Historical user impacts, and management, of river runners in Grand Canyon National Park.

By Levi Jamison
The Grand Canyon
The Colorado River
Wilderness
Whitewater
226 Miles between roads..

http://www.arizonaedventures.com/quick-links/maps/
Motor Powered:
7-10 Days
Oar Powered:
12-30 Days

Photo by Rich Melby
Stanton

http://www.nps.gov/grca/photosmultimedia/photogallery.htm
Georgie Clark-White
“Canyoneers”

- 1869 - 5 people
- 1949 - 110 people ever
- 1954 - 112 new people (222 total)
- 1972 - 16,432 people that year alone!!

www.canyoneers.com
1963:
Glen Canyon Dam

http://web.mst.edu/~rogersda/phd_research/glen_canyon_nra.htm
Late 60’s-Early 70’s
Trashed!
1972-National Park gets involved!

• User days get capped

• All human waste & trash has to be taken out

• Companies are restricted on how many people they can take

1972- National Park gets involved

• Additionally, there will be no more motors by 1977!
• Decisions over the wilderness designation and the use of motors is heavily debated

1972-2000

- Private river runners are given limited access
- A permit waiting list is set up for private boaters...
- 15-20 year wait!

2000

- Lacy Lawsuit:
- Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association, American Whitewater, et al., vs. Grand Canyon National Park

• Fair and equal access for private river runners
• No more motorized crafts or helicopters allowed (i.e. designate as wilderness)
2002

Settled

- No more motorized crafts or helicopters allowed (i.e. designate as wilderness)
- Fair and equal access for private river runners
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association
American Whitewater
Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association
Grand Canyon River Runners Association
River Runners for Wilderness
Grand Canyon National Park
Grand Canyon
Private Boaters
Commercial Companies
Commercial Clients
Wilderness Advocates
Grand Canyon National Park
Private Boaters

http://www.ceibaadventures.com/equipment-rental.htm

www.canyonree.com

Photo by Caitlin Barnes
Commercial Operators


http://www.uh.edu/engines/epi2367.htm

http://blog.raftarizona.com/blog/arizona-river-rafters

Commercial Clients

Grand Canyon
Private Boaters
Association
American
Whitewater
Commercial
Companies
Commercial
Clients
http://www.ceibaadventures.com/equipment-rental.htm

Grand Canyon
National Park
Private Boaters: *Equal Access*

Commercial Companies: *No Loss*

Commercial Clients: *No Loss*

Wilderness Advocates: *No Motors*

Grand Canyon National Park
Grand Canyon
Private Boaters
Commercial Companies
Commercial Clients
Joint Proposal
Wilderness Advocates
Grand Canyon National Park
Grand Canyon
Private Boaters
Commercial Companies
Commercial Clients
Grand Canyon National Park
Wilderness Advocates
= New Colorado River Management Plan
Grand Canyon
Private Boaters
Commercial Companies
Commercial Clients
Wilderness Advocates
Lawsuit with NPS
Grand Canyon National Park
Grand Canyon
Private Boaters
Commercial Companies
Commercial Clients
Wilderness Advocates
Lawsuit with NPS
Intervene
Grand Canyon National Park
Private Boaters

Commercial Companies

Commercial Clients

Wilderness Advocates

Lose lawsuit!

Grand Canyon National Park

= New Colorado River Management Plan
# Seasonal Permit Allocation

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<th>Winter</th>
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Commercial Season-Oar

Old Commercial Oar Season

New Commercial-Oar

New Motor

Winter

Spring

Summer

Fall

Winter

Jan  Feb  March  April  May  June  July  Aug  Sept  Oct  Nov  Dec
### Total Commercial Season

#### Old Commercial Season

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#### New Commercial Season

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- **Commercial-Oar**
- **Commercial/Private-Motor**
### Private Season - Oar

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- Private-Oar Only
- Private-Oar
- Private-Oar Only
Wilderness Season

Winter

Spring

Summer

Fall

Winter

Wilderness: No Motor

Jan | Feb | March | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec

Wilderness: No Motor
## Seasonal Permit Allocation

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- **Commercial Season**
  - Commercial - Oar
  - Commercial/Private-Motor

- **Private-Oar**
  - Private - Oar
  - Private - Motor
Winter Boating

Summer Boating
New Permit Lottery

- Weighted lottery
- Gives extra chances to those who have not been down
- Gives lots of extra chances to people still on old waiting list