

# Grand Canyon

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Grand Canyon National Park



## National Park Service Management *at* Grand Canyon National Park

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



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## Legal Authorities

- Grand Canyon National Monument, 1908
- NPS Organic Act, 1916
- Grand Canyon National Park, 1919
- National Environmental Policy Act, 1969
- Grand Canyon Enlargement Act, 1975
- Redwoods Act of 1978

*\*Grand Canyon Protection Act, 1992*

## Mandated Management Responsibilities

- NPS Management Policies 2006
  - GCNP General Management Plan 1995
    - \* GCPA 1992 -- GCD AMP 1996*
  - GCNP Resource Management Plan 1997
  - Colorado River Management Plan 2006

*\*Where AMP Goals align with GCNP Resource Management*

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## NPS Mandated Responsibilities

### NPS Organic Act of 1916

"The Service such established shall promote and regulate...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

### Redwoods Act of 1978

"Congress further reaffirms, declares, and directs the promotion and regulation of the various areas of the National Park System . . . The authorization of activities shall be construed and the protection, management, and administration of these areas shall be conducted in light of the high public value and integrity of the National Park System and shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established, ...

### NPS Management Policies 2006

"The Secretary has an absolute duty, which is not to be compromised, to fulfill the mandate of the NPS Organic Act of 1916 to take whatever actions and seek whatever relief as will safeguard the units of the national park system."



## NPS Management Policies 2006

### 1. Improving Resource Conditions within the Parks

"The Service will also strive to ensure that park resources and values are passed on to future generations in a condition that is as good, or better than, the conditions that exist today. In particular, the Service will strive to restore the integrity of park resources that have been damaged or compromised in the past."



## NPS Management Policies 2006

### 2. Protection and Preservation of Cultural Resources

"The National Park Service will employ the most effective concepts, techniques, and equipment to protect cultural resources against theft, fire, vandalism, overuse, deterioration, environmental impacts, and other threats without compromising the integrity of the resources."



## NPS Management Policies 2006

### 3. Wilderness Resource Management

"All management decisions affecting wilderness must be consistent with the minimum requirement concept. This concept is a documented process used to determine if administrative actions, projects, or programs undertaken by the Service or its agents and affecting wilderness character, resources, or the visitor experience are necessary, and if so how to minimize impacts."



## NPS Management Policies 2006

### 4. Management of Threatened or Endangered Plants and Animals

"The Service will survey for, protect, and strive to recover all species native to national park system units that are listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Service will fully meet its obligations under the NPS Organic Act and Endangered Species Act to both proactively conserve listed species and prevent detrimental effects on these species."



## NPS Management Policies 2006

### 5. Management of Recreation Use

"Superintendents will develop and implement visitor use management plans and take action, as appropriate, to ensure that recreational uses and activities in the park are consistent with its authorizing legislation or proclamation and do not cause unacceptable impacts on park resources or values."

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## CRMP Litigation: Current Status

- ROD Signed March 23, 2006
- Lawsuit Filed March 28, 2006
- Written Briefs and Arguments by DOJ to Federal District Court, Phoenix, AZ
- Oral Arguments October 26, 2007 – US District Court, Phoenix, AZ
- District Court Ruled in Favor of NPS (11/27/07)
- Appeal January 11, 2008 (On 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GCNM, litigants filed appeal to the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, San Francisco, CA)
- Opening Brief Filed May 12, 2008
- Response Due August, 2008

Currently responding to plaintiffs appeal

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## Key Points in Case

4. Whether NPS violated the Concessions Act by authorizing motorized commercial services that are inconsistent with preserving the wilderness values and resources of the river, to the highest extent practicable.
5. Whether NPS violated its management policies when it failed to preserve the wilderness character of the river by authorizing motorboats, helicopter passenger exchanges, and generators ("motorized uses") on the river."
7. Whether NPS violated the Organic Act when it failed to properly define baseline conditions and consider cumulative impacts and previous impact studies when making a "no-impairment" determination.
8. Whether NPS violated the Organic Act when it authorized motorized uses on the river that impair the natural soundscape."

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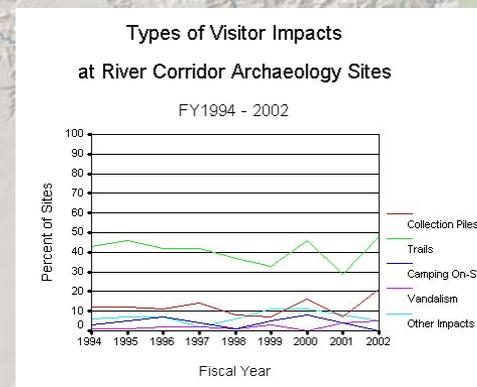
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## NPS Research & Monitoring – Colorado River & Tributaries

- Trails Monitoring & Rehabilitation
- Vegetation Research, Monitoring, & Removal/Re-vegetation
- Campsite Monitoring
- Wildlife Research & Monitoring
- Cultural Resources Research, Inventory, Protection & Preservation (historic and prehistoric)
- Visitor Experience Research & Monitoring



# Colorado River Management Plan

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## Resources Monitoring Program

How does administrative activities and river users affect park resources in the Colorado River Corridor?

(Stressors)

### Natural Resources

*Water Quality*

*Wildlife*

*Vegetation*

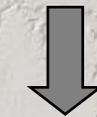
*Air Quality*

*Soils*

### Visitor Experience

*Quality of Recreation*

*Range of Services*



*Effects*

Resource Damage

Site Disturbance

Quality Degradation

Crowding & Congestion

### Cultural Resources

*Historic Sites*

*Prehistoric Sites*

*Traditional Cultural Properties*

### Wilderness Character

*Primitive & Unconfined Recreation*

*Non-Mechanized Use*

*Solitude*

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## Monitoring Wilderness Character

- Involves a collective assessment of resource conditions (affects of human use)
- Quality of visitor experience – opportunities for solitude or an unconfined type of recreation
- Considers impacts of administrative use and activities



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## Integrated Bio-physical Monitoring Design

- Avifauna, Vegetation, Archeological Sites, Campsite Condition
- April (low use), September (high use)
- 45 sites per trip → 15 repeat + 30 rotation
- Develop new baseline conditions for new CRMP
- Help determine management actions needed to address unacceptable resource conditions



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## Visitor Experience Monitoring Program

- Quality of visitor experience (temporal & spatial)
- On site impacts: River encounters, attraction site encounters, campsite competition, hiking exchanges, launch/take-out congestion, safety
- Off-site impacts: permit system, use statistics, etc.
- Develop new baseline conditions for new CRMP
- Help determine management actions needed to address unacceptable social conditions

