Cultural Resource Ad Hoc Group Report

Technical Work Group
30 January 2014
TWG Charge to CRAHG (TWG Webinar Meeting)

- The CRAHG is requested to meet and provide any budget issues/concerns for the January 28-29, 2014, Annual Reporting Meeting.
- Including the need for tribal participation at the meeting, and tribal and cultural values topics that should be covered.
CRAHGG Identified Issues

- Reclamation report on:
  1) progress made toward revising the existing programmatic agreement
  2) efforts/perspective of how they have remained in compliance with the existing programmatic agreement.
  3) compliance with the Memorandum of Agreement regarding the implementation of the 2012 and 2013 high flow events. How is Reclamation tracking the concerns raised by the Tribes regarding the HFEs.

- Reclamation scheduled a meeting for 12 February 2014. CRAHGG would like to see greater transparency and communication from Reclamation.
CRAHGH Issues

- National Park Service report on:
  4) Colorado River historic properties monitoring.
  5) opportunity to review the excavations report produced by MNA and Grand Canyon NPS performed in 2010.

  - Funding issues; Reclamation consider funding through GCDAMP

- Glen Canyon NPS report on progress made at Minus 9 Mile terrace site.
CRAHG Issues

- GCMRC report on:
  7) cultural resource monitoring program and progress toward successful integration of Tribal values.
  8) progress in expanding the sediment monitoring below Diamond Creek as requested by Hualapai Tribe
  9) updates on what is happening with trout/chub numbers and the triggering criteria.
    • Reported on during GCMRC’s meeting
10. What is the future of the cultural resources program within the GCDAMP?

- Focus on physical and biological programs; cultural program morphing into physical/geomorphological.
- Sense of increasing disenfranchisement by Tribal representatives.
Hypothetical Explanation

- Law of Unintended Consequences
- Two possible factors: economic and sociocultural.
  - GCMRC Science Program – grounded in Western positivist/materialist view of ecosystem.
  - USGS culture of science – privileges quantitative data over qualitative
  - USGS does not perceive a role for Tribes
Hypothetical Explanation

- USGS science program
  - Compartmentalizes resource categories
  - Deconstructs individual aspects of the resource
- Lacking holistic ecosystem perspective?
  - Tribal perspective more holistic
- No humanistic values represented in science program
Recommendations

- TWG discuss importance of cultural resources in program as it relates to the 2015/2016 work plan and budget.
- Need strong DOI leadership to ensure equitable tribal participation in science program.
- Need a more holistic ecosystem perspective (Tribes have been advocating for this all along).
Recommendations

- Develop synthesis project that evaluates the management of other river systems and the involvement of Native American/indigenous peoples.
- Fund an outside panel of experts to work with the Tribes and GCMRC to develop methodologies for integrating Tribal perspectives into the science program.
- NPS and Reclamation report on the condition of the 153 archaeological sites originally evaluated by Damp and Pederson.