



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 31, 2007 07-43

CONTACT: Kevin Schneider
928-608-6208

Glen Canyon News Release

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to Examine Deepening Castle Rock Cut

Page, AZ – Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is beginning an environmental assessment to examine the environmental effects of deepening an area on Lake Powell commonly called the Castle Rock Cut.

The Castle Rock Cut is a popular short-cut route on Lake Powell that allows boaters to conveniently travel between the Wahweap Marina and other destinations uplake. Traveling through the Castle Rock Cut saves about 12- miles of boating to popular areas such as Rainbow Bridge, Padre Bay, and Warm Creek Bay. Due to long-term drought conditions, however, the Castle Rock Cut has not been usable since 2003.

The Castle Rock Cut is currently open to boaters when Lake Powell is at an elevation of 3,620-foot or higher. Lake Powell is currently about 3,600- feet in elevation. The environmental assessment will look at deepening the Castle Rock Cut so it is navigable at other water levels.

The Castle Rock Cut was first deepened in the 1970s. In 1992, it was deepened again by approximately eight feet. Currently, an area approximately a half-mile in length, 80- feet wide, and 15- feet deep is proposed to be excavated. This would allow boats to pass through the Castle Rock cut when Lake Powell is at 3,600 feet in elevation.

The environmental assessment will analyze the potential impacts this project may have on the area's natural and cultural resources and the quality of visitors' experience. Public scoping is the first step in the planning process and allows the public to provide suggestions to the National Park Service about issues and alternatives that should be considered in the environmental assessment. Once an environmental assessment is drafted this winter, the public will have another opportunity to provide comments on the proposal.

Interested individuals are encouraged to provide their comments about the project to the National Park Service online at parkplanning.nps.gov/glca or by mailing them to: Castle Rock Cut EA, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, P.O. Box 1507, Page, AZ 86040. All comments must be received by December 4, 2007.

Additional details about the project are available online at: parkplanning.nps.gov/glca.

– www.nps.gov/glca –