

UNIT 577

RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK

GENERAL PLAN

September 1981

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January 1982

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor of California

Huey D. Johnson
Secretary for Resources

Pete Dangermond, Jr.
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation



State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P.O. Box 2390
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SUMMARY

Red Rock Canyon is a 3,015-acre unit of the State Park System, located about 80 miles east of Bakersfield in Kern County. The unit is noted for its spectacular desert landscape views, and is also popular with off-highway-vehicle enthusiasts. The department is negotiating with the federal Bureau of Land Management to acquire an additional 6,400 acres of adjacent land.

This General Plan proposes a number of improvements for the park, as well as policies to protect the scenic resources.

The plan proposes expansion of two natural preserves, at Hagen Canyon and Red Cliffs. Also proposed is a management program to restore disturbed landscapes to their pristine condition, as well as increased monitoring of special interest plant and animal species. Cultural resources would be protected, and the plan denotes allowable use.

Development proposals include a permanent visitor center, electricity and telephone lines brought in underground, improvements to the entrances on Abbott Road, a buffer zone between the scenic cliffs and vehicle parking areas, and an expanded and refined trail system. If the department acquires the above-mentioned federal lands, the plan proposes extending controlled vehicle use to these lands.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Plan

This plan is the beginning of a process. Any improvement starts out as an idea. The purpose of this plan is to establish directions for improvement of Red Rock Canyon State Park -- to start into motion a process of physical improvements and increased public understanding of an especially beautiful part of California's desert.

Project Description

Red Rock Canyon State Park is located along State Highway 14 in Kern County, about 80 miles east of Bakersfield. The unit includes about 3,015 acres of land, with magnificent views of the pristine desert landscape. The park provides camping, sightseeing, horseback riding, hiking, and other recreation activities, and includes two natural preserves.

Historical Background

Native American History

The area of Red Rock Canyon State Park was seasonally used by one or more Native American groups. The area was probably used most by the Kawaiisu, with some use by the Tubatulabal (see Technical Appendix for Ethnohistory). Both of these groups spoke Uto-Azetecan languages, and were linguistically and culturally related to the Paiute and Shoshone of the Great Basin. The Kawaiisu claimed the eastern Tehachapis and southern Sierra Nevada, while the Tubatulabal had the Kern River and South Fork of the Kern from Mount Whitney south and west to 40 miles downstream from the South Fork confluence. Both of these groups had firm boundaries to the west, but little or no boundary known on the east, or desert, side.

The numerous vertical ribs of Red Rock Canyon were called "the bones of the man-carrying bird, Nihnihoovi" by the Kawaiisu. Both the Kawaiisu and Tubatulabal were semi-sedentary, and moved seasonally into the deserts to gather faunal, floral, and geological resources. In addition to animal and plant resources, the gathering and processing of Rhyolite Tuff and Jasper were very important at Red Rock Canyon.

Euroamerican History

The passage of the scattered survivors, the so-called "Death Valley Forty-Niners," through the canyons of the El Paso Mountains, and the tales told of gold or silver seen in the Death Valley region, were factors in the appearance of the first historic-period travelers to Red Rock Canyon. Before this date (January 1850), there is, so far, no recorded evidence of entrance. Joseph Walker may have seen the canyon, but he used the pass named after himself. The Fremont expedition turned off to the north to use Walker's Pass, while John C. Fremont never got near the place. Miners, however, used the route through or to the south and then east and north of the canyon; they explored, prospected, and occasionally, settled down to do some mining. By the early 1860s, despite the "Indian War" in the Owens Valley, several mines had been established in the El Paso Range.

By the mid to late-1860s, freight lines coursed through Red Rock Canyon, with several locations favored for overnight stopping points. The major item was the accessibility of water. The developing towns of the Owens Valley and the rich silver strikes of the Cerro Gordo mines put people permanently in Red Rock Canyon. Sometime after 1868, Remi Nadeau, a freight contractor out of Los Angeles, established a station at the current park headquarters. Several years later, this station was enlarged to handle more traffic. This facility also served as a point of origin for pack trains carrying supplies north and west into the Sierra's southernmost mining locations.

In late August 1871, a stage line, the Pioneer Passenger and Express Line, owned by H. W. Robinson, went into operation, and stagecoaches swayed through the canyon. Stations were a long distance apart; the nearest to the canyon on the south was Desert Springs. To the north, the nearest station was at Little Lake. This situation did not last, and by late 1874, the locations of stations had changed. A new station had been placed 1.2 miles south of Nadeau's Red Rock station. Another stage station was located roughly 5.9 miles away to the north; it was called Red Rock Summit station. To the south, Desert Springs was no longer a station, or for that matter, even on the stage line; the road appears to fork southwesterly -- along the approximate route of today's highway, until it reached Forks of the Road station, roughly 15 miles from Red Rock station.

Several years later, with the founding of the town of Mojave on the Southern Pacific Railroad, and that village becoming the major starting point for upper northeastern Mojave desert travel, the line of stations was readjusted. Red Rock station was closed and moved to Nadeau's Cerro Gordo Freighting Company station. Red Rock Summit station, which is outside of current state park boundaries, continued briefly in operation; its function was then moved to the Dixie Creek station, 4 miles to the north.

Sometime after 1879, Remi Nadeau pulled his company out of Red Rock Canyon; the stage line (several name changes and several new owners later), the Kern and Inyo Line, stayed. The company increased traffic to daily (except Sunday) service; then, in the late 1880s, it was scaled back to three round trips per week. The line connected Mojave with Independence; at Hawley (Keeler), one could connect with the Carson and Colorado railroad.

During the early 1880s, a man named Zarrah reportedly hit on the first water scheme for mining the riches of Red Rock Canyon. He would not be the last. The story goes that Zarrah dug a vast reservoir in the main branch of the canyon, to store water to hydraulic the washes and hillsides. His friends laughed at him; he got discouraged and disappeared from the scene.

While stagecoaches continued to use the canyon, freighters rediscovered the old route that skirted along the southern edge of the El Paso Mountains. The new stage station continued to serve the stage line; no meals, however, were available. Freight still passed along this route. Red Rock Canyon witnessed the massive migration of thousands of sheep passing by, a day or two apart, in bands of several thousand each. Possibly the largest drive was by a Bakersfield-Tehachapi sheep man, Gustave Sanger, in 1881. Sanger drove 24,000 sheep from the Tehachapi region to Montana. Accompanying Sanger was his stepdaughter, Nora Smith. Roughly 30 years later, Nora returned to Red Rock Canyon as the second Mrs. Rudolf Hagen.

In the spring of 1893, gold was found east of the canyon, in Goler Canyon. Within six months, the strikes had also occurred in the northeast branch of the canyon, known today as Iron Canyon. A rush was on, aided not only by the lure of gold but the harsh economic conditions of a country in the throes of a depression.

The rush to Red Rock did not last long. Most of the Iron Canyon claims were filed within two months, and by early 1894, consolidation began as individual miners sold or traded portions of their claims with neighbors to found active working cooperatives. The only miners who seemed to make any real money were Bell-Shaw-Stander and friends, who dug an estimated \$4,000 out of Bonanza Gulch, then sold out to a Los Angeles man named Moulton for \$6,000. Moulton lost his shirt and traded off the claims to Charles A. Canfield of Los Angeles-Kern County oil fame, who had abandoned the 51 claims by mid-1895.

As best as can be determined, no one in the 1893-95 period, or for that matter, any other "rush" in Red Rock Canyon, made any fortunes, despite the inflated stories of old-timers concerning fabulous golden dividends. If the estimates of the Division of Mines and Geology are considered "too conservative" and doubled, even then, less than one-quarter of a million dollars in gold has been dug from the El Paso Mountains since 1893. Most miners were delighted if they made a meager living wage.

By late 1896, Rudolf Bart Hagen had arrived on the scene. He was not, as he claimed 30 years later, the discoverer of gold in Red Rock Canyon. He wandered into the upper Mojave from a somewhat clouded background in San Francisco, dabbled in mining in Butterbrecht (Butterbread) Canyon, then appeared in Red Rock Canyon, where he filed claims on water rights at the "old stage station" site, established a store, and bought into some mining claims. Within a year or so, he had acquired a federal office (postmaster at his store, which he had named Ricardo), bought out the new stage station, and was joined by his youngest son, Richard, who had been living with his older brother, Rudolf A. Hagen, in San Francisco. Hagen also had a daughter, Augusta, who boarded with a family at Freeman. She would soon marry and live in Mojave.

As miners withdrew from the canyon, Hagen filed a series of mining claims called the "Deep Diggings." Later, he altered the boundaries and the names of these claims to the "Deep Channel" series, and filed and abandoned numerous other claims for mineral extraction purposes. It would not be until 1913 that he took out his first homestead patent, gaining legal control of 160 acres surrounding the new location of Ricardo, the old Nadeau freight station. In the 1920s, he would file other patents based on mineral rights, to secure title to a total of roughly 1,800 acres.

Until 1930, Hagen conducted various businesses in Red Rock Canyon. He mined, sold rocks in both small and large quantities, farmed, and drilled for oil (no luck) and water. It was in water development that he was most successful, even though his most grandiose schemes never worked, usually due to Hagen himself. Furthermore, he operated the store, the post office (he lost that in 1917 due to his too verbal pro-German attitude), the stage stop (which, after 1909, stopped functioning), a garage, and a roadside stop and campground. He put Red Rock Canyon on the map as a tourist attraction. Sometime between 1905 and 1917, he married the widow Nora Borgwardt of Bakersfield.

In 1930, Hagen retired to Bakersfield, living in Nora's old house on 19th Street. Caretakers took over operation of Ricardo, and mined for any minerals they could find. Hagen died in 1937; Nora Hagen ultimately acquired Red Rock Canyon, and it was later willed to her grandchildren (from the Borgwardt marriage) in 1951. Lessees continued to operate the various businesses; the canyon, from 1931 on, became a favorite location for motion picture production, particularly of westerns. Ironically, the first movie made in part in the unit was a gangster film.

The Department of Parks and Recreation acquired the Hagen property in 1969; since then, other parcels have been added to the unit. Most of these additions can be traced in a broken line back to the rush of 1893 -- gold claims soon abandoned and then reclaimed, reworked, and just as often reabandoned. A few parcels date to the depression of the 1930s, when any income kept the wolf away, while others are part of the "desert craze" of the post-World War II land ownership boom.

RESOURCE ELEMENT

The purpose of the Resource Element is to establish the long-range resource management objectives and policies necessary to protect and perpetuate the resource values of the park and applied-for federal lands. This element identifies significant resource features and establishes guidelines for acceptable levels of development and use with respect to these values. Specific resource management programs needed to protect and perpetuate the natural and cultural resources of the park are only briefly identified because of the cursory level of resource inventory and evaluation undertaken. Further study is needed before specific programs can be developed and implemented.

This Resource Element has been prepared for lands in Red Rock Canyon State Park as of January 1, 1981, and adjacent federal lands applied for by the department in 1976 (Figure 1).

Inventory Summary

Unit Identification

Red Rock Canyon State Park is located in eastern Kern County, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Los Angeles and 128 kilometers (80 miles) east of Bakersfield. State Highway 14 bisects the unit about 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of Mojave. The principal geomorphic feature of the unit is Red Rock Canyon, which forms a spectacular gap in the western end of the El Paso Mountains near the termination of the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada range.

This unit is located in the Desert and Desert Mountains Landscape Province, near its border with the Sierra Nevada Landscape Province.

When the unit was originally classified as a state recreation area in 1973, it encompassed approximately 780 hectares (1,930 acres). Between 1973 and 1979, an additional 845 hectares (2,085 acres) were acquired through direct purchase. The present unit boundary is very complex, and is intermingled with federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). To round out the state's boundary and provide a more manageable unit for protection of the area's unique resources, the department filed an application with BLM in 1976 for a lease with option to purchase approximately 2,590 hectares (6,400 acres) of federal lands. Final determination on this application has not been made.

Two areas in the unit have been designated as natural preserves in recognition of their exceptional natural and scenic values. Hagen Canyon Natural Preserve is the largest, encompassing approximately 240 hectares (600 acres) west of State Highway 14 and Abbott Drive (Old Highway Road). Red Cliffs Natural Preserve, approximately 120 hectares (300 acres), is located east of the highway, and includes spectacular cliffs and lands at the mouth of Iron Canyon.

Red Rock Canyon was in the initial group of outstanding areas in California recommended for acquisition into the State Park System in 1929 by Frederick Law Olmsted in his report to the state legislature.

Summary of Resources and Evaluation

The following information was taken from the Resource Inventory developed for reclassification action in February 1980. Additional information was obtained from the Environmental Assessment Report prepared by the Bureau of Land Management for applied-for lands west of State Highway 14.

Natural Resources

Topography

The terrain in Red Rock Canyon State Park and adjacent applied-for federal lands varies from gently sloping alluvial plains to steep canyon walls. The mean altitude of the unit is about 760 meters (2,500 feet), and the range of elevation is from about 685 meters (2,225 feet) in the lower canyon to 915 meters (3,000 feet) on the northeastern rimrocks. Federal lands range from 640 meters (2,100 feet) near the Randsburg-Red Rock Road to 1,010 meters (3,310 feet) atop the El Paso Mountain Range.

Meteorology

The climate of the region is classified as a continental desert type. There are wide variations in temperatures between summer and winter and between day and night. For example, weather records from Cantil, near the mouth of Red Rock Canyon, show a mean January temperature of about 6°C (44°F), with a mean maximum of 15°C (60°F) and a mean minimum of -2°C (28°F). The mean July temperature is about 30°C (87°F), with a mean maximum of 40°C (105°F) and a mean minimum of 20°C (69°F). The record low is -19°C (-3°F), and the record high is 47°C (117°F).

The average seasonal precipitation at the Cantil station is about 8 centimeters (3 inches). At least 80 percent of the precipitation falls between November 1 and April 30. However, there are occasional summer thunderstorms with local cloudbursts that can cause flash floods. The area receives about 10 centimeters (4 inches) of snow annually.

Strong winds, sometimes with extremely high velocities, are common, especially in the spring and fall. These are mostly westerly, and usually occur in the afternoon and early evening. Normally by midnight, the desert is calm, even after days of severe wind.

Topography is a dominating factor in determining the microclimates of areas in the El Paso Mountains and Red Rock Canyon. The canyon forms a cold-air drainage that directs air flow downward at night. The canyon floor is, therefore, slightly cooler than other locations nearby.

Hydrology

Two major watersheds drain southward to the Mojave Desert through the unit and applied-for federal lands. The largest watershed is the Red Rock Canyon drainage, which encompasses about 132 square kilometers

(51 square miles). This watershed drains the western end of the El Paso Mountains and the desert lands to the northwest (Figure 2). The smaller drainage is unnamed, and encompasses about 23 square kilometers (9 square miles) adjacent and to the southwest of the Red Rock watershed. This smaller drainage crosses State Highway 14 1.25 kilometers (0.75 miles) from the Randsburg-Red Rock Road intersection near the southern border of the applied-for federal lands, at a location referred to as Mike's Dip.

No perennial surface water flow occurs in the area, except for a small spring-fed flow in Red Rock Canyon at the confluence of Tarweed Canyon. Some surface water can usually be seen in this location all year long during most years. Creek beds throughout the rest of the area have water in them only during and for a short time after rainfall.

Flash flooding can be expected to occur in the area, particularly during the summer. Thunderstorms occasionally send large amounts of water down dry washes. One of the most severe thunderstorms in recent years occurred in September 1975, when 2.3 centimeters (0.9 inches) of rain reportedly fell in about 40 minutes in the unit. Peak storm discharge near the mouths of the two watersheds were 235 cubic meters per second (8,320 cubic feet per second) in the narrows of Red Rock Canyon below the confluence of Iron Canyon, and 55 cubic meters per second (1,960 cubic feet per second) at Mike's Dip. At Mike's Dip, the flood claimed the life of a motorist who was reportedly struck by a 45-meter (150-foot)-wide wall of water. Flooding of much greater magnitude can be expected. A cloudburst in October 1945 reportedly sent a discharge of more than 450 cubic meters per second (16,000 cubic feet per second) down Red Rock Canyon, double that of the 1975 event. The potential 100-year flood flow in the Red Rock drainage is estimated by the Kern County Water Agency at a massive 1,350 cubic meters per second (47,900 cubic feet per second).

Major flood-prone areas in the unit and on federal lands are shown in Figure 2. These areas were delineated from 1980 aerial photos, and should be considered only very rough estimates of minor to moderate flooding events. In areas where the terrain is relatively flat, random meandering of washes can be expected.

Geology and Paleontology

Red Rock Canyon State Park lies at the southern edge of the Basin and Range Geomorphic Province, near the convergence of the Sierra Nevada Range to the west and the Mojave Desert to the south. Association with these divergent geomorphic provinces results in particularly interesting landscape features.

The basement complex in the Red Rock Canyon area is composed of plutonic rocks that date back probably to the Jurassic age, about 150 million years ago. These rocks have apparently intruded into an older series of metamorphic rocks, made up of quartzite conglomerate, hornfels, and basalt porphyry. A fine-grained rhyolite granophyre,

unlike other rocks in the region, occurs in the plutonic (unmetamorphosed) sequence. Granophyre is a term that describes crystal intergrowth of very fine-grained quartz and potassium feldspar. It probably represents the youngest of the plutonic rocks in the sequence.

The geologic features of most general public interest in the unit are the spectacular cliffs of the Ricardo formation. This formation is up to 7,000 feet thick, and is made up of terrestrial deposits of sandstone, silt, clay, gravel, fragmental volcanic debris, and several olivine basalt flows, all of which were laid down in the Tertiary period, 2 to 60 million years ago. In Red Rock Canyon proper, the soft, water-laid sediments have been exposed through relative down-cutting of the canyon and elevation of the El Paso Mountains. The cap rock of basalt has acted as an erosion resistor, and has contributed to the resulting vertical cliffs and castellated forms, spires, alcoves, and niches in the area.

The olivine basalt in this area contains notable collections of zeolites, which are hydrous aluminum silicates formed in the cavities of the basalt flows. Zeolites reported in the area include: analcime, natrolite, thompsonite, phillipsite, and huelandite. This collection of relatively unstable (rapid-weathering) minerals is of particular scientific interest. Opal, jasper, and geodes also are occasionally found in the more remote reaches of the canyons, and are popular objects for rock collectors. These collecting activities are prohibited in the park.

The Ricardo deposits have been uplifted and tilted to the northwest as a result of fault activity occurring along the El Paso fault, which runs along the base of the El Paso Mountains and is exposed at the mouth of Red Rock Canyon. The El Paso fault is a branch of the Garlock fault, which marks the structural boundary between the Mojave Desert and the Basin and Range geomorphic provinces. The Garlock fault lies parallel to and just south of the Randsburg-Red Rock Road, south of the unit. It is concealed beneath the valley alluvium. The relative vertical displacement of the El Paso fault has been between 760 and 910 meters (2,500 and 3,000 feet), decreasing westward. In contrast, displacement along the Garlock fault has been primarily horizontal, with the northwest block moving relatively westward 10 kilometers (6 miles) or more.

Placer gold, pumice, pumicite, and clay are the principal mineral products of the Red Rock Canyon area, with clay mining activities leaving the most obvious reminders. Manganese, uranium, perlite, molybdenum, and lead deposits have also been explored in the area. Exploitation of the clay deposits may accelerate on federal lands in the northeastern part of the area, judging from permit activities and the projected increase in demand for bentonite clay, which is used in drilling wells for oil, gas, and geothermal resources. Gold and other precious-metal prospecting has also increased in the vicinity of the park with the dramatic escalation of value in recent years. However, mineral exploitation is not permitted in the unit.

The most complete and varied fossil record of land animal life of the early Pliocene epoch (about 10 million years ago) has been found in the Ricardo formation in the Red Rock and Last Chance Canyon areas. Fossil evidence of ancient camels, horses, mastodons, rhinoceroses, dogs, pronghorn antelope, deer, saber-tooth tigers, cats, weasels, and rabbits have been discovered in the park and on nearby lands. Fossil evidence of plant life also found in the area indicates that the region supported woodland-savanna, chaparral, arid-tropical scrub vegetation, with possibly 40 centimeters (15 inches) of yearly summer showers.

Soils

The soils at Red Rock Canyon have not been mapped. However, the soils can be generally characterized as poorly developed due to limited moisture and low levels of organic material. As a result of natural and human-related erosion factors, soil appearance and composition differ within short distances in the area. Most soils, however, tend to be alkaline, because much of the surface water and soil moisture evaporates and leaves behind dissolved salts.

Soil erosion in the area is generally high, but varies widely from one location to another. The dark basaltic flows that lie atop the main ridges in the canyon are relatively resistant to water erosion. However, the various types of sedimentary beds that underlie the harder material are easily eroded. These characteristics have contributed to creation of the spectacular multi-colored canyon walls and outcrops.

Human activities have also had a significant affect on the soils in the area. However, unlike the natural erosion process that created the outstanding cliffs over a period of thousands of years, these activities have caused changes on the landscape in less than 100 years -- in fact, mostly in the last 20 years. Although disturbances by past mining and highway construction are easily seen, the most widespread disturbance in the area has been caused by off-highway-vehicle (OHV) recreation since 1960. The disturbance to soils and the ecosystem in general caused by these activities are long-lived in the desert.

OHV use on State Park System lands at Red Rock is presently restricted to designated primitive roads. This regulation is strictly enforced by state park rangers. Consequently, the adverse effects to soils caused by OHV activity in the park have been greatly reduced. However, on much of the applied-for federal lands, OHV trails are continuing to proliferate.

Plant Life

The Red Rock Canyon area is in the Southern Desert Biotic Province. The flora of the area represent a convergence of flora from the east and west side of the Sierra Nevada and the high and low Mojave Desert; therefore, species diversity is great, and speciation is active.

Three major plant communities occur in the Red Rock Canyon area: creosote bush scrub, shadscale scrub, and Joshua tree woodland.

The creosote bush community is the most extensive, and occurs on alluvial fans and mesas. Woody plants dominate, but there is a rich representation of annual plants. Species common to this community include creosote, bursage, goldenhead, and cheese bush.

The shadscale scrub community occurs on less well-drained flats in the area. Most of the characteristic plants in this community are low shrubs, with many stiff branches and small, grayish leaves. Plants are generally widely scattered and tolerant of alkaline soils. Common species include shadscale, hop sage, winter fat, and blackbush.

The Joshua tree woodland community occurs typically on higher, well-drained sites in the area. The characteristic plant in this community is the Kern Joshua tree. Red Rock Canyon is on the edge of this community; its location results in widely scattered Joshua trees over most of the community, with thicker stands occurring on better sites. Other plants associated with the community are California buckwheat, bladder sage, and Mormon tea.

There are many plants of special interest in the park and on adjacent federal lands, including several rare, endangered, or threatened species. Red Rock Canyon tarweed, listed by the federal government as threatened and by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as rare, is found in the bottom of Red Rock Canyon. This is the only population of this species. The population centers around a short seep in an ephemeral streambed. In favorably wet years, its distribution increases, and extends along ephemeral streamlets and sometimes up onto the rocky canyon cliffs.

Mojave fishhook cactus, listed by CNPS as rare and proposed by the federal government as endangered, occurs in several locations in the unit and federal lands. This cactus has sinuous red and white spines, and is one of the most attractive native cacti. The red spines are rounded and hooked, while the white ones are angled and straight. The plant itself is somewhat round, sometimes a little longer than wide. Because of its beauty and uniqueness, it is often dug up in the desert for garden specimens (however, it rarely survives the ordeal).

Spiny chorianthe, also listed as rare by CNPS, occurs in the unit. Red Rock is the western limit of this species range. The plant occasionally occurs in colonies on light, sandy slopes, especially in the east fork of the main canyon and in the metamorphic gravel along ridges.

The scaly-stemmed sand plant, considered rare by the CNPS, also occurs in the unit and on federal lands. This species grows in isolated colonies in certain sandy locations in the area.

Desert-holly is found in various locations in the area, and is particularly abundant on federal lands in Scenic Canyon. This species has been threatened by collectors using the silver-looking branches and leaves for Christmas decorations. This species is protected throughout Kern County by special county ordinance.

Several exotic plants have been introduced into the area over the past 100 years. Some of these were planted by early inhabitants, and some were brought in accidentally. Two of the most conspicuous are tamarisk and Russian thistle. Tamarisk trees are found at the unit headquarters and in a few locations along the state highway. Russian thistle is most commonly found in the vicinity of the highway.

Animal Life

Wildlife occurring in the area is typical of that found in the western Mojave Desert. Most animals are not commonly seen because of their nocturnal behavior or secretive habits.

Reptiles are an important element of the desert ecosystem. Through hibernation and estivation, they are well adapted to the hot and cold desert conditions, and are year-long residents. Typical species in the area include the desert side-blotched lizard, desert iguana, zebra-tailed lizard, desert horned lizard, red racer, and desert sidewinder.

A variety of both migratory and resident birds occur in the area. Some of the more common representatives are the red-tailed hawk, burrowing owl, horned lark, raven, Wilson's warbler, and sage sparrow. Bird populations fluctuate greatly in the area, depending on weather conditions and food supplies. Highest population levels and species diversity occur in the spring, followed by fall, winter, and summer.

Most mammals in Red Rock Canyon, both in terms of species and numbers, are rodents. Most common include the antelope ground squirrel, Merriam's kangaroo rat, deer mouse, and little pocket mouse. Other species include the desert cottontail and black-tailed jackrabbit. The desert kit fox, gray fox, bobcat, and coyote are occasionally seen in the area.

Several animals of special interest occur in the area. The Mojave ground squirrel, listed by the state as rare, occurs in several areas in the unit and on federal lands. This ground squirrel has adapted to desert climatic extremes by hibernating in winter and estivating in summer and fall. Between August and March, the animal remains inactive in underground burrows. The desert tortoise, the state's official reptile, also occurs in the unit and on federal lands. Although not noted on state and federal lists as rare or endangered, populations of desert tortoise have been reduced over most of their range.

The steep and remote cliffs in Red Rock Canyon provide excellent nest sites for birds of prey (raptors). The golden eagle, prairie falcon, and several species of owls are known to nest in the area. These animals return to the same location to nest year after year.

Cultural Resources

Native American Resources

Prehistoric cultural resources are common in the park and on applied-for federal lands. Evidence of prehistoric resource exploitation occurs at all elevations.

A stratified sampling technique was used to gain an overall "feel" for the prehistoric resources at Red Rock Canyon State Park. A more intensive survey was conducted by the Bureau of Land Management on the applied-for lands west of State Highway 14. Sites identified in these surveys include: rock shelters, both with and without midden aprons; mortar holes in groupings of one to five; small and large-surface lithic scatters, consisting mostly of cores and unmodified flakes of Rhyolite Tuff; problematic rock rings (that could be used to hold down a modern tent); and numerous isolated finds, mostly cores and flakes of Rhyolite Tuff. Some scholars attribute some or all of the lithic scatters to early humanity in the California desert (see Technical Appendix).

Euroamerican Resources

There are no historic structures in the park. There are historic remains of many commercial activities. There are a large number of holes of various types (excavations, tunnels, shafts, etc.), definite signs of the numerous miners who dug there. However, while the remains illustrate the story, they are not much different than other remains scattered throughout the desert mining country.

Evaluation

The sensitivity of prehistoric cultural sites is based on the type of site or sites, the current condition of the site or sites, and the potential for destruction. Sites with cultural debris and/or artifact scatters tend to be quite sensitive to both weathering activity and visitor use impact.

Because of the frequency of isolated surface finds related to Native American activities, both in Red Rock Canyon State Park and on the applied-for federal lands, the entire area, except for the bottoms of washes, is considered to be of extremely high cultural resource sensitivity (see Technical Appendix).

Esthetic Resources

Red Rock Canyon has long been known for its scenic qualities, which are intimately associated with its geologic features. Colorful and unusual rock outcrops are contorted and carved by wind and rain, as well as more

rapid processes such as thunderstorms, flash floods, and cloudbursts. Many distinctive rock formations have been given descriptive or fanciful names. Among these are the Citadel, a columnar red structure embedded in an otherwise gray hillside; White House Cliffs, composed of numerous towers and domes; and Red Rock Cliffs, which are most impressive while traveling north on State Highway 14. Because of the spectacular kaleidoscopic formations found in Red Rock Canyon, the area is used extensively by the motion picture industry and other commercial filmmakers.

Each tributary of the main canyon has its own unique landscape. Hagen Canyon displays the Amphitheater and Mirage Cliffs, with such interesting formations as Organ Lady, Closed Cathedral, Buried City, Pillars of Hercules, and White Chapel. Scenic Canyon, on federal land northeast of the unit, contains the Scenic Cliffs, Lady Fair Sphinx, and Nightmare Gulch (which includes Turtle Gate, Tai Shan Temple, and Magic Silent City).

Much of the land along State Highway 14 through the unit is in a scenic easement established in 1969 by the State Public Works Board and granted to the then Department of Public Works, Division of Highways. The purpose of this easement was to set specific land use restrictions to preserve, protect, and improve where necessary, for scenic purposes, the spectacular scenic views along the highway in Red Rock Canyon. These restrictions are included in the Resource Management Policies section of this report, under the Esthetic Resources subheading.

Recreation Resources

Enjoying the scenic resources at Red Rock Canyon is probably the most popular activity in the unit. Motorists passing through the park on State Highway 14 are greatly impressed by the show of color and erosion-sculptured cliffs that are suddenly and dramatically revealed. This area is outstanding in an otherwise rather monotonous stretch of desert highway. Many people stop along the highway to take photographs of the unique scenic and geologic features. A rather large portion of the area on either side of the highway was especially acquired by the (then) Division of Highways as a scenic corridor for this reason.

Before their acquisition and management, the State Park System lands were primarily used by OHV enthusiasts. Uncontrolled use resulted in various effects on the resources of the area, varying from little modification to extensive damage to desert vegetation and soils. In an effort to reduce such deleterious impacts, yet still allow OHV use in the unit, a system of primitive roads was established. These routes may be traveled by licensed operators using vehicles that are licensed or registered and meet all applicable requirements of the California Vehicle Code. Through intensive management, many of the heavily affected sites in the unit are returning to a more natural and stable state. In other areas, the impacts of earlier OHV use will be evident long into the future.

BLM regulations on federal lands applied for by the state now allow for OHV use on "designated roads and trails." In theory, these regulations limit all vehicles to the trails and roads designated by BLM as available for

use. However, BLM has never officially designated any trails or roads in this area. This fact, coupled with the extremely limited patrol capabilities of BLM, has resulted in proliferation of new trails in the area.

A contributing factor to increasing use of the applied-for lands and state park lands by OHV recreation is the two open, unrestricted OHV use areas on public lands to the north (Dove Springs) and to the south (Jawbone Canyon). Both of these areas experience a great deal of use on weekends and holidays. Traffic in these areas often overflows onto lands in Red Rock Canyon. Primitive roads in the unit are used by OHV enthusiasts for trail riding, and as a transportation corridor to the Jawbone Store for purchase of food and other convenience items. During certain times of the year, a high percentage of people using overnight accommodations and other facilities in the park are oriented to OHV recreation.

Other popular activities in the park include sightseeing, camping, picnicking, hiking, desert exploration, nature photography, and other desert nature studies.

Resource Policy Formation

Classification

Red Rock Canyon State Park was initially classified as a state recreation area in 1973. This action was taken by the State Park Commission primarily because of the type of recreation uses historically occurring in the area. At the time, the department recommended state park classification, in recognition of the statewide significance of resource values in the unit. In addition to classification of the unit, two natural preserves, Hagen Canyon and Red Cliffs, were established.

In 1980, reclassification of the unit to a state park was again recommended by the department. The commission approved the reclassification on February 8, 1980.

The following excerpt from the Public Resources Code sets forth broad management objectives and identifies improvements that are appropriate and inappropriate in any unit which is classified as a state park:

. . . Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.

Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so

long as such improvements involve no major modification of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements which do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks.

Since its original classification and subsequent reclassification, additional lands have been added to the unit. Some of these lands are adjacent to the existing natural preserves. Since the original boundaries of the natural preserves were based on earlier State Park System ownership, expansion of the preserves is proposed to reflect more natural and manageable boundaries (Figure 3).

If applied-for federal lands northeast of the existing unit are acquired, it is recommended that a new natural preserve be established in the Scenic Canyon-Nightmare Gulch area (Figure 3).

Declaration of Purpose

Red Rock Canyon State Park

The purpose of Red Rock Canyon State Park is to protect and perpetuate the spectacular high desert landscape, associated natural ecosystems, and important archeological values for public enjoyment and inspiration, and for scientific study. Prime resources in the unit include the geologic and scenic values associated with the Red Cliffs, Whitehouse Cliffs, Mirage Cliffs, Red Rooster Point, and Hagen Canyon. Outstanding features on adjacent applied-for federal lands that shall be considered prime resources, if acquired, include the Scenic Cliffs and Nightmare Gulch. The desert plant and animal communities shall also be considered prime resources, particularly the rare, endangered, threatened, and special interest species.

Appropriate visitor use of the park includes activities that allow for and encourage enjoyment of the prime resource values of the unit, and do not degrade these features, so future generations shall have the same experience and opportunity. Appropriate development in the park includes that which enhances appropriate public use and provides for necessary management needs.

Red Cliffs Natural Preserve

Red Cliffs Natural Preserve is established to provide for special protection and management of the outstanding geologic features and other natural resource values in the central portion of Red Rock Canyon State Park. The Red Cliffs landform in the preserve is one of the most dramatic scenic features viewed by motorists traveling through the unit on State Highway 14. Facility development and public use in or adjacent to the preserve that impair the scenic quality of the preserve as viewed from the highway or other popular vantage points shall not be permitted. Visitor use in the preserve shall be permitted to the extent that natural ecological and scenic values are not significantly altered or disturbed.

Hagen Canyon Natural Preserve

Hagen Canyon Natural Preserve is established to provide for protection and perpetuation of natural geological and ecological processes in Hagen Canyon and the vicinity. Prime resource values in the preserve include the spectacular multi-colored cliffs, several rare, endangered, or threatened plant species, and habitats supporting several animal species of special interest and importance. Facility development and public use in or adjacent to the preserve that significantly alter or disturb natural ecological processes, scenic values, or cultural values shall not be permitted.

Applied-For Federal Lands

The applied-for federal lands embrace outstanding natural and cultural resources of equal value and need the same protection and management as those in the unit. If these lands are incorporated into the park, they shall be managed under the same purpose and policies as park lands.

If the northeastern portion of applied-for lands become incorporated into the State Park System, it is recommended that a natural preserve be established in the Scenic Canyon-Nightmare Gulch area (Figure 3). The purpose of this action shall be to provide for special protection of outstanding geologic features, biotic resources, and cultural values. Prime resource values in the area are geologic features associated with Scenic Canyon and Nightmare Gulch, wildlife habitat supporting species such as the golden eagle, desert tortoise, and Mojave ground squirrel, and plant communities supporting several rare, endangered, or otherwise special interest species.

Zone of Primary Interest

The department has concern for all lands adjacent to the unit on which any development or land use change could jeopardize or degrade the resources of the park. The primary zone of interest includes all lands within the watershed boundary of the unit (Figure 2). Some types of land use outside the park in this area could potentially affect surface water flow, erosion, and sedimentation through the unit. Of special concern is land use on applied-for federal lands and other lands adjacent to the unit. Existing bentonite mines northeast of the unit represent a potential threat to park values. Some of these mines are in the upper watershed of Iron Canyon. Operation of a recently approved bentonite strip mine in the upper watershed of the Scenic Canyon-Nightmare Gulch area may significantly affect the integrity of panoramic views from within the unit, may degrade surface water quality, and may increase siltation in the canyon bottoms. Also, off-highway-vehicle use in the designated open federal lands northwest of the unit creates special problems in park operations and land management, as discussed in other sections of this plan.

Resource Management Policies

Natural Resources

General management of natural resources in the State Park System is governed by statutes, policies, and directives (California Public Resources Code, Administrative Code, and department Resource Management Directives). Specific policies for the unit are as follows.

Hydrology

The Red Rock Canyon area is subject to severe flash flooding. These events can cause extensive damage to facilities, and can take human life in the flood path.

Policy: The potential for flooding shall be evaluated before development of facilities and public use areas. Major flood-prone areas are shown in Figure 2. However, local flash flooding is possible in other areas in the unit.

Geology and Paleontology

Geologic Hazards

Several types of geologic hazards in Red Rock Canyon State Park have the potential for damaging facilities and/or threatening human safety. The principal hazards are floods as a result of infrequent but torrential rainfall, rockfalls from cliff faces due to natural erosional processes or accelerated by human impact, and earthquake damage resulting from activity along nearby fault traces.

Policy: Rockfall areas or places of significant bluff undercutting shall be reported when observed by any employee of the department, and shall be investigated, evaluated, and recorded by the staff geologist or designee.

Facilities and activities that tend to concentrate visitors shall not be located in areas where rockfall hazards or cliff undercutting have been identified as problems.

Structures to be constructed shall be designed to withstand the shaking associated with a magnitude 7.7 earthquake 10 miles (6 kilometers) from the unit.

Minerals and Paleontologic Resources

Red Rock Canyon State Park is a popular destination for geology and paleontology field trips.

Policy: The fossil and mineral records and specimens of Red Rock Canyon State Park shall be preserved. Scientific investigation and analysis from various universities and museums shall be encouraged on a permit basis to broaden the knowledge of park resources. Private collection and willful disturbance or dislodgement of the geologic forms shall not be allowed. Specimen collection or minor surface disturbance for university or museum scientific research shall be allowed only by special permit.

Energy and Utilities

The unit has neither telephone nor transmitted electricity. Electricity is provided by a diesel generator.

Policy: If utilities are brought in, they shall be buried. Siting of buried utility lines shall be done only with prior review by the staff geologist and archeologist.

If additional construction is intended (for example, construction of a permanent visitor center/office), consideration should be given to use of passive solar design, solar-assisted heating and air conditioning, and other alternative energy sources.

Mining Interest Encroachment

As mineral and energy commodities become scarce and consequently more valuable, there will be increased pressure to explore for and develop them.

Policy: The department shall seek to acquire both surface and subsurface mineral rights to the entire area, in order to control management of all of the resources -- subsurface as well as surface. Exploitation of mineral resources controlled by the department is expressly forbidden and, when controlled by the federal government or others, shall be vigorously opposed by negotiation and political action.

Soils

Mining and indiscriminate vehicle use in the unit before acquisition by the state caused widespread disturbance to fragile desert soils. Mining is forbidden and vehicle traffic is now restricted in the unit. This action has minimized the disturbance of lands. Many of the previously disturbed areas are returning to a more natural appearance through natural processes at a satisfactory rate. However, little improvement has been noticed over the last 10 years in some areas. Efforts have been made by unit staff to actively reclaim badly worn areas; however, due to lack of adequate funding and technical assistance, results have been only partially successful.

Policy: Reclamation of slowly recovering disturbed areas in the unit shall be of the highest development and resource management priority. A comprehensive resource management program directed at restoring severely affected areas shall be developed and implemented. This program shall set forth specific reclamation goals, objectives, methods, and funding needs. Sites that should be considered for intensive reclamation efforts include Tuttle Ridge, Scarred Ridge (east of the Red Cliffs parking area), the Sharp property, and the borrow pit in Iron Canyon. If acquired, Lower Dove Springs Wash, Windy Cut Ridge, the South Flat area, and Scenic Canyon are also recommended for reclamation.

Disturbance of lands caused by unlawful operation of OHVs in the park shall be documented, and appropriate compensation shall be sought from the statewide OHV fund for reclamation.

Plant Life

The numerous rare, endangered, and other special interest plant species occurring in the unit represent principal resource values of statewide significance. The locations of many of these species have been recorded by unit staff in recent years. These records have resulted in a much better understanding of species distribution, including distribution changes from year to year. This information is extremely valuable in the planning process for new facilities, and in general management of visitor use.

Policy: Distribution of identified special interest plants in the unit shall be monitored and documented on unit base maps. Distribution maps shall not be generally accessible to the public.

Species which shall be monitored include Red Rock tarweed (Hemizonia arida), Mojave fishhook cactus (Sclerocactus polyancistus), spiny chorizanthe (Chorizanthe spinosa), scaly-stemmed sandplant (Pholisma arenarium), and desert-holly (Atriplex hymenelytra).

The natural distribution and density of plants in the unit is altered in many areas as a result of historic land use. Denuded areas on hillside slopes and across alluvial plains have been caused by vehicle use. Elsewhere, mining scars also occur; these detract from the natural appearance of the park. Livestock trespass has also affected plant life in the unit; however, a recently installed fence should reduce trespass from lands to the north and west.

Policy: Revegetation of slowly recovering sites in the unit shall be a high management priority. These revegetation efforts shall be included in the comprehensive reclamation management program for the unit. Additional fencing shall be provided as needed to protect and rehabilitate some areas.

Animal Life

Several special-interest species of statewide significance occur in the unit.

Policy: Distribution of animals of special interest shall be monitored in the unit. Special-interest species include the Mojave ground squirrel, desert tortoise, golden eagle, prairie falcon, and Mojave green rattlesnake. Observations of the Mojave ground squirrel, desert tortoise, and Mojave green rattlesnake shall be documented on unit base maps. These maps shall not be generally accessible to the public. Active nest sites used by the golden eagle and prairie falcon shall also be mapped. Information on nesting success is also desirable, but should be obtained only if possible without disturbing nesting activity. This can usually be done by viewing nesting activity with binoculars from distant vantage points. The locations of nest sites shall not be given out to the general public, in order to protect the integrity of the sites.

Concentrated visitor use near active golden eagle and prairie falcon nests can seriously affect nesting success.

Policy: Golden eagle and prairie falcon nest sites shall be protected by establishing a buffer zone in which no facility or use that would tend to concentrate visitors shall be permitted. The width of the necessary buffer zone shall vary with the type of facility or use being proposed.

A major limiting factor in the survival of many animals in the desert is the availability of water. Springs and seeps are, therefore, extremely important to desert wildlife.

Policy: Springs and seeps in the unit shall be managed to protect and perpetuate their value to wildlife. Natural water supplies that support wildlife shall not be used for domestic purposes, unless it can be shown that natural values would not be adversely affected. No new facility or activity shall be permitted near a spring or seep that would significantly affect its wildlife value in an adverse manner.

Cultural Resources

Management of the cultural resources at Red Rock Canyon State Park is governed by statutes, policies, and directives. The following portions of the Public Resources Code pertain to management of cultural resources: Section 5097.5 and Section 5097.9. The specific directives from the department's Resource Management Directives that pertain to the cultural resources of Red Rock Canyon State Park are: 3, 4, 5, 11, 24, 25, 32, 50-53, 55, 58-60, and 63-72.

Native American Resources

Each proposed development that will affect an established sensitivity zone must be field-reviewed by a composite group made up of representatives of the Development, Operations, and Resource Protection Divisions before preparation of the budget package (Directive 70).

Policy: Before budgeting for any developments, specific archeological spot checks shall be conducted to confirm optimum development locations. If cultural resources are identified in an area of proposed development, the department will seek an alternative location for the development.

Policy: The Native American place name for Red Rock Canyon, "Nihnihnoovi," shall be considered as a name for any new day use or campground in the unit.

Euroamerican Resources

There are no known historic features of significance located on park property. There are the remains of historic mining and other commercial activities located within the boundaries which are a visual part of the story of human exploitation of the desert regions of southeastern California.

Policy: Interpretation shall play a key role in enhancing visitor understanding and enjoyment of the story of Red Rock Canyon State Park. Hazards caused by former mining activities shall be reviewed on an individual basis to determine the seriousness of the hazard as to the merits of the site for interpretive purposes. Sites determined to be extremely hazardous to the safety of visitors may be modified by means that will cause the least amount of damage to the surrounding landscape.

Non-historically-significant artifacts of former commercial activities and motion picture production are to be found scattered about the unit.

Policy: These artifacts shall be reviewed on an individual basis as possibly usable for immediate or future interpretation. If determined to have interpretive value, these artifacts shall be safeguarded or collected and preserved. If determined by careful review and a consideration of the function of the artifacts in light of historical use that they have no value, these artifacts may be removed.

Esthetic Resources

The outstanding multi-colored formations in Red Rock Canyon are the most popular scenic features in the unit. Formations in close view of State Highway 14 are probably most important, since many times, they are the only features seen by motorists passing through or only briefly stopping in the unit. Most of the near viewshed is in the scenic easement established in 1969 (Figure 1).

The following specific legal rights in the scenic easement were relinquished by the department by agreement in 1969:

1. The right to erect, display, place, or maintain, on or within the scenic area, any signs, billboards, outdoor advertising structures, or advertisement of any kind.
2. The right to dump or maintain a dump of ashes, trash, rubbish, sawdust, garbage, offal, scrap metal, old automobiles, or any other unsightly or offensive materials.
3. The right to park trailer houses, mobile homes, or any portable living quarters.
4. The right of installation of utility poles or pole lines, except by written permission from the State of California, Division of Highways (Department of Transportation).
5. The right to quarry, remove, or store any surface or subsurface minerals or materials.
6. The right to build any permanent or temporary structures, buildings, outhouses, residences, barns, corrals, sheds, or fences.

In addition, the agreement specifically did not grant the then Division of Highways the following rights in the easement area:

1. The right to quarry or remove any surface or subsurface minerals or materials.
2. The right to stockpile or store any materials, spoils, equipment, or tools in the easement area.

Policy: The scenic integrity of the natural terrain within the viewshed of State Highway 14 shall be protected. Land use or development that significantly impairs or detracts from the views of motorists passing through the park shall not be permitted.

Recreation Resources

Policies related to recreation resources are included in the Allowable Use and Intensity section.

Allowable Use and Intensity

The Public Resources Code (Division 5, Chapter 1, Section 5019.5) requires that a land carrying capacity survey be conducted on lands in the State Park System before a development plan is formulated. The purpose of the survey is to determine appropriate or allowable use and level of use for areas in the unit.

Allowable use and intensity are determined by analysis of three components: 1) management goals and objectives; 2) visitor perceptions and attitudes; and 3) impact of any development and use on natural and cultural resources.

Management objectives and goals for Red Rock Canyon State Park are set forth in the statutes defining a state park and the declaration of purpose for the unit (refer to previous sections).

Determining visitor perceptions and attitudes involves assessing the social objectives of the department, what recreationists perceive as an acceptable recreational environment, what degree of isolation or crowding is acceptable, and other perceptions and attitudes pertaining to the quality of visitors' recreation experiences. Although these factors are very difficult to quantify, this component's influence is extremely important. The assessment of visitor attitudes and needs at Red Rock Canyon was obtained through public meetings, surveys, and monitoring by field personnel. The department must continue to take a leading role in increasing public awareness and appreciation of high-quality recreation experiences through public relations and interpretive programs, responsible facility development, and proper resource management.

The third component involves an analysis of the natural and cultural resources to determine the area's physical limitations for development of facilities, and the ability of the ecosystem to withstand human impact (ecological sensitivity). This analysis is based on a number of considerations, including: cultural resource sensitivity; soils and their erodibility; geologic factors, such as slope stability and relief; occurrence of paleontological strata; hydrologic considerations, including the potential for pollution of surface waters, flooding, and depleting surface and groundwater; vegetation characteristics, such as durability, fragility, and regeneration rates; and wildlife considerations, such as tolerance to human activity,

wildlife population levels, and stability. Additional considerations in determining ecological sensitivity are rare or endangered plants and animals, unique botanic features or ecosystems, and examples of ecosystems of regional or statewide significance.

Based on the allowable use and intensity analysis, representative examples of different types of visitor activities and their appropriateness in the unit are listed as follows:

Allowable Use

Activities that are directly related to enjoyment of scenic, natural, and cultural values.

Primary Importance -- Activities that relate well to primary values as identified in the Declaration of Purpose:

- Sightseeing
- Nature observation
- Scientific research and educational study
- Hiking
- Photography
- Painting and sketching

Secondary Importance -- Activities that are appropriate when they enhance or do not detract from the recreational experience of activities of primary importance:

- Picnicking
- Camping
- Horseback riding
- Astronomy
- Vehicle use on designated roads*

Inappropriate Use

Activities that are not directly related to the primary resources and purpose of the park, or may significantly conflict with allowable activities:

- Rock climbing
- Vehicle recreation*
- Wayside camping

* Vehicle use in the unit is of special management concern. Under management as a state recreation area from 1973 to 1980, vehicle use was permitted: 1) as a means of allowing vehicle access to certain areas in the unit for enjoyment of scenic and other principal resource values; 2) to allow access into and through the unit for users whose vehicles were not licensed for use on public highways; and 3) as a recreational activity primarily related to the enjoyment and challenge of operating a motorized vehicle. Under state park classification, vehicle use is appropriate only when it is directly related to enjoyment and inspiration of primary resource values, and does not significantly impair or detract from the natural setting or quality of park uses determined to be of primary importance.

Illegal Use (or use allowed only by special approval)

- Vehicle use off primitive roads
- Camping outside designated areas
- Hunting
- Rock collecting
- Grazing
- Hang gliding
- Disturbing natural or cultural resources

Potential locations for different types of visitor use and related facility development are shown in Figure 4. Mapping information is intended only as a general guide in planning for visitor use and development. Detailed investigations shall be made before approval of any specific site for development.

LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

Recreation Needs Assessment

State Highway 14 bisects Red Rock Canyon State Park about 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of Mojave. In 1979, the annual average vehicle count at Fremont Junction, just north of the park, was 3,100 per day. This figure included 11-1/2 percent trucks, 25 percent recreation vehicles, and 63.5 percent cars. Compared with other state highway use and park unit visitation, especially in coastal areas, these figures are relatively low.

Before establishment of the Red Rock Canyon State Park Advisory Committee in May 1969, it was recognized that the geological formations, botanical associations, and natural and historic features needed to be protected from uncontrolled use.

All of these features are particularly popular with schools, organized groups, and individuals. Many people concerned about the resources come from Bakersfield, located 128 kilometers (80 miles) west of Red Rock Canyon, and Los Angeles, 200 kilometers (125 miles) to the south.

Existing Land Use

A ranger office, with an interpretive display, trailer pads for park employees, a maintenance yard, and a domestic water supply system have been constructed since 1972. At least once a year, large groups use the campground. The Red Cliffs and Tamarisk Grove day use parking areas have been established by past informal use and they serve well for overflow of overnights. The overflow is especially needed during April, around Easter time, when OHV clubs hold their annual meets. The parking at Red Cliffs is mostly used for daytime parking by backpackers, hikers, and weary travelers.

Existing primitive roads are very popular with the OHV visitors. Equestrians are occasionally seen in the park. Visitors interested in nature and the related sciences use existing trails, and some even wander far into the backcountry outside the park boundaries. Scientists have, in the past, conducted studies on several wildlife species in the park, including the prairie falcon.

About 20 mining claims still exist within the park boundaries, but no active mining operations have been observed.

Proposed Land Use

The terrain is strictly a desert landscape, and plant and animal life can become very quickly unbalanced when human use or settlements are introduced on it. It is possible that certain significant animal species, many with nocturnal lifestyles, can coexist with humans in the park, but the shy ones will almost certainly be displaced.

The recreation amenities are extremely specialized at Red Rock because the desert is, by its own nature, a very specialized community. Scenic qualities, desert ecology, and geology are the major elements of the park. Most visitors

will come to the park to enjoy these features. These factors suggest a very low profile for the proposed land use plan, and lead to a recreation model that is informative and educational in nature.

Recommendations for Development

Future development will be based on the principle of preserving the natural values of the park. Interpretation of desert ecology will be the primary theme. The capability of the park ranger staff to adhere to these principles must be improved by bringing in telephones and electricity, and this plan recommends power and phones for Red Rock rangers as a first priority. New parking areas and campsites are not recommended in this plan.

In all cases, proposed development is to take place in areas that have been subjected to former or existing uses. Undefined trails may become more distinct with introduction of trailheads and signs. The overall proposed development plan is minimal, but has possibilities for future expansion if the need arises with increased use of park facilities.

Utilities

It is imperative that permanent electrical power and telephones be installed. Generators are the only source of electric power at the ranger station, and cause continual problems. There are no telephones on the premises.

Facilities

In the last 20 years, the desert has drawn a great deal of attention from the movie industry. Romance, fortune, and death are integrated parts of the American Northwest, and western movies and other productions like "The Vanishing Desert" have given these desolate parts an exciting feeling of worldwide renown.

An improved visitor center is proposed replacing the existing one on the same site near the Ricardo ranger station. Interpretation of desert ecology, history, and visitor orientation will be part of the building's functions. The visitor center will also include office and storage space, meeting room, restroom and telephones (see Interpretive Facilities, Page 32).

Entrance Improvements

The entrances to the park at both ends of Abbott Road are not clearly articulated. Acceleration and deceleration lanes and left-turn lanes are needed for safer ingress and egress. Essential signs marking the entrances to the park are proposed.

Red Cliffs

The main concerns relate to preservation of the scenic integrity of the cliffs. A buffer zone is proposed between the cliffs and motorized vehicle parking. It is recommended that this be done by means of a rock barrier. Also, a recommended trailhead, interpretive panels, and a restroom will be beneficial to park visitors. Paving is not recommended for the casual, low-key visitation expected.

Equestrian Camp

It is proposed that the Donley property be officially designated for equestrian use; the area receives now light equestrian use. It is not expected that any construction will be undertaken.

Trails

It is recommended that the trail system be expanded and be made more refined, in line with the progress of the proposed development. Trail markers should identify where certain historic events took place, and trails should lead to viewpoints along the trail system.

Primitive Roads

Red Rock Canyon, Jawbone, and Dove Springs have historically been popular with off-highway-vehicle recreationists. Machinery frequently used includes motorcycles, four-wheel-drive vehicles, and dune buggies. Indiscriminate use of many areas has caused a great deal of destruction of the natural landscape. Concerned citizens have formed a coalition, with the purpose of protecting the natural amenities of Red Rock Canyon.

As early as 1970, the State Department of Parks and Recreation acquired certain portions of real estate, and some were immediately classified "preserves." OHV groups expressed a strong desire that some existing routes of travel remain accessible to them. On April 24, 1980, the State Park and Recreation Commission approved an amended "Primitive Roads" action (Drawing No. 17498, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sheet 1 of 1), permitting off-highway-vehicle access through Red Rock Canyon State Park.

Some parcels of land within the proposed park boundary are currently owned by the federal Bureau of Land Management. The department is negotiating for purchase of these lands.

The General Plan proposes to extend existing portions of OHV access across these future acquisitions as part of an addition to the "Primitive Roads" action. Use of all primitive roads will be monitored by the field staff. Access can be rerouted or halted if necessary, to protect the park's resources.

OPERATIONS ELEMENT

To ensure protection of the many natural and cultural resources of the park, it is essential that adequate operational staff be provided.

Visitor Services

Besides the typical visitor services provided at units having hiking, picnicking, and camping, some specialized services will be required at Red Rock Canyon State Park.

Heavy emphasis on interpretation at Red Rock Canyon will require specialized staffing to implement the proposed interpretive programs there. To accommodate these interpretive services, the department should encourage development of internships, volunteerism, and docent programs.

Visitor Control

The department's field staff is responsible for protection of all State Park System resources. Sensitive cultural and natural resources occur throughout the unit. Visitor movement and activities in all of these areas will be controlled to protect these sensitive resources from indiscriminate use. Some off-highway-vehicle clubs have volunteered to help rangers control the unit. These volunteer efforts could be particularly effective in the future. The department's staff must also protect visitors from hazardous areas. Dangerous cliffs are numerous at Red Rock Canyon State Park.

Adequate staff must also be available to patrol the remote areas to prevent illegal camping or poaching.

INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

The interpretive program for Red Rock Canyon State Park will aim at orienting visitors to the resources of the unit, and enriching their understanding of desert ecology. This will be accomplished through a variety of methods and media, the most important of which are listed here. See the Interpretive Prospectus for Red Rock Canyon for a more detailed discussion of the interpretation proposed for the unit.

Interpretive Themes

1. Symphony in Stone (Geology of Red Rock Canyon)
 - a. Geologic History
 - b. Environmental Alterations
 - c. Artistic View of Red Rock Canyon
2. The Thirsty Land
 - a. Why a Desert?
 - b. Strategies for Survival
 - c. The Desert's Effect on Man

Interpretive Themes Expanded

1. Symphony in Stone

The primary fascination of Red Rock Canyon lies in its unique geologic formations. Learning how these formations came to be and that they are in a constant state of change helps visitors understand and appreciate the resulting symphonies in stone.

- a. Geologic History: Lakebed deposition, terrestrial sedimentation, vulcanism, and uplifting are all part of Red Rock Canyon's fascinating geologic history since Miocene times. What caused these occurrences, why the rocks are red, and how the fossil records reveal the world of the past will be explained.
- b. Environmental Alterations: This theme will explore the on-going forces that have shaped and continue to shape the landscape. Subsequent to regional uplift and tilting, the wind, the water, and the sun took on the task of tearing the resulting formations down again. How these forces work, the effects they have on the landscape, and what they might reveal in the future will be interpreted.
- c. Artistic View of Red Rock Canyon: The brilliant colors, unique configurations, different textures, and spectacular settings of many of Red Rock's landforms have long caught the imaginations of artists and romanticists; hence, names like Camels Head, Pillars of Hercules, and Nightmare Gulch. Visitors will be encouraged to broaden the scope of their experience by considering these elements and letting their imaginations take them where they will.

2. The Thirsty Land

Understanding the desert makes it seem a much less harsh and barren environment, thereby helping alleviate some of the visitors' fears and increasing their awareness and enjoyment.

- a. Why a Desert?: Climatic patterns, rainshadow effects, and the differences between "high" and "low" deserts are concepts that help to explain Red Rock Canyon's environment.
- b. Strategies for Survival: The diversity and content of plants and wildlife, and their importance to the overall desert environment, are important concepts. Understanding how plants and animals have adapted to survive and thrive in this environment may make the desert seem less alien to visitors. Consideration will also be given to various interrelationships between plants and animals.
- c. The Desert's Effect on Man: The influence of the desert environment and its landforms on human history will be the focus of this theme. Historically, the desert has been a place simply to pass through, or to reap its riches and move on. Areas of concern will include Native Americans, transportation through the canyon, mining, Rudolph Hagen and his many schemes, the movie industry, the advent of OHV use, and establishment of the state park.

Methods and Media

A variety of methods and media are appropriate for creating a well-integrated interpretive program at Red Rock Canyon. The most effective method is through such personal services as guided walks. A visitor center will offer an excellent opportunity to orient visitors and interpret the desert environment, while also providing an opportunity for indoor programs during inclement weather. Brochures and sales publications regarding natural and cultural resources, as well as information concerning park activities, will be available.

To reach motorists who simply stop long enough to admire the scenery, wayside interpretive exhibit panels are necessary at certain key locations. Self-guided trails are effective methods of drawing visitors away from their vehicles.

Visitor Activities

A variety of personal services are appropriate and available at Red Rock Canyon. Ranger-led events include campfire programs, nature walks, guided hikes, and out-of-park programs. The scope and frequency of these programs will depend on staffing available at the unit. An interpretive association, a volunteer program, and environmental education programs will also be given consideration.

Interpretive Facilities

The primary facility necessary for a comprehensive interpretive program is a permanent visitor center. This facility will serve as an orientation center for the park, as well as providing a general overview of the desert story, designed as a "taste-tempter" to draw visitors into discovering the desert for themselves. The visitor center will be a permanent structure, expanded in size from the current temporary facility. It should be a combined visitor center/ranger station complex, containing exhibit rooms and offices separated by a public contact area. The exhibit room should be open enough to accommodate indoor programs as desired. The visitor center should also include outdoor-access restrooms to accommodate motorists using the park simply as a rest stop.

Many motorists passing through the park on Highway 14 stop at the Red Cliffs and Hagen Canyon pullouts to admire the scenery and take short breaks. Wayside exhibits will be provided at the heavy-use pullouts to give these short-term visitors an understanding of what they are viewing, while also providing them with an orientation to park facilities. These structures will be of a low-profile nature, so they will not interfere with the scenic quality of the area. A low-profile rock base structure with slanted, anodized metal signing, for example, will create little visual impact, and will withstand the effects of natural elements and vandalism.

The primary wayside interpretive effort will be concentrated at the Red Cliffs parking area. Here, approximately four structures will interpret the geology of the area, park orientation, and movie history. There will also be a self-guided nature trail leading from this area, necessitating a trailhead.

The Hagen Canyon pullout also receives considerable southbound traffic use. Two structures here will interpret the geology of the setting, as well as encouraging visitors up the road to the visitor center.

Many northbound motorists stop at the pullout near the highway bridge. At this location, they get their first view of Red Cliffs, take pictures, and then drive on. A single panel here will give these visitors an idea of what they are viewing, help amateur photographers take the best pictures, and inform them of additional facilities just up the road at the Red Cliffs parking area.

A variety of opportunities will be provided to allow visitors to explore the park on their own. Self-guided nature trails, numerous hiking trails, an equestrian trail, and a self-guided OHV trail on an existing road are all recommended.

Many motorists who stop in the park fail to notice the park entrance signs along the highway. More noticeable highway signing should be designed to make more motorists aware that they are entering a state park, and to help alleviate many enforcement and management problems.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

The entire General Plan constitutes the environmental document required by the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Sections 21000, et seq.). The different elements in the General Plan provide the resource information, the project description, the description of the existing environment, and some mitigation measures. The proposed development primarily improves the existing facilities; therefore, no substantial changes will occur. This element focuses on the impacts resulting from operation of the unit, from existing and proposed development, and from visitor use in the unit.

Whenever a specific phase of the overall plan is budgeted and proposed for implementation, a more detailed and specific environmental assessment will be prepared for that particular project, as part of the budget package.

Project Description

Proposed development and operations are described in the Land Use and Facilities Element and the Operations Element.

Description of the Environmental Setting

General resource information can be found in the Resource Element. The existing facilities are described in the Land Use and Facilities Element.

Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project

None of the proposed developments will have significant adverse effects since the facilities are to be designed with consideration for environmental factors and common mitigation measures in mind. The proposed plan does not call for expanded user facilities; therefore, no substantial increase in visitation is expected.

The proposed entrance improvements will increase peak runoff by increasing the impervious surface area and will have an adverse visual impact, but will reduce vehicle emissions and fuel consumption by permitting more moderate acceleration and deceleration. Vegetation will be removed and wildlife will be displaced from the area of the acceleration and deceleration lanes. The effects of the entrance improvements are not significant.

Installation of utility lines will have a significant visual effect only if placed above ground. Trenching for placing these lines underground could disturb native plants and animals, and cultural resources. Elimination of the generator will reduce local combustion pollutants and noise.

Construction of the permanent visitor center will have a visual impact, increasing the impervious surface area and runoff. Construction and operation of the center will require consumption of energy.

Use of the primitive road system creates vehicle emissions and dust.

Significant Environmental Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided if the Proposal is Implemented

None of the adverse effects are unavoidable. Consumption of energy in construction of facilities is unavoidable; however, the quantities are not substantial. Mitigation measures can reduce the impacts to insignificant levels.

Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize the Significant Effects

To reduce the visual impact, utility lines should be placed underground. The visitor center could be built partially or entirely underground. Native plant material should be used for any landscaping.

Solar energy collectors could provide space and water heating. A properly designed passive solar system could provide a substantial portion, if not all, of the space heating and cooling needs for the visitor center.

An archeologist should be present during any excavation in culturally sensitive areas. Before any ground disturbance, plans should be submitted to the Resource Protection Division for review.

Facilities shall be limited to those necessary for public enjoyment of the unit, consistent with preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

During the planning process, three development proposals (campground expansion, trail development, hike-in campsites, etc.) were considered and rejected primarily for environmental reasons and the lack of demand.

Figure 3 of the Resource Element delineates areas appropriate for development. If enough demand is generated in the future, additional facilities may be built in these areas.

The "no project" alternative would continue the current operation and level of development. The communication and power problems would continue, depriving the public periodically of some services.

Under a more intensive development alternative, additional campsites could be constructed in the existing campground. Day use and campsites could be constructed throughout the unit, wherever the Land Use and Facilities Element has designated the land appropriate for that use. More intensive development would generally increase the visual impact of structures in a natural environment, and could increase the erosion rate as a result of additional human traffic over a larger area, eliminating vegetation and displacing wildlife.

The primitive road system in the unit can be expanded or reduced. Expansion of the system would destroy more vegetation, displace more wildlife, generate more dust, and accelerate soil erosion. Any new primitive roads would appear

as landscape scars and, in view of the extremely slow recovery rate of vegetation and formation of new soils in the desert, should be considered an almost irreversible commitment of resources.

A reduction of the primitive road system would most likely displace OHV travel to routes outside the park, except for the primitive roads that parallel Highway 14 and Abbot Drive. OHV vehicles could use the paved roads unless the vehicles were not street-legal.

The Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

The proposed short-term and long-term uses are preservation and recreation. The resources will be protected; should a future use prove more beneficial to the public than preservation, they will be available. There is no intent to enhance the potential productivity.

Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would Be Involved in the Proposed Action Should it Be Implemented

The proposed developments will require minor amounts of building materials. No new land areas or natural resources in the unit will be irreversibly committed as the plan is implemented.

Growth-Inducing Impact of the Proposed Action

Implementation of the plan should not cause any significant growth-inducing effects, because the plan proposes no substantial increase in capacity of facilities.

I-6887D

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

The Department of Parks and Recreation circulated the Draft of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report to the Kern County Planning Commission, Kern County Council of Governments, State Clearinghouse, Bureau of Land Management, Sierra Club, various local Chambers of Commerce, offroad vehicle clubs and associations, and any individuals who attended the planning workshops or requested copies of the document. Copies were sent to the Department's Area Office and the Kern County Public Library in Mojave and Bakersfield for public review. The availability of the document for public review was advertised in the Bakersfield Californian. Comments were received from the California Department of Health Services, California Association of 4WD Vehicles, Inc., Committee for Green Foothills, California Off Road Vehicle Association, Inc., Southern Council of Conservation Clubs, Inc., and various individuals.

Attached are copies of the comments received and the Department's response. Sections of the comments are numbered which refer to the Department's numbered responses.

NIGHTMARE GULCH AREA

Scenically, this area is similar to the famous Bryce and Grand Canyons, but Nightmare Gulch is a miniature when compared in scale. The Grand Canyon's one-mile depth and 18-mile width would engulf many of Nightmare Gulch's canyons. The plan recommends a loop for off-highway vehicles around Nightmare Gulch, with designated hiking trails through the picturesque canyons in the gulch.

Vehicle barriers would be provided where primitive roads intersect with hiking trails, and orientation and interpretive information concerning hiking in Nightmare Gulch would be provided.

THE LOOP PRIMITIVE ROAD

The loop primitive road would begin at the base of scenic cliffs at the upper end of Iron Canyon, and would follow the existing Tuffa Springs Road westwardly to its junction with Black Rock Canyon Road. The loop road would follow Black Rock Canyon north on the western side of Nightmare Gulch to the junction with Last Chance Canyon Road, in the saddle at the head of the Nightmare Gulch drainage. The road would follow an existing road alignment southward, west of Nightmare Gulch, through the mine area, and would enter existing state park lands on the eastern boundary to the south and east of Nightmare Gulch. The road would then follow Bonanza Gulch westward through the Porphyry Hills, until it intersects the existing designated primitive road in Iron Canyon. The primitive road through Iron Canyon would connect to the point of beginning at the Iron Canyon Day Use and Camp Overflow Area.

This entire loop would be approximately ten miles long, and would provide as many as five intersections with hiking trails into and through Nightmare Gulch. The loop would also connect with existing dirt roads to State Highway 14 to the northwest, Last Chance Canyon to the northeast, and Randsburg-Red Rock Road southeast of the state park.

DESIGNATED HIKING TRAILS

At each intersection of the primitive road with hiking trails, orientation-interpretation information will be provided. This information will show visitors places to hike to, how far they are away from their destinations, what to look for, dangers of dehydration and heat, flash floods, and cliffs, how long it will take the average person to hike to their destinations, and how strenuous it might be. The longest one-way route from the ridge through Nightmare Gulch to the Iron Canyon Use Area is three miles. Other trail routes from the ridge above Nightmare Gulch to the Iron Canyon Use Area are closer to two miles long.

Many people are not comfortable walking through desert areas with no trail to follow. A trail brings a feeling of safety and security to those unaccustomed to the wide-open desert spaces. This plan recommends using designated hiking trails in Nightmare Gulch as a backbone for interpretive features, representing the complete biological, geological, cultural, and historical fabric within the same interpretive framework. The trail system should be

divided into rest stops, where small displays might be placed. Short nature trails near the trail heads should present information in a way accessible to novice hikers.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT APPLICATION

An application for land for recreation or public purposes is required by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to initiate the transfer of lands from BLM to the State Department of Parks and Recreation. A more specific primitive road and trail plan and information regarding timing of construction of proposed improvements in Nightmare Gulch will be prepared in a separate document which will be submitted to BLM with this general plan, in order to meet the requirements of the BLM application.

MAPS AND PLANS IN THE RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN DOCUMENT

The plans and maps in this document are recommended to be revised in accordance with this addendum to the plan.

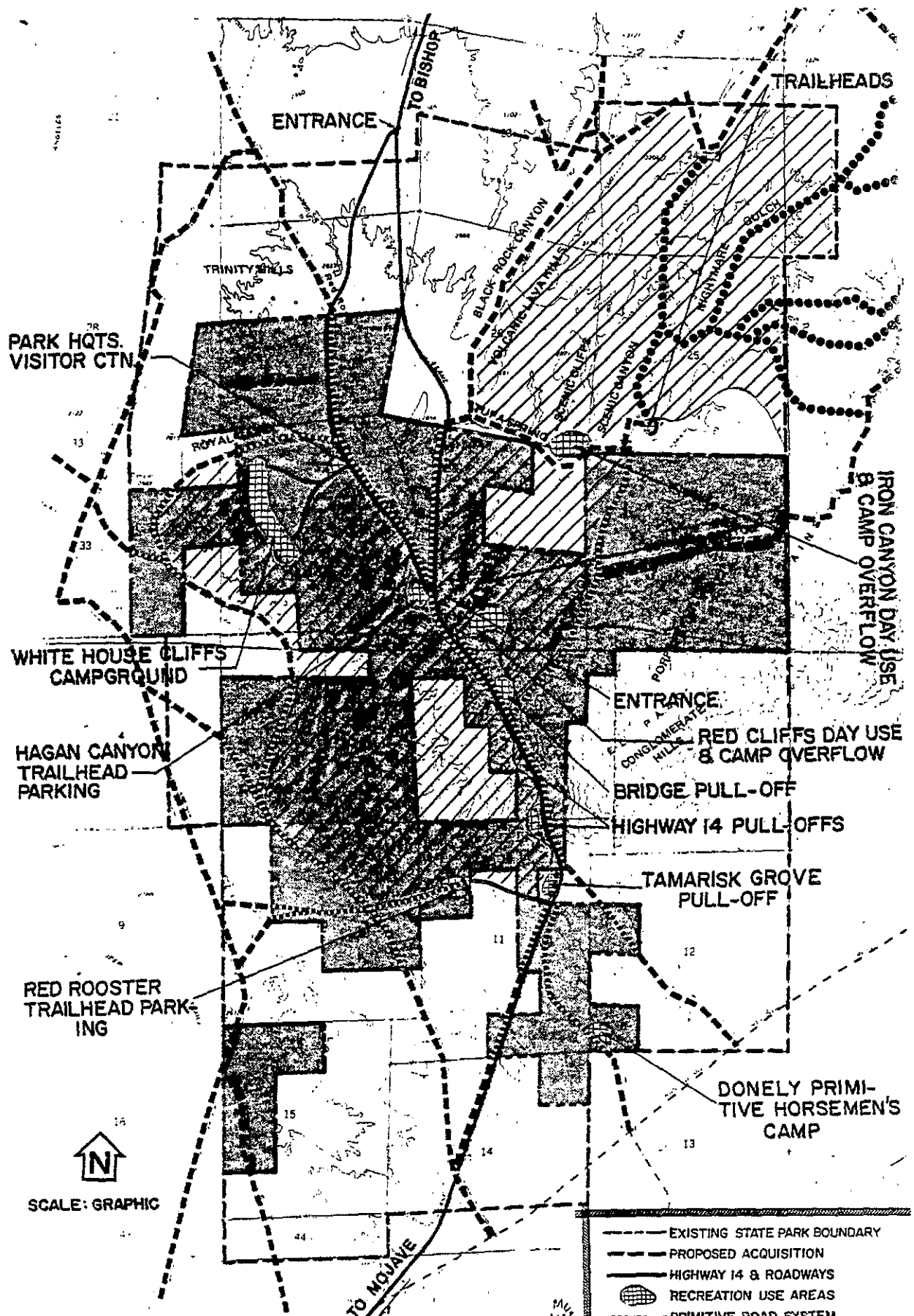
C-0065L

RED ROCK CANYON


STATE PARK



General Plan

Addendum



RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN


 department of parks & recreation
 State of California - the Resources Agency
 P.O. Box 2390 • Sacramento, 95811

- EXISTING STATE PARK BOUNDARY
- - - PROPOSED ACQUISITION
- HIGHWAY 14 & ROADWAYS
-  RECREATION USE AREAS
- PRIMITIVE ROAD SYSTEM
- - - - PROPOSED EXTENSION OF PRIMITIVE ROAD SYSTEM
- PROPOSED SELF-GUIDED TRAIL SYSTEM
-  EXISTING & PROPOSED PRESERVES

APPENDIX

1. General Plan Map
2. Addendum
3. Comments and Responses to EIR

REFERENCES

1. Dawn Project Environmental Impact Report, Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, November 1974.
2. El Paso and Red Mountain Planning Units Management Framework Plan, Bureau of Land Management, August 1975.
3. Proposed Water Facilities, Storage, and Distribution System, Indian Wells Valley County Water District, January 1980.

I-6887D

1. The classification of Red Rock Canyon took place at a public hearing of the State Park and Recreation Commission in February 1980. The Commission classified Red Rock Canyon as a state park, and the General Plan for Red Rock Canyon has been drafted within the legal and environmental parameters of a California state park as defined by the Resources Code. The state park classification is limiting to some kinds of recreation. Hunting and mining are not permitted, and if off-highway vehicles are permitted, they are restricted to designated roadways.

The Red Rock Canyon General Plan cannot analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the State Park System's classification. Changes proposed for the State Resources Code and Title 14 must be addressed in the Legislature where the laws are made. This Department is charged to abide by the Resources Code, and any discussion of revising it would be irrelevant to the Red Rock Canyon Environmental Impact Report.

2. The discussion of animal life on page 12 of the Red Rock Canyon General Plan document does not attempt to inventory all species found in the park, nor does it intend to prejudice in favor or opposition to having any particular species in the park. The third paragraph under the "Animal Life" heading points out "Bird populations fluctuate greatly in the area." All birds are welcome at Red Rock Canyon.
3. The amount of desert land involved in transfer from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the State Park System is relatively small when compared to the total BLM desert holdings, but this a particularly unique portion of desert landscape and its uniqueness brings a variety of social and environmental values to bear upon the Red Rock Canyon plan. The Red Rock Canyon plan proposes the rounding out and expansion of unit boundaries. The plan also proposes to use such additional acreage within the constraints of state park classification. The environmental impacts of these proposed actions, if implemented, would be positive. The desert environment would be improved. There would also be negative social impact caused by a decrease of available places for people to ride their off-highway vehicles or to do placer (pick and shovel) mining or to hunt wildlife.
4. Off-highway vehicle use at Red Rock Canyon State Park is discussed on pages 24 and 25 of the plan. Further discussion in response to exclusion of off-highway vehicles at Red Rock Canyon State Park is superfluous.
5. Current patterns of use at the existing park will not be changed if the plan is implemented. The existing "rest stop" use has not significantly impacted the environment at Red Rock Canyon.

6. The park presently has radios without telephones. Public contact is not possible via radio. Radio communication is limited to highway patrol, sheriff, other park units, etc. Public contact via the telephone is essential for effective management of this park unit.
7. The plan recommends a natural preserve in Nightmare Gulch and Black Rock Canyon because of the unique environmental qualities of these areas. If the Nightmare Gulch and Black Rock Canyon areas were to be designated as natural preserve, such action would have a positive or beneficial impact on the environment. The desert environment would be improved.

There would also be negative social impact caused by fewer areas for people to ride their off-highway vehicles.

8. The State Park and Recreation Commission meets in Bakersfield on July 10, 1981, and their hearing schedule does not include any other meeting place within 100 miles of Red Rock Canyon through March of 1982.
9. Compensation of disturbances of lands caused by unlawful use of off-highway vehicles should be sought from the actual violator. However, one or two park rangers cannot be everywhere at once in a 3,000 plus acre area and, if disturbance of land caused by unlawful operation of off-highway vehicles is documented without apprehension of the actual violators, then appropriate compensation should be sought from the statewide Off-Highway Vehicle Fund for reclamation.
10. The note entitled "Primitive Roads" on the General Plan Drawing No. 17916, sheet 1 of 4, Figure 1, states "Use of primitive roads and their logical extensions onto BLM land shall be in accordance with State Park and Recreation Commission action dated 4-25-80. Access can be rerouted or halted if necessary to protect the park's resources."
11. Particular types of off-highway vehicles are not the real environmental problem. The problem is the potential for environmental disturbance because of the lack of control over the person operating the off-highway vehicle.
12. The final plan for Red Rock Canyon will be revised to include the upgrading of the existing domestic water supply system in compliance with Kern County's Health Department as a top priority of recommended park improvements.
13. The discussion of soils on page 10 of the Red Rock Canyon General Plan document did not include every aspect of the values of soil in the unit. The point of a substantial amount of soil in the park being a relic of past climates and, in that sense, an irreplaceable fossil, is a point well taken.

Soil erosion in undisturbed areas is probably not "high", but soils are highly susceptible to greatly increased erosion if even slightly disturbed.

14. The claim that many areas damaged by vehicles are returning to a more natural and stable state can be substantiated on the grounds of observation and photography. A scientific monitoring program to substantiate the specific degree of rejuvenation of vegetation, etc., is not economically feasible.
15. The unsightly off-highway vehicle damaged areas which fall within the Red Cliffs Natural Preserve will be restored if the Red Rock Canyon General Plan is implemented.
16. Since there is agreement with the General Plan and Department policy, additional discussion is not necessary.

G-9308D

KERN COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT



1103 Golden State Avenue
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA-93301
Telephone (805) 861-2615

April 15, 1981

File: EIR Misc.

Department of Parks & Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento CA 95811

Re: Review of DEIR and General Plan
Portion Red Rock Canyon State Park

Gentlemen:

Thank you for allowing us to review the above-referenced material.
We have no comments at this time. We look forward to receiving
the final EIR.

If you have any questions, please contact this office at 861-2618.

Very truly yours,

RANDALL L. ABBOTT
Planning Director

Marc Gauthier

By: MARC GAUTHIER
Assistant Planner

mh

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Southern Council of Conservation Clubs, Inc.



"IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH"

772 Morada Place
Altadena, Calif. 91001
April 14, 1981

Department of Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, Calif. 95811

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section

Dear Mr. Doyle:

We have read the General Plan for Red Rock Canyon State Park. We continue to believe that a good part of the Red Rock Canyon unit should be classified as a Recreation Area. This would enable a more efficient use of the land and its resources, and a wider range of recreational activities.

We think that hunting (regulated by the Dept. of Fish and Game) should be permitted in the outlying areas of the unit.

We take issue with the the practice of the Commission of classifying most areas as Park, and with the sections of the Public Resources Code governing the classification of state lands.

We think that Section 5001.95 should be changed so that it would be possible to have a large Recreation Area with a smaller Park unit inside or adjacent.

The discussion of Animal Life on page 12 does not even mention such game birds as quail, chukar, and dove. In the light of the apparent DPR prejudice against hunting, this omission would seem to be both deliberate and dishonest.

Until the Code is changed to permit rational classification of state lands, and until the P&R Commission ceases to classify as "Park" land which is clearly best suited to Recreation Area classification, the Southern Council of Conservation Clubs and the California Wildlife Federation will oppose any transfer of land from the Bureau of Land Management (or from any other source) to the State of California.

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Very truly yours, *Walter B Powell*

Walter B. Powell, President
Southern Council of Conservation Clubs.

APR 17 1981

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CONSERVATION - WISE USE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES
WITHOUT WASTE AND WITHOUT ABUSE.

1 - 3062

Kardsburg Calif.
April - 16 - 1981

James M. Hoyle
State Dept of Parks & Recreation:

Dear Sir:

Having received the
Red Rock Canyon, State Park
General Plan, Draft of Preliminary

3 I feel I should pass on my
views, as I know there are
many who feel as I do.

On the whole the plan is
good, and many are glad to
see such action at last.

So I will state objections only.

The ~~other~~^{off} road vehicle has
done great damage to vegetation
and animal life, besides

destroying vast amounts of
wild ^{flowers}. Which the citizen is

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2.
not allowed to pick.

The man with the gun who seems to find it necessary to shoot whatever makes a good target to him.

The weekend camper who leaves his trash wherever he camps. These things I believe you wish to control.

There is objection however to the Park acquiring land beyond the scenic resources and curtailing other activities. as rock hounds and weekend placer mining. it seems as tho you place the hiker and back packer number one. What about the old, the crippled, who only want to look at the easily accessible areas.

3.

how about the rack-hoover
and the miner, should not
all citizens have some rights?

As for myself, I first come
to Red Rock Canyon, Center
Sunrise Service in 1933.

As you know those were
depression days. I mined in
"Soler Canyon." There was no
relief and no Social Security
at that time, and it was
mostly family men ^{who}
came out, to scratch a living
from the ground, and they
did that. They even built
these school house, (gone now)

I do not want to see that
privilege lost. True no one
got rich, but is that the only

Consideration:

Placer mining is still
my hobby. and there are many
more, it is not the monetary
value, but the thrill of the
find that brings them out,
and the "El Paso's" is nugget
country, and there are many
with a small cache of gold
there is no record of.

I know Red Rock Park as
is now is off limits to
mining. But, let me make
it clear, I am talking about
the pick & shovel miners, not
the big operator (but Mr Citizen)

I trust you will consider
all, in future plans.

Sincerely

W. R. Jewittell

Box 62.

Randsburg 93554

April 17, 1981

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Dept of Parks & Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, Ca. 95811.

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APR 24 1981

RPI

Dear Mr. Doyle:

I have read the Red Rock Canyon
Draft General Plan. These are my
comments.

4 1. The plan seems reasonable and well
thought out except that my own
preference would be to exclude OHVs.

They already have lots of desert
to ride through, have already done
extensive damage, are difficult to
regulate, and deny people a peaceful
desert experience. They really have
no place in a park. Yours

1-3186

4 enjoyed this area since 1949, written
by master then on it in 1957, and
had numerous afternoon classes there
on field trips, I know the damage
wrought by OHV's and the critical
need for protection.

5 2. Recognizing that for many, it
will be primarily a "rest stop" on
the way to or from Owens Valley
makes sense. In that regard it
16 can serve as Fort Tejon has, at
least for our family. We do not look
around the fort every time but enjoy
the convenience of the stop in a
pleasant setting.

6 3. Relative to utilities, I concur with
the use of solar power and burying
the power lines. Would a radio serve
in lieu of a telephone?

Yours truly,
W. H. Chouhedian
33250 Owens Valley
Porterville, Calif 93257



5831 Rosebud Lane, Unit M-1
Sacramento, CA 95841
(916) 338-4540

May 21, 1981

Department of Parks and Recreation
Mr. James M. Doyle,
Supervisor Environmental Review Section
PO Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle,

We have reviewed the draft EIR and preliminary general plan for Red Rock Canyon State Park and we hereby protest the proposed plan as follows:

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The plan is inadequate in the fact it is either an oversight or a planned scheme to deprive both our members and the local residents of their rights to use the existing primitive vehicle loop roads in Nightmare Gulch and Black Rock Canyon. The use of the loop road through these canyons by occasional 4WD vehicles represents the only known and practical way to visit the two canyons. Local members living within the area have only sighted one group of hikers (Boy Scouts) in this area in the past twelve years. We therefore believe the establishment of a natural preserve and the exclusion of motorized vehicles in this area constitutes an infringement on the public's rights to use the roads in this area in a legitimate and appropriate manner authorized by the BLM. There are no known significant or adverse impacts resulting from our use of the area, since all 4WD vehicular travel is on established vehicle ways over gravel and rocky canyon floors. There is no existing pedestrian or equestrian traffic to cause conflict, and there seems to be ample native wildlife and plant species in the area. In sum, we protest the closure of these canyon roads on BLM lands authorizing such use and the proposed use of an alternate road that has absolutely no scenic or recreational values whatsoever. The potential loss of these two primitive roads through Nightmare Gulch and Black Rock Canyon can result in serious legal difficulties with both the State of California and the BLM, in the event we are denied use of these roads. We request this matter be given your most serious thought and consideration prior to approving the proposed plan.

10
The closure of the primitive sandy road at Ricardo is not addressed at all in the plan, but here again park personnel cite the reason for closure is that they cannot patrol the road. This reason by itself is inadequate and needs to be explained in the plan, since it is the loss of an important and scenic 4WD trip enjoyed by our members and the local residents.

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There is no evidence in the plan of any destructive impacts in the proposed park caused by the people that properly use 4WD vehicles solely for the purpose to gain access to enjoy the scenic and historical features of this area. If there are some particular type of off-road activities that are causing resource damage or creating user conflicts, then we suggest that the State consider restricting certain types of vehicles or users, but not unjustly penalize all users of motorized vehicles. The authorized use of motorized vehicles and resulting impacts on the adjoining BLM lands cannot be used as an argument to deny us access to the proposed park. It is not entirely the users fault that this situation has occurred.

In sum, we are somewhat in agreement with the discussion on page 24 relating to allowable means of access provided that the State recognizes our use of vehicles in the park would be consistent with other forms of access such as hiking and horseback. We also make note that the plan is so general and vague that it is quite difficult to evaluate it on a point by point basis. We trust that the Department and the Commission gives our recommendations and concerns full consideration prior to adopting this plan. You may consider this letter to be an official statement representing the concerns of our statewide membership of 16,000 fourwheelers.

Sincerely,



Ed Dunkley
Administrator

cc: BLM, Riverside
Assemblyman Philip D. Wyman

P.O. Box 307
Boron, CA 93516
May 15, 1981

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

SUBJECT: DEIR and General Plan for Red Rock Canyon State Park

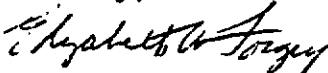
Dear Mr. Doyle:

4
16
The General Plan you now propose for Red Rock Canyon seems quite satisfactory. Of special concern to me and others who appreciate the scenic wonder of Scenic Canyon is to omit or terminate any OHV travel through the Canyon. On page 34 of the Draft you indicate the primitive road system "can be expanded or reduced", and then you go on to say "a reduction of primitive road system would most likely displace OHV travel to routes outside the park....or use the paved roads"...THIS IS THE PROPER ACTION TO TAKE, I FEEL.

Also from Map #4 I assume there will be no road through Scenic Canyon. However I was surprised not to find a map of the existing paved and primitive roads in the DEIR.

Nightmare Gulch and Scenic Canyon must be closed to OHV traffic if the plan for the Park fulfills its purpose to "protect and perpetuate the spectacular high desert landscape, associated natural ecosystems, and important archeological values for public enjoyment".....public enjoyment for most should not be destroyed by the racket and the disturbance of off highway vehicles in a pristine setting.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Warren W. Forgey,
Red Rock Canyon State Park Citizen's Advisory Committee

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MAY 19 1981

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may 26, 1981

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
P.O. Box 2390
SACRAMENTO, CA. 95811

After a review of the Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan, I would like to make the following recommendations:

7 The Plan recommends that a natural preserve be established in the Semic Canyon - Nightmare Gulch area of the applied BLM lands. I oppose the Natural Preserve designation this will result in the closure of existing vehicle roads the Nightmare Gulch and Black Rock Canyon. These are steep walled canyons with rock/gravel/sand floors which are impacted very little by vehicle use. Mother Nature has been the only one to really change the canyon in the twelve years I've been traveling these two canyons. These trails have been in use for many years. The continued presence of wildlife in the area supports my belief that the noise from an occasional passing vehicle, does not degrade the wildlife habitat. There is also little, if any, impact on plant life, since the roads follow the wash bottom. Further, allowing continued use of these roads provides a loop trip in north-east section of the park.

although not covered in the general plan, information presented at the March 17 workshop in Mojave, indicated that the loop road south-west of Record should be closed. I oppose this also, as it is a valuable loop road thru a scenic area which would be a great loss

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In closing, I would like to say that the original planning of holding the final planning meeting in Fresno on July 10, was sure not well planned. I believe the meeting has been moved to Bakersfield.

This meeting mainly affects the people of east Kern and Los Angeles Counties, which comprise the majority of back country users of Red Rock Canyon State Park.

Sincerely,

Mary J. Grimsley
1012 N. Sierra View
Ridgecrest, Ca. 93555

Copies to:

California Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc.

BLM, Ridgecrest Office

Assemblyman Wymann

Congressman W.M. THOMAS

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4/27/81

To: JAMES M. DOYLE, SUPERVISOR
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P.O. Box 2390
SACRAMENTO, CA 95811

AFTER A REVIEW OF THE RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS. THE PLAN RECOMMENDS THAT A NATURAL PRESERVE BE ESTABLISHED IN THE SEMIC CANYON - NIGHTMARE GULCH AREA OF THE APPLIED-FOR BLM LANDS. I OPPOSE THE NATURAL PRESERVE DESIGNATION. THIS WILL RESULT IN THE CLOSURE OF EXISTING VEHICLE ROADS IN NIGHTMARE GULCH AND BLACK ROCK CANYON. THESE ARE STEEP WALLED CANYONS WITH ROCK/GRAVEL/SAND FLOORS WHICH ARE IMPACTED VERY LITTLE BY VEHICLE USE. THESE TRAILS HAVE BEEN IN USE FOR MANY YEARS. THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF WILDLIFE IN THE AREA SUPPORTS MY ~~CONFIRMED~~ BELIEF THAT THE NOISE FROM AN OCCASIONAL PASSING VEHICLE DOES NOT DEGRADE THE WILDLIFE HABITAT. THERE IS ALSO LITTLE IMPACT ON PLANT LIFE SINCE THE ROADS FOLLOW THE WASH BOTTOMS. FURTHER, ALLOWING CONTINUED USE OF THESE ROADS PROVIDES A LOOP TRIP IN THE NORTH-EAST SECTION OF THE PARK. ALTHOUGH NOT COVERED IN THE GENERAL PLAN, INFORMATION PRESENTED AT THE 17 MARCH WORKSHOP IN MOJAVE INDICATED THAT THE LOOP ROAD SOUTH-WEST OF REARDO IS TO BE CLOSED. I OPPOSE THIS. A VALUABLE LOOP ROAD THRU A SCENIC AREA WILL BE LOST.

IN CLOSING I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I THINK THAT HOLDING THE FINAL PLANNING MEETING IN FRESNO ON 10 JULY IS ILL PLANNED SINCE THE PEOPLE OF EAST KERN AND LOS ANGELES COUNTIES COMPRISE THE MAJORITY OF BACK COUNTRY USERS OF RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK.

JERRY D. GRIMSLEY
1012 N. SIERRA VIEW
RIDGECREST CA 93555

COPIES TO:

CAL ASSOC OF 4WD CLUBS INC
BLM, RIDGECREST OFFICE
CONGRESSMAN W. M. THOMAS
ASSEMBLYMAN WYMAN

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CORVA

CALIFORNIA OFF ROAD VEHICLE
ASSOCIATION, INC.

Reply to:
Richard T. Gochnaur
8202 Vista del Rosa
Downey, Ca. 90240

James M. Doyle
Supervisor, Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, Ca. 95811

April 28, 1981

CORVA appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Draft Preliminary General Plan for the Red Rock Canyon State Park. As the "Draft Plan" concerns two actions, a management plan for the State Park and a proposal to increase the size of the State Park, we shall comment on each item separately.

Management Plan for Red Rock Canyon State Park

In general, the proposed actions, policies, and proposed developments appear to be appropriate to the purposes and functions of a State Park unit.

On page 19, it is noted that "... vehicle traffic is now restricted in the unit." On page 24, it is noted:

9 Under state park classification, vehicle use is appropriate only when it is directly related to enjoyment and inspiration of primary resource values, and does not significantly impair or detract from the natural setting or quality of park uses determined to be of primary importance."

It is apparent that no opportunities or services are provided to, or for, OHV users, per se. Therefore, the OHV Fund should not supply any portion of the operating or maintenance budgets of the Red Rock Canyon State Park.

On page 10, it is noted that state park rangers strictly enforce regulations concerning vehicle use. Therefore, compensation of disturbances of lands caused by unlawful use of OHVs should be sought from the actual violator and not from the "statewide OHV fund", as is indicated on page 19.

Acquisition of Lands Managed by the Bureau of Land Management

3 CORVA finds the Department's proposal for the acquisition of

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approximately 6400 acres of public land to be unacceptable. This land, currently, is under the management of the Bureau of Land Management. As such, its use is governed under a variety of federal laws and the Bureau's Desert Plan. These documents provide for a number of uses, including OHV use and mining, which would be forbidden or overly restricted by the inclusion of this land in the state park system.

3 CORVA believes that the Bureau's divestiture of these lands would not be in the best interests of the people of the United States. We believe that the Bureau must prepare an EIS, complete with public participation and comment, on the effects of this action, prior to the land transfer. (This request has been filed with the District Manager of the Bureau's Desert District.) The EIS should assess the effects of the proposed action on historical and current uses of this land, economic impacts, wildlife, cultural resources and recreation.

For the Association,

Richard T. Gochnaur
Richard T. Gochnaur
Director: Southern Region

cc: NOC
State Lands Com.
Hillier
Watt
Grisham
Campbell
Young



State of California

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO 95814

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR
May 21, 1981

James M. Doyle
State Department of Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: SCH #81040950 - RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN

Dear Mr. Doyle:

State agencies have commented on your draft environmental impact report (see attached). If you would like to discuss their concerns and recommendations, please contact the staff from the appropriate agencies.

When preparing the final EIR, you must include all comments and responses (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15146). The certified EIR must be considered in the decision-making process for the project. In addition, we urge you to respond directly to the agencies' comments by writing to them, including the State Clearinghouse number on all correspondence.

Section 15002(f) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that a governmental agency take certain actions if an EIR shows substantial adverse environmental impacts could result from a project. These actions include changing the project, imposing conditions on the project, adopting plans or ordinances to avoid the problem, selecting an alternative to the project, or disapproving the project. In the event that the project is approved without adequate mitigation of significant effects, the lead agency must make written findings for each unmitigated significant effect (Section 15088) and it must support its actions with a written statement of overriding considerations (Section 15089).

If the project requires discretionary approval from any state agency, the Notice of Determination must be filed with the Secretary for Resources, as well as with the County Clerk.

Please contact Sonia Binnendyk at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Stephen V. Williamson
Stephen V. Williamson
State Clearinghouse

cc: Ken Fellows, DWR

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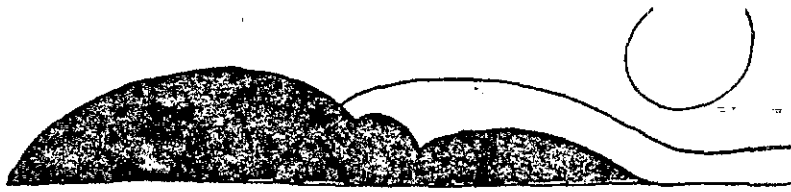
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COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOT HILLS

Peninsula Conservation Center

1176 Emerson, Palo Alto, California 94301

Phone 327-5906 or 328-5313



5/19/81

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COORDINATOR
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James M. Doyle
Environmental Review Section
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle,

The management proposals, mitigations, and measures to restore and maintain damaged lands in Red Rock Canyon State Park are in general excellent, and the Committee strongly supports them. We believe that certain improvements can be made in the General Plan that will lead to more permanent preservation of the resources for the enjoyment of future generations:

(1) The soil resource, which is the foundation of the biotic systems, is not fully appreciated by the plan. Probably a substantial amount of the soil in the park is a relic of past climates and in that sense is a fossil that is just as irreplaceable as organic fossils.

(2) Soil erosion in undisturbed areas is probably not "high". The high natural erosion rates typical of this area are of the bedrock, not the soil. The soil now as in the past supports vegetation which in turn stabilizes the soil. Human activities are concentrated usually in the areas underlain by soil so that those uses must be especially carefully managed to avoid accelerating the loss of soil.

(3) Recreation resources, p.14. It is important to recognize that long before the "OHV enthusiasts" took Red Rock Canyon over, it was frequented by passive users who left it more like they found it. They were simply driven out by motorized recreationists with whom they are incompatible.

The claim that "many areas" damaged by vehicles are returning to a "more natural and stable state" is not substantiated. We believe that natural or artificial restoration to acceptable levels of habitat restoration and soil stability must be based on a scientific monitoring program. This program should be funded by the OHV Fund.

(4) Resource Policy, p. 16. Inasmuch as all types of ORV experiences are available in immediately adjacent areas of Dove Spring Canyon and Jawbone Canyon, no accomodation of this use should be permitted in the park, including development of "access" trails through newly acquired land (p. 28). Habitually used ORV trails that make the park a thoroughfare should be closed if this policy is to be fulfilled.

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(5) The Red Cliffs Natural Preserve has very unsightly ORV-damaged areas that need to be restored.

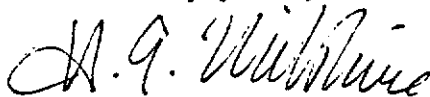
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(6) p. 19, soils policy. We endorse the priority given to soil stabilization. We believe that a full program of reclamation should involve intensive efforts to restore native vegetation in its pre-disturbance density and species-proportions. We certainly endorse the use of OHV Fund monies for this purpose. A properly designed and executed program could be of great value for planning in other State facilities, and an open effort to "sell" a truly adequately staffed and funded reclamation program should be based on applicability elsewhere in the State system. Negative information is just as important as positive: if reclamation of some lands proves impossible, this should provide valuable information on what not to do in the future. New techniques of reclamation in arid lands that may result would be of great social value far beyond the limits of the State Park system. This is a real opportunity to do useful things while at the same time restoring a once-beautiful piece of land.

4

It is our position that providing ORV access across future acquisitions is inconsistent with the management objectives of the Public Resources Code cited on p. 15-16. All ORV uses are accommodated in immediately adjacent BLM lands, so Red Rock Park should exclude them entirely as they are incompatible with enjoyment and use of the primary resources. We therefore request that plans for such "access" trails be eliminated, and that all other primitive roads, such as the main stream channel, that are used by ORVs principally for entertainment riding be closed to motorized use.

Sincerely yours,



H.G. Wilshire
President

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811



Resolution 71-81
Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Bakersfield, California
on September 11, 1981

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan for the Red Rock Canyon State Park; and

WHEREAS, this reflects the long-range development plans as to provide for the optimum use and enjoyment of the unit as well as the protection of its quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's General Plan for the Red Rock Canyon State Park, preliminary dated April 1981, with attached addenda, subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement carrying out the provisions and objectives of said plan.

This report was prepared by:

David B. Schaub, State Park Resource Ecologist
Albert Tjaden, Assistant Landscape Architect
George R. Stammerjohan, State Historian II
George O. Rackelmann, Senior Landscape Architect
John L. Kelly, State Archeologist II
Robert G. Ueltzen, Park and Recreation Specialist

Under the supervision of:

Leslie J. McCargo, Chief, Development Division
James P. Tryner, Chief, Resource Protection Division
H. Lee Warren, Supervising Landscape Architect
Frederick A. Meyer, Supervisor, Environmental Resources Section
Paul E. Nesbitt, State Historian III
James M. Doyle, Supervisor, Environmental Review Section

With special thanks to:

The Red Rock Canyon State Park Citizens Advisory Committee and Joseph L. McCummins, Susan McCummins, and Roy H. McNamee of the Red Rock Canyon State Park staff.

This report was prepared by:

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