The Archeology
of Lake Mead
National Recreation
Area

An Assessment

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

THE ARCHEOLOGY OF LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA: AN ASSESSMENT

Carole McClellan
David A. Phillips, Jr.
Mike Belshaw

1980

Western Archeological Center
Tucson, Arizona
Publications in Anthropology, No. 9

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has the responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under United States administration.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Acknowledgements	i
1.	Management Summary]
2.	Introduction	
	Background to This Study Methods	ģ
3.	Natural Setting	13
	Past Environment Recent Environment Colorado Plateau Basin and Range Conclusions and Remarks	12 18 19 22 28
4.	Archeological Research in the Lake Mead Area	31
	Early Research Later Research - The Thirties Through the Sixties Recent Research Summary and Remarks	31 34 39 47
5.	Indian Occupation	51
	Lithic and Archaic Stages Virgin Anasazi Moapa Phase (Basketmaker II, A.D. 1-500) Muddy River Phase (Basketmaker III, A.D. 500-700) Lost City Phase (Basketmaker III-Pueblo II, A.D. 700-1100) Mesa House Phase (Early Pueblo III, A.D. 1100-	51 53 55 56
	1150) Southern Paiute	57 57
	Cerbat-Pai	60
	Amacava-Mohave	62
5.	European Occupation	67
7.	Research Problems	83
	Culture History Lithic Stage Archaic Stage Virgin Anasazi	84 84 85 85

		Southern Paiute Cerbat-Pai Amacava-Mohave	8(8)
	0	European	80
		Function	8
	Site	Distribution	89
		Along Rivers	90
		On the Plateau	9.
		On Desert Bajadas	9:
		Other Sites	9:
	11	Historic Sites	9:
	numai	Adaptation to Arid Lands	9
		Use of Natural Resources	9.
		Water Cattlement Patterns	9) 91
		Settlement Patterns	
		Drought	98
	Carmon	Overpopulation	99
	Summa	iry	100
8. Rese	arch a	and Management Recommendations	10
	Five	Percent Survey	10
		Sample Design	103
		Intensity of Coverage and Boundaries of	
		Survey Units	109
		Monitoring Site Conditions	109
		Resurvey of Development Areas Already	
		Partially Surveyed	110
		Areas that Require No Further Study	110
		Recording Historic Sites	111
	Addit	ional Recommendations	111
		Visitor Education	111
		Archeology as History	111
		Other Surveys	112
		Report Format	113
		Lake Mead Site Master File	114
	Summa	ry	112
Appendix	I.	Key to Maps Showing Locations of Pre-1970 Research Projects in Chronological Order.	117
Appendix	II.	Key to Maps Showing Locations of Research Projects of 1970 and Later in Chronological Order.	127

Appendix	III.	Lake Mead Archeology: A Bibliography	139
Annandiv	TT	Other References Cited	185

FIGURES

		Page
1.	Lake Mead National Recreation Area.	x
2.	Pine forest on the Shivwits Plateau.	21
3.	View along the edge of the Shivwits Plateau, showing	
	abrupt dropoff into canyons.	21
4.	Alluvial ridges between Grand Wash and Grand Wash	
	Cliffs; the latter are in the far distance.	21
5.	Creosote-dotted alluvial ridges in Grand Wash area.	
	Lake Mead is in the area of large ridges in the far	
	distance.	21
6.	Desert pavement area near Lake Mohave; small rock	
	circles in foreground.	23
7.	Area of desert pavement and boulders near Lake	
	Mohave. Note mountains in background.	23
8.	Lake Mohave.	23
9.	Bajada area above Lake Mohave visible in background.	
	Note circular clearing.	23
10.	Lake Mead near Overton.	27
11.	Puebloan site on the edge of Lake Mead near Overton.	
	This site is below the high-water line for the lake.	27
12.	Cultural relationships in the Lake Mead area.	65
13.	Exposed stope at Eureka Mine, showing careful	
	timbering.	71
14.	Mine shaft, typical of many at Lake Mead. Now in	
	poor condition.	71
15.	Hard scrabble: lodging in a tunnel. Note flue	
	protruding from ground above the tunnel.	71
16.	Miner's bunkhouse. This represents the luxurious	
	end of the range at Lake Mead. Gutters suggest an	
	attempt to capture and store rainwater.	571
17.	Homestake Mine, foundation for boiler. Bricks in	
	this structure were imported from Los Angeles.	75
18.	Katherine Mill Site, foundations for cyanide vats.	
	This was the most successful mining venture within	
	the recreation area.	75
19.	Horse Valley Ranch, main building. A pristine	
	example of a pre-mechanization ranch (Shivwits	
	Plateau).	75
20.	Corral on the Shivwits Plateau at Green Springs.	75
21.	Surveys of the Lake Mohave portion of Lake Mead	
	National Recreation Area, before 1970. Numbers are	
	keyed to Appendix I.	118
22.	Surveys of the Lake Mead portion of Lake Mead	
	National Recreation Area, before 1970. Numbers are	
	keyed to Appendix I.	119

23.	Surveys of the Shivwits portion of Lake Mead	
	National Recreation Area, before 1970. Numbers are	
	keyed to Appendix I.	120
24.	Surveys of the Lake Mohave portion of Lake Mead	
	National Recreation Area, 1970-1978. Numbers are	
	keyed to Appendix II.	128
25.	Surveys of the Lake Mead portion of Lake Mead	
	National Recreation Area, 1970-1978. Numbers are	
	keyed to Appendix II.	129
26.	Surveys of the Shivwits portion of Lake Mead	
	National Recreation Area, 1970-1978. Numbers are	
	keved to Appendix II.	130

TABLES

		Page
1.	Institutions contacted for site records.	11
2.	Areas surveyed by Nevada Archaeological Survey, Southern Division, 1971-1974.	41
3.	Heavily used areas in Lake Mead National Recreation Area.	104