

Meeting Summary: Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG)

Dates: August 20–21, 2025

Location: Flagstaff, AZ & Virtual

Note: Meeting Summary was produced by AI and subject to errors.

Day 1 – August 20, 2025

1) Welcome and Administrative

Wayne Pullan delivered a reflective and forward-looking opening statement. He began by recalling the previous year's AMWG meeting on the South Rim, describing it as a memorable and collaborative experience, particularly the time spent with tribal representatives. He emphasized the cultural and spiritual significance of the Grand Canyon and the importance of the work AMWG does to protect it.

Pullan acknowledged the ongoing Dragon Bravo Fire on the North Rim and expressed solidarity with the National Park Service and affected communities. He highlighted the fire's impact not only on the landscape but also on the people who work and live in the area.

He then reviewed key accomplishments since the last meeting:

The successful completion of the 12-Mile Slough project, which has already shown positive results in reducing water temperatures.

The implementation of 2024 Cool Mix Flows, which prevented recruitment of smallmouth bass from the 2024 cohort. He noted this success bought time to develop mid- and long-term strategies for managing nonnative species.

He acknowledged the trade-offs with hydropower, thanking Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (CREDA), and power users for their cooperation in mitigating impacts.

Pullan also addressed the fiscal outlook, noting that the FY26 budget proposals from both the President and the House indicated potential cuts to the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP). He stressed the need to reassess spending and focus on meeting established metrics and milestones. He mentioned that Reclamation had modeled 5%, 10%, and 15% budget reduction scenarios and emphasized the importance of making difficult but strategic choices if cuts are realized.

He concluded by reaffirming his belief in the AMWG process and the value of public participation in federal advisory committees. He framed the group's mission as protecting one of the world's most extraordinary natural and cultural wonders—the Grand Canyon—and expressed confidence in the group's ability to meet current and future challenges.

Following Pullan's remarks, Becky Bryant reviewed meeting logistics, including restroom locations, hybrid participation protocols, and public comment procedures. She emphasized the importance of clear communication for the benefit of note-takers and the official meeting record.

The session then transitioned to introductions from AMWG members, alternates, and agency representatives, both in-person and online. A quorum was confirmed, and the meeting proceeded to the next agenda item.

Scott Cameron addressed the AMWG early in the meeting, expressing appreciation for the group's work and emphasizing the importance of its recommendations to the Department of the Interior. He acknowledged the critical leadership role that AMWG plays in advising on Glen Canyon Dam operations and compliance with the Grand Canyon Protection Act.

Cameron praised AMWG as one of the most active and successful federal advisory committees, particularly within the Bureau of Reclamation and possibly across the Department. He highlighted the group's collaborative approach to analyzing complex issues and developing science-based, policy-relevant recommendations—especially valuable given the diverse and often competing interests in the Colorado River Basin.

He noted that the Department had implemented the Long Term Experimental and Monitoring Plan (LTEMP) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Cool Mix Alternative based largely on AMWG's input, despite differing public opinions. This, he said, demonstrated the Department's trust in AMWG's guidance.

Cameron also addressed broader water management challenges, particularly the post-2026 planning process. He emphasized the urgency of developing a new water management regime for the Colorado River, as several key agreements expire in 2026. He acknowledged the strained hydrology and the need for strategies to reduce consumption, facilitate water transfers, and protect the health of the river.

Despite the challenges, Cameron expressed cautious optimism that the seven basin states would reach a new agreement. He stressed the importance of balancing urban, agricultural, and environmental needs, and reiterated that the Department is paying close attention to AMWG's work.

In response to questions from AMWG members:

He acknowledged the ongoing budget uncertainty and staffing reductions across DOI agencies.

He noted that while the President's budget often proposes lower funding levels, Congress frequently appropriates more.

He encouraged agency leaders to communicate if staffing reductions threaten priority programs.

He reaffirmed that the Department is working to fill critical vacancies and maintain capacity for water delivery, hydropower generation, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance.

Cameron concluded by thanking the group again and affirming that the Department values and relies on AMWG's contributions.

2) NPS North Rim Fire

The National Park Service (NPS) provided a detailed update on the Dragon Bravo Fire, which had severely impacted the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Superintendent Ed Keable described the fire as catastrophic, both ecologically and emotionally, noting that it had destroyed over 100 structures, including the historic North Rim Lodge, residences, and critical infrastructure like the water treatment plant. The fire's behavior was unprecedented, burning not only across the Kaibab Plateau but also down into the canyon itself, affecting watersheds that drain into the Colorado River. Jan Balsam added that the fire's effects on tributaries such as **Shinumo**, Bright Angel, and Crystal Creeks could lead to flash flooding, sediment transport, and water quality degradation, potentially impacting native fish populations like the humpback chub. The Park Service is working with the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team to assess damage and install monitoring systems in key drainages. Tribal engagement is central to the recovery process, with ceremonies and consultations already underway. The Department of the Interior and Arizona's congressional delegation have committed to rebuilding the North Rim, with plans to incorporate fire-resilient infrastructure and public input. The fire's long-term ecological and cultural impacts are expected to influence future adaptive management decisions within the GCDAMP.

3) Basin Hydrology and Operations

During the Basin Hydrology and Operations session, Alex Pivarnik and Bryce Mihalovich (BOR), provided a comprehensive update on current and projected hydrologic conditions in the Colorado River Basin. They reported that the 2025 water year runoff was significantly below average, with April–July inflows into Lake Powell at just 41% of average, and the full water year forecast at 50% of average. For 2026, the forecast was slightly more optimistic at 82% of average. Lake Powell was operating at 31% capacity and projected to remain in the Mid-Elevation Release Tier, with a planned release of 7.48 million acre-feet.

The presenters emphasized the continued implementation of Cool Mix Flows, which began on August 3, 2025, to manage downstream water temperatures and suppress smallmouth bass spawning. These flows are guided by real-time temperature monitoring at River Mile 30, with

adjustments made weekly. Bryce Mihalovich noted that while current release temperatures were around 15°C, they were slightly above the target at River Mile 30, prompting increased bypass releases to maintain compliance with the 15.5°C threshold.

The team also discussed the potential for triggering Drought Response Operations (DROA) if Lake Powell's elevation drops below 3,500 feet. They explained that such a scenario could lead to reduced winter releases to preserve spring elevations, which may affect the feasibility of a fall High Flow Experiment (HFE). Additionally, they highlighted the importance of balancing ecological goals with hydropower impacts, noting that bypass flows are managed to avoid peak power demand hours. The session concluded with a reminder that the system's ability to absorb another dry year is limited, and that continued adaptive management will be essential.

4) LTEMP Experiments Updates

During the LTEMP Experiments Updates session, Bill Stewart from Reclamation provided a comprehensive overview of the ongoing and planned experimental flow operations under the LTEMP. He began by outlining the suite of experiments authorized under LTEMP, including High Flow Experiments (HFEs), bug flows, trout management flows, low summer steady flows, and smallmouth bass suppression flows. Stewart emphasized that the goal of these experiments is to balance scientific learning with operational flexibility, allowing for adaptive management based on current conditions.

A major focus of the update was the implementation of Cool Mix Flows in 2025, which began on August 3. These flows are designed to suppress smallmouth bass spawning by maintaining downstream water temperatures below 15.5°C at River Mile 30. The Planning and Implementation (P&I) Team, composed of representatives from Department agencies, Basin States, and other stakeholders, recommended this approach based on modeling and temperature forecasts. Real-time monitoring, including a newly activated gauge at River Mile 30, is being used to guide weekly flow adjustments. Stewart noted that the 2024 Cool Mix Flows were successful in preventing recruitment of smallmouth bass, and similar outcomes are expected in 2025.

Stewart also discussed the potential for a HFE in 2025. Sediment mass balance data from Marble Canyon indicate that conditions may meet the trigger threshold for an HFE. The P&I Team is actively monitoring sediment inputs, particularly from the Paria River, and will continue to assess whether an HFE is warranted. If implemented, the HFE would likely occur in November, depending on maintenance schedules and hydrologic conditions. The team is also considering the implications of reduced winter releases under Drought Response Operations (DROA), which could limit the volume available for an HFE.

Throughout the presentation, Stewart emphasized the importance of adaptive management and collaboration. He acknowledged the trade-offs involved in experimental flows, particularly their impacts on hydropower, but highlighted the program's commitment to science-based decision-

making. The session concluded with a call for continued engagement from stakeholders and a reminder that the success of LTEMP experiments depends on timely data, interagency coordination, and flexibility in response to changing conditions.

5) LTEMP Monitoring Metrics

During the LTEMP Monitoring Metrics session, the AMWG received an update on the development and finalization of performance metrics designed to evaluate progress toward the goals of the LTEMP. The presentation emphasized that these metrics are intended to be quantifiable, goal-oriented, actionable, and technically feasible. They are structured to align with the 11 resource goals outlined in LTEMP, which include objectives related to native fish (such as humpback chub), hydropower, sediment, cultural resources, tribal perspectives, and riparian vegetation.

The metrics were developed collaboratively with input from the Technical Work Group (TWG), Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC), and other stakeholders. They are designed to support adaptive management by providing a clear framework for evaluating the effectiveness of experimental flows and other management actions. The presenters noted that the metrics will be integrated into the GCDAMP Annual Report and will serve as a foundation for the upcoming 10-year LTEMP program evaluation and future planning efforts, including LTEMP 2.0.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of balancing comprehensiveness with clarity. While the metrics aim to capture the complexity of the ecosystem and management objectives, the team worked to avoid redundancy and ensure that each metric provides meaningful, interpretable information. The session concluded with general support for the metrics and recognition of their value in guiding future decision-making and program accountability.

6) GCDAMP FY26 Work Plan

The discussion of the GCDAMP FY26 Work Plan focused heavily on the challenges of planning under significant budget uncertainty. The Technical Work Group (TWG) and Budget Ad Hoc Group (BAHG) were tasked with developing a strategy to address potential funding reductions, given indications from the President's and House budget proposals that cuts to the GCDAMP were likely. In response, the TWG and BAHG developed three budget reduction scenarios—5%, 10%, and 15%—to guide decision-making if cuts were imposed. These scenarios were informed by stakeholder surveys and Department agency rankings, which were synthesized into a prioritization framework.

Mark Anderson (GCMRC) and Bill Stewart (Reclamation) presented detailed breakdowns of how each reduction level would affect specific project elements. At the 5% level, impacts were relatively minor and could be absorbed through staffing vacancies and minor program adjustments. However, at 10% and especially 15%, the cuts would significantly affect science, monitoring, and compliance capacity. For example, reductions at these levels would delay or

eliminate invertebrate sampling, reduce archaeological site monitoring, pause vegetation modeling, and threaten the ability to report on key LTEMP performance metrics. The experimental fund, which supports adaptive management experiments like Cool Mix Flows and HFEs, would also be significantly reduced, raising concerns about the program's ability to respond to emerging ecological challenges.

Despite these challenges, the TWG ultimately recommended no changes to the FY26 budget as adopted in the FY25–27 Triennial Work Plan. However, they provided a detailed prioritization document to guide Reclamation and GCMRC in the event that cuts are mandated. This document was not intended as an endorsement of reductions but rather as a responsible contingency plan. The AMWG discussed the implications of the proposed cuts at length, with many members expressing concern that repeated or deep reductions would erode the program's scientific integrity and long-term effectiveness. Ultimately, AMWG approved a motion endorsing the TWG's prioritization framework and recommending full funding for FY26 to the Secretary of the Interior. The motion emphasized the importance of preserving science, compliance, and tribal engagement, and acknowledged the extensive work done by the TWG and BAHG to prepare for multiple budget scenarios.

7) Technical Work Group Chair Report

During the Technical Work Group (TWG) Chair Report, Seth Shanahan provided a detailed overview of the TWG's efforts in developing the FY26 budget prioritization framework. He began by acknowledging the extraordinary challenges posed by the uncertainty surrounding the FY26 federal budget and the potential for significant funding reductions. Shanahan emphasized that the TWG was tasked with preparing for a range of possible outcomes, including 5%, 10%, and 15% budget cuts, despite not knowing the final appropriations level. He praised the collaborative work of the BAHG, GCMRC, Reclamation, and TWG members, noting that the process required multiple meetings, scenario modeling, and difficult trade-off discussions.

Shanahan clarified that the prioritization framework developed by the TWG was not an endorsement of budget cuts but a responsible contingency plan. He stressed that the TWG's recommendation was to maintain full funding for FY26 as outlined in the Triennial Work Plan, but that the prioritization document would serve as guidance if cuts were imposed. He also highlighted the importance of preserving core scientific and compliance functions, particularly those related to endangered species, cultural resources, and adaptive management experiments.

In closing, Shanahan reflected on the broader implications of repeated budget reductions. He warned that while the program might be able to absorb a single year of cuts, sustained reductions over multiple years would have compounding effects, eroding the program's scientific integrity and its ability to meet legal and ecological objectives. He encouraged AMWG members to consider the long-term consequences of underfunding and to advocate for the resources necessary to maintain the program's effectiveness.

Day 2 – August 21, 2025

8) Welcome and Administrative

In his opening remarks, Pullan offered a philosophical reflection on the group's mission, referencing nature writer Robert Macfarlane and philosopher Martin Heidegger. He spoke about the concept of restoring the "autonomous liveliness" of the Colorado River, which he described as a central purpose of the AMWG's work. He emphasized that while Glen Canyon Dam provides many benefits, the group's responsibility is to ensure that the river retains its ecological and cultural vitality. Pullan also noted that the agenda had been revised to allow more time for discussion of the FY26 budget recommendation and that the item on Colorado pikeminnow had been postponed due to uncertainties following the North Rim fire. The session concluded with a roll call and confirmation of a quorum, followed by introductions from AMWG members, alternates, and agency representatives.

9) Tribal liaison Update

The update highlighted the importance of tribal engagement in the wake of the Dragon Bravo Fire. The Park Service is working closely with affiliated tribes to support cultural and spiritual recovery. A tribal-led gathering was scheduled for the following week to honor the land and those affected by the fire. The Park committed to ongoing engagement with tribes throughout the recovery and rebuilding process, recognizing the deep cultural connections many tribes have to the North Rim and the Grand Canyon.

10) Hopi Perspective

During the Hopi Perspective presentation, Stewart Koyiyumptewa of the Hopi Tribe delivered a deeply personal and culturally rich overview of the Hopi people's connection to the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River. He began by introducing himself and his background, including his role as the Hopi Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and his 27 years of service to the tribe. Koyiyumptewa emphasized the spiritual and ancestral significance of the Grand Canyon, which the Hopi refer to as a place of emergence and return after death. He explained that many Hopi clans trace their origins to the Grand Canyon, particularly to a sacred site known as **Sipapuni**, and that the river and surrounding landscape are integral to Hopi cosmology, ceremonies, and identity.

Koyiyumptewa described the Hopi ceremonial calendar, which is based on lunar cycles and includes a wide range of religious observances throughout the year. He highlighted the importance of dry farming, traditional ecological knowledge, and the use of natural resources such as reeds and minerals from the canyon for ceremonial purposes. He also discussed the cultural significance of springs, shrines, and rock writings, noting that these features are not abandoned relics but living parts of the Hopi spiritual landscape. Koyiyumptewa urged respect

for these sites and cautioned against disturbing them, sharing stories of spiritual consequences for those who do.

The presentation also addressed the impacts of modern development and fire on sacred landscapes, including the recent North Rim fire. Koyiyumptewa emphasized the need for tribal consultation and involvement in land management decisions, particularly in post-fire recovery and cultural site protection. He concluded by advocating for greater youth engagement and intergenerational knowledge transfer, stressing that the Hopi way of life is sustained through oral history, ceremony, and a deep relationship with the land. His presentation was met with appreciation and respect from AMWG members, who acknowledged the importance of integrating tribal perspectives into adaptive management.

11) Southern Paiute Consortium Perspective

During the Southern Paiute Consortium Perspective presentation, Daniel Bullets, a member of the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians and director of the Southern Paiute Consortium, shared a heartfelt and culturally grounded overview of the Southern Paiute people's relationship with the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River. He began by introducing himself and his role, emphasizing that the Southern Paiute people have lived on the land since time immemorial. The Grand Canyon, which the Southern Paiutes call “**Duvip**,” meaning “the land with the energy” or “the land with the power,” holds deep spiritual and cultural significance. Bullets described the canyon as a living, sacred place that teaches the people how to live and sustains their language, traditions, and identity.

He shared a traditional Paiute song to open his remarks, explaining that such songs are a way of connecting with the audience and the land. Bullets spoke about the vast traditional territory of the Southern Paiutes, which spans across Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and into California, with the Colorado River running through the heart of it. He emphasized the importance of protecting the land and water not only for the present but for future generations. His presentation highlighted the interconnectedness of all life and the need to respect and preserve the natural and cultural resources of the Grand Canyon. His words served as a powerful reminder of the enduring presence and stewardship of Indigenous peoples in the region and the importance of including tribal voices in adaptive management and decision-making processes.

12) Roles of Hydropower Grid Operations

During the “Roles of Hydropower Grid Operations” session, representatives from the hydropower sector, including Salt River Project (SRP), provided an overview of the critical role Glen Canyon Dam plays in supporting the Western power grid. The presentation emphasized that hydropower is not only a renewable energy source but also a key contributor to grid reliability, particularly during periods of peak demand. Hydropower’s ability to ramp up quickly makes it essential for balancing the variability of solar and wind energy, which are increasingly prevalent

in the energy mix. The speakers noted that as more intermittent renewable resources are added to the grid, the value of hydropower's flexibility and responsiveness will only increase.

The discussion also acknowledged the trade-offs between hydropower operations and ecological or experimental flow needs. For example, Cool Mix Flows, which are designed to suppress smallmouth bass recruitment by releasing cooler water, can reduce hydropower generation efficiency and revenue. Despite these challenges, hydropower stakeholders expressed a willingness to collaborate with the adaptive management program to find balanced solutions that support both energy and environmental goals. The session underscored the importance of continued coordination between power users, federal agencies, and scientists to ensure that Glen Canyon Dam operations meet multiple objectives in a changing energy and hydrologic landscape.

13) Program Evaluation

During the Program Evaluation session, participants discussed the upcoming 10-year review of the GCDAM), which will assess the effectiveness of the LTEM) and guide future planning efforts, including the development of LTEMP 2.0. The evaluation is intended to be a comprehensive, collaborative effort that incorporates both scientific and cultural perspectives. It will examine how well the program has met its resource goals, including those related to hydrology, sediment, native fish, cultural resources, and tribal values.

The discussion emphasized the importance of using the LTEMP monitoring metrics—finalized earlier in the meeting—as a foundation for the evaluation. These metrics will help assess progress toward program goals and identify areas for improvement. The evaluation process is expected to begin in late 2025 with the development of a framework, followed by workshops and stakeholder engagement in 2026, and culminating in a final report by summer 2027.

There was also discussion about the role of the Cultural Resources Ad Hoc Group (CRAHG) in supporting the evaluation, particularly in ensuring that tribal perspectives are meaningfully integrated. Participants stressed the need for early and ongoing tribal involvement, as well as the importance of evaluating not just scientific outcomes but also the program's ability to adapt to changing conditions and stakeholder needs. Overall, the session underscored the value of the 10-year review as an opportunity to reflect on lessons learned and chart a path forward for the next phase of adaptive management.

14) Grand Canyon Youth

During the Grand Canyon Youth (GCY) presentation, Emma from GCY shared the organization's mission and its growing role in the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. GCY is a nonprofit that connects youth to rivers and canyons through immersive, educational expeditions. The organization serves a diverse population of young people, including those from tribal communities, and emphasizes leadership development, environmental stewardship, and cultural understanding. Emma highlighted GCY's partnerships with agencies

such as the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey, which allow youth participants to engage in real-world science and monitoring activities.

GCY has been increasingly involved in collaborative projects that support the goals of GCDAMP. For example, youth have participated in invertebrate sampling and other ecological monitoring efforts, contributing valuable data while gaining hands-on experience. Emma emphasized that these experiences not only benefit the program scientifically but also help cultivate the next generation of conservation leaders. She expressed gratitude for the support GCY has received from AMWG members and encouraged continued collaboration to ensure that youth engagement remains a meaningful part of the program's future. The presentation was well received, with AMWG members acknowledging the importance of youth involvement in fostering long-term stewardship of the Colorado River and Grand Canyon.

15) Nonnative Strategic Plan Action Updates

During the Nonnative Strategic Plan Action Updates session, the AMWG received a comprehensive update on the progress and implementation of actions aimed at managing nonnative fish species, particularly smallmouth bass, in the Colorado River ecosystem. The discussion highlighted the success of recent management interventions, including the modification of the 12-Mile Slough, which has significantly improved water temperature conditions by allowing cooler water to flow through the channel. This modification has been instrumental in reducing suitable habitat for smallmouth bass and other warmwater nonnative species.

The 2024 Cool Mix Flows were also cited as a major success, as no smallmouth bass from the 2024 cohort were detected, indicating that the temperature suppression strategy was effective in preventing spawning and recruitment. The 2025 Cool Mix Flows were implemented again with similar goals, and early indications suggested that they were performing as intended. However, concerns remain about the 2022 cohort of smallmouth bass, which may be reaching reproductive maturity. This presents a potential risk for future recruitment if not adequately managed.

The update emphasized the importance of continued monitoring and adaptive management to stay ahead of nonnative species expansion. It also underscored the need for sustained funding and experimental capacity to support suppression flows and other strategic actions. Overall, the session reinforced the critical role of proactive, science-based interventions in protecting native fish populations and maintaining the ecological integrity of the Grand Canyon River corridor.

16) Stakeholder

During the Stakeholder Updates portion, various stakeholders shared their perspectives on the program's direction, challenges, and recent developments. A recurring theme was concern over the potential impacts of budget reductions on the program's scientific integrity and long-term effectiveness. Several stakeholders emphasized that while the FY26 budget prioritization exercise was a responsible and necessary planning step, it should not be interpreted as an

endorsement of cuts. Instead, they stressed that full funding is essential to maintain the program's ability to meet its legal obligations under the Grand Canyon Protection Act and to continue supporting robust science, compliance, and tribal engagement.

Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of preserving experimental capacity, particularly for Cool Mix Flows and High Flow Experiments, which are critical tools for managing nonnative species and sediment resources. There was strong support for the collaborative nature of the program, with many expressing appreciation for the work of the TWG, BAHG, and agency staff in developing the budget scenarios. However, some stakeholders expressed concern that repeated or deep cuts could erode the program's ability to deliver meaningful results, especially in areas like vegetation management, cultural resource protection, and long-term monitoring.

In addition, stakeholders called for continued transparency and consultation in decision-making, particularly if budget cuts are imposed. They emphasized the need for the Department to recognize the value of the program and to advocate for its funding at the highest levels. Overall, the updates reflected a shared commitment to the program's goals and a desire to ensure its continued success despite fiscal and operational challenges.

17) Federal Agency Updates

During the Federal Agency Updates session, representatives from several federal agencies provided staffing and organizational updates, with a common theme of significant personnel losses due to early retirement and voluntary separation programs. The Bureau of Reclamation reported the departure of key leadership and technical staff, including two deputy regional directors and the tribal liaison. Despite these losses, Reclamation has reassigned responsibilities and filled critical roles emphasizing its commitment to maintaining program continuity and compliance with environmental and cultural mandates.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) reported widespread staffing reductions across its 12 regions, with the Navajo Region alone losing 57 employees. These losses have left some field offices with only one staff member, creating operational challenges. However, BIA is leveraging cross-regional support to fill gaps and continue essential services.

The National Park Service (NPS) also experienced staffing reductions, particularly in regional and Washington offices. Notably, Melissa Trammell, a long-time contributor to the program, retired. Grand Canyon National Park operates at 80% staffing, while Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is at 83%. Despite these reductions, key positions have been filled or reassigned, and the fisheries program at Grand Canyon remains intact, although Glen Canyon's fisheries team has been reduced from eight to two full-time employees.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reported leadership changes and staff losses, including the retirement of regional directors and the departure of key ecological services personnel. The agency is working to realign responsibilities and has brought in new staff to support the program, including a new TWG representative.

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) also reported retirements of key representatives and noted that interim staff have stepped up to maintain participation in the program. Across all agencies, there was a shared message of resilience and adaptation, with staff taking on additional responsibilities to ensure the continued success of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program despite reduced capacity.

18) Public Comment

During the Public Comment session, several speakers expressed strong support for maintaining full funding for the GCDAMP and voiced concerns about the potential impacts of budget cuts. Jen Pelz from the Grand Canyon Trust emphasized that while compliance with the Endangered Species Act and National Historic Preservation Act is important, the program's foundation lies in the Grand Canyon Protection Act, which mandates the protection of the canyon's ecological and cultural resources. She warned that reductions in funding could undermine the program's ability to fulfill this mandate and highlighted the importance of maintaining experimental capacity to support adaptive management.

Lucy Dorado Niche from the Water Society and Policy Lab at Northern Arizona University introduced two initiatives in partnership with the Navajo Nation: a regional landscape analysis of water security and a youth water leadership institute. She emphasized the importance of intergenerational learning and collaboration across tribal and non-tribal communities to address water challenges in the Colorado Plateau.

Overall, public commenters praised the collaborative nature of the program and the extensive work done by the Technical Work Group and Budget Ad Hoc Group. They urged the Department of the Interior to recognize the program's value and to avoid cuts that could jeopardize its long-term effectiveness. The comments reflected a shared concern that budget reductions would erode the scientific foundation and cultural integrity of the program, and a call for continued investment in both ecological stewardship and tribal engagement.

Participants

AMWG Members, Alternates, and Leadership

Wayne Pullan (Acting Secretary's Designee)
Kathleen Callister (Acting DFO)
Katrina Grantz (BOR)
Scott Cameron (Acting ASWS)
Deborah Shirley (BIA)
Heather Whitlaw (FWS)
Jess Newton (FWS)
Julie Carter (AZGFD)
Jakob Maase (Hopi)
Stewart Koyiyumptewa (Hopi)
Ka-Voka Jackson (Hualapai)
Carrie Cannon (Hualapai)
Richard Begay (Navajo Nation)
Erik Stanfield (Navajo Nation)
Matt Rice (American Rivers)
Ben Reeder (GCRG)
Sheri Farag (Salt River Project)

Daniel Bulletts (SPC)
Kristen Johnson (State of Arizona)
Shana Rapoport (State of California)
Rod Buchanan (Trout Unlimited)
Michelle Garrison (State of Colorado)
Sara Price (State of Nevada)
Warren Turkett (State of Nevada)
Christina Noftsker (State of New Mexico)
Amy Haas (State of Utah)
Betsy Morgan (State of Utah)
Charlie Ferrantelli (State of Wyoming)
Mel Fegler (State of Wyoming)
Larry Stevens (GCWC)
Kelly Burke (GCWC)
Jim Strogen (Trout Unlimited)
Leslie James (CREDA)
Ed Keable (NPS)

Other GCDAMP Members and Interested Persons

Aaron Russell	Zac Nelson
Abigail Winrich (NPS-GRCA)	Katherine Behn (GCMRC)
Alex Pivarnik (BOR)	Kathryn Thomas (GCMRC)
Alexandria Popores (NPS)	Emily Pamquist (GCMRC)
Alyxandra Richards	Jan Balsom (NPS)
Amanda Podmore	Katrina Piersel
Andrew Blystra	Ken Mercer (External)
Andrew Schultz (GCMRC)	Kerri Pedersen (BOR)
Anne Castle	Kevin Bulletts (BARA/SPC)
Ann-Marie Bringham, (GCMRC)	Kimberly Dibble (GCMRC)
Anya Metcalfe	Kurt Dongoske (Pueblo of Zuni)
Becki Bryant (BOR)	Kurt Shollenberger (NPS-GRCA)
Benjamin Miller	Jessica Poe (BOR)
Benjamin Simon	Rodney Bailey (WAPA)
Betsy Hedden (BOR)	Laura Tennant (NPS-GRCA)
Rudy Keedah (BIA)	Lauren Tango
Bill Stewart (BOR)	Lorianne J Taitano
Brandon Loomis	Lucas Bair (GCMRC)
Brent Powers (Navajo Nation)	Lynn Hamilton (GCRG)
Brian Healy (GCMRC)	Madeline Kelley
Brian Hines (BOR)	Marc Wicke (SRP)
Bridget Deemer (GCMRC)	Maria Dzul (GCMRC)
Bryce Mihalevich (BOR)	Mariah Giardina (GCMRC)
Buddy Fazio (NPS-GLCA)	Mark Anderson (GCMRC)
Carissa Wilkerson	Matt Kaplinski (GCMRC)
Carmen Kraus	Matt O'Neill (BOR)
Cassandra Reed (NPS)	Matthew Boggie (FWS)
Charles Yackulic (GCMRC)	Andy Peters (River Connectivity System)
Dave Rogowski (AZGFD)	Meredith Hartwell (GCMRC)
Colleen Allen	Michael Beckemeyer
Colleen Cunningham (State of New Mexico)	Michael Fischella
Conor Clancy	Michael Pillow (FWS)
Craig A McGinnis	Michael Squires
Craig Dengel	Nicholas Williams (BOR)
Craig Ellsworth (WAPA)	Nicki Gibney (NPS)
Dale Stahlecker	Noe Santos (BOR)
Danielle Collins (State of Nevada)	Paul Grams (GCMRC)
Dave Wegner	Pilar Rinker (FWS)
David Dean (GCMRC)	Rachel Musil

David Rheinheimer
David Topping (GCMRC)
David Ward (USFWS)
Dean Knuth (Grand Canyon Whitewater)
Deb Williams (USFWS)
Drew Eppehimer (GCMRC)
Emily Brandt
Emily Omana (NPS-GRCA)
Emily Young (State of Arizona)
Eric Balken
Erica Byerley
Erik Skeie (State of Colorado)
Ernest Rheume (BOR)
Gregory Holm (NPS-GRCA)
Gustav Levy (BOR)
Hannah Chambless (NPS-GRCA)
Helen Fairley (GCMRC)
Ian Bishop
Jacob Ohlson (NPS-GLCA)
Jeff Stensrud
Jeffrey J. Woner
Jeremiah Maybee
Jeremy Dodds
Jeremy Hammen (BOR)
Jerry Wilhite (WAPA)
Joe Duncan (State of Wyoming)
Joel Sankey (GCMRC)
John Barry
John Carol
Josh Korman
Joshua Caster (GCMRC)
Joshua Randall
Mariessa Fowler (NNHHPD)
Noe Santos (BOR-LCB)
Dale Fonken (AZGFD)

Raquel Flinker
Rebecca Koller (NPS-GRCA)
Rob Billerbeck (NPS-GLCA)
Robert Martin
Roch Horton
Rodney Smith (DOI)
Ron Kegerries
Ronda Newton (NPS-GRCA)
Ryan Mann (AZGFD)
Sabrina Martz
Sarah Haas (NPS)
Miriam Nelson (Arizona Water For All)
Scott McGettigan (State of Utah)
Seth Shanahan (TWG Chair)
Shana Tighi
Shannon Sartain
Shaula Hedwall (FWS)
Stephanie Dyer
Stephanie Trimmer
Steven Batty
Susan Wood (NPS-GRCA)
Tara Ashby (BOR)
Taryn Preston (NPS-GLCA)
Ted Rampton (UMPA)
Theodore Kennedy (GCMRC)
Thomas Gushue (GCMRC)
Tildon Jones (FWS)
Tom Martin
Vicente Diaz
Wade Wilson
Elina Gentilhomme (AZ Water for All)
Jen Pelz (Grand Canyon Trust)
Lynne Westerfield (Wild Arizona)
Trevor Updegraff (WAPA)