



Spring 2013
Lake Mead
National Recreation Area



Bristle Gilia

Mystery of the Wildflower Blooms

Nourished by just the right amount of rainfall, coaxed by perfect temperatures and enticed with a magic that scientists can only guess at, the mystery of spring wildflowers is unfolding at Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Wildflower blooms may vary from small colorful patches along the edge of roads to huge fields of vibrant purples, pinks and golds. Spring will bring wildflowers to the Mojave Desert, but will this be a spectacular bloom year?

Dry years receive very little monsoon rain that actually hits the ground (verga is rain that does not reach the ground), and no measurable fall or winter rain to help annual plants germinate. But this last year, Lake Mead National Recreation Area received late summer monsoon rains and measurable fall and winter rains. This may or may not mean a spectacular bloom. We will know as the spring warms up.

Spring-blooming annuals must germinate in the fall, sometime between late September and early December. Temperature and rain are important factors for this process. Perennials are not as sensitive and can still produce a good display even if the conditions are not optimal. But it is the annual plants that are famous for blanketing the desert floor in exploding colors.

The warmth of spring days will determine when the desert wildflowers will begin to bloom. Look for purple phacelia, yellow sunrays, orange globemallow, large yellow brittlebush and white pin cushion, and later in the season, the spectacular magenta blooms on the beavertail cactus.

To preserve the future of desert wildflowers and to protect the delicate balance between animal and plant life, please do not pick the flowers or gather seeds. Bring your camera to capture the beauty of the Mojave Desert in bloom.

Soaring



Numbers of bald eagles are soaring at Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Every year in January, park biologists and volunteers take survey boats onto the waters of Lake Mead and Lake Mohave to count bald and golden eagles to add to the national count across the country.

Biologists spotted 163 eagles during their recent count at the 1.5 million-acre national recreation area. That's the second-highest total count ever, and it might have been even higher if not for strong winds on Lake Mohave during the January 16 count.

"We were very, very close to a record number here," said Ross Haley, a wildlife biologist for the National Park Service at Lake Mead. "At one time, we counted 20 eagles in the air above us."

Since the 1970s, the government has worked hard to save the bald and golden eagle, which was dying off because of habitat destruction, illegal shooting and contamination of its food source. The birds have been removed from the threatened and endangered lists and are now protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

At Lake Mead NRA, there is growing evidence that bald eagles are staying longer - possibly even nesting and staying year-round. Lake Mead historically was a quick stop for the birds during longer migrations from the Pacific Northwest and Canada.

This year's count was conducted by the National Park Service with help from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

The daylong effort involved more than 30 staff members and volunteers in eight survey boats patrolling different sections of the lakes.

The highest concentration by far was found along the Overton Arm at the north end of the park, where the Virgin and Muddy

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Annual: a plant which completes its life cycle and dies within one year or less
Perennial: a plant that lives for more than two years

Information and Services

Emergencies

Park Service 24-hour Emergency Response: Call 911 or 800-680-5851 or 702-293-8932. Cell phones have intermittent reception at Lake Mead NRA. Radio National Park Service on marine band VHF Channel 16. Emergency call boxes are located throughout the park. See the map on page 4 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 visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local and federal firearm laws before entering the park. Target shooting is prohibited.

Social Media

Social media has arrived at our park, and you can join in the conversation. Our Facebook page, 'National Park Service-Lake Mead National Recreation Area' is a great place to learn about hikes, programs and other events. Post your questions on our page and a Ranger will get back to you. Follow us on Twitter@LakeMeadNRA to

learn about park news or view pictures of the park on flickr at www.flickr.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 are not allowed to be left in cars at Lake Mead NRA and Hoover Dam. Please consider your pet's needs for water and shade in higher temperatures.



Lake Mead is a climate friendly park.

Every five minutes, Americans use more than two million plastic bottles and one million aluminum cans. Most end up in landfills, but you can control where yours go by recycling your plastic water bottles and beverage cans here at Lake Mead NRA. You could give them a second life as furniture, jackets or decking.

What to Recycle:

- Aluminum beverage cans
- Plastic bottles marked with 1 or 2 on the bottom

Where:

- Echo Bay
- Willow Beach
- Boulder Beach picnic area
- Marinas and other locations within the park

Sign up for Mead programs at 702-293-8990 and for Mohave programs at 928-754-3272

Follow us www.facebook.com/lakemead

Please, No Styrofoam or glass at Lake Mead!

Cell Phones WILL NOT WORK in many areas of Lake Mead NRA

Keep Wildlife Wild DON'T touch feed approach

2 stroke PWC IMPORTANT information nps.gov/lake/parkmgmt/twostroke.htm

www.nps.gov/lake

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rivers empty into Lake Mead. Haley said the numbers are usually higher there, but this year they were higher than ever before - 93 eagles, almost double last year's count for that area.

It's exciting to know that America's iconic bird, like our visitors, finds Lake Mead NRA a great place to hang out.



Tamarisk Pull

Volunteers joined park staff to help restore the natural habitat at Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The fourth annual "tamarisk seedling removal" took place December 11, 2012.

In 2007, a flash flood roared through Black Canyon Spring and wiped out most of the mature invasive tamarisk. Lake Mead Vegetation Team and Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) decided it would be a great opportunity to involve volunteers in pulling new tamarisk seedlings within lower Black Canyon Spring to rid the area of tamarisk.

Volunteers were dropped off by Black Canyon Outfitters just below Hoover Dam in the Black Canyon of upper Lake Mohave. They paddled downstream to Black Canyon Spring where they worked for about 3-4 hours pulling out the tamarisk seedlings. The volunteers and staff continued downstream through scenic Black Canyon to Willow Beach for pick-up. A great day was had by all and the Black Canyon Spring was rid of the invasive tamarisk...for now. For more information on future volunteer outings, please look up opportunities on www.volunteer.gov

Tamarisk, (*Tamarix* spp.) commonly known as salt cedar, is a non-native shrub or tree that grows in dense stands along rivers and streams in the west. Tamarisk, introduced to the U.S. in the 19th century to use for erosion control, spread through the west and caused major changes to natural environments. Unlike native species to the Mojave Desert,

tamarisk uses excessive amounts of water, out competes native species and provides little food for wildlife species.

Lake Mead Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) crews remove tamarisk through a combination of mechanical and chemical controls, allowing for native vegetation to recover. The size of the plant usually dictates how it is removed. Methods include pulling, cutting to stump level, or girdling it (cutting into the trunk all the way around the tree) to leave the dead tree standing for wildlife habitat. The combination of hand tools and herbicide ensures maximum effectiveness with minimum impact to visitors and the environment.



Photo: Kurt Kuznicki/Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Visitor Services

Lake Mead

Callville Bay Resort and Marina

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

www.callvillebay.com

- Marina
- Boat repair
- Campgrounds
- Laundry
- Fish cleaner
- Auto/boat fuel
- Dry boat storage
- Visitor trailer village
- Gift/convenience store
- Boat decontamination services
- Houseboat and small boat rentals
- Launch ramp
- Lounge
- Showers
- Restaurant
- Slip rentals
- Pump-out
- Cafe'
- RV park

Echo Bay

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

www.echobaylakemead.com

- Auto fuel
- Campgrounds
- Dry boat storage
- Visitor trailer village
- Gift/convenience store
- Boat decontamination services
- Launch ramp
- RV park
- Pump-out
- Fish cleaner

Lake Mead Cruises

702-293-6180

www.lakemeadcruises.com

Scenic boat tours and private charters.

Lake Mead RV Village

702-293-2540

www.lakemeadrvvillage.com

- Laundry
- Showers
- RV park
- Activity center
- Dry boat storage
- Pump-out
- Visitor trailer village
- Gift/convenience store
- RV park, some lake view

Las Vegas Boat Harbor

702-293-1191 Main Number

702-293-3484 Lake Mead Marina Complex

www.boatinglakemead.com

- Marinas
- Boat repair
- Restaurants
- Dry boat storage
- Small boat/patio boat rentals
- Convenience and grocery stores
- Boat decontamination services
- Pump-out
- Banquet room
- Lounges
- Boat fuel

Temple Bar Marina

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

www.templebarlakemead.com

- Marina
- Boat repair
- Cafe'
- Campgrounds
- Fish cleaner
- Dry boat storage
- Auto/boat fuel
- Visitor trailer village
- Gift/convenience store
- Boat decontamination services
- Houseboat and small boat rentals
- Launch ramp
- Laundry
- Lounge
- Slip rentals
- Pump-out
- Motel/Cabins
- RV Park

Lake Mohave

Black Canyon/Willow Beach River Adventures

702-294-1414

www.blackcanyonriveradventures.com

Scenic raft trip through Black Canyon, with views of Hoover Dam.

Cottonwood Cove Resort and Marina

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

www.cottonwoodcoveresort.com

- Marina
- Boat repair
- Cafe'
- Meeting room
- Dry boat storage
- Beach front motel
- Auto/boat fuel
- Visitor trailer village
- Gift/convenience store
- Boat decontamination services
- Houseboat and small boat rentals
- Launch ramp
- Campgrounds
- Slip rentals
- RV park
- Pump-out
- Showers
- Fish cleaner
- Laundry

Lake Mohave Resort, Katherine Landing

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

www.sevencrown.com

- Marina
- Auto/boat fuel
- Boat repair
- Laundry
- Dry boat storage
- Campgrounds
- Restaurant and lounge
- Visitor trailer village
- Gift/convenience store
- Boat decontamination services
- Boat rentals (houseboat and small)
- Launch ramp
- RV park
- Motel
- Pump-out
- Showers
- Fish cleaner

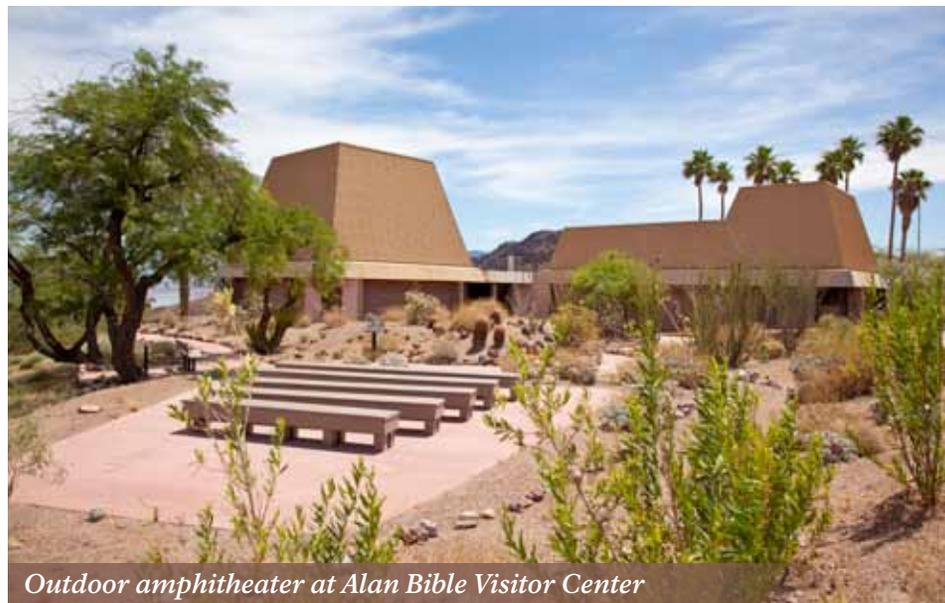
Willow Beach Harbor

928-767-4747

www.willowbeachharbor.com

- Marina
- Auto/boat fuel
- Cafe'
- Showers
- Laundry
- Gift/convenience store
- Small boat, canoe and kayak rentals
- Launch ramp
- Fishing pier
- Campground
- Slip Rentals
- RV park
- Pump-out
- Fish cleaner

Reopening of the Alan Bible Visitor Center



Outdoor amphitheater at Alan Bible Visitor Center

Those driving by the visitor center site will notice the new solar panel array on the property. These nine panels and other improvements will earn the Alan Bible Visitor Center a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver rating, a unique award for a historic building.



Solar panel installation at Alan Bible Visitor Center

Under renovation since Fall 2010, the Alan Bible Visitor Center will reopen this winter and will be better than ever!

The Alan Bible Visitor Center, built in 1966 has been brought into the 21st century while preserving its historic elements. Improvements include bringing its many systems up to code, improving accessibility throughout the building and making it more climate friendly by conserving and producing energy.

Other changes are more subtle; a new park film is being produced, the improved bookstore will carry many new educational and nature gift items and the cactus garden will have improved sidewalks and masonry walls.

Please call 702-293-8990 for more information about the upcoming Alan Bible Visitor Center reopening.

Explore the Visitor Center Park Store

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

Explore the park store's wide selection of Lake Mead NRA and Hoover Dam books, kid's items, movies, postcards, music, jewelry and much more.

You can feel good about shopping! Operated by Western National Parks Association, a non-profit partner of the National Park Service, your purchases directly support outreach and education at Lake Mead NRA.



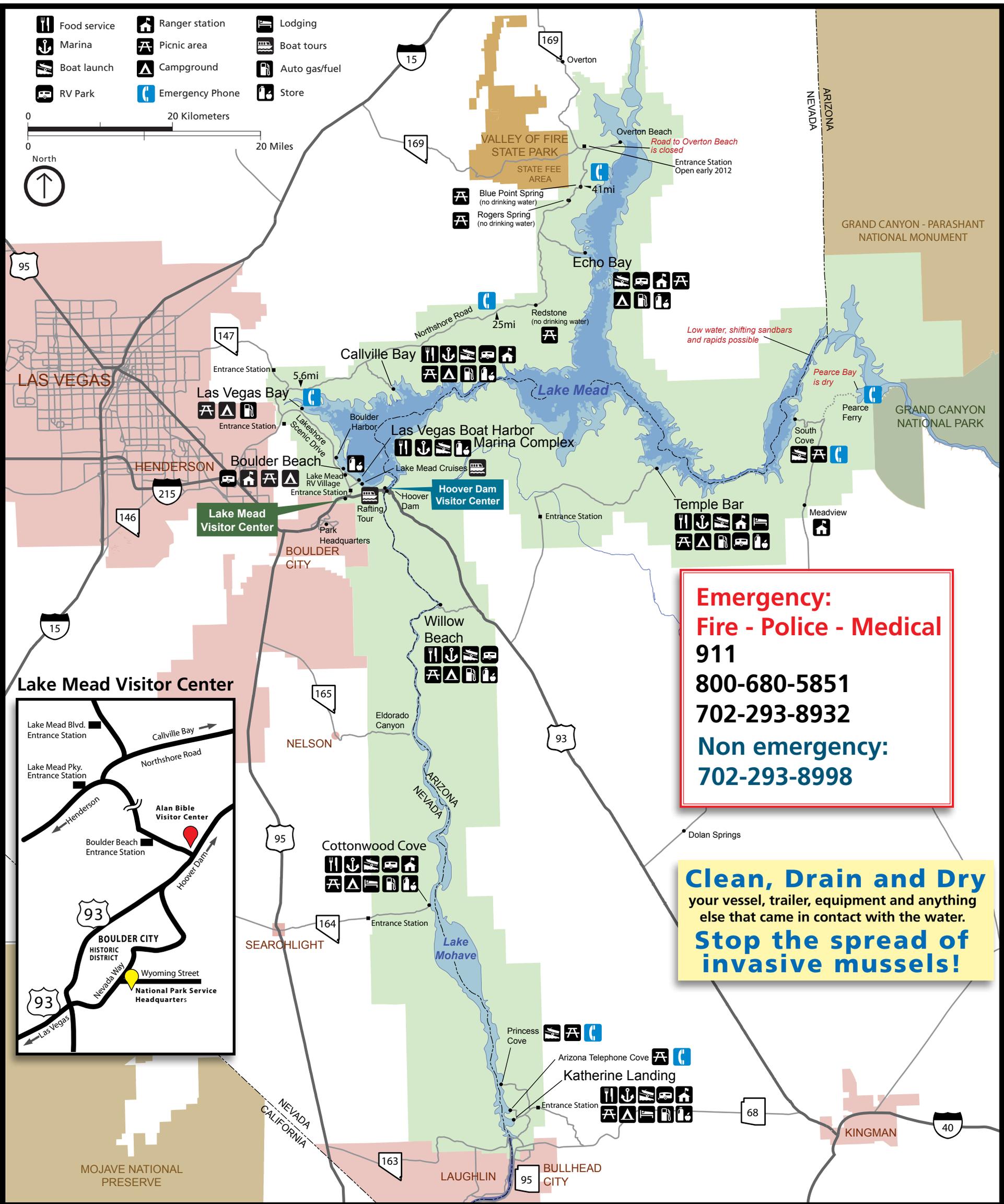
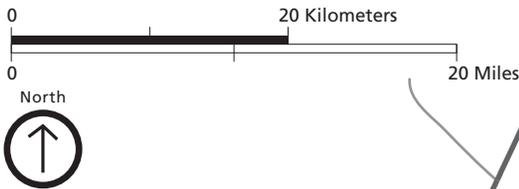
The Visitor Center is free to visit and is open daily. See the map on the back page for our location or call 702-293-8990 for details.

WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

www.wnpa.org

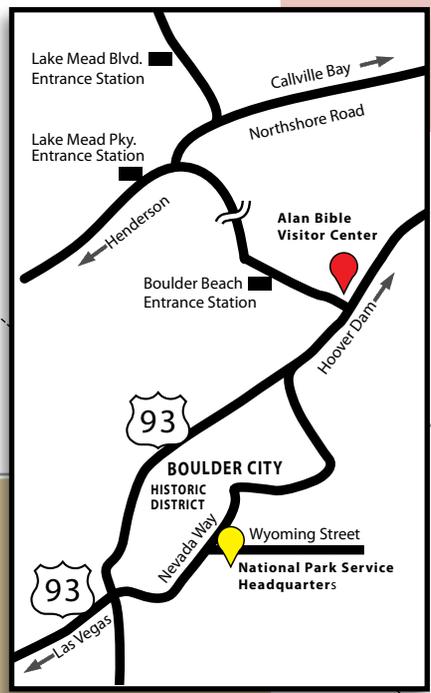


- Food service
- Marina
- Boat launch
- RV Park
- Ranger station
- Picnic area
- Campground
- Emergency Phone
- Lodging
- Boat tours
- Auto gas/fuel
- Store



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

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

www.facebook.com/lakemead

E-mail
lake_information@nps.gov

www.twitter.com/lakemeadnra

Website
www.nps.gov/lake

