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SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL MONUMENT

MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT
OF
PROCEEDINGS

LOCATION: PALM DESERT CITY HALL
73-510 Fred Waring Drive
Palm Desert, California

DATE AND TIME: SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2004
9:02 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

REPORTED BY: SONJA CHAPMAN
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A P P E A R A N C E S

MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC):

CHAIRMAN CRITES, Councilmember and former Mayor, City of Palm Desert

DANELLA GEORGE, National Monument (BLM/FOREST SERVICE) - National Monument Manager

BARBARA GONZALES-LYONS, Vice Chair, Tribal Council, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

TERRY HENDERSON, Councilmember, City of La Quinta

MARY ROCHE, Mayor, City of Indian Wells

RUTH WATLING, Chair, Pinyon Community Council

KATHIE BRENNAN, Building Industry

ROBERT BROCKMAN, Director of Community Development, City of Rancho Mirage

FRANK BOGERT, Former Mayor, City of Palm Springs

BARRY FREET, Palm Springs Fire Chief

BILL HAVERT, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Mountain Conservancy

BOB LYMAN, Regional Office Manager, County of Riverside

JEFFREY MORGAN, Sierra Club

ALLAN MUTH, University of California, Riverside, Deep Canyon Research Center

ROB PARKINS, General Manager, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Winter Park Authority

GARY WATTS, District Superintendent, California Department of Parks & Recreation

MELISSA DREW, BLM Community Planner

1 JIM FOOTE, BLM Recreational Planner

2 EDDIE KONO, California Fish & Game

3 LAURIE ROSENTHAL, Forest Service, San Jacinto District
of the San Bernardino National Forest, District Ranger

4 FRANK MOWRY, BLM Writer-Editor, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto
5 Mountains National Monument

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1 PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA; SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2004

2 9:02 A.M.

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4 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We are here so we can hear.
5 We are now in session. If we can get Terry, whose voice
6 carries so well. We are called to order at 9:00. It is
7 now almost 9:02.

8 So we may review the last minutes of the
9 meeting, for those who have been carefully perusing
10 those versus those who have been conversing with their
11 neighbors in the room.

12 MR. MUTH: It will be a little difficult
13 because they're upside down and backwards in inside out.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: That's just a minor issue for
15 calling more attention to it. You just sort of wander
16 across them.

17 Is there a motion for approval?

18 MS. ROCHE: Move to approve.

19 CHAIRMAN CRITES: There is a motion. Is there
20 a second?

21 MR. HAVERT: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN CRITES: There is a second. Is there
23 discussion? There being none, they stand approved as
24 distributed. And a morning roadrunner is showing up for
25 public comments.

5

1 It is time for you to update us on the
2 Monument.

3 MS. GEORGE: Thank you, Chairman. Thank you,
4 Monument Advisory Committee members. Today's Monument
5 Advisory Committee meeting is going to have a focus on
6 some of the landscape actions that we proposed in the
7 National Monument Plan.

8 We are going to have a presentation today by
9 David Smith. David is here. He's a state soil
10 scientist at the Natural Research Conservation Service.
11 That's one of the action items, to do a soil resource
12 inventory. Dave will be presenting that.

13 Good morning, Frank.

14 MR. BOGERT: Morning.

15 MS. GEORGE: That will be something that we'd
16 like to have the Advisory Committee make a
17 recommendation on.

18 We also have a presentation today by Tom
19 Burgin, who is slipping in with Sam Cobb from NRCS,
20 Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Lower
21 Southern Desert Resource Conservation District to talk
22 about another activity that we have in the Monument Plan
23 which is treating Tamarisk on a landscape basis.

24 Per our committee chair we've invited
25 Michael Hammond -- is Michael here yet? No. Okay --

1 Michael Hammond to give an update on Agua Caliente
2 Cultural Museum.

3 So those are the key items. I'm going to let
4 Melissa help me a little bit with the Monument Manager's
5 update today because we had the Business Plan workshop.
6 We had that the first week of May. We also need some
7 decisions with folks where we need to proceed further on
8 building that Business Plan.

9 BLM is charged to go ahead and develop a
10 Business Plan. We have a time line. We need to be
11 moving forward. We need to know if other folks would
12 like to participate in that process. So Melissa will do
13 that.

14 We also have a short update that
15 Chairman Crites is also asked regarding the Dunn Road,
16 which I'm going to defer to Foote in about two minutes,
17 where we are with Dunn Road. And then off to signage,
18 where we're going with signage. We talked about that at
19 the last Advisory Committee meeting.

20 So with that I'm going to hand it over to
21 Melissa for you to talk about the Business Plan and also
22 the call for nominations, which there are five positions
23 now. I'll let Melissa go over those.

24 MS. DREW: If anybody came in late and you need
25 some of the handouts, they're in that room over here --

7

1 agendas and extra copies of the handouts.

2 At the start of May we had our Business Plan
3 work shop. We had over 50 people attend over the course
4 of three days. We feel that it went really well.

5 We had staff from our BLM Washington office
6 here. We also had some gentlemen from the Forest
7 Service Washington and regional offices.

8 Basically, over the course of three days, we
9 filled out a worksheet. So everybody in the MAC should
10 have a copy of these worksheets. They are basically we
11 broke our worksheets down into four areas.

12 The areas we looked at were Natural Resources,
13 Recreation, Community Interface. Community Interface
14 includes items like law enforcement, fire
15 interpretation, education.

16 The last area we looked at was Heritage. The
17 BLM considers heritage resources and cultural resources
18 and wild and scenic rivers.

19 This first worksheet basically is going to
20 detail all the items we agreed to in the Monument Plan.
21 Like on the first copy of the first worksheet, one of
22 the first items we are going to have to do is conduct a
23 watershed inventory, conduct a soil survey.

24 We are going to basically take these worksheets
25 and fill out a series of six more worksheets. These

1 worksheets are going to be used to build the basic story
2 line for the Business Plan.

3 If you guys are interested, they've done this
4 project elsewhere. You guys have an example sheet of
5 all the worksheets that are filled out for the Head
6 Waters area, which is kind of a wilderness area near
7 Arcadia.

8 Once we get it filled out, it's going to give
9 us a basic story line of what we need funding for and
10 how we're going to get it.

11 Just to give you a brief overview, you'll
12 notice that they have a project ranking on the sheet.
13 It will be 1, 2, or 3. A ranking of 1 is something we
14 really need to do, and we will do it.

15 A ranking of 2 is something we want to do but
16 have no money. A ranking of 3 is something we also
17 really want to do but probably won't get to do.

18 The rankings are going to help us get money
19 through partners. We might be able to take this to a
20 partner and say, "We really want to do this project and
21 we don't have any money. Maybe you can come up with
22 some funding."

23 That's kind of how we're going to use these
24 worksheets. But in order to fill out the remaining
25 worksheets, we need to form work groups similar to how

1 we did with the Monument Plan.

2 So we're going to ask to have work groups
3 assigned to the four areas -- Natural Resources,
4 Recreation, Community Interface, and Heritage. Once we
5 get the work groups established, we're going to develop
6 a time line to get our Business Plan done.

7 Are there any questions?

8 MR. HAVERT: Yeah. On the project ranking, can
9 you elaborate a little on how the rankings were actually
10 assigned and what the process was? Is this still sort
11 of open to further --

12 MS. DREW: They're open to further looking at.
13 Basically we broke up into four groups, and they were
14 ranked among the people who were there. We did have
15 partners there. In the Heritage one, we had some people
16 from the tribes there. So it kind of reflects what the
17 BLM and the tribes thought were the rankings. But what
18 we said is these rankings are subject to change.

19 Someone might come to you saying, "We're really
20 interested in removing Tamarisk." Well, you might be
21 able to move it up to a higher ranking if you have a
22 willing partner.

23 MR. HAVERT: So this reflected what BLM
24 received as it's financial capability and where these
25 other potential --

1 MS. DREW: Yes.

2 MS. GEORGE: They're still a draft. The
3 project ranking is very much a draft. What they mean is
4 1 in BLM language would be our base operations money to
5 open the doors. That's a 1.

6 A 2 would be something that we might be able to
7 get some project dollars for because it's priority or
8 it's identified in the Monument Plan.

9 A 3 would be kind of a nice to do project,
10 something that a nonprofit would be looking for funding.

11 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

12 MR. FREET: A question on the ranking again.
13 Some areas are void of ranking. Is that indicative that
14 they didn't qualify for 1, 2, or 3?

15 MS. DREW: I think some just didn't get ranked.
16 They're still a draft. We didn't actually --

17 MR. FREET: Get it completed?

18 MS. DREW: Yeah. We actually didn't get help
19 from our fire folks and law enforcement folks. We put a
20 little bit of information in, but we still need to
21 elaborate. So there are some areas that we need to
22 expand. Some might not have been ranked.

23 MS. HENDERSON: Could you back up to the point
24 at which you said for each of these there are going to
25 be six additional worksheets?

11

1 MS. DREW: Yeah. If you look at your example
2 sheet, do you see the project on the second page of the
3 example? That project is carried through on each of the
4 remaining worksheets.

5 Then you get to the end and it's going to show
6 you how much money the BLM will have, how much money
7 partners will provide. It's going to kind of carry you
8 through.

9 Unfortunately, I'm not an expert on the last
10 few worksheets. We're going to kind of need some
11 assistance from our Washington office to fill in the
12 rest of them.

13 MS. HENDERSON: So this second worksheet will
14 be done for each of the four categories?

15 MS. DREW: For each of these things in the
16 columns that say "Projects to Implement Strategies."

17 CHAIRMAN CRITES: This will be a major boom to
18 the paper industry.

19 MS. DREW: It's probably going to be a lot
20 of paper.

21 MS. HENDERSON: Okay. I just want to clarify
22 that.

23 MS. GEORGE: For the MAC, the objective for BLM
24 is to utilize this over the next three to five years for
25 funding for when they go to the hill. We need a

1 decision because we need to move forward.

2 The partners that would like to participate in
3 the projects where there's -- let's say, signage --
4 where we want to participate with the local
5 jurisdictions, to be able to show maybe some sort of
6 funding amount that's going from the local jurisdiction
7 through time that would be with the signage.

8 Or with Forest Service, what we need is really
9 a separate table from them and their staff of which
10 projects in this Monument Plan need to be identified for
11 funding so we can include that with our publication to
12 show the partnership.

13 And the Forest Service can utilize that. They
14 are doing Business Plans throughout this region, but
15 they could utilize that for their funding and a
16 appropriation needs through their funding process.

17 Because the Business Plan that we saw that
18 Forest Service has doesn't spell out our Monument needs.
19 All they have is a back page written thing about the
20 creation of the National Monument, but it didn't spell
21 out funding needs.

22 MS. HENDERSON: Will there be an attempt here
23 to do the six-page worksheet on all the 1s first and
24 then go back and do the 2s and 3s?

25 MS. GEORGE: Yeah. That makes sense.

1 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. But if you had a larger
2 input from the people that were at the workshop, these
3 1s and 2s and 3s might be in a totally different order.

4 MS. GEORGE: I think ideally we should come
5 when we've got those filled out and we've done all the
6 series of worksheets and we're ready to have a draft
7 document, just like we did with the Monument Plan. And
8 then show that to the MAC, and have the MAC prioritize.
9 Because these are all coming from the Monument Plan as
10 implementation actions primarily.

11 MR. MUTH: Al Muth. I guess I'm a little
12 confused. Under the column for "Projects to Implement
13 Strategies" -- I'm sorry. "Sustain and Improve
14 biological communities, Strategic Outcome."

15 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Al, could you speak up a
16 little bit?

17 MR. MUTH: Okay. Should I infer that these
18 projects to implement the strategies are things that BLM
19 and Forest Service would do? If so, it seems to be a
20 huge overlap with the Multiple Species Plan and their
21 monitoring program.

22 MS. GEORGE: No.

23 MR. MUTH: What's the relationship there?

24 MS. GEORGE: Well, we invited CVAG. Katie was
25 there and different folks. They came to the workshops.

14

1 We need to have these work groups. Hopefully they will
2 attend or there will be membership to attend with that.
3 We marry them together in the Business Plan, what the
4 funding is going to be for the CVAG Multispecies Plan
5 within the Monument lands for monitoring.

6 So the answer is yes. We need to do it in
7 partnership with our partners at CVAG with the
8 Multispecies Plan and show that funding stream coming
9 from CVAG for monitoring and maybe what BLM can come up
10 with.

11 MS. DREW: If you notice the last column, it
12 does have the CVMSHCP listed that we are going to have
13 to somehow work that out.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Barbara.

15 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Another area that I think
16 we need to consider is the reservation is part of this
17 Monument. We also have our Multispecies -- is it
18 Endangered Species?

19 MR. DAVIS: It's a Tribal Habitat Conservation
20 Plan.

21 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Yes. So we have to also
22 work that in because or plan is going forward too.

23 MR. HAVERT: On the multispecies related thing
24 from CVAG's standpoint, since both BLM and Forest
25 Service are participants in the multispecies HCP and

1 will ultimately be signatories to it in one form or
2 another, I would envision that this could be a simple
3 drop in.

4 There isn't any need for any independent
5 consideration in this context here, because the
6 consideration is the Multispecies Plan.

7 BLM has been participating in that. Forest
8 Service has been participating in that. What the plan
9 says needs to happen in that area is that BLM and the
10 Forest Service is committed to doing. So that should
11 simply be CSMHCP.

12 MS. GEORGE: Agreed.

13 And Barbara, Margaret was there as a full
14 participant throughout the workshop. Margaret Parks.

15 MS. HENDERSON: Terry Henderson, La Quinta. I
16 think what I'm hearing is this is a depository for all
17 of the programs that are already out there. We're
18 trying to bring them together to see how and if they
19 work for the Monument.

20 The Monument has to have a plan. Whether we
21 like it or not, it has to have a plan. And all the
22 plans are out there. So now we're trying to just
23 coordinate.

24 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Marry then.

25 MS. HENDERSON: Marry them.

1 MS. GEORGE: And be able to use this as a tool
2 to show the funding needs primarily for BLM. That's the
3 main purpose of this Business Plan. But what we
4 explained to the folks when they were coming from
5 Washington is this Monument is not just BLM. It's all
6 these other entities in the Coachella Valley
7 Multispecies Plan and the Trails Plan. It is one of the
8 core pieces that's going to need funding.

9 Does that make sense?

10 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Other questions
11 at this point?

12 MS. ROSENTHAL: If everybody buys in on this,
13 is the next step to form these working groups, Danella?

14 MS. GEORGE: Yep. The work groups and who
15 would participate in the work groups. In your instance
16 of Forest Service, Laurie, it's the staff time to fill
17 out those charts with your staff.

18 MS. ROSENTHAL: You're going to make that an
19 agenda item today?

20 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I have a suggestion that we
21 proceed. If you started on this, there are 144 pages to
22 be filled out from this first page, which may suit
23 various kinds of federal laws and regulations but
24 probably doesn't have high resonance with anyone sitting
25 around this table.

1 As a suggestion, we start and have the two HCPs
2 look at this whole list of stuff and move out of it
3 everything that's already attended to.

4 If there are other over-arching plans, perhaps
5 something -- the new general plan for the Winter Park
6 Authority. If there are other things that they can take
7 three-quarters of this and one-quarter of it and say
8 "done," then working groups might have something that's
9 of a more manageable scope to look at.

10 MS. GEORGE: Okay.

11 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Any positive or negative
12 feeling?

13 MS. ROCHE: That makes a lot of sense.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Then we won't do it.

15 MS. GEORGE: That makes sense with the
16 biological and stuff that's within the Multispecies
17 Plan. I guess that what we need is a commitment for
18 things like cultural resources, things like the
19 recreation of who wants to participate from this point
20 further because we need to roll on.

21 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Let's see first if we have
22 agreement to move out things that are already done.

23 Jeff.

24 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. It's kind of deferring yet
25 something else to the Multispecies Plan. I know the

1 Multispecies Plan has been put back again until
2 September now, I believe.

3 It's something that we always talk about, but
4 it never happens. It should have been out years ago.
5 So if we defer it and it never comes out, or if it comes
6 out and gets shot down for one thing or another, we're
7 back without anything. So we should have at least a
8 minimal back-up so something can happen.

9 The Multispecies Plan may not be in place
10 before Danella is seeking her funding for running the
11 Monument, and this is a fund-seeking tool.

12 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Let's let Bill respond
13 to that, and then Bary, then Terry.

14 MR. HAVERT: I think the point I heard Buford
15 making is that a tremendous amount of work has been done
16 to identify what the species needs are in the mountains
17 as well as elsewhere to what some of the potential
18 recreation issues are in the mountains, et cetera, et
19 cetera.

20 So regardless of whether the MSHCP is formally
21 adopted or not -- I assume it will be. If not, I know
22 which agency to thank for that. It's not BLM. It's not
23 Forest Service, but it is a federal agency.

24 CHAIRMAN CRITES: The words "U.S." begin it.

25 MR. HAVERT: We don't want to replicate all of

1 the work that's already been done. If we simply take
2 advantage of what work has been done and identify it in
3 here, then it can become part of this, independent of
4 whether the Multispecies Plan is every formally adopted
5 or not.

6 It's simply the reality that the work has been
7 done. Let's use that and not try to go over and try to
8 repeat it again. Particularly because what it if we get
9 a different set of people now doing something and they
10 come up with something that's at odds with what all of
11 these agencies are agreeing to? It just wouldn't make
12 any sense.

13 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Barbara.

14 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Just one question on that
15 Multispecies Plans. I don't believe all the agencies in
16 this area have approved that plan. So I'm assuming if
17 we're going to go forward, in going forward with that
18 plan you've got then still some agencies or cities that
19 have not agreed that that plan is appropriate.

20 So what part of that plan would we be putting
21 into this -- into our program? Because I know there are
22 some cities and some agencies that have not agreed with
23 that plan or their data. I'm assuming. I don't know
24 why they haven't approved of it.

25 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I think the only agency is

20

1 Desert Water Agency, whose holdings are minimal within
2 the National Monument.

3 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: And the cities themselves?

4 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Bill.

5 MR. HAVERT: No city and no agency has formally
6 adopted the plan. But every one of the cities and the
7 county and the other significant agency, other than
8 Desert Water Agency, is currently proposed as a
9 permittee in the plan and has indicated they desire to
10 be permittees.

11 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Barbara, does that respond to
12 your question?

13 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Well, I thought even the
14 City of Palm Springs still has questions on that plan,
15 but maybe they don't. I thought there were agencies and
16 cities that were still questioning that plan.

17 I think also our plan has other views in our
18 plan. We're working with them, but even with our area,
19 our views are a bit different.

20 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yeah. These are separate
21 plans.

22 MS. HENDERSON: Well, the conversation is
23 certainly worth having here so we all have an
24 understanding -- Terry Henderson, La Quinta. I
25 apologize -- an understanding of the Multispecies

1 Habitat Plan. Jeff Is correct. It has been put off
2 again until September or thereabouts.

3 But the reason for that is to make sure it has
4 gone through the public process and everybody is on
5 board. My word I'm getting is it's closer and closer
6 and closer. We're darn near there and have done a
7 fabulous job.

8 It has taken forever, but that's what the
9 public process does. I agree that we certainly don't
10 want to go back over that same road again and change the
11 four years or more of public process.

12 But I think it would be critical to take those
13 things, as was suggested by the chairman, that have a
14 reference to an adopted or darn near adopted plan and
15 kind of move them out of here, but still, for Danella,
16 do have the six-page workshop or second sheet, have it
17 done so you get to that bottom line on funding so we
18 don't lose the opportunity of getting federal funding on
19 some of these issues.

20 I think the point is that the six-page
21 worksheet 2s would be a simple process done within the
22 folks who have put these various plans together. In
23 other words, go to the multi Multispecies Plan and say,
24 "Okay. You guys need to do these six pages."

25 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Won't happen.

1 MS. HENDERSON: You don't want to open it
2 again?

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I'm saying those groups are
4 not going to fill out this stuff.

5 MS. HENDERSON: There is staff for all of these
6 groups. I would hope those six-page sheets would be
7 easy to fill out by virtue of what you said.

8 The information is already there. It's just
9 extracting it. If we don't do that, we're not going to
10 have a funding support document to get fed dollars.

11 MS. GEORGE: May I comment on that? I keep
12 hearing that there's going to be this money available
13 through the Multispecies Plan to assist nonfederal. So
14 the feds need to see what that is, where it's coming
15 from. It helps us because we can show partnerships.
16 And that helps funding on the hill.

17 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes, Gary.

18 MR. WATTS: Speaking of funding -- which is the
19 ultimate goal of this thing; correct -- are we
20 approaching this from a standpoint of the Monument as a
21 whole, or are we approaching this funding issue as
22 separate entities to bring money to the table? If so,
23 will there be kind of a piecemeal approach for how we
24 implement that funding?

25 For instance, if we identify one of these

1 things as having three partners as potential funding
2 sources, and say one out of those three come up with the
3 dollars, does that mean only that one agency or entity
4 will end up getting the benefits of spending, or are we
5 going to approach it from an overall Monument
6 standpoint?

7 MS. GEORGE: Okay. The question I think you
8 asked is, for instance, let's say the state and feds,
9 BLM, and Forest Service show a project and they show a
10 funding need. If BLM was the only one to get the
11 funding, by law we can only spend BLM dollars on
12 Department of Interior land. Unless it's a very special
13 situation, appropriated dollars on BLM land.

14 MR. WATTS: Isn't this a very special
15 situation? It's the same thing in our case. With the
16 state, we can spend state money within the Monument even
17 though it's state land but it's a federal designation.

18 It seems to me like we're in this nether land.
19 And maybe I'm jumping ahead, but we're going to end up
20 with just funding bits and pieces of the Monument
21 instead of looking at the overall Monument management.

22 MS. GEORGE: Well, that's hopefully what the
23 Business Plan will help us do. It's very complex with
24 the jurisdictions and the different levels of who has
25 funding. But this is a step to try to make it better

1 coordinated.

2 I'd have to know the specific project. I'd
3 have to work with our administrative and county people
4 to be able to answer specifics on where dollars can be
5 spent. It's pretty limited at this point.

6 MR. WATTS: I certainly am aware of that. I
7 think ultimately down the road there has to be some
8 recognition and ability to deal with that.

9 Rob and I have had some discussions on the
10 ability to bring federal dollars into the state park as
11 a result of this specific designation. I think that has
12 a lot of potential, which is unheard of. We don't
13 usually get federal dollars to spend in state parks.

14 But I think this is a very unique situation.
15 If the powers that be can see the benefit of that,
16 perhaps ultimately the Monument would benefit as a whole
17 instead of bits and pieces trying to struggle.

18 Do you get what I'm getting at?

19 MS. GEORGE: I get what you're getting out. I
20 don't have the decision authority for that. I'm looking
21 at Bary because Bary spent a long time with BLM. It's
22 pretty strict about appropriated dollars and where they
23 can be spent.

24 MR. WATTS: I think that's too bad. If we
25 accept that, where going to end up with fragmented --

1 with this part of the Monument, great; this part not so
2 great.

3 The whole point of the Monument was to deal
4 with the entire area. I know we can't solve it here.
5 I'm sending a philosophical statement that I think we
6 shouldn't just accept the fact that money can only be
7 spent in certain jurisdictions.

8 And if there's some way to continually work to
9 the goal to try to approach funding on a Monument level
10 as a whole, then that's where I think we ought to be
11 going. Hopefully one or two of you think there might be
12 validity to that argument.

13 CHAIRMAN CRITES: How about this? Is there
14 anyone who doesn't find validity to that argument?
15 There.

16 MS. GEORGE: Again, that's what this Business
17 Plan is moving forward. What will be helpful is
18 commitment of your staff on the key areas that we see to
19 be partnership in the Monument. Commitment of their
20 time and staff to meet a time line to help us fill those
21 out. This is the first step to try to coordinate
22 funding.

23 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. So at this point,
24 then, we have I think general agreement to be able to
25 move some of these things off of a six-page.

1 Although I think, Terry, you'd like to have
2 other organizations fill out a bunch of these?

3 MS. HENDERSON: I just don't see where we
4 get -- what Danella just said. I don't see where we get
5 going to the feds or the state and saying, "Here's our
6 plan and it has all of these agencies in it, but we're
7 looking for a fund for the Monument, and we need the
8 money released for the Monument and not BLM, or this one
9 or that one unless we do the procedure."

10 I'm not sure how many times we've been
11 successful trying to beat the symptom and not do some of
12 the paperwork and ended up at a successful point.
13 That's my opinion.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. What's the pleasure of
15 the group?

16 MR. MORGAN: Jeff Morgan. I know it's probably
17 totally impossible and maybe a bit of a ridiculous
18 suggestion, but if the BLM annexed the Forest Service
19 portion of the Monument, it would get rid of a huge
20 management problem right there. There is precedent.

21 MS. ROSENTHAL: I'm in shock.

22 MR. MORGAN: There is precedent to BLM over
23 Forest Service lands in the past. It could be done in
24 this case. It would simplify management tremendously.

25 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Actually, if Indian Wells

1 with their budget surplus will take care of all of the
2 agencies --

3 MS. ROCHE: We'll buy the whole Monument and
4 fund it all.

5 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Back to the mundane
6 nature of the six pages for 400 items.

7 MS. ROCHE: Mary Roche, Indian Wells. Did you
8 come in with a plan on how you divvy these up, or did
9 you just come in and you're asking us to come up with
10 our own way of doing this?

11 MS. DREW: Well, you know, I don't know since.
12 I wasn't here for the Monument Plan, I don't know how
13 you guys broke up into work groups.

14 I kind of thought that you could have your area
15 that you think might be your area of expertise, like
16 recreation. So I kind of thought the group would kind
17 of decide where they wanted to fit into the work groups.

18 MS. ROCHE: Into the four major categories?

19 MS. DREW: Yeah. Everyone here has a busy
20 schedule, so it's kind of at that point left up to the
21 members.

22 MS. ROCHE: If we look at it that way where
23 there are four groups, then if we divided into those
24 four groups, make that group, and parcel out and say
25 these are things that should have been done already with

1 the Multispecies Plan or whatever, and get those and
2 look at the ones that they know are not on somebody's
3 radar already and start work on those while they try and
4 get the data from the other people, and let it kind of
5 flow through that group.

6 I think it's really hard for us to go through
7 here and say this one goes there and this one goes
8 there. I think that's impossible in a group like this.

9 CHAIRMAN CRITES: The issue I brought up is
10 that having watched those work groups the last time,
11 some of them -- cultural, as an example, put in an
12 incredible amount of work. Other work groups did
13 significantly less.

14 If we hand those groups a giant task, we are
15 guaranteeing at least a lengthy process for anything to
16 come back. So whittling this down to a relatively small
17 number of things for groups to think about I think is
18 important. This first page is an example.

19 MS. HENDERSON: This worksheet No. 2, is it as
20 bad as we're making it? I mean, it's got boxes in it.
21 It looks to me like you could go through pretty fast and
22 fill out those boxes in it.

23 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Have you worked in
24 government?

25 MS. HENDERSON: In this case, we're the

1 government. So the boxes get filled out as fast as we
2 can.

3 MS. DREW: From what I understood, Worksheet
4 No. 1 is the hardest. We haven't attempted to try to
5 fill them out yet. We wanted to see whether we got the
6 backing from the MAC before we took it any further.

7 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Bill.

8 MS. HENDERSON: You did this one?

9 MS. DREW: Yeah. This whole package.

10 MS. HENDERSON: This is a result of the
11 three-day?

12 MS. DREW: Uh-huh.

13 MS. HENDERSON: Okay. I'm trying to get
14 somewhere here.

15 MS. ROCHE: Volunteer to head one of the four
16 task groups and you will be a fourth done.

17 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Thank you, Terry, for
18 volunteering.

19 Barbara, I see, is volunteering as well.

20 MS. HENDERSON: So did Mary.

21 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: I was thinking that if I
22 have the okay with my cultural work group that we did
23 before, if they're willing to take on the job of trying
24 to get this done? Yes?

25 MR. FREET: Yes over here.

1 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Ruth, are you okay with
2 that?

3 MS. WATLING: Absolutely.

4 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Then we will start with
5 our Wednesday afternoon, every other one.

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Hands up for those to be part
7 of the cultural? Could that please be noted in terms of
8 names?

9 MR. FREET: Gary Freet.

10 MS. WATLING: Ruth Watling.

11 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Barbara Lyons.

12 MR. MORGAN: I can't commit to every meeting.

13 MR. FREET: We'll take half the time.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. So that takes care of
15 Heritage Resources.

16 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Well, Natural Resource was
17 also one of the things like the native plans. That's
18 something else we worked on.

19 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Is that group
20 volunteering for both of these, then?

21 MR. FREET: We'll do the whole thing.

22 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: No. No.

23 MS. DREW: We might be able to break up some of
24 them and put Natural Resources towards the Cultural
25 group. If there's something like native plants that

1 applies specifically to you, we can send it to Cultural.

2 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Eradication of noxious
3 weeds.

4 MS. HENDERSON: If there's an opportunity for
5 these working groups -- well, they're right here at the
6 board, I guess. So somebody from the Multispecies
7 Habitat Plan should be more than willing to bring their
8 expertise to this process to these working groups.

9 For instance, the next one. "Provide
10 recreational opportunities." I know the Multispecies
11 Habitat has addressed that. If they're not on that
12 working group, we're wasting our time.

13 So that's really what this all comes down to.
14 We either do it or we don't. I will take the next
15 group. I'll take Recreational Opportunities.

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Great. There is a chair for
17 Recreational Opportunities. Those people who would like
18 to join that particular -- Mary Roche.

19 MS. HENDERSON: She just did that so she
20 doesn't have to chair a group.

21 CHAIRMAN CRITES: She can still chair a group
22 along with that.

23 MS. ROCHE: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Are there others who would
25 like to join that? I will be willing to join that.

1 MR. MORGAN: I will.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Jeff will. That gives us
3 four people.

4 MS. GEORGE: And also for internal staffing,
5 Jim Foote will be critical for that group.

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: We are going to have the
8 staff to be able to help us at the meetings; right?

9 MS. DREW: Yes. I believe Wanda, our
10 archeologist, will be able to come to meetings.

11 MS. GEORGE: That's really what I needed the
12 most. Yes. BLM staff, we can commit. Laurie has to
13 make a decision if she can commit Forest Service staff.
14 Gary has to commit his staff.

15 Rob, if there's somebody at the county, can you
16 provide that staff assistance? That's what is also
17 needed to help you guys today.

18 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Well, we have our own
19 staff, but it worked real well when we worked together.

20 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I would think at the opening
21 meeting of these organizations that that would be the
22 time to have somebody from CVAG and somebody from the
23 tribe come in and just hopefully take an axe to a huge
24 chunk of this stuff, reference it out and get it off the
25 table.

1 MR. HAVERT: I would suggest that Katie could
2 perhaps go to the first of the Recreation group ones and
3 identify in the Multispecies Plan the sections that
4 pertain to trails.

5 MR. WATTS: Chair?

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes.

7 MR. WATTS: Danella, can we make sure that
8 Melissa is the point of contact for notification of all
9 these working group meetings? So that in the event that
10 I can commit my unfunded staff to commit to the National
11 Monument activities beyond state lands, I need to know
12 when and where they're going to be.

13 MS. GEORGE: Sure. Once we get through the
14 groups and then we'll have a point of contact for the
15 Monument.

16 Is that okay, Gary?

17 MR. WATTS: That's great.

18 MS. GEORGE: We have a recreation group.

19 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Recreation is 10 to 2. Are
20 there others who wish to volunteer? Then Community
21 Interface.

22 Bob, I was looking at your interest level on
23 that a while ago.

24 MR. BROCKMAN: You saw it?

25 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I did.

1 MR. BROCKMAN: I've got to do a better job of
2 disguising my interests.

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: It absolutely bubbled.

4 MR. BROCKMAN: Okay.

5 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. And I can see the
6 happiness that joins with him.

7 MR. FREET: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. So Bary Freet has also
9 volunteered for that. Kathy Brennan and Bob Lyman. So
10 that makes a friendly foursome for that. Thank you.

11 That leaves us then with the group that Al was
12 interested in, Natural Resources. Thank you, Al.

13 Are there those who wish to join Al on that
14 particular work group?

15 MR. HAVERT: I'll join the good doctor.

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Thank you. Is there a second
17 person? Jeff is volunteering for all of those meetings
18 and not just a part of them. Thank you. And a fourth
19 person who would like to look at Natural Resources? Is
20 there yet a fourth person?

21 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Part-time.

22 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Part-time. And I'd be
23 willing to be the other part-time on that one.

24 MS. GEORGE: I think it would be critical to
25 have Fish & Game, if Eddie has the time, on that one.

35

1 M.R KONNO: I can attend when I can.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Eddie will be Eddie when
3 Eddie's available. Okay. Fair enough. Now, that gives
4 you four groups and four chairs.

5 Yes.

6 MR. PARKINS: Rob Parkins. Getting to the
7 point that Gary was making, I was looking at two of
8 these committees that I would have an interest in. And
9 I presume we can come to those meetings and be a
10 participant even though we weren't an original
11 volunteer?

12 CHAIRMAN CRITES: But the very fact that you
13 speak is going to make you a volunteer on one of those.

14 MS. HENDERSON: Yeah. Recreation.

15 MR. PARKINS: So if we have the point of
16 contact and the opportunity to determine when and where
17 these meetings will be, then we could volunteer
18 involvement on perhaps more than one?

19 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yeah. But the one that
20 you're volunteering for first we will try to make the
21 schedule work for you so that you can be there. Is that
22 Recreation or Resources or Interface?

23 MR. PARKINS: I was looking at public comments.
24 Recreation would be my first choice. And then Interface
25 is the second one.

1 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. We will try to
2 schedule both of those to where you're able to attend.

3 MR. MORGAN: Schedule them at the Tram.

4 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Is there anyone else who so
5 wishes to be called upon?

6 Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. HENDERSON: Could we just run real fast
8 through who is on what group?

9 CHAIRMAN CRITES: No. We can start with Ruth
10 and ask her what she has volunteered for.

11 MS. WATLING: Cultural Resources.

12 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

13 MS. HENDERSON: Recreation.

14 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Cultural Resource and
15 part-time Natural Resource.

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

17 MR. HAVERT: What would we call it, Al?
18 Natural and Biological Resources?

19 MR. MUTH: Biological Resources. See? The
20 first executive decision.

21 MR. BROCKMAN: Community Interface.

22 MS. BRENNAN: Community Interface.

23 MS. ROCHE: Recreation.

24 MR. PARKINS: Recreation principally, Community
25 Interface as a second.

1 MR. BOGERT: Recreation.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: And I believe I'm on
3 Recreation and a part-time volunteer on Resources.

4 MR. MORGAN: I'm on Recreation and Natural and
5 Biological Resources and part-time Heritage.

6 MR. FREET: I am on Cultural and Interface.
7 Thank you very much for the Interface appointment.

8 CHAIRMAN CRITES: My pleasure. Much sought
9 after, I might add.

10 MR. MUTH: Once again, Natural and Biological
11 Resources.

12 MR. LYMAN: Interface.

13 MR. WATTS: I managed to avoid all of them but
14 only because I can't decide which one would be most
15 important, Danella, because they're all so critical to
16 our joint operations.

17 I'm going to commit staff to pretty much all
18 four work groups, but I don't want to be the only one
19 not on a group. Which do you think would be the most
20 appropriate, Danella, if I could defer to your opinion?

21 MS. GEORGE: I think probably Recreation and
22 signage, because signage would be under Recreation. I
23 know that's near and dear to your heart.

24 MR. WATTS: I'd like to talk more than just
25 signage on that group.

1 MR. WATTS: Okay.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Are you comfortable with
3 that, Melissa?

4 MS. DREW: I'm comfortable with that.

5 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. The next part of your
6 report.

7 MS. GEORGE: Well, the point of contact. We
8 talked about the four groups. Gary had a question about
9 the point of contact.

10 The point of contact, are you comfortable,
11 Melissa?

12 MS. DREW: For a while. Unfortunately I'll be
13 leaving, though. My husband took another job. So I'm
14 going to have to resign in a month or two. I'll be the
15 point of contact for a while.

16 MS. GEORGE: It will be Frank Mowry after you.

17 MR. PARKINS: I thought it was a matter of
18 policy, because also with Connell, that we weren't going
19 to allow hiring at BLM anybody who has a husband who is
20 going to relocate.

21 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I believe that was the sense
22 of the committee, yes.

23 MS. GEORGE: Next time we'll put a hiring
24 factor is a horse. They'll have to have a horse.

25 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Well, should we just begin

1 with Frank rather than have to make that change?

2 MS. DREW: We could begin with Frank. Frank
3 will be your point of contact.

4 MR. PARKINS: Does Frank have a wife that's
5 going to relocate?

6 MR. MOWRY: No. We are very single. That's
7 the way it's going to stay.

8 MS. DREW: Then if we're done with the
9 Business Plan, I can talk about the call for
10 nominations. Our call for nominations is open. They
11 were open on May 14th for the Monument Advisory
12 Committee.

13 The positions that are open are the Agua
14 Caliente, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Winter Park
15 Authority, and Pinyon Community Council.

16 So those five representatives actually have a
17 new application packet at their area. For anybody that
18 wants an application packet, they're in the back area in
19 there.

20 The positions will go into effect in November
21 of 2004 for a three-year term, and all applications must
22 be postmarked by June 28th. We hope you fill them out.

23 Any questions?

24 MR. PARKINS: Mr. Chair, I thought we just did
25 this, as far as I was concerned, just within a year.

1 MS. GEORGE: Melissa, what's Rob's position?
2 Do you know?

3 MS. DREW: You guys didn't just do yours last
4 year, did you?

5 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Not mine, but Rob. I'm
6 not sure.

7 MS. WATLING: I did one last year.

8 MS. DREW: These were what was given to me. I
9 hope they're right, because I don't have a file on last
10 year's.

11 MS. GEORGE: These are the five that expire
12 November 2004. We know Pinyon expires in 2004.

13 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: We're the ones that had
14 the four-year terms?

15 MS. GEORGE: You had three-year terms.

16 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Three-year terms?

17 MS. GEORGE: Three-year terms.

18 MR. MORGAN: Does anybody have a copy of the
19 charter which states when all these positions --

20 MS. GEORGE: Well, no. These are the five that
21 we pulled that are going to expire November 2004.

22 MR. MORGAN: Okay.

23 MS. GEORGE: You gave the five that are open
24 copies; right?

25 MS. DREW: Yeah. They have a copy. And then

1 there's extra copies on the back table.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

3 MR. PARKINS: I thought we just went through
4 this a year ago.

5 MS. DREW: We can double-check.

6 MS. GEORGE: No. They're staggered. The
7 appointments were one year, two year, and three years,
8 but it takes three years to get them approved.

9 CHAIRMAN CRITES: So you may have started again
10 sometime. So fair enough.

11 Any other questions?

12 Yes.

13 MR. MUTH: Al Muth. I naively assume that the
14 five persons have decided that they stand again for the
15 nomination, that they've accepted it?

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: In many cases those go back
17 to various agencies as well for input.

18 MR. MORGAN: Jeff Morgan. If you read the
19 rules for the process, anyone can nominate themselves if
20 they're from that particular district. You don't have
21 to be nominated by the city council.

22 It's a wide open nomination process. I don't
23 know how successful people could be without backing, but
24 anyone can apply as long as they meet the requirements.

25 MS. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, with that, it's

1 actually a call for nominations. It's not a
2 reappointment. Both departments are pretty strong about
3 making this an open process, as long as they fit the
4 criteria of what are identified in the Monument
5 legislation.

6 I think Pinyon has to be somebody from the
7 Pinyon Community Council. Agua Caliente is somebody
8 that's approved by the Tribe. It has to be a tribal
9 member. But it's still a wide open process. We can't
10 assume whoever is in it can be selected. It has to be
11 reviewed by both departments.

12 MS. WATLING: Ruth Watling. My term on the
13 council is up this month. I don't know if we have new
14 applicants or not. So however that falls.

15 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

16 MR. BROCKMAN: I would reiterate I would need
17 to check with the city to see if they would want me to
18 continue to serve for the next three years, as I guess
19 other representatives would need to do. Aside from
20 that, I'm willing.

21 CHAIRMAN CRITES: So that would place a person
22 in nomination. Then it is up to the Department of
23 Agriculture and Interior to decide.

24 Any other questions on this procedure? Okay.

25 MR. PARKINS: Mr. Chair, real quick. I assume

1 when we start filling this out, we have somebody we can
2 call to get some clarification?

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: And each of the categories
4 has a second six-page component that goes with it.

5 MR. PARKINS: My point entirely, sir. Thank
6 you.

7 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Next, other items
8 on the Monument manager update.

9 MS. GEORGE: Jim Foote, do you want to talk
10 about the signage work group -- what you need?

11 MR. FOOTE: We'll do two things. We'll do the
12 Dunn Road in five minutes.

13 MS. GEORGE: In five minutes.

14 MR. FOOTE: Yes. Exactly.

15 Morning. Jim Foote, BLM recreational planner
16 for the Palm Springs office. A quick update on Dunn
17 Road. We heard there are concerns about the access to
18 Dunn Road by emergency vehicles.

19 This last week we did take a trip up there with
20 a fire engine from the Pinyon community and ascertained
21 that there are only two small spots that need repair.
22 It's a very simple operation. We should be able to do
23 that with a minimum of effort.

24 Also, the Pinyon community, at least in terms
25 of CDF and BLM fire engines, now were reissued two keys

1 to Dunn Road gates. So they have access. As we
2 indicated in the past, of course the cities of Palm
3 Springs and Cathedral City fire and police departments
4 were issued keys several years ago. We hope they still
5 have them.

6 MR. FREET: We have them.

7 MR. FOOTE: Good. Interesting you mentioned
8 that, Bary. I contacted Forest Service a bit ago. They
9 had 10 keys and were able to account for only a couple
10 of those. Hopefully keys still remain in hands. We
11 don't want to get into a situation where we have to
12 replace those. Keys run \$5 a piece. Expensive.

13 Anyway, moving on. Any questions on Dunn Road?

14 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. How many are lost? How
15 many keys are out there?

16 MR. FOOTE: Well, there were -- our law
17 enforcement ranger had hers stolen out of the vehicle.
18 So those were replaced. The Forest Service keys are a
19 little questionable in terms of how many they can
20 account for at this point.

21 And then what was the other one? Oh. The ones
22 issued to the fire people. There were three sets issued
23 several years ago. They weren't able to account for any
24 of those three.

25 MR. MORGAN: So there are a lot of spare keys

45

1 floating around?

2 MR. FOOTE: I wouldn't say a lot. These keys
3 cannot be duplicated. If you were to bring them into
4 the lock shop, which I did without indicating who I was.
5 I asked for duplication. They went behind the counter,
6 came back and said, "I can't do it." It's a patented
7 key blank that only the manufacturer has. So they can't
8 be duplicated. So that's one good point.

9 MR. WATTS: Like a social security card, huh?

10 MR. FOOTE: I'd say better. A Xerox machine
11 can duplicate a social security card. You physically
12 can't manufacture this key. So I haven't heard of any
13 issues up there in terms of unauthorized access other
14 than motorcycles.

15 But in terms of people actually having a key
16 and opening the gate and going in, I'm not aware if
17 that's happening on an unauthorized basis.

18 Any other questions on Dunn Road?

19 The other issue was the Sign Plan. I think
20 this had been brought up with this group before about
21 the need to develop a multi-jurisdictional sign plan so
22 that we can essentially brand the National Monument in a
23 consistent manner.

24 So when people come to the valley and they
25 enter the National Monument, regardless of whose land

1 they're on, they're going to recognize they're in the
2 Monument and hopefully start to recognize the
3 consistency and appearance of signs.

4 So at some point they may not even have to read
5 what it says, just look at the shape, color, whatever
6 the case might be, and realize they're in the National
7 Monument.

8 My understanding is we want to form a work
9 group from the MAC to participate in that and lead the
10 development of that sign plan. I'll certainly be
11 involved from the agency's perspective because we would
12 have to meet agency guidelines.

13 But pulling all that together with the cities
14 and the communities and the various agencies, we should
15 be able to develop something that we can all work with
16 both in the short-term end.

17 And realizing that signs are expensive and that
18 we're not going to go out and change everything we have,
19 probably have a strategy to deal with the short-term and
20 the long-term ultimately what we'd like everything to
21 look like.

22 So I guess at this point, do we want to go
23 ahead --

24 CHAIRMAN CRITES: We've got questions first.

25 MR. FREET: I have a question. I don't know

1 how to word this. I'll take a shot at it. My
2 recollection of bureau regulations, procedures used to
3 require that signs be approved at the state office and
4 Washington office level.

5 So if we create this work group, they need to
6 either know if that's true still that whatever they come
7 up with, they still, as you said, would have to meet all
8 those local issues as well as the oversight from the
9 other levels. I'll stop there and let you comment.

10 MS. GEORGE: That is correct. By having a work
11 group to come back to the MAC and make recommendations
12 back to you guys of a signage theme, different versions
13 for different needs, our hope is that by you guys
14 advising the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture
15 that we can be able to build this kind of hybrid sign --
16 that's a hybrid with all the different entities and not
17 just pure BLM or Forest Service.

18 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Jeff?

19 MR. MORGAN: Question. This National Monument,
20 along with 14 others, were all created roughly around
21 the same time by various means. They're all kind of
22 loosely funded and managed through a separate branch of
23 the BLM in Washington.

24 I'm wondering maybe they have an idea of signs
25 for these BLM National Monuments, park service and

1 things like that. I'm curious if at that level they
2 have an idea of having the same shape, color, whatever
3 for signs for all of them.

4 MS. GEORGE: I'm going to defer to Foote,
5 because Foote knows about that.

6 MR. FOOTE: There certainly is a strategy
7 involved with signs at that level. There is, of course,
8 the BLM in general. There's the Forest Service.

9 I think the key to this is to lay all that out
10 on the table. I think in terms of this Monument, leave
11 it wide open. We have some guidelines. We have our
12 specific needs here, and how do we integrate all those
13 things together into something that we want. Then the
14 MAC can make that recommendation for us that we can
15 pursue.

16 I don't think we want to go in with any kind of
17 really strict parameters to say we can't go here or
18 there. Let's see what we can do to fit what we want it
19 to look like and how does that fit into the national
20 strategies.

21 So let's not limit ourselves before we even
22 start the process. We'll want to lay that out on the
23 table. Here are our requirements. Here are some
24 policies and guidelines.

25 MR. FREET: I didn't mean to curtail the open

1 thinking. I just wanted those who are participating to
2 understand there's going to be a process that could be
3 aggravating.

4 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Unlike our other processes.

5 MR. FREET: Yes. Very different.

6 MR. FOOTE: Certainly on a lot of our signage
7 we don't go to the Washington office. It used to be at
8 one point the district. That's kind of fallen apart.

9 There's some state rules for certain signs.
10 Then we go for our side primarily to the Wyoming Sign
11 Shop. That's only if they can produce it. If they
12 can't produce it, then we have other ladders to go up.

13 MS. HENDERSON: Well, my six-page worksheet 2
14 on signs, which we're going to be doing, will that help
15 your work group on signs? When do we get together?

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: You don't.

17 MR. FOOTE: There's a crosswalk here certainly
18 between them. I think in terms of the Business Plan, a
19 lot of that in terms of signage will be deferred mostly
20 to this work group.

21 MS. HENDERSON: This is getting easier.

22 MR. FOOTE: Easier. The one thing we want to
23 look at in the sign group is this family of signs. We
24 are not just talking recreation. We're talking
25 administrative, directional, boundary signing. A number

50

1 of different types of signs.

2 We hope that whether it's cultural resource
3 signing or recreational signing or something out of the
4 natural and biological resources for signing, it's going
5 to conform to some guidelines we have.

6 So hopefully we won't be developing all that in
7 the recreation work group, we'll have a sign group that
8 we can defer to.

9 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Other questions about signs?

10 MR. MORGAN: We could start by using the Forest
11 Service sign for the Monument.

12 CHAIRMAN CRITES: One of the issues that's
13 brought this up is we have a sign on Highway 74 that has
14 stirred significant public comment in terms of having it
15 not be there. That's the one at the reservation
16 boundary on 74.

17 And apparently now there's even an issue having
18 to do with vegetation. I think a little over
19 three acres of vegetation is now dying where it's been
20 shaded by that sign. Just a note.

21 MR. FOOTE: We'll address that sign through the
22 sign group. I think what we can expect through the sign
23 group is not only have some general guidelines and
24 direction that sign should take, but we need to also get
25 down to some very specific signing needs and identify

1 and develop what those signs are and what they should
2 look like.

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: And note that it's not a
4 Forest Service sign. It's a National Monument sign.

5 MR. MORGAN: Provided by the Forest Service.

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Provided by the combination
7 of agencies.

8 MS. HENDERSON: That the work group sheet 2
9 comes up with.

10 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes. So is there then
11 interest from those around this table in signing?
12 Frank, Kathy. Are there others? Gary. Are there yet
13 others who wish to sign? There are four signers. That
14 is a fine number for signing.

15 MR. FOOTE: Is there a chair?

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: You're standing very close to
17 it. Rob Parkins is also on it. Okay. Is that
18 sufficient?

19 MR. FOOTE: I believe so.

20 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Any other
21 volunteers who were neglected?

22 MR. FOOTE: I would have an expectation at some
23 point, hopefully before the group meets, that I know
24 about that so I can distribute some materials so that we
25 can show up and get ready and work instead of drink

1 coffee like I do for most of the meeting and kick back
2 and talk.

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Good. Obviously
4 others are welcome to attend if those so choose.

5 MR. FOOTE: Uh-huh. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Thank you. Other items from
7 the Monument manager.

8 MS. GEORGE: I'm going to pass and hand off to
9 Laurie due to time.

10 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

11 MS. ROSENTHAL: Good morning. Buford asked us
12 to talk on a few things today. The first thing I want
13 to talk about is the revision of the Forest Plan, which
14 there actually may be light at the end of the tunnel.

15 We have a meeting. Let's see. It's June 10th
16 at Pine Springs Ranch, which is in Garner Valley.
17 That's from 7:00 to 9:00. There are several different
18 booklets.

19 The second booklet of the Forest Plan is place
20 based. What this is when you look through it, you'll
21 see different places. For the San Jacinto district --
22 let me pass these out -- there are four places, one
23 including the Monument.

24 When you get a chance -- by the way, this plan
25 is not site specific in the sense that, you know, this

1 sign is going to be here. This is going to be here.
2 But this does give an emphasis. So please send your
3 comments to me if you think there's anything that's
4 glaring that needs to be changed. I would sure
5 appreciate that.

6 Well, as you know, every time I get up here, I
7 talk about the dead trees. That's not changed. This is
8 incredibly intense. Normally where you'd be working
9 maybe on one or two projects related to fuel reduction,
10 we are bringing in 30 detailers now. We are bringing in
11 people from all over the country to work on our
12 community protection projects.

13 That's including prescribed burns we've done.
14 I just signed a couple of decision memos, one for the
15 west side, one for the east side of Idyllwild. A gated
16 community called Pine Wood, we're doing a fuel break
17 there.

18 We have hazard tree projects going on
19 everywhere in the district. In Garner Valley and
20 Bonita, those are going to be prescribed burned and some
21 thinning. Those are going to probably be assigned
22 within the next few months.

23 So we are just as intense as one could possibly
24 imagine. We have also done the beginning of a five-year
25 plan to continue on for community protection outside of

1 the community.

2 Because as you have seen with the fires that
3 are coming up, they're not necessarily right next to the
4 community. But they can be started way away, and within
5 less than a day, they're there.

6 So we're looking for -- we're doing a lot of
7 collaboration, especially when we get outside of the
8 community. We're going to be dealing with landscape
9 levels.

10 Our staff is not doing what they normally would
11 be doing. For example, our recreation staff officer is
12 working on hazard trees. Our biologists and
13 archeologists are working on fuel reduction projects.

14 So I want to apologize for the fact that we are
15 not in a normal program of work. It is a slow moving
16 ecosystem disaster that we are involved in.

17 Where our mission has always been in the Forest
18 Service caring for the land and serving people, I kind
19 of nicknamed it caring for the land and saving people
20 right now. That is how serious it is right now.

21 But in our spare time, if there is any, we have
22 done a few things related to the Monument this past
23 year. For example, along with Tracy in her interpretive
24 programs, our biologist and our botanist and
25 archeologist did some interpretive plans. We are

1 working on plans for Tamarisk.

2 Our biologist does sheep captures each year,
3 feral dog signage in Palm Canyon and land exchange. Our
4 most critical project for the Monument is just what I'm
5 talking about, community protection.

6 I wanted to bring Mark De Frances with me
7 anyway today because he's our new partnership
8 coordinator. He just moved with his family to
9 Palm Desert. His family was like three months in
10 Phoenix. So we was commuting every weekend, if you can
11 imagine that.

12 I want to introduce him. One of his priorities
13 is the community interface because the Pinyon community
14 fuel reduction project has a lot of jurisdiction. It's
15 not just Forest Service. There's a lot of private
16 owners.

17 I want to take this opportunity to introduce
18 Mark De Frances. He's going to talk a minute or two
19 about Pinyon.

20 And then Buford has also asked us to talk about
21 fire restrictions and also what would happen in the case
22 that we need to evacuate the Santa Rosa Mountains.

23 So I also have a cast of thousands here today.
24 Bill Gevedon is here as well. After Mark is done, he's
25 going to talk on those two things. Okay. So any

1 questions for me? Because I'm not going to come back up
2 here. At least not today.

3 Okay. Mark.

4 MR. DE FRANCES: Good morning. It's nice to be
5 here. It's a little cooler than Phoenix, I hope. It's
6 not, is it? It's a different kind of heat here. We're
7 getting used to it.

8 115 is 115 no matter where you live. So we
9 opted to live here in the valley in the desert. So our
10 kids are here. The kids are out of school. So we're
11 going to make our home down here. We look forward to
12 joining the community here.

13 I'm going to give a brief presentation on
14 something we call the Pinyon Community Wildfire
15 Protection Project. It's a proposal right now that will
16 probably start in late 2005. Because again, we have
17 lots of projects going on now -- fuel reduction projects
18 all over the San Jacinto district.

19 There's a lot of mixed Chaparral, Red Shank and
20 Pinyon trees that are dying or dead already. That has
21 increased the fuel load tremendously and the danger of
22 fires accordingly. So we need to do something about
23 that.

24 We're looking at a 12,400 area. A lot of it is
25 within the National Monument. It's right off the Palm

1 to Pines Highway. So we need to build fuel breaks. We
2 have lots of different ways to do that. We'll use
3 mastication, heavy equipment, bulldozers. We'll do some
4 hand clearing.

5 Further out from the community itself, we'll
6 use prescribed burns. So all of these combinations will
7 help us reduce the fuel load out there and make it safe
8 for the community.

9 We are going to again work with the BLM. We're
10 going to work with the California Department of
11 Forestry. We'll work with the tribes. We'll work with
12 all our partners and establish how we're going to do
13 this in the next couple of years. It's a tremendous
14 project.

15 But a lot of those things that we need to do,
16 we're going to do it block by block, very carefully.
17 We're going to look for wildlife and any other things
18 that could interfere with the project or make sure all
19 those things are mitigated before we do any actual
20 burning or scraping. A lot of it depends on the access
21 to the roads in that area. There are some pretty rocky
22 areas up there.

23 Again, we look forward to working with our
24 partners to complete this project or to get it started
25 and complete it eventually. In a nutshell, that's it.

1 You know the background. You know why we're
2 doing this. Laurie alluded to all the dead and dying
3 trees in that area. Those are the things we need to get
4 a handle on, and we need to get a handle on it pretty
5 quick. I brought along my experts to answer any
6 technical questions.

7 Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. WATLING: From the Pinyon community, I
9 would think it would help tremendously if you would come
10 up and address the communities and outline, because it's
11 a very involved community.

12 MR. DE FRANCES: It is. I've been to a couple
13 of the community meetings there recently. I'm starting
14 to learn about the community and some of their issues.

15 And their fire safe council will be a big part
16 of this, and their town council will be part of the
17 partnership that make decisions and suggestions on how
18 we do this project.

19 MS. HENDERSON: Question. Let me apologize
20 first because it's a kind of a criticism and not
21 necessarily of you but of the system.

22 I hear that the problem here is a very critical
23 problem. But I hear what you're talking about, as a
24 program, that's going to start in 2005?

25 MR. DE FRANCES: Yes, ma'am.

1 Laurie, do you want to --

2 MS. ROSENTHAL: When you talk about the NEPA
3 process, there's a left side analysis and a right side
4 analysis. The left side is where you do the exploratory
5 before you do the plan. This is a very complex project.
6 So we're actually starting now, Terry.

7 It's just that the actual NEPA planning -- the
8 other thing is that we only have so much staff. So the
9 staff is being assigned to do the NEPA portion in 2005.

10 But right now we are doing the collaboration
11 aspect of it to get to the point that we can go fast in
12 2005.

13 MR. DE FRANCES: Any other questions?

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Other questions at this
15 point? I guess we'll be looking forward to seeing some
16 specifics then and being able to comment then.

17 MR. DE FRANCES: Absolutely.

18 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Thank you, sir. Could you
19 spell your name for the record?

20 MR. DE FRANCES: Sure. It's D-e F-r-a-n-c-e-s.

21 MR. GEVEDON: Hi. I'm Bill Gevedon. I'm one
22 of the chiefs on the San Jacinto Ranger District. A
23 couple of things I just want to talk you to you about.

24 The forest has gone through a very lengthy plan
25 on trying to figure out how to redo fire restrictions

1 for the San Bernardino National Forest and how this is
2 also going to apply to the Monument area.

3 Right now we've got the Forest Service document
4 done. We're looking at developing handouts that will be
5 distributed to our fire station's information office. A
6 box will be sent down to the BLM visitor center for
7 that, Pinyon Fire Station, Riverside Fire Station. They
8 will be given a box of those. We're going to going to
9 distribute it.

10 There's going to be -- notifications are going
11 to be made in the newspapers, media outlets. And it
12 just depends on what they want to do with it from there.
13 When we talk to the media and whatnot, we give them
14 information. Whether they put it in the papers or not,
15 we have no control over that.

16 But they're in the process of being printed. I
17 believe it's probably going to be a couple of weeks
18 before they actually get out or we'll be able to start
19 distributing those.

20 Basically, we're looking at five different
21 levels. We have level one, which would basically be
22 during the wintertime. Fire danger is very low.
23 Chances of a wildland fire are extremely low.

24 Moderate, getting towards late winter, earlier
25 spring. Once again, fire behavior, intensity of the

1 fire, would be, you know, very low, easy to pick up with
2 initial attack.

3 Then we get into what we're now getting into
4 what's called high. Right now the San Bernardino
5 National Forest as a forest is in high fire danger.
6 This is very usual for this time of year.

7 We've had fires mainly on CDF protected areas
8 that have burned quite well. I'm sure you heard about
9 the Cerritos fire, the Eagle fire which was down close
10 to what is known as the Palomar district. Our district
11 so far, we've just had minor fires, not very
12 significant.

13 We're in the process of getting some new signs
14 printed. One will be located at the bottom of Santa
15 Rosa. It's going to say "Dangerous fire area. One way
16 in. One way out. Enter at your own risk." Because
17 there is only one way physically to get up into that
18 area.

19 Now, another thing in the high fire danger when
20 we are at that, the only places that we allow open
21 campfires is in our designated campground picnic areas
22 and what we call yellow post sites, which are some sites
23 that are somewhat remote that you can have an open
24 campfire at that we feel are pretty fire safe.

25 Right now we've never had a fire that started

1 in a campground or yellow post site escape those sites.
2 We feel very comfortable with those. That's where we
3 are right not.

4 Remote camping is still allowed in the national
5 forest and in the Monument area. That's under our
6 jurisdiction. People can camp. There's a lot of
7 trails.

8 We had moderate use this last weekend.
9 Saturday was probably the biggest day in the San Jacinto
10 wilderness. Santa Rosa had very light use up in there.
11 This is very normal for that area. It's not a
12 heavily-used area. There's several yellow post sites.

13 We have a campground up there called Santa Rosa
14 Springs Campground. Extremely small. Only about four
15 or five sites in that particular campground. Like I
16 say, there are numerous yellow post sites that are
17 scattered.

18 We've eliminated a couple of yellow post sites
19 in the lower end that we felt didn't meet our standards.
20 So we pulled out the fire ring from there.

21 Another one further up was right in a drainage.
22 We looked at that and said, "This is not a particularly
23 good area." It's located right next to the road,
24 probably just a few feet away. We talked to our
25 recreation staff. They said this wasn't a good idea.

1 So we've removed that.

2 The other ones are still intact and in good
3 shape. The road is an extremely rough road. The bottom
4 portion of the road is very rough. That's graded once a
5 year. I'm not sure.

6 Maybe, Laurie, you know if they're going to be
7 doing any maintenance on that or not. I think not. I
8 don't know if Forest is planning on any maintenance on
9 that. That's usually been an agreement we've had with
10 the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

11 As far as if we get a fire up in the Santa Rosa
12 area, one of the things you have to understand is fire
13 history of that area. I think it was back in the early
14 '40s or maybe it was in the '20s, there was a huge fire
15 that burned off that whole face out from Martinez Peak
16 out into the desert.

17 Since then the fire occurrence rate of human
18 caused fires -- people actually causing fire -- there's
19 hardly anything there. Most of the fires that we do get
20 in the Santa Rosa area are lightning fires. They're
21 generally up in the 7000 or 8000 foot range.

22 A few of them we've had a mid-slope probably
23 about the 5000 foot level. Those fires, none of them
24 have gotten over a half acre.

25 Last year we had a huge thunderstorm coming

1 over the district. We had over 530 fires -- well,
2 strikes. I'm sorry. Confirmed strikes. Out of those
3 actual fires that we were able to find and take
4 suppression or action on were three. And out those, two
5 were in the skunk area. One was in the state park just
6 kind of right on the edge. We had no confirmed fires
7 that we could find in the Santa Rosa area.

8 One of the advantages that we had last year was
9 with that we had a tremendous amount of rain. There
10 were fires that we saw. There's a fire. There's smoke.
11 We had it figured out on a map, the general area.
12 Before we could do anything, the rain put it out.

13 Now, we are not going to have that every time.
14 But just so you know, the general weather pattern
15 normally for lightning fires, especially in the Santa
16 Rosa area, is they're usually wet storms.

17 We have very few true dry lightning events.
18 Last year the National Weather Service Fire Behavior
19 person came to us and said, "You're probably not going
20 to get a lot of lightning fires this year, but what
21 lightning you do have come in is going to be dry."

22 I thought that's not a good thing. Well, we
23 didn't have one dry lightning event all year. So maybe
24 this year if they say it's going to be a wet lightning
25 season, it could be dry.

1 Once again, the San Jacinto Ranger District, as
2 a whole, with most of the lightning fires we get quite a
3 bit of precipitation. The largest fire we had in a
4 wilderness area was up in the San Jacinto -- actually in
5 the Tahquitz Valley area in 2000. It burned 280 acres.

6 That wasn't caused by lightning. That was
7 caused because somebody decided that they wanted to camp
8 and have a campfire outside a designated area.

9 The people really thought they were doing right
10 as far as trying to put it out. Because you could see
11 whatever group that was camping there had tried to put
12 the fire out. They just didn't do a real good job.
13 That's the biggest fire that we had in that area.

14 I think in 1924 there was a huge fire that
15 burned a big portion of the wilderness area. I believe
16 that actually started down outside of Palm Springs. Who
17 knows what actually caused that fire. I couldn't find
18 it in the records.

19 So one of the things that we're doing with the
20 sign for Santa Rosa is to say "Dangerous fire area. One
21 way in. One way out. Enter at your own risk." Because
22 you are going into a risky area. We want the public to
23 know that. We're going to put a little book with some
24 handouts to talk about fire danger and this thing.

25 I don't know how well that's going to work, but

1 we're going to try to do that. As the fire danger
2 increases, when it gets up to the extreme level, the
3 signs will then be changed and show extreme fire danger.
4 Probably at that time we will be doing road closures.

5 There's a gate at the bottom of Santa Rosa that
6 we put in this last spring. We can physically close
7 that, and then we will do some patrol behind there.

8 Now, the next question is if there's a fire,
9 how are we going to get the people out? That is the
10 most difficult issue to do. We are not sure what's
11 going to be the best mechanisms to do that.

12 People have talked about you can fly a
13 helicopter over there, and there's a broadcasting system
14 underneath, and you can tell people things.

15 I was kind of like, "Well, I don't know what to
16 tell you." Because it's very, very difficult when
17 you're flying in a helicopter and you're looking and
18 trying to find where people are. Just trying to find
19 some of these yellow post sites from the air is very
20 difficult.

21 There's one large yellow post site that we have
22 a lot of visitors come up. There's a very large
23 Hispanic family that comes up every year and has a
24 birthday for the grandfather. Very, very fire
25 conscious.

1 We were seeing some smoke. We didn't know
2 whether it was a lightning fire, what that is. Air
3 attack came out through the air base, flew over in a
4 helicopter.

5 They were legitimate. They had the fire where
6 it was supposed to be. They had rakes. They had
7 shovels. They brought in their own water. These people
8 had been going up there something like 20 to 30 years.
9 So they were very conscious. But not everybody is like
10 that.

11 Once again, if we do get a fire in there, how
12 are we going to get people out. Well, the first thing
13 we have to do is to get the resources to the fire --
14 figure out where it is.

15 From that point if we can get people on up the
16 road and one of our fire prevention technicians can
17 drive and check the site, as long as it's safe for that
18 person to do so, make contact.

19 Then we can decide on what's the best way to
20 get them down. Like I say, the only way they're coming
21 off that mountain is in a vehicle down that road.

22 We have very few places we can land a
23 helicopter for fires. We had a couple of lightning
24 fires. We had to land the crew, walk the ridge, cross
25 the road, and get up to where it was. A very difficult

1 area to physically land.

2 Most of the access, we have to come in and
3 drive up. We'll have air tankers, of course, drop.
4 This year, as you know, not so many of those. CDF is
5 the only one who has helicopters. So that brings in
6 some other problems that we're looking at.

7 But anyway, that's the only way we can get
8 people up there. We never have a real way to say
9 there's actually 50 people up in the Santa Rosa area.
10 There's no way to know that. We've thought about maybe
11 having a little sign-in sheet for people.

12 At other districts I've worked in, there's some
13 people who will stop and sign and some won't. But
14 anyway, if someone had signed maybe that day, but then
15 again, the day of the fire nobody signed and they just
16 drove in.

17 As we go into the very high fire danger, once
18 again we start closing and restricting some of our
19 areas. When we get into the extreme fire danger, which
20 will probably be in late July, maybe early August.
21 Maybe earlier. It just depends. At that time we'll be
22 closing pretty much most of the access to the San
23 Bernardino National Forest.

24 We'll be closing the Santa Rosa Truck Trail.
25 That will be physically locked. There would be very few

1 areas that people would be allowed in.

2 Then we get to the most extreme case where we
3 close the forest, period. You can drive the state
4 highways to go where you need to go. That's it. If you
5 stop and turn out, there's probably going to be somebody
6 in a law enforcement vehicle or fire vehicle asking, "Do
7 you need some assistance or help? If not, please move
8 on to your destination."

9 That's what we're looking at right now. Like I
10 say, I'm hoping in a couple of weeks that we'll get
11 pamphlets for your agency and down at the tram area.
12 Until we get those, it's pretty much just word-of-mouth
13 that we're doing.

14 Like I say, how do we disseminate that message?
15 We will send messages to the major papers down in the
16 desert, radio stations, TV stations. Same thing for the
17 L.A. area. Then it's up to them what they do with it.

18 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Questions?

19 Yes, Terry.

20 MS. HENDERSON: I'm sorry. It's not a question
21 but a statement and maybe an idea. When you prepare
22 that news release that you're going to print out, send
23 it to all the cities --

24 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yeah.

25 MR. GEVEDON: That's a good idea.

1 MS. HENDERSON: -- and whatever other agencies
2 that maybe be involved here.

3 MS. WATLING: (Inaudible.)

4 MR. GEVEDON: The Saw Mill, basically what we
5 do is chain off the area where the trail head is.
6 That's a main access. There's another old road right
7 off 74 that's got the berm. We've tried to put posts
8 and things in there. Somebody -- I don't know who --
9 they just love to tear that down. That's what we try to
10 do with that area.

11 CHAIRMAN CRITES: So the same kinds of
12 restrictions?

13 MR. GEVEDON: Right. That's correct.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Other questions?

15 Would you be kind enough to spell your name?

16 MR. GEVEDON: My last name is G-e-v-e-d-o-n.

17 Thank you very much.

18 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I believe we'll take a
19 10-minute break so a little hand resting can occur.

20 (Brief recess taken.)

21 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Now that we literally
22 have a full count of the Monument Committee, this would
23 be a great time to actually take role for the record to
24 make sure that everyone is here.

25 Who officially calls the role?

71

1 MS. GEORGE: The chairman.
2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Oh, okay.
3 Are you here, Mr. Watts?
4 MR. WATTS: I'm here. Gary Watts, State Parks.
5 MR. LYMAN: Bob Lyman, County of Riverside.
6 MR. MUTH: Al Muth, University of California.
7 MR. MORGAN: Jeff Morgan, Sierra Club.
8 MR. FREET: Bary Freet, City of Cathedral City.
9 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Buford Crites, City of Palm
10 Desert.
11 MS. GEORGE: Danella --
12 MR. BOGERT: Frank -- oh. I thought they
13 skipped you. Everybody knows what you do.
14 MS. GEORGE: Okay.
15 MR. BOGERT: Frank Bogert, Palm Springs,
16 California.
17 MR. PARKINS: Rob Parkins, Winter Park
18 Authority.
19 MS. ROCHE: Mary Roche, Indian Wells.
20 MS. BRENNAN: Kathie Brennen, Building
21 Industry.
22 MR. BROCKMAN: Bob Brockman, City of Rancho
23 Mirage.
24 MR. HAVERT: Bill Havert, Coachella Valley
25 Mountain Conservancy.

1 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Barbara Lyons, Agua
2 Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

3 MS. HENDERSON: Terry Henderson, City of
4 La Quinta.

5 MS. WATLING: Ruth Watling, Pinyon community.

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Great. That will take
7 us back -- Mary, by the way, I guess we need to thank
8 you for the City of Indian Wells for providing lunch
9 today.

10 MS. GEORGE: He wanted out by lunch.

11 MS. ROCHE: I did it before.

12 MR. BROCKMAN: So much money they said, "Let us
13 provide lunch again for everybody."

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. We will not be having
15 the report from Mr. Hammond, I believe.

16 Is that correct?
17 MS. GEORGE: That's correct.

18 CHAIRMAN CRITES: That appears to be correct.
19 Yes?

20 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: One clarification I would
21 like to make sure that everybody on the board knows.
22 Agua Caliente Cultural Museum is actually not an entity
23 of the Tribe. I want to let everybody here know. It's
24 an independent 501C3. We're the major donors monetary
25 wise to them, but they are always looking for outside

1 monetary monies, because it is an independent 501C3 not
2 tied to the Tribe.

3 MR. BOGERT: Where are you going to build it?

4 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: It's not up to us. It's
5 up to that individual -- that committee. They did get
6 the lease agreement with the Tribe for certain land. We
7 do have members of the Tribe who do not agree with what
8 the council decision was. That will be flushed out
9 probably -- hopefully.

10 MS. HENDERSON: You're working through it.

11 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Well, no. The council
12 made a decision. They've leased the land to the museum.
13 We have quite a few members who did not agree with what
14 the council did. Unless they can change the council's
15 decision, it will stay.

16 MR. BOGERT: Are you doing anything about the
17 closing of the southwest museum? They've got 250,000
18 artifacts. Couldn't you get a lot of them? There is a
19 lot of Cahuilla stuff there.

20 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: I don't know, Frank. That
21 would be the museum working with them. Unless the Tribe
22 can get the baskets themselves, then it would be under
23 the Tribal ownership. Anything donated directly to the
24 museum is owned by the museum, which is an individual
25 independent 501C. Anything donated to the Tribe itself

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1 is in the hands of the Tribe.

2 So anything that works with that southwest
3 museum, the museum probably could work on that, unless
4 the Tribe decides to look at baskets and purchasing them
5 themselves. We as a Tribe cannot take over another
6 museum.

7 I'm being told like any time a museum ends up
8 going -- you know, breaking up or whatever, their
9 articles have to go to another museum that's a 501C3 or
10 something like that. It can't just go to anybody.

11 Any time a museum is under a 501C, their
12 articles have to go to another 501C museum. It doesn't
13 go to just anybody, unless a person or a group of people
14 donates to a Tribe.

15 Like we have certain baskets that are owned by
16 the Tribe. We in turn have the museum curate them for
17 us. We paid them to curate them, but they're owned by
18 the Tribe. Some people have donated items to that
19 museum. They're not the ownership of the Tribe.
20 They're under the ownership of the museum.

21 MS. ROCHE: Just a question. So if there are
22 artifacts like -- we're in your jurisdiction. I thought
23 we were giving it to the museum, but it was through you.
24 So we should be doing it through you?

25 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: If they're the Tribe's

1 artifacts, it should go to the Tribe. We in turn would
2 have the museum curate them for us. That way they're
3 under the ownership of the Tribe. Otherwise, if you
4 donate them directly to the museum, they end up being
5 the under the ownership of the museum.

6 If the museum ever dissipates or goes away like
7 the southwest museum, they would have to go to another
8 501C, which would not be the Tribe.

9 MR. BOGERT: But when you are going to build
10 it?

11 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: The Tribe is not building
12 the museum. It's the independent 501C that's building
13 the museum. When they get their financing, that's when
14 they're building it.

15 We're the major donor to them. But because
16 we're only a portion of the funds they need, as soon as
17 they get enough funds to start and build it, that's when
18 they'll probably build it. The museum needs, I think,
19 \$40 or \$45 million. We promised to donate about
20 \$25 million. We're only the major donor. We're not the
21 owners. They're looking for more money.

22 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. That takes us to the
23 item scheduled for 10:00. That is David Smith, a
24 presentation.

25 Good morning. Welcome.

1 MR. SMITH: Thank you. Good morning to you
2 all. I'll introduce myself. First, I wanted to thank
3 Danella George for the invitation. It's my pleasure to
4 be here with the Advisory Committee and for giving me
5 some of your valuable time.

6 I'm Dave Smith. I am the state soil scientist
7 for an agency called Natural Resources Conservation
8 Service.

9 MR. MOWRY: It takes a few seconds to warm up.

10 MR. SMITH: Thanks, Frank. Natural Resources
11 Conservation Service is a sister agency of the Forest
12 Service. We are an America private lands conservation
13 agency. Our mandate or mission is to provide the
14 private land owners confidence across the nation. But
15 some part of what my agency does is provide federal
16 leadership for the national cooperative soil survey
17 program.

18 I came prepared today with a power point
19 presentation. I don't know how deep I'll get into it.
20 It's kind of up to what you all want.

21 But oh, 15 or 20 minutes to give you some
22 background as to what's in a soil survey and why it
23 might be of value to you here for the Santa Rosa/San
24 Jacinto National Monument.

25 So I mentioned a National Cooperative Soil

1 Survey Program. Basically, that's a partnership with
2 the land grant universities and all the federal agencies
3 across the nation for sign based standards or procedures
4 for soil survey work.

5 Then you can look at how that relates to
6 California. You can see -- is there a place I can stand
7 where I'm not in your way?

8 MS. WATLING: No. No. Go ahead.

9 MR. SMITH: As far as soil survey covered in
10 the state of California, anywhere that has color on
11 there is completed or in progress.

12 So our goal as congress intended in the
13 National Cooperative Soil Surveys is to have a seamless
14 database of soils information across our nation for
15 people that we use. As we get down in this part of the
16 world, I'll give you a little more detail as to what's
17 going on.

18 This is my hand-drawn map. This is your
19 National Monument that the Advisory Committee is
20 concerned about. What's going on with these colors on
21 here is about 70 percent of the Monument has existing
22 soil survey information covering it.

23 A portion of that is the soil survey from the
24 San Bernardino National Forest. And this outlined with
25 green going off the covered in soil survey is covered by

1 that Forest Service document.

2 There's also a soil survey that we did back in
3 the '50s and '60s in the Coachella Valley area. Part of
4 that survey went up into the Monument, this area in
5 yellow.

6 There's a third soil survey of western
7 Riverside County that goes off and covers all this, but
8 a piece of it covers the Monument here.

9 This cross-hatch area is the portion of the
10 Monument that currently has no soil survey information
11 available. So that gives you an outline of existing
12 status.

13 All three of these existing soil surveys were
14 handled as independent projects at different time frames
15 at different levels of intensities of work. So I would
16 say that the seamlessness is not there.

17 What I've spoken with Danella about is to do
18 some maintenance and enhancement of these three things
19 to make these map units join better, to fill the data
20 gaps where appropriate of things like riparian areas and
21 areas that may be more important or of special concern
22 that are not mapped out.

23 It's pretty broad mapping. We wouldn't ever
24 intend to go in here and remap anything. But we would
25 do maintenance and enhancement as appropriate and make

1 it seamless and get it into a geospatial database.

2 And then we would propose at the same time to
3 go ahead and map the unmapped area. Make it all one big
4 package. Put it on-line and let users go with it.

5 MS. HENDERSON: Can we ask a question in
6 between?

7 MR. SMITH: Certainly.

8 MS. HENDERSON: When you say "We would propose
9 to do "or you talked to Danella, are you suggesting that
10 what you would propose to do, the funding would come
11 from us, or are you bringing your own funding?

12 MR. SMITH: Let me address the funding question
13 now. My authorities under my program, National Resource
14 Conservation Service, is to spend federal funds on
15 privately owned lands. That includes state owned lands
16 as well as Tribal lands. We consider those entities all
17 part of our mission or mandate authorized by congress.

18 Through the Federal Economy Act, we can't go in
19 and spend my agency's money on BLM lands, Park Service
20 lands, Forest Service lands. However, under the
21 umbrella of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, we can
22 all work together with the same standards.

23 So the Forest Service maps, as they did the San
24 Bernardino National Forest, they mapped under the system
25 of National Cooperative Soil Survey. We went in and

1 certified the work back in the '70 when the work was
2 done.

3 Lots of times they'll come to us and say, "We
4 would like to work out an interagency agreement with
5 you. We will reimburse you for your costs of coming in
6 here and doing the mapping of federal lands."

7 So the answer for us to go in and map BLM or
8 Forest Service portions of the Monument, for my soil
9 scientists to go out there to and do the work, we would
10 have to have some reimbursement.

11 For me to map any portions of the Monument that
12 are Tribal or state owned or privately owned, I'll bring
13 those funds to the table with my program.

14 Does that answer your question?

15 MS. HENDERSON: Yes.

16 MR. SMITH: Was there another question?

17 MS. HENDERSON: No. Oh. I'm sorry. I thought
18 you meant from me.

19 MR. SMITH: That's Okay. Any questions at any
20 time are fine.

21 Right now there's some private blocks up inside
22 the San Bernardino National Forest. There's a program
23 called the Emergency Watershed Protection Program that
24 congress funnels dollars through the National Resource
25 Conservation Service where's there's floods, fires.

1 Where there is immediate threats to life and
2 property, we come in with our EWP program and do work,
3 usually in partnership with Forest Service and whoever
4 else the entities there.

5 We require sponsors before we can go on the
6 ground to tell us what they want us to help them do
7 within our authority. We do have sponsors up in this
8 Idyllwild area.

9 As you know, this little map right there comes
10 in here. So as you get up around Idyllwild and Pine
11 Cove and those places, under our EWP program on the
12 private lands, we're doing some emergency tree removal
13 work where these trees are threatening infrastructure to
14 life and property.

15 As part of that, we're tuning up this soil
16 survey in these private blocks. So you can see we're
17 right outside the Monument.

18 Now, I don't have my crews there yet, but I
19 hope to by later this season to go up there and do some
20 maintenance on these private blocks. We're just getting
21 into this now.

22 We're over at Big Bear Lake and Lake Arrowhead
23 now, and we are talking with the Forest Service there.
24 So I will have some soil scientists right adjacent to
25 your boundary. So some maintenance work will be

1 happening on the San Bernardino National Forest portion.

2 Danella asked me to draft up a Memorandum of
3 Understanding which is kind of what -- I call it a straw
4 man framework for if you all did agree that this soil
5 survey information is important, it's a place that we
6 can start.

7 BLM would do this and Forest Service would do
8 this. We've listed the Tribe on there and a number of
9 other entities. In fact, I think I have just made about
10 15 or 16 copies just for your reference. I'm not going
11 to go through this in detail now, but we can pass them
12 around the room.

13 MS. GEORGE: David, they were provided also to
14 the signatories, not just to nonsignatories.

15 MR. SMITH: Again, this is just a starting
16 point if we were going to proceed. Right now I don't
17 have anybody in place to do the work. What Danella
18 might have been talking about, I would probably want to
19 move a soil scientist or two over into the office at Sam
20 and the Low Desert Council in our field office. If we
21 were to proceed we would probably start that during our
22 next federal fiscal year.

23 If this is stuff you don't want to cover, we
24 can stop here and talk a little more about what's in
25 this MOU and move on, or I can give a brief overview of

1 what's all in the soil survey. I'll try not to take too
2 much time because I know time is of the essence here.

3 This is just a picture to show what we're
4 trying to delineate out. Much like geology maps, we're
5 looking at the upper 5 to 6 feet of soil, if there is
6 that. In mapping out on those geomorphic positions on
7 the landscape. That's what it looks like as a picture.

8 Of course, the most common product you get is
9 you're going to get a map. It's going to have polygons
10 on it. And we cut out what people are interested in.
11 These days the hard copy maps -- we're going to do
12 everything digital. So we'll give you a CD or it will
13 be on-line.

14 Our reports also contain the background mapping
15 and descriptions and soil descriptions and tables and
16 most importantly, interpretive information of use of
17 management of the soils, soil properties.

18 So the reports contain quite a bit of good
19 information as well as the database. Our acronym for
20 our soil survey geographic database is SURGO. These are
21 all GIS-ready digital data.

22 Quickly again, how soils are mapped, we look at
23 ecosystems. We look at, you know, what we call soil
24 forming factors and the relief -- you know, the
25 steepness and aspects of the slopes, how much erosion

1 has occurred on these land forms.

2 The requirement that's there, the amount of
3 time that's passed, and the plants and animals that
4 interact with those, all those things come together and
5 form the soils. We try to unravel that mystery of soil
6 formation. And again, geology is a big part of that.

7 We look at the lithology and geomorphology in
8 particular. Climate, what is your climate regime, what
9 is the growing season, when is there moisture in the
10 soil, when do these soils dry out. All that impacts how
11 they form. Plants can grow into them. We try to
12 unravel all that as we're mapping.

13 As I mentioned, the topography, relief, the
14 geomorphology, if you're on a hot down slope versus a
15 cooler north-facing slope, if you're on an alluvial fan
16 versus a mountain flank.

17 Like I said, the plants, how they interact with
18 the soils are a big part of why we soil survey and also
19 how we figure out what's there.

20 This is kind of a neat diagram of time. This
21 is just looking at a landscape out in the Mojave Desert.
22 I'll just flip you through, and you can look at how some
23 of the land forms and soils get mapped out.

24 If you back up you can probably see soil
25 mapping there and another soil mapping there. Another

1 soil mapping there. And then the river bottom is a soil
2 mapping of its own.

3 There's all kinds of different geomorphic
4 surface agents out there. So in summary, we take the
5 knowledge of the soil forming factors, all the
6 references and all the studying we can do and we develop
7 soil landform models.

8 We figure out what are the patterns out there
9 in the landscape. We record observations to validate
10 our predicted models, and we get out there.

11 Of course, this is not the kind of ecosystem we
12 have around here. But there's relationships between
13 these different kinds of soil bodies. Are they deep,
14 shallow, sandy. Are there wetlands associated with
15 them. What's in the riparian corridors. All of that.

16 So you get the soils information. We actually
17 dig holes out there. That's one of the issues we have
18 to deal with if we do a soil survey in the Monument. We
19 need to get the archeological and biological clearances.

20 I know you'd want us to be careful if we do a
21 small excavation like this. We just don't go dig until
22 we know that that's where you want us to dig. But of
23 course, you know, in every soil we describe, we're
24 breaking down the different layers and we're looking at
25 the texture and particle sizes, and the pH. They are

1 all recorded in detail.

2 Why do we do this? We're getting at, you know,
3 trying to learn something about the landscape in terms
4 of its erosion potential, sediment. Infiltration and
5 runoff, I think, will be a big thing here -- where your
6 soils are going to take water in more like a sponge,
7 which ones shed it.

8 Modelers -- hydrologists and other modelers
9 like to use soil information to model water yield of the
10 landscapes. They're always asking us for information.

11 Do soils after fires shed water? That's a
12 function of organic matter content and other things and
13 biodiversity and what's going on with the soils.

14 Danella mentioned there's probably a lot
15 biological crusts on the soils. We try to characterize
16 those things for you, too, in better detail than what's
17 up there. What's up there now isn't covered very well.

18 I'm telling you, probably a lot of that
19 information I just mentioned is not covered very well.
20 So another picture just to tell you what I'm talking
21 about.

22 I don't expect us to find some gypsum up on the
23 Monument. Probably not too many clayey soils. We're
24 looking at sand and the water relationships in the
25 riparian corridors and those kinds of things.

1 I know I'm moving pretty fast. Now I'm going
2 to jump. That's talking about just the soil mapping.
3 Another thing that we're in the business of doing as
4 we're mapping soils, since vegetation and soil
5 relationships are usually where it hits the road, that
6 crosses over into wildlife habitat relationships.

7 So we are working alongside our plant
8 scientists to develop what we call ecological site
9 descriptions. An ecological site is an assembly of
10 vegetation that correlates together with the different
11 soil types.

12 So it's kind of one relationship. There's
13 probably, you know, one ecological site and five or 10
14 different kinds of soil mapping that fit within that
15 site.

16 But when things change drastically -- when the
17 vegetation changes drastically, it becomes a new
18 ecological site -- we try to characterize the geography,
19 climate, the representative soils, and all that.

20 But most importantly, we get into the ecosystem
21 dynamics of what plants are there. We put transects and
22 plots out there and try to characterize the various
23 plant communities that are in an ecosystem. We then try
24 to learn something about the habitat that's associated
25 with those sites and to see how it ends back here with

1 the soils.

2 So an ecological site is the product and
3 environmental factor and disturbance ratios that are on
4 the landscape. Fire, grazing, drought are all things
5 that apply to the Monument.

6 We try to do the research, our plant scientists
7 working with us do. And a lot of folks in this room
8 I've heard who are on the Advisory Committee, we would
9 need to collaborate with the academic community and with
10 other biologists to try to unravel some of these things
11 to build the best draft ecological site description we
12 can. Then we put these things out to peer review. We
13 hope that they'll become useful tools.

14 We need to understand the past. We need to
15 understand the dynamics that go on and the future
16 possibilities. Part of that is -- hopefully this is not
17 giving you a headache. We're using state and transition
18 theory as our way of looking at the dynamics and plants
19 and landscape.

20 An old way of thinking is that there's linear
21 plant succession. You have a plant community that's
22 kind of a climax plant community on that landscape.
23 That's what the land is capable of doing.

24 You get a forest fire. It takes it all the way
25 back to this. And then you're going to have a series of

1 stages that go back towards this climax. That's what I
2 learned in school.

3 I'm a soil scientist now. Now as I understand
4 it, we have a different understanding of things. The
5 state and transition theory is these boxes represent
6 different states that a vegetation community may be in
7 based on the disturbance regime.

8 These lines are the transaction. This might be
9 fire or drought or grazing, different pathways pushed
10 vegetation into a different ecological state. There
11 actually may be some thresholds that can get crossed
12 where you get into a state that's almost irreversible.
13 That's as much as I'll say about that.

14 What we're trying to do in our site
15 descriptions is describe what we think has happened with
16 these states and these transitions and describe that in
17 the ecological site description.

18 So if the plant communities out there in the
19 Monument are all in this state, and if they get a fire,
20 they go over and the look something like this.

21 We'll try to find places of both of them.
22 We'll run transects on them, get species composition.
23 We'll list all the species in there, including if
24 there's invasive and T&E's and that kind of thing.

25 We'll try to characterize ecological sites that

1 are out there that go with the soils that we're mapping
2 out. The interpretations that will come out of that
3 have a lot to do with habitat.

4 Out in the Mojave, we've been working a lot
5 with the Parks Service on the Desert Tortoise habitat
6 and what kind of soil properties and ecological sites
7 are important related to the tortoise habitat. You
8 know, fire ecology, the invasive species.

9 We think that the soils information in
10 corresponding ecological sites are very good tools for
11 folks to use.

12 Here's just a picture of Pinto Basin in Joshua
13 Tree National Park. This looks like 10 different
14 ecological sites that we identified out there. Inside
15 of this green site, there's probably a whole lot more
16 degree of detail in terms of the soil polygons we mapped
17 out.

18 That's about where I'm going to end. I'm going
19 to throw the map up back up about what exists as far as
20 mapping in the Monument now. All of the mapping was
21 done circa '50s, '60s.

22 This one was published in '81. This one I
23 think in '79. But for some reason things work slow
24 sometimes in the government. The field work is done in
25 the '50s or '60s, and they published them in the '70s

1 and early '80's.

2 It's pretty old antiquated stuff. I think you
3 want to get it on a good photo base and map base and get
4 it digitized. We would really encourage you to let us
5 maintain it and tune it up a little bit.

6 When we put in the draft document, probably
7 some of the areas of flatter slopes and some of your
8 riparian corridors that aren't even mapped out, you'll
9 problem want us to spend some time to go in there and
10 cut those things out.

11 And maybe get these ecological sites flushed
12 out a little bit, a least the first generation of them,
13 and tie that in with some of the vegetation habitat
14 relationships, and tie it all together into a seamless
15 package.

16 So, you know, this document, it says that this
17 soil survey would be used specifically for the
18 management habitat watershed recreation lands. We would
19 display the soils in more detail as appropriate and in
20 electronic and geospatial formats and provide updated
21 interpretations so it's all seamless.

22 We put on this draft Memorandum of
23 Understanding we may not have been all inclusive. We
24 put on here NRCS, Forest Service, BLM, Agua Caliente
25 Band of Cahuilla Indians, Southern Low Desert Resource

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1 Conservation and Development Council, State of
2 California Parks & Recreation, Fish & Game, and
3 University of California.

4 Yes, sir.

5 MR. FREET: I may be getting into far more
6 detail on this draft than you want to go into, and stop
7 me if I am. On the last page, 9 of 9, it's the cost
8 breakdown.

9 MR. SMITH: Uh-huh.

10 MR. FREET: First, I'm going to make a
11 statement. I would assume that this mechanism is a
12 fairly good example of how we might go through some of
13 these other issues unrelated to this page.

14 Now back to the page. Am I understanding this
15 breakdown under Roman Numeral II "Rough Estimate Work
16 Load" that your agency would fund under this agreement
17 \$305,000 and the BLM/Forest Service would be expected to
18 make up the difference of approximately \$75,000 for a
19 total allocation of this project for \$380,000?

20 MR. SMITH: Yeah. This is probably misleading.

21 MR. FREET: I believe so.

22 MR. SMITH: Yeah. I think that probably is out
23 of balance. What I was hoping in drafting this thing is
24 that BLM and Forest Service could agree that they can
25 put some staff horsepower to help with the site

1 descriptions.

2 We know you have the foresters and the
3 biologists. So I kind of threw that in as a starting
4 place.

5 MR. FREET: As a gimee?

6 MR. SMITH: Yeah. The other \$305,000 we have
7 to decide how much is private, Tribal, state that I can
8 fund. We just have to figure out the exact numbers.
9 There's probably maybe a quarter or a third of it that I
10 think would be NRCS part of that.

11 MS. GEORGE: Can I comment? Looking at the
12 map, because Forest Service has pretty much been mapped,
13 the bulk of it is going to be BLM lands, local
14 jurisdictions.

15 Anza Borrego State Park on the southern. Anza
16 Borrego is actually interested outside the Monument.
17 They've expressed an interest for inventory. And then
18 Tribal lands which NRCS would pick up.

19 So we need to ferret out exactly what those
20 breakdowns would be. Each year I try to start this and
21 get going, and each year the funds seem to go to
22 something else.

23 That's why I thought it was really important
24 for David to come and share with you guys what we're
25 trying to get going -- get moving. It's one of the

1 action items in the Monument Plan. A lot of the work
2 has been done. The updating needs to happen.

3 I can't speak for Laurie for what Laurie could
4 commit in probably 2005, some staff time. It sounds
5 like there's a lot of money going with prework for the
6 fuel workload. So they should be collecting some of the
7 information we need.

8 Then we could commit staff at BLM. And the
9 Tribe would need to know what you need from them. Like
10 interpretations, David talked about at one workshop in
11 depth what they've done with the tortoise. We could do
12 these sorts of things with the sheep. We don't even
13 know what the forage capacity is out there right now.

14 MR. FREET: My point being, and you, I believe,
15 were agreeing, that the impact to the BLM and Forest
16 Service is more than \$75,000 and split somehow between
17 the two agencies. It really doesn't reflect the
18 financial commitment that the agencies are having to
19 make to anticipate.

20 MR. SMITH: That's true.

21 MR. FREET: That's okay. It's just that this
22 tends to not paint the picture quite correctly.

23 MR. SMITH: You're very correct. I should
24 probably add another sheet to this to break things down
25 by agencies.

1 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Other questions by members of
2 the council?

3 Okay. Is there a direction that staff would
4 like us to consider?

5 MS. GEORGE: I think the Monument would like to
6 know if the committee supports us moving forward to
7 trying to commit 2005 BLM dollars which we've asked for
8 this project to make sure what we start moving towards
9 what's called an interagency assistance agreement so
10 David can start planning the staffing needs to start
11 moving this along.

12 MR. PARKINS: So moved.

13 CHAIRMAN CRITES: You just said the word "BLM."
14 You're the Monument manager. Are you proposing this for
15 both agencies?

16 MS. GEORGE: I can't speak for the Forest
17 Service.

18 MS. ROSENTHAL: I can't speak at this point
19 without addressing our leadership. We go through a
20 process, as you all know, for budgeting. It happens
21 usually at the end of a fiscal year.

22 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Just as a note, you're the
23 Monument manager for both halves.

24 MS. GEORGE: I'm not a line decision officer.
25 Yeah, I know.

1 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Probably most of us could
2 give --

3 MS. GEORGE: A rat's --

4 CHAIRMAN CRITES: No. Most of us would give
5 appropriate deference to whatever internal manipulations
6 need to occur. But from the external component, you're
7 the Monument --

8 MS. GEORGE: Yes. For both agencies.

9 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Would you like for the
10 Monument Advisory Committee to express its desire for
11 one agency or both?

12 MS. GEORGE: Both.

13 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

14 MS. HENDERSON: Second. That was Rob's motion.

15 MR. PARKINS: That was indeed.

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. There's a motion and a
17 second. Is there discussion on this Item?

18 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: I want to again just make
19 sure we get a more true breakdown of who is going to be
20 paying for what so we can all coordinate and work
21 together to get this done.

22 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Other comments?

23 MR. HAVERT: You can address this after we
24 resolve this issue if you wish. It's a request for
25 perhaps an overview of the bigger picture of the type of

1 items that involve money that you're envisioning the BLM
2 and the Forest Service budgets encompassing in the year
3 ahead.

4 I'm just trying to look at this in terms of how
5 many different types of projects are out there. And
6 then how would they balance priority wise.

7 MS. GEORGE: Well, do you want me to address
8 that now really quick? We've met with Forest Service.
9 BLM and Forest Service have met together to talk about
10 2005, what the needs are.

11 The key projects I think are the Tamarisk,
12 which Tom is going to talk about next, the weeds,
13 getting the soil survey done, and some cultural
14 projects.

15 Those are the key projects that I would like to
16 see initiated for 2005. BLM got funding for 2004 to
17 start the process for the landscape weeds. Those would
18 be the three keys.

19 Laurie, do you have any sense of that?

20 MS. ROSENTHAL: I think that the Recreation
21 Plan and Fire Plan are also high priorities.

22 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Yes?

23 MR. MORGAN: As for funding for this, I did go
24 to Washington and request funding to be added to the
25 2005 Monument budget for this project and for Tamarisk

1 removal.

2 As far as I know, as of Tuesday of last week,
3 it was earmarked to be funded. Whether or not I'm
4 successful, it's political from now on.

5 MS. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, what Jeff is talking
6 about is the Wilderness Society. This is a great
7 publication. I'll pass it around. The BLM Washington
8 office is actually using this to describe MLCS
9 monuments.

10 But what he's talking about is \$500,000 for
11 Tamarisk removal. Watershed assessment, education and
12 soil survey is included in that for fiscal year 2005.

13 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Is that only on the BLM side?

14 MS. GEORGE: No.

15 Well, Jeff, you speak to that.

16 MR. MORGAN: No. It was just BLM side. It was
17 dealing with BLM, dealing with congressional
18 representatives talking about BLM funding and not Forest
19 Service funding. It was specifically BLM funding.

20 MS. GEORGE: Going back to the Monument Plan,
21 these are all high-priority items that we agreed to do.
22 Gene signed the document. We've had discussions the
23 last couple of years. Gene and Laurie were present with
24 BLM and Forest Service.

25 Gene is fine. I don't want to speak for him.

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1 He's fine with the soil inventory because most of the
2 work has been done. It's just compilation.

3 Laurie, is that what you heard?

4 MS. ROSENTHAL: I don't recall the
5 conversation.

6 MS. GEORGE: You don't recall?

7 I can go back to the notes. But that's what I
8 thought I heard him say. It wasn't going to be a major
9 funding need from Forest Service. It's just cleaning up
10 the data, cleaning up the map lines.

11 The agency's choice. We're still trying to
12 figure out a process. We sent to Forest Service a
13 budget process. We're still somewhat confused
14 internally of what the next steps are at the local level
15 to do both 2005 and a Business Plan.

16 But what has been shown is minimal need from
17 Forest Service because it's been mapped. The highest
18 cost is actually the mapping.

19 Is that pretty right on, David?

20 MR. SMITH: Yeah. That's where we need to go
21 out and work.

22 MS. GEORGE: And lab work.

23 MR. SMITH: And also to what degree do you want
24 these site descriptions. I mean, the ecological site
25 description portion could be a work load where we would

1 need biologists, wildlife people, and vegetation people
2 to help us develop those.

3 MS. GEORGE: It's identified. The Monument
4 Plan has identified this. It's been signed off on.
5 Let's start moving towards implementation. You guys are
6 charted to advise. I just need some help if you think
7 this is important.

8 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Bill.

9 MR. HAVERT: Two other questions, Danella. Are
10 these now five things between you and Laurie that were
11 identified -- are these competing for the same limited
12 pot of dollars?

13 MS. GEORGE: Completing for the same? What do
14 you mean?

15 MR. HAVERT: Well, if you're seeking funding to
16 do one or more of these various things, is there any
17 need to be thinking in terms of prioritizing among these
18 because they're competing for some limited pot of
19 dollars up there? Or do they tend to come from a
20 different discrete funding source within the federal
21 budgets and not directly compete with each other?

22 MS. GEORGE: I can speak to BLM. Again, we
23 sent a flow chart a couple of months ago trying to
24 figure out the process of where I need to fit and where
25 Melissa needs to fit with San Bernardino's budget

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1 process. It's a flow chart describing what we've done
2 so far.

3 We don't know the next step for Forest Service.
4 For BLM, yes. We prioritized projects. We have a
5 system called BPS, Budget something System. I forget
6 what the "P" stands for.

7 We prioritize. Tamarisk is a high priority for
8 the next fiscal year. It's already come back for some
9 funding for 2004. Soil inventory is in there. Cultural
10 resource stuff identified in the Monument Plan.

11 So yes. These things are prioritized. As they
12 move through the food chain in the field office to the
13 state office and then to the Washington office.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Other -- yes.

15 MR. PARKINS: Rob Parkins. I'm wondering if
16 Bill was talking about as it relates to what you talked
17 about earlier and the prioritization on the workload and
18 project summaries.

19 Is that what you're referring to?

20 MR. HAVERT: I would say it's a piece of it.
21 My basic question is if we're going to be asked to
22 provide essentially support and recommendations for
23 seeking money for this or money for that, if they're
24 completing against each other, I'm just uncomfortable
25 taking them on one at a time.

1 I'd rather see here's the big picture. Here's
2 the dollar amount for this Item and this Item and this
3 Item. And realistically they may not all be doable. So
4 where is the best place to focus attention?

5 MS. GEORGE: That's exactly what the Business
6 Plan will provide. Our next meeting is October. The
7 Business Plan eventually will do that. It will show the
8 projects. It will show the priority, those rankings.

9 You look perplexed. You have a perplexed look
10 on your face.

11 MR. HAVERT: That's then. This is now.

12 MS. GEORGE: Okay. Now is the best we can do.
13 Now the best we can do is take from the Monument Plan
14 what we need as high priority for the projects, bring
15 them to the Advisory Committee as what we see as high
16 priority to start moving along and seeing if the
17 Advisory Committee -- you guys helped with that plan
18 development -- agree with these are projects you want to
19 see get rolling along.

20 That's the interim stage until we get a
21 Business Plan. That will then have things ranked. You
22 all can look at that, bless it, whatever, have
23 discussions on it. It should always tie back to
24 probably the Monument Plan, anything we do in that
25 Business Plan.

1 That's down the road. But this is the best we
2 can do for 2005. Because when we, meet again, this will
3 be fiscal year 2005 for the federal government.

4 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Comments? Here and then
5 there and then there and there.

6 MR. FREET: I have I guess a generic
7 observation. It may not be direct to this issue. But
8 I'm getting the distinct feeling in this meeting that
9 the Forest Service is being drug along in this process.
10 I don't sense a collaboration at the level that I sensed
11 before.

12 MS. ROSENTHAL: Do you want me to respond?

13 MR. FREET: I don't know that it needs a
14 response. It's just a observation.

15 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Let's hold that until we come
16 to sort of the end of our meeting, and let's talk about
17 that issue.

18 Okay. Now there.

19 MS. HENDERSON: And I think I know -- I think I
20 know where Bill was going. It's never safe to say you
21 know where somebody is going. I tend to be a little
22 concerned about asking for too many things when, you
23 know, it looks like you want it all and you really
24 should go after the funding for the most key things.

25 But what I really find interesting through this

1 process is the budget. It if we don't this now, we're
2 out of the budget for '05.

3 MS. GEORGE: It's going to be spent on
4 something outside the Monument potentially. That's what
5 happened the last two years.

6 MS. HENDERSON: So we need to get as many
7 applications in for funding for whatever it is that's
8 within our plan that we adopted that says our
9 priorities, and then kind of push where we can, and sit
10 back and cross our flingers in the hope one or two of
11 them get funding.

12 Once it leaves this level anyway, we don't have
13 much control over it. I think because the time frame is
14 there, we just need to do this.

15 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Rob.

16 MR. PARKINS: I subscribe to the concern that
17 Bill was expressing. I agree with Terry that I think
18 you have to do what you have to do.

19 MS. ROCHE: Taking off on what you said, but
20 more importantly what Jeffrey had said, is the request
21 has gone in specifically for this project. If it's
22 funded, we don't need to look at the overall picture,
23 which we should be doing.

24 But if the funding comes through that you are
25 hoping comes through, then it is specifically for this

1 project and we should go ahead. I think that that is
2 really the bottom line. If the funding is designated
3 for this, we do it.

4 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: But dealing with the
5 federal government all my life, you're always having to
6 look more than one year, two years down the road for
7 your budget. The money is there, like you said. You go
8 after whatever money you can now. If you don't use it,
9 you lose it. And you don't get it again.

10 So we might as well use it where we can, like
11 you said, and work now for 2006, 2007. Because we're
12 going to need to work now for those years to push for
13 those monies or to try to get even more money into the
14 pot for those years.

15 CHAIRMAN CRITES: I will take that, then, as a
16 request for a vote on this particular motion.

17 Do you wish to speak first, Gary?

18 MR. WATTS: I was going to say I believe a lot
19 of land on this map that wasn't mapped I believe belongs
20 to Fish & Game at minimum. Any program that has federal
21 dollars spent on local, Tribal, and last but not least,
22 state lands, I have to support.

23 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All those favorable signify
24 with an "aye."

25 MAC: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Are there those in
2 opposition? There being none, that will be recorded as
3 unanimous. Thank you.

4 MS. GEORGE: Thanks, David.

5 CHAIRMAN CRITES: That takes us then to --

6 MR. MUTH: I was just questioning who made the
7 motion.

8 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Oh. That was long ago.

9 MR. FREET: Rob made it, and it was seconded by
10 Terry.

11 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. It's now time to be
12 noxious with weeds. Danella.

13 MS. GEORGE: Okay. I'd like to now introduce
14 Tom Burgin and Sam Cobb, and they'll tell you more about
15 themselves.

16 I guess some background. Buford, myself,
17 Margaret Parks, Jeffrey Morgan met with Tom a couple of
18 months ago. It's talking about another action within
19 the Monument Plan strategically treating weeds on a
20 landscape basis that can benefit all the different
21 entities.

22 With the turnover we've had at BLM and the
23 minimal staff, "Gary piecemeal attacks on Tamarisk,"
24 which is spelled out as a objective and goal in our
25 Monument Plan.

1 So with that, Tom and Sam, it's yours.

2 MR. BURGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for
3 inviting our organization. We are the Southern Low
4 Desert Resource Conservation & Development Council. We
5 are strictly a volunteer group of citizens. We're going
6 to pass out a blue folder only that will show you our
7 district or council boundaries, the areas we cover.

8 Our membership covers three counties. This
9 portion of Riverside County, all of Imperial County, and
10 the eastern third of San Diego County is in our council
11 area.

12 We were supported, encouraged, and signed off
13 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The secretary
14 signed our application form on January 11th, 2001. The
15 federal government through the NRCS, which is Dave, back
16 there, his organization provides us with a full-time
17 coordinator. That's the key of our organizations.

18 Sam is the coordinator. They supply us with an
19 office, transportation, and seed money to get our
20 organization up and running.

21 As you can see on the brown map, the one I'm
22 the proudest of the most, that's my back yard. That is
23 our council area. We're very diverse. We have our
24 membership. Thirteen members are scattered from Palm
25 Springs all the way to Winter Haven and Bard.

1 We are a nongovernmental organization. We are
2 a California corporation 501C3. The purpose of our
3 organization is to talk to the entire council area as
4 you see on the map, to private citizens, government
5 groups.

6 We basically don't go near agriculture, which
7 is Dave's strong point. We stay with communities. Our
8 resource conservation can be human resource or natural
9 resource. We also can do development, which is private
10 enterprise.

11 As you see on the folder here, one of those
12 places, they actually rebuilt the frontages of the
13 downtown back in the Midwest. So we're quite flexible
14 in what we can do.

15 We were approached by the Bureau of Land
16 Management just after we formed. This will go to Bill's
17 question about money. The BLM, for your National
18 Monument, had been set aside \$174,000. If it's not
19 spent, it's gone.

20 Danella and our organization, we signed an
21 agreement. We were going to get the \$174,000 to do
22 initial work. We got it all signed. We opened a
23 checkbook. I called up Danella, and she said the
24 forestry grabbed it to put out the fires two years ago.
25 So if it's not in somebody else's checking account --

1 MS. GEORGE: It wasn't Forest Service. It was
2 BLM dollars.

3 MR. BURGIN: Okay. BLM took it, though, from
4 Danella's account. They hadn't transferred it to our
5 checkbook. So this would answer your question where
6 your money comes from. If it comes, you better take it
7 then or something will happen.

8 Okay. Now, you've got this material on what we
9 are. We are also a member of the U.S. Mexican Border
10 Coalition, which includes 127 RC&Ds from Tijuana to
11 Brownsville, Texas.

12 We're a member of the California Association of
13 Resource Conservation. We are a member of the Pac Rim
14 RC&D, which is all U.S. possessions in the Pacific
15 Ocean. We are a member of 375 National Association of
16 RC&Ds.

17 We have participated in a lot of their
18 activities in two years and have attempted to make a
19 name for ourselves. Because with our name is where we
20 can get the contacts and secure funds. We as an
21 organization have no money of our own. We're all
22 volunteers.

23 Now, to introduce our volunteers. First, our
24 second vice president is Dick Kershaw from Brawley.
25 He's also our chairman of the National Program on

1 Tamarisk Coalition.

2 In the back is Frank Kenny. He's our
3 volunteer. He is a retired executive from Dole
4 Corporation, and he is working on MOUs and agreements in
5 our organization. We have about 14 projects at this
6 time within our district. I'm going to talk today,
7 though, only on those issues related to the Salt Cedar.
8 Excuse me for reading directly.

9 We have worked directly with the New River
10 Congressional Task Force in Imperial Valley on the New
11 River. We have worked with the BLM through your
12 committee and organization here and formed a group that
13 is the NOVA Academy, which is connected with COD, or was
14 at the time.

15 They're going to do a supplemental report on
16 your Monument. Dave's people have already offered to
17 come out with these students on the test plot that's
18 being provided by BLM up here at the Visitor Center to
19 show them how to do soils reports.

20 I don't know if I was able to get this to
21 Danella, but as of this point, the money that our
22 organization solicited to fund these students from the
23 advanced high school work has been currently funded. We
24 received money from the Oscar Meyer Foundation, the
25 wiener company.

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1 The funds are in hand to pay to have these
2 students do the report. As an organization of
3 volunteers, we have asked the students -- we will
4 provide this. Danella is providing that. What we want
5 is a CD disk Power Point Program.

6 That's their payback to us. So when I go to
7 public meetings, I can brag about what the kids did.
8 You never want to give it all away. We are at this time
9 part of the Santa Rosa/San Jacinto Mountains National
10 Monument with the BLM, USDA, UFS, and EPA that we are
11 working with over the last two years to get us to the
12 point of where I'm talking today.

13 We have worked in our district with the Fort
14 Yuma Reservation Main Canal Improvement Project, which
15 is the Bard Water District at Winter Haven. They have
16 Tamarisk that are on the river. That's basically where
17 they came from.

18 They have approached us to fund and completely
19 reconstruct their existing canal system. Within about
20 10 months, through Mr. Cobb and our volunteers and or
21 organization, we assisted them in securing funds of
22 \$13.5 million.

23 And as of last October in Bard we went to the
24 meeting, the Bureau of Reclamation agreed to release the
25 funding. We got all \$13.5 million dollars for them in

1 10 months. This is what we do as volunteers and through
2 our paid staff.

3 MS. WATLING: We need you, Tom.

4 MR. BURGIN: We are working with the Fort Yuma
5 Reservation, which is the Quechan Council, for removal
6 and remediation for the Salt Cedar. Mr. Kershaw, Sam,
7 and myself have already met with them down there at
8 their request to work on the situation which is here on
9 your landscape and within the Monument.

10 The Imperial Valley Research Center, which
11 Mr. Kershaw is the general manager, is working on
12 remediation for the native plant research and test plots
13 to provide the native species to replace any of the
14 invasive species removed.

15 The other thing we talked about when I met with
16 Jeff and you guys the other day was the weed abatement
17 district. We are pursuing that. That will cover our
18 map. To form a weed abatement district for the BLM and
19 State of California.

20 In doing so, a side issue of that was that Jeff
21 was asking about our invasive species down by the Anza
22 Borrego State Park. They're in our council area. Our
23 staff and our volunteers will be able to control
24 invasive species that may in the future contaminate the
25 Monument.

1 In our research, if you can call it research --
2 it's contacts, interest -- we have contracted or we are
3 attempting to contract with a professional consulting
4 service that will do analysis and discovery for evasive
5 species of the Monument.

6 They've already provided us with a document
7 which is private because they are in business. What it
8 does is provides for method of removal, method of
9 disposal, or method off reclamation or the political
10 correct word "remediation." They don't like to use the
11 word "ratification" so they say "remediation." You're
12 going to replace it with something.

13 At this time, Mr. Kershaw again is our
14 organization's temporary chairman because we attempt not
15 to have our officers as chairmen. Speaking of chairmen,
16 the chairman for our project with the National Monument
17 is a supervisor of the water management office of the
18 Coachella Valley Water District.

19 They are one of our sponsors. They have agreed
20 to, at our request, let him be our chairman of this
21 project. He will do weed abatement, but he is also a
22 specialist of an issue that we will get into later which
23 is separate funding -- is the watershed assessment. The
24 CV Water District has a great interest in that. They
25 are one of our members.

1 Mr. Kershaw has done the following. He has
2 been to two meetings in Albuquerque, New Mexico that
3 deals with the Tamarisk coalition that covers seven
4 western states.

5 It's a fully functioning organization. They're
6 the ones that are securing the money that is currently
7 going through congress under HR2707 and now under Senate
8 Bill S2404.

9 It starts with \$30 million for research just to
10 study the issue of the Salt Cedar. Mr. Kershaw, besides
11 being there, has made a presentation before the US
12 Congressional Subcommittee in Washington, DC on the
13 Tamarisk issue. He's attended the Tamarisk Coalition in
14 Denver, Colorado.

15 He then was sent by our organization to the
16 USDA conference in Washington, DC in February of this
17 year to solicit support from congress for activities
18 that we're wanting to do within our council and in the
19 Monument.

20 Our council is also in the Monument. Our
21 emphasis and everything I'm doing today is on the
22 Monument. Everything else comes along with it. Because
23 our council covers outside the Monument, we hope to be
24 involved to do issues like the grass you were talking
25 about in the Anza area, to keep it from coming into the

1 Monument.

2 Our organization has this capability.

3 Mr. Kershaw was also a presenter at the US/Mexican
4 Border Coalition annual meeting in Albuquerque last
5 month. His sole subject on that was a portion at my
6 request for the US/Mexican Border Coalition.

7 I didn't go to the meeting. These two guys
8 went to the meeting. I wound up being first vice
9 president because I wasn't there.

10 But in doing that, he was a presenter with
11 Tamarisk as part of the three-day program. Also at the
12 time Mr. Kershaw got the US/Mexican Border Coalition,
13 who I will discuss later who they are, to pass a
14 resolution supporting us getting these federal funds for
15 our council area.

16 We have been to the Bureau of Reclamation in
17 Yuma, Arizona to work with them because they are the
18 lead agency for the Colorado River and all the canal
19 systems.

20 They are an organization that has additional
21 money for Salt Cedar. And this is why we go there and
22 get acquainted with them, because we are after their
23 friendship, and we're after their money.

24 BLM did Salt Cedar demonstration projects.
25 There are two of them. One in Yuma and one in Cibola.

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1 Both in Arizona. We have done on-site tours of the Salt
2 Cedar remediation with the BLM.

3 We are currently talking to the California
4 River Indian Tribe, Salt Cedar demonstration project in
5 Parker, Arizona. Once the weather cools off, we're
6 going to look at that.

7 We were requested by the Quechan Tribe at the
8 Fort Yuma Reservation. We had a conference with them.
9 They've already started doing their Salt Cedar and
10 immediately realized they were going in the wrong
11 direction. So again Dick, Sam, and I went and met with
12 their environmental director. We're working directly
13 with them to assist them.

14 In the Yuma area on the Colorado side or the
15 Arizona side is the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area
16 RC&D. They have both an east and west wetland project,
17 two projects, that have been going on for four years on
18 removal, remediation.

19 Covers anything from commercial to recreational
20 to environment are developed within these two areas.
21 And they at this point are fully funded for that
22 project.

23 Okay. What we're doing also is soliciting
24 cooperative efforts from sponsors from our six water
25 agencies -- the Desert Water Agency, Mission Water

1 Agency. The Coachella Valley Water District is
2 currently a member. The Imperial Irrigation District is
3 one of our sponsors. Both of these water companies are
4 excellent sponsors for our organizations.

5 The Bard Water District is also a member. They
6 got a big benefit. \$13.5 million for their dues. The
7 Palo Verde Water District is in Blythe. We are
8 currently soliciting them to be members so they are on
9 our council and can cast votes for issues that they're
10 interested in.

11 The other thing we are going to solicit through
12 all of this is watershed assessment for all of the
13 mountain ranges within our council. But this goes with
14 BLM, state, and county.

15 But the main thing will be is that our project
16 chairman does water assessments for CVWD. That is one
17 of the projects that will follow behind what Dave's
18 organization does on the soil side.

19 Okay. I'm going to give you some long names
20 here. Southern Low Desert, Mojave Desert Mountain,
21 which is San Bernardino County, and the lower Colorado
22 River RC&Ds, which is the Arizona RC&D. They run from
23 the Mexican border of San Luis all the way to Boulder
24 Dam on the Arizona side.

25 What we've done with the approval of the State

1 Conservationists in Arizona and California, the three of
2 us have formed a joint resolution for Colorado River
3 Salt Cedar remediation and reclamation.

4 Also part of this is an Indian heritage
5 preservation. If you've heard of the Blythe and
6 Taglios, the Indian stick figures, we're this close to
7 signing a contract with the Bureau of Land Management in
8 Yuma because they have the jurisdiction there to
9 preserve the Indian sites. But we're working through
10 the BLM office quite a bit in Yuma, Arizona.

11 As far as Agua Caliente, we talked about this
12 with Margaret when I had that lunch meeting with her,
13 our organization through the NRCS, Dave's organization
14 out of Sacramento, has a full-time employee in Riverside
15 that deals with 40 tribes within our area for councils.
16 She's already met with some of the folks.

17 On that we are in the makings of MOUs for the
18 Quechan, which is the Fort Yuma reservation. The Yuma
19 Crossing National Heritage Area, we are dealing with
20 them because they in turn have agreements with the
21 Cocopah Tribe in Yuma.

22 The Fort Mojave, which is at Needles, is
23 through the Mojave Desert RC&D. And the Colorado River
24 is both in ours and in the lower Colorado River
25 jurisdiction.

1 So we've already made contact with all of these
2 folks. I literally got to talk to one of the
3 Chemehurvei people from Lake Havasu at a meeting
4 Wednesday night in Blythe. BLM had an open house on
5 their area plan for the future.

6 When they were there -- Danella knows me -- I
7 carry my cards. The minute I heard who he was, I went
8 up and gave him a card. But that's what our group is
9 all about.

10 Okay. Weed abatement district which connects
11 with the Salt Cedar. All of this is connected even
12 though I'm disjointed. The weed abatement district,
13 there is none for this area from Cabazon to the Colorado
14 River to the Imperial County line.

15 There is no weed abatement district. We have
16 been asked by BLM. We held meetings in Danella's
17 office. The State of California is interested in this.
18 Our organization has agreed to be the lead agency to
19 form this weed abatement district.

20 What all of this does is gives us, for a better
21 word, clout. We're out in the public. We're out in
22 government agencies. We're trying to do all of this,
23 and all of this benefits the Monument.

24 Now, our organization, we are coordinators and
25 we're partners. This is why the federal government--

1 Sam's official title is coordinator.

2 That's what we do. A bunch of citizens
3 listening to other citizens who have a need or a
4 project, and we attempt to put it all together and help
5 them accomplish their goals.

6 We have been a partner and so far assisted in
7 the assessment and inventory coordination and project
8 completion within the National Monument, and we have now
9 been asked by BLM to also consider the Dos Palmas area
10 and the Big Morongo, which is in the other district.
11 But they again have a joint resolution with us.

12 In those areas we would be working on areas of
13 critical and environmental concern with the RC&D and the
14 BLM. We do coordination and implementation of the
15 remediation. What is going to be a big issue is what
16 native species go in that place. The Imperial Valley
17 Research Center in Brawley is very much involved in
18 getting native species that will be acceptable to any
19 agency to replace.

20 For example, here in the canyon if we jerk out
21 Salt Cedar, Dave's program that you voted to approve is
22 going to indicate the invasive species.

23 We will use that information, should we get
24 your approval. And then in doing so, we have to
25 determine what native species goes in its place and

1 where can you buy it.

2 Yes?

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Let me just ask a question at
4 this point in terms of approval.

5 Danella, what kinds of things are we being
6 asked to do to help folks to get to moving on to this.
7 Because I think you're seeing a positive reaction in
8 terms of what you have done.

9 MS. GEORGE: Basically what we asked for RC&D
10 is to take the Monument Plan to treat the landscape.

11 You have that proposal, Tom. It talks about
12 the inventory, the NEPA work, treatment.

13 MR. BURGIN: That's a private paper for your
14 eyes only.

15 MS. GEORGE: Yeah. But these folks saw it when
16 we met. That's what we asked RC&D to do. To be a body
17 where funding can go from different entities to the RC&D
18 for the inventory, the treatment, the monitoring, if
19 there's NEPA work that needs to be done. To contract
20 all that out in a strategic way of doing business
21 because we're never going to be able to do it in BLM
22 because of the turnover.

23 It's always piecemeal. That's what this group
24 needs to decide, if they are supportive of that.

25 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Now, if you have

1 to take all of that and boil it down to five sentences,
2 what would it be?

3 MS. GEORGE: Do you support having the RC&D as
4 the lead agency for implementing the National Monument
5 strategic noxious non-native species plan?

6 MR. BURGIN: We're just going to pick one
7 category at this time. That's the invasive species.

8 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Right. So invasive species
9 in the Monument regardless of jurisdictional boundary.

10 MR. BURGIN: I have some more information on
11 that.

12 MS. GEORGE: Tom, I'm sorry. But we're running
13 out of time. I think blood sugar is dropping and we've
14 got public comment period.

15 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Let me see where -- so we're
16 asking to designate these folks as sort of our folks in
17 the field to accomplish the tasks that need to be
18 accomplished regarding invasive species and implementing
19 the National Monument Plan?

20 MS. GEORGE: Yes.

21 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Question. That means
22 coordinating with the Tribes and whatever agency to do
23 this?

24 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes.

25 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: I know it ties into

1 replenishing the native plants. Are we just voting on
2 removing them at this point?

3 CHAIRMAN CRITES: No.

4 MR. BURGIN: From grave to the cradle. You
5 take them out and replace them.

6 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Okay. Good. I'm glad.

7 MR. BURGIN: Now, we currently have an MOU with
8 the BLM on the Monument. In that contract, Buford, what
9 it does in there is that we agree to consult with all of
10 the agencies before -- we're not going to make any
11 decision on our own. We consult.

12 Like if it's native species, the people in the
13 Winter Haven Bard, the Quechan Tribe, has already got
14 native species in production. We offered these.

15 Dick showed me a list a minute ago of four
16 pages of native species of plants that can be used in
17 our council area. You select which ones you want. Then
18 we make the arrangements with the private contractors.

19 We do all of that. We're the coordinators.
20 We're the administrators. We just come and report to
21 you, and hopefully you say, "Good job," and we move on.

22 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes, Al.

23 MR. MUTH: There are a number of folks that are
24 concerned about the introduction, be they natives or
25 non-native genetic material from one area to another.

1 I say non-native meaning if you're going to be
2 growing Desert Willows say from an Arizona stock and
3 reintroducing them into the Coachella Valley, there's a
4 good deal of concern about that.

5 MR. BURGIN: That would all be regulated. When
6 the decision is made, those that don't meet that
7 criteria would be rejected. You decide. You pick the
8 ones your want. It would be multiple choice. It's not
9 this one or nothing. There would be multiple choice.

10 You may want willows but it may be a hybrid.
11 It may be something you don't want. For example, Dick's
12 organization in Brawley has got 13 species of native
13 Mesquite.

14 MR. KERSHAW: Mostly Mesquites. We're getting
15 ready to have a nursery that will be different.

16 MR. BURGIN: Okay. But they've got a
17 25-year-old test plot down there on Mesquite, and they
18 are native. A lot of research has been done. To
19 address your question, nothing will be taken out of the
20 ground without your permission. Nothing will be put in
21 the ground without your permission. We're only a
22 coordinator and a facilitator.

23 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Let's see if
24 there are other questions first.

25 Yes, Jeff.

1 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. I have a question. A lot
2 of this Tamarisk removal that has occurred has been in
3 areas that have relatively easy access. There's stuff
4 in the Monument that you do not have easy access to.
5 It's a long way away. You've got sheep issues.

6 Virtually all Tamarisk removal programs that
7 I've seen start at the bottom and stop when the money
8 runs out. Then the stuff up above keeps on growing and
9 regenerates back down. So there has to be a plan.

10 We're not going to do this because we have some
11 money this year. This has to be done on a regular basis
12 and start at the top and work down drainage by drainage.

13 Unless that's done, no matter all the money in
14 the world, if you spend it in the wrong place, you're
15 not going to have the affect.

16 MR. BURGIN: There's no plan here. We're just
17 talking. The first thing is that for our organization
18 to operate, we feel we need a written agreement with
19 whatever organization we're going to work with.

20 Otherwise, we will go work on the R V park down
21 at the Salton Sea. We're doing other things. We're
22 going to get money for a kitchen down there for the
23 community center. We do things across the board.

24 We are asking as part of this thing with
25 Danella is -- where's the word. I keep forgetting. You

1 have to excuse my words. I farmed all my life down here
2 in the Coachella Valley.

3 So if you didn't see it out on a tractor during
4 the day, you don't know what they're talking about.
5 Analysis and discovery are professional consultant terms
6 for getting all the questions and then getting all the
7 answers that you're talking about. That's the plan.

8 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay.

9 MR. BURGIN: But we're asking to get to that
10 point.

11 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Fair enough.

12 MR. BURGIN: Buford, is that what we talked
13 about the other day?

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: That's exactly. Yes.

15 Danella.

16 MS. GEORGE: Thank you, Chairman Crites.

17 Yes. That's what we need to do is to move
18 along with that strategic plan. I also included to the
19 MAC -- all of you have the Tamarisk Coalition
20 newsletter. It talks about \$100 million and the house
21 bill and senate bill that Tom is talking about.

22 RC&D can help get some of that money. Projects
23 have to have 75% fed, 25% local. That's one of the
24 things RC&D can do is be able to tap into some of this
25 money to augment our regular budgets to start --

1 MR. BURGIN: We solicit funds. Our
2 organization can -- our name now gives us the ability to
3 cross over to private and all government agencies.

4 Some of the best contacts I've had through the
5 US/Mexican Border Coalition have been the forestry
6 service people. We are the one organization that can
7 cross all bounds of private and government.

8 And we've reached a point now that may be to
9 this point we were just a 400-pound gorilla. Maybe in a
10 couple of years we'll be an 800-pound gorilla. But that
11 is part of our strength is our ability to make requests.

12 Whoever thought of this sugar thing to
13 compliment, Dave back here with the soils thing, we met
14 here a year and a half ago. Dave, you were down. We
15 met.

16 He told you folks he needed four soil
17 scientists. The state doesn't have them down here.
18 They don't have the manpower. They don't have the
19 facility.

20 Okay. We go to a state convention last October
21 in Lake Arrowhead three weeks before the fire. So we're
22 up there, and a representative of the Secretary of
23 Agriculture is in a forum. Dave's boss, Chuck Bell, was
24 sitting next to this man. I stand up in the audience
25 like I'm doing now and embarrass his boss.

1 I point at the man from Washington, DC. I
2 point out your project at this meeting. I said, "The
3 soil scientist of the State of California says we need
4 four new personnel in our area. We don't have them.
5 The local RC&D, which is the Ag. people have agreed to
6 supply the lab and facilities for these four."

7 So I made a flat demand right to that guy up
8 there last year for four pore people for you, David.
9 Have you got them yet. No? I tried. But this is what
10 we do.

11 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. Yes,
12 Mr. Brockman. Have you got a question?

13 MR. BROCKMAN: No.

14 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. Frank.

15 MR. BOGERT: When you call these things
16 Tamarisk trees, you're confusing them with (inaudible)
17 trees, which are our trees here. Then you call them
18 Tamarix. Are they all Salt Cedars? Why don't we get
19 one name for them?

20 MR. BURGIN: No. There are two names. Salt
21 Cedar has a scientific name. It's a bush. The Tamarix
22 that you and I have seen all our lives down here is a
23 tree.

24 Now, as far as the variety between a Tamarix
25 and a Tamarisk, I think that is nothing but poor use of

1 the English language. I mean, it's one tree, but we all
2 use different names for the same tree. "Risk" or "rix"
3 with an "x."

4 This organization of the seven states is using
5 the "rix" with an "x." All of us down here are using
6 the "s," Tamarisk. The big one. It's easy. Huge
7 trunks. It's a tree.

8 The Salt Cedars that we're dealing with in the
9 Monument are bushes. They never get much bigger than
10 that. Have you seen them that big up there?

11 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

12 MR. BURGIN: Now, is that a cluster, or is that
13 one?

14 MR. MORGAN: No. Solid trunks at least two
15 feet around.

16 MR. BURGIN: You may have both of those up
17 there, Jeff. You may have both of them up there.

18 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Anyhow, where would we like
19 to go with this?

20 MR. BURGIN: This is what Dave's organization
21 and their work will tell you what it is --

22 CHAIRMAN CRITES: And what to do.

23 MR. BURGIN: -- and where it is.

24 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. We have now a
25 presentation. We have what staff --

1 MS. GEORGE: What the Monument would like is
2 what we talked about when we met. Does the Advisory
3 Committee recommend, since your job is to advise the
4 secretary, to utilize the RC&D as the tool to implement
5 the weed strategy of the Monument Plan?

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: That is the issue that is in
7 front of us.

8 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: I'll make the motion to
9 approve.

10 CHAIRMAN CRITES: There is a motion.

11 MS. ROCHE: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN CRITES: There is a second. Is there
13 at this point discussion on the matter?

14 MS. HENDERSON: Just one additional question.
15 Sorry about that. I tried not to, Buford. When the
16 gentleman referenced that they are not the decision
17 makers but the facilitators, and that the decision what
18 comes out of the ground and what comes back into the
19 ground is made by you, who is "you"?

20 MS. GEORGE: I would say it is the staff
21 specialist, the botanist.

22 MS. HENDERSON: It's not something that is
23 going to come back to this committee?

24 MS. GEORGE: No. It will be recommended by
25 biologists or Monument managers or in Laurie's case, the

1 district ranger.

2 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: And they would be working
3 with the Tribes.

4 MS. GEORGE: Anything on the Tribal lands would
5 be decided by whoever the Tribe delegates are.

6 MR. BURGIN: Excuse me for interrupting. One
7 of the issues we've already talked to people at Yuma is
8 bringing their equipment up there if we decide we need
9 to grind your trees. They've agreed to come up here and
10 do it. So we're working on it already.

11 MS. HENDERSON: Call for the vote, Buford.
12 Call for the vote.

13 CHAIRMAN CRITES: How dare you say that. All
14 right. There is a motion, a second. Hearing no further
15 questions, those favorable signify with an "aye."

16 MAC: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Are there those in
18 opposition? There being none that is unanimous.

19 Thank you for the presentation and thank you
20 for the data. We're off to bat.

21 Given the hour of the day, I have a suggestion,
22 Danella. That is that at the next Monument meeting that
23 have we have as an agenda item the coordination, however
24 you all want to phrase it, of the various federal
25 agencies in terms of Monument management business

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1 planning and the other things. I think Bary's comment
2 is well taken, and it's probably a good time to come
3 back and look at how that process works and what we can
4 do to facilitate it.

5 MS. GEORGE: Sounds good.

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: That gives folks time to
7 present a "seamless decision making process" to hear
8 that word again.

9 Given that, it is time for public comments. I
10 have one card from a public -- a genuine public.

11 Joe, you are the public.

12 MR. INGRAM: Joe Ingram from Spring Crest. My
13 comment is in reading the large book, the Monument book,
14 Chapter 4, especially the issues on the fire and water,
15 the suggestion is made -- I have multiple suggestions.

16 I seem to have a problem with the direction of
17 the suggestions made. I think I'm listening right now
18 to everything that is being said.

19 I think a lot of the local issues up there are
20 not being addressed. We're kind of missing the boat on
21 some real important issues.

22 No. 1, I became aware through talking with a
23 friend at Pinyon Crest and researching and calling
24 around, there has not been a true hydrogeological study
25 done in that area.

1 The last one that was done in 1978 was done by
2 the Pinyon Water District, and where I live, the Spring
3 Crest Water Company when Harry Chaddick owned it.

4 So those are two reports. I looked at the
5 Pinyon Water District report. I see that you're kind of
6 missing the boat.

7 Another question listening to what was being
8 said by -- what's your name?

9 MR. SMITH: Smith.

10 MR. INGRAM: Yeah. David Smith. It kind of
11 relates to what I'm trying to convey. You have lands in
12 the Monument like where I live, Spring Crest, and you
13 have Pinyon Crest, Alpine Village that are out of the
14 Monument but surrounded by the Monument.

15 So basically in Pinyon Crest, for instance,
16 they're out of the Monument but surrounded by the
17 Monument. There are water issues.

18 They're having a building boom like everyone
19 else down here. Houses being built and wells being
20 drilled downstream from where the houses are being
21 built.

22 We're in a drought condition with the water
23 table dropping with the wells being drilled deeper, more
24 houses being built, more sewage being created, the
25 higher nitrate level in the wells. And crossing under

1 Highway 74 into the Monument into Deep Canyon into
2 potential springs used by endangered species.

3 Nothing being focused on there. There's no
4 discussion of this in the Monument book, in the study.
5 To me, the Tamarisk removal, I mean, it's a necessary
6 thing around a spring area or water course. Fine. But
7 there are other important issues.

8 Mainly I would ask this committee to really
9 seriously look into a study of the soil, of the bedrock,
10 of what we have.

11 Is there such a thing as paleo water? Where
12 does our water come from? Is it water left over from
13 Pliocene that's stuck in cracks and we're sucking it
14 out? Where does the water down here come from? Is it
15 old water from the Sea of Cortez?

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: So you'd like to have, then,
17 the issue of water availability?

18 MR. INGRAM: Yes. Because we're removing the
19 water and putting sewage in the ground.

20 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. The point is taken,
21 and we will ask that to be agendized at our next meeting
22 for what legally the Monument has the right to even look
23 at in terms of research and what kinds of data are
24 available or should be available for management of the
25 Monument resources, not the private land resources.

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1 Are there other members of the public this
2 afternoon who wish to offer comment? There being none,
3 are there reports or comments by specific members of the
4 advisory group? No one has a report or any issues to
5 mention?

6 Danella, would you give us about two minutes
7 just to let folks know about the film that's being done?

8 MS. GEORGE: Sure. Also October the 23rd, an
9 important date to put on your calendar. We'll have an
10 event at the visitor center to celebrate the National
11 Monument.

12 MS. HENDERSON: I'm sorry. I can't hear.

13 CHAIRMAN CRITES: October 23rd.

14 MS. GEORGE: October 23rd is the annual
15 celebration from like 9:00 to 4:00. There will be
16 additional information coming.

17 We're moving along with a high definition film
18 that we're doing in partnership with Palm Springs Life.
19 They've done quite a bit of filming.

20 Buford, you've seen it. You could probably
21 tell the folks as well -- the Advisory Committee. And
22 Mary has seen it -- what you think of it. I think it
23 will be quite nice. BLM will have copyrights for it.

24 CHAIRMAN CRITES: It should be out of editing
25 in mid-summer. They have something like 45 hours of

1 data that they're are going to get down to a half hour
2 and one hour version of this. They've interviewed folks
3 in the Tribe.

4 MS. GEORGE: A quarter million dollars is what
5 the film has cost. BLM contributed \$25, 000. And the
6 rest has been coming from donors and other folks.

7 MS. ROCHE: It's really exciting to look at the
8 filming. There are 3,000 hours of helicopter filming
9 over the Monument.

10 The clip I saw had Frank Bogert talking about
11 the Monument and Barbara Gonzales-Lyons about the
12 Tribes.

13 But it's the filming. I think what it's going
14 to do -- listening to Frank Jones who is putting it
15 together, he is such a vital spokesperson for this
16 Monument. He should be on there because he really sees
17 this Monument as becoming the driving force for interest
18 in our valley in the future.

19 We're only a few years old, but as it becomes
20 known and as we develop all that we have in our plan, it
21 will become a much more vital part than it is now.

22 In the future we will become known as the
23 National Monument area as opposed to the Coachella
24 Valley. At this point in time we are still kind of the
25 Coachella Valley and the mountains are out there. It

1 truly will become the Santa Rosa/San Jacinto National
2 Monument.

3 The people will think about primarily as
4 opposed to resort destination with golf and tennis, it's
5 really the National Monument. So it's all based on all
6 your work, and of course the insert that was in Palm
7 Springs Life is part of it.

8 He is still needing to raise money. It's going
9 to committee in our city. Palm Desert has generously
10 given \$50,000, it's my understanding. Hopefully I can
11 twist my peoples' arms. We don't have any money in the
12 bank.

13 At any rate, it's very exciting to see it.
14 It's super high definition quality. It's on the cutting
15 edge of technology. So he's already packaging it and
16 talking to PBS, Discovery Channel.

17 There are going to be two segments. One is a
18 half-hour program and one is an hour program. I don't
19 know. It's 23 minutes.

20 MS. GEORGE: It's been evolving.

21 MS. ROCHE: That's the plan. Will you show it
22 at the fall meeting?

23 MS. GEORGE: Yes.

24 MR. BURGIN: If the chair will excuse. Could
25 we pass this out to each member? This was the second

1 half of our presentation.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: You certainly may.

3 Two real quick comments for those who know and
4 have been on the tours of the upper part of the Dunn
5 Road, the area called the Orchard that has been a mess
6 for years in terms of glass and everything.

7 Thanks to the County of Riverside,
8 Michael Conner, who is the director for this side of the
9 county, has been working diligently to find, believe it
10 or not, a farm grant to clean up the orchard. It was
11 put there to be a farm. So we may get a farm grant to
12 get all the trash out of there.

13 On your way out of here today, if you happen to
14 be on Highway 74 and Highway 111, you'll actually see
15 signs pointing to the National Monument Visitor Center,
16 which Palm Desert did without approval of the Signs
17 Committee and will be glad to remove it if you prefer
18 the visitor center not to be found.

19 MS. HENDERSON: I do think we should take the
20 time to thank these volunteer gentlemen who came here.

21 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes.

22 MS. HENDERSON: He was really anxious to
23 deliver the rest of it. I would love to have heard it,
24 but the day does go on.

25 MR. BURGIN: This is pictures of things on the

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1 Tamarisk. Salt Cedar, Frank. Salt Cedar.

2 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Are there further comments to
3 come before this body today? Are there any other
4 further comments?

5 MR. BOGERT: A younger man could have finished
6 this meeting at 12:00 like you promised.

7 CHAIRMAN CRITES: By golly, that will narrow it
8 down in this room to just a few people. You have just
9 become the Chair.

10 Our next meeting is, Danella?

11 MS. GEORGE: October. The first Saturday of
12 October, which I think must be -- what day would that
13 be?

14 MS. HENDERSON: October 2nd.

15 MS. GEORGE: October 2nd it is.

16 CHAIRMAN CRITES: October 2nd at 9:00.

17 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Are the committees
18 supposed to have something back by October?

19 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Yes.

20 MS. GEORGE: Very good point. The time line we
21 were told by Washington BLM is we need to have this done
22 by October. I was talking with Terry. We should not
23 have to meet more than three times, each work group, to
24 get this done.

25 CHAIRMAN CRITES: Okay. I believe we had

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1 decided ahead of time that the last organization that
2 raised their hand with a question was in charge of lunch
3 for the next meeting. Is that correct?

4 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: I'll get that from the
5 Tribe.

6 CHAIRMAN CRITES: All right. We are there.
7 With that we are adjourned.

8 (The proceedings concluded at 12:30 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
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COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE)

I, Sonja Chapman, a certified shorthand reporter within
and for the State of California, hereby certify:

That the said public hearing, taken down by me in
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thereafter reduced to typewritten form by computer-aided
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transcription of the oral proceedings in this matter, to
the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not in any way interested in
the event of this action and that I am not related to
any of the parties thereto.

DATED THIS 28TH DAY OF JUNE 2004.

Sonja Chapman, CSR 11504

