


THE GRAND CANYON PRIVATE BOATERS ASSOCIATION

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 Superintendent Dave Uberuaga
Permits Program manager Steve Sullivan
Grand Canyon National Park
P.O. 129
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July 8, 2013

RE: One Trip A Year (OTAY) Modification

Dear, Dave and Steve,

GCPBA has started working on its agenda for our meeting this Fall with you and other NPS staff. This year we again had planned to ask you to consider modifications to the one trip a year rule -- to exempt people who go on a winter trip that has failed to be awarded after two lotteries. What we would have been advocating is immediate adoption of the plan that has been discussed as far back as 2010.


However, rather than wait until our October meeting, I bring this to your attention now, so that you will have time to discuss it internally, and hopefully implement it by the start of the 2013 winter season.

Our mutual goal has been to utilize as many private launches as allocated, and Steve has done an exemplary job each year in working to that end. We recognize that there always will be some launch vacancies -- in all seasons -- that cannot be filled due to no-shows at Less Ferry and other exceptionally short timeframe cancellations. However, we believe the recommended modification will be helpful in awarding potentially unused launches and will not cause someone who goes on a second trip in a year, during the winter season, to take the place of another who would have gone otherwise. We remind you that by NPS statistics (from pre 2006 CRMP), less than one-half of one percent of noncommercial users took more than 1 trip per year (DEIS Vol. 2, p. 657).

As a separate matter, we would favor a rule modification to allow longer winter trips, preferably to the former 30 day limit. I should add, though, that we are not in favor of adjusting anyone's lottery chances because of winter trips.

GCPBA is not alone in seeking this modification. RRFW has indicated to GCPBA that it has this topic on its agenda as well, and separately intends to seek your support for some changes in the current policy.

We look forward to seeing you at the GCPBA/NPS meeting, Saturday October 5. In the meantime, please feel free to call me any time if you would like to discuss this further.


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President, GCPBA