

**Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group**  
**Agenda Item Information**  
**May 22-23, 2008**

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Agenda Item

Grand Canyon National Park Science and Resource Management Program

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Action Requested

√ Information item only; we will answer questions but no action is requested.

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Presenters

Steve Martin, Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park

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Previous Action Taken

√ N/A

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Relevant Science

√ The following describes the relevant research or monitoring on this subject:

The following documents can be found at [www.nps.gov/grca/parkmgmt/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grca/parkmgmt/planning.htm):

- 1995 General Management Plan
- 1997 Resource Management Plan
- 2006 Colorado River Management Plan

The 2006 NPS Management Policies can be found at [www.nps.gov/policy/MP2006.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/policy/MP2006.pdf).

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Background Information

Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Steve Martin will present the National Park Service responsibilities in the area of research, resource management, and monitoring for resource values along the Colorado River. He will describe ongoing research and monitoring in relation to those responsibilities. Finally, he will discuss his recommendation for a shift in responsibility to the National Park Service for certain areas of GCDAMP research and monitoring.

**Colorado River Management Plan**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Grand Canyon National Park



Colorado River Management  
*at*  
Grand Canyon National Park

**Colorado River Management Plan**

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**Legal Authorities**

- Grand Canyon National Monument, 1908
- NPS Organic Act, 1916
- Grand Canyon National Park, 1919
- National Environmental Policy Act, 1969
- Grand Canyon Enlargement Act, 1975
- Redwoods Act of 1978
- *\* Grand Canyon Protection Act, 1992*

**Mandated Management Responsibilities**

- NPS Management Policies 2006
  - GCNP General Management Plan 1995
  - *\* GCPA 1992 -- GCD AMP 1996*
  - GCNP Resource Management Plan 1997
  - Colorado River Management Plan 2006

*\*Where AMP Goals align with GCNP Resource Management*

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**NPS Mandated Responsibilities**

**NPS Organic Act of 1916**

"The Service such established shall promote and regulate...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

**Redwoods Act of 1978**

"Congress further reaffirms, declares, and directs the promotion and regulation of the various areas of the National Park System . . . . The authorization of activities shall be construed and the protection, management, and administration of these areas shall be conducted in light of the high public value and integrity of the National Park System and shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established, ..."

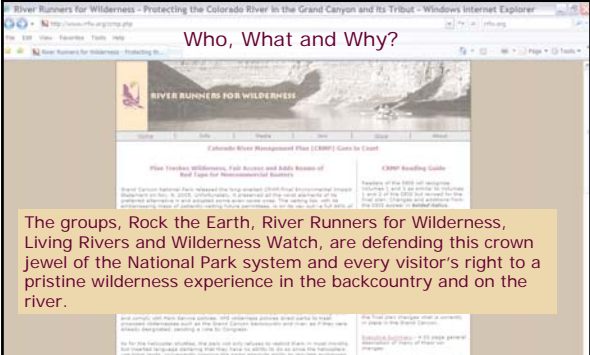
**NPS Management Policies 2006**

"The Secretary has an absolute duty, which is not to be compromised, to fulfill the mandate of the NPS Organic Act of 1916 to take whatever actions and seek whatever relief as will safeguard the units of the national park system."

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**Who, What and Why?**



The groups, Rock the Earth, River Runners for Wilderness, Living Rivers and Wilderness Watch, are defending this crown jewel of the National Park system and every visitor's right to a pristine wilderness experience in the backcountry and on the river.

## Colorado River Management Plan

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Grand Canyon National Park



### CRMP Litigation: Current Status

- ROD Signed March 23, 2006
- Lawsuit Filed March 28, 2006
- Written Briefs and Arguments by DOJ to Federal District Court, Phoenix, AZ
- Oral Arguments October 26, 2007 – US District Court, Phoenix, AZ
- District Court Ruled in Favor of NPS (11/27/07)
- Appeal January 11, 2008 (On 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GCNM, litigants filed appeal to the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, San Francisco, CA)
- Opening Brief Filed May 12, 2008
- Response Due August, 2008; Court granted extension to plaintiffs until October 17, 2008

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### Key Points in Case

4. Whether NPS violated the Concessions Act by **authorizing motorized commercial** services that are inconsistent with preserving the wilderness values and resources of the river, to the highest extent practicable.
5. Whether NPS violated its management policies when it **failed to preserve the wilderness character of the river by authorizing motorboats, helicopter passenger exchanges, and generators (“motorized uses”) on the river.**
7. Whether NPS violated the Organic Act when it failed to properly define baseline conditions and consider **cumulative impacts and previous impact** studies when making a “no-impairment” determination.
8. Whether NPS violated the Organic Act when it **authorized motorized uses** on the river that impair the natural soundscape.”

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### Current Status of CRMP Implementation

- New Lottery System for Private Permits in Effect
- Motor season has been adjusted per plan (6 ½ month non-motor)
- Educational program underway (DVD provided for all recreational users)
- LCR use restriction in place
- CRMP monitoring and mitigation program underway
  - Visitor Experience/Wilderness
  - Soundscape
  - Vegetation
  - Wildlife
  - Water Quality
  - T&E species
  - Archaeological Sites