



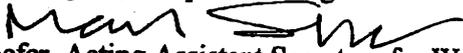
United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

MAR 31 2000

MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Director, U.S. Geological Survey
Secretary's Designee, Adaptive Management Work Group

From: 
Mark Schaefer, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Institutional Home for the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center

Consistent with the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992 and the "Operation of Glen Canyon Dam, Final Environmental Impact Statement" (GCDEIS) of 1995, the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) was established by directive of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science on November 11, 1995 as one element of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. The 1995 directive established GCMRC for an interim period, not to exceed two years, under the guidance and oversight of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), or his designee, and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, or his designee. In 1996, a Record of Decision was issued implementing the recommendations contained in the GCDEIS and a directive was issued by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science on August 3, 1998 extending the arrangements contained in the executive memo of 1995 up until this point in time.

Since the establishment of GCMRC in 1995, discussions have been underway regarding the appropriate institutional home for GCMRC. The recommendation contained in the GCDEIS (p. 36) is, "... that the Secretary establish a research center [GCMRC] within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and/or National Biological Service with a small permanent staff in Flagstaff, Arizona." In its 1999 report, the National Research Council (p. 12) articulated the following criteria for consideration in selecting a permanent institutional home for GCMRC:

"The Center Should be housed in a premier science organization committed to physical, biological, and social science inquiry,

the institutional home should enable the Center to work effectively with all Grand Canyon and Glen Canyon Dam management agencies,

the institutional home should enable the Center to communicate scientific program issues and results directly with a management team at the Assistant Secretary level in the Department of the Interior, and

the Center should be independent from any single stakeholder management organization within the Adaptive Management Work Group."

Having reviewed the issue of a permanent institutional home for GCMRC with the DOI team established to provide guidance and oversight to GCMRC, as well as with the members of the Adaptive Management Work Group, I have decided, consistent with the original recommendation contained in the GCDEIS and the criteria developed by the NRC, to place the GCMRC within the USGS.

In doing so, it is my intent that the following policies and protocols will guide the operation of the GCMRC:

1. As authorized in the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992, funding for the operation of GCMRC, including salary and related expenses (benefits and travel) of the incumbents of GCMRC; space; equipment; and monitoring and research activities shall be derived primarily from the sale of electric power and energy from the Colorado River Storage Project and shall be reimbursed by the Bureau of Reclamation. Funding from power revenues shall be capped at the FY 2000 level, indexed for inflation in subsequent years provided the results of the protocol evaluation panels currently underway do not result in recommendations for substantial increases or decreases in the program. The protocol evaluation process will be completed by FY 2002 and any adjustments in support from power revenues should be finalized at the same time.
2. The USGS will be responsible for seeking and providing additional appropriated funds for GCMRC activities, beyond the FY 2000 level provided from power revenues, indexed for inflation.
3. The GCMRC shall be led by a Senior USGS Science Advisor.
4. The GCMRC will be co-located with the USGS facility in Flagstaff, Arizona.
5. The GCMRC shall be composed of an appropriately sized staff of administrative and scientific personnel with relevant scientific and technical expertise. The staff shall be composed of permanent, term, and temporary employees, as appropriate; program staff shall be employees or contractors of the USGS. In addition, the GCMRC may use post-doctoral appointments and detailees to complete its staffing needs.
6. Monitoring and research activities conducted by GCMRC will be implemented primarily through a competitive request for proposals with Federal and state agencies, universities, the private sector and Native American tribes. The successful proposals shall be selected on the basis of advice provided by an independent external scientific peer-review.

7. A DOI Managers Committee composed of the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science or his/her designee, the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey or his/her designee, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation or his/her designee and the Director of the National Park Service or his/her designee shall provide policy and programmatic guidance to the GCMRC Chief.
8. The USGS will not charge bureau-level assessments against the funding provided by the Bureau of Reclamation to support the GCMRC and its scientific activities.
9. USGS researchers who compete successfully for GCMRC funds will charge the standard USGS assessment rate to cover management, quality assurance and administrative needs for their project.
10. The annual budget for funds provided through the Bureau of Reclamation for activities of the GCMRC shall be proposed by the GCMRC Chief with the concurrence of the Director of the USGS and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, and after consultation with the Adaptive Management Work Group.
11. Consistent with the GCDEIS, GCMRC shall utilize independent external review panels to ensure the technical excellence of its work.
12. GCMRC shall develop, in consultation with the AMWG, a five-year strategic plan to guide its operations. The strategic plan shall be stepped down into an annual work-plan to guide annual operations.

Implementation of this directive shall begin as soon as practical. The Managers Committee shall review the policies and protocols contained in this directive that govern the operations of the GCMRC at least every five years.

cc: Anne Shields, Chief of Staff
David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
John Berry, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget
Donald Barry, Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks