

Grand Canyon National Park Colorado River Management and Planning

CRMP NEWSLETTER - JUNE 1988

This newsletter summarizes results from the public meeting phase of the CRMP review process, including issues discussed and public input figures to date. Further information is provided regarding the schedule of the next stages of the process and upcoming opportunities for involvement and comment.

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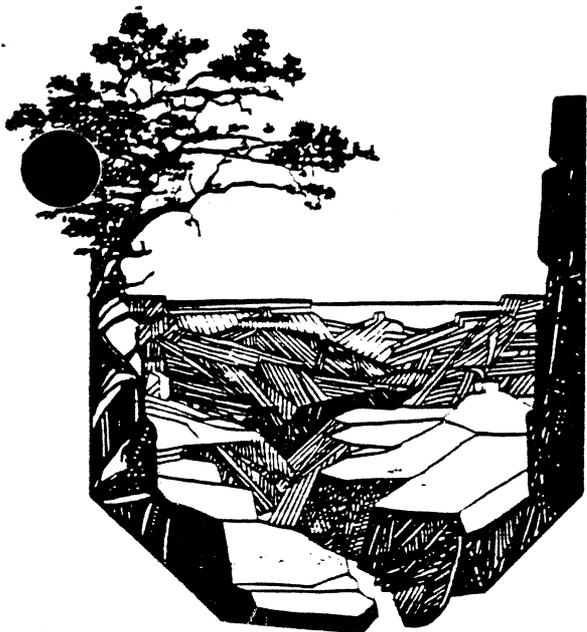
June 1988

Dear Friends of the Grand Canyon:

As we move out of the public meeting process of the Colorado River Management Plan review and into the preliminary decision-making phase, it seems appropriate to summarize the results of the meetings. The first formal public meeting, held in Flagstaff, Arizona on April 22, 1988, was attended by 34 people, 7 of whom made formal public comments. The second and third opportunities for public comment occurred in Denver, Colorado on May 24, 1988 and Reno, Nevada on May 25, 1988. Again, 34 interested people were present at the Denver meeting, with 14 making formal comments, while 7 people met with NPS representatives in Reno. No one in Reno made a formal comment. Many different issues and concerns were expressed and addressed at these meetings. In addition to the written comments received from 168 individuals, 48 Colorado River Management Plan Issue Workbooks have been returned to the park. The mailing list stands at approximately 1000 names.

Currently we are in the process of summarizing the comments received and developing preferred alternatives for each of the issues raised. In order to facilitate this process, Grand Canyon National Park staff will meet with an advisory committee comprised of representatives of various interest groups and scientific disciplines during the month of July. The draft preferred alternatives will be printed in the next newsletter and will be distributed following that meeting. The draft preferred alternatives will be available for written public comment for 30 days. Written comments and completed workbooks will be accepted until August 31, 1988 for incorporation in the revised CRMP.





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CRMP NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 1988

This newsletter contains a synopsis of the Preferred Alternatives developed in response to the primary issues discussed and concerns raised during the CRMP review process. Also included is a summary of events since the last newsletter, as well as a timetable for the remainder of the review process.

N16251.5(GRCA)

August 1988

Dear Friends of the Grand Canyon:

The past several weeks have been particularly busy and productive as we approach the end of the Colorado River Management Plan public input and review process. Based upon comments and suggestions received during the public input phase of the CRMP, primary issues have been identified, and the National Park Service has developed alternative management policies which address the main concerns which have been discussed.

The resultant Draft Preferred Alternatives should not be confused with the Draft Revised Colorado River Management Plan, which will be available for public review in October. The Preferred Alternatives represent management options, which, following a 30 day public review process, will be incorporated into the draft revised plan. In addition, the Preferred Alternatives do not necessarily represent any specific alternatives that were proposed in the Issues Workbook, although they may contain elements of the latter, depending on the comments received in the workbooks.

The Draft Preferred Alternatives were completed in early July and were initially distributed to members of the Grand Canyon Concessioners' Steering Committee and the Constituent Advisory Committee. Meetings were held with these groups in mid-July in order to provide the opportunity for input from the various constituencies and interest groups. Attendees included representatives from the natural and social science communities, noncommercial user groups, commercial river guides, environmental and conservation organizations, and commercial



outfitters. Resulting from these meetings, minor revisions to the Preferred Alternatives were made prior to their distribution for public review and comment. Complete Preferred Alternative booklets, which include an explanation of current NPS policy, objectives associated with the proposed changes, the actual alternative, and an explanatory rationale of the policy change decision, have initially been mailed only to individuals or groups that have submitted written comments and/or completed workbooks or have attended public meetings. However, anyone else wishing to review the proposed changes may request a copy by writing the Colorado River Management Planning Office, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023 or by calling (602) 638-7708 or (602) 638-7843. Any comments regarding the Preferred Alternatives must be received in writing no later than September 15 in order to be considered in the Draft Revised Plan.

A summary of the significant policy changes associated with the Preferred Alternatives is included below; however, it should be noted that the issues are presented in no particular prioritization or order.

ISSUE: Colorado River Trips Conducted for Research Purposes

Significant Policy Changes:

- 1) All research trip proposals for a given year must be submitted no later than December 1 of the year prior to the proposed trip.
- 2) Justifications as to why a river trip is essential to the accomplishment of the research and each trip member's role will be required.
- 3) Colorado River trips conducted for research purposes will be required to secure an adequate insurance bond to cover trip participants.
- 4) Upon completion of research trips, the trip leader and/or head researcher must submit a journal of trip accomplishments and activities to the Superintendent's Office, and copies of any publications resulting from research conducted on the Colorado River must be submitted to the National Park Service in a timely manner.

ISSUE: Commercially Guided Fishing Trips

Significant Policy Changes: No changes to the current policy are proposed.

ISSUE: Commercial and Noncommercial Winter Use

Significant Policy Changes:

- 1) The commercial winter user day allotment will be distributed among the existing outfitters in such a way as to provide each outfitter with an opportunity to continue or establish use during the secondary period, as well as reward those companies with historically higher use in the secondary season.

- 2) A user day pool will be administered by the NPS to distribute unused allocation.
- 3) Noncommercial launches in the secondary season will be increased to 5 per week. The maximum number of winter trips will be increased from 40 to 52.

ISSUE: Noncommercial Waiting List

Significant Policy Changes:

- 1) A \$100 non-refundable, non-transferrable administrative fee will be charged to all new applicants to the waiting list.
- 2) The waiting list will be open to new enrollees for 2 months, from January 1 to February 28 or 29 each year.
- 3) The continuing interest requirement will be discontinued.
- 4) Noncommercial launch dates will be scheduled two years in advance of the current season and will be scheduled according to launch preference sheets received from applicants at the top of the waiting list.
- 5) Launch date deferrals will no longer be allowed unless specifically approved by the Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection.
- 6) The River Permits Office will attempt to fill any unscheduled or cancelled launch dates by contacting applicants at the top of the waiting list (i.e., those that have been on the list the longest), either by telephone or in writing.
- 7) A call-in system, available to anyone on the waiting list, will be established to schedule any launch dates not filled by other methods.
- 8) Applicants will no longer be removed from the waiting list if they accompany another noncommercial trip.
- 9) The experimental double launch program will be continued pending continued monitoring of impacts and effects.
- 10) A noncommercial user day pool will be established from unused allocation and will be administratively distributed in the form of additional double launches as sufficient user days become available.

ISSUE: Crowding and Congestion at Camps and Attraction Sites

Significant Policy Changes:

- 1) Layovers during the primary season in critical river corridors and at selected camps will be strongly discouraged.

2) No commercial companies will be permitted to conduct trip the specific purpose of crew training during the primary seas

3) Commercial "Deadhead" trips will be required to count the number of passengers to be picked up downstream against the 1 passenger launch limit from Lees Ferry the day the empty boat depart Lees Ferry. In addition, deadheads will be required to expedite travel to their passenger pick-up point and will be allowed to take only the number of crew members as specified Annual Commercial Operating Requirements.

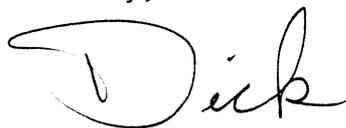
ISSUE: Equity of Allocation/Access Between Commercial and Noncommercial

Significant Policy Changes: Policy changes and modifications to existing distribution systems in response to other issues as described above will serve to mitigate this issue.

As stated above, the Preferred Alternatives will be open for review and comment until September 15, 1988. Completion of the Draft Revised CRMP announced in October via a newsletter and will be initially distributed to individuals who requested the Preferred Alternatives for review. Copies of the Draft Plan will also be available through written request and will be open for public comment for 30 days. Subsequently, the Final Revised Colorado River Management Plan will be developed and completed by December, 1988. The review process will continue on a 5 to 10 year revision cycle for major changes subject to public review, while minor operational modifications occur as part of Annual Operating Requirement revisions. The intent of the long-term schedule is to maintain a dynamic, flexible plan which will be responsive to different and changing environmental and user needs, while providing an acceptable level of resource protection during a manageable period.

Although this particular public involvement period is coming to an end, we look forward to the continuing involvement of all people who share a concern for the preservation of the unique environment and landscape Grand Canyon National Park represents. We sincerely thank all of you who have committed your time, knowledge, and experience toward insuring this dynamic review process will continue for a long time to come.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Marks
Superintendent