



Grand Canyon River Runners Association

preserving public access to the Colorado River

December 9, 2009

Steve Martin, Superintendent
Grand Canyon National Park
Post Office Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023

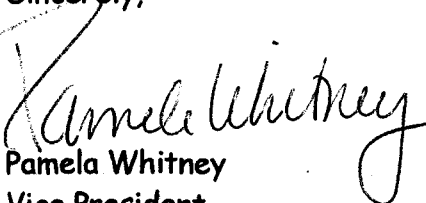
Dear Superintendent Martin:

GCRRA would like to take this opportunity to offer our comments on the recently proposed modification of the one trip per year rule. After discussing this proposal with our river community colleagues, GCROA, GCPBA & GCRG, we are in agreement that it is too soon to make a change of this sort to the CRMP. As you know, the one trip per year rule was implemented to address questions concerning demand vs. access. It was agreed that the rule should cover both the commercial and non-commercial sectors to make it equitable. As we all know significant thought and effort went into the planning process. Changing this rule after only a short period of implementation and without a sufficient amount of data seems premature and we are pleased that the Park has agreed to reconsider this action pending further discussion.

On a positive note, it is good to know that the NPS is willing to listen to the river community before it makes any major decisions with the CRMP. We realize how difficult it is for the NPS to involve the many groups in management decisions; however, we feel that involving the major stakeholder groups in changes of this magnitude can only be beneficial for all sides. In conjunction with this we feel it would be helpful if the adaptive management process could be better defined so that we can understand how it will work for future issues.

We look forward to continuing this discussion not only with the NPS but within the river community. As we all learned in the planning process, open lines of communication benefit everyone.

Sincerely,



Pamela Whitney
Vice President

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