

**Letter #:** 206  
**Date Received:** 12/20/2022  
**Sender Names:** 758: Candice Hayes  
**Emails:** 758: Management@boatinglakemead.com  
**Organizations:** Gripentog Enterprises, Inc., dba Dry Dock Boat Sales / dba Marine Center of Las Vegas  
**Subject:** Proposed SEIS Guidelines

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear Project Manager:

Gripentog Enterprises, Inc., dba Dry Dock Boat Sales / dba Marine Center of Las Vegas, a So. Nevada based, family-owned & operated business, has been at the forefront of the boating industry for over 65 years. The continued operation of concessions, services, launch ramps, & available access to Lake Mead NRA is by far the most important need. Motorized boating is of the largest experience of the millions of visitors. Recent developments regarding the future of Lake Mead NRA from the NPS compel us to bring & drive awareness, even in the face of loss of business because of these disastrous proposals.

The BOR needs to take action due to declining water levels in reservoirs. I encourage the BOR & NPS to consider the recreation interests of Lake Mead & Powell. I believe BOR & NPS need to protect the future of recreation & motorized access on the reservoirs. If NPS chooses to not build new infrastructure or maintain current resources based on low water levels it could jeopardize or completely eliminate the recreational experience of over 11 million visitors to Lake Mead & Powell.

As a long-time marine sales & service leader & promoter of recreational boating on our treasured lake, we are concerned decisions are being made without all factors & affected parties being considered. The following list is not exhaustive nor fully inclusive; rather, it should be considered the beginning of a conversation with the various parties who are affected by these decisions.

- ? BOR needs to keep Lake Mead water flow stabilized on the Colorado River System. All efforts must be made to maintain current levels & not be allowed to fall below current levels.
- ? BOR needs to develop alternatives that support current recreational opportunities & analyze future infrastructure needs in support of growing recreational demands.
- ? Gripentog Enterprises, Inc., supports Path to 3588' for Lake Powell, in no small part because its proposals are contingent upon healthy & stable lake levels for Lake Mead.
- ? The seven states that are part of the Colorado River System must be held to new & better standards regarding current drought conditions in the Southwestern US. Among these must include reduction in water allocations, increase of current & new water conservation efforts, & greater public awareness.
- ? NPS must commit to keeping launch ramps, campgrounds, services, concessions, & infrastructure maintained & kept in place for all visitors now & future. It is important for NPS to recognize that Lake Mead is a National RECREATION Area; a place open for RECREATION for all visitors. Over seven million people visit Lake Mead NRA every year, more visitors annually than Grand Canyon NP, Yosemite NP, Yellowstone NP, & Zion NP. NPS must also recognize what a crucial factor that motorized recreational boating is to those seven million + visitors & how highly important is to their daily lives.
- ? Lake Mead is an economic driver for So. Nevada. The estimated economic impact of Lake Mead visitation is over \$500 million annually plus an additional billion dollars in indirect impact in surrounding communities.
- ? NPS should follow the 2018 amendment to the General Mgmt Plan until the lake reaches 950. There is not sufficient data that shows NPS needs to create a different plan because of the "faster decreasing water levels".

? NPS needs to keep the multitude of businesses who depend on Lake Mead NRA being open in mind with regard to NPS's commitments to Lake Mead.

Again, the above list should not be considered the only subjects we seek to address. They are merely components in a larger conversation. Gripentog Enterprises, Inc., stands with the plethora of businesses in So. Nevada who seek a resolution that continues keeping Lake Mead NRA open to the millions of visitors who seek refuge & recreation annually. The economic impact of a shutdown of the park would be nothing short of devastating. As such, we are requesting an extension of the public commentary period along with more opportunities for further discussions with the BOR, NPS & regional businesses & the public.

Furthermore, Gripentog Enterprises completely & wholly support Blue Ribbon Coalition's recommendations & proposals for the Colorado River System. In the long run, we think 3588 feet is a better target elevation for Lake Powell & an elevation between 1050-1075 is a better elevation for Lake Mead to meet the demand for recreation on the lake in a way that also protects the power generation & water right interests.

Lastly, we seek a continuing dialogue moving forward with the relevant parties to address plans to continue promoting recreational opportunities in for the future. We formally request the opportunity to be part of these discussions & the decision-making process with NPS. Our experience with the lake & the public & our commitment as a family business are invaluable.

Sincerely,

Candice Hayes  
4290 Boulder Highway  
Las Vegas, NV 89121-3006