

Grand Canyon Issue Report

Due Date: Tuesday 22 October 2024

Recommended length: 2-4 pages

The Grand Canyon has been affected by diverse resource development programs. Many additional proposals would impact the region further. Resolution of impacts of many of these programs and proposals is ongoing now, with potentially lasting consequences. If successful, some of these resolution efforts could be precedent-setting at regional or national levels. Learning about them will help you better appreciate the strategic importance of the Grand Canyon, its unique qualities, and our responsibilities to this place.

For this assignment, select a resource use program, development proposal, tribal justice initiative, or related issue from the list below. Then write a summary of the program, proposal, initiative, or issue based on course readings, videos, and other sources. Your summary should answer the questions listed below. Following the questions is a partial list of issues pertaining to the Grand Canyon. If you would prefer to write a summary of a different Grand Canyon issue, please consult the instructor first.

Issue summary

- (1) What is occurring, or proposed?
- (2) Where does the issue occur, or where would the proposal be located?
Where do (would) benefits and impacts occur?
- (3) Who are the principal parties involved in the issue?
Who benefits (or would benefit)?
Who is (or would be) impacted?
- (4) When did the issue begin, when was proposal made, and how long would it last?
- (5) What is the current status of the issue or proposal?

Alternative “Report” Formats

Each issue listed below is “active,” with opportunities for public engagement in policy, practice, or management. Many issues lack broad public recognition or have been oversimplified by superficial media coverage. If you want your work to contribute beyond this course, you might be interested in developing an alternative to a conventional academic report. Instead of a written report, you could express your work on this assignment in a social media campaign, publicly accessible info-graphic, ArcGIS StoryMap, podcast, or comments in environmental review processes. If you want to pursue any of these alternatives (or others) instead of a report, please discuss your interest and options in advance with the instructor.

Contemporary Issues

Development Proposals and Natural Resource Extraction

Grand Canyon Escalade development proposal (LCR confluence)

Pumped Storage hydroelectric project proposals.

Uranium Mining and transport

 Pinyon Plain (Canyon) Mine: operation, contamination, ore transport on tribal lands

 Mining claims and proposals

 Closed mines undergoing/needing reclamation

Water Management and Dam Operations; Colorado River Post-2026 Operations Process

Negotiation status and standing of GC environmental quality, species, recreational interests

Tribal water rights, allocation, and standing

Glen Canyon Dam water release schedule and Colorado River flow through Grand Canyon

Environmental impacts of Glen Canyon Dam operations

Fate of GCDAMP* in post-2026 Operations: HFERs and other environmental flows

Tribal-NPS Land and Access Disputes

Hualapai-NPS boundary dispute

Havasupai Reservation status, expansion appeals, and access to traditional areas

Tribal access to traditional places and cultural practices

Visitor Impacts

Overflight noise vs. natural quiet

Encroachment on Indigenous sacred sites

River visitor use and management

Water contamination (mining, houseboats on Powell Reservoir, trespass cattle, hikers)

Invasive Species Management

155 invasive plant spp.; 20 introduce fish spp.; Quagga mussel

Introduced sport fish vs. endemic native fish

Management conflicts; e.g., Tamarisk reduction vs. Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

Threatened and Endangered Species Conservation

California Condor reintroduction

Endangered fish, e.g., Humpback Chub, Razorback Sucker, Colorado Pikeminnow)

Kanab Ambersnail

*GCDAMP is the acronym for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program, funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The program uses experimental manipulations of water releases from the dam to mitigate impacts of hydropower generation, and it monitors results of those releases on many Grand Canyon entities. (Monitoring is not entirely comprehensive, which provides additional research opportunities you might consider.) The GCDAMP home page URL is below.

<https://www.usbr.gov/uc/progact/amp/index.html>