

*Type of Request:* Request for new clearance.

*Description of Need:* NPS needs information concerning park visitor demographics and visitor opinions about the fee demonstration program that the National Park Service is testing. The information proposed to be collected from visitors and park managers in these 13 parks to meet these needs is not available from existing records, sources, or observations.

*Automated Date Collection:* At the present time, there is no automated way to gather this information, since it includes asking visitors to react to fees, park management, and visitor services at the parks they are visiting. The intrusion on visitors is minimized by contacting them only once during their visit to the park.

*Description of Respondents:* A sample of visitors to each park.

*Estimated Average Number of Respondents:* 300 visitors per park at ten of the parks and 400 visitors per park at the other three parks.

*Estimated Average Number of Responses:* Each respondent will respond only one time, so the number of responses will be the same as the number of respondents.

*Estimated Average Burden Hours Per Response:* 20 minutes at each of the 10 parks and 30 minutes at each of the remaining 3 parks.

*Frequency of Response:* 1 time per respondent.

*Estimated Annual Reporting Burden:* The total for all parks is estimated to be 1,600 hours.

**Diane M. Cooke,**

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,  
WASO Administrative Program Center,  
National Park Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### 60-Day Notice of Intention To Request Clearance of Collection of Information—Opportunity for Public Comment

**AGENCY:** Department of the Interior, National Park Service, and 11 Units of the National Park System.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Cooperative Park Studies Unit of the University of Minnesota is proposing to conduct five projects at up to eleven parks during FY 98:

NPS unit	Estimated number re-sponses	Estimated burden hours
(1) Hopewell Culture National Historical Park .....	800	270
(2) Canyonlands National Park, Green and Colorado Rivers .....	1,200	600
(3) Voyageurs National Park .....	600	300
(4) Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial .....	400	135
(5) Great Plains Prairie Cluster parks, including:		
Agate Fossil Beds National Monument .....	250	85
Effigy Mounds National Monument .....	250	85
Homestead National Monument of America .....	250	85
Mount Rushmore National Memorial .....	250	85
Pipestone National Monument .....	250	85
Scotts Bluff National Monument .....	250	85
Wilson's Creek National Battlefield .....	250	85
Totals .....	4,750	1,900

Under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and 5 CFR Part 1320, Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements, the National Park Service is soliciting comments on the need for gathering the information in the proposed visitor studies listed above. The NPS is also asking for comments on the practical utility of the information being gathered; the accuracy of the burden hour estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden to respondents, including use of automated information collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The NPS goal in conducting these surveys generally is to identify characteristics, use patterns, perceptions, preferences and opinions of visitors about management and services in these parks. Each project will have a slightly different focus. Project 1, Hopewell Culture National Historical

Park, also will involve a survey mailed to community members to identify characteristics, perceptions and attitudes of people who do not visit the park. This information will help the park be more responsive to, and better serve, the local community. Projects 2 and 3, the Green and Colorado Rivers in Canyonlands National Park and park-wide in Voyageurs National Park, will obtain visitor reactions to managing conflicting uses, management strategies used in the parks, and definitions of standards for quality visitor experiences on both the Green and Colorado Rivers that flow through Canyonlands NP. Project 4, Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, will obtain visitor reactions to recent changes made in park management based on past research in the park. Project 5, Great Plains Prairie Cluster parks, will ask visitors to provide information that will contribute to the development of protocols for future monitoring to

identify trends. Results of all the surveys at all of the parks will be used by NPS managers in their ongoing planning and management activities to improve visitor services, protect park resources, and better serve the park's current and future visitors.

**DATES:** Public comments will be accepted on or before February 27, 1998.

*Send Comments To:* Dr. David W. Lime, Senior Research Associate, Cooperative Park Studies Unit, College of Natural Resources, 115 Green Hall, University of Minnesota, 55108, phone: 612-624-2250.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David W. Lime. Voice: 612-624-2250, Fax: 612-625-5212, Email: <dlime@forestry.umn.edu>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Visitor and Related Surveys at up to 11 Parks.

*Bureau Form Number:* None.

*OMB Number:* To be requested.

*Expiration Date:* To be requested.

*Type of Request:* Request for new clearance.

*Description of Need:* NPS needs information concerning park visitor demographics and visitor opinions about the services that the National Park Service provides. For Project (1), Hopewell Culture National Historical Park Visitor and Community Survey, NPS also needs information about the perceptions of people who do not visit the park to help the park be more responsive to community needs. For Projects 2&3, Canyonlands National Park (Green and Colorado Rivers) Visitor Study, and Voyageurs National Park Visitor Study, NPS also needs information about visitor perceptions of standards for achieving quality visitor experiences. For Project 4, Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial Visitor Study, NPS also needs information about how visitors are reacting to changes made in park management based on past research in the park. For Project 5, Great Plains Prairie Cluster Visitor Studies at 7 parks, NPS also needs information about visitor perceptions of standards for achieving quality visitor experiences. The information proposed to be collected from visitors in these parks and from community residents to meet these needs is not available from existing records, sources, or observations.

*Automated Data Collection:* At the present time, there is no automated way to gather this information, since it includes asking visitors to react to management and services at the parks they are visiting. The intrusion on visitors is minimized by contacting them only once during their visit to the park.

*Description of Respondents:* Project 1: A sample of visitors to the park and a sample of individuals from Ross County, Ohio. Projects 2&3: A sample of visitors on the Green and Colorado Rivers and at Voyageurs National Park. Projects 4&5: A sample of visitors to each park.

*Estimated Average Number of Respondents:* Project 1: 400 visitors contacted at the park and 400 residents of Ross county. Projects 2&3: 600 at each location. Project 4: 400. Project 5: 250 at each park.

*Estimated Average Number of Responses:* Each respondent will respond only one time, so the number of responses will be the same as the number of respondents.

*Estimated Average Burden Hours Per Response:* Projects 1, 4, and 5: 20 minutes. Projects 2&3: 30 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* 1 time per respondent.

*Estimated Annual Reporting Burden:* Project 1: 270 hours. Projects 2&3: 900 hours. Project 4: 135 hours. Project 5: 85 hours at each park for a total of 595 hours.

**Diane M. Cooke,**

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,  
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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[DES 97-46]

#### **Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the AT&T Corporation P140 Coaxial Cable Removal Project, Socorro County, New Mexico, Clark County, Nevada, and Kern and San Bernardino Counties, California**

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 the National Park Service announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Superintendent of Mojave National Preserve, is the Department of the Interior's designated lead federal agency official in accordance with 516 DM 2.4(A), the Bureau of Land Management, Riverside District Office, is the designated cooperating agency; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Ventura Office, is a coordinating agency. This notice also announces public meetings for the purpose of receiving public comments on the DEIS.

The National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a request from AT&T Corp. to remove portions of a telecommunications system, that is non-supportive to their fiber optic network and to relinquish associated rights-of-way easements. As jurisdictional agencies of federal lands crossed by the project, the NPS and the BLM are responsible for determining terms and conditions of any removal activity and rehabilitation actions to promote restoration of the land. AT&T owns and maintains approximately 709 miles of coaxial communications cable and equipment generally between Mojave, California and Socorro, New Mexico known as the P140 cable system consisting of underground cable, repeater huts, manholes, cable markers, other electronic equipment and access corridor. The project addresses a 220

mile portion of the system including 7.7 miles in New Mexico, 7.4 miles in Nevada, and 205.2 miles in California.

### Alternatives

The DEIS describes and analyzes four alternatives in response to AT&T's request to remove cable and to terminate the associated rights-of-way. The original right-of-way grants for public and state lands in New Mexico and private and state lands in California provide AT&T a right to remove cable and equipment; so it was necessary to assume cable and equipment removal in these areas. The proposed action, and two additional action alternatives have been developed to reduce or avoid adverse effects on desert vegetation, wilderness, the desert tortoise and recreational access. The No Action alternative is included as a baseline for comparison of the action alternatives. To varying degrees all action alternatives include cable and structure removal along with rehabilitation of the access corridor and repeater hut sites.

The No Action Alternative includes no cable or structural removal nor any rehabilitation action. AT&T would retain its right-of-way easements and would continue to patrol and maintain the access corridor. The Proposed Action-Alternative A, includes the removal of 174.5 miles of cable, repeater huts and manholes along 220 miles of the right-of-way. Removal of marker posts along 174.2 miles and elimination of 39.8 miles of the access corridor and 4 miles of dual track. In addition, the proposed action includes rehabilitation actions to promote restoration and habitat recovery at the repeater hut sites and along portions of the access corridor. Alternative B, was developed to protect desert tortoise critical habitat on federal lands by not removing cable from these areas and eliminating more of the access corridor within critical habitat. Cable would be removed along 113.7 miles outside of critical habitat on federal lands, repeater huts and manholes would be removed along 174.7 miles, and 51.6 miles of the access corridor and 4 miles of dual track would be eliminated and rehabilitated. Alternative C, was developed to minimize construction related impacts on desert vegetation and desert tortoise on federal lands by not removing any cable on federal lands and by eliminating the access corridor in wilderness areas only. Cable would be removed along 72.3 miles on primarily state and private lands. Repeater huts and manholes would be removed along 220 miles, marker posts would be removed along 174.7 miles, and 5.4 miles of the access corridor and 4 miles