

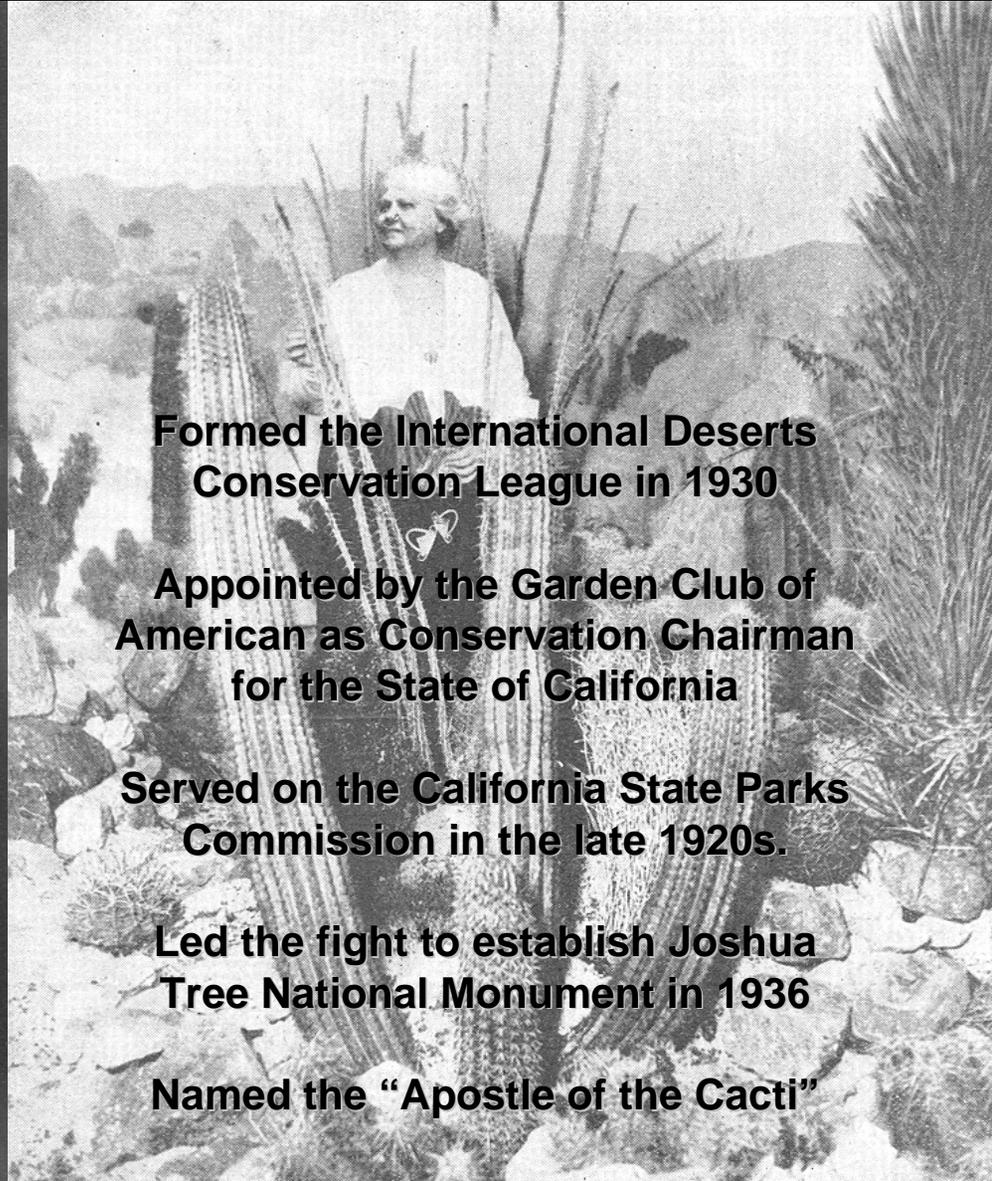
Experience Your America



**An Introduction to
Joshua Tree National Park
Desert Managers Group, 5/2/07**



National Park Service



Formed the International Deserts Conservation League in 1930

Appointed by the Garden Club of American as Conservation Chairman for the State of California

Served on the California State Parks Commission in the late 1920s.

Led the fight to establish Joshua Tree National Monument in 1936

Named the "Apostle of the Cacti"

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Stephen Willard
373

Photo by
Stephen Willard

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Two Deserts



Colorado Desert

Mojave Desert



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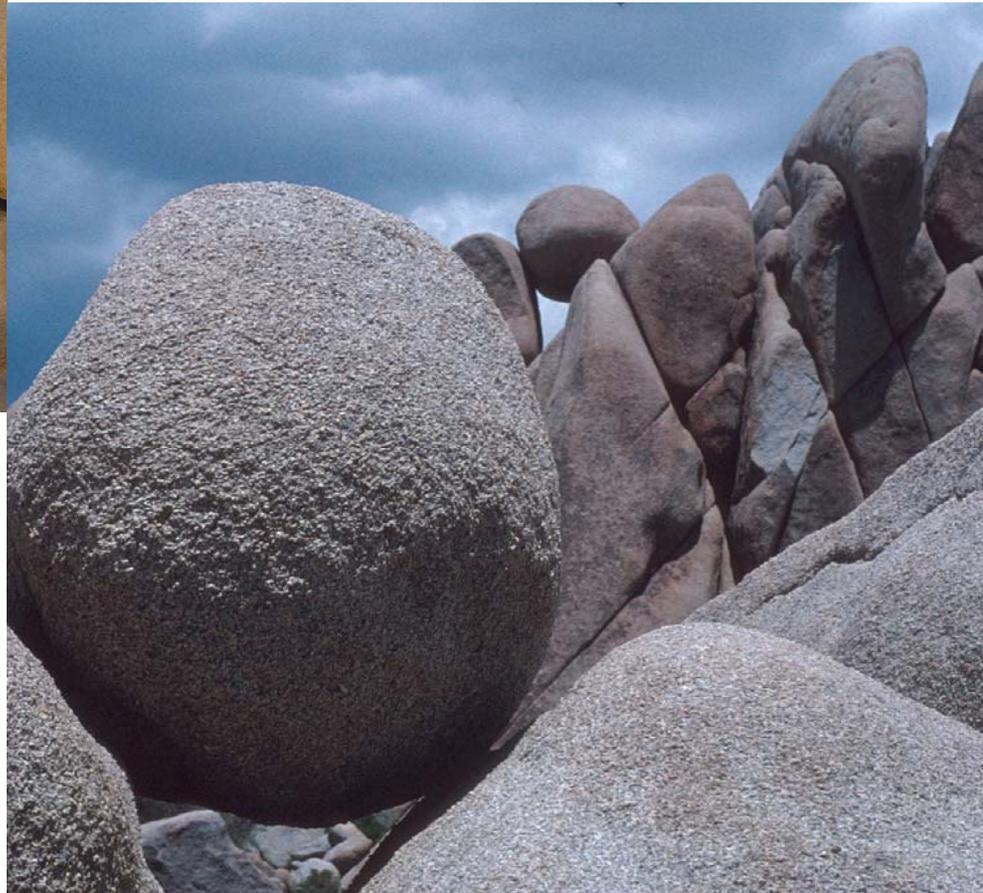


Geology

Jumbo Rocks area



Arch Rock - White Tank Area



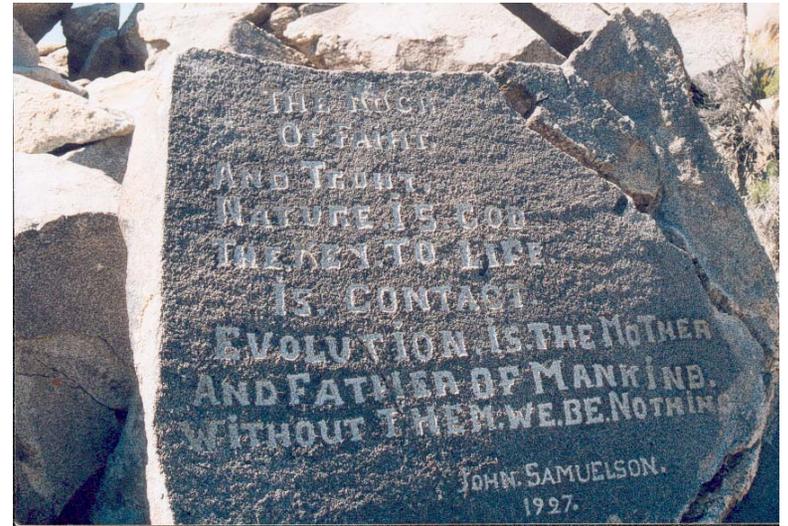
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Park Wildlife



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Cultural History



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Mission of the National Park Service

"To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

-The Organic Act of 1916

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Management Issues:

Resource

- Air Quality/Climate Change**
- Exotic Plants/Fire Ecology**
- Endangered Species (desert tortoise)**
- Urbanization/Boundary Encroachment**

Visitor Use/Visitor Experience

- Inadequate Facilities**
- Wilderness/Backcountry Plan Implementation**
- Inappropriate Visitor Behaviors**
- Lack of Awareness of Park Values**

Business/Economic Issues

- Budget \neq Responsibilities/Mandates**
- Economic Impact of Park in Local Area**
- Need to Build Public/Political Support**

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Air Quality



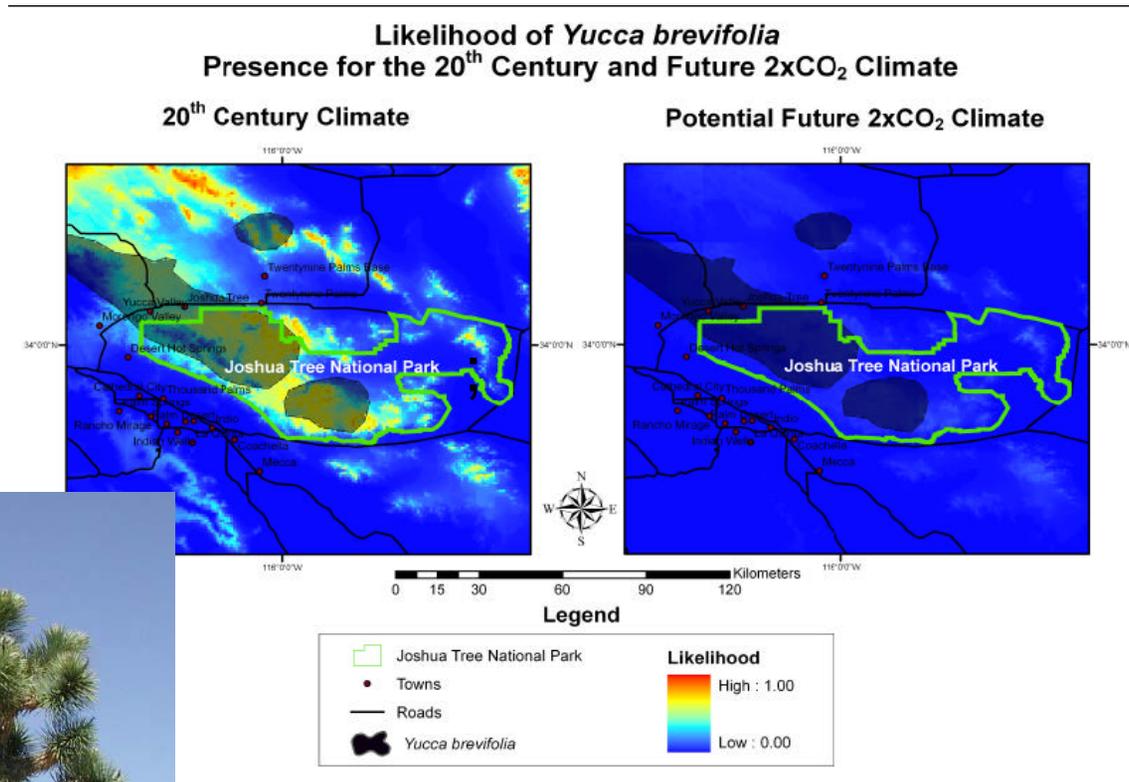
Taken from Keys View looking
towards Mt. San Jacinto



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Climate Change- Will There Be Joshua Trees in Our Future?



Taken from
Transient Dynamics of Vegetation Response to Past and Future Climatic Changes in the Southwestern United States.

Kenneth L. Cole, Kirsten Ironside, Phillip Duffy, and Samantha Arundel

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Exotic Species & Environmental Change



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Tortoise, Ravens, Domestic Dogs, and Roads



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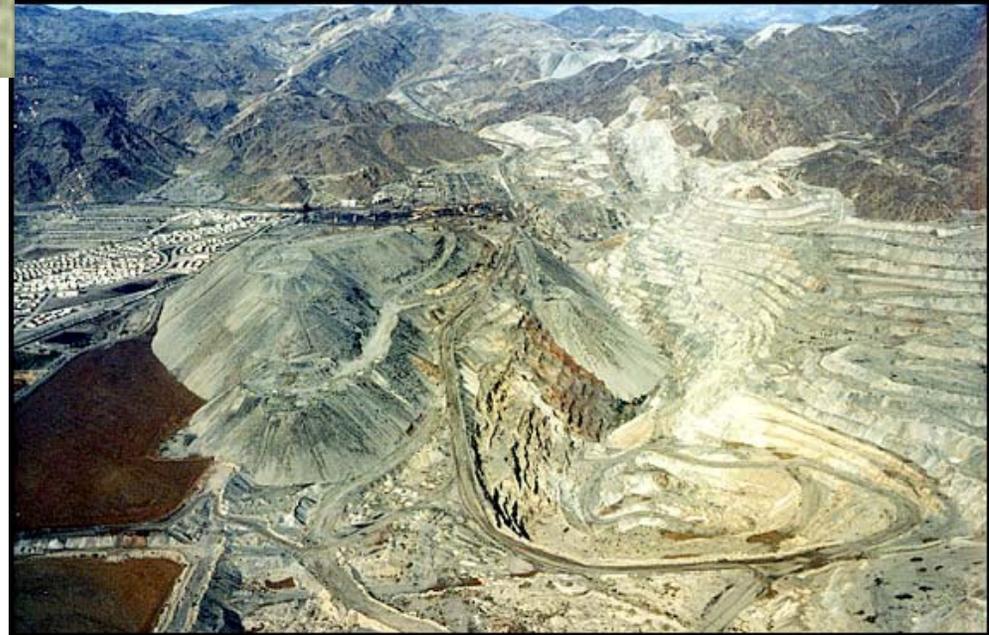


Urbanization

Eagle Mountain Landfill



Inappropriate development threatens sensitive species such as the fringe-toed lizard.



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Preserving the Night Sky



Surveys show that 29% of park visitors, over 375,000 people each year, come to Joshua Tree to view the night skies.



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Inadequate Facilities- Campgrounds



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Inadequate Facilities- Visitor Centers



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Wilderness Plan - Trails

270 miles of trails

Equestrian trails

Bike trails



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Wilderness Plan – Backcountry Roads

Identified
open roads
in
backcountry
locations



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Wilderness Plan –

Climbing

Thousands of recognized routes

Climbing community input

Inventory of routes and bolts

Bolting permit system

Need to plan for growth in organized bouldering activity



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Off Road
Vehicle Damage



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Poaching

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Trash Dumping



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Vandalism



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Issue - Search and Rescue



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JOTR Strategic Goals

I. Preserve Park Resources

II. Provide for the Public Enjoyment and Visitor Experience of Parks

III. Work with Partners to Strengthen and Preserve Natural and Cultural Resources and Enhance Recreational Opportunities

IV. Ensure Organizational Effectiveness

National Park Service



Mission Goals

I. Preserve Park Resources

a. Natural and Cultural resources are protected, restored, and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.

b. The National Park Service increases its knowledge of natural and cultural resources and associated values; decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.



Monitoring tortoise populations contributes to species recovery efforts.

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Mission Goals

II. Provide for the Public Enjoyment and Visitor Experience of Parks

- a. Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities.
- b. Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the preservation of parks and their resources for this and future generations.



Park visitors learn about geology on a ranger-guided hike

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Mission Goals

III. Work with Partners to Strengthen and Preserve Natural and Cultural Resources and Enhance Recreational Opportunities

- a. Natural and cultural resources are conserved through formal partnership programs.
- b. Through partnerships with other federal, state, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits for the American people.
- c. Assisted through federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreational use.



Volunteers help with park nursery operations.

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Mission Goals

IV. Ensure Organizational Effectiveness

- a. The National Park Service uses modern management practices, systems, and technologies to accomplish its mission.
- b. The National Park Service increases its managerial resources through initiatives and support from other agencies, organizations, and individuals.



Solar power array at park headquarters offsets energy costs.

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What will the future hold for coming generations of visitors to Joshua Tree National Park?



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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American People so that all may experience our heritage.

