Death Valley National Park
Wilderness/Backcountry Users
Visitor Study
November, 2009

Dear Visitor:

Thank you for participating in this important study. Our goal is to learn about the expectations, opinions, and interests of backcountry/wilderness visitors to Death Valley National Park. This information will assist us in our efforts to prepare a Wilderness and Backcountry Stewardship Plan so we can better manage this park and to serve you, our visitor.

This questionnaire is only being given to a select number of visitors, so your participation is very important! It should only take about 20 minutes to complete after your visit.

When your visit is over, please complete this questionnaire. Seal it with the stickers provided on the last page and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Littlejohn, NPS VSP Director, Park Studies Unit, College of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 441139, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139, phone: 208-885-7863, email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Sarah Craighead
Superintendent
DIRECTIONS

At the end of your visit:

1) Please have the selected individual complete this questionnaire.
2) Answer the questions carefully since each question is different.
3) For questions that use circles (O), please mark your answer by filling in the circle with black or blue ink, or a #2 pencil.

   Like this: ●  Not like this: ✓ ☒ ☐

4) Seal it with the stickers provided.
5) Drop it in a U.S. mailbox.

Thank you!

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:
16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name is requested for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus the permanent data will be anonymous. Please do not put your name or that of any member of your personal group on the questionnaire. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Burden estimate statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 20 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to Margaret Littlejohn, NPS Visitor Services Project, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho, P.O. Box 441139, Moscow, ID, 83844-1139; email: littlej@uidaho.edu.
NOTE: In this questionnaire, your personal group is defined as anyone that you are visiting the park with, such as spouse, family, friends, etc. This does not include the larger group that you might be traveling with, such as school, church, scouts, or tour group.

1. a) Prior to your visit, how did you and your personal group obtain information about Death Valley National Park (NP)? Please mark (●) all that apply in column a.

   b) After you arrived at Death Valley NP, which sources did you and your personal group use to obtain information about the park? Please mark (●) all that apply in column b.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Prior to this visit</th>
<th>b) After arrival at Death Valley NP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O Did not obtain information prior to visit</td>
<td>Go to part b of this question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Previous visits</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Friends/relatives/word of mouth</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Newspaper/magazine articles</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Inquiry to park via phone, mail, or email</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Television/radio programs/videos</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Local businesses (hotels, motels, restaurants, etc.)</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Chamber of commerce/visitor’s bureau/state welcome center</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Hiking trails or SUV/Jeep road books</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Maps/brochures/park newspaper</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Death Valley NP website: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/deva">www.nps.gov/deva</a></td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Other websites</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O School class/program</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Park rangers</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Other (Please specify below)</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prior to __________________________ After arrival __________________________

c) From the sources you used prior to this visit, did you and your personal group receive the type of information about the park that you needed?

   O No O Yes Go to Question 2
d) If NO, what type of park information did you and your personal group need that was not available? Please be specific.

2. a) Prior to this visit, were you and your personal group aware that most of the undeveloped areas of Death Valley NP are protected as wilderness?
   O  Yes  O  No

   b) Visitors accessing the backcountry roads or wilderness are expected to follow “Leave No Trace” principles. Prior to your visit, were you and your personal group aware of “Leave No Trace” principles?
   O  Yes  O  No

   c) On this trip, did you and your personal group follow “Leave No Trace” principles while you were on backcountry roads or in the wilderness of Death Valley NP?
   O  Yes  O  No  O  Not sure

3. a) On this visit, did you or your personal group backpack overnight in the wilderness of Death Valley NP?
   O  Yes  O  No  ➔ Go to part e of this question

   b) If YES, did you get a voluntary backcountry camping permit?
   O  Yes  O  No

   c) If YES, where did you obtain the permit?  d) If NO, why didn’t you get a permit?

   e) Would you and your personal group support a free mandatory permit system to backpack overnight in the wilderness of Death Valley NP?
   O  Yes  O  No  ➔ Go to part g of this question

   f) If YES, where would you and your personal group prefer to obtain a permit?
   O  Visitor center  O  Trailhead  O  Online

   O  Other (Please specify) __________________________

   g) If you visit in the future, would you and your personal group be willing to pay for an overnight wilderness permit (e.g., $10/permit/group for up to 14 people)?
   O  Yes, likely  O  No, unlikely  O  Not sure

4. a) The maximum allowed group size in the wilderness is currently 15 people. What do you think the maximum group size should be?
   O  Smaller than 15  O  15 people  O  Larger than 15
b) If you answered “smaller” or “larger” above, what maximum allowed group size would you suggest? ______ Number of people

5. On this trip, what was the primary reason that you and your personal group came to Death Valley? Please mark (●) one.

- Visit scenic attractions (i.e. Badwater, Zabriskie Point, etc.)
- View or study desert plants or animals
- Enjoy recreation in the park (i.e. hiking, driving backcountry roads, etc.)
- Experience quiet and solitude
- Experience wilderness and open space
- Other (Please specify) ________________________________

6. a) On this trip, did you and your personal group stay overnight away from your permanent residence either inside Death Valley NP or within the nearby area (a two-hour drive outside of Death Valley NP)?

- Yes
- No ➔ Go to Question 7

b) If YES, please list the number of nights you and your personal group stayed in Death Valley NP and within a two-hour drive of the park.

______ Number of nights inside Death Valley NP

______ Number of nights in the area outside Death Valley NP (within two-hour drive)

c & d) In which types of lodging did you and your personal group spend the night(s) in Death Valley NP or in the area within a two-hour drive? Please mark (●) all that apply.

c) Inside Death Valley NP          d) Outside Death Valley NP (within two-hour drive)

- Lodge, hotel, motel, vacation rental, B&B, etc.
- RV/trailer camping
- Tent camping in developed campground
- Camping in a backcountry roadside campsite
- Backpacking in wilderness campsite
- Backcountry cabin
- Other (Please specify)

Other inside ___________________________ Other outside ___________________________
7. On this visit, how much time did you and your personal group spend at Death Valley NP? Please list partial hours or days as 1/4, 1/2, or 3/4.

______ Number of hours, if less than 24 hours
OR
______ Number of days, if 24 hours or more

8. a) On this visit, in which activities did you and your personal group participate within Death Valley NP? Please mark (●) all that apply.

- Attending ranger-led talks/programs
- Driving on backcountry dirt roads
- Camping overnight along backcountry dirt roads
- Backpacking overnight in wilderness
- Creative arts (photography/drawing/painting/writing, etc.)
- Experiencing solitude/quiet
- Viewing the dark night sky
- Picnicking
- Birdwatching
- Visiting the visitor center or museum
- Touring Scotty’s Castle
- Walking/hiking
- Viewing scenic attractions (i.e. Badwater, Dante’s View, etc.)
- Other (Please specify) ________________________________

b) Which one of the above activities was the most important to you and your personal group on this visit to Death Valley NP? Please list only one.

_____________________________________________________

9. a) On this visit, what was/were your destination(s) along the backcountry roads or in the wilderness of Death Valley NP?

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________
b) Why did you and your personal group choose the above destination(s)? Please mark (●) all that apply.

- O A favorite place to visit
- O Suggested by a ranger
- O Had never visited before
- O Suggested by a friend
- O Other (Please specify) ________________________________

c) How did you and your personal group access your destination? Please mark (●) all that apply.

- O Drove backcountry dirt roads
- O Hiked closed vehicle routes
- O Hiked established trails
- O Hiked cross-country routes
- O Other (Please specify) ________________________________

10. a) On this visit, how crowded was (were) the backcountry road(s) or wilderness location(s) that you and your personal group visited in Death Valley NP?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Backcountry roads or wilderness locations visited (Please specify)</th>
<th>How crowded?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not at all crowded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) If you marked "very crowded" or "extremely crowded" above, would you and your personal group support use restrictions to limit the number of visitors who use a given site at one time?

- O Yes
- O No
- O Not sure

11. a) On this visit, were the signs directing you and your personal group around the backcountry roads in Death Valley NP adequate?

- Backcountry road signs
  - O Yes
  - O No
  - O Did not use
- Trailhead signs
  - O Yes
  - O No
  - O Did not use

b) If you answered NO for the above, please explain.

- Backcountry road signs ________________________________
- Trailhead signs ________________________________
12. a) Please mark (●) all the visitor services and facilities that you and your personal group used at Death Valley NP during this visit.

b) Next, for only those services and facilities that you and your personal group used, please rate their importance to your visit from 1-5.

c) Finally, for only those services and facilities that you and your personal group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Visitor services/facilities used</th>
<th>b) If used, how important?</th>
<th>c) If used, what quality?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark (●)</td>
<td>1=Not important</td>
<td>1=Very poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2=Somewhat important</td>
<td>2=Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3=Moderately important</td>
<td>3=Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4=Very important</td>
<td>4=Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5=Extremely important</td>
<td>5=Very good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Access for people with disabilities
- Assistance from park staff
- Backcountry roads passable only to 4x4 vehicles
- Backcountry roads passable to vehicles without 4x4
- Open camping (non-designated sites)
- Directional signs on backcountry roads
- Developed campsites or campgrounds
- Trails
- Backcountry cabins
- Death Valley backcountry road map
- Park website: www.nps.gov/deva used before or during visit
- Picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Visitor center (other than restrooms)
13. Which tools did you and your personal group use to find your way through the Death Valley NP backcountry or wilderness? Please mark (●) all that apply.

- Global Positioning System (GPS) unit
- USGS topographic maps
- Death Valley NPS backcountry roads map
- Death Valley park brochure or park newspaper
- Other maps (e.g. Death Valley AAA, Tom Harrison, or Trails Illustrated)
- Other (Please specify) _________________________________

14. Death Valley NP was established to preserve and protect outstanding geological features and scenery while conserving natural and cultural resources, and allowing for public enjoyment of the resources. On this visit, how important were the following attributes/resources to you? Please mark (●) one answer for each attribute/resource.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute/resource</th>
<th>Not important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Moderately important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Extremely important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scenic views</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geologic features</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native animals</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native plants</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean water</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean air/visibility</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solitude</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural quiet/sounds of nature</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark, starry night sky</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic buildings/mining sites</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational opportunities</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational opportunities (hiking, camping, etc.)</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15. Were you and your personal group able to experience any of the following wilderness characteristics during your visit to Death Valley NP? Please mark (●) all that apply.

- [ ] Untrammeled (unrestricted/unrestrained) wilderness
- [ ] Undeveloped and natural lands
- [ ] Opportunities for solitude
- [ ] Opportunities for primitive camping
- [ ] Other (Please specify) ________________________________

16. a) What is your opinion about the number of developed hiking trails used to access the wilderness? Please mark (●) one.

- [ ] Current number of developed trails is adequate
- [ ] Number of developed trails should be increased
- [ ] Number of developed trails should be decreased

b) Comments about the number of developed trails: ________________________________

17. During this visit to Death Valley NP, please indicate how the following elements affected your park experience. Please mark (●) one response for each element.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Added to</th>
<th>No effect</th>
<th>Detracted from</th>
<th>Did not experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles on established roads</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of illegal off-road activity</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of mining activity</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility corridors</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft overflights</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trash along backcountry roadsides</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify below)</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18. a) Campfires are currently prohibited in the Death Valley NP wilderness. Do you think that wood campfires should be allowed at the park backcountry roadside campsites?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
b) If YES, would you be willing to bring and use a fire pan and remove your wood campfire ashes from the backcountry?

O  Yes  O  No

19. a) During this visit to Death Valley NP, did you and your personal group have any personal interaction with a park ranger?

O  Yes  O  No  ➔ Go to Question 20

b) If YES, please rate the quality of your interaction with the park ranger. Please mark (●) one response for each element.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Very poor</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Very good</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helpfulness</td>
<td></td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courteousness</td>
<td></td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of information provided</td>
<td></td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. a) Does anyone in your personal group have a physical condition that made it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services?

O  Yes  O  No  ➔ Go on to Question 21

b) If YES, what services or activities did the person(s) have difficulty accessing or participating in?

21. a) During this visit to Death Valley NP backcountry did you and your personal group visit any backcountry cabins?

O  Yes  O  No  ➔ Go on to Question 22

b) Please list cabins in which you and your personal group stayed on this visit.

c) Please list number of nights that you and your personal group spent in each cabin.

d) Please rate the condition of the cabin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>b) Cabin name</th>
<th>c) Number of nights</th>
<th>d) Cabin condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Very poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
22. a) During this visit to Death Valley NP backcountry roads or wilderness, was there anything that you or your group wanted to see or do but were unable to?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No ➔ Go on to Question 23

b) If YES, what was it?

_________________________________________________________________________________________

c) What prevented you from being able to see that feature or do that activity?

_________________________________________________________________________________________

23. On this visit, were you and your personal group part of one of the following types of organized groups?

a) Commercial guided tour group

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

b) School/educational group

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

c) Other group (scouts, work, church, etc.)

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

d) If you were with one of these organized groups, how many people, including yourself, were in this group?

_____ Number of people in organized group

24. a) On this visit, what kind of personal group (not guided tour/school/other organized group) were you with?

- [ ] Alone

- [ ] Friends

- [ ] Family

- [ ] Family and friends

- [ ] Other (Please specify) __________________________________________________________________

b) On this visit, how many people were in your personal group, including yourself?

_____ Number of people

c) On this visit, how many vehicles did you and your personal group use to arrive at the park?

_____ Number of vehicles

25. For you only, what is the highest level of education you have completed? Please mark (●) only one.

- [ ] Some high school

- [ ] Bachelor’s degree

- [ ] High school diploma/GED

- [ ] Graduate degree

- [ ] Some college
26. For you and your personal group on this visit, please provide the following. (If you do not know the answer, leave blank).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Current age</th>
<th>b) U.S. ZIP code or name of country other than U.S.</th>
<th>c) Number of lifetime visits to Death Valley NP (including this visit)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yourself</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member #2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member #3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member #4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member #5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member #6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member #7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

27. a) Are you or members of your personal group Hispanic or Latino? Please mark (●) one for each group member.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yourself</th>
<th>Member #2</th>
<th>Member #3</th>
<th>Member #4</th>
<th>Member #5</th>
<th>Member #6</th>
<th>Member #7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) What is your race? What is the race of each member of your personal group? Please mark (●) one or more for each group member.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Indian or Alaska Native</th>
<th>Yourself</th>
<th>Member #2</th>
<th>Member #3</th>
<th>Member #4</th>
<th>Member #5</th>
<th>Member #6</th>
<th>Member #7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
28. a) Which category best represents your annual **household** income before taxes? Please mark (●) only one.

- O Less than $24,999
- O $25,000-$34,999
- O $35,000-$49,999
- O $50,000-$74,999
- O $75,000-$99,999
- O $100,000-$149,999
- O $150,000-$199,999
- O $200,000 or more
- O Do not wish to answer

b) How many people are in your household? ______ Number of people

29. a) What did you and your personal group like **most** about your backcountry road or wilderness experience at Death Valley NP?

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

b) What did you and your personal group like **least** about your backcountry road or wilderness experience at Death Valley NP?

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

30. If you were a manager planning for the future of Death Valley NP’s backcountry roads and wilderness, what would you propose?

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

31. Is there anything else you and your personal group would like to tell us about your visit to Death Valley NP?

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

32. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the facilities, services, and recreational opportunities provided to you and your personal group at Death Valley NP during this visit? Please mark (●) one.

- O Very poor
- O Poor
- O Average
- O Good
- O Very good

Thank you for your help! Please seal the questionnaire with the stickers provided and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.