

NEWS RELEASE      u.s. department of the interior

# national park service

Release At Will

Joe Zarki 760-367-5520  
Ernest Quintana 760-367-5501

**Agencies Announce New Web Site for the California Desert**

October 31, 1999, is the 5th anniversary of the signing of the Desert Protection Act (Public Law 103-433). To mark the passage of this landmark desert conservation law, a consortium of federal and state land management agencies announce the launching of a new World Wide Web site: [www.californiadesert.gov](http://www.californiadesert.gov). The purpose of the Web site is to provide the general public with current information on recreation opportunities for all public lands within the Mojave and Colorado Deserts of southern California and southern Nevada.

It is hoped that [www.californiadesert.gov](http://www.californiadesert.gov) will become the principal site where desert enthusiasts go for information about what to see and do on California desert public lands. The site will also include important safety information for desert travelers as well as a wide variety of information on the natural history of the desert and the stories of its people. The site also offers many links to other Web sites providing information on desert recreation opportunities and places of interests.

Another purpose of the Web site is to provide information about the California Desert National Performance Laboratory, an initiative of Vice President Gore's National Performance Review. Operation of the California Desert National Performance Laboratory is a responsibility of the Desert Managers Group, a working group of officials from agencies of the Department of Interior, the Department of Defense, and the State of California. The Desert Managers Group is charged with working together to conserve and enhance the California Desert for current and future generations. The mission of the Desert Managers is to:

- 1) develop coordinated and complimentary management guidelines, practices, and programs,
- 2) coordinate and integrate efforts in the California Desert to—
  - a. conserve and restore desert resources
  - b. provide high quality recreation, public education, and visitor services
  - c. provide for safety of desert users,
- 3) develop and integrate the databases and scientific studies needed for effective

resource management and planning,  
4) promote compatibility in the application of each agency's mission.

The Web site was developed under a National Park Service contract with the Sibbett Group, a San Francisco exhibit and multimedia design and production firm ([www.sibbettgroup.com](http://www.sibbettgroup.com)).

For further information on [www.californiadesert.gov](http://www.californiadesert.gov), contact the following agency representatives:

John Hamill, Department of Interior Desert Managers Group Coordinator, Barstow, CA  
760-255-8888

Joe Zarki, Chief of Interpretation, Joshua Tree National Park, Twentynine Palms, CA  
760-367-5520

Elayne Briggs, Resources Branch Chief, Bureau of Land Management, El Centro, CA  
760-337-4420

Gary Hatch, Office of Environmental Public Affairs, Department of Defense,  
Edwards Air Force Base, 661-277-1454

Clarence Everly, Department of Defense Coordinator for the Desert Managers Group,  
Barstow, CA, 760-256-7033

Brian Cahill, District Interpretive Specialist, California Department of Parks & Recreation,  
Borrego Springs, CA 760-767-3716

Pat Moore, Public Information Officer, California Department of Fish & Game,  
Long Beach, CA 562-590-5127

# # #

October 22, 1999

Joshua Tree National Park, 74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277