

Notes from the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center Meeting of
January 22, 1997
Phoenix, Arizona
Embassy Suites on Greenway Rd.

Attendance

Mark Anderson	USGS	Dave Garrett	GCMRC
Frank Ronco	Arizona Flycasters	Bob Winfree	NPS
Steven Lloyd	USBR	Norm Henderson	NPS
Bill Davis	CREDA/ECO Plan	Alexandra Muller	AR
Kerry Christensen	Hualapia Tribe	Wayne Cook	Colorado River Com
Barry Gold	GCMRC	Christine Karas	USBR
Kurt Dongoski	Hopi Tribe	Ruth Lambert	GCMRC
Signa Larralde	USBR	Larry Stevens	ATA/GCMRC
Don Metz	FWS	Andre Potechnik	GC River Guides
Bill Persons	AGF	Tom Moody	Grand Canyon Trust
Owen Gorman	FWS		

Meeting Notes

Scheduled for upcoming meetings:

Dave announced the Beach Habitat Building Flow Conference to be held on April 8,9, and 10, 1997. The last day will be an executive overview of the results for managers.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 1996. They will be discussing the Long term Monitoring Plan for FY 98. Dave handed out copies of the LTP Strategic Plan, the Lake Powell Assessment, and the Annual Monitoring and Research Plan for FY98.

Long-term Monitoring Plan

The review of the information needs, included in the appendix of each report, was requested by February 7, 1997. The review of the FY 98 Annual monitoring and research plan and the Strategic plan was requested by February 14.

Some of the attendees stated that comments they had already submitted were not included in the report. Dave asked them to resubmit the comments with this second review. Dave said that currently he is running behind his schedule but should be back on schedule by April. (Reclamation did not receive the first draft of the Strategic Plan and the Annual Monitoring and Research Plan for FY98 until after this meeting and thus have not submitted comments.)



(Note: I have sent a copy of both reports to Denver to have Tim Randle and Mike Armbruster review them.)

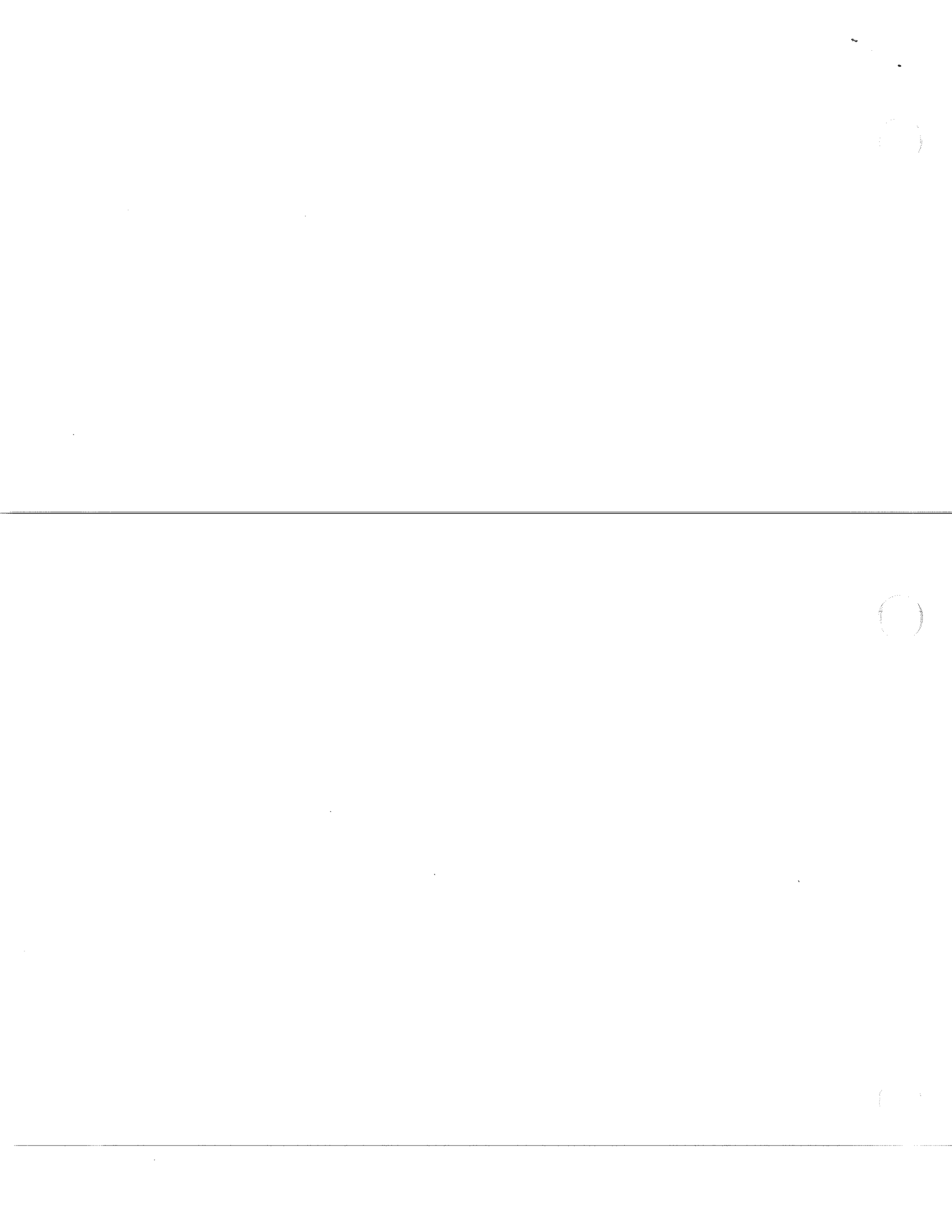
Dave keeps getting asked about the definition of Dam Operating Criteria. Some of the monitoring programs seem to be related to reservoir management and these are felt to be outside the GCPA and should not be apart of the program.

The meeting centered around the Fiscal Year 98 Annual Monitoring and Research Plan. Page 16 contains a synopsis of the information needs, from which the plan was developed. Dave pointed out the existing program was noted on pages 21-22. He also noted the research would be eliminated from the 1998 plan as shown on pages 22-23. All of the monitoring programs would need to be reduced as much as 50%. He said that these monies would be used to perform a synthesis on all the monitoring program as a whole to determine the adequacy and linkages between the various resource in the canyon. Christine Karas expressed her concerns about the current schedule and said that the timing would not allow for finalization of contracts before the beginning of the fiscal year.

The Center would like to reevaluate methodology to improve efficiency. They would also use additional savings to perform the synthesis of all the previously collected data and develop a new protocol on how they gather data in the future. The Center has set a two year schedule for performing the synthesis work. They expect the results will reveal procedures which gather data less intrusively and more efficiently. The question was asked if more money could be requested for the synthesis work. Dave told them he had looked at that possibility of asking for additional fund but had determined that would not be appropriate and would not look at that being an option.

There was a discussion on PA and BO work and how it fits in the Centers agenda and how the Center would be interacting with the AMWG. Signa stated that the PA work would be coordinated through the Center. She also said the synthesis was required by the PA and the Centers work would fit nicely with the requirements of the PA. Sediment is a critical issue in protection of cultural resources. Signa said, that there are few direct impacts to the resource below the 45,000 cfs flow level. The significant impacts are to the resource above the 45,000 cfs level on the terraces. Without the annual flooding events which brings the sediment deposits which bury the deposits the erosion continues to unearh and destroy the cultural resources.

The Center would be working with the tribes to assist in developing resource monitoring programs. They discusses the addition of contracting requirements to hire native american students. Bill Davis questioned if it was appropriate to make such a requirement and asked if it would be appropriate to use power revenues for this requirement. Dave Garrett said that normally students would be employed to do work and that this requirement would not increase the costs associated with the normal requirements of the contracts. Bob Winfree recommended that preference be given to proposals including native american students versus specifying quotas.



Barry Gold presented the Biological Resources on page 33 and passed out Appendix C Stakeholder Objectives of the Annual Monitoring and Research Plan. He told us they should be the last version from the management objectives subgroup.

Barry said that he feels that this program is a monitoring program. He is putting research programs as a low priority until they have finished the synthesis. They will scale back to maintenance of data sets and will coordinate with Chris Karas on maintaining BO work levels.

They will look at pilot monitoring programs that will look at current methodologies for monitoring and determine if a program should continue or at what level. Barry said that he thought the group should determine priorities. Current priorities are synthesis, baseline monitoring, and critical resources.

Bill Persons argued that cutting back on trout data collection was not exactly as clear as it should seem. Electro-shocking was the major cost and the other activities did not increase the cost significantly. Barry said that in those cases they may consider the frequency of the data collection.

Larry Stevens brought up contingency planning for large events. Dave Garrett and Barry Gold said they had overlooked this due to the extreme amount of work load they had on getting the 1998 plan in place. They would start looking at that possibility soon. He thought that a contingency plan might include special aerial flights, possibly video prior to the peak runoff.

Dave Garrett presented the Socio Economic Resource Program found on page 44. Camping beaches have changed and are an issue. Cooperative agreements with some of the environmental groups. They are not planning on a synthesis for recreational because issues such as trout fishing needs change with the ideas of the fisherman.

The schedule of the Center is found on page 51 and the budget is on page 52.

Dave told the group that the physical scientist had been chosen but had turned down the job. The information technologist position would be out on the street soon. He also stated that the Center was going to perform the logistics out of their office and that they would be getting additional boat and motors to replace some of those which are worn out.

