

Letter #: 95
Date Received: 12/13/2022
Sender Names: 65: Andy Freeman
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Organizations:
Subject: Proposed SEIS Guidelines

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Dear Project Manager:

Access to boating is the most important in the world to me, my wife, my kids and my lake friends. It's the place that we love the most to spend time together outside in beautiful nature having good wholesome fun. Everything I do in my life revolves around boating. I moved to Las Vegas 25 years ago for Lake Mead. I used to compete in wakeboarding, and wake surfing competitions. I own a houseboat and 2 Malibu wake boats. I spend every weekend through the summer on my houseboat camping, surfing, wakeboarding and tubing with family and friends. I own two Malibu wake boats because if my new boat goes in the shop for repairs (which averages 3- 7 weeks to get in) I have another boat to use so I don't miss any time on the lake. That's how important this is to me and why I have 1/2 million dollars invested in boats.

Question 2:

Given your response to Question #1 regarding important experiences for you and future visitors, what barriers might get in the way of enjoying or visiting Lake Mead National Recreation Area? What barriers might prevent you from achieving your desired experiences?

The only thing that would ever stop me from boating and getting my desired experience is if NPS takes away my access and does not fulfill their obligation to continue extending the launch ramps. NPS has done a great job at Hemenway and must continue to extend launch ramps all the way down to 950 feet as stated in the FONSI Lake Mead Low Water Plan that was established in March of 2019. See link below.

file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/FONSI%20Lake%20Mead%20Low%20Water%20Plan.pdf

As identified in the park's enabling legislation, Lake Mead National Recreation Area was established for the general purposes of PUBLIC RECREATION, benefit, and use, including bathing (swimming), BOATING, camping, and picnicking. The NPS, as the lead Federal agency, prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to provide a long-term strategy for addressing operational needs to maintain lake access and to provide safe and diverse recreational opportunities at lake elevations above 950 feet. The NPS has proposed to maintain existing facilities and services at or near their current locations to the maximum extent possible to maintain current marina capacity spread across current locations; and to maintain overall opportunities for visitors to access the lake even if some specific facilities may change. Let's do whatever it takes to stick to this plan.

It would be morally unethical to close the marinas as it would leave us houseboat owners and other large vessels nowhere to keep/maintain our boats and no way to get them out of the water causing us to lose our huge investments that we all worked so hard for. All the abandoned boats would have a negative impact on the environment.

It would be morally unethical to close the marinas and launch ramps because it will not only put all the marinas out of business, but it will also put all the Las Vegas / Henderson boat dealerships, boat repair shops etc out of businesses destroying countless lives and livelihoods of business owners and their employees. Lake Mead NRA hosts approximately 8 million visitors annually and provides \$336 million to the regional economy, supporting nearly 4,200 jobs which would all be lost. : (Option 1 is the only option but

it's still needs improvement. Option 2 and 3 destroy countless lives. This is our recreation area. It belongs to the people.

Question 3:

Please provide input on the preliminary management concepts. What do you recommend the planning team consider, to address barriers and/or key issues, given the rapid decline in water levels?

Invest in portable launch ramps. Hire Contractors to extend launch ramps. We need funding to do whatever it takes to keep the launch ramps and marinas open even if it means increasing prices for park entrance and season passes. We need a super intendant who cares and advocates for our lake access.

Question 4:

What actions is the park currently taking to manage these issues that you'd like to see continue?

Extending launch ramps and infrastructure.

Question 5:

Other thoughts you'd like to share with the project team?

What if this was your livelihood on the line? What if this was your life's passion/dream being taken away from you? What if it was your six-figure investment being taken away from you at no fault of your own?

Sincerely,

Andy Freeman

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[REDACTED]