



## PUBLIC SCOPING FOR PROPOSED CASTLE ROCK CUT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) process to examine the environmental effects of deepening an area on Lake Powell commonly called the Castle Rock Cut. We are seeking the benefit of your comments during a 30-day public scoping period to identify issues and alternatives for analysis in the EA.

The Castle Rock Cut is a popular short-cut route on Lake Powell that allows boaters to conveniently travel between the Wahweap Marina and destinations uplake. The Castle Rock Cut shortens the uplake trip by approximately one hour (or 12-miles), saving both time and fuel for park visitors. However, due to long term drought conditions, the Castle Rock Cut has not been usable since 2003.

The Castle Rock Cut area is located just over the Utah border between Wahweap Creek and Warm Creek Bays, about 3-miles due east of the Wahweap Developed Area.

The Castle Rock Cut was first deepened in the 1970s to allow visitors to quickly access uplake destinations from the popular Wahweap Marina. In 1992, it was deepened again by approximately 8-feet. Currently, the Castle Rock Cut is open to boaters when Lake Powell is at an elevation of 3,620-feet or higher.

As currently proposed, the project would deepen an 80-foot wide by 2300-foot long channel by 15 feet. This would allow boats to pass through the Castle Rock Cut when Lake Powell is approximately 3,600 feet in elevation. This project would entail the removal of about 250,000 cubic yards of sandstone, which would be spread on the north side of the Castle Rock Cut below the high water level of the lake (3700 ft).

Because an individual permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) will be required for this project, the NPS and the ACOE will be completing a joint environmental assessment. One document will be written for both organizations, but each will prepare its own decision documents (a Finding of No Significant Impacts for the NPS and a statement of findings for the ACOE, depending on the outcome of the EA process).

Information about this project will be posted on the web at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/glca>.

The ACOE will be posting information about this project on the

Sacramento District Regulatory Public Notice website found at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/organizations/cespk-co/regulatory/PNs/index.html>.



The NPS has identified the following preliminary range of alternatives for consideration in the EA:

### Currently Identified Alternatives

1) No-Action Alternative. This alternative represents the baseline or benchmark from which to compare the impacts of the proposed project. In this case, "No-Action" means the proposed project would not take place and the Castle Rock Cut would not be further deepened.

2) Proposed Action. Glen Canyon NRA would deepen the Castle Rock Cut as described in this scoping notice. Implementation of the project would begin as soon as the environmental assessment is completed.

The environmental assessment process will analyze the impacts of the project to the area's natural and cultural resources and to park visitors' experience. These include, among other things, water resources, cultural resources, fish and wildlife and species of special status, visitor use, park operations, and socioeconomics.

**What does the scoping period mean?** Scoping is done in the initial phase of a project to seek input from a variety of sources. The input is used to identify possible alternative, issues, areas requiring additional study, and topics that will be analyzed in the EA process. This is an opportunity for you to provide us with your suggestions, comments, and statements of support and/or concerns regarding this project.





**Is scoping my only opportunity to comment on the project?** No, once the EA is developed, the document will be made available for public review and comment for a 30-day period.



### Castle Rock Dredging Project



**Legend**

-  Current Route
-  Route Through Castle Rock Cut
-  Proposed Project Area
-  3700 Elevation Contour



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Produced by Environmental



Photo Source: 2006 NAIP

**Please submit your scoping comments to the NPS by December 4, 2007:**

1. Do you have any information to share about issues/concerns related to this proposed project, or are there any issues/concerns about the project that you think we should consider?
2. Are there any other alternatives that you think should be considered?
3. If you wish to receive a copy of the environmental assessment when it is released for public review and comment in late winter of 2008, please let us know if you prefer to receive a printed copy, a CD, or notification where you can download the EA.

Submit written comments to:  
Castle Rock Cut EA  
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area  
P.O. Box 1507  
Page, AZ 86040-1507

Comment by the internet through the  
National Park Service's Planning,  
Environmental and Public Comment  
website at:  
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/glca>

Hand-deliver comments to Glen  
Canyon NRA headquarters at:  
691 Scenic View Drive  
Page, AZ