



**GRAND CANYON:  
A TEACHER  
AN ELDER  
A PLACE OF LEARNING**

# PLACE OF RED ROCKS, PLACE OF SOUND

Different Ceremonial Traditions have different names for the Canyon.

Plants and Animals are integral Parts of the landscape.

People are part of the Canyon too.

We learn who we are as a people when we understand the canyon.



# THE NIGHTWAY CEREMONY *TL'EEJI HATAAL*



# TRAVELING THROUGH THE CANYON IN "TIME IMMEMORIAL"

Retelling the narrative takes us back to the  
creation and telling of our history



*Bil ahat'iinii* (The Dreamer)

# ENGAGING THE AUDIENCE

*Bil ahat'iinii* (The Dreamer) begins his journey near Canyon de Chelly, and continues to various places in the greater Southwest and ultimately ends up traveling through the canyon on a log boat, with his pet turkey.

- The narrative allows to take a glimpse into the pre-dam conditions, below and above the Glen Canyon Dam
- Fish
- People living along the River
- The damming of the river by natural forces
- *Haashch'ééshzhiní* (Black God) – Lava Flows





The stories tell us about the land before modern time.

The stories tell us that animals, plants, insects, fishes, birds, and all life in the canyon contributed to our lifeways.

The stories tell us how to behave, how to live our lives, how to treat one another, that we are part of a larger, more expansive life cycle.

The stories are relevant in today's life.

**IN TEACHING OUR HISTORY TO OUR CHILDREN  
WE RELY ON OUR OWN NARRATIVES**

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# HOW DOES THE NARRATIVE AND THE VIDEO LEAD TO OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE AMWG



First, We are here to protect Navajo resources and interests in the canyon.

The film is a way to begin to get the message across.

The film barely scratches the surface of our knowledge of the canyon:

- We need to continue to participate in the overall adaptive management program.
- We must continue to educate the stakeholders of our interests in the canyon.
- But we must along educate our colleagues about the importance of the canyon to our lifeways, ceremonial traditions, etc.

**THANK YOU**

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