



## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Bush Administration Surrenders More Parks to Jetskis**

#### **Bluewater Network Vows Suit to Protect Parks from Noisy, Dangerous Thrillcraft**

**San Francisco, CA** – In a surrender to the personal watercraft (PWC) industry the Bush Administration last Friday allowed jetskis back at Lake Meredith and Amistad National Recreation Areas (NRA), both in Texas. Additional rules opening parks such as Curecanti NRA in Colorado, Lake Roosevelt NRA in Washington, Bighorn Canyon NRA in Montana, Gulf Islands National Seashore (NS) in Florida and Mississippi, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan, Cape Lookout NS in North Carolina, and Chickasaw NRA in Oklahoma to the thrillcraft are expected at any time. PWC, better known by the trade name jetski, are known to cause significant damage to air and water quality, visitor enjoyment, public health and safety, natural soundscapes, and wildlife. Bluewater Network intends to challenge the decisions.

“We are not surprised by these decisions; since day one the Bush Administration has rigged the review process to force jetskis back into these parks,” said Sean Smith Bluewater Network’s public lands director and former park ranger. “Without regard to scientific evidence, the law, or public opinion the administration is pushing these machines into as many parks as possible.”

As a result of a settlement agreement with Bluewater Network, the National Park Service (NPS) was required to conduct thorough and site specific environmental reviews prior to allowing any long-term PWC operation. Unfortunately, the NPS failed to abide by the settlement and is working toward a predetermined outcome in many of these reviews. For example, at Lake Roosevelt NRA an NPS press release dated December 29, 2000 states that it intends to “develop special regulations that would allow PWC use to continue [at the NRA].” At Glen Canyon NRA, Marianne Karraker was quoted in the *Salt Lake Tribune* on July 14, 2002, stating that a court-ordered closure “should be temporary.” Meanwhile, at Lake Meredith NRA the NPS issued a press release that quoted former Superintendent John Benjamin as saying that the NPS “is confident that PWC use is appropriate and should be allowed to continue at Lake Meredith.” These statements suggest that the NPS has already made its decisions regarding PWC operation at the several parks regardless of public input and the review process.

The NPS’ ability to enforce any new jetski rules is also in doubt. At Lake Roosevelt NRA for example, the NPS states that additional rangers will be needed to adequately enforce the proposed jetski rules. However, recent reports reveal that the Lake Roosevelt will actually cut rangers this summer, further calling into question the good faith nature of the agency’s jetski review.

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*Bluewater Network is a national environmental organization dedicated to reducing dependence on fossil fuels & eradicating other root causes of air and water pollution, global warming, & habitat destruction. More than 20,000 members in all 50 states and four nations have already joined.*

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