

Public Comment regarding the management of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park. To be added to the comments given In SLC at the AMWG meeting, February 24th, 2015.

I second the comments of the people who spoke before me in the public comment. The Colorado River through Grand Canyon is a very special place. A place where the history of our planet is visible to read, a place that offers beauty and amazement to millions of visitors a year, from the bottom to the rim.

Although the Canyon is grand and magnificent, it is also delicate and fragile. Because it is part of a desert, the rocks and the web of life are exposed. We can see how much our human footprints (of all kinds) affect this place. It is sacred land to many Native people and it should be to the rest of us. It is a Natural World Heritage site. It provides a place humans can experience natural quiet, a place to renew our spirits, connect with each other, our God(s) and our earth. It provides this and so much more.

Our world of commerce, travel, and boundaries of all kinds, is a complicated place. Sitting listening to the speakers at AMWG is just an example. Then there are the comments and questions from all the share holders. All have serious interest in the GC and how the Colorado River is managed. The Grand Canyon is not the Grand Canyon without the Colorado River. They cannot be separated and be healthy or whole. This said, I understand that there will be compromise.

Earth is our home. What we are doing to our food basket and water supply is alarming. I think that the rest of the world is watching us. How we manage the Grand Canyon will and does have an affect on how we treat the rest of the planet. If we are not worthy stewards of this incredible place, why would others think that they need to take any better care of other environments or river systems on the planet? We are stewards of the Grand Canyon, treasure to all nations!

The rooms you meet in for these AMWG gatherings should be filled with images of the Canyon and the river. A sound track of water and canyon wren should play softly in the background. Do not forget what place you are stewards over.

If this love and understanding of Grand Canyon and our planet are the common denominator for all who serve on this board, then I have great hope for what they will accomplish.

Thank you for your time and efforts in behalf of Grand Canyon and of course, The Colorado River.

Sincerely,
Lee Udall Bennion
Spring City, UT