





REPORT ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF ESTABLISHING  
AN INTERNATIONAL AREA CONTIGUOUS TO  
ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
SOUTHWESTERN NATIONAL MONUMENTS  
COOLIDGE, ARIZONA

May 20, 1942.

Air Mail

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Three.

Supplementing my air mail memorandum of May 14, which is in response to your memorandum of April 27 concerning the possibility of establishing a park or monument area contiguous to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument on the Mexican side of the international boundary, are reports by Assistant Naturalist Dodge and Custodian Supernaugh, which are attached.

These reports must be considered preliminary, since they were made largely from investigation and observation on the American side, and from written reports on this area. Available Mexican maps of this section appear to be inaccurate relative to the location of topographic features. Predominant topographic features on the Mexican side were roughly checked by compass from known points on the American side of the border, and it is believed that locations of these features roughly shown on the map enclosed with Mr. Dodge's report give sufficiently accurate information for preliminary study purposes.

A photographic supplement will be forwarded for Mr. Dodge's report as soon as processed pictures are received from the contractor.

From preliminary information presented by Mr. Dodge and Mr. Supernaugh, and from observations of the undersigned from Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and the Sonoita-Rocky Point road, it is believed that the area in Mexico adjacent and directly south of the monument does not have the qualities which would make it eligible for consideration as an international park or monument area. The narrow strip between the southern boundary of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and the Sonoita River now has considerable importance from a wildlife protection standpoint, and the withdrawal of this area would be an extremely worthwhile protective measure in the preservation of wildlife in both Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and in Mexico.

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The area described in Mr. Dodge's report as of "primary interest" is believed to be of outstanding interest and probably merits study to determine its eligibility for park purposes. It is not so located that it could be of importance in being considered as a part of an international area in connection with Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument unless it could be connected in some way by a novel road or parkway development. The Ajo-Sonoita-Rocky Point road does not lend itself well to parkway development, having been constructed more along state highway standards, and as it passes through the less scenic portions of both the monument and the large area in Mexico south thereof.

It is also understood that the area north of the so-called "primary area" in Mexico, west of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, has been withdrawn as a strategic area for the duration of the war. I can, therefore, see no way in which there would be justification for setting up a contiguous area to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Mexico without extending our present boundaries to the west, unless an unjustified large amount of land was set aside, much of which would be unusable, and not parklike in character. While an international monument or park area contiguous to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument would bring more importance to the monument in many ways, the main justification at this time would be wildlife protection for the present monument area.

*Charles A. Richey*  
Charles A. Richey,  
Acting Superintendent.

Enclosure 697.

A protected area on the Mexican side would be the greatest protective measure for our wildlife that could be made.

The tourist possibilities of the area are unlimited as it is a special type of desert with the cacti and lava, and being close along the Sonoita-Rocky Point road, would be made available for use if desired.

For further information on this area I believe Kennedy's and Luxholtz's reports would be helpful.

William A. Supermough  
Curator

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT  
AJO, ARIZONA

May 11, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for the Acting Superintendent.

Reference is made to Regional Director Tillotson's memorandum of April 27, 1942, asking for information on the area in Mexico just south of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

I have just now found a suitable map and am enclosing a tracing of the country with the area which would be beneficial dotted in green.

The main area of interest and for wild life protection is the Pinacate Region in which there is said to be at least 136 craters and volcanic cones, many of which are of recent origin. The entire area is covered by great lava flows and altogether is an exceptionally interesting area.

The Sonoita river at present, until adequate water is supplied on the American side, is very important for wild life protection on the monument and wild life refuge. The craters are the lambing grounds for the majority of bighorns, which migrate to this area each spring. There is said to be a small pea growing in the sandy ash which is very attractive to them. A great many antelope and deer travel back and forth across the International Line.

A protected area on the Mexican side would be the greatest protective measure for our wildlife that could be made.

The tourist possibilities of the area are unlimited as it is a special type of desert with the craters and lava, and being close along the Sonoita-Rocky Point road, could be made available for use if desired.

For further information on this area I believe Hornaday's and Lumholtz's reports would be helpful.

(Sgd.) WILLIAM R. SUPERNAUGH

William R. Supernauth  
Custodian.

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FOZ ORGAN PIPE CACTUS



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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
SOUTHWESTERN NATIONAL MONUMENTS  
COOLIDGE, ARIZONA

May 18, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for Acting Superintendent Richey.

In response to your assignment to me on May 12 the project of obtaining information on the area in Mexico south and southwest of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, I submit the following report. Photos, to accompany the report, taken of the area in question from the north side of the International Boundary, were submitted on May 16 to the Chief Clerk to be forwarded to the photo contractor for processing.

GENERAL AREA

The region in Mexico lying south and southwest of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is interpreted to mean the area bounded on the east by a line running south from the southeast corner of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument to latitude 31 degrees 30 minutes north; bounded on the south by this parallel as far as 32 degrees 30 minutes west longitude; on the west by this meridian running north to the International Boundary; and on the north by the International Boundary as far east as the point of starting.

This region, as bounded, contains several desert mountain ranges, home of Desert Bighorn Sheep and several species of deer as well as other wildlife; the Valley of the Sonoita River with its gulf coast plants and animal associations; an extensive volcanic field with the remains of a once great volcano, more than 130 craters and cones of various sizes, ash deposits and lava beds; snow white sodium bicarbonate lakes; huge sand dunes; an arm of the Gulf of California; and a region rich in early Spanish history. However, some of these scenic and scientific features are widely scattered while others are closely grouped. Therefore, for the sake of convenience in this report, the region is arbitrarily divided into two parts called respectively; (1), Area of Primary Interest; and (2), Area of Secondary Interest.

AREA OF PRIMARY INTEREST

The point 113°30'W., 31°45' N. is the center of a region of outstanding scenic and scientific interest. This area is roughly a square with 25 mile sides. (Note: Based on Mexican maps which are definitely

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inaccurate, further surveys may show the location as here stated to be incorrect. These locations should, therefore, be considered approximate.) For the sake of easy identification, this area of primary interest has been colored pink on the map accompanying this report.

### Accessibility

The northern part of the area of primary interest which is, roughly, the region known as the Pinacate Volcanic Field, is accessible from the east and west by means of the road in Mexico paralleling the International Boundary and running from San Luis, (on the border south of Yuma) to Sonoita (just south of the border below Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument). It may also be reached from the United States more readily by means of the desert road running from Wellton (on U. S. 80 east of Yuma) to Ajo. At Papago Well, a desert road leaves this route and enters Mexico via Davis Canyon. This road crosses the International Boundary approximately 8 miles north of the Crater known as Cerro Colorado which is in the northeastern corner of the Pinacate Volcanic Field. Incidentally, Cerro Colorado is approximately 20 miles west and a little south of Quitobaquito which is near the southwestern corner of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Other portions of the area of primary interest are accessible by short desert roads known to the few Indians and homesteaders of the area, by horseback, and some portions by foot, only. After the completion of the Sonoita-Rocky Point Highway, now under construction, it seems quite practical to propose roads making accessible the eastern and southern portions of the Pinacate Volcanic Field.

### Geology

Within the area of primary interest and occupying its approximate center, Pinacate Mountain, a dormant or extinct volcano rising 4,400 feet above tide water, is the Sierra Santa Clara of Father Kino. This eminence, commanding an impressive view in all directions, is the center of an extensive volcanic field including spectacular lava flows, ash deposits, and approximately 136 (\*2) craters and cinder cones of various sizes. Some of these are reported to be 4,000 feet in diameter and 700 feet deep.

Following the disastrous earthquake of December 31, 1934, which shook the coastal areas of southern California, geological studies of the San Andreas Fault pointed to the Pinacate Volcanic Field as the epicenter of the tremblors. Following the quake, in January, 1935, violent volcanic eruptions were recorded in the Pinacate Field (\*2).



West of the Pinacate Volcanic Field, is a vast sand desert with dunes reported by Lumholtz (#4) to be more than 300 feet high. Southwest of the Pinacate Field is a region spotted with snow-white lakes of sodium bicarbonate, also described and mapped by Lumholtz. all of the above aside from the portion of primary interest.

### Biology

Although the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and the Cabeza Prieta Wildlife Refuge, in the United States, protect a portion of the range of herds of desert antelope and bands of Desert Bighorn Sheep, the critical portion of the range of both species is the Pinacate Volcanic Field (A. A. Nichol in personal letter to the writer). According to Nichol, both species are being gradually reduced in numbers by being hunted in this and adjoining areas in Mexico and their ultimate extinction is quite possible unless steps are taken to provide protection in this critical portion of their range. The Pinacate Field is the summer range of the antelope and the lambing ground of the Bighorn. Nichol states that both species have somewhat modified their breeding seasons to provide optimum seasonal conditions, this modification presenting the basis for valuable biological investigations.

The Sonoita Valley not only provides water, during critical seasons, for wildlife from Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and the Cabeza Prieta Wildlife Refuge, but it carries inland an extension of a climatic belt and incident biological associations found along the eastern shores of the Gulf of California. These biological associations find their northern terminus in the southwestern and south central portion of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and provide the principal Sonoran Desert species for the protection of which, in the United States, the monument was created.

### Historical

Father Kino, the famous Jesuit priest and explorer, visited and reported upon portions of this area. El Camino del Diablo, notorious in history, traverses the northern part of the area. There is evidence to indicate that Melchior Diaz entered this region (#3).

### Ethnology

The area in question is a part of the ancestral home of the branch of the Papago Indian group known as the Sand Papago. Very little is known of these people who are now few in number.



#### AREA OF SECONDARY INTEREST

Colored green on the map accompanying this report, the portion of the general area considered as of secondary interest includes all of the whole aside from the portion of primary interest.

Many of the scenic and scientific features found in the area of primary interest occur, also, in the area of secondary interest. However, they are either overflows from the area of primary interest, or are widely scattered.

Mountains, especially the Cubabi, Cipriano, and San Francisco ranges, contain bands of Desert Bighorn and deer of several species. There are other forms of wildlife. Adair Bay, an arm of the Gulf of California, penetrates this area. The Sonoita Valley containing much material of biological significance occupies a large part of this region. Ives (\*2) reports extensive fossil beds in the Cubabi Mountains, some containing bones of large creatures. The area also takes in a portion of the route of Melchior Diaz (\*3) and many of the trails pioneered by Father Kino. Parts of the Camino del Diablo including the watering place, Santo Domingo, are within this region. Ives reports unexcavated trincheras of prehistoric Indians in the area about Sonoita, a very old town which, in itself, is of historical note.

The area of secondary interest is accessible from the United States through Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument by highway; and by rail from the town of Mexicali, on the Mexico-California border. It is accessible by boat from the port of Rocky Point on the Gulf of California, and from the interior of Mexico by roads which terminate in Sonoita and in Rocky Point.

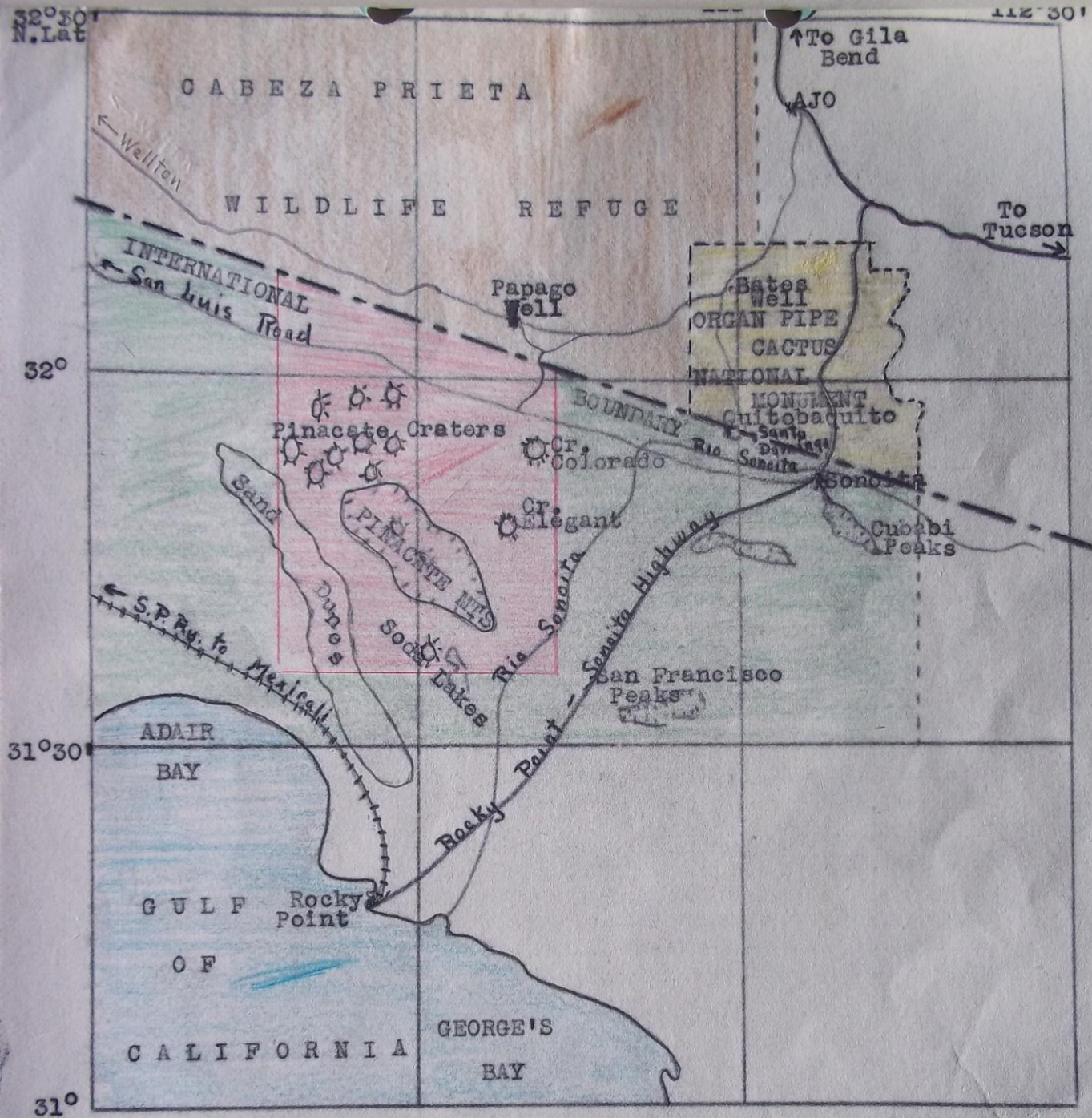
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3. Ives, R. L.: Melchior Diaz, The Forgotten Explorer; Hispanic American Historical Review, Vol. XVI, Feb. 1936.
4. Lumholtz, Carl: New Trails in Mexico.
5. McGee, W. J.: The old Yuma Trail, National Geographic Magazine, Vol. XII, p. 103, 1901.

(Sgd.) NATT N. DODGE

Natt N. Dodge,  
Assistant Naturalist.





Area of primary interest  
Area of secondary interest

0 5 10 25 35  
Scale of miles (approx.)

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
REGION THREE  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

207 June 12, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director.

The following report is submitted on my visit last week to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

In general, the area strikes me, from this one first visit, as one of considerable interest with great possibilities. Development along the lines outlined by Custodian Supernaugh in general discussions certainly is desirable - a loop road in the Dripping Springs Mountains area; a headquarters building, combining administrative and interpretative wings on either side of a large lobby, with a patio full of desert plants, the exhibit sequence in the interpretative section covering (1) desert geography and climate, (2) plant and animal life in the desert, (3) human adaptation to the desert and utilization of desert plants, (4) local geology; a lodge with facilities for horseback trips, also located on the loop road; a campground area and ranger station in Alamo Canyon.

Rather than being purely a reservation to protect a single species of desert plant, this area should be considered a general biological reserve and a recreational area of considerable potentialities - a sample of the desert, just as, for example, Rocky Mountain National Park is a sample of the Rocky Mountains. Development and additional personnel are needed right now, and certainly will be essential in the near future.

Biology - the desert plants and animals and their ecology and adaptations - forms the major interest or aspect here, of course. Man is a part of this subject of life in the desert - man as a desert animal, adapting himself to arid conditions and utilizing desert plants. Local archaeology and Papago ethnology should be brought into the interpretative program from this point of view, broadening out to include various aspects of human life in the region, whether or not determined primarily by environmental conditions. Possibly geology could be better brought into the interpretative program and the exhibit sequence in this connection, since rock art at least as far away as the Pinnacle Mountains was utilized by the prehistoric people of the area, rather than as a general background subject.

To turn specifically to the local archaeology: there are a great many occupied caves and extensive camp-sites in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Several of each were inspected with Custodian Supernaugh on my brief visit. There seem to be no visible remains of structures, and excavation at camp-sites would probably reveal little beyond some remnants of hut-floors. The mound at site 1 resembling a Hohokam ball-court appears to be natural but requires further study. The camp-sites, and the evidences of occupation in the shallow caves visited, consist of scattered sherds of broken pottery and pottery discs made

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from shords; chips of chalcedony, obsidian, and other usable stone and occasional flaked points; metates and manos of dark igneous rock and pestles of micaceous schist; fragments of seashell ornaments and of unworked shell. Of particular interest are little arrangements of rocks on the ground like small cairns; according to local information, burials of uncremated human skeletons accompanied by pottery vessels are found under these.

The period of occupation represented apparently extends over several thousand years. A few stone artifacts include types found in very early contexts in southern California and in the lower levels of Ventana Cave, recently excavated by Dr. E. W. Hawley of the University of Arizona, in the Papago Indian Reservation adjoining the monument on the east, where successive levels run from Tolson times to modern Papago. Most of the pottery sherds in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument seem to correspond to Yuman or "Patayan" types rather than Hohokan, but the rare painted sherds are of Sacaton Red-on-buff (Hohokan type of about 900 - 1100 A.D.) and Tanque Verde Red-on-brown (type of the Tucson basin and the Papago reservation, about 1100 - 1500 A.D.). Frequent traversing of the area by the modern Papago is known, to go to the Pinacate Mountains and the salt deposits at the head of the gulf as well as to collect pitahaya fruits in the area.

A thorough archaeological survey of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is unquestionably desirable. Custodian Supernough was started off on systematic numbering of sites and specimens and will gradually add to the beginning we made on a formal list of sites and a catalog of specimens found. Archaeological survey here, however, to be meaningful and of value to the interpretative program, should be more than an inventory of sites and should accordingly include limited investigation - not extensive excavations - at significant or promising sites. The mound resembling a ball-court should be trenched and studied, caves should be tested, and burials should be sought under rock cairns. A thirty-day or six-week job by one of the Region Three Headquarters archaeologists - next fall, if possible, would make a good beginning on this program, which could be carried forward later by a park naturalist or ranger-archaeologist stationed at the area.

In addition to sites within the area, the very extensive camp-site locally called "Lost City" was visited. This is an important archaeological site, larger and more promising than those within the Monument. Again, chipped stone and fragments of seashell and abundant sherds of pottery are found. Again, the pottery is Patayan-like plainware, grey to brown, including a number of varieties, some of which were not seen at sites within the Monument. A very few sherds of Tanque Verde Red-on-brown were also found. Addition of this site to the Monument, for protective and interpretative purposes and in order to control territory just outside the mountain range would involve acquisition of Section 3-18, inclusive, T.14S., R.2W., now under Grazing Service.

Erik K. REED  
Regional Archaeologist.

cc: Custodian, Organ Pipe Cactus.  
~~Park Naturalist King.~~

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Organ Pipe Cactus NATIONAL MONUMENT

Box 38, Ajo, Arizona

June 25, 1946

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Three.

There follows a report of activities in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument for the fiscal year of 1946.

LAND USE: No land changes were made during the year, however the death of Jose Juan Orocco, Indian permittee at Quitobquito, requires a change in grazing permit if pending action extends the rights to the heirs of Mr. Orocco.

GRAZING: We are now in one of the worst drought periods in the history of Arizona and consequently are receiving a great amount of damage from overgrazing. A study of the situation is now being conducted.

TRAVEL: Travel has increased constantly on the monument this year. 75,874 persons were recorded this fiscal year in comparison to 62,365 reported for the previous year. With the resumption of unrestricted visitor travel, visitor travel time has increased and required most of the work time of Monument personnel. Campground facilities are urgently needed to accomodate those visitors desiring to spend extended time in the area.

SOIL AND MOISTURE CONSTRUCTION: Approximately \$2700.00 for labor and materials were expended on Soil and Moisture work during the fiscal year. Five miles of fence on the monument south boundary was completed, which should help immeasurably in controlling the drifting of stock, wild horses and burros, into the monument from Mexico. Additional fencing will be needed to completely segregate monument land along the International Boundary.

ROAD MAINTENANCE: The Ajo-Sonoyta highway, main thoroughfare in the monument, has been maintained continually during the fiscal year by the Public Roads Administration. The Pima County Highway Department will assume maintenance responsibility in September of the 1947 fiscal year.

PERSONNEL: The long-awaited for and much needed position of Ranger was filled on March 6, 1946, by Ray B. Ringenbach.

William R. Supermaugh,  
Custodian

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

REGION THREE

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO



207

July 1, 1947.

Name	Date
Tolson	7/27/47
Tracy	8/2/47
Belmont	
Riches	7/1/47
Catalano	7/9/47
Dunn	7/10/47

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MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Three.

The following report covers the trip to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument for the purpose of counting the Gray Cattle.

Naturalist Sullivan and I left Santa Fe on May 30, driving to Flagstaff, Arizona. On the 31st. we delivered a chevrolet pickup truck to Montezuma Castle NM. and after a quick trip to Montezuma Well, we left for Organ Pipe Cactus, driving through Tucson to pick up Ranger Steel, arriving at O.P.C. June 1, about 10 a.m.

We set up camp at Bates Well, the home ranch of Henry Gray, and the work started that night. National Park Service personnel participating in the work were, Ranger Paul Steel, White Sands NM., Ranger Ringenbach, O.P.C., Naturalist Sullivan and myself; Custodian Supernaugh assisted whenever the pressure of other duties would allow him to be there. Most of the time the Grays' had four men on the job and at times there were more depending upon the other work that required their attention.

The count was conducted as follows; the cattle were "trapped" or "caught" at each well and held in the corrals until it was thought that all cattle watering at that particular well had come in to water. The cattle were then counted and we moved to the next well. A total of seven wells were counted in this manner. Whenever it was thought that all cattle watering at any well had not come in, the Grays' estimated the number that should be using that particular well. We generally counted two nights at each well, but in some cases we took three nights in order to try and get a more complete count. As the cattle watered at night we, "worked" until about midnight or in some cases 1:00 to 2:00 a.m. to get all stock coming in. The wells where we actually counted in this manner were; Bates Well No. 1 and No.2, Walls Well (Miller Ranch), Alamo, Gaucharo, Dowling, and the Gray Ranch.

In LaAbra Valley and the Southwest corner west of Quitobaquito and Rincon or (Williams Spring), the wells are not fenced and we could not trap the cattle there. We tried counting as they came in to water, at Salt Well but after dark there were so many horses and burros coming around that we couldn't tell burros from cattle so we gave that idea up and rode the country visiting the regular watering places and the arroyos where the cattle usually hang out. After riding three days we saw a total of about 25 cattle, so we had to estimate the number running there. The cattle in this section are very wild and seldom seen unless a rider happens to come upon them suddenly.



PHOTOGRAPH

The "count" lasted from June 1 to 18 and we believe a fairly accurate number was agreed upon. The results of the count at each well is as follows:

Summary, I have the following recommendations:

Name of Well.	Date counted.	Actual.	No. Agreed upon.
Bates No. 2.	6/1 - 6/2	175	175
Bates No. 1.	6/3 - 6/5	81	125
Walls Well	6/6 - 6/7	81	120
Alamo Canyon	6/8 - 6/11	142	150
Gaucharo	6/13 - 6/15	41	41
Dowling	6/13 - 6/15	59	59
Gray Ranch	6/13 - 6/15	36	36
LaAbra Valley, etc.	6/16 - 6/18	25	100
Totals/.		640	806

Twenty-seven head of cattle were sold and one butchered during the count. Approximately 18 head of Mexican cattle were "deported" to Mexico by the range riders and Customs officials.

Most of the cattle were in very good condition, although we saw very few small calves. This was due to the fact that last year (1946) was so dry and the cattle so thin they did not breed until after the fall rains when enough feed was produced to get them in condition. I would also like to say that as a whole, the cattle have improved a great deal in general appearance since 1942 when I first saw them. The Grays have purchased new bulls and have been culling the older poorer grade of cattle so that their herd now is "grading up" in better shape.

Forage conditions as a whole were fair to good and there is considerable old feed on the ground plus a good "bean crop" on the mesquites, catclaw, and other browse.

The Grays' were very cooperative and the entire job went as smoothly as could be expected. During the count two separate camps were maintained, one for NPS personnel and one for the Grays'. There were plenty of men available at all times to carry on the work.

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After spending 18 days with the Grays' and talking to Custodian Supernaugh, I have the following recommendations:

1. Complete the fence on the International Boundary as soon as possible and endeavor to eliminate the large number of burros and horses now in the La Abra Valley and the Southwestern portion of the monument. These animals not only interfere with the Grays' cattle at the watering places but also utilize a tremendous amount of forage that could be used by both cattle and wildlife.

Elimination of these animals would also allow a better management plan for the Grays as they cannot keep many cattle in this area at present due to their straying into Mexico and the large number of horses and burros keep them away from water.

2. A proposal has been submitted to make a new dam in the arroyo below the present Cement Tank, which is now silted full and of no use to anyone. Custodian Supernaugh and I discussed this proposal and we both feel that rather than construct another dam in this location, we could drill a well and place a windmill and trough there for less than the dam would cost and we would have water when it was needed.

3. Clean out the old Wildhorse Tank which is silting up.

In doing this we would not be opening any new areas to grazing and would improve existing watering facilities which would assist in our range distribution problem.

HAROLD M. RATCLIFF

Harold M. Ratcliff,  
Forester.

(SGD) E. T. SCOYEN

Approved for Distribution \_\_\_\_\_ Date 7/14/47  
Regional Director.

cc. The Director (2) ✓  
Organ Pipe Cactus NM.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

P. O. Box 38, Ajo, Arizona

May 9, 1948.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

There are attached pages covering the most significant events at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument during the 1948 fiscal year.

Lack of funds has held us to routine administration so that little of outstanding significance has occurred.

*William R. Supernaugh*  
William R. Supernaugh,  
Custodian.

cc: Regional Director,  
Region Three (2).

*Ensign*  
*File*

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Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument  
May 9, 1948

Custodian's Annual  
Report

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TRAVEL

Probably the most significant thing concerning Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument this year is the reaction of the visitor to the area. A great increase in the number of winter campers and lengthening of their stay shows the trend to a great use of this area in the coming years.

Lack of appropriations for establishment of campgrounds and sufficient personnel for control is the greatest handicap to the proper protection of the area.



Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument  
May 9, 1948

Custodian's Annual  
Report

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Protection

During the year the foot and mouth disease in Mexico has brought about a potential crisis in the wildlife of the area. A great aid in protection from the situation was the construction of fence along the International Boundary. 7.4 miles of fence was constructed to give us a completed fence along our southern boundary.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles of fence on the west boundary leaves us with approximately 15 miles more to complete our boundary closure.



Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument  
May 9, 1948

Custodian's Annual  
Report

Personnel

The position of maintenanceman was filled by Arthur D. Guinn, giving us a full time maintenance position.

Ranger Ray Ringenbach was transferred to Chiricahua National Monument and the ranger position filled by Glen T. Bean.

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207 ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
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★ SEP 28 1942  
MAILS AND FILES

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
REGION THREE

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

September 22, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Three.

The following is a report on a field trip to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, extending from September 2 to 19. During the period of September 4 through the 16th. Acting Custodian Bates E. Wilson and myself covered practically the entire area by horseback and car. Mr. Henry Gray, one of the permittees on the area was with us five days and was a great help in showing us the various wells, tanks, and grazing areas.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is typical Sonoran Desert, the ground cover consisting largely of Creosote Bush, Salt bush, *Franseria* spp., Palo Verde, Mesquite, Catclaw, Ironwood, Jojoba, and various species of Cacti. There are also a number of grasses and various annual weeds that flourish during periods of wet weather. At the time of this study there were very few grasses or annuals showing.

Watering places for livestock and wildlife are widely scattered and not too plentiful. The Ajo, Growler, and Dripping Spring Mountains, and the Sonoyta Hills along the southern border of the Monument make up approximately one fourth of the area or 82,671 acres which are too rough and steep to be utilized for grazing by cattle. This leaves 253,016 acres which can be grazed.

There are many factors entering into the picture which make estimates of range carrying capacity very difficult. The most important factor is the influence of moisture upon the desert vegetation. During periods of rainy weather and good moisture conditions the grasses and other herbaceous plants spring up almost over-night, furnishing a great deal of forage for cattle. Then as the weather becomes drier the grasses and other plants gradually disappear, leaving only browse species for the cattle to eat. The browse species utilized as forage by the cattle are; Palo Verde, Mesquite, Catclaw, Ironwood, Saltbush, and Jojoba.

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Wuth  
Mr. Thompson  
Mr. Collins  
giving file

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Cattle, in this desert country travel long distances to water which they obtain at various wells and tanks throughout the area. At the time of this investigation, they were travelling 8 - 10 miles, and Mr. Henry Gray states that during cooler weather it is nothing for them to go 15 - 18 miles. Most of this travelling is done at night, and during two nights spent at the Alamo Well there was a steady procession of cattle coming in to water from dusk to early morning. At some of the tanks where there are no windmills and development they water anytime of day that they are near the water. We saw cattle watering at "Cement Tank" at 3:00 in the afternoon.

There is considerable overgrazing in the vicinity of the wells and watering places. This was true of all places visited, especially Bates Well. The headquarters of Henry Gray where there is a very good permanent water supply and where the larger part of the cattle were watering. The vegetation is very heavily used for a distance of five and six miles from this well due to the trailing of stock to and from water and the hard usage is more apparent in this spot than any of the others. In most cases the vegetation improves at a distance of one to three miles from the wells and tanks.

This overgrazing around watering places is prevalent in all areas of the west where water is the controlling factor in range use. The only solution to the problem is the construction of new tanks or wells to obtain better distribution of stock in areas not so heavily used. Several sites for the development of watering places were examined and plans for the construction of surface tanks to supply water for livestock and wildlife should be made. These tanks would relieve the pressure on areas now overgrazed and also furnish valuable watering places for the wildlife which must now go outside the monument to water and as a result a good many never return.

An example of how well these tanks hold water is the "Parra Tank" about five miles west of the monument boundary and about twelve miles west of Bates Well. This tank was visited on Sept. 6 and although the last rain was on August 9 the tank was approximately one fourth full of water. The rain had occurred near the Ajo Mountains almost a month previous and altho no rain had fallen in the vicinity of the tank enough run-off had occurred to almost fill the tank which was still holding water a month later.

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207 ORGAN PIPE CACTUS



Another very important factor effecting the present use of the monument is the large number of trespass stock entering from Mexico; consisting largely of wild burros and horses, and possibly some cattle. Former Custodian, William Supernough estimates that there were as many of these animals using monument lands as there are legally grazed stock of the Gray family.

A drive along the border from the Ajo - Sonoyta highway to Quitobaquito and across La Abra Valley to Water Well, is sufficient to convince one of the problem of trespass stock as trails leading into the monument from across the International-Boundary are evident on all drainages and show the tracks of many burros and horses. On Sept. 5 one group of seven burros was encountered along this route and tracks may be found at all watering places in the southwestern portion of the monument.

Considering the number of trespass stock in the area in addition to the number of stock owned and grazed by the Gray's the area is fully stocked and no increase in the number of stock above the present figure should be allowed. The Gray family are grazing approximately 1050 head of cattle at the present time and that is considered to be the number they were supposed to have had at the time the monument was set aside. It will be a hard job for the custodian to check numbers and keep them within the recognized number because of the limited facilities for stock control. The only way to get an accurate count is to ride with the Gray's and count as the cattle come in to water as they do not "round up" cattle as we customarily think of round ups and the only way to arrive at a figure is to camp by the wells and count at those places.

The average carrying capacity of the type of country at Organ Pipe National Monument should not be over 4 cows per section year long, and for many portions, 3 cows per section would be a better figure, especially during dry years. There are times when moisture conditions are favorable that the area would carry a good deal more than 4 cows per section but we can not base our estimates upon the maximum conditions without endangering the forage by overuse and excessive grazing during periods of drought. The Grays' are now running approximately 3 cows per section, since they sold 227 head this spring, and we should endeavor to keep the numbers within this figure.

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**GROWLER MINE PROPERTY.**

Special attention was given to this piece of privately owned land within the monument boundaries. This property belonging to Mr. Albert I. Long, is composed of a series of rocky hills comprising six mineral claims. The area is not large enough to be considered as a separate grazing unit and the vegetation is very sparse, consisting largely of Greasote bush, of no value for grazing, a few Mesquite and Palo Verde, and the various Cacti consisting of the Saguaro, Cholla, and Ocotea. There is not enough palatable vegetation on the area to even consider it as grazing land. The only use it could possibly have would be a watering place.

There is water in the old mine shaft which has now caved in and is unsafe to work around. The water is at a depth of between 260 and 300 feet and as there is no pumping equipment at the mine considerable money would have to be spent to make it usable. In fact it would be more economical to drill a new well rather than repair the old shaft. Since there are two very good wells at the headquarters ranch, Bates Well, of Henry Gray which are only a mile distant it seems unwise to try to develop water at the Growler especially since the cattle would have to graze on monument land which is now fully stocked.

Mr. John Cameron, of Ajo, informed me that he had grazed about 400 cattle in that vicinity for eight years and watered them at the Growler Mine which has since caved in, and he said better water could be obtained by drilling a new well as the water from the mine was beginning to get contaminated from the old timbers when he stopped using it. He said the Grazing Service allowed him a little over 400 head of cattle on 110 sections of land, but he sold out and quit because of the difficulty in obtaining feed during dry years. He did not state the exact years he was at the Growler, but he must have quit about 1934 as Henry Gray said the last three years 1934 to 1937 that there were goats on the property and Mr. Long in his letter to the Director also said his leasees had goats.

Approved for Distribution,

cc. Director (2).  
Capt. S. S. S.  
San Antonio, Texas.

Regional Director

San Antonio

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207 ORGAN PIPE CACTUS



Recommendations for Grazing Management at Organ Pipe Cactus  
National Monument.

1. The fencing of the monument boundary along the International Boundary on the south side and for a short distance along the west side to exclude trespass grazing by wild burros and horses from Mexico should receive first consideration and should be done as soon as practicable. This fence would lighten the load on monument lands, conserving the forage for wildlife as well as for the Grays' cattle.

2. The development of at least two surface tanks in the Alamo drainage east of Bates Well, and one tank on the west side of the monument near "Round Hill". These tanks would furnish water for wildlife as well as stock. The improvement of existing watering places at Wildhorse Tank, Cement Tank, and in the canyon south of Bates Well.

The improvement of the spring west of Quitobaquito known as Rincon or Williams Spring. This spring has been badly trampled and needs excavation, fencing to prevent future trampling, and piping the water to a trough below the spring. This would not require excessive labor or materials and would increase the flow of water from the spring.

I have purposely placed the water development after the fencing as development of water before the exclusion of the excess stock would not only increase the number of stock but their length of stay on monument lands.

3. This is not entirely Park Service problems but I am including it here for its value to our lands. Mr. Henry Gray is endeavoring to obtain a grazing permit on lands west of the monument boundary in the vicinity of "Farra Tank". This land is now within the area set aside as bombing range and all livestock have been excluded. However, if Mr. Gray could obtain a permit after the area is no longer needed for army purposes he could graze a large number of cattle in that particular area thus lightening the load around Bates Well, giving the forage a chance to recover from heavy past use. I believe that anything the Park Service can do to assist him in getting this permit will be to our advantage as well as his.

Harold M. Patchiff  
Ecologist.

M. R. JELLOSON

Approved for Distribution.

Regional Director.

Date. 9-23-42

cc. Director (2).

Supt. S.W.N.M.

Custodian, Organ Pipe.

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BOX ORGAN PIPE CACTUS





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
REGION THREE  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

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September 10, 1941.

MEMORANDUM for Regional Chief of Planning Cornell.

The following will constitute a report of inspection at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, September 3, in company with Assistant Superintendent Richey and Assistant Highway Engineer Rutledge. Mr. Charles Luke, property owner, was not at the south boundary of the monument.

Recommendations made for final borrow pit locations and sources of overflow apron rock are covered in my memorandum of this date to Deputy Chief of Planning Carpenter.

The terms of the right-of-way easement through Lot 6, Section 6, and Lot 3, Section 7, and the 400 foot scenic easement on the remainder, were discussed with property owner Luke on the ground. He presented his plans for building development and showed the writer one example of the architecture he plans to use on the structures.

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The agreement now allows for construction of a filling station, garage, general store, and storage facilities. Mr. Luke also plans to start construction immediately on guest rooms and living quarters. These must necessarily be placed in Lot 7, Section 6, to the east of the scenic easement strip, if the terms of the agreement are left as now set up. After thorough consideration of the problem on the ground it is strongly recommended that Mr. Luke's development be allowed to form a complete unit on Lots 5 and 8, back of the 50 foot strip and that the agreement be changed to include the construction of not more than 10 guest rooms and 3 living quarters. A compact group including all of the above features will present a desirable appearance from the roadway and will extend no farther to the north than the U. S. Customs property. Further, any building construction on the east side of the roadway in Lot 7, even though it is 200 feet back of the road centerline, will be extremely undesirable because of the sparse desert growth and will extend the building construction much farther north along the roadway. In other words, the 400 foot scenic easement is not sufficient to protect the roadway in this location.



Development on Lots 3 and 8 will be controlled by the small area involved and I am reasonably certain that once Mr. Luke's construction is under way he will never attempt to split the development with further expansion on Lot 7 in the event the above proposal is agreed to. One other point comes to mind. The National Park Service will maintain control of the architectural appearance of all private structures now contemplated if the above changes are made. It is quite possible that Mr. Luke will agree to a 90 or 100 foot set-back on all structures on Lots 3 and 8.

It was agreed that a preliminary layout plan would be prepared for the private development in the Regional Office within the next few days. Architectural assistance in the way of preliminary sketches would be very helpful to Mr. Luke and the Plans and Design Division in order to control the construction before work starts.

Jerome C. Miller,  
Associate Landscape Architect.

cc: The Director.

Superintendent Miller, in dupl.

Regional Engineer Diehl.

MILTON J. MCCOLM

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION

DATE 9/12/41

Mr. Luke was advised that the proposed building development, signed and stamped by Mr. Luke, was approved by the National Park Service. Mr. Luke would like to use the area in his proposed development for three buildings and the present building on Lots 3 and 8. He wants to combine all of these units together with those outlined in his original contract, in one building, and is agreeable to combine this with the line of the present building which is approximately 100 feet from the road centerline. I advised Mr. Luke that it did not appear that the National Park Service would be agreeable to these additional facilities, and that the combination of these units would be about equivalent to the present building. I pointed out that grouping these units together, as outlined, would be a very pleasing architectural unit, and he did not believe there would be legitimate architectural objections to this proposal. He also pointed

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*Mr. [unclear]*

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
HEADQUARTERS, SOUTHWESTERN MONUMENTS  
COOLIDGE, ARIZONA



REPORT OF INSPECTION

ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT  
September 3, 1941

By  
Charles A. Richey, Assistant Superintendent

In accordance with previous arrangements, departed Headquarters at 6:50 a.m., September 3, in Government car #2951, to meet Associate Landscape Architect Miller and a representative of the Public Roads Administration, Phoenix, Arizona, to arrange certain final construction details in connection with the Ajo-Sonoita road construction, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Travelled via Tucson, Arizona, to have Government auto checked over, required equipment not being available at Headquarters. In Tucson was advised that the road through the Indian Reservation, to Organ Pipe, was closed, and it was necessary to return via Casa Grande. Arrived at Organ Pipe 2 p.m. where I met Associate Landscape Architect Miller, Engineer Rutledge of the Public Roads Administration and Mr. Charles Luke who owns the land adjacent to the International Boundary on the Sonoita end of the proposed road. Custodian Supernaugh was on annual leave.

Mr. Miller had already discussed the proposed building development, as related to the Ajo-Sonoita road, with Mr. Charles Luke, and the undersigned accompanied Mr. Luke to his property, discussed the various details concerning land lines, buildings, etc., and inspected several buildings south of the line which Mr. Luke would like to use for architectural precedence. It was learned from Mr. Luke that in addition to the facilities outlined in his proposed concession contract, it was necessary that he have living quarters for three people and ten guest rooms in his development on lots 3 and 8. He wants to combine all of these units together with those outlined in his original concession contract, in one building, and is agreeable to setting this back to the line of the present building which is approximately 95 feet from the road centerline. I advised Mr. Luke that I did not believe the Service would be agreeable to these additional facilities, and that the addition of these units would no doubt complicate the proposal. He pointed out that grouping these units together, in typical Mexican architecture, and setting the building back farther from the road would make a more pleasing architectural unit, and he did not believe there could be legitimate architectural objections in this respect. He also pointed

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out that numerous scattered units might be objectionable from an architectural standpoint. Later this proposal was discussed with Associate Landscape Architect Miller, and, it was understood, from a landscape and architectural standpoint, he could see no objection to Mr. Luke's proposal.

It was agreed that Mr. Luke would contact Superintendent Miller in the near future to outline a definite proposal so right of way for the Ajo-Sonoita road could be acquired.

Road construction problems were discussed with Mr. Miller and Mr. Rutledge. The elimination of borrow pit at station 259 plus 40 is satisfactory to this office. This borrow pit would be objectionable in view of the proposed headquarters location at station 276 plus 00. Borrow pit at station 311 plus 15 is satisfactory as it is well screened from the new road. Possible contractor's camps were discussed; however, it is doubtful whether this can be decided until the job is let. Most of the best sites are some distance from water, and the final decision on the camp site will depend somewhat on the willingness of the contractor to haul water to the camp or take a site at some distance from the main portion of the construction job.

Scarcity of stone for paving spillways of dips is somewhat of a problem as it appears that sufficient stone will not be available from the road construction. It is believed that part of the stone can be picked up in stream beds and that the remaining portion will have to be picked up or quarried outside of the monument. A site was selected just north of the monument boundary by Mr. Miller and Mr. Rutledge, and it was agreed that arrangements would be made by this office to secure permission to obtain this stone off the public lands selected.

While at Sonoita it was learned that the road to Rocky Point has been paved approximately 25 miles, excluding numerous short detours, and that construction is progressing rapidly. The bridge over the river near Sonoita has been completed.

Departed Organ Pipe at 6:30 p.m., arriving Ajo, Arizona, at 7:10 p.m., speedometer 32992.

CHARLES A. RICHEY  
Assistant Superintendent.



*Director*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
HEADQUARTERS, SOUTHWESTERN MONUMENTS  
COOLIDGE, ARIZONA

REPORT OF INSPECTION

ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

March 30 and 31, 1941  
by

By Hugh M. Miller, Superintendent

I left Headquarters 8:15 A.M. March 30 enroute to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Arrived 11:00 A.M., meeting Water Rights Attorney Johnson from the San Francisco office at Ajo. We immediately left with Custodian Supernaugh, to inspect wells which might appear to be eligible for purchase with water rights funds. The entire day was devoted to this purpose. The party returned to Ajo about 7:00 P.M.

Wells Well

We went first to the Walls Well near the northeast boundary of the monument. This is an old deep well, described by Dr. Maxwell in his report, which is reported as having had an undiminished flow under constant pumping at a rate of 60,000 per day. It was the main source of water for the old Gunsight Mine. All pumping machinery has been removed. Tubing and casing appear to be intact. This is an extremely interesting prospect in an area in which water is difficult to obtain. Its acquisition would seem to be forehanded. Mr. Johnson stated that he believed it would be feasible for Mr. Dunn to run a test on the well to verify its capacity, using pumping machinery which Mr. Supernaugh felt could be borrowed or rented locally. Since it is understood that Mr. Dunn will be in Colorado this spring, it was suggested that this office might request his assignment to the test at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Should the test prove to be favorable, it will then be necessary to enter into some negotiation with the owners of the well and the Gunsight Mine. The mine, so the caretaker, Mr. Butler, stated, has a good deposit of lead ore but is not producing because of an unfavorable lead market. He stated that it would not be possible eventually to dispose of the mine if the entire production of the Walls Well were to be disposed of; hence for fee simple title to the well the price would be relatively high. He intimated that a very reasonable arrangement might be made under which the Park Service would be guaranteed only a



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specified fraction of the total production of the well should the Gunsight Mine ever come back into production. Assuming the capacity to be as stated, it would appear that such an arrangement would be satisfactory and would still permit production of ample water for monument purposes. These details will be gone into further upon learning the result of Mr. Dunn's test.

#### Growler Mine

From the Gunsight Mine, the party proceeded to the Bates Well and the Growler Mine. There is probably an unlimited supply of water in the Growler Mine, because it was abandoned at a depth of approximately 400 feet as a result of flooding and apparently no amount of ordinary pumping will free the mine of water to the point where it can be worked. It is also reported locally that the ore deposit was practically exhausted; hence the value of the Growler Mine is largely in its supply of water. There is a pump over the old mine shaft now used to produce water for the operation of a small concentrates mill to which the present owners are hauling ore from another small mine in the vicinity. Objections to the Growler Mine as a water supply are in its location at a considerable distance from any feasible headquarters site. Since, however, our plans contemplate the establishment of a ranger station for protection and patrol purposes in that section of the monument, acquisition of the Growler water right would be extremely logical. It would supply water for the ranger station and for wild life watering places in that section of the monument. Since water is an extremely valuable consideration on the desert, it would appear that acquisition of this right would be extremely good business.

#### Miller Well

There appears to be a possibility that Mrs. Birdie Miller has a water right in Alamo Canyon, within the monument. This possibility will be investigated.

#### Henry Gray Homestead Application

Our files hold no recent information with respect to the homestead application originally filed by Ruben J. Daniel and in 1938 defended by Henry Gray, who is established at Bates Well. Present status will be investigated by this office.

#### Drilling Operations

On the morning of March 31, with Custodian Supernaugh, I proceeded to the site of the test well which is now being drilled and examined its relation to a possible headquarters site. Drilling

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cc: Region III (in duplicate)  
Director (in duplicate)

dictated by Mr. Miller but  
not transcribed before  
his departure  
C. S. D.

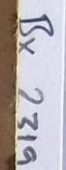


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It was decided to go ahead with well No. 2 and if this attempt was unsuccessful to try a site further south along the Ajo-Sonoita road closer to the known water mentioned above.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

On March 13 in company with Mr. Miller and Mr. Supernaugh, a careful study was made of a possible headquarters location along the Ajo-Sonoita road and the area west of the road in the Dripping Springs range. General conclusions of the group were that the best sites were in the vicinity of the Ajo-Sonoita road about one mile south of proposed well location No. 2. These sites are close together and at approximately stations 234 plus 78 and 276 on the Ajo-Sonoita road survey. Since these locations were closer to the known water in the vicinity of Sonoita, and as the drilling on well site No. 2 had only progressed to the depth of approximately 20 feet, it was felt desirable by the group to discontinue drilling on this site and move to a location along a deep drainage area between the two proposed headquarters area sites. The site at station 276 seems the most desirable from a construction standpoint. This change in location was discussed with the Superintendent on the following day and it was decided that Mr. Miller would review this matter with Regional Geologist Maxwell before the change would be made. Drilling on site No. 2 was stopped pending word from Mr. Maxwell.

Proposed physical developments were gone over in some detail with Mr. Miller and Mr. Supernaugh, and information taken so that project construction program sheets for all Master Plan proposals can be prepared.

to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument to make a further study of the proposed Headquarters area location in connection with the submission of the 1961 Master Plan edition.

Well Investigation

Assistant Superintendent

Drilling for water investigation, being accomplished with PMA funds, has not been successful to date. Drilling was stopped at 170 feet on site No. 6, which is the location east of the present proposed headquarters area. After considerable investigation with Mr. Supernaugh and Mr. King, it was decided that site No. 2 and the next possibilities as related to another headquarters site. After this additional study it appeared that the best possible headquarters site, in a vicinity where an adequate interpretational program could be given from the headquarters area, would be south of any of the proposed well sites selected by Mr. Maxwell, and about five miles north of the known water in the vicinity of the international boundary, near Sonoita.

It was decided to go ahead with well No. 2 and if this attempt was unsuccessful to try a site further south along the Ajo-Sonoita road closer to the known water mentioned above.

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
HEADQUARTERS, SOUTHWESTERN MONUMENTS  
COOLIDGE, ARIZONA



REPORT OF INSPECTION  
ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT  
By Hugh M. Miller, Superintendent  
December 3, 1940

*Handwritten:* ~~Mr. Hutchins~~  
~~Mr. Collins~~ 12/19  
~~Mr. Hutchins~~  
~~Mr. Collins~~  
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On December 2 I traveled to Phoenix to see Mr. Hutchins, State Highway Engineer, with respect to the acquisition of private lands adjacent to the south end of the Ajo-Sonoita road. Mr. Hutchins promised immediate action looking to acquisition of the lands. I picked up Mr. George L. Collins, of the Washington office, before I called on Mr. Hutchins and he was present at the interview. Following the interview with Mr. Hutchins, at Mr. Collins' request, we drove to Ajo for the night and spent practically the entire day in the field at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, with Custodian Supernaugh, traveling via Bates Well to Quitobaquito, thence back along the border, through the country identifiable by the Martinez and Victoria Mines properties, to the Customs Station at the border; thence back over the main highway to Ajo. Thus Mr. Collins saw considerable sections of the monument which were not visited by Director Drury and Regional Director Tillotson on their recent visits. Proposed legislation affecting the monument was discussed in detail.

The three of us called on Mr. Bert Long, of the Arizona Small Miners Association, in Ajo on the night of December 2.

Leaving Ajo late on the afternoon of December 3, we drove to Tucson for the night. On the morning of December 4 Mr. Collins and I visited at the office of the Supervisor of the Coronado National Forest and drove out to South Mountain Park in which Mr. Collins was interested from his knowledge of original development plans there. Leaving Mr. Collins at the airport, I returned to Coolidge early on the afternoon of December 4.

Superintendent

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207 ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
HEADQUARTERS, SOUTHWESTERN MONUMENTS  
COOLIDGE, ARIZONA

Memorandum for the Superintendent:

Report of Inspection of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument on  
October 5, 1940 by Charles A. Riehey, Assistant Superintendent.

Left Headquarters 8:10 AM in passenger automobile USDI 1217;  
speedometer 27807. Arrived Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument  
10:55 AM. Spent the remainder of the day reviewing the Public  
Roads Administration's P line of the Sonoita Road relocation, Organ  
Pipe Cactus National Monument, with Deputy Chief of Planning Car-  
penter and Associate Landscape Architect Miller of this Service,  
and V. W. Ward, Location Engineer, C. H. McDonald, Engineer, and  
Donald Steel, Associate Highway Engineer in charge of Materials,  
Public Roads Administration.

The monument section of the Sonoita, Ajo road is based on an  
Arizona Highway Department survey over the existing county road  
through the area. In view of the construction of this road now  
being contemplated by this service, the Public Roads Administration  
has taken over the engineering and has run alternate lines at two  
locations to avoid heavy construction work. The relocations are  
desirable. Most of the line was reviewed by automobile and the  
discussions related largely to standards and costs since the lo-  
cation was generally concerned in by the group. Specific recommen-  
dations covering various features of this job will be submitted in  
a special report.

The above mentioned party met at Ajo on the evening of October  
4. The undersigned met the group on the morning of October 5 after  
the inspection was under way. Through some misunderstanding Gus-  
tedian Supernagh had not been contacted and was not in the party.  
Mr. Supernagh was contacted in Ajo upon return from the monument.

Departed Ajo at 5:10 PM, arrived Coolidge at 8:15 PM.

Assistant Superintendent

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Director Drury

Santa Fe, New Mexico



November 13, 1940.

Memorandum for Mr. Cahalane:

Attached are three copies of a "Special Report on the Roads and Wildlife at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument". The visit to the Monument was made for the purpose of inspecting the proposed new route of the Ajo-Sonoyta road and to give preliminary consideration to the possible construction of several wildlife water tanks. The latter part of the report is concerned with the proposed change in status of the Monument to a National Recreational Area.

Regional Biologist.

Encl. 1899882.

cc: Director Drury.

Supt. Miller, SWNMS.

Custodian Supernaugh,

Organ Pipe Cactus NM.

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SPECIAL REPORT

ROADS AND WILDLIFE AT ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

W. B. McDougall  
Regional Biologist

Santa Fe, New Mexico

November, 1940

207 ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT



SPECIAL REPORT

ROADS AND WILDLIFE AT ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

W. B. McDougall  
Regional Biologist

Three days, October 24 to October 26, 1940, were spent in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument with Custodian Supernaugh. The primary objectives of the visit were to inspect the proposed new route of the Ajo-Sonoyta road and to give preliminary consideration to the possible construction of several wildlife water tanks.

THE AJO-SONOYTA ROAD

The Ajo-Sonoyta road is a county road which extends through the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument from State Highway 85, several miles east of Ajo, Arizona, to Sonoyta, Mexico. Its length within the Monument is about 21 miles. The proposed new route for this road follows the old alignment approximately half the distance. It leaves the old alignment about 7 miles south of the north boundary of the Monument and returns to it about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of the south boundary. Its greatest deviation from the old alignment is about 2 miles to the west.

From the wildlife viewpoint it would be most desirable to leave the road on its old alignment. Changing the route will inevitably destroy a considerable number of valuable plants and will leave a scar where the road now is located which will be difficult to obliterate and probably cannot be obliterated until a CCC camp is obtained for the area. However, the much better drainage that will be possible on the proposed new route seems to justify the change. The effect on animal life of the proposed change will be negligible. The Regional Biologist, therefore, concurs in the proposed route for this road.

It is recommended that any young and healthy plants of Organ Pipe Cactus that may be growing on the proposed route of this road be saved for transplanting at or near the proposed headquarters area of the Monument. Probably this can profitably be done also for some of the Saguaroos that are growing on the proposed route. It is further recommended that small parking areas be planned at several places along this road. Visitors are certain to want to stop to look at plants or animals or to climb some of the hills and if parking places are not



provided, they will drive off the road wherever they please and will thus mar the landscape and injure the plant life.

#### WILDLIFE WATERING PLACES

It will probably be necessary to produce several borrow pits in connection with the proposed reconstruction of the Ajo-Sonoyta road and it has been suggested that some of these might be later utilized as wildlife watering tanks. For the most part, it seems unlikely that this suggestion will be practical. It may be possible to use one of the borrow pits for this purpose since it would be a good thing to have one watering place between a quarter of a mile and a half mile from the road to facilitate the seeing of animals by visitors. In general, however, watering places should not be too near the road, borrow pits are not likely to be made in places where the soil would naturally hold water, and, while it would be possible to line a borrow pit with clay, there is some question whether this would make a successful water tank in the area under consideration.

About two and one-half miles east of Bates Well there is a place where water stands for a time after each heavy rain and which serves as a watering place for whitetail deer and other animals. It is believed that with a little enlarging and deepening of this basin, and the construction of a small dam, a tank could be made which would supply practically year round water. The basin catches the drainage from an area of considerable size and is not subject to floods. Therefore, the dam would not be likely to wash out. A tank here would not only be valuable to wild animals but could be utilized by cattle, so long as grazing in the area is continued, thus relieving concentration and overgrazing about Bates Well.

Near the western boundary of the Monument and perhaps 2 or 3 miles south of the road leading west from Bates Well there is a rather conspicuous hill in the vicinity of which is the best antelope pasture in the Monument. Antelope have been seen there several times this summer. We did not see any of these animals during our visit to the area but we saw many tracks. It is believed that the construction of an earth tank at some suitable place in this antelope pasture would cause the antelope to utilize this part of the Monument as a year round home.

Near the top of one of the hills south of Bates Well a small tank has been created by the building of a 2-foot concrete dam, believed to have been built during prohibition times to supply water for a still. I have not yet seen this tank but hope to do so on my next visit to



the area. It is believed that by enlarging the dam to 4 feet in height, using stone and concrete for the construction, a tank about 20 feet long could be formed which would make an excellent watering place for bighorns.

In the southwestern part of the Monument, near Quitobaquito, water is plentiful. However, although Quitobaquito Spring is in the Monument, the small lake that is formed by its waters is in Mexico. There are two other sources of water near Quitobaquito that would enhance the value of the region if they were made more available. One of these is a short distance east of Quitobaquito and consists merely of a seep which, however, produces an all-year supply of water which is utilized by cattle and by mule deer. The supply of water here could be greatly increased merely by enlarging the basin that holds the water. This seep spring is locally given the name Avajita. The other source of water is a short distance west of Quitobaquito and is called Rincon Spring. It is said that it formerly produced as great a flow of water as the Quitobaquito Spring and was an important watering place on the Camino del Diablo which passes through the southwestern corner of the Monument. This spring was the last water encountered before Tinajas Altas Tanks and the last living water before Yuma. This spring needs cleaning out and the construction of a small earth tank to hold the water.

One other possible water development may be mentioned at this time. The present plan is to attempt to obtain a well about 4 miles east of the proposed headquarters site. If and when this is accomplished, it may be advisable to construct a small tank for wildlife near the well and run a pipe to it, since this is a good deer country and such a tank would probably be utilized by both whitetail and mule deer.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

A stock-proof boundary fence is badly needed for this Monument. It is my understanding that the Grazing Service CCC Camp which fenced part of the north boundary last winter is not going to be moved to southern Arizona this winter and, therefore, no more fence can be built at this time. However, it is hoped that a CCC camp may be obtained for the Monument for the period beginning next April and in such a case the entire boundary will be fenced in due time.

Custodian Supernaugh has suggested the desirability of a patrol cabin at the old Jenkins place a short distance northeast of Quitobaquito. I concur in this suggestion. There is a good well at this



site and a small cabin where some supplies might be kept and a ranger might drop in at irregular and unexpected intervals to spend one to several days would aid materially in protecting that part of the Monument.

In this connection attention may be called to the fact that I have said in previous reports that no more roads, other than the Ajo-Sonoyta road, should ever be built in this Monument. The present one-track roads through the desert are sufficient. Practically everyone, I believe, has concurred in this suggestion. However, some of the one-track roads that need to be used for patrol purposes are almost impassable at present and it would be advisable to maintain them sufficiently to enable a patrol car to get over them without danger of getting stuck. I think it should always be understood, however, that no visitors are to use any roads in the Monument, other than the Ajo-Sonoyta road, except on special permission from the Custodian.

Recent rains have caused the vegetation in the Monument to have an excellent appearance. Grasses are abundant and in excellent condition. Six-weeks grama (*Bouteloua barbata*) is especially common and luxuriant. Tobosa grass (*Hilaria mutica*) is common in the western part of the Monument. Jojobe or goat-nut (*Simmondsia chinensis*), a bushy shrub, is perhaps the best browse plant in the Monument. It is extensively browsed by both cattle and deer and its usually abundant seeds are much eaten by white-winged doves. Senita (*Lophocereus shottii*), sometimes called old man cactus, is reproducing satisfactorily where it occurs in the Monument. This cactus is common in some parts of Mexico, but in the United States it is found only in the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and in certain places in the Cabeza Prieta Wildlife Refuge. Nowhere does it occur more than about three miles north of the international boundary.

There are considerable numbers of wild burros and some wild horses in the Monument, but Custodian Supernaugh believes he will be able to get rid of these quite readily after the Monument has been fenced.

In the 1940 annual wildlife report, the Custodian reported an estimated number of 1,000 javelinas in the Monument. These animals frequent the washes in various parts of the area. On several occasions javelinas have been seen on or along the Ajo-Sonoyta road by the Custodian. It is not unlikely, therefore, that these unique animals will occasionally be seen by visitors to the Monument.

Mr. Supernaugh believes that there are four varieties or subspecies



of deer in the Monument, two blacktail and two whitetail. If this is true, this is undoubtedly the only area in the National Park System that can boast so great a variety of deer. Probably the two blacktail deer are the desert mule deer or burro deer (Odocoileus hemionus eremicus) and the Mexican mule deer (O. h. canus). As to the whitetail deer, I assume that the small one is the Sonora whitetail (O. couesi) and whether the large one is a subspecies of O. virginianus I do not know. If anyone in the Washington Office can put me right on this nomenclature I shall be grateful.

In my opinion, this Monument is not only the best wildlife area in Region III, but is the grandest desert area in the United States. The Joshua Tree National Monument in California is larger but it does not begin to have the variety of unique desert plants and animals that this Monument has. The Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument probably has at least ten times as many Saguaros as the Saguaro National Monument and they are in a healthier condition, and it has excellent stands of the organ pipe cactus and the senita cactus which are found in no other area in the National Park System. Also, its four subspecies of deer, its abundance of javelinas, and its stock of desert antelope and desert bighorns, make a most unique assemblage of desert animals.

I have made the statements in the preceding paragraph because I have sometimes wondered whether those in the Washington Office who have not seen this area fully realize its importance as a national monument. There is now pending in the Congress a bill, already passed by the Senate, which would change the name of this Monument to the Organ Pipe Cactus National Recreational Area and open it up to mining. The two main objections to opening the area to mining are that it would increase the difficulty of protecting the area against poaching and would likely lead to a multiplicity of minor roads, because in such a desert area if one drives in the same place three or four times he has a road.

Very much more serious, however, than opening the area to mining is the proposal to change it to a National Recreational Area. If such a precedent, that of taking a perfectly good monument which was set aside specifically to preserve and protect objects of unique scientific value and changing it into a national recreational area, is once established, I do not see how any of our scientific national monuments can ever be considered safe in the future. I fully realize that recreation is of many kinds and that when one goes into Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument merely to look at the plants and animals he is indulging in a form of recreation. I have said as much



at various times in the past when giving nature talks. But I can scarcely conceive of anyone thinking that this area is of the kind that should be designated as a national recreational area. If it is changed to a national recreational area how are we going to convince the visitors to the area that recreation does not mean what they think it means, which in that sort of an area would naturally be hunting? Or, how are we going to be sure that some future Secretary of the Interior will not decide that the area should be opened to hunting, since there would almost certainly come a time when there would be local pressure for that form of recreation? There should be many national recreational areas in different parts of the country but I am sure that any trained recreation man would agree that this area has little recreation value. Certainly its creation as a national monument was not based upon any recreation values.

On June 9, 1940, a group of members of the Lions Club of Gila Bend, Arizona, addressed a letter to Senator Hayden calling attention to the unique character of the plant and animal life in this Monument and proposing that the area be made into a national park to be called the Desert National Park. The Senator referred this letter to the Washington Office and the Service reply, under date of July 24, 1940, stated that, "If and when redesignation of the area becomes necessary it may be advisable to change from national monument to national recreational area status. This new type of reservation, which is now in effect at the Boulder Dam National Recreational Area, is more flexible than national park status." In other words, the Service itself went on record as being less anxious than certain citizens outside of the Service to give complete protection to this valuable area. It is for these reasons that I thought that there must be some members of the Service who do not realize how eminently suitable this area is for national monument status and how little suitable it is for national recreational area status. I sincerely hope that some way may be found to stop the pending bill before it is finally enacted.

Because the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is the best wild-life area in the Region, I feel that I should become as well acquainted with it as possible before a CCC camp is brought into the area. I shall, therefore, plan to go back to the area, probably in January, in order to inspect on foot or on horseback some of those parts that are inaccessible by automobile.

W. B. McDougall  
Regional Biologist.





Scene along proposed route of Ajo-Sonoyta road,  
Organ Pipe Cactus, Saguaro, ocotillo.

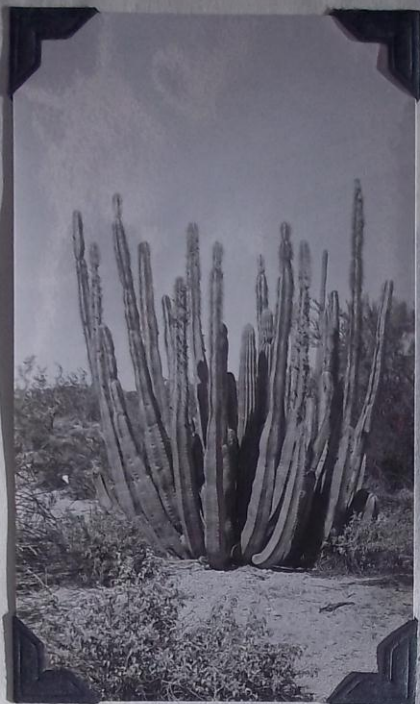


Mexican jumping bean near proposed route of Ajo-  
Sonoyta road.

Bx 2319

207 ORGAN PIPE CACTUS





Senita (Lophocereus shottii).



A senita thicket.

Bx 2319

207 ORGAN FILE CACTUS IN ORG. FILE





Organ Pipe Cactus (Lemaireocereus thurberi) 18.5 feet high, with 56 branches.

Bx 2319

207 ORGAN PIPE CACTUS