

Memorandum

To: Technical Work Group members
From: Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning
Date: May 24, 2001
Re: Recommended edits to the Strategic Plan Narrative and Vision Narrative

When you consider for approval the Strategic Plan Narrative and Vision Narrative at your meeting on May 30-31, 2001, the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning recommends that you approve, as well, the following changes to those documents.

Strategic Plan Narrative

NOTE: The page and line numbers refer to the Fourth Draft of the Strategic Plan Narrative ("4th Draft AMPSP").

1. Add a table of contents.
2. Bold the main headings and underline the subheadings.
3. Instead of a mixture of endnotes, footnotes, and embedded notes, change all citations to footnotes.
4. Page 2, lines 32-34, "History of Compliance With Federal Laws:"

Additional laws that control the AMP include the NPS Organic Act and amending legislation, legislation authorizing Grand Canyon National Park and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and the GCPA of 1992. There are also various Executive Orders that affect the direction of the Program.
5. Page 3, line 12, "Glen Canyon Environmental Studies," insert new paragraph:

The scientific investigations of GCES provided important information used in the preparation of the GCDEIS and was the first systematic monitoring and research effort in the Grand Canyon.
6. Page 3, line 19, "Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Proposed GMP," insert new paragraph:

This plan established the guiding principles for management of this area, and these downstream resources are included in those affected by dam releases.
7. Page 3, lines 27-28, "Grand Canyon Protection Act:"

Split the quote into its proper two sections. '...resources and visitor use.' Furthermore, "[t]he Secretary shall implement this section in a manner..."

8. Page 3, line 34, "Grand Canyon Protection Act," insert new paragraph:

The GCPA directed the monitoring and research of downstream resources to ensure Park values were protected and established these values as important considerations in making dam release decisions.
9. Page 3, line 43, "Biological Opinion on the Operation of Glen Canyon Dam," insert new paragraph:

Because of the high priority of endangered species protection, the BO elements play a key role in both scientific investigation and dam management.
10. Page 4, line 9, "Operation of Glen Canyon Dam Final EIS," insert new paragraph:

The EIS adopted the concept of adaptive management as a process for evaluating the success of implementing the preferred alternative and was an important exercise in collaborative resource protection.
11. Page 4, line 20, "Grand Canyon National Park GMP," insert new paragraph:

The protection of Park resources was a primary consideration in the passage of the GCPA and in the selection of the EIS preferred alternative.
12. Page 4, line 28, "Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center," insert new paragraph:

As the science center for the AMP, the GCMRC leads the monitoring of the Colorado River ecosystem and facilitates communication between scientists and resource managers.
13. Page 4, line 42, "Record of Decision on the Operation of Glen Canyon Dam," insert new paragraph:

The main purpose of the AMP is to determine if the constraints of the ROD are indeed meeting the intent of the ROD and the GCPA and if they are not, to recommend changes in dam operations and implementation of other management actions to better meet this intent.
14. Page 5, line 41, "Adaptive Management Philosophy, Introduction:"

The goal of this program is an ecosystem management approach, with specific attention paid to ~~mandates to address sensitive~~ threatened and endangered species and other featured resources.
15. Page 7, line 23, "Management within the Glen Canyon Dam AMP," first line:

Federal and state management agencies have been delegated responsibilities for many of the resources downstream of Glen Canyon Dam.
16. Page 9, lines 16 – 29, "Geographic and Programmatic Scope:"

The programmatic scope of the AMP is to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary on changes to dam operations and other management actions to meet the intent of the ROD and the GCPA. A discussion of scope of the AMP is set forth in a letter dated February 19, 2000, from Steve Magnussen wherein he cites a January 11, 2000, Guidance Document (Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program AMWG FACA Committee Guidance) prepared by Interior Solicitor Scott Loveless. As stated in the Guidance Document, "The key to the scope of AMWG's responsibilities is whether a specific desired resource effect downstream of the dam can be achieved through some manipulation of dam operations. Under the ROD, the upper limit of planned release level is 45,000 cfs. With respect to dam operations, the Guidance Document states, "Long-term monitoring and

research, including test flows within the current range of authorized operations, are intended to enable finer and finer tuning of operations over time, as additional knowledge and experience are gained, to better achieve the target mix of resource benefits, as outlined in the EIS, pages 54-65.” ~~However In addition,~~ the GCPA ~~also~~ authorizes other management actions as well to accomplish its intent of protecting the values for which the parks were established purposes. Examples of ~~other actions~~ could include water temperature modification ~~control~~, stabilization of cultural sites, non-native fish control, and removal of non-native vegetation.

17. Page 10, line 9, “Geographic and Programmatic Scope:”

It includes the ~~downstream inundation level to which~~ area where dam operations impact physical, biological, recreational, cultural, and other resources.

18. Page 12, line 5, “Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center:”

Ensures development of ~~research~~ research designs and proposals for implementing monitoring and research identified by the AMWG.

19. Page 19, line 20, “How Compliance is Integrated into the AMP:”

Every management action recommended by the Glen Canyon Dam AMP is assessed for necessity of compliance with the ESA, NEPA, and the NHPA.

20. Page 20, line 20, “SCORE Report:”

The SCORE report serves the critical purpose of ~~reporting~~assessing ~~on the~~ condition status of the ecosystem, including a comprehensive reporting of change status and trends among all resources.

21. Page 20, line 25, “SCORE Report:”

Results of annual monitoring and research activities should be made available to the ~~adaptive managers~~TWG and AMWG as soon as possible, but no later than six months after each sampling period.

22. Page 23, lines 2-33: list that begins with “‘Law of the River’ synopsis’ and ends with ‘Guidance Document (Scott Loveless, January 11, 2000)’:

Move these to an Appendix at the end of the document just before the attachments, name it “Relevant Documents,” make the cites more precise, and indicate where the documents can be found if it is not obvious.

Vision Narrative

23. Page 2, Riparian, paragraph 3, sentence 2:

The upper band of riparian communities occurs above the scour zone (e.g., flood terraces, sand dunes, or talus slopes) and below desert vegetation.

24. Page 3, Riparian, paragraph 1, last sentence:

The lower band of riparian communities occurs in the scour zone and is a patchwork mosaic of sand beach, marsh, and tamarisk/willow communities.

25. Page 3, Riparian, paragraph 2, sentence 1:

The frequency associated with the coming or going of the lower band communities is directly correlated with the frequency and magnitude of flood events.

26. Page 5, Water and Power, paragraph 2, sentence 1:

May 29, 2001

The powerplant operates to maximize value of the power resource, consistent with the balancing of competing interests described in the EIS and ROD, while meeting statutory responsibilities for protecting downstream resources.