

## **BENEFITS TO HAVING THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PLAN FOR INCREASED PUBLIC USE**

- Although both the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service in Wyoming identify their land and waters as available for outdoor recreation and they list recreation in their public brochures, neither bureau has experience in the frequent development of large scale visitor facilities or interpretive and business opportunities. Whereas the National Park Service has vast and continuous involvement in the type of strategic planning and management necessary to assist in drawing increased use for enhancements at underused federal recreation land and associated opportunities.
- For the last several decades the NPS has provided planning, engineering and applicable user studies and visitor and business projections through their Denver Service Center for both existing park areas and the development of facilities and services necessary for newly authorized parks and National Recreation Areas. This includes many areas in the western states under the direct management of the NPS, i.e. Big Horn Canyon NRA, Glen Canyon NRA, Lake Mead NRA, Curecanti NRA, Amistad NRA, Whiskeytown NRA, and many others as well as similar uses in over 500 national park areas of many types across the country.
- To the extent that a new federal recreational area is designated, the inclusion of retail or other commercial recreational business opportunities must be a part of the plan. The NPS also has the proven ability, as part of their mission, in planning new concession businesses including concession contracts. Commercial concessions planning is not a strong point for either Reclamation, BLM or FWS. Nor would it be an area of any expertise within the basic curriculum of any university.
- Since the NPS along with Reclamation, BLM and FWS are within the Department of the Interior, a funding or interagency assistance request through the Secretary of Interior might also have a chance for success. He has already displayed within some of his initial statements (see attached), a desire to provide focus on the enhancement of recreational opportunities for the public throughout the country. Such a request from Wyoming could have a reasonable chance for a positive response.
- If the NPS were to be involved in planning a new NRA, additional funding would have to be secured through the formal budget process or through budgets from existing DOI bureaus. It is a large job that would require time and commitment.