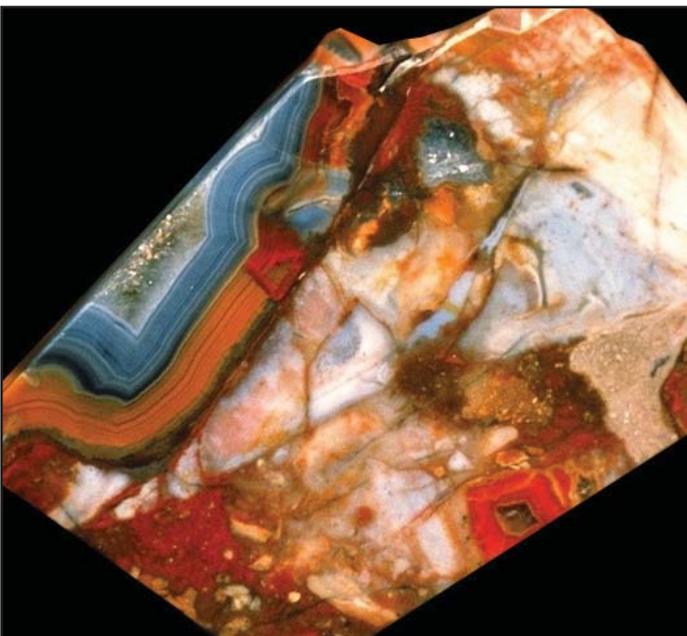




## Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument



### YOU'RE INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE TO:

- Help launch the General Management Plan
- Learn more about park resources
- Talk with the planning team
- Discuss your ideas, thoughts, and concerns

---

April 27, 2009, Monday                      5:30 pm – 7:30 pm\*  
Sanford-Fritch Junior High School Cafeteria,  
536 Eagle Boulevard, Fritch

---

April 28, 2009, Tuesday                      5:30 pm – 7:30 pm\*  
Frank Phillips College, Gallery Room  
1301 West Roosevelt Street,  
Fine Arts and Cafeteria Bldg., Borger

---

April 29, 2009, Wednesday                      5:30 pm – 7:30 pm\*  
First State Bank  
500 East 1st Street (Texas Highway 152), Dumas

---

April 30, 2009, Thursday                      5:30 pm – 7:30 pm\*  
Ambassador Hotel, Trinity Room  
3100 I-40 West, Exit 68-B (Georgia St.), Amarillo

\* A brief presentation will be given at 5:30 pm

## A Message from the Superintendent



Dear Friends,

The National Park Service (NPS) is starting an interactive planning process to develop a vision for the future of Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument. The result of this planning process will be a general management plan that will articulate the long-term vision that will guide management of the recreation area and national monument for the next 15 to 20 years. Your participation and input are an important part of the planning process, and I hope you will join us throughout.

Although Lake Meredith was officially dedicated in 1965, a general management plan for this NPS unit has never been prepared. Alibates Flint Quarries, which also was dedicated in 1965, does have a management plan, but the plan is more than 30 years old and does not address today's challenges.

Lake Meredith and Alibates Flint Quarries both face a number of management challenges. For example, there have been significant changes in the recreational opportunities at Lake Meredith because of changes in the lake level. There have also been changes in visitor use patterns at both the lake and at the flint quarries. During the planning process we will explore different approaches to preserve the important recreational opportunities, natural resources, and cultural histories of the two parks and continue to make them educational and inspirational places for all of us to visit and enjoy.

We need your help to create the framework that will guide management of Lake Meredith and Alibates Flint Quarries for the next 20 years. In late April, the National Park Service will host four open houses in the panhandle area. We hope you will join us at one of these open houses to learn more about the general management plan; meet the planning team; and share your ideas, thoughts, and concerns about these special places.

Aside from the open houses, the most efficient way for us to receive and review your comments is through the National Park Service planning website. You can write and post your comments at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lamr>. Alternately, you can fill out the enclosed comment card. Please select the appropriate box on the back of the card if you want to be added to the general management plan mailing list.

Your input, coupled with NPS expertise, is a powerful combination for maximizing the potential of Lake Meredith and Alibates Flint Quarries. I look forward to creating our collective vision for these wonderful parks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Ott-Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cindy Ott-Jones  
Superintendent  
Lake Meredith National Recreation Area  
Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument

## What Is a General Management Plan?

A general management plan is the broadest level of planning in the National Park Service. The general management plan lays the groundwork for the more detailed planning and day-to-day decision-making that will follow. The general management plan begins with the park's "purpose," which is why the park unit was established, and its "significance," which identifies the characteristics of the park unit that make it an important part of our national heritage.

During the planning process, the conditions that will best fulfill the park unit's purpose and maintain its significance are established. These "desired conditions" help to define what NPS managers are working to achieve.

Because it is developed through an interactive planning process, a general management plan also represents an agreement with the American public about how the park unit will be managed in the future – including resource conditions in the park unit, appropriate opportunities for visitor experiences, and types and locations for visitor access.

Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument are jointly managed. This planning process will result in a single general management plan for both units.



## Why Do We Need a General Management Plan?

The primary role of the general management plan is to define the kind of places we want Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument to be in the future. What are the resource conditions we want to maintain and the visitor experiences we want to have? Several possible visions for each park unit's future will be developed and analyzed during the planning process. These visions, also called management alternatives, will present different approaches to manage the NPS units while achieving their purposes and maintaining their significance. Evaluating a range of alternatives enables the National Park Service, communities, visitors, and other state and federal agencies to compare the advantages and disadvantages of the various courses of action. Public participation is important throughout the planning process.

The general management plan will be our blueprint to move into the future. It has been more than 30 years since this level of planning was considered for either park unit. In this time we have gained a better understanding of the natural and cultural resources and recreational uses within the units. The growing interest in outdoor recreation activities, particularly from Amarillo and other regional population centers, has placed new and different demands on the lands managed by the National Park Service. These interests must be balanced with other regional and national visitor interests, which are first addressed through the general management plan and later through planning processes that tier from the general management plan.

The general management plan will also consider each park unit as part of larger ecological, cultural, and socioeconomic systems. This comprehensive approach includes coordination with neighbors to ensure that decisions made through this process are widely supported and sustainable over time.



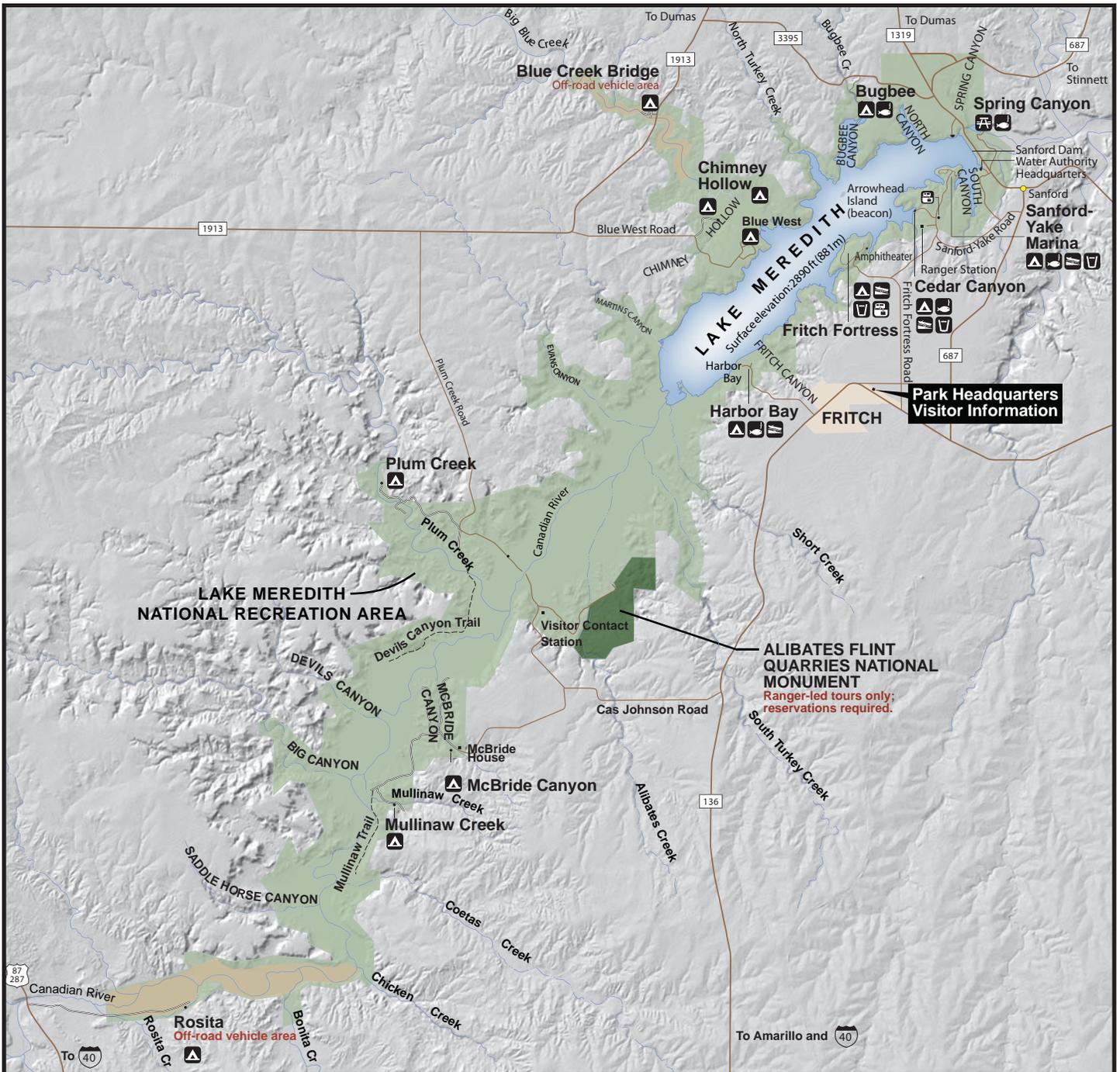
## Next Steps and How to Get Involved

The general management plan process will take about three or four years to complete. During this time, we will be looking for your assistance at several key points. We will be providing you with the opportunity to:

- Share your concerns, expectations, values, and information now – at the beginning of the process
- Review and comment on the preliminary planning alternatives
- Review and comment on the Draft General Management Plan /Environmental Impact Statement

	<b>Estimated Time Frame</b>	<b>Planning Activity</b>	<b>Public Involvement Opportunity</b>
We Are Here	Spring 2009	<b>Scoping:</b> Identify concerns, expectations, and values related to each park unit with input from the public, park partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review newsletter 1 and send us your ideas and concerns using the enclosed response card or the NPS planning website <a href="http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lamr">http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lamr</a> . Consider each park unit individually.  Attend public meetings and voice your ideas and concerns.
	Summer 2009	<b>Develop Preliminary Alternatives:</b> Outline different possible futures for each park unit and provide opportunities for review and comment by the public, park partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review newsletter 2 and send us your ideas and concerns using the enclosed response card or the NPS planning website <a href="http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lamr">http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lamr</a> . Consider each park unit individually.  Attend public meetings and comment on the preliminary alternatives.
	Summer 2010	<b>Prepare and Distribute a Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement:</b> Review and comment by the public, park partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review the Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement and provide written comments.  Attend public meetings and comment on your ideas and concerns or submit written comments.
	Winter 2010/2011	<b>Prepare a Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement:</b> Describe the selected alternative and respond to comments received on the draft.	Review the Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.
	Spring 2011	<b>Implement the Approved Plan:</b> Prepare and issue a Record of Decision and implement the general management plan.	Work with the park to implement the plan and provide feedback on plan success and effectiveness.

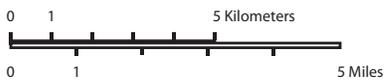
# Location Map and Unit Boundaries



**Park Headquarters  
Visitor Information**

**ALIBATES FLINT  
QUARRIES NATIONAL  
MONUMENT**  
Ranger-led tours only;  
reservations required.

North



- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Park purpose** is a clear statement of why Congress or the president established an area as a unit of the national park system.

Statements of **park significance** define what is **most important** about the park unit's resources and values; they are based on the unit's purpose.

The purpose and significance statements guide all planning and management decisions made about the park unit. Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument have individual purpose and park significance statements, which are described in the following sections.



## Lake Meredith National Recreation Area

### Profile

- Dedicated in 1965 to offer water- and land-based recreation in the region and water supply storage
- 44,978 land acres, with a lake area that varies with river inflows and water demand
- About 1 million visitors annually
- Popular recreation activities are boating, fishing, camping, hunting, off-road vehicle (ORV) driving, and sight-seeing
- Non-federal gas and oil production occurs in the national recreation area

### Purpose

The purpose of Lake Meredith National Recreation Area is to provide public access to diverse water- and land-based recreational opportunities in the Canadian River breaks of the Texas panhandle, consistent with the protection of the area's scenic, scientific, cultural, and other values contributing to the public enjoyment of such lands and waters.

### Other Planning Efforts Underway

- ORV Plan: An off-road vehicle management plan began in October 2007. This plan will address the expanded use of off-road vehicles in Lake Meredith National Recreation Area's two designated areas.
- Trails Plan: NPS staff are undertaking a multi-use trails plan, looking to provide recreational opportunities that are not water-based.

### Significance

- Lake Meredith National Recreational Area is the largest area of public lands in the Texas panhandle, providing opportunities for access to diverse, affordable, outdoor, water- and land-based recreation activities.
- Lake Meredith and the Canadian River basin within the recreation area provide aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats, and are one of the few areas in the region with trees. These habitats, the ecological transition zones, and the surrounding landscape support diverse plant and animal species, including migratory waterfowl.
- The natural and geologic resources of the recreation area have enabled human survival, subsistence, and adaptation that have resulted in a continuum of human presence in the Texas panhandle for more than 13,000 years. Cultural sites in Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and the adjacent Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument offer views of lifeways in every cultural period that have been identified.
- The exposed geologic features of the Canadian River breaks in the recreation area reveal active geological processes that are easily visible to an extent not present elsewhere in the region. The topography and geography of the Canadian River breaks create a divergence from the surrounding landscape that offers scenic values and opportunities not found elsewhere in the region.

# Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument

## Profile

- Established in 1965 to preserve, protect, and interpret Alibates flint deposits and associated cultural heritage
- 1,371 land acres
- About 4,000 visitors annually
- Popular recreation activities are guided tours of the flint quarries and interpretive facility visits
- The national monument is jointly managed with Lake Meredith National Recreation Area

## Purpose

The purpose of Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument is to provide for the preservation, protection, interpretation, and scientific study of Alibates flint deposits associated with activities and cultural resources of the indigenous peoples for the benefit of all.

## Significance

- Alibates flint is only found in a small section of the Canadian River valley in the Texas panhandle. The national monument contains part of the only known exposed bedrock source of Alibates flint, and the flint is present in the monument in high concentrations.
- The physical characteristics of Alibates flint made it highly desirable for tool-making. It is very hard but also glass-like, so it holds an edge and can be worked. Additionally, its distinctive color pattern has made it identifiable even when it is away from the source, so the movement of the flint can be documented.
- The monument contains evidence of more than 13,000 years of continuous lithic resource detection, extraction, manipulation, and use. This evidence indicates about 300 years of actual quarrying activities, which resulted in about 700 quarry pits and development of a village.



- An unusually high number and variety of artifacts representing the entire spectrum of flint extraction and manufacturing have been recovered from the monument, providing opportunities for scientific research and knowledge of aboriginal quarry techniques.
- The Plains Village archeological sites in the monument include the only protected, and best remaining type site, for the Antelope Creek phase. The monument also contains petroglyphs, which are rare in the Texas panhandle. Together with sites in the adjacent Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, these ruins document a prehistoric sedentary lifestyle.
- Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument manages 800,000 collected objects associated with the monument. This collection represents 10 percent of all collections in the NPS Intermountain Region and almost 3 percent of all NPS collections.
- The monument was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DENVER SERVICE CENTER  
ERIN FLANAGAN / DSC-P  
12795 WEST ALAMEDA PARKWAY  
P.O. BOX 25287  
DENVER, CO 80225

FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
PERMIT NO. G-83

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



## How to Participate in the General Management Plan Process

### Send Us Your Comments and Sign Up for the General Management Plan Mailing List

- Post your comments directly on our website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lamr> (only project team members will be able to view your comments on this website), or
- Return the enclosed response card with your comments and contact information, or
- Send a letter: National Park Service General Management Planning, Attn: Erin Flanagan, DSC-P, Denver Service Center, National Park Service, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287.

### Visit Our Website

- For regular updates on the process, public meeting announcements, copies of newsletters, and planning documents, please visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lamr>.

### Attend an Open House

- The National Park Service will kick off the planning process with four open houses in April.

## LAKE MEREDITH NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND ALIBATES FLINT QUARRIES NATIONAL MONUMENT

### Address:

National Park Service  
P.O. Box 1460  
Fritch, TX 79036

### Telephone:

806-857-3151

### Planning Website:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lamr>