



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Regional Office
125 South State Street, Room 6107
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1147

UC-731
ENV-7.00

JUN 15 2010

Honorable Bernadine Jones
Chairwoman, Havasupai Tribe
P.O. Box 10
Supai, AZ 86435

Subject: Nearshore Ecology Study Research Project (Action Within 30 Days)

Dear Chairwoman Jones:

The Bureau of Reclamation is currently working with several other Department of Interior agencies to implement a research project that will improve our understanding of the habitat requirements of the humpback chub, an endangered species of fish that lives in the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers in Grand Canyon National Park and other locations. This research project, known as the Nearshore Ecology Study, is a conservation measure of a 2008 Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Reclamation and is being conducted as part of the 2010 work plan of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program.

The Department has committed to consulting with tribes on work plan activities that might be of concern to you and this letter is in pursuit of that commitment. The National Park Service previously sent you a letter regarding one aspect of this study related to proposed use of temporary reflectors along the left bank of the Colorado River below the mouth of the Little Colorado River. This letter concerns another component of the project to collect and euthanize for scientific study approximately 200 larval and juvenile endangered humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) from the Little Colorado River, and from the Colorado River downstream of the Little Colorado River, for the purpose of analyzing the chemistry of their otoliths. Otoliths are a bony structure in the inner ear of fish that can provide a detailed record of their growth history and habitat use. Researchers would potentially collect 200 fish each in 2011 and 2012. This is a very low number of humpback chub of this size and many of these small fish would die from other causes before reaching adulthood. Taking these fish for scientific purposes will have minimal effects to the humpback chub population, and will provide very valuable information on the ecology and movement patterns of humpback chub. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will issue a scientific permit to the researchers to collect humpback chub for this purpose.

We recognize the cultural significance of the Little Colorado River confluence area and the unique species associated with this river to Native American tribes. Please let us know if you have any concerns regarding this proposed activity. Reclamation and other Department

agencies will be available to consult with you on a government-to-government basis on this and other activities in the 2010 work plan while considering options to study and conserve this endangered species. To ensure that this process occurs in a timely manner, we request that you respond to us in writing if you have concerns within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We will also be contacting you by telephone to follow up on this request.

Thank you for your interest and continued assistance in conserving imperiled species. Please contact Mr. Glen Knowles by phone at 801-524-3781, or by email at GKnowles@usbr.gov for additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/ Larry Walkoviak

Larry Walkoviak
Regional Director

cc: Mr. Steven L. Spangle
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 W. Royal Palm Road, Ste 103
Phoenix, AZ 85021

Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Western Regional Office
2600 North Central Ave., 4th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85004-3050

Ms. Pam Sponholtz
Project Leader
Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
P.O. Box 338
Flagstaff, AZ 86002-0338

Mr. John Hamill
Chief
Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center
U.S. Geological Survey
2255 N. Gemini Dr.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Mr. Steve Martin
Superintendent
National Park Service
Grand Canyon National Park
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

bc: UC-700, UC-730

Identical Letter Sent To:

Honorable Norman Coeeyate
Governor, Pueblo of Zuni
P.O. Box 339
1203-B State Highway 53
Zuni, NM 87327-0339

Honorable Leroy Ned Shingoitewa
Chairman, Hopi Tribe
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Honorable Joe Shirley, Jr.
President, Navajo Nation
Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President
P.O. Box 9000
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Honorable Wilfred Whatoname, Sr.
Chairman, Hualapai Tribe
P.O. Box 179
Peach Springs, AZ 86434

Honorable Timothy Rogers
Chairman, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians
HC 65 Box 2
Fredonia, AZ 86022

Honorable Mary Lou Boone
President, San Juan Southern Paiute
P.O. Box 2656
Tuba City, Arizona 86045

Honorable Bernadine Jones
Chairwoman, Havasupai Tribe
P.O. Box 10
Supai, AZ 86435

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