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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Lake Mead NRA General Management Plan completed in 1986 establishes land based management zones and strategies for meeting those goals. Since that time, management issues have surfaced that have not been adequately addressed or resolved in the previous planning efforts. These issues relate to the increase in recreational use of the lakes, visitor conflicts and safety, potential impacts on park resources from water-related recreation and personal watercraft use. The overall objective of this lake management plan is to improve the management of Lakes Mead and Mohave, while providing for the long-term protection of park resources and allowing a range of recreational opportunities to support visitor needs.

*Proposal:* The preferred alternative has been modified in the Lake Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement. There have been modifications made to the lake zoning and carrying capacity sections and the uses allowed in the primitive and semiprimitive zones. The temporal zoning in Black Canyon and the boating in proximity sections of the plan have also been revised.

The Lake Management Plan (Alternative C—Preferred) would allow for a slight increase in boating levels (5,055 boats at any one time). Facility expansion could occur at Cottonwood Cove on Lake Mohave and at Callville Bay, Echo Bay, Overton Beach and Temple Bar on Lake Mead. Additional public launch facilities could be constructed at Eldorado Canyon along Lake Mohave and at Stewarts Point on Lake Mead. A new road could be constructed to provide improved access to the north shore of the Boulder Basin on Lake Mead.

The park waters would be managed for a range of recreational settings from primitive to urban. Five percent of the park waters would be managed for primitive and semiprimitive settings, 39% for rural natural, 21% for urban natural and 35% as urban park. The primitive areas would be managed for non-motorized use but would allow electric trolling motors and semiprimitive areas would be managed for flat wake speed or with a horsepower restriction. Personal watercraft would be prohibited from operating in primitive and semiprimitive settings but authorized to

operate in rural natural, urban natural and urban park settings.

Black Canyon would be managed for temporal recreational settings with two days per week being primitive (no motors) and five days per week between Labor Day and Memorial Day as semiprimitive. In Black Canyon where there is a constant river current, the semiprimitive zone flat wake restriction is replaced with an engine size restriction of 65-horsepower or less. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Black Canyon would be managed as rural natural allowing generally unrestricted boating access five days per week (due to the narrow canyon environment, houseboats, wake boarding and water skiing are prohibited).

In consultation with the States of Arizona and Nevada, a 200-foot flat wake zone would be established around beaches frequented by bathers, boats at the shoreline and persons in the water or at the shoreline. This is to establish a safe shoreline environment for shoreline users. The National Park Service will work with the respective states to develop uniform boating laws on Lakes Mead and Mohave and pursue mandatory boating education programs. Alcohol consumption while operating a boat would be prohibited.

Sanitation and public education requirements would be implemented and a clean-up program initiated. Glass beverage containers and styrofoam would be prohibited within the park. Water quality would be enhanced by requiring all boaters camping overnight to possess a marine head or portable toilet.

The Environmental Protection Agency regulation requiring the marine industry to improve the efficiency of engines by the year 2006 would be accelerated at Lake Mead NRA; requiring exclusive use of the new direct injection two-stroke engines, or equivalent, for motorized vessels starting 2012.

This alternative was identified at the environmentally preferred alternative as it best meets the requirement of section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act. It would help provide a wide range of beneficial uses without degradation and would improve the safety of the recreation area. This alternative would preserve important aspects of our natural heritage while providing an environment that supports diversity and a variety of individual choices.

*Alternatives:* *Alternative A* maintains the status quo Lake Mead NRA, as described in chapter 3, Affected Environment. It provides a baseline from which to compare other

alternatives, to evaluate the magnitude of proposed changes, and to measure the environmental effects of those changes. Under this alternative, management would continue to follow the 1986 General Management Plan zoning and capacities. By taking no new management actions including the promulgation of a personal watercraft rule, this alternative results in a permanent ban of personal watercraft use.

*Alternative B* would cap the number of boats at any one time at the current level (4,393 boats at any one time). No facilities would be expanded and no new launch ramps would be constructed. Ten percent of the park waters would be managed for primitive and semi-primitive settings. Personal watercraft would be authorized to operate in the rural natural, urban natural and urban park settings. A 100-foot flat wake zone would be established around the shoreline of both Lakes Mead and Mohave. Sanitation and litter initiatives would be improved but boats camping overnight would not be required to possess a porta-potty or marine toilet. All boat engines including personal watercraft would be required to meet the 2006 EPA manufacturer standards. Upon the approval of the plan, all engines not meeting these standards would be prohibited from operating on the waters of Lake Mead NRA.

*Alternative D* would provide for a greater increase in boating activity (5,800 boats at any one time). Facility expansion would be similar to *Alternative C* but allow larger increases in the marina slip and rental craft numbers. None of the park waters would be zoned for primitive or semiprimitive settings and there would be no restriction on personal watercraft use. A 300-foot flat wake zones would be established around the shoreline of both Lakes Mead and Mohave. Alcohol consumption while operating a boat would be prohibited and glass and Styrofoam containers would be prohibited. The National Park Service would require all Lake Mead and Mohave boaters to take a boater education course. Boaters camping overnight would be required to possess a porta-potty or marine head. There would be no restriction on the use on carbureted two-stroke engines.

*Planning Background:* The Lake Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) were prepared by the National Park Service (NPS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. A scoping notice was published in the **Federal Register** on May 3, 1993. General issues