

RIVER RUNNERS FOR WILDERNESS

GUIDE TO THE DRAFT CRMP

Wilderness - The Key for Grand Canyon Protection

Through wilderness we can achieve the best protection for the magnificent Colorado River flowing through Grand Canyon. Twenty five years ago, Americans made it plain they wanted the river and backcountry to be wilderness. The park duly recommended the river and over 1 million acres of backcountry for wilderness designation. Congress has not yet had a chance to vote, but law and policy require that until it does, the park must safeguard the very wilderness character and qualities that make it eligible. Backroom political deals have severely threatened this. Americans must take back control of the Grand Canyon's spectacular river. This is our chance to do it. We must marshal our forces, and make our voices heard loud and clear. Enlist everyone you know—friends, family and all river and wilderness lovers, regardless of whether they are boating enthusiasts.

Many things naturally flow from protecting the river as is it supposed to be protected. Wilderness values are characterized by smaller group sizes (not the proposed commercial group of 32 people), by discrimination-free access to that wilderness (not the unjust split of allocation), by freedom from bureaucratic hurdles (not the proposed weighted lottery, the 20 year long waiting list or draconian noncommercial rules), and by trips long enough to allow travelers to understand and feel the wildness our Wilderness Act was designed to preserve. In short, something like the same primitive experience our human ancestors felt when they traveled through wild lands.

Wilderness is so much more than simply resource protection. It goes beyond whether 4 stroke motors pollute less than 2 stroke motors, or whether future helicopters will be much quieter. Wilderness unequivocally means the absence of motors, not just monitoring for the canyon's health and mitigating use impacts.

What if the park ignores this outpouring of wilderness support for the river? There are legislative and legal avenues for redress, but we must set the stage, build the foundation for strong wilderness protection of the park now, and for wilderness designation in the future, by our thoughtful and well crafted comments—lots of them. But there is no question that the sooner we get management of the river in Grand Canyon back on track, the easier permanent protection will be. ⚙

IMPORTANT LINKS

RRFW's website

CRMP page:

www.rrfw.org/crmp.php

Comment campaigns:

Paddle the Plan:

www.rrfw.org/ptp.php

A Wilderness Film:

www.ifilms.tv/rr/

Summaries/Charts:

Alternatives:

www.rrfw.org/leesferry.org

www.rrfw.org/leesferry2.org

Grand Canyon website

CRMP page:

www.nps.gov/grca/crmp

Draft CRMP/EIS website

www.nps.gov/grca/crmp/deis

CRMP Comment submission

www.crmppcomments.com

Fax: 928-638-7797

Mail: CRMP Project, PO Box 129

Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Note: you will need Adobe Reader 6 to read the park's files. Reader includes a powerful and convenient search function. A CD of the files can be ordered from the park for those with slower connections.

Suggested Draft CRMP Reading List

- Executive Summary (beginning on page iii), a short history of the CRMP and issues addressed
- Allocation of Use: Pages 24 - 30 (Chapter 2)
- Alternatives A - H descriptions and Summary: Pages 36 - 54 (Chapter 2)
- Permit Options: Pages 98 - 102



RIVER RUNNERS FOR WILDERNESS IS YOUR CRMP & GRAND CANYON RESOURCE

1. Keep checking back for new information, added often, to our CRMP page, accessible right from our home page.
2. Sign up for our free Riverwire email alerts by sending an email to Riverwire@rrfw.org.
3. Join RRFW for free, sign up at our website www.rrfw.org, click "membership".
4. Donate to our all-volunteer grassroots efforts for fair access and wilderness policies at www.rrfw.org, click "donations".
5. Check out our store for our Patagonia™ RRFW logo t-shirts, books, and the best Grand Canyon river map ever published.
6. Read "Hijacking a River: A Political History of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon", available in our store at www.rrfw.org.
7. See all our Riverwire alerts and newsletters at www.rrfw.org, "Headlines", or contact jojohnson@rrfw.org for print copies.

River Runners for Wilderness strives to promote the highest resource protection values through Wilderness management and stewardship activities on the Colorado River watershed while safeguarding non-allocated access to the Colorado River watershed for all recreational river runners.
Colorado office : 303-443-1806, fax 303-443-1806, jojohnson@rrfw.org. www.rrfw.org. A project of Living Rivers.

Summary of Permit System Proposals in the Draft CRMP

	Current Waitlist (no change)	Group Waitlist	Group Pure Lottery	Group Weighted Lottery (Park Preferred. Alternative.)	Point Based Lottery
Signup	Individual	Individual signs up for group--all members listed	Individual? Not clear in plan.	Individual signs up for group--all members listed	Group
ID group members at application	No	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Yes
Lead time to launch	10 - 20+ years	Unknown	1 Year if successful	1 Year if successful	1 Year if successful
Repeat trips	1x for leader during wait	Not allowed during same year	Not allowed during same year	Not allowed during same year	Not allowed during same year
Continuing interest required?	Annual	Annual	n/a	n/a	n/a
Alternate trip leaders identified?	3 allowed w restrictions	All group members	Unknown	All group members on original application	All group members
Cancelled trips go back to pool	Yes	Not yet determined*	Not yet determined*	Not yet determined*	Not yet determined*
Prohibitions on applying more than 1x per year	Only leader prohibited for duration of wait	All group members for duration of wait	Anyone entering lottery for same year only	All group members for same year only	All group members entering auction for same year only
Trip scheduling	Annually for individuals at top of list	Annually for those at top of list	Each month for launch 1 year later	Each month for launch 1 year later	Each month for launch 1 year later
Fees	\$100 at time of application	Unknown	Unknown	Discount for original trip applicants	Unknown
Additional details				Each individual's continuous annual loss results in extra "chance" for group's next lottery attempt	Individual awarded points for length of wait counts toward group's aggregate bid points in monthly auction.

*Parks estimates reduced cancellation rate and reduced need for rescheduling unused launches

See more charts like this at our website