

Consultation/Coordination

Public Scoping including Agencies/Tribes/Organizations/Individuals Contacted

Public scoping for the preparation of the proposed EA was conducted in March 2006. Letters and postcards were sent out to a variety of individuals, tribes and agencies. Notice was also posted on the Park's Planning Web Page at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>. Public notices were also released to local news organizations.

Comments were received from several federal agencies and 11 individuals. These comments resulted an additional internal scoping meeting between and Grand Canyon NP to discuss ideas presented from the public. Most concerns centered on the proposed paving of the ramp, which was subsequently removed from the EA and the need for better ramp and ramp side camping management. The joint park staff determined that ramp management issues could adequately be covered in this EA and needed to be addressed in a separate management plan and EA. Based on the remaining responses received, the impact topics and alternatives were refined and finalized prior to analysis.

State Historic Preservation Office. An informal meeting was conducted with the staff members from the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office at Lees Ferry. This meeting focused on the array of projects included in this EA and their possible impacts to the Lees Ferry Historic District. In the next step of the consultation process, the SHPO will receive copy of this EA, which will describe the impacts of all the projects and recommended determination of Effect finding. The consultation process will be complete when we receive notice of their agreement with our determination of effect.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Southwestern Ecological Services Office of the USFWS was contacted regarding the potential effects to endangered or threatened species and designated critical habitat for this project. They responded with a letter dated May 16, 2006. A copy of their letter is available in Appendix B. The Arizona office offered information regarding the current status of threatened and endangered species in the state and mitigation measures relevant to the California condor, which are included in detail in the "Threatened and Endangered Species" section of the "Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences" chapter of this EA.

Tribes/Nations: Federal legislation and NPS policy require personnel within the NPS to consult with Native Americans if any federal action may affect areas of cultural importance to them. Identification of such resources is made at tribal consultation meetings to address the concerns of Native Americans in addition to scoping letters sent to them as an initial contact about the project.

Preliminary research revealed that ancestors of several tribal communities had either lived in or used the project area. Consultation was undertaken on the following dates with the following tribes/nation.

- Hopi Tribal Council meeting on 6- 21- 06
- Kanosh group of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah on 4- 11- 06

- Shivwits group of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah on 5- 04- 06
- Pueblo of Acoma in New Mexico on 5- 17- 06
- Pueblo of San Juan in New Mexico on 5- 17- 06
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council in Towaoc, Colorado on 4- 26- 06
- Navajo Nation Chapters
 - Coppermine on 6- 08- 06
 - Gap/Bodaway on 6- 25- 06
 - LeChee on 5- 08- 06

Tribal governments for each of these Native American communities were provided information about the project and presentations given by the Native American Liaison of Glen Canyon NRA as to the nature of the project. Comments, questions, and concerns were sought to determine their interest, use, and impacts on those resources important to them.

List of Preparers

Name	Title	Office
National Park Service		
Barbara Wilson	Environmental Specialist	Headquarters – Page, AZ
John Spence	Ecologist	Headquarters – Page, AZ
Chris Kincaid	Cultural Resource Specialist/Archeologist	Headquarters – Page, AZ
Lynn Wulf	Archeologist	Headquarters – Page, AZ
Paul Cloyd	Project Manager	Denver Service Center, Denver, CO
Alan Malmquist	Historic Structures Maintenance Personnel	Headquarters – Page, AZ
Mark Anderson	Aquatic Ecologist	Headquarters – Page, AZ
Tim Windle	Civil Engineer	Headquarters – Page, AZ
Max King	Interpretation Branch Chief	Headquarters – Page, AZ
Pete Howard	Trails and Roads Foreman	Headquarters – Page, AZ
Norm Boese	Maintenance Supervisor	Headquarters – Page, AZ
Pauline Wilson	Native American Liaison	Headquarters – Page, AZ

List of Recipients

The following agencies, tribes, and organizations have been notified of the release of this EA with information on how to obtain copies. Landowners adjacent to the NRA and other interested parties have also been sent notification of the availability of the document with information on how to obtain copies.

Federal Agencies

Bureau of Land Management
 Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument
 National Park Service
 Grand Canyon National Park
 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Arizona State Office

U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Senate
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Division

State Agencies

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Arizona Game and Fish
Arizona Historic Preservation Office

Tribes and Native American Interests

Hopi Tribe
Kaibab Paiute Tribe
Kanosh Band of Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
Koosharem Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
Navajo Nation
 Oljato Chapter
 Inscription House Chapter
 Navajo Mountain Chapter
 Shonto Chapter
 Coppermine Chapter
 Gap/Bodaway Chapter
 LeChee Chapter
 Kaibeto Chapter

San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
Shivwits Band of Southern Paiute
White Mesa Ute Band of the Ute Mountain Tribe

Selected Bibliography

Barbour, Michael Ed.

- 2000 North American Terrestrial Vegetation, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Huges, Lee

- 2005 Brady Pincushion Cactus. Desert Plants. 13 pp.

Spence, John R.

- 1996 A survey and classification of the riparian vegetation of selected side canyons of Lake Powell, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Final Report, Resource Management Division, , National Park Service. 83 pp.

Spence, John R. and Julie A.C. Zimmerman

- 1996 Preliminary Flora of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. National Park Service, Resource Management Division, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Department of the Interior

- 1979 Proposed General Management Plan, Wilderness Recommendation, Road Study Alternatives, and Final Environmental Assessment – Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Arizona/Utah. July 1979.
- 1995 Programmatic Agreement Among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, Dated July 17, 1995.
- 1998 1994- 1997 Lake Powell winter aquatic bird surveys, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Utah and Arizona. Unpublished report, Resource Management Division, 40 pp.
- 1998a Director's Order – 28: *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*. Dated June 11, 1998.
- 2001a *National Park Service Management Policies 2001*.
- 2001b Director's Order – 12: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision- making*. Dated January 8, 2001.
- 2002a Checklist of Mammals, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. January 2002. Available at: [http://www.nps.gov/Glen Canyon NRA/docs/mammals.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/GlenCanyonNRA/docs/mammals.pdf). Accessed: September 24, 2004.
- 2002b Checklist of Reptiles and Amphibians, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. March 2002. Available: [http://www.nps.gov/Glen Canyon NRA/docs/reptiles&hibs.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/GlenCanyonNRA/docs/reptiles&hibs.pdf). Accessed: September 24, 2004.

- 2004c Field Checklist of the Birds of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. April 2004. Available: [http://www.nps.gov/Glen Canyon NRA/docs/birdchecklist2.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/GlenCanyonNRA/docs/birdchecklist2.pdf). December 16, 2005.
- 2006 Final Hazardous Material Assessment /Survey Report, Weaver Ranch House, Glen Canyon Recreation Area, Marble Canyon, Arizona. Baker Corp reference GSA- GS- 00F- 0032M
- 2006 Restoration of the Weaver Ranch House, PMIS Number GLEN CANYON NRA 106185, Value Analysis Study 2006- 06.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- 1987 Wetlands Research Program Technical Report Y- 87- 1 (on- line edition), Wetlands Delineation Manual. Final report dated January 1987.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- 1979 Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, DC.
- 1994 Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Determination of Critical Habitat for Four Colorado River Endangered Fishes; Final Rule. Federal Register 50:13374- 13400.
- 2002 Letter from Steven Spangle, Field Supervisor, Flagstaff, Arizona to Kitty Roberts, National Park Service . Dated May 26, 2006.
- 2006 List of Threatened and Endangered Species in Coconino County, <http://www.fws.gov/arizonaes/Documents/CountyLists/Coconino.pdf>.

Appendix A – Public Scoping Brochure



Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

National Park Service

March 20, 2006

PUBLIC SCOPING FOR IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED FOR THE LEES FERRY AREA IN GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The National Park Service (NPS) seeks the benefit of your comments during a 30-day public scoping period to identify issues and alternatives for analysis in an environmental assessment (EA) regarding proposed improvements to the Lees Ferry area of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Coconino County, Arizona. The Lees Ferry area is located along the Colorado River 15 miles below Glen Canyon Dam. The area includes a national historic district containing outstanding examples of buildings relating to early pioneer ranching and river crossing. It is also the only starting point for commercial and private rafting trips down the Colorado through the Grand Canyon, and provides the only access point for the world class trout fishery upstream to Glen Canyon Dam. With the completion of the Colorado River Management Plan by Grand Canyon National Park and the proposed recreational focus of the Vermillion Cliffs Resource Management Plan (BLM) the park service is expecting an increase in the number of visitors to Lees Ferry and is proposing the following efforts to enhance the visitor experience, provide adequate visitor safety while protecting the fragile resources.

The proposed improvements include several large projects:

- Restoration of the historic Weaver Ranch House, including possible alternative uses.
- Replacement of the Grand Canyon White Water Rafting Contact Station and Lees Ferry Maintenance Facility.

The proposed improvements also include a variety of smaller projects including:

- Replace existing concrete boat ramp and graded raft ramp with new concrete surfaces,
- Replace the courtesy dock beside the boat ramp,
- Replace the potable water intake on the Colorado River,
- Rehabilitate the Lees Ferry access road drainage system including replacement of culverts and cross-drains and bank stabilization of the Cathedral and No Name Wash,
- Provide bank stabilization along the Paria River to protect Lonely Dell access road and the Paria River bridge, and
- Complete minor rehabilitation to the 11 buildings in the historic district.

During the public scoping period we are also requesting your input on the proposed interpretation plan for the historic district. This plan can be viewed on our Planning, Environmental and Public Comment (PEPC) system found at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.

We also encourage you to provide input on the proposed change in use of the historic Weaver Ranch. Particularly, we are interested in knowing if individuals or groups would like to use all or portions of the ranch house and what types of uses would be envisioned (as an example – historic society meeting using a computer – projector setup, or a weekend camping retreat, using the kitchen to prepare meals, etc). If you are proposing a special use, we would also like to know the level of the proposed activity (daily, weekly, monthly, seasonally, etc) and if your group would need any special equipment or interface with National Park Service Staff (Interpretive Ranger). We are also proposing a change to the interpretive plan for the area and would like your input on the prospectus, which can also be found on the National Park Service's Planning, Environmental and Public Comment website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/glca>.



Currently Identified Alternatives

1) No-Action Alternative. This alternative represents the baseline or benchmark from which to compare the impacts of the proposed project. In this case, "No-Action" means the proposed projects would not take place;

2) Proposed Action. Glen Canyon NRA would pursue the completion of both major and minor projects as funding becomes available.

During the completion of this EA, Impact Analysis will be conducted at a minimum on the following resources areas: Water Resources, Floodplains, Waters of the U.S./Wetlands, Cultural Resources, Fish and Wildlife and Species of Special Status, Visitor Use and Socioeconomics.

What does the scoping period mean? Scoping is done in the initial phase of a project to seek input from a variety of sources. The input is used to identify possible alternative, issues, areas requiring additional study, and topics that will be analyzed in the EA process. This is an opportunity for you to provide us with your suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding this project.

Is scoping my only opportunity to comment on the project? No, once the EA is developed, the document will be made available for public review and comment for a 30-day period.

Please submit your scoping comments to the NPS by April 31, 2006:

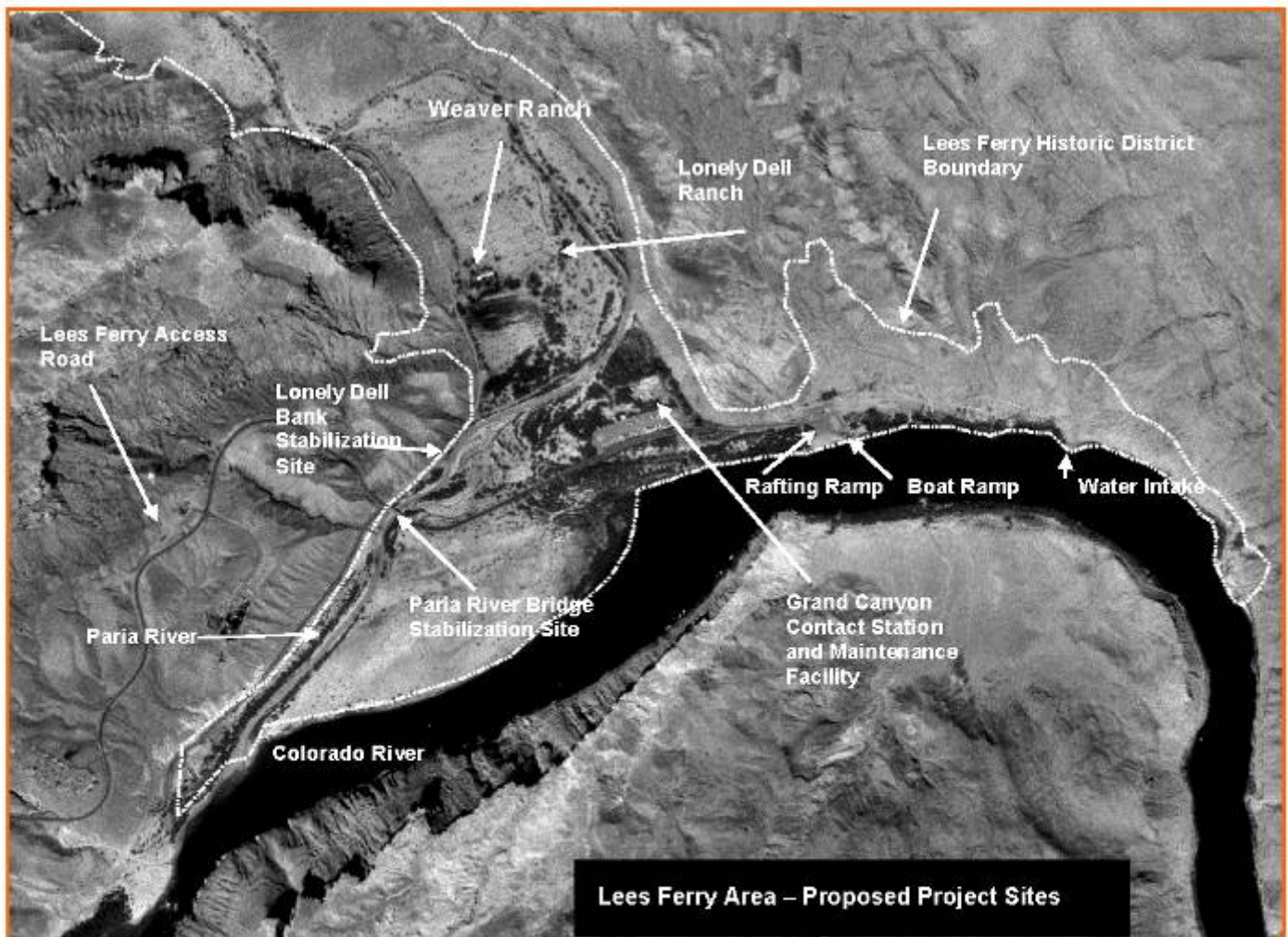
1. Do you have any information to share about issues/concerns related to this proposed project, or are there any issues/concerns about the project that you think we should consider?
2. Are there any other alternatives that you think should be considered?
3. If you wish to receive a copy of the environmental assessment when it is released for public review and comment in the Summer of 2006, please let us know if you prefer to receive a printed copy, a CD, or notification where you can download the EA.

If you wish to comment on any issues associated with this project, please submit your comments in one of the following ways:

Submit written comments to:
Lees Ferry Improvements EA
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
P.O. Box 1507
Page, AZ 86040-1507

Comment by the internet through the
National Park Service's Planning,
Environmental and Public Comment
website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>

Hand-deliver comments to the
NRA headquarters at:
691 Scenic View Drive
Page, AZ



Appendix B – USFWS Consultation Letter



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arizona Ecological Services Field Office
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4951
Telephone: (602) 242-0210 Fax: (602) 242-2513



In Reply Refer to:

AESO/SE
22410-2006-I-0412

May 16, 2006

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Page, Arizona (Attn: Lees Ferry Improvement EA)

From: Field Supervisor

Subject: Lees Ferry Improvements

Thank you for your March 20, 2004, scoping letter requesting comments to identify issues and alternatives for analysis in an environmental assessment (EA) regarding proposed improvements to the Lees Ferry area of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Coconino County, Arizona. We offer the following comments:

The scoping letter indicated that during development of the EA, impact analysis will be conducted for several resources including Fish and Wildlife and Species of Special Status. Based on the description of the project area, the endangered Brady pincushion cactus (*Pediocactus bradyi*), the endangered California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), and the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) may occur in the area. We recommend that the impact analysis include evaluation of possible effects of the proposed action to those species. We are also interested in working with you to develop conservation measures that may be appropriate for those species. For example, we have previously provided you with several conservation measures to address impacts to the California condor, and you have implemented some or all of those measures for several other projects. We recommend implementing those measures that are appropriate for this proposed action.

The scoping letter asked us to identify the format of the EA we would like to receive for review. We would like to receive a printed copy and a compact disk (CD) of the EA.

The State of Arizona and various American Indian Tribes maintain lists of sensitive species that may not be protected by Federal law. We recommend that you contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) and the Navajo Nation to determine if sensitive species may occur in your action area. We also encourage you to invite the AGFD and the Navajo Nation to participate in the review of your proposed action.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Bill Austin (928) 226-0614 (x102) or Brenda Smith (x101) of our Flagstaff Suboffice.

Brenda H Smith
for Steven L. Spangle

cc: Chief, Habitat Branch, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ
President, Navajo Nation, Window Rock, AZ

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Appendix C – Floodplain Statement of Findings

STATEMENT OF FINDING
LEES FERRY FLOOD PLAIN
July 27, 2006

Introduction

Glen Canyon NRA plans to replace the existing Grand Canyon NP (GRCA) contact station and storage buildings and Glen Canyon NRA (GLCA maintenance and storage buildings and water treatment facility, build shelters for four river boats and a backhoe, and build storage for hazardous materials at Lees Ferry, Arizona, adjacent to the Colorado River. These facilities will be located within the existing 32,000 s.f. "compound" area now housing the existing water treatment plant, contact station, maintenance building, and associated storage buildings. An egress drive to facilitate pull-through parking in the compound will be constructed; this will be the only affected area outside of the existing compound and it will cross previously disturbed ground.

The current and proposed future footprint of each structure are as follows:

Facility	Current Size in Square Feet	Proposed Size in Square Feet
GRCA Contact Station	1370	1600
GRCA Storage Building	832	400
GLCA Maintenance Facility	240	2065
GLCA Storage Building	384	400
Water Treatment Plant	384	384
Hazardous Storage Building	0	225
Covered Parking	0	2500
Total Size of All Facilities	3210	7574
Size of Compound	32,000	32,000

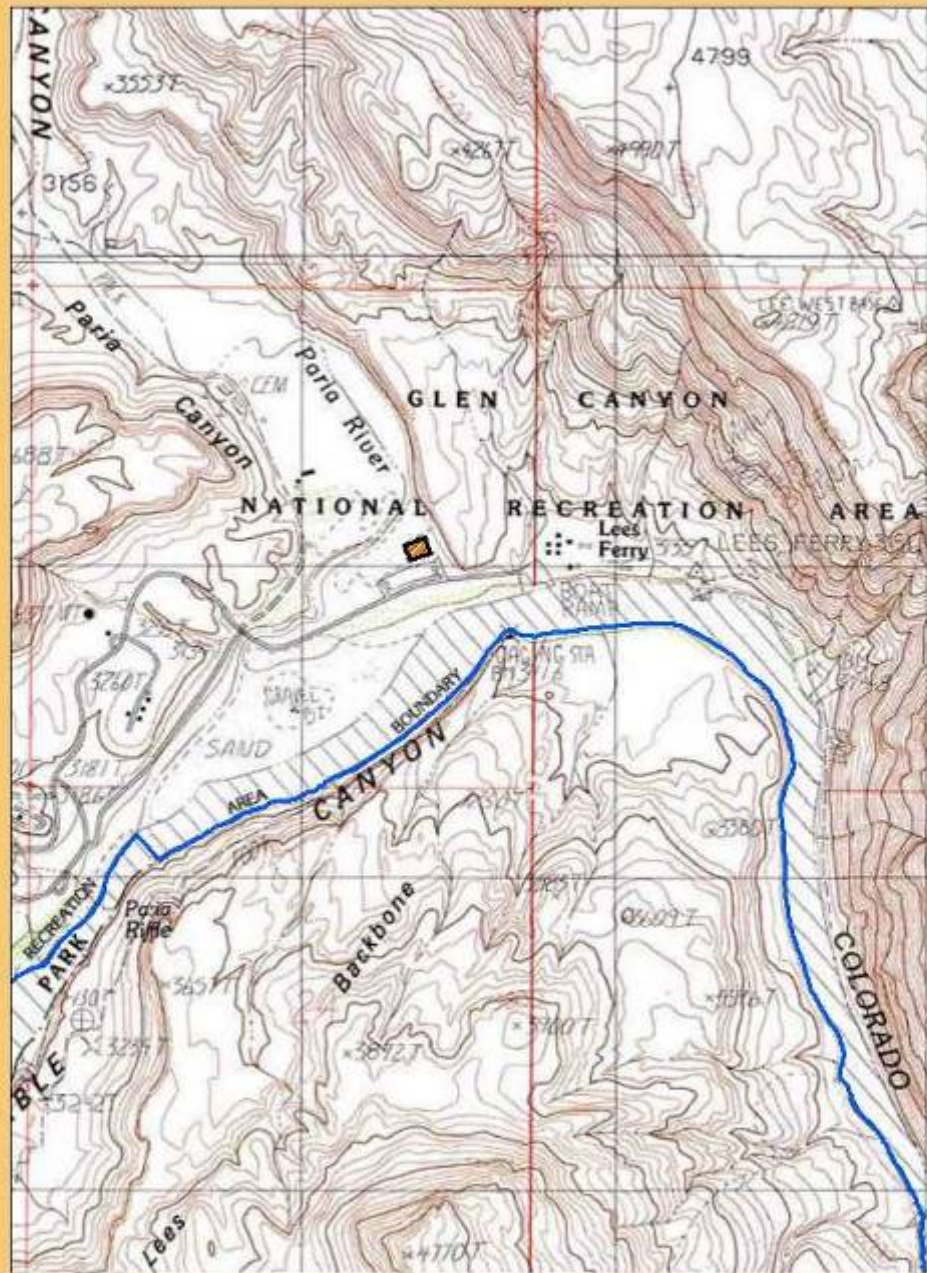
As currently planned all the new structures except the covered parking will be raised 6" above existing grade to provide positive drainage which would require approximately 200 cubic yards (c.y.) of new fill. The 150 linear foot (l.f.) egress drive will measure 18" deep and 13' wide and will contribute an additional 108 c.y. of fill. The top elevation of the drive will be equal to the current elevation of the compound. A crawl space will be constructed below the GCRA contact station. This will produce approximately 180 c.y. of excavation.

Underground utilities will need to be relocated to serve the new facilities. The existing septic tank and leach field (west of the building) for the contact station will be abandoned in place and the a new line and septic tank will be attached to an existing leach field to the east of the new

building site. The main raw water line coming into the treatment plant will be rerouted to the south of its current location. A new potable water line will be run from the existing water tank to the new GCRA contact station. Underground electrical and telephone lines will also need to be rerouted to serve the new facilities. The improved compound will be surrounded by a security fence with staff only gates incorporated at several locations.



Lees Ferry Compound

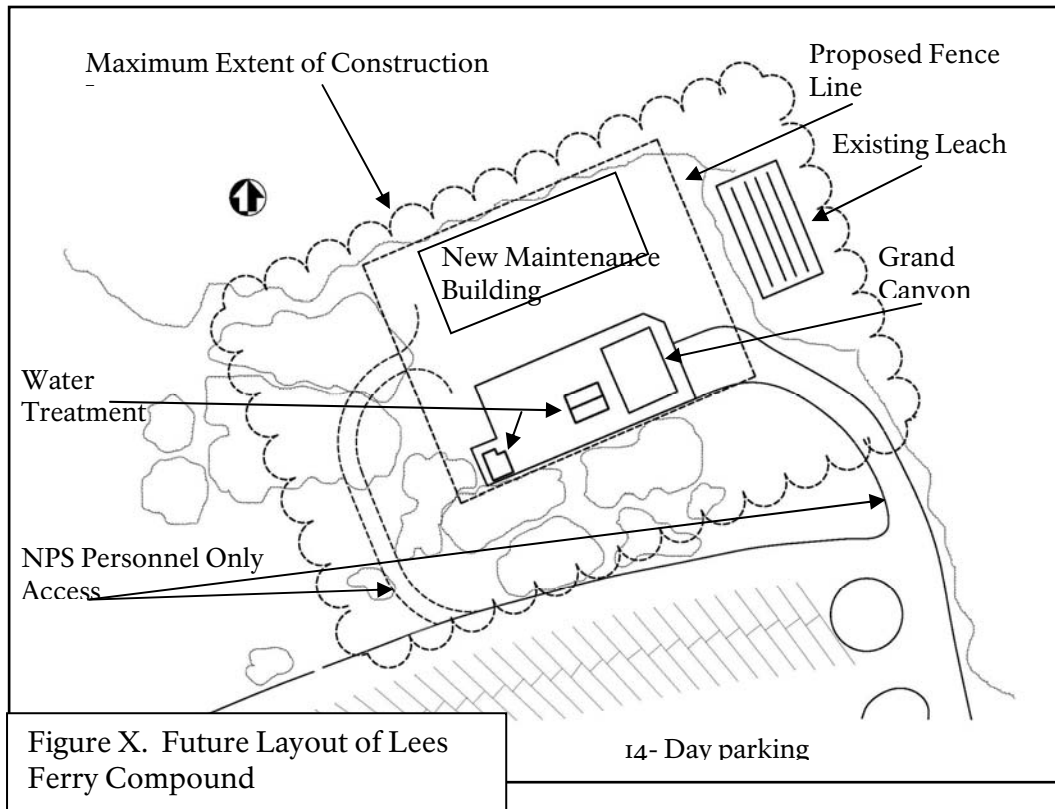


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Lees Ferry Compound

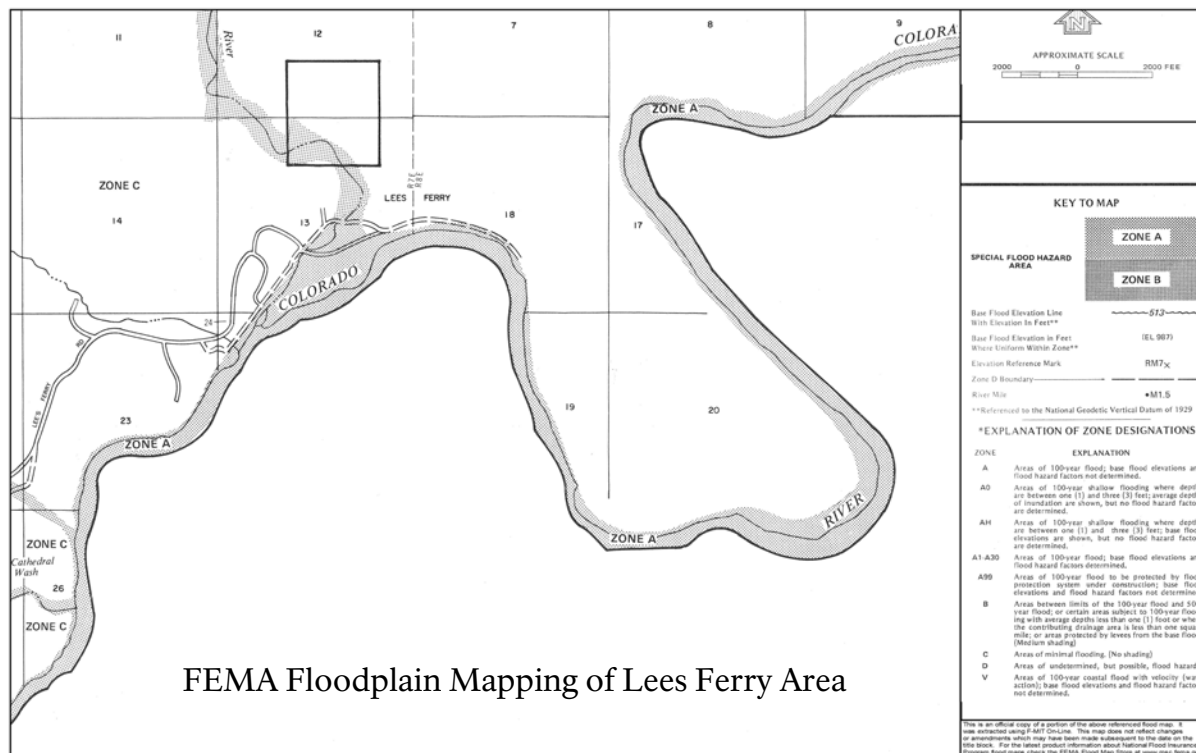
GLCA Boundary





Site Description & Nature of Flooding:

The compound is situated on the combined alluvial fan of the Paria River and gravel bar deposited by the Colorado River. The Federal Emergency Management Administration has identified this geologic formation as a flood plain as illustrated by FEMA Flood Map 0400190375B, subject to varying degrees of flooding by a 100- year precipitation event on the Paria River. Due to many variables including a local bridge over the Paria River, remnants of old channels left during the meandering period of the Paria River, varying river cross- sections, and constructed earthen features, the flood depths range from zero to approximately 14 feet.



Justification for Use of Floodplain:

The area in which the existing compound is located has been in continuous use at least since the early 1970's when the water treatment plant was constructed. The compound is currently comprised of the water treatment plant, the GRCA ranger contact station and storage buildings, and the GLCA maintenance and storage buildings. Other agencies, including the USGS and AZ Fish and Wildlife Service, park boats and store scientific equipment within the compound. It is located adjacent to the fourteen day parking lot and fish cleaning station; it is close to the boat ramp and courtesy dock, comfort station, and historic Lee's fort and ferry. This is the most visited area in Lees Ferry and these are the most heavily used public facilities.

Sited adjacent to the 14 day parking lot where boaters park their vehicles and boat trailers, the compound is an ideal location for the GRCA rangers to make contact with and orient visitors taking river trips down the Grand Canyon. GRCA rangers working out of the existing contact

station provide visitors with information on various recreational activities, and maintain an NPS presence for the public. The GCRA contact station is within easy walking distance to the boaters' input ramp and the comfort station. The compound and contact station are located in the perfect location to initiate SAR operations on the Colorado River or in the back country.

The compound is the only flat terrain in the area large enough to contain all the aforementioned structures, all essential to NPS operations, maintenance, and visitor support. Centralizing facility management and maintenance with resource and visitor protection operations at this location maximizes use of an already effected area and yields certain efficiencies in future site design and construction.

Co- locating the water treatment plant and maintenance building in the compound maximizes operation and maintenance of the treatment plant while allowing personnel to attend to other infrastructure operations and maintenance. This site is the closest feasible location to the launch ramp and comfort station, the fish cleaning station in the 14- day parking lot, as well as the water intake and associated pumps for the potable water system and the Lonely Dell ranch orchard irrigation system. This site is also within a mile of the NPS housing and the historic Lonely Dell Ranch. This close proximity allows for regular inspections, ease of maintenance, and cost effective janitorial service. Relocating the maintenance building and separating these two facilities would reduce many of these efficiencies and would require a large area of new disturbance within the district.

Consolidating these facilities in a single site reduces redundancies in utilities and disturbance to natural and cultural resources. It provides sufficient space for upgrading and expanding facilities to current standards, and allows for construction of storage structures and shade shelters to protect equipment and materials. Constructing a full service maintenance facility adjacent to the plant will not only facilitate on- going plant operations, but support other infrastructure operations and maintenance in the Lees Ferry area.

Cost of establishing a new site and relocating some or all of these facilities outside the floodplain is estimated to be a cost prohibitive \$2,000,000.

Hazardous materials such as gasoline, motor oil, fertilizer, and chlorine are stored in the various GLCA and GRCA buildings and used on a regular basis. A specific facility at the compound for hazmat storage would secure these materials at a central location in the event of a flood.

The compound is set back behind the 14 day parking and screened by riparian vegetation. Few building sites in the Lees Ferry area can provide this visual protection. Sites at higher elevations are more visually exposed and difficult to screen and are often visible to boaters on the Colorado River as well as those visiting the historic district and Lonely Dell ranch.

Since the Colorado River was blocked by the construction of Glen Canyon Dam sediment, including gravel is no longer deposited at the mouth of the Paria River. This deposition was a major mechanism in the meandering characteristics of the Paria River. *Since the Paria River has ceased meandering it has deeply incised its current course, increasing the depth of its channel significantly which has reduced the likelihood of future meandering.*

Site Specific Flood Risk:

On March 24, 2006, hydrologist Gary Smillie with the NPS Water Resources Division inspected the confluence of the Paria and Colorado Rivers. He specifically addressed the area north of the compound, at which point the Paria River flows directly at the compound. The purpose of his survey was to determine what effect a 100 year flood event of the Paria River would have on the structures and occupants of the compound. Based on his site visit and hydrologic analysis, he determined that the area within the compound is not subject to flooding due to the 100- year event. The analysis shows that the river is approximately fourteen feet deep and contained within the river banks, with approximately 12 to 18 inches of free board remaining. However downstream, the river may top the bank and follow remnants of old channels. These channels appear to act as a safety valve by lowering the river's surface gradient and providing the freeboard. The point at which the trajectory of the river aligns with the compound, the compound is approximately 350 feet from the river bank and is therefore unlikely to be affected. This area may be vulnerable in a rare 500 year event, but then so would most of the Lees Ferry development.

Flood Plain Mitigation:

Construction and operations will be confined to the approximate limits of the existing compound and adjacent, historically disturbed areas. GLCA dispatch monitors the National Weather Service flashflood warnings to initiate evacuation of facilities and surrounding area of visitors and NPS personnel. Once evacuation measures are initiated, visitors and staff alike would be urged to seek higher ground, which is only a very short distance and only a very few minutes from this location, thus allowing quick evacuation.

Summary:

The Lees Ferry compound has been in its current location at least since the early 1970's, initially as the site for the water treatment plant. Facility management and maintenance activities are anchored to the water treatment plant, and resource and visitor protection activities to the Colorado River access and adjacent historic district, close to the compound. This locale is optimal for staging NPS operations and providing direct services for the parks' visitors. It provides sufficient space for upgrading existing facilities to current standards and adding needed structures for the protection of equipment and materials. Relocating these facilities out of the flood plain would be exorbitant in cost, reduce essential service to visitors, and reduce operational efficiencies.

To mitigate impact on the flood plain, all future construction of the identified structures will be confined to the previously disturbed area, and as a consequence, above the 100 year flood stage. The current communication and warning system will be maintained in order to evacuate visitors and their personal property in the event of a severe storm over the Paria River drainage.