

#6

Hi Officer Steve,

Thank you for your reply. We requested that we meet with you prior to you filing any violations to give input and the desire to cover all ground.

We look forward to meeting with you upon your return.

We will continue with effort to get things changed in this area to help insure Safety for all users and put a lid on Lake Bullies.

(b)(6)

On Tue, May 6, 2014 at 8:00 AM, Steve Rice <steve\_rice@fws.gov> wrote:

(b)(6)

I have forwarded your email to Linda Miller and discussed this situation with my AZGFD counterpart. I am now on my weekend, but I did prepare two violation notices last night for reckless operation and will be sending those out when I return to work on Thursday. Saturday and Sunday I will be working on the water and will patrol "Speed Alley" and aggressively target any unsafe activity I see, but this is one corner of a twenty-mile stretch of river that I patrol so please understand that there cannot be a round-the-clock law enforcement presence there. Just so you know, I have lost 60% of my law enforcement staff in the past two years and the Service generally has a hiring freeze in place due to sequester. Based on the level of activity we see on the lake, our station and Cabeza Prieta (which sees nightly immigrant and drug smuggling) were each notified a couple weeks back that we out of all the refuges in this region (AZ, NM, TX, OK) would be given a waiver to refill some vacant positions. I will be getting two more officers but depending on my applicant pool it will take between two months (for a lateral transfer of a fully trained FWS officer) to a year (for an untrained applicant) to get these boots on the ground. In the meantime, I do very much appreciate responsible users like you who act as our eyes on the water. If you and your friends continue to provide us with actionable cases, we will absolutely work them in addition to the cases we ourselves generate. Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

Harvey, Thomas <thomas\_harvey@fws.gov>

Tue, May 6, 2014 at 2:35 PM

To: "Miller, Linda" <linda\_l\_miller@fws.gov>

Cc: Paul Cornes <Paul\_Cornes@fws.gov>, Ken Garrahan <Ken\_Garrahan@fws.gov>, Carol Torrez <carol\_torrez@fws.gov>

Thanks Linda. Greater regulation of an established activity (creating no wake zone) wouldn't trigger any compatibility review. However, you should check with Carol Torrez regarding NEPA. Interestingly, her initial reaction was that reducing a level of established visitor use would not trigger NEPA; we would just need to publicize and give our rational for the decision. However, given the level of resistance (controversy) you might encounter to making a change, I think NEPA compliance might come into play. Obviously if we have an issue of public safety, we should be able to expedite the decision-making and public involvement process. I appreciate you keeping us informed about this.

Tom

Tom Harvey  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Refuge Supervisor - AZ/NM