

REMINDERS: These two events are happening THIS Saturday!

1) WEMO (Western Mojave) Meeting and Workshop

When: Saturday, March 21st, noon - 3:00pm

Where: Community United Methodist Church, 6213 East Parkway, Joshua Tree

Sponsored by: Community ORV Watch (www.orvwatch.com)

As the result of a successful lawsuit by environmentalists, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been forced to reconsider over 5,000 miles of ORV routes in the Western Mojave Desert that allow for trespass and damage to private property, natural and cultural resources. At the same time, ORV special interests are trying to increase the number of routes.

This meeting and workshop will provide:

- Full Briefing about the WEMO plan by the Center for Biological Diversity
- Comment on the *WEMO* Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
- Protect the Desert from Off-Road Vehicles (ORV) trespass and damage

For more information contact: Vic Fuller (760) 217-2824 / vjtree@gmail.com or Phil Klasky (415) 531-6890 / pklasky@gmail.com

2) Memorial service to honor Ruth Denison's life

Lifetime MBCA member & community supporter Ruth Denison passed away February 28th, 2015. We have been contacted by a representative of her Estate and told that Ruth generously remembered MBCA in her will. We are very grateful.

When: March 21, 2015, 9:00 am - 9:00 pm (for details www.ruthdenison.com)

Where: Wiefels Yucca Valley Mortuary, followed by a dinner in Joshua Tree – Must [RSVP](#) to attend.

The ceremony will be broadcast live over the internet:

[Live Stream of Ruth's Ceremony/](#)

Ruth's obituary in Hi-desert Star:

http://www.hidesertstar.com/obituaries/article_f4d28e72-c9f5-11e4-96ed-1fe6c2ee79e0.html

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

[California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act](#)

Diane Feinstein recently introduced this bill to Congress proposing the long anticipated creation of:

- Mojave Trails National Monument that would encompass 942,000 acres of federal land between Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave Preserve along historic Route 66 in San Bernardino County;
- Sand to Snow National Monument that would encompass 135,000 acres of federal land between JTNP and the San Bernardino National Forest in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. The legislation would also add adjacent lands to JT and Death Valley National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve;
- as well as providing additional protections to other federal lands through out the Mojave Desert, including a provision to ensure ACEC status for Black Lava & Flat Top Butte in Pipes Canyon.
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ALERT: Congressman Paul Cook recently sent a mailer to constituents with what is characterized as a "Federal Land Survey." Without mention of the **California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act** this survey specifically asks: "Should Flat Top Mesa and Black Lave Butte be protected as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?" A tear off and return post card asks for your response whether the federal land be protected as an ACEC: Yes, No, or Unsure.

If you received this mailer, MBCA's Board of Directors advises you to respond YES, and importantly to write into the Comment section that you endorse the passing of the entire California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act legislation of which the Buttes' ACEC is a part! If you have already returned the survey or did not receive one but want the Congressman to know how strongly you support the full Act, let him know by calling his office (Washington, D.C. 202/225.5861; Apple Valley 760/247.1815).

Of course, MBCA supports ACEC status for the Buttes and wonders why Cook neglects to mention the full scope of the Bill in his survey. We do not want him to consider undermining any aspects of the legislation that promises to secure in protections for California's desert and ensure responsible land use in the Mojave!

Let Congressman Cook know you insist he support the passing of the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act as it is written!!

Also remember to observe Earth Hour: Lights Off/Dark Skies

When: Saturday, March 28th, 8:30 pm local time.

Earth Hour started in 2007 as a lights-off event to raise awareness about climate change. It has grown to engage more than 162 countries and territories worldwide. Let's make the Morongo Basin part of the darkness!

Find out more [here](#).

Sincerely,
Sarah Kennington, President

Please consider attending the Black Rock lecture this Friday:

Desert Institute's Black Rock Lecture: Engaging a New Generation of Park Stewards

When: Friday, March 20th, 7-8:30PM

Where: Bell Center, Copper Mountain College

Note: free, but pre-registration required (www.joshua tree.org)

Your 2015 MBCA Board

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www.mbconservation.org

*MBCA advocates for a healthy desert environment
that nurtures our rural character, cultural wealth,*

and economic well-being.