



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Death Valley National
Park

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Death Valley News Release

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Death Valley National Park Now Accepting Comments for Stovepipe Dunes Visitor Use Area Environmental Assessment

Superintendent JT Reynolds has announced the completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed construction of a new parking/visitor use facility near the Stovepipe Dunes. The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) is considering improvements to the Stovepipe Wells Dunes Visitor Use Area, located on the north side of SR 190, approximately 2-miles east of the Stovepipe Wells Village, in Death Valley National Park, Inyo County, California. The action is needed because dispersed parking along the highway with visitors crossing fast moving traffic causes undesirable conditions, random access routes, and degradation of the landscape. The lack of comfort stations is resulting in unsanitary conditions within the dunes.

This environmental assessment examines in detail two alternatives: the no-action and the National Park Service preferred alternative. The preferred alternative includes paving a one-way access loop and parking lot for 30 – 40 cars and 6 – 10 oversized vehicles; delineating an access point into the dunes; adding an east bound turning lane along SR 190 to access the parking area; providing interpretive information and comfort stations; and providing handicapped accessible parking.

Notes to Reviewers and Respondents

If you wish to comment on the environmental assessment, you may mail comments to the name and address below. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

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Please address comments to: Superintendent; Death Valley National Park; Attn: Stovepipe Wells Dunes Visitor Use Area Improvements Project; Death Valley National Park; PO Box 579; Death Valley, CA 92328. Electronic comments can be submitted at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>. All written comments must be postmarked or sent by February 8, 2007.

-NPS-

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