

OPPOSE RS 2477 CLAIMS IN NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDERNESS

Background:

Inyo Co., California, has filed a complaint in a US District Court against the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service asserting a "claim to quiet title" for a number of alleged roads in Death Valley National Park. If this suit were to succeed, the National Park Service would be ordered to remove barriers, cease interfering with alleged traditional use of each road, and allow the county to maintain, widen, and improve these "highways."

Besides the immediate damage to Death Valley National Park, this would set a legal precedent that could threaten all national parks and wilderness. It is hoped that the court will find in favor of the Park Service and the several conservation groups that have intervened, including the Sierra Club. However, other counties may be encouraged by the action of Inyo county to file similar suits.

Resolution:

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs strongly opposes any RS2477 suit in any national park or designated wilderness.