



United States Department of the Interior

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IN REPLY
REFER TO:

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November 21, 1997

Memorandum

To: All Adaptive Management Work Group Members

From: Robert Winfree, Chairman
Technical Work Group

Subject: Transmittal of Documents

The Technical Work Group (TWG) has prepared the enclosed documents for your review. The TWG chairperson is planning to present these documents and to recommend that they be accepted by the AMWG at your January 15-16 meeting in Phoenix.

1) **Glen Canyon Dam Management Objectives (July 2, 1996).**

The TWG recommends that the Management Objectives and information needs statements, previously prepared by the Transition Work Group, be adopted for guiding research and monitoring activities during FY1998 and FY1999. The TWG recommends that they be instructed to review and revise these planning documents early in 1998, for use in the FY2000 program. TWG recommends that the revised documents then be submitted to AMWG for approval during your mid-year meeting.

The current Management Objectives form the basis for the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center Strategic Plan. The TWG therefore recommends that the current strategic plan be accepted "as is" for FY 1998 and FY1999, and that the GCMRC be instructed to revise their strategic plan for FY2000.

2) **Report of the Spike Flow Subgroup (October 27, 1997)**

This report outlines criteria recommended by the TWG for triggering a decision to implement a Beach Habitat Building Flow (BHBF). These criteria are consistent with the October 8, 1996 Record of Decision. They are based on reservoir storage, hydrologic forecast and power plant releases. The TWG recommends that these criteria be adopted for implementation at the beginning of the 1998 runoff season and that any compliance activities required under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act be initiated immediately.

3) **Potential Spring 1998 Beach Habitat Building Flow**

This document outlines recommendations for planning and implementing a 45,000 cfs BHBF during the spring 1998. The TWG recommends that planning for a BHBF be initiated immediately, with the go/no go decision to be based on the triggering criteria outlined under #2. TWG also recommends that the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) be instructed to evaluate potential effects of a BHBF occurring during any month in which it may be triggered under the proposed criteria (i.e., January - June). TWG also recommends that GCMRC be instructed to evaluate the potential resource effects of spills and high power plant releases of any magnitude that could be expected to occur under probable emergency release scenarios.

4) **Minutes of the Technical Work Group (October 2-3, 1997)**

A record of the first meeting of the TWG without attachments.

Several additional documents are currently in preparation or revision. These will be mailed to the AMWG by December 15, 1997, 30 days prior to your next meeting. These documents will include the following:

- 1) **The State of Natural and Cultural Resources in the Colorado River Ecosystem.**
A summary of the status of physical, biological, and cultural resources of the Colorado River and adjacent riparian areas affected by Glen Canyon Dam.
- 2) **Fiscal Year 1997 Report to Congress: Operations of the Adaptive Management Program under the Grand Canyon Protection Act.**
- 3) **FY1999 GCMRC Program and Budget**
- 4) **TWG Operating Procedures**
- 5) **Flood-related Issues Paper**