



## DESIGNATE CHUCKWALLA NATIONAL MONUMENT AND EXPAND JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

Local organizations, with the support of regional and national organizations, are working together to designate the Chuckwalla National Monument in Riverside and Imperial Counties and to expand Joshua Tree National Park. These protections will honor and recognize the Indigenous cultural histories and tribal heritage values of the Cahuilla, Quechan, Serrano, Chemehuevi, and Mojave peoples, increase access to world-class nature for local residents and visitors, protect fragile desert wildlife and facilitate connectivity, and help benefit local economies. This effort proposes to:



Bob Wick

### ► DESIGNATE A NEW CHUCKWALLA NATIONAL MONUMENT

that would border the southern edge of Joshua Tree National Park and protect recreation access to popular places like the Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mountains. The new monument would safeguard World War II historical sites, the Bradshaw Trail, cultural landscapes, and vital habitats for chuckwalla, desert bighorn sheep, and desert tortoise.

### ► EXPAND JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

to the east, which will connect the Park with the proposed national monument and other existing protected areas. This would help ensure connectivity for desert bighorn sheep, burro deer, and other wildlife in the face of climate change. The park expansion would also increase access to nature for east Coachella Valley residents and preserve places of cultural and historical importance. The National Park Service has identified the lands proposed in the expansion as a suitable addition to the park.



Larry Heronema



**► HONOR THE HOMELANDS**

of the Iviatim, Kwatsáan, Maara'yam, Nūwū, Pipa Aha Macav (the Cahuilla, Quechan, Serrano, Chemehuevi, and Mojave) peoples. Local organizations are working to engage Tribal nations whose homelands are within the proposed monument so that future management plans implement Tribal input and stewardship practices. This will help ensure that their traditions, sacred sites, trails, and plant and animal relatives in this cultural landscape are preserved in a manner which respects Tribal priorities and sovereignty.

**► HELP ENSURE MORE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO NATURE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

The proposed monument includes many places that are enjoyed for outdoor recreation activities, including the Mecca Hills, the Orocopia Mountains, and the historic Bradshaw Trail National Back Country Byway. Permanently protecting these lands with a monument designation is an opportunity to ensure that these places are here for current and future generations to experience and enjoy. As part of our effort, we're proposing that the Bureau of Land Management conduct a study to assess recreation needs in the area.



**CALIFORNIA'S DESERTS: UNPARALLELED AND BELOVED PUBLIC LANDS**

California's deserts span over 26 million acres and are like nowhere else on earth. The deserts of Riverside and Imperial Counties include palm oases, rocky mountain ranges, and lush desert woodlands with unique plants such as the Mecca aster and rare animals such as the desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service selected lands within the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument as a re-introduction site for the iconic and imperiled Sonoran pronghorn.

These public lands offer excellent recreation opportunities and are essential to enhancing equitable access to nature for local communities. They are the ancestral homelands of many Tribes since time immemorial. The region also contains important historical values, and tourism in the area helps contribute to a sustainable economic engine for nearby communities.



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