

**Letter #:** 465  
**Date Received:** 12/20/2022  
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**Organizations:**  
**Subject:** Proposed SEIS Guidelines

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Dear Project Manager:

I've been going to Lake Mead and Lake Powell for decades. I was there camping on the shore with my family in the Overton Arm on the day the water rushed over the spillway and overflowed the Colorado River in 1983. I could go on for pages with stories and experiences I've had on those bodies of water, but I'll get right to it.

If you look at the geographical map of the lake and surrounding states there is one solution or option that I think will meet the needs of all parties involved in this crisis. There are 3 major arms or "basins" used for recreation at Lake Mead. Leave marinas and maintain or build new launch ramps at Hemingway and Temple Bar, and move Calville "On water marina and services" to Echo Bay. This allows all visitors from all over the country to have an entry point for full access and activities the lake has to offer.

Not maintaining the other smaller, obscure ramps that don't already have infrastructure existing like the 3 mentioned above, will help fund the upkeep of the 3 equally spread out trailer villages, marinas, ramps, and fueling services already in place.

I believe the Bureau of Reclamation needs to take action due to declining water levels in reservoirs. I encourage the Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service to consider the recreation interests of Lake Mead and Lake Powell. I believe BOR and NPS need to protect the future of recreation and 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 visitors to Lake Powell.

As launch ramps and marinas close due to water levels, businesses are hurt, as well as hundreds of good people who for decades have made it their passion to provide all recreational activities our reservoirs have to offer. 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 the billions.

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.

Because there are so many variables affecting the lake's elevation such as precipitation, snowpack, runoff, release volumes, and other reservoir elevations the Bureau needs to consider changing the "target" to a "minimum" elevation below. 3588 feet is a better target elevation for Lake Powell and an elevation of 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 and water right interests.

DO THE RIGHT THING!!!!

Sincerely,

Benjamin Cirillo

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]