

>>> "Crista Worthy" <crisaworthy@hotmail.com> 03/01/07 10:47 AM >>>

Thank you for the opportunity to comment: Due to climate change, which has already begun, it seems inevitable that those who depend on the Colorado River for their water supply will receive less and less in the future. This makes it all the more ridiculous to continue the existence of "Lake" Powell. Although I am one of those who has enjoyed boating on this reservoir, I also know that it wastes an obscene quantity of water each year, through evaporation and seepage--enough to supply the entire state of Nevada! The Glen Canyon Dam, just upstream from the Grand Canyon, not only prevents sediment from entering that National Park, but drastically lowers the water temperature, causing the extinction of a number of fish, and near-extinction of others, contrary to Federal Law.

Lake Powell should be drained, the dam decommissioned, and the West will instantly have enormously more water, which can be taken directly from the river or stored, if necessary, in the Lake Mead reservoir. The small amount of electricity generated at the Glen Canyon Dam can be replaced by building wind and solar generators nearby. The Grand Canyon river ecosystem, unique in all the world, will be saved. The muck and scum of "Lake" Powell that now fills the main channel of the Colorado River through Glen Canyon will clean itself out within a decade or so through natural forces, and Glen Canyon will once again be what it was: the true heart of the Southwest, an oasis with more wildlife than all the thousands of square miles of desert surrounding it put together.

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