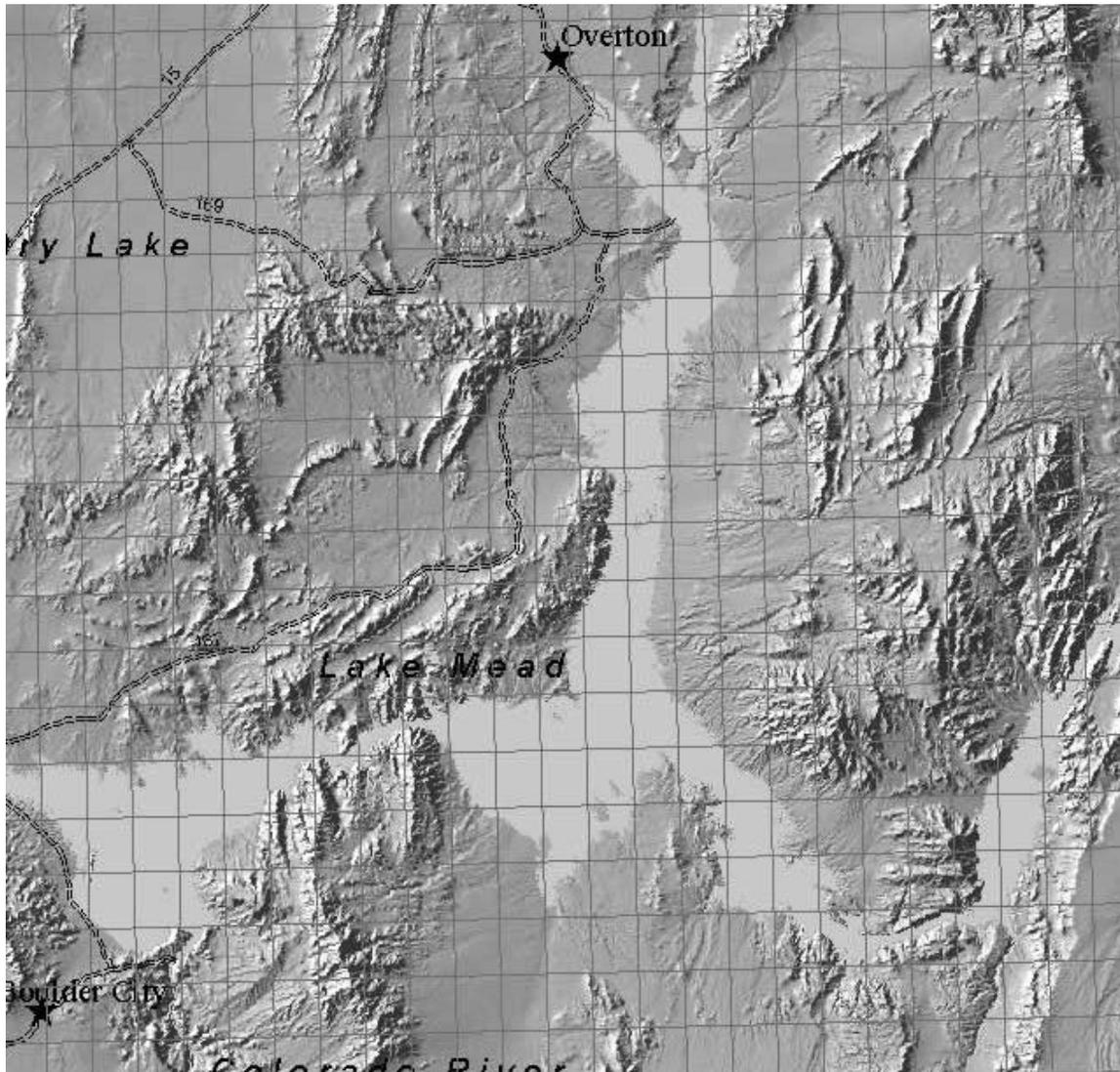


4. Lake Mead



Boundaries and Ownership

Lake Mead is located within the boundaries of Lake Mead National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service. Legal boundaries of the park are described in the park's enabling legislation, which references a boundary map, RA_LM_7060-B, revised July 17, 1963, on file in the office of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. For purposes of this profile, the extensive terrestrial habitat of the park is not included, nor is Lake Mohave which, although part of the recreation area, is treated as a separate unit. Lake Mead, formed by Hoover Dam, is approximately 150,000 acres in size, depending on water levels, and includes roughly 700 miles of shoreline. The Colorado River flows into Lake Mead at the Lake Mead-Grand Canyon boundary. The Muddy and Virgin Rivers flow into the lake from the north. A portion of the border

between southern Nevada and northwestern Arizona lies within the lake itself. All of Lake Mead is managed by the National Park Service, Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Focal Species

Eared Grebe	Common Goldeneye
Pied-billed Grebe	Bufflehead
Clark's Grebe	Common Merganser
Western Grebe	Red-breasted Merganser
Double-crested Cormorant	Ruddy Duck
Black-crowned Night Heron	Northern Harrier
Great Blue Heron	Virginia Rail
Canada Goose	Sora
Mallard	American Coot
Gadwall	Killdeer
Green-winged Teal	Spotted Sandpiper
American Wigeon	Ring-billed Gull
Northern Shoveler	California Gull
Cinnamon Teal	Marsh Wren
Canvasback	Common Yellowthroat
Redhead	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Ring-necked Duck	Red-winged Blackbird
Lesser Scaup	

Location of Type I Habitat

Las Vegas Bay
Muddy River inflow
Virgin River inflow
Lake Mead delta

Location of Type II Habitat

Shorelines
Open Water

Access and Visibility

Habitat is accessible, but method of access will vary among individual sites. Changing lake levels may alter accessibility of sites through time. Bird visibility is generally good.

Past and Current Surveys

Lake Mead is surveyed annually for wintering bald eagles and nesting peregrine falcons. Surveys for southwestern willow flycatchers have been conducted on a limited basis. Formal surveys for waterfowl and shorebirds have not been conducted.

Potential Survey Methods

Description

All survey methods are feasible, but due to the size of the site, boat and aerial surveys are the most promising methods. The site needs to be subdivided with the help of local experts.

Selection bias

Changes in water levels may make previously accessible portions of Type I habitat much harder to survey.

Measurement error and bias

Size of the site may in itself cause error, because of double counting and difficulty of achieving systematic coverage. Observer variability may occur if high abundances and high species richness pose a challenge to skills.

Pilot Studies Needed

Given the large area being considered, pilot studies may be useful to identify additional areas of Type I habitat.

Contact with Local Knowledge: Ross Haley, NPS.