

TWG Budget Motion

- TWG Email Meeting
 - July 20-August 3, 2026
- 19 of 20 voting members present
- Motion passed by consensus

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program FY27 Proposed Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center Science Activities Budget Reductions – 02 July 2026

The Bureau of Reclamation has indicated that a reduced Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) budget for FY27 is anticipated. The extent of the reduction is currently unknown but is expected to be at least 15% lower than the \$10 million funding amount anticipated in the FY25-27 Triennial Work Plan (TWP) in FY27. To accommodate a timely recommendation from the Adaptive Management Work Group, new budgets have been developed by the Bureau of Reclamation and the USGS Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) projecting budgets at reduced levels.

The GCMRC budget plan presented here (Plan 4) was developed among GCMRC leadership and staff and seeks to maintain high-priority research and monitoring needs identified by Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Budget Ad Hoc Group (BAHG) at funding levels comparable to the original TWP while maintaining only a basic level of monitoring across other resources goals that were lower priority. We present budget reduction scenarios at the 15, 19.25, and 23.5% (19.25% and 23.5% represent an additional 5% and 10% reduction from the minimum 15% reduction; total reduction amounts at each level are \$1,500,000 at 15%, \$1,925,000 at 19.25%, and \$2,350,000 at 23.5%).

Proposed Reductions to Reclamation side of Budget:

	Reclamation Adaptive Management Program Budget Summary FY25-27	2027 Budget	Budget at 95%	Budget 90%
3.A	Administrative Support for NPS Permitting	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$122,000

Impact: Travel for NPS permitting staff to attend GCDAMP meetings would be reduced or eliminated. Reductions in NPS permitting may put a higher burden on National Park Service to support the permitting staff for access to the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam. This could result in prioritization and delays in river permitting GCDAMP projects to be completed.

	Reclamation Adaptive Management Program Budget Summary FY25-27	2027 Budget	Budget at 95%	Budget 90%
3.B	Contract Administration	\$130,000	\$129,050	\$115,000

Impact: Reductions in the contract administration may lead to limited ability to get all contracts in place for the fiscal year. It may lead Reclamation having to prioritize which projects are finished and which may have to be delayed. Additionally, with contracting services being consolidated under DOI, it is unknown how this may impact administrative funding for processing the dozens of agreements associated with the GDAMP.

Motion

The Technical Work Group (TWG) recommends that the Adaptive Management Work Group approve and forward to the Secretary of the Interior the attached FY27 Bureau of Reclamation and Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center budget scenarios, recognizing that they represent an attempt to address potential funding reductions while maintaining support for critical monitoring, research, data management capacity, and Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program obligations.

Motion cont.

The TWG further recommends that any unforeseen available funding be used to address ongoing or emerging threats and to preserve previously planned research and monitoring activities.

Additional Input

- Vulnerability of core monitoring and research
- Difficulties due to co-dependency of elements
- Concern that some elements may be cut completely
- Institutional limitations remain
- Opportunities to diversify funding still emphasized
- Obtaining consensus from members with disparate interests remains difficult (but is attainable)