



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
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Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1102



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## Memorandum

To: AMWG Members and Alternates

From: Wayne G. Pullan  
Acting Secretary's Designee to the Adaptive Management Work Group

Subject: Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program Workplan Process Direction

The most recent 2021 – 2023 Triennial Workplan and Budget followed a new 3-year cycle to reduce the administrative burden on Glen Canyon Monitoring Research Group (GCMRC), Reclamation, and the Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP). It was approved by consensus by the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) in March 2019. The process has been valuable for freeing up time to accomplish the work of the workplan and reduce the time spent on planning, so the new process has been widely considered a success. Under normal circumstances, the GCDAMP would begin development of the 2024-2026 Triennial Workplan (TWP) and Budget. However, 2023 has already shaped up to be a trying year for all. To address the threats aridification pose to the Colorado River, Reclamation and partners are pursuing multiple initiatives, including an Environmental Assessment (EA) to modify releases to address smallmouth bass; and a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for potential modification of operating guidelines to Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams in 2023-24 and potentially subsequent operating years.

These are high-priority items identified by the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science and the Department of Interior offices. The EA and SEIS will require substantial resources for modeling and analysis from many of the personnel who participate in the development of the Triennial Workplan and Budget. For many involved, the time required to participate in the modeling and analysis exceeds their standard workload, let alone with the additional time required for 2024-2026 TWP development. To alleviate the administrative burden and free up valuable time for researchers and managers, I am proposing a one-year continuation of the 2021-2023 TWP for 2024, after which we'll resume the normal Triennial Workplan process in early CY2024. Minor workplan and budget issues caused by this continuation will be sorted out at DOI and presented to GCDAMP stakeholders. Given our limited resources, I believe this approach will allow us to continue the important research and monitoring activities while addressing the imminent threats on the Colorado River.

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The approach has been discussed with the Technical Working Group (TWG) chair, budget ad hoc group chair and was discussed during the TWG meeting on January 26, 2023. Feedback from those conversations has been supportive for this approach. Thank you for your understanding as we navigate these challenging times. If you have questions, please reach out to the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program Manager, Bill Stewart at [wstewart@usbr.gov](mailto:wstewart@usbr.gov) regarding this approach.

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cc Adaptive Management Work Group and Technical Work Group members