



Colorado River Mile -12 Slough

Open House July 2024

Colorado River Glen Canyon Reach



The National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Reclamation have worked together since August 2023 to evaluate a proposal to channelize the sloughs at river mile -12 (“minus twelve”) in the Glen Canyon Reach of the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam. NPS will be the lead agency on this action and Reclamation will be a federal participating agency.

Upper Slough



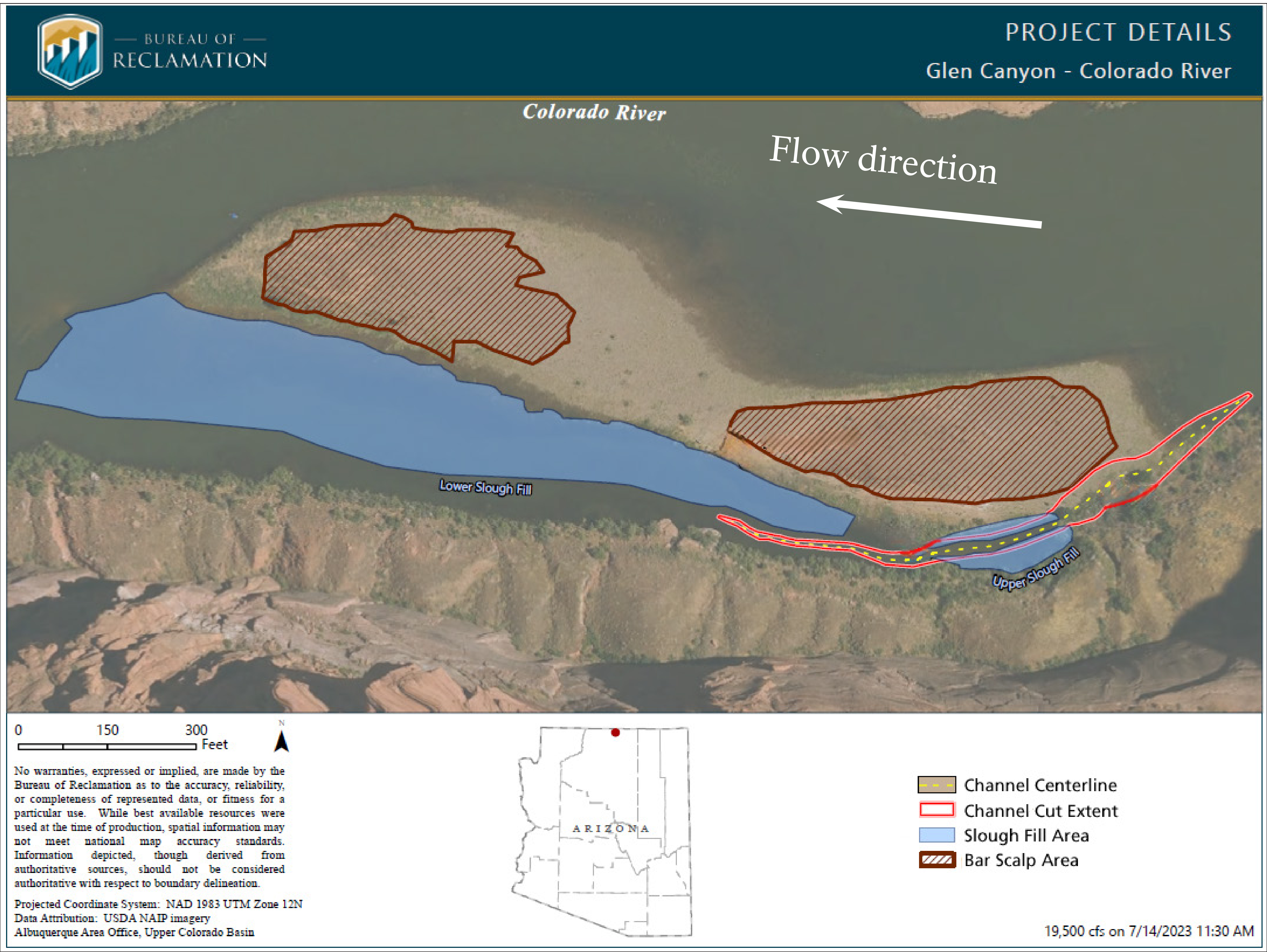
Lower Slough





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Proposed Channelization of the Slough

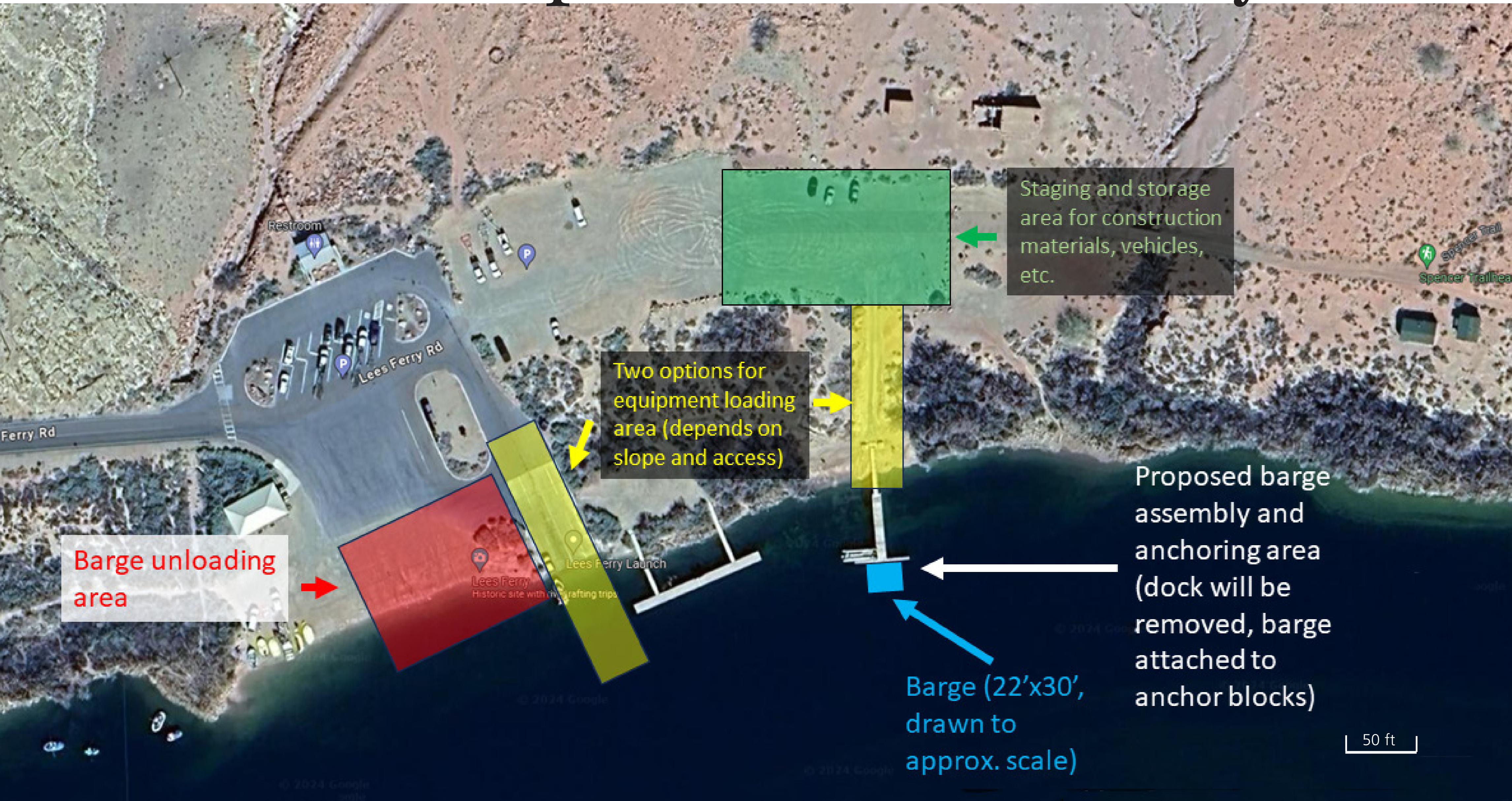


Workers will use heavy equipment to move the gravel and sand on top of the slough, cut a deeper, more narrow channel to allow cooler and faster water to flow through.



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Potential Impacts at Lees Ferry



Overhead view of Lees Ferry showing the barge unloading area (red box), assembly location (near the blue box, white text), equipment loading areas (yellow boxes), and storage area (green box). The blue box represents the barge and is drawn approximately to scale for this map.

Staging of construction equipment will take place at the Lees Ferry launch ramp, parking area. The launch ramp will remain open until it is time to load the barge.

Once equipment is loaded and secured, the barge will be pushed or pulled by a shallow water tugboat up the Colorado River to the slough, where equipment will be unloaded. For the tugboat and barge to float high enough over shallow water areas of the river, the Bureau of Reclamation may need to alter water flow out of the dam.



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A Unique Ecosystem



Mallards, Coot



*Great
Blue Heron*



Osprey



Tiger salamander

The slough provides an isolated wetland habitat that supports migratory birds, shorebirds, and waterfowl. It is a breeding space for dragonflies and other invertebrates and amphibians. This includes a tiger salamander not found elsewhere in Glen Canyon. The water sources of the upper slough are being studied and may include a natural spring. The slough habitat may convert to riverside channel habitat once the channelization is complete.



Woodhouse toad • Red Spotted toad



Dragonfly



*Black Crowned
Night Heron*



*Common
Merganser*



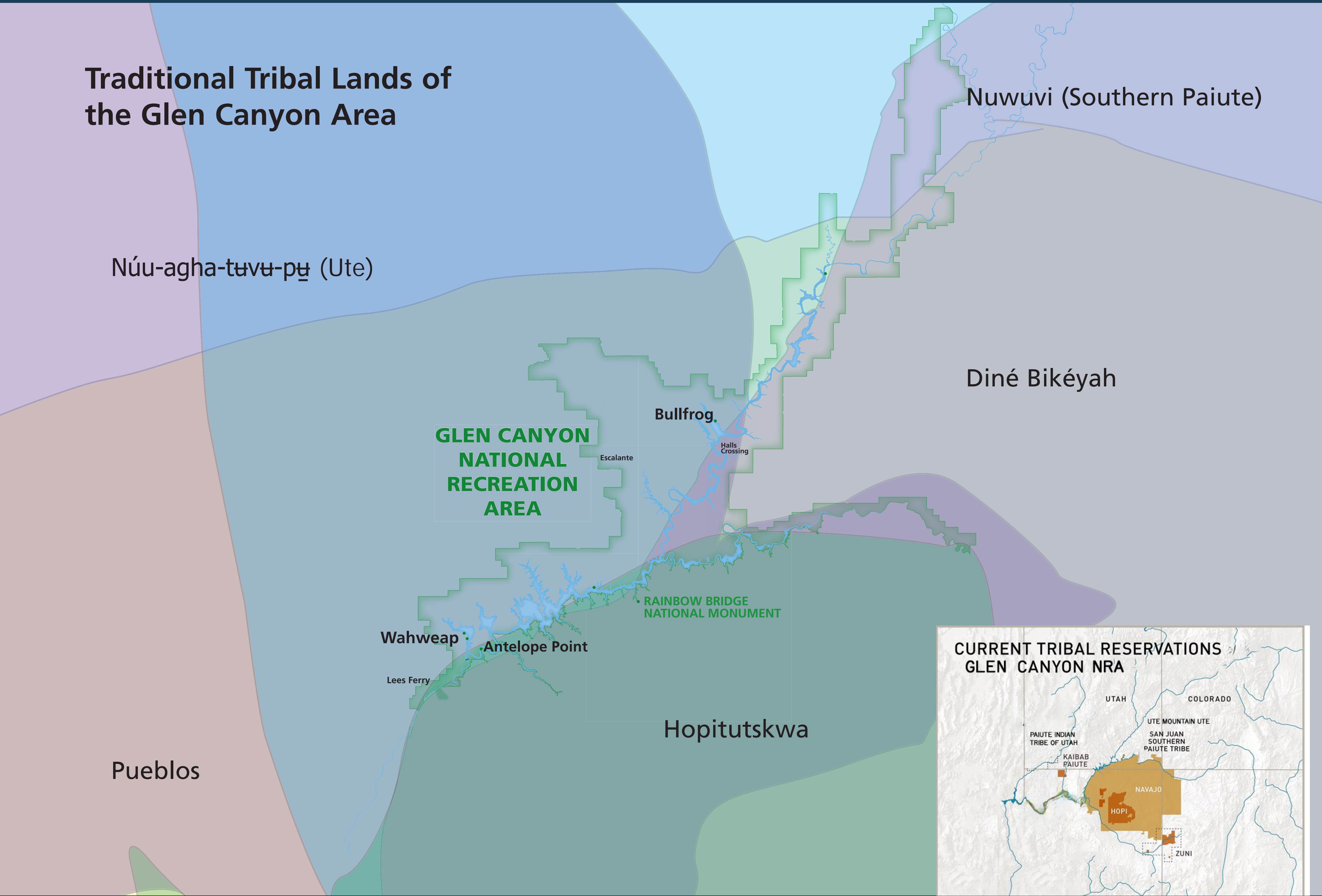
*Snow Egret
White-Faced Ibis*



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Cultural Connections

For many indigenous peoples the Glen Canyon region is a spiritually occupied landscape that is inseparable from their cultural identities and traditional beliefs.



Associated Tribes have stated that they regard the Colorado River Ecosystem, inclusive of the river and the land base from rim-to-rim within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area below Glen Canyon Dam as a Traditional Cultural Property.

The animals, plants, and possible natural springs of the slough are valued by the Hopi Tribe, Kaibab Paiute Tribe, Navajo Nation, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Pueblo of Zuni, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.



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Park Purpose

GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, located at the center of the Colorado Plateau, provides for public enjoyment through diverse land- and water-based recreational opportunities, and protects scenic, scientific, natural, and cultural resources on Lake Powell, the Colorado River, its tributaries, and surrounding lands.



Colorado River Mile -12 Slough, 1889



Colorado River Mile -12 Slough, 2011

Park Significance

Significance of the River in Glen Canyon

Significance Statement: The deep, 15 mile-long, narrow gorge below the dam provides a glimpse of the high canyon walls, ancient rock art, and a vestige of the riparian and beach terrace environments that were seen by John Wesley Powell’s Colorado River expedition in 1869, providing a stark contrast to the impounded canyons of Lake Powell.



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Project Purpose

The project goal is to help prevent breeding by non-native predatory fish, such as smallmouth bass and green sunfish. The presence of non-native fish in Glen Canyon, Marble Canyon, and Grand Canyon threatens the populations of native fish species, including the federally listed humpback chub (threatened) and razorback sucker (endangered), as well as the rainbow trout sport fishery.

Protect Native and Sport Fish



Flannelmouth Sucker



Humpback Chub



Razorback Sucker

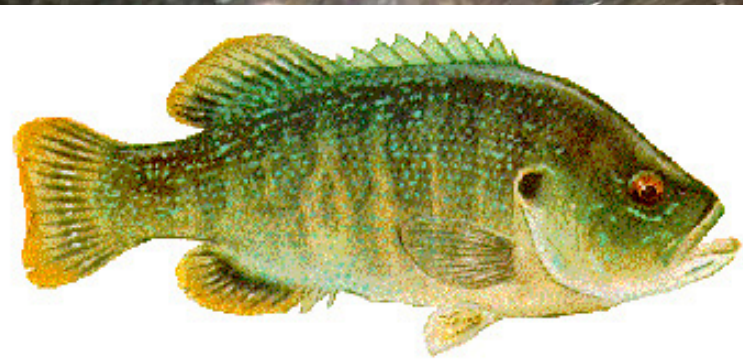


Rainbow trout

Reduce Predatory Non-native Fish



Green Sunfish



Smallmouth bass





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River Enthusiasts

Many Recreation Opportunities

