



Expanded Non-Native Aquatic Species Management Plan Environmental Assessment

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Grand Canyon National Park
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Intermountain Region



Expanded Non-Native Aquatic Species Management Plan below Glen Canyon Dam

AWMG Presentation

August 2018

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Expanded Non-Native Aquatic Species Management Plan Environmental Assessment



Background

The goal of this EA is to consider new tools in addition to the LTEMP and CFMP to be ready for, and control if needed, non-native fish and other aquatic organisms to protect native fish in Glen and Grand Canyon and recreational trout fishery in Lees Ferry.

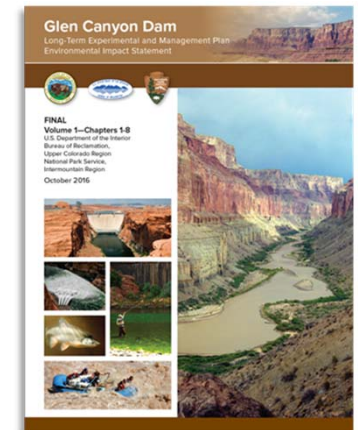
- Increases in potentially harmful non-native species (such as Green Sunfish and Brown Trout) have been documented since 2013.
- Other fish such as walleye, striped bass, and smallmouth bass are caught in the river below the dam every year

Where do they come from?

1. Pass through Glen Canyon Dam
2. Swim up from Lake Mead into Grand Canyon
3. Some species stocked historically or were in river before dams
4. New weeds, mussels, and bait from river users and boats
5. Swim down tributaries that originate outside the parks



CFMP



LTEMP



Changes to the Proposed Action Alternative in response to comments

Threat ranking to focus on what we are trying to protect

- Laws and NPS policies direct us to protect native and endangered species.
- Maintaining a quality recreational rainbow trout fishery in the Glen Canyon Reach
- Actions tied to ranking of non-native species by threat classes

Balancing major concerns from Cooperators, Tribes and Public

- incidental effects to rainbow trout fishery - restrictions
- protecting the endangered fish – keeping flexible tools
- Tribes concerns about minimizing the taking of life

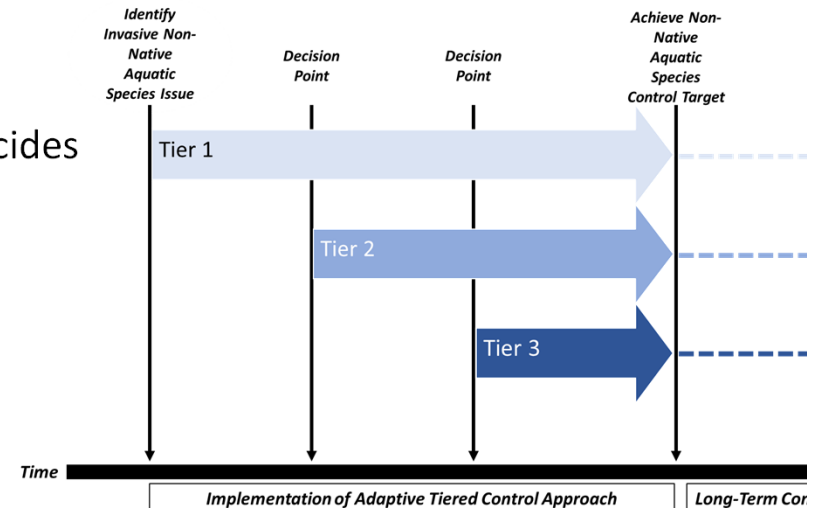




Adaptive Tiered Approach to Non-Native Control

Control actions applied stepwise according to tiers

- Tier 1 Actions
 - Focuses on low mortality approaches with beneficial use to address Taking of Life concerns
- Tier 2 Actions
 - Applied only after Tier 1 actions are determined to be ineffective
 - May use some non-lethal and some lethal removal for short periods
 - Includes some habitat alteration in limited habitats or areas
- Tier 3 & 4 Actions
 - “Last resorts” applied only after lower tiers ineffective
 - May include modifications of habitat or registered piscicides
 - Beneficial use is the mitigation for lethal removal





Action Alternative – Brown Trout in Glen Canyon NRA

Tier 1 – Incentivized Harvest:

Three main approaches:

1. Guided Fishing Trips for Tribal Youth and Members
 2. Payment system to encourage catch and keep
 3. Tournaments focusing on removing brown trout
- Encourages anglers to fish for and remove the brown trout rather than government removal actions
 - Encourages education for respectful approach to removing and utilizing the fish
 - Allows for outdoor trips for Tribal Youth and Members and At-Risk segments of Tribes





Action Alternative – Brown Trout in Glen Canyon NRA

1. Guided Fishing Trips for Tribal Youth and Members
 - Boats to take out Tribal Youth and Members on trips
 - Incentives to fishing guides to lead trips & help remove brown trout
 - Goal of removing brown trout with respectful approach, while providing opportunities to Tribes to select those assigned to fish





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Action Alternative – Brown Trout in Glen Canyon NRA

- Restoration Rewards
 - Modestly priced to encourage respectful catch and keep
 - Example – Lake Roosevelt program administered by Colville Tribes
 - Partnership between Tribes, NPS and Bonneville Power
 - \$10 per northern pike caught – good success in first 2 years
 - Encourages eating the fish
 - Fish heads put in freezer at cleaning station for tracking
 - Monthly payments to fishermen
 - Mostly local anglers



WANTED Northern Pike Heads- \$10 Reward



Attention Anglers:

Help protect Lake Roosevelt from Invasive Northern Pike!

Northern Pike pose significant threats to the Columbia River fisheries including predation on native and important game fish species, introductions of parasites and disease, and competition with other species for food resources.

Drop off locations located at the Noisy Water Gas Station and near the Park Service Kettle Falls fish cleaning station

Fill out the label with: Name, address, phone number, email, date of capture, and general location of capture
(Pike from Lake Roosevelt and the Kettle River only)

Place the head and the label in the bag and deposit into the freezer
*A \$10 Reward will be mailed to you



Questions:
Holly McLellan
Colville Confederated Tribes
(509) 209-2415

Allow 2-3 weeks for processing.
\$10,000 to be awarded, \$200,000 per person.
Funding provided by the Colville Confederated Tribes



Changes in response to comments, meetings and consultations

- Purpose and Need and Introductory Statements
 - Minor grammatical changes to purpose and need
 - Better explaining in plain English why this plan is needed
 - Included statements of why this project will not affect water delivery
- List of Non-Native Species
 - Made some additions/edits/changes in response to comments
 - Intended to be flexible/adjustable over time



Changes in response to comments, meetings and consultations

- Triggers

- Several comments regarding triggers and modeling basis, some wanting triggers higher, others lower, some wanting more complicated and restrictive, some wanting simpler and more flexible
- Have based brown trout triggers as much as possible on the threat to humpback chub and to land in a very defensible, moderately conservative range backed up by modeling
- Trigger for mechanical removal ties to the USGS Runge et al. (2018) publication
- Triggers may be adjusted annually in response to new modeling or information and will be discussed with TWG for any adjustments



Changes in response to comments, meetings and consultations

- Incentivized Harvest

- Added details on guided harvest trips for Tribal youth and Tribal members based on consultations, and discussed development of educational materials with a focus on respectful harvest.
- Will not use the term ‘bounty’ but rather ‘restoration reward’
- Meetings with AGFD and GCMRC are leading to careful pricing structure for the restoration reward – will remain adaptable



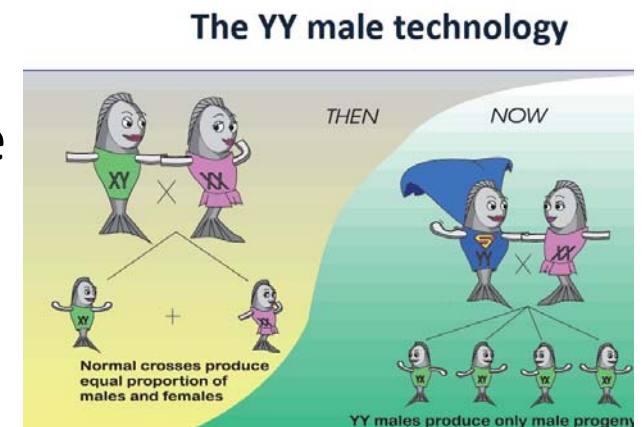


Changes in response to comments, meetings and consultations

- YY males

- A number of concerns were expressed in comments, meetings and tribal consultations
- Pulled the YY male actions out of the tiered structure and described as a separate experimental possibility
- Added language about a review of the science (studies and modeling) after brood stock becomes available (likely between 5-10 years).

Added language specifically stating that we will bring this review before the AMWG and TWG at that time for discussion and we would consider whether any additional planning/consultation is needed





Changes in response to comments, meetings and consultations

- Chemical treatments

- A number of concerns were expressed in comments, some calling for more restrictions to avoid on-going use, some calling for more flexibility to respond to threats
- Tailored to stay in a cautious and conservative range that uses chemical treatments strategically
- Added language to address situations where chemical treatment is being used repeatedly and annually to set a point at which new planning and compliance would be considered



Changes in response to comments, meetings and consultations

- Live transport/relocation

- During Tribal consultations with Zuni and Hopi we discussed this possibility and our understanding is that these Tribes would be in support of this
- Comments from AGFD and USFWS have raised major biological concerns about this that we are discussing further
- Considering limiting this to balance concerns of tribes and agencies. May only address green sunfish which occur above and below Glen Canyon Dam





Changes in response to comments, meetings and consultations

- Monitoring

- A number of comments asking for more details about what monitoring is needed in this plan and details about what metrics would be used
- Added an appendix with specifics of monitoring

- Funding

- Many questions about what funding sources would be used for actions
- Funding sources not required in a NEPA document
- Searching within NPS - budget issues are difficult - open to suggestions

- Coordination with AGFD and Consultation with Tribes

- We are still meeting with AGFD to discuss a few more issues for cooperative fishery management
- Planning additional consultation with Tribes for 106 to discuss effects determinations and potential mitigations



Next Steps/Timeline

- We are currently finalizing the EA – expect it to be 75 pages in length for main plan but may have some larger appendices.
- Public EA likely to be released between September 5-11 for a 30 day review.
- Public open houses:
 - Webinar – Thursday September 20, time TBD
 - Page – Tuesday September 25, 6-8 at the Park HQ
 - Flagstaff – Wednesday September 26, 6-8 at the Aquaplex
 - Phoenix – Thursday September 27, 6-8 at the AGFD building
- Consultation with tribes – scheduling
- After public comments – errata, 106 and USFWS consultations