



Dear Friends,

The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is beginning work on a management plan and environmental impact statement (EIS) for eight wilderness units within and adjacent to Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada. Three of these areas have portions that are located on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Because the majority of the wilderness areas are located within Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the National Park Service has taken the lead in the planning process. However, this will be a NPS-BLM collaborative effort, which will result in a more thorough, consistent plan.

Many of the nation's most outstanding natural and undisturbed areas are preserved as wilderness. Both the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management are dedicated to preserving and interpreting the resources and values associated with congressionally designated wilderness.

The wilderness management plan will establish the overall direction for the wilderness areas for the next 15 to 20 years, providing long-term direction for preserving the character of the wilderness areas, while also providing for the use and enjoyment of the areas by current and future generations. Additionally, the plan will provide accountability, consistency, and continuity for the management of the wilderness areas in the NPS and BLM wilderness management programs.

In April 2010, a draft wilderness management plan / environmental assessment for the eight wilderness units was completed. However, due to issues raised by climbers and Native Americans on two of the wilderness areas, this plan was not finalized. We have subsequently agreed to prepare an environmental impact statement to address the issues and concerns over the management of the wilderness areas.

We are beginning to identify (scope) the issues to be addressed in the wilderness management plan / environmental impact statement. We encourage you to submit comments and suggestions on issues and concerns you believe we should address in the planning process. Please note that all comments provided on the 2010 environmental assessment for the wilderness management plan will be carried forward in this planning process.

Please send your comments via the internet at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>. Click on Lake Mead National Recreation Area and then "Wilderness Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement" to leave your comments. You can also mail your comments to Lake Mead National Recreation Area, National Park Service, Denver Service Center – Planning, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287. Comments will be accepted until April 20, 2012.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment — including your personal identifying information — may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have any questions on this planning process, please contact Jim Holland, NPS Park Planner, Lake Mead National Recreation Area at the above address (telephone: 702-293-8986) and Mark Tanaka-Sanders, Wilderness Planner, Bureau of Land Management, 4701 North Torrey Pines, Las Vegas, NV 89130 (telephone: 702-515-5039).

We look forward to hearing from you as we begin this important planning process that will chart the future of these eight wilderness areas.

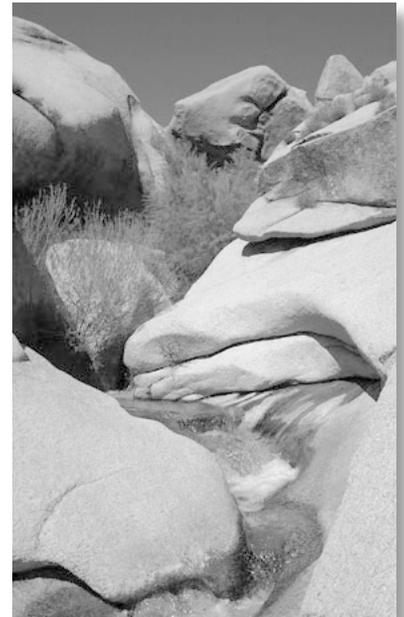
Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of William K. Dickinson.

William K. Dickinson
Lake Mead NRA Superintendent

Handwritten signature of Mary Jo Rugwell.

Mary Jo Rugwell
Bureau of Land Management
Southern Nevada Office District Manager





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