MEMORANDUM

Date: March 5, 1998

To: Statements of Management for:
Dead Horse Ranch / VRG
Boyce Thompson Southwest Arboretum
Kartchner Caverns
Picacho Peak
Red Rock
Tonto Natural Bridge

From: Matt Chew

Re: Natural Areas Designation and Management

Each of the parks listed above has internal areas that were determined by the Natural Areas Advisory Committee to be eligible for "State Natural Area" (SNA) designation under Parks Board policies adopted in 1991. SNA designation recognizes the presence of parcels of land or water that contain examples of unique natural terrestrial or aquatic ecosystems, rare species of plants and animals and unusual or outstanding geologic or hydrologic features (ARS §41-501.1), and creates a subunit of the park that will be managed to preserve and protect these resources.

The park also becomes eligible to request Natural Areas Operations and Management (NAO&M) funds (ARS §41.503.E) for specific management actions necessary to carrying out this mission. A maximum total of $400,000 is annually deposited to this fund, contingent on sufficient sales of Arizona Lottery products. The fund is already heavily utilized for Natural Areas related actions. NAO&M expenditures must be specifically approved by the Parks Board, and therefore this fund will not be useful for dealing with short term emergencies.

Each "Natural Area" is necessarily unique. Special management to protect and preserve the special resource present may require no actual changes in the way some parks are operated; it may require changes as significant as additional fencing and additional visitor control and supervision in others. On the other hand, thoughtful strategic application of NAO&M funding can be expected to benefit the park as a whole while specifically benefitting the designated SNA.

At the present time, Natural Areas Program staff resources are dedicated to the time-critical matter of negotiating a major conservation easement acquisition. Concurrently, the Natural Areas Program policy and guidelines documents are being revised and updated, and most of the Natural Areas Advisory Committee members (whose terms have all expired) are being replaced. Thus, we cannot respond in a timely manner in generating park-specific Statements of Management. However, completing these and the designations they support are the next priority for the program, and are scheduled for completion in FY 1999.
Dead Horse Ranch State Park offers developed picnicking and camping facilities, stream and pond fishing, bird watching and walking trails through the shady cottonwood groves along the Verde River. It is an excellent base from which campers can explore the many noted and beautiful sites of Central Arizona. 634-5283
ARIZONA STATE PARK PROFILE

Dead Horse Ranch State Park

Special Programs & Events
- Verde River Days held annually the last Saturday in September features hands-on activities for adults and children, games, exhibits, entertainment and food booths.

Area Scenic Attractions
- Cottonwood - Verde River Greenway natural area, Mingus Mountain in Prescott National Forest and Tuzigoot National Monument.
- Jerome - Ghost town and Jerome State Historic Park.
- Camp Verde - Fort Verde State Historic Park and Montezuma Castle National Monument.

Park Facilities
- Picnic area with tables and grills, campground with showers and hook-ups, stocked pond and fishing in Verde River, trails, restrooms and group use area.

Host to a vast array of wildlife inhabitants, this park actually revolves around life along the Verde River - despite its distinctive name.

The 3,300 foot elevation means mild temperatures for hiking along the Verde, canoeing, picnicking, fishing or just wading in the cool water. Life along the river changes with the seasons, giving visitors a glimpse of bald eagles, great blue heron, river otters, black hawks, coyotes, raccoons, mule deer, beavers, ducks, frogs and toads.

The story of the park's name begins with the Ireys family, who came to Arizona from Minnesota looking for a ranch to buy in 1950. At one of the ranches, they discovered a large, dead horse laying by the road. After two days of viewing ranches, Dad Ireys asked the kids which place they liked the best. The kids said "the one with the dead horse, Dad!" The Ireys family kept the name and later made it a condition of sale to Arizona State Parks in 1973.

Dead Horse Ranch State Park
675 Dead Horse Ranch Road
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
Phone 520-634-5283
Fax 520-639-0417
Dead Horse Ranch State Park

Details
The State Legislature authorized the purchase of Dead Horse Ranch State Park under House Bill 2150 in 1973. The park is located off 10th street in Cottonwood and is open 365 days a year. Park elevation is 3,300 feet. Entrance fee is $4 per vehicle with up to 4 people, camping fee is $10 or $15 with hook-ups.

Rules
• Keep pets on a leash.
• Damaging or removing the natural rocks, vegetation or public property is prohibited.
• Obey all hunting and fishing regulations.
• Prevent loud nuisance noises.
• Maximum of two vehicles per campsite with up to 12 people.
• Camping permitted in designated sites. Checkout time is 2:00 p.m.

Medical Facilities
Cottonwood has a 112 bed hospital and a wide range of physicians, surgeons and dentists.

Weather

<table>
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<th>Month</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Max.</td>
<td>Min.</td>
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<td>28.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
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</tbody>
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(Average daily temperature and precipitation)

Community Facilities
Shopping, restaurants, banks, churches, library, parks, recreation center, bowling alley, swimming pool, movie theaters, ball fields and tennis courts, Police Department, health and grocery stores, laundry facilities, automobile, and recreational vehicle repair. A unique restaurant featuring chuck wagon suppers and a western stage show is located adjacent to the park.

Lodging & Hotels
There are seven motels with 182 units and four meeting facilities. Several campgrounds in the area.

For more information contact:
Cottonwood/Verde Valley Chamber of Commerce
1010 S. Main Street
Cottonwood, AZ  86326
Phone 520-634-7593

Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Tel and TTY: 602-542-4174,
1-800-285-3703 (from 520 area code)
Fax: 602-542-4188
http://www.pr.state.az.us

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