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## RE: Colorado River Basin Study, Technical Report D – System Reliability Metrics

1 message

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Wed, Mar 6, 2013 at 3:20 PM

To: ColoradoRiverBasinStudy@usbr.gov

ATTN: Ms. Pam Adams, LC-2721

It has come to my attention that a review is being conducted about how best to deal with the projected future water supply and demand in the Colorado Basin. As most of us know, at some point demand will outpace supply under the 1927 Colorado River Water Compact unless something is done. I urge you to support and fight for boatable flows on the Colorado River. While I do understand that water is a precious resource for both people, business, and agriculture, I also believe that whitewater boating and recreational uses should be added as a resource category in the Colorado River Basin Supply and Demand Study.

As a former guide and recreational boater, I know that boating on our rivers is an invaluable resource to both its participants, both commercial and private, and is a critical economic asset to many of the communities that out home to some of our great rivers and streams. Here in Eagle County, Colorado, our Board of Commissioners realize this asset and have used funds to purchase and improve access to both the Eagle River (an upstream tributary of the Colorado) and the Colorado river itself. They understand that in doing so, they both improve the quality of life of both our residents and visitors as well as provide an economic benefit.

The in stream flow requirements for boating coincide with natural in stream flows, and therefore support both the health of the community and its members as well as the health of aquatic resources and the river itself. The 'acceptable' and 'optimal' river flows that AW provided to BOR for the whitewater boating sections listed in Table D2-1 of Appendix D2 accurately correspond with the whitewater community's needs and preferences.

I took part in this survey and agree with its outcomes. I was truthful in my responses and as a former guide, fully understand what acceptable flows are when it comes to both recreation and commercial whitewater boating needs. For the sake of the health of the river, its inhabitants, the people that recreate on it, and the communities that it flows through, I urge you to integrate the Boating Flow Days metrics into future planning efforts and the stakeholder processes.

I thank you for both your present and future endeavors to ensure that whitewater boating needs are considered as Reclamation assesses supply and demand in the Basin over the next 50 years.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Schreiner