United States Department of the Interior
GRAND CANYON MONITORING AND RESEARCH CENTER
2255 N. Gemini Dr., Room 341
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
520 556-7094 Telephone
520 556-7092 Fax

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Adaptive Management Work Group

FROM: Robert Winfree, Chairman Technical Work Group
Barry D. Gold, Acting Chief Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center

SUBJECT: Status of Planning Documents:
1) Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center Draft Fiscal Year 2000-2004 Monitoring and Research Strategic Plan
2) Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center Draft Fiscal Year 2000 Monitoring and Research Plan
(GC, PRJ 5.510-AMWG, GCMRC)

Consistent with the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) planning schedule discussed at the July 1998 Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) meeting, a draft long-term strategic plan for FY 2000-2004 and a draft FY 2000 annual plan have been prepared for review and comment by the Technical Work Group (TWG) for recommendation to the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG).

Strategic Plan Preparation

Preparation of the Strategic Plan revision began in July with the first draft of the revised Strategic Plan sent to the TWG on September 4, 1998, for review. Four sets of written comments were received on this draft. Comments were received from Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (CREDA), Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, the Hopi Tribe, and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). The first draft of the Strategic Plan was presented and discussed with the TWG at their September 14-15 meeting. Additional comments were received from the Colorado Water Conservation Board following the meeting. The Plan was revised and the second draft was mailed to TWG members on November 6, 1998, for their review and comment. Written comments were received from CREDA on the second draft of the plan. The second draft of the Strategic Plan was discussed with the TWG at their November 16-17, 1998, meeting. The final draft was discussed with the TWG at the December 8, 1998, meeting for recommendation and transmittal to the AMWG.

Annual Plan Preparation

Following preparation and discussion of the revised Strategic Plan, the Annual Plan was prepared by the GCMRC during September and the first part of October. The proposed program projects were derived from the prioritized management objectives and information needs that were approved by the AMWG in July 1998. The Plan was mailed to the TWG for their review and comment on October 15, 1998. A Budget Ad-Hoc TWG meeting was held on October 26 to discuss the plan and budget. Verbal comments were received from the participants at the meeting. Written comments were received from the Bureau of Reclamation, CREDA, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The Plan was reviewed and discussed at the November 16-17 TWG meeting. Following this meeting, the final draft was prepared and discussed with the TWG at the December 8, 1998, meeting for recommendation and transmittal to the AMWG.

TWG Decisions on Strategic and Annual Plans

The Strategic and Annual Plans were discussed at the December 8, 1998, TWG meeting and a series of concerns were expressed by some representatives. The Strategic Plan was discussed first and concerns were raised by CREDA, Reclamation, Utah, WAPA, and Wyoming. The concerns included 1) the Plan language in the first chapters (the introductory material, the Adaptive Management Program [AMP], the geographic scope of the AMP, the management objectives and information needs, and the scientific philosophy of monitoring) because the plan appears to exceed their understood goal of the adaptive management program to implement the preferred alternative; 2) the Plan doesn't describe how the GCMRC proposes to transition from data collection to a long-term monitoring plan; 3) the indexed budget; and 4) interpretations that the program is expanding. Other members disagreed with these concerns and the discussion resulted in a decision to postpone a recommendation on the Strategic Plan. ATWG workshop to discuss and resolve these concerns is scheduled for February 4-5, 1999. A recommendation to the AMWG on the revised Strategic Plan will be delayed until the July 1999 AMWG meeting.

Several concerns were raised relative to the Annual Plan. These included the relevance of some management objectives and the AMWG approved information needs from which the GCMRC derives program projects, and the prioritization of the information needs. The TWG resolved to discuss the program at a February 23-24, 1999, workshop and resolve concerns. In order to provide the AMWG with a recommendation, the TWG approved the GCMRC programs and overall AMP budget with certain conditions. These conditions included 1) the program budgets were not final recommendations and funds could be moved between programs subject to discussions to be held at the February workshops between the TWG and GCMRC; 2) the program projects were subject to discussions and approval at the February workshops; 3) the TWG will provide guidance to the GCMRC on program projects in February so that competitive RFPs can be drafted by the GCMRC for release at the end of March, 1999; and 4) Reclamation's AMP administrative costs were subject to discussions and approval at the February workshops.

With these conditions and statements, the TWG recommended approval of the budget contained in the FY 2000 Annual Plan. Due to the recommendation of the TWG at their December 8, 1998, meeting, the GCMRC is unable to transmit a final Strategic FY 2000 - 2004 and Annual FY 2000 Plan to the AMWG at this time. The TWG has decided to meet on February 4-5, 1999, to review and finalize the revised Strategic Plan and to meet on February 23-24, 1999, to review and finalize the FY 2000 Annual Plan.