

## **11. Superintendent's Annual Narrative Reports, 1980-2001**

"Superintendent's Annual Report: 1981 Calendar Year," March 26, 1982, Folder: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, 1981, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1991-92, 1998, 2000, Box 41, Superintendent's Annual Narrative Reports, 1980-2001, RG 79, NARA-MD.

Park visitation increased 19% from 1980 to 180,126 visitors in 1981 with peak visitation in January, February, March, and April. There were 57 incident records filed for vandalism, burglary, accidents, larceny, and a discovery of human skeletal remains. The superintendent reviewed information on the endangered species of the Sonoran Pronghorn, and suggested the desert tortoise may be suffering from poaching, although they have no direct evidence.

"Superintendent's Annual Report: 1983 Calendar Year," February 23, 1984, Folder: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, 1981, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1991-92, 1998, 2000, Box 41, Superintendent's Annual Narrative Reports, 1980-2001, RG 79, NARA-MD.

The superintendent describes the year of 1983 as a year of "record breaking," with park visitation up 34% from 1982 with 207,466 visitors, high precipitation, 9,740 hours of volunteer time, and increased sales. He notes the recent acquisition of a resource manager with the additional skill of Spanish, facilitating communications with their counterparts in Mexico. Three new law enforcement positions were added and he makes specific mention of the apprehension of illegal immigrants and border fence cutting.

"Superintendent's Annual Report: 1984 Calendar Year," March 11, 1985, Folder: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, 1981, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1991-92, 1998, 2000, Box 41, Superintendent's Annual Narrative Reports, 1980-2001, RG 79, NARA-MD.

The writer says budget cuts in the Border Patrol and Customs will negatively affect resource preservation and the sense of visitor safety. He cites an incident where two men were apprehended with 200 poached reptiles and they are suffering an outbreak of vehicle thefts by Mexican citizens. The desert pupfish was added to the federal endangered species list. Numerous "cultural resource" projects were carried out, which is the first time since the early 70s this has occurred.

"Superintendent's Annual Report: 1986 Calendar Year," 1987, Folder: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, 1981, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1991-92, 1998, 2000, Box 41, Superintendent's Annual Narrative Reports, 1980-2001, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This entry appears to be incomplete; containing only two pages compared the usual 20-25 pages. It details a land exchange involving the State of Arizona, BLM, and NPS that will add 1280 acres to the NPS.

"Narrative Report for 1988," 1989, Folder: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, 1981, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1991-92, 1998, 2000, Box 41, Superintendent's Annual Narrative Reports, 1980-2001, RG 79, NARA-MD.

First of all, the writer cited that "... [what] had previously been frustrating petty theft and vandalism erupted in major felonies such as assault, burglary and larceny requiring major expenditures of time, effort, and funds." Visitation was down 2.74% from 1987 and is attributed to an unusually cold December. This is the first report in which the writer cites specific drug interdiction arrests and amounts of drugs seized, continuing to identify drug smuggling as the single greatest threat to the park's resource management. The writer also specifically says that the park's GS-5 rangers do not have suitable training to deal with the situations they are finding themselves. He then goes into potential changes the park will need to make in order deal with the problem.

"Narrative Report for 1989," 1990, Folder: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, 1981, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1991-92, 1998, 2000, Box 41, Superintendent's Annual Narrative Reports, 1980-2001, RG 79, NARA-MD.

The writer cites progress in dealing with border issues in the upgrade to GS-9 of a park ranger and increased funding. He is particularly excited about the purchase of three new computers, the automation of park functions, and a GIS system. There were 219,190 visitors, a decrease of 9.66% which is attributed to cold weather and the end of the park's 50 year anniversary celebration in 1987. The writer also speaks of a park building being shut down for two days due to a shoot out across the border in Sonoyta. The writer reports increased coordination with the Tohono O'odham nation in both the border and land management techniques.

"Superintendent's Annual Report for 1991 Calendar Year," March 12, 1992, Folder: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, 1981, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1991-92, 1998, 2000, Box 41, Superintendent's Annual Narrative Reports, 1980-2001, RG 79, NARA-MD.

The report begins by saying "A banner year for the Monument!" citing park improvements, implementation of a GIS system, care for resources, drug interdiction, and crime prevention. The Sensitive Ecosystems Program (SEP), a program initiated in 1986 to track species in the park has been collecting valuable baseline data. The re-vegetation program, which has been in place for many years due to previous cattle grazing, is making significant gains. The writer is pleased at the numerous instances of cooperation with Mexican officials to solve daily issues, but concerned that a body of an illegal immigrant was found. He is also pleased that 1991 proved to be the most progressive change in law enforcement operations, with special drug interdiction operations and specialized training, along with increased cooperation with US

Customs and the Pima County Sheriff's Department. He also spends some time discussing urban areas around the park.

"1992: Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report," March 16, 1993, Folder: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, 1981, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1991-92, 1998, 2000, Box 41, Superintendent's Annual Narrative Reports, 1980-2001, RG 79, NARA-MD.

The writer says that the most far reaching milestone of the year was the general public consensus of the public of the "Greater Region" that the park is in. The "General Management Plan" did not receive additional funding this year and suffered setbacks, with most of its successes accomplished by volunteers. Theft of wood along the border and the poaching of cactus continue to be major resource protection problems and three reptile poachers were apprehended. Sixty six illegal aliens were apprehended and this is the first time this statistic has been included.

"Superintendent's Annual Report: 1998," 1999, Folder: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, 1981, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1991-92, 1998, 2000, Box 41, Superintendent's Annual Narrative Reports, 1980-2001, RG 79, NARA-MD.

The General Management Plan was completed after 10 years. There were 400 undocumented alien arrests, 25 high speed pursuits, and masked bandits fired at a visitor. There were two documented cases of undocumented alien fatalities. Significant resource damage is occurring along the border with Mexico where poaching is running rampant and the barbed wire fence is in near disrepair due to continued crossings.

"GPRA Annual Performance Report: FY00," February 9, 2001, Folder: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, 1981, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1991-92, 1998, 2000, Box 41, Superintendent's Annual Narrative Reports, 1980-2001, RG 79, NARA-MD.

A mission statement is included for the first time. The 1995 tightening of the San Diego border is cited as a cause in the increase of illegal activity in the park. "Visitor/Resource Protection" is a new section in the report and deals specifically with illegal border activity.