

**Letter #:** 205  
**Date Received:** 12/20/2022  
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**Organizations:**  
**Subject:** Proposed SEIS Guidelines

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Dear Project Manager:

As a career Psychologist and Executive Coach for optimal functioning, I am an avid supporter of environmental experiential recreation opportunities as a necessity for optimal health and well-being. The recent international health crises have only increased public awareness of the importance of nature in increasing health and immunity. Additionally, multiple avenues of research into health and well-being, show that nature and experiences of awe and wonder, that natural experiences engender, increase mental, physical and spiritual health. Additionally, these experiences open access to higher brain centers, innovative thinking, thinking out of the box for creative problem solving, increase feelings of oneness, contributions to charity, and increase valuation of the importance of equity for all of our citizens.

Not only do I personally enjoy recreating on public lands and waters, but I also recognize the far reaching benefits of our incredible national parks and recreation opportunities for the health of our nation. The current and historical parks systems have a legacy of many generations of families that have improved their quality of life through the environmental experiences shared in our National Parks and Recreation areas. Lake Mead National Recreation Area has been a gem cherished by our family for 5 generations, and for the past 49 years, has been an integral "home" for myself and my family to enjoy quality, health enhancing experiences.

With both my direct personal experience, and my professional knowledge from 35 years as a Psychologist in public and private community mental health, I strongly advocate for the continuation of excellent National Park and Recreation Areas with equitable access to all citizens.

I have been quite alarmed that when the public need for more environmental experiences is increasing daily, services in our National parks and recreation areas are actually being cut. Closing ramps and limiting private access to public lands is decreasing equitable access for seniors and young families and those with disabilities. While I personally enjoy non-motorized activities such as kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming and hiking, the limitation of motorized access to public waters, will definitely limit large numbers of people from their rights to access the incredible water experiences that have been historically available at reservoirs such as Lake Mead and Lake Powell.

I am also deeply aware of the importance of water for all of life, and thus, I also recognize the importance of the reservoirs and dams in the Colorado River Basin for providing a reliable source of water and energy. As population demands increase, I am grateful for forward thinking processes that will assess sustainability opportunities and seek the appropriate balance and proper use of our most precious environmental resource of Water!

I am writing to advocate for more efforts, and more time to consider the implications of all proposals involving the sustainable and equitable, balanced use of water resources, so that the decisions being made will prove to continue the quality of life over time.

I support the BlueRibbon Coalition's Path to 3588' Plan as it will address low water levels in Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

As the Bureau of Reclamation creates alternatives, BOR needs to strongly consider the needs of recreational users and balance these needs along with the interests of other water users. Outdoor recreation generates billions of dollars each year, sustaining many local economies surrounding the Lake. NPS estimates that both Lake Mead and Lake Powell produce almost \$500 million in direct economic impact to gateway communities, and we estimate that the broader impact is measured in billions. This economic impact dwarfs the economic impact created by power. By developing a "recreation alternative" BOR will also have a plan that allows for better water level buffers that are needed to prevent reaching the points of lost power generation capacity and/or dead pool.

We are already starting to see unthinkable impacts to recreation because of the lack of viable guidelines for addressing shortages in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Regarding Lake Mead the National Park Service is considering the closure of each major marina on Lake Mead, I do not support any of the proposals identified in Concept 3 of the NPS plan that would remove all infrastructure and facilities. Concept 3 completely ignores the current and future needs of the public and should not be considered. I strongly support any concept proposed by NPS that makes the necessary adaptations to keep as many facilities open to serve as many members of the public as possible.

Sincerely,

Robin Bradley

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[REDACTED]