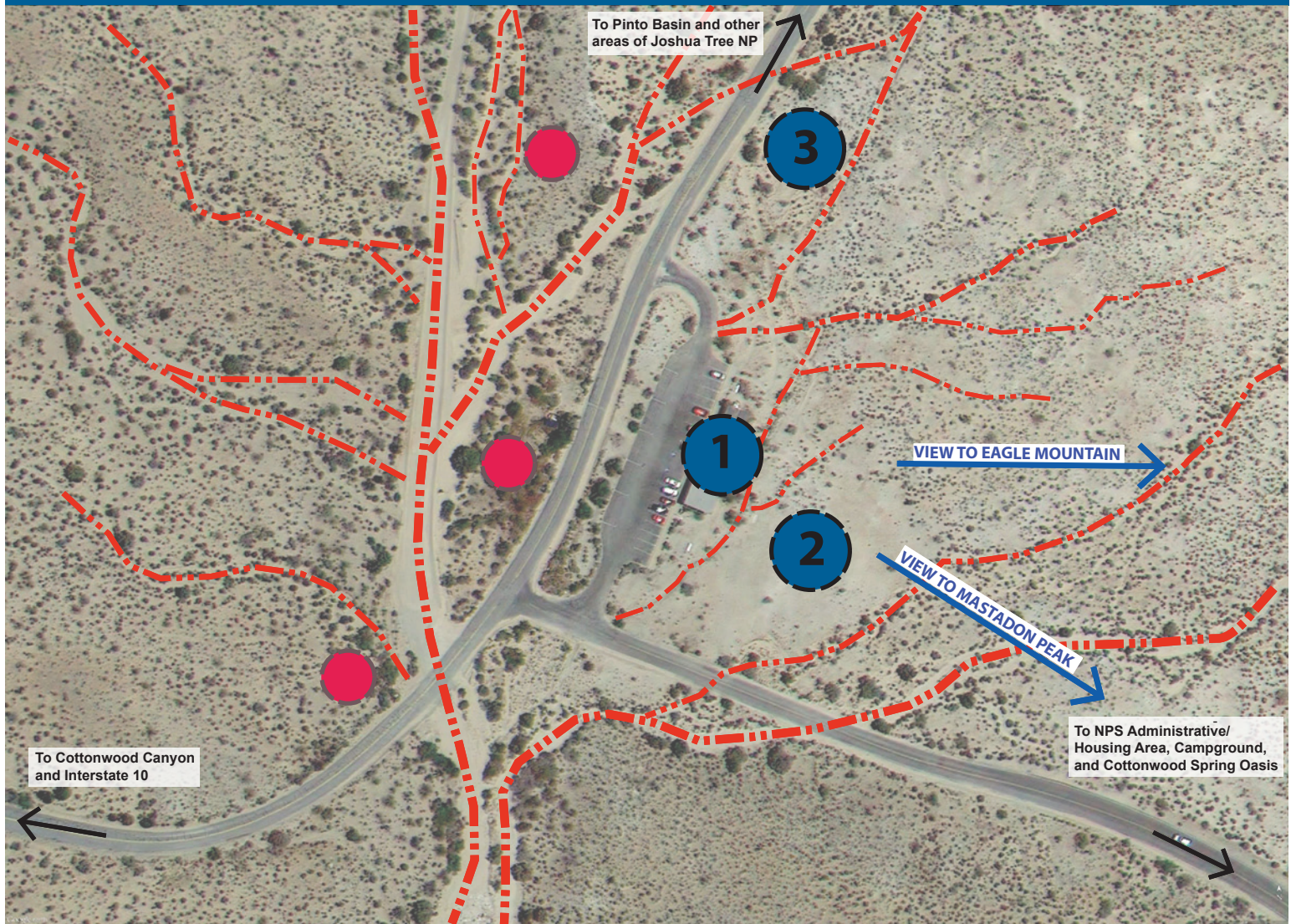


Cottonwood Visitor Center Project

Preliminary Newsletter
January 2017

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Joshua Tree National Park
California



Joshua Tree National Park Cottonwood Visitor Facilities



Potential Visitor Center building zones:
1. Existing site
2. Area east/southeast of existing site
3. Area north of existing site

--- Apparent dry-wash drainage courses



Scale 0 100 200 300 feet

Other sites considered and rejected

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Joshua Tree National Park,

The National Park Service is proposing to rehabilitate the Cottonwood Visitor Center in the southeast portion of the park, closest to Highway 10. The purpose of the rehabilitation effort is to improve the visitor facilities, both to accommodate growing visitation to Joshua Tree and to better interpret the park's unique ecosystem, within a more sustainable, comfortable, and energy-efficient building.

We are looking to address the following issues:

- parking lot expansion and size
- new indoor and outdoor spaces to enable interpretation programs and services
- ranger contact station improvements
- replace the current modular, temporary visitor center unit with a building designed specifically for the climate and site



(over)

(continued)

We invite you to become involved and would like your input on important matters related to this project. Please provide us with your thoughts, ideas, and concerns that should be considered for this rehabilitation of the Cottonwood Visitor Center.

To share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns with us, we encourage you to comment electronically via the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) web site at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/JOTRVC>. This web site will also include regular updates on the planning schedule, copies of newsletters, and planning documents. You are also welcome to mail comments directly to the park at the park's address below.

After considering your input, we anticipate developing and releasing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a 45-day public comment period. An EA would evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with key resources related to the proposal, environmental issues, and sources of data. We expect to update you on the status of this project in the fall of 2017.

If you would like your address or email added to the mailing list for future updates on this project please send your information to the below address.

Joshua Tree National Park

Attention:

Kirk Diamond, Chief of Maintenance, phone 760-367-5680
or Jennifer Albrinck, Public Information Officer and
Chief of Interpretation, phone 760-367-5520
74485 National Park Drive
Twentynine Palms CA, 92277-3597

Thank you for your continued interest and participation in the development of the Joshua Tree National Park. I hope to hear more from you soon!

Sincerely,



David Smith, Superintendent
Joshua Tree National Park

