

The Great American Outdoors Act is providing crucial funding – up to \$6.65 billion over five years – to fix our national parks’ crumbling roads, decaying buildings, outdated water systems and many more repair needs. This bill, along with other funding sources, is ensuring our parks can continue to welcome millions of visitors each year and protect the natural and cultural resources that tell our nation’s history.

Lake Mead

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



Minutes from Las Vegas, in southeastern Nevada, Lake Mead National Recreation Area is America’s first and largest national recreation area. It is spread across 1.5 million acres of mountains, canyons, valleys, and two vast lakes, Lake Mead and Lake Mohave. Although the temperatures can vary wildly—well below freezing in the winter on the high plateaus and as hot as 120 degrees in the summer, the park attracts millions of visitors annually.

Lake Mead is a 110-mile-long reservoir created by the construction of the Hoover Dam. It has depths up to 500 feet and more than 750 miles of shoreline. Sitting at Lake Mead’s Northwest shore is a popular tourist destination, Callville Bay Marina, which is used for boat rentals, picnicking, and hiking. To supply drinking water for visitors and provide fire suppression capabilities, a water intake barge sits in a cove approximately 1.5 miles from Callville Bay.

As the western states have dealt with ongoing drought conditions

over the past several years, the water level at Lake Mead has dropped to increasingly lower levels, exposing the water intake for the first time. In its current location, the Callville Bay water treatment plant barge can provide potable water to a level of 1,075 feet above sea level.

A 2018 Bureau of Reclamation Operation Plan for Colorado River System Reservoirs forecasted the lake’s surface elevation would fall to 1,065 feet by the end of 2023, causing unreliable and degraded drinking water supply as the lake level falls.

BY THE NUMBERS:



\$5.2 million estimated investment from the GAOA for repair projects



1.5 million acres of park land



110-miles total length of the reservoir



10-foot decrease in surface elevation by 2023



\$25,000 per day potential fine for failing to maintain a potable water system for the public

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THE CHALLENGE: Moving a water treatment plant intake barge before it's landlocked, amid a historic drought.

Relocation of the water intake barge to deeper waters is critical to the park's ability to provide healthy drinking water to visitors, concessionaires, fire suppression efforts, and to comply with federal and state regulations. Furthermore, not promptly relocating the barge increases the risk of it becoming landlocked, making it more difficult and costly if the park fails to act. The project enhancements will assist in modernizing infrastructure to provide reliable water and fire suppression capabilities.

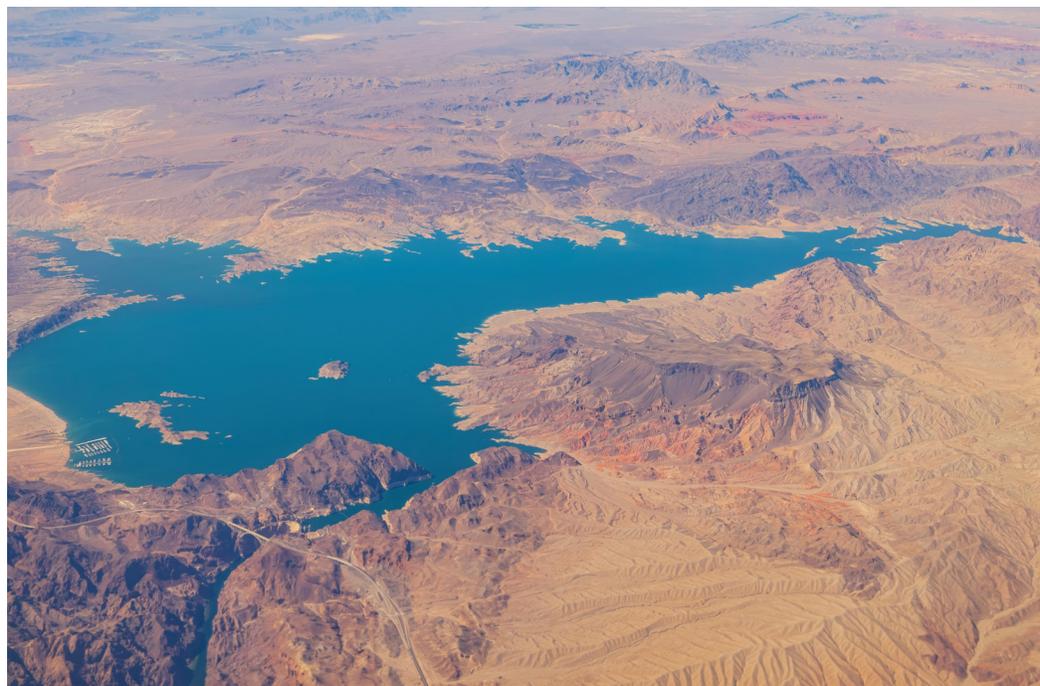
THE PROJECT

Through a \$5.2 million investment, made possible by the Great American Outdoors Act, the Department of the Interior is moving the Callville Bay water intake barge to ensure safe drinking water for visitors and fire suppression capabilities. The project involves extending existing water lines, constructing a breakwater, relocating a transformer and electrical lines, replacing the current standby generator, and improving the existing service road to access the new transformer site allowing the barge to provide potable water down to 950 feet.

THE IMPACT

The project will provide significant cost savings and align with the Bureau of Reclamations' goal of power generation during low water levels at Hoover Dam. In the past, each time the lake level decreased by 10-20 feet, the park would move the barge, costing between \$200,000 to \$400,000. Furthermore, failure to move the barge to deeper waters can result in closure of the water system or significant fines, up to \$25,000 per day, for not maintaining a potable water system for the public.

“The project enhancements will assist in modernizing infrastructure to provide reliable water and fire suppression capabilities.”



The Great American Outdoors Act is successfully repairing infrastructure at hundreds of parks across the country. However, with a \$22 billion backlog, much more is needed. We urge Congress to extend the Legacy Restoration Fund for an additional five years.

Preserving Our Past.



NPCA.ORG

Protecting Our Future.