

**From:** Linda Whetton

**To:** Begay, Steven; Broscheid, Bob; Bullets, Charley; Burman, Brenda; Caan, George; Groseclose, Jay; Jackson Kelly, Loretta; James, Leslie; Kuwanwisiwma, Leigh; Martin, Steve; Orton, Mary; Potochnik, Andre; Rampton, Ted; Ramsey, Nikolai; Sabo, David; Seaholm, Randolph; Shields, John; Spiller, Sam; Steffen, Mark; Stevens, Larry; Strong, Dennis; Warren, Brad; Werner, Bill; Zimmerman, Gerald

**Date:** 1/15/2008 11:10:47 AM

**Subject:** DOI Response Letter

Ms. Brenda Burman requested the attached memorandum be distributed to all AMWG and TWG members/alternates. This is the Department's response to the AMWG recommendations made at the August 29-30, 2007, meeting.

cc: Amy Heuslein / Garry Cantley (via fax @ 602-379-3833)

**cc:** Alpine, Andrea; Balsom, Janet; Barger, Mary; Barrett, Clifford; Barrett, Clifford; Beard, Chris; Burke, Kelly; Capron, Shane; Christensen, Kerry; Cutler, Christopher; Damp, Jonathan; Davis, William E.; Dongoske, Kurt; English, Jeff; Fairley, Helen; Garrett, L. David; Hamill, John; Harris, Christopher; Henderson, Norm; Hower, Jonne; Johnson, Rick; Kaplinski, Matt; Kincaid, Chris; King, Robert; Kite, John; Knowles, Glen W.; Kubly, Dennis; mandersen@usgs.gov; McMullen, Ken; Melis, Ted; Miller, Anthony; nbryant@usgs.gov; O'Brien, John; Ostler, Don; Palmer, S. Clayton; Persons, Bill; Peterson, Randall; Rogers, Roland; Skrzynski, LeAnn; smankiller; Steffen, Tim; Yeatts, Michael



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



JAN 15 2008

To: Members and Alternates  
Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group

From: Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett *P J S*

Subject: Response to Adaptive Management Work Group Recommendations

The Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) last met August 29–30, 2007. At that meeting, AMWG members and alternates made four recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior. These recommendations have been considered by the appropriate Departmental officials. The following provides responses on behalf of the Secretary to those recommendations:

*AMWG Recommendation 1:* The Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) recommends approval of the July 30, 2007 draft of the Monitoring and Research Plan (MRP) to the Secretary of the Interior with the understanding that it will be revised to reflect the results of the Long-Term Experimental Plan Environmental Impact Statement once it is finalized, and with the following amendments:

- On page 9: Replace, “In the FY 2007-2011 period, Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) anticipates two additional Beach/Habitat Building Flow (BHBF) tests,” with, “For budgeting purposes, in the FY 2007-2011 period, GCMRC anticipates two additional BHBF tests.”
- On page 52: MRP language will be changed to clarify that “replication of the 2004 BHBF” refers only to that portion of the hydrograph used in the 2004 experiment consisting of the rising limb, peak, and recession.

**DOI Response 1:** Approved. The Department directs Reclamation and GCMRC to continue budgeting approximately \$500,000 a year for the experimental fund in anticipation of conducting either high-flow tests individually or as part of experiments associated with a potential Long Term Experimental Plan. Details regarding potential future approaches to high-flow testing are being considered through the compliance processes now underway.

*AMWG Recommendation 2:* AMWG establishes the BHBF Policy Issues Ad Hoc Group to identify non-technical issues with regard to BHBFs (beginning with the list generated by the GCMRC for presentation to the AMWG at its August 2007 meeting), and make recommendations to the AMWG at its next meeting with regard to how to address those issues. For information sharing purposes, the AMWG invites a representative from each of GCMRC and the Technical Work Group (TWG) to attend meetings of this Ad Hoc Group (AHG).

**DOI Response 2:** The Department recognizes the AMWG's desire to establish an additional AD Hoc group. To expedite this process, the Ad Hoc Group should evaluate and address concerns of the participating AMWG Ad Hoc members. In the event that the work of the Ad Hoc Group is presented as a recommendation to the Secretary, the Department will review and analyze any such recommendation.

*AMWG Recommendation 3:* The AMWG recommends that the Secretary of the Interior approve both the continued deployment and maintenance of the Phase I public outreach campaign products (web site, displays, fact sheets) and the Phase II public outreach campaign that includes development of additional outreach materials, media support, public education, and events development or participation.

**DOI Response 3:** Approved.

*AMWG Recommendation 4:* AMWG recommends that the Secretary of the Interior approve the FY08 Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program workplan and budget in the amount of \$9,438,256 (details attached), and that WY08 [Water Year 2008] be initiated with a Modified Low Fluctuating Flow hydrograph, with the possibility of a recommendation this fall for a WY08 BHBF, with the following changes:

- [1] Add a note on the compliance line of the Bureau of Reclamation budget that facilitation for the Desired Future Conditions AHG will be supported from this line.
- [2] Direct the Cultural Resources Ad Hoc Group to review the GCMRC Cultural Resources FY08 Budget.
- [3] Add \$100,000 for the Conceptual Model project described on page 194 of the workplan.
- [4] Add [an additional] \$17,500 to the foodbase study per the recommendation from GCMRC [as described in pages 43-48 of the workplan].
- [5] Add \$100,000 toward a synthesis of the data from the 2000 Low Steady Summer Flows experiment, including economic data.
- [6] These additions will be funded first from the FY07 carryover, which is expected to be \$200,000, and if needed, from the experimental fund, in an amount that will not exceed \$60,000.

**DOI Response 4:** The Department concurs with the AMWG's recommendation regarding the FY08 workplan and budget, including the recommended amendments. With respect to the WY08 hydrograph for Glen Canyon Dam, in addition to this Recommendation from the AMWG, and consistent with AMWG Operating Principles, the Department received a Minority Report from the Grand Canyon Trust, dated September 18, 2007. In this Minority Report the Trust asks that the Secretary not adopt the recommendation of AMWG (or the previous recommendation of the Technical Work Group), and instead immediately adopt Seasonally Adjusted Steady Flows (SASF) in 2008, thus rejecting the AMWG-recommended Modified Low Steady Flow (MLFF)-based hydrograph. During the discussion of the proposed recommendation by the AMWG a number of important observations were made regarding the current – and improving – status of the endangered Humpback Chub, the need for a better understanding of the overall scientific

strategy that a flow program could be integrated into, and the outstanding need for a better scientific synthesis of the results regarding any beneficial or adverse long-term impacts of the previous WY 2000 SASF experiment. The Department notes that an appropriate mechanism to further develop such an integrated approach to continued adaptation for this aspect of the AMP is through the ongoing development of the Long-Term Experimental Plan. The Department has chosen to initiate WY08 with a MLFF-based hydrograph, and will make appropriate determinations for Glen Canyon operations through the development and issuance of the AOP. The Department will give full and appropriate consideration to the AMWG recommendation, as well as the GCT Minority Report, as it finalizes the FY08 hydrograph for the remainder of the water year. Also, consistent with this recommendation, the Department is continuing efforts to prepare a robust science plan for a potential WY08 high-flow experiment.

Additionally, the Department directs the Bureau of Reclamation to allocate approximately \$8,000 from its portion of the FY08 AMP budget to support facilitation for the Desired Future Conditions AHG. The Department also understands the GCMRC will review its FY08 Cultural Resources Budget with the Cultural Resources Ad Hoc Group.

Moreover, the Department concurs with the AMWG recommendation to add \$100,000 for the Conceptual Model project described the FY08 workplan, and additionally agrees to add \$17,500 to the foodbase study as proposed to the revised FY08 workplan.

Regarding appropriated funding toward a synthesis of the data from the 2000 Low Steady Summer Flows experiment, the Department directs GCMRC to develop a project description for this recommendation and to move forward with accomplishing this synthesis.

Finally, the Department approves the AMWG recommendation to fund these additions from the FY07 carryover, and if needed, from the experimental fund in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

cc: Brenda Burman, Secretary's Designee  
 Larry Walkoviak, Alternate Secretary's Designee  
 Jim Cason, Acting Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget  
 David Verhey, Acting Assistant Secretary – Fish and Wildlife and Parks  
 Carl Artman, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs  
 Kameran Onley, Assistant Deputy Secretary  
 Dale Hall, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Mary Bomar, Director, National Park Service  
 Robert Johnson, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation  
 Mark Myers, Director, U.S. Geological Survey  
 John Hamill, Chief, Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center  
 Kurt Dongoske, Chair, Technical Work Group  
 Dave Garrett, Chair, Science Advisors  
 Mary Orton, Facilitator, Adaptive Management Work Group  
 Technical Work Group Members: (See list below)  
 Kurt Dongoske            William Davis            Scott Rogers  
 Dennis Kubly            Norm Henderson            Jeff English  
 Mary Barger            Ken McMullen  
 Kerry Christensen            Shane Capron

**AMWG MEMBERS**

Brenda Burman  
Larry Walkoviak  
Steven Begay  
Bob Broschied  
Charley Bullets  
George Caan  
Jay Groseclose  
Amy Heuslein  
Loretta Jackson-Kelly  
Leslie James  
Leigh Kuwanwisiwma  
Steve Martin  
Andre Potochnik  
Ted Rampton  
Nikolai Ramsey  
Dave Sabo  
John Shields  
Sam Spiller  
Mark Steffan  
Larry Stevens  
Dennis Strong  
Brad Warren  
Bill Werner  
Gerald Zimmerman  
Pueblo of Zuni

**AMWG ALTERNATES**

Jan Balsom  
Clifford Barrett  
Garry Cantley  
Jonathan Damp  
Christopher Harris  
Rick Johnson  
Robert King  
Glen Knowles  
John O'Brien  
Anthony Miller  
Don Ostler  
S. Clayton Palmer  
Bill Persons  
Randall Peterson  
D. Randolph Seaholm  
LeAnn Skrzynski  
Tim Steffen  
Michael Yeatts