



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Mojave National Preserve  
2701 Barstow Road  
Barstow, California 92311

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D20 - Foundation Plan

August 2, 2012

Dear Friends,

When Mojave National Preserve was created in 1994 with the signing of the California Desert Protection Act (CDPA), Congress charged the National Park Service with the management of this new park unit on behalf of the American people. The CDPA provides some general guidance of Congress' vision for the preserve. Additionally, the Organic Act of 1916 charges the National Park Service with providing an exceptional opportunity to the public to enjoy National Park Service units while protecting the resources and values that make them remarkable. These two laws, along with a plethora of other laws and rules, form the legal foundation for management of the park. Mojave managers are now examining all the relevant legislation and rules in order to create a single document summarizing this legal guidance that will be used as a starting point for all future management decisions. By way of this letter, I am providing you with information about the document and an opportunity to comment on it.

This situation is not unique to Mojave as many parks were not given specific management guidance in the enabling legislation that created them. Indeed, it has been determined that every unit of the National Park Service needs a formal statement of its core mission and significance in order to provide guidance for planning and management decisions. This statement is referred to as a *foundation document*. This formal statement will identify the overall mission of the Preserve based on the intentions of Congress and the President as described in the enabling legislation but going well beyond that point. The foundation document will emphasize the unique nature of the Preserve as well as its significance and it will identify the fundamental resources and values associated with the park.

In short, the foundation document will provide a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the Preserve for its managers, staff, stakeholders, and visitors. This document will guide every aspect of park management to ensure that the primary management objectives are accomplished before other issues are addressed that might be important but not essential to furthering the Preserve's mission and guarding its significance. The development of a foundation document is essential for effectively managing Mojave National Preserve over the long term and for protecting the resources and values that are integral to its identity.

Please read through the attached draft foundation document for Mojave National Preserve. We invite you to participate in helping us to develop a profile of the Preserve that expresses its essential qualities and its compelling and powerful story. Your comments and suggestions on this document would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or comments about the draft document, please feel free to contact us David Moore at 760-252-6142 or at [David\\_B\\_Moore@nps.gov](mailto:David_B_Moore@nps.gov).

Best regards,

Stephanie R. Dubois  
Superintendent