

LTEP Update

Questions to be addressed before DOI can determine the most appropriate course of action to proceed:

LEGAL

1. The litigation now underway interrupted the LTEP process. It is difficult to move forward in open communication until the litigation is resolved. Time necessary for litigation to be resolved is unknown.

TECHNICAL

The flow and non-flow action for the next 5 years are defined by the EA/FONSI and BO. Results of studies conducted to comply with these actions will provide guidance for subsequent science. It is too early to use results from these investigations to define future LTEP alternatives. We need more time for investigations to produce results that will guide future experiments.

ADMINISTRATIVE

1. The lead agencies for different flow and non-flow actions may follow the line of authority of DOI agencies. Negotiations for how this division of tasks will be accomplished are underway but as yet unresolved.
2. There is a paradigm consideration for future adaptive management underway in DOI. Consideration is being given to whether movement away from smaller incremental action done under EAs is advisable in moving forward under adaptive management.
3. There are emerging differences of opinion on whether future proposed actions are experiments in a research design or management actions with reasonable certainty of outcome and effects on resources.