

Lake Meredith National Recreation Area
Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
Texas

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



VISITOR STUDY FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT Lake Meredith National Recreation Area Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument



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Visitor Study Final Technical Report
Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument

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Introduction

The Visitor Study Final Technical Report – Lake Meredith National Recreation Area (NRA) & Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument (NM) presents findings from a cooperative social science research project designed to inform National Park Service (NPS) General Management Planning (GMP) efforts. NPS staff cooperated with researchers from the School of Community Resources and Development (CRD) in the College of Public Programs (COPP) at Arizona State University (ASU) to conduct the study October 2003 to July 2004.

Lake Meredith NRA provides for public use and enjoyment of a diverse set of recreation opportunities, encourages public appreciation of natural and cultural resources, and offers opportunities for scientific study. Alibates Flint Quarries NM preserves natural and cultural resources and interprets these resources to the public. To achieve these public purposes, it is necessary to develop plans that specify the natural, social, and managerial conditions that are desirable and should be maintained for the long-term. The GMP process is an opportunity for NPS staff and interested stakeholders to evaluate existing facilities, services, and management strategies and establish priorities for the future. The park administration, natural and cultural resources staffs, and interpretive rangers currently have limited access to reliable and valid data on park visitors. Sociological data about park visitors was needed to support management planning and inform decision making.

There had been no visitor studies conducted to provide NPS decisionmakers current information regarding the conditions that visitors to the NRA and NM find appropriate and desirable. While recent data from the NPS Visitor Survey Card project indicated that visitors were somewhat satisfied overall with outdoor recreation opportunities at Lake Meredith, no specific data existed that would inform managers about visitors' responses to various alternative scenarios for the future. For example, park staff needed more information to determine how visitors feel about the adequacy of current facilities and services and the desirability of new offerings. Managers were also interested in learning more about the acceptability to visitors of various management alternatives that have been proposed. Thus, the visitor study was implemented to meet these needs.

Data for the visitor study were collected from current and potential park visitors, and residents of communities near the parks, utilizing survey and focus group research methods. The

study draws on four sources of data: a) on-site survey questionnaires of current adult park visitors; c) mail survey questionnaires of current adult park visitors contacted on site; c) mail survey questionnaires of current and potential park visitors who purchased annual watercraft permits in 2002 and 2003; and d) focus group interviews with organized interest groups from nearby communities. The methods and results from the survey research are presented first in this report, followed by the methods and results from the focus group research.

ASU Research Team

Dr. Dave D. White, Assistant Professor in the ASU School of Community Resources and Development served as the Principal Investigator/Project Director for this study. Dr. Kathleen Andereck, Professor in the ASU West Department of Recreation and Tourism Management served as Co-Principal Investigator. Catheryne Lankford, Instructor and Coordinator in the Amarillo College (AC) Travel and Tourism Program served as Project Manager for on-site survey operations under subcontract to ASU. The Research Technicians, who collected on-site questionnaires and managed mail survey operations, were: Culum Canally, Michael Caulkins, Rachel Lynch, Amy Morningstar, Nora Timmerman, Elisa Suminimo, and Niranjan Yedlapati.

Acknowledgements

The Principal Investigators would like to extend thanks to the staff from the NPS Denver Service Center, the NPS Social Science Program, and the Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CP CESU), for their assistance in coordinating the project. Special thanks are due to the Superintendent and staff of Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM. Finally, we are extremely grateful to the park visitors and community residents who participated in the study.

Survey Research Methods

The survey research component of this study utilized on-site and mail survey questionnaires to collect data from current and potential adult park visitors. The survey populations consisted of: (a) adult visitors (18 years and over) to Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM during the on-site sample periods (September to October 2003 and April to July 2004); and (b) adult visitors (18 years and over) who obtained permits for

watercraft use at Lake Meredith NRA during 2002 and 2003. The survey methods and instruments were reviewed and approved by the NPS Social Science Program and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB Approval #1024-0224 [NPS #03-054] Expiration Date: 11/30/2004).

On-site Survey Method

A combination of purposive and stratified random sampling procedures was used to contact current adult park visitors on-site. Purposive sampling was employed in the selection of sampling locations. That is, the researchers and NPS staff cooperated to choose the sampling locations from the dozens of potential access points with the awareness that there are geographic patterns to recreation participation that might be missed were a simple random sample of locations to be drawn.

The original sampling frame for the on-site survey was drawn using stratified random sampling scheme with two stage selection. First, sample dates were randomly selected within the sample periods, stratified by time of week (weekend vs. weekday). Each potential day of sampling was then partitioned into two five hour sampling blocks, and a block of time within each day was randomly selected. However, due to lower than anticipated contact rates during randomly selected sample periods, an intensive on-site sampling period was conducted around the 2004 Memorial Day Holiday (May 28 to June 2, 2004).

During each sample period, every group encountered was approached, and a random visitor was asked to complete the on-site questionnaire and participate in the mail survey. Individual respondents were selected at random by asking for the member of the group who was 18 years or older who has had the most recent birthday. Visitors who refused to participate after being selected were recorded as nonrespondents; technicians noted the reason for refusal, along with the sex of the non-respondent and the group size.

Mail Survey Method

The method for administering the mail survey followed a modified Tailored Design Method (Dillman, 2000). Each questionnaire was marked with an identification number for mailing purposes so that respondents could be eliminated from future mailings. The original packet handed to the visitor on-site included the questionnaire and a postage-paid, self-addressed

return envelope. A second mailing of a reminder postcard was sent one week later to all respondents, thanking them for their participation in the study and encouraging those who had not yet responded to do so. Three weeks after the original contact, a third mailing was delivered to all potential respondents who had yet to withdraw from the study or return completed questionnaires. The final mailing included a personalized cover letter, replacement questionnaire, and postage-paid return envelope. A final email or telephone contact was made to remaining non-respondents after the final mailing.

To augment the data generated by the sample of visitors contacted on-site, a supplemental random sample was drawn from existing lists of visitors who have obtained watercraft use permits for Lake Meredith in 2002 – 2003. A systematic sample with random start strategy was employed to select approximately 200 names from the list. This supplemental sample provides additional data to better represent water-based recreation users – a significant visitor population. Potential respondents sampled from the list of visitors who purchased watercraft permits for Lake Meredith in 2002 – 2003 were mailed a personalized cover letter requesting participation in the study, along with a copy of the questionnaire and a self-addressed, postage-paid return envelope. Subsequently, the follow-up procedures described earlier were implemented.

Survey Method Limitations

Social science research studies such as this one have certain limitations and sources of error that may affect results and should be considered when interpreting the data and making conclusions. There are four sources of error in survey research that must be controlled to the greatest extent possible to ensure valid and reliable results (Dillman, 2000). The first is sampling error, which is an inherent result of surveying a subset, or sample of a larger population (e.g., a sample of visitors instead of all visitors). To reduce sampling error, survey researchers calculate the number of individuals of a population necessary to determine with a known degree of accuracy the distribution of a particular attribute in the larger population and report the margin of sampling error obtained. In this study, it was determined that sampling error should be limited to plus or minus 6% at the 95% confidence interval. This is an accepted level of sampling error for social science research and consistent with studies published in scientific peer-reviewed journals. The second source of error is coverage error, which results when some members of the population of interest are not capable of being selected for inclusion in the study. Measurement

error is a third source of error that occurs when a respondent answers questions inaccurately or in ways that cannot be interpreted. This error is an inherent limitation of self-administered questionnaires, such as the mail survey portion of this study. To reduce this error the mail questionnaire instruments were pre-tested and questions designed to limit confusion to the greatest extent practicable. Finally, non-response error can affect results because those people who do respond to the survey may be systematically different from those who do not respond in some way that is relevant to the study. To reduce this source of error, well-accepted survey procedures were followed to achieve the highest possible response rates and non-response bias analyses were conducted.

On-site Survey Results

Results from the on-site survey are presented in Tables 1 to 16 and Figures 1 to 2. Data presented are typically valid percentages of respondents in each category (percentages with missing values excluded), and mean values (averages). The data have been segmented by sample type in the table and figures: (a) on-site visitors contacted at Alibates Flint Quarries NM (Alibates); and (b) on-site visitors contacted at Lake Meredith NRA (Lake Meredith).

On-site Survey Response Rates

A total of 501 randomly selected visitors were contacted about the study. A total of 481 agreed to participate in the study, resulting in an on-site response rate of 96.01% (Table 1). Table 2 presents a breakdown of the margins of sampling error for the study.

Table 1 On-site Survey Response Rates

	Sample Location		Total
	Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Visitors Contacted On Site	106	395	501
On-site Surveys Completed	106	375	481
On-site Response Rate	100.0%	94.94%	96.01%

Table 2 Margin of Sampling Error for On-site Survey

	Sample Location		Total
	Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Estimated Annual Visitation	1,468	505,332	506,800
On-site Surveys Completed	106	375	481
Margin of Sampling Error at 95% Confidence Interval	+/- 9.2%	+/- 5.1%	+/- 4.5%

Visitor Characteristics

Overall, on-site survey respondents included more men than women; on-site respondents from the Lake Meredith sample included twice as many men as women (Table 3). The average age of respondents ranged from 38 to 58 years at the parks (Table 4). The majority (63.9%) of Alibates Flint Quarries NM respondents and the vast majority of Lake Meredith NRA Respondents (91.9%) reside in Texas (Table 5). The most common zip codes for on-site respondents were: 79036 (Fritch, TX); 79007 (Borger, TX); 79029 (Dumas, TX); and 79106, 79107, 79108, and 79109 (Amarillo, TX).

Table 3 Gender Distribution of On-site Respondents

		Sample Location		Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Sex	Female	47.0%	32.1%	35.2%
	Male	53.0%	67.9%	64.8%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 4 Age Distribution of On-site Respondents

	Sample Location		Total
	Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Age (mean years)	58.04	38.21	42.32

Table 5 State of Residence for On-site Respondents

		Sample Location		Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	
State	AZ	3.1%	-	0.7%
	CO	9.3%	1.4%	3.1%
	FL	2.1%	-	0.4%
	IL	1.0%	0.3%	0.4%
	KS	-	1.7%	1.3%
	LA	1.0%	0.3%	0.4%
	MI	1.0%	-	0.2%
	MN	2.1%	-	0.4%
	MO	1.0%	0.3%	0.4%
	NM	3.1%	1.1%	1.5%
	OH	4.1%	-	0.9%
	OK	-	2.5%	2.0%
	SC	-	0.3%	0.2%
	SD	1.0%	0.3%	0.4%
	TX	63.9%	91.9%	85.9%
	UT	2.1%	-	0.4%
	WA	3.1%	-	0.7%
WI	2.1%	-	0.4%	
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Trip/Visit Characteristics

Two fifths of the visitors were traveling in groups of 2 to 3 people (Table 6 and Figure 1); groups of more than ten were less common at Lake Meredith NRA but more common at Alibates Flint Quarries NM. Overall, about one third of respondents were traveling with family and friends and two fifths were with family only (Table 7). Approximately one in six respondents was traveling as a part of an organized group; organized groups were much more common at Alibates Flint Quarries NM (Table 8). Of those traveling in an organized group, the most common types were club and private tour (Table 9).

More than seven in ten on-site respondents visited the parks for day use (Table 10); the average time spent by these visitors on-site was 3.31 hours (Table 11). Nearly a quarter of the on-site respondents to Lake Meredith NRA engaged in overnight use; less than 5% of visitors to Alibates Flint Quarries NM stayed overnight (Table 12). Alibates Flint Quarries NM visitors reported an average of almost six prior visits to the area during the past twelve months and Lake

Meredith NRA visitors reported an average of thirteen prior visits to the area during the past twelve months (Table 14).

Visitors engaged in a variety of activities in the parks. The most common activities across all sites were: picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing from a boat, and fishing from shore (Table 15 and Figure 2). When asked to choose their primary activity, the most common responses were: boating, fishing from a boat, visiting archaeological sites, picnicking, and trail hiking (Table 16).

Table 6 Group Size of On-site Respondents

		Sample Location		Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Group Size	I visited alone	8.7%	6.2%	6.7%
	2 - 3 others	57.3%	35.2%	40.0%
	4 - 5 others	19.4%	22.6%	21.9%
	6 - 10 others	-	26.3%	20.6%
	11 - 15 others	-	5.4%	4.2%
	More than 15 others	14.6%	4.3%	6.5%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 1 Group Size of On-site Respondents

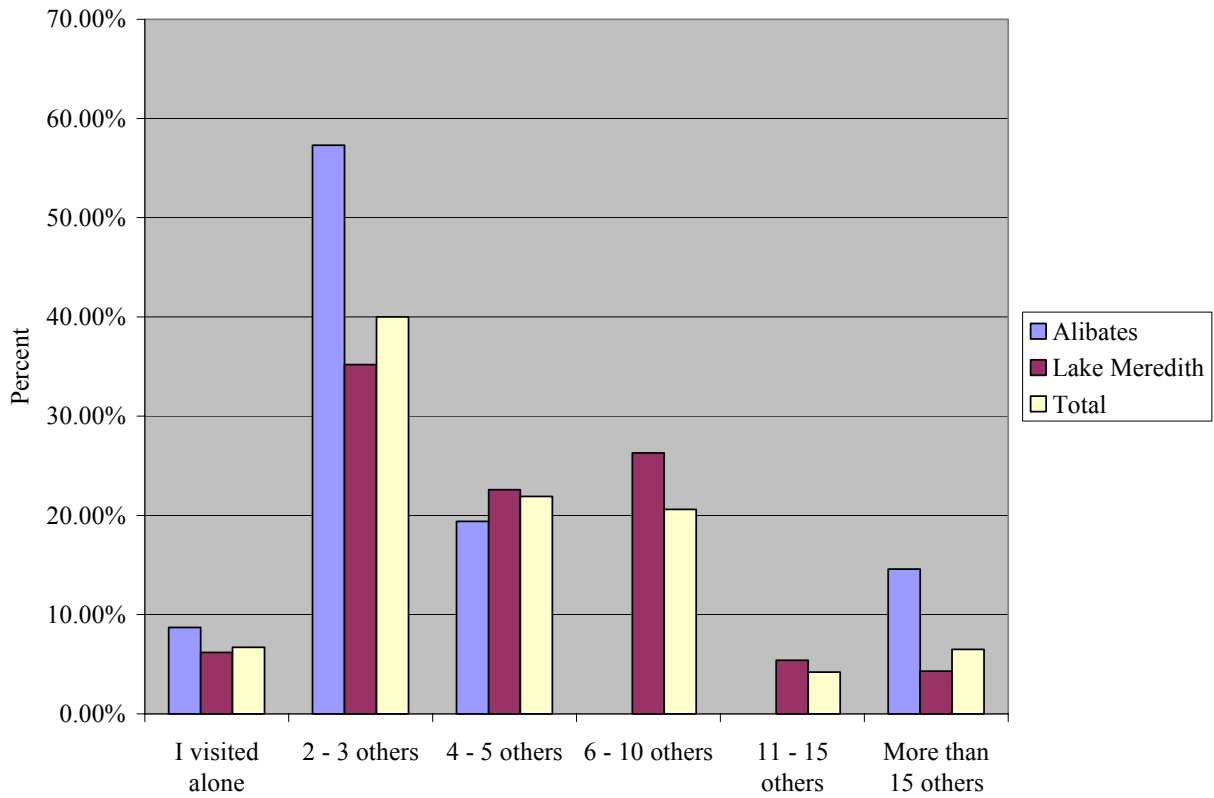


Table 7 Type of Personal Group of On-site Respondents

		Sample Location		Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Type of Personal Group	Alone	10.1%	5.9%	6.8%
	Family only	20.2%	48.8%	42.8%
	Friends only	30.3%	12.1%	16.0%
	Family and friends	39.4%	33.2%	34.5%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 8 Visit as Part of Organized Group for On-site Respondents

		Sample Location		Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Organized Group	No	33.3%	96.9%	82.9%
	Yes	66.7%	3.1%	17.1%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 9 Type of Organized Group for On-site Respondents

		Sample Location		Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Type of Organized Group	School	-	33.3%	3.9%
	Church	1.5%	22.2%	3.9%
	Club	76.1%	-	67.1%
	Private tour	22.4%	44.4%	25.0%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note. Percentages are of those visitors who were traveling in an organized group.

Table 10 Day Use by On-site Respondents

		Sample Location		Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Day Use	No	10.4%	30.4%	26.0%
	Yes	89.6%	69.6%	74.0%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 11 Length of Visit for Day Use for On-site Respondents

		Sample Location		Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Hours on Site	Min	1	1	0
	Max	10	12	12
	Mean	4.16	5.33	3.31
	SD	2.25	2.48	3.13

Table 12 Overnight Use by On-site Respondents

		Sample Location		Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Overnight Use	No	95.3%	77.1%	81.1%
	Yes	4.7%	22.9%	18.9%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 13 Length of Visit for Overnight Use for On-site Respondents

		Sample Location		Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Days in Area	Min	3	1	1
	Max	6	40	40
	Mean	4.60	3.04	3.13
	SD	1.15	4.28	4.19

Table 14 Number of Visits in the Last 12 months by On-site Respondents

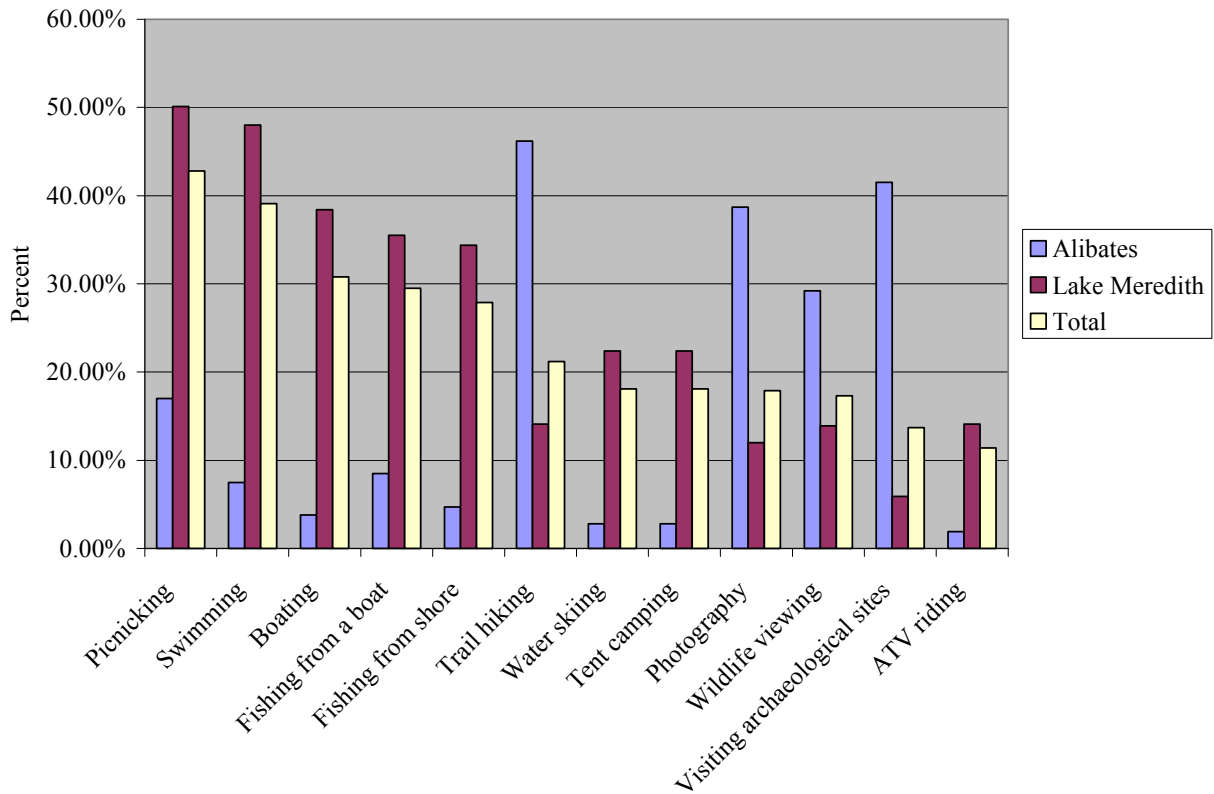
		Sample Location		Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Times Visited in Last 12 Months	Min	1	1	1
	Max	38	36	36
	Mean	5.82	13.55	11.84
	SD	7.76	10.04	10.10

Table 15 Activity Participation for On-site Respondents

	Sample Location		Total
	Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Picnicking	17.0%	50.1%	42.8%
Trail hiking	46.2%	14.1%	21.2%
Swimming	7.5%	48.0%	39.1%
Mountain biking	.9%	2.4%	2.1%
Wildlife viewing	29.2%	13.9%	17.3%
Photography	38.7%	12.0%	17.9%
Canoeing/Kayaking	-	1.1%	.8%
Sail Boating	-	3.7%	2.9%
Fishing from shore	4.7%	34.4%	27.9%
Boating	3.8%	38.4%	30.8%
Fishing from a boat	8.5%	35.5%	29.5%
Water skiing	2.8%	22.4%	18.1%
Using personal watercraft	.9%	9.1%	7.3%
Orienteering/ Geocaching	2.8%	-	.6%
Visiting archaeological sites	41.5%	5.9%	13.7%
Tent camping	2.8%	22.4%	18.1%
RV Camping	8.5%	9.6%	9.4%
Horseback riding	2.8%	1.1%	1.5%
Bird hunting	6.6%	4.0%	4.6%
Deer hunting	5.7%	5.3%	5.4%
Bow hunting	.9%	2.7%	2.3%
Four wheel driving	3.8%	10.7%	9.1%
Motorized trail biking/dirt biking	1.9%	7.7%	6.4%
Dune buggy or sand rail driving	-	8.0%	6.2%
ATV riding	1.9%	14.1%	11.4%
Scuba diving	-	1.6%	1.2%
Other	17.0%	3.2%	6.2%

Note. Respondents could check all that applied so column totals do not equal 100%.

Figure 2 Activity Participation for On-site Respondents



Note. Only those activities with an overall participation rate of at least 10% are presented.

Table 16 Primary Activity Participation for On-site Respondents

	Sample Location		Total
	Alibates	Lake Meredith	
Picnicking	1.4%	12.3%	9.8%
Trail hiking	22.9%	4.4%	8.8%
Swimming	-	6.6%	5.1%
Mountain biking	-	-	-
Wildlife viewing	7.1%	1.8%	3.0%
Photography	12.9%	1.8%	4.4%
Canoeing/Kayaking	-	-	-
Sail Boating	-	2.2%	1.7%
Fishing from shore	-	14.1%	10.8%
Boating	-	17.2%	13.1%
Fishing from a boat	-	17.2%	13.1%
Water skiing	-	0.4%	0.3%
Using personal watercraft	-	5.7%	4.4%
Orienteering/ Geocaching	-	0.4%	.3%
Visiting archaeological sites	38.6%	2.2%	10.8%
Tent camping	-	1.8%	1.3%
RV Camping	-	-	-
Horseback riding	1.4%	-	0.3%
Bird hunting	-	-	-
Deer hunting	-	-	-
Bow hunting	-	-	-
Four wheel driving	-	1.3%	1.0%
Motorized trail biking/dirt biking	-	0.4%	0.3%
Dune buggy or sand rail driving	-	1.8%	1.3%
ATV riding	-	7.9%	6.1%
Scuba diving	-	-	-
Other	15.7%	0.4%	4.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Mail Survey Results

Mail survey results are presented in Tables 17 to 43 and Figures 3 to 7. Data presented are typically valid percentages in each response category (percentages excluding missing values), and mean values (averages). The data have been segmented by sample: (a) mail respondents contacted at Alibates Flint Quarries NM (Alibates), (b) mail respondents contacted at Lake Meredith NRA (Lake Meredith), (c) mail respondents from the survey of Lake Meredith NRA annual watercraft permit holders (Permit Sample), and (d) all respondents together (Total).

Mail Survey Response Rates

The final return rates and adjusted response rates for each site are displayed in Table 17 and the margins of sampling error are displayed in Table 18. The return rate is calculated as the percentage of usable questionnaires returned out of the total number in the sample:

$$\text{Return rate} = \left(\text{number returned} / \text{number in sample} \right) \times 100$$

$$\text{Return rate} = \left(244 / 682 \right) = .3578 \times 100 = 35.78\%$$

Following Riddick & Russell (1999), the response rate is calculated as the percentage of questionnaires returned out of the total sample, excluding ineligible and unreachable respondents. In this study, ineligible respondents are those that returned incomplete or unusable surveys, and unreachable respondents are those that provided incomplete or undeliverable mailing address and contact information (e.g., phone number or email). Without an accurate mailing address or contact information, standard mail survey follow-up procedures (i.e., postcard reminder, replacement survey, and final email or phone contact) cannot be followed. Therefore, unreachable respondents are excluded from the denominator in the adjusted response rate:

$$\text{Response rate} = \left(\text{number returned} / \left(\text{number in sample} - (\text{ineligible} + \text{unreachable}) \right) \right)$$

$$\text{Response rate} = \left(244 / (682 - (84)) \right) = .408 \times 100 = 40.8\%$$

Table 17 Mail Survey Response Rates

	Sample			Total
	Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Mail questionnaires provided to visitors	106	375	201	682
Usable questionnaires returned	26	110	108	244
Return rate	24.53%	29.33%	53.73%	35.78
Ineligible and unreachable	6	76	0	84
Adjusted response rate	26.00%	36.79%	53.79%	40.80%

Table 18 Margins of Sampling Error for Mail Survey

	Sample			Total
	Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Estimated annual visitation	1,468	505,332	3,000	506,800
Completed and usable surveys obtained	26	110	108	244
Margin of sampling error at 95% confidence interval	+/-19.8%	+/-9.6%	+/-9.3%	+/-6.4%

Visitor Characteristics

Across all samples, 70.6% of mail respondents were men; however, female respondents outnumbered men in the Alibates Flint Quarries NM sample (Table 19). The average age of respondents ranged from 46 to 53 years (Table 20). The educational profile of mail respondents is displayed in Table 21. The highest educational attainment for more than one third of respondents was high school; less than 20% had completed a bachelor’s degree. Most respondents were employed full-time (Table 22); however, two fifths of all respondents were retired. The racial identity of more than nine in ten respondents was White (Table 23). Respondents’ annual household income was fairly evenly distributed (Table 24). The two most common income brackets were \$25,000 - \$50,000 and \$50,000 - \$75,000. Respondents have been visiting the Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM for an average of 17 years.

Table 19 Gender Distribution of Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Gender	Female	66.7%	37.4%	13.3%	29.4%
	Male	33.3%	62.6%	86.7%	70.6%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 20 Age Distribution of Mail Respondents

	Sample			Total
	Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Age (mean years)	52.83	46.69	52.51	50.02

Table 21 Highest Level of Education Attained by Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Educational Attainment	Less than high school	4.2%	3.0%	2.9%	3.1%
	High school graduate	37.5%	29.3%	42.2%	36.0%
	Technical school or Associates degree	37.5%	29.3%	31.4%	31.1%
	Bachelors degree	12.5%	23.2%	14.7%	18.2%
	Masters degree	8.3%	9.1%	7.8%	8.4%
	PhD, M.D., J.D., or equivalent	-	6.1%	1.0%	3.1%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 22 Employment Status of Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Employment Status	Full-time student	-	2.9%	0.9%	1.7%
	Part-time student	4.2%	1.9%	0.9%	1.7%
	Employed part-time	8.3%	3.8%	3.7%	4.2%
	Employed full-time	45.8%	64.4%	59.3%	60.2%
	Unemployed	-	1.9%	.9%	1.3%
	Homemaker or caregiver	12.5%	8.7%	0.9%	5.5%
	Retired	33.3%	14.4%	24.1%	20.8%
	Other	-	3.8%	6.5%	4.7%

Table 23 Racial and Ethnic Distribution of Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Racial and Ethnic Category	Hispanic, Latino or Latina	-	2.9%	1.9%	2.1%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	8.3%	4.8%	4.6%	5.1%
	Asian	-	-	-	-
	Black or African American	-	1.0%	2.8%	1.7%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-
	White	87.5%	91.3%	93.5%	91.9%

Note. Respondents could check all that apply, so column totals may not equal 100%.

Table 24 Annual Household Incomes for the Last Calendar Year for Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Income	\$25,000 or less	8.3%	9.3%	11.8%	10.3%
	\$25,001 - \$50,000	41.7%	30.9%	21.5%	28.0%
	\$50,001 - \$75,000	25.0%	22.7%	31.2%	26.6%
	\$75,001 - \$100,000	20.8%	19.6%	18.3%	19.2%
	\$100,001 - \$125,000	4.2%	8.2%	4.3%	6.1%
	\$125,001 - \$150,000	-	3.1%	5.4%	3.7%
	More than \$150,000	-	6.2%	7.5%	6.1%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 25 Number of Years Visiting the Recreation Area for Mail Respondents

Years visiting area	Sample						Total	
	Alibates		Lake Meredith		Permit Sample		Mean	SD
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
	16.04	15.84	16.43	12.87	19.0	11.91	17.57	12.78

Note. SD is standard deviation.

Trip/Visit Characteristics

Forty five percent of mail respondents were traveling in groups of two to three people (Table 26); groups of more than ten were uncommon. Overall, ten percent of mail respondents visited the site as part of organized groups (Table 28). For those traveling with an organized group, the two most common types were club and private tour (Table 29). More than seven out of ten mail respondents reported staying less than one day at the sites (Table 30).

Table 26 Group Size of Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
People in Personal Group	I visited alone	17.4%	3.0%	13.2%	9.1%
	2 - 3 people	47.8%	36.6%	53.8%	45.7%
	4 - 5 people	26.1%	26.7%	18.9%	23.0%
	6 - 10 people	-	21.8%	10.4%	14.3%
	11 - 15 people	-	7.9%	1.9%	4.3%
	More than 15 people	8.7%	4.0%	1.9%	3.5%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 27 Type of Personal Group of Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Type of Personal Group	I visited alone	4.2%	-	1.9%	1.3%
	Family only	20.8%	49.5%	43.4%	43.7%
	Friends only	25.0%	10.9%	11.3%	12.6%
	Family and friends	50.0%	39.6%	43.4%	42.4%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 28 Visit as Part of Organized Group for Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Part of Organized Group	No	47.8%	94.1%	95.1%	89.9%
	Yes	52.2%	5.9%	4.9%	10.1%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 29 Type of Organized Group for Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Type of Organized Group	School	-	-	-	-
	Church	-	-	25.0%	4.5%
	Club	33.3%	50.0%	50.0%	40.9%
	Private tour	66.7%	50.0%	25.0%	54.5%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 30 Length of Stay at the Site for Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Length of Stay	A few hours	87.0%	41.0%	45.2%	47.6%
	One full day	4.3%	21.0%	34.6%	25.6%
	2 days	-	22.0%	13.5%	15.9%
	3 - 4 days	8.7%	13.0%	4.8%	8.8%
	5 - 6 days	-	-	1.0%	.4%
	More than 6 days	-	3.0%	1.0%	1.8%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Activities and Uses of Park Resources

The most common activities for mail respondents were: fishing from boat, boating, swimming, picnicking, and trail hiking (Table 31). When asked to choose their primary activity, the most common responses were: fishing from a boat, visiting archaeological sites, and boating (Table 32).

Table 31 Activity Participation for Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Activity	Picnicking	8.3%	38.5%	18.5%	26.3%
	Trail hiking	58.3%	23.1%	6.5%	19.1%
	Swimming	8.3%	38.5%	27.8%	30.5%
	Mountain biking	8.3%	-	0.9%	1.3%
	Wildlife viewing	37.5%	21.2%	13.0%	19.1%
	Photography	45.8%	20.2%	7.4%	16.9%
	Canoeing/Kayaking	-	1.0%	-	0.4%
	Sail Boating	-	6.7%	7.4%	6.4%
	Fishing from shore	8.3%	17.3%	9.3%	12.7%
	Boating	8.3%	31.7%	53.7%	39.4%
	Fishing from a boat	12.5%	21.2%	67.6%	41.5%
	Water skiing	-	11.5%	24.1%	16.1%
	Using personal watercraft	-	7.7%	8.3%	7.2%
	Orienteering/ Geocaching	-	-	0.9%	0.4%
	Visiting archaeological sites	66.7%	17.3%	5.6%	16.9%
	Tent camping	12.5%	16.3%	5.6%	11.0%
	RV Camping	20.8%	9.6%	5.6%	8.9%
	Horseback riding	4.2%	1.9%	-	1.3%
	Bird hunting	12.5%	7.7%	1.9%	5.5%
	Deer hunting	8.3%	2.9%	3.7%	3.8%
	Bow hunting	-	-	0.9%	0.4%
	Four wheel driving	-	9.6%	5.6%	6.8%
	Motorized trail biking/dirt biking	-	7.7%	1.9%	4.2%
	Dune buggy or sand rail driving	-	9.6%	0.9%	4.7%
ATV riding	-	12.5%	8.3%	9.3%	
Scuba diving	-	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	
Other	-	-	-	-	

Note. Respondents could check all that applied so column totals do not equal 100%.

Table 32 Primary Activity Participation for Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Activity	Picnicking	-	6.3%	1.0%	3.2%
	Trail hiking	21.7%	2.1%	-	3.2%
	Swimming	-	7.3%	-	3.2%
	Mountain biking	-	-	-	-
	Wildlife viewing	-	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%
	Photography	4.3%	2.1%	-	1.4%
	Canoeing/Kayaking	-	1.0%	-	0.5%
	Sail Boating	-	5.2%	7.1%	5.5%
	Fishing from shore	-	9.4%	-	4.1%
	Boating	-	13.5%	15.2%	12.8%
	Fishing from a boat	-	8.3%	53.5%	28.0%
	Water skiing	-	2.1%	8.1%	4.6%
	Using personal watercraft	-	4.2%	1.0%	2.3%
	Orienteering/ Geocaching	-	-	-	-
	Visiting archaeological sites	56.5%	14.6%	3.0%	13.8%
	Tent camping	-	3.1%	-	1.4%
	RV Camping	8.7%	1.0%	2.0%	2.3%
	Horseback riding	-	-	-	-
	Bird hunting	-	-	-	-
	Deer hunting	-	-	1.0%	0.5%
	Bow hunting	-	-	1.0%	0.5%
	Four wheel driving	-	-	-	-
	Motorized trail biking/dirt biking	-	2.1%	-	0.9%
	Dune buggy or sand rail driving	-	3.1%	1.0%	1.8%
ATV riding	-	6.3%	3.0%	4.1%	
Scuba diving	-	-	-	-	
Other	8.7%	7.3%	2.0%	5.0%	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Perceptions of Park Experiences

Across all samples, 27.0% of respondents were “Extremely” or “Very” satisfied with their most recent visit (Table 33 and Figure 3). However, 20.4% of the permit sample and 6.0% of the Lake Meredith NRA sample reported being “Not at all satisfied.” Overall, respondents were “Not at all crowded” at the parks (Table 34). Getting away from the usual demands of life, being with family or friends and people with whom they can share their values were important reasons for visiting the sites (Table 35). Being close to nature and using outdoor equipment also were highly important. When evaluating the environmental conditions of the parks, the respondents expressed moderate concern with: litter on the shorelines, erosion of the shorelines, water pollution, damage to historical or archaeological sites, and fire scars/charcoal not in designated fire rings (Table 36 and Figure 4). When evaluating the social conditions in the area, the respondents expressed only moderate concern with inconsiderate behavior of other people (Table 37 and Figure 5).

Table 33 Overall Satisfaction with Recent Visit for Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Overall Satisfaction	Not at all satisfied	-	6.0%	20.4%	11.9%
	Slightly satisfied	4.3%	11.0%	25.2%	16.8%
	Satisfied	34.8%	49.0%	41.7%	44.2%
	Very satisfied	34.8%	19.0%	7.8%	15.5%
	Extremely satisfied	26.1%	15.0%	4.9%	11.5%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 3 Satisfaction with Recent Visit for Mail Respondents

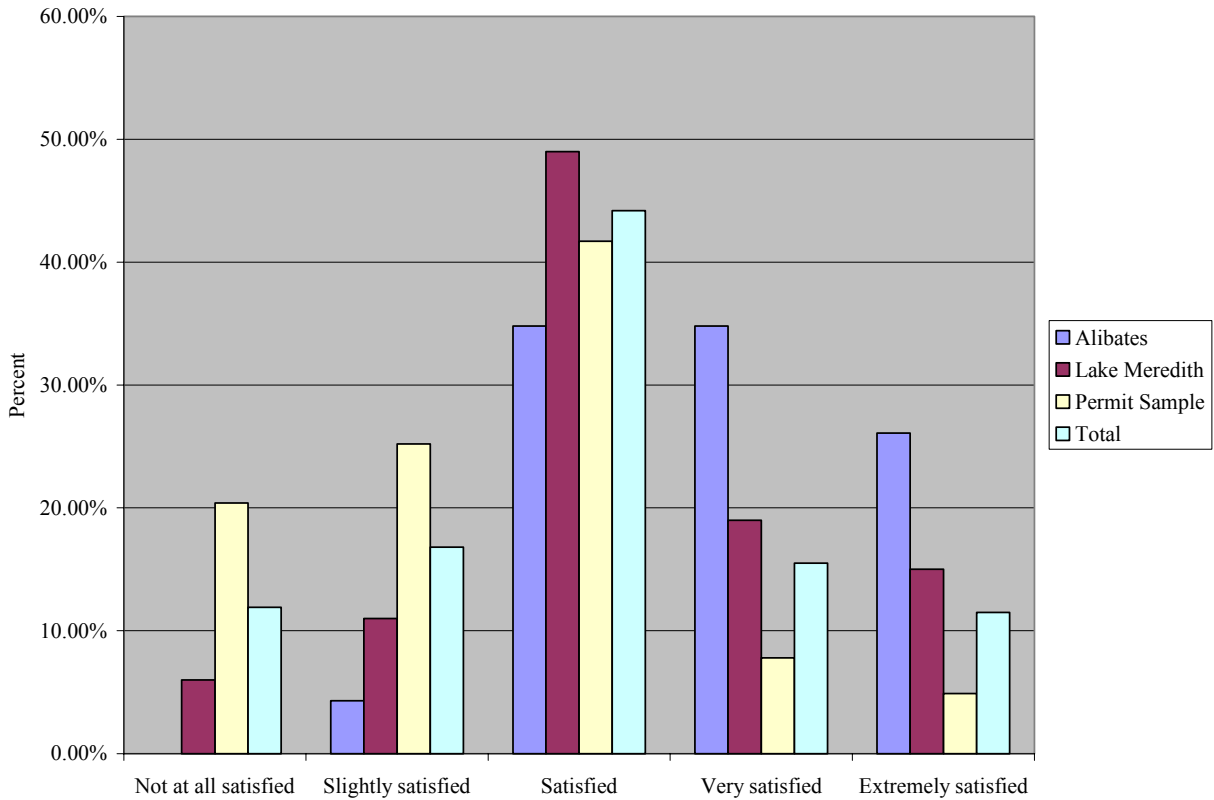


Table 34 Overall Perception of Crowding During Recent Visit for Mail Survey Respondents

	Sample						Total	
	Alibates		Lake Meredith		Permit Sample			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Crowding	1.39	0.72	2.47	1.88	1.99	1.40	2.14	1.61

Note. Values are mean scores on a nine-point scale ranging from 1 (Not at all crowded) to 9 (Extremely crowded). SD is standard deviation.

Table 35 Ratings of the Importance of Various Motives for Visiting NPS Sites for Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Motive	Be close to nature	4.30	3.78	3.41	3.67
	Gain a sense of accomplishment	2.54	2.44	2.26	2.37
	Experience excitement/adventure	2.63	3.33	2.97	3.09
	Develop personal, spiritual values	2.42	2.57	2.46	2.50
	Take risks	1.08	1.84	1.42	1.57
	Experience solitude	3.04	2.85	2.79	2.85
	Be with family or friends	3.87	4.34	4.05	4.16
	Use my outdoor equipment	2.37	3.62	4.07	3.69
	Improve my physical fitness	2.71	2.76	2.35	2.57
	Learn more about nature	4.00	2.89	2.37	2.79
	Gain a sense of self confidence	2.45	2.45	2.14	2.31
	Learn about prehistoric cultures	3.79	2.47	1.92	2.37
	Meet other people	2.38	2.59	1.97	2.29
	Develop my skills and abilities	2.17	2.96	3.08	2.93
	Get away from the usual demands of life	3.92	4.35	4.22	4.25
	Be with people who share my values	3.88	4.06	3.77	3.91
	Other	4.17	4.05	4.08	4.08

Note. Values are mean scores on a scale ranging from 1 (Not at all important) to 5 (Extremely important).

Table 36 Evaluation of the Environmental Conditions at NPS Sites by Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Environmental concern	Erosion of the shorelines	2.73	2.17	2.12	2.20
	Litter on the shorelines	2.81	2.66	2.66	2.67
	Boat emissions	2.81	1.94	1.49	1.82
	Water pollution	2.67	2.16	1.66	1.98
	Human waste on shoreline	2.52	1.82	1.58	1.77
	Fire scars/charcoal not in designated fire rings	2.40	1.80	1.75	1.83
	Trampling of vegetation	2.52	1.73	1.37	1.65
	Damage to historical or archaeological sites	3.46	1.90	1.66	1.96
	Too many OHV routes	2.15	1.52	1.45	1.55
	Number of oil and gas lease roads	2.35	1.57	1.52	1.63

Note. Values are mean scores on a scale ranging from 1 (Not a problem) to 5 (Very serious problem).

Figure 4 Evaluation of the Environmental Conditions at NPS Sites by Mail Respondents

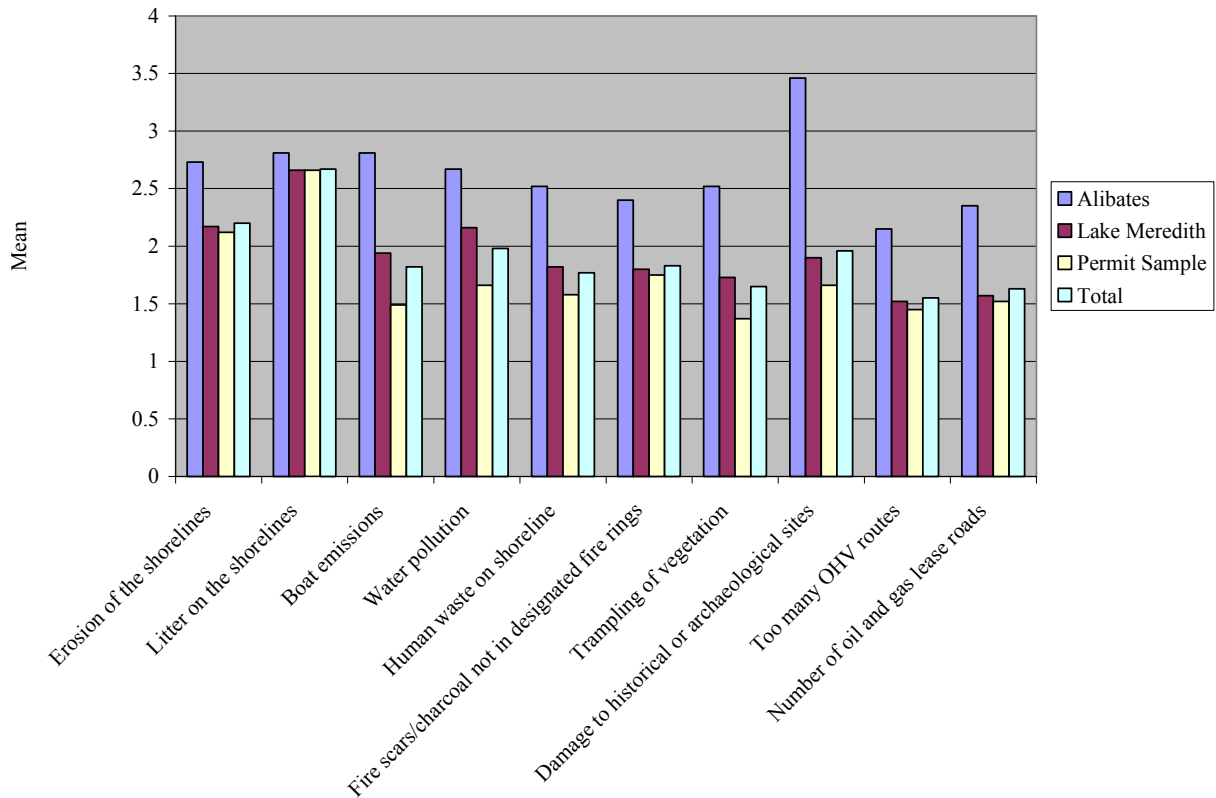
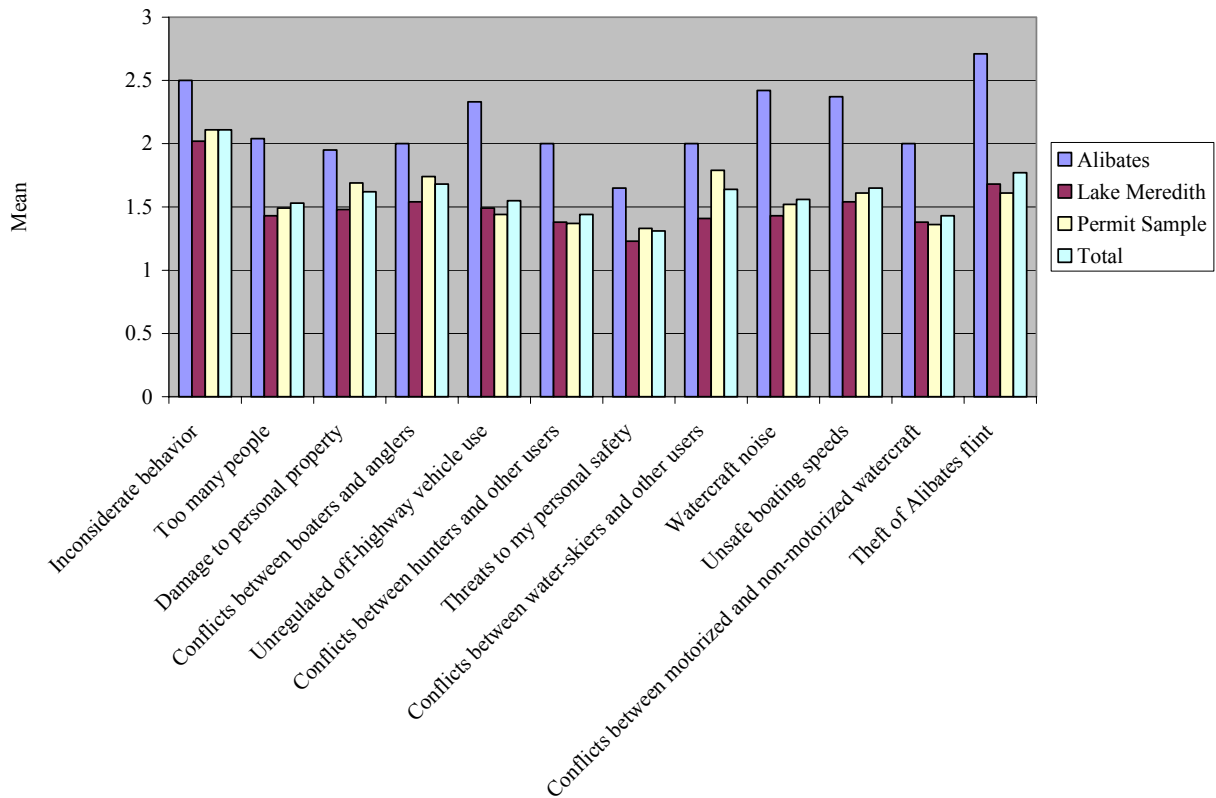


Table 37 Evaluation of the Social Conditions at NPS Sites by Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Social concern	Inconsiderate behavior	2.50	2.02	2.11	2.11
	Too many people	2.04	1.43	1.49	1.53
	Damage to personal property	1.95	1.48	1.69	1.62
	Conflicts between boaters and anglers	2.00	1.54	1.74	1.68
	Unregulated off-highway vehicle use	2.33	1.49	1.44	1.55
	Conflicts between hunters and other users	2.00	1.38	1.37	1.44
	Threats to my personal safety	1.65	1.23	1.33	1.31
	Conflicts between water-skiers and others	2.00	1.41	1.79	1.64
	Watercraft noise	2.42	1.43	1.52	1.56
	Unsafe boating speeds	2.37	1.54	1.61	1.65
	Conflicts between motorized and non-motorized watercraft	2.00	1.38	1.36	1.43
	Theft of Alibates flint	2.71	1.68	1.61	1.77

Note. Values are mean scores on a scale ranging from 1 (Not a problem) to 5 (Very serious problem).

Figure 5 Evaluation of the Social Conditions at NPS Sites by Mail Respondents



Evaluation of Park Facilities, Programs, and Services

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of a variety of programs, facilities, and services and their level of satisfaction with current conditions (Tables 38 and 39). To explore this data, an importance-satisfaction analysis was conducted (Figures 6 and 7). In this analysis, the mean ratings for importance and satisfaction for each attribute are matched, and the resulting points are plotted on a two dimensional matrix. As importance and performance ratings tend to be high for most items in park and recreation settings, x and y axis reference lines are placed at the overall mean for all attributes for the question group (as opposed to placing the axes at the midpoint on the scale). This results in a relative rating that allows managers to see importance and performance for a given attribute, as compared to other attributes in the list. The resulting graphs include four quadrants: “Concentrate Here” includes items that are relatively high in importance, but relatively low in satisfaction. That is, these items are most important to visitors, compared with other items on the list, but visitors’ satisfaction is relatively lower, compared to the other items on the list; “Keep up the Good Work” includes items that are relatively high in importance and relatively high in satisfaction; “Possible Overkill” includes items that are relatively low in importance and relatively high in satisfaction; “Low Priority” includes items that are relatively low in importance and relatively low in satisfaction.

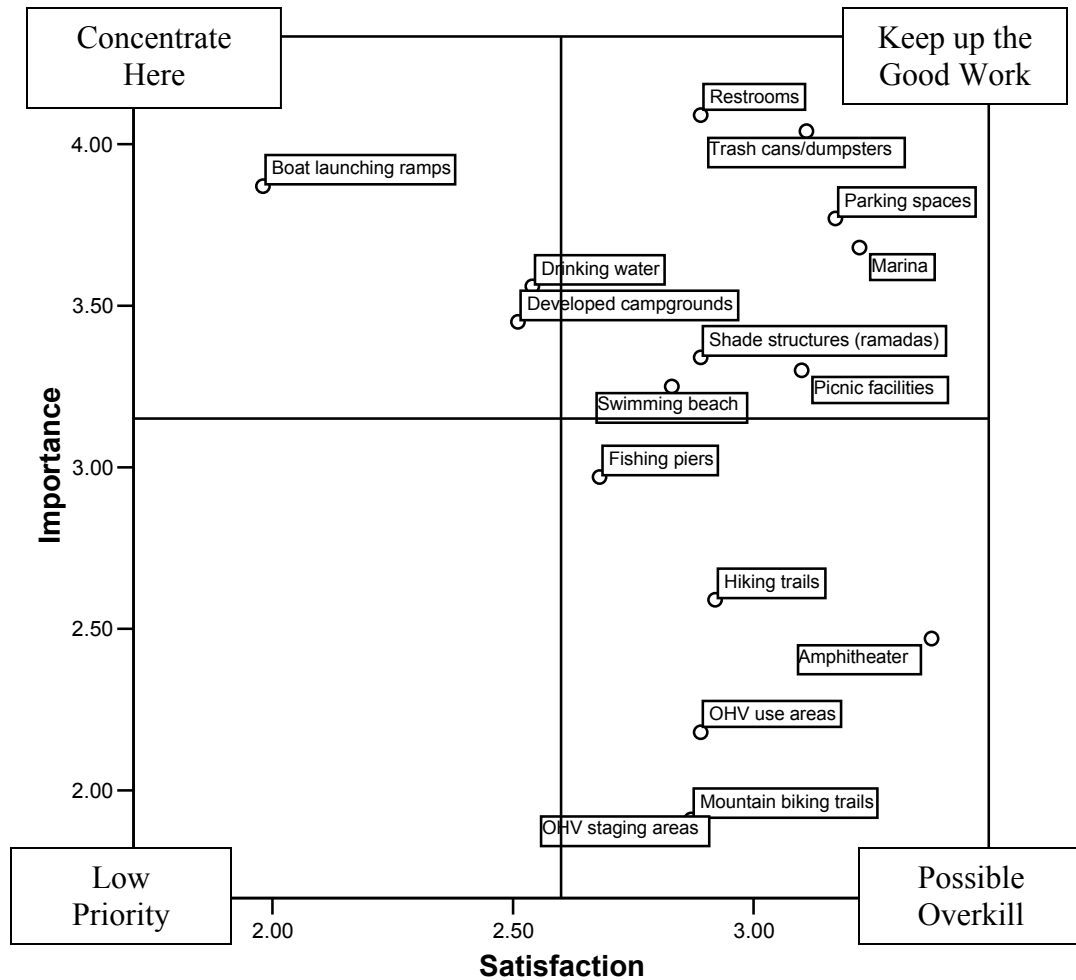
Across all samples, the facility-related items with high relative importance, but low relative satisfaction (Concentrate Here quadrant) were: boat launching ramps, drinking water, and developed campgrounds (Figure 6). Across all samples, the programs and services with high relative importance, but low relative satisfaction (Concentrate Here quadrant) were: staff at recreation sites to solve problems, and obtaining boating permits (Figure 7).

Table 38 Evaluations of the Importance of Facilities and Satisfaction with Current Conditions by Mail Respondents

		Sample						Total	
		Alibates		Lake Meredith		Permit Sample			
		Imp	Sat	Imp	Sat	Imp	Sat	Imp	Sat
Facility	Boat launching ramps	2.38	2.17	3.37	2.02	4.61	1.91	3.87	1.98
	Developed campgrounds	3.36	2.55	3.45	2.56	3.48	2.45	3.45	2.51
	Drinking water	4.00	2.19	3.73	2.61	3.30	2.56	3.56	2.54
	Fishing piers	2.73	2.44	2.73	2.79	3.24	2.64	2.97	2.68
	Amphitheater	3.05	3.26	2.21	3.35	2.58	3.41	2.47	3.37
	Parking spaces	3.30	3.29	3.67	3.26	3.96	3.06	3.77	3.17
	Picnic facilities	3.36	3.45	3.42	3.11	3.17	3.02	3.30	3.10
	Restrooms	4.08	3.27	4.22	2.74	3.98	2.94	4.09	2.89
	Marina	3.00	3.26	3.47	3.09	4.01	3.33	3.68	3.22
	Shade structures (ramadas)	3.52	3.15	3.43	3.05	3.21	2.70	3.34	2.89
	Mountain biking trails	1.86	2.74	2.01	2.91	1.83	2.86	1.91	2.87
	OHV staging areas	1.67	3.06	1.98	2.97	1.97	2.88	1.94	2.93
	Hiking trails	3.22	3.38	2.84	2.99	2.23	2.75	2.59	2.92
	Swimming beach	2.68	2.71	3.56	3.00	3.10	2.71	3.25	2.83
	Trash cans/dumpsters	3.96	2.90	4.03	3.07	4.08	3.19	4.04	3.11
	OHV use areas	1.64	2.78	2.33	2.99	2.18	2.84	2.18	2.89

Note. Values for importance ratings are mean scores on a scale ranging from 1 (Not at all important) to 5 (Extremely important). Values for satisfaction ratings are mean scores on a scale ranging from 1 (Not at all satisfied) to 5 (Extremely satisfied).

Figure 6 Importance-Satisfaction Analysis of Facilities for Mail Respondents



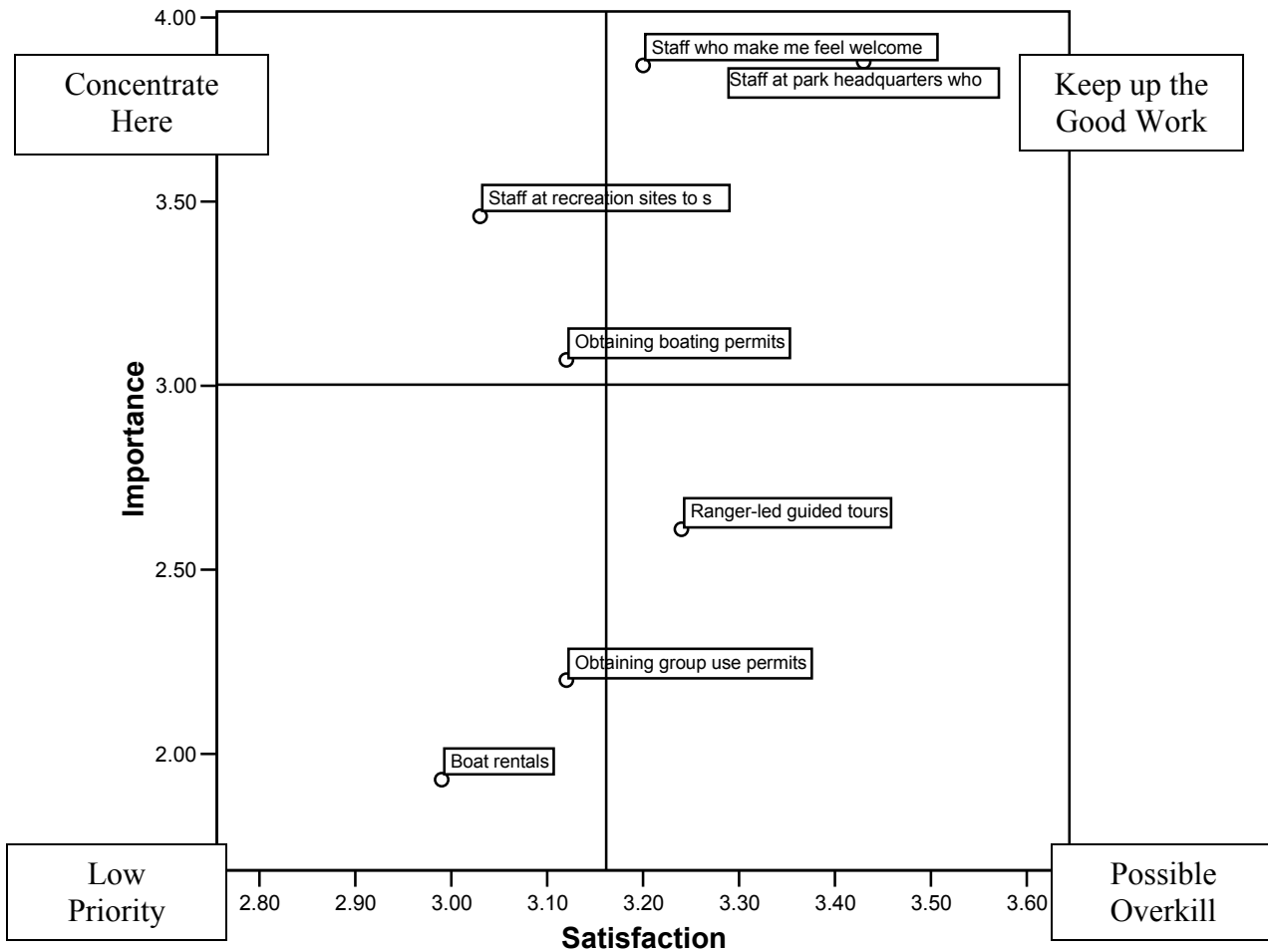
Note. Values for importance ratings are mean scores on a scale ranging from 1 (Not at all important) to 5 (Extremely important). Values for satisfaction ratings are mean scores on a scale ranging from 1 (Not at all satisfied) to 5 (Extremely satisfied). As importance ratings and performance ratings tend to be high for most items in park and recreation settings, x and y axis reference lines are placed at the overall mean for all attributes for the question group (as opposed to placing the axes at the midpoint on the scale). This results in a relative rating that allows managers to see importance and performance for a given attribute, as compared to other attributes in the list.

Table 39 Ratings of the Importance of Programs and Services and Their Satisfaction with Current Conditions by Mail Respondents

		Sample						Total	
		Alibates		Lake Meredith		Permit Sample			
		Imp	Sat	Imp	Sat	Imp	Sat	Imp	Sat
Programs and services	Ranger-led guided tours	4.08	3.71	2.64	3.31	2.23	3.04	2.61	3.24
	Staff who make me feel welcome	4.42	3.70	3.87	3.34	3.74	2.95	3.87	3.20
	Boat rentals	1.45	2.79	2.16	3.03	1.83	3.01	1.93	2.99
	Obtaining boating permits	2.05	2.71	2.74	3.11	3.60	3.20	3.07	3.12
	Staff at park headquarters who are helpful	4.26	3.87	3.85	3.44	3.83	3.31	3.88	3.43
	Obtaining group use permits	1.73	3.47	2.25	3.06	2.26	3.09	2.20	3.12
	Staff at recreation sites to solve problems	3.65	3.45	3.59	3.09	3.30	2.87	3.46	3.03

Note. Values for importance ratings are mean scores on a scale ranging from 1 (Not at all important) to 5 (Extremely important). Values for satisfaction ratings are mean scores on a scale ranging from 1 (Not at all satisfied) to 5 (Extremely satisfied).

Figure 7 Importance-Satisfaction Analysis of Programs and Services for Mail Respondents



Note. Values for importance ratings are mean scores on a scale ranging from 1 (Not at all important) to 5 (Extremely important). Values for satisfaction ratings are mean scores on a scale ranging from 1 (Not at all satisfied) to 5 (Extremely satisfied). As importance ratings and performance ratings tend to be high for most items in park and recreation settings, x and y axis reference lines are placed at the overall mean for all attributes for the question group (as opposed to placing the axes at the midpoint on the scale). This results in a relative rating that allows managers to see importance and performance for a given attribute, as compared to other attributes in the list.

Opinions on Park Management

To evaluate opinions on park management, respondents were asked their preferences for various broad management alternatives, as well as specific items. First, respondents were presented with the following three broad management directions and asked to choose only one:

A. Maintain existing level of programs, facilities and services, and do not require any new permits.

- Visitors would enjoy the existing multiple recreation opportunities.
- No new programs, facilities, services would be offered, although some improvements would be made where possible.
- No new permits would be required.

B. Increase some programs, facilities and services, and require permits for some activities.

- Some new recreation opportunities would be provided such as evening programs in rustic amphitheaters, guided educational tours, and additional hiking, biking and horseback riding.
- Some new facilities would be developed, such as a few full hook-up RV campgrounds with showers and electricity, and existing shoreline facilities and access points would be improved where possible.
- A permit would be required to enter the park and permits would be required for some activities, such as OHV use.

C. Significantly develop most programs, facilities and services, and require permits for most activities.

- Highly developed visitor services would be encouraged. Visitors would enjoy expanded opportunities such as horse and mule trips, nature hikes, duck hunting, and off-road vehicle rentals and tours.
- Many new facilities would be developed, including restaurants, rental cabins, full hook-up RV campgrounds with showers and electricity. Most access points and shoreline facilities would be improved.
- A permit would be required to enter the park, and permits would be required for most activities.

Across all samples, 39.9% selected Option A; 43.3% selected Option B; and 16.9 % selected Option C. When asked to evaluate a number of statements about specific facilities or services that might be offered in the parks in the future, the highest rated individual items across all samples were: campsites with flush toilets, camping areas with RV hook-ups, designated campsites in developed areas, campgrounds at Sanford-Yakes with full RV hookups and

showers, and expand marina parking (Table 41). Notably, the two items related to off-highway/off-road vehicle use received negative mean values across all samples, indicating fairly consensual opposition.

Table 42 and Figure 8 provides greater understanding of respondents’ opinions regarding recreation user fees in general, and fees at Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM in particular. Findings suggest that respondents are willing to pay new fees if additional facilities, programs, and services are offered and that this group will come to the area whether or not new fees are implemented. As show in Table 43 and Figure 9, a plurality of mail respondents feel that the recreation areas should be supported equally from taxes and user fees.

Table 40 Opinions on Future Management for Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Future Management	Maintain existing level of programs, facilities and services	25.0%	31.6%	51.2%	39.9%
	Increase some programs, facilities and services, and require permits for some activities	55.0%	52.6%	31.7%	43.3%
	Significantly develop most programs, facilities and services, and require permits for most activities	20.0%	15.8%	17.1%	16.9%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 8 Opinions on Future Management for Mail Respondents

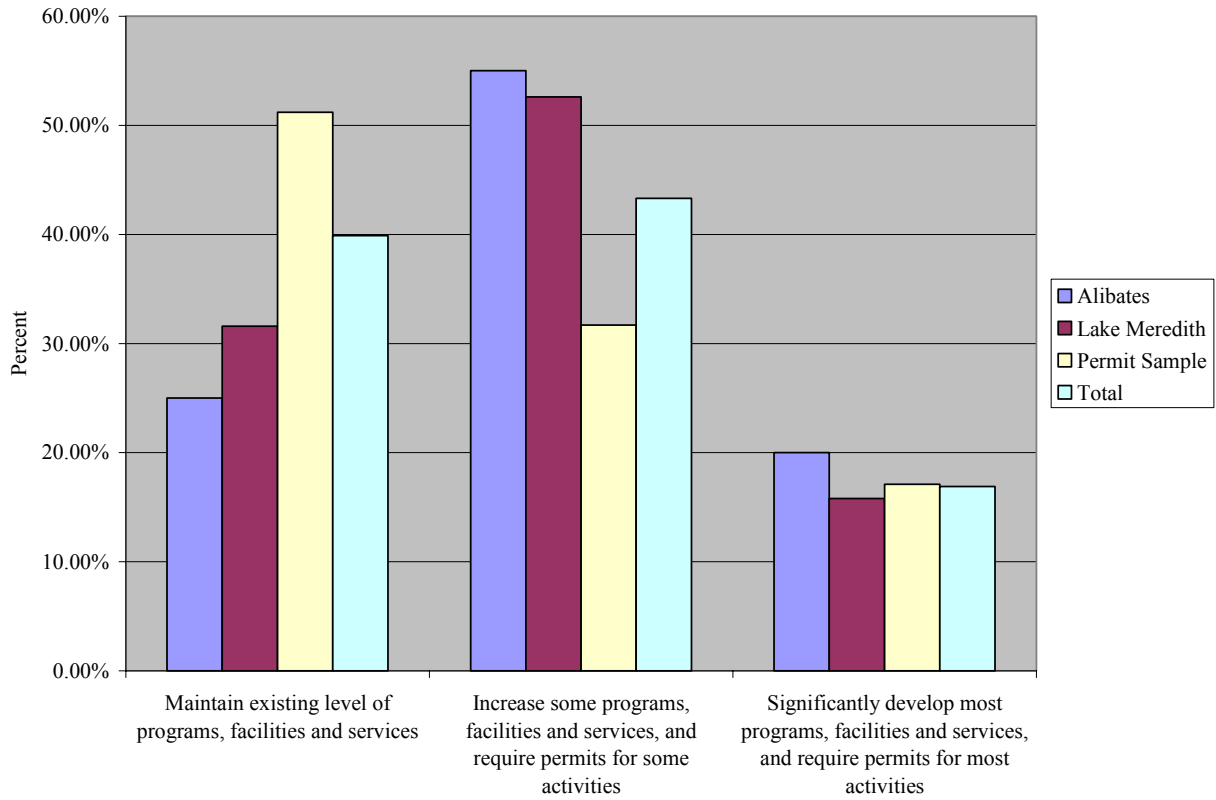


Table 41 Support or Opposition with Statements about Facilities or Services for Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Management Option	Camping areas with RV hookups	0.95	0.98	0.90	0.94
	Rental cabins	0.32	0.60	0.36	0.46
	Horse & mule trips	0.36	0.58	0.02	0.30
	Off-highway vehicle rentals	-1.09	-0.13	-0.35	-0.33
	Off-highway vehicle tours	-0.59	-0.03	-0.20	-0.16
	Hay rides	0.32	0.17	-0.01	0.10
	Campsites with flush toilets	0.82	1.14	0.90	1.00
	Boardwalk and picnic pavilion at Sanford-Yakes Marina	0.33	0.71	0.64	0.64
	Campgrounds at Sanford-Yakes with full RV hookups and showers	0.71	0.78	0.77	0.77
	Evening campfire programs	1.05	0.57	0.30	0.49
	Remove some existing facilities to provide more backcountry camping	0.14	-0.12	-0.49	-0.26
	Classrooms for education programs	0.68	0.00	-0.16	0.00
	Expand marina parking	0.43	0.71	0.82	0.73
	Designated campsites in developed areas	0.86	0.89	0.71	0.80

Note. Values are mean scores on a seven point scale ranging from -2 (Strongly oppose) to 2 (Strongly support).

Table 42 Agreement or Disagreement with Statements about Recreation User Fees for Mail Respondents

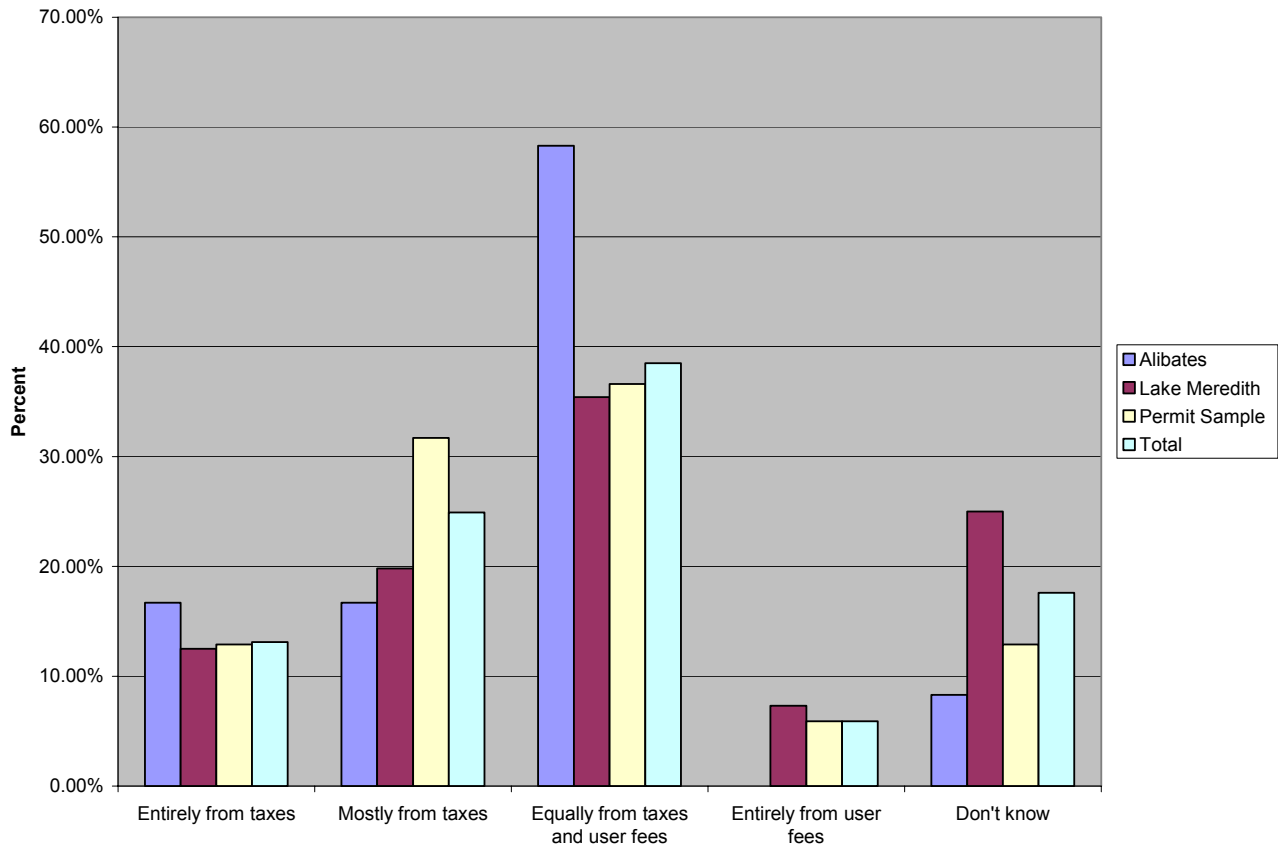
Statement	Sample			Total
	Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Overall, charging fees to recreate in National Recreation Areas and Monuments is a good idea	0.33	0.23	-0.01	0.14
The National Park Service needs to charge fees to maintain the quality of services provided to the public	0.54	0.40	0.20	0.32
The money from fees goes directly into improving park services and personnel	1.08	0.99	0.85	0.94
I understand the reasons behind recreation fees	1.08	0.78	0.60	0.73
People should be able to recreate in National Recreation Areas and Monuments even if they can't afford to pay the fees	0.38	0.34	0.37	0.35
I would get less satisfaction from recreation in National Recreation Areas and Monuments if I had to pay a fee	-0.63	-0.30	-0.08	-0.23
Charging fees in National Recreation Areas and Monuments leads to over-development	-0.75	-0.29	-0.29	-0.34
Charging new fees will not have any effect on the way I visit this area	0.17	0.25	-0.14	0.06
I will have to plan further ahead when visiting this area if new fees are charged	0.21	0.08	0.16	0.13
I will visit this area less often if new fees are charged	-0.25	-0.08	0.26	0.05
Having to pay recreation user fees will decrease the spontaneity of some of my visits to this area	0.21	0.20	0.49	0.33
Recreation fees will limit the access of some people to this area	0.92	0.74	0.76	0.77
I am willing to pay reasonable fees if new facilities and services are offered	0.96	0.83	0.50	0.69
I will use this area whether or not I have to pay new fees	0.63	0.55	0.29	0.44

Note. Values are mean scores on a seven point scale ranging from -2 (Strongly disagree) to 2 (Strongly agree).

Table 43 Opinions toward Generation of Funds for Public Recreation Areas for Mail Respondents

		Sample			Total
		Alibates	Lake Meredith	Permit Sample	
Proper funding mix	Entirely from taxes	16.7%	12.5%	12.9%	13.1%
	Mostly from taxes	16.7%	19.8%	31.7%	24.9%
	Equally from taxes and user fees	58.3%	35.4%	36.6%	38.5%
	Entirely from user fees	-	7.3%	5.9%	5.9%
	Don't know	8.3%	25.0%	12.9%	17.6%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 9 Opinions on the Generation of Funds for Public Recreation Areas for Mail Respondents



Focus Group Research Method

To supplement the information provided by the on-site and mail survey, four focus groups were conducted with residents of communities near the parks. By design, focus group participants share a similar orientation or characteristic – a more homogeneous group than the general population. The four interest areas were: (a) angling, (b) education and cultural history, (c) hunting, and (d) off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. The meetings took place January 12 – 15, 2004 at park headquarters in Fritch, TX. The focus groups were designed to gain an in-depth understanding of the issues and concerns of the primary user groups and communities of interest for Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM. The focus group script was used to center conversation on three broad topics: (a) values of the parks to the group; (b) threats to those values; and (c) preferences for the future management of the parks. In addition to gaining insight about the importance of the area, the focus groups were also designed to identify and expand the broad range of important issues of which planners and managers should be aware. Participants for the focus groups were identified using two techniques: (a) through existing NPS contacts; and (b) by using a snowball sampling procedure whereby initial participants were allowed to suggest other participants. The participants were contacted by mail with a letter explaining the purpose of the meeting.

After arriving, the focus group participants were asked to sign in and complete a name tag by the moderators. After the moderators were introduced, the purposes of the overall study and focus groups were discussed. The purpose of the larger year-long study (including the on-site and mail survey portions) was explained – to create a better understanding of the value and importance of the area to visitors and the local communities so that an information base is available for future planning and management. Participants were informed that the purpose of the focus groups was to gather information on the needs and interests of the wide range of people using the lands for their recreational activities. They were also informed that they were considered to be representatives of key user groups who had expressed particular interest in how the lands are to be managed. They were told that they had been gathered together for a conversation to help managers know more about their interests, dreams, and concerns regarding the area. Next, the group was asked to agree to some basic ground rules to ensure respectful and successful dialogue. Each focus group had a facilitator and a recorder from ASU and a

representative from the NPS. The facilitator asked questions and involved each of the participants in the discussion. The recorder wrote participant comments on flip charts.

Focus Group Results

While there are many differences between user groups with respect to activities, values and management preferences, many commonalities also exist. Although each group has an interest in its specific type of activity, many engage in other activities as well; for example, camping is an activity that is common across many interest groups. All appreciate the open space provided by the NRA and NM, the beauty of the area, and the opportunity to recreate on public land. In addition to appreciating the environment and land, focus group participants also attach social values to the parks. They view the area as a place to engage in family activities, interact with people who have similar interests, and a place to educate children. Finally, the economic value of the area is understood. Participants recognize that visitors to the area spend money that benefits businesses and residents.

User groups do experience threats to the values they hold for the area. The threats perceived tend to be particular to specific user groups, but some cut across groups. There seems to be some concern with the changeable nature of rules and regulations, and inconsistencies between state and federal regulations. There is also concern that communication with the public has been somewhat negative and reactive rather than proactive. The low water level is certainly a concern among some user groups especially as it relates to reduced boat access to the lake. Most user groups' conflicts tend to be related to ORV use with other user groups perceiving conflicts with ORV users, though ORV users generally do not perceive such conflicts.

Preferred management actions tend to vary widely between the groups, though a few are common to more than one group. A number of groups desire developed campgrounds with RV hookups; added restroom facilities that are open year round, some with showers; improved access to the parks in general, including road access; usable boat ramps; better bank access; and access for people with disabilities (especially to Alibates Flint Quarries NM). Programmatically, respondents favor education programs for children in particular, but also for adults; better and more accessible information for visitors in a variety of formats; and added volunteer opportunities.

Focus Group One: Angling Interest Group

The angling group included 14 participants (13 men) of varying ages; all local residents who have used Lake Meredith NRA for varying number of years, some from the time it opened and others beginning in the last two to three years. Three current park employees attended the meeting.

1) Values

a) Activities

- i) Fishing
- ii) The only opportunity for lake activities in the area
- iii) A place to fish for Walleye, one of two in TX
- iv) Camping
- v) Wildlife/bird watching

b) The environment/setting

- i) The locality – the only place like in the area
- ii) A beautiful place
- iii) A nice setting
- iv) People from other places find it nice change from their normal environments
- v) The wide open space (referring to the ability to see for long distances)
- vi) Fresh air
- vii) Wind
- viii) The landscape that can be seen
- ix) Spectacular sunsets and sunrises
- x) Watching the storms come in
- xi) Red dirt
- xii) Is the water supply for the area

c) Economic impact

- i) The site has the potential to create a lot of economic impact for the community (Note here that there was some discussion of how this used to exist, but with the “decline” of the lake it had dissipated to a great extent, several businesses had closed, others

were having a hard time staying in business. Someone in the group referred to visitation statistics that evidently showed a decline from around 1,500,000 visits per year to around 500,000).

d) Social

- i) The residents in the area are friendly
- ii) Meet a lot of nice people – people like themselves

e) Educational value – especially for kids

- i) Conservation
- ii) Away from the TV
- iii) Spending time with their parents
- iv) Freedom
- v) Morality
- vi) Provides leisure activities

2) Threats to Values

a) Management of the park (especially referring to law enforcement rangers)

- i) Too much enforcement
- ii) Rangers harass people
- iii) Rangers are belligerent
- iv) The area is “over-enforced”
- v) No more wind-surfers, they have been run off by the rangers
- vi) Rangers do not understand the local culture

b) Fees

- i) Boating permits have declined
- ii) Should result in a better experience—what are they being used for?
- iii) Number of visitors has decline resulting is less fee revenue

c) Ban on personal watercraft (all have the right to use the lake)

d) Lake level is lower than actually reported

e) No stocking of fish

f) The situation is dangerous (referring to boat ramps, underwater hazards not marked)

g) There are constant changes in upper level management—they each make an important decision regarding management and then leave

- h) All of the above results in a lack of freedom and continual loss of opportunities
 - i) Facilities
 - i) A USABLE BOAT RAMP
 - ii) Underwater hazards need to be marked
 - iii) Low water levels
 - j) Social/economic
 - i) Loss of recreation is creating a financial burden
 - ii) Declining visitation is creating problems for local businesses
 - iii) Declining home and land values
 - iv) Greed – the Water Authority is selling off the water for development
 - k) Environmental
 - i) Low lake level is causing a loss of trees
 - ii) Controlled burns are creating environmental damage
 - (1) Chasing away wildlife and birds
 - (2) Burns are being done during prime bird breeding and nesting time
 - (3) Slides of lake are sloughing off
 - (4) Increased sedimentation
 - l) Conflict
 - i) Occasional conflict but not that much due to differing user groups
 - ii) Getting too “politically correct” – too many regulation
- 3) Management Actions
- a) Facilities (in order of importance)
 - i) Usable boat launch ramps (by far the most desired)
 - ii) Designated/developed camping areas with camping pads
 - iii) Water and electric hookups in campsites – (RV pads and hookups)
 - iv) More regular and systematic marking of underwater hazards
 - v) Boat access on the north side of the lake
 - vi) More access to the lake banks
 - vii) More comfort stations
 - viii) Restrooms with showers open year ‘round
 - ix) Mowing to reduce weeds up to the bank

- x) Entry fees for all (not just boating) and accountability with respect to fees
- xi) Improvement of roads on the northwest side
- xii) Handicapped accessible docks around the entire lake
- xiii) Remove rock barriers around the lake to allow drive-up access
- xiv) Services/Programs (in order of importance)
- xv) A hatchery for Walleye (for reproduction, education, as a tourist attraction)
- xvi) Better P.R., better information, more accurate information
- xvii) Fishing tournaments
- xviii) Emergency contact number for the Park Service available at all times
- xix) More volunteer opportunities; donation opportunities
- xx) Horseback riding
- xxi) More information about Alibates for tourists before they drive down to the site (a sign indicated by tour only on the road)

Focus Group Two: Education and Historic Interest Group

The education and historic interests group included 6 participants (3 men) of varying ages; both local residents and residents of Amarillo. Participants have used Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM for a varying number of years, some from the time it opened and others beginning in the last two to three years. Several have used the area for both personal and professional reasons. This groups generally has a high level of involvement with the resource in that it serves as a site for field trips for their school groups, they are VIPs with the park, or have worked in or for the park at some point in time. One current park employee attended the meeting.

1) Values

a) Activities

i) As a resource for school students

(1) Hands-on activities

(2) Plant life/animal life that the children can see

ii) Native American interpretation

(1) Is an outdoor classroom

(2) Links the past with the present

(3) Children love the ancient animal fossils/remains

(4) They learn about what is in their own area

iii) Hunting (deer, quail)

(1) also the opportunity to teach hunter safety

(2) some are in the “give back” stage – they really don’t care if they get anything

iv) Fishing

v) Being outdoors and the link with history (with reference to Alibates)

vi) Camping

vii) Boating

b) The environment/setting

i) Just the fact that its there

ii) The backcountry area of the park (underused)

- iii) Able to get away from things
- iv) The “feeling” of being there—the historical connection (with reference to Alibates)
 - (1) is more than what you’re seeing
 - (2) is an experience that interpretation can bring alive
- v) Is some unique native plant life/ provides an opportunity to see and learn about it
- c) Economic impact
 - i) Is the biggest drawing card in the area
 - ii) Visitors also stop at other places like the museums, eat at restaurants, etc.
 - iii) Adds economic impact to the entire area
 - iv) Along with the other attractions helps keep people here longer
 - v) Lone Star Rising is a major draw
 - vi) Is an asset to the Panhandle
- d) Social
 - i) Interaction with other people
 - ii) Learn about the tourist (for tourism students)
 - iii) Are able to see how others appreciate the area and experience the link to the past
 - iv) Develop a sense of pride among local residents
 - v) Visitors enjoy their time being out there
 - vi) Family time
 - vii) Enjoy playing in the water, fishing a little
 - viii) Enjoy the social interaction associated with giving tours to the visitors
 - ix) Can make friends
 - x) Meet other people with similar interests
 - xi) Both personal and professional
 - xii) Special interest clubs meet here
 - xiii) A place where one feels safe, not threatened
 - xiv) People are friendly
 - xv) Diversity of visitors
 - xvi) Is likely to get more diverse
 - xvii) Need to find ways for all visitors to use the park
 - xviii) Is the number one tourist attraction in the area

- 2) Threats to Values
 - a) Management issues
 - i) Facilities
 - ii) Low water level
 - iii) Lack of water coming down from NM
 - iv) Fewer people visit
 - v) No boat ramp that reaches the water
 - vi) Hard to access the park
 - vii) No beaches
 - viii) RV campsites with hookups
 - b) Social/economic
 - i) Fewer visitors due to low water level
 - ii) Bubonic plague in the prairie dogs effected visitation a couple of years ago
 - iii) Funding is an issue for school groups in Amarillo
 - iv) Distance
 - v) Often have to come in very large groups but park staff cannot handle so have to turn away
 - c) Environmental
 - i) Are a lot of archeological sites
 - ii) Potential damage and theft due to use in Alibates
 - iii) Could be a long term problem
 - d) Some occurs with school groups
 - e) Conflict
 - i) Conflict between 4-wheelers and other users
 - (1) Noise, scare away the animals, negative impacts on the resource, damage
 - ii) Recognize that they need a place to go
 - iii) Probably ok if limited to Rosita
 - iv) But they are encroaching on the rest of the park
- 3) Management Actions
 - a) Facilities (in order of importance)
 - i) Interpretive center

- ii) Self-guided interpretive trail
- iii) Walking trails
- iv) Bike trails from Fritch
- v) Expand the museum—especially aquaria
- vi) Maps of the lake and region for educational purposes—show the lake, streams, watersheds
- vii) Birding points
- viii) Handicapped access – paved road a Alibates, access to the lake for fishing, board walk for birding
- ix) More restrooms
- x) Restroom open year ‘round (all the time)
- xi) More access to the park in general
- xii) Interpretive houseboat
- xiii) Concessionaire located in the ORV area to provide some level of supervision
- xiv) Services/Programs (in order of importance)
- xv) Self-service center or kiosk to provide park information
- xvi) On-going park maintenance to keep things up
- xvii) Continue and expand interpretive efforts—more people (staff and volunteers)
- xviii) (water clarity, aquatic organisms)
- xix) A science division to oversee and conduct research
- xx) Training for teachers so they can bring children to the park on their own
- xxi) A friends group for Alibates
- xxii) Expand the VIP program for more interpretive help
- xxiii) a recruitment effort, more money to promote it
- xxiv) A friends group for Lone Star Rising—to do promotion
- xxv) Park rangers to visit schools
- xxvi) Traveling trunks for teachers
- xxvii) Go to the teachers’ math/science conference to promote park and let teachers know what is available
- xxviii) Program with teachers for student service projects

Focus Group Three: Hunting Interest Group

The hunting group included 8 participants (all men); mostly middle-age; all local residents, most who have visited the area for many years. Two current park employees attended the meeting.

1) Values

a) Activities

i) Hunting: whitetail and mule deer, birds, raccoons

b) The environment/setting

i) A wide range of animals – variety

ii) A large area in which to hunt

iii) About the only public land available to enjoy, is very far to other public land and would have to go out of state to hunt

iv) One of the few places that is wide open

v) A wide variety of habitat

vi) Access to the park is different in different places

vii) Provide a variety of opportunities, both those can drive to and more remote areas

viii) Water draws the wildlife

ix) Can hunt more days than in most places due to weather

c) Economic impact

i) A lot of visitors come from out of town and spend money:

(1) Hotel

ii) Gas for ORVs

iii) Food and beverage

iv) Lone Star Rising is bringing in people

d) Social

i) Park Service has generally been fine to get along with

ii) Visitors usually get along, no real conflict among hunters

iii) The area provides some of the only recreation in the area

2) Threats to Values

- a) Management issues
 - i) Changing the rules and regulations
 - (1) For example: reducing the season for raccoon hunting
 - ii) Like to run dogs even if not hunting
 - iii) Most of the public meetings to go over regulations, etc. have been negative
 - (1) They focus on the things that might do wrong
 - (2) Activity is not valued or respected
 - (3) Seems as though government agencies don't want to bother with people
 - (4) An overall negative attitude
 - iv) Controlled burns in bird hunting area just before quail season
 - v) Private landowners can bait and draws wildlife off the park (no baiting allowed on any federal land)
- b) Facilities
 - i) Could be more access to some places on the west side/Plum creek – more roads and trails
- c) Social/economic
 - i) Getting more crowded—those that used to go down the river have relocated
- d) Environmental
 - i) Low water level—boat ramps useless
 - ii) ORVs destroying vegetation and habitat
 - iii) Area is very susceptible to impacts
- e) Conflict
 - i) Conflicts – some with 4-wheelers and hunters, 4-wheelers and horse riders
 - ii) Some due to lack of courtesy—4 wheelers, noise and behavior spook horses
 - iii) Some due to ORVers leaving designated areas at Rosita
 - iv) Some due to poor scheduling—a major trail ride the same day as opening of bow season
 - v) Recognize the right of others to be there
- 3) Management Actions
 - a) Facilities (in order of importance)
 - i) Developed campsites with RV hookups

- ii) Wildlife food plots
- iii) Water available with the horse pens
- iv) More designated tent camping sites
- v) More access in some areas such as Martins and Evans
- vi) Food plots in picnic areas (so visitors can see wildlife)
- vii) Water crossing from Alibates to Plum Creek (to avoid long drive)
- viii) Wildlife water areas
- ix) More nicer restrooms
- x) More hiking and horse trails
- xi) Designated equestrian trails on uplands
- xii) Backcountry campsites designated
- xiii) Preserve limited access area
- xiv) Extend deep water boat ramps
- xv) More access to shore fishing
- xvi) More picnic tables
- xvii) Gated roads with parking areas for hunting
- xviii) ORV roads designated
- xix) Group camp site developed
- xx) Services/Programs (in order of importance)
- xxi) Hunting seasons same as the state seasons
- xxii) Activities/education programs for children—environmental impacts of ORVing
- xxiii) Permitted doe hunts
- xxiv) Work programs for local children (trail work, etc.)
- xxv) A camping concession
- xxvi) More public meetings to keep residents informed
- xxvii) Access for older people/disabled to Alibates
- xxviii) More guided events such as horse back rides
- xxix) Bring back the fourth of July event
- xxx) Provide a place to site firearms

Focus Group Four: Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Interest Group

The ORV focus group included eight participants (all men); mostly middle-age; all local residents who have visited Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM for many years. Also two current park employees attended the meeting.

1) Values

a) Activities

- i) ORVing
- ii) Camping
- iii) Exercise

b) The environment/setting

- i) Only ORV venue open to the public for 300-400 miles
- ii) Gives children a place to do something, a legal place to play, no drugs
- iii) Scenery, beauty, nature, sunsets
- iv) Wildlife, bird life (bobcat, deer, eagles)
- v) The only public land
- vi) Can get away from everyone
- vii) Provides some challenging places to ride – hills, sand, lack of traction
- viii) Tremendous variety of environments
- ix) The #2 ORV area in the US according to Dirt Bike Magazine

c) Economic impact

- i) People plan vacations to come here – they come from all over
- ii) Is a lot of economic impact—hotels, etc.
- iii) Even those on day trips spend a lot of money
- iv) Also must consider the indirect impacts

d) Social

- i) Is the reason for living here
- ii) Stress relief, R&R
- iii) Can spend time with family, especially children, with no phones, TV
- iv) See friends/socialize

- v) Can be around people like self
 - vi) Gives children a place to learn
- 2) Threats to Values
- a) Management issues
 - i) Constantly changing regulations—hard to keep up
 - ii) Current management of the park
 - iii) Actions such as trail closures
 - iv) Area is viewed as an eyesore by managers
 - v) Acknowledge that there is damage (dumping, litter, vandalism) but want to see something other than closures, for example law enforcement where the problem people are cited and prosecuted, close “congregating” areas (this idea was reiterated)
 - vi) Lack of enforcement during heavy use times—not an adequate budget
 - vii) Lack of education of users—need more emphasis on this
 - viii) Different regulations between that state and federal agencies, users end to not know the distinction
 - ix) Communication has been hot and cold—more reactive than proactive (it was noted this has improved some lately)
 - b) Facilities
 - c) Social/economic
 - i) Irresponsible use by anyone—‘trashing it’ (mostly with reference to facilities, litter)
 - (1) Projects negative image of ORVers
 - (2) Creates strained relationship between ORVers and NPS
 - ii) Lack of knowledge regarding boundaries and regulations (part due to constant changes)
 - iii) A small number of people spoil it for everyone
 - iv) Closure of areas in TX may result in too many people
 - d) Environmental
 - i) Closing down areas because of ‘potential’ impacts
 - ii) Litter, vandalism (burning down bathrooms)
 - iii) Dumping
 - iv) Cattle in the river bottom

- e) Conflict
 - i) Conflicts with those just there to party who have no interest in the area
 - ii) Conflict with private land owners
- 3) Management Actions
 - a) Facilities (in order of importance)
 - i) Ranger station at Rosita to improve visibility of NPS
 - ii) Emergency facilities along with the ranger station
 - iii) Trash cans with regular trash pick-up
 - iv) Bathrooms (that won't be destroyed)
 - v) RV hookups/dump station/developed camping
 - vi) Emergency communications/or helipad
 - vii) Water facilities
 - viii) Showers
 - ix) Covered picnic areas (concrete)
 - x) Services/Programs (in order of importance)
 - xi) Ranger presence
 - xii) Routine trash pick-up
 - xiii) Resolve dual-government issues (state and federal)
 - xiv) Gated and permitted area—must buy permit to use
 - xv) No rules regarding passengers on ATVs
 - xvi) Education about regulations and boundaries as come into the area
 - xvii) Fees to general some money for patrols and maintenance, fees for all user groups
 - xviii) Education programs—safety, environmental impacts of ORVing, etc.
 - xix) Newsletter for ORVers

Supplemental Interviews: Equestrian Interest Group

Following the focus group meetings, a number of equestrian users requested an opportunity to provide input into the planning process. Equestrian users were not identified by researchers or park staff as an organized group and it is possible that these individuals became interested in the process following the publication of a newspaper article in the Amarillo Globe on January 16 describing the GMP process and the focus groups (Wilson, 2004). Two users, both women, returned electronic mail correspondence addressing the topics covered during the focus group interviews.

- 1) Values
 - a) Location of the park
 - b) Spaciousness of the park / Miles of trails
 - c) Camping areas
 - d) No fees
 - e) Variety of terrain
 - f) Activities
 - i) Horseback riding
 - ii) Camping
 - iii) Fishing
 - iv) Bird watching
 - v) Fourth of July fireworks
 - g) The environment/setting
 - i) Peace and quiet of nature
 - ii) Place to have privacy
 - iii) Convenient location
 - iv) Area is not crowded
 - h) Economic impact
 - i) It would hurt local businesses if the park closed
 - ii) Small towns and communities would disappear
 - iii) It would hurt businesses that cater to park visitor

- i) Social
- 2) Threats to Values
 - a) Conflict
 - i) Hunting season overlaps the best time for horseback riding in the panhandle
- 3) Management Actions
 - a) Hunting seasons should be posted at the park entrance
 - b) Facilities
 - c) Developed campgrounds - would be nice to have, but not required
 - d) Drinking water - very important
 - e) Picnic facilities - nice to have
 - f) Restrooms - important
 - g) Shade structures (ramadas) would be nice to have
 - h) Trash cans/dumpsters – good to have, but can haul out what you haul in
 - i) Services/Programs

References

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Appendix A: Open-ended Responses from Mail Survey

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Final Comments

ID	Sample Location	Final Comments
1003	Alibates	Tour sponsored by the park was very interesting. Hiking portion was not too difficult for older adult with a knee replacement. Tour guide well informed and congenial. This is my kind of park - don't "over
1007	Alibates	See attached statement
1013	Alibates	We enjoyed Fritch fortress CG very much. We were the only trailer there. Keep it the way it is. We also enjoyed our Alibates tour with [].
1014	Alibates	Bisited this location in middle of October. Very few visitors. Very quiet, except for multiple gas pumping stations. Good paved roads & sites at Fritch Fortress. Problem with teenage drinking on weekends at Harbor Bay.
1020	Alibates	The 11 cities that are using the lake h2o & mixing well h2o need to be shut off. Until the lake fills back up. They are draining the lake dry people have quit coming to the lake because it is so low the boating is getting dangerous also the hunters at McBride would not mind paying a fee for h2o & electricity. Say \$3 a day that's what they charge at Fort Cobb OK & they have
1023	Alibates	I love this lake and it makes me sick to see it drying up and some people don't even care they still arise it! Such a great resource and some waste and destroy instead of trying to save it for our future. Thanks for all the rangers and volunteers do.
1026	Alibates	park understaffed - need boat ramp work while lake level is low thank you
1027	Alibates	park rangers make you feel as though they don't want you on lake land

ID	Sample Location	Final Comments
1032	Alibates	I have been at the ranger station for the Alibates flint Quarries several time and observed people from many different states stop by to see what the place has to offer. Sadly, its not much. No interpretive areas no museum. A station only staffed during the summer months. Locked up tight usually. The Flint Quarries was Texas' first industry. On the tours the common phrase are we think and imagine we need to know and be able to see what was happening in the most important, extremely overlooked national monument.
1053	Lake Meredith	The primary problem is water quality and volume - solvable by letting more water through lowering their level which would still be adequate for their use (recreation needs) and allows for our needs (drinking water). Municipal water needs should outweigh NM desire for a deep fishing lake.
1054	Lake Meredith	This lake is drinking water for many people. Think about the pollution !!!
1065	Lake Meredith	More facilities specific to sail boat needs - including a simple pole's and block feature at the main ramp for raising and lowering most.
1068	Lake Meredith	Fee for campers in designated areas. Most people go to the lake with tents and don't think it would be fair to charge for tents to be set up. I think low income families are more capable of this kind of recreation.
1072	Lake Meredith	We thought there was a boating fee for using the personal watercraft, but could not figure out who to pay and did not find a money box, a sign indicating what the fee was, not a park ranger to further inquire. Lake Meredith is underdeveloped but that is one reason to visit- there is lack of programs and facilities but that results in a lack of crowds which is enjoyable for those who do not mind the extra preparation required.

ID	Sample Location	Final Comments
1098	Lake Meredith	I would like to see showers, bathrooms, and drinking water and facilities put in all over the area including Rosita flats. This is a great place to go trail riding on our 4 wheelers. We don't stay long due to no facilities. I believe this area could be improved greatly and would attract a better crowd. I would pay a fee if these things were there.
1099	Lake Meredith	Our family along with two others (one from Colorado) have been planning a dirt bike riding and camping trip to Canadian River for two years. We went Memorial weekend. We arrived at 1:00a.m. and set up camping in the dark. It was very windy and trucks from a lease road nearly were in and out all day causing us to be covered with sand. I was not happy that there were no toilets or camping areas. The riding was great. All riders were very pleased.
1103	Lake Meredith	There are a few trash cans chained together, people use them but the park service does not empty them
1115	Lake Meredith	What I would like to see is more access to the lake on all areas especially in blue creek where there is no way to get to the lake legally not that there is no way to get there they just won't let you. The attitude of the park rangers is like their doing you a favor by letting you be at the lake area. We need park rangers that have ties to this area or that really want to be here. Not just looking for a way to move on.
1121	Lake Meredith	I don't think that Lake Meredith should be developed too extensively. We got there to get away from development. It is an escape from civilization for me on most trips.
1125	Lake Meredith	Please get the park services to help take care of picnic tables & trash cans. They get in the water & leave them there. That is very wasteful. You know you see them because sometimes we're there fishing & they just drive by like nothing wrong. Sometimes I think they are just lazy or really don't care about our lake but a lot of citizens really care. Thank you.

ID	Sample Location	Final Comments
1134	Lake Meredith	Why such an awesome big lake and no fee to generate money--there is so much potential. It's a gold mine waiting to happen.
1147	Lake Meredith	My husband and I are really concerned about the possibility of making ATV/Four wheeling illegal at the Canadian River between Amarillo & Dumas.
1148	Lake Meredith	<p>Our primary use of the Recreation area is to access the Canadian river for camping and ATV use. Since the state recently began enforcing a decade old ATV riding law, the use of the area has reduced drastically. Although the Federal Park rangers have previously required only helmet use, some visitors have reported state ATV use regulation enforcement. This policy change has apparently further reduced use of the Area.</p> <p>I am opposed to any government enforcement of ATV manufacturers' operation warnings such as age restrictions and carrying passengers. Off-road motorcycles have no restrictions other than helmet use, and vehicles such as dune buggies have no regulations. The majority of ATV users in the area are families and with additional restrictions, use of the area will decline even further.</p> <p>I am not opposed to reasonable use fees provided they are assessed fairly and most of the fees collected are spent on the area. And if ATV's are required to pay them, then so should all other users including street legal vehicles and horses that access the river or trails for recreational purposes.</p> <p>I am concerned about our development of the river area. A primary reason for our visits is to leave a great part of civilization behind and enjoying nature. Significant development may actually cause excess use of the area leading to increased Park operating expenses and increase the amount of "normal wear and tear" caused by visitors.</p>
1166	Lake Meredith	<p>Would like to see camp sites with electricity and some water and bigger trash dumpsters in or around Rosa Rita Park. A user fee would be ok. Would also like someone to grade the roads where a certain group wants to play in the mud but leaves roads with deep</p>

ID	Sample Location	Final Comments
1190	Lake Meredith	Please put more trees for shade also water in lake
1223	Lake Meredith	Harbor Bay needs shoreline cleaned up extremely bad (it stinks). Build a new boat ramp ! Need lighting at Flint Quarries.
1230	Lake Meredith	The lake probably become more populated with people if the park rangers were interested more in making sure the people were enjoying themselves rather than writing tickets for every little thing.
1258	Lake Meredith	We cannot afford fancy marina. Present facilities are
1268	Lake Meredith	Number 1 priority is to fix boat ramps.
1271	Lake Meredith	Metal detectors should be allowed at the Lake area.
1274	Lake Meredith	stop taking water out!
1278	Lake Meredith	Please make the boat ramps more accessible. The need to pour more concrete at the bottom of the ramps while the lake levels are at all time record lows. It takes about 2 hrs to load a boat and 2 hrs to unload off the lake. There is only one boat ramp and one lane which is one boat at a time. Extremely dangerous in stormy conditions when trying to get off the lake.
1293	Lake Meredith	There is a large need to fix boating ramps! We were recently out and everyone needed to get out due to the large storm clouds. With only one ramp opened there were too many people needing to load and everyone was getting stuck due to improper ramps. Need concrete when lake is low. Horrible & unsafe conditions were not able to get boat out timely.
1296	Lake Meredith	Slip rent is completely out of control. The marina slips are in extremely poor condition and have been several years.
1299	Alibates	We really enjoyed the Alibates mines & tour guide was very helpful - friendly & knowledgeable.

ID	Sample Location	Final Comments
1364	Lake Meredith	There is a very bad problem with the boat ramp! When lakes get low you don't let the boat ramp control the use of the lake - This has been a problem for 3 years now! At \$40 for boat permits it only takes 100 permits to add up to \$4000. We would think the ramp would be fixed! You can't sell permits to people who won't come to this lake since there is only one ramp & it is only one lane wide plus it takes a 4-wheel drive to pull out when leaving the lake. You should try to load at this National Park and you would understand - It would be nice if there was some clean up in all the loading areas! They are very littered! I don't understand why! This is a National Park!
1379	Alibates	Identify plants, provide audio cassette for each solo hiker. Provide information on boards w/glass at sites.
1452	Lake Meredith	Most of the visitors are at the basin, below the dam, which is quite adequate for a day trip with all the youngsters that go with us. Bugbee has one toilet facility that is located quite a distance from the water, most people just use the bushes because of this even if it's a large party staying several days. Harbor needs to deploy more portajons at it outer edges. Primitive campsites are needed through out the park and access to the lake is limited.
1520	Lake Meredith	Marina services relative to cost are wholly inadequate. No showers - no restrooms for slip & moorage customers - no hoisting or sailboat launch facilities - very poor moorage security - and moorage fees 2-4 times regional average (okc,ok-tulsa-norman)
1543	Lake Meredith	Add more lighting to boat ramps
1585	Lake Meredith	What's OHV? We camped over the 4rth of July week end. The "No fireworks" rule was not strictly enforced and we had some damage to our boat from local campers doing bottle rockets ! Lake Meredith in Fritch, TX has no camper hook-ups ..these would be

ID	Sample Location	Final Comments
1600	Lake Meredith	Overall we enjoyed the experience. We were disappointed we did not get to see the Flint Quarries as our guide left without us. But we do plan on getting back some day to see it. We did enjoy the rest of the parks.
1603	Lake Meredith	My family has always gone to Meredith to just have a good time. Never cost a lot to do so. The restrooms need running water. I always feel gross after be there for a while.
1604	Lake Meredith	I think that the activities in the quarries should include some element of Native American involvement
1605	Lake Meredith	The tour guide at the park was very helpful and informative. Enjoyed my visit & plan to return. Thank you.
1609	Lake Meredith	We really enjoyed the naturalness of the hike to the quarries. Loved having [] for a guide. A visitor center would be interesting. We realized more people would come. More advertising and some nearby campsites might help.
1617	Lake Meredith	Park ranger/tour guide at Alibates was very helpful & friendly.
1618	Lake Meredith	I enjoyed the tour. I would like to tour areas where petrified wood is located. I grew up 6 miles North of lake in a gas camp. I am familiar with the area.
1628	Lake Meredith	We were traveling through the area looking at maps we saw the site and decided to visit.
1629	Lake Meredith	We especially enjoyed the ranger led tour, Friday 10.00Am,18th. Kudos especially to the ranger who was new to the park services who did an excellent job of the natural history narrative of the area.

Final Comments

ID	Sample Location	Final Comment
3	Permit sample	I think you need to let P.W.C. back on the lake
12	Permit sample	I strongly disagree with only charging boaters an annual fee/or daily use fee. Why are other people who use the area e.g. campers not charged a fee? Your are discriminating against boaters. Removal of PWC was an idiotic decision! Makes absolutely no sense. What is the damage that they do that is done ten fold by campers and people hanging around the marina and various camping areas on the water!
23	Permit sample	Use Lake Meredith mostly because I live in Fritch and its very convenient. The water level was very low this year and made it dangerous and cut my visits by 2/3. Thank you for sending me the survey.
25	Permit sample	I don't mind paying user fees however all should have to pay not just those who have boats. There should also be some options to purchase daily permits without having to purchase annual permits
26	Permit sample	This could be a really good area if someone would come in and manage it right. Restrooms always nasty - there are no campsites worth camping et. The rec area needs to cut more roads into lake for better beach fishing and camping access. They need to now go in and dredge boat ramps and lengthen. I do not mind paying fee if fee is used to improve lake not new boats for rangers or solar lights at ramps
29	Permit sample	Please plant some trees! Get more nature progress going get some established hiking trails involve "artists in the park" programs
40	Permit sample	boat ramp badly in need of attention
42	Permit sample	Do not develop the park

ID	Sample Location	Final Comment
53	Permit sample	Do not like that fees are only charged to boaters - do not like that part of the fee collected are sent somewhere else - do not like that fee was originally a 3 year plan only but still being collected - staff unfriendly to ATV users not enough riding areas in blue west area. Trying there best to deter ATV use - lousy
54	Permit sample	Bought property in Fritch to be closer to the lake. It is sad the water is so low. We have not been able to use our boat at Meredith the last 2 years
64	Permit sample	boat ramps need to be improved for lower water conditions
74	Permit sample	I know that the water level or the lake is important it is down a lot right now. But now is the time that improvements need to be made
78	Permit sample	Enjoy the blue water creek area. Run out there on weekday evenings & with groups on weekend for ATV riding, But for a long trip we drive to beaver OK of Wynoka OK because of the very nice facilities.
79	Permit sample	Lake Meredith is a filthy ugly lake with poor fishing. The only reason I go is its close. I go to lake Texoma 250 miles away more than I go to Meredith. I pay the fees and see nothing in return. Trash all over the place
84	Permit sample	I keep a sailboat at the marina and am most interested in improvements there- especially restrooms, addition of showers and better parking. I would pay a bit more for the use of these if they were available. Other lake and Rec developments should be focused to the northwest rather than Fritch/marina area. State highway 136 is two lane and heavily traveled as is so more development near Fritch just adds an existing problem hazard. U.S. highway 87 provides four lane access to northwest shorelines which would be better for RVs offoaders trailers etc.
85	Permit sample	I would like a copy of the results of your survey. I [].
95	Permit sample	Boat ramp @ Bugbee. It is need very badly no ramps in this area

ID	Sample Location	Final Comment
104	Permit sample	We primarily visited the lake in the past to enjoy our Sea Doos (PWC). We will probably not visit the lake in the future if PWC continue to be banned from the lake.
106	Permit sample	With the water level at its current depth the lake is losing money. You have one boat ramp open and that's crazy
110	Permit sample	turn the lake and all of it property to the state of TX. It would be better for everyone concerned.
113	Permit sample	the boat fees suck
115	Permit sample	this is in reference to your survey of Lake Meredith. I am not a casual visitor to LM. I live here and use the lake more so than most. I am in total loss for words on our parks service. Our lake is 32' lower than 2 1/2 years ago. We have 1 ramp to launch boats and the cement ramp is 30' to 40' out of the water. People have to try to launch on gravel and most times get stuck. Common sense tells me that now is the time to extend the cement to the waters edge at least. Then if and when the water comes up we have cement ramps. I have 3 boats with lake permits but only one is in the water (moored at the marina). Boating visitors are down 75%-85% at least. But if one cares-what the heck. Am I upset yes - is there anything I can do- no but I can fill out your survey
116	Permit sample	we along with family and friends have visited lake Meredith from day one. Close to our home for camping boating PWC fishing. Extremely dissatisfied with not being able to use our PWC. Since water is low and no PWC have been going to OK CO & NM. We will start using Lake Meredith when water level up so we can launch our boat & use PWC. Good luck in making our lake better we sure do miss it.

ID	Sample Location	Final Comment
117	Permit sample	<p>1-fix a visitor center with films and displays.</p> <p>2-have ranger led guided tours on a regular time schedule</p> <p>3-hire people to keep the area clean there are so many broken bottles and trash that we can fill a bag every time we visit</p> <p>4-rangers need to help people not give tickets constantly. Some are very unfriendly</p> <p>5-we want our personal watercraft privileges (access) back on the lake</p> <p>6-a bottle ban would be good for the entire lake not just ceta canyon</p> <p>7-proper maintenance would improve the camping and parking areas. Road graders could smooth out washed areas so people could walk and drive safely. The salt cedars need to be eradicated to help the low water situation and usability of the lake</p> <p>8-Bicycle and walking trails could be built around the lake. The firemen cleared a burn trail around the lake in 2001-2002 that would be excellent for biking and walking. There is one bicycle trail in back country. It is not maintained. There are areas on all sides of the lake that would make excellent trails for walking and biking.</p> <p>8-a wind surfers point would be nice. This would help windsurfers stay out of fishermen's way. More windsurfers would know where to go when they come from other areas. The weather is perfect for windsurfers and it is a good clean sport. The windsurfers remove litter from the lake each time they come.</p> <p>9-the rangers need to mix with the people. The paperwork does not help us. We did not get our watercraft back. The rangers in the past did rescues, checked on peoples safety, and tried to improve the area. They posted early warning signs and sounded sirens to let people know when weather began turning dangerous. Now they want to give tickets, show who is in charge and tell people what not to do. We do not see many rangers</p> <p>10-We have one good report on a ranger. A wind surfer got separated from his board. A ranger brought a boat and helped the windsurfer without giving him a lecture. He was very polite and helpful. We need</p>

ID	Sample Location	Final Comment
118	Permit sample	1-I would like to see the fishing (control the rough fish) 2-I would like to see more no wake zone like the one in Bugbee 3-No jet skies
125	Permit sample	we have a nut environmental groups from California telling us what to do with our lake. The Alibates monument is a joke after 40 years there is still nothing to see. No new permits of any kind. Bring the jet skis back. The \$40 lake sticker is too high. The safety rider course & registering ATVs is a rip off.
143	Permit sample	I have previously requested a survey be made of lake Meredith and I thank you for doing it . L.M.N.R.A. is disgrace and we should be embarrassed to call it a national park. So very little has been done to improve this park since it was built. Volunteer services have been basically refused. Visitors are very often treated in such a rude manner that they won't return, treated in a manner that can be interpreted as harassment and not given help when needed. This could be a great place to visit.
145	Permit sample	[] passed away []. He loved fishing on the lake and caught many fish. He went fishing Oct. 6, 2002
147	Permit sample	the ban of PWCs is completely ridiculous & I hope it is rescinded. The feeling I get from the management at Lake Meredith is that they would be happy if nobody used the lake - Alibates is a joke
152	Permit sample	Too much money per day boat permit and I don't visit enough to buy yearly permit. Not enough boat docks and fishing piers or marina.
154	Permit sample	I go to the lake for fishing only. I have never been to the flint quarries. Lake Meredith is 30 feet low and all boat ramps are out of water.
174	Permit sample	Lake Meredith is beautiful & needs to be improved.

ID	Sample Location	Final Comment
176	Permit sample	My wife and I would like to see personal watercraft back on the lake, we do not feel that they or the people using them are damaging the lake. I would much rather see the boat ramps extended instead of control burning. Managing of the funds do not seem to address issues at the point of need May God Bless our Land & Water
180	Permit sample	have spent very little time at Meredith in the past 6 years-none in 2 years
183	Permit sample	I think that if Lake Meredith recreation area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument had RV camp sites with full hook-up and part hook-up that more people would visit and enjoy the area with today RV camping we need sites for the RV camper. I feel the income from the visitor would pay for the work in time and more would enjoy the area.
185	Permit sample	Mr. [] passed away in Aug. of this year. I am his wife and will complete the survey for him. As I knew about how he felt about lake Meredith and his fishing
187	Permit sample	I am extremely unhappy about not being able to operate my PWC on Lake Meredith. It is ridiculous for them to be banned on this lake. My PWC is rigged for fishing with finder and rod holders and I am not allowed to use it. The park service is doing very little to get this changed. I am highly displeased with this
188	Permit sample	Need jet ski use back
196	Permit sample	While the lake is low extend boat ramp down to water level so they can be used without the lake being at high levels because it may never be above 70' again. Also RV hook-ups would be a big asset in every part of the lake and they would be self supported. RV hook-ups should be the #1 project for the lake. I am opposed to any off road vehicle use in this park of any kind.

ID	Sample Location	Final Comment
197	Permit sample	I resent the fact that the boaters pay a \$40 boat fee. What is the result one usable boat ramp that lets one boat launch at a time on a lake the size of Meredith. Why do boaters pay the fees. What do they get? To most boaters we can't see that we get anything!!!
199	Permit sample	I have watched user in the decrease in the last few years. Years ago the park service personnel were there to help and serve the public but yet police it. Now they come as if they are superior to you and not friendly or helpful. I have heard of marina improvements for years but have seen nothing but slip rental rates increase. Yes in the past year the parks service did buy a portable sewer pump out for slip renter after I advised them I paid enough in boat
203	Permit sample	I think this lake needs rv hook ups we go to several lakes a year & all of them have camping RV sites w/ at least water & electricity. It is a shame that our lake has none. Right now we can't even get a boat on the water, because the ramps won't reach the water.
216	Permit sample	the boat fee is unfair and I don't see where it is used. The lake is low now but when it is up the boaters cannot use the docks for people fishing on the docks. We pay to boat they do not pay to fish.
218	Permit sample	ask that the game wardens limit themselves to fish and game and leave the boaters and campers to the park service/???? Bishop has chased away revenue for the lake by harassing visitors over boat numbers etc.
220	Permit sample	I will not be going back to Lake Meredith. The park rangers were handing out tickets left & right on fathers day to make up for low revenue due to drought. This is very unwelcoming
233	Permit sample	Until [] came there was very little boat ramp maintenance. It has improved. Lake Meredith has the rudest and arrogant park service employees I have ever ran into

ID	Sample Location	Final Comment
243	Permit sample	I believe that almost 100% of the people who visit Lake Meredith live in a 100 mile radius and are basically local. In summer the lake is hot and windy and is not a vacation destination. I believe the park service does a poor job and has chased most visitors off. Oppose the boat permits and do not believe that money is used wisely.
999	Permit sample	If you lower your yearly fees more people will come/ or lower daily fees for first times. They will also return for the ones who can't come as often or live too far

Appendix B: On-site and Mail Survey Instruments

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Dear National Park Service Visitor:

We are conducting this survey to learn more about Lake Meredith National Recreation Area (NRA) and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument (NM) visitors so that we can improve our service to you. You are one of a small number of people chosen for this survey, so your opinions are important to us. All the information will be used for our statistical purposes and will be kept strictly confidential.

1. How many people are in your *personal group* during this visit? (please ✓ *one box*)
 I visited alone
 2 – 3 other people
 4 – 5 other people
 6 – 10 other people
 11 – 15 people
 more than 15 other people
2. What type of *personal group* are you with during your this visit? (✓ *one*)
 I am visiting alone
 Family only
 Friends only
 Family and friends
3. Is your personal group part of an *organized group*? (✓ *one*)
 No ➔ skip to question 5
 Yes
 ➔ 4. If so, what type of organized group?
 School
 Church
 Club
 Private tour
5. How long are you staying in the Lake Meredith area (including Lake Meredith NRA, Alibates NM, and towns of Fritch, Borger, and Stinnett) during this visit? (✓ *one box and fill in question*)
 Day use only:
 ➔ How many hours **today**? _____ hours
 Overnight use:
 ➔ How many nights are you staying in the Lake Meredith area? _____ nights
6. Including this visit, how many times have you visited Lake Meredith NRA / Alibates Flint Quarries NM in **the last 12 months**? _____
7. Which of the following recreation activities have you participated in or do you plan to participate in during your visit? (please ✓ *all that apply*)

<input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/> Water skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Deer hunting
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Using personal watercraft	<input type="checkbox"/> Bow hunting
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/> Orienteering/Geocaching	<input type="checkbox"/> Four wheel driving
<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking	<input type="checkbox"/> Visiting archaeological sites	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorized trail biking/dirt biking
<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing	<input type="checkbox"/> Tent camping	<input type="checkbox"/> Dune buggy or sand rail driving
<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> RV Camping	<input type="checkbox"/> ATV riding
<input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/Kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding	<input type="checkbox"/> Scuba diving
<input type="checkbox"/> Sail Boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Bird hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing from shore		
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing from a boat		
8. Next, please circle the activity from the list above that is you primary activity during this visit.

✓ Please Turn Your Questionnaire Over and Complete Second Page!

**Lake Meredith National Recreation Area & Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
Visitor Study 2003 – 2004**

9. If Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM provided you with camping facilities with RV hookups, electricity, and showers, and charged you \$16 as an activity fee per night, would you be willing to pay it?
- Yes, likely
 No, unlikely
 Don't know
10. Are you ...? Male Female
11. What is your age? _____

Your Opinions Count!

Please help us improve recreation opportunities in the National Parks by taking home and completing a more detailed mail-back survey. The results will help the National Park Service to provide high quality services for all recreation users. Again, your participation in this study will be confidential and your participation is completely voluntary. Your name, address and phone number will only be used to contact you for this study and will not be shared.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (____) ____ - _____ E-mail _____

OMB Approval #1024-0224 (NPS #03-054) Expiration Date: 11/30/2004

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:
16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name is requested for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus permanent data will be anonymous. Data collected through public surveys may be disclosed to the Department of Justice when relevant to litigation or anticipated litigation, or to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating or prosecuting a violation of law. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Burden estimate statement: Public reporting for this form is estimated to average 3 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administrative Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

For Office Use Only
Survey ID # _____

*Lake Meredith National & Alibates Flint Quarries
Recreation Area National Monument*



*Visitor Survey
2003 – 2004*

Please return your completed survey
in the pre-paid envelope to:

Department of Recreation Management and Tourism
Arizona State University
PO Box 874905
Tempe, AZ 85287-4905



Thank you for visiting Lake Meredith National Recreation Area (NRA) and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument (NM) and for agreeing to help us with this important study. This survey has five sections. Please read each question carefully before responding. We have provided space on the back cover for any additional comments you may have.

Part 1: We would like to begin by asking you some questions about your recent visit to Lake Meredith NRA & Alibates Flint Quarries NM.

1. Overall, how satisfied were you with your recent visit? (*please ✓ one box*)
 - Not at all satisfied
 - Slightly satisfied
 - Satisfied
 - Very satisfied
 - Extremely Satisfied

2. Including yourself, how many people were in your personal group during your recent visit? (*✓ one*)
 - I visited alone
 - 2 – 3 people
 - 4 – 5 people
 - 6 – 10 people
 - 11 – 15 people
 - more than 15 people

3. What type of personal group were you with during your recent visit? (*✓ one*)
 - I visited alone
 - Family only
 - Friends only
 - Family and friends

4. Was your personal group part of an organized group? (*✓ one*)
 - No ➔ *skip to question 6*
 - Yes
 - 5. If so, what type of organized group?
 - School
 - Church
 - Club
 - Private tour

6. Which of the following statements best describes your recent visit to Lake Meredith NRA & Alibates Flint Quarries NM? (*please ✓ one box*)
 - Lake Meredith NRA & Alibates Flint Quarries NM was the main destination on the trip away from home.
 - Lake Meredith NRA & Alibates Flint Quarries NM was one of multiple other destinations on the trip away from home.
 - Lake Meredith NRA & Alibates Flint Quarries NM was not a planned destination.

7. How long did you stay during your recent visit? (✓ *one*)

- A few hours
- One full day
- 2 days
- 3 – 4 days
- 5 – 6 days
- More than 6 days

8. How many years have you been visiting Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM? (*please write in number of years; if this was your first visit please enter 1*)

_____ Years

9. Overall, how crowded did you feel during your recent visit?

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9
 Not at all Slightly Moderately Extremely
 Crowded Crowded Crowded Crowded

10. Which of the following recreation activities did you participate in during your recent visit? (*please ✓ all that apply*)

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking | <input type="checkbox"/> Water skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer hunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Using personal watercraft | <input type="checkbox"/> Bow hunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming | <input type="checkbox"/> Orienteering/Geocaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Four wheel driving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting archaeological sites | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorized trail biking/dirt biking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Tent camping | <input type="checkbox"/> Dune buggy or sand rail driving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> RV Camping | <input type="checkbox"/> ATV riding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/Kayaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding | <input type="checkbox"/> Scuba diving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sail Boating | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing from shore | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing from a boat | | |

11. Of the activities listed above, what was the **primary** activity during your recent visit? (*please write in activity*) _____

Part 2: Next, we would like to ask you about your recreation experiences at Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM.

12. How important is each of the following reasons to you when visiting this area? (*please circle one response for each item*).

<i>I visit Lake Meredith NRA & Alibates Flint Quarries NM to:</i>	<i>Not at all Important</i>					<i>Extremely Important</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	
Be close to nature	1	2	3	4	5	
Gain a sense of accomplishment	1	2	3	4	5	
Experience excitement/adventure	1	2	3	4	5	
Develop personal, spiritual values	1	2	3	4	5	
Take risks	1	2	3	4	5	
Experience solitude	1	2	3	4	5	
Be with family or friends	1	2	3	4	5	
Use my outdoor equipment	1	2	3	4	5	
Improve my physical fitness	1	2	3	4	5	
Learn more about nature	1	2	3	4	5	
Gain a sense of self confidence	1	2	3	4	5	
Learn about prehistoric cultures	1	2	3	4	5	
Meet other people	1	2	3	4	5	
Develop my skills and abilities	1	2	3	4	5	
Get away from the usual demands of life	1	2	3	4	5	
Be with people who share my values	1	2	3	4	5	
Other (<i>specify</i> _____)	1	2	3	4	5	

Part 3: Next, we would like to know how you feel about the current conditions of this area.

13. To what extent do you think each of the following environmental conditions is or is not a problem in this area? (please circle one response for each item)

<i>Environmental Concerns</i>	<i>Not a Problem</i>	<i>Slight Problem</i>	<i>Moderate Problem</i>	<i>Serious Problem</i>	<i>Very Serious Problem</i>
Erosion of the shorelines	1	2	3	4	5
Litter on the shorelines	1	2	3	4	5
Boat emissions	1	2	3	4	5
Water pollution	1	2	3	4	5
Human waste on shoreline	1	2	3	4	5
Fire scars/charcoal not in designated fire rings	1	2	3	4	5
Trampling of vegetation	1	2	3	4	5
Damage to historical or archaeological sites	1	2	3	4	5
Too many OHV routes	1	2	3	4	5
Number of oil and gas lease roads	1	2	3	4	5

14. To what extent do you think each of the following social situations is or is not a problem in this area? (please circle one response for each item)

<i>Social Concerns</i>	<i>Not a Problem</i>	<i>Slight Problem</i>	<i>Moderate Problem</i>	<i>Serious Problem</i>	<i>Very Serious Problem</i>
Inconsiderate behavior	1	2	3	4	5
Too many people	1	2	3	4	5
Damage to personal property	1	2	3	4	5
Conflicts between boaters and anglers	1	2	3	4	5
Unregulated off-highway vehicle use	1	2	3	4	5
Conflicts between hunters and other users	1	2	3	4	5
Threats to my personal safety	1	2	3	4	5
Conflicts between water-skiers and other users	1	2	3	4	5
Watercraft noise	1	2	3	4	5
Unsafe boating speeds	1	2	3	4	5
Conflicts between motorized and non-motorized watercraft	1	2	3	4	5
Theft of Alibates flint	1	2	3	4	5

15. This question has two parts and asks your opinions about current facilities. **First**, indicate how important each of the facilities is to you. **Then**, indicate your level of satisfaction with the current conditions. *(Please indicate the importance and your satisfaction for each item.)*

<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Importance to You</i>					<i>Your Satisfaction with Current Conditions</i>				
	<i>Not at all Important</i>					<i>Extremely Important</i>		<i>Not at all Satisfied</i>		<i>Extremely Satisfied</i>
Boat launching ramps	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Developed campgrounds	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Drinking water	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Fishing piers	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Amphitheater	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Parking spaces	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Picnic facilities	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Restrooms	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Marina	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Shade structures (ramadas)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Mountain biking trails	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
OHV staging areas	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Hiking trails	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Swimming beach	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Trash cans/dumpsters	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
OHV use areas	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

16. This question also has two parts and asks your opinions about current programs and services. **First**, indicate how important each of the items is to you. **Then**, indicate your level of satisfaction with the current conditions. *(Please indicate the importance and your current satisfaction for each item.)*

<i>Programs and Services</i>	<i>Importance to You</i>					<i>Your Satisfaction with Current Conditions</i>				
	<i>Not at all Important</i>					<i>Extremely Important</i>		<i>Not at all Satisfied</i>		<i>Extremely Satisfied</i>
Ranger-led guided tours	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Staff who make me feel welcome	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Boat rentals	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Obtaining boating permits	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Staff at park headquarters who are helpful	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Obtaining group use permits	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Staff at recreation sites to solve problems	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

Part 4: Now, we want to know your opinions about how the area should be managed in the future.

17. Managers would like to know how you feel about some different possibilities for managing this area in the future. Below are 3 options that represent trade-offs between recreation development and visitor freedom. For Please indicate which one of the following options is the closest to the way you feel. (✓ *only one*)

- A. Maintain existing level of programs, facilities and services, and do not require any new permits.**
 - Visitors would enjoy the existing multiple recreation opportunities.
 - No new programs, facilities, services would be offered, although some improvements would be made where possible.
 - No new permits would be required.

- B. Increase some programs, facilities and services, and require permits for some activities.**
 - Some new recreation opportunities would be provided such as evening programs in rustic amphitheaters, guided educational tours, and additional hiking, biking and horseback riding.
 - Some new facilities would be developed, such as a few full hook-up RV campgrounds with showers and electricity, and existing shoreline facilities and access points would be improved where possible.
 - A permit would be required to enter the park and permits would be required for some activities, such as OHV use.

- C. Significantly develop most programs, facilities and services, and require permits for most activities.**
 - Highly developed visitor services would be encouraged. Visitors would enjoy expanded opportunities such as horse and mule trips, nature hikes, duck hunting, and off-road vehicle rentals and tours.
 - Many new facilities would be developed, including restaurants, rental cabins, full hook-up RV campgrounds with showers and electricity. Most access points and shoreline facilities would be improved.
 - A permit would be required to enter the park, and permits would be required for most activities.

18. Please indicate your level of support or opposition for each of the following facilities, services, or options that might be offered in this area.

Management Option	Strongly Oppose		Neutral	Strongly Support	
Camping areas with RV hookups	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Rental cabins	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Horse & mule trips	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Off-highway vehicle rentals	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Off-highway vehicle tours	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Hay rides	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Campsites with flush toilets	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Boardwalk and picnic pavilion at Sanford-Yakes Marina	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Campgrounds at Sanford-Yakes with full RV hookups and showers	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Evening campfire programs	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Remove some existing facilities to provide more backcountry camping	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Classrooms for education programs	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Expand marina parking	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Designated campsites in developed areas	-2	-1	0	+1	+2

19. If additional facilities, programs, and services were offered, which part of the area would you most prefer to be developed? (please ✓ only one)

- Northeast (Spring Canyon, Sanford-Yake, Cedar Canyon, Fritch Fortress)
- Northwest (Bugbee, Blue Creek Bridge, Blue East, Blue West)
- Central (Harbor Bay, Plum Creek, Bates Canyon, Alibates Flint Quarries)
- South (McBride Canyon, Mullinaw Creek, Rosista)
- Don't Know

20. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (*circle one number for each statement*)

<i>In general...</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>		<i>Neutral</i>		<i>Strongly Agree</i>	
Overall, charging fees to recreate in National Recreation Areas and Monuments is a good idea	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	
The National Park Service needs to charge fees to maintain the quality of services provided to the public	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	
The money from fees goes directly into improving park services and personnel	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	
I understand the reasons behind recreation fees	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	
People should be able to recreate in National Recreation Areas and Monuments even if they can't afford to pay the fees	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	
I would get less satisfaction from recreation in National Recreation Areas and Monuments if I had to pay a fee	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	
Charging fees in National Recreation Areas and Monuments leads to over-development	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	
<i>The following items are specific to this area...</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>		<i>Neutral</i>		<i>Strongly Agree</i>	
Charging new fees will not have any effect on the way I visit this area	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	
I will have to plan further ahead when visiting this area if new fees are charged	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	
I will visit this area less often if new fees are charged	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	
Having to pay recreation user fees will decrease the spontaneity of some of my visits to this area	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	
Recreation fees will limit the access of some people to this area	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	
I am willing to pay reasonable fees if new facilities and services are offered	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	
I will use this area whether or not I have to pay new fees	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	

21. In your opinion, what is the proper mix between taxes and recreation user fees for generating operating funds for public recreation areas? (*✓ one*)

- Fund entirely from taxes
- Mostly from taxes
- Equally from taxes and user fees
- Fund entirely from user fees
- Don't know

Part 5: In this final part, we would like to ask you some background information about you and your household. This information will be kept strictly confidential and used for statistical purposes only. The information is used to make sure we accurately represent visitors to Lake Meredith NRA & Alibates Flint Quarries NM.

22. Please estimate the amount of money you and your group spent on your visit to Lake Meredith NRA & Alibates Flint Quarries NM when you were contacted to participate in this study. (please write in amount for each category; leave blank if you did not spend money on that category)

Gas and transportation	\$ _____
Lodging (e.g., hotels, motels, resorts, campgrounds, etc.)	\$ _____
Food, meals, and drinks (e.g., restaurants, groceries, taverns, etc.)	\$ _____
Tourist services (e.g., tours, rentals, equipment rentals, etc.)	\$ _____
Shopping and gifts (e.g., clothes, gifts, souvenirs, etc.)	\$ _____
National Park Service fees	\$ _____

23. Which of the following sources of information did you use when planning your recent trip to this area? (✓ all that apply)

- National Park Service website (<http://www.nps.gov>)
- Other websites
- National Park Service brochures/flyers
- Chamber of Commerce/ Tourism Bureau
- Family/Friends
- Travel Agent
- Guidebooks
- Magazines
- Roadside displays/signs
- Local (Fritch, Borger, Stinnett) business people
- From a previous trip
- Other (please specify _____)

24. Are you ...?

- Male
- Female

25. What is your age? _____

26. Please indicate the highest level of education that you have attained. (✓ *one*)
- Less than high school
 - High school graduate
 - Technical school or Associates degree
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Master's Degree
 - Ph.D., M.D., J.D., or equivalent
27. What was your employment status during the past year (✓ *all that apply*)
- Full-time student
 - Part-time student
 - Employed part-time
 - Employed full-time
 - Unemployed
 - Homemaker or caregiver
 - Retired
 - Other (*please specify* _____)
28. Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino(a)
- Yes
 - No
29. Which racial group(s) do you identify with? (✓ *all that apply*)
- American Indian or Alaska Native
 - Asian
 - Black or African American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - White
30. Which of the following broad categories best describes your total annual household income for the last calendar year (✓ *one*)
- \$25,000 or less
 - \$25,001 – \$50,000
 - \$50,001 – \$75,000
 - \$75,001 – \$100,000
 - \$100,001 – 125,000
 - 125,001 – 150,000
 - More than 150,000

OMB Approval #1024-0224 (NPS #03-054) Expiration Date: 11/30/2004

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:

16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name is requested for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus permanent data will be anonymous. Data collected through public surveys may be disclosed to the Department of Justice when relevant to litigation or anticipated litigation, or to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating or prosecuting a violation of law. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Burden estimate statement: Public reporting for this form is estimated to average 20 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administrative Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Thank you for helping us with this important study. If there is anything else you would like to tell us, please do so in the space below.

Appendix C: Focus Group Moderator Script

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Focus Group Protocol

I Welcome and Guest Sign-in

- A Informal conversation
- B Guest sign-in
- C Distribute name tags

II Introduction and Overview of General Management Planning Process (10 mins)

The National Park Service is conducting a general management planning effort for Lake Meredith National Recreation Area (NRA) and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument (NM). General management plans (GMPs) are the planning documents for each unit of the National Park System that provide a decision-making framework for administering parks. These plans set forth the basic philosophy and management concepts for each park and establish guidelines for park operations for the next 15 to 20 years. The plans are combined with environmental impact statements that analyze the impacts of implementing alternative ideas for future park management and development.

Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM are remarkable resources that are part of life in the Panhandle of Texas. Lake Meredith provides outstanding opportunities for water-based recreation amidst scenic buttes, pinnacles, and red-brown, wind-eroded coves. Alibates Flint Quarries preserves significant cultural resources and provides visitors opportunities to learn how past cultures came to the red bluffs above the Canadian River for flint, vital to their existence. Because of the importance of these areas, the planning effort will rely heavily on strong public involvement.

As part of this public involvement effort, we are convening focus groups to assist the GMP team during the planning process. These focus groups will include representatives of organized recreation user and conservation groups. Representatives will be asked to provide information about how their group routinely uses the park and your organization's thoughts on park management issues that may be considered during the general management planning process.

III Structure and Purpose of Focus Group (10 mins)

We anticipate that our conversation will last one and one-half hours. To incorporate all of your ideas, we hope you can stay until the end. We will be writing down some ideas at times, but mostly we will be talking openly. To cover all of the topics tonight, we will be moving the conversation from one person to another so everyone will be able to contribute to the conversation.

We want you to be able to speak freely and openly about whatever concerns you might have. We want to assure you that everything that is said tonight will remain completely confidential. In no way will anyone outside of this room be able to determine who said what. However, we use these conversations to create themes that summarize all the ideas that the group comes up

with. Thus, your information and opinions can be forwarded into the planning process, without violating your confidentiality.

Review ground rules (refer to poster).

Basically, we will move the conversation through three themes this evening:

- A First, we would like to know why Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM are important settings for your group's activity, and what attributes of the parks does your group especially value?
- B Second, would like to know if your group experiences any conflicts with other user groups in the park?
- C Finally, we want to hear you thoughts on how Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM should be managed in the future? What types of facilities, services, and programs are important to your group?

IV Warm-up (10 mins)

Let's begin by having each of you give a short introduction. In one minute or less give us your name, any organization you might be representing and how long you have been visiting Lake Meredith and Alibates.

V Value of the Park (15 mins)

- A First, we'd like to know why Lake Meredith and Alibates are important venues for you and what attributes of the park your group especially values?

Assistant writes down the attributes that come from these discussions on flipchart.

B Probes:

- 1 What does your group like most about the park?
- 2 What makes the park special to your group?
- 3 Why does your group go to Lake Meredith and Alibates rather than somewhere else in the area/region?
- 4 As you think about the social environment the other people you see out there – or maybe the absence of people you see out there, what is important to you?
- 5 Another thing to think about is if Lake Meredith and Alibates were not there, what sorts of benefits do you think would disappear from the area, from your lives, and from the surrounding communities?

VI Threats to the Values (15 mins)

- A Next, we would like to know, does your group perceive any threats to the things that you especially value about the park?

Assistant writes down the threats that come from this discussion on the flipchart.

B Probes:

- 1 Are there conflicts with other user groups in the park?
- 2 Are there other groups who do not value the same things that you do?
- 3 Are there impacts to the land that threaten the things you value?
- 4 Are there influences from outside the park that threatened the things you value?

VII Management Priorities (30 mins)

- A Finally, we want to hear you thoughts on how Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM should be managed in the future? First of all, what types of *facilities* are important to your group?

Assistant writes down the facilities that come from this discussion on the flipchart.

1 Probes:

- a Boat launching ramps
 - b Developed campgrounds
 - c Drinking water
 - d Fishing piers
 - e Amphitheater
 - f Parking spaces
 - g Picnic facilities
 - h Restrooms
 - i Marina
 - j Shade structures (ramadas)
 - k Mountain biking trails
 - l OHV staging areas
 - m Hiking trails
 - n Swimming beach
 - o Trash cans/dumpsters
 - p OHV use areas
- 2 In which area of the park would you like to see these *facilities* developed?
- a Northeast (*Spring Canyon, Sanford-Yake, Cedar Canyon, Fritch Fortress*)
 - b Northwest (*Bugbee, Blue Creek Bridge, Blue East, Blue West*)
 - c Central (*Harbor Bay, Plum Creek, Bates Canyon, Alibates Flint Quarries*)
 - d South (*McBride Canyon, Mullinaw Creek, Rosista*)

Lake Meredith National Recreation Area & Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
Visitor Study Focus Group Meetings
January 2004

B What types of *programs and services* are important to your group?

Assistant writes down the programs/services that come from this discussion on the flipchart.

1 Probes

- a Ranger-led guided tours
- b Staff who make me feel welcome
- c Boat rentals
- d Obtaining boating permits
- e Staff at park headquarters who are helpful
- f Obtaining group use permits
- g Staff at recreation sites to solve problems

2 In which area of the park would you like to see these *programs and services* offered?

- a Northeast (*Spring Canyon, Sanford-Yake, Cedar Canyon, Fritch Fortress*)
- b Northwest (*Bugbee, Blue Creek Bridge, Blue East, Blue West*)
- c Central (*Harbor Bay, Plum Creek, Bates Canyon, Alibates Flint Quarries*)
- d South (*McBride Canyon, Mullinaw Creek, Rosista*)

C Of all the facilities and programs/services listed here, which do you think are the most important?

Participants prioritize facilities and services using colored dots.

VIII Closing (10 mins)

A Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

Thank you for so much coming today. Your input will be valuable as the general management plan for Lake Meredith and Alibates is developed. We want to remind you that your responses will remain entirely confidential. But they will go a long way in shaping a future management plan that will be responsive to your needs. Thank you, and good night.