



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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Scoping Notice Bonnie Clare Road Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment Death Valley National Park

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to rehabilitate seven miles of the Bonnie Clare Road, commonly referred to as Grapevine Canyon Road, from milepost 7.0 north of the Ubehebe Crater Road intersection to the northeast boundary of Death Valley National Park (Park). This section of Bonnie Clare Road is narrow, has alignment issues, and has deteriorated over the years, presenting a hazard to vehicular travel in the Park.

Grapevine Canyon Road serves as an access point for the northeastern boundary of the Park and is the most direct route of travel for visitors coming from Tonopah, NV. It provides access to the Grapevine and Last Chance mountain ranges in the Park, which includes the historic Scotty's Castle, Ubehebe Crater, Mesquite Spring, and several backcountry sites. The current asphalt pavement is deteriorating, contains road reaches with poor site distance, is narrow, and presents a safety concern. The project includes some in-place recycling and hot asphalt overlay of approximately four miles, and reconstruction, widening, and some realignment of approximately three miles of roadway.

The Bonnie Clare Road is an important ethnographic and historic resource. It was a significant prehistoric travel corridor for the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe who live within the park boundaries, and, portions of the road are adjacent to the Death Valley Scotty Historic District (listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978). An Ethnographic Report for the Bonnie Clare Road was completed in 2006. The NPS is currently writing a Determination of Eligibility for listing the Bonnie CLARE Road on the National Register. The park has completed Historic Structure Reports (1991 and 2009), a Historic Resource Study (2009), and a draft Cultural Landscape Report (2009) for the Historic District, as well as a park-wide Road Systems Evaluation (1996). These documents and studies will be used to inform decision making and analysis of project impacts.

Comments are currently being accepted on this proposal and will be used in the development of the Environmental Assessment. Comments must be received no later than December 1, 2010. Comments may be submitted online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/deva>. The website also contains a description of the alternatives being proposed. If you do not have website access, you may direct comments regarding this project to the Park in writing by mail or hand delivery to:

Death Valley National Park
ATTENTION: Bonnie Clare Road Rehabilitation Comments
P.O. Box 579
Death Valley, CA 92328

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Notice Regarding Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

It is the practice of the NPS to make all comments, including names and addresses of respondents who provide that information, available for public review following the conclusion of the environmental assessment process. Individuals may request that the NPS withhold their name and/or address from public disclosure. To do so, you must state this request prominently at the beginning of your comment. Commentators using the website can make such a request by checking the box "keep my contact information private." NPS will honor privacy requests to the extent allowable by law, but you should be aware that NPS may still be required to disclose your name and address pursuant to the FOIA. We will make all submissions from organizations, businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public inspection in their entirety.

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