Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Agenda Item Information
February 25-26, 2015

Agenda Item
The Stakeholder’s Perspective – The National Parks Conservation Association

Action Requested
☑ Information item only

Presenter
Dave Nimkin, Senior Director of the Southwest Region, National Parks Conservation Association

Previous Action Taken
N/A

Relevant Science
N/A

Background Information

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is an independent, nonpartisan voice working to address major threats facing the National Park System. NPCA was established in 1919, just three years after the National Park Service. Stephen Mather, the first director of the Park Service, was one of our founders. He felt very strongly that the national parks would need an independent voice—outside the political system—to ensure these places remained unimpaired for future generations. Now, nearly one hundred years later, NPCA has more than 875,000 members and supporters. In addition to our LEED-certified national headquarters in Washington, D.C., NPCA has 24 regional and field offices around the country.

The Southwest office—covering Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah—includes an astounding wealth of 73 National Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites, and Trails. This vast region is a tribute to nature’s ability to sculpt the desert landscape; rivers, caves, canyons, and dunes are some of the dazzling features in our parks. From the majesty of Rocky Mountain National Park to the ancient ruins of Chaco Canyon, the Southwest Region offers countless opportunities to hike, raft, explore and contemplate.

NPCA works with many different stakeholders and interested parties to support protection of these remarkable places, and also to encourage expansions and development of new parks that continue to help interpret our heritage and preserve our most iconic landscapes. Our work engages a diverse constituency of advocates in efforts to protect parks from adjacent energy development, air quality impacts, water management choices, habitat loss, invasive species, protection of night skies and natural soundscapes. We also advocate for sufficient funding support for a park system that attracts over 300 million visitors annually.
National Parks Conservation Association

Mission: “To enhance and protect America’s national parks for present and future generations.”
National Parks: America’s Best Idea

“A visit inspires love of country; begets contentment; engenders pride of possession; contains the antidote for national restlessness.... He is a better citizen with a keener appreciation of the privilege of living here who has toured the national parks.” –Stephen Mather, Former NPS Director
Congress creates the National Park Service, and prescribes fundamental purpose: “to conserve the scenery, and natural and historic objects and wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same . . . as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”
National Parks Conservation Association

- Founded in 1919
- 11 Regional Offices and 23 field offices
- Over 1,000,000 members and supporters
Every $1 of federal investment in our national parks creates $4 of economic value to the public.
Economic Impacts of Parks (2013 Data from USGS/NPS Report)

Total National Park Visitors Spending (in millions of dollars)

- AZ 773.9
- CO 330.5
- NM 83.2
- UT 596.5

Total $1.8 billion

Total visitor spending of National Park Visitors in US: $14.6 billion
NPCA Southwest Region

68 of America’s 407 National Park Units
Southwest Region: Priority Issues

- Air Quality
- Energy Development
- New Parks
- Parks As Larger Landscapes (Canyonlands)
- Grand Canyon
Air Quality
Energy Development
New Parks

- Valles Caldera
New Parks

- Manhattan Project
Parks as Larger Landscapes

Canyonlands National Park
Grand Canyon

- Development Pressures
- Overflights
- Infrastructure
- Uranium
- Funding / Concessions
Colorado River Basin
NPCA: Why We Serve on AMWG

• Protect the Grand Canyon River System
• Encourage management choices that affect entire CO River Basin
• Collaboration with others
• Ecological and Recreational Values
Thank You / Questions?

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