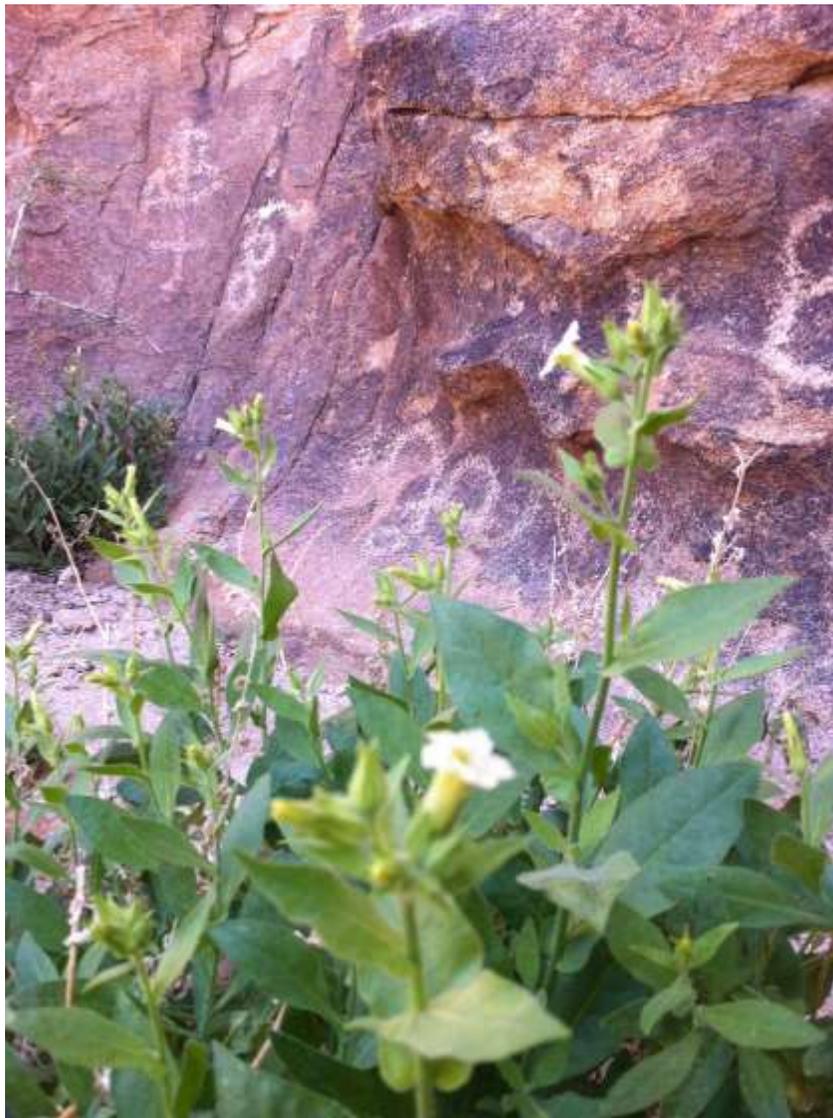


Wilderness Forever Interim Report
NALC Learning and Healing Landscapes

May 14-15, 2016

Old Woman Mountains Preserve



Sacred Tobacco at Painted Rock on the OWMP

INTERIM REPORT

- Date of field trip: May 14-15, 2016
- Location: Old Woman Mountains Preserve (Eastern Mojave Desert)
- Total youth served to date: 15 Number of hours each participant spent in wilderness: 28

The project completed one, two-day field trip on May 14-15, 2016 to the NALC's Old Woman Mountains Preserve in the eastern Mojave Desert. The field trip participants included project director Kurt Russo, field instructor Sean Milanovich, field assistant Jeff Johnson, a total of fifteen youth, and elders Clemencia Calderon, Cyril Snake, and David Malgra. The participants included community members from the Cahuilla, Lanape, Ojibway, Lummi, and Chemehuevi tribes. A total of twenty-four youth were originally scheduled to take part in the trip but nine had to cancel due to emergent and unavoidable conflicts. On the second day of the field trip we were joined by Frazier Haney, Executive Director of the Mojave Desert Land Trust, his Director of Education Monica Mahoney, and two Board Members of the NALC.

Day One of the field trip focused on the cultural setting and heritage of the Old Woman Mountains Preserve, including its history of use and occupation by Native peoples. The youth were taken to Painted Rock to learn the significance of the pictographs and rock art in and around the Shaman's Cave. They were also taken to another part of the Preserve and shown pottery shard that can still be found scattered on the ground as well as *in situ* on the site, and learned about the ancestral lifestyle of the Native peoples of the eastern Mojave Desert. This module was held in an area of the Preserve where the participants also discussed the importance of wilderness areas for preserving natural and cultural heritage landscapes. From this location they could see seven different wilderness areas and a viewscape that includes mountain ranges along the Colorado River. After sunset and the evening meal the youth gathered around the fire at their base camp at Painted Rock. For the next three hours they were told about the importance of sacred Salt Songs that speak to the ancient history of the Native peoples of the area. The knowledge-keepers sang Salt Songs, discussed their meaning, and engaged the youth in learning these songs. The evening discussion also included ancestral Star Stories, including those about the Bighorn sheep that can still be found in the Old Woman Mountains Preserve.

The second day of the event focused on the natural heritage of the Preserve, including its wealth of ethno-botanical resources. The participants walked the newly-created 1½ mile ethno-botanical trail in the vicinity of Painted Rock and were shown plants that were used for food, clothing, and medicine. They were then taken to another area on the Preserve where they learned more about the richness, abundance, and habitat of the plant and animal communities. During their time in this area they joined in follow-up discussion of the surrounding Old Woman Mountains Wilderness and the significance of wilderness areas for the protection of Native American natural and cultural heritage resources. They were also introduced to the joint BLM/NALC restoration programs now underway in this part of the Preserve. The final two hours on the Preserve were dedicated to a talking circle. During that time they spoke about what they felt and learned about the history and use of the area, the importance of staying connected to their ancestral landscapes, and the importance of wilderness areas such as the Old Woman Mountains Wilderness for preserving Native American natural and cultural heritage resources.

Photo Gallery

- 1st Row: Pottery shard found on the ground and *in situ*
- 2nd Row: Participants examine rock art and learn about history of use of the area
- 3rd Row: Participants at the base of Painted Rock learning about its history
- 4th Row: Cave at Painted Rock and interior rock art



Photo Gallery (continued)

- 1st Row: Site Monitor/Steward demonstrates mulching a damaged area; section of interpretive trail
- 2nd Row: Cultural Historian shares knowledge of ethno-botanically significant plants
- 3rd Row: Panoramic view from the OWMP looking east to the Colorado River (far horizon)



<u>Line Item</u>	Expenditures	
	<u>WF</u>	<u>NALC</u>
1. Wages/Salaries		
a. Program Director	\$1,750	\$ 0
b. Program Instructor	\$750	\$0
c. Field Assistants	\$0	\$448
d. Program Advisor	\$0	\$0
2. Vehicles and Gas	\$1,027.28	\$0
3. Food	<u>\$1,222.50</u>	<u>\$0</u>
	Total	\$448.00
