

# **EXHIBIT 6**

**National Park Service, Death Valley National Park General Management Plan  
(April 2002) (excerpts) (available at  
[http://www.nps.gov/deva/parkmgmt/upload GMP\\_001.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/deva/parkmgmt/upload_GMP_001.pdf) (last visited January 16, 2007))**

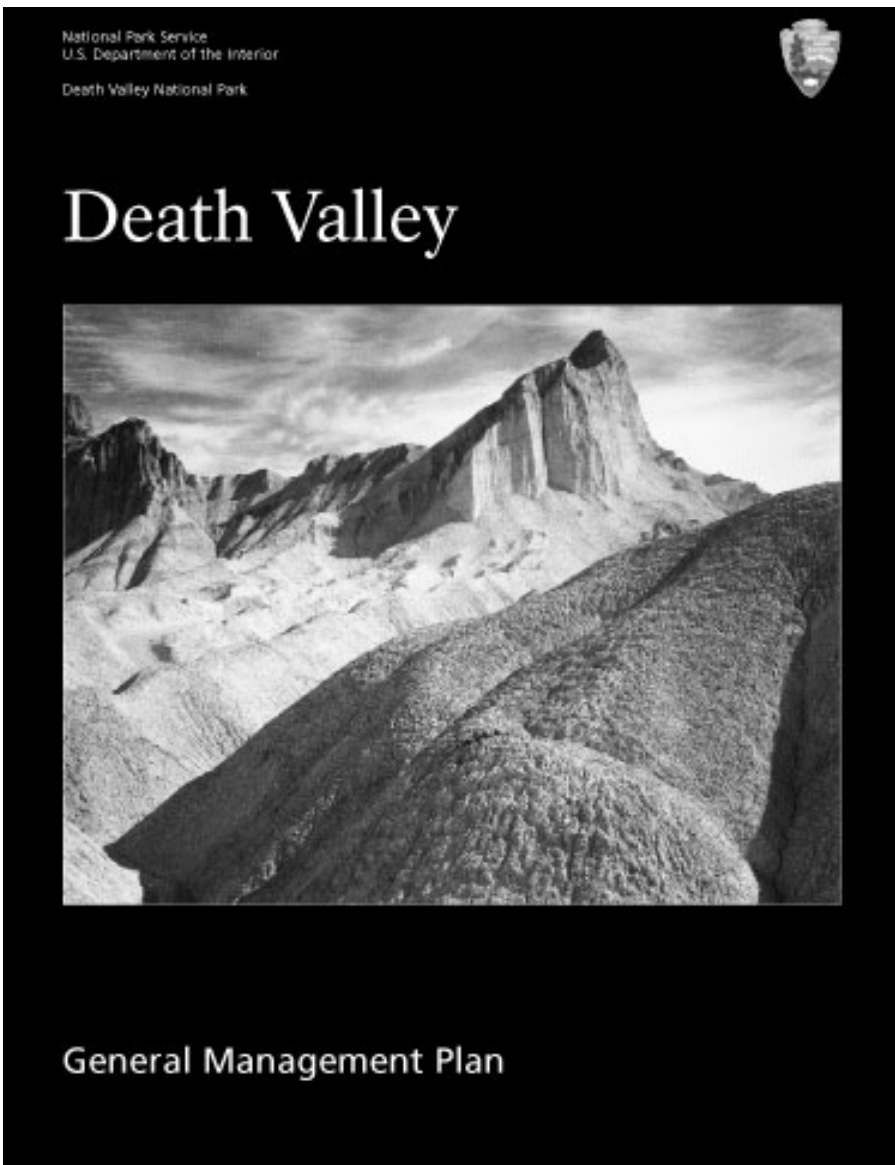


Death Valley National Park

# Death Valley



## General Management Plan



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April 2002  
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[Inside Cover](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

**Introduction**

**The Plan**

[Summary of Plan Actions](#)

[Natural Resources](#)

[Cultural Resources](#)

[Native American Interests](#)

[Visitor Use, Services, and Facilities](#)

[General Development Concepts](#)

[Roads and Circulation](#)

[Administrative Operations and Facilities](#)

[Landownership and Use](#)

[Plan Implementation](#)

**Maps**

[1. Region](#)

[2. Place Names](#)

[3. Park Boundary and Preliminary  
Wilderness](#)

[4. Saline Valley Warm Springs](#)

[5. Landownership](#)

[6. Mining Claims and Inactive Mines](#)

[7. Cattle Grazing Permits](#)

**Tables**

**Appendixes**

**References**

**Preparers**

# Death Valley National Park General Management Plan

Inyo and San Bernardino Counties, California and Esmeralda and Nye Counties, Nevada

April 2002

*This General Management Plan is Death Valley National Park's overall management strategy for a ten to fifteen year period. This document summarizes the selected alternative from the Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (July 2001). The Record of Decision (ROD), signed on September 27, 2001, is included in this document as an appendix. The ROD includes a summary of public and interagency involvement.*



U.S. Department of the Interior ■ National Park Service



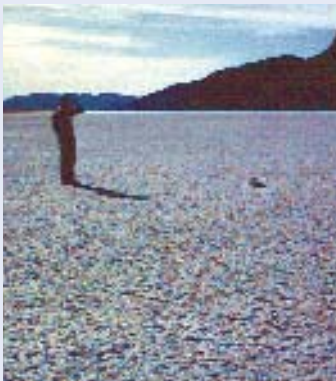
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# contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION OF DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PURPOSE AND MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MISSION</b>	<b>3</b>
Purpose	3
Significance	3
<b>PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FUTURE PLANNING EFFORTS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>THE PLAN</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SUMMARY OF PLAN ACTIONS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>18</b>
Physical Environment	18
AIR QUALITY	18
VIEWSHEDS	19
NIGHT SKY	20
NOISE AND OVERFLIGHTS	20
WATER RESOURCES	21
WATER USE	21
PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES	24
GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES	25
CAVE RESOURCES	26
Biological Environment	26
DESERT TORTOISE	27
SPECIES ADDRESSED IN THE ASH MEADOWS RECOVERY PLAN	27
RIPARIAN-DEPENDENT BIRD SPECIES	28
SPECIES ADDRESSED IN THE EUREKA VALLEY DUNES RECOVERY PLAN	28
OTHER DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK RARE PLANTS	29
COTTONBALL MARSH PUFFISH	29
MOHAVE GROUND SQUIRREL	29
OTHER SENSITIVE ANIMALS	30
INTRODUCED SPECIES	31
DISTURBED LAND RESTORATION	34
Fire Management	35
Research	36
Inventorying and Monitoring	37
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>38</b>
Archeological Resources	38
HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY	38
STATUS OF ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH	38
LANDFORMS AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES	38
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	38
Historic Resources	39
TIMBISHA SHOSHONE VILLAGE	39
WARM SPRINGS – SALINE VALLEY	39
CULTURAL LANDSCAPES	40
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	40
Museum Collection	41

<b>NATIVE AMERICAN INTERESTS</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>MAPS</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>VISITOR USE, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES</b>	<b>45</b>	1. REGION	70
Carrying Capacity	45	2. PLACE NAMES	71
Desired Future Conditions	46	3. PARK BOUNDARY AND PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS	72
Interpretation	48	4. SALINE VALLEY WARM SPRINGS	73
Information/Orientation	49	5. LANDOWNERSHIP	75
VISITOR CONTACT	49	6. MINING CLAIMS AND INACTIVE MINES	76
WAYSIDES AND EXHIBITS	50	7. CATTLE GRAZING PERMIT	77
PARTNERSHIPS	50	<b>TABLES</b>	<b>79</b>
Visitor Facilities	50	1: 1994 WATER USE	80
ENTRANCE/INFORMATION FACILITIES	51	2: BLM'S WILD HORSE AND BURRO HERD MANAGEMENT	
INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES	51	AREAS FOR HERDS ADJACENT TO DEATH VALLEY	
DEVELOPED CAMPGROUNDS	51	NATIONAL PARK	80
Recreational Activities	52	3: BURRO AND WILD HORSE POPULATION DATA	80
DAY USE AREAS	54	4: ANNUAL VISITATION	81
BACKCOUNTRY AND ROADSIDE CAMPING	54	5: VISITOR ACTIVITIES	81
Visitor Use Fees	56	6: VISITOR PROFILE	81
Commercial Services	56	7: AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC LEVELS (1995)	82
<b>GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS</b>	<b>58</b>	8: PROPOSED ACTION COST SUMMARY	82
Scotty's Castle	58	<b>APPENDIXES</b>	<b>83</b>
Furnace Creek and Cow Creek	58	A. CALIFORNIA DESERT PROTECTION ACT	84
Grapevine	58	B. TIMBISHA SHOSHONE HOMELAND ACT	92
Stovepipe Wells	58	C. RECORD OF DECISION	98
Wildrose	58	D. NORTHERN AND EASTERN MOJAVE PROJECT TIME LINE	109
<b>ROADS AND CIRCULATION</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>110</b>
Roads	59	<b>ACRONYMS</b>	<b>114</b>
Trails	59	<b>PREPARERS</b>	<b>115</b>
Signs	60		
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES</b>	<b>61</b>		
Park Administration	61		
Employee Housing	62		
Solid Waste Disposal	62		
<b>LANDOWNERSHIP AND USE</b>	<b>63</b>		
Park Boundary and Authorized Acreage	63		
Wilderness	63		
Land Acquisition	64		
Mineral Development Activities	65		
Abandoned Mines	66		
Sand and Gravel for Road Maintenance	66		
Cattle Grazing	66		
<b>OPERATIONAL COSTS</b>	<b>68</b>		
<b>PLAN IMPLEMENTATION</b>	<b>68</b>		

# Introduction







# Introduction

This *General Management Plan* is Death Valley National Park's overall management strategy for a 10–15 year period. This plan focuses on the Park's purposes, its significant attributes, its mission in relation to the overall mission of the agency, what activities are appropriate within these constraints, and resource protection strategies. It provides guidelines for visitor use and development of facilities for visitor enjoyment and administration of the Park. It serves as the overall umbrella guidance under which more detailed activity or implementation plans are prepared.

The previous *General Management Plan* was approved for the Death Valley National Monument lands in 1989. The establishment of wilderness and addition of over a million acres of new lands by the California Desert Protection Act in 1994 requires the development of a new general management plan.

This *General Management Plan* seeks to extend the existing management strategies that are in place for the previous Death Valley National Monument, and the National Park Service mission and policies, to the management of the resources within the new lands added to the unit in 1994 by the California Desert Protection Act. It also strives to incorporate the designation of 95% of the Park as wilderness into the management approach. This plan addresses the removal of feral burros and horses from the Park in order to achieve the National Park Service mission of managing the unit for native desert species. It also recognizes the need to work cooperatively with the Bureau of Land Management on adjacent land, where their mandate from Congress is to maintain viable herds of wild horses and burros. The plan addresses the establishment of a permanent Homeland for the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe.

This plan attempts to balance the preservation of resources mission with specific mandates from Congress at no more than the level occurring in 1994. In Death Valley, the California Desert Protection Act provides for the continuation of grazing on the new lands. This plan addresses grazing as a component of the management. This plan identifies a number of activity level plans needed to address site specific issues, such as the Saline Valley Warm Springs management and a wilderness/backcountry management plan. This plan seeks funding for acquisition of private property from willing sellers, and/or mineral interests where proposed uses conflict with the primary mission of preserving resources and providing for visitor enjoyment.



## DESCRIPTION OF DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Death Valley National Monument was established by presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act of 1906, on February 11, 1933. The original monument contained approximately 1,601,800 acres. Supplementary proclamations in March 1937 and January 1952 increased the monument's acreage to 2,067,793 acres. The monument was subsequently enlarged and changed to Death Valley National Park by Congressional action on October 31, 1994, with the passage of the California Desert Protection Act. Approximately 1.3 million acres of new lands were added, bringing the total acreage of the new Park to about 3,396,192 acres. Nearly 95% of the Park was designated as wilderness by that same act. Death Valley National Park is the largest national park unit in the conterminous 48 states. The vast majority of its lands are located in the California counties of Inyo and San Bernardino, but a small portion of the Park is located in the Nevada counties of Nye and Esmeralda. California State Highway 190 crosses the Park east to west, and Highway 95 parallels the Park north to south on the Park's eastern boundary.

Death Valley National Park is the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere and one of the hottest places in the world. It is also a vast geological museum, containing examples of most of the earth's geologic eras. Here, plant and animal species, some of which occur nowhere else in the world, have adapted to the harsh desert environment. Humans have adjusted to these severe conditions, as evidenced by extensive archeological sites; historical sites related to successive waves of prospectors; miners, and homesteaders; present-day residences of Native Americans; and the current resort developments and active mines.

Perhaps the Park's greatest assets today are the clear air, vast open spaces that stretch toward distant horizons, and the overwhelming silence. Approximately 1.2 million people a year (1999 numbers) come to Death Valley to experience the stark and lonely vastness of the valley; the panorama of rugged canyons and mountains; the pleasures of the dry, moderate winter climate; the challenge of the hot, arid summer; the relief of the cooler mountains; and the reminders of frontier and Native American ways of life.

Death Valley National Park includes all of Death Valley, a 156-mile-long north/south-trending trough

that formed between two major block-faulted mountain ranges: the Amargosa Range on the east and the Panamint Range on the west. Telescope Peak, the highest peak in the Park and in the Panamint Mountains, rises 11,049 feet above sea level and lies only 15 miles from the lowest point in the United States in the Badwater Basin salt pan, 282 feet below sea level. The California Desert Protection Act added most of the Saline, Eureka, northern Panamint, and Greenwater valleys to the Park.

The diversity of Death Valley's plant communities result partly from the region's location in the Mojave Desert, a zone of tension and overlap between the Great Basin Desert to the north and the Sonoran Desert to the south (Kearney and Peebles 1960). This location, combined with the great relief found within the Park, from 282 feet below sea level to 11,049 feet above sea level, supports vegetation typical of three biotic life zones: the lower Sonoran, the Canadian, and the Arctic/Alpine in portions of the Panamint Range (Jepson 1923; Storer and Usinger 1968). Based on Munz and Keck (1968) classifications, seven plant communities can be categorized within these life zones, each characterized by dominant vegetation and representative of three vegetation types: scrub, desert woodland, and coniferous forest. Microhabitats further subdivide some communities into zones, especially on the valley floor.

Death Valley National Park and the adjacent desert support a variety of wildlife species, including 51 species of native mammals, 307 species of birds, 36 species of reptiles, three species of amphibians, and five species and one subspecies of native fishes (Hansen 1972 and 1973; Landye 1973). Small mammals are more numerous than large mammals, such as desert bighorn, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion, and mule deer. Mule deer are present in the pinyon/juniper associations of the Grapevine, Cottonwood, and Panamint mountains.

Many historic properties exist within the Park. Most of those meeting the national register criteria for significance and integrity have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Most of the sites contain structures or other tangible remains of the activities that took place there. Death Valley National Park is unique because it displays a continuum of mining activities from at least the 1860s to the present day. Many historic mining resources are of particular significance either because similar resources are not found elsewhere within the national park system or because they are in a better state of preservation than examples found elsewhere.

## PURPOSE AND MANAGEMENT

An essential part of the planning process is understanding the purpose and significance of the land for which the plan is being prepared. In the case of federal lands, Congress provides the purpose(s) of the unit and the mission of the agency charged with managing the area. Significance is usually determined by familiarity with the natural and cultural resources of the region, although some significant elements are often recognized in the enabling legislation.

## MISSION

**Death Valley National Park Mission:** Death Valley National Park dedicates itself to protecting significant desert features that provide world class scenic, scientific, and educational opportunities for visitors and academics to explore and study.

**NPS Mission:** The National Park Service mission was clearly stated in its 1916 Organic Act:

"... the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

## PURPOSE

- Preserve the unrivaled scenic, geologic, and natural resources of these unique natural landscapes, while perpetuating significant and diverse ecosystems of the California desert in their natural state. Ensure the maximum protection of wilderness values provided by law.
- Preserve the cultural resources of the California desert associated with prehistoric, historic and contemporary Native American culture, patterns of western exploration, settlement and mining endeavors.
- Provide opportunities for compatible public outdoor recreation and promote the public's understanding and appreciation of the California desert by interpreting the natural and cultural resources.
- Retain and enhance opportunities for scientific research in undisturbed ecosystems.

## SIGNIFICANCE

- Death Valley National Park contains the lowest point in North America at 282 feet below sea level. The valley floor receives the least precipitation in the United States (average 1.84 inches per year) and is the site of the nation's highest and the world's second highest recorded temperature (134 degrees Fahrenheit or 57 degrees Celsius).
- Death Valley National Park is world renowned for its exposed, complex and diverse geology and tectonics, and for its unusual geologic features, providing a natural geologic museum that represents a substantial portion of the earth's history.
- Death Valley has been the continuous home of Native Americans, from prehistoric cultures to the present day Timbisha Shoshone Tribe.
- The extremely colorful, complex, and highly visible geology and steep, rugged mountains and canyons provide some of the most dramatic visual landscapes in the United States.
- Death Valley National Park contains one of the nation's most diverse and significant fossil records and most continuous volcanic histories.
- Death Valley National Park contains five major sand dune systems representing all types of dune structures, making it one of the only places on earth where this variety of dune types occurs in such close proximity. It also contains the highest dunes in California - Eureka Sand Dunes.
- Death Valley National Park is one of the largest expanses of protected warm desert in the world. Ninety-five percent of the Park is designated wilderness, providing unique opportunities for quiet, solitude, and primitive adventure in an extreme desert ecosystem.
- Contrary to many visitors' first impression, Death Valley National Park's natural resources are extremely diverse, containing a large variety of plant species and community types. The area preserves large expanses of creosote bush valleys and other vegetation typical of the Mojave Desert. Extreme conditions and isolation provide habitat for an unusually high number of plant and animal species that are highly adapted to these conditions.

- Death Valley National Park has an extensive and well-preserved mining history representing over 100 years of mining technology.
- Death Valley National Park contains an unusually high number of well-preserved archeological sites, including rock art and alignments.
- Scotty's Castle, with its architectural style, quality, and priceless collection of antiques and art objects, built in a remote, isolated desert location in the early 1900s, is an icon that has immense public appeal.



## PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES

The primary Park stories or interpretive themes are overview statements that provide the basis for communicating the purpose and significance of the Park and provide the elements that the Park believes each visitor should develop an understanding of during their visit. Interpretation is a process of education designed to stimulate curiosity and convey messages to the visiting public. These themes will be developed during the preparation of a comprehensive interpretive plan for the Park and will guide the development of interpretive materials (signs, brochures, walks, talks, etc.).

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

### NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Maintain, preserve, interpret, and perpetuate the aesthetic setting, and the natural and cultural resources, of Death Valley National Park in such a manner as to:

- Protect the significant natural and cultural resources and values of the Park, including geologic features, and to foster an improved understanding of natural processes through monitoring efforts and scientific research.
- Perpetuate native plants and animal life for their essential roles in the natural ecosystem.
- Strive to reduce or eliminate alien species to ensure long-term survival of the native ecosystem.
- Ensure the perpetuation of rare and endangered plants and animals and those species endemic (specific) to Death Valley National Park.
- Perpetuate and increase water resource science and conservation.
- Perpetuate the Devils Hole pupfish in the detached Devils Hole section of the Park.
- Eliminate existing and prohibit new occurrences of all activities inconsistent with the protection of the natural ecosystem, except in the Park's developed areas, as noted in the Park's management plans.
- Restore to natural appearance, inasmuch as feasible, the land surfaces disturbed by man, recognizing that significant cultural values must be preserved.
- Prohibit or minimize the adverse effects of mining and mineral development that conflict with resource preservation and public appreciation of natural and cultural values.
- Provide for the reclamation of mining areas and the eventual completion or phaseout of mining.
- Maintain air quality monitoring to facilitate implementation of means to prevent deterioration of air quality and visibility.
- Continue to pursue redesignation of Death Valley National Park from a class II floor area to a class I air quality area.
- Prevent, eliminate, or reduce artificial lighting and noise in order to preserve the opportunity for visitors to experience the night sky and stillness of the desert.
- Perpetuate unimpaired the Park's cultural and archeological resources, protecting them from vandalism, unauthorized excavation, collection, or appropriation.

- Protect the Park's collections of natural and cultural objects from deterioration, natural disaster, misuse, and loss.
- Operate and manage Scotty's Castle, its grounds, and environs to recreate the atmosphere of the period of its construction and occupation by Walter Scott and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson.
- Support research programs pertaining to natural and cultural resources and to social sciences, consistent with the Park's resource protection and visitor services mission.

### **WILDERNESS VALUES**

- Manage and protect wilderness values and resources so as to ensure public understanding and appreciation of the vast wilderness assets of the Park.
- Strive to restore disturbed areas in wilderness.

### **VISITOR USE**

- Provide the visitor to Death Valley National Park with the opportunity to discover, explore, and understand the natural and cultural resources of the Park.

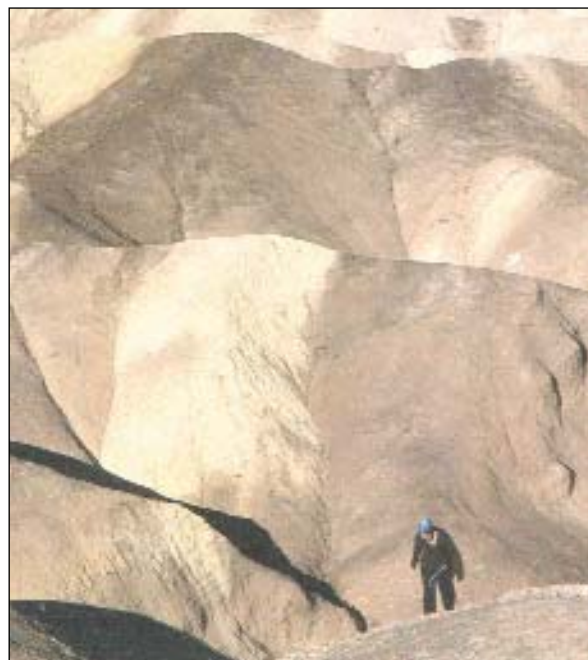
### **INTERPRETIVE SERVICES**

- Offer a variety of quality informational services that differ in format, media, and intensity of presentation, and that are sensitive to the special needs, interests, and cultural backgrounds of a diverse mix of visitors.
- Offer visitors an understanding of Park values and resources, and include as an integral part of interpretive materials major Park management and resource protection challenges.
- Enhance the visitor understanding of Native American cultures.
- Maximize opportunities for visitor enjoyment and appreciation of interpretive services, facilities, and resources, consistent with other Park management objectives.
- Provide information on the surrounding area, including appropriate safety awareness for visitor use of rugged, isolated Death Valley and its environs.

- Maintain a library and a study collection operation that is up-to-date and reflects current preservation policies.
- Maximize services (talks, facilities) for educational and other groups that enrich the Park's database and enhance their understanding and appreciation of Death Valley.

### **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- Permit access to all areas of the Park, consistent with resource protection objectives and within optimum carrying capacities/use limits.
- Offer a variety of recreational opportunities that are sensitive to the range of visitor interests, physical capabilities, and time and financial limitations.
- Provide an opportunity for exploring the backcountry, experiencing the wildness of the high Panamint, Grapevine, Cottonwood, and Funeral ranges, as well as camping and sight-seeing in a setting of climatic relief from the valley floor; provide a wilderness experience for those who desire it, in balance with the limitation of the fragile resource.
- Provide access to points of interest within the Park by a variety of means, including automobiles, tour buses, four-wheel-drive vehicles, horses, hiking and facilities for private aircraft.



## **COMMERCIAL SERVICES**

- Maintain, preserve, and perpetuate an aesthetic setting for commercial services and community support services, with Furnace Creek being retained as the focal point, and provide secondary year-round commercial facilities and services at Scotty's Castle, Stovepipe Wells, and Panamint Springs.
- Perpetuate the use of historic structures and facilities for commercial purposes, in a manner consistent with their historical significance.

## **FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

- Compatible with resource protection goals and carrying capacity limits, provide facilities and services to accommodate visitor needs.
- Maximize use of existing facilities and accommodate necessary expansion of visitor facilities and services; build new facilities or expand existing facilities only when a clearly demonstrated, continuing need exists, ensuring that environmental impacts are minimized.
- Provide for a variety of overnight visitor accommodations (including lodging and camping) and food services, while ensuring the preservation of natural and cultural resources.
- Encourage appropriate development of overnight facilities and related services by private inholdings and private enterprise outside the Park.
- Ensure that authorized commercial uses in Death Valley National Park are compatible with the preservation and safe enjoyment of the Park's resources.
- Improve water handling facilities to assure appropriate conservation.
- Ensure that the types and prices of commercial services provided will accommodate a range of Park visitors and needs.
- Through landscaping and design, screen concessioner and National Park Service operations and maintenance areas from visitor areas.
- Develop utilities and telephone service only as needed; investigate alternative energy systems, especially solar and water, to minimize energy

consumption and environmental impacts.

- Provide seasonal levels of commercial services that are responsive to visitor use patterns.

## **OPERATIONS**

- Maintain the public use and administrative support facilities and equipment in a manner that will provide visitors safe and enjoyable experiences and prolong the life of the equipment and facilities.
- Provide for visitor and employee safety through an ongoing safety program that recognizes the hazards of heat and flash floods, as well as the physical hazards of mine areas.
- Provide employees with a safe and healthy work environment and with training to work safely.
- Upgrade and replace directional/informational signs so as to better aid visitors, recognizing that signs should fit into a parklike environment.
- Manage the maintenance program in a cost-effective manner; supervise proper use of manpower, equipment, supplies, and money.
- Promote strategies for management efficiency through revenue enhancement (fee collection), private sector support, volunteerism, improved concessioner maintenance, and productivity enrichment (contracted services).
- Provide timely service to Park employees in personnel management, procurement, finance, word-processing, mail, and dispatch/telephone operations, thereby improving morale and allowing Park staff to better use their time in meeting visitor and resource needs.
- Provide for adequate housing, employee services, and recreational opportunities for employees.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING AND COOPERATION**

- Cooperate with other federal, state, and local agencies and private interests in the development of plans, facilities, and programs in order to provide more effective service to the public.
- Work with California (Inyo and San Bernardino counties) and Nevada (Nye and Esmeralda counties) to obtain concurrent jurisdiction status for the Park.

- Communicate to visitors and scientists the concept of the *Man and the Biosphere* program, and cooperate with Joshua Tree National Park, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and the University of California's Boyd Deep Canyon, which together with Death Valley comprise the Mojave and Colorado Deserts Biosphere Reserve.
- Encourage the use of Death Valley's resources as a center of scientific research interest, consistent with the perpetuation of native natural processes and the preservation of extant cultural resources.
- Work with the state of Nevada and various research institutions in the understanding and management of the Death Valley aquifer.
- Cooperate with the state of California to provide for road maintenance and patrol, with Inyo County for health, educational, library, and law enforcement services, and with the U.S. Postal Service; ensure that all these services benefit employees, their families, and visitors.
- Maintain coordination and cooperation with California Department of Fish and Game in relation to fish and wildlife issues.
- Encourage the perpetuation of Death Valley's Native American cultural heritage.



## FUTURE PLANNING EFFORTS

As a result of efforts made to date, additional NPS planning documents have been identified as being needed to supply detailed information for specific topics. Where appropriate, public involvement will be sought on all of these plans through the environmental assessment process. Additional planning efforts that may be undertaken over the next ten years include the following:

- **comprehensive interpretive plan**
- **wilderness/backcountry management plan**
- **fire management plan**
- road management plan
- **grazing management plan**
- site management plan for Saline Valley\*
- development concept plan for Furnace Creek/Cow Creek\*
- **development concept plan for Grapevine**
- **updated development concept plan for Stovepipe Wells**
- commercial services plan
- **historic resources study/development concept plan for Scotty's Castle**
- **sign plan**
- **wayside exhibit plan**
- **site management plan for Eureka Dunes**
- minerals management plan
- inventorying and monitoring plan\*
- natural and cultural resource management plan updates\*  
(This plan will cover the entire Park, rather than just the newly acquired areas).
- cooperative program plans with Timbisha Shoshone Tribe\*
- Wildrose site plan
- **annual strategic plan**

Plans in **bold text** are either currently being prepared or already exist as of September 2001. Those with asterisks are considered the highest priority plans to initiate next.



- All above-ground communication equipment should not significantly distract from the visual quality of the scenery.
- Each new proposal for radio or cellular antennas or towers must demonstrate that the equipment will provide a critical service for visitors and NPS staff and is not duplicative.
- The installation of new equipment outside the Park or on existing communication towers or at defined sites should be considered before the construction of new sites in Park is considered.
- New locations will be reviewed through the environmental assessment process, which must consider impacts on the visual quality of the scenery.

The National Park Service will work with neighboring landowners on topics of mutual interest being sensitive to the influences and effects that Park management might have on adjacent landowners. The National Park Service will seek to enhance beneficial effects and to mitigate adverse effects in ways consistent with its policies and management objectives. The agency will encourage compatible adjacent land uses and seek to mitigate potential adverse effects on Park values by actively participating in planning and regulatory processes of neighboring jurisdictions, other federal, state, and local agencies, and Native Americans.

## Night Sky

### **Background**

Within Death Valley National Park, the night sky toward the southeast is noticeably impacted by lights from Las Vegas, perhaps with some Pahrump, Nevada influence. This is especially apparent while heading south from Grapevine and Stovepipe toward Cow Creek and Furnace Creek. Other light sources are essentially limited to the Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells areas of Death Valley National Park, residential lighting from small communities such as Shoshone and Death Valley Junction, vehicles, and minor stationary lighting. Nighttime activities at Briggs Mine and Panamint Valley limestone quarry may be observed from Panamint Valley and portions of Death Valley National Park overlooking Panamint Valley. The Bureau of Land Management has required an approved lighting plan that seeks to minimize night sky pollution from the mine.

### **Plan Actions**

The National Park Service will cooperate with neighbors and local government agencies to seek to minimize artificial light intrusion, recognizing that dark-

ness and the night sky are part of the overall visitor experience. The National Park Service will strive to set the best example in all developments that involve the use of artificial outdoor lighting, ensuring that it is limited to basic safety requirements and is shielded to the maximum extent possible, to keep light on the intended subject and out of the night sky. Baseline light measurements will be established for night use for monitoring changes over time.

## Noise and Overflights

### **Background**

A high level of traffic is observed along State Highway 127 between Baker, California and Death Valley Junction (Caltrans 1996). Vehicle noise is generally not an issue in the Park in spite of the many and heavily used roads including State Highways 127, 190, and 178, and NPS major paved roads. Because of the Park's size, most areas are well away from traffic and its noise.

Other areas where localized noise occurs are at the BLM-managed Dumont Dunes off-highway vehicle open area and at mining operations. Less localized is noise from military overflights. Frequent low-level military overflights are often seen in the Panamint and Saline Valleys. If the National Training Center's (Fort Irwin) expansion is approved, sporadic and significant localized noise would be generated in the southern boundary of Death Valley National Park (BLM 1996).

The Park is in the vicinity of several U.S. Department of Defense facilities: Fort Irwin Military Reservation, China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, Edwards Air Force Base, and Nellis Air Force Base. Military aircraft from these facilities often use airspace in the Park. Although aircraft noise does not appear to affect wildlife, visitors to the area often react adversely to jet noise and sonic booms. In addition, some booms have caused damage to natural and cultural resources (NPS 1988).

Military overflights constitute the primary source of high-level noise incidents in the Park. Parts of the Park are within a joint service R-2508 special use airspace complex designated as a military operations area (MOA) (Saline, Panamint, and Shoshone MOAs) that permits aircraft to fly at speeds exceeding 250 knots and at altitudes 200 feet above ground level or higher (DOD 1995). The military operations area is used on a daily basis by Navy and Air Force aircraft. Low-level overflights of various military aircraft are common in the vicinity of the Park.

In 1976, the Joint Policy and Planning Board Commanders (NAVAIRWPNSTA China Lake, Edwards Air Force Base, Fort Irwin, and George Air Force Base) agreed to restrict overflights above the existing national monument boundaries to 3,000 feet above ground level within the R-2508 Complex. The successive creation of the Complex Memorandums of Agreement in 1977 excluded this airspace; however, the exclusion was not extended to the expanded areas under the designated areas below the 3,000-foot restriction. A process is in place for all complaints and reports of overflight restriction violations, forwarded by the National Park Service or the public, to be investigated and handled by the Complex management.

Title VIII of the California Desert Protection Act, 1994, provides that:

Nothing in this Act, the Wilderness Act, or other land management laws generally applicable to the new units of the National Park or Wilderness Preservation Systems (or any additions to existing units) designated by this Act, shall restrict or preclude low-level overflights of military aircraft over such units, including military overflights that can be seen or heard within such units.

### **Plan Actions**

The National Park Service will strive to preserve the natural quiet and sounds associated with the physical and biological resources of the Park. Activities causing excessive or unnecessary sounds in or adjacent to the Park, including low-level aircraft overflights, will be monitored, and action will be taken to prevent or minimize unnatural sounds adversely affecting Park resources and values or visitor enjoyment. The National Park Service will collaborate with the Department of Defense to minimize impacts on visitors and resources from military overflights, as authorized by sec. 802 of the California Desert Protection Act.

## **Water Resources**

### **Background**

**Groundwater.** Groundwater is found throughout the Park and varies greatly in depth and quality. The Park's groundwater basins are recharged from surface and subsurface infiltration. Depletion of groundwater basins and a diminishing of water quality are some of the concerns that were expressed at public meetings. Groundwater is the Park's principal source for desert springs, seeps, and streams. The maintenance of groundwater quality

and quantity is critical to the survival of desert surface waters and their associated plant and animal life.

The major concern is that Park water and water-related resources will be affected by up-gradient withdrawals and contamination. Death Valley National Park receives much of its water from the lower portion of the Death Valley groundwater flow system's flow from Nevada (Pal 1995). The Death Valley groundwater flow system is defined in general terms as the area where groundwater flow is toward Death Valley. Some groundwater inflow also occurs from areas in California that are adjacent to the Park. The Death Valley groundwater flow system is believed, by the National Park Service, to be fully, if not over, appropriated. Existing and future appropriations of limited water resources from the flow system may result in impacts to Park water resources. Additionally, potentially contaminated groundwater plumes from the Nevada Test Site or from cyanide runoff from the large mining operation near Bullfrog could contaminate the regional aquifer that drains into the Park (NPS 1988). The Bullfrog Mine is and will continue to conduct groundwater testing until 2005. That company reported that no ground water contamination has been detected (Barrick/Bullfrog Mine, January 14, 1999 letter to NPS regarding the DEIS).

### **Water Use**

Another site where extensive groundwater is being used at rates that exceed normal groundwater recharge is the Briggs Mine adjacent to the Park. The Briggs Mine has an approved mining plan that calls for the groundwater withdrawal of about 640 acre-feet per year (BLM, 1995a). This increase in groundwater withdrawal is in addition to the existing groundwater withdrawal of 750 acre-feet per year from the Panamint Valley (BLM 1995a).

**Surface Water.** Known surface water sources in the Death Valley region include seeps, wells, springs, and ponds. The small springs and seeps in the Park offer isolated and limited water for plants, wildlife, domestic, or commercial purposes. Some springs produce potable water, but overall, water quality is poor because of high dissolved mineral concentrations (BLM 1996).

In 1972, some 330 water sources of varying dependability and quality were recorded within the monument's boundaries (FWS 1972). The majority of these water sources were found in the Cottonwood, Panamint, and Grapevine mountains. Discharges from these sources range from a minimal

seep to rates exceeding 200 gallons per minute. Death Valley's enlargement to a National Park in 1994 added an additional 1.3 million acres. These new lands include additional water sources such as Darwin Creek, Saline Warm Spring, and many springs in the Nelson Range and Whippoorwill Flat areas of the Inyo Mountains.

Death Valley's perennial streams include Salt Creek, Furnace Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Darwin Creek. The Amargosa River is also perennial, but only for short stretches, with its length varying seasonally. Other streams flow seasonally from springs in some of the larger canyons on the west side of Death Valley, such as in Hanaupah and Johnson canyons (NPS 1988).

Perennial ponds are rare within the Park, and they fluctuate in size with the season. The largest ones (more than 6 acres) are immediately north of Saratoga Springs. Several artificial ponds and ditches supplied by the Travertine Springs are maintained by AMFAC, Inc., on its Furnace Creek properties (NPS 1988).

Cattle ranching, mining, and resort development in the desert required changes in the natural water flow, quality, and supply. Flows from springs and seeps were diverted or dammed, water was piped miles away from the source, wells were drilled, stock tanks were excavated, and other developments were needed such as wind mills and troughs. These changes brought with them changes to the natural environment. When the flows from the springs and seeps were diverted, the remaining aquatic/riparian flora and fauna were greatly reduced or eliminated. The water piped from the springs and seeps or taken from wells and piped to tanks and troughs is used by cattle, burros, and wildlife.

**Water Rights.** Initial research on outstanding water rights in the Park at the State Water Resources Control Board in Sacramento revealed that there are approximately 45 appropriated water rights claims on 41 water sources (springs, seeps, streams, wells) in the Park.

The California Desert Protection Act of 1994 in section 706(a), with respect to each wilderness area, reserves a quantity of water sufficient to fulfill the purposes of the act. Section 706(b) mandates that the Secretary of the Interior and all other officers of the United States take "all steps necessary to protect the rights reserved by this section." Federal reserved rights generally arise from the purposes for

the reservation of land by the federal government. When the government reserves land for a particular purpose, it also reserves, explicitly or by implication, enough unappropriated water at the time of the reservation as is necessary to accomplish the purposes for which Congress or the President authorized the land to be reserved, without regard to the limitations of state law. The vested rights are valid as of the date of the reservation, whether or not the water is actually put to use, and are superior to the rights of those who commence the use of water after the reservation date. General adjudications are the means by which the federal government claims its reserved water rights. The McCarran Amendment (66 Stat. 560, 43 U.S.C. 666, June 10, 1952) provides the mechanism by which the United States, when properly joined, consents to be a defendant in a suit to adjudicate water rights. The precise nature and extent of the National Park Service's water rights probably will remain uncertain until the United States is joined in an adjudication, the Department of Justice files claims to water rights on behalf of the National Park Service, and the court decrees the United States. Hence, it is the responsibility of both the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management to protect the reserved water rights established under the California Desert Protection Act and other applicable federal authorities.

Death Valley National Park was involved in a historic water rights decision, when the U. S. Supreme Court in 1976 determined that the NPS had a reserved water right to a certain level of groundwater at Devils Hole. This Supreme Court action is frequently referred to as *Cappaert v. United States*. The purpose of the reserved water right is to maintain the water level in Devils Hole to assure the survival of the Devils Hole pupfish, an endangered species.

**Water Developments.** A guzzler is a permanent self-filling water catchment. Most are similar to a cistern and are simple, low-maintenance devices that are essentially tanks filled by rain-collecting aprons (Giles 1971). Guzzlers are installed and used to provide water for hunted species in arid areas. Nongame species such as reptiles, songbirds, and insects also use these manufactured devices. Birds enter the covered tank through an opening and walk down a ramp to the water. For bighorn sheep, piping extends from the storage tank to a drinking trough, which has a float valve to regulate the flow.

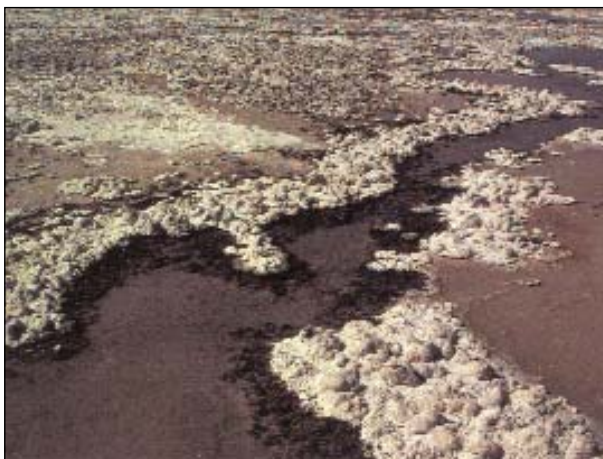
Death Valley National Park has five big game and two game bird (gallinaceous) guzzlers. The guzzlers

were developed by the California Department of Fish and Game, the Bureau of Land Management, and volunteers prior to the Park's expansion in 1994. A review of guzzler use by Park staff concluded that two of the big game guzzlers received little or no use.

#### **Plan Actions**

**Water Use.** Water will be used efficiently and frugally in the Park. The National Park Service will seek to protect, perpetuate, and possibly restore surface water and groundwater as integral components of Park aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Surface water and groundwater withdrawn for the Park's use will be the amount necessary to achieve Park purposes. All water withdrawn from the Park for domestic use will be returned to the Park watershed system once it has been treated to ensure that there will be no impairment of Park resources. Interbasin transfers would be avoided. If adverse effects were found, the National Park Service will take all legal and appropriate steps necessary to protect natural resources from the effects attributed to such activities. The ongoing water-monitoring program will continue. Death Valley National Park will seek to restore, maintain, or enhance the quality of all surface and ground waters within the Park consistent with the Clean Water Act and other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

The Park will continue to maintain the water levels at Devils Hole, the home of the endangered Devils Hole pupfish. The Park will continue to actively monitor the pool's water elevation. The Park will continue to be involved in an interagency effort to monitor the water flow in the Death Valley Groundwater Flow System to help ensure that any major water extraction that might occur miles away from the Park do not adversely affect the Park's resources. Monitoring other wells and springs with-



in the Park including Darwin Falls and in at least nine water delivery systems will also continue.

**Floodplain and Wetland Areas.** The occupancy and modification of floodplain and wetland areas will be avoided wherever possible. Where no practicable alternatives exist, mitigating measures will be implemented to minimize potential harm to life, property, and the natural floodplain and wetland values. Management of floodplain and wetland areas is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management", Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands," and the Rivers and Harbors Act, and section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

**Water Rights.** Since 1976 the NPS has been actively protecting the water right to the Devils Hole area. The NPS believes the continuation of this approach is vital to the long term viability and survival of the Devils Hole pupfish and other Park resources.

The NPS participates in California and Nevada administrative water rights proceedings to protect Federal reserved, riparian, and appropriative rights established for Death Valley National Park. The purpose of this participation is to protect Park water rights from injury by threats such as new appropriations for groundwater located upgradient of Park water sources.

NPS *Management Policies* (2001) state:

*All rights to the use of water diverted to or used on federal lands within the national park system by the United States or its concessioners, lessors, or permittees will be perfected in the name of the United States.*

The National Park Service in its general planning process for each unit of the national park system



and the Bureau of Land Management in its planning process for each wilderness area have jointly agreed to incorporate their respective policies, guidelines, and administrative procedures and apply the following principles to discharge their responsibilities under section 706 of the California Desert Protection Act to manage and protect federal reserved water rights (Desert Managers Group 1995):

- inventory all water sources within the boundaries of the wilderness area/park unit
- share water source inventory data
- jointly request from the California Division of Water Rights notification of any filing for appropriated water rights within or adjacent to the boundaries of BLM wilderness or units of the national park system
- defend federally reserved water rights through the state of California administrative process and, if necessary, seek judicial remedy in the appropriate courts
- quantify the amount of water reserved to fulfill the purpose of the reservation as part of any adjudication in California in which the United States may be joined under the McCarran Amendment
- where necessary, pursue acquisition of any existing nonfederal appropriated water right within their respective jurisdictions
- identify as a federally reserved water right all unappropriated water from any water source identified on federal lands within the boundaries of designated wilderness and/or park areas in the California desert
- because use of percolating groundwater does not require a permit from the state of California, participate in local government proceedings that authorize nonfederal parties to withdraw percolating groundwater where such withdrawals may impact water sources within their respective jurisdictions to which federally reserved water rights are attached
- participate in any proceedings pursuant to Nevada state water law that may authorize withdrawal of groundwater where such withdrawal may impact water sources within their jurisdictions to which federally reserved or appropriated water rights are attached
- vigorously defend water travelling to the Park in the Death Valley aquifer from Nevada
- work with holders of water rights to restore modified water sources to natural conditions while still allowing for valid existing uses

**Water Developments.** The National Park Service will examine the use of and need for all guzzlers, livestock tanks, and troughs (hereafter referred to as developed water sites). Water at developed water sites will be retained for native plants and wildlife if these facilities were needed to mitigate for local water losses due to previous human activities. Simultaneously, with the retention of these developed water sites, the National Park Service will actively begin to restore natural water sources to be self-sustaining. When a water source became self-sustaining, the artificial facility will be removed. Requests to use motorized access to guzzlers in wilderness areas (to maintain guzzlers or replenish water) will be reviewed individually. If livestock use, including water use, degrades wilderness values, the number of livestock would be reduced to the appropriate level.

Water is necessary for livestock grazing on NPS lands. The amount of water that will be diverted or used for livestock will be maintained for the animals' health. If and when animal unit months (AUMs) were reduced (no increase in AUMs is allowed under the California Desert Protection Act) a concurrent reduction in water for livestock purposes will be expected. The National Park Service will examine these developed water facilities and take action, where appropriate, to restore natural waters. If the National Park Service did not own the water rights, the agency will work with the owners to encourage them to consider the benefits of natural water restoration to restore modified water sources to natural conditions while still allowing for valid existing uses.

## Paleontological Resources

### **Background**

Death Valley National Park contains a rich and diverse, but fragile and irreplaceable paleontological record. The fossil record in the Park area is nearly as extensive and complicated as the geological record. Much of the area's geology is exceptionally well exposed. Soil development has been greatly retarded throughout much of the area, and the outstanding exposures of geological features support an equally notable exposure of fossil remains. These organisms have value as (1) stratigraphic indicators for correlation of deposits containing them and for determination of relative geologic age (2) records of past life forms showing the course of evolutionary trends of plants and animals and (3) evidence of changing paleoenvironments.

three-fourths of the Park landscape and includes the alkali sink, creosote bush scrub, shadscale scrub, and sagebrush scrub communities. The alkali sink or salt flat community occurs in the lower elevations of the Park.

**Desert Woodland.** Desert woodland is an open, well-spaced community ranging from elevations of about 7,000 feet up to about 9,500 feet. Much of the soil within this community is bare and surfaced with a hard, wind scoured layer similar to desert pavement. The community is dominated by single-leaf pinyon pine (*Pinus monophylla*) and scattered individuals of juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*).

**Coniferous Forest.** Coniferous forest in Death Valley National Park includes subalpine forest and some bristlecone pine forests. Both communities occur in narrow belts at upper elevations. Dominants of subalpine forest, including limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*), occur in mosaic concentrations rather than uniformly throughout the area. The bristlecone pine forest community occurs chiefly above 10,000 feet in the Panamint Range, where spacing of individual bristlecones (*Pinus aristata*) and limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) appear more as an open woodland rather than a forest.

## SPECIES AND HABITATS OF SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Within Death Valley National Park there are confirmed populations or habitats for 21 state or federally recognized species of concern.

Federally listed species in Death Valley include: desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), Devils Hole pupfish (*Cyprinodon diabolis*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli extimus*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), Eureka Dunes evening primrose (*Oenothera californica* ssp. *eurekensis*), Eureka Valley dunegrass (*Swallenia alexandrae*), and spring-loving centauray (*Centaureum namophilum*).

Federally listed species for which final recovery plans exist are desert tortoise, Devils Hole pupfish, Eureka Dunes evening primrose, and Eureka Valley dunegrass. A draft recovery plan is in development for the least Bell's vireo.

California listed species, other than those also federally listed or proposed, are California (or western) yellow billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli*), Cottonball Marsh pupfish (*Cyprinodon salinus mil-*

*leri*), and Mohave ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*).

California rare plant species, not otherwise federally listed or proposed, are July gold (*Dedeckera eurekensis*) and rock lady (*Maurandya petrophila*).

## Desert Tortoise

The range of the desert tortoise includes the Mojave and Sonoran deserts in southern California, Arizona, southern Nevada, the southwestern tip of Utah, and Sonora and northern Sinaloa, Mexico. The Mojave population of the desert tortoise (an administrative designation for animals living north and west of the Colorado River) is listed as a threatened species by the Federal government and the state of California. Critical habitat for this species was designated in 1994 (FWS 1994). There is no desert tortoise designated critical habitat within Death Valley National Park. The desert tortoise's range within Death Valley National Park extends to its southern half. Within the Park the current populations (and for at least the last 60 years) are not believed to be very numerous.

The Mojave population of the desert tortoise occurs primarily in valleys and on bajadas characterized by scattered shrubs. The soils range from sand to sandy-gravel, though caliche soils, desert pavement, and rocky, boulder terrain are occasionally used. Desert tortoises spend a large portion of the year underground to avoid extreme temperatures and, for younger tortoises, to avoid a variety of predators, such as coyotes, foxes, raptors, and ravens (BLM 1996). Tortoises are active during the spring, early summer, and autumn when annual plants are most common and daily temperatures are tolerable. Additional activity occasionally occurs during warm weather in winter months and after summer rainstorms (BLM 1996).

## Species Addressed in the Ash Meadows Recovery Plan

Devils Hole is a small tract of land administered by Death Valley National Park while part of a larger spring complex in Nevada called Ash Meadows. Devils Hole falls within the boundaries of Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. A limestone cave at Devils Hole, bearing the same name, is the only natural habitat of the Devils Hole pupfish (*Cyprinodon diabolis*), listed as endangered by the federal government and state of Nevada. The underground aquifer determines the cave's water level, which has no surface outlet. Historic and

## Day Use Areas

The following areas will remain designated as day use recreation only with no overnight camping:

- All paved road areas to 2 miles from the road
- Titus Canyon Road
- West Side Road
- Wildrose Road
- Skidoo Road
- Cottonwood Canyon Road (first 8 miles)
- Racetrack Road (from Teakettle Junction to Homestake Dry Camp)
- Lost Burro Mine
- Ubehebe Lead Mine
- The main valley floor from Ashford Mill north to 2 miles north of Stovepipe Wells.

Additional day use areas may be established in the new additions to the Park.

## Backcountry and Roadside Camping

### Background

The backcountry is defined as any area located away from Park development such as campgrounds, visitor or administrative facilities; typically a place where development is out of view. Designated wilderness is included within backcountry areas.

Eureka Dunes and Saline Valley Warm Springs have informal campgrounds, which receive moderate to heavy use. The dunes are easily accessible by car while the springs can be accessed by car if the weather provides for good road conditions. The National Park Service traffic count figures indicate a monthly average of 200 cars that go to the dunes. The dunes are habitat to two endangered plants. One of the major threats to these plants is illegal offroad vehicle use. There are an estimated four or five informal campsites north of the dunes along dirt roads. Visitors may also camp along a spur road northeast of the dunes. A day use parking area with a vault toilet and two or three picnic tables is located on the northwest corner of the dunes.

Another day use parking lot is located on the north central end of the dunes. This parking area is large enough to handle an estimated fifteen to twenty cars, depending on how people use the space. A two-foot-high pipe fence frames part of the parking lot to contain vehicles and discourage any driving on the dunes. The parking lot provides direct access to the dunes for hikers and those wanting to play on

the sand. To protect endangered plants, minimum impact activities are encouraged.

Saline Valley Warm Springs receives use throughout the year. Over several years, visitors to the springs have built concrete hot tubs, a water system for the tubs, dug pit toilets, maintained the short access road, planted palm trees and a lawn to make their time at the springs more comfortable. In 1997 the National Park Service initiated the 30-day limit on camping that exists in the old monument. Marking posts have been placed in the ground to define the wilderness boundary surrounding the area in an attempt to keep vehicles out of wilderness and designate the camping area.

Public use of the springs has a history that goes back many years, but use began to rise during the 1960s, with this use level being sustained through the 1970s, 1980s, and into the 1990s. The place developed a social culture of its own, highlighted by a spirit of independence and freedom from the norms of traditional society of the day. Before the National Park Service obtained this land, visitors to the springs had developed their own social order and developed and managed constructed pools, camping and other facilities relatively independent of government funding or oversight. Visitors to the springs continue to provide maintenance to the facilities they have constructed, with the Park Service evolving the use and management of the area as a national park.

Backcountry camping must be more than 200 yards from any water source but is allowed at previously disturbed campsites that are 2 miles beyond developed areas, maintained roads, or day use areas. Camping is not allowed near the Lost Burro Mine and the Ubehebe Lead Mine or off several "day use only" dirt roads such as Titus Canyon and Racetrack road.

### Plan Actions

Small, primitive campsites may be established in some remote areas of the Park to offer alternative camping experiences including Hidden Valley, Butte Valley, Echo Canyon, the Nevada Triangle, Racetrack Valley, and Johnson Canyon.

If camping in wilderness areas resulted in trampled vegetation or compacted soils over widespread areas, specific campsites will be designated. The current backcountry voluntary permit system will be replaced by a mandatory permit system when and where better resource protection was needed or where visitor use had exceeded the desired future

conditions for backcountry visitor experiences and resource conditions. The Park has the authority to limit any activity that is causing resource damage. Where sensitive areas are noted as receiving or have the potential to receive adverse impacts, designated camping sites may be designated away from the area for that area's protection.

A wilderness/backcountry management plan is currently being prepared by the Park staff. This new plan is necessary because of the broad changes in the amount of area in the Park that is now designated as wilderness. Until the wilderness/backcountry management plan is completed, camping will continue to be directed under existing management. Currently there are over 350 miles of backcountry roads that are open to camping (unless designated closed) with an unknown number of informal campsites. However, use levels at most of these areas is quite light. The Park will evaluate camping in Dedecker Canyon to determine potential and direct impacts upon the local bighorn sheep population and rare plants from visitor activities in the canyon. Park staff will determine whether the canyon or sections of the canyon should be closed to camping to reduce impacts. The Park will also reconsider the issue of allowing limited campfires in the backcountry and wilderness areas during the planning process for the backcountry and wilderness management plans.

An inventory and monitoring program will be established to gather data on backcountry visitor use and related impacts associated with car and other types of camping. Small primitive campsites may be established for car campers and other camps in remote areas of the Park that receive above average use and associated threats to Park resources. The management objective will be to mitigate negative impacts to Park resources, protect human health and safety and provide an alternative camping experience. Improvements will be the minimal tool needed to solve the problem, such as defined tent pads and or anchored picnic tables. This proposal may be considered within the backcountry management plan. If camping in wilderness or other backcountry areas results in destroyed vegetation or other negative impacts to resources or the visitor experience, management actions will be taken to mitigate or eliminate impacts. Management actions may include required camping at designated campsites and or closure of areas to camping.

Backcountry and roadside camping is currently permitted under the following conditions:

- Backcountry camping is allowed 2 miles beyond any developed area, maintained road, or " day use only" area. Other areas may be closed to camping. Visitors should check at the visitor or information centers for current information.
- Vehicle campers shall use pre-existing campsites.
- No camping is allowed in some historic mining districts or on the valley floor from Ashford Mill to 2 miles north of Stovepipe Wells.
- Organized groups with 16 or more people and/or stock animals and 7 or more vehicles need a special use permit.
- The length of stay is limited to 30 cumulative days per year.
- Campfires are currently prohibited outside of designated campgrounds. The proposed backcountry/wilderness management plan will consider where such fires may be permitted under controlled conditions.
- Visitors are not allowed to collect firewood.
- The Park initiated a voluntary backcountry use registration system in 1998 (see " Saline Valley" ).

**Backcountry Cabins.** The current, interim management of backcountry cabins allows visitors to use cabins on a first-come, first-served basis. Visitors are directed to use the cabins in a way that preserves and protects cabins for future use. The length of stay is limited to 30 days. The Park is currently preparing a survey and inventory of cabins in the Park. Results of this survey will be used to prepare further management direction for these cabins based upon their historic significance, condition, and use levels. When the survey is completed, the results will be interpreted and placed within the wilderness/ backcountry management plan.

*NPS Management Policies* provide the overall guidance regarding backcountry cabin management:

" ... facilities located in wilderness will be limited to the types and minimum number essential to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the wilderness area.. "

" The construction or reconstruction of shelters for public use generally will not be allowed, since wilderness users should be self-supporting in terms of shelter. An existing shelter may be maintained only if the facility is necessary to achieve wilderness management objectives or cultural resource protection objectives."

**Visitor Use in Saline Valley.** A site specific management plan will be prepared in consultation with interested public through the NEPA process. The



goal of the plan is to create a strategy for management of the area consistent with NPS mandates and policies. The plan will address protection of natural and cultural resources, exotic species, public health and safety, and environmental restoration, environmental and social carrying capacity of the land, and designation of the site as a backcountry campground and the appropriate number and development of sites. The following will limit the scope of the activities permitted at the springs:

- Soaking tubs/spas will be limited to the current level of improvements.
- The Upper Springs will continue to be protected from human improvements and use and from burros.
- The Saline Valley Road will be maintained to its current surface condition by Inyo County.
- An analysis will be made of the Chicken Strip airstrip to determine whether to retain it under 36CFR or whether it should be closed due to safety and/or resource impact concerns.
- The proposed site plan will also consider options for the active restoration of the upper springs to a natural condition.

Depending upon future use levels and priorities, the National Park Service could consider maintaining some of the facilities at the springs.

The National Park Service will work with groups associated with the springs, to manage this place in a manner where all members of the public feel welcome. The National Park Service will not actively promote expanded public use of the springs.

## VISITOR USE FEES

### Background

Recreational fees and their use are determined in accordance with the criteria and procedures of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (sec. 4, 16 U.S.C.A. 4601-6a (Supp., 1974) and section 3, Act of July 11, 1972, 86 Stat. 461), the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (P.L. 104-134), and regulations in 36 CFR 71. In April 2000, the National Park Service, in a partnership with the National Park Foundation, announced a new National Parks Pass. A parks pass provides entrance to all national parks for one year at a cost of \$50. Parks selling the pass will be allowed to retain \$35 for use on projects at that park. These passes are sold at all national parks and over the internet via several retail partners.

### Plan Actions

The Park will continue to explore options for fee collection revenues consistent with congressional direction, including collection by third parties. In Death Valley National Park, entrance fees will continue to be collected at the Furnace Creek visitor center, Beatty, the Grapevine Entrance Station, Stovepipe Wells, and Baker. It is estimated that currently a significant amount of fees go uncollected. The construction of two entrance stations on Highway 190 is being actively planned to facilitate the collection of these fees and to improve visitor information at major entrances.

Nonrecreational fees will be collected for activities such as incidental business use permits, filming, and special park uses. Death Valley National Park has traditionally been an area where many companies come to film commercials and movies. The area receives a significant number of requests from automobile manufacturers to test vehicle-cooling systems. Filming and incidental business permits will continue to be granted on a case-by-case basis. Commercial tour buses are charged an entrance fee based on the seating capacity of the bus.

## COMMERCIAL SERVICES

### Background

There are no commercial operation facilities located on federal lands recently acquired. Commercial use permits have been requested for filming and guided horse pack trips tours. More permits for other non-facility-based commercial operations will most likely be requested in the future. Park employees review compliance requests with Park regulations and approve appropriate uses.

Amfac Resorts operates a major visitor resort with lodging, food services, recreation, and employee housing. All of the commercial services are located on private land and are not under control by the National Park Service. Park management continues to work on a cooperative relationship with Amfac's local manager. The Furnace Creek Inn and Ranch are their two major operations, both located on 342 acres of private property. Amfac also manages the concessions operation at Stovepipe Wells, which has lodging, a restaurant, gas station, and swimming pool. They also manage a snack bar and gift shop at Scotty's Castle. Both operations at Stovepipe Wells and Scotty's Castle rest on NPS land and are subject to NPS controls on pricing and operations. The private operations at Furnace Creek provide visitors with 294 rooms, 2 swimming pools, an 18-hole golf