



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK  
P.O. BOX 129  
GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA 86023-0129



IN REPLY REFER TO:

L3425 (GRCA 8213)

**JAN 04 2010**

Tom Martin  
River Runners for Wilderness  
P.O. Box 30821  
Flagstaff, Arizona 86003

Dear Mr. Martin:

Over the past several months, representatives of Grand Canyon National Park have had the opportunity to communicate with the variety of stakeholders and parties interested in the implementation of the Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP). Among the topics receiving attention were unused noncommercial launches during the winter months, driftwood collection and associated impacts on park resources, and the proposed requirement for the use of ground coverings below fire pans. The following details the park's decisions on these matters.

#### Unused Winter Launch Dates

A number of winter trips have gone unclaimed despite follow-up lotteries over the past few years. Park management considered the option of relaxing the "one trip per year" requirement to allow for all interested parties to pick up these unused launch dates in the winter only. The decision has been made to maintain the one trip per year stipulation for the foreseeable future. The park will continue to monitor demand for winter trips on an annual basis and will seek input from stake holders as longer-term trends emerge.

#### Driftwood Collection

A proposed change to the driftwood collection season has been adopted. Currently driftwood collection is permitted from October 1 through April 30 each year. Beginning in 2010, driftwood collection will be permitted from November 1 through February each year. The rationale for this change is to preserve, for as long as possible, the diminishing supply of driftwood and to encourage trips to adopt alternative methods for campfires (e.g. propane and/or packing in scrap or firewood). Driftwood is an integral part of the river ecosystem and the CRMP Environmental Impact Statement (2005) identified mitigation measures to address this issue, including further restrictions on driftwood collection. The use of driftwood for emergency fires when necessary for the safety of river runners is permitted year-round.

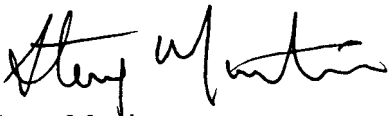
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### Fire Pan Blankets

Monitoring of campsites has shown an increase in the incidence of fire debris from improper use and disposal of ash and partially burnt material from fire pans. The park plans to require the placement of fire retardant blankets beneath fire pans. Many river runners have adopted the use of such blankets and manufacturers are producing blankets for this specific use. The park is proposing that the blankets be constructed of fire retardant material that extends at least twenty-four inches beyond the edges of the fire pan footprint. The use of fire blankets is recommended at this time and will become mandatory for 2011. The park seeks input from the river running community regarding the preferred types of blankets to be adopted in the regulations.

If you have questions or comments on any of these issues, please contact River District Ranger Mike McGinnis at 928-638-7832. Your continued interest in the Colorado River Management Plan implementation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Steve Martin  
Superintendent