



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 on its Draft Fire Management Plan

The park is encouraging the public to review the draft Fire Management Plan (FMP) and Environment Assessment (EA) and submit their comments in writing no later than October 3, 2008. 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/projectHome.cfm?parkId=297&projectId=15796>

Written comments may also be addressed to:
(Fire Management Plan) Superintendent, Death Valley National Park, P.O. Box 579,
Death Valley, California, 92328
or via email to DEVA_Superintendent@nps.gov.

Please contact the park if you prefer to receive a paper or cd version of this document. [The Environmental Assessment follows "Appendix F" in the paper version of this document.](#)

Death Valley National Park contains almost 600,000 acres of vegetation that is capable of carrying fire. The existing Park Fire Management Plan dates from 1990 and does not meet agency and interagency standards. The existing Plan focused on fire suppression and did not include the 1.3 million acres of park land added in 1994, nor did it address wilderness or endangered species in the park such as the desert tortoise. The purpose of this new Fire Management Plan (FMP) is to rectify the deficiency. The new FMP will implement a broader range of fire management strategies within a comprehensive wildland fire management program consistent with Death Valley's General Management Plan, national interagency fire policies, and NPS directives. The overall goal of the Park fire management program is to facilitate natural fire processes while ensuring firefighter and public safety as well as the protection of significant natural and cultural resources.

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The Fire Management Plan will guide management of wildland fire over the next ten years. This plan fulfills responsibilities under several federal strategies and directives and also incorporates the most current fire science.

The EA evaluates a "No Action Alternative" and a "Proposed Action Alternative" which implements a comprehensive fire management program, including suppression, wildland fire for resource benefit, prescribed fire, mechanical fuel management, and environmental protection measures.

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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