



February 25, 2019

Death Valley National Park  
ATTN: Rogers Peak Environmental Assessment  
P.O. Box 579  
Death Valley, CA 92328

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Rogers Peak Multi-Use Instrumentation and Communications Facility Environmental Assessment. Friends of the Inyo is a locally based nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to the stewardship, exploration and preservation of the Eastern Sierra's public lands and wildlife, including Death Valley National Park. Over our 30-year history, Friends of the Inyo has become an active partner with the National Park Service and other public lands agencies. Friends of the Inyo's comments represent a local and regional membership of over 800 and thousands of supporters and volunteers who care about the landscapes and values of the Eastern Sierra and the California Desert.

Because the summit of Rogers Peak has a 2 ½-acre area of non-wilderness where construction of permanent structures and the summit has been used for communications infrastructure since 1959 we understand the agency must consider these right of way permits. We ask NPS to refine the right of way permits to specifically minimize impacts to wilderness character and visual resources as much as possible. Because the current towers are not very visible, two 99 feet towers and the Navy Radome will be a significant visual change with impacts to wilderness character surrounding the summit. We recommend the NPS work with CalTrans and AT&T to reduce the height of both towers and require the painting of all structures with colors that will blend into the surrounding landscape. Regardless of the past impacts this site as had in the past, future projects need to be planned to align with the Park Service's mission with a focus on minimizing impacts to park resources including but not limited to wilderness, wildlife, dark skies and visitor experience. This may be an opportunity for the Park to address impacts and improve this communication site to better protect the natural resources of the park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jora Fogg'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

Jora Fogg  
Policy Director