

Draft Proposal to Amend the Introduction Chapter of the GCDAMP Strategic Plan

Background Brief

During the MO and IN discussions in the fall of 2001, several TWG Members maintained testing the CRE's response to implementation of the preferred alternative is the initial, primary purpose of the AMP and should be included as such in the MOs and INs being developed. This contention is supported by the "Guidance Document for the Adaptive Management Program" (Loveless 2000) which is appended to the draft Strategic Plan.

The basic question Congress posed by enacting the GCPA was "how Glen Canyon Dam operations might be modified within the provisions of existing law so as to improve conditions for downstream NPS resources (with similar benefits certainly occurring on other similarly situated lands)." The Solicitor's guidance clearly states the EIS and ROD are Interior's answer to this question. Implementation of the preferred alternative is the operational modification intended to improve conditions for downstream resources.

Provisions for the AMP were included in the EIS and ROD in response to section 1805 of the GCPA to allow for advancements in understanding and improving the intended effects of the preferred alternative. The AMP (via the AMWG) would establish and implement "Long-term monitoring and research... intended to enable finer and finer tuning of operations over time, as additional knowledge and experience are gained, to better achieve the target mix of resource benefits, as outlined in the EIS, pages 54-65."

However, understanding the effects of the preferred alternative are prerequisite to identifying and implementing improvements to modified operations through adaptive management. Evaluating the CRE's adjustment to the preferred alternative is the primary purpose of AMP core monitoring.

Rather than include monitoring of preferred alternative performance in multiple MOs and INs, the suggestion was made to clarify this primary purpose of the AMP with appropriate statements in the **Introduction** to the Strategic Plan.

Proposal

The following statement is proposed for inclusion as the first bulleted item on page 2 of the draft Strategic Plan (8/17/01 ver.) under the section heading "**Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program Defined.**"

- **The purpose of the AMP is to evaluate how well the selected alternative meets the resource management objectives of the EIS in response to the GCPA.**

A similar statement may be appropriate in the summary paragraph on page 9.