

APPENDIX B

COOPERATING AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

COOPERATING AGENCIES

This appendix contains correspondence between the National Park Service and the cooperating agencies. In letters dated April 3, 2012, the National Park Service formally invited the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe (the Tribe), the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, the Inyo County Planning Director, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ridgecrest Field Office, and Inyo National Forest to participate as cooperating agencies in the Saline Valley Warm Springs Final Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (plan/EIS) process. The plan has the potential to affect all of these agencies for the following reasons:

- The Saline Valley Warm Springs Area is located within the Timbisha Shoshone Natural and Cultural Preservation Area, as defined by the Timbisha Shoshone Homeland Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-423).
- Saline Valley is located within Inyo County, where residents and visitors can explore all points of the county. Saline Valley and the Saline Valley Warm Springs Area are important to the history and culture of Inyo County.
- Saline Valley was under the management of the BLM before the California Desert Protection Act was enacted in 1994.
- The Saline Valley Warm Springs Area is located approximately 5.5 miles east of the Death Valley National Park boundary. As neighboring agencies to the park, BLM and US Forest Service (USFS) managed lands could be affected by the outcome of the plan.

The request to add these agencies as cooperating agencies was based on their expertise and local knowledge of the resources within Saline Valley that could be affected by the proposed plan. The Tribe, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, and BLM each accepted the invitation to participate as a cooperating agency. The USFS did not officially respond to the invitation.

The warm springs of Saline Valley ¹ (the warm springs) are identified in the *2000 Timbisha Shoshone Homeland Legislative Environmental Impact Statement: Timbisha Shoshone Homeland* as a special use area within the Timbisha Shoshone Natural and Cultural Preservation Area due to the historic relationship of the Tribe to the area. While the authority to manage the land within the Timbisha Shoshone Natural and Cultural Preservation Area would remain with the National Park Service, the National Park Service is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Tribe by the Homeland Act “for the purpose of providing training on the interpretation, management, protection, and preservation of the natural and cultural resources of the areas designated for special uses by the Tribe” (NPS 2000).

¹ In the ethnographic determination of eligibility, the area of significance is called the Saline Valley Warm Springs or the *Ko o’* Warm Springs (preferred by the Tribe). The geographic extent of the ethnographic site varies from the Saline Valley Warm Springs Area in this plan/EIS.

REFERENCES

National Park Service (NPS)

2000 *Legislative Environmental Impact Statement: Timbisha Shoshone Homeland*. November.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Death Valley National Park
P.O. Box 579
Death Valley, California 92328



IN REPLY REFER TO:
RM A.2.

April 3, 2012

Carl Symons, Acting Field Manager
Ridgecrest Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
300 S. Richmond Rd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Re: Saline Valley Warm Springs Management Plan/EIS

Dear Carl:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning preparation of a Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Saline Valley Warm Springs area of Death Valley National Park. Currently, the Warm Springs area is not included in the park's General Management Plan published in 2002. This effort will result in a comprehensive management plan for resources in and visitor use of Saline Valley Warm Springs. Public scoping for the plan and EIS will likely begin in June 2012 and the plan will be completed no earlier than 2015.

The NPS is inviting the Bureau of Land Management to be a cooperating agency on the EIS process to provide information in your areas of technical expertise, which will assist the NPS in making a more informed decision. The NPS will be inviting several other government agencies to participate in the development of the EIS as cooperating agencies, including Inyo County, California; the Inyo National Forest; and the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe.

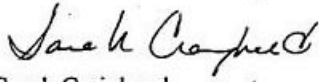
Please let us know if you would like to participate as a cooperating agency in the development of the Saline Valley Warm Springs Management Plan and EIS by filling out and returning the enclosed form.

Public scoping meetings for this new management plan and EIS will likely begin in Bishop on the evening of Tuesday, June 12. The NPS also intends to convene a meeting for Cooperating Agencies in Bishop, California during working hours on June 12. On the evening of Wednesday, June 13, the NPS will likely host a public scoping meeting in Ridgecrest, California. The NPS intends to convene a meeting for Cooperating Agencies in Ridgecrest, California during working hours on June 13 as well. Another public scoping meeting will likely occur in Victorville, California on the evening of Thursday, June 14.

If you have questions, please contact Kelly Fuhrmann, Chief of Resources Management at (760)786-3253 or Mike Cipra, Environmental Protection Specialist at (760)786-3227. Thank you in advance for completing and returning the enclosed form by no later than April 30th, 2012.

We appreciate your continued interest and participation in Death Valley National Park's planning processes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah Craighead".

Sarah Craighead
Superintendent

Enclosure: Cooperating Agency Interest Form

cc: Mike Cipra, Environmental Protection Specialist
Kelly Fuhrmann, Resources Division Chief

INYO COUNTY



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Death Valley National Park
P.O. Box 579
Death Valley, California 92328



IN REPLY REFER TO:
RMA.2.

April 3, 2012

Josh Hart, Planning Director
Inyo County Planning Dept.
PO Box L
Independence, CA 93526

Re: Saline Valley Warm Springs Management Plan/EIS

Dear Josh:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning preparation of a Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Saline Valley Warm Springs area of Death Valley National Park. Currently, the Warm Springs area is not included in the park's General Management Plan published in 2002. This effort will result in a comprehensive management plan for resources in and visitor use of Saline Valley Warm Springs. Public scoping for the plan and EIS will likely begin in June 2012 and the plan will be completed no earlier than 2015.

The NPS is inviting Inyo County to be a cooperating agency on the EIS process to provide information in your areas of technical expertise, which will assist the NPS in making a more informed decision. We have also sent a copy of this letter to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors. The NPS will be inviting several other government agencies to participate in the development of the EIS as cooperating agencies, including BLM, the Inyo National Forest; and the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe.

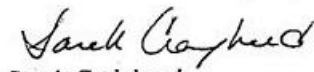
Please let us know if you would like to participate as a cooperating agency in the development of the Saline Valley Warm Springs Management Plan and EIS by filling out and returning the enclosed form.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah Craighead".

Sarah Craighead
Superintendent

Enclosure: Cooperating Agency Interest Form

cc: Mike Cipra, Environmental Protection Specialist
Kelly Fuhrmann, Resources Division Chief



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Death Valley National Park
P.O. Box 579
Death Valley, California 92328



IN REPLY REFER TO:
RM A.2.

April 3, 2012

Inyo County Board of Supervisors
163 May Street
Bishop, CA 93514

Re: Saline Valley Warm Springs Management Plan/EIS

Dear Inyo County Board of Supervisors:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning preparation of a Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Saline Valley Warm Springs area of Death Valley National Park. Currently, the Warm Springs area is not included in the park's General Management Plan published in 2002. This effort will result in a comprehensive management plan for resources in and visitor use of Saline Valley Warm Springs. Public scoping for the plan and EIS will likely begin in June 2012 and the plan will be completed no earlier than 2015.

The NPS is inviting Inyo County to be a cooperating agency on the EIS process to provide information in your areas of technical expertise, which will assist the NPS in making a more informed decision. The NPS will be inviting several other government agencies to participate in the development of the EIS as cooperating agencies, including BLM, the Inyo National Forest; and the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe.


Please let us know if you would like to participate as a cooperating agency in the development of the Saline Valley Warm Springs Management Plan and EIS by filling out and returning the enclosed form.

Public scoping meetings for this new management plan and EIS will likely begin in Bishop on the evening of Tuesday, June 12. The NPS also intends to convene a meeting for Cooperating Agencies in Bishop, California during working hours on June 12. On the evening of Wednesday, June 13, the NPS will likely host a public scoping meeting in Ridgecrest, California. The NPS intends to convene a meeting for Cooperating Agencies in Ridgecrest, California during working hours on June 13 as well. Another public scoping meeting will likely occur in Victorville, California on the evening of Thursday, June 14.

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We appreciate your continued interest and participation in Death Valley National Park's planning processes.

Sincerely,


Sarah Craighead
Superintendent

Enclosure: Cooperating Agency Interest Form

cc: Mike Cipra, Environmental Protection Specialist
Kelly Fuhrmann, Resources Division Chief



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF INYO**

P. O. BOX N • INDEPENDENCE, CALIFORNIA 93526
TELEPHONE (760) 878-0373 • FAX (760) 878-2241
e-mail: pgunsolley@inyocounty.us

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
LINDA ARCULARIUS
SUSAN CASH
RICK PUCCI
MARTY FORTNEY
RICHARD CERVANTES

KEVIN D. CARUNCHIO
Clerk of the Board

PATRICIA GUNSOLLEY
Assistant Clerk of the Board

July 17, 2012

Attn.: Saline Valley Management Plan
Ms. Sarah Creighead, Superintendent
Death Valley National Park
P.O. Box 579
Death Valley, CA 92328

Re: Saline Valley Warm Springs Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Craighead,

On behalf of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, thank you for inviting us to participate as a Cooperating Agency in developing the Saline Valley Warm Springs Management Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We are pleased to accept this offer, and the Board has authorized me to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provided by the Park effectuating the Cooperating Agency status. We request additional language be added to the MOU, and our staff will be working with your staff to incorporate this language.

We have reviewed the scoping information provided by the Park, and we agree with the proposed scope of the EIS. We know that there is a highly involved group of users that recreate at the warm springs, and we encourage the Park to involve them in the process. As you know, Inyo County encourages access to its natural wonders, and we encourage the Park to strive to maintain and increase access to the project area through this process. The Saline Valley and the planning area are important to the County's history and culture – please address these issues in your process as well. Our General Plan provides the County's vision for access issues, as well as other topics that might be relevant to the Plan; the General Plan may be viewed online at http://inyoplanning.org/general_plan/goals.htm.

Thank you. If you have any questions, please contact the County's Administrative Officer at (760) 878-0292 or by email at kcarunchio@inyocounty.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marty Fortney".

Supervisor Marty Fortney, Chairperson
Inyo County Board of Supervisors

TIMBISHA SHOSHONE TRIBE



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Death Valley National Park
P.O. Box 579
Death Valley, California 92328



IN REPLY REFER TO:
RM A.2.

April 3, 2012

George Gholson, Chairman
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
621 W. Line St.
Suite 190
Bishop, CA 93514

Re: Saline Valley Warm Springs Management Plan/EIS

Dear Chairman Gholson:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning preparation of a Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Saline Valley Warm Springs area of Death Valley National Park. Currently, the Warm Springs area is not included in the park's General Management Plan published in 2002. This effort will result in a comprehensive management plan for resources in and visitor use of Saline Valley Warm Springs. Public scoping for the plan and EIS will likely begin in June 2012 and the plan will be completed no earlier than 2015.

The NPS is inviting the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe to be a cooperating agency on the EIS process to provide information in your areas of technical expertise, which will assist the NPS in making a more informed decision. The NPS will be inviting several other government agencies to participate in the development of the EIS as cooperating agencies, including BLM, the Inyo National Forest, and Inyo County.

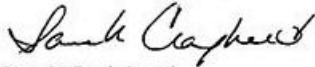
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Superintendent

Enclosure: Cooperating Agency Interest Form

cc: Mike Cipra, Environmental Protection Specialist
Kelly Fuhrmann, Resources Management Chief

US FOREST SERVICE



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Death Valley National Park
P.O. Box 579
Death Valley, California 92328



IN REPLY REFER TO:
RM A.2.

April 3, 2012

Ed Armenta
U.S. Forest Service
Inyo National Forest Supervisors Office
351 Pacu Lane
Bishop, CA 93514

Re: Saline Valley Warm Springs Management Plan/EIS

Dear Ed:

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The NPS is inviting the Inyo National Forest to be a cooperating agency on the EIS process to provide information in your areas of technical expertise, which will assist the NPS in making a more informed decision. The NPS will be inviting several other government agencies to participate in the development of the EIS as cooperating agencies, including BLM, the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, and Inyo County.

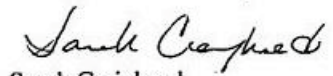
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