

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Agenda Item Information
May 10, 2012 Webinar

Agenda Item

Long-Term Experimental Management Plan (LTEMP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Action Requested

✓ This is an information item.

Presenters

Rob Billerbeck, Environmental Protection Specialist and LTEMP Project Manager, National Park Service

Beverley Heffernan, Manager, Environmental Resources Division, Upper Colorado Region, Bureau of Reclamation

Previous Action Taken

✓ Other:

December 2009: Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced that the development of a Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) for Glen Canyon Dam was needed. The Secretary emphasized the inclusion of stakeholders, particularly those in the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GDAMP), in the development of the LTEMP.

February 2010: At the February 2010 AMWG meeting, Secretary's Designee Anne Castle explained that Interior will initiate a long-term experimental and management plan for Glen Canyon Dam that builds upon what we have learned from the experimentation and the enormous body of science obtained under the Adaptive Management Program over the past 15 years.

July 6, 2011: The Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for LTEMP was published in the *Federal Register*.

October 17, 2011: A second *Federal Register* Notice was published to announce public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings were held in November in Phoenix, Flagstaff, Page, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, and Denver. A webcast was also held to capture participation from those that could not attend in person.

February 9-10, 2012: A co-lead internal scoping meeting was held in Phoenix, AZ with Anne Castle, the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science as well as several Departmental advisors and leadership from NPS and Reclamation.

Relevant Science

Science and research completed since the GCDAMP was established will be used in the development of the EIS and assessment of impacts.

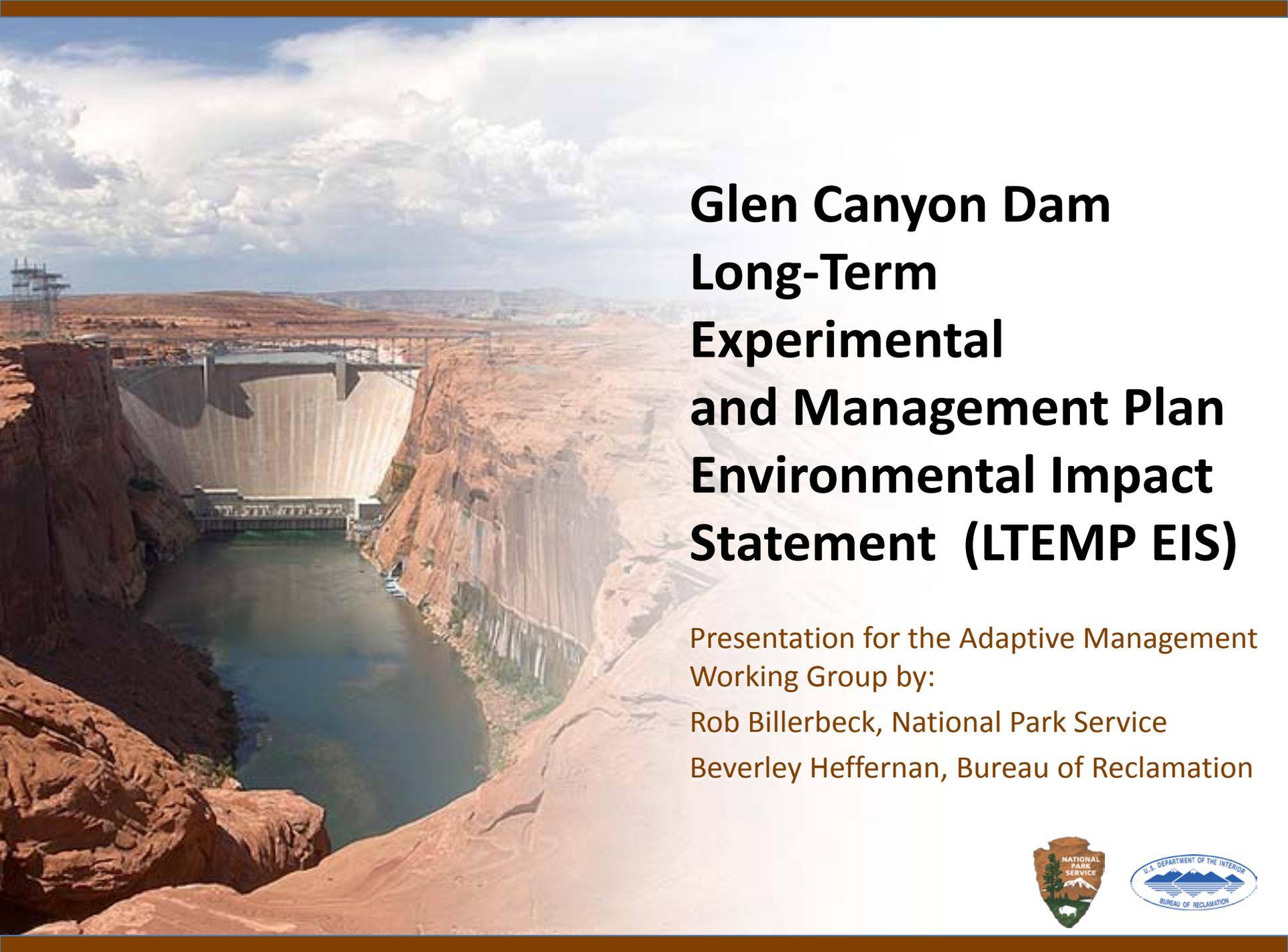
Background Information

The Department of the Interior (Department), through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the National Park Service (NPS), is preparing a draft EIS and has conducted public scoping for the adoption of a Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam. The Department's decision to develop the LTEMP is a component of its efforts to continue to comply with the ongoing requirements and obligations established by the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-575) (GCPA). Reclamation and the NPS are co-leading this effort because Reclamation has the primary responsibility for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and the NPS has primary responsibility for Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

The purpose of the proposed LTEMP is to utilize current, and develop additional, scientific information to better inform Departmental decisions and to operate the dam in such a manner as to improve and protect important downstream resources while maintaining compliance with the GCPA, the Law of the River, and the Endangered Species Act, among others. The purpose of the proposed LTEMP is to fully evaluate dam operations and identify management actions and experimental options that will provide a framework for adaptively managing Glen Canyon Dam over the next 15 to 20 years, consistent with the GCPA and other provisions of applicable Federal law.

Reclamation and NPS held a kickoff meeting on February 11, 2011 in Tempe, Arizona, where we received initial input from potential cooperating agencies. The Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for LTEMP was published in the *Federal Register* on July 6, 2011. A second notice was published on October 17, 2011 to announce seven public scoping meetings that were held in November 2011. The public scoping comment period ended January 31, 2012 with over 440 comments received. Web-based meetings were held on March 27, 2012 to report on the results of scoping, and a scoping report has been completed and is available on the project website <http://ltempeis.anl.gov/>.

NPS and Reclamation held an internal scoping meeting on Feb 9-10, 2012 and a preliminary alternative development meeting on March 20-21, 2012. Preliminary alternative concepts were made available to the public via a newsletter (available on the project website) on March 30, 2012. A public workshop was held on April 4-5, 2012 in Flagstaff, AZ to receive feedback on the preliminary alternative concepts. The coming weeks will involve working closely with cooperating agencies and intensive work on the alternative concepts to provide a reasonable set of alternatives for the EIS. A draft EIS is planned for winter of 2012.



Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (LTEMP EIS)

Presentation for the Adaptive Management
Working Group by:

Rob Billerbeck, National Park Service

Beverley Heffernan, Bureau of Reclamation





Glen Canyon Dam

Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan EIS



Background

Glen Canyon Dam

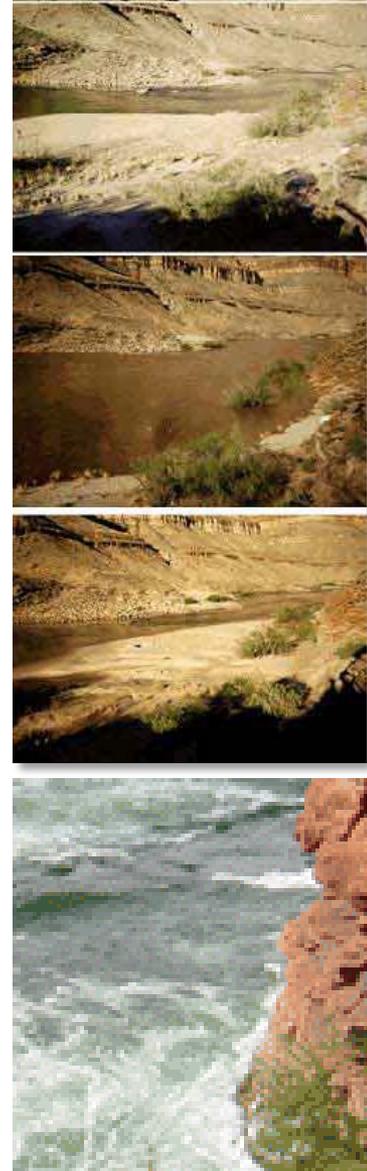
Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan EIS



Purpose

To identify dam operations, management actions, and experimental options that will provide a framework for adaptively managing Glen Canyon Dam over the next 15 to 20 years consistent with the Grand Canyon Protection Act (GCPA) and other provisions of applicable federal law.

The proposed action is to develop a plan that will determine specific options for dam operations, non-flow actions, and appropriate experimental and management actions that will meet the GCPA's requirements and minimize impacts to resources, including those of importance to Indian Tribes.



Need

The proposed action is needed to incorporate scientific information developed since the 1996 Record of Decision to better inform Department of the Interior decisions on dam operations and other management and experimental actions so that the Secretary continues to meet statutory responsibilities for protecting and improving Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park resources and values for future generations, conserving ESA-listed and other native species, respecting Indian Tribal interests, meeting water delivery obligations, and generating hydroelectric power.

Objectives

- Develop an operating plan for Glen Canyon Dam in accordance with the Grand Canyon Protection Act to protect, mitigate adverse impacts to, and improve the values for which Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area were established, including, but not limited to natural and cultural resources and visitor use, and in such a manner as is fully consistent with and subject to the Colorado River Compact, the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact, the Water Treaty of 1944 with Mexico, the decree of the Supreme Court in *Arizona v. California*, and the provisions of the Colorado River Storage Project Act of 1956 and the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 that govern allocation, appropriation, development, and exportation of the waters of the Colorado River Basin.
- Ensure water delivery to the communities and agriculture that depend on Colorado River water.

Objectives (cont)

- Consider potential future modifications to Glen Canyon Dam operations and other flow and non-flow actions to protect and improve downstream resources, particularly fine sediment retention and endangered fish in Grand Canyon National Park, and the recreational experience, including the trout fishery in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.
- Maintain and increase Glen Canyon Dam capacity and energy generation to produce the greatest practicable amount of power and energy, consistent with recovery and long-term sustainability of downstream resources.
- Respect the interests and perspectives of the Indian Tribes.

Objectives (cont)

- Make use of the latest science considering all relevant studies, especially those conducted since 1996.
- Determine the appropriate experimental framework that allows for a range of programs and actions including ongoing and necessary research, studies, and management actions in keeping with the adaptive management process.
- Determine whether to establish a Recovery Implementation Program for endangered fish species below Glen Canyon Dam.
- Ensure Glen Canyon Dam operations are consistent with the GCPA, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and other applicable federal laws.

Glen Canyon Dam

Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan EIS



Cooperating Agencies

- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Colorado River Commission of Nevada
- The Hopi Tribe
- The Hualapai Tribe
- The Havasupai Tribe
- Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians
- The Navajo Nation
- The Pueblo of Zuni
- Salt River Project
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Upper Colorado River Commission
- Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems
- Western Area Power Administration
- Yavapai-Apache Nation

Elements of the NEPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Planning Process

- Articulate the purpose, need, and objectives
- Identify potentially significant issues
- Look at all reasonable alternatives, including No Action
 - This is the step we are currently at in the process
- Analyze impacts using reliable scientific data and a problem-solving approach
- Produce a public draft EIS – planned for next February/March (details coming below)



Glen Canyon Dam

Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan EIS



Status Update

Activities Since February AMWG Meeting

- Co-lead alternatives development meeting, March 20-21, 2012
- Scoping report completed, public web-based meetings were held on March 27, 2012
- Alternative concepts shared with public in a March 30, 2012 newsletter
- Public workshop on alternatives held in Flagstaff April 4-5, 2012.
- Meetings held with Hualapai, Paiute and Mojave tribes at their request



Current Activities

- Co-lead and cooperating agencies are signing Memoranda of Understanding specifying roles and responsibilities
- Tribes presently reviewing draft tribal consultation plan
- NPS and Reclamation are working on alternatives development in anticipation of sharing draft co-lead alternatives with cooperators in June



Next Steps

- Interested tribes will soon receive draft tribal perspectives narrative for review and comment
- Written responses to cooperators on purpose, need and objectives comments
- July 2 is deadline for public/stakeholder/ cooperator submittal of proposed alternatives for the EIS
- In July, joint lead agencies will review all alternatives against purpose and need and other screening criteria to finalize alternatives for analysis in the EIS.
- Current plan is to share alternatives with cooperators and with the public in August.



Glen Canyon Dam

Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan EIS



Schedule and Ongoing Activities

- Monthly cooperator calls continue
- Scheduling meetings with tribes as requested
- Summer/fall 2012: EIS analysis of impacts and PDEIS preparation
- PDEIS to cooperators in December 2012/January 2013
- Draft EIS for 60 day public review and comment in February/March 2013



