

LTEMP Resource Goal 8. Tribal Values and Resources

“Maintain the diverse values and resources of traditionally associated Tribes along the Colorado River corridor through Glen, Marble and Grand Canyons” (U.S. Department of the Interior [DOI], 2016).

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FROM Helen Fairley, 2025, LTEMP Resource Goal 8. Tribal Values and Resources, chap. 8 of Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program, Status report on the Long-term Experimental and Management Plan metrics for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program—December 11, 2025: Flagstaff, Ariz., U.S. Geological Survey, Southwest Biological Science Center, Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, p. 79-80.
<https://www.usbr.gov/uc/progact/amp/twg/2025-12-11-twg-meeting/uc-gcdamp-twg-ltempmetrics-statusreport-508-20251211.pdf>

“The Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) goal (Goal 8) for tribal values and resources is broadly worded to encompass all values and resources along the Colorado River that are of interest to multiple tribes, including but not limited to Hopi, Hualapai, Navajo, multiple southern Paiute Tribes, and the Pueblo of Zuni (DOI, 2016). At the inception of the metrics definition project, the five Tribal representatives who actively participate in the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) indicated issues with the prospect of defining quantifiable metrics for Goal 8 (DOI, 2016). For example, there may be issues with trying to capture diverse Tribal values in any single metric or suite of metrics and conveying values through a suite of quantifiable measurements. This is a result of the uniqueness of each Tribe, and each Tribe may value the Grand Canyon and its diverse resources in accordance with their unique cultures, histories, and traditional knowledge.

Since a main purpose of the metrics is to provide a basis for assessing how well the GCDAMP is achieving the stated goals of LTEMP, providing an annual assessment of the program based on each Tribe’s unique perspectives and traditional knowledge may facilitate inclusion of Tribal values. Through further conversations involving four of the five Glen Canyon Dam adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) Tribes (with the exception of the Pueblo of Zuni)), Bureau of Reclamation, and GCMRC, it was determined that in lieu of quantified metrics, each Tribe could provide an annual assessment of the status of LTEMP resources and the GCDAMP framed around three questions:

To minimize additional impacts on the Tribes, it was also discussed that the Tribes could provide answers to these questions as part of their annual monitoring reports, which are normally submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation in late winter/early spring. Therefore, in this report, we have not included Tribal responses to the three questions.”

REFERENCE CITED:

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), 2016, Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (LTEMP FEIS): U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Region, National Park Service, Intermountain Region, online, <http://ltempeis.anl.gov/documents/final-eis/>.

- Is the Colorado River ecosystem healthy? Please explain why or why not.
- How well is LTEMP doing at meeting its goals? Please explain the basis for your assessment.
- Overall, is the Grand Canyon doing better, worse, or about the same as last year? Please explain the basis for your assessment.