

**Letter #:** 991  
**Date Received:** 12/16/2022  
**Sender Names:** 541: Kim Lawrence  
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**Organizations:**  
**Subject:** I support the 3588 plan for the Proposed SEIS Guidelines

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Dear Project Manager:

I am now retired, but I was a Water Attorney in Colorado for 40 years. I primarily represented Water Districts that provide irrigation water for farmers and small towns in Colorado that provide municipal drinking and irrigation water. For that reason I know the importance of the reservoirs and dams in the Colorado River Basin for providing a reliable source of water and energy. I am writing to provide feedback for the Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the Colorado River Interim Guidelines. In addition to my professional experience, our family has been recreating at Lake Powell, every year since, 1983. We first rented houseboats at Bullfrog and Halls Crossing. After a few years we bought into a shared ownership houseboat. We have had several houseboats over the years and now are part owners of Calypso, a houseboat at Antelope Point.

Last year we were unable to launch our watercraft at Antelope Point because of the low water level. We had to launch them at Wawheap and ferry them up to Antelope Point and we made the same reverse trip when we departed. A real waste of fuel both for our vehicles and our watercraft. It is 22 miles from Antelope Point to Page, Arizona by land and 5-6 miles by water. I believe BOR needs to protect the future of recreation and motorized access on the reservoirs. The inability to recreate on Lake Powell would be an unimaginable impact on our family as our annual trip to Lake Powell is a vacation 14-15 of us can share like no where else. In addition we would stand to lose the \$155,000.00 we invested to purchase Unit #5 on Calypso.

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. By adjusting outflows against actual inflows and current lake levels in the reservoirs, this plan creates a sustainable path forward for adaptively managing these reservoirs instead of managing them headlong into a crisis.

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. The residents of Page, Arizona would be devastated if the recreation use was terminated as would the Navajo Nation as Antelope Point Marina provides hundreds of good jobs. The Navajo Nation has already faced the loss of the coal generation plant near Page. Both 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. 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 include analysis of the economic importance of recreation in addition to feedback on power

generation and water deliveries. 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" elevation. If assumptions about just one of the variables is wrong, that would lead to a crisis. As a water attorney I worked closely with water engineers and I know that hydrology is not an exact science and that the best assessments, assumptions or guesses are often wrong. A healthy buffer needs to be included in the target elevation to account for what will be inevitable miscalcuations, year to year. In the long run 3588 feet is a better target elevation for Lake Powell and an elevation between 1050 and 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.

Sincerely,

Kim Lawrence

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