



### NEWS RELEASE

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### NEWS RELEASE

December 17, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge 928-638-7779

## Grand Canyon National Park Extends Public Comment Period On Draft Environmental Impact Statement To Revise Colorado River Management Plan

### Comment Period Extended Until February 1, 2005

Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent, Joseph F. Alston, today announced an extension of the comment period on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to revise the Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) for Grand Canyon National Park. The timeframe has been extended from January 7, 2005 to February 1, 2005.

"Given the complexity of the document and the intense level of interest, we felt it was best to extend the comment period until February 1," Alston said. "This will give everyone additional time to study the draft and provide us with the most substantive comments possible."

The National Park Service prepared the draft EIS for the CRMP under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The initial 90-day public comment period began on October 8, 2004, with publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register. This extension will be announced in the Federal Register as well.

A complete copy of the draft EIS can be downloaded at [www.nps.gov/grca/crmp](http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp). A CD with the complete document can be ordered online at the same website.

During the past two months, seven public meetings were conducted to receive comments about the draft EIS. The meetings were held in Las Vegas, Nevada; Denver, Colorado; Salt Lake City, Utah; Phoenix, Arizona; San Francisco, California; Washington, D.C; and Flagstaff, Arizona.

The proposed CRMP is a visitor use management plan that specifies actions to preserve park resources while providing recreational opportunities in the river corridor. The plan is designed to cover the next decade, and will also establish goals and objectives for a longer timeframe.

Comments on the draft EIS can be submitted any one of the following ways:

- Mail to CRMP Project, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023;
- Through the Park's website at [www.nps.gov/grca/crmp](http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp);
- Fax to CRMP project at 928-638-7797; or
- Hand-deliver to Grand Canyon National Park

A summary of the scoping process and planning materials are also available on the Internet at [www.nps.gov/grca/crmp](http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp). For further information on this planning process, please contact Rick Ernenwein at 928-779-6279, or Mary Killeen at 928-638-7885.

Editors Note: To be placed on the park's CRMP Newsletter mailing list, please send your request along with your mailing and email address to: [grca\\_crmp@nps.gov](mailto:grca_crmp@nps.gov).

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### NEWS RELEASE

December 9, 2004

Jennie Kish Albrinck, (928) 638-7818

## Highway 67 to the North Rim Closed for Season

Grand Canyon, AZ – Highway 67 leading to the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park closed for the season this week after a winter storm brought heavy snowfall to Northern Arizona. Although facilities on the North Rim closed for the season on October 14, the highway remained open for day-use visitation. The highway traditionally closes each year after the first heavy snowfall on the North Rim. Facilities on the North Rim are scheduled to reopen May 10, 2005. Facilities on the South Rim and inner canyon remain open year-round.

The North Rim campground is still available for winter camping and is accessible via inner canyon trails from the South Rim or by cross-country skiing and snowshoeing – a 45 mile trip from Jacob Lake. To camp at the North Rim during winter months visitors must first obtain a backcountry permit, which can be obtained from the Backcountry Information Center located on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Permits may also be obtained at Pipe Spring National Monument in Fredonia, Arizona, or the Bureau of Land Management District Office in St. George, Utah. Permits from these locations must be obtained in person and several days in advance.

For additional information on winter camping on the North Rim, please call the Backcountry Information Center at (928) 638-7875, between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. weekdays, excluding holidays. For a copy of the park's free Trip Planner please call (928) 638-7888 or write, Trip Planner, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. The Trip Planner is also available on the Internet at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).



### NEWS RELEASE

November 23, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge (928) 638-7779

## Fatality in Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon, AZ - At approximately 10:00 a.m. Grand Canyon National Park Dispatch received a call from Air Traffic Control located in Los Angeles, California, of a possible fatality at River Mile 78 on the Colorado River. Information had been received at the Center through a ground to air transmission.

Park rangers responded by helicopter to River Mile 78 but could not land anywhere near the reporting party because of the terrain. Rangers were able to encourage the group to proceed down river to Phantom Ranch (River Mile 88) where Search and Rescue crews were waiting.

Initial investigations indicate the group of 10 were on a noncommercial river trip that launched from Lees Ferry on Thursday, November 18th. Yesterday at approximately 3:00 p.m. one of four boats the group was traveling in, overturned at River Mile 77. Two of the boats three passengers swam to shore; the third was recovered near River Mile 78 by others in the group who then administered CPR. The victim, a 62 year old male from Phoenix, Arizona, could not be resuscitated.

Following the accident the group attempted to make contact with over flying aircraft using a ground to air radio. Early this morning an aircraft received their distress call and relayed that information to the Air Traffic Center who in turn contacted Park Dispatch.

The body will be flown by a National Park Service helicopter from Phantom Ranch to the South Rim tomorrow morning, and then transported to the Coconino County Medical Examiner's Office in Flagstaff, Arizona.

An investigation is being conducted by the National Park Service.



November 19, 2004

Office of the Secretary, Scott Harris (703) 648-4054 or Barry Wirth (801) 524-3774

## Interior Scientists to Evaluate Effects of High Flow Test at Glen Canyon Dam

The Department of the Interior's U.S. Geological Survey is collaborating with partner agencies to conduct scientific experiments designed to evaluate the effect of a high-flow release from Glen Canyon Dam on the natural resources of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park.

Researchers from the USGS Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center are working with scientists and resource managers from Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, as well as the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Northern Arizona University and other cooperators to prepare, conduct, and evaluate the experiments.

The high-flow test, which will begin on Sunday, Nov. 21, 2004, received final approval today after the successful completion of an Environmental Analysis and the issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact statement - steps required by the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA underwent a 15-day public review and comment period that closed today.

Under the high-flow test experiment, Reclamation will open the dam's bypass tubes for 90 hours, beginning Nov. 21. The peak high flows will run for two and one-half days (60 hours) at about 41,000 cubic-feet-per-second. The goal is to stir up and redistribute sediment from tributary rivers downstream from the dam to enlarge existing beaches and sandbars, create new ones, and distribute sediment into drainage channels.

A previous high-flow test at the dam in 1996 was designed to stir up and redistribute sediment from the bottom of the Colorado River and add it to river banks. The hypothesis underlying that test was not borne out by the results, leading scientists to believe that a more effective approach would be to redistribute tributary sediment. More than a million tons of sediment has now accumulated from downstream tributaries, triggering the proposal from the Adaptive Management Work Group for the Nov. 21 high-flow test.

The water released during the experiment will not change the amount of water to be released over the course of the 2005 Water Year. The Annual Operating Plan calls for releasing approximately 8.23 million acre-feet of water from Glen Canyon Dam. That water is sent down river and captured in Lake Mead for use by the Lower Colorado River Basin States. The test flows are factored into that annual volume. Flows later in the year will be adjusted downward to factor in the additional water released between Nov. 21 and Nov. 25, 2004.

The science experiments will focus on sediment distribution, native fish and food for aquatic animals. The results of the experiments will be used to evaluate the use of high flows to redistribute tributary sediment as a management tool for the preservation and restoration of natural and cultural resources in the Colorado River corridor below Glen Canyon Dam.

Colorado River beaches provide a foundation for terrestrial habitat adjacent to the river as well as a safe and comfortable resting place for the recreational rafters and hikers who camp on them. In addition, sediment is important for in-place preservation of archaeological sites and other cultural resources. Most sediment entering Grand Canyon National Park now arrives from the Paria River and upper Marble Canyon tributaries below the dam.

Research will be supported by pre- and post-release remote sensing to determine how the beaches and sediment in the system respond to the high flows. Aerial photography will be complemented by channel-bed mapping and sediment classification using sophisticated multibeam sonar. Subsequent remote sensing efforts around Memorial Day, 2005, and 18 months after the test will track changes in the system over time.

USGS scientists will focus their investigations on sediment resources - specifically, how much of it moves through the Grand Canyon during the high-flow event, and how much is retained in the form of beaches or channel deposits. Shoreline beaches will be measured using a combination of conventional survey equipment and airborne Light Detection and Ranging equipment. LiDAR is a relatively new surveying technology that can deliver highly accurate topography from aircraft flying thousands of feet above the ground in remote locations. Sediment suspended in the water also will be measured using a combination of water sampling and a laser based technology.

A major portion of the research is focused on the well-being of native fish. The humpback chub, an endangered species, is one of four remaining native fish in the Grand Canyon. USGS scientists will be monitoring how the high-flow releases affect the survival of a population of young humpback chub in the Grand Canyon near the confluence of the Little Colorado River.

Non-native rainbow trout, a predatory species, are an important resource for anglers below Glen Canyon Dam in the first 15 miles, to Lees Ferry. Surveys to determine the relative abundance of trout were recently completed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. These surveys will be repeated in mid-December, 2004, to determine the effect of the high flows on trout populations and trout diet.

Another endangered species, the Kanab ambersnail, will be the focus of an experiment to determine if its habitat can be protected from experimental floods. Vegetation occupied by snails in the zone to be inundated will be removed by hand, stacked on pallets and moved above the flood. After the high flow ends, vegetation will be relocated to the flood zone and growth hormones will be applied to plants to encourage re-establishment of snail habitat.

The aquatic foodbase is important for all species living in the river. A fundamental component of the foodbase is "drift," or the floating array of invertebrates, algae and other bits and pieces of raw material carried down the river as a result of the natural erosion of the channel and surrounding landscape. Drift provides a source of energy and carbon to higher organisms, including fish.

Drift samples will be taken below the Little Colorado River to determine changes in the foodbase before, during and after the high flow. Pre- and post-flood surveys of algae and aquatic vegetation beds, an important part of the foodbase, also will be conducted in the Lees Ferry reach.

Another part of an overall experiment to test the effect of flow and non-flow actions that enhance and restore natural resources in the canyon involves the removal of non-native fish from a critical habitat for the endangered humpback chub near the confluence with the Little Colorado River. While unrelated to flows, this research effort will continue in concert with the overall research design.

Scientific studies will continue after the high-flow experiment to examine the condition and status of sediment deposited on the beaches and the long-term effect on the natural and cultural resources.

For more information regarding the science associated with the experimental high flow, contact Scott Harris, public affairs

officer for the U.S. Geological Survey, at (703) 648-4054 (office); or (703) 785-1113 (cell); or (877) 826-5955 (satellite phone -- after Nov. 18). His e-mail is [sharris@usgs.gov](mailto:sharris@usgs.gov).

The draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact is at [www.usbr.gov/uc/envprog/amp](http://www.usbr.gov/uc/envprog/amp). The news release on the EA is at [www.usbr.gov/newsroom/](http://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/).

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**Additional Fact Sheets are available as PDF files. PDF files retain the look and feel of the original document (including typography, page layout, and graphics).**



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- **To download** a PDF to your computer, right-click on the PDF link and choose the "Save Link/Target As" option from the drop-down menu. After saving the file to your computer, click on its alias/icon and Acrobat Reader will launch and open the PDF for viewing and/or printing.

**PDF file - [Fact Sheet: Glen Canyon Dam High-Flow Experiment](#) - 28kb**

**PDF file - [Supplemental Fact Sheet](#) Glen Canyon Dam High-Flow Experiment - 29kb**



### NEWS RELEASE

November 18, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge (928) 638-7779

## South Kaibab Trail in Grand Canyon will reopen for hikers on Friday

Grand Canyon, AZ - The South Kaibab Trail in Grand Canyon National Park will reopen for hiking Friday morning, November 19th. Sections of the popular hiking trail closed in late October for repairs following a storm that had produced a significant amount of snow and rain.

Although the trail will reopen for hikers, National Park Service trail crews are still making repairs to a rock wall approximately four miles below the rim. Until this work is completed, the South Kaibab trail will remain closed to mules. Overnight mule trips from Phantom Ranch to the rim are currently being re-routed to the Bright Angel Trail. It is anticipated that this remaining work will be completed by late Sunday. If work is completed on Sunday, mule operations on the South Kaibab Trail could resume as early as Monday, November 22nd.

For additional information on hiking and trail conditions, please contact the Park's Backcountry Information Center at (928) 638-7875. Additional information on mule trips can be obtained by calling Xanterra Park's & Resorts, a Park Concessioner, at (928) 638-2631.

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### NEWS RELEASE

November 13, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge (928) 638-7779

## **Park Rangers at Grand Canyon National Park Arrest Individual to be Profiled on America's Most Wanted**

GRAND CANYON, AZ - Grand Canyon National Park Rangers arrested James Eric Emery, 27, of Mt. Vernon, Texas this morning on an outstanding Federal warrant and state charges from the state of Texas. Emery was arrested at approximately 7:00 a.m. in Trailer Village, a campground within Grand Canyon National Park.

The Grand Canyon National Park Dispatch Office received a BOLO (Be On the Lookout) shortly after midnight last night from the Department of the Interior Office of Law Enforcement and Security, that indicated Emery could be visiting State and National Parks. At approximately 1:00 a.m. this morning, Park Rangers located Emery's vehicle, a motor home, in Trailer Village. Rangers kept the motor home under surveillance throughout the night and when Emery exited the vehicle at approximately 7:00 a.m. arrested him without incident. Emery was traveling with his three young children, an 18 month old daughter, 4 year old son and 7 year old daughter.

Custody of Emery was transferred to the FBI. He was transported to the Coconino County Jail in Flagstaff, Arizona approximately 85 miles south east of Grand Canyon National Park.

All three children were placed in protective custody and were reunited with their mother this morning at Grand Canyon National Park. She had last seen her children on August 29, 2004, when they were taken by their father, James Eric Emery.

Emery was profiled on America's Most Wanted website - the T.V. show America's Most Wanted had planned to profile Emery on a program in the future. Emery was wanted on a Federal Indictment for bank larceny and state charges for unlawful flight with children.



### NEWS RELEASE

November 4, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge (928) 638-7779

## National Park Service closes another section of the South Kaibab Trail in Grand Canyon National Park to repair damage caused by storm

GRAND CANYON, AZ - The National Park Service closed another section of the South Kaibab Trail this morning in order to repair damage caused by recent rains and melting snow. The South Kaibab Trail is now closed from Ooh-Aah Point, approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile below the rim to the Tonto Trail Junction. The South Kaibab Trail from Cedar Ridge to the Tonto Trail Junction closed on Thursday, October 28, after rock slides and debris flows, caused from last weeks storm, damaged several sections of trail and rock wall.

National Park Service trail crews are working on the trail and expect to have the first section from Oah-Aah Point to Cedar Ridge (approximately 1 mile) open by Friday, November 12. The remaining section of trail from Cedar Ridge to the Tonto Trail Junction (approximately 3 miles) should be open by Friday, November 19.

The South Kaibab Trail from the rim to Ooh-Aah Point is still open for day hiking. Overnight mule trips from Phantom Ranch to the rim are being re-routed to the Bright Angel Trail. All other trails in the Park remain open, including the North Kaibab Trail, and Bright Angel Trail which leads to the Colorado River and Phantom Ranch. Inner canyon campgrounds were not affected by last week's storm and also remain open.

For information on hiking and alternate routes, please contact the Park's Backcountry Information Center at (928) 638-7875.







### NEWS RELEASE

October 28, 2004

Leah McGinnis (928) 638-7903

## A Portion Of The South Kaibab Trail Closes Due To Trail Erosion

Grand Canyon, AZ - The South Kaibab Trail will be closed effective immediately from Cedar Ridge to the Tonto Trail junction due to significant trail erosion just below Cedar Ridge. The South Kaibab remains open from the trailhead on the South Rim down to Cedar Ridge as well as from Phantom ranch to the Tonto Trail junction. Trail crews will begin work on this section of trail tomorrow. The trail will remain closed through Sunday morning at which time it will be re-evaluated and a determination to re-open will be made.

Heavy rains that began yesterday afternoon and a significant amount of snowfall that began during the night and continued through most of today contributed to the trail erosion. If you are planning to hike at Grand Canyon in the next couple of days, come prepared for winter conditions, icy and or very wet trail conditions. Inquiries into trail conditions at the Grand Canyon can be made by calling (928) 638-7875.

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

October 25, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge NPS (928) 638-7779

Ginny Bunch NPF (202) 238-4200

Layne Cameron BSU (765) 285-5953

## National Park Service and Ball State University to Conduct Live Educational Broadcast from the Rim of Grand Canyon National Park

GRAND CANYON, AZ - The National Park Service (NPS) and Ball State University (BSU), Muncie, Ind., will broadcast this year's first E3 Electronic Field Trip, "Into the Canyon," to schools and households across the country - from the rim of Grand Canyon National Park.

The E3 Electronic Field Trip, developed by Ball State's Teachers College will air at 4:30 p.m. MST on Monday, November 8, 2004.

The first live show will air from Lipan Point along Desert View Drive on the east rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Native Americans, through storytelling and performance, will share how they have lived in and around the canyon for more than 10,000 years.

Throughout the broadcast, viewers will be able to call in with questions or submit them online in a live discussion forum. Viewers can register to receive the Internet broadcast at [www.bsu.edu/eft](http://www.bsu.edu/eft) or check local cable and PBS listings.

The evening show will be followed with two educational broadcasts at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. MST on Tuesday, November 9. Students from Florida, Indiana, New York and Arizona (including Grand Canyon) will appear in these shows, which are geared toward classrooms, and will focus on activities and lesson plans that were developed by teachers who spent an intense week in the Grand Canyon earlier this year. Some of the topics to be included in the educational broadcasts are geology, scientific theory, flora and fauna, human history and preservation. Activities will be led by National Park Service employees including park naturalists, biologists, and anthropologists.

Many of the activities are adapted from those used by park rangers when working with student groups who visit the park. Through the Electronic Field Trips, the NPS and BSU hope to reach more than 15 million viewers in 45 states. "It's exciting to be able to reach so many children with educational programs on the cultural and natural history of one of our nation's most premier national parks," stated Judy Hellmich, Chief of Interpretation at Grand Canyon National Park. "For some, this virtual field trip will be their first experience with a national park - we hope to foster a greater understanding about the many resources available in our national parks starting with an in depth look at the Grand Canyon."

This project was made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation (NPF) through the generous support of the Best Buy Children's Foundation and Ball State University.

**(Note to Editors:** For more information, contact Judy Hellmich, Chief of Interpretation, Grand Canyon National Park at (928) 638-7760 or electronically at [judy\\_hellmich@nps.gov](mailto:judy_hellmich@nps.gov) or Mark Kornmann, director of Teachers College Outreach Services at (765) 285-8106 or electronically at [mkornmann@bsu.edu](mailto:mkornmann@bsu.edu).)

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### NEWS RELEASE

October 15, 2004

Kristy Bryner 928-638-7819

## Grama Wildland Fire Use Continues To Grow And Burn Within Set Boundaries

The Grama Fire, a 130 acre Wildland Fire Use fire on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon continues to burn actively on the ground, well within the predetermined area. These Wildland Fire Use areas are established by park fire officials once a fire has been naturally ignited and are intended to restrict the fire activity in order to maintain public safety and achieve the most resource management benefits.

A lightning strike started the fire on September 28th. Shortly after ignition, a decision was made to allow the fire to burn under the park's Wildland Fire Use Strategy. This strategy allows some lightning-caused fires, such as the Grama Fire, to be managed for resource benefits, under specific conditions and within a predetermined area. Currently, the Grama Fire is burning in a way that accomplishes these resource goals.

The Grama Fire is located northeast of Point Sublime, and approximately 10 miles west of the North Rim developed area. It has not crossed over Point Sublime Road, and there are currently no road closures or restrictions in effect. Smoke impacts will occur depending on fire intensity and local wind patterns, and it is likely smoke will be visible from the South Rim.

For additional information about the fires, call 928-638-7819. For backcountry travel information, call 928-638-7875.

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### NEWS RELEASE

October 8, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge 928-638-7779

## National Park Service Announces Public Meeting Locations To Discuss Colorado River Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement Alternatives

### WHAT:

The National Park Service (NPS) will host a series of public meetings to provide an overview of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), allowing for public comment and a comprehensive review of the document. The EIS will be the foundation for the revision of the 1989 Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) for Grand Canyon National Park. These meetings will help the public learn about the proposed and preferred alternatives under consideration.

A complete copy of the draft EIS can be downloaded at [www.nps.gov/grca/crmp](http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp). A CD with the complete document can be ordered online at the same Web site.

### WHO:

The NPS invites public input as it prepares to finalize the EIS. Anyone interested in providing input and offering ideas about how visitor use will be managed on the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park or would like to learn more about the EIS process is encouraged to attend.

### WHEN/WHERE:

*All meetings will be in an open house format, and there will be no formal presentation. The public is invited to stop by at any time from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

**Monday, November 8, 2004**

**Denver, Colorado**

Arapahoe Community College

Cafeteria

5900 S. Santa Fe Drive, Littleton

[www.arapahoe.edu/aboutacc/maps/index.html](http://www.arapahoe.edu/aboutacc/maps/index.html)

**Wednesday, November 10, 2004**

**Salt Lake City, Utah**

Salt Lake Community College-Miller Campus

Karen Gail Miller Conference Center

9750 South 300 West, Sandy

[www.slcc.edu/miller/MAP/](http://www.slcc.edu/miller/MAP/)

***Tuesday, November 16, 2004***

**Washington, D.C. Area**

Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel

Ballroom

1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington

<http://marriott.com/property/propertyPage/WASGW>

***Thursday, November 18, 2004***

**Las Vegas, Nevada**

Henderson Convention Center

Ballroom and Sierra A & C

200 Water Street, Henderson

[www.visithenderson.com/index01.html](http://www.visithenderson.com/index01.html)

***Monday, November 22, 2004***

**Flagstaff, Arizona**

Coconino Community College

Administration Building - Commons Area

2800 S. Lone Tree Rd.

[www.coconino.edu/campuses/lonetree.html](http://www.coconino.edu/campuses/lonetree.html)

***Tuesday, November 30, 2004***

**Phoenix, Arizona**

Glendale Community College

Student Lounge

6000 W. Olive Avenue, Glendale

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***Thursday, December 2, 2004***

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**WHY:**

Today's publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability in the Federal Register initiates a 90-day public review and comment period. Comments on the draft EIS will be accepted through January 7, 2005.

**PUBLIC CONTACT:**

For more information, visit the Park's Web site at [www.nps.gov/grca/crmp](http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp)



### NEWS RELEASE

October 4, 2004

Donna Nemeth 928-638-7944

## Recent Rains Have Curtailed Fire Activities At Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon, AZ - Recent rains have curtailed both natural and prescribed fire activities on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. All fire related trail and road closures that were in effect have been lifted. Fire fighters continue to monitor and patrol the Outlet and Walhalla prescribed fires, as well as the lightning-caused Bright and Quartz fires, which have been burning since July. Although none of the fires are active at this time, there is a potential for smoke to become visible again as forest fuels dry out.

Up to three additional prescribed fires will be ignited this fall if weather conditions become favorable. Prescribed fires are one of the most effective tools available to resource managers for restoring fire dependant ecosystems.

Two of the planned ignitions are located on the park's North Rim. The 1500-acre Atoko prescribed fire area is several miles east of the developed area. The 1200-acre Northwest III prescribed fire area is approximately ten miles northwest of the North Rim developed area. The Topeka prescribed fire would consist of 1600-acres on the South Rim, immediately south of the developed area.

Every effort is made to minimize smoke impacts; however, it is impossible to predict weather patterns and smoke behavior with complete accuracy. Smoke impacts may occur in adjacent communities or in the inner canyon, particularly at night and in the early morning hours.

For additional fire information, please call 928-638-7819. You may also visit Grand Canyon's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grca>.



### NEWS RELEASE

October 1, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge (928) 638-7779

## **Grand Canyon National Park Publishes Draft Environmental Impact Statement To Revise Colorado River Management Plan**

### ***Preferred Alternatives Outline Model System for River Management***

Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent, Joseph F. Alston, today announced the availability of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to revise the Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) for Grand Canyon National Park. The National Park Service prepared the draft EIS for the CRMP under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Alston also announced that NPS would hold seven public meetings around the country to provide a comprehensive public review of the report.

Publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register on October 8, 2004 initiates a 90-day public review and comment period. Comments on the draft EIS can be submitted following publication of the NOA and will be accepted through January 7, 2005.

A complete copy of the draft EIS can be downloaded at [www.nps.gov/grca/crmp](http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp). A CD with the complete document can be ordered online at the same website.

"This portion of the Colorado River is one of the longest stretches of navigable white water on earth, and one of the world's premier river experiences," Alston said. "Producing a draft EIS was a complex undertaking, and I am proud of all the hard work our park staff put into preparing this report. The document provides a comprehensive analysis of the river's recreational use, and we are recommending some innovative alternatives to balance all the diverse management objectives."

The proposed CRMP is a visitor use management plan that specifies actions to preserve park resources while providing recreational opportunities in the river corridor. The plan is designed to cover the next decade, and will also establish goals and objectives for a longer timeframe.

For the draft EIS, the Colorado River is divided into two geographic sections with a specific set of alternatives, including preferred alternatives, for each section:

1. One section covers Lees Ferry (River Mile 0) to Diamond Creek (River Mile 226), where the majority of commercial and private river trips start and end. A no-action alternative was analyzed as well as seven alternatives.
2. One section covers the Lower Gorge from Diamond Creek (River Mile 226) to Lake Mead (River Mile 277). This is a transitional area, starting in a primitive setting and ending in the more urban recreational setting of Lake Mead. It is handled cooperatively with the Hualapai Tribe and Lake Mead National Recreation Area. This is the first management plan for the Lower Gorge, where the situation has been complicated by drought conditions impacting

downstream boat and passenger take-out options. A no-action alternative was studied as well as four alternatives.

Alternative H is the preferred alternative for the Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek section, providing six months of mixed motorized use and a six-month no-motor period (September through February). Of all the alternatives, it achieves the best balance between group size, trip length, launches per day, the total number of trips and people on the river at one time, and impacts on park resources. It has the highest total user-days and passengers in the summer, but one of the lowest total user-days and passengers the rest of the year. Commercial operators would have the same total user days as they currently do during the high use period of March through October. Non-commercial users would have more user-days and passengers than in any other alternative. Alternative H is one of the best alternatives for protecting park resources.

Alternative 4 is the preferred alternative for the Lower Gorge section (Diamond Creek to Lake Mead). This option increases the overall operations while reducing group size for all Hualapai River Runner trips. It also reduces pontoon boat operations from current levels. It spreads the trips out over a longer period of time to eliminate a peak use pattern, and includes the development of three new campsites for Hualapai use.

NPS will host a series of public meetings to receive comments about the draft EIS in each of the following seven cities, Las Vegas, Nevada; Denver, Colorado; Salt Lake City, Utah; Phoenix, Arizona; San Francisco, California; Washington, D.C; and Flagstaff, Arizona. The NPS anticipates announcing the public meeting schedule in early October.

Comments on the draft EIS can be submitted any one of the following ways:

- Mail to CRMP Project, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023;
- Through the Park's website at [www.nps.gov/grca/crmp](http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp);
- Fax to CRMP project at 928-638-7797;
- Hand-deliver to Grand Canyon National Park; or
- Provide comments at one of the seven public meetings.

A summary of the scoping process and planning materials are also available on the Internet at [www.nps.gov/grca/crmp](http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp). For further information on this planning process, please contact Rick Ernenwein at 928-779-6279.

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Editors Note: To be placed on the park's CRMP Newsletter mailing list, please send your request along with your mailing and email address to: [grca\\_crmp@nps.gov](mailto:grca_crmp@nps.gov).

### **Background on the CRMP process:**

The first River Use Plan was developed for Grand Canyon in 1972. It was updated several times, and was the subject of two lawsuits in 2000-2001. Settlement of one of the lawsuits began the current effort to update the CRMP in the spring of 2002; public scoping meetings were held throughout the country in summer and fall 2002. More than 55,000 individual comments were received during scoping.

Major issues and concerns regarding resource protection, visitor experience and services raised during the 2002 public and internal scoping process include:

- Balance between visitor access and resource protection
- Motorized and non-motorized level of use
- Commercial / non-commercial allocations and seasonal distributions
- Non-commercial permit system
- Level of helicopter use at Whitmore Wash, seasonality and exchanges

- Quality of river trips (including crowding, trip length, group size and scheduling issues)

The revision of the CRMP is needed to address long-standing Colorado River management issues, including the following:

- Appropriate level of visitor use consistent with natural and cultural resource protection and visitor experience goals
- Allocation of use between commercial and non-commercial groups
- Non-commercial permit waiting list
- Level of motorized and non-motorized boat use
- Range of services provided to the public
- Use of helicopters to transport river passengers to and from the river at Whitmore Wash
- Impacts to natural and cultural resources
- Appropriate levels and types of upstream travel from Lake Mead

Since the public scoping process ended in late 2002, the NPS has done detailed analytical research, run computer simulations to test alternatives and incorporated the scoping input into the planning alternatives.

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### NEWS RELEASE

September 28, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge (928) 638-7779

Fran Joseph, GCNPF (928) 774-1760

## Ceremony at North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park To Highlight Planned Development of Trail

Grand Canyon, AZ - As part of a continuing effort to improve visitor experience at Grand Canyon National Park, Superintendent Joe Alston will participate in an October 4th ceremony on the Park's North Rim to launch a process for the development of a \$4.6 million six-mile (multi-use) rim trail proposed in the Park's 1995 General Management Plan. Superintendent Alston will be joined by Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish Wildlife and Parks Paul Hoffman, First District Congressman Rick Renzi, Grand Canyon National Park Foundation Board Chair Allen Naille and President Deborah Tuck, and Arizona Department of Transportation Director Victor Mendez at the 11:30 am ceremony near the North Rim Visitor Center and the historic Grand Canyon Lodge.

Grand Canyon National Park is the second-most-visited national park in the United States, receiving approximately 4.5 million visitors each year - yet only about 10% of those visit the more remote North Rim area of the Park. "Development of this trail would provide convenient linkages to most guest facilities on the Bright Angel Peninsula, and offer a great opportunity for visitors of all physical abilities to explore the unique and beautiful landscapes of the North Rim of the Canyon," noted Superintendent Alston.

The North Rim trail segment - designed to be accessible for persons with disabilities - would be part of the Park's "Grand Canyon Greenway" (Greenway) network of multi-use trails. The Greenway project is funded through the Grand Canyon National Park Foundation (GCNPF), and includes segments (already completed) at the South Rim connecting Grand Canyon Village, Canyon View Information Plaza, Yavapai Observation Station, Mather Point and the east rim at Pipe Creek Vista. Financial support for the Grand Canyon Greenway has been received from the federal government, the Arizona Department of Transportation and a variety of private donors. Funding for this section of trail on the North Rim is made possible in part by a \$1 million gift from the Arizona-based Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation, and \$250,000 from the Federal Lands Highway Administration with the support of the Arizona Department of Transportation and Congressman Rick Renzi.

The North Rim trail, as proposed, would improve the "Bridle Trail", and connect Grand Canyon Lodge to the North Kaibab Trailhead. When completed, the trail would functionally serve the estimated 300 employees who work and live on the North Rim each season (roughly mid-May to mid-October), as well as the 45,000 people who visit the North Rim each year - providing convenient access to employee housing, campground, the general store, guest lodging and parking. Project planning and design is nearing completion; construction would begin only once all provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act have been completed. As with completed South Rim Greenway segments, the North Rim segment would be designed to maintain existing landscape characteristics and provide the least amount of environmental disturbance.

The Grand Canyon Greenway trail system has won several design and accessibility awards, including the 2002 National Accessibility Leadership Award from the National Park Service, and has been cited as a model public/private partnership

project in support of the national park system.

The Grand Canyon National Park Foundation is a private not-for-profit 501 (c)3 organization, and is the only authorized fundraising partner for the National Park Service at the Grand Canyon.

Other invited guests to the October 4th ceremony include United States Senator John McCain and a variety of local officials. The Presentation of Colors will be provided by Kanab Boy Scout Troop #748 (Paria River District, Utah National Parks Council).

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### NEWS RELEASE

September 23, 2004

Craig Letz 928-638-7821 - for media use; 928-638-7819 - for public use

## Grand Canyon National Park Plans Prescribed Fire on North Rim

Grand Canyon, AZ - Fire Management personnel at Grand Canyon National Park plan to initiate the 1500-acre Atoko Prescribed Fire. Ignition will start as early as Sunday, September 26, 2004 on the Walhalla Plateau, five miles east of the developed area on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Smoke may be visible in the area for five to ten days. Thorough planning can minimize smoke impacts; however, it is impossible to predict weather patterns and smoke behavior with complete accuracy. Smoke impacts may occur in adjacent communities and also along the river. No road or trail closures are anticipated, however short-term closures, to ensure firefighter and public safety, may be implemented during these fire activities. Ignition may occur for two days. A combination of aerial and ground ignition will be used. The burn will only be initiated if environmental factors such as wind, temperature, relative humidity, and fuel moisture levels are favorable for the safe achievement of the planned objectives.

Fire is an essential part of Grand Canyon's ecosystems and prescribed fire is one of the most effective tools available to resource managers for promoting ecosystem health and reducing forest fuels. Through this prescribed fire, fire managers hope to remove the excess small trees and other natural fuels, which accumulated over time.

You can learn more about Grand Canyon's Fire Management Program at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/fire>. For additional information, please call 928-638-7819.



### NEWS RELEASE

September 20, 2004

Leah McGinnis (928) 638-7903

## Man Dies In Fall At Grand Canyon

Grand Canyon, AZ - On Saturday September 18th at 10:00am Grand Canyon National Park Dispatch Center received a report of a fall from the North Kaibab Trail. The NPS deployed a helicopter to search the area and was able to locate an unresponsive person approximately 500 feet below the trail in an area called Eye of Needle between the North Rim and Roaring Springs. By the time NPS crews arrived on scene by foot weather had moved in and prevented any further recovery operations.

The body is believed to be that of a 70 year old male from Washington State, who was hiking in the canyon with his wife at the time of the accident. It is uncertain as to how the accident occurred, as it was not witnessed.

Recovery operations to date have not been successful do to weather. Once the body is recovered it will be flown to the South Rim and turned over to the Flagstaff Medical Examiner for positive identification.

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### NEWS RELEASE

September 15, 2004

Jennifer Albrinck 928-638-7739

## Autumn Colors Prelude North Rim Closure

The changing of the season is occurring on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Fall colors are expected to reach their peak by late September this year.

As colors on the North Rim change it is a reminder that the North Rim's visitor season is winding down. The staff on the North Rim has begun preparations to shut down visitor services and facilities, though the park will remain open to visitors on a day-use basis until snow closes Highway 67 leading into the park.

The National Park Service's (NPS) North Rim Visitor Center will close at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 13th. The North Rim Campground will be converted to primitive camping on October 14th with limited services (portable toilets), and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis until snow closes Highway 67. The North Rim Backcountry Office will be open through 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 31st. Hikers and cross-country skiers will be permitted to use the park's group campsites throughout the winter months if they have obtained a permit through the park's South Rim Backcountry Office, or by going to the Visitor Center desk at Pipe Springs National Monument. The South Rim Backcountry Office is open year-round and can be reached by calling (928) 638-7875, Monday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. MST. Permit requests can be faxed year-round to (928) 638-2125. Permits are not considered earlier than the first of the month, four months prior to the proposed start date.

Overnight accommodations through the concessioner, the service station and related visitor services will close before noon on October 14th. The last meal served at the North Rim's Grand Lodge will be breakfast. The final night for lodging will be Wednesday, October 13th. The camper store and gift shop will close for the season at the end of the day on October 13th. Reservations for mule rides on the North Rim will be accepted through October 12th by calling Grand Canyon Trail Rides at (928) 638-9875. The Kaibab Lodge, four miles from the park boundary, will be closed after breakfast on October 16th and the Country Store, located outside of the park boundary, will remain open until early November, and then will be closed until mid-May 2005.

Arizona Department of Transportation officials have assured the park staff that Highway 67 into the North Rim will remain open to public travel through November 1st, but cautioned that from November 2nd on, Highway 67 could be closed for the season on short notice due to major storms and heavy snowfall. After November 1st, visitors are encouraged to call the park at (928) 638-7888 in advance of their trip to check on the status of Highway 67.

During daytime visitation, from October 14th until final closure of State Highway 67, only emergency services will be provided by the NPS, and visitors are reminded to pay special attention to their gas gauge, since gas will no longer be available in the park. Gas and diesel fuel will be available five miles north of the park at the Country Store through early November. Jacob Lake Inn, restaurant and gas station, 44 miles north of the park, remains open year-round.

The South Rim and Inner Canyon facilities remain open year-round. For additional trip planning information, please write: Trip Planner (or) Backcountry Trip Planner, Grand Canyon National Park, PO Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Information may also be found at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca) or by calling the park at (928) 638-7888.

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### NEWS RELEASE

September 15, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge 928/638-7779

## Body Found In Colorado River Identified

Grand Canyon, AZ - The body of a man found in the Colorado River within Grand Canyon National Park on Tuesday, September 14th, has been identified as that of Paul Smith, 48, from the state of Washington. Positive identification was made early this morning by the Coconino County Medical Examiner, located in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Paul Smith disappeared from his campsite at River Mile 118 on the Colorado River on Wednesday evening, September 8th. He had been on a commercial river trip that launched from Lees Ferry (River Mile 0) on Thursday, September 2nd. A passenger on the same trip heard calls for help coming from the river at approximately 10:00 p.m. Wednesday night. A check of the campsite indicated Smith was missing. River trip crews searched the area for two hours, but were unable to locate the missing man. The incident was reported to the National Park Service (NPS) via satellite phone at approximately 12:15 a.m. the following morning.

The NPS launched an aerial search at first light Thursday morning and deployed a dive team from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to search a large eddy at the point last seen. Aerial searches continued through Tuesday, September 14th, when the body was located by crew members from a commercial river trip at River Mile 122.5, four miles down river from where Paul Smith had been camping. His body was recovered by the NPS and taken to the Coconino County Medical Examiner's Office. The cause of death has been ruled as drowning.

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### NEWS RELEASE

September 14, 2004

Rick Hartigan 928-638-7944 - for media use; 928-638-7819 - for public use

## Walhalla Prescribed Fire Proceeding

Grand Canyon, AZ - Fire managers at Grand Canyon National Park continued ignition of the 3200 acre Walhalla Prescribed Fire yesterday on the North Rim. Using ground and aerial ignition techniques, firefighters expanded the burn area from that black-lined the day before. The fire remained within the prescribed area and varied in intensity from low to moderate.

A large amount of smoke has been generated by this fire, drifting primarily in an east northeasterly direction, but also settling into the canyon. Persons with cardiac, respiratory or other health related problems should be advised to take appropriate precautions. Hikers are advised to plan their hikes with awareness of this condition.

It is expected that ignition and burning will be completed today. Smoke is expected to be noticeable for another week as burning within the interior of the fire continues.

## Bright and Quartz Fire-Use Fires Continue

Progress continues on the Bright Fire and the Quartz Fire. Started by lightning in mid-July, they are providing the needed fire behavior and effects. The Bright Fire is currently 802 acres while the Quartz Fire is 443 acres.

Closures continue on the Old Bright Angel Trail and on the Ken Patrick Trail from the Uncle Jimmy Trail to the Cape Royal Road. The W1 Road to Point Sublime may be closed later today due to fire activity and smoke from the Quartz Fire.

Learn more about Grand Canyon's Fire Management Program at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/fire>. For additional information, please call 928-638-7819.



### NEWS RELEASE

September 14, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge 928/638-7779

## Body Of Man Recovered From Colorado River

Grand Canyon, AZ - The body of a man was recovered today at River Mile 122.5 on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park, near Forster Canyon, four miles from where a commercial river trip passenger disappeared late Wednesday night.

The body was located by crew members from a commercial river trip and secured until National Park Service (NPS) personnel arrived on scene

A passenger from a commercial river trip was reported missing at approximately 12:15 a.m. on Thursday, September 9. A trip leader had reported that two hours earlier another passenger heard calls for help coming from the river. A check of the camp indicated one of the male passengers was missing. River trip crews searched the area for two hours, but were unable to locate the missing man. The trip leader reported the incident to the NPS via satellite phone. National Park Service search and rescue crews began a search at first light Thursday morning at River Mile 118 where the passenger was last seen. A helicopter search was initiated and a dive team from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area was brought in to search a large eddy and last known point. Search efforts continued with daily reconnaissance flights between River Mile 118 and River Mile 133. The body was located at approximately 10:30 this morning. The body was recovered by the NPS and transported by helicopter to the South Rim Helibase. The body will be transported to the Coconino County Medical Examiner's Office later this afternoon for positive identification.

An investigation will be completed by the National Park Service and the Coconino County Sheriff's Office.

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### NEWS RELEASE

September 13, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge 928/638-7779

## Grand Canyon National Park Seeks Public Comment On Environmental Assessment For Construction, Rehabilitation And Repair Of Restrooms Parkwide

Grand Canyon, AZ - Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Joseph F. Alston today announced the release of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction, rehabilitation and repair of restrooms parkwide. The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to rehabilitate five existing restrooms, replace existing chemical toilets at ten sites with prefabricated vault toilets, and construct new restrooms at three sites that currently do not have toilets. Proposed restroom locations are located at the South Rim, Desert View, North Rim, and in the inner canyon along the Bright Angel Trail and Phantom Ranch. The purpose of the proposal is to address needed repairs. Many restrooms throughout the park are old, are inadequate for the number of visitors, or are portable chemical toilets that have been added to meet increasing need. The NPS is soliciting comments from the public on the proposal.

The EA evaluates three alternatives for addressing the purpose and need for action, including a no action alternative and two action alternatives. The primary difference between the action alternatives is in the size of the composting toilet proposed near the Three Mile rest house along the Bright Angel Trail. Alternative B proposes a three-stall composting unit while Alternative C proposes a somewhat smaller two-stall composting unit.

Copies of the EA can be obtained by writing to the Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023, Attn: Sara White, Environmental Compliance Officer, or on-line at [www.nps.gov/grca/compliance](http://www.nps.gov/grca/compliance). Comments will be accepted through October 8, 2004 and should be sent to Sara White at the above address. For questions or additional information, please contact Debbie Lutch, Project Compliance Lead, at 928-774-0095.



### NEWS RELEASE

September 11, 2004

Rick Hartigan 928-638-7944 - for media use; 928-638-7819 - for public use

## Walhalla Prescribed Fire to be Re-ignited

Grand Canyon, AZ - Taking advantage of the warmer, dryer weather, Fire Management personnel of the National Park Service at Grand Canyon National Park will re-ignite the 3200 acre Walhalla Prescribed Fire tomorrow. Black-lining operations, the action of burning the perimeter of the burn area before the main fire is ignited, are planned for the morning. Aerial ignition is expected to begin shortly thereafter. This ignition could produce a large amount of smoke. Every effort will be made to minimize the smoke impacts: however, some impacts may occur in adjacent communities or along the Colorado River.

The remaining three fires on the North Rim, the Outlet Prescribed Fire and the Quartz and the Bright Fire-Use Fires, are greatly reduced in activity. Firefighters are involved in the confinement and patrol of those fires.

Learn more about Grand Canyon's Fire Management Program at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/fire>. For additional information, please call 928-638-7819.

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### NEWS RELEASE

September 10, 2004

Rick Hartigan 928-638-7944 - for media use; 928-638-7819 - for public use

## Walhalla Prescribed Fire Postponed on North Rim

Grand Canyon, AZ - Changing weather conditions have caused the postponement of the Walhalla Prescribed Fire on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon National Park. Black-lining operations began Thursday, September 9, 2004 to prepare the perimeter of the burn area, but afternoon rains dampened the fuels such that the results fire managers sought could not be attained. With additional storms in the forecast, further black-lining and aerial ignition are now on hold. Conditions are being monitored in expectation of an opportunity to ignite the burn in the near future.

The remaining three fires on the North Rim were also impacted by the rains. Fire activity on the Outlet Prescribed Fire and the Quartz and the Bright Fire-Use Fires was greatly reduced. Firefighters were involved in confinement and patrol of those fires.

Learn more about Grand Canyon's Fire Management Program at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/fire>. For additional information, please call 928-638-7819.

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### NEWS RELEASE

September 9, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge 928/638-7779

## National Park Service Searching for Missing River Trip Passenger

Grand Canyon, AZ - Search and rescue crews from Grand Canyon National Park are searching for a 48 year old man from Washington State that has been missing from a commercial river trip on the Colorado River since late last night.

The man was reported missing by a guide from Tour West, Inc., a commercial river company based in Orem, Utah, at approximately 12:15 this morning. The call was received by Grand Canyon National Park Dispatchers via satellite phone. National Park Service search and rescue crews began a search at first light this morning at River Mile 118 where the man was last seen. The search includes 10 National Park Service Rangers; four are members of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Dive Team. A helicopter crew from Grand Canyon National Park is conducting an aerial search.

The man and 20 other passengers were on a trip that launched from Lees Ferry on Thursday, September 2nd and is scheduled to take out at Whitmore Wash, River Mile 189, on Monday, September 13th.

*Editor's Note: News release was corrected on September 10, 2004 to reflect a change in the takeout date.*

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### NEWS RELEASE

September 9, 2004

Rick Hartigan 928-638-7944 - for media use; 928-638-7819 - for public use

## Continued Progress on North Rim Fires

Grand Canyon, AZ - Fire Management personnel of the National Park Service at Grand Canyon National Park continue preparations for the 3200 acre Walhalla Prescribed Fire. Black-lining operations will begin today to prepare the perimeter of the burn area. Aerial ignition is scheduled to begin Friday, September 10, 2004. This ignition could produce a large amount of smoke. Every effort will be made to minimize the smoke impacts: however, some impacts may occur in adjacent communities or along the Colorado River.

Firefighters continue to monitor three other fires on the North Rim. Started by lightning in the middle of July, the Quartz Fire and the Bright Fire are being managed for the benefit of the forests. Visible from the South Rim, they have had no significant growth in the last few days, burning out to the control lines established by firefighters. The Quartz Fire is currently 350 acres. The Bright Fire is 786 acres.

The Outlet Prescribed Fire, ignited by fire managers on Monday, August 30, 2004 has been completed. Contained at 1118 acres, it now shows only isolated burning of interior islands of fuels. Specialists in fire effects will begin studying the fire shortly.

Prescribed fire allows managers to return fire to its natural function in the environment promoting forest health. Learn more about Grand Canyon's Fire Management Program at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/fire>. For additional information, please call 928-638-7819.



### NEWS RELEASE

September 7, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge, NPS (928) 638-7779

Greg Martin, FAA (202) 267-3883

## Department of the Interior/National Park Service - Federal Aviation Administration Joint News Release

# National Park Service And FAA Hosting Meeting On Grand Canyon Overflights Issues

Grand Canyon, AZ - The Department of the Interior/National Park Service (DOI/NPS) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are engaging in a new collaborative process to address aircraft overflights above Grand Canyon National Park. The agencies will convene an informational meeting on Wednesday, September 29, 2004 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Elk's Lodge, located at 2101 N. San Francisco Street, Flagstaff, Arizona. Stakeholders and others interested in Grand Canyon overflight issues are invited to attend.

The National Parks Overflights Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-91) requires actions by the DOI/NPS and FAA to provide for substantial restoration of the natural quiet of the park and for protection of public health and safety from adverse effects associated with aircraft overflights. Previous efforts to achieve this mandate have been challenging - both technically, in terms of developing new analytical noise capabilities, and practically, in terms of generating broad support for the specific means of accomplishing substantial restoration of natural quiet.

The DOI/NPS and FAA recognize that the best means of crafting viable solutions for resolving the complexities of restoring natural quiet is through the collaborative involvement of stakeholders. This meeting will provide information about the current status of the agencies' efforts to implement Public Law 100-91 and initiate the design of a stakeholder involvement process. A team of third-party, neutral facilitators will present a proposed plan for gaining additional insights into stakeholders' concerns, before developing a specific design for the involvement process. This meeting will not focus on in-depth discussion of different stakeholder perspectives about restoration of natural quiet and overflight noise. Rather, these substantive issues will be addressed later in the proposed stakeholder process.

The DOI/NPS and FAA have engaged the independent and impartial services of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (U.S. Institute) to facilitate interagency collaboration with effective and meaningful stakeholder involvement. The U.S. Institute is a federal program established in 1998 by the U.S. Congress to assist parties in resolving environmental, natural resource and public lands conflicts. It is a program of the Morris K. Udall Foundation, based in Tucson, Arizona.

DOI/NPS and FAA has established the necessary groundwork to begin this new phase of constructively engaging stakeholders. At the meeting, they will review the status and methodologies of their joint evaluation of current Grand Canyon aircraft operations and noise, describe the U.S. Institute's role in providing impartial process design and facilitation assistance, and discuss how to proceed with a multi-stakeholder conflict resolution process.

For more information, please contact Ms. Karen Trevino, Manager of NPS Natural Sounds Program, National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado (970) 225-3563 or karen\_trevino@nps.gov and Ms. Lynne Pickard, Senior Advisor for Environmental Policy, Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, D.C. at (202) 267-3576 or lynne.pickard@faa.gov. For more information about the U.S. Institute, call (520) 670-5299 or visit [www.ecr.gov](http://www.ecr.gov).

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### NEWS RELEASE

September 7, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge 928/638-7779

## National Park Service Announces Annual Fee Free Day

Grand Canyon, AZ - Again this year the National Park Service will celebrate the annual Fee Free Day as part of an interagency event on Saturday, September 18, 2004. Prior to 2003 the National Park Service celebrated Fee Free Day on Founder's Day, August 25th. Last year in an effort to increase consistency and coordination across Federal recreation programs, the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers adopted National Public Lands Day (NPLD) as a single interagency Fee Free Day. Fee Free Day will now be on Public Lands Day each year.

In recognition of Public Lands Day, entrance fees and commercial tour fees will be waived at Grand Canyon National Park on Saturday, September 18th. Recreation "user fees" such as backcountry permit fees, camping fees and fees for other activities offered in the park will not be waived.

Free entry passes issued that day to commercial tour operators will be valid only for that individual tour. Free entry passes issued to single visit entries issued on that day, will be valid for seven days on both the North and South Rims, so visitors are reminded to hold on to their receipts.

Beginning this year, the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation, organizers of NPLD proposed the development of a coupon that would recognize volunteer efforts on NPLD. Since NPLD is a fee free day for all visitors, organizers wanted to provide that same benefit to the volunteers who work that day so they can enjoy their fee-free day at another time. This is the first year the coupons will be issued recognizing volunteers for their effort. For more information about volunteer programs at Grand Canyon National Park and the Fee-Free Day Coupon, please contact Jon Sudar, Volunteer Coordinator at (928) 638-7616.

The National Park Service is proud to take part in this coordinated Federal recreation effort and would like to extend a warm welcome to all visitors in recognition of National Public Lands Day.

For additional information on visiting Grand Canyon visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca) or call (928) 638-7888.



### NEWS RELEASE

September 7, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge (928) 638-7779

## Man Dies From Fall At Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon, AZ - A 57 year old man died after falling approximately 35 feet while hiking in Grand Canyon National Park, on Sunday, September 5. The man has been identified as Gordon Robert Wagner, Jr. of Michigan.

Wagner had been on a private river trip with 15 others that launched on Saturday, September 4, from Lees Ferry. After being on the river for a day and a half, he and several others from the private river trip hiked into North Canyon near river mile 20, where he slipped and fell at approximately 12:30 p.m. Other members from the private river trip immediately provided rescue breathing, but Wagner died from his injuries shortly after the fall.

A pilot from a commercial helicopter flying nearby was contacted by the private river group at approximately 3:15 p.m. The pilot contacted the National Park Service, and park rangers were dispatched to the scene where they found the body of Wagner at approximately 4:00 p.m. His body was transported by helicopter to the South Rim Helibase at Grand Canyon National Park then transported by ground to the Coconino County Medical Examiners Office in Flagstaff, Arizona.

The private river group was on an 18-day trip that was scheduled to take out at Diamond Creek on September 21.

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### NEWS RELEASE

September 5, 2004

Rick Hartigan 928-638-7944 - for media use; 928-638-7819 - for public use

## Grand Canyon National Park Plans Prescribed Fire

Grand Canyon, AZ - Fire Management personnel of the National Park Service at Grand Canyon National Park plan to initiate the previously postponed 3200 acre Walhalla Prescribed Fire. Ignition will start as early as Tuesday, September 7, 2004 on the Wahalla Plateau, four miles east of the developed area on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, east of the Bright Angel Canyon.

Fire is an essential part of Grand Canyon's ecosystems and prescribed fire is one of the most effective tools available to resource managers for promoting ecosystem health and reducing forest fuels. All prescribed fires are managed with firefighter and public safety as the first priority. Intended to return the forest to a more natural condition, the Walhalla Prescribed Fire will remove the excess small trees and other natural fuels which accumulated over time.

Smoke may be visible in the area for five to ten days. Thorough planning can minimize smoke impacts; however, it is impossible to predict weather patterns and smoke behavior with complete accuracy. Smoke impacts may occur in adjacent communities and also along the river. No road or trail closures are anticipated, however short-term closures, to ensure firefighter and public safety, may be implemented during these fire activities. Ignition may occur for three days. A combination of aerial and ground ignition will be used. The burn will only be initiated if environmental factors such as wind, temperature, relative humidity, and fuel moisture levels are favorable are optimum for the safe achievement of the planned objectives.

You can learn more about Grand Canyon's Fire Management Program at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/fire>. For additional information, please call 928-638-7819.

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### NEWS RELEASE

September 1 , 2004

Donna Nemeth 928-638-7944

## Outlet Prescribed Fire Completed But Smoke Impacts Grand Canyon; Another Burn Planned If Smoke Impacts Are Reduced

Grand Canyon, AZ - Fire managers successfully completed ignition on the North Rim's 1,100-acre Outlet prescribed fire on Monday. Smoke impacted the canyon on Monday night and throughout most of Tuesday. Unhealthy Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 levels for sensitive groups have or are expected to occur again today. Sensitive groups at increased risk to PM 2.5 effects include active children, people who regularly engage in outdoor activities and people with pre-existing respiratory diseases (e.g., asthma, chronic obstructive lung disease). This sensitive group should limit their exposure by reducing the duration or intensity of physical exertion or by rescheduling activities until levels have dropped below unhealthy levels.

The National Park Service preserves and protects park resources and the processes that sustain them. If weather conditions become favorable to include ventilation that would minimize smoke impacts and keep the PM 2.5 levels well below unhealthy levels, fire managers may begin ignition of the 3,200-acre Walhalla prescribed fire later this week. The Walhalla burn unit is located approximately 3 miles southeast of the North Rim developed area. A very large smoke column will be visible for a few days as crews execute the prescribed fire. Smoke impacts, especially in the inner canyon, are likely to occur at night and in the early morning hours.

In addition to the prescribed fire activity, an Incident Management Team, Van Bateman, Incident Commander, is assisting in managing five Wildland Fire Use fires on the park's North Rim, in the Jim Complex and the Marble Complex. Currently, only two fires are active for a total of 175 acres. These lightning-caused fires are allowed to burn, under specific conditions and within a predetermined area, for resource benefits.

The park remains open and all visitor services are operational. For general fire information, please call 928-638-7819. For information about the Marble Complex fires, please call 928-638-1043. For information about the Outlet or Walhalla prescribed fires, please call 928-638-7944. You may also visit Grand Canyon's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/>.



### NEWS RELEASE

August 28, 2004

Donna Nemeth 928-638-7944

## Weather Conditions Are Favorable For The Outlet Prescribed Fire

Grand Canyon, AZ - Continued favorable weather conditions may create a good window of opportunity for fire managers to ignite the Outlet prescribed fire as early as Monday. Prescribed fires are based on approved burn plans that take into account a variety of environmental factors and emphasize the safety of area residents, park visitors, and fire fighters. A combination of hand and aerial ignition will be used to light the 1,100-acre Outlet prescribed fire, located just west of the North Rim developed area.

To ensure public safety, the W1-C Road/Trail and the Widforss Trail will be closed to public entry from 6:00 AM on August 29, 2004, until further notice. Please note that the W4 Road (Point Sublime Road) including access to Point Sublime, Swamp Ridge, North Bass Trail, and all points in between will remain open.

This ignition could produce a large amount of smoke. Every effort will be made to minimize smoke impacts; however, some impacts may occur in adjacent communities or along the Colorado River.

Fire activity is also expected to increase on thirteen Wildland Fire Use fires that are currently being managed on the park's North Rim. The Marble Complex, northwest of the North Rim developed area, consists of the Marble, Saffron, Dutton, Bravo, Galahad, Rainbow, Quartz, Uncle and Vic fires. The Jim Complex, east of the North Rim developed area, consists of the Jim, Bright and Roosevelt fires. The Quartz and Bright fires are active and highly visible at this time. These fires are being managed under the park's Wildland Fire Use strategy, which allows some lightning caused fires to burn under specific conditions and within a predetermined area for resource benefit.

The park remains open and all visitor services are operational. For additional information, please call 928-638-7819 or visit Grand Canyon's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grca>



### NEWS RELEASE

August 26, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge (928) 638-7779

## Grand Canyon National Park Nearing Completion Of Draft Environmental Impact Statement To Revise Colorado River Management Plan

The analytical work to update the Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) for Grand Canyon National Park is nearly complete, and a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) is expected to be available for public review late summer/early fall. The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing the EIS for the CRMP under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Joseph F. Alston, Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent, said, "We are nearly finished with the extensive analysis that has been undertaken to update the Colorado River Management Plan. This has been an extremely complex process, but I believe our draft environmental impact statement will provide a comprehensive look at recreational use of the Colorado River and provide some innovative alternatives to balance the many competing objectives we have been challenged to manage."

To better address the diverse nature of recreational use in the river corridor, planners are, in essence producing a plan with two separate components, with preferred alternatives for each:

1. One component covers Lees Ferry (River Mile 0) to Diamond Creek (River Mile 225), where the majority of commercial and private river trips start and end; and
2. one component covers the Lower Gorge from Diamond Creek (River Mile 225) to Lake Mead (River Mile 277). This is a transitional area, starting in a primitive setting and ending in the more urban recreational setting of Lake Mead. This area is being addressed cooperatively with the Hualapai Tribe and Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

This will be the first management plan for the Lower Gorge where the situation has been further complicated by drought conditions, which have impacted downstream boat and passenger take-out options.

Rick Ernenwein, NPS planning team leader, said, "The NPS planning team has worked very hard to address the large number of scoping comments received from the public, to provide a thorough environmental, social and economic assessment of the current situation, and to analyze the full range of alternatives to reduce the impacts to natural and cultural resources while providing a high quality visitor experience. I am proud of the work they have done, and I believe the public will have a very good set of alternatives to review and comment upon."

The CRMP is a visitor use management plan that specifies actions to preserve park resources while enhancing recreational opportunities in the river corridor. The plan is designed to cover the next decade, but will also establish goals and objectives for a longer timeframe.

The draft EIS is expected to be released in late summer/early fall followed by a 90-day public review and comment period. There will be another series of public meetings held around the country in the fall to receive public comments on the draft EIS.

The primary issues analyzed in the draft EIS are:

- appropriate levels of visitor use consistent with natural and cultural resource protection, preservation mandates and visitor experience;
- level of use and how it is allocated between commercial and non-commercial sectors;
- motorized versus non-motorized use;
- alternatives to the current non-commercial permit system;
- range of services and opportunities provided to the public; and
- in consultation with the Hualapai Tribe and other appropriate parties, the continued use of helicopters to transport river passengers from the Colorado River near Whitmore Wash.

The first River Use Plan was developed for Grand Canyon in 1972. It was updated several times, and was the subject of two lawsuits in 2000-2001. Settlement of one of the lawsuits began the current effort to update the CRMP in the spring of 2002; public scoping meetings were held throughout the country in summer and fall 2002. More than 55,000 individual comments were received during scoping. Since the public scoping process ended in late 2002, the National Park Service has done detailed analytical research, run computer simulations to test alternatives and incorporated the scoping input into a number of planning alternatives.

A summary of the scoping process and planning materials are available on the Internet at [www.nps.gov/grca/crmp](http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp). For further information on this planning process, please contact Maureen Oltrogge at 928-638-7779.

Editors Note: To be placed on the park's CRMP Newsletter mailing list, please send your request along with your mailing and email address to: [grca\\_crmp@nps.gov](mailto:grca_crmp@nps.gov).



### NEWS RELEASE

August 26, 2004

Donna Nemeth 928-638-7944

## Wildland Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Activity Will Continue on Grand Canyon's North Rim

Grand Canyon, AZ - A drying trend over the next few days is expected to increase fire activity on the park's North Rim where thirteen Wildland Fire Use fires are currently being managed. The Marble Complex, northwest of the North Rim developed area, consists of the Marble, Saffron, Dutton, Bravo, Galahad, Rainbow, Quartz, Uncle and Vic fires. The Jim Complex, east of the North Rim developed area, consists of the Jim, Bright and Roosevelt fires. Only the Quartz and Bright fires are active at this time. These fires are being managed under the park's Wildland Fire Use strategy, which allows some lightning caused fires to burn under specific conditions and within a predetermined area for resource benefit.

Warmer, drier conditions may also create a good window of opportunity for fire managers to ignite the Outlet prescribed fire as early as this weekend. Prescribed fires are based on approved burn plans that take into account a variety of environmental factors and emphasize the safety of area residents, park visitors, and fire fighters. A combination of hand and aerial ignition would be used to light the 1,100-acre Outlet prescribed fire located just west of the North Rim developed area. This ignition could produce a large amount of smoke. Every effort will be made to minimize smoke impacts however, some impacts may occur in adjacent communities or along the Colorado River.

The park remains open and all visitor services are operational. No fire related closures or restrictions are in effect. For additional information, please call 928-638-7819 or visit Grand Canyon's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grca>.

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### NEWS RELEASE

August 19, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge (928) 638-7779

## Construction Project To Begin On Curbs, Sidewalks, Roads, And Parking Areas Between Bright Angel Lodge And El Tovar Hotel

Grand Canyon, AZ - Xanterra Parks & Resorts, LLC a concessioner at Grand Canyon National Park, will begin a project to replace sidewalks and curbs and repave roads and parking areas between Bright Angel Lodge and the El Tovar Hotel. The project is one of many projects at Grand Canyon National Park designed to improve visitor experience and safety. D. L. Norton General Contracting, Inc., of Scottsdale, Arizona will complete the work.

Project mobilization is expected to begin as early as August 19th and construction should be completed by November 1. The project will be done in phases to reduce impacts to park visitors, residents, and business operators. The first phase will include curbs and sidewalks in the Kachina Lodge and Colter Hall area. Upon completion of this phase, work will begin on curbs and sidewalks in the Thunderbird Lodge area. These phases are expected to take approximately two to three weeks each. The project will conclude with removal and replacement of asphalt roads and parking areas between the Bright Angel Lodge (Arizona Room parking area) and the El Tovar Hotel (Kachina Lodge guest parking).

During the construction project, temporary walkways and signage will be available to direct pedestrians to facilities within the construction area. While crews are working on roads and parking areas near the Bright Angel Lodge and El Tovar Hotel, limited parking in these areas will be available. Visitors are encouraged to refer to "The Guide", a park publication, for parking options in these areas and for information on the park's free shuttle bus system.

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### NEWS RELEASE

August 13, 2004

Donna Nemeth 928-638-7944

## Nine Fires On The Park's North Rim Are Being Managed For Resource Benefit

Grand Canyon, AZ - Nine fires on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park are being managed under the park's Wildland Fire Use strategy. This strategy allows some lightning-caused fires to burn, under favorable conditions and within a predetermined area, for resource benefit. The National Park Service is mandated to preserve and protect park resources and the processes that sustain them, including fire.

The Marble Complex consists of the Marble, Saffron, Bravo, Galahad, Rainbow, Quartz, Uncle and Valley Fires. All of the Marble Complex fires are located northwest of the North Rim developed area. The closest of these to the developed area is the Marble Fire, which is two miles away.

The Jim Fire, ignited by lightning yesterday, is also being managed for resource benefit. This fire is not considered a part of the Marble Complex because of its location. The Jim Fire is on Uncle Jim Point, one mile east of the North Rim developed area, and can be seen from the North Rim Lodge.

Fire activity on all of these fires has been very limited because of recent rains. Fire behavior consists of very small flames that are creeping along the forest floor and consuming pine needles and duff. Logs and other large fuels continue to smolder. Fire activity is expected to increase again as the weather dries; smoke will become more visible as well.

The Northern Arizona Zone Incident Management Team, under the command of Van Bateman, arrived on the park's North Rim this morning to assist with the Marble Complex fires. They will assume management of the fires on Saturday.

At this time, no fire related closures are in effect. For additional information, please call 928-638-7819 or visit Grand Canyon's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grca>.



### NEWS RELEASE

August 6, 2004

Donna Nemeth 928-638-7944

## Swamp Ridge And Forest Service 268 Road System May Temporarily Close

Grand Canyon, AZ - Fire managers continue to manage the Marble Fire Complex, consisting of the Marble and Saffron Fires, under Grand Canyon National Park's Wildland Fire Use strategy. This option allows some lightning-caused fires to burn under specific conditions and within a predetermined area for resource benefit.

The Marble Fire has not been very active although logs and other large fuels continue to smolder. The fire is located approximately two miles northwest of the North Rim developed area and remains 25 acres in size.

The Saffron Fire, near Rainbow Plateau, 15 miles northwest of the North Rim developed area, is still south of the Swamp Ridge Road and now 107 acres in size. Firefighters are planning to create a *black line* along the fire's northern boundary as soon as conditions are drier. This tactic is used to slow or stop progression of the main fire by starving it of fuel as it approaches the boundary, making the boundary more secure. When this occurs, smoke will be highly visible.

At this time, no fire related closures are in effect. To ensure public safety, the Swamp Ridge Road, along with the Forest Service 268 Road system, may temporarily close while fire fighters conduct the burn along the Saffron fire's northern boundary.

For additional information, please call 928-638-7819 or visit Grand Canyon's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grca>.



### NEWS RELEASE

August 5, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge 928-638-7779

## Assistant Secretary For Fish, Wildlife And Parks Applauds Grand Canyon Improvements

Grand Canyon, AZ - Craig Manson, Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks in the U.S. Department of Interior, today visited the Grand Canyon to discuss a variety of improvements to the park and enhancement of visitor experience.

Since FY 2002, the Grand Canyon has 91 improvement projects that are completed, underway or proposed, totaling nearly \$38 million. Assistant Secretary Manson today visited a number of the ongoing projects and was briefed on developments for additional projects, including a lower-cost transportation alternative being developed by the park that will address traffic congestion, visitor safety and other improvements for park visitors.

"Four years ago, President Bush made a commitment to reduce the maintenance backlog in our national parks," said Manson. "Here at Grand Canyon I've had a chance to see how hard the Park has been working to meet that challenge."

"Grand Canyon is unmatched in the incomparable vistas it offers to visitors," Manson added. "I was pleased to get this chance to be briefed on issues in the park and to see the improvement in facilities that enhance the visitor experience here. I was especially pleased to be briefed on a common-sense, environmentally friendly, fiscally responsible solution to some of the traffic and safety issues that we will be addressing a report to Congress this fall."

Joe Alston, Park Superintendent, said, "It has been a great opportunity to have Assistant Secretary Manson review first hand the issues in the park and to see the progress being made to address maintenance backlog and traffic management."

Since FY 2002, the Bush Administration has invested more than \$104 million in more than 300 projects to preserve and protect Arizona's 20 national treasures. Once FY 2005 funds are allocated, national parks in Arizona could receive an additional \$33 million. Grand Canyon's operating budget itself for FY 2004 is more than \$18,000,000, an 8% increase since FY 2000.



### NEWS RELEASE

August 4, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge 928-638-7779

## Assistant Secretary for Fish Wildlife and Parks to Visit Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon, AZ - Craig Manson, Assistant Secretary for Fish Wildlife and Parks in the U.S. Department of the Interior, will visit Grand Canyon National Park on Thursday, August 5, to look at a variety of issues affecting the Park including transportation and maintenance backlog. Assistant Secretary Manson will also look at several projects that have been accomplished by the park using funds from the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program and other funding sources.

"We're excited about this visit," said Joe Alston, Park Superintendent. "It provides us an opportunity to show the Assistant Secretary the in-roads we've been making on our maintenance backlog projects and to discuss issues affecting Grand Canyon National Park including transportation, the Colorado River Management Plan, overflights, and fire management among others."

According to Alston, a central part of the visit will be a briefing for Mr. Manson on transportation issues at the park, including a lower-cost transportation alternative being developed by the park that will address traffic congestion, visitor safety and improvements to the visitor experience.

"We're proud of our accomplishments in the park," Alston said. "We have several exciting projects underway and many more that are proposed for the future. Secretary Manson has expressed an interest in many of these projects and this is a wonderful opportunity for him to see them first hand."

Mr. Manson oversees the National Park Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. He is responsible for 388 National Parks and 538 National Wildlife Refuges covering a total of 178 million acres in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa. He is responsible for approximately 30,000 employees, 140,000 volunteers, and a budget of approximately \$3 billion. He has responsibility for administration and enforcement of the Endangered Species Act and represents the Secretary of the Interior on various boards, commissions, and task forces.

Mr. Manson will be available to meet with members of the media from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the El Tovar Hotel mezzanine. The El Tovar is located in the historic district on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Please RSVP to Maureen Oltrogge, Public Affairs Officer at (928) 638-7779.



### NEWS RELEASE

July 23, 2004

Donna Nemeth 928-638-7819

## Point Sublime Road Reopens on Grand Canyon's North Rim

Grand Canyon, AZ - The Marble and Dutton Fires, both on the park's North Rim, continue to grow in size. They are being monitored and managed under Grand Canyon National Park's Wildland Fire Use strategy. This option allows some lightning-caused fires to burn, under specific conditions and within a predetermined area, for resource benefit.

The Marble Fire is located just south of the Basin, approximately two miles northwest of the North Rim developed area. Yesterday, as fire activity increased on the Marble Fire, a decision was made to close the W1 Road, also known as the Point Sublime Road, which runs through the Basin. In addition, the W-1A Road was closed to ensure public safety. Both of these closures have since been lifted and visitors may again access Point Sublime on the W1 Road, as well as the W-4 Road.

For additional information, please visit Grand Canyon's web site at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).

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### NEWS RELEASE

July 22, 2004

Donna Nemeth 928-638-7944

## Point Sublime Road Closed Because of Marble Fire Activity

Grand Canyon, AZ - Two North Rim fires, ignited recently by lightning, continue to be managed under Grand Canyon National Park's Wildland Fire Use strategy. This option allows some lightning-caused fires to burn, under specific conditions and within a predetermined area, for resource benefit. Both fires are being closely monitored and suppression actions will be taken if fire behavior contradicts resource management objectives. The National Park Service is mandated to preserve and protect park resources and the processes that sustain them, including fire.

The Marble Fire has grown to five acres in size. Located south of the Basin, approximately two miles northwest of the North Rim developed area, it is creeping slowly along the forest floor and burning pine needles and duff. The Dutton Fire, on Dutton Point, a remote portion of the Powell Plateau, is approximately twelve miles northwest of the North Rim developed area. It currently consists of a single burning snag. The fires are barely visible but fire behavior is expected to increase as forest fuels begin to dry out.

To ensure public safety, a temporary closure has been implemented on the W-1 and the W-1A Roads. The W-1 Road, also known as the Point Sublime Road, is the road that travels to Point Sublime through the Basin. It is also closed from its junction with the W-4 Road. The W-4 Road is open and visitors can access Point Sublime on the W-4 Road. This order will be rescinded as soon as fire behavior has moderated and public safety is not compromised.

For additional information, please visit Grand Canyon's web site at: [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).



### NEWS RELEASE

July 21, 2004

Donna Nemeth 928-638-7944

## North Rim Fires Allowed to Burn for Resource Benefit

Grand Canyon, AZ - Two North Rim fires, ignited by recent lightning activity, are being managed under Grand Canyon National Park's Wildland Fire Use strategy. This option allows some lightning-caused fires to burn, under specific conditions and within a predetermined area, for resource benefit. Both fires are being closely monitored and suppression actions will be taken if fire behavior contradicts resource management objectives.

The National Park Service is mandated to preserve and protect park resources and the processes that sustain them. Fire is a necessary process that contributes to a reduction of fuels and a recycling of forest nutrients.

The Marble Fire is located on the Outlet Plateau approximately two miles northwest of the North Rim developed area. It is ½ acre in size and burning slowly in Ponderosa Pine and White Fir duff. The Dutton Fire, on Dutton Point, a remote portion of the Powell Plateau, is approximately twelve miles northwest of the North Rim developed area. It consists of a single burning snag. The fires are barely visible at this point, but fire behavior is expected to increase. Both fires are expected to become more visible as forest fuels begin to dry out.

At this time, no fire related closures have been implemented. Fire Managers will continue to keep a close watch on both the Marble and Dutton Fires. To ensure public safety, it may be necessary to close the W1 Road, the Widforss Trail, and/or other areas as fire activity increases.

For additional information please visit our website at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).

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### NEWS RELEASE

July 19, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge (928) 638-7779

## Bright Angel Trail Reopens to Pedestrian Travel

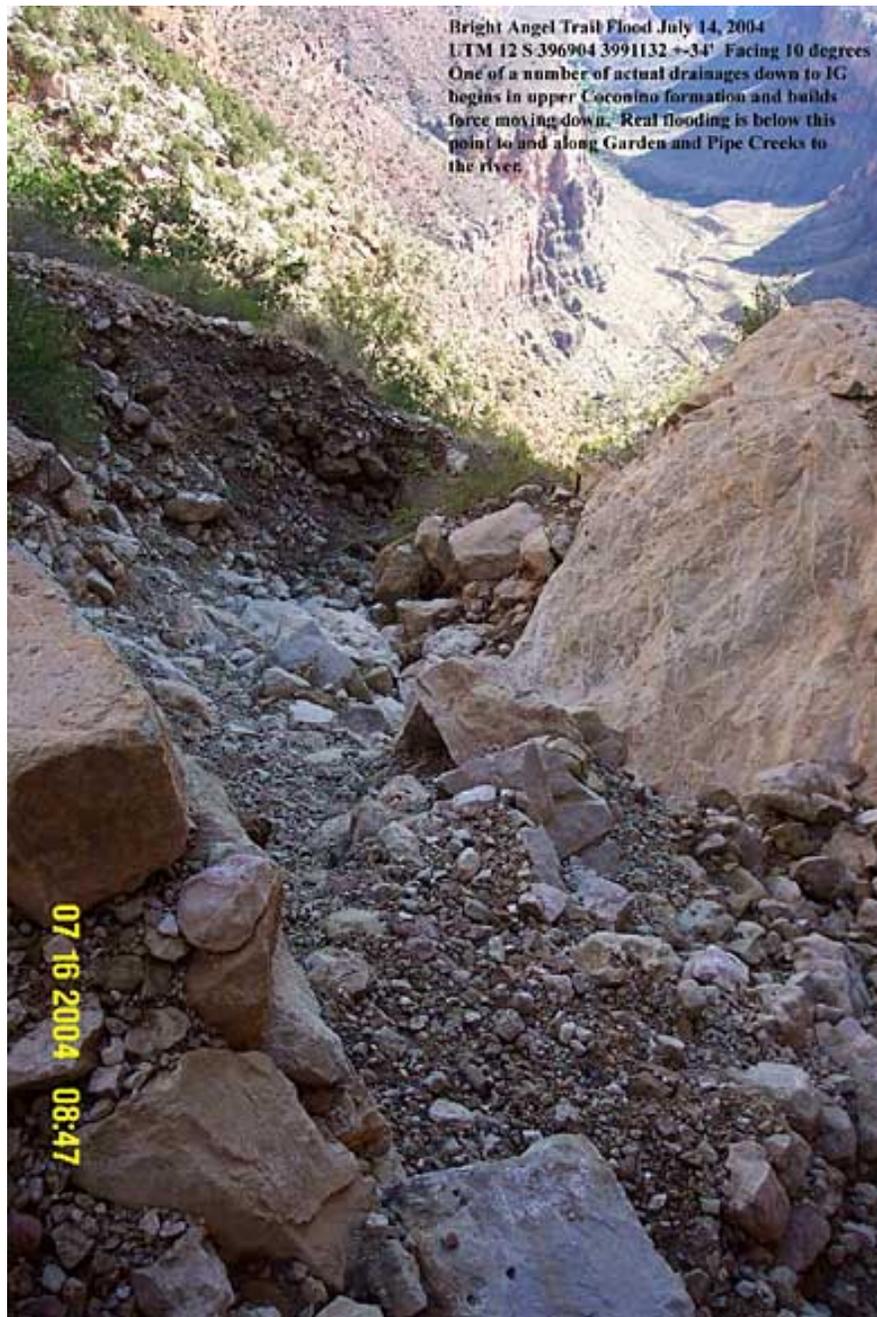
Grand Canyon, AZ - Early this morning the National Park Service reopened the Bright Angel Trail to all pedestrian travel. The trail is currently being assessed by crews from Xanterra Parks and Resorts, LLC (Xanterra) for mule travel.

The Bright Angel Trail closed late July 14, 2004 following an afternoon storm that caused rock slides and other associated damage. Trail crews began working on the trails immediately following the storm to clear rock and debris on several sections of the Bright Angel Trail. Although some rock retaining walls were damaged, both National Park Service and Xanterra trail crews have been able to reconstruct most of the walls that were damaged as well as clear a significant amount of debris that resulted from flash flooding. Trail crews will continue to work in several of the areas damaged, including the day use area at Indian Garden.

Both one-day and overnight mule trips have been suspended until a complete assessment has been conducted by Xanterra crews. Visitors holding reservations for mule trips may contact Xanterra at (928) 638-2631.

For information on hiking in Grand Canyon National Park, contact the Park's Backcountry Information Center at (928) 638-7875 or visit the Park's website at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).

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Bright Angel Trail Flood July 14, 2004  
UTM 12 S 396904 3991132 ~34' Facing 10 degrees  
One of a number of actual drainages down to IG  
begins in upper Coconino formation and builds  
force moving down. Real flooding is below this  
point to and along Garden and Pipe Creeks to  
the river.

07 16 2004 08:47

Bright Angel Trail Flood, July 14, 2004. Facing 10 degrees. One of a number of actual drainages down to Indian Garden begins in upper Coconino formation and builds force moving down. Real flooding is below this point to and along Garden and Pipe Creeks to the river.



Bright Angel Trail Flood, July 14, 2004. Facing west. Jeff Dryer's crew began work today (7/16) clearing the path to 1.5 Mile toilet, then moving down. This is just below the resthouse.



Bright Angel Trail Flood, July 14, 2004. Facing 130 degrees. Major side drainage at the Bird Bath. It flooded across trail here. Some tread leveling required, but wall and trail are okay.



Bright Angel Trail Flood, July 14, 2004. Facing 210 degrees. Main drainage coming down to this trail section in lower Supai that was rebuilt in 2000. Flood cut in toward trail, but trail, which switchbacks left here, okay.



Bright Angel Trail Flood, July 14, 2004. Facing 60 degrees slide mostly cleared, 100 meters about 3-Mile Resthouse in the lower Supai.



Bright Angel Trail Flood, July 14, 2004. Facing 190 degrees down Tangent 4 from top of Jacobs Ladder. Some of the slide debris coming down to Tangent 6.



Bright Angel Trail Flood, July 14, 2004. Facing north before making the turn down to the Horseshoe before Jacobs Ladder. Small slide from minor drainage.



Bright Angel Trail Flood, July 14, 2004. Facing 80 degrees. Side drainage at switchback corner by pipeline aqueduct also flashed, burying about 35 meter of trail in breadbasket-sized boulders and gravel.



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### NEWS RELEASE

July 14 , 2004

Leah McGinnis (928) 638-7903

Maureen Oltrogge (928) 638-7779

## Storm Damage Causes Temporary Closure of Bright Angel Trail in Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon, AZ - Rock slides and associated damage caused by a flash flood early this afternoon have closed the Bright Angel Trail in Grand Canyon National Park.

The Bright Angel Trail is closed to all travel from the trailhead at the South Rim to the River Trail Junction at Pipe Creek, approximately seven below the rim. The closure includes Indian Garden Campground located approximately four and a half miles below the rim on the Bright Angel Trail. Although a complete trail assessment is currently underway, preliminary estimates indicate the trail may reopen within the next several days providing no additional damage occurs from expected storms.

One-day and overnight mule trips operated by Xanterra Parks and Resorts, LLC (Xanterra) will be suspended while the closure is in effect. Visitors holding reservations for mule trips may contact Xanterra at (928) 638-2631.

Visitors with backcountry use permits for the Bright Angel Trail should contact the park's Backcountry Information Center at (928) 638-7875. Permittees will be rerouted and accommodated at other inner canyon campgrounds where possible. Permit holders will also have the option of rescheduling their backcountry trips. No new permits will be issued for Indian Garden or Bright Angel Campgrounds until the closure is lifted.

The current weather forecast is calling for severe thunderstorm activity Thursday afternoon, clearing on Friday and Saturday.

The park and all other trails and facilities remain open. For additional park information call (928) 638-7888 or visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).



### NEWS RELEASE

July 14 , 2004

Maureen Oltrogge, 928-638-7779

## Death of Canyon Runner Ruled Accidental

Grand Canyon, AZ - The death of Canyon runner Margaret L. Bradley, 24, has been determined by the Coconino Country Medical Examiner to be accidental - dehydration due to environmental heat exposure.

Ms. Bradley, a Chicago resident, and a companion began a "day run" from the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park at the Grand View Trailhead on Thursday, July 8, 2004. The duo started their run sometime mid-morning and had planned on running from the Grand View Trailhead across the Tonto Plateau and back to the rim using the Kaibab Trail, a 27-mile trip. Sometime mid-afternoon on Thursday, the two ran low on water. At that point Ms. Bradley and her companion decided to separate - she then attempted to make it down to Phantom Ranch near the Colorado River to locate water. After spending the night in the canyon, Ms. Bradley's companion, who was suffering from dehydration and exhaustion, hiked back out of the canyon with assistance from a U.S. Geological Survey employee who had been working in the area. Believing Ms. Bradley had continued on to Phantom Ranch, her companion had left word at the Ranch that he had abandoned his hike, but would shuttle her car back to the South Kaibab Trailhead for her return trip to Flagstaff.

After failing to meet her family in Flagstaff on Friday, July 9, she was reported missing to the Flagstaff Police Department. The National Park Service began searching for Ms. Bradley after being contacted by the Flagstaff Police Department and the woman's family early Saturday morning. Park rangers located the body of Ms. Bradley in a drainage known as Cremation below the Tonto Trail shortly after launching an aerial search.

Temperatures at Phantom Ranch on July 8 were 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures in the Cremation drainage were likely in excess of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. "This is a tragic reminder that even the most physically fit person can run into trouble in the inner canyon during summer months when temperatures are extreme," stated Ken Phillips, Search and Rescue Coordinator for Grand Canyon National Park. He added, "It's important to know the environment, the hazards of that environment and to prepare for the unexpected." Ms. Bradley had been featured as an athlete of the month in a Chicago Athlete Magazine article recently and was in excellent physical condition.

"Backcountry users can easily get into trouble when the combination of distance traveled, elevation, temperature, and direct sunlight occurs. The combination can overwhelm your body's ability to keep itself cool, fueled, and hydrated," stated Phillips, adding "the timing of a hike is one of the most important factors in avoiding the hazards of summer hiking. Hiking in the early morning or late afternoon shade will greatly enhance your enjoyment of your hike and dramatically reduce the danger of hiking in direct sunlight. Running in the inner canyon during the months of June, July and August is not recommended. A more sensible time to attempt an inner canyon run is in the fall months. It is also important to go equipped for the type of activity you are planning."

For additional information on preventing injury and illness when hiking in Grand Canyon National Park visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grca/grandcanyon/dayhike](http://www.nps.gov/grca/grandcanyon/dayhike). Additional assistance can also be obtained from the Grand Canyon Backcountry Information Center by calling (928) 638-7875.





### NEWS RELEASE

July 10 , 2004

Maureen Oltrogge, 928-638-7779

## National Park Service Recovers Body of Canyon Runner

**Grand Canyon, AZ** - Today at approximately 2:00 p.m. Grand Canyon National Park rangers discovered the body of a 24 year old runner who had been reported missing earlier today.

Margaret L. Bradley, a Chicago resident, and a companion began a "day run" from the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park at the Grandview Trailhead with the intention of arriving at Phantom Ranch that same evening on Thursday, July 8, 2004. After becoming separated, her companion hiked back to the rim and returned to Flagstaff, Arizona. Believing Ms. Bradley had continued on to Phantom Ranch her companion had left a message at Phantom Ranch stating he could not make it to the river and would be returning to Flagstaff. Her family, who was to meet her in Flagstaff on Friday, reported her missing to the Flagstaff Police Department.

National Park Service search and rescue rangers began searching for Ms. Bradley early this morning after being contacted by both the Flagstaff Police Department and the woman's family. Park rangers discovered the body of Ms. Bradley at approximately 2:00 p.m. in a drainage known as Cremation below the Tonto Trail shortly after launching an aerial search. Search dogs, provided by Denny and Marsha Bratcher, of Page, Arizona, were scheduled to assist in the search.

The body has been transported to the Coconino County Medical Examiners Office in Flagstaff, Arizona. The National Park Service and Coconino Country Sheriff's Department will conduct an investigation.

Weather in the inner canyon has been hot and dry with highs between 100-105 degrees Fahrenheit, and lows around 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

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### NEWS RELEASE

June 16, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge 928-638-7779

## Grand Canyon National Park Seeks Public Comment on Preliminary Alternatives for Rehabilitation of Hermit Road

GRAND CANYON, AZ - Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Joseph F. Alston today announced the initiation of public scoping for the rehabilitation of Hermit Road, the roadway that connects Grand Canyon Village to Hermits Rest along the west rim of the park. The approximately 7-mile long road (previously named West Rim Drive) and its associated turnouts and overlooks, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It was constructed in 1911 - 1913 as a scenic roadway. The road was substantially upgraded in the early 1930's and this alignment remains today. The road is approximately 18 to 20 feet wide and is in need of substantial upgrading and repair. Currently, the park operates a shuttle bus system on this roadway for most of the year and vehicular traffic is restricted to shuttle buses, tour buses, service vehicles, and a limited number of private vehicles for visitors with accessibility needs. The road is open to all vehicle traffic during the winter (December through February). Bicyclists and pedestrians use the area year-round.

Grand Canyon National Park's 1995 General Management Plan (GMP) identifies Hermit Road as a primary route for the park's transit system and states that automobiles will be restricted on Hermit Road year-round and will be accessible only by transit, hiking or biking.

The primary management concerns and related objectives for rehabilitating Hermit Road include:

- The overall road condition is poor, posing significant safety concerns and needs to be improved;
- the condition of many of the parking areas and overlooks is also poor and improvements in safety and accessibility in these areas is needed;
- the road width is too narrow for safe passage of buses and private vehicles and needs to be increased;
- pedestrian and bicycle access to Hermits Rest is unsafe and inadequate, and the use conflicts with vehicle traffic on the roadway; and
- the roadway and its associated turnouts and overlooks are historic and considered significant cultural resources. Rehabilitation efforts need to balance the preservation of these cultural resources with improvements in safety and accessibility for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Several alternatives have been preliminarily developed to address the purpose and need for action and the management objectives listed above. The National Park Service (NPS) has not yet selected a preferred alternative, pending further detailed evaluation of these alternatives. The NPS anticipates that some of these alternatives may change and/or that new alternatives will be added as the planning process proceeds, based on continued input from NPS staff, other agencies and the public. Preliminary alternatives are as follows:

- Alternative 1 includes widening the road minimally (up to 22 – 24 feet) to slightly improve the existing situation but preserve the historic integrity of this scenic roadway;
- Alternative 2 includes widening the road enough to accommodate bus traffic and a bike lane (up to 26 to 28 feet);

- Alternative 3 includes constructing a loop road by creating a west-bound one-way bus lane and a two-way bicycle lane on the existing road, and constructing a separate east-bound one-way road along existing utility and historic road corridors; and
- Alternative 4 includes widening the road (up to 22 to 24 feet) and constructing a bicycle trail separate from the roadway.

Separate pedestrian use would be accommodated with trail improvements under Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 with the understanding that in a few limited areas, pedestrians would still choose to use the road where there is not enough room for a trail between the roadway and the canyon rim.

This project is expected to be implemented in 2007. While under construction, the NPS is considering closing the road entirely to park visitors or implementing partial closures, in order to expedite the completion of the project.

Comments will be accepted for 30 days and should be sent to Sara White at the above address by July 16, 2004. For questions or additional information, please contact Debbie Lutch, project compliance lead, at 928-774-0095. Additional information can also be found on-line at [www.nps.gov/grca/compliance](http://www.nps.gov/grca/compliance).

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### NEWS RELEASE

June 10, 2004

Donna Nemeth 928-638-7944 or 928-638-7947

## Commercial Air Tour Passenger Fatality Occurs At Grand Canyon

Grand Canyon National Park officials were sad to report that a passenger on a commercial air tour helicopter exited the aircraft while it was in flight and fell to his death shortly before noon today. The helicopter, owned by Papillon Airways, Inc. originated at the Tusayan airport on the South Rim. It was on the Dragon Flight Corridor when the incident occurred near White's Butte, approximately two miles northwest of Hermit's Rest. The pilot and remaining five passengers were shaken but unharmed.

Rangers attempted to recover the body this afternoon, but high winds and steep terrain hampered their efforts. A recovery effort is scheduled to take place tomorrow morning. An investigation, involving the National Park Service, Coconino County Sheriff's Office, National Transportation Safety Board, and the Federal Aviation Authority is currently underway.

The man's identity has not been released, pending notification of next of kin.

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### NEWS RELEASE

June 7, 2004

Donna Nemeth

928-638-7944 - for media use

928-638-7819 - for public use

## Grand Canyon National Park Implements Fire Restrictions

Grand Canyon, AZ - Extreme fire danger conditions exist in Grand Canyon National Park. Winter and spring moisture brought some relief; however, drought conditions are still present throughout the park. These conditions increase the chance of both human and lightning-caused fires. Annually, most fires at Grand Canyon National Park are lightning-caused and less than five percent are human-caused. This is remarkable, considering the fact that nearly five million people visit the park each year, evidence that a conscientious public has its reward! To ensure public safety and to provide the highest degree of protection to park resources, **the following fire restrictions will be implemented on Thursday, June 10, 2004, at 6:00AM**, until further notice. Thank you for your continued cooperation!

### NO SMOKING

- Smoking is prohibited in all backcountry areas
- Smoking is permitted within and directly adjacent to buildings that have designated smoking areas
- Smoking is permitted within private vehicles
- Please use an ashtray

### NO CAMPFIRES

- Wood and charcoal fires are prohibited
- Open flames such as candles are prohibited
- Gas grills are permitted in designated campsites, picnic areas, administrative sites, residential areas and the inner canyon
- Gas grills and fire pans are permitted along the river

### NO FIREWORKS

- Fireworks are prohibited on federal lands at all times.

**NO FIRE-RELATED ROAD OR TRAIL CLOSURES ARE IN EFFECT AT THIS TIME; GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK REMAINS OPEN, all campgrounds, visitor centers, other facilities, and programs are fully operational.** For additional information, please call Grand Canyon National Park's Fire Information recorded message at 928-638-7819. You may leave a phone number and your call will be returned. Or, you may visit the park's web site at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).





### NEWS RELEASE

June 7, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge 928/638-7779

Fran Joseph, GCNPF 928/774-1760

## National Park Service and Grand Canyon National Park Foundation continue efforts to save historic boats

Grand Canyon, AZ - On Tuesday, June 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the National Park Service (NPS), in collaboration with the Grand Canyon National Park Foundation (GCNPF), and Colorado River Fund (CRF) will hold an event to move three remaining historic boats that are currently located in a courtyard at Grand Canyon National Park Headquarters. The "Move the Boats - The Grand Canyon Historic Boat Project", is the second phase of an effort started last summer by the NPS and GCNPF to save the Colorado River running legacy.

The boats to be moved on Tuesday include:

- The Esmeralda, designed and built by Ed Hudson, was the first power boat to run the Grand Canyon.
- The WEN, a cataract boat built and used by Norm Nevills, was used on seven Grand Canyon river trips between 1938 and 1949. The boat, and her sister vessels the Mexican Hat and Botany, were used on the 1938 trip that included the first women to run the river, botanists Elzada Clover and Lois Jotter.
- The Music Temple, a classic dory based upon the McKenzie river hull design, was originally owned by river historian P. T. Reilly and later by Martin Litton. It was the first dory to travel through the canyon, emerging at Grand Wash in July of 1962.

The first phase of the project, "Save Our Boats", began on July 23rd, 2003, with the moving of three boats from the outdoor display area at the park's former visitor center to a newly established indoor conservation workshop within Grand Canyon National Park. The project involved moving the Glen, a wooden Galloway boat used on the 1921 - 1923 U.S. Geological Survey expedition led by Emery Kolb; the Edith, a white cedar and oak-hulled boat named for Emery Kolb's daughter, and used by Emory and Ellsworth Kolb to survey dam sites along the Colorado River in 1911 and 1912; and an unnamed boat, known as the Stone Boat for its use on a trip sponsored by Julius Stone in 1909 from the Green River in Wyoming to Needles, California.

On Tuesday, the NPS will temporarily remove the front glass panels and doors of the Headquarters building to allow for the removal of the last three boats from the courtyard. The WEN, the Esmeralda, and the Music Temple, will then be hoisted onto heavy-duty, padded cradles designed and crafted by Brad Dimock, long-time river runner, historian, and author, and with the help of the Foundation and many volunteers will move the boats to a National Park Service warehouse next to the conservation workshop. They will then be cleaned, evaluated and conserved so that the public can once again enjoy the history of these boats through stories associated with their use on the Colorado River.

"It has been very rewarding to be part of this long overdue conservation effort to preserve river running legacies for future generations of Grand Canyon visitors and river runners," stated Deborah Tuck, President of the GCNPF. "I applaud all of those who have donated their time, skills and labor to this creative and energetic partnership between the NPS, the boating community and the Foundation. The partnership is a model for future coalitions between agencies, friends groups and local supporters committed to common goals and preservation initiatives."

"This continues to be an exciting project, and one in which many people have helped become a reality," stated Joe Alston, Park Superintendent. "We have already made a great deal of progress in the conservation of the first three boats and appreciate the opportunity given to us by the Foundation and CRF to preserve these historical boats. Each boat has a colorful past that comes alive through stories of their past, their previous owners, and their passengers. We look forward to putting these boats on public display again in the near future," added Alston.

The Glen, the Edith and the Stone Boat have already begun to take on a new look. Even though they had been on display in an outdoor environment for over 40 years, all of the boats have been found to be in good structural condition. After moving the boats into the conservation workshop, complete documentation was conducted and photographs taken. The next step involved dry cleaning the boats and conservation assessments. The treatments consisted of meticulously dry sponging the boats stable surfaces, primarily the canvas top areas, vacuuming the interior areas, and carefully removing foreign materials that had collected over the years.

Line drawings were completed on each vessel and will provide important archival information related to the construction and, potentially, the repair work done on the boats both during their use and at various points in time after their use.

In addition to the these three Galloway boats, a rubberized raft known as the Georgie, used by river runner Georgie White in the 1950s, a small sportyak used by Doc Marston in 1963, and the Escalante, the first kayak used on the river in 1941, have also been moved into secure storage space near the conservation workshop.

The GCNPF is a private not-for-profit fundraising partner to the NPS at Grand Canyon. Established in 1995, the Foundation's mission is to help protect, preserve, and enhance Grand Canyon through funding specific projects and programs that are beyond the financial capacity of the NPS and promoting citizen stewardship of the Grand Canyon.

The CRF is the collective manager of funds, under the direction of the NPS, derived from a financial requirement that is part of the current commercial river concession contracts. The CRF serves as project manager, or oversees project managers, in the expenditure of these funds on projects approved by the NPS for the enhancement of resource protection related to commercial/private use of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park.

If you would like to become involved with the "Save Our Boats - the Grand Canyon Historic Boat Project" please contact the Grand Canyon National Park Foundation at 928/774-1760 or at [www.grandcanyonfoundation.org](http://www.grandcanyonfoundation.org).



**Conservation Workshop** : The Edith, the Glen and the Stone Boat being cleaned in the park's boat conservation lab. Photo credit: National Park Service. [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)



WEN : Norman Nevills and Joe Desloge running rapids in the boat "WEN." June 1949. Photo courtesy of P.T. Reilly. \_\_\_\_\_



**Esmeralda II** : The Esmeralda II, the first power boat to run through the Grand Canyon, arrives at Lake Mead in June 1949. The trip between Lee's Ferry and Lake Mead took four and one-half days. Left to right: Dock Marston, Ed Hudson, Willie Taylor, Ed Hudson Jr. and Bestor Robinson. Photo courtesy of Dock Marston. \_\_\_\_\_



**Music Temple** : The Music Temple running a rapid in 1971. Photo courtesy of John Blaustein.

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**Photos below taken Tuesday, June 8, 2004.**



Participants gather to move the remaining three boats from the NPS Park Headquarters building. Photo courtesy of National Park Service.

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River historian, Gaylord Staveley, gives participants a brief history of the three boats about to be moved from NPS Park Headquarters. Photo courtesy of National Park Service. \_\_\_\_\_



Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent, Joe Alston, thanks the many volunteers and participants of the "Save Our Boats" project. Photo courtesy of National Park Service. \_\_\_\_\_



Volunteers roll the Wen out of the NPS Headquarters lobby. Photo courtesy of National Park Service.

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Park visitors view the Music Temple as it awaits transport to the Boat Conservation Lab. Photo courtesy of National Park Service. \_\_\_\_\_



Moving the Esmeralda II from NPS Park Headquarters. Photo courtesy of National Park Service.

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NPS Maintenance personnel secure the Music Temple to the trailer for transport. Photo courtesy of National Park Service.

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River historian, Richard Quartaroli, (center) tells the story of the Esmeralda II, the first power boat to run the Grand Canyon. Photo courtesy of National Park Service. [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)



River historian, Gaylord Staveley, describes the engine of the Esmeralda II, the first power boat to run the Grand Canyon. Photo courtesy of National Park Service. [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)



Grand Canyon National Park's heavy equipment operators carefully position the Esmeralda II onto the new cradle constructed by river historian, Brad Dimock. Photo courtesy of National Park Service. \_\_\_\_\_



### NEWS RELEASE

May 27, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge 928/638-7779

## Grand Canyon volunteer receives President's Volunteer Award

Grand Canyon, AZ - Sjors Horstman, long-time volunteer at Grand Canyon National Park, was recently awarded the President's Volunteer Award for 2004 for his valuable service as a "Lifetime Volunteer" providing visitor services at Grand Canyon National Park.

The President's Volunteer Service Award was created to recognize Americans who have made a sustained commitment to volunteer service. The award is given to individuals, families and groups that have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service and civic participation over the course of a 12-month period.



Sjors was presented the award at an All Employees Meeting for Grand Canyon staff on Tuesday, May 11, at the Shrine of the Ages, located on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park.

"Sjors has been volunteering his services at Grand Canyon National Park since 1986," stated Park Superintendent, Joe Alston. "He has logged more than 30,000 hours of volunteer time in the remote and isolated area of Phantom Ranch, located more than seven miles below the rim near the Colorado River," added Alston. "Sjors' efforts have been invaluable to the National Park Service. Many of our visitors have personally benefited from his efforts, care and dedication. I was honored to be able to present him with this prestigious award."

For more than 15 years Sjors has maintained and significantly improved the Bright Angel Campground at Phantom Ranch,

nurturing saplings that eventually provided critical shade to hikers seeking a cool haven in the summer heat. Sjors helps manage the National Park Service campground, and has provided advice to thousands of hikers over the years answering questions about hiking preparedness, trails and trail condition, and has assisted many nervous backpackers hiking out of the Canyon.

"Sjors is an avid storyteller," said Norah Martinez, Canyon District Ranger, "by sharing his love and knowledge of the area he educates and instills an appreciation and respect for the Canyon to park visitors. Sjors has also become a valuable member of the Canyon District Emergency Medical Services and Search and Rescue team at Phantom Ranch, assisting park rangers on countless search and rescue missions. We have grown to depend on Sjors, his knowledge and can do attitude. He is a pleasure to work with."

Sjors Horstman started his volunteer career with the National Park Service on San Miguel and Santa Rosa Islands, two of eight islands that make up Channel Islands National Park near Los Angeles, California.

"This is a great opportunity for the National Park Service to recognize the many efforts of Sjors Horstman." We look forward to working with Sjors for many years to come," concluded Alston.

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### NEWS RELEASE

May 7, 2004

Donna Nemeth 928-638-7944

## Final News Update On Grand Canyon National Park's Long Jim Fire

Crews are making excellent progress on the Long Jim Fire today as they continue to mop up hot spots and patrol the fire's perimeter. Full containment is expected by tomorrow evening at 6:00 PM.

The 1620-acre Long Jim prescribed fire was ignited at 6:00 AM on Monday, May 5th. Later that morning, firefighters had to take suppression actions on an additional 235 acres when spot fires developed outside of the prescribed fire's boundary. The escaped fire led to an advisory evacuation, traffic delays, and road closures that lasted several hours.

Grand Canyon National Park's Branch of Fire and Aviation will host a Community Meeting to review and discuss The Long Jim Prescribed Fire. The public is invited to attend. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11th, from 6:00 - 7:00 PM, at the Shrine of the Ages. For additional information about the community meeting, please contact Donna Nemeth at 638-7944.

Officials from Grand Canyon National Park wish to thank all of the cooperating agencies and individuals who assisted with the Long Jim Fire, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U. S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Tusayan Fire Department, and all private contractors. This will be the last update on the Long Jim Fire. For updated information, please call the park's fire information line at 928-638-7819, or visit the park's fire web site at [www.nps.gov/grca/fire](http://www.nps.gov/grca/fire).

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### NEWS RELEASE

May 6 , 2004

Fire Information, 928-638-7947

## Long Jim Prescribed Fire Update

May 6, 2004 - The Long Jim prescribed fire was ignited early yesterday morning. Later that morning spot fires began igniting north of the main fire and ran towards the rim, crossing over Highway 64 east. Firefighters were able to contain most of the 285-acre escaped portion by yesterday evening, but not before an advisory evacuation, numerous traffic delays and road closures occurred.

Prescribed fire is an important tool used to reduce the risks of wildfire to nearby communities, however it carries it's own set of risks. "Although we can not entirely eliminate those risks, we can anticipate and prepare for them. Yesterday, we were prepared by having a contingency plan in place and enough crews and equipment to carry out that plan." said Kate Canon, the park's Deputy Superintendent. "It is not always possible for us to meet burn objectives if prescribed fires are conducted in mild conditions."

Crews continued to patrol for and suppress spot fires today. Crews also began to mop up and improve fire lines throughout the day. Cooperating agencies assigned to the Long Jim Prescribed Fire include the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U. S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Tusayan Fire Department, and a number of private contractors. For updated information, please call the park's fire information line at 928-638-7819, or visit the park's fire web site at [www.nps.gov/grca/fire](http://www.nps.gov/grca/fire)

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### NEWS RELEASE

May 5 , 2004, 9:00 pm  
Donna Nemeth, 928-638-7944  
Fire Information, 928-638-7947

## Update On Long Jim Prescribed Fire

May 5, 2004, 9:00 pm - The Long Jim Prescribed Fire was initiated at 6:00 am this morning as prescription elements were in place. At approximately 11:00 am, while ignition was nearing completion, fuel moisture levels dropped and the burn went out of prescription.

By noon, spot fires had developed north of the prescribed fire's northern boundary. Suppression actions were taken immediately. A precautionary evacuation was initiated in the northeastern section of Grand Canyon Village. The South Entrance Station and a portion of Desert View Drive were closed, allowing only residents into the park. Winds subsided, fire behavior moderated, and the precautionary evacuation was downgraded to an advisory evacuation fifteen minutes later, due to successful suppression efforts. The South Entrance Station also opened shortly thereafter. By late afternoon, all closures were lifted.

An estimated 285 acres burned outside of the prescription area. Fire Managers, however, believe that significant resource benefits were derived from the prescribed portion of the Long Jim Fire. In addition, the burned area will provide a great measure of future protection from wildland fires for Grand Canyon Village. No structures were immediately threatened or lost.

A number of cooperating agencies provided assistance for the Long Jim Prescribed Fire, including the U. S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Tusayan Fire Department, and a number of private contractors. These agencies successfully suppressed the escaped fire.

For updated information, please call the park's fire information line at 928-638-7819, or visit the park's web site at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).



### NEWS RELEASE

April 28, 2004

Jennie Albrinck, 928-638-7739

## Highway 67 To Grand Canyon North Rim To Open For The Season On May 10

Highway 67 to the North Rim of Grand Canyon, which is closed each winter, will be opened to the public beginning Monday, May 10th at 6:00 a.m. Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Inc. at the North Rim (Xanterra), and Grand Canyon Trail Rides will also commence their season operations on May 10th, continuing through October 14th, 2004. Xanterra operations include lodging, camper services, food services, groceries and a service station. All concessions facilities will open at 11:30 a.m.

All services provided by the National Park Service including the Visitor Center, Grand Canyon Association bookstore, backcountry permit reservations, campground and ranger programs will be available on May 10th at 11:30 a.m. as well.

Advance overnight lodging reservations for North Rim facilities may be made by contacting Xanterra reservations in Denver at 1(888) 297-2757. Callers from outside of the United States must call (303) 297-2757. Advance reservations for the North Rim Campground must be made through Spherix, and can be made up to five months in advance by calling 1 (800) 365-2267. Callers from outside of the United States must call (301) 722-1257.

The Kaibab Plateau Visitor Center, operated by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service will also open on May 15th. The center is located on Highway 67 at Jacob Lake (approximately 45 miles from the North Rim) and will be open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The North Rim lies at the southern end of the Kaibab Plateau at approximately 8,200 feet in elevation, and offers spectacular canyon views. It is approximately a 215-mile drive from the South Rim. Points of interest include: Point Imperial, Cape Royal, Point Sublime, North Kaibab Trail, and Bright Angel Point.

For a copy of the park's free Trip Planner please call (928) 638-7888 or write, Trip Planner, Grand Canyon National Park, P. O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. The Trip Planner is also available on the Internet at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).



### NEWS RELEASE

April 22, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge 928-638-7779

## Reconstruction Project To Begin On Rim Trail And Walkways Between Bright Angel Lodge And Verkamp's

Grand Canyon, AZ - The National Park Service will begin a project to repave the rim trail and walkways between Bright Angel Lodge and Verkamp's on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park within the historic district. The project is one of many on-going projects at Grand Canyon National Park designed to improve visitor experience and safety. EPC Corporation (EPC), of Glendale, Arizona, was awarded the contract in July 2003, which also included reconstruction of walkways at Market Plaza, Yavapai Cafeteria and the Shrine of the Ages. These projects were completed last fall.

The reconstruction project is expected to begin the week of April 26th and should be completed by May 28th in time for the Memorial Day Weekend. Any work not completed by May 28th will be completed following the Memorial Day Weekend. The project will be done in phases to minimize impacts to park visitors, residents and business operators. The first phase will include the section of trail between the Arizona Room at the Bright Angel Lodge and the El Tovar near the flagpole, as well as the walkway in front of the Arizona Room. Upon completion of this section of trail, EPC will begin work on the section of trail between the El Tovar and Hopi House. Work on this section is expected to begin the week of May 10th and will include walkways around the parking lot and circular driveway between the El Tovar and Hopi House. The project will conclude with the section of trail between Hopi House and Verkamp's. This last phase is scheduled to begin the week of May 24th.

During the reconstruction effort, temporary walkways and signage will be installed to provide pedestrians with access along the rim and to facilities within the construction area.

For additional information on this project, please contact Michael Leary, National Park Service, Project Manager at (928) 226-0160 or Maureen Oltrogge, National Park Service, Public Affairs Officer at (928) 638-7779.

Note: Construction activities will cease on Friday, May 21st at 4:00 p.m. to allow for the Grand Canyon High School and Middle School graduation ceremonies that are scheduled to place on the lawn of the El Tovar. Construction activities will resume Monday morning, May 24th.



### NEWS RELEASE

April 15, 2004

Donna Nemeth, 928-638-7944

## Prescribed Fires Planned For Grand Canyon National Park, 2004

Grand Canyon, AZ - Prescribed fires will be implemented at Grand Canyon National Park as soon as environmental factors such as wind, temperature, relative humidity, and fuel moisture levels are favorable. Fire is an essential part of Grand Canyon's ecosystems and prescribed fire is one of the most effective tools available to resource managers for promoting ecosystem health and reducing forest fuels. Many resource specialists are involved in the process of planning prescribed fires and the best available science is used to determine the most appropriate actions. All prescribed fires are managed with firefighter and public safety as the first priority.

A combination of aerial and ground ignition will be used. Thorough planning can minimize smoke impacts; however, it is impossible to predict weather patterns and smoke behavior with complete accuracy. Smoke impacts may occur in adjacent communities and also along the river. Short-term closures, to ensure firefighter and public safety, may be implemented during these fire activities.

Spring Prescribed Fires	Size (acres)	Location
Long Jim III	1620	South Rim, along East Rim Drive
Topeka	2115	South Rim, on the southern boundary

Fall Prescribed Fires	Size (acres)	Location
Walhalla - Manzanita Point	3200	North Rim, 4 miles east of developed area
Walhalla - Cape Final	2300	North Rim, east of Cape Royal Road
Outlet	1000	North Rim, 3 miles northwest of developed area
Northwest I, III and V	2800	North Rim, near Swamp Point
Shoshone	650	South Rim, at Shoshone Point

Horsethief	500	South Rim, south of Hermit's Rest
Miscellaneous Pile Burns	50	various North Rim and South Rim locations

These prescribed fires will not necessarily occur in the order that they are listed, but rather, as conditions are favorable in each burn unit. You can learn more about Grand Canyon's Fire Management Program at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/fire>. For additional information, please call 928-638-7819 or 928-638-7947.

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### NEWS RELEASE

April 13, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge, 928-638-7779

## Temporary Closures Imposed To Protect Nesting Southwestern Willow Flycatchers

Grand Canyon, AZ - The National Park Service will close two areas along the Colorado River to all visitor use to protect nesting sites of the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*).

The closure will be in effect from May 1 through July 15, 2004 at river mile 28.1 - 28.5 river left and river mile 50.2 - 50.6 river left. No visitor use, including hiking, camping, or river landings, will be allowed in these areas in order to protect known and potential nesting sites of the flycatcher. All river trip participants and backcountry permit holders will be advised of this closure and provided alternate campsite and route information.

The Southwestern willow flycatcher is a small songbird which requires riparian vegetation for nesting and rearing young. The bird was designated as an endangered species in 1995 as the population has been declining in the southwestern United States since the 1940s. The decline is due to loss and alteration of habitat in addition to interactions with non-native species.

Nesting activity was documented in surveys conducted in 2001-2003 at the sites listed above. Closure to these sites during the critical nesting period will help protect the endangered species from disturbance to nesting activity and the nest site locations. Should additional occupied flycatcher sites be observed during the 2004 survey periods, additional restrictions may be recommended until breeding season has concluded in July.

For additional information on these closures or the Southwestern willow flycatcher, please contact R.V. Ward, Wildlife Program Manager at (928) 638-7756.

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### NEWS RELEASE

February 24, 2004

Maureen Oltrogge, 928-638-7779

## Grand Canyon National Park celebrates Archeology Day at Tusayan Ruin and Museum

Grand Canyon, AZ - The Tusayan Ruin and Museum at Grand Canyon National Park is celebrating Arizona Archeology Month by hosting its annual Archeology Day from 10:00 am through 4:00 pm, Saturday, March 6, 2004.

Archeology provides us an opportunity to learn about our shared cultural experiences through exploration of the past. Join park staff and guest speakers for cultural demonstrations, archeological programs and tours of an 800-year old ancestral Puebloan home. Dress warmly as some of the activities will be held outside.

### Schedule of Events:

10:00 am and 12:30 pm - Learn how to make replicas of figurines originally made by those who lived in the Grand Canyon 4000 years ago. Join Dennis Reason, Interpretive Trainer for Xanterra Parks and Resorts for this hands-on activity. Program will last 30-40 minutes. Suitable for kids of all ages, materials will be provided. Dennis will also provide informal programs throughout the day until 1:30 pm.

11:00 am and 1:30 pm - Consider the people who called Grand Canyon home 800 years ago. How did they survive in this environment? Take a tour with park staff around an ancestral Puebloan home. The tour route follows a 0.1 mile (0.2 km) paved trail. Program will last 45-60 minutes.

12:00 noon and 2:30 pm - The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. Play a role in preserving our local treasure by participating in an archeological program presented by Ellen Brennan, Vanishing Treasures Archaeologist, Grand Canyon National Park. You may get a little dirty if you choose to participate in the hands-on portion of the program, so please dress for the occasion. Program will last approximately 60 minutes.

Other cultural demonstration programs will be presented throughout the day, as staffing permits.

Tusayan Ruin and Museum is located 23 miles east of Grand Canyon Village and three miles west of Desert View and is open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm as staffing permits. Admission for programs is free. Please contact Ilyse Goldman or Dean Butterworth at 928-638-7968 for more information.



### NEWS RELEASE

February 9, 2004

## Mule Trips At South Rim Of Grand Canyon National Park Scheduled To Resume After Trail Maintenance

### Day Trips to Plateau Point to Start March 23; Phantom Ranch Trips Start May 1

GRAND CANYON, Ariz. - Xanterra Parks & Resorts, operator of lodges, restaurants and activities at the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, has announced dates for resuming both day and overnight mule trips.

Day trips to Plateau Point are projected to resume March 23, 2004 with trips to Phantom Ranch on the floor of the Grand Canyon anticipated to begin May 1, 2004.

Xanterra suspended visitor mule rides September 22, 2003 to allow for trail maintenance on the Bright Angel and South Kaibab Trails by the National Park Service and Xanterra.

"Work on the trails is progressing steadily and satisfactorily, and we are pleased that we can again schedule these popular, historical trips," said Bill Johnston, Xanterra's general manager of South Rim operations. "Mule rides in the Grand Canyon have been available to tourists since 1887, and we estimate more than 600,000 people have made this journey since."

Xanterra will begin accepting new reservations for day and overnight trips beginning March 3 at 888-297-2757 or 303-297-2757. While trail work is an ongoing occurrence in the inner canyon, Xanterra had stopped accepting any new reservations for mule rides until trail work had been substantially completed. Reservations for mule rides are typically accepted up to 23 months in advance. The seven-hour day trip to Plateau Point costs \$132.88 per person and includes tax and a box lunch. The one-night ride to Phantom Ranch costs \$360.54 for the first person, or two people for \$641.57, and includes tax, accommodations, breakfast, lunch and steak dinner.

During the trail work, Phantom Ranch remained open and provided overnight accommodations for hikers. While the trail work was being performed, Xanterra conducted maintenance operations of its own with upgrades to cabins, hiker dormitories and restrooms at Phantom Ranch.

Xanterra's other operations on the South Rim were not affected. On the South Rim, Xanterra operates six hotel properties, 10 restaurants and 11 retail shops as well as motorcoach tours. For advance reservations or questions about existing reservations at any of the properties Xanterra operates, visitors can call 888-297-2757 or 303-297-2757.

Xanterra Parks & Resorts operates lodges, restaurants and other concessions at national parks and state parks and resorts. Xanterra is the country's largest national park concessioner. The company operates concessions in the following locations: Yellowstone National Park, the North and South Rims of Grand Canyon National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park, Crater Lake National Park, Death Valley National Park, Petrified Forest National Park, Everglades National Park, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial; and at the Silverado Resort in Napa, Calif.; Gideon Putnam Resort in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. and eight Ohio State Parks.

For more information about Xanterra and links to individual properties, visit: [www.xanterra.com](http://www.xanterra.com). For reservations and more information about Grand Canyon, Bryce or Zion, call (1) 303-297-2757 or toll-free at (1) 888-297-2757. For reservations and more information about Yellowstone, call (1) 307-344-7311. For reservations and more information about Flamingo Lodge in Everglades National Park, call (1) 800-600-3813 or (1) 239-695-3101. For reservations at Crater Lake Lodge, call (1) 541-830-8700. For reservations and more information about Ohio State Park Resorts, call (1) 800-282-7275.

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## **Fact Sheet: Glen Canyon Dam High-Flow Experiment**

### **OVERVIEW**

**Tributary Sediment Hypothesis:** The Glen Canyon Dam high-flow experiment is designed to test a new science-based hypothesis concerning the use of tributary river sediment rather than main-stem bottom sediment to improve Colorado River habitat for endangered fish and wildlife and enhance cultural and recreational resources in Grand Canyon National Park. The goal is to stir up and redistribute more than a million tons of sediment from tributary rivers downstream from the dam to enlarge existing beaches and sandbars, create new ones, and distribute sediment into drainage channels. The test will develop a better understanding of the river's ecosystem to help guide future management decisions in the continued operation of Glen Canyon Dam.

A previous high-flow test at the dam in 1996 was designed to stir up and redistribute sediment from the bottom of the Colorado River and add it to river banks. The hypothesis underlying that test was not borne out by the results, leading scientists to believe that a more effective approach would be to redistribute tributary sediment. More than a million tons of sediment has now accumulated from downstream tributaries, triggering the test.

**Water Neutral:** The water released during the experiment will not change the amount of water to be released from Glen Canyon Dam in the 2005 Water Year. The Annual Operating Plan calls for releasing 8.23 million acre-feet of water that is sent down river and captured in Lake Mead for use by the Lower Colorado River Basin States. The test flows are factored into that annual volume. Flows later in the year will be adjusted downward to factor in the additional water released during the Nov. 21-25 test. The dam's bypass tubes will be opened for 90 hours. The peak high flows will run for two and one-half days (60 hours) at about 41,000 cubic-feet-per-second. The test will release an additional 224,000 acre-feet from Lake Powell and lower the reservoir by 2 ½ feet.

**Stakeholder Consensus:** There is unanimous support for conducting this experiment among the members of the Adaptive Management Work Group, including the seven Colorado River Basin states and hydropower customers. The AMWG, a federal advisory committee, recommended the test. The Adaptive Management Program applies scientific knowledge in decisionmaking for the operations of Glen Canyon Dam and protection of downstream resources consistent with the Grand Canyon Protection Act.

**Costs of the Test** are included in the Adaptive Management Program budget, which is largely funded through hydropower revenues from Glen Canyon Dam. Some additional appropriated funds are included in the budget. Water released above power-plant capacity will not be used to generate power. The National Park Service will extend boat-launch ramps and move docks on Lake Powell and adjust services in Glen Canyon NRA.

## **SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS**

Experiments will focus on sediment distribution, native fish and food for aquatic animals (see supplemental fact sheet).

Sediment is important for enlarging and building beaches, which are a foundation for terrestrial habitat next to the river and recreational rafters and hikers who camp on them.

Sediment also is important for in-place preservation of archaeological sites and other cultural resources in Grand Canyon National Park. Most sediment entering the Grand Canyon now arrives via Paria River inputs below the dam.

Research will be supported by pre- and post-release remote sensing to determine the condition of beaches and sediment in the system. Aerial photography is complemented by channel-bed mapping and sediment classification using multibeam sonar. Subsequent remote-sensing efforts six and 18 months after the test will track changes in the system.

USGS scientists will focus their investigations on sediment resources, specifically, how much of it moves through the Grand Canyon during the high-flow event and how much is retained as beaches or channel deposits.

Shoreline beaches will be measured by using a combination of conventional survey equipment and airborne Light Detection and Ranging technology that delivers highly accurate topography.

Sediment suspended in the water will be measured using water sampling and a laser-based technology. Measurements will be made of sediment concentration and grain size distribution in the water column at several locations during the high flow to see how this changes as the water moves through the Grand Canyon.

This will give scientists some indication about where and perhaps the conditions under which sand is deposited or eroded by the high flow as it moves through changing geomorphic conditions.

Sediment redistribution also is expected to create backwaters that favor the native humpback chub, an endangered species that is dependent on the Canyon's habitat and has evolved with flood events.

Intensive monitoring and mapping before and after high flows will help to better understand early life stages of humpbacks and how short- and long-term changes in their habitat relate to fish survival.

Scientists will conduct a hoop-net survey to examine the affect of this high flow on juvenile humpback chub near the confluence of the Little Colorado River. Recent surveys showed a high number of juvenile chub in this reach. The 2004 reproduction year yielded some of the largest catches of young-of-the-year chub in many years.

**--DOI--**



## ***Supplemental Fact Sheet: Glen Canyon Dam High-Flow Experiment***

### **HUMPBACK CHUB EXPERIMENTS**

The high-flow test experiment will advance understanding of the dynamics of the Colorado River ecosystem while providing tangible benefits to the fishery, river environment and recreational users in Grand Canyon National Park.

A major portion of the high-flow test research focuses on the well-being of native fish. The endangered humpback chub, one of four remaining native fish in the Grand Canyon, is dependent upon the Canyon's habitat and has evolved with flood events.

Scientists will conduct a hoop-net survey to examine the affect of this high flow on juvenile humpback chub near the confluence of the Little Colorado River. Recent surveys showed a high number of juvenile chub in this reach. The 2004 reproduction year yielded some of the largest catches of young-of-the-year chub in many years.

This survey is needed to ensure that scientists understand how the timing of this high flow may have affected young humpback chub around the mouth of the Little Colorado River. It is hypothesized that because the chub evolved under the highly flood-prone conditions of the Colorado River, they will not be negatively affected by this experimental high flow, but this needs to be tested to be sure.

The humpback chub is a native fish that evolved around 3 to 5 million years ago. It is a member of the minnow family and lives primarily in canyon sections of rivers where water currents are swift and turbulent.

It has a pronounced hump behind the head, large fins, olive-colored back, silver sides, white belly, small eyes, and a long snout that overhangs the jaw. Humpback chub may live more than 30 years in the wild and can grow to nearly 20 inches in length.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the humpback chub as an endangered species in 1967. Critical habitat was designated for portions of the Colorado, Little Colorado, Green and Yampa rivers in Arizona, Colorado and Utah.

In the Lower Colorado River Basin, a large humpback chub population occurs in the Grand Canyon. In the Upper Colorado River Basin (above Glen Canyon Dam), the largest populations occur in the Colorado River near the Colorado-Utah border and in Desolation/Gray canyons on the Green River in Utah. Smaller populations occur in the Yampa River in Colorado and Cataract Canyon on the Colorado River in Utah.

## **OTHER BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS**

Endangered Southwestern willow flycatchers are migratory birds that are presently on their South American winter grounds.

Previous experimental flows resulted in sediment deposition that promoted growth of riparian vegetation that is favored by flycatchers, who build their nests along Southwestern rivers during the summer months. The Lower Colorado River has been proposed as critical habitat for the flycatcher.

Another endangered species, the Kanab ambersnail, is the focus of an experiment to determine if the snail's habitat can be protected from experimental floods. As a result of mitigation for previous experimental flows, agencies have successfully established an additional endangered Kanab ambersnail population at Upper Elves Chasm.

At Vasey's Paradise, up to 120 square meters of the ambersnails' monkeyflower habitat may be lost due to high experimental flows. Therefore, up to 48 square meters of that vegetation habitat will be removed by hand -- similar to sod-cutting -- stacked on pallets and moved above the flood.

After the high flow ends, the vegetation will be relocated to the flood zone, and growth hormones will be applied to plants to encourage re-establishment of snail habitat.

Non-native rainbow trout are an important resource for anglers in the first 15 miles below Glen Canyon to Lees Ferry. Surveys of relative abundance of trout were recently completed by the Arizona Department of Fish and Game. Surveys will be repeated in mid-December to determine the effect of flows on trout populations and trout diet.

The aquatic foodbase is important for all species living in the river. A fundamental component of the foodbase is "drift" or the floating array of invertebrates, algae and other bits and pieces of raw material carried down the river as a result of the natural erosion of the channel and surrounding landscape. Drift provides a source of energy and carbon to higher organisms, including fish.

Drift samples will be taken below the Little Colorado River to determine changes in the foodbase before, during and after the flood. Pre- and post-flood surveys of algae and aquatic vegetation beds, an important part of the foodbase, will also be conducted in the Lees Ferry reach.

Another part of an overall experiment to test the effect of flow and nonflow actions that enhance and restore natural resources in the canyon involves the removal of non-native fish from a critical habitat for the endangered humpback chub near the confluence with the Little Colorado River. While unrelated to flows, this research effort will continue in concert with the overall research design.



## ***Supplemental Fact Sheet: Glen Canyon Dam High-Flow Experiment***

### **ANTICIPATED EFFECTS ON GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK**

All cultural resources between the river and 45,000 cubic-feet-per-second were mitigated prior to the 1996 test flow of 45,000 cfs to fulfill federal agency responsibilities for any impacts sustained as a result of the proposed experimental flow. The current experimental flow of 41,000 cfs will not have a direct adverse effect on additional historic properties.

Indirect effects on historic properties will be positive. The intention of the flow is to redistribute sediment onto the terraces (beaches, sandbars) and into drainage channels adjacent to the river.

This operation should raise the river's current base level and increase the amount of fine-grained sediments available for eolian (wind) transport, which will enhance the upper terraces and infill the drainage channels. These processes are necessary for the preservation of historic properties.

Cultural resources that would be improved indirectly by this test flow include historic properties (sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places). These sites date mainly 1000 to 1200 A.D. and represent the Cohonina and Puebloan cultures (modern Pueblo Indians (Hopi and Zuni) and ancestors to the Hualapai, Havasupai and Southern Paiutes.

Other cultural resources include Traditional Cultural Places and sacred sites, including springs, specific geographical locations for mineral collections, and plant-collecting areas. These are important to the tribes' cultural affiliation to the Canyon.

Regarding effects on beaches, the size, abundance, and distribution of the sand deposits that serve as campsites limit the river's recreational carrying capacity within Grand Canyon National Park.

The high-flow experiment is designed to deliver sediment that has been deposited into the Colorado River from the Paria River and other tributaries to higher elevations, thus rebuilding camping beaches and improving recreational opportunities.

--DOI--