

Letter #: 446
Date Received: 12/20/2022
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Organizations:
Subject: Protect Lake Powell and support BRC 3588 Plan

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Dear Project Manager:

Lake Powell is a special place for our family. We have been house-boating there for over 20 years and its the site of countless treasured memories. The stunning landscape and unexpected adventures are things I look forward to enjoying and sharing with my children for years to come. Nothing beats watching your kid discover an echo in a slot canyon, a bonfire that lights up the red face of a cliff or a sunrise reflected in the glassy water. I love Lake Powell and I'd hate to see it become a place inaccessible to recreation users.

The Bureau of Reclamation needs to take action due to declining water levels in reservoirs. I believe BOR needs to protect the future of recreation and motorized access on the reservoirs. I worry that if the reservoirs aren't stabilized at a higher level, then National Park Service might choose to close and decommission recreation infrastructure.

I support the BlueRibbon Coalition's Path to 3588' Plan as it will address low water levels in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. This plan is a common sense path that balances the needs of all the water users in the basin.

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

I hope BOR will consider the economic and emotional impact of recreation on Lake Powell and make sure it is there for us to enjoy in the future.

Sincerely,

Kelli Millett
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]