

Collaborative Stewardship Starter & Builder Kit

Example: Problem Statement, Vision, Mission, Purpose & Functions

Problem Statement

Joshua trees are a vital part of the desert ecosystem, providing food and shelter for a variety of animals, including birds, mammals, and insects. Their unique appearance and deep cultural significance make them an iconic symbol of the southwest desert, cherished by local communities and visitors. However, Joshua trees are threatened by the effects of climate change including increasing temperatures and prolonged drought. Additionally, wildfires, invasive species, and urban development are further endangering their already fragile populations. Over the past decade, concerns about the future of Joshua trees have grown as scientists predict large portions of their habitats may not be suitable by the end of the century. Recognizing the need for action, a broad coalition—including government agencies, nonprofits, Tribal groups, and researchers—has come together to protect Joshua trees. This collaborative effort is working across four states and various types of land ownership to ensure the long-term survival of this beloved species while addressing public concerns about their future.

Vision Statement (Draft 2024)

Together, we foster thriving, resilient Joshua Tree ecosystems.

Mission Statement (Draft 2024)

To collectively accelerate and sustain the conservation and stewardship of Joshua trees and their ecosystems.

Purpose (Draft 2024): Provide range-wide coordination and collective action to effectively support the long-term viability and persistence of Joshua trees in response to landscape-scale stressors. These science-based tenets and core values guide the Coalition's work.

Functions & Roles to Advance Purpose (Draft 2024)

The Coalition's advances its mission through **working at a multi-state, range-wide level** to:

- ✓ Bring together monitoring, research, and priority-setting efforts, and coordinate where feasible.
- ✓ Compile and share best practices, guidance, information, and lessons learned for landscape-scale stewardship.

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The latest online toolkit is at: <https://calandscapestewardshipnetwork.org/collaborative-toolkit>.

- ✓ Strengthen the connections and relationships among those engaged in Joshua tree ecosystem stewardship, science, and cultural practices.
- ✓ Support increased Tribal stewardship and management.
- ✓ Foster connections to inspire care, investment, and action.
- ✓ Implement proactive conservation in the face of uncertainty.

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