer be provided at Lost Horse, but trailer pads for volunteers would be developed there. A duplex would replace the trailer at headquarters. A duplex would also be provided at Cottonwood.

Administration and Maintenance

Administrative and maintenance facilities would be retained at existing locations. The Twentynine Palms entrance would continue as the primary location for NPS operations. Administrative offices would be relocated to a new building to be constructed in an area south of the visitor center with the other support facilities that would be retained. There would be a minimal expansion of office space at Indian Cove. Covered maintenance storage, parking, telephone, security systems, water, and power would be improved or added at Cottonwood. Utilities at the north entrance maintenance area and Lost Horse ranger station would be improved.

The communication system would be upgraded to incorporate newer, more efficient technology.

Most borrow pits and associated access roads in the park would be closed. These areas would be rehabilitated except for possible use of two borrow sites for maintenance or visitor use purposes (see development concept plans for Pinto Wye Planning Unit and Transition Zone Planning Unit). Sand, gravel, and other borrow material would be obtained from available sources outside of the park in accordance with NPS *Management Policies*.

Design Character Guidelines and Sustainable Design

Design character guidelines would be developed that would incorporate sustainable designs, such as earth sheltering and use of passive solar technologies and materials native to the desert environment. Native vegetation would be used for landscaping. All new and modified facilities would adhere to these guidelines to create a unified visual identity and enable the developments to harmonize with the environment. Water and energy conservation technology and materials recycling would be incorporated into the design of these facilities according to NPS sustainable design guidelines.

Access for People with Disabilities

Accessibility to Joshua Tree National Park facilities by visitors with disabilities would continue to be provided in conformance with applicable laws and regulations. The degree of accessibility would be proportional to the degree of development. New and remodeled visitor and employee facilities in developed areas would be built or rehabilitated to fully accessible

standards. Backcountry areas would be accessible to the extent feasible without major modifications of the sites. Although trails to and in these areas would be formalized, they would retain their basic unimproved nature and topographic variations. New facilities and remodeled facilities would be accessible.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

First priority: \$1,122,000 would be needed for actions at the west and north entrances, the NPS administrative complex, all entrance signs, and highway signs.

Second priority: \$2,868,000 would cover actions to clean up all campgrounds and to develop the Cottonwood contact station.

Third priority: \$1,238,000 would cover backcountry trails, trailheads, and the rehabilitation of interpretive/exhibits in the headquarters areas.

Fourth priority: \$2,763,000 would cover Indian Cove, Hidden Valley and parkwide interpretive signs.

Fifth priority: \$1,877,000 would cover the boundary fencing, and additional interpretive signs.

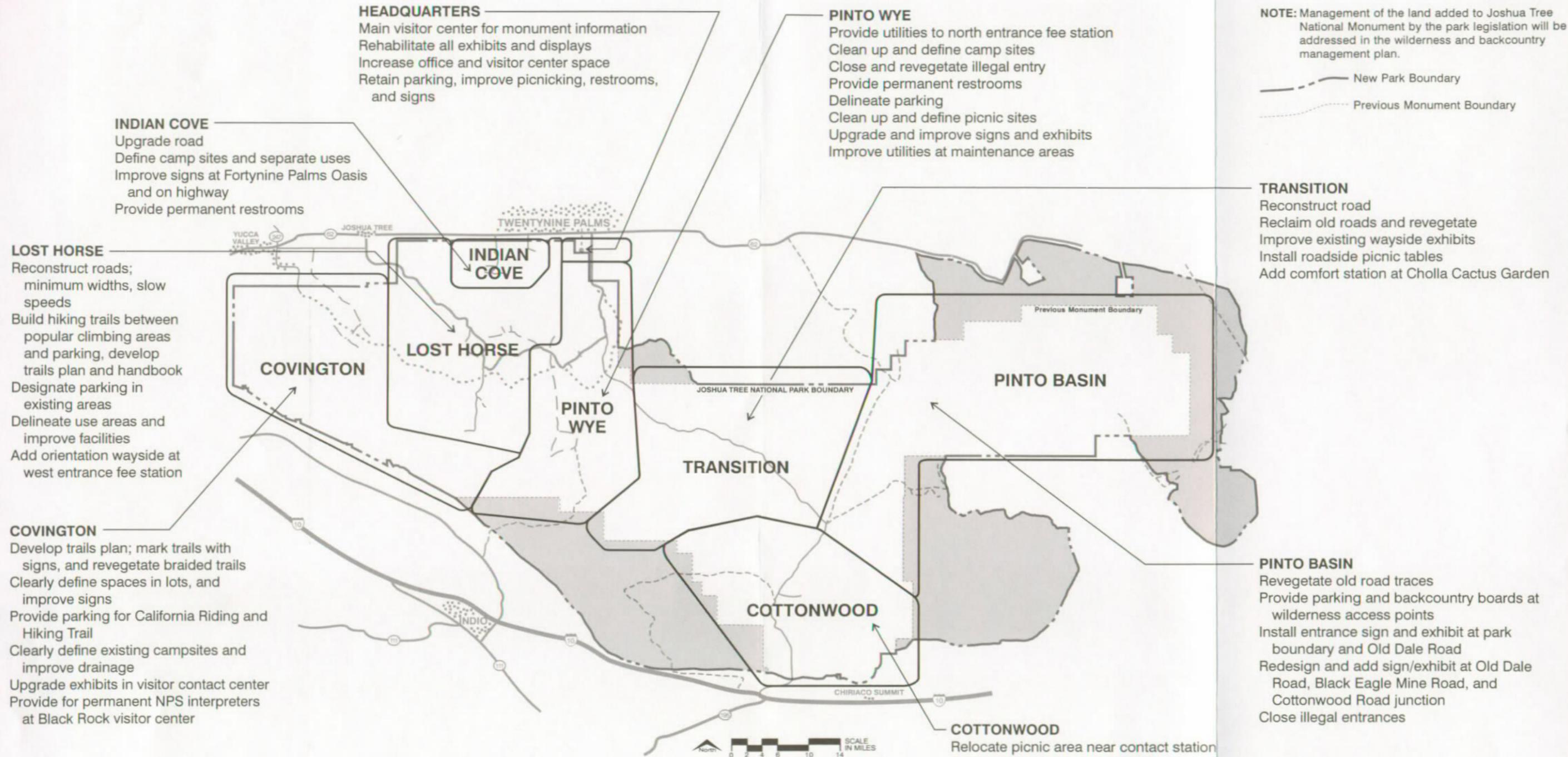
Road improvement costs for phases I-V: \$21,645,000.

Appendix A summarizes the NPS development costs by planning unit and priority number.

This alternative would affect NPS staffing as summarized in table 6 below.

TABLE 6: RECOMMENDED STAFFING

Division	Current Full Time Equivalents (FTE)	Recommended Increase in FTEs	Total
Administration	7.5	1.0	8.5
Interpretation	8.5	7.0	15.5
Protection/Fee Collection	20.0	7.5	31.0
Maintenance	17.5	7.0	24.5
Resource Management	12.0	2.0	14.0
Fire Management	4.0	0.0	4.0
Totals	69.5	24.5	97.5



HEADQUARTERS
 Main visitor center for monument information
 Rehabilitate all exhibits and displays
 Increase office and visitor center space
 Retain parking, improve picnicking, restrooms, and signs

PINTO WYE
 Provide utilities to north entrance fee station
 Clean up and define camp sites
 Close and revegetate illegal entry
 Provide permanent restrooms
 Delineate parking
 Clean up and define picnic sites
 Upgrade and improve signs and exhibits
 Improve utilities at maintenance areas

NOTE: Management of the land added to Joshua Tree National Monument by the park legislation will be addressed in the wilderness and backcountry management plan.

— New Park Boundary
 Previous Monument Boundary

INDIAN COVE
 Upgrade road
 Define camp sites and separate uses
 Improve signs at Fortynine Palms Oasis and on highway
 Provide permanent restrooms

TRANSITION
 Reconstruct road
 Reclaim old roads and revegetate
 Improve existing wayside exhibits
 Install roadside picnic tables
 Add comfort station at Cholla Cactus Garden

LOST HORSE
 Reconstruct roads; minimum widths, slow speeds
 Build hiking trails between popular climbing areas and parking, develop trails plan and handbook
 Designate parking in existing areas
 Delineate use areas and improve facilities
 Add orientation wayside at west entrance fee station

COVINGTON
 Develop trails plan; mark trails with signs, and revegetate braided trails
 Clearly define spaces in lots, and improve signs
 Provide parking for California Riding and Hiking Trail
 Clearly define existing campsites and improve drainage
 Upgrade exhibits in visitor contact center
 Provide for permanent NPS interpreters at Black Rock visitor center

PINTO BASIN
 Revegetate old road traces
 Provide parking and backcountry boards at wilderness access points
 Install entrance sign and exhibit at park boundary and Old Dale Road
 Redesign and add sign/exhibit at Old Dale Road, Black Eagle Mine Road, and Cottonwood Road junction
 Close illegal entrances

COTTONWOOD
 Relocate picnic area near contact station
 Expand size of group campsites
 Improve interpretation of Cottonwood Oasis, add viewing platform, revegetate braided trails
 Make restrooms accessible to people with disabilities
 Develop trails plan and improve signs
 Rehabilitate contact station
 Add new accessible interpretive trail at existing pullout

The minimum requirements alternative outlines the actions necessary to achieve the purpose of the monument. It would repair and clean up existing facilities, reduce impacts on natural and cultural resources, and provide for a safe and improved park operation.

Alternative C MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

By Planning Unit
 JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 DSC/Dec. '94/156/20,033A

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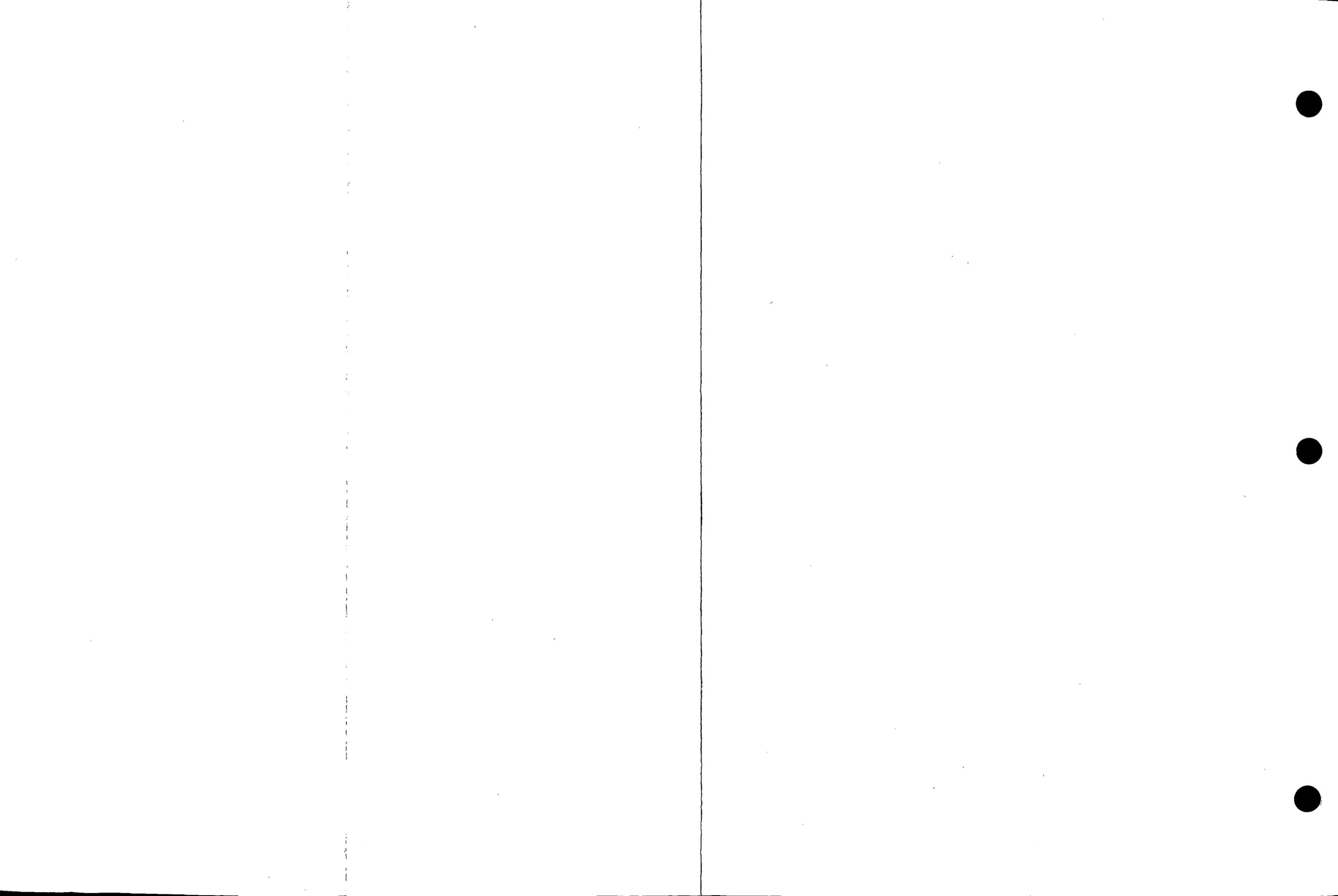


TABLE 7: VISITOR USE AREAS — DESIGNATED PARKING, LOST HORSE AND PINTO WYE PLANNING UNITS, ALTERNATIVE C

Parking Areas	Cars	RVs	Function
1. Desert environments	4	1	Interpretation, orientation
2. Rock climbing exhibit	6	0	Interpretation, climbing
3A. Wait lot, Keys Ranch	8	2	Trailhead
3B. Boy Scout hiking trailhead	8	0	Trailhead
3C. Rock piles, Wonderland of Rocks — orientation west	0	0	
4A. Lost Horse ranger station access road	10	0	Rock climbing, trailhead
4B. Hemingway	15	0	Rock climbing, trailhead
5. Comic Book area	10	0	Rock climbing
6. Hidden Valley, north lot	5	0	Trailhead
7. Hidden Valley trailhead	22	3	Trailhead, orientation
8. Hidden Valley picnic area	20	2	Picnicking, rock climbing
9A. Hidden Valley day use lot	0	0	Eliminate
9B. Intersection Rock	50	6	Rock climbing
10. Echo "Y"	0	0	
11. Rock Pile exhibit	0	0	Eliminate
12. Mojave plants exhibit, Love Nest	0	0	
13. Cap Rock	15	2	Picnicking, interpretation, rock climbing
14. Cap Rock south	0	0	
15. Juniper Flats backcountry trailhead	10	0	Trailhead, interpretation, orientation
16. Lost Horse Mine	8	0	Trailhead
17. Black brush hillsides	0	0	
18. Wonderland of Rocks overlook	1	0	Interpretation
19. Keys View	45	0	Interpretation, trailhead
20. Ryan Ranch	1	0	Trailhead, interpretation
21. Ryan turnout, Oyster Bar	16	3	Trailhead, interpretation
22. Hall of Horrors	10	0	Rock climbing, trailhead
23. Ryan Mountain trailhead, Indian Cave exhibit	15	3	Trailhead, interpretation, rock climbing
24. Geology Tour Road; Desert Queen backcountry trailhead	5	2	Trailhead, interpretation, rock climbing
25. Wonderland of Rocks, orientation east	0	0	
26. Wall Street Mill, Barker Dam	25	0	Rock climbing, trailhead
27. Wonderland of Rocks interpretive exhibit	0	0	
28. Wonderland of Rocks backcountry staging area	15	0	Trailhead, rock climbing
29. Split Rock	6	0	Rock climbing, trailhead
30. Live Oak	6	0	Picnicking, rock climbing
31. Desert nomads exhibit	0	0	Eliminate exhibit; maintain parking for traffic control and photo opportunities
32. Skull Rock	5	0	Photo opportunity
TOTALS	341	24	
Parking area numbers correspond to the Parking and Pullouts graphic. Numbers of cars and RVs are approximate			

TABLE 8: SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

Actions	Alternative A — Proposed Action	Alternative B — No Action	Alternative C — Minimum Requirements
Management Zoning	Rezone all park land: natural zone, 557,364 acres, cultural zone, 180 acres; development zone, 3,411 acres. Land added by the 1994 legislation will be addressed in the wilderness and backcountry management plan	Zoning designations would remain: general outdoor recreation, 3,000 acres; natural recreation, 3,000 acres; outstanding natural area, 35,000 acres; primitive area, 489,884 acres; cultural area, 300 acres	Same as proposed action.
Backcountry and Wilderness Management	<p>Backcountry management plan would evaluate use and development in backcountry wilderness areas. Inappropriate development would be removed and the land revegetated.</p> <p>Land protection plan would institute proactive program for acquisition from willing sellers of private inholdings in the natural zone. Development would be removed and the land revegetated.</p> <p>Expansion bolts would continue to be banned from designated wilderness until studies identified in climbing management plan are completed.</p> <p>Land identified would be evaluated for inclusion into the wilderness zone after removal of development and revegetation. New wilderness legislation would be proposed recommending inclusion of those lands qualifying for wilderness.</p> <p>The Park Service would actively pursue cooperative agreements with other agencies and landowners to protect ecological units that extend beyond the boundary.</p> <p>Additional signs, fencing, placement of barriers, and patrol of the boundary would be implemented</p>	<p>Threats to backcountry and wilderness values addressed on a case-by-case basis</p> <p>Private inholdings acquired from willing sellers</p> <p>Same as proposed action.</p> <p>There would be no reevaluation of lands for inclusion in the wilderness zone.</p> <p>The Park Service would develop cooperative management efforts as opportunities arise.</p> <p>Patrols and closure of illegal access would be limited.</p>	<p>Same as proposed action.</p> <p>Same as proposed action.</p> <p>Same as proposed action.</p> <p>Land would be evaluated for inclusion into the wilderness zone after removal of developments and revegetation.</p> <p>Same as the proposed action.</p> <p>Same as the proposed action.</p>
Resources Management	<p>Inventory, monitoring, and research of natural and cultural resources would be increased.</p> <p>Historic sites and scenes would be protected, interpreted, and preserved. An archeological and historic resource inventory would be done. Native American consultation plan would be developed and ethnographic studies done.</p>	<p>Resources management activities would continue at existing levels.</p> <p>Historic structures would continue to receive minimal stabilization. The national register program and inventory of archeological sites would progress slowly. Native American consultation would continue on an as-needed basis.</p>	<p>Same as proposed action, but focus on areas of special expertise such as arid lands restoration.</p> <p>Same as proposed action. Native American consultation plan would be developed.</p>

Actions	Alternative A — Proposed Action	Alternative B — No Action	Alternative C — Minimum Requirements
<p>Visitor Use</p>	<p>Improvements in roads and trails and improved availability of information would better distribute visitors and improve opportunities to experience a variety of environments and features.</p> <p>Information, orientation, introduction to the interpretive themes, and trip planning information would be available at the three major entrances. A visitor center would be added near the west entrance; the Oasis of Mara visitor center would be converted to a cultural center; and the visitor contact station at the south entrance would be replaced by a larger facility. Environmental education would be the focus of the Black Rock Canyon nature center.</p> <p>Wayside exhibits and interpretation along roads and trails would be updated and wayside exhibits would be added. Personal services interpretive programs would be increased throughout the park, with cultural focus at Keys ranch. Publications would be updated and a trail guide developed.</p> <p>Information and interpretation boards and exhibits would be provided at dirt road and trailhead entry points into the backcountry.</p> <p>The layout of campgrounds and picnic areas as well as individual sites would be redesigned. Time limits would be enforced.</p> <p>Outreach education provided for region — publications, roving interpreters, use of Black Rock Canyon nature center. NPS would pursue interagency initiatives for interpretive programs.</p>	<p>Opportunities to experience the resources would be limited to the existing roads and trails system.</p> <p>Information, orientation, interpretation, and trip planning information would continue to primarily available at only one park entrance, the Oasis of Mara visitor center. The fee collection station would be maintained at the west entrance and the small visitor contact station would be maintained at the south entrance. The Black Rock Canyon visitor center would be retained.</p> <p>Wayside exhibits and interpretation along roads and trails would be retained. Personal services interpretive programs would be minimal. Existing publications would be continue to be used.</p> <p>Limited information and interpretation boards and exhibits would be provided at dirt road and trailhead entry points into the backcountry.</p> <p>Camping, picnic, and restroom facilities would be retained. The camping registration system would remain.</p> <p>Outreach education program would remain minimal.</p>	<p>Orientation and interpretation would be minimally improved for visitors entering through the north entrance.</p> <p>Information, orientation, interpretation, and trip planning would be available at only the Oasis of Mara visitor center, which would be expanded. The fee collection station would be at the west entrance and a orientation wayside added. South entrance visitor station expanded. Nature and environmental education would be at the Black Rock Canyon nature center.</p> <p>Wayside exhibits and interpretation along roads and trails would be updated. Personal services interpretive programs would be increased primarily at Keys ranch. Publications would be updated and a trail guide developed.</p> <p>Same as proposed action.</p> <p>Camping and picnic sites would be improved by better defining sites through use of barriers and revegetation. Camping time limits would be enforced.</p> <p>Same as proposed action, but with focus on more local area.</p>

Actions	Alternative A — Proposed Action	Alternative B — No Action	Alternative C — Minimum Requirements
Roads and Circulation	<p>Existing road system would continue to be improved following road guidelines. About 43 miles of road would be constructed.</p> <p>Existing parking would be expanded, and parking would be added in most heavily used areas. Edges would be paved, striped, and defined; Parking in designated areas only would be enforced. Total: 732 cars, 72 RVs.</p> <p>Queen Valley, Covington Flat roads maintained as 2-wheel drive; Geology Tour, Lost Horse Mine Roads improved to 2-wheel drive; Old Dale Mine Road as 4-wheel drive. Some dirt roads would be designated 4-wheel drive; others would be evaluated, uses identified, and areas restored.</p> <p>A trails plan would be developed linking parking and visitor use areas. Social and redundant trails would be revegetated. Trails would be clearly signed and included in a trails guide.</p> <p>Shuttle system implemented in the heaviest use areas and possibly other areas; include interpretive tours.</p>	<p>The road system would continue to be improved following NPS road guidelines; no road guidelines specific to the park. About 43 miles of road would be constructed.</p> <p>Day use dirt parking areas would be retained. Additional parking along edges of the road and parking areas would continue. Total: 351 cars, 21 RVs.</p> <p>Dirt roads would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as issues arose, and closed if inappropriate or unnecessary. Visitor use opportunities would remain unknown.</p> <p>Trails would be maintained. Revegetation of social trails would continue at a slow rate.</p> <p>No shuttle system would be implemented.</p>	<p>Same as proposed action.</p> <p>Edges of parking areas would be paved, striped, and clearly defined. Parking in designated areas only would be enforced. Total: 336 cars, 24 RVs.</p> <p>Same as proposed action.</p> <p>Same as proposed action.</p> <p>Same as no action</p>
Operations	<p>Housing would continue to be primarily provided in local communities. Housing would be retained at Indian Cove and Black Rock. A new dorm would be provided at headquarters and Cottonwood. Trailer pads would be added at Lost Horse ranger station for volunteers, and permanent housing there would be eliminated.</p> <p>Administrative and maintenance facilities would be retained at all current sites. A new park operations complex would be provided at headquarters. Administrative space would be expanded at Cottonwood, Indian Cove, and west entrance. Drive-through fee collection facilities would be provided.</p>	<p>Housing would continue to be primarily provided in local communities. Housing would be retained.</p> <p>Administrative and maintenance facilities would be retained at present sites.</p>	<p>Same as proposed action.</p> <p>Administrative and maintenance facilities would be retained at all sites. Offices would be relocated to a new building at headquarters. Other support facilities would be retained. Administrative space would be minimally expanded at Cottonwood and Indian Cove.</p>

Actions	Alternative A — Proposed Action	Alternative B — No Action	Alternative C — Minimum Requirements
<p>Operations (cont.)</p>	<p>Maintenance storage, covered parking, telephone, security system, water, and power would be provided at Cottonwood. Telephone service, security system, and covered storage would be provided at the north entrance maintenance area. All utility systems would be upgraded as necessary.</p> <p>Borrow pits would be revegetated except for possible use of two sites for maintenance storage and small picnic area.</p> <p>A volunteer program/cooperating agency would be encouraged in addressing operational needs</p> <p>An overall design theme would be developed that emphasizes sustainable design and provides accessibility.</p> <p>The communications systems would be improved.</p>	<p>Borrow pits would remain closed.</p> <p>Volunteers would be used on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>There would be no overall design guidelines for development. Accessibility improvements would be done during routine maintenance.</p> <p>The radio communications system would remain in use.</p>	<p>Same as proposed action.</p> <p>Borrow pits would be revegetated except for possible use of one site for maintenance storage.</p> <p>Same as proposed action.</p> <p>Same as proposed action.</p> <p>Same as proposed action.</p>

TABLE 9: SUMMARY OF THE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Topic	Alternative A — Proposed Action	Alternative B — No Action	Alternative C — Minimum Requirements
Native Vegetation and Soils	Construction would impact 104 acres of previously undisturbed land and 25 acres of previously disturbed land; 5.6 acres would be rehabilitated.	Road reconstruction would impact 91 acres of primarily previously undisturbed land adjacent to the roads; impacts from social trails and roadside parking would continue.	Construction would impact 94 acres previously undisturbed land and 5.6 acres would be rehabilitated.
Species of Special Concern (Joshua trees, desert tortoise)	Construction would impact approximately 250–300 Joshua trees; this number would be reduced by adjustment of the road alignment during preliminary design and salvage of trees during construction. Construction would probably not effect the desert tortoise. Additional surveys and consultation with Fish and Wildlife Service would be completed during preliminary design of projects.	Construction would impact approximately 100–200 Joshua trees; this number would be reduced by adjustment of the road alignment during preliminary design and salvage of trees during construction. Same as proposed action.	Construction would impact approximately 150–200 Joshua trees; this number would be reduced by adjustment of the road alignment during preliminary design and salvage of trees during construction. Same as proposed action.
Wetlands and Riparian Habitat	Impacts at Cottonwood Oasis would be reduced.	Impacts from foot traffic would continue at Cottonwood Oasis.	Same as proposed action.
Cultural Resources	Cultural resources would be positively impacted by the proposal. Management, interpretation, and stabilization would be improved. Baseline data would be gathered and priorities set.	Cultural resources management would remain opportunistic and unsystematic.	No ongoing programs would be established, but priorities would be set to better manage the resources. Increased staffing would improve all aspects of cultural resource management.
Visual Resources	Minimal impacts on scenic vistas; Appearance of facilities and visitor use areas would improve.	No new impacts on scenic vistas; Unattractive appearance of many facilities and visitor use areas would remain.	Same as proposed action.
Visitor Use and Experiences	Visitor understanding and appreciation of the park, orientation, and information would be greatly improved at each entrance and onsite; greater distribution of visitors in Lost Horse unit and throughout park with reduction in congestion; expanded opportunities outside developed areas, greatly improved quality of experience with redesign of campground and picnic layouts and individual sites.	Orientation, information, interpretation would remain insufficient to convey interpretive themes and availability of visitor opportunities and facilities; condition of visitor facilities and impacts on surrounding area would continue to detract from visitor experience.	Visitor understanding and appreciation of the park, orientation, and information would be improved; minimal improvement in distribution of visitors in Lost Horse unit and throughout the park with reduction in congestion; expanded opportunities outside developed areas, improved quality of experience with improvements to individual camp and picnic sites.
Cumulative Impacts	Resources and scenic vistas would probably be adversely affected by continued incompatible land use and development near and adjacent to the park.	Same as proposed action.	Same as proposed action.