National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glen Canyon National
Recreation Area

691 Scenic View Dr.
PO Box 1507
Page, AZ 86040-1507

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CONTACT: Kevin Schneider
928-608-6208

Glen Canyon News Release

Scoping Begins for Project to Restore Native Vegetation along Colorado River

Page, Ariz. – Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is initiating an environmental assessment to restore native vegetation to the Colorado River between Lees Ferry and the Glen Canyon Dam. This spectacular 15- mile stretch of river has been invaded by non- native tamarisk, a highly aggressive weed found throughout the Southwest. Tamarisk, also called salt cedar, chokes out other native species by increasing the salinity of the soil.

The project is intended to develop a 20- year master plan to restore native vegetation to this stretch of the river. Initially, a six- acre site at Hidden Springs, located 6.5 miles upriver from Lees Ferry will be restored. The plan proposes to remove tamarisk while planting native upland and riparian species. Irrigation systems would be used as necessary to insure that native species become established.

The National Park Service is currently seeking public comments on the scope of the environmental assessment to help identify issues and alternatives for the analysis. The environmental assessment, expected to be completed in spring 2007, will analyze the potential impacts to the natural, cultural, and human environment associated with the proposal.

Comments may be submitted online at: *http://parkplanning.nps.gov/glca* or by mailing them to: Colorado River Vegetation Restoration EA, P.O. Box 1507, Page, AZ 86040. All public scoping comments must be received by January 26, 2007. Additional information about the project is also available at *parkplanning.nps.gov/glca*.

– www.nps.gov/glca –