

Proposed Chuckwalla National Monument & Joshua Tree National Park Expansion

Palm Desert City Council
May 9, 2024





Working together to conserve important public lands in Riverside and Imperial Counties



What is a National Monument?

National monument designations protect nationally significant lands with cultural, historic, ecological, and scientific importance



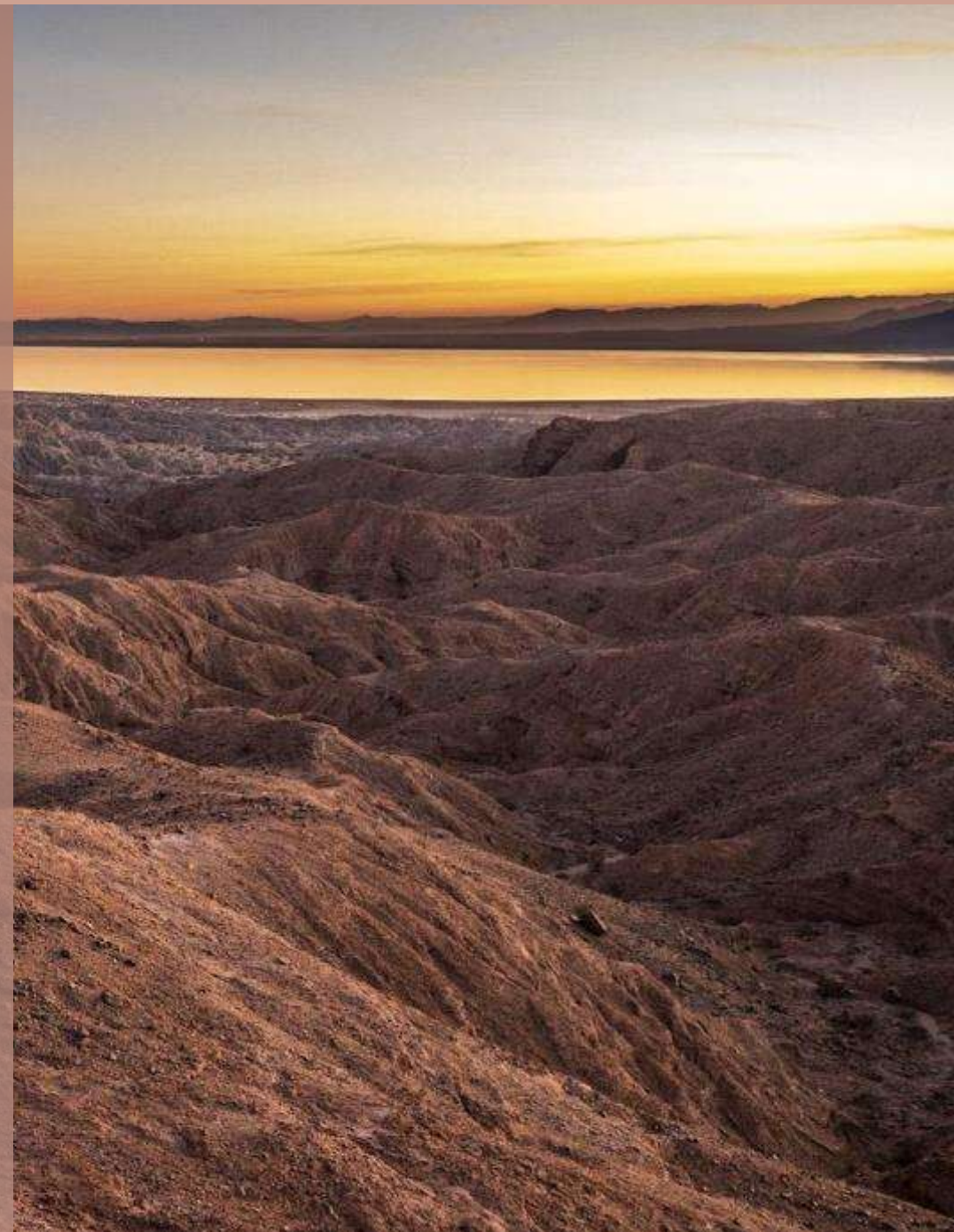
Proposal Overview

Establish new Chuckwalla National Monument

- Approx. 620,000 acres BLM-managed lands

Expand Joshua Tree National Park

- Approx. 17,000 acres BLM-managed lands in Eagle Mountain area to be managed by National Park Service



Proposed Chuckwalla National Monument & Joshua Tree National Park Expansion



Key Provisions



Proposed Chuckwalla National Monument:

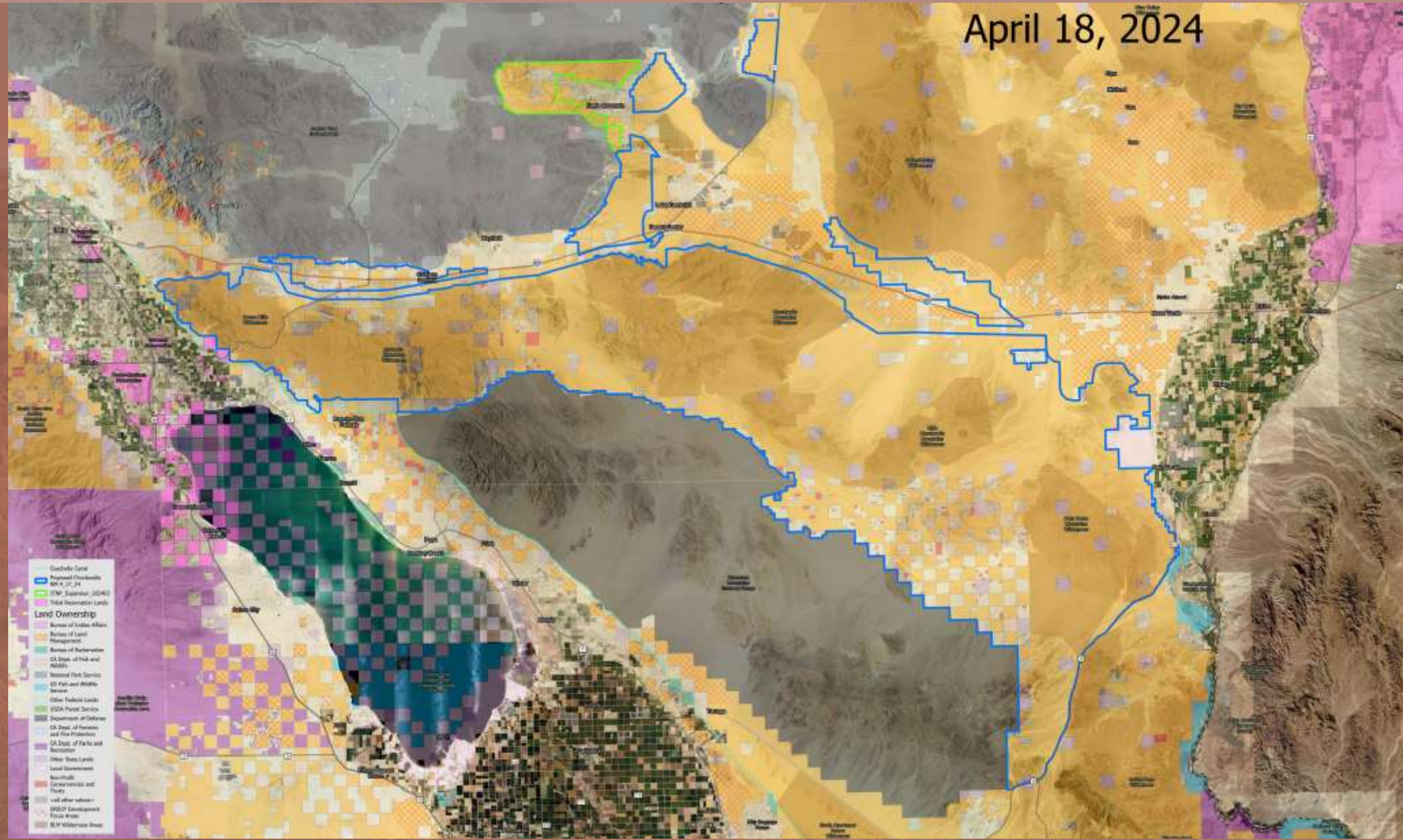
- Only applies to federal/BLM lands
- No effect on lawful use of private property
- Rights of way, utility corridors, infrastructure not impacted
- Compatible with proposed pump storage project
- Compatible with Salton Sea restoration efforts



**Proposed boundaries do not overlap
any areas zoned for renewable energy
under DRECP**

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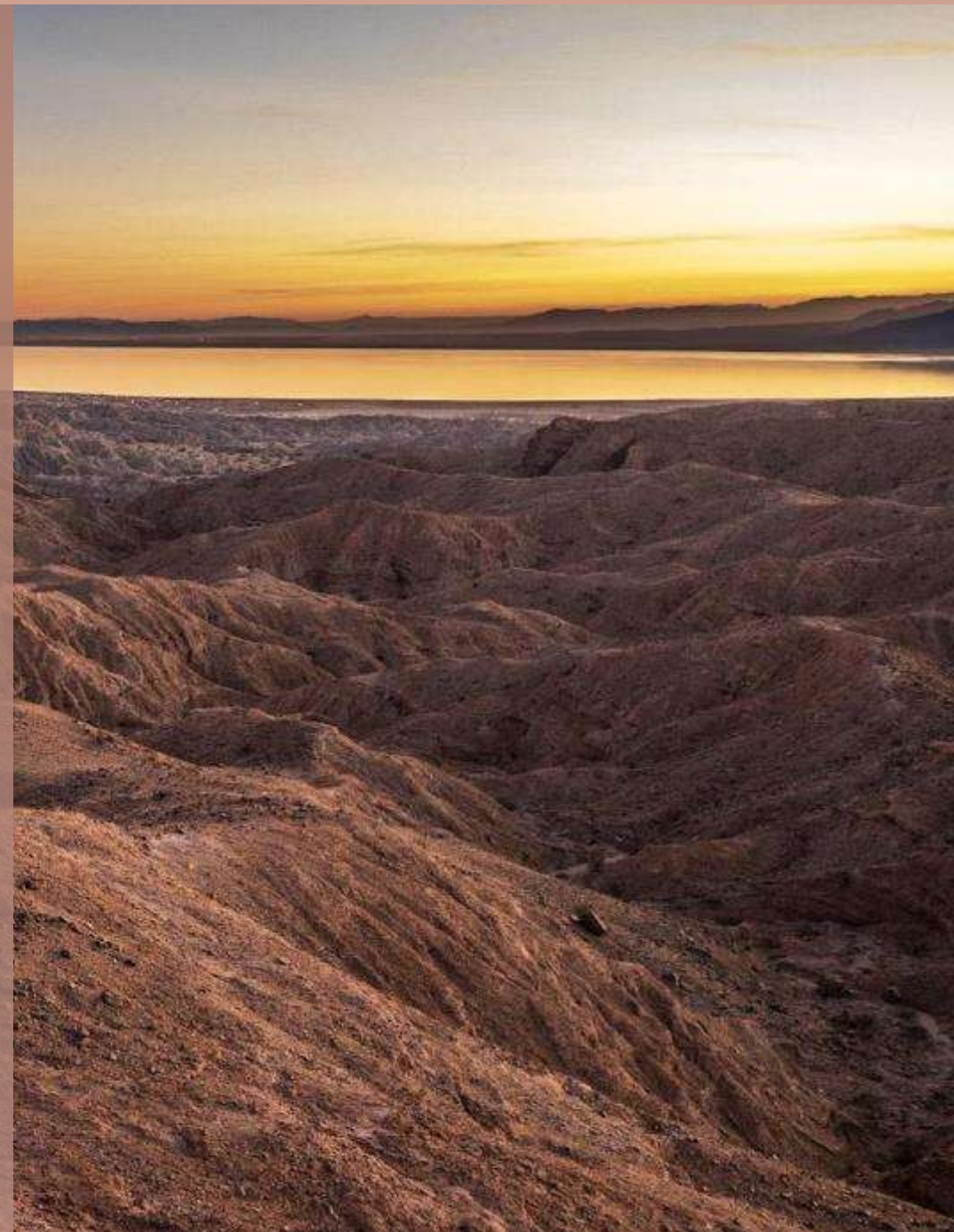
April 18, 2024



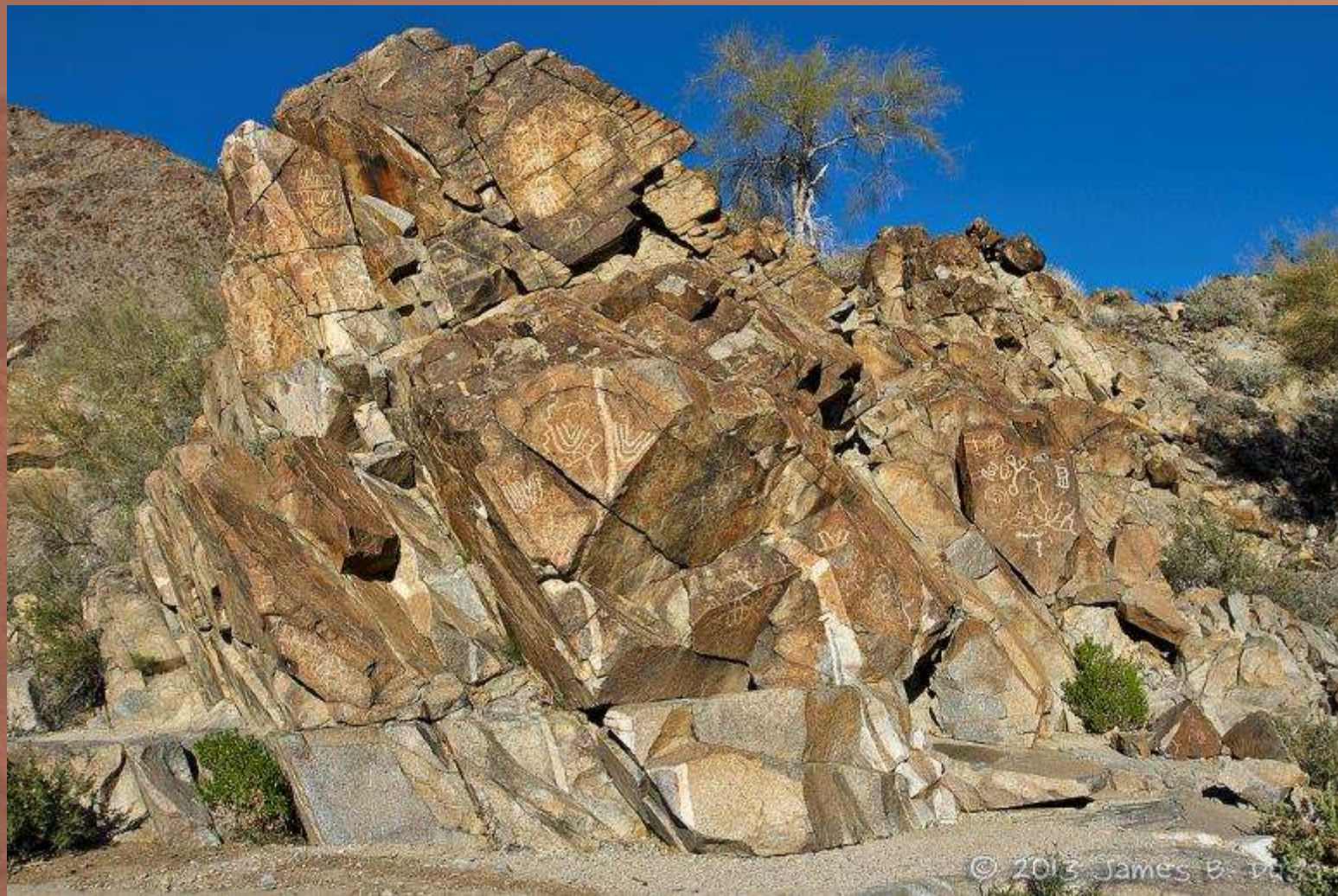
National monument designation

What does it do/not do?

- Not Wilderness
- Existing legally designated OHV routes remain in place at time of designation
- Existing recreational uses including hiking, OHV use, hunting, rockhounding
- Permanent withdrawal from extractive uses (new mining claims)



Values: Indigenous Landscapes



Values: Historical Sites

*World War II – Gen. Patton's
Desert Training Center (1942-
1944)*

*Blythe was located in the DTC
and played an important
role (Blythe Army
Air Base)*

*Remnants of Eagle Mountain
Railroad*



Values: Wildlife & Habitat Connectivity



Wildlife Corridors/Undercrossings



Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope Reintroduction



Chuckwalla

© Luke Basulto



Desert Bighorn Sheep

© David Lamfrom



Desert Tortoise

© Joshua Tree National Park

Values: Habitat Conservation



Values: Diverse Recreational Uses

Protect popular places like Corn Springs, Box Canyon, Painted Canyon, and historic Bradshaw Trail



Mecca Hills Wilderness

- Relatively close to East Coachella Valley
- Heavily used by local residents & visitors for multiple recreational activities
- Hiking, camping, cycling, off-roading, rock-hounding, and picnicking)
- Free, family-friendly outdoor activities

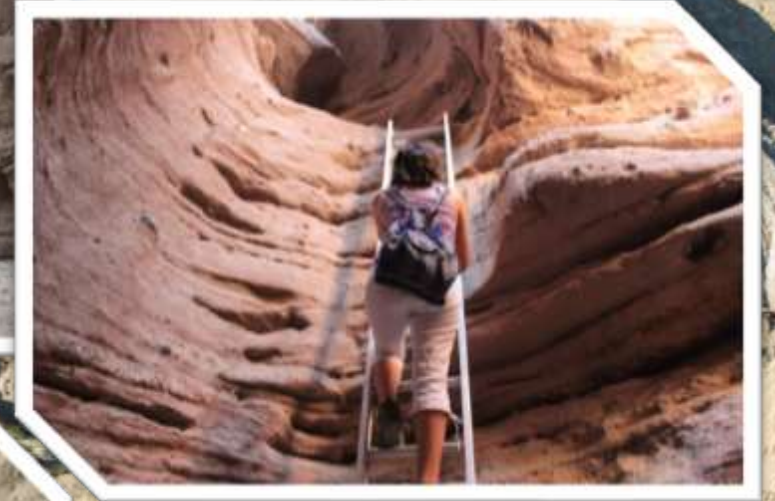


Photo: Mecca Hills Wilderness

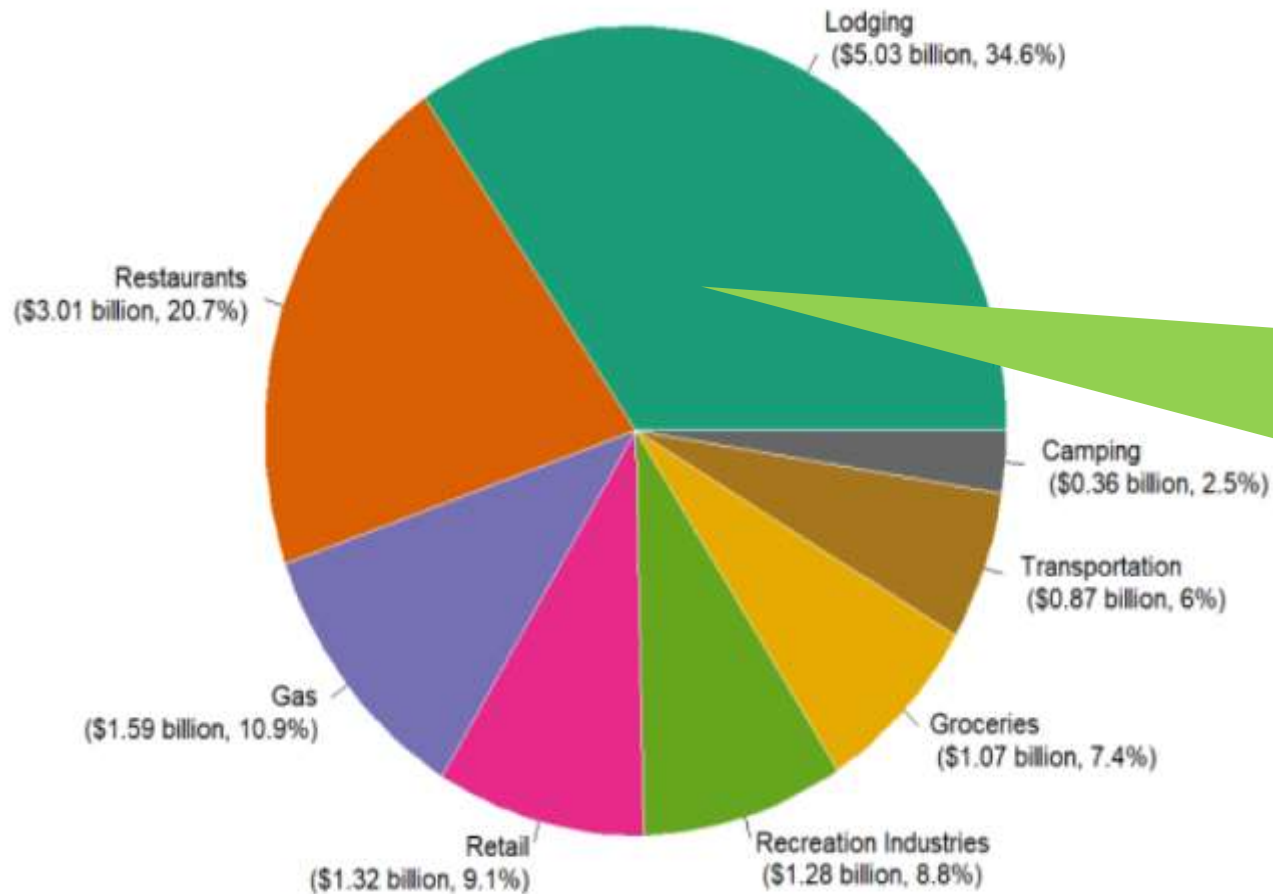
Values: The Bradshaw Trail

National Back Country Byway

- Cultural
- Historical
- Recreational



Economic Benefits



Headwaters Economics
2017 study:

“... all the regional economies adjacent to studied national monuments experienced growth following a monument’s designation.”

Local Support

Expressions of support from:

- Calipatria
- Cathedral City
- Indian Wells
- Indio
- Palm Springs
- Desert Hot Springs
- Banning
- Imperial County Sup. Ryan Kelley
- Imperial Irrigation District



Other Supporters

- Palm Desert Historical Society
- La Quinta Historical Society
- Visit Greater Palm Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau
- VetVoice Foundation (national)
- Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
- Desert Trails Coalition
- Desert Recreation District (Indio)
- Over 100 local businesses



Who Are We?



Protect California Deserts Coalition

Over 25 organizations working
together:

- Audubon California
- CactusToCloud Institute
- California Native Plant Society
- CalWild
- Friends of the Desert Mountains
- Mojave Desert Land Trust
- National Parks Conservation Association
- Outdoor Alliance
- The Wildlands Conservancy



[Protectchuckwalla.org](https://protectchuckwalla.org)

Sign the Petition:



THANK YOU!

Questions?

CHUCKWALLA

YOUTH AMBASSADORS



ADAMARI COTA 

19 | COACHELLA

“ Nature is a vital element to life yet we ruin it, whether it is for our personal or economic interest. I want our community and future generations to be able to create these memories with nature, recall them, and be proud of the environment they are surrounded by. Therefore it is important to protect it, and the Chuckwalla National Monument will do that. ” 