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Dear Regional Directors:

My understanding is that the Bureau of Reclamation is accepting public comments on the **reoperation** of the nation's two largest reservoirs, Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

We oppose the concept of one reservoir to capture and manage the bulk of Colorado River flows. !

1. There is a need for the dam at Glen Canyon

Lake Powell is needed now more than ever. Some "environmental groups" make unsubstantiated claims that it is unlikely that Lake Powell will fill again. This statement is simply untrue, where is the science, Lake Powell does not have to fill to its brim to be a **substantial** asset to the country. ;

Another statement made by "environmental groups" is that Lake Mead on its own could accommodate the water in both Lake Mead and Lake Powell. Again, this is simply untrue. Lake Powell holds a tremendous amount of water that cannot be held by Lake Mead. This is a ludicrous and untrue **statement**. i

2. Lake Powell is a reasonable and efficient storage device.

At the present time and for the foreseeable future the Dam at Glen Canyon is the most efficient store device for water in the west

"Environmental groups" claim that there is more efficient storage available, such as the use of under ground aquifers. There is no scientific documentation of this and no cost benefit analysis of this opinion. Again the "environmental groups" have made untrue and unfounded statements that defy logic. The impact of Lake Powell on the country far exceeds this representation by "environmental groups". It is interesting that "environmental groups" acknowledge that Lake Powell holds at least 810,000 acre-feet of water annually -enough water for 1,6 million households of four people each,

3. Grand Canyon is doing just fine, thank you.

Between Lake Powell and Lake Mead lies one of the world's most famous and geologically and ecologically unique river canyons, Grand Canyon National Park. The operation of these reservoirs has not negatively impacted the Grand Canyon.

Again where is the scientific evidence to support the statements of the proponents of the single reservoir plan. ;

4. Sediment - is it really a problem? No.

"Environmental groups" claim that sediment is a major unresolved problem threatening the long-term operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The fact is that sediment is not a major factor in the long term operation of Lake Powell or Lake Mead. It will be in the range of approximately 600 years before Lake Powell will be filled with sediment. Given that time frame, and technology, how can any plan be implemented.

Although there are always differences among scientists, it is clear that reputable scientists and engineers do not now warn that major problems could occur sooner, i

## 5. The Colorado River Compact

While everyone has **different** interests in the Colorado River and everyone might like a different agreement than The Colorado River Compact of 1922, which largely governs the discharge of flows from Lake **Powell** to Lake Mead, it works and has worked for many years.

## 6. Recreational Uses:

Lake Powell presently is visited by up to 3 million visitors annually. The use Lake Powell for much needed water **recreation**. It serves recreational users from west of the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean and receives many visitors from rest of the country as well as foreign guests. It is truly one of the "wonders of the world" and would be sorely missed if drained.

## 7. Power production:

Glen Canyon Dam is a significant **source** of clean, reliable and efficient energy. The single dam concept would reduce power production from Glen Canyon Dam to zero. This is a waste of a significant natural resource.

## Conclusion;

One of the significant aspects of Lake Powell is that it is doing just **fine**, in **fact** great. It is providing water during the times **of drought**, it is producing efficient and clean power and providing recreation to millions **of** citizens and visitors.

A new environmental impact statement is not **warranted**. To call for such a document is a waste of a huge amount of taxpayer money. Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell proved their worth and viability during the latest drought cycle.

Thank you for a job well done.

Sincerely,

  
Connie **DeWitt**