



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAY 23 2012

Memorandum

To: Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
Director, National Park Service
Director, U.S. Geological Survey

From: Secretary *Ken Salazar*

Subject: Directive on the Implementation of Research to Improve Conditions in the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

Purpose. The purpose of this Directive is to ensure effective and coordinated implementation of important research that the Department of the Interior (DOI) is undertaking through the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) established pursuant to the Grand Canyon Protection Act, specifically the High Flow Experimental Releases from Glen Canyon Dam, Arizona, through 2020 (High Flow Protocol) and the Non-Native Fish Control Downstream from Glen Canyon Dam (Non-Native Fish Control).

Implementation of this Directive will ensure that important scientific information is available to inform the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan currently being developed and to assist in assessing short and long-term approaches to protect resources downstream from Glen Canyon Dam for future generations.

Background. Glen Canyon Dam was authorized by the Colorado River Storage Project Act of 1956 and completed by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in 1963. Below Glen Canyon Dam, the Colorado River flows through the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park, which are managed by the National Park Service (NPS).

The DOI has multiple responsibilities on the Colorado River, including meeting water delivery obligations, protecting and improving downstream park resources for future generations, conserving fish and wildlife species, providing recreational opportunities, carrying out the trust responsibility to Indian Tribes and consulting with Indian Tribes on matters of importance to them, and ensuring the generation of clean hydropower. As part of the GCDAMP, Reclamation approved two research programs, the High Flow Protocol and the Non-Native Fish Control program, with the goal of exploring strategies for better operation of Glen Canyon Dam and related activities, consistent with these responsibilities. These programs contemplate that the DOI agencies identified below will undertake identified research, monitoring, visitor outreach, and other related actions. The High Flow Protocol approved on May 22, 2012, uses experimental high flow releases that are designed to evaluate

the ability of these releases to rebuild and rejuvenate sandbars, beaches, and associated backwater habitats that provide key wildlife habitat, potentially reduce erosion of archaeological sites, enhance riparian vegetation, maintain or increase camping opportunities, and improve the wilderness experience along the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The Non-Native Fish Control program, also approved on May 22, 2012, will implement actions and undertake research to refine methods to control non-native fish and to protect endangered native fish in the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam.

Directive.

Part I: Implementation of the High Flow Protocol and Non-Native Fish Control

I direct the multiple DOI bureaus with responsibilities along the Colorado River, namely Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), NPS, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), to undertake coordinated implementation of the actions and commitments described and analyzed in the Environmental Assessments for the High Flow Protocol and Non-Native Fish Control (EAs), as approved on May 22, 2012.

Part II: Establishment of the DOI Glen Canyon Leadership Team (Team)

In order to ensure effective coordination of DOI efforts, I am establishing an interagency team that will be led by the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science and will be comprised of leadership from Reclamation, FWS, NPS, BIA, and USGS. An inter-agency working group of representatives selected by each Agency will provide technical support to the team.

- A. The Team will work together to ensure that coordination is undertaken to implement the commitments set forth in the EAs and associated Findings of No Significant Impact for external coordination, consultation, and information sharing.
- B. The Team will also ensure that appropriate external coordination is done with states and other stakeholders, and in consultation with appropriate tribes in accordance with DOI's Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes issued on December 1, 2011.
- C. By December 1, 2012, and as directed thereafter, the Team leader will update me on the status of implementation of the actions described in the EAs and plans for future implementation.

Part III: Expiration Date

This Directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect through the term of the High Flow Protocol (December 31, 2020), unless amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first, by further action of the Secretary.

Part IV: Implementation of Directive

Implementation of this Directive will be in accordance with all applicable Federal laws and regulations, including any applicable environmental or planning requirements.

cc: Deputy Secretary
Chief of Staff