Expanding the Tribal Monitoring Role for the Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program

The four tribes (Hopi, Hualapai, Kaibab-Paiute and Zuni) actively participating in the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (AMP) met in Flagstaff with NPS and Reclamation to develop proposals for the expansion of tribal monitoring responsibilities to assist in Reclamation’s compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). This level of monitoring is a commitment made by Reclamation as a necessary component of long-term management of Glen and Grand Canyon cultural resources. That commitment is not currently being met due to funding constraints. Reclamation is requesting additional funding through the AMP process to expand the scope of work of the current tribal protocol monitoring contracts.

Tribal members will be trained by NPS personnel to complete CRSP monitoring forms. The tribes committed to monitor from 8 to 10 sites each in this manner in addition to the traditional use sites and TCP locations being visited in compliance with their current protocol implementation contracts. The resultant data would be consolidated with the annual NPS CRMP monitoring of sites that overlap with Reclamation’s treatment plan sites. NPS will collate the data and consult with Reclamation and the PA membership during the development of the ensuing year’s data recovery/mitigation work plan. That plan will also map out logistics to prevent redundancy and facilitate observation by tribal members of archeological sites during excavation.

The tribes estimated that the extra workload would require extending their river trips by three days. The average cost per tribe will be in the neighborhood of $15,000. Since four tribes are involved (Navajo Nation has not yet engaged in the program), we are requesting an additional $60,000 per year which will be proportionately divided among the four existing tribal protocol monitoring contracts.