

MBCA News
Tuesday, August 18, 2015

MBCA is asking you to add your name in support of the return of the Eagle Mountain area lands to Joshua Tree National Park.

Over the last two decades, MBCA has followed and supported the long process that stopped the Eagle Mountain Mine area at the SouthEast boundary of Joshua Tree National Park from becoming a trash dump for Los Angeles. That same area was originally a part of the National Park, but was "detached" from the Park in the 1950s for iron ore mining.

The National Park Service is now undertaking a "Boundary Study" and comment period that considers fulfilling the promise of restoring the Joshua Tree National Park's 1936 original boundaries. We informed you recently of several public meetings about this, and many of you attended the meeting in Joshua Tree.

The deadline for public comment is this Friday, August 21, and we ask you to add your voice to the support for returning Eagle Mountain lands to Joshua Tree National Park by emailing your comment to their website. Please request that they choose *Option 3: Restore 1936 Boundary to Provide Diverse Visitor and Resource Protection Opportunities (~28,000 acres)*.

- Option 3 (including Kaiser town site) should be chosen as it restores the maximum acreage to the Park. These lands were removed for mining in the 1950's and should be returned to Park Service management.
- Option 3 protects the maximum habitat and connectivity for desert species that roam between the park and neighboring lands. This landscape represents important habitat and corridors for desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoise. It also represents nesting grounds and foraging habitat for golden eagles.

On [MBCA's "Land Development" page](#) we have provided links to the Project Home Page for the Boundary Study and a link to a copy of the first newsletter of the Boundary Study. [Here is the direct link](#) to the Park Service page that is available for comments through Friday, August 21.

Numbers really do count and we need to counter the organized public input to leave the area "as-is" in BLM control. Please take a moment and join your voice with others. Let's make sure that this study makes "Giving it All Back" one step closer. Again, comments are due by this Friday, 8/21/2015.