



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Rainbow Bridge National Monument
P.O. Box 1507
Page, Arizona 86040
(928) 608-6200



IN REPLY REFER TO:
ORV Plan/EIS

January 3, 2014

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to announce the release of the Off-road Vehicle Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Plan/DEIS) for Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Glen Canyon). The Plan/DEIS analyzes a range of alternatives and actions for managing off-road use of motor vehicles and on-road use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and street-legal all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). The Plan/DEIS assesses the environmental impacts that could result from continuing current management (the no-action alternative) or modifying the management approach as described in four action alternatives. The Plan/DEIS seeks to provide clear management direction to preserve Glen Canyon's scientific, scenic, and historic features; provide for the recreational use and enjoyment of the area and promote the resources and values for which the area was established as a unit of the national park system.

Five alternatives are analyzed. Alternative A, the "no-action" alternative, represents the continuation of existing management policies and action related to the use of ORVs in Glen Canyon and represents "no change" from the current level of management direction and level of management intensity. Alternative B, the environmentally preferred alternative, does not designate any ORV routes or areas and would allow motorized vehicle use only on existing park roads. Alternative C would expand recreational opportunities by increasing the number of ORV routes and areas as well as the types of vehicles that would be allowed on park roads. Alternative D would limit the number of routes and areas designated for off-road use of motor vehicles and prohibit the operation of OHVs and ATVs throughout Glen Canyon. Alternative E, the NPS preferred alternative, designates a mixture of opportunities for motorized recreation on park roads and designated ORV routes and at remote shoreline areas while prohibiting such uses in areas where resources and values may be at risk.

All action alternatives include provisions to improve signs and road/route markings, to develop a communication strategy to better educate visitors on regulations and resource concerns, and to close and restore routes and areas not designated for off-road use. In alternatives that would provide for off-road use of motor vehicles, management and mitigation strategies are outlined to address the impacts from off-road use. This would include implementation of a permit system to provide for education on applicable regulations, provide for visitor safety, prevent resource damage and recover costs for monitoring, mitigation, education and administration of the permit system.

The Plan/DEIS is now available for public review and comment. An electronic copy may be downloaded at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/glca-oryplan>. Comments should be submitted online using the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) system. Written comments may also be submitted to: Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, ORV Plan/DEIS, PO Box 1507, Page, AZ 86040-1507 or delivered to Glen Canyon headquarters at 691 Scenic View Drive, Page, AZ. **Comments must be received or postmarked no later than March 4, 2014.** Printed copies of the Plan/DEIS are available at some local libraries (Page, Blanding, Escalante and Kanab). For additional assistance in obtaining a copy of the Plan/DEIS, please contact us at (928) 608-6209 or via email at brian_carey@nps.gov.

All comments on the Plan/DEIS are welcome, particularly those that assess the adequacy of the document in disclosing and evaluating the effects on the environment. These comments are most useful if they are as specific as possible and do the following:

- Discuss a particular plan element or alternative
- Identify incomplete or incorrect information
- Offer reasons why a particular alternative or plan element would or would not work
- Offer a reasonable, new plan element or completely new alternative that could help accomplish the stated goals
- Point out discrepancies between legal mandates and proposals
- Highlight deficiencies in the analysis of environmental consequences
- Provide information on how you use the park and how particular proposals in the planning document would affect that use.

The NPS will consider input received during the public review and comment period for the Plan/DEIS to prepare the Final Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan and EIS (Plan/FEIS). We anticipate the Plan/FEIS will be prepared and made available for public review in late 2014.

You are welcome to join us at an Open House to find out more about the Plan/DEIS and the alternatives. **The Open House will be held Tuesday, February 12, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Headquarters**, located at 691 Scenic View Drive in Page, AZ. NPS staff will make a short presentation at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. You may provide written comments in person at the Open House. Additional open houses are planned in Blanding, Escalante, Kanab and Salt Lake City, UT. See the Plan/DEIS website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/glca-oryplan> for information on times and locations.

Pursuant to NPS policy and regulations, the alternative that is selected will then be adopted as a special regulation governing off-road use of motor vehicles and on-road use of OHVs and ATVs at Glen Canyon. To stay informed about the upcoming regulation process, visit the Plan/DEIS website. Information on how to comment on the proposed regulation will be posted on this website once the proposed regulation becomes available for review and comment.

In coordination with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, formal consultation with tribes, local governments, state agencies and other consulting parties has begun in order to solicit comments and suggestions on the identification of historic properties; areas of potential effect; eligibility of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Properties; effects on historic properties; and mitigation of any adverse effects on historic properties from the actions proposed in the Off-road Vehicle Management Plan. Your office may be engaged in our consultation efforts but you are also welcome to include comments regarding these aspects of the Plan/DEIS at this time as well.

Your interest in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and this planning process is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Todd W. Brindle
Superintendent