



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ADOT De-icing Materials Building

Background

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Park Service prepared an Environmental Assessment / Assessment of Effect to examine various alternatives and environmental impacts associated with the proposal to construct a de-icing materials building at the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Page maintenance yard. As part of roadway maintenance, de-icing materials are used on roadways and are currently stored either off site, in 40 pound bags on pallets in an existing storage building, or on a concrete slab surrounded by cinder blocks. This project proposes construction of a de-icing materials building to contain de-icing materials with a catch basin and a storage tank.

During winter months it is sometimes necessary to use de-icing materials on the state roadways to prevent ice from forming on roads. These de-icing materials, salts (sodium chloride, potassium chloride, and magnesium chloride) and sand require storage in a structure that protects them from the elements. The purpose of this project is to provide an appropriate structure for the storage of de-icing materials at the ADOT Page maintenance yard. The Page maintenance yard currently does not have an adequate storage facility to collect potential runoff material. The proposed de-icing materials building with a catch basin and storage tank would prevent salts from running offsite or leaching into the soil.

Selection of the Preferred Alternative

The Environmental Assessment / Assessment of Effect evaluated two alternatives: Alternative A: the no action alternative and Alternative B: the only action alternative. The No Action alternative describes the current condition as if no de-icing building was constructed, while the action alternative addresses the construction of the de-icing building along with a pavement apron, containment basin, grading and drainage.

Alternative B consists of the construction of a 60- x 40- foot de-icing materials building, a 52- x 35- foot concrete pad in front of the new building, and catch basin with a collection tank to collect any run-off material. The project site is within the existing fenced ADOT maintenance yard in an area of highly disturbed ground adjacent to other existing maintenance buildings.

Environmentally Preferred Alternative

Alternative B (Construct New De-icing Materials Building) is the environmentally preferred alternative. The environmentally preferred alternative is determined by applying the six criteria suggested in §101 of the National Environmental Policy Act. According to these criteria, the environmentally preferred alternative should 1) fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations; 2) assure for all generations safe, healthful, productive, and esthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings; 3) attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences; 4) preserve important historic, cultural and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice; 5) achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and 6) enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

Alternative A, No Action, would fail to meet the requirements of policies 2 and 3. The state highway system provides many vital links for motorists to access the Glen Canyon NRA. Without de-icing materials in close proximity to these roadways there is a greater risk to health and/or safety, and a potential for undesirable or unintended consequences, such as ice forming on the roadway.

Therefore, Alternative B (Preferred Alternative) is the environmentally preferred alternative because it best addresses these six evaluation factors. The preferred alternative does not degrade or diminish the current environment of the maintenance yard beyond that of the no action alternative. The preferred alternative more fully meets the requirements of policies 1-6.

Why the Preferred Alternative Will Not Have a Significant Effect on the Human Environment

As defined in 40 CFR §1508.27, significance is determined by examining the following criteria:

Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse

The Preferred Alternative would result in negligible effects to threatened and endangered species. There are no threatened or endangered species in the project area and the highly disturbed nature of the maintenance yard provides no suitable habitat for threatened and endangered species.

The Preferred Alternative would have long-term negligible effect on the soils

from the construction of the project. Due to the soils in the area being highly disturbed from maintenance activities, there would be no cumulative impacts associated with the preferred alternative.

The Preferred Alternative would not result in any new or cumulative impacts on Water Quality. The proposed project area does not contain surface waters, and is mostly dry, except for periodic runoff during storm events. Water quality, water quantity, and drinking water are not expected to be affected by the project.

Degree of effect on public health or safety

The Preferred Alternative will have an overall beneficial effect on public health and safety. The preferred alternative will allow needed roadway de-icing materials to be readily accessible to improve roadway conditions for motorists in and around the National Recreation Area.

Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas

The Preferred Alternative will not impact unique characteristics of the area including park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas because these resources do not exist in the project area.

Degree to which effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial

Throughout the environmental process, the proposal to construct a new de-icing materials building was not highly controversial, nor are the effects expected to generate future controversy

Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks

The effects of constructing a new de-icing materials building are fairly straightforward and do not pose uncertainties. The environmental process has not identified any effects that may involve highly unique or unknown risks.

Degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration

The Preferred Alternative is not expected to set a precedent for future actions with significant effects, nor does it represent a decision in principle about a

future consideration.

Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts

Cumulative effects were analyzed in the Environmental Assessment /Assessment of Effect, and no significant cumulative impacts were identified.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

The Preferred Alternative will not impact districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on National Register of Historic Places or cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources because these resources do not exist in the project area. A record site was conducted by the park archeological staff and no sites were identified as being in or near the Area of Potential Effect. In 1991, the Advisory Council on Historic Property, the Director of the NPS Intermountain Region, the Superintendent of Glen Canyon NRA, and the State Historic Preservation Officers from the State of Utah and Arizona entered into a Programmatic Agreement on the execution of Sections 110 and 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This agreement allows qualified archeologists from Glen Canyon NRA to determine the level of inventory that needs to be performed for any undertaking (in this case the construction of the proposed facility). If no cultural resources are located during the inventory, the Glen Canyon NRA project archeologist will document this finding in the case file and the park can then proceed with the project, without further SHPO consultation.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat

A letter was mailed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on March 16, 2007 informing them of the project and requesting their comments. No response was received. The Arizona Game and Fish Department's Heritage Data Management System and Project Evaluation Program (PEP) was consulted via the Internet to generate a list of threatened and endangered species, and "species of concern" for Coconino County, Arizona that occur within two miles of the project location. The PEP listed only the wintering population of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The Bald Eagle was removed from the list of threatened and endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on June 28, 2007.

Individual members of an experimental population of California condors are known to occasionally visit the US 89 corridor, which could include the project site. The Glen Canyon NRA staff, in consultation with the USFWS staff have developed a set of mitigation measures that would help ensure this species would be protected should they visit the project area during construction.

These mitigation measures, which have been included in the EA and will be included in the construction specifications, are being employed to ensure that there will be no impact to Condors.

Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, state, or local environmental protection law

The action will not violate any Federal, state or local environmental protection laws.

Impairment

The National Park Service has determined that implementation of the proposal will not constitute an impairment to the resources and values at the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. This conclusion is based on a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts described in the Environmental Assessment /Assessment of Effect, the public comments received, relevant scientific studies, and the professional judgment of the decision-maker guided by the direction in NPS *Management Policies* 2006.

MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The following mitigation measures apply to the implementation of Preferred Alternative.

- Prior to the start of construction, Peregrine Fund personnel monitoring California condor locations and movement will be contacted to determine the locations and status of condors in the project vicinity.
- All construction workers will be given a copy of the Arizona Game and Fish Pamphlet titled: California Condors in Arizona.
- If a condor occurs at the construction site, construction will cease until the condor leaves on its own or until techniques are employed by permitted personnel that result in it leaving the area.
- Construction workers and supervisors will be instructed to avoid interaction with any

condors and to immediately contact the appropriate Glen Canyon NRA personnel if or when condors occur at the construction site.

- The construction site will be cleaned up (e.g., trash removed) at the end of each day that work is being conducted to minimize the likelihood of condors visiting the area. Site visits will ensure that adequate cleanup measures are taken.
- To prevent water contamination and potential poisoning of condors, a vehicle fluid leakage and spill plan will be developed and implemented. The plan will include provisions for immediate cleanup of any hazardous substance and define how each hazardous substance will be treated in case of leakage or spill.
- If previously unidentified cultural resources are discovered during maintenance-related activities, the NPS will be notified to make arrangements for the appropriate assessment and treatment of those resources.
- During construction, diesel fuel and hydraulic fluids will be stored in sealed containers within an isolated area on the project site.
- To control the dust associated with increased vehicle traffic on the unpaved portion of the project area, water or an ADOT approved dust palliative will be applied regularly during the construction period.
- Best management practices will be implemented to make sure surface storm water runoff from the construction sites does not enter Lake Powell.

Public Involvement

The Environmental Assessment /Assessment of Effect were made available for public review and comment during a 30-day period ending September 16, 2007. To notify the public of this review period, a press release was mailed to stakeholders, affiliated Native American tribes, interested parties, and newspapers. Copies of the document were posted on the internet and were available for review at park headquarters. No comments were received.

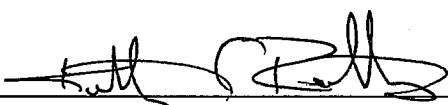
Conclusion

The Preferred Alternative does not constitute an action that normally requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Preferred Alternative would not have a significant effect on the human environment. Negative environmental impacts that could occur would be negligible in intensity. There would be no significant impacts on public health, public safety, threatened or endangered species, sites or districts listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or other unique characteristics of the

region. No highly uncertain or controversial impacts, unique or unknown risks, significant cumulative effects, or elements of precedence were identified. Implementation of the action would not violate any federal, state, or local environmental protection law.

Based on the foregoing, the National Park Service has determined that an EIS is not required for this project and thus will not be prepared.

Recommended:

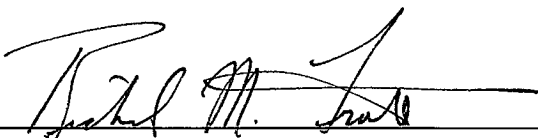


Kitty L. Roberts, Superintendent
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

9/25/07

Date

Approved:



Michael D. Snyder
Director, Intermountain Region
National Park Service

(ACTING)