



Effects of Lowering Lake Level on Lake Mead Operations

Lowering water levels have had significant and adverse impacts on National Park Service and concession facilities at Lake Mead. Most of the infrastructure in the Park was designed to operate optimally at lake levels between 1180' and 1220', levels typically seen in the past 30 years. As the lake has dropped below these levels, the National Park Service and concessioners have spent millions of dollars extending launch ramps and moving marinas to chase the declining water. Unfortunately, some facilities have been forced to close.

With continuing fluctuations in water levels expected due to ongoing drought and greater demand for water from the Colorado River, additional recreational facilities may have to be moved or closed. Further drops in lake level will cost millions of dollars in additional construction and could result in loss of recreational opportunities and economic benefit to the local communities if lake access is not maintained.



Part of the former Overton Marina being moved to Callville Bay in February 2007 (NPS photo).



Construction of launch ramp extension at Temple Bar in July 2003 (NPS photo).

T I M E L I N E		
August 2001	1180'	Pearce Ferry launch ramp closed and Grand Canyon river raft take-out moved to South Cove
September 2001	1178'	Government Wash launch ramp closed
October 2002	1155'	Las Vegas Bay Marina moved to Hemenway Harbor and renamed Las Vegas Boat Harbor Marina
April 2003	1148'	Lake Mead Cruises moved to Hemenway Harbor
December 2003	1139'	Las Vegas Bay launch ramp closed
February 2007	1129'	Overton Beach Marina moved and split with a section going to Callville Bay Marina and a section going to Temple Bar Marina
February 2007	1129'	Lake Mead Marina C-dock moved from Boulder Harbor to Hemenway Harbor and becomes part of Las Vegas Boat Harbor Marina
February 2008	1117'	Lake Mead Marina A- and B-docks moved from Boulder Harbor to Hemenway Harbor and become part of Las Vegas Boat Harbor Marina
April 2009	1105'	Overton Beach launch ramp closed
March 2010	1102'	Pearce Ferry road extension completed. Launch ramp re-opens and Grand Canyon River raft take-out moved back to Pearce Ferry
May 2010	1092'	Water supply at Overton Beach becomes inoperable
June 2010	1090'	New Callville Bay launch ramp opens and old Callville Bay launch ramp closes; Hemenway launch ramp reaches critical elevation
September 2010	1085'	Boulder Harbor launch ramp closed
October 2010	1082'	Echo Bay and Temple Bar launch ramps reach critical elevation

