



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Death Valley National Park

PO Box 579

Death Valley, California 92328



IN REPLY REFER TO:

L2431

October 27, 2010

**Subject: Rehabilitation of Bonnie Clare Road through Grapevine Canyon from M.P. 7.0 to MP 0.0 at Death Valley National Park**

Dear Interested Parties,

The National Park Service (NPS) at Death Valley National Park (Park) is seeking comments regarding a proposed project involving the rehabilitation of Bonnie Clare Road. The National Park Service proposes to rehabilitate seven miles of 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 the 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, Nevada. The road provides access to the Grapevine and Last Chance mountain ranges in the Park, which includes 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.

Bonnie Clare Road is an important ethnographic and historic resource. It was a significant prehistoric travel corridor for the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe who continues to live within 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 Bonnie Clare Road was completed in 2006. The National Park Service is currently writing a Determination of Eligibility for listing 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.

We welcome your input on the proposed project and will provide you a copy of the environmental assessment (EA) when it is completed, which documents anticipated project effects on natural and cultural resources. Comments are currently being accepted on this proposal and those received will be used in development of the EA. Comments must be received no later than November 30, 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 internet access, you may send your comments through the mail to:

Death Valley National Park  
ATTENTION: Bonnie Clare Road Rehabilitation Comments  
Victoria Wilkins  
PO Box 579  
Death Valley, CA 92328

Thank you for your assistance. Should you have any questions, please contact Victoria Wilkins, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 760-786-3227; or Linda Manning, Wildlife Biologist, at 760-786-3252.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Craighead".

Sarah Craighead  
Superintendent

Enclosure (project map)

# Bonnie Clare Road Project Map

