



# THE **Waiting List**

*The Grand Canyon  
Private Boaters Association  
Quarterly*

CRMP Special Issue

A Forum For Canyon River Runners

Free

## GRAND CANYON PRIVATE BOATERS ASSOCIATION PROPOSES: **GCNP SPLIT RECREATIONAL ALLOCATION 50/50**

gcgba NEWSWIRE — “50/50 Recreational Allocation Split Proposal” — July 29, 2002

One thing most river runners can agree upon is that a trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon is one of the premier river trips in the land. Just about everyone who counts themselves a river runner, and countless outdoor aficionados yearn for a Canyon river experience.

Because of the demand for access appears to exceed the capacity for visitation, the National Park Service established a system of rationing of use between non-commercial (private) river runners and commercial river runners who serve folks who cannot, or choose not to, do it themselves.

### “How Much is Enough?”

The current controversy over the commercial and non-commercial shares of the allocation pie dates back more than twenty years. In 1980, after an extensive public involvement process, the NPS attempted to implement a Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) calling for the phase out of motorized watercraft in the Canyon river corridor. That plan was superceded by a plan which struck the elimination of motorized craft from the Parks agenda, and fixed allocation ratios at today's 68% commercial, 32% private use.

In 2002 the NPS settled a lawsuit filed by the Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association. The settlement

served to restart the NPS planning process and will culminate in a new CRMP which will define the scenario within which all river running activities will occur.

### **7,200 People Wait In Twenty Year Line**

The goal of access and allocation reform is to bring the time waited to access the Canyon into relative balance. Currently people wishing to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by commercial trips wait to launch no longer than two years, sometimes as little as a few weeks, even a few days. Private non-commercial river runners would like to have the same opportunity.

Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association is working hard to help rectify this out of balance situation. We listen to our members and we work within the entire river community to gather opinions, ideas, and facts in order to contribute useful suggestions to the process, helping to lead to a solution that provides the “ability for all to obtain, on an equal and timely basis, an opportunity to experience a float trip through the Grand Canyon while protecting the resource.”

The wisdom of experience teaches us that nothing in a negotiation process is written in stone. In that spirit, the GCPBA offers to start the conversation by proposing a 50/ split of total recreational allocation for your consideration as an aspect of a solution to the access and allocation crisis facing private river runners wishing to have a Grand Canyon river experience.

## What's Fair? - Cutting Up the Access/Allocation Pie -A Parable

*Consider the "you cut, I choose" method of having siblings split the remaining pie. It's not perfect but it's close to what we are doing now in the realm of allocation and distribution.*

*The pie is divided into pieces A and B. Parties 1 and 2 get to take pieces.*

*1 chooses A. That leaves 2 to get B.*

*Would 2 prefer to get A instead of B?*

*If so, then the split isn't fair. That's what we've had for a long time now. Let's not do it again.*

*1 chooses A. That leaves 2 to get B.*

*Would 1 settle for B if he had to?*

*If not, then the split isn't fair unless 2 were willing to settle for B.*

*This option respects the differences between private and commercial sectors.*

Dave Yeamans



## SPLIT RECREATIONAL ALLOCATION 50/50

The Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association proposes a plan to implement a river management environment which fosters the ability for all to obtain, on an equal and timely basis, an opportunity to experience a float trip through the Grand Canyon while protecting the resource.

A benchmark of any new plan would be to eliminate the current waiting list system for private trip leaders, replacing it with an access system that affords a variety of opportunities to secure a launch permit in a reasonable time frame.

- Our plan recognizes a commercial sector and a private sector, each with unique characteristics that are addressed in separate ways, where necessary, and in the same way where possible. The plan greatly increases private launch opportunities by establishing a 50/50 split of user -day allocation. The plan is easy to administer, flexible to use, and above all, it creates equitable distribution of access opportunity.

- The number of daily launches is limited and spread out throughout the year. Each sector has daily launches proportional to its yearly allocation. The total allocation in user -days, counting all staff, attendees, and each exchange passenger, is to be determined by the NPS.

- A permit holder may conduct a trip of any duration not to exceed a maximum trip length seasonally determined by the NPS, and group size that uses fewer than a set total number of user -days. Therefore, commercial trips and private trips can be formed with group sizes and trip durations much the same as they are now, but with more flexibility and less administrative involvement. There is no limit to the number of times that people may repeat the river trip experience.

- In order to protect, preserve and restore the resource, and to maintain opportunities for a quality experience, seasonal variations of group size and trip duration are designated. Motor use is prohibited during some times in each season. Helicopter exchanges of passengers within the Canyon are not allowed. Other existing environmental protection regulations are maintained.

A National Park Service (NPS) or management contractor computer maintains a registration/reservation calendar, publicly on the Internet, for people who want to organize their own trips. The Web site displays a great deal of information, with links to more information, particularly about research or administrative uses. A person can schedule a known and guaranteed launch date, of their choice, by paying trip fees and identifying some of the trip participants at the time of reserving the launch. Concessions contractors reserve trips by negotiating a launch schedule with the NPS. Like private permit holders, the contractors must also pay fees in advance. However, they are not required to

identify passengers in advance of the launch unless the trip is scheduled too far in the future, in which case they must do as the non-commercial boaters do. A portion of the identified passengers must attend the trip or the trip is canceled†for both private and commercial.

The NPS computer will measure the waiting time for every individual, including guides, volunteers, observers, and staff, between registering with the NPS and going on a river trip. The information collected about waiting-time is useful for a number of aspects of management planning, and especially important in determining the effectiveness any implemented system. The value of the data is dependent on every river user registering on the NPS web site prior to every trip they attend.

Go to : <http://www.gcpba.org/access/theplan.php3>  
to read more about this proposal

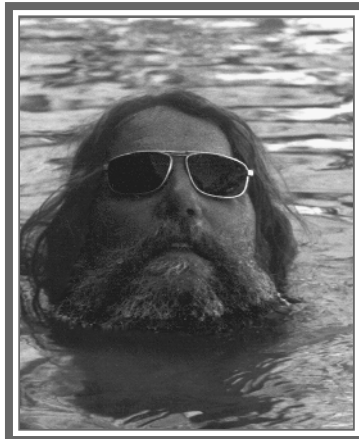
## GCPBA'S PRES-EDITOR SAYS HELLO AND ~

# “We Gotta Lot of Work to Do!”

The development of the Colorado River Management Plan has resumed. We're glad. It took a lot of work and a lawsuit to get the planning back on track. A settlement between the GCPBA and the Park Service (NPS) and intervenor, Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association (GCROA) secured \$2,500,000 for funding the process, and defined the scope of the plan and specified a series of public meetings.

The Grand Canyon National Park is proposed for Wilderness inclusion and NPS management directives require the Park to be managed in compliance with provisions of the Wilderness Act. The planning process now underway will embrace a variety of topics agreed to be included by settlement of the suit:

- Planners will be attempting to ascertain the appropriate level of visitor use on the Colorado River consistent with desired levels of resource protection and visitor experience goals.
- “... the allocation of use of the Colorado River between commercial and non-commercial users, the allocation of use between different types of commercial users (e.g., between motorized and non-motorized trips), and alternatives to the current system of commercial/non-commercial allocation.”\*
- Continuation of inner Canyon passenger helicopter exchanges. The settlement provides for consultation with “the Hualapai Indian Tribe of Arizona and other appropriate parties”\* with an interest in the helicopter exchanges.
- study “... the impacts of motorized water craft, potential mitigation of those impacts (including technological improvements to motors), and a reasonable range of alternatives with respect to the current ratio of motorized craft to non-motorized craft, which alternatives may include a no-motors alternative as well as one or more alternatives that contemplate the continued use of motors.” \*



Julia Holland


- “the range of services to be provided to the public”\* by concessionaires will be appraised.


- Concessionaires' contract renewals, due to expire at the end of 2002 will not be renewed until the planning process was completed. Litigants agreed that “The Plaintiffs acknowledge that the Service may extend the current river outfitters' concession contracts for up to a total of three years from the current expiration date of those contracts, which is December 31, 2002. The Plaintiffs and the

Intervening Defendant will not challenge, obstruct, delay, or otherwise seek to prevent such extension(s).”

You can see that the settlement provides for a comprehensive review of the current management regime at the Grand Canyon. It's time. It's been two decades, plus since these questions were studied in depth. The wait list for a private trip is now more than twenty years long.

The GCNP *General Management Plan* offers a vision for the canyon future:

*Visitors traveling through the canyon on the Colorado River should have the opportunity for a variety of personal* 

 outdoor experiences, ranging from solitary to social. Visitors should be able to continue to experience the river corridor with as little influence from the modern world as possible.

The river experience should help visitors to intimately relate to the majesty of the canyon.

To that we'd like to add that we hope the next CRMP guarantees the "ability for all to obtain, on an equal and timely basis, an opportunity to experience a float trip through the Grand Canyon while protecting the resource."

That's a plan we all can support.

Richard "Ricardo" Martin  
President, GCPBA



### CRMP Meeting Schedule

\* Thursday, August 1, 2002  
Denver, Colorado  
Community College of Denver,  
Auraria Campus (Downtown)  
Tivoli Student Union  
900 Auraria Parkway

\* Tuesday, August 6, 2002  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Salt Lake Community College,  
Miller Campus  
Miller Training & Conference  
Center  
9750 South 300 West

\* Thursday, August 8, 2002  
Flagstaff, Arizona  
Coconino Community College  
Administration Building  
2800 S. Lone Tree Road

\* Tuesday, August 13, 2002  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Moyer Student Union Building  
4505 Maryland Parkway

\* Thursday, August 15, 2002  
Mesa, Arizona  
Mesa Community College  
Kirk Center-Navajo Room  
1833 W. Southern Ave.

## It's A Private Trip...Come On Along...Join Us!

YES! I want private boaters to have a voice in the Grand Canyon! GCPBA is 501c3, tax deductible!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (st. / box) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ "teley" \_\_\_\_\_

**membership: 1yr \$25 / 10yrs \$200 / Forever \$350 or more**

Check here if it's ok to give your name to wilderness / conservation groups  here for river related business



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[www.gcpba.org](http://www.gcpba.org)