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"An Otherworldly Species: Joshua Trees and the Conservation-Climate Dilemma"

Lekan, Thomas M.



Photo by Cedric Letsch on Unsplash .

Lekan, Thomas M. "An Otherworldly Species: Joshua Trees and the Conservation-Climate Dilemma." *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review*, no. 1 (July 2022).

> About 210 km east of Los Angeles, along the boundary of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts, stands a national park dedicated to the American Southwest's most threatened botanical icon: the Joshua tree. With their shaggy bark, clusters of spiked leaves, and gnarled limbs reaching over 30 feet high, these trees (actually, they are succulents related to yuccas: *Yucca brevifolia*) reminded

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nineteenth-century Mormons of the biblical prophet Joshua with his arms stretched out in supplication—a gesture that befits these whimsical-looking and imperiled plants. (From the article)

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