

## **FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS POSITION REGARDING GCMRC PROPOSED FLOWS**

The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) is the only national and international organization dedicated to fly fishing. Arizona Clubs affiliated with FFF are Arizona Flycasters of Phoenix, Desert Fly Casters of Mesa, Northern Arizona Flycasters of Flagstaff and White Mountain Flycasters of Pinetop. Combined membership is approximately 320 members.

Native fish are a high priority with FFF and we are heavily involved in their reintroduction, maintenance and management. While most efforts involve sport fish we also support non sport fish species. Therein lays our dilemma concerning GCMRC proposed Glen Canyon Dam experimental flows in 2002 and 2003.

While FFF members from all over the United States and many foreign countries fish Lees Ferry and consider it a premier fishery we also sympathize with the plight of the Humpback Chubs.

FFF recognizes GCMRC's legal obligation and our moral obligation to protect Humpbacks. We also recognize the existing Lees Ferry Reach habitat does not adequately support the present trout population. Based on previous experimental flows dating back to 1990 which resulted in a four fold increase in the Lees Ferry Reach trout population and severely degraded trout habitat while reducing HBC populations at the Little Colorado River from over 8,000 to 2,000, we are not completely convinced the proposed flows will achieve desired results, although action to reverse all three conditions is essential.

Recent changes included in Version 3.0 and recommended changes by the Experimental Flow Ad Hoc Committee have eased previous fears of stranding large numbers of adult trout. However, experimental flows are not the final answer to the problems and at best are only temporary. GCMRC should consider more permanent solutions such as:

1. Improve LCR habitat to support the required numbers of HBC's to prevent extinction and not rely on Colorado River populations.
2. Study predation by other fish on HBC and develop methods to reduce their impact.
3. Reduce numbers of trout at the LCR without devastating the Lees Ferry fishery.

The Federation of Fly Fishers wishes you every success.

Respectfully Submitted

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