

Mojave National Preserve 2701 Barstow Road Barstow, CA, 92311 (760) 252-6101 www.nps.gov/moja

Mojave National Preserve News Release

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Management Plan for Developed Water Sources and Environmental Assessment, Mojave National Preserve

BARSTOW—The National Park Service has prepared a Management Plan for Developed Water Sources and Environmental Assessment for Mojave National Preserve. The Plan and EA is available for review and comment for the next 30 days.

This Plan and EA evaluates a range of alternatives for water resources management in Mojave National Preserve (Preserve). Three action alternatives are analyzed and compared to current management practices, referred to in the Plan and EA as No Action. The action alternatives examine three approaches to managing existing and potential water developments, also known as guzzlers. Each involves a trade-off in terms of the number of guzzlers managed in wilderness versus the amount of desert bighorn sheep habitat that is conserved. Alternative 2 minimizes guzzlers in wilderness, but would involve some habitat loss; Alternative 3 reduces the number of guzzlers in wilderness while achieving modest habitat increases to support native species conservation; and Alternative 4 emphasizes the use of guzzlers to augment native wildlife habitat, and therefore retains the most guzzlers. Alternative 3 is also the Preferred Alternative.

The National Park Service welcomes comments that will inform its selection of an alternative to implement and guide future management actions in Mojave National Preserve. The document is available online at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/moja_waterplan_ea; it is also available at Mojave National Preserve's three visitor centers. Copies of the Plan and EA may be requested by contacting Ms. Danette Woo at danette_woo@nps.gov or (760) 252-6107.

Comments on the project will be accepted from March 20 through April 19, 2018. They may be submitted online (http://parkplanning.nps.gov/waterplan_ea) or posted. All comments must be received no later than April 26, 2018. They can be directed to:

Superintendent Mojave National Preserve ATTENTION: Water Plan & EA-Comments 2701 Barstow Road Barstow, California 92311

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