

The Desert Survivors Mission Statement

In this document, first published in 1995, Desert Survivors stated its mission concisely in twenty-six words. What follows is a list of the objectives and goals from that time, most of which are still in force today. Our Directors, trip leaders and other volunteers strive to follow this statement and implement these objectives daily.

DESERT SURVIVORS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Desert Survivors is to experience, share and protect the desert — a beautiful, fragile and threatened environment deserving of respect and requiring constant vigilance.

Objectives and Goals

Experience

1. Utilize trips to introduce people to the desert and the wilderness therein.
 - a. Provide the opportunity for individuals to experience firsthand the desert's intrinsic value.
 - b. Foster a high level of responsibility, knowledge and appreciation for the desert.
 - c. Teach skills for desert survival and safety.
 - d. Maintain high standards for trip leaders.
2. Expand membership by approximately 10% next year, using existing recruitment practices.
3. Increase net number of trip leaders by one per year.
 - a. Help people meet trip leader requirements, e.g. by first-aid training.

Share

1. Reach beyond members to educate the general public about the desert.
 - a. Participate in public forums such as slideshows, fairs, media interviews.
 - b. Distribute and sell the SURVIVOR at events. Distribute trip schedules at retail outlets.
 - c. Submit letters to newspaper editors and articles to conservation and outdoor magazines. Utilize the Internet.
2. Provide expert testimony on specific desert issues.
 - a. Identify opportunities.
 - b. Implement reimbursement for travel expenses of members who testify.
3. Share results of Desert Survivors experience with appropriate government agencies.
 - a. Identify personnel for regular direct contact.

- b. Formalize reports: monitoring forms.
 - c. Notify government agency personnel of observed damage/unauthorized events.
4. Broaden and deepen the experience of the desert by enabling people to share at social events.
 - a. Continue current social gathering schedule (five per year plus trip reunions).
 - b. Annual Meeting

Protect

1. Make sure that government agencies enforce the laws that protect the desert.
 - a. Respond to “Notices of Proposed Action or Violation” and other similar advisories.
 - b. Comment on other activities.
 - c. Participate in litigation and administrative appeals.
2. Develop working relations with desert land management agencies.
 - a. Identify personnel for regular direct contact (written, telephone, meeting).
 - b. Instruct trip leaders to invite land management personnel on group trips.
3. Increase the number of service trips by 10% by April, 1996.
 - a. Promote service trips through the SURVIVOR and Issues Group newsletter.
 - b. Publicize the service trips through regular Trip Schedules, avoid conflict with regular trips.
 - c. Tap into service trips of other organizations.
4. Foster an active monitoring program.
 - a. Encourage Trip Leaders to complete and submit a Desert Monitoring Form for every trip.
 - b. Sponsor one or two major monitoring/service events each year.
 - c. Authorize the issues group or any group of members to organize other service/monitoring events for members.
 - d. Pursue government agency interaction.
 - e. Identify other sources for data (aerial photographs. etc.)
 - f. Network with other conservation groups.
5. Participate in development plans for BLM and Park Service lands.
 - a. Selectively comment on and participate in formal desert wilderness plans, including scoping processes as identified by individual members of the Issues Group.
 - b. Find out how to be notified about planning processes concerning the desert.
 - c. Communicate with other conservation groups to identify plans and to coordinate comments.
 - d. Encourage member participation in public hearings and meetings.
6. Maintain and strengthen legislation to protect the desert.
 - a. Network with desert protection groups to learn about pending legislation.

- b. Exercise options to fund lobbying up to the IRS limit as needed.
- c. Board shall determine priorities for lobbying when done in the name of Desert Survivors.

This is a one-year plan subject to annual review of the Objectives and a yearly progress report, and is not meant to supersede the General Policy Statement of January 9, 1992.

Dated the 12th day of July, 1995.
