

**Notice of Availability
Environmental Assessment
Vending in Thompson Bay Area
Mohave County, Arizona**

Agency: Bureau of Land Management
Colorado River District, Lake Havasu Field Office

Project Proponent: Various Applicants

Public Review and Comments Requested: This letter serves as the Notice of Availability for Environmental Assessment (EA-AZ-330-2010-0001) for the proposed Vending in Thompson Bay. Information about this project and copies of the EA can be obtained online at http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/fo/lake_havasu_field.html or by contacting:

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The public review and comment period for this EA will extend for 30 days, beginning on March 2, 2009 and ending on April 2, 2009. Written comments on the EA must be received by BLM by close of business on April 9, 2009. Please address your comments to the address above.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the Environmental Assessment and other related documents. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Project Summary: There is local interest by commercial vendors in Lake Havasu City, Mohave County, Arizona to conduct business along the Colorado River in Thompson Bay on Lake Havasu. Interests include both stationary and mobile vending types of operations on the water. Types of business proposed include but not limited to watercraft rentals, mobile food and convenience item sales, and services. This EA will review areas of Lake Havasu in the immediate vicinity of Thompson Bay that would be able to accommodate commercial vending on the water in support of the recreation experience and opportunities of the area.

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2010-0001- Programmatic EA

Vending in Thompson Bay Area of Influence

Applicant: Various Applicants

Mohave County, Arizona

Lake Havasu Field Office
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Date: February 2010



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1. CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

A. Project Location

The project location is along the Colorado River on Lake Havasu within Thompson Bay on the south side of Lake Havasu City in Mohave County, Arizona. Several Special Recreation Permit (SRP) applications for commercial vending operations in this area of Lake Havasu have been submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for review and consideration. Proposed vending sites include mobile vendors in Thompson Bay and a shoreline vendor at Arizona State Lands lease adjacent to London Bridge Beach. These areas are all located on the south side of the Lake Havasu Island. These sites are located in T. 13N., R20W., Sections 15, 22 and 23, Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona and T. 4N., R. 25E., Sections 9, 10 and 15, San Bernardino Meridian, California. Included in these locations are areas locally known as “Body Beach”, and “Contact Point” on the Arizona side of the lake and “Ski Coves” and “Grass Island” on the California side of the Lake Havasu.

Land-based businesses in this immediate area of Thompson Bay include the Nautical Inn Resort, Lake Havasu Marina, and the Sand Bar Grill located on Arizona State Lands property (commercial lease).

See Appendix D for a map of the Project Area.

B. Project Background

For several years there have been numerous vendors within Thompson Bay conducting commercial vending operations on BLM-administered public lands and related waters of Lake Havasu without authorization. In July 2009, the BLM removed commercial vendors from the Rotary Beach and London Bridge Beach areas of Thompson Bay at the request of the Lake Havasu City Council (City Council) and the City Manager. BLM also removed floating vending operations in Thompson Bay at that time. All commercial vendors were instructed to follow BLM requirements for filing an SRP application for consideration, review, and approval or denial.

In January 2010, a Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) that was being developed between the BLM and Lake Havasu City (City) regarding the management of commercial vendors along Rotary Beach and London Bridge Beach areas of the Lake Havasu shoreline was denied by the City Council. The City Council decided not to allow access for commercial vendors to cross and utilize City property for vending operations along the City beach shorelines.

Since July 2009, BLM has received several inquiries and SRP applications pertaining to permits under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2930 for the purpose commercial

vending on public lands or related waters, specifically in the Thompson Bay area of Lake Havasu. According to the Recreation Permit Administration Handbook (H-2930-1), a vending operation should: 1) *Directly support or enhance the recreation experience and be appropriate for the recreation setting of the area; and, 2) It is important to consider the impact of vending on established business in nearby gateway communities.*

The temporary use of public lands or related waters for commercial vending in the Thompson Bay area of Lake Havasu is being proposed by businesses of personal watercraft (PWC) rental operations and various types of floating food vendor operations. BLM has jurisdiction for permitting activities associated with BLM-administered public lands and related waters of Lake Havasu.

This environmental assessment (EA) will evaluate those commercial vendor operations proposed for the Thompson Bay area of Lake Havasu. In the future, BLM may evaluate the entire area of Lake Havasu for potential vending operations. Those inquiries would be evaluated by BLM through a programmatic EA or on a case-by-case basis if a programmatic EA has not been completed.

C. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to permit the temporary operations for commercial vending on BLM-administered public lands and related waters of Lake Havasu, and provide opportunities for visitors and residents to engage in a variety of water and shoreline related activities while providing environmentally responsible recreation opportunities. Any vending permits issued would be for temporary use authorizations allowing commercial vending of food or services in support or enhancement of the recreation experience on Lake Havasu in the Thompson Bay vicinity.

The Proposed Action is needed because Federal Law established under the jurisdiction of 43 CFR, Part 2930, Subpart 2932, and H-2930-1 requiring the authorization of a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for commercial recreation activities on BLM-administered public lands or related waters. BLM manages this area of Lake Havasu pursuant to Department Manual 613 DM 1 (DM). This DM allows BLM to administer Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) withdrawn lands on the lower Colorado River. The Proposed Action is also needed to address natural resources and safety concerns of the proposed commercial vending operations in order to avoid, reduce or mitigate impacts to those resources.

D. Decision to be Made

BLM will decide whether or not to allow the temporary use of BLM-administered public lands or related waters for commercial vending operations in Thompson Bay and vicinity on Lake Havasu and the adjacent shoreline areas.

E. Scoping and Issues

The BLM and Lake Havasu City have met on several occasions over the past three years about vendor operations in Thompson Bay and along the lake shoreline. Those discussions addressed concerns about natural resources, public safety, and public access to the shoreline. Those concerns were addressed in a draft CMA between the two parties which has since been terminated.

Several Lake Havasu City Council meetings have been held over the past three years that have allowed the public to voice their opinions about vending operations in Thompson Bay and along the lake shoreline. Those comments can be found on the internet at http://lakehavasucity.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3.

On October 19, 2009 the NEPA Team met to discuss the Proposed Action. Scoping issues were discussed at the meeting and the following resources were identified: Air Quality, Biology (fish habitat, threatened or endangered species), Cultural Resources, Migratory Birds, Noise, Public Safety, Recreation, Riparian/Wetlands Habitat, Water Quality, and Wildlife.

Subsequent to the NEPA Team meeting and identifying resources that could be impacted, Socioeconomics has been added to evaluate floating vendor operational influence on established land-based business operations.

2. CHAPTER 2 - PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

A. Alternative 1 – Thompson Bay Vending

Alternative 1 addresses applications submitted by businesses for the BLM to consider the issuance of Special Recreation Permits (SRP) for various lake vending operations on Lake Havasu anywhere within Thompson Bay. Those vending operations include, but are not limited to, equipment rentals (motorized and non-motorized watercraft), services, and sales of food/convenience items that would support the recreation experience.

See Appendix D for Map 2 - Alternative 1.

SRP vending permits would be issued for stationary and mobile type vending operations under temporary permits anywhere within Thompson Bay and along the shoreline where the land owner allows shoreline vendor access to public lands. The typical lake vending season being considered ranges from March 1st through October 31st of each year.

1. Design Features

Specific measures that would be incorporated into Alternative 1 include the following:

- All buoys, lines, signs, and any other vending related materials would be temporarily placed on public lands and waters and would be

removed at the end of each day for mobile vendors or at the end of the vending season for stationary vendors.

- No fueling or any form of vessel maintenance/mechanical work would occur in the water or on public lands. No private fueling would be allowed on the water. Authorized watercraft would be fueled at local retail gas stations or the local marinas. An exception would be that fine tuning and adjustments of vessels in the water would be allowed.
- Authorized watercraft used for vending operations would be launched and retrieved at local boat ramp facilities with concrete ramp aprons. An exception would be to allow low impact PWC dollies with over-sized inflatable tires that would be used for launching from sandy beaches.
- Vendor operations with vessels would be required to meet watercraft safety standards and registration requirements as established by the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as, State and County agency regulations and requirements. Vendors with watercraft rentals would be required to provide safe operation instructions for the customer.
- Mobile food vendors would be required to obtain the appropriate County food establishment permit for their proposed food vending operation.
- Mobile food vendors would be required to operate out of an approved commissary. This includes legal disposal of waste from the unit; the vessel must provide a flushing toilet on the vessel (no chemical toilets).
- Mobile vendors would be required to stay a minimum of 200 feet offshore from private lands or other agency landowners unless proof of legal access or permission is granted to conduct commercial business along the shore.

2. Connected Actions

With Alternatives 1 and 2 considering the issuance of vending permits in this area of Lake Havasu, a connected action by the U.S. Coast Guard authorizing and permitting numerous boating events will occur. This connected action will affect natural resources such as noise levels, riparian/wetlands, and wildlife. The effect on these resources is presented in Chapter 4.

3. Cumulative Actions

In the future, there may potentially be an increased demand for vending operations on Lake Havasu in the Thompson Bay area. There may be upwards to ten (10) vendor operation proposals each year. These actions may potentially have a cumulative significant impact upon natural resources over time. Cumulative analysis is presented in Chapter 4.

B. Alternative 2 – Restricted Area Vending (Proposed Action)

BLM would issue SRPs for both stationary and mobile lake vending operations on Lake Havasu outside of the Thompson Bay “no wake zone”. This area includes “Body Beach”, “Black Rock Cove”, “Contact Point” along the Arizona shoreline, and “Grass Island”, and “Ski Cove” areas along the California side of the lake. There are artificial reef habitats in this vicinity to improve fish habitat which will be addressed in Chapters 3 and 4.

Alternative 2 proposes to prohibit mobile vending operations within the “no wake” zone of Thompson Bay. As identified in Section 1, “Project Background”, *it is important to consider the impact of vending on established businesses in nearby gateway communities*. This alternative would prohibit mobile vending operations from conducting business that conflict with established businesses within the “no wake” zone of Thompson Bay which includes the Nautical Inn Resort, Lake Havasu Marina, and Sand Bar Grill. The Nautical Inn Resort provides restaurant food and drinks, convenience foods, merchandise product sales, and rental services. Lake Havasu Marina provides boat slips, fueling docks, convenience foods, merchandise sales, and vessel repairs. The Sand Bar Grill provides food and drink services.

This restriction of mobile vendor operations would also provide for safe unobstructed navigation by hundreds of vessels through the “no wake” zone of Thompson Bay while entering and exiting the southern end of the London Bridge Channel. Mobile vendors would be allowed to travel through Thompson Bay to enter and exit the London Bridge Channel and Lake Havasu Marina. Emergency services would be allowed to assist vessels in distress.

There may be potential for a stationary shoreline watercraft rental operation in Thompson Bay along a small beach in front of the Sand Bar Grill (AZ State Land Department land lease) if the land lease holder allows vendor access to public lands. The beach area covers approximately 330 feet of shoreline. A watercraft rental operation would not occupy more than 10-15% of the shoreline in order to allow for public access and use of the remaining space shoreline. Mobile food vending operations at this location would be in conflict with the Sand Bar Grill business and would not be allowed.

See Appendix D for Map 3 - Alternative 2.

The typical lake vending season being considered ranges from March 1st through October 31st of each year.

1. Design Features

Specific measures that would be incorporated into Alternative 2 include the same design features as found in Alternative 1.

C. Alternative 3 – No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, no commercial vending permits would be issued on Lake Havasu in the “no wake” zone of Thompson Bay.

D. Alternatives Considered but Eliminated From Detailed Analysis

Alternative 4

This alternative considered similar actions as Alternative 1 by allowing vendor operations anywhere within Thompson Bay and Alternative 2 by restricting floating vendor operations within the Thompson Bay “no wake” zone but allowing for stationary shoreline vendors only along the shorelines of Rotary Beach and the Arizona State Lands lease adjacent to London Bridge Beach.

For the Rotary Beach area, shoreline rental vendor operations would have been considered along the beach under a Cooperative Management Agreement between the BLM and Lake Havasu City. In January 2010, the Lake Havasu City Council decided not to allow access for commercial vendors to cross and utilize Rotary Beach property for vending operations along the City beach shorelines.

This alternative was eliminated from further consideration after the City Council’s decision not to allow access for commercial vendors to cross and utilize City property for vending operations along the City beach shorelines.

E. Conformance with Land Use Plan

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the *Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan* (RMP) which was approved on May 10, 2007.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the applicable RMP because it is specifically provided for in the following RMP decision(s):

RR-4: Desired Future Conditions for the Lake Havasu Special Recreation Management Area are:

Primary Market Strategy: Destination

Market: Residents of and visitors to the Lake Havasu Region.

SRMA Desired Future Condition: Manage high-volume recreation on the lake and shoreline to sustain natural resource values and recreational opportunities.

RR-11: Desired Future Conditions for the Lake Havasu RMZ 7 – North Lake Havasu will be generally managed for Rural Developed to provide the following:

Niche: Boating for pleasure in close proximity to the services provided by Lake Havasu City. SRPs related to events that impact lake bottom managed by the BLM.

Management Objective: Manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in a variety of water and shoreline related activities, providing continuity to management through collaborative partnerships with other entities. Manage this zone to provide environmentally responsible recreation opportunities to include Arizona shoreline fishing docks and enhancement or protection on important fish habitats from impacts to the lake bottom.

RR-60: Within the SRMA, BLM will require SRPs for organized events and activities that impact the public lands comprising the lake bottom and shoreline.

The Proposed Action consistent with the RMP as discussed on page 8 (Bureau of Reclamation Project Lands):

“...These lands constitute a corridor along the Lower Colorado River in Arizona and California, and are managed by the BLM for multiple uses. However, they remain Reclamation lands, and their use is dedicated primarily to support various Reclamation projects. To maximize opportunities for multiple-use management, the BLM has the responsibility of managing these lands, in coordination with Reclamation. Reclamation relies on the BLM to take the lead role in non-Reclamation project management of the Reclamation lands along the Lower Colorado River. The BLM may not dispose of any of these lands without written approval of Reclamation.”

F. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

Specific BLM plans that will affect, or be affected by, this plan include:

- Lower Colorado River Land Use Plan, 1964

The first major planning effort for Federal lands along the Colorado River. It was prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior under special authorities. It resulted in numerous recommendations, many of which related to recreation development of the shorelines along the lower Colorado River waterways.

- Arizona Historic Preservation Plan, 1996

This plan was developed by the Arizona State Parks Department to be implemented in the protection and conservation of Arizona's historic and cultural resources, including guidelines for management of cultural sites on public lands.

-Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, December 2004

This is a coordinated, comprehensive, long-term multi-agency effort to conserve and work towards the recovery of endangered species, and protect and maintain wildlife habitat on the lower Colorado River.

-Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Program – Management Plan, 2009

This plan was developed by the partnership of multiple State, Federal and Local agencies that establishes fishery management goals, objectives, and actions to guide the Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Program for Lake Havasu.

-Recommended Uniform Minimum Protocols and Standards for Watercraft Interception Programs for Dreissenid Mussels in the Western United States, September 2009

This guidance recommendation is intended to provide measures to prevent the transfer of quagga and zebra mussels on trailed watercraft/equipment in order to safeguard natural resources, water supply, recreation and other resources by decontaminating watercraft exposed to mussel infested waters.

-Environmental Assessment (AZ-C030-2009-0049-EA) – Buoy Anchor Placement, addressed actions, resource impacts, and mitigating measures associated with the 3rd Annual Desert Storm high-speed boating event.

3. CHAPTER 3 - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section describes the existing conditions of the affected environment. The table below summarizes the resources and concerns reviewed for this project. Resources not present within the project study area, as well as those present and not affected, are not discussed. Those resources that have been identified by an interdisciplinary team as present and potentially affected are discussed below.

A. General Project Setting

Various types of vending operations are being proposed including, but not limited to, equipment rentals (personal watercraft), services, and sales of food/convenience items on Lake Havasu in Thompson Bay and shoreline area in Mohave County, Arizona. The proposed areas involve the temporary placement of vessel anchors, beaching vessels, and floating vessels in T. 13N., R20W., Sections 15, 22 and 23, Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona, and T. 4N., R. 25E., Sections 9, 10 and 15, San Bernardino Meridian, California. These areas include Rotary Beach, London Bridge Beach, and Nautical Inn in Thompson Bay, and south along Body Beach and Contact Point on the Arizona side of the lake. Grass Island and Ski Coves are included on the California side of the lake. See Appendix D for the map and aerial view of the Project Area.

The average annual rainfall for this arid desert climate is four (4) inches. Summer thunder storms produce about 40% of the annual precipitation. Summer temperatures can range between 105-120° F to 40-60° F during the winter months.

Geology and soils are associated with the Basin and Range Physiographic Province characterized by surface deposits of Holocene to middle Pleistocene gravels. Volcanic ridges are immediately located in the surrounding project area, with possible fault structures of the Tertiary volcanic and sedimentary of the middle Miocene to Oligocene periods. Desert pavement surfaces have developed on flat ridge tops. Dispersed throughout are surface and subsurface deposits of sand. There are also deposits of river cobbles of quartzite, chert and limestone, in discrete deposits.

Lake Havasu was formed by the construction of Parker Dam in 1941, which allowed the gradual filling of Chemehuevi Valley along the Colorado River. The Arizona shoreline is formed by the southwest bajada of the Mohave and Bill Williams Mountains. This shoreline includes numerous intermittent washes that were tributaries to the Colorado River. Drainages flow from the northeast to southwest. Slope aspects tend to be very small scale level areas. There are broad ridge bajadas forming terrace flats above the lake with islands that were the tops of ridges before they were inundated by the lake, or areas with sedimentary beaches formed at the confluences of minor washes and the lake.

The immediate area of the Proposed Action in the lake adjacent to Thompson Bay to south of Contact Point consists of a sandy to cobblestone shoreline and lake bottom. Riparian and aquatic vegetation is absent along the developed beach areas of Thompson Bay and prevalent south past Contact Point along this portion of the Arizona shoreline.

B. Resources / Concerns

The following table is a list of resources/concerns that were considered in this Environmental Assessment. Resources/concerns either not present or would not be affected by the Proposed Action will not be addressed further in this Environmental Assessment.

PROJECT RESOURCE REVIEW			
Resources & Programs Considered	Not Present	Present and Not Affected	Present and/or Potentially Affected
Air Quality*			X
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	X		
Cultural, Historic & Paleontological Resources*	X		
Environmental Justice*		X	
Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	X		
Fish Habitat*			X
Floodplains*		X	
Forests and Rangelands*	X		
Fuels/Fire Management	X		
Grazing	X		
Hazardous or Solid Wastes*	X		
Lands & Realty		X	
Law Enforcement		X	
Migratory Birds*			X
Minerals	X		
Native American Religious Concerns*		X	
Public Health & Safety			X
Recreation			X
Socioeconomics			X
Soils		X	
Threatened or Endangered Species*			X
Travel Management	X		
Vegetation	X		
Visual Resources		X	
Water Quality (Drinking or Groundwater)*			X
Weeds(Invasive & Non-Native)	X		
Wetlands/Riparian Zones*			X
Wild & Scenic Rivers*	X		
Wild Horses/Burros	X		
Wilderness*	X		
Wildlife			X

*Consideration Required by Law or Executive Order

Cultural, Historic, and Paleontological Resources are not known or recorded for the immediate area but will still be addressed in the following chapters.

1. Air and Atmospheric Values

Air Quality - Mohave County is designated an "attainment area," which is an area having ambient air quality conditions equal to or less than national air quality standards. Typically, during the fall, winter, and spring months the prevailing winds are from the north. During the summer months, prevailing winds are from the west and southwest directions.

Climate and Meteorology - The climate is an arid desert known as the transition zone between the Sonoran and Mohave Deserts. The local desert region has been experiencing several years of below average annual precipitation (4" average annual rain fall).

Climate Change - Existing climate prediction models are global in nature, therefore they are not at the appropriate scale to estimate potential impacts of climate change on the Proposed Action site location.

2. Cultural, Historic & Paleontological

There are no known or recorded heritage or paleontological sites within the project area. Since the area was historically flooded after the construction of Parker Dam, any undiscovered cultural or paleontological resources that may have been present are currently protected by the waters of Lake Havasu. Additionally, the presence of the lake prevents any further cultural resource surveys. The Cultural Resource Project Record states that no historic properties are affected. See Appendix C – Cultural Resource Compliance Documentation Record.

3. Fish Habitat

The Lake Havasu reservoir provides aquatic habitat for several species of native and non-native fish. Two endangered fish species found within this reservoir include the re-patriated, endangered Bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*) and the Razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) which are mentioned further under Threatened and Endangered Species. Lake Havasu is designated critical habitat for the bonytail chub. There is no known spawning habitat for the Razorback sucker or Bonytail chub within this Proposed Action area.

Other well known fish species include the Striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), Small mouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), Crappie (*Pomoxis sp.*), Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), Redear sunfish (*Lepomis microlophus*), Flathead catfish (*Pilodictus olivaris*), Channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), and Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). All of the recreational sport fish species are healthy

and have abundant self-sustaining populations.

The Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Program (1994 to present) has made great strides in improving the aquatic habitat with the placement of artificial reef habitat structures in numerous coves throughout the reservoir. Specifically, these habitat structures are present in Black Rock Cove and in the Ski Coves. Stipulations should be enforced to ensure these structures and habitat are not damaged as a result of the Proposed Action.

Invasive quagga mussels have spread throughout Lake Havasu and have impacted fish habitat within the lake. Various agencies are continuing to educate the boating public about the dangers of spreading this invasive species to other water bodies.

4. Migratory Birds

Migratory birds occur in the project vicinity, as Lake Havasu and the lower Colorado River functions as a corridor and flyway for variety of species of songbirds, raptors and waterfowl. Typically, migration occurs largely in the fall and spring. Functioning portions of riparian habitat along the Lake Havasu shoreline provide needed areas for forage and roosting. These riparian areas are also important for those resident and nesting migrants from March 1 through July 31.

5. Noise

The most common noise or sound occurrence year-round on Lake Havasu is created by watercraft operating on the lake for recreational purposes. These noise levels can range from below the permissible noise exposure criteria of 85 decibels time-weighted average (dBA) at a distance of 50' for watercraft, to over 100 dBA depending on the size of the watercraft and proximity to the individual.

6. Public Health and Safety

Currently, public services provided in this area include restroom facilities for visitors within the Nautical Inn Resort grounds and the City parks at Rotary Beach and London Bridge Beach. Emergency services are provided by the local County and City agencies.

Mohave County Department of Public Health has strict standards for food vendors operating from a vessel. Any mobile food vendors would be required to obtain the appropriate County food establishment permit for their proposed food vending operation. Mobile food vendors are required to operate out of an approved commissary. This includes legal disposal of

waste from the unit and the vessel must provide a flushing toilet on the vessel (no chemical toilets).

Vendor operations with vessels are required to meet watercraft safety standards and registration requirements as established by the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as, State and County agency regulations and requirements.

There are no known hazardous materials or solid waste issues found within the vicinity of this Proposed Action location.

7. Recreation Management

Lake Havasu has been a major recreational destination area since it was formed by Parker Dam in 1941. Today, this area is probably best known for boating, fishing, sightseeing, recreational tourism and event activities associated with Lake Havasu and the London Bridge. Recreational boating and water sports are by far the most common activity on Lake Havasu followed closely by recreational fishing activities. The *Lake Havasu Field Office Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement* (BLM, 2006) reported a “best estimate” of summer holiday weekend boat use of Lake Havasu. This estimate of 3,628 boats at one time (BAOT) was derived from infrastructure capacities and maximum number of boats launched at available facilities. Unauthorized boat launches occur from Arizona State Trust Lands shoreline at Pittsburg Point and “Body Beach” area that increases the number boats launched but an undetermined number. Actual counts of BAOT on Lake Havasu as determined by satellite photography in the summer of 2005 counted approximately 4,000 boats on Memorial Day. Tens of thousands of boaters visit Lake Havasu every year to enjoy water sport activities in the summer and lake fishing the year round.

Boating activity during the spring and summer months is on the increase ranging from a couple hundred boats in the spring to several thousand boats encountered or attracted to the lake area during the summer. Most of these boats enter or exit the Thompson Bay area and southern end of the London Bridge Channel.

8. Socio-economics

Land-based businesses in this immediate area of Thompson Bay include the Nautical Inn Resort, Lake Havasu Marina, and the Sand bar Grill located on Arizona State Lands property (commercial lease). These business properties are well established and have conducted business at these locations for over 20 years.

The Nautical Inn Resort provides restaurant food and drinks, convenience

foods, merchandise product sales, and rental services. Lake Havasu Marina provides boat slips, fueling docks, convenience foods, merchandise sales, and vessel repairs. The Sand Bar Grill provides food and drink services.

According to the Recreation Permit Administration Handbook (H-2930-1), a vending operation should: 1) *Directly support or enhance the recreation experience and be appropriate for the recreation setting of the area; and, 2) It is important to consider the impact of vending on established business in nearby gateway communities.*

9. Threatened or Endangered Species

Federally-listed species that may occur in or near the project location consist of the razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) the bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*), the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax extimus traillii*), the Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris*), and the candidate western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*). The Colorado River in the project area is also designated as critical habitat for the bonytail chub (Federal Register 1994). The Lower Colorado River Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) annually stocks approximately 6,000 semi-adult bonytail chub and razorback suckers in the Lake Havasu reach of the river, and aims to continue that for many years into the future.

10. Water Quality (Drinking and Ground)

Designated Beneficial Uses for waters of Lake Havasu are listed by the states of Arizona and California as drinking water, primary and secondary contact recreation, wildlife, warm water fish habitat, and fish consumption. The Project Area is located 16 miles upstream from municipality water intake systems for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and for the Central Arizona Project of Arizona. Local community water use is supplied and treated by groundwater wells in the immediate area of Thompson Bay at London Bridge Beach and Body Beach areas.

Lake Havasu has exceeded standards for bacteria concentrations historically during warm water conditions of the summer months in the London Bridge Channel and areas of Thompson Bay.

11. Wetlands/Riparian Zones

The construction of Parker Dam in 1941, and the gradual filling of Lake Havasu in Chemehuevi Valley, is a relatively recent occurrence. The introduction of salt cedar and increasing recreation use has changed the original environmental conditions and the riparian interface.

The terrestrial riparian zone is found adjacent to the shoreline. Riparian habitat along Lake Havasu is primarily found in backs of coves where ephemeral washes enter the lake. Narrow bands of salt cedar (*Tamarix sp.*), arrowweed (*Pluchea sericea*), and mesquite (*Prosopis sp.*) trees line the shoreline. Riparian habitat is important to neotropical migratory and resident bird species.

The wetland and submergent vegetation in the lake adjacent to the shoreline consists primarily of emergent cattails (*Typha spp.*), bulrushes (*Scirpus spp.*), and reeds (*Phragmites spp.*). Coves or backwater oxbows along the lake may support aquatic vegetation that does not survive the choppy, scouring water and waves of the main lake.

There is wetland habitat exhibited adjacent to or nearby Black Rock Cove located between Body Beach and Contact Point on the Arizona side of the lake. These habitat sites are relatively small, separate, narrow patches along the shoreline or at the confluences of minor washes. Ski Coves on the California side of the lake provide large areas of wetland habitat at the back of the coves.

12. Wildlife

Species of wildlife known to occur within the general area include the desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), desert mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), chuckwalla (*Sauromalus obesus*), and various small lizard species. Chuckwallas are recognized as a sensitive species under the BLM and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD). They are predominantly found near cliffs, boulders, or rocky slopes where they use rocks as basking sites and crevices for shelter.

The Lake Havasu RMP does not identify any wildlife habitat area within the developed areas of the City or in the vicinity of Thompson Bay on the lake. See Appendix C – Biological Clearance

4. CHAPTER 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Potential Direct and Indirect Effects

This section describes the environmental consequences of those resources/concerns identified in Chapter 3 as present and/or potentially affected. Resources not present within the project study area, as well as those present and not affected, are not discussed.

1. Air and Atmospheric Values

a) Alternative 1

Permitting vending operations including, but not limited to, equipment rentals (motorized and non-motorized watercraft), services, and sales of food/convenience items would not create any air or atmospheric impacts to the current conditions.

- Air Quality

With the prevailing winds during the winter and spring months originating from the north, any exhaust emissions that originate from the vendor boat engines or rental watercraft would be localized and dispersed by the prevailing winds. Indirect effects associated with the boating event would not exceed the air quality standards for this containment area.

- Climate and Meteorology

Due to the dry and arid climate for this region, indirect effects from the boating event would not affect the local area climate.

- Climate Change

Existing climate prediction models are global in nature, therefore they are not at the appropriate scale to estimate potential impacts of climate change on the indirect effects of the boating event site location.

b) Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)

Similar impacts would occur under this alternative as identified under Alternative 1.

c) Alternative 3 (No Action)

Under the No Action Alternative, none of the impacts associated with the Proposed Action would occur. However, ongoing lake recreation activities such as recreational boating/racing, high performance boat use/racing, etc. would continue to occur throughout the proposed location during a typical year. Impacts associated with these continued activities would be similar to those described under Alternative 1.

2. Cultural, Historic & Paleontological Resources

a) Alternative 1

There are no prehistoric or historic properties known to occur within the immediate location of Alternative 1. See Appendix B – Cultural Resource Compliance Documentation Record.

b) Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)

There are no prehistoric or historic properties known to occur within the immediate location of Alternative 2. See Appendix B – Cultural Resource Compliance Documentation Record.

c) Alternative 3 (no Action)

The No Action Alternative would result in no change from the existing current use and disturbance within and adjacent to the proposed location.

3. Fish Habitat

a) Alternative 1

Alternative 1 would cause minor lake bottom disturbances during the period of anchor placement and retrieval by vendor operations. Artificial habitat structures are not present in this location and would not be impacted by anchor placement. Any potential impacts listed would be the same as the existing condition.

b) Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)

Artificial reef habitat located in Black Rock Cove and the Ski Coves will receive permanent damage from indiscriminate placement of anchors if allowed to drop anchor in these coves. Measures should be taken to avoid dropping anchors in these artificial reef habitat coves.

c) Alternative 3 (No Action)

The No Action Alternative would result in no change from the existing current use and disturbance within and adjacent to the proposed location.

4. Migratory Birds

a) Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, the Thompson Bay area of the lake receives high use by summer recreational boaters which is not a preferred location for migratory birds. Permitting vending operations in secluded off-channel lake locations would cause minor disturbances to migratory birds.

Indirect affects with boating customers accessing floating vendor locations may temporarily disturb migratory birds that may choose to utilize the secluded areas or the adjacent wetland habitats. However, any noise levels associated with vendor activities are consistent with weekend boating noise levels on the lake for this time of the year. Wetland habitat exhibited adjacent to or nearby Body Beach and Contact Point is relatively small, separate, narrow patches along the shoreline or at the confluences of minor washes and not suitable for nesting of the Yuma clapper rail (YCR). However, these sites may be utilized for resting, roosting or feeding by the YCR. Temporary disturbances and displacement of species would likely occur.

b) Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)

Similar impacts would occur under this alternative as identified under

Alternative 1.

c) Alternative 3 (No Action)

The No Action Alternative would result in no change from the existing current use and disturbance within and adjacent to the project site.

5. Noise

a) Alternative 1

Permitting vending operations under Alternative 1 would not cause any noise disturbances beyond normal conditions.

b) Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)

Similar impacts would occur under this alternative as identified under Alternative 1.

c) Alternative 3 (No Action)

The No Action Alternative would result in no change from the existing current use and disturbance within and adjacent to vendor locations.

6. Public Health and Safety

a) Alternative 1

Alternative 1 would contribute to boating congestion and concern for safe navigation of vessels with mobile vendor operations in Thompson Bay. Boating customers tend to congregate around mobile vendors mobile vendors that can create navigation issues with large volumes of vessels entering and exiting the London Bridge Channel.

County health standards and licensing requirements are mandatory for mobile food vendors operating from a vessel for each county that business is being conducted. Mobile food vendors are required to operate out of an approved commissary. This includes legal disposal of waste from the unit and the vessel must provide a flushing toilet on board (no chemical toilets).

Vendor operations with vessels and rental watercraft are required to meet watercraft safety standards and registration requirements as established by the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as, State and County agency regulations and requirements. Vendors with watercraft rentals are required to provide safe operation instructions for the customer.

b) Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)

Alternative 2 would provide for public health and safety by locating floating vendor operations outside of Thompson Bay and away from the traffic lanes of boaters on the lake. This alternative relieves the potential congestion of floating vendor operations and boating customers within

Thompson Bay. Mobile vendors would be allowed to travel through Thompson Bay to enter and exit the London Bridge Channel and Lake Havasu Marina. Emergency services would be allowed to assist vessels in distress.

County health standards and licensing requirements are mandatory for mobile food vendors operating from a vessel for each county that business is being conducted. Mobile food vendors are required to operate out of an approved commissary. This includes legal disposal of waste from the unit and the vessel must provide a flushing toilet on board (no chemical toilets).

Vendor operations with vessels and rental watercraft are required to meet watercraft safety standards and registration requirements as established by the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as, State and County agency regulations and requirements. Vendors with watercraft rentals are required to provide safe operation instructions for the customer.

c) Alternative 3 (No Action)

The No Action alternative would result in no change from the existing current use during the summer months on the lake.

7. Recreation Management

a) Alternative 1

Alternative 1 would support the summer recreation experience for this area. Issuing vending permits for this area would be appropriate for the recreation setting identified as “urban developed”. Vending operations that sell convenience items must be legal and appropriate in support of the recreation experience. However, most vending operations would be in conflict with established land-based businesses in the Thompson Bay area.

Recreational boating activities would be impacted by floating vendor operations located in Thompson Bay creating boating congestion and safety issues for boating navigation through this area with hundreds of boats entering and exiting the London Bridge Channel.

b) Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)

Alternative 2 would support and enhance the summer recreation experience for this area. Issuing vending permits for this area would be appropriate for the recreation setting identified as “urban developed”. Vending operations that sell convenience items must be legal and appropriate in support of the recreation experience. Vending operations would be allowed outside of Thompson Bay and vending operations that would be in conflict with established land-based businesses within

Thompson Bay would not be allowed.

Potential exists for a stationary shoreline watercraft rental operation in Thompson Bay along a small beach in front of the Sand Bar Grill (AZ State Land Department land lease). The small beach area covers approximately 330 feet of shoreline. A significant portion of this beach should be available for public access and use. A watercraft rental operation should not occupy more than 10-15% of this shoreline. Mobile food vending operations at this location would be in conflict with the Sand Bar Grill business and would not be allowed.

Recreational boating activities would not be impacted by vending operations located off-channel from the boating traffic lanes on the lake outside of Thompson Bay. Mobile vendor operations would not be allowed in Thompson Bay to conduct business providing for safe navigation through this congested area of boats entering and exiting the London Bridge Channel.

c) Alternative 3 (No Action)

The No Action Alternative would result in no change from the existing current use and disturbances in the area.

8. Socioeconomics

a) Alternative 1

Alternative 1 would allow vendor operations within Thompson Bay. Land-based businesses located within Thompson Bay currently provide food, convenience items, and services for the recreational boating public entering and exiting the London Bridge Channel. Allowing floating vendor operations within Thompson Bay in close proximity to land-based businesses would duplicate food and convenience items already provided by those established businesses for the recreating public in Thompson Bay.

b) Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)

Alternative 2 would prohibit floating vendor operations within Thompson Bay alleviating business conflicts and duplication of food sales and convenience items with the established land-based businesses.

Alternative 2 would allow for both floating and stationary vendor operations outside of Thompson Bay. A stationary rental vendor operation would be allowed along Arizona State Lands leased property adjacent to London Bridge Beach in Thompson Bay. Proof of permission to cross this property to access public lands would be required.

c) Alternative 3 (No Action)

The No Action Alternative would prohibit the issuance of vending permits in the “no wake” zone of Thompson Bay. This alternative would alleviate any potential for business conflicts with established land-based businesses.

9. Threatened or Endangered Species

a) Alternative 1

Fish species found within Lake Havasu include the re-patriated endangered bonytail chub and the Razorback sucker. Lake Havasu is identified as critical habitat for the bonytail chub. Both fish species utilize the lake for at least part of their life-cycle. The bonytail chub is a mid-water spawning species and nocturnal feeder. No spawning habitat for the Razorback sucker has been identified within the Project Area. Razorback sucker spawning habitat has been identified approximately 40 miles upstream. However, adult spawners have regularly been caught near Mesquite Bay less than six miles to the north.

Under Alternative 1, vending operations would take place along the shoreline and on the open waters of Thompson Bay and would not be expected to disturb any individual fish using those areas. The proposed vending operations would take place during the spawning season for razorback suckers, however the operations are not likely to disturb any spawning or nursery areas. Constituent elements of bonytail critical habitat are not likely to be adversely affected. The vendor operations would not jeopardize any threatened or endangered fish species.

Avian species that may occasionally visit the area include the threatened bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Yuma clapper rail, and the southwestern willow flycatcher. The area proposed to be disturbed is unsuitable habitat for the above listed species. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons utilize large cliffs and outcrops for nesting and roosting. Whereas, the southwestern willow flycatcher primarily utilizes larger dense patches of willow, cottonwood and salt cedar. The Yuma clapper rail utilizes denser patches of emergent vegetation. These habitat types are not present in the shoreline within Thompson Bay. The vendor operations would temporarily disturb these species but would not jeopardize any of the species.

b) Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)

Fish species found within Lake Havasu include the re-patriated endangered bonytail chub and the Razorback sucker. Lake Havasu is identified as critical habitat for the bonytail chub. Both fish species utilize the lake for at least part of their life-cycle. The bonytail chub is a mid-water spawning species and nocturnal feeder. No spawning habitat for the Razorback sucker has been identified within the area of this alternative. Razorback sucker spawning habitat has been identified approximately 40

miles upstream. However, adult spawners have regularly been caught near Mesquite Bay less than six miles to the north.

Under Alternative 2, vending operations would take place on the open waters of the lake outside of Thompson Bay and would not be expected to disturb any individual fish using those areas. Vendor operations would take place during the spawning season for razorback suckers, however the activity vending activity is not likely to disturb any spawning or nursery areas. Constituent elements of bonytail critical habitat are not likely to be adversely affected. Vending operations would not jeopardize any threatened or endangered fish species.

Avian species that may occasionally visit the area include the threatened bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Yuma clapper rail, and the southwestern willow flycatcher. The areas proposed to be disturbed by vending operations are unsuitable habitat for the above listed species, except for the Yuma clapper rail for the Ski Cove areas. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons utilize large cliffs and outcrops for nesting and roosting. Whereas, the southwestern willow flycatcher primarily utilizes larger dense patches of willow, cottonwood and salt cedar.

The Yuma clapper rail utilizes denser patches of emergent vegetation which can be found at the back of the Ski Cove areas. These habitat types are present in large growth patches of emergent cattails. Any vending operations in the Ski Cove areas would be required to avoid the back of these coves.

Vending operations under Alternative 2 would temporarily disturb these species but would not jeopardize any of the species.

c) No Action Alternative

There are no impacts to threatened or endangered species associated with the No Action Alternative compared to existing conditions since this alternative proposes to prohibit issuance of vending permits in Thompson Bay.

10. Water Quality (Drinking and Ground)

a) Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, allowing a rental watercraft vendor and mobile food vendors to conduct business in Thompson Bay would not cause any water quality issues beyond normal conditions. A rental watercraft vendor (motorized) would be allowed to locate on Arizona State Lands in Thompson Bay within 100 yards of a City water well. A similar rental watercraft vendor located within 30 yards of the City water well had conducted business for over ten years and no water quality issues had been identified.

Similar conditions pertain to mobile vendors in Thompson Bay on Lake Havasu with no immediate water quality issues created beyond normal conditions in this congested area of the lake. County health standards and licensing requirements are mandatory for mobile food vendors operating from a vessel for each county that business is being conducted.. Mobile food vendors are required to operate out of an approved commissary. This includes legal disposal of waste from the unit and the vessel must provide a flushing toilet on the vessel (no chemical toilets).

Indirect effects of the boating activities being within one quarter mile of the local community water use that is supplied and treated by two groundwater wells could affect drinking or groundwater quality.

The testing of sediments and water column sampling has not previously been conducted for watercraft burned fuel contaminants. Logically there would be some contaminants occurring from various types of boating activity and possibly accumulating in the shallow areas of the lake due to wave transport and potential adhesion to sediments but there are no test results for this area.

b) Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)

Under Alternative 2, allowing a rental watercraft vendor (motorized) to locate on Arizona State Lands in Thompson Bay within 100 yards of a City water well would not cause any water quality issues beyond normal conditions. A rental watercraft vendor located within 30 yards of the City water well had conducted business for over ten years and no water quality issues had been identified.

Under Alternative 2, prohibiting mobile vendors in Thompson Bay would reduce any potential for creating water quality issues in this area. Allowing mobile vendors to conduct business outside of Thompson Bay would not cause any water quality issues beyond normal conditions. County health standards and licensing requirements are mandatory for mobile food vendors operating from a vessel for each county that business is being conducted. Mobile food vendors are required to operate out of an approved commissary. This includes legal disposal of waste from the unit and the vessel must provide a flushing toilet on the vessel (no chemical toilets).

Indirect effects of the boating activities being within one quarter mile of the local community water use that is supplied and treated by two groundwater wells could affect drinking or groundwater quality.

The testing of sediments and water column sampling has not previously

been conducted for watercraft burned fuel contaminants. Logically there would be some contaminants occurring from various types of boating activity and possibly accumulating in the shallow areas of the lake due to wave transport and potential adhesion to sediments but there are no test results for this area.

c) Alternative 3 (No Action)

There are no impacts to water quality associated with the No Action Alternative compared to existing conditions since this alternative proposes no changes.

12. Wetlands/Riparian Zones

a) Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, allowing a rental watercraft vendor and mobile food vendors to conduct business in Thompson Bay would not cause any water quality issues beyond normal conditions.

Wetland/riparian vegetation is nearly non-existent along the shores of Thompson Bay within the “no wake” zone inside the buoy line. Wave action impacting the shoreline is very minor due to the low wake speed of the boats within the “no wake” zone.

b) Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)

Under Alternative 2, allowing a rental watercraft vendor to locate on Arizona State Lands and prohibiting mobile vendors in Thompson Bay but allowing mobile vendors to conduct business outside Thompson Bay would not cause any impacts to wetlands or riparian zones.

Allowing mobile vendors to beach vessels along the shoreline would potentially impact native shoreline vegetation. Areas of native wetland/riparian vegetation should be avoided by floating vendor operations.

Indirect effects to wetland/riparian vegetation and function occur as the wave action from boating activities impact the shoreline. Wave action impacting the shoreline and shoreline vegetation commonly occurs throughout the year with recreational boating activities on the lake. The shoreline vegetation lines the bank and is well established.

c) No Action

The No Action Alternative would result in no change from the existing current use and disturbance within and adjacent to this area.

12. Wildlife

a) Alternative 1

Under Alternative 1, allowing a rental watercraft vendor to locate on Arizona State Lands and allowing mobile vendors to conduct business in Thompson Bay would not cause would not cause any disturbance to wildlife.

Wildlife species that can be found in this area are associated with urban development and disturbed areas. Temporary minor disturbances to these species would occur through indirect effects of the boating event activities.

Species such as chuckwallas, various small lizards, and small birds and mammals may be displaced by activities associated with lands adjacent to the shoreline of Rotary Beach, London Bridge Beach, and adjacent Arizona State lands.

See Appendix B for Biological Clearance.

b) Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)

Under Alternative 2, allowing a rental watercraft vendor to locate on Arizona State Lands and prohibiting mobile vendors in Thompson Bay but allowing mobile vendors to conduct business outside Thompson Bay would not cause would not cause any disturbance to wildlife.

Wildlife species that can be found in this area are associated with urban development and disturbed areas. Temporary minor disturbances to these species would occur through indirect effects of the boating activities.

Species such as chuckwallas, various small lizards, and small birds and mammals may be displaced by activities associated with lands adjacent to the shoreline Rotary Beach south to Contact Point.

See Appendix B for Biological Clearance.

c) No Action Alternative

There are no impacts to wildlife species associated with the No Action Alternative compared to existing conditions since this alternative proposes no changes.

B. Mitigating Measures for the Proposed Action

1. Cultural Resources

The archaeological survey reported no historic or prehistoric properties in the proposed area. Because of the potential for subsurface ground disturbance, any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object)

discovered by the holder, or any person working on their behalf, on public or Federal land should be immediately reported to the BLM-Lake Havasu Field Office Archeologist (928-505-1200). Holder should suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued.

An evaluation of discovery should be made by the Archeologist to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder should be responsible for the cost of the evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures that are made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.

2. Fish Habitat

Artificial reef structures are located within Black Rock Cove and the Ski Coves. Permanent damage to these structures could be anticipated from indiscriminate dropping of anchors. Mobile vendors are to be prohibited from dropping anchor within these coves.

Information on the spread of the quagga mussels should be provided to all permitted vendors and for distribution to customers. Vendors and customers bringing watercraft to the Colorado River from other locales could unknowingly transport quagga mussels back to their home waters, so vendors and customers will be provided information on proper decontamination practices and will be asked to do so on an honor system basis.

3. Threatened and Endangered Species

Vending operations will take place during the breeding season for the razorback sucker. No effects to spawning activities are anticipated due to the location of the vending activities. Signs and interpretive materials will be posted and provided at the vendor locations to inform the public about endangered species and their presence in Lake Havasu.

C. Cumulative Effects

1. Introduction

Cumulative effects are the impacts on the environment that may result from the incremental effect of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions on BLM-administered lands and related waters, as well on those lands under other jurisdictions that are adjacent to or within BLM boundaries. Cumulative effects must consider the likely impact of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative when combined with these additional actions. This section describes the cumulative effects of those resources/concerns identified in Chapter 3 as present and/or potentially affected.

2. Past and Present Actions

In 1964, the Lower Colorado River Land Use Plan was signed that authorized recreational development in Lake Havasu, as well as the land transfer that quickly developed into what is now Lake Havasu City. In 1972, a channel was cut through the Pittsburgh Point peninsula by the Lake Havasu City developer to create a water body connected to Lake Havasu that the newly constructed London Bridge could span. It was built primarily to attract tourism as a primary industry to the newly developed and yet to be incorporated, Lake Havasu City. In 1986, all lands surrounding Pittsburgh Point and the “Bridgewater Channel” were transferred out of Federal ownership to State entities to be developed for recreational boating/tourism. Since that time, the popularity of water recreation has grown exponentially on Lake Havasu. Recreational boating and PWC use on Lake Havasu is in the tens of thousands of visitors every year.

Lake vending activities in the southern portion of Lake Havasu in Thompson Bay and offshore from Rotary Beach to Contact Point has occurred for several years without approval or management oversight. The area is routinely used for a variety of water recreation events (e.g. recreational boating/racing, PWC use, fishing events, boating poker runs, etc.) throughout the year. Lake Havasu (in particular, this project location) is an extremely popular area for boating traffic year round.

3. Reasonably Foreseeable Action Scenario

BLM will continue to be responsible for providing recreation opportunities to the public for the foreseeable future. The adjacent and nearby BLM-administered lands will continue to be leased for recreation and public purposes. The private land will continue to be used for recreation related residential and/or commercial activities. Visitor use on Lake Havasu and BLM-administered lands along the lake may reasonably be expected to remain approximately the same over the long term. However, given current economic concerns, the number of visitors and thus the number of boats may decline in the short term.

The Proposed Action would create cumulative impacts to the extent that the project will decrease the number of the same type actions as allowed in the past. Future conditions as a result of similar actions and activities are expected to reflect current conditions that are short-term, temporary, and limited significance over time. In addition, the Proposed Action does not add features or activities to the existing situation but will manage for future sustainable uses and recreation experiences for the setting of the area.

a) Cumulative Effects to Resources

Cumulative effects to resources identified in Chapter 3 as being present have shown very little, if any, effects from similar activities associated with vending activities. The area is subject to intense boating activities during the summer

boating season from May through September. Vending activities could cause minor localized disturbance to the lake bottom and shoreline over time but no data collection of this potential disturbance has been documented.

5. CHAPTER 5 - TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS OR AGENCIES CONSULTED

- A. Agencies**
 - U.S. Coast Guard
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - Lake Havasu City

- B. Organizations**
 - Various Local Businesses (Land and Water)

- C. Participating Staff - Lake Havasu Field Office**
 - Doug Adams, Fisheries Biologist
 - Erica Thoele, Wildlife Biologist
 - Dr. George Shannon, Archaeologist
 - Myron McCoy, Outdoor Recreation Planner
 - Paul Hoyt, Recreation Technician
 - Sheri Ahrens, Concession Management Assistant
 - Gina Trafton, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

6. CHAPTER 6 – ACRONYMS

List of Acronyms Used in this Environmental Assessment

ATV –	All-Terrain Vehicle
BAOT –	Boats at One Time
BLM –	Bureau of Land Management
BOR -	Bureau of Reclamation
EA –	Environmental Assessment
LHFO –	Lake Havasu Field Office
MSCP –	Multiple Species Conservation Program
NEPA –	National Environmental Policy Act
PWC –	Personal Watercraft
RMP –	Resource Management Plan
RMZ –	Recreation Management Zone
SRMA –	Special Recreation Management Area
SRP –	Special Recreation Permit
UTV –	Utility Terrain Vehicle

7. APPENDICES

A. Appendix A – Stipulations

The archaeological survey reported no historic or prehistoric properties in the proposed area. Because of the potential for subsurface ground disturbance, any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on their behalf, on public or Federal land should be immediately reported to the BLM-Lake Havasu Field Office Archeologist (928-505-1200). Holder should suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued.

The vending activities would take place during the breeding season for the razorback sucker and bonytail chub. No effects to constituent elements of critical habitat are anticipated due to the location of the event. Signs and interpretive materials will be posted at the vendor site to inform the public about endangered species and their presence.

Information on the spread of the quagga mussels should be provided to the vendor for distribution to the customers. Vendors and customers bringing watercraft to the Colorado River from other locales could unknowingly transport quagga mussels back to their home waters, so participants will be provided information on proper decontamination practices and will be asked to do so on an honor system basis.

No fueling or any form of vessel maintenance/mechanical work shall occur in the water or on public lands (at or below the 450 foot lake elevation). No private fueling allowed on the water. Boats are to be fueled at local retail gas stations or the local marinas. Exception to this is that fine tuning and adjustments of vessels in the water is allowed.

Authorized watercraft used for vending operations are to be launched and retrieved at local boat ramp facilities with concrete ramp aprons. Exception would be to allow low impact PWC dollies with over-sized inflatable tires that would be used for launching from sandy beaches.

Vendor operations with vessels are required to meet watercraft safety standards and registration requirements as established by the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as, State and County agency regulations and requirements. Vendors with watercraft rentals are required to provide safe operation instructions for the customer.

Mobile food vendors are required to obtain the appropriate County food establishment permit for their proposed food vending operation for each county that business is conducted.

Mobile food vendors are required to operate out of an approved commissary. This includes legal disposal of waste from the unit and the vessel must provide a flushing toilet on the vessel (no chemical toilets).

Mobile vendors are required to stay a minimum of 200 feet off-shore from private lands or other agency landowners unless proof of legal access or permission is granted to conduct commercial business along the shore.

Mobile vendors are prohibited from dropping anchor and beaching in coves with artificial reef habitats, specifically in Black Rock Cove and the Ski Coves. Surface floating in these areas would be allowed.

B. Appendix B – Biological Clearance

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Lake Havasu Field Office
BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION FOR PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES**

Date of Survey: None completed EA/Case File Number: AZ-C030-2010-0001
Programmatic EA

Recorder: Doug Adams Person Days Used: 0 hrs % Coverage: 0%

Project Name: Vending in Thompson Bay Area of Influence

Proponent: Various Applicants

Type of Project: Commercial Vending Operations.

Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action is to permit the temporary operations for commercial vending on BLM-administered public lands and related waters of Lake Havasu. Proposed vending sites include mobile vendors in Thompson Bay and a shoreline vendor at Arizona State Lands lease adjacent to London Bridge Beach. These areas are all located on the south side of the Lake Havasu Island. Included in these locations are areas locally known as "Body Beach", and "Contact Point" on the Arizona side of the lake and "Ski Coves" and "Grass Island" on the California side of Lake Havasu.

Federal Law established under the jurisdiction of 43 CFR, Part 2930, Subpart 2932, and H-2930-1 requiring the authorization of a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for commercial recreation activities on BLM-administered public lands or related waters. BLM manages this area of Lake Havasu pursuant to Department Manual 613 DM 1 (DM). This DM allows BLM to administer Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) withdrawn lands on the lower Colorado River. Type of Project: Jet Ski Event

Location: T. 13N., R 20W., Section 15, 22 and 23, Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona and T. 4N., R. 25E., Sections 9, 10 and 15, San Bernardino Meridian, California

State: Arizona County: Mohave City: Lake Havasu,Arizona

Quad Name: Lake Havasu City South

Land Form: Lake bottom Soils: Alluvium; sandy/gravelly loam

Plant Assemblage: Lower Colorado River Sonoran Desert scrub

Major Features: Desert washes, foothills

Water Sources and Locations: Rain and runoff

=====
KNOWN OCCURRENCE OF FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES:(If yes, state the species and known occurrence on an attachment.)

YES NO

[x][] Federally threatened or endangered, or Bureau of Land Management sensitive Biological species occur or are expected to occur within the area of potential effect.

[][X] Federally threatened or endangered, or Bureau of Land Management sensitive Botanical species occur or are expected to occur within the area of potential effect.

[][x] State-listed plant or wildlife species are known to occur in the project area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STATE OFFICE

CULTURAL RESOURCE PROJECT RECORD

Project Number: BLM __330 – 10- 05 _____ Other No.: DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2010-001-EA

Project Name: Thompson Bay Vending Programmatic EA

BLM Case File No.: Various

State: AZ/CA County: Mohave County, AZ./San Bernadino County, CA. Map Name(s): LHC South

Township_13_(N), Range_20_(W) Sections 15, 22, and 23, Salt and Gila Meridian; as well as T.4 N., R.25 E., Sections 9, 10, and 15, San Bernardino Meridian.

ASM Quad No(s): L:11

Land Owner(s): BLM

Agency: BLM

Institution Doing Work: LHFO

Person(s)-in-Charge: John W. Jangala GFO Archaeologist, Detailed to Lake Havasu FO

Purpose of Project and Applicant: To permit commercial vending sites for floating vendors on BLM LHFO managed lands and related waters on Lake Havasu in Mohave County, Arizona and San Bernardino County, California. The proposed action is needed to allow private parties to provide commercial services to residents and visitors using public waters. Various applicants.

Dates of Fieldwork: __No fieldwork performed__ Total Person Days Used: __4 hours__

Cultural Resource Use Permit

No.: _____NA_____

Access and Location Description: The project is located on the waters of Thompson Bay south of London Bridge, which is part of Lake Havasu.

Bibliographic Reference(s) (list report title, author, institution and date): __N/A

Number of Cultural Properties Recorded: __0__ List Site Numbers: __N/A

Collections Made: NO Testing Done: NO

Repository Name and

Location: _____NA_____

Photos: No Photo Information: see VRM report in case file_____

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ALASKA STATE OFFICE
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE (FOURTH EDITION)

Project Number: BLM 330 - 10 - 05

INVENTORY TECHNIQUES (If different parts of the project used different techniques, fill out a separate page for each): Literature review, no fieldwork conducted
Size of Entire Project Area (acres): Unknown Crew Size: 1

Project Boundary Description: see map in DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2010-01-EA

Mode: APE not visited Dimensions (miles or feet):

Inventory Level (check): Class I X Class II* Class III Judgmental*

Actual Acres Surveyed N/A Estimated Percent Coverage: N/A
Field Methods Used (for example, systematic 15 meter-wide parallel transects, etc.): No inspections completed

Discussion (justify techniques and methods used): Visual inspection of the project area is precluded by existing waterbody, Class I literature review completed.

*SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sampling Strategy (check): N/A Systematic , Random , Stratified , Combination
Percent of Project Area Sampled: N/A %
Size of Sample Units: , N/A Number of Sample Units:

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA (optional if covered in report or other document): No vegetation noted, area submerged historically.

Major Topographic Features and Locations: Silty Lake bottom sediments deposited in a man-made impounded area

Water Sources and Locations: Colorado River runs directly over the project area.

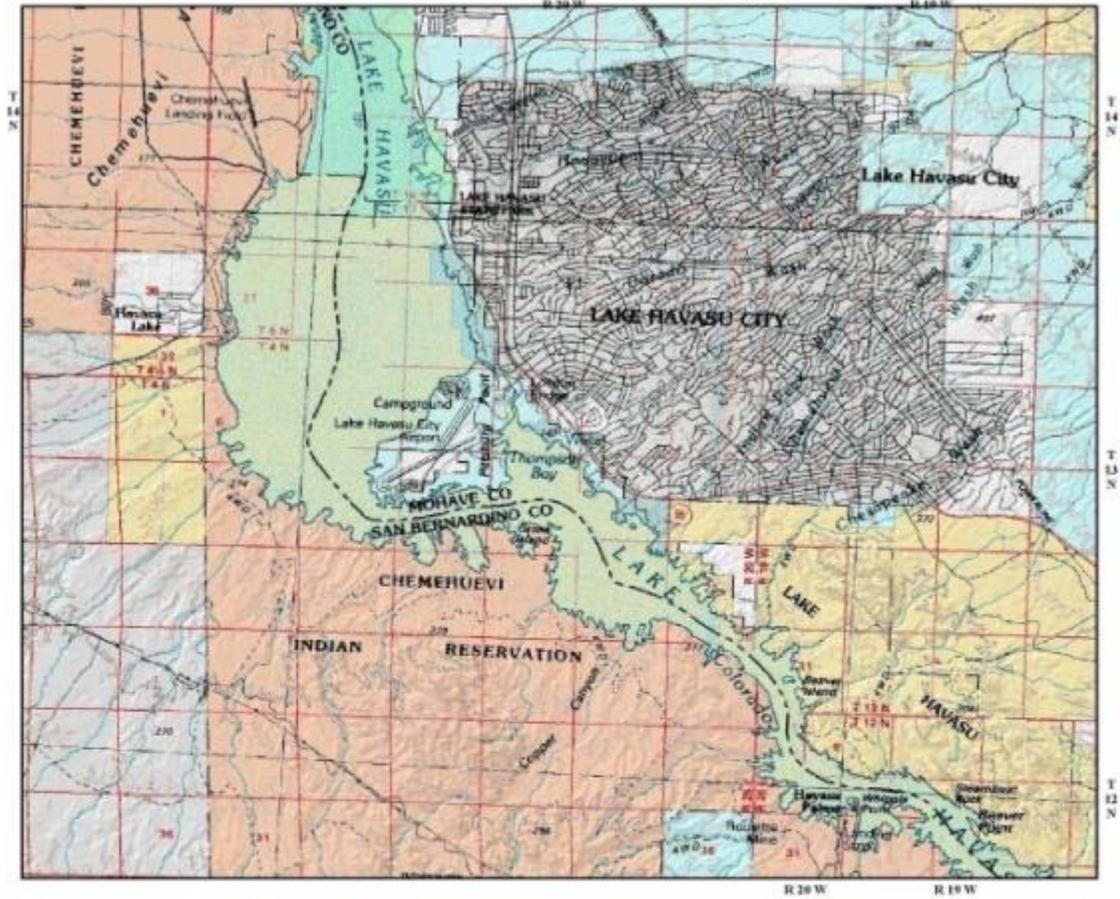
Form Completed and Approved by: John W. Jangala,
Date: 19 February 10, Glennallen Alaska FO Archaeologist
Detailed to Lake Havasu FO

See attached map(s) showing site location, sample numbers, project area boundary, all areas surveyed, and sample date and time for all applicable.

D. Appendix D – Maps (Project Features, Plan of Development)

Map 1

Lake Havasu Vicinity

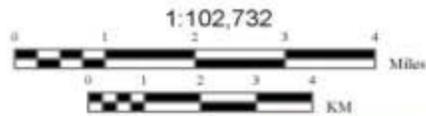


Legend

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Private Lands | Bureau of Land Management (BLM) | BLM Wilderness Area | BLM National Monument |
| State Lands | National Forest Lands (USFS) | Forest Service Wilderness Area | National Conservation Area |
| State Wildlife Area | National Park Service (NPS) | NPS Wilderness Area | Military Reservations/Corps of Engineers |
| City, State, County Parks | USFWS Service, National Wildlife Refuges | USFWS Service Wilderness Area | Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) |
| County Lands | Indian Lands or Reservations | | |



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Map revised on Feb 17, 2010

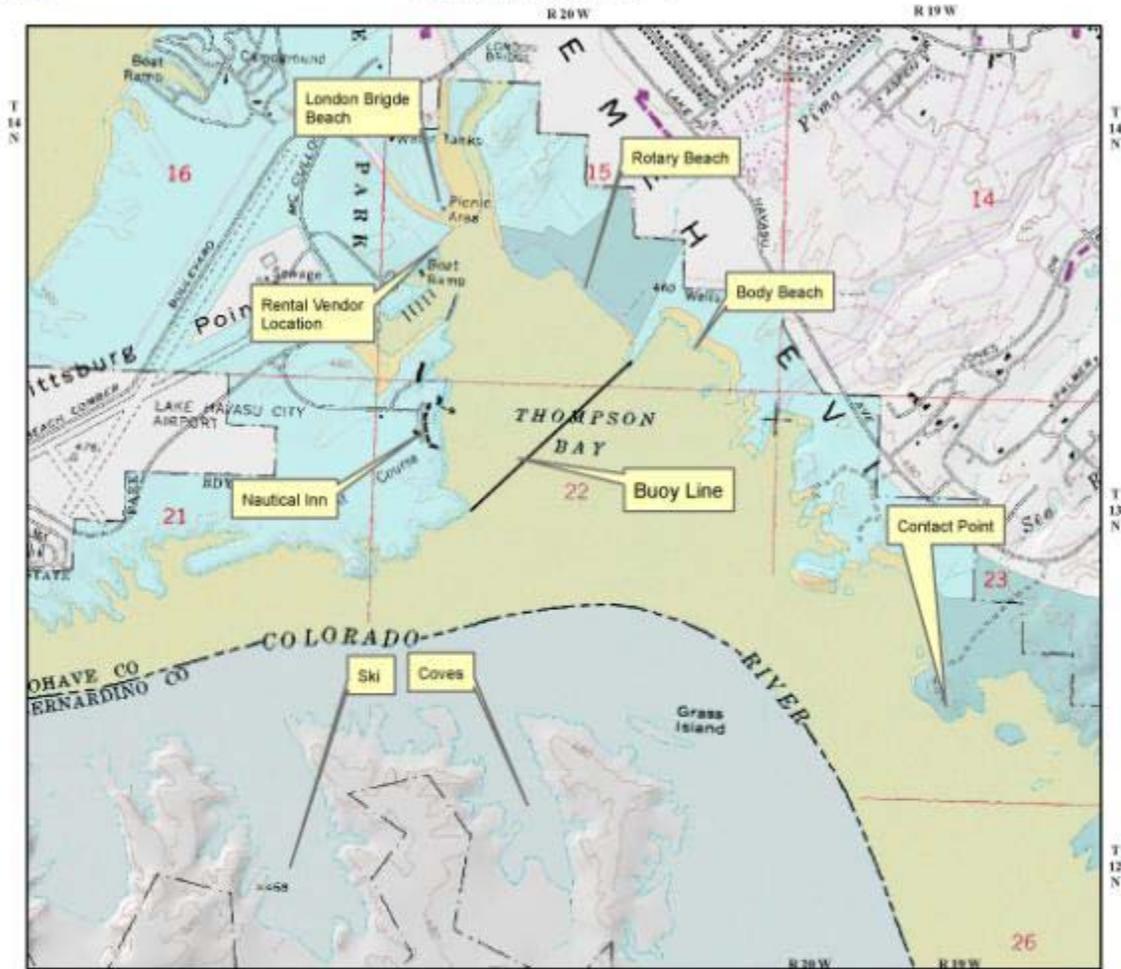


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Vicinity map – Thompson Bay area (center) on Lake Havasu

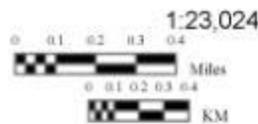
Map 2

Alternative 1



Legend

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Private Lands | Bureau of Land Management (BLM) | BLM Wilderness Area | BLM National Monument |
| State Lands | National Forest Lands (USFS) | Forest Service Wilderness Area | National Conservation Area |
| State Wildlife Area | National Park Service (NPS) | NPS Wilderness Area | Military Reservations/Corps of Engineers |
| City, State, County Parks | USFWS Service, National Wildlife Refuges | USFWS Service Wilderness Area | Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) |
| County Lands | Indian Lands or Reservations | | |



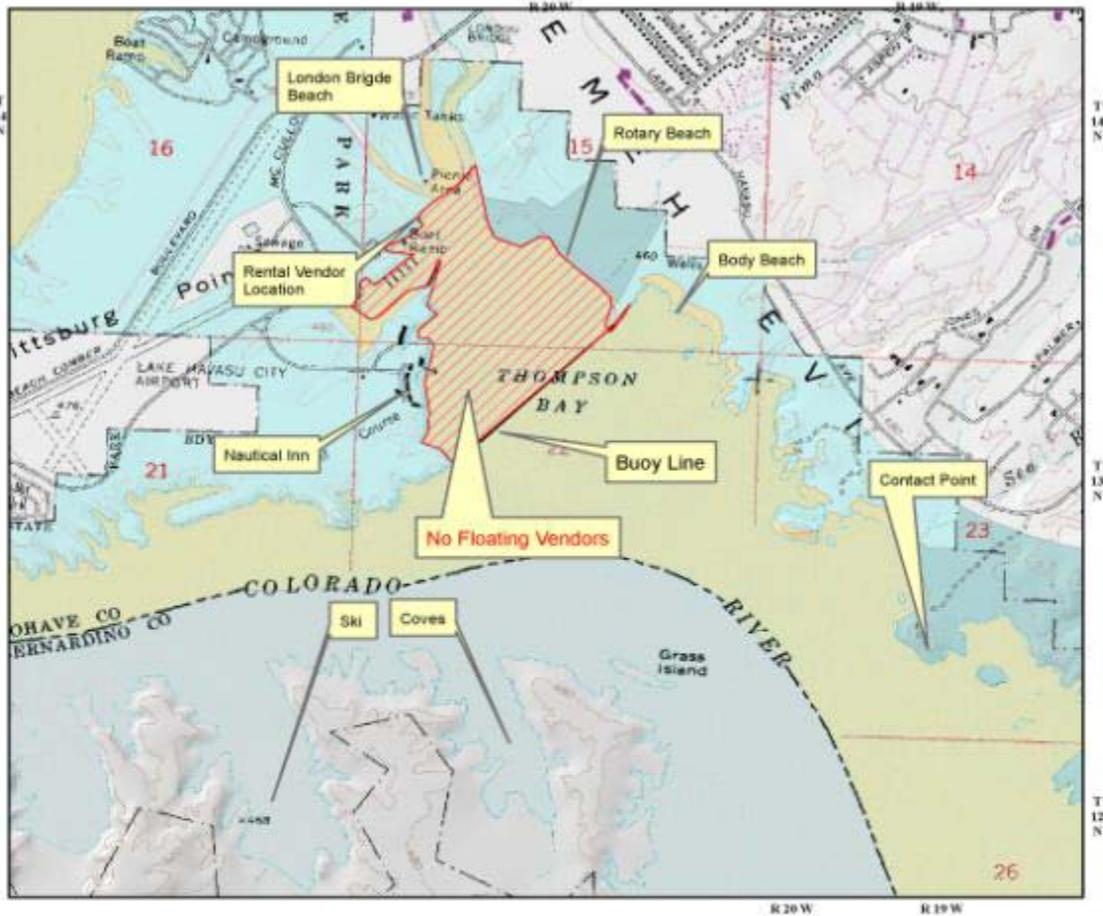
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Alternative 1 – Vending Operations in Thompson Bay

Map 3

Alternative 2



Legend

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Private Lands | Bureau of Land Management (BLM) | BLM Wilderness Area | BLM National Monument |
| State Lands | National Forest Lands (USFS) | Forest Service Wilderness Area | National Conservation Area |
| State Wildlife Area | National Park Service (NPS) | NPS Wilderness Area | Military Reservations/Corps of Engineers |
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Alternative 2 Map – Floating Vendor Operations Prohibited in Thompson Bay

E. Appendix E – Photos (Project Area Overview)



Location for potential vendor operation (watercraft rentals). Land portion is Arizona State Land Department (leased property). London Bridge Beach adjacent to this property in background.



Sand Bar Grill located on Arizona State Lands and set back approximately 600 feet from the lake shore.



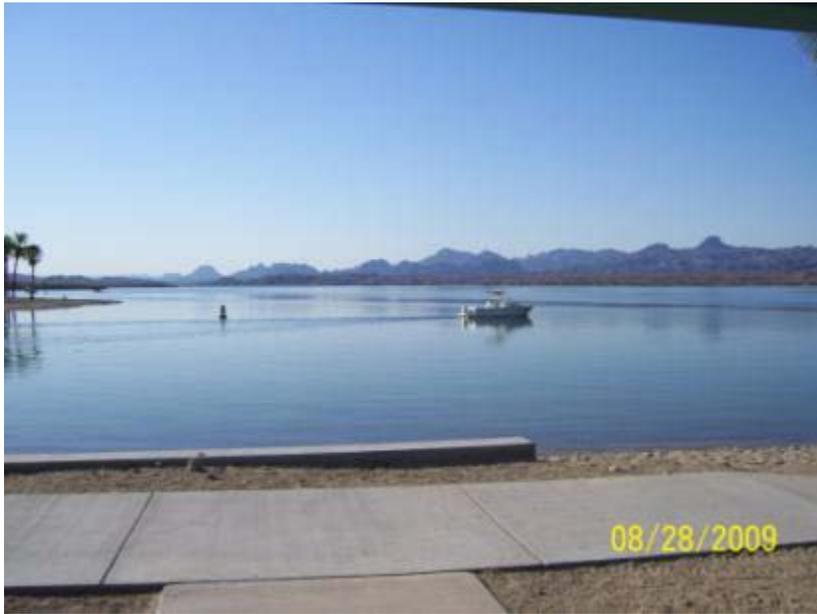
Body Beach area off of main body of Lake Havasu



View north from Contact Point off of main body of Lake Havasu



Project area – View north of Lake Havasu from Contact Point



Project area – View of Thompson Bay looking south from London Bridge Beach