

**Community Focus Statement A:** Preserve the desert ecosystem, its natural beauty, and the community's harmonious relationship with the environment.

**Action Statement A.1: Partner with organizations such as Mojave Desert Land Trust to conserve natural desert habitats and wildlife corridors and to protect native plants and animals.**

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**Benchmark:** A desert conservation plan for the community is prepared. Partnership created with the Joshua Tree National Park Association (JTNP) and other organizations like the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) to regularly organize conservation efforts to protect the desert habitat, safeguard natural resources, and improve the understanding of challenges facing the desert ecosystem and the importance of addressing these issues. MDLT continues to work closely with a broad range of desert community members, visitors, and governmental agencies to offer hands-on learning and volunteer opportunities.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$5,000



*The Yosemite Conservancy provides support for projects and programs that preserve and protect Yosemite National Park's resources and enrich the visitor experience. With support from the community, the conservancy helps to fund trail and habitat restoration projects, wildlife-protection programs, scientific research, and more to preserve and protect Yosemite. For more information, visit: <https://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/>. Photo source: Yosemite Conservancy*

Joshua Tree's landscape provides an important habitat for plants and animals. It is essential to understand how best to conserve these habitats and protect natural resources. Organizations like the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) strive to assist the residents and visitors of the California desert to support the significance of desert conservation through outreach and education. The MDLT works closely with a broad range of desert community members and visitors, as well as governmental agencies, to offer hands-on learning and volunteer opportunities, improve the understanding of the challenges facing the fragile desert ecosystem, and emphasize the

importance of addressing those issues. Types of natural conservation opportunities often include:

- Provide outdoor education opportunities and guided hikes to explore the nature resources in the community.
- Engage the community by conducting outreach at local fairs and festivals and hosting lectures and workshops on understanding the relationships and processes necessary to support a healthy desert habitat and wildlife corridor.
- Identify various forms of natural resources including native plants and animals in the area and showing how different forms can change over time and climate.

- Purchase lands that have strategic conservation values and work to ensure that all acquired land is properly maintained.

By showcasing conservation efforts to other organizations, groups, and in the community, the community of Joshua Tree can be committed to protecting conservation investments that have been made in the desert.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting to create a Conservation Committee	Champion	Month 1	Joshua Tree National Park Association
2. Partner with MDLT and other related organizations on developing a desert conservation plan for efforts to protect the desert habitat and its native plants and wildlife.	Committee with Joshua Tree National Park Association, with support from Mojave Desert Land Trust and other related organizations	Month 2	<a href="http://www.joshuatree.org/">http://www.joshuatree.org/</a>  Mojave Desert Land Trust <a href="https://www.mdlt.org/">https://www.mdlt.org/</a>
3. Select a JTNPA member to serve as desert conservation plan lead to provide leadership to the committee and be the point of contact for related topics and issues.	Committee with Joshua Tree National Park Association	Month 2	Yosemite Conservancy <a href="https://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/">https://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/</a>
4. Identify the desert habitats, wildlife corridors, and native plants and animals within the Joshua Tree community to be included in the desert conservation plan.	Committee with Joshua Tree National Park Association, Mojave Desert Land Trust and other related organizations	Month 3	
5. Develop key partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies as well as desert community members and visitors to promote the desert conservation plan and receive feedback from the community.	Committee with Joshua Tree National Park Association, Mojave Desert Land Trust and other related organizations, local, state, and federal agencies, and desert community members and visitors	Months 3– 6	
6. Draft and adopt the desert conservation plan that outlines proposed goals and policies to protect the desert environment.	Committee with Joshua Tree National Park Association, Mojave Desert Land Trust and other related organizations, local, state, and federal agencies, and desert community members and visitors	Months 4 – 9	
7. Continue partnerships and relationships with organizations, agencies, community members, and visitors to promote knowledge and awareness on the desert habitat.	Committee with Joshua Tree National Park Association, Mojave Desert Land Trust and other related organizations, local, state, and federal agencies, and desert community members and visitors	On-going	