

The Confluence

The Journal of Colorado Plateau River Guides

Number 26, December 2002

Comments from the Board

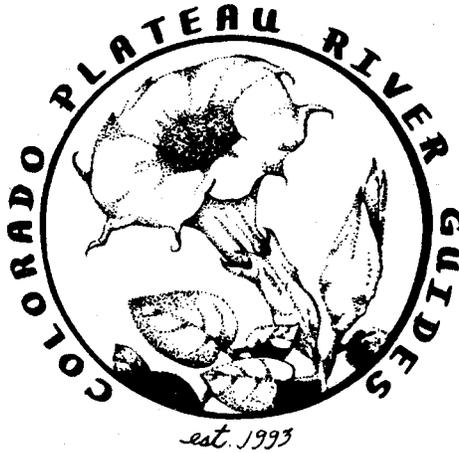
Grazing Issues at Dinosaur

A Story and a Poem

New San Juan River Guide

River Bed Testimony

Charles Spencer



Jim Knipmeyer

Labyrinth Canyon

Motors and Grand Canyon

River Ethics

Otis Marston & Sportyaks

and more



Steamboat pilot Harry T. Yokey of Elgin, Utah

The Confluence

wants to be the quarterly journal of Colorado Plateau River Guides. CPRG has a fiscal sponsor, LIVING RIVERS, a 501(c)(3) river advocacy organization that promotes river restoration.

CPRG is dedicated to:

- Protecting and restoring the rivers of the Colorado Plateau
- Setting the highest standards for the river guiding profession
- Providing the best possible river experience
- Celebrating the unique spirit of the river community

Guide Membership is open to anyone who works, or has worked, in the river industry of the Colorado Plateau

General Membership is open to those who love the Colorado Plateau

Membership dues

\$20 per year
\$100 for six years
\$295 for life
\$495 as a benefactor

General meetings and board meetings will be announced

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We need articles, artwork, poetry, and photos. We use PC and Macintosh computers and can translate most formats. We also accept text that is typewritten. Please include photos, charts, diagrams and artwork with your submission. There really is no deadline, but the beginning of each quarter works best.

Managing editor	John Weisheit
Editor this issue	John Weisheit
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Disclaimer: The opinions and statements made within the pages of *The Confluence* are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the position of the guide membership, the board of the Colorado Plateau River Guides, nor our fiscal sponsor. This forum is open with no restrictions at the present time. If you have an opposing viewpoint, please send your comments to CPRG.

A Special Thanks to CNHA: Canyonlands Natural History Association has been the fiscal sponsor of Colorado Plateau River Guides since 1995. We thank CNHA staff for their generous assistance and support through the years. CPRG would especially like to acknowledge the grateful assistance of Sue Axtell.

A Special Thanks to 2002 Donors: CPRG would like to give thanks to those who provided generous financial support for our River Education Seminar (RES), which include the National Park Service, Southeast Utah Group; Bureau of Land Management, Grand Resource Area; Utah Guides and Outfitters; Utah State Parks and Recreation; Headwaters Institute; Demarree Inflatable Boats; Maravia Corporation; and Smith Foods.

CPRG Web Page: Volunteers are presently working on designing a web page for CPRG. The home page will emerge soon and will include links to the articles and graphics of *The Confluence*; a search engine feature will also be provided.

CPRG Membership Renewal: For those who need to renew their membership to CPRG, you should find the necessary form included in this issue. Thank you for your continued support!



CPRG Spring Meeting in Fruita, Colorado

Top Row: John Weisheit, Dan Phillips, Michael Smith, Herm Hoops, Tom Emanuel.

Bottom Row: Marty Shelp, Susette DeCoster, Annie Payne and Joe Keys

Message from the Prez

by Annie Tueller-Payne

Welcome to the 2002, end of season edition of *The Confluence*. I could have written volumes about the water conditions, or lack thereof. *Holy cow*, was it low or what? I would like to assert my special admiration to everybody who was out there getting trips done safely and lending a helping hand when necessary.

The CPRG interpretive river trips and events went very well this year. As for the river trips, the Cataract and Westwater programs were both heavily attended. The Yampa River trip was sponsored by the National Park Service and also went well.

The River Education Seminar, which primarily focused on a special request program of river rescue, was a big hit too. We had over 60 people in attendance on Saturday. I think all that attended learned something new and were properly introduced to the senior guiding community. This program was also augmented by two evening presentations by river historians. The decision to conduct a river rescue course was prompted by popular demand from the membership, which we were glad to accommodate. We decided that CPRG needs to be flexible and responsive to the needs of the membership from time-to-time.

This upcoming spring seminar will return to a traditional theme pertaining to natural and human history. The coordinator for the upcoming River Education Seminar will be Dan Murphy, who had an outstanding career with the National Park Service. Dan is a lifetime member of CPRG and has donated his time and skills to CPRG many times in the past.

CPRG would like to take this time to thank all of the contributors to this years River Education Seminar: Kirk Livingstone, Michelle Hill, Molly Taylor, Nancy Allemand, Bego Gerhart, Dave Dawson, Kyler Carpenter, Roy Webb, John Weisheit, Ranger Trevor, Tim Payne, Marty Shelp, Aimee Mullock, the Adventure Bound team, Fat City Smoke House and all the fiscal and in kind contributors.

CPRG would also like to thank this years outfitters: Hatch, Western and World Wide who sponsored the interpretive river trips. A big thanks to Western's guides Wes, Leslie, John & Nudy, who worked their tails off for the event. CPRG would also like to thank the presenters for the interpretive trips, John Weisheit, Kent Frost, Homer Bosserman, RJ Johnson, T-berry, Trevor and all those who I am inadvertently forgetting right now.

Finally, the "Boatman's Bash" was held at Rimrock Adventures along the shore of the Colorado River at Fruita. Thanks Travis! We have plenty of projects coming up this summer. If you would like to help, please write me at <ptannie@qwest.net> or call me at (801) 580-5621.

Message from the Veep

by Dave Focardi

I have been out in the Mojave counting desert tortoises, so anything that happened while I was gone can be blamed on me.

In April, I was privileged to give a presentation as a representative of CPRG for an event that was sponsored by Living Rivers and held at the Moab Arts and Recreation Center (MARC). Other speakers included Philmer Bluehouse, a Diné medicineman, and John Weisheit gave a history program on the Green River. I thought you all might want to know what your officers are saying in your name. If you agree with this, go out and spread the word. If you don't, *The Confluence* publishes ANYTHING short of libel. Also, its very easy to get involved: if you have something you want done, get it going and we'll support you. Also, now is a good time for all of you to get one more person to join CPRG. Still a bargain at only \$20 a year.

Now back to my presentation at the MARC. I used to think it was only the crusty old guides who whined about the reservoir. But the more time I spent down there, the more I realized that either they were right, or I was becoming a crusty old guide. What irked me was: I'd be on this perfectly good river trip, and we'd just be getting into the flow of things and—wham!—we weren't on a river anymore. We are on this dead reservoir with crummy camping spots and silted-in hikes.

Instead of being on a great beach of sand, we were on a tammy-choked mudflat. Instead of having another day or two of a river trip, were trying to get off the reservoir in the most painless way possible. I learned to hate the reservoir and the long, tedious motor run to get off it.

The only problem with having personal reasons for getting rid of a dam is they don't fly very well in the face of people who like central airconditioning, swimming pools, golf courses, and throw their money away on consumptive reservoir hobbies. The way to get rid of a dam is to use knowledge and facts. So get your facts right! Even though the clean-up will be a heavy burden to U.S. taxpayers, when sediment build-up eventually forces dam decommissioning, typical Americans still think dams generate huge economic benefits and provide millions of user days for recreation.

If the regulating agencies wait till the last possible minute, as we know they will try and do, then the costs of decommissioning and cleanup will be far more exorbitant than they would be if we act now. The longer we wait, the MORE silt there will be. By the time the regulating agencies are ready to deal with it, there won't be any power generation to offset the cost of clean up. Who will bear the cost? I will, you will, and all taxpaying citizens will. I haven't done the math, but judging from what has been said concerning the cost to clean up the Moab tailings pile, I would guess the cost of dealing with the reservoir sediment will be far more than the power earnings have been to date.

Grazing Issues at Dinosaur

Hydropower is very seductive: it looks clean but in reality it destroys huge amounts of habitat and the organic material that decomposes in the sediment layers emits greenhouse gases. But later, as dams are decommissioned for reasons of safety, the cost and energy associated to mitigate these sediment problems will be an astronomical burden to society. Be forewarned, they don't want to decommission Glen Canyon Dam. They will want to build others to hold the silt back just like they built Glen Canyon Dam to save Lake Mead reservoir. This will only save one generation of policy makers from the pain of dealing with the mess coming down the road.

I won't go very far into the issue that most of the water is being used to feed cows in a market that can't even begin to compete with the mid-western grain belt where, by the way, they have plenty of WATER. It's enough to raise your blood pressure and cause illness.

Speaking for Colorado Plateau River Guides, at a 1996 board meeting at Ray's Tavern in Green River, we voted unanimously to support draining the reservoir. One absent board member would have voted to study it and not to just drain it. Never-the-less we went for the whole enchilada. We KNEW the lake was a bad thing and that studying can be a delaying tactic used by both sides of an issue to prevent a victory by one side or the other; studying stops progress. So what does the CPRG vote accomplish? Not much on just face value, but it was a start. Now draining the reservoir is a real issue being discussed by policy makers at the highest level. As guides who appreciate what a river IS—and here comes a cliched statement so bear with me—we are in a unique position to inform the voting public about yet another issue. Instead of just educating our guests about natural history, we can educate them about this political issue. Make no mistake, it will take political will to remove the dam. So guides—get your facts—educate yourself so you can educate your guests. Read Philip Fradkin's *A River No More*, Marc Reisner's *Cadillac Desert*, Russell Martin's *A Story That Stands Like a Dam* and High Country New's *Western Water Made Simple*." Get the background on these issues. Get involved with Living Rivers and stay informed about what's happening. When you talk to your guests don't just speak from emotions, speak from knowledge.

The reservoir sediment is going to kill the river trip business here in southeast Utah. Cataract Canyon is the premier selling trip and what's happening at the end of the San Juan River is going to happen to the Colorado River. Its time to do something before its too late, although mankind has been pretty lax about realizing when the backyard is full of filth. Time and again shortsightedness for near term revenue generation result in higher costs for cleanup later. Industry gets the revenue, we taxpayers bear the cleanup costs. Its going to happen at the White Mesa mill down the road, its happening right here at the Atlas tailings pile, and its going to happen with Lake Powell reservoir unless we do something as soon as possible.

The following letter of May 11, 2002 was submitted on behalf of CPRG as public comment concerning grazing in Dinosaur National Monument. CPRG was not aware that Dinosaur was taking public comments until the day before the comment period closed. The CPRG board was not able to vote on this issue until after the letter was drafted and mailed; there was one opposing vote.

Dear Superintendent Cartwright:

Colorado Plateau River Guides (CPRG) wishes to have this letter included as comments for the Environmental Impact Statement concerning the Livestock Management Plan (LMP) in Dinosaur National Monument (DNM).

CPRG is currently disappointed with the current LMP proposal for three reasons:

1) Last fall CPRG contacted staff at DNM requesting that all information requiring public comment from the DNM be sent to the CPRG office. CPRG was not informed of the upcoming new management plan concerning livestock. CPRG was not alerted to this issue until today and subsequently feel that we were not allowed to participate in this process properly from the beginning. We also do not feel that we have adequate time to respond properly in whatever time remains.

2) Upon visiting the DNM website, CPRG was disappointed that a PDF of the EIS is not available for review.

3) CPRG is also disappointed that a full-range of alternatives is not included in the EIS. We believe strongly that a no grazing alternative should be a part of the management plan. CPRG does not feel that the current alternatives adequately address the problems and subsequent solutions to the land and river damage happening in DNM due to livestock grazing.

Colorado Plateau River Guides would also like to make the following suggestions:

1) CPRG would like to be included on the DNM mailing list for all matters concerning public participation.

2) CPRG insists that DNM include an alternative that includes the elimination of all grazing in DNM and the purchasing of the Mantle Ranch.

After completing my first Yampa River trip of year 2002, I reported back to the DNM river office that there were 30 dead cows along the riverside between Mather's Hole and Tiger Wall. The DNM river office called to confirm my citing. Two months latter, I noticed that the cows are still there and there does not seem to be any plan of action to deal with problem. River runners find the cows both offensive and a health hazard as our guests and guides swim, wash and perform kitchen duties down stream of the cows.

CPRG feels that by eliminating all grazing in the future will save Dinosaur National Monument money and resources in the future. Dead livestock along the rivers is not atypical, it happens annually. CPRG feels that by allowing cattle to decompose along the river without resources and finances set aside to alleviate these problems leaves the Monument open to litigation and costly laws suits.

CPRG also believes that grazing in a national monument is not an appropriate use of resources. We believe that resource protection and enhancement should be the result of implementing a Livestock Management Plan.

CPRG understands the livestock issue and grazing issue. Most of our constituents were raised in the Western United States. Some in our community were raised in ranching and farming families. We do not want any more subsidies or tax dollars spent on the notion of preserving the "ranching lifestyle." Many of our former ranching constituents would rather see the tax dollars spent on quality career education so as to enjoy a better long-term career. We find nothing patriotic about destroying places like DNM to sell subsidized beef. In fact we find the whole notion of grazing in any resource area protected by the National Park Service to be demoralizing and environmentally offensive.

CPRG further feels that the National Park Service should fully acquire the Mantle Ranch. We feel that eliminating grazing in DNM will save enough money in the long-term to finance, acquire and incorporate the Mantle Ranch into the monument. CPRG would like to caution the Park Service to act carefully in the Mantle Ranch issue. Allowing private developers to buy and subdivide the area would create an enormous resource and economic loss for the American public.

CPRG would like written correspondence from your office confirming that you have read our requests and confirm that this letter will be incorporated into the final EIS.

Thank you for your time on this issue.

Sincerely,

Annie T. Payne, President CPRG

The Water People

by John Weisheit

There is more reason to look at decommissioning dams on the Colorado River than for reasons that would satisfy the perspective of our dominate society. We happen to share this region with others that have natural laws much older than ours and, thankfully, still very much in effect. The indigenous peoples are what I speak of.

The Navajo call the fish of the Colorado River "The Water People." Like the indigenous people of the Colorado Plateau, our native fish populations are hanging on to their heritage as best they can under the current dominate society.

The Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) is engaged in several Environmental Impact Statements to save the endangered species of the Colorado River. The decommissioning of Flaming Gorge and Navajo Dams have also been identified by river activists as a solution to recover these incredible native fish species.

So which dam should be decommissioned first? In interviewing aquatic ecologists I learned that spawning habitat is not as diminished as is nursery habitat. Spawning is occurring on the Green, Colorado and San Juan Rivers, but as the juvenile fish naturally migrate downstream, they end up in Lake Powell to be consumed by that dominate exotic fish population. What is needed more than upstream spawning habitat is downstream nursery habitat and a way for the endangered fish to migrate in and out of these three arteries of the Colorado River system that all converge into Lake Powell reservoir. The other gain in habitat restoration includes the Grand Canyon reach. That's a lot of habitat diversity for the decommissioning of just one dam.



River Rescue Participants at Ida Gulch during the 2002 River Education Seminar

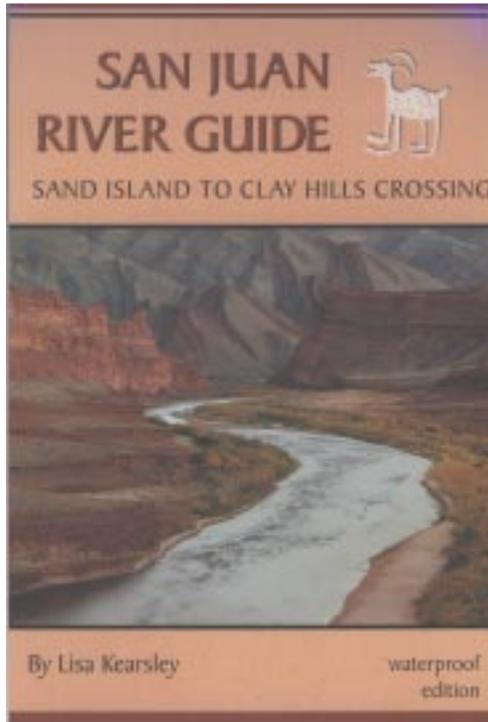
River Rescue Seminar, 2002

The River Rescue Seminar was a big success. This event was the first time CPRG actually attempted an "in the water" seminar. The seminar hosted over sixty students. Roy Webb and John Weisheit provided the two evening programs that focused on river history and river geomorphology. Dan Murphy will be the River Education Seminar coordinator for the 2003 seminar and will focus on the natural and human history of the Colorado Plateau.

New San Juan River Guide

A new guidebook has hit the streets, the “San Juan River Guide,” by Lisa Kearsley. It is a well illustrated, comprehensive guidebook that gives people a great overview of the area.

One of the book’s best features is its river map from Sand Island to Clay Hills Crossing. The map is updated, it faces downstream, it is detailed with 100-foot contour intervals, and it has site-specific information boxes with page references to the text for those who want to learn more about what they’re passing. It also starts at the back of the book so is easy to find and follow.



The book’s other sections include a San Juan River overview that gives the reader a feel for the entire river. Logistics and safety goes over the nuts and bolts of different aspects of San Juan trips. Human history spans from the Paleo-Indians to the environmental movement. It includes informative charts showing ceramic development and rock art types. Geology, written by Wayne Ranney, provides a forum for understanding the dynamic geologic processes in the region. And finally, the biology section not only discusses present-day challenges, but provides a background for how the plants and animals arrived at their present state, and where they’re heading. The book also has a mini field guide with illustrations and interesting facts about the most noticeable plants and animals on the San Juan. High quality illustrations and maps are found throughout the book.

Anyone who reads this guidebook will have a more thorough understanding of and deeper appreciation for the San Juan River and the challenges it faces. The book is available in regional bookstores and on the web at www.shivapress.com.

A Short Story

by Sarah Clinger

I am sitting on a beach, a beach of a desert river. I undo my wet sandals, with their sand-caked rinds, as if I was undoing a bandage, slowly and gently. I drop them to my side and curl my toes, sinking them below the surface of the sand into the cool layers, which feel like pollen. There are small tides of water which splash in and out of the rocks near my feet. Every second or so a new layer of sand is thrust along the wet line and abandoned, something like the ocean. It is evening at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, and I am painting in my sketchbook, trying to catch the fleeting light. The dusting of halflight disappears in a glance. I give up and begin to turn the pages; these scraps of places and times illuminating in my mind like the quiet light of the evening revisited.

Early in the book there is a picture of the San Juan River from the boat launch of Sand Island. This is a pencil sketch, yet I remember the colors. The complexities of the bluffs hemming the river at Sand Island are like no other place on earth. Here all of the dramatic colors of the landscape are softened, as if this were the underbelly of the desert. At the time I was just learning to row a raft, not too sure of my abilities, even for the placid San Juan River. I was alone, having just arrived, and wasn’t to meet the rest of my group until the next morning. Across the top of the sky I had written:

7/19/93 - Looking upstream at sand island. As I drove in this evening, I saw a big white towncar manned by teenagers, doing donuts at the boat ramp. From a distance it looked like some giant white fish, scooped from the river and left thrashing on the shore.

I smile at the thought that almost three years later I am once again sitting by myself on a riverbank. I set the sketchbook to my side and stretch. Cool air is rolling off the water, and I set out for a pair of long pants and a cup of tea. I light the burner of the propane stove and survey the scene of our camp. The kitchen nestles in the shelter of some overgrown Tamarisk. A half-circle of chairs, now empty, sprawl and recline as if visiting with one another. Earlier, our group had settled comfortably there for dinner, facing the river and the view I had been trying to paint. We had sat, cradling our steaming plates in our laps, cold beers at our feet; a few acquaintances who have come together as family for this short time. The river is swelling in its banks because of the dam releases upstream, and the once tautly tethered rafts now tussle and nudge one another like large rubber puppies. I fill my cup with scalding water, stop to tighten the lines, and begin to gather my book, paints and chair. I notice that my book has fallen open to a new page.

Desolation Canyon - September 8, 1994. Another river trip, this time a friend and I had brought along two nine year old girls. The Cottonwoods were liquid yellow, and the four of us were like children in an abandoned playground. During lunch that afternoon the girls had cut flowering Tamarisk and fashioned grass skirts, tiaras, and necklaces for themselves. They had played imaginary games of being princesses on a deserted island, oblivious of their audience. I remember being amazed at this confidence of youth. This page of my book was drawn by Carly Heyrend, age nine. There is a picture of a tree, and in the branches is her list of all the animals we had seen so far:

*Cotton tail rabbits, coity, two hawks
Great Blue Harrins, Jumping fish, Lizard
Big Mystery animal groling in night.*

*Wind River Mountains, Wyoming. NOLS Instructors Course 8/13/95
to
9/7/96*



At the thought of mystery animals growling in the night, I pick up my sketchbook, fold my chair, and head for my sleeping bag. Once I've become something of a human larva, covered from head to toe in blue nylon and synthetic down, I flick on my headlamp and again reach for the sketchbook. It is showing its wear like a favorite toy. The binding is tearing loose and threads hang from it like moss. All of the corners are bashed in and there is a large stain, coffee I think, on the front cover. A third of the pages have a wavy topography from water damage. This book is usually crammed into a pocket of a backpack, passenger's seat of the truck, or the drybox of a raft, and has the scuffs to show for it. I let it fall open in my hands and this time the picture is not of a riverscape, but a snowscape.

8/19/95 - At the toe of Grasshopper Glacier, Wind River Mountains, Wyoming." We had been traveling on glaciers for eight days. This silent and frigid landscape had the same stark beauty and loneliness of the desert, only more so. This was a place where one was constantly confronted with their smallness in the world. It seemed as if I was on the moon, or in a black and white movie. The sky was enormous, a cobalt shell over all of that ice and rock. I kept noticing these iridescent green beetles melted into the snow, blown up there by some crazy wind. I felt as out of my element as those insects. After eight days of being continually roped to my companions like a dog, eight days of that intense light and all of that ice and silence, I was ready to descend into a world made more for man. I wanted to smell a tree and walk on dirt. I was lonely for other living things.

I let the sketchbook fall closed and look up into the stars. I begin to slip off toward sleep thinking that there are as many pages to one's life as there are stars in a clear moonless sky of the Grand Canyon. It is all of those days of hope or boredom or loneliness, insecurity or confidence, or those days that we are like the sand, thrust along the wet line and abandoned; which shape us into who we are.

Foot Care For Guides!

by Herm Hoops

Do your feet crack and dry during the river season? Most of us spend the summer wearing open footwear, like Chaco's or Tevas. Wearing open footgear in the wet and dry climate along Utah's rivers has some drawbacks. Although going barefoot in sand helps sluff off dead skin from the soles of your feet, the dry, hot sand sucks moisture from them.

Most common river footgear creates a zone of moisture between your foot and the surface of the sandal. The way we work on the rivers is conducive to formation of thick calluses. The constant change from being extremely wet, to becoming very dry causes calluses to crack, often in a very painful way. It is best to care for your feet on a regular basis. Here are some items to consider using if you develop foot problems:

- Antibacterial soap; make sure it contains "Triclosan" or some other bacterial agent.
- Pumice stones: fake ones available at mass-market stores work well
- Toe nail clipper: a straight edge is better for toenails, curved toenails have a tendency to become ingrown; curved fingernail clippers are fine for smaller toes.
- Foot lotion: containing an ingredient like *Dimethicone* which helps heal cracked calluses.
- Callous remover: a frightening looking tool with a curved razor blade on a handle, used to shave calluses.
- Socks to wear at night to help your feet absorb lotion. Cotton/lycra/spandex blends are best.
- Small nail brush

The process of foot care starts with washing. If you can, use warm water because it helps soften your skin. Scrub away dead skin, and while still lathered work at the dry or calloused areas with a pumice stone. Always work the stone in one direction, don't brush it back and forth like a scrub brush! After rinsing and drying you can lightly drag the callous remover over callouses. Don't cut into the callous; just lightly drag the cutter across the surface—like you were slicing off a delicate piece of cheese! Don't try to remove all of the calloused or dry skin at one sitting. Finish up by trimming nails while they are still moist.

Finally apply several generous portions of foot lotion. Repeat the lotion before bed and put on the socks. Your body heat and the lotion will create a small sauna of sorts for your feet.

CPRG Position Regarding Deerlodge Boat Ramp

by CPRG Vernal Director

The Colorado Plateau River Guides (CPRG), an organization of over 300 commercial river guides, supports National Park Service modification of the Deerlodge boat ramp on the Yampa River. The CPRG position is based on safety concerns, environmental protection and efficient launching of river craft. In support of modification to the Deerlodge site we strongly urge the consideration of the following:

1. CPRG support is contingent upon having a campground adjacent to the launch ramp. The availability of an adjacent campground for safety and efficiency reasons is critical to CPRG support of boat ramp improvement. The CPRG position on camping within sight distance of the launch ramp allows guides and private boaters to monitor their equipment while performing other duties. It also allows easy loading of camping and cooking equipment used at the launch site.

2. CPRG is concerned with over-development of the site. There is little conflict between river users and other campers, thus we do not feel that separation of these differing groups of users is necessary.

We do not support formalization of camping or campground design beyond the current situation at Deerlodge. The Deerlodge site is in use for river launches approximately three months a year. Campground use is light for the balance of the year and CPRG feels that the light "informal" camping at the site is appropriate, with an appropriate amount of infrastructure support from the NPS. We support the approach of a light hand upon the land, especially given the short season of use at the site. For example there is no need to add or develop electricity, running water, construct additional buildings, delineate sites, develop trails or pave roads. The importance of informal sites, and the related social values should not be overlooked by the managing agency. At the current site, groups intermingle and develop relationships that often prove helpful on the river in the following days. We urge the National Park Service to maintain a few sites, like Deerlodge, that retain that "less formal" style, with the associated values.

3. CPRG would support relocation of the boat ramp to the "old" boat ramp site at the end of the paved Deerlodge Road CONTINGENT UPON the availability of an adjacent campground and our other concerns.

4. CPRG prefers flexible development that is not costly to maintain, easy to replace, and helpful to river users. CPRG supports development of a ramp that has a less steep gradient, with a gravel surface. Our concerns are primarily the width of the ramp, adjacent temporary parking and access for packing river craft. Again we prefer not to see a huge, paved, overwhelming development—especially given the short nature of use at the Deerlodge site. Our suggestion is to go slow, with an initial development with the same size as the current launch site. If that site proves inadequate, future expansion would be relatively easy. The only additional infrastructure necessary at the site would be wooden posts to secure river craft.

5. The current restroom facilities are appropriate to the site, although the National Park Service should assure that they are maintained on a regular basis. This is a simple

process and should be able to be accomplished by the duty ranger stationed at Deerlodge. The bulletin board is appropriate to the site, but again could be maintained better. A few temporary extra parking spaces (about 5) for vehicles with trailers spaces could be added. There is a need for about 15 additional parking spaces at the Deerlodge Road parking area. Again this development should be simple. Consideration should be made of natural landscaping of the site to avoid the appearance of an area of pavement likened to a supermarket shopping center.

Colorado Plateau Climate Change

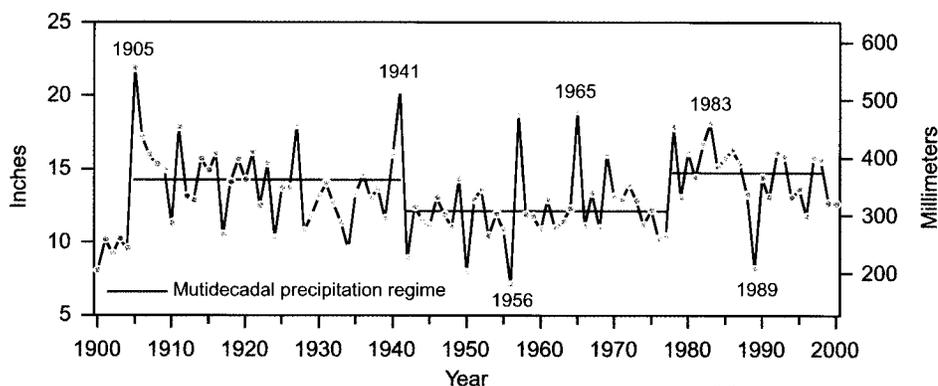
Excerpt from "Precipitation History of the Colorado Plateau Region, 1900 - 2000" by Richard Hereford, Robert H. Webb, and Scott Graham. <<http://climchange.cr.usgs.gov/info/sw/>>

Recent trends in Colorado Plateau precipitation and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) suggest that the climate of the region may become drier for the next 2 to 3 decades in a pattern that could resemble the drought of 1942 - 1977 (see chart below). Although there are many uncertainties and assumptions, including using a single index (PDO) to predict multi-decadal climate variability, it is important to consider the potential affects of climate variation on the human and natural resources of the region. Water resources were heavily affected during the early part of the 1942-1977 drought. The population of the region has increased fourfold since the mid-1950s, substantially increasing the demand for water in the region without abundant supplies and creating a possibility of severe or catastrophic consequences if such a drought were repeated.

The work of USGS and other scientists is leading to a better understanding of the past and probable future climate of the Colorado Plateau. This work is only part of USGS efforts to provide information crucial to sound planning policies for land use and energy and other resource management. These efforts are also helping to protect lives and property from drought, landslides, and other hazards.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WEATHER AND CLIMATE CHANGE check out this new book:

Floods, Droughts and Climate Change by Michael Collier and Robert H. Webb. University of Arizona Press. 2002. ISBN 0-8165-2250-2



Notes from the Fall Meeting

CPRG conducted their fall general membership meeting at Park City on November 2, 2002. We had a productive meeting and have new information to share with the membership.

New officers:

Mark Sundeen, Vice President
Mike Lewis, Green River Director
Vacant, Moab Director

Finances:

Assets - \$3760
Liabilities - none

Interpretive river trips:

April 28 - May 1, 2003 in Cataract Canyon. Hosted by Sheri Griffith Expeditions/A&K, and organized by Mike Lewis. Presenters to be announced.

May 8 - 12, 2003 in Desolation Canyon. Hosted by Holiday Expeditions and organized by Annie Payne. Instructors are Rich Valdez (aquatic ecologist), Jack Schmidt (fluvial geomorphologist), Roy Webb (river historian) and John Weisheit (natural history).

October 11 - 13, 2003 in San Juan Canyon from Bluff to Mexican Hat. Hosted by Wild Rivers Expeditions and organized by Daniel Murphy. Presenters to be announced.

River Education Seminar:

May 16 - 18, 2003 on the Colorado River. A combination of the Moab and Uintah Basin Seminars, hosted by Redrock Adventures near Grand Junction, and organized by Daniel Murphy. Curriculum will be geology, anthropology, botany, biological soils, wildlife and Leave No Trace.

An Issue:

A debate, at the level of the CPRG executive committee (ExCom), was brought to the attention of the general members at this meeting. A member of the ExCom desired that CPRG write a comment letter to the planners of the Colorado River Management Plan at Grand Canyon National Park. It was proposed that this letter show support for river wilderness that included the use of outboard motors. Another CPRG ExCom member opposed the position because it would compromise the intent of the Wilderness Act. In discussing the matter together as a body, it was decided to table the matter. It was also decided that the it would be beneficial, in the meantime, to educate the membership on the issue through the pages of *The Confluence*. CPRG did not send a comment letter to Grand Canyon National Park.

Two Opinions about Outboard Motors

River Management Plan Grand Canyon

To Motor or Not to Motor (that is the question)

The outboard motor controversy in the Grand Canyon river corridor has been successfully distilled down to a choice between maximizing protection for an ecosystem and maximizing outfitter profits and consumer access.

As far as human interests go, we have plenty of access for recreation, and many opportunities to acquire and spend the money that is available to us. But as far as the Colorado River in Grand Canyon goes, we have only the one and I think it is more important to place the ecosystem above the issues of human economics and access.

In the outfitter industry, we all have described our affinity for the Grand Canyon in our professional client relationships, confirming that this place is one of the most sublime and deserves our efforts to give it the best protection available by law. That degree of protection comes in the form of the Wilderness Act and tiered into the National Park's Organic Act. Some of us in the industry are unwilling to ask Congress for that kind of protection because the use of outboard motors in the Canyon would come to an end. Myself and others are happy to advocate for this protection because we want society to be responsive to the needs of the Grand Canyon.

Despite the grandeur of the Grand Canyon, the Colorado River entrenched within has been reduced to a pathetic and sickly green thing that is devoid of any warmth, driftwood or sediment. I find absolutely nothing to be proud of here and everything to be ashamed of. In any case, standing still and thinking that protection and restoration for the Grand Canyon is for another time will achieve nothing more than continued extirpation and the possible loss of what natural and cultural heritage yet remains.

I think it is important to consider that there are a lot of people who will never see the Grand Canyon but want to be a part of the growing national movement to protect the Grand Canyon. This movement includes restoring the Grand Canyon ecosystem by decommissioning Glen Canyon Dam. In so doing we also provide incipient protection for our canyon ecosystems upstream.

In the meantime, the river community needs to be as credible as possible in the eyes of the spectator public. We need to prove to the world that even if they will never see the Grand Canyon, at least it will be there for those who will.

John Weisheit

In October the Waterkeeper Alliance designated John as the Colorado Riverkeeper. For more information please visit the following web page.

<www.livingrivers.net/media/article.cfm?NewsID=382>

For this writer it is exactly that, a choice. There has been a lot written and spoken about the use of motors within and outside of the guiding community. Throw in the concept of wilderness with its inherent language excluding mechanized intrusions, and the question starts to encompass livelihood, access, quality of experience, noise and water pollution, safety, and the list goes on. As does the spectrum of opinion on the use of motors. Here is one more opinion.

Usually we as individuals choose whether or not to utilize motors. I choose mechanized travel to haul myself and my boating gear to the river and back. However, in the case of where motors are not allowed (hard to think of those), we've decided as a group to prohibit their use. Generally this is in the pursuit of that elusive quality called "wilderness." One of the more contentious places being considered for wilderness is the Grand Canyon. Contentious because there is a relatively (in the post-industrial sense) long history of motor use in the Grand Canyon, with accompanying reasons of why it should remain.

So why use motors? For convenience, speed, power, access (assuming one's not able to self-ambulate). Why not use motors? Now that's a bit more ethereal. I contend that one of the best reasons is because we don't "have to" when running rivers. There are other options. Options that do not impact one's fellow wilderness traveler, or the environment, with your choice of locomotion. We as a society choose, often passively by not choosing, mechanization to make our lives easier, more comfortable, more expedient, more efficient. The outcome is not always what the intent was. However, on the whole this is the modern world we live in. As such, what has come to be viewed as a more precious commodity due to its increasing rarity, are wild places. Places that embody elements of the non-mechanized world. Places that are quiet, areas uninhabited and uncultivated (by man), places that are relative untouched by our hand, and our machines.

So what about areas that aren't quite wilderness, that have already been and continue to be impacted by man? Do we choose to continue these impacts, such as the use of motors, or not? Choosing to not use them may not alleviate the impacts already sustained. But nature has a way of reclaiming its own given time. Could places like the Grand Canyon become more of a true wilderness, with those qualities we so earnestly seek in escaping our mechanized lives? I believe it can, and it all lies in a choice. To motor or not to motor. I choose not.

Tim Thomas

Least we forget, Tim was the first CPRG VP.

Utah Guides and Outfitters Upper Plateau River Ethics

Your behavior in the outdoors should always be influenced by the realization that everyone has the same right as you to the most enjoyable outdoor experience possible. Everyone, whether on a private adventure or an outfitted one, should strive to tread lightly on the natural experience of others by providing the best possible example of proper backcountry etiquette. In addition to a backcountry etiquette, as beneficiaries of the natural resource, we should strive to practice Aldo Leopold's 'Land Ethic': "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Respect other user's space, privacy, and solitude when encountering groups on the river, in camp, on hikes and at attraction sites.

- Groups should run together as one group. The more vessels in your group, the more critical this becomes. The tighter our group, the less impact it has on other people. Some areas require your group to stay together.
- We should all avoid pulling out into the middle of another passing party (another reason to not have your group spread out while floating down the river).
- We should all yield on the river where appropriate. Long contacts with other groups should be avoided while floating. If other groups are going faster, allow their boats to pass when they begin to crowd or push. If you are going faster than the group in front of you, be sure your boats are grouped together before passing.
- We should group our boats and equipment, leaving room for others at put-ins, take-outs, and attraction sites. Expect another group to arrive. If possible, avoid lunches at attraction sites or at least move off to the side of the trailhead or docking area. The more crowded the area is at the time, the more important this is.
- Motor-boaters should throttle down to reduce noise when passing groups that are on shore or in mid-stream. Planing boats can maintain a plane at half or two thirds throttle. Non-motorized boaters need to allow motor-boaters the deeper water and folks floating in life preservers should stay next to their mother boat for safety reasons.
- Abstain from water fights with other groups.
- Radios and tapes should be turned off within ear shot of another group. You might consider headsets.
- Noise and loud partying is inconsiderate when within ear shot of another group.
- Lewd conduct and obscene language can be objectionable to others.
- Explosives and fireworks ruin the natural quiet and solitude of the backcountry and are illegal in the national park sections of river.

- Firearms are not needed or appreciated outside the hunting season on the Colorado River system. They are illegal in our national parks and monuments.

Think of the environment and courtesy to other groups while camping.

- Unless you are in an area where camps are assigned, campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- When encountering other groups on the same schedule - communicate.
- If your group is small, consider smaller, more pristine camps, leaving larger, more impacted camps for large groups when the canyon is 'busy'.
- When choosing camps and lunch spots, consider those nearest the river. Human activity produces less long term impact below the high water line. In high water, try to choose pre-impacted sites or sites on durable surfaces. Avoid pioneering new campsites if possible.
- Layover camps should not be made at the most popular camps on the trip.
- When choosing a sleeping area, or place for a tent or toilet, try to choose pre-impacted sites or sites on durable surfaces (un-vegetated silt or sand, gravels, rock, etc.) Avoid making new trails in the vegetation as well as digging holes or trenches in soils. Any new disturbances in soils is an invitation for non-native plants to move in. Be aware that you and I can be carrying in the non-native seed from home or last night's camp by way of our tent, sleeping bag or clothes. Everything should be checked and/or cleaned before the next trip!
- Rocks should be left in their natural place. If we need to use a rock to hold our tent down, pick one that is not partially in the ground providing habitat for small wildlife.
- Let's build our fires away from vegetation, boulders and cliffs. Smoke and heat destroys the natural colors of the rocks. When practical build fires near the river.
- Fire blankets and elevated fire pans work well for not scorching sand or soils.
- Wood for fires should be driftwood or firewood brought in and should be small or well split in order to keep fires small, clean and hot. This makes for easy cleanup, conserves firewood, and creates less smoke and odors to impact the group camped downwind. Consider starting fires the 'old fashioned way' or by using your butane stove or blaster since liquid fire starter is toxic to lungs and air as well as is an obnoxious impact to others downwind.

Pack it in - Pack it out

- Separate and save recyclables.
- Haul all garbage out. Consider our impacts on the local "food economy". Carry out all food scraps to avoid bears, skunks, racoons, ringtails, flies, ants, mice, and other animals from congregating. Plan meals to avoid messy, smelly garbage and unnecessary leftovers.

- Leave no charcoal
- Watch out for micro-trash such as cigarette butts, twist ties, strings off fabrics, dental floss, gum and candy wrappers, etc. A tarp under garbage containers and/or tables can be helpful.
- Solids from dishwater, soups, coffee, etc. should be strained and hauled out.
- Liquid waste such as left over beer, pop, juices, coffee, etc. should be diluted in the river or into your grey-water container. Deposit gray-water into the river or broadcast across the land.
- Grease from cooking must be hauled out.

Naturalize your campsite before leaving.

- Help erase the evidence of less sensitive users.
- As already stated, avoid digging holes or trenches in soils. Holes dug in beach sands should be filled.
- If loose rocks have been carried onto sandy beaches, consider carrying them back to their natural place before leaving. If you break a rock, remember that it is a hazard on a sandy beach or in shallow water.
- When breaking camp, scatter firewood. Toss unnatural wood (milled, sawed, etc.) that has been brought into camp, into the river or haul it to your next camp. A tarp under your woodpile makes for easy cleanup of splinters, chips, and small pieces of wood.
- Don't leave unsightly anchor or deadman posts.
- Do a thorough sweep of the lunch or camp site before leaving.

Be sensitive to the resource's needs when exercising your needs.

- Try some soap-less baths or showers. If you do need soap, use biodegradable soap and be 200' from side streams. Try to find slow to moderate current while bathing in the river.
- Carry and use toilet systems during the day as well as at camp. Use public toilets if available.
- The NPS and BLM recommend urinating in the river current. Another place is on the land away from obvious kitchen, toilet, tent, lunch or attraction sites. When using the land, look away from camp for porous washes, gullies or dry river sand (if covered). Sandy organic soil is ok but, avoid cryptobiotic soil. Urinating on compacted soil, and in uncovered concentrated places can cause odors. Urinating in wet or damp sand or silt, or in shallow and stagnant water after the river has peaked and receded causes algae to flourish. If you containerize your group's urine at the toilet (when separating functions), you might consider carrying some of it out.

Tread lightly on the land by using low-impact hiking.

- Prevent multiple trailing by staying on the main trail. Avoid shortcutting switchbacks. Try to travel on durable surfaces.

- Be careful not to step in cryptobiotic soils. Sometimes it is hard to see young crypto beginning the slow restoration process. Avoid walking through dried out potholes.
- In areas without trails, walk in washes or on sterile silt, sand, gravel, rocks or slickrock.
- Consider using soft shoes as opposed to hiking boots with cleats.
- Consider not hiking when trails are muddy.

Respect plants, animals and nature

- Don't feed, harass or kill wildlife. Observe wildlife from a distance. Avoid following or approaching them. Use binoculars if you would like a closer look.
- To lessen our impact, from ants to bears, secure your food and garbage; clean up spills; and eliminate odors.
- Refrain from picking wild flowers. It is illegal in NPS areas.
- Be sensitive to trampling native plants and grasses especially during their high growth period and during hot, dry periods.
- Let's leave natural objects where they are found like fossils, petrified wood, bones, antlers, etc. Let's treat all backcountry like our national park where removal of natural objects are illegal.
- Don't allow pets or kids to chase or harass wildlife.
- Pets should be restrained around other groups and wildlife. Their feces can be disposed of with yours. (Pets are illegal in NPS units, on the San Juan River and during the high use season in Desolation Canyon)
- If you are one of the first groups in the area in the spring be extra conscious of the trails you take; the campsites you use; and the groover and kitchen sites chosen, as you are pioneering the impact areas for that season.

Help preserve the past for the future at archeological sites.

- Treat archeological sites with respect. They are sacred places to Native Americans.
- Avoid touching petroglyphs and pictographs. It abrades the inscriptions and the oil from your fingers helps destroy them and prevents any possible future dating of them.
- Be Careful not to touch, sit on, or walk near the walls of pre-historic structures or enter unstabilized structures. River House Ruin has been stabilized for careful viewing.
- Leave potsherds, arrowheads, and other artifacts in place. Removal is against the law on all public lands.
- Be careful when entering stabilized historic sites. Leave tools and artifacts in place.
- Report any destructions or violations you observe to the managing agency and/or ask the person (s) to stop.

Remember

The river belongs to everyone ... and to no one.

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Canyonlands

Oceans did ebb and oceans did flow,
Immersing then draining the land.
Continents did sink and continents did grow,
Earth's molten core seeking to expand.

Sometimes there was jungle, desert or dunes,
Or rivers cutting deeply toward the sea.
Mountain chains rose; eroded, spread wide,
Over eons elements toiled relentlessly.

Such is the nature of Canyonlands,
It's wondrous, immense beauty to grasp.
Billions of years in the making,
Its great gifts at each turn make me gasp!

Life! A greater wonder than the others.
Single celled beings, then fish came to be.
Some grew legs and went to the land,
Seeking air, not water in the sea.

Dinosaurs came and dinosaurs went,
Becoming birds, reptiles or just gone.
Mammals evolved with fur and warm blood,
Some stood up to see better what's goin' on.

Such is the nature of Canyonlands,
I can't explain how these things came to be.
Maybe coincidence as some friends have said,
But there's gotta be more, seems to me.

How to explain the portentous human mind!
Finding caves, drawing pictures, keeping warm.
And fashioning tools and fire and the wheel,
Atlatl and spear, arrow and bow they did form.

We've come a long way, were we alone?
Now gunpowder and bombs are the norm.
And farms and cities and automobiles,
Planes and satellites a recent brainstorm.

Now in the night time in Canyonlands,
These new lights in the sky I can see.
Out in this vastness, He has to know,
What great wonder the next step will be.

Paul R. "Pops" Smith - 2002