

Death Valley National Park News Release

For Immediate Release – February 16, 2010 Contact – Victoria Wilkins, 760-786-3227

EAs Release –Environmental Assessments Abandoned Mine Lands Safety Installations, Multiple Mine Openings and Keane Wonder Mine Complex Mine Openings, Death Valley National Park, California

The National Park Service proposes implementing safety installation options at Multiple Mine Openings and the Keane Wonder Mine complex abandoned mine lands in Death Valley National Park. The purpose of these projects is to mitigate human and physical safety hazards present at various abandoned mine openings in Death Valley. The EAs were released today and are enclosed for your review and comment.

This action is needed to; improve visitor and staff safety at Death Valley National Park while accommodating the use of the abandoned mine land sites by wildlife (principally bats), minimize impacts on historic fabric and the visual character of the historic landscape, and minimize potential adverse effects on natural resources using mitigation measures.

Each EA examines two alternatives; no action and the NPS preferred alternative. The preferred alternative in both EAs consists of closing abandoned mine openings at Death Valley. There are a variety of safety Installations (such as metal grates, fencing bat gates and cupolas, cable mesh nets, foam plugs covered with backfill, or back-filling alone) that would be used in mine openings throughout the Park. These safety installation techniques would be implemented by the NPS either individually, or in combination under the preferred alternative.

Comments must be received no later than March 16, 2010. Public comment may be submitted online at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website, <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/deva>. 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:

Craighead, Superintendent
ATTENTION: AML EA Comments
Death Valley National Park
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