



Lake Mead

National Recreation Area

Winter - Spring 2014



Muddy Mountains Wilderness

Lake Mead NRA Celebrates 50 Years

With the completion of Boulder Dam in 1935 (later named Hoover Dam), the Colorado River began to fill up the reservoir that would become Lake Mead. The Bureau of Reclamation was in the business of building dams but not managing recreation, so they partnered with the National Park Service to manage the recreation side of the reservoir.

Davis Dam was completed in 1951, below Hoover Dam, and the river again accumulated behind the newest dam to form Lake Mohave. The National Park Service, in cooperation with the BOR, now managed two reservoirs and surrounding land for recreational use.

Oct. 8, 1964, Congress passed legislation that formally established Lake Mead National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park Service, the first national recreation area in the National Park Service system. The 1.5 million-acre park was established for public recreation in a manner that preserves the scenic, historic, scientific and other important features of the area.

Happy 50th Anniversary Wilderness Act

The Wilderness Act was signed into law Sept. 3, 1964, by President Lyndon B. Johnson to provide the highest level of protection for some of America's most iconic, wild landscapes.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area received designation for nine wilderness areas in 2002:

Jimbilnan, Pinto Valley and Muddy Mountains off of Northshore Road; and Black Canyon, Eldorado, Ireteba, Nellis Wash, Spirit Mountain and Bridge Canyon on the Nevada side of Lake Mohave.

"I never thought I would see wilderness designated at Lake Mead," said Jim Holland, a program and management analyst at Lake Mead NRA who has been employed with the park for 21 years.

"The 1960s was a decade of environmental legislation. Major environmental pushes were being made. The Wilderness Act was one of those unique pieces of legislation that said 'We are going to put areas aside and protect those areas, not as a national park, but as wilderness,'" he said.

Despite the extra levels of protection, the wilderness areas at Lake Mead NRA are public lands open for recreation. People enjoy wilderness areas for hiking, backpacking, camping, fishing, hunting and more. Visitors are asked to be stewards of these special places to ensure their protection for another 50 years.

They can do this by following the Leave No Trace principles: travel and camp on durable surfaces; dispose of waste properly; leave what you find; minimize campfire impacts; respect wildlife; and be considerate to other visitors.

see *Wilderness* page 2



Spring has Sprung

Predicting the spring wildflower bloom in the Mojave Desert is nearly impossible until it is about to begin. Under ideal conditions the desert floor can explode into a riotous carpet of color.

Wildflower blooms may vary from small colorful patches along the edge of roads to huge fields of vibrant purples, yellows, pinks and orange. Some of the spectacular flower displays are a rarity only occurring every 10 or 20 years. What will 2014 bring?



Information and Services

Emergencies

In case of an emergency, dial 911 or contact the police using your marine band radio on channels 16 or 22A. Report suspicious activity and non-emergencies to 702-293-8998. Emergency call boxes are located throughout the park. See the map on the back page for locations.

Fires

Fires are permitted using fire pits in developed areas. Campfires are permitted throughout the backcountry except when fire danger is high (watch for notices). Firewood may be purchased at marinas and most local grocery stores.

Firearms

Federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state and local laws to possess them in the park. Firearms are prohibited in federal buildings, such as visitor centers and ranger stations. It is the responsibility of the visitors to understand and comply with all applicable firearm laws before entering the park. Target shooting is prohibited.

Social Media

Join the conversation! Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lakemead to learn about programs and other events. Post your questions and a ranger will get back to you. Follow us on Twitter at @LakeMeadNRA to learn about park news. View pictures of the park and events on flickr at www.flickr.com/lakemeadnra and our videos at www.youtube.com/LakeMeadNRA.

Pets

Pets are allowed on all trails and beaches within the park unless there is a sign that says otherwise. Pets must be under physical control on a leash no longer than six feet at all times. Pets should not be left in cars at Lake Mead NRA. Please consider your pet's needs for water and shade in warmer temperatures.

Wear it for life

Children age 12 and younger must wear a lifejacket while on board a vessel. Each person aboard a personal watercraft, must also wear a lifejacket.

Due to the cold temperatures and currents between Hoover Dam and Mile 43 on Lake Mohave, all occupants of hand-propelled craft in that area must wear lifejackets when underway. Lake Mead NRA recommends wearing a lifejacket while on or in the water.

Clean, Drain and Dry your boat

Don't move a mussel – a quagga mussel that is. It's the law. Quagga mussels are small aquatic invasive species that can latch onto your vessels and hitchhike to other bodies of water. Once there, the mussels can cause millions of dollars in damages.

Help us keep quagga mussels out of other lakes. Before you leave the park, CLEAN plants, animals and mud from your boat, motor and trailer. DRAIN water from the bilge, live-well and engine. DRY the watercraft, vehicle and equipment.



www.nps.gov/lake

Bald Eagles common for this time of year



By Taylor Nunley
Public Affairs Assistant

Volunteers and biologists spotted 132 bald eagles as eight survey boats traced the shorelines of Lake Mead and Lake Mohave searching for raptor species.

The National Park Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation teamed

up for the mid-winter eagle survey Jan. 15 at Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

This is a slight decline since last January's count of 161 bald eagles, although, park biologist Ross Haley is not surprised by the outcome.

"I expected the number to be down somewhat this year due to the mild winter we are experiencing in the west," Haley said, "and possibly exacerbated somewhat by the West Nile Virus die-off."

In late 2013, bald eagles from the Great Salt Lake area near Salt Lake City, Utah, experienced a die-off attributed to an outbreak of the West Nile Virus, which resulted from eating infected

eared grebes, according to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Haley said this could result in lower numbers being found on lakes Mead and Mohave this season.

This year, surveyors also recorded sightings of other raptors observed, including 19 red-tailed hawks, 16 peregrine falcons, nine northern harriers, one prairie falcon, one osprey, one American kestrel and three unidentified raptors.

"These data certainly make me wish we had been keeping track of numbers of all these species through all of the years," Haley said.

The teams hit the waters of the 1.5 million-acre national recreation area shortly before sunrise and concluded the survey around sunset.

At a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour, spotters searched through binoculars for the raptors. Both immature and adult bald eagles could be seen perched on rocky cliff tops, sipping water on the shoreline or soaring in the air.

The Overton Arm at the north end of the park, where the Virgin and Muddy rivers meet Lake Mead, is where the highest count of bald eagles was found. Haley and his team spotted 18 adult and 28 immature eagles in this area.

Bald eagles migrate from the north and can traditionally be spotted at Lake Mead NRA from late-November to March.

Wilderness from page 1

In addition to more than 185,000 acres of designated wilderness, Lake Mead NRA has nearly 350,000 more acres of suitable wilderness. Holland predicted if all the areas with wilderness criteria are approved, there could be around 35 wilderness areas in the park.

"Lake Mead is a very important part to the Southwest, in general. With the development of these urban centers like Las Vegas, having the opportunity to get out and have a wilderness experience is important to the balance of life," he said.

Motorized vehicles and bicycles are not permitted in designated wilderness areas; however, many of Lake Mead NRA's wilderness areas have nearby approved roads, providing easy access.

"Fortunately, for Southern Nevada, Lake Mead is accessible. You don't have to hike that far or drive that far to be isolated from a lot of the urban sounds and feels," Holland added. "I think wilderness really compliments Southern Nevada and having Lake Mead is really an asset for people."



Rock formations at Redstone walking trail

Visitor Services

Lake Mead

Callville Bay Resort and Marina

702-565-8958, rentals: 800-255-5561

www.callvillebay.com

Marina/boat slip rentals
Launch ramp
Fuel (auto/boat)
Boat rental
(houseboats & small vessels)
Campgrounds
Visitor trailer village
RV park
Pump-out
Store (gift/convenience)

Dry boat storage
Boat repair
Cafe'
Marina snack bar
Store (gift/convenience)
Restaurant
Lounge
Quagga boat wash
Fish cleaner
Showers
Laundry

Echo Bay

702-394-4000, toll free: 800-255-5561

www.lakemeadrvillage.com

Launch ramp
Fuel (auto)
Campgrounds
Visitor trailer village
RV park

Pump-out
Store (gift/convenience)
Dry boat storage
Fish cleaner

Lake Mead Cruises

702-293-6180

www.lakemeadcruises.com

Scenic boat tours and private charters with food service and snack bar on floating dock.

Lake Mead RV Village

702-293-2540

www.lakemeadrvillage.com

Visitor trailer village
RV park (some lake views)
Pump-out
Store (gift/convenience)
Activity center/meeting room

Dry boat storage
Fish cleaner
Showers
Laundry

Las Vegas Bay

702-293-1191 Las Vegas Boat Harbor

702-293-3484 Lake Mead Marina Complex

www.boatinglakemead.com

Fuel (auto)
Campgrounds

Dry boat storage
Fish cleaner



Willow Beach

Las Vegas Boat Harbor Complex

702-293-1191 Main Number

702-293-3484 Lake Mead Marina Complex

www.boatinglakemead.com

Marina/boat slip rentals
Launch ramp
Fuel (boat)
Boat rental
(patio boats & small vessels)
Pump-out
Store (gift/convenience)
Dry boat storage

Boat repair
Cafe'
Restaurants
Lounges
Quagga boat wash
Showers
Banquet/meeting room

Temple Bar Marina

928-767-3211, rentals: 800-255-5561

www.templebarlakemead.com

Marina/boat slip rentals
Launch ramp
Fuel (auto/boat)
Boat rental
Campgrounds
Visitor trailer village
RV park
Pump-out
Motels/cabins

Store (gift/convenience)
Dry boat storage
Boat repair (limited)
Restaurant
Lounge
Quagga boat wash
Fish cleaner
Showers
Laundry

Lake Mohave

Black Canyon/Willow Beach River Adventures

702-294-1414

www.blackcanyonriveradventures.com

Scenic flat water raft trip through Black Canyon with views of Hoover Dam. On the water food service available.

Cottonwood Cove Resort and Marina

702-297-1464, rentals: 800-255-5561

www.cottonwoodcoveresort.com

Marina/boat slip rentals
Launch ramp
Fuel (auto/boat)
Boat rental
(houseboats & small vessels)
Motel (beach front)
Campgrounds
Visitor trailer village
RV park
Pump-out

Store (gift/convenience)
Dry boat storage
Boat repair
Cafe'
Quagga boat wash
Fish cleaner
Showers
Meeting Room
Laundry

Lake Mohave Resort, Katherine Landing

928-754-3245, reservations: 800-752-9669

www.sevencrown.com

Marina/boat slip rentals
Launch ramp
Fuel (auto/boat)
Boat rental (small vessels)
Motel
Campgrounds
Visitor trailer village
RV park
Pump-out
Store (gift/convenience)

Dry boat storage
Boat repair
Cafe'
Restaurant
Lounge
Quagga boat wash
Fish cleaner
Showers
Laundry

Willow Beach Harbor

928-767-4747

www.willowbeachharbor.com

Marina/boat slip rentals
Launch ramp
Fuel (auto/boat)
Boat rental
(small vessels, canoe & kayak)
Campgrounds (tent camping)
RV park

Pump-out
Store (gift/convenience)
Cafe'
Quagga boat wash
Fishing pier
Fish cleaner
Laundry

More Solar Panels Installed at Lake Mead NRA



By Taylor Nunley
Public Affairs Assistant

Lake Mead National Recreation Area continues to "Go Green" with the addition of photovoltaic systems that not only ensure energy efficiency, but also provide shade to government vehicles.

More than 600 photovoltaic panels were installed on the tops of three shade structures in an administrative area parking lot. These panels generate energy by absorbing sunlight that is transferred to solar energy that can travel through electrical circuits to power electrical devices.

The 10,205 square feet of panels produce a total output of 158.6 kilowatts, which power the Lake Mead maintenance warehouse, Interagency Communications Center and other nearby offices in Boulder City, Nev.

"This was a great project for a couple of reasons," said Bruce Nyhuis, chief, park maintenance and engineering division. "It demonstrates the National Park Service commitment to renewable energy. The new PV system will offset approximately 35 percent of the total energy used in our warehouse complex.

"Secondarily, this project has the added benefit of providing shade for vehicles, which really helps keep the interior of our vehicles cooler in our climate, as well as protection from sun damage," he added.

Lake Mead NRA continues to make green goals. PV panels were added to the renovated visitor center and native plant nursery in 2013. Single-stream recycling bins are being added throughout the park, and the park's Green Team is promoting recycling, composting and other environmental goals.

Explore the Visitor Center Park Store

Located off Highway 93, minutes from Hoover Dam and Boulder City, the Lake Mead Visitor Center offers visitors opportunities to discover the Recreation Area and the Mojave Desert.

Explore the park store's *new* items such as water/wine bags, bicycle patch kits and tubes, custom mugs, energy bars and much more.



You can feel good about shopping! Your tax-free purchases directly support outreach and education at Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

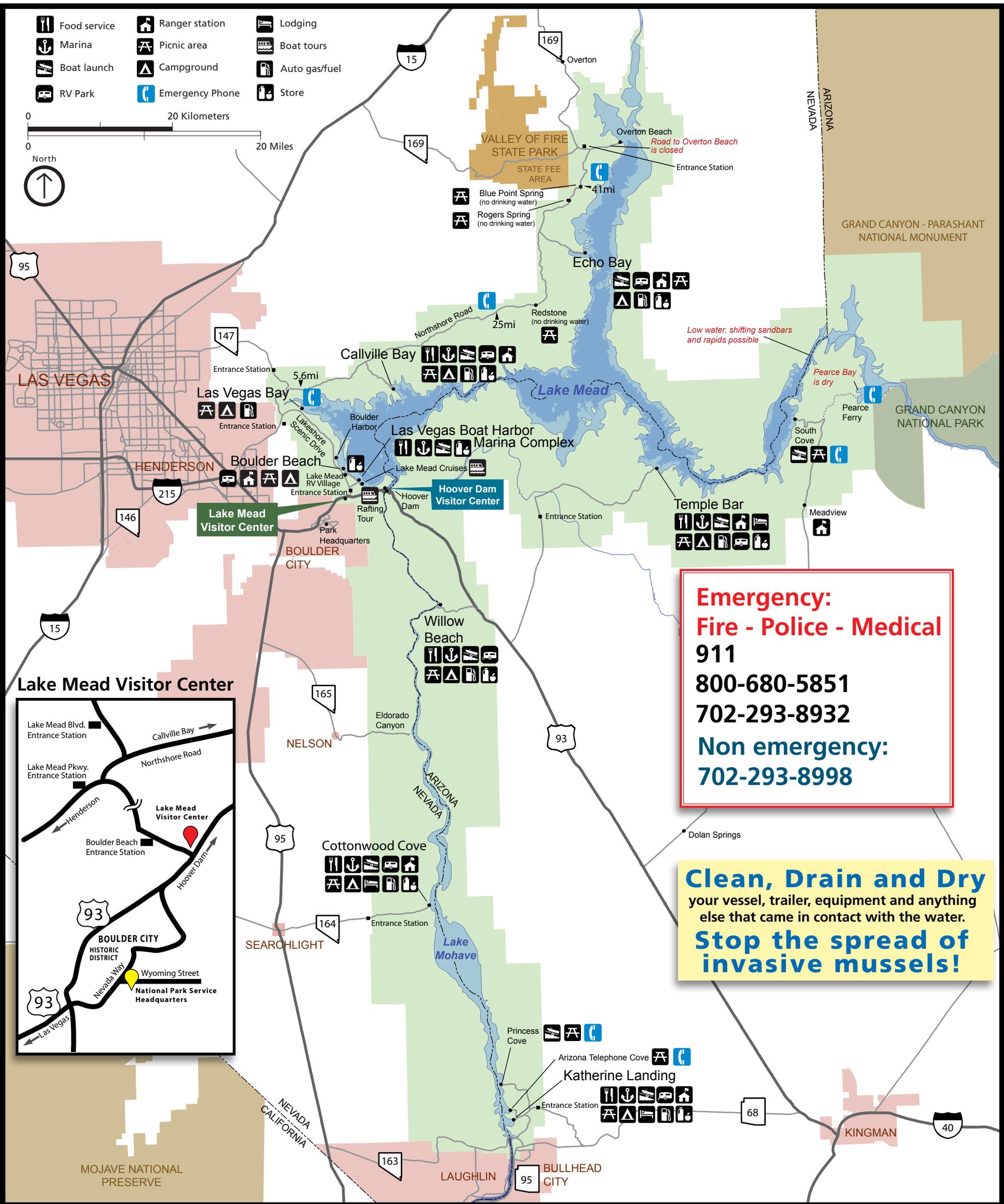
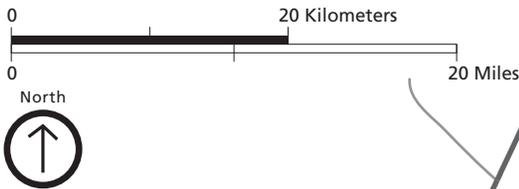
The Visitor Center is free to visit and is open Wednesday-Sunday. See the map on the back page for our location or call 702-293-8990 for details.

WESTERN
NATIONAL PARKS
ASSOCIATION

www.wnpa.org



- Food service
- Marina
- Boat launch
- RV Park
- Ranger station
- Picnic area
- Campground
- Emergency Phone
- Lodging
- Boat tours
- Auto gas/fuel
- Store



Emergency:
Fire - Police - Medical
911
800-680-5851
702-293-8932
Non emergency:
702-293-8998

Clean, Drain and Dry
 your vessel, trailer, equipment and anything
 else that came in contact with the water.
**Stop the spread of
 invasive mussels!**

Visitor Information
 702-293-8990

E-mail
lake_information@nps.gov

Website
www.nps.gov/lake

Mailing Address
 Lake Mead National Recreation Area
 601 Nevada Way
 Boulder City, NV 89005

www.facebook.com/lakemead

www.twitter.com/lakemeadnra

