

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, General Management Plan Amendment for Visitor & Learning Center Great Basin National Park, White Pine County, NV; Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: Pursuant to § 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has prepared a draft supplemental environmental impact statement to amend the General Management Plan assessing the potential impacts of a proposal to construct a new Visitor/Learning Center on National Park Service administered lands north of the town of Baker, Nevada. The existing General Management Plan called for the construction of a visitor center within the park on Baker Ridge. This conservation planning and environmental impact analysis effort to date has identified and analyzed three alternatives (and appropriate mitigation strategies) for the location of the park's Visitor/Learning Center. The park announced the initiation of the scoping process for this DSEIS on December 2, 1999 in the **Federal Register**.

Proposal and Alternatives: The draft supplemental environmental impact statement (DSEIS) includes three alternatives, including the "no action" (existing conditions) alternative. The No Action Alternative assumes that the location of the Visitor/Learning Center would remain unchanged from the existing General Management Plan. The Preferred Alternative amends the General Management Plan to allow locating the new Visitor/Learning Center outside of the main park area, in the town of Baker, Nevada. The Third Alternative amends the General Management Plan to eliminate the Baker Ridge Visitor Center and to maintain the current Lehman Caves Visitor Center as the only orientation facility.

Comments: Printed or CD-ROM copies of the DSEIS are available for public review; in addition the document is posted on the park website at www.nps.gov/grba. Inquiries may be directed to: Superintendent, Great Basin National Park, Baker, Nevada, 89311, or telephone (775) 234-7331. Interested individuals, organizations, and agencies wishing to provide comments are encouraged to address these to the Superintendent, Great Basin National Park. All written comments must be postmarked not later than 60 days from

the date the EPA publishes its notice of filing of the DSEIS in the **Federal Register** (as soon as this date has been determined it will be announced on the park web site).

If individuals submitting comments request that their name or/and address be withheld from public disclosure it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There may also be circumstances wherein the NPS will withhold a respondent's identity as allowable by law. As always: NPS will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations and businesses; and, anonymous comments may not be considered.

Public Meetings: One public meeting will be held in Baker, Nevada. Confirmed details as to specific date and time will be announced in the local newspaper, available at the internet site identified above, or can be obtained by calling the park at (775) 234-7331.

Decision: After the formal DSEIS review period has concluded, all comments and suggestions received will be considered in preparing the final SEIS. Currently the final SEIS is anticipated in the Summer of 2002; its availability will be similarly announced in the **Federal Register**. Subsequently a Record of Decision would be executed no sooner than 30 (thirty) days after the release of the final SEIS. As a delegated EIS, the official responsible for approval is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region; subsequently the official responsible for implementation will be the Superintendent, Great Basin National Park.

Dated: March 21, 2002.

Patricia L. Neubacher,
Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Management Plan; Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Mohave County, AZ and Clark County, NV; Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190, as amended), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR part 1500-1508), the National Park Service (NPS), Department of the Interior, has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS)

assessing the potential impacts of the proposed Lake Management Plan for Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The DEIS describes and analyzes four alternatives to improve the management of Lakes Mead and Mohave to provide for the long-term protection of park resources while allowing a range of recreational opportunities to support visitor needs.

Specifically, this environmental impact statement evaluates four alternatives for managing the waters and associated shoreline areas of Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Each alternative identifies proposed actions related to recreational opportunity zoning and shoreline zoning, developed areas, facilities and recreational services, recreational conflicts, sanitation and litter, resource protection, and park operations.

This document also is used to make reasoned decisions about whether to continue personal watercraft use at Lake Mead NRA. NPS will make the determination based on the unit's enabling statute, mission, management objectives, resources, values, and other uses, as well as impacts from personal watercraft on the unit (65 FR 15,078—2000). In addition, this DEIS evaluates personal watercraft use within Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Consistent with *Bluewater Network v. Stanton*, No. CV02093 (D.D.C. 2000) and the settlement agreement approved by the court on April 11, 2001, the DEIS includes an evaluation of various personal watercraft use alternatives to determine their effects on water quality, air quality, soundscapes, wildlife, wildlife habitat, shoreline vegetation, visitor conflicts, safety, and other appropriate topics.

Scoping

Public meetings were initiated in January, 1993 to solicit early input into the scope and range of issues to be analyzed. A notice of intent announcing the decision to prepare the Lake Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement was published in the **Federal Register** on May 3, 1993. Between January 1993 and September 2000, a series of public scoping meetings were held throughout the area to solicit early input into the scope and range of issues to be analyzed. Scoping comments continued to be accepted and considered until December 2001.

During this comment period, the NPS facilitated over 100 discussions and briefings to park staff, congressional delegations, elected officials, tribal representatives, public service organizations, educational institutions, and other interested members of the