

**Letter #:** 438  
**Date Received:** 12/20/2022  
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**Organizations:**  
**Subject:** Proposed SEIS Guidelines

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Dear Project Manager:

I lived & worked on Lake Mead for years. The lake is the life blood of the boating & outdoor recreation community in So. Nevada.

Boating is a way of life passed down in many families from generations. It puts all kinds of money in the area. Giving young people a way of life, that the parents and grandparents had and still want to enjoy.

Colorado river - needs revamped regulations on flow control.  
Reservoirs need to be leveled.

Flow needs to be updated to work with the current conditions & change to what is considered new average.

Marinas, campgrounds, services & more need to be able to continue business. The concepts presented are not good enough for a National recreation Area. Launch ramps need to be maintained and kept for public use.

Shutting down boating and services would kill Lake Mead and many businesses and steal an important recreational opportunity for all us.

Furthermore, I have enjoyed recreating on public lands and waters. I also recognize the importance of the reservoirs and dams in the Colorado River Basin for providing a reliable source of water and energy. I recognize that this message is being sent to both agencies, because even though each agency is conducting a separate planning process, the two plans are interrelated.

I believe the BOR needs to take action due to declining water levels in reservoirs. I encourage the BOR & NPS to consider the recreation interests of Lakes. 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 7 million visitors to Lake Mead and 4 million to Lake Powell.

BOR may need to take unprecedented actions in order to preserve water levels in Lake Powell & Mead. I support the BlueRibbon Coalition's Path to 3588' Plan as it will address low water levels in Lake Powell & Mead. This plan is a common sense path that balances the needs of all the water users in the basin. By adjusting outflows against actual inflows and current lake levels in Lake Mead & Powell, this plan creates a sustainable path forward for adaptively managing these reservoirs instead of managing them headlong into a crisis. I oppose BOR's current path of liquidating these reservoirs to the point of crisis. The substantial pain at the end of the path BOR is currently on will be far worse than the minor temporary pain required now to correct course.

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. These communities rely on continued recreation access to Lake Powell and Mead for

continued economic growth. These communities, which include neighboring Tribal Nations, would suffer significant losses if recreation is lost or decreased due to water elevation levels. As launch ramps & marinas close due to water levels, businesses are hurt and economic losses impact the entire region surrounding the Lake. NPS estimates that both Lake Mead & 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 & Mead. Regarding Lake Mead the NPS 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 & future needs of the public and should not be considered. However, NPS says this alternative in the planning process is necessary in the case that BOR adopts a plan for managing lake levels that doesn't do what is necessary to keep both lakes at higher levels. 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.

I hope BOR & NPS will include analysis of the economic importance of recreation in addition to feedback on power generation & water deliveries. Because there are so many variables affecting the lake's elevation such as precipitation, snowpack, runoff, release volumes, & other reservoir elevations the Bureau needs to consider changing the "target" elevation. In the long run, I think 3588 feet is a better target elevation for Powell and an elevation between 1050 and 1075 is a better elevation for Mead.

Sincerely,

Patricia Gripenotog

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