Lake Meredith National Recreation Area

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Location within Domain: The site is located in the Texas Panhandle region, approximately 48 km north of Amarillo. It spans 182 km^2 of grassland and canyonland in Potter, Moore and Hutchinson counties.

History: Lake Meredith was created in 1965 by damming the Canadian River at Sanford, Texas, in order to provide drinking water to 11 cities in the region. The lake and surrounding outback are used for recreation.

Key Characteristics: Vegetation – The 46,349-acre (18,757 ha) national recreation area includes a 10,000-acre (4,047 ha) reservoir formed in the 1962 with the construction of Sanford Dam on the Canadian River. LAMR is located on the High Plains of the Llano Estacado, specifically along the Breaks created by the Canadian River as it meanders west-east across the Texas Panhandle. The predominant vegetative cover is comprised of blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), and buffalo grasses. Stands of cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) and hackberry trees (*Celtis occidentalis*) are found in the side canyons along the lake. The varying lake levels have encouraged the encroachment of salt cedar in the floodplain areas. Climate – The climate is characterized as semi-arid with an average annual rainfall of 51 cm per year. This area has hot summers and cold winters with strong winds that work to increase evaporation rates. Soils and landforms – Soil groups include Burson-Quinlan-Aspermont, Mobeetie-Tascosa, Acuff-Palo Duro-Olton, Tascosa Burson and Dumas-Dalhart. The soils in the Lake Meredith area can be characterized as moderately deep to very deep, nearly level to strongly sloped, fine sandy loams to clay loams. In areas with steeper slopes, the soils tend to be shallow (25-51 cm), well drained, calcareous, loamy to gravelly soils with variable amounts of rock fragments. On the gentler slopes away from the reservoir, are very deep, well drained, calcareous clay loam soils. On the flat areas above the reservoir, there are areas of dunes and other sandy deposits. Five geologic formations outcrop in the vicinity of the parks, and from oldest to youngest include the Permian Quartermaster Formation, Triassic Dockum Group, Tertiary (Miocene-Pliocene) Ogallala Group, Pleistocene terrace deposits, and Holocene alluvium. Elevation ranges 853-1012 m. Administration – NPS, Department of Interior.

Existing Infrastructure: Member of the Southern Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network that will monitor several indicators starting in 2009 (grassland and wetland vegetation, surface water quantity and quality, landscape dynamics, grassland birds, soil structure and chemistry, ground water quantity, exotic plants, fire dynamics, and human demographics). The Southern Plains Network consists of 11 national park units in Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. There are 31 other networks covering the rest of the national park units in the United States. Surface water quality and quantity have been measured since 1965, fire monitoring since 1999, and birds since 1971.

Facilities: Park facilities in Borger, TX adjacent to the park and a facility within the park. Multiple boat ramps, year-round roads to and within the park. Three campgrounds within park.

Elevation: The elevation ranges from 850-980 m.