



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Death Valley National
Park

CA Highway 190
PO Box 579
Death Valley, CA 92328

phone 760.786.3200
fax 760.786.3283

Death Valley News Release

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Contact: Terry Baldino
Phone: 760.786.3279

Death Valley National Park Accepting Comments on Draft Devils Hole Site Plan and Environmental Assessment

The park is encouraging the public to review the draft Devils Hole Site Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) and submit their comments online or in writing no later than September 18, 2009. The public can review, download, and directly input their comments to the EA and supporting documents from the following web site:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/index.cfm>

Written comments may also be addressed to:

Michael Bower
ATTN: Devils Hole Site Plan Comments
Death Valley National Park
1321 S. Highway 160, Suite 1
Pahrump, Nevada 89048

or via email to: Mike_R_Bower@nps.gov.

Please contact the park if you prefer to receive a paper or compact disk version of this document. Paper copies will also be available for review at the public libraries in the towns of Pahrump, Nevada; Amargosa Valley, Nevada; Ridgecrest, California; Lone Pine, California; and Bishop, California.

Death Valley National Park proposes to make a series of improvements to the Devils Hole site, which contains the single remaining population of the endangered Devils Hole pupfish. The site is located adjacent to the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, but is managed as a detached unit of Death Valley National Park. The heart of the site consists of a cave pool which contains the single population of an endangered species, the Devils Hole pupfish. These improvements are intended to support maintenance and recovery of the pupfish, by:

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

- Providing the species and habitat with better protection from intrusion and vandalism
- Improving interpretive and educational opportunities for visitors
- Enabling safe and effective scientific research and ecological monitoring, and
- Restoring the natural ecosystem processes upon which the pupfish rely

Specifically, the draft Devils Hole Site Plan and Environmental Assessment describes and assesses the potential impacts of alternative designs for fence reconstruction, access to the visitors platform overlooking Devils Hole, a permanent access into the Devils Hole cavern, a platform for research and monitoring at water level, improvements to the security and communications systems at the site, upgrading the interpretive treatment, and habitat restoration.

Unless requested otherwise, a list of those who comment, including their addresses, is available upon written inquiry. Relevant comments will be used to inform the planning process.

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