

DRAFT NARRATIVE OF DESIRED FUTURE RESOURCE CONDITIONS

We desire an ecosystem that is dynamic in nature and is temporally punctuated by disturbance events such as BHBFs and tributary flows. Thus individual resources will vary both spatially, depending on their location in the canyon, and temporally depending on the nature (i.e., timing, magnitude, duration) of the disturbance and the time since the last disturbance event. Target levels for these resources likely will not be single values, but descriptions that encapsulate the concepts of minimum or maximum threshold levels of concern, rates of change, and the resource's role in the ecosystem patterns. In determining the nature of disturbance events using dam operations, the effects on all resources will be considered, particularly endangered species. Target levels will reflect, and management actions will be undertaken to complement and supplement dam operations in favoring native species.

With respect to riparian resources, we envision a resource that changes longitudinally as one moves downstream from Glen Canyon dam to Lake Mead in response to changing reach geomorphology and climactic conditions among other factors. Moving from the river upslope we would expect to see riparian transects that are composed of a suite of riparian communities including marshes, un-vegetated beaches, NHWZ, and OHWZ among others. Within these riparian communities, we seek to favor native biodiversity over non-native biodiversity. We acknowledge that there will be a frequency associated the presence / absence (coming or going) of riparian features such as marshes and unvegetated beaches.

Accompanying this narrative will be a figure relating disturbance to stability and a series of cross- sections that show the composition of these riparian assemblages.