



May 4, 2005

CBD Changes Habitat

By Luis Peña

Staff Reporter - Idyllwild Town Crier

The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) will be bidding farewell to the Idyllwild community as it relocates its current office to the desert.

"We are moving our inland Southern California office to Joshua Tree," said Peter Galvin, CBD conservation director. The organization's main reasons for the relocation are because of its work in the desert and the desires of two key staff members, Kassie Siegel, staff attorney, and Brendan Cummings, staff attorney and marine biodiversity director.

Idyllwild is a magnificent and marvelous place, Galvin said, but when they would advertise for positions, respondents didn't know where Idyllwild was, which made it difficult to attract people. The organization also found it difficult to get volunteers and interns up to Idyllwild during the winter.

Still, he said, it was a difficult decision to make. Joshua Tree is a better-known location which would help attract more people, such as interns, than CBD was able to on the Hill. Joshua Tree had actually been one of the possible locations for the office in 2001 but Idyllwild was selected instead.

"We don't have a new location at this time," Galvin said. The Idyllwild office is currently for sale.

"We're going to continue to be active in the Idyllwild area," said Monica Bond, conservation biologist. The organization still has some strong connections with the people and the land, she said.