



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Regional Office
125 South State Street, Room 6107
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1102

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UC-225
ENV-6.00

DEC 22 1995

To: All on the Enclosed List

Subject: Summary of November 30, 1995, Transition Work Group and Consultation Meeting on Operation of Glen Canyon Dam

Enclosed is the summary of the November 30 Transition Work Group meeting and Consultation Meeting on deviation of interim flows. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 1996, at the LaQuinta Hotel, 2510 West Greenway Road, Phoenix, Arizona. A block of rooms has been reserved for those desiring lodging. Contact the LaQuinta directly at (602) 993-0800 and specify that you are associated with the Bureau of Reclamation meeting to get the group rate. The agenda for the February 13 meeting will be forwarded in late January.

Sincerely,

RICK L. GOLD

Rick L. Gold
Deputy Regional Director

Enclosure

bc: Manager, Power Resources Office
Attention: D-5400 (Roluti)
Director, Technical Service Center
Attention: D-8210 (Armbruster), -8510 (Cheney), -8270 (Harpman),
-8540 (Randle), -8620 (Voita)
Manager, GCES Office, Flagstaff AZ
Attention: Dave Wegner
UC-115, -140, -205, -288, -320, -325, -326, -346, -600
(all w/encl)

Kanab Ambersnails Update - Dennis Kubly -- An interagency work group has reviewed the habitat, distribution, density of population, reproductive cycle, search for other populations, assessment of introducing new populations in the Grand Canyon, etc., and affects of the experimental "spike" flow on the Grand Canyon population. The Kanab ambersnail was discovered in 1991, with two known populations in the world--the Grand Canyon and a location near Kanab, Utah, where the ambersnail is located on private property and will not be protected. The main concern expressed by the scientists regarding the spike flow is habitat loss, and a recovery plan was recently completed. He noted that the effects of the 83/84 floods on the Kanab ambersnail are being reviewed. He also emphasized that prior to construction of Glen Canyon Dam, flooding exceeding the magnitude of the spike flow was a normal occurrence. His preference is that a portion of the snails in the affected zone be moved to a higher location to reduce the amount of incidental take.

Deviation from Interim flows - Dave Wegner -- In a November 27, 1995, letter (attachment 4), USGS stated that the sand supply in the critical reach (Lee's Ferry to the Little Colorado River) is adequate to conduct the experimental flow. He reviewed the objectives of the experimental spike flow (attachment 5) as well as the rationale for the timeframe of the experimental flow (attachment 6). He explained that as a result of extensive scientific discussions, the down ramping will be stepped down to maximize building of aquatic habitat, and to reduce stranding of fish in backwaters, as well as to mimic natural conditions. He reviewed the technical schedule (see attachment 7), as well as the budget (\$1.5 allocated for monitoring of flows). Rob Arnberger asked if funding was allocated for camping beach monitoring; and Dr. Duncan Patten, Senior Scientist, responded that funding was added as a result of prior meetings. Dave requested and received a "go ahead" to continue planning for the experimental flow. In response to Rob Smith regarding any possible legal issues, Rick noted that there have been substantial discussions and coordination with all interested parties, and Reclamation is not aware of any potential lawsuits on the experimental spike flow. Larry asked if there was any controversy regarding the AOP since it has not been signed by the Secretary yet, and Rick indicated the delay is simply part of the administrative process (the AOP was signed December 15, 1995).

Subgroup reports

Transition Monitoring - Dave Wegner -- Proposals have been received and are being distributed for external peer review. Contracts and/or letters of intent are being prepared and distributed. Transition and experimental spike flow monitoring are being coupled where possible. Research data is being input into the GIS and other data bases. \$4.5 million has been allocated for transition monitoring in FY-96.

Management Objective - Bruce Moore -- Two meetings have been held: 1) to discuss existing management objectives contained in the Final EIS; and 2) development of objectives, determine resource impacts, determine conflicting objectives, provide feedback to this group, and obtain comments. Draft objectives will be distributed to the TWG by the end of January 1996. After review and comment, the final objectives will be submitted to the research center. He noted that the objectives will be flexible.

Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center - Rick Gold -- The Center has been established by the Secretary. Selection of the center chief is pending approval.

Razorback Sucker Workshop - Dave Wegner -- Biological Opinion compliance work efforts include: a razorback sucker workshop planned for January 11/12, 1996, to discuss the biology of the species and its relationship to the Grand Canyon; request for proposals to prepare an integrated fisheries report; a technical workshop to ensure that all aspects have been addressed and included. In addition, integrated reports are being planned for all elements of GCES.

Lower Colorado River Basin Multi-Species Conservation Program and AMP - William Rinne -- This multi-agency ecosystem-based comprehensive approach covers the Colorado River corridor below Lees Ferry to the southerly international boundary, concentrating from Lake Mead to the southern boundary. A long-term program will be developed within the next 3 years to: provide an umbrella management program to plan for species management and conservation; provide a basis for Sections 6 and 10 compliance; allow for species and habitat conservation; address power considerations; and to slow down or eliminate future listing. Interim

conservation measures are focusing on Lake Mohave and razorback sucker and boneytail chub. The geographical and technical scope of this program overlaps with the EIS adaptive management as well as other environmental programs. Larry Riley noted that this conservation program began with establishment of the Critical Habitat Designation in the lower basin. Members of this program include DOI and 3 lower Basin States, is in addition to Section 7 consultation, and is committed to recovery of special status species as well as listed species. In response to a question on possible reregulation of dams below Lake Mead, Larry responded that there are no proposals to reregulate dam operations, the states do not want dam reregulation, and other solutions are being sought. The environmental organizations indicated that they are not seeking reregulation, and have an open mind.

Consultation on the deviation to interim flows -- Rick noted that this meeting served as consultation in compliance with the Grand Canyon Protection Act.

Charlie Vaughn, Hualapai Tribe, distributed a letter (attachment 8) listing Hualapai concerns on the spike flows.

The next meeting will be February 13.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 - Attendee list
- Attachment 2 - GAO implementation plan
- Attachment 3 - Glen Canyon spike flow release schedule
- Attachment 4 - USGS November 27, 1995, letter to GCES
- Attachment 5 - Objectives of the experimental spike flow
- Attachment 6 - Rationale for conducting flow in March/April
- Attachment 7 - Technical schedule for experimental spike flow
- Attachment 8 - Hualapai letter