

EXHIBIT 7

**National Park Service, Death Valley National Park Long-Range Interpretative
Plan (Sep. 2005) (excerpts) (available at
<http://www.nps.gov/deva/parkmgmt/upload/DEVA%20LRIP.pdf> (last visited
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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Death Valley National Park
California

Death Valley National Park

Long-Range Interpretive Plan



Death Valley National Park *Long-Range Interpretive Plan*

Prepared by the Department of Interpretive Planning
Harpers Ferry Center
and
Death Valley National Park

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Badwater and the Panamint Mountains

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction

Death Valley National Park (DEVA) is an active world of exciting contrasts and wonders, from scorching valleys to snow-covered peaks, spectacular wildflower displays to beautiful sand dunes, abandoned mines to Scotty's Castle. For thousands of years, the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe has lived in and around the area that now encompasses the park.

Death Valley National Monument was established by presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act of 1906, on February 11, 1933. 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. Over 1.3 million acres of new lands were added, bringing the total acreage to 3,396,192. Nearly 95% of the park is designated as wilderness and it is the largest national park unit in the coterminous 48 states.

Death Valley National Park is the lowest point in North America 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, and a plethora of geologic features including alluvial fans, faults, dunes, playas, salt pans, and volcanoes. Perhaps the park's greatest assets today are clear air, vast open spaces that stretch toward distant horizons, and overwhelming silence.

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 North America in the Badwater Basin salt pan, 282 feet below sea level. The California Desert Protection Act added most of Saline, Eureka, northern Panamint, and Greenwater valleys to the park.

The diversity of Death Valley's seven plant communities is reflected in three biotic life zones: the lower Sonoran, the Canadian, and the Arctic/Alpine in portions of the Panamint Range. Three vegetation types are represented: scrub, desert woodland, and coniferous forest. A variety of wildlife species are supported in this environment, including 51 species of native mammals, approximately 350 species of birds, 36 species of reptiles, three species of amphibians, and three species and one subspecies of native fishes. Small mammals, such as kangaroo rats and rabbits, are more numerous than large mammals, such as the desert bighorn, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion, and mule deer.

The park's top resource management priority is the protection of the endangered Devils Hole pupfish. Devils Hole is a limestone cave located on a small track of land east of the park in southwest Nevada. It was added to Death Valley National Monument in 1952. This 40 acre tract is part of a larger spring complex in Nevada called Ash Meadows. Devils Hole falls within the boundaries of Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (whose creation in 1984 was precipitated by the protection of Devils Hole). This limestone cave is the only natural habitat of the Devils Hole pupfish (*Cyprinodon diabolis*). The underground aquifer determines the cave's natural water level, which

has no stream flow out of the cave. Historic and ongoing mining of groundwater in Amargosa Valley has sometimes directly lowered the water level in Devils Hole, occasionally exposing a shallow limestone shelf on which the pupfish depend for food and spawning.

Decline of the Devils Hole pupfish and the continued drop of water levels in the cave drove litigation resulting in a U.S. Supreme Court ruling upholding the government's right to water to maintain a minimum water level in the cave (*US v. Cappaert*, 1976). In recent years the Devils Hole pupfish population has continued to decline. Even though there has been a corresponding drop in water levels, researchers are trying to determine if the current incidents are related.

For millennia, American Indian peoples lived within the Death Valley area, using the resources and lands to sustain their lives and cultures. Today's tribal governments and communities historically associated with the region include the Panamint or Timbisha Shoshone of Death Valley; Northern Paiute of Benton, Big Pine, Bishop, Fort Independence, and Lone Pine; and the Southern Paiute of Las Vegas and Pahrump. The report, "The Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Homeland (1999)," and subsequent legislation (2000) signed by President William J. Clinton, affirm the continued presence of the Tribe in the park and in other parts of its ancestral homeland. The Timbisha Shoshone Homeland Act addresses the National Park Service's need to more fully incorporate the cultural history, values, and activities of the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe into the overall management of Death Valley National Park. The tribe's occupation of this desert land has shaped the cultural practices of the tribe and has left an imprint on the land. The tribe will play an irreplaceable

role in the interpretation of park features and resources, providing a living link to the distant past and enriching the experience of park visitors.

Many historic properties and landscapes exist within the park, and those which meet the criteria have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Most sites contain structures or other tangible remains of the activities that took place there. Death Valley 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.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

This Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) for Death Valley National Park is a component of the park's Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP), as outlined in National Park Service Director's Orders-6 (DO-6). Using the park's mission, purpose, and resource significance statements, plus the primary interpretive themes and visitor experience goals, this plan articulates a vision for the park's interpretive future, and recommends the media, facilities, and programs best suited for meeting visitor needs, achieving management goals, and telling park stories.

The last interpretive plan for the park was an Interpretive Prospectus completed in 1990 by Harpers Ferry Center. Since then, the park has been greatly expanded, including changing its designation from a national monument to a national park. Changes in the primary interpretive themes, along with changing visitor use patterns and goals, also have necessitated a new long-range plan for the park's overall interpretive program.