

The Planning Process

Scoping is the first step to involve the public in the environmental impact analysis process. Scoping includes holding meetings and providing opportunities for the public to comment. The NPS uses your comments to ensure that it is considering all of the possible alternatives for the management of the resource.

How to Comment

There are several ways to provide comments:

- Attend a public meeting
- Submit comments electronically:

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/mojave_water

- Submit written comments by mail:

Mojave NP Superintendent
Water Resources Management Plan
2701 Barstow Road
Barstow, California 92311

The comment period for scoping will be open until July 11, 2011.

Before submitting your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment -including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. Personal identifying information includes, but is not limited to, your address, telephone number, and e-mail address. Comments made by individuals or organizations on behalf of other individuals or organizations will not be accepted.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Mojave National Preserve
2701 Barstow Road
Barstow, California 92311



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Mojave National Preserve

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Water Resources Management Plan and
Environmental Impact Statement

Public Scoping

June 27—30, 2011

You’re Invited!

Your Participation Will Help Shape This Plan

Because of your interest in the Mojave National Preserve (NP), we are requesting your input for developing an Water Resources Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Plan/EIS) at Mojave NP:

The National Park Service (NPS) requests your participation in the project planning process to identify potential environmental impacts, issues, concerns, and alternative concepts. The NPS would like to discuss the proposal and gather any thoughts, ideas, or comments that you may have regarding this project.

Open House

Monday, June 27, 2011
6pm—9pm
Fiesta Henderson Casino &
Hotel, Cancun Room
777 West Lake Mead Drive
Henderson, NV 89015

Wednesday, June 29, 2011
6pm—9pm
Hilton Garden Inn San
Bernardino
1755 S. Waterman Ave
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Tuesday, June 28, 2011
6pm—9pm
Rainbo Beach Resort
3520 Needles Hwy
Needles, CA 92363

Thursday, June 30, 2011
6pm—9pm
Ramada Inn—Barstow
1511 East Main Street
Barstow, CA 92311

Format

The meeting will consist of an open house with NPS staff on hand to visit with you, answer questions, and record your input. Attendees may also submit written comments on forms at the meeting, online, or by mail as described in this newsletter.

Water Resources Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement

Mojave National Preserve

Mojave National Preserve is a 1.6 million-acre unit of the National Park Service, established by the California Desert Protection Act in 1994. The Act protected a vast landscape of Great Basin, Sonoran, and Mojave desert ecosystems. The Act also specified hunting as a permitted activity within the Preserve.

By 1994, many wells, springs, and seeps had been developed within the Preserve for cattle and game. Six big game guzzlers and numerous small game guzzlers, which intercept and store rainwater for wildlife, had also been built. All of the big game guzzlers and many of the small game guzzlers are in areas now designated wilderness.

Private donors began to buy and donate grazing land in 1998. When ranchers left, their troughs, windmills, and pipelines were taken or left in disrepair. Some hunters have called for abandoned wells to be converted to game guzzlers. Conversely, wilderness and wildlife advocates have pointed out harm to wildlife and wilderness values as a reason for taking guzzlers out.

Mojave National Preserve now manages water sources on a case-by-case basis. The Preserve's 2002 General Management Plan called for an ecosystem-scale Water Resources Management Plan for springs, seeps, water diversions, and artificial water sources to maintain wildlife and groundwater at safe yields; this plan seeks to meet that goal.



Shallow well at Boulder Spring

NPS photo

Need for Action

The Water Resources Management Plan is needed to:

- Develop a proactive, system-wide approach to managing water resources on balance with cultural resources and wildlife needs
- Provide an adaptive framework for dealing with climate change and other uncertainties
- Provide resource managers with consistent guidance to inform day-to-day management decisions
- Reconcile existing infrastructure and management with National Park Service policies
- Manage maintenance and implementation costs
- Fulfill General Management Plan guidance to develop a water resources plan

Goals of this Planning Process

Through this planning process, the NPS intends to:

- Engage a broad spectrum of the public and relevant agencies in the NEPA process
- Provide a better understanding of the relationships between water resources, biological resources, and other resource values
- Articulate the management opportunities and limitations under NPS policies
- Develop comprehensive water resource management objectives, along with a decision-making process and specific tools to help managers implement those goals
- Improve working relationships with neighboring agencies and partners
- Provide a model for conservation management in the Mojave Desert

Questions to Consider

Please consider the following scoping questions for this process:

- What resource values should be emphasized in the Mojave National Preserve? (e.g., cultural/historical resources, biological diversity, species conservation, hunting opportunities, wilderness values)
- What management alternatives should be considered?
- To what degree should the NPS actively manage artificial water sources?
- What issues or opportunities should be considered in this planning process?