



## United States Department of the Interior

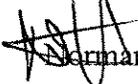
### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Colorado River Coordinator  
324 South State Street, Suite 200  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145

April 25, 2005

#### MEMORANDUM

To: Robert Johnson, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation

From:  Norman Henderson, Colorado River Coordinator, National Park Service

Subject: Input into potential adjustments to the 2005 Colorado River AOP

The National Park Service provides the following comments regarding potential adjustment of reservoir releases from Lake Powell as part of the mid year review of the 2005 Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River Reservoirs:

Lakes Mead and Powell were constructed to operate within a broad range of fluctuating water levels; however, recreational development on both lakes occurred during times of consistent high water. The recent 5-year drought and increased water use demands have dramatically lowered water storage in both lakes to unprecedented levels (33 percent and 66 percent lakes Powell and Mead, respectively). The impact of these reductions on lake access and marina facilities has been substantial and has required them to be modified, moved, or abandoned altogether as the reservoir levels have dropped.

While basin hydrology is primarily responsible for general water conditions in the Colorado River Storage system, the manner in which the system is managed can have a profound effect on specific water levels at any one time within a particular water year. Given this, the National Park Service encourages the consideration of lake level impacts on recreational access and marina facilities as a part of the 2005 AOP review. Critical recreational access and marina facility levels for lakes Mead and Powell are 1,120' and 3,588', respectively (in order to make most marina facilities and launch ramps accessible to the boating public). An additional factor to consider is the potential impact of any release changes on the ongoing Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program within Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.