

ANGLER SPORTSMAN ACTION ALERT

The National Park Service is holding **Public Scoping Meetings** for a Non Native Aquatic Species Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) that **includes elements having a potentially damaging impact on the Lees Ferry trout fishery** and the business and guide services dependent on that fishery. The Public Meetings are your opportunity to become informed on the Plan, ask questions, and voice concerns you may have. The Public Open House Meeting Locations and Dates are:

December 6, 2017

6:00-8:30 pm MST
Public Open House
Glen Canyon Headquarters
691 Scenic View Drive
Page, AZ 86040

December 7, 2017

6:00-8:30 pm MST
Public Open House
Flagstaff Aquaplex
1702 N Fourth Street
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

December 12, 2017

6:00 pm – 8:30PM MST
Arizona Game & Fish Depart
Quail Room
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

The Park Service is proposing a wide range of controls and fishing regulation changes to provide tools for controlling or eradicating non native species that may pose a threat to native aquatic species. With the exception of mechanical removal of brown trout in Lees Ferry/Glen Canyon the proposed tools would not impact the trout fishery.

The EA proposes mechanical removal in Lees Ferry/ Glen Canyon with **“long-term intensive and repeated electrofishing “**. Collateral damage to the rainbow trout fishery from mechanical removal electrofishing on a massive scale will be unavoidable. Rainbow trout not removed at the time of brown trout removal will be intensely and repeatedly shocked as the electrofishing process progresses along the river and continues over recurring lengthy periods of time. Surviving rainbow trout, while recovering, would be unfishable for extended periods.

The increase in brown trout in recent years in Lees Ferry/Glen Canyon, though small in numbers, has raised concerns, particularly with the appearance of young of year brown trout, an indicator of spawning occurring. To address these concerns a brown trout workshop was convened bringing qualified researchers together to consider the root causes for the change in brown trout numbers and evaluate the effectiveness of possible responses to manage that increase. The final reviewed report from the workshop will not be available until early next year. The Park Service has chosen to go ahead without the information to be gained from the work shop report and is proposing brown trout mechanical removal without considering and addressing the causes for the change in brown trout numbers in an approach that assures perpetual treatment with no cure. Coincidentally in workshop and outside discussions fishery research scientists have expressed doubts that mechanical removal would be effective for the purposes intended in the EA. Further the EA’s intent is to protect native fish yet only removal of brown trout from Lees Ferry/Glen Canyon is proposed while leaving untouched the trout population in the sixty miles of river in Marble Canyon between Lees Ferry and the Colorado River where native fish first significantly appear.

Your participation in one of the Public Scoping Meetings will affirm angler support, demonstrate the importance of the Lees Ferry trout fishery, and provide direction to the Park Service for acceptable alternatives in the EA.

The full EA scoping letter is available at:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=62&projectID=74515&documentID=84099>