



Expanded Non-Native Aquatic Species Management Plan in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park below Glen Canyon Dam—An Environmental Assessment



Public Scoping Report Update

The National Park Service (NPS) recently requested your input on an Environmental Assessment (EA) for an Expanded Non-native Aquatic Species Management Plan in Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area below Glen Canyon Dam. We held a public webinar and three public meetings in Page, Flagstaff and Phoenix, Arizona. Your comments during the scoping period are helping us refine our alternatives and we are considering your ideas and concerns as we analyze alternatives and begin writing the assessment document. We have produced three documents in relation to our public scoping effort:

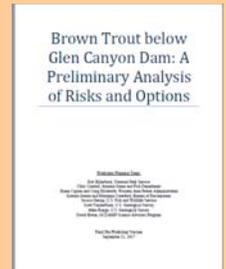
- This newsletter with responses to Frequently Asked Questions from public scoping
- A public scoping summary report (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/Expanded_Nonnative)
- The full text of public scoping comments (<https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/foia/foia-frd.htm>)

Question 1—What is the timeline for this process and when can we comment again?

Spring 2018	NPS Refines Alternatives Analyzes Impacts and Prepares the EA
July 2018	NPS Will Make the EA Available for 30- Day Public Review and Comment
Early Fall 2018	NPS Reviews and Analyzes Comments, Prepares Errata, Completes Consultations with Tribes and USFWS
Fall 2018	NPS Issues Decision Document, as Appropriate

Question 2—Has the Brown Trout Whitepaper been published?

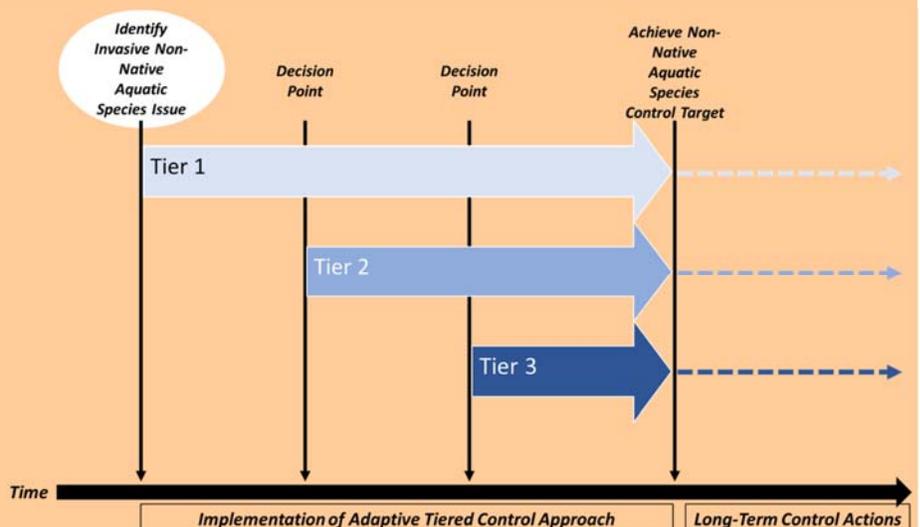
Yes, a group of scientists and researchers have been working on the brown trout issue since July of 2017. This includes researches from several different agencies as well as several non-agency biologists. Their first whitepaper was published in September 2017 for a Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program workshop. Based on the discussions at the workshop, a second, more in-depth whitepaper was prepared this winter and the major findings were presented at the February 14-15 Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Working Group (AMWG) meeting in Phoenix, AZ. The peer-reviewed and published second paper is now available here: <https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20181069>. The second whitepaper includes hypotheses for the increase of brown trout, the risk of brown trout to threatened and endangered fish downstream as well as to the rainbow trout fishery, and the evaluation of several management options. Some of those options are considered within this EA. Other flow-based options are being considered by the Bureau of Reclamation within the context of the existing Long Term Experimental Management Plan (LTEMP) compliance and through input from the AMWG where recommendations for adaptations to operations are considered.



Question 3—How is NPS addressing concerns from anglers and tribes about the potential use of mechanical removal of brown trout using electrofishing of brown trout in Lees Ferry?

During public scoping, many anglers and some representatives from traditionally associated tribes expressed concerns about mechanical removal as an approach to management of brown trout in Lees Ferry, either in relation to its potential impacts to the recreational rainbow trout fishery, or its cost, efficacy or with regards to taking-of-life concerns. Electrofishing itself is a very selective tool used widely and routinely by fishery biologists for managing and monitoring native and game fish. However, we understand the comments concerning electrofishing and will be addressing the scale of the effort relative to Lees Ferry and the potential effects to the recreational rainbow trout fishery and tribal communities.

One way NPS staff is addressing these concerns is by considering an adaptive and tiered approach to management actions. The first actions (tier 1), would use the least intensive management approach. These tier 1 tools focus on non-lethal methods of controlling or reducing harmful non-natives, result in little alteration of habitat, and are generally lower cost. If lower tier actions are determined to be ineffective or population thresholds (triggers) are reached, NPS would implement higher tier actions that may require more intensive management. Higher tier actions may be more effective in controlling non-native aquatic species, but rely more on lethal methods with beneficial use when possible, have potentially greater effects on habitats or non-target organisms, and generally have higher costs. Several actions either within or among tiers may be used in combination to increase their effectiveness. We are working closely with cooperating agencies including the Grand Canyon Research and Monitoring Center, Arizona Game and Fish Department and US Fish and Wildlife Service and Tribes to develop appropriate tiers and triggers, understand their concerns regarding various options and discuss ways to try to address those concerns.



Question 4—Is NPS considering a bounty or other “incentivized take” approaches?

Incentivized take approaches were one of the options considered in our scoping materials and one of the options analyzed in the brown trout whitepaper. During scoping, we heard



Fisherman at the Recreational Rainbow Trout Fishery in Lees Ferry (Courtesy of George Andrejko, AGFD)

from many anglers and tribal representatives about their interest in this option. We are analyzing this option in concert with other tools in tiered approaches and we are meeting with Arizona Game and Fish Department staff and other cooperators to discuss how to analyze these options, how to perform cost analyses, and other issues concerning how these options could be implemented, funded, and regulated. We are evaluating many bounty programs, guided volunteer angling programs, Tribal youth fishing opportunities, and non-native fish tournaments and prize fish incentive programs are encouraged by their successes.

WANTED
Northern Pike Heads- \$10 Reward



Attention Anglers:
Help protect Lake Roosevelt from Invasive Northern Pike!

Northern Pike pose significant threats to the Columbia River fisheries including predation on native and important game fish species, introductions of parasites and disease, and competition with other species for food resources.

Drop off locations located at the Noisy Water Gas Station and near the Park Service Kettle Falls fish cleaning station
Fill out the label with: Name, address, phone number, email, date of capture, and general location of capture
(Pick from Lake Roosevelt and the Kettle River only.)

Place the head and the label in the bag and deposit into the freezer
A \$10 Reward will be mailed to you

Questions:
Holly McLellan
Colville Confederated Tribes
(509) 209-2415

Value: 2-3 weeks for processing
\$10,000 to be awarded, \$100 limit per person.
Funding provided by the Colville Confederated Tribes

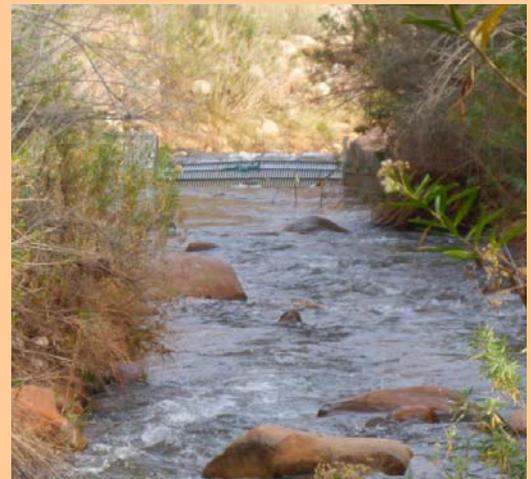
Example of a bounty program at Lake Roosevelt for Northern Pike (Courtesy of Colville Tribes)

Question 5 —What is the NPS preferred alternative?

At this time, the analysis has not yet been completed and the NPS does not have a preferred alternative. We are currently reviewing public comments, reviewing assessments and scientific literature, and refining alternatives and developing triggered adaptive approaches. We are moving into the full analysis phase and are beginning to prepare the actual EA document. Only after the analysis is complete will a preferred alternative be identified. When the EA is published, it will identify this preferred alternative and there will be an opportunity for the public to comment on that.



Endangered Humpback Chub (Courtesy of AGFD)



Stay Informed

For updates and information about the process, press releases, newsletters, planning documents, and the EA when completed, please visit our website at:

https://parkplanning.nps.gov/Expanded_Nonnative