



National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

Grand Canyon National Park
River Permits Office

P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

(800) 959-9164 phone
(928) 638-7844 fax
www.nps.gov/grca/river

To: PATRICIA ANN VERHOEVEN
55 NE BRIDGETON RD
PORTLAND, OR 97211

March 27, 2006
Launch Date: 6/14/2006

Dear PATRICIA ANN VERHOEVEN:

The National Park Service has released a Record of Decision for a revised Colorado River Management Plan. The revised plan changes several aspects of recreational use management of the Colorado River. The changes include increased access for noncommercial boaters, replacing the existing waitlist system with a weighted lottery, and implementing a launch based system for all users. The details and latest information can be viewed through our website at www.nps.gov/grca/crmp.

While already scheduled launches (such as yours for 6/14/2006) are not in jeopardy, some rules and options have changed. Within this letter we will: 1) describe these rule changes below; 2) briefly explain how access for noncommercial boaters will increase; 3) outline the Three Stage Transition process with the timeline for transitioning members out of the waitlist system; 4) project how wait times for those on the waitlist will be affected; and 5) describe how the new weighted lottery will work and when it will begin.

Rule Changes that Affect Your Upcoming Launch

1. **Launch dates are final.** Trip leaders will be allowed to launch their trips as originally planned, pass their trips to alternate trip leaders, or cancel. Deferments and/or swapping of launch dates will no longer be allowed. This change is necessary in the new launch-based system to ensure everyone interested in a specific launch date will get their chance to compete for it and not lose out to those who applied for other launch dates in earlier years.
2. **Removal of Restriction for Trips Passed to Alternate Trip Leaders.** People who had participated in other noncommercial trips within the four years prior to launch of a trip passed to an alternate trip leader used to be restricted from participating in that trip. This restriction has been removed and is replaced with the one trip per year rule listed in the below paragraph.
3. **One Trip per Year.** Beginning in 2007 all noncommercial users and commercial passengers will be limited to a maximum of 1 trip per year through any portion of the Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek section of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Prior to 2007, only trips which have been passed to alternate trip leaders are restricted by the one trip per year rule.
4. **Modifying Your List of Potential Alternate Trip Leaders.** With this letter you are being provided with an opportunity to modify and/or add to your list of potential alternate trip leaders. **Please complete the attached form and fax it back to the River Permits Office (928-638-7844) by April 30th, 2006.**
5. **Fees and Deposits.** Nonrefundable river permit fees will continue to be \$100 per person, due 90 days before launch. For all trips launching after 9/30/2006, however, a portion of this fee (a total of \$400 per standard sized trip (9 to 16 persons) or \$200 per small sized trip (1 to 8 persons)) will now be required immediately when a launch is scheduled. This portion of the fee will be a nonrefundable deposit and used to cover administrative costs related to reserving and managing permits as well as providing information through the River Office. As an example, in reserving a 10 person trip, \$400 will be due at the time the reservation is made and the remaining \$600 will be due 90 days before launch. The grand total remains \$1000 (i.e. \$100 per person).

Since payment for your launch of 6/14/2006 is due so soon, we are waiving this deposit requirement until the rest of your fees are due 90 days before launch.

6. **Age requirement for Lottery and Potential Trip Leaders.** Lottery applicants and all potential alternate trip leaders must be 18 years or older by any requested launch date.

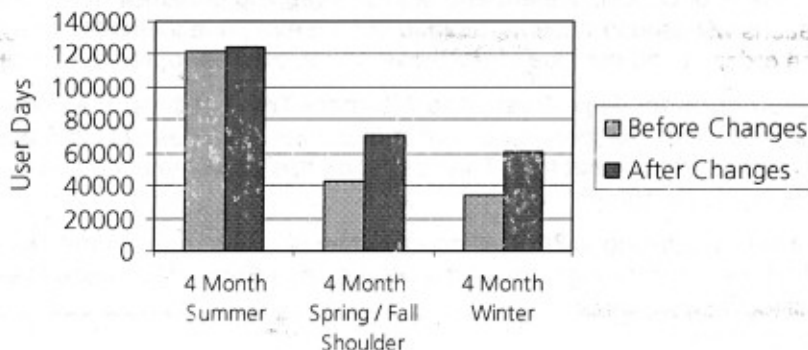
7. **Motorized use season.** Beginning in 2007, the new motor season will start on April 1st and last through September 15th. Those authorized to launch trips during this timeframe will have the option of using motors. Launches occurring between September 16th and March 31st may not be motorized.
8. **New Maximum Trip Lengths will be in place for all newly released trips and all trips launching on or after January 1, 2007.** The new trip lengths will be as follows:

| Summer (May – August) | | Number of Days |
|---|--|---|
| Noncommercial Motor | | 12 |
| Noncommercial Oar | | 16 |
| Shoulder Seasons (March-April/Sept.- October) | | |
| Noncommercial Motor | | 12 |
| Noncommercial Oar | | 18 (Sept 1-15), 21 (Remainder of Shoulder Season) |
| Winter (November – February) | | |
| Noncommercial Motor | | N/A |
| Noncommercial Oar | | 25 |

9. **2006 is considered a transition year.** In 2006 launches will only be added to the schedule in places where the new Trips at One Time (TAOT) limits will not be exceeded. In 2006, launches will be released according to the old launch pattern of 8 per week in the primary season, and some additional launches will be released for the secondary season.
10. **New 8 person trips.** Starting in 2007 and each year thereafter, from April 1 through August 31 a new, smaller noncommercial trip (1 to 8 persons) will be authorized to launch. For this reason, applicants will be required to indicate on their applications whether or not they wish to be considered for these trips.
11. **Social Security Numbers.** The River Permits Office has received approval to replace the system for tracking users by social security number with a different system that uses dates of birth and other more common information. If you would like to have your social security number removed from our system, please mail us your date of birth and full legal name as it appears on your driver's license.

Increased Opportunities for Noncommercial Boaters

In future years, the number of noncommercial launches will increase by 56 in the summer, 102 in the combined spring and fall shoulder season, and 92 in the winter. This is accomplished through increasing summer use by 2%, shortening trip lengths, and spreading out some commercial use into the spring and fall shoulder seasons. The following graph shows how use levels increase.



Timeline and Process for Transitioning Out of the Waitlist System:

Stage 1 This newsletter marks the beginning of stage 1. This stage represents the final release of launch dates under the current waitlist system. In this stage people with waitlist numbers between 05#00001 and 05#01500 are being provided with a chance to schedule recent cancellations plus 600 newly released launch opportunities from the 2007 through 2011 calendar years.

Applications from these waitlist members in the top 1500 will be due by May 3rd, 2006. After this date, the applications will be processed in waitlist order. The NPS will consider launch dates listed on each application in the order listed and assign the first available launch date. After processing the top 1500 waitlist applications, the unclaimed launch dates will be made available to other waitlist members through the cancellation line the week of May 15th, 2006 in accordance with the current cancellation process. Call the River Office toll free cancellation line or check our website www.nps.gov/grca/river on the weekend of May 12th to find out what dates remain available and when you are eligible to call in and attempt to claim these dates. Stage 1 of the transition will be completed on May 19th, 2006.

Any launch dates throughout the entire 2007 through 2011 timeframe may be requested. In this stage, 120 launches per year are available for a total of 600 launches. They will be awarded according to the following distribution pattern:

| 120 Launches per Year, 2007-2011* | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Full Size Trip (1 to 16 person) | 8 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 8 | 8 |
| Half Size Trip (1 to 8 person) | | | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | | | |

Months with 8 full size trips can have no more than 2 trips per week, months with 11 trips can have no more than 3 per week, and half size trips cannot exceed 1 trip per week.

When selecting dates in this stage, current waitlist members should be aware that several dates in early in 2007 have already been scheduled. In addition, some additional launch dates from 2007 through 2009 have also been taken by people with previous launch dates who were granted 3-year deferments. Applicants are encouraged to list on their applications every launch date for which they wish to be considered.

Stage 2 We hope to begin the next transition stage on May 22nd, 2006. In this stage waitlist members will have a five week opportunity to band together and submit applications for an additional 600 launch dates within the 2007 through 2011 calendar years. These launch dates will follow the same distribution pattern listed in stage 1. After the five week period, applications will be due on June 29th. Applications will be sorted based on cumulative wait as described below, and the group with the longest cumulative wait time will get first chance at claiming one of the 600 launch dates.

By banding together, waitlist members will advance up the temporary group waitlist to the place of their combined wait. For example, if Tom has been on the waitlist for five years and Robin for nine years, their combined wait will be 14 years, so they could band together and receive a new place on the group waitlist ahead of all those groups who had waited a combined 13 years or less. Waitlist members will be allowed to list themselves as members of only one group, and that group may include many waitlist members. Actual trip size for these groups will be required to stay within the group size limit of 16 people for a standard group launch and 8 people for a small group launch.

Waitlist members interested in stage 2 are encouraged to band together with friends from the waitlist in order to increase their chances of obtaining one of the 600 last launch opportunities distributed through the group waitlist. One resource available is a website forum that the Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association created specifically to help waitlist members find each other. The website is www.gcbpa.org, click on the "Waitlist Number Clearinghouse". We strongly encourage you to ensure your compatibility with any others with whom you are considering banding together. Waitlist members who choose to band together do so at their own risk. All members of groups that are awarded launches lose their place on the waitlist and will receive no other compensation even if they do not participate on the trip.

Group applications may list all launch dates that would be acceptable to the group. On the application due date of June 29th, 2006, applications will be sorted based on combined group member waitlist time. If groups have the same combined total years wait, the order will be set using the original waitlist order of the member with the longest wait. Applications will then be processed according to the new order for the group waitlist. Any launch dates throughout the entire 5 year time frame may be requested; 600 launches will be awarded according to the distribution pattern listed in stage 1 so long as launch dates are available. We hope to complete transition stage 2 on July 7th. If any stage 2 launch dates remain unclaimed through this process, they will be released through the lottery.

Stage 3 This is the final stage of the transition process. Once the previous stage of the transition is complete, all unsuccessful groups will be dissolved and reinstated as individuals to their original places on the list. At this time each waitlist member will have two options:

1. **Refund:** They can leave the waitlist and accept a refund of the fees they paid for their current spot on the waitlist, or
2. **Extra Chances:** They can leave the waitlist and receive an extra chance in the lottery for each year they had been on the current waitlist. For instance, a person had joined the waitlist in 1996 and had been on the list 10 years, that person would get 10 extra chances in the lottery and keep those extra chances each year they applied until they are awarded a trip or participate in any other noncommercial or commercial trip through any part of the Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek section of the Colorado River. These extra chances will be in addition to the chances normally given to applicants in the lottery (see lottery description on page 3).

First Lottery We hope to run the first lottery in August of this year for the remaining calendar year 2007 noncommercial launches. Please visit our website in July for updated information.

How length of wait changes: increase or decrease?

Overall Chances With the new lottery system we predict most of our current waitlist members eventually will go on a trip and experience shorter wait times than they would have if the old system had continued. We believe this to be the case even without further management intervention. However, because the new system is a lottery, some who apply might never win. Of specific concern to the NPS are waitlist members who choose the "extra chances" option in stage 3 of the transition and apply regularly through the lottery but continue to not win. The National Park Service will monitor their progress and may apply adaptive management measures to ensure their wait times do not excessively increase beyond what they would have waited under the old waitlist and allocation system.

Calculating your wait if the waitlist system had continued We are mailing each waitlist participant our rough estimations of when, under the old waitlist and allocation system, they would have reached the top 300 on the waitlist and scheduled a launch.

* These estimates are determined by looking at the last five digits of an individual's waitlist number for each year and duplicating the progress of the person who had that number in 2004 experienced in 2005. These estimates assume that you would not have been one of those who would have fallen off the list for other reasons and that you and all those ahead of you were not waiting for the same small set of acceptable launch dates. For instance, we understand your wait would have been much longer if you and everyone ahead of you on the list were waiting, for example, only for June launch dates; there were only 34 of these released per year to noncommercial boaters.

Description of How the New Weighted Lottery will Work

When will it take place? We hope to run the first lottery on the internet in August (2006) and award the remaining noncommercial launches from calendar year 2007. The actual date of the lottery will be posted on our internet site www.nps.gov/grca/river at least 30 days before the lottery occurs.

How can I apply, and what will it cost? One month prior to the lottery drawing, applicants will be able to enter and track their applications online through a website that the park will soon be developing. There will be a nonrefundable fee of \$25 per application to apply through the lottery.

Who must be listed on the application? Lottery applications must list the applicant and all others that the applicant wishes to include as potential alternate trip leaders ("potential leaders"). Other participants need not be listed at this time.

How will my chances be determined? If the applicant and all potential leaders listed on their application have not been on the river more recently than 5 calendar years, the application will get 5 chances. If it has been 4 calendar years since any of these people went, the application will get 4 chances. If it has been 3 years, the application will get 3 chances. If it has been 2 years, the application will get 2 chances. Otherwise, the application will get one chance.

In addition, if the applicant was a waitlist member who gave up their place in exchange for extra chances, and since that time has neither won a launch (even as a potential leader) nor been on any portion of a commercial or noncommercial river trip through the Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek section of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park, the application would get an additional chance for each year the applicant had been on the waitlist.

How exactly will this work; what will my chances mean? Once all applications have been entered into the computer program, the following steps will occur until all launch dates have been claimed. First, each applicant's name is listed in a table one time for every chance they get in the lottery. Next the computer will randomly pick an entry from that table. Finally, the computer program will analyze the applicant's top five choices, assigning the first date that is available. At this point all entries for that person will be removed from the table, and another random selection of a name will occur. This process is repeated until the list is exhausted or all launches have been claimed.

If after the above steps any launches remain available, the whole process will be repeated. All applicants who have not been awarded launches will have their names listed in the table one time for every chance they get in the lottery, the computer will randomly pick an entry from that table, the applicant's additional choices (choices 6, 7, 8, etc.) will be considered, and the first date that is available will be assigned. At this point all entries for that person will be removed from the table, and another random selection of a name will occur. This process will be repeated until the list is exhausted or all launches have been claimed. Any remaining dates from this process will be released through the cancellation system described in the following paragraph.

If cancellations occur, how will those dates be re-released? For each date listed on the application, the applicant should indicate how late they would be willing to accept a launch date should it become available due to a cancellation. In addition, even after the lottery has been run, applications will be accepted for people wishing to compete for cancellations should they occur. Thus, when a cancellation occurs the lottery will be re-run for that date and consider only those willing to take the date with the shorter lead time. This will allow cancellations to be re-released as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions, please call or write the River Permits Office. If necessary we will put together another Frequently Asked Questions publication and make it available on our internet site. Thanks for your patience, and we hope you have a great trip.

Potential Alternate Leader and Deposit Form

*** Due Before April 30, 2006 ***

From:

Launch Date: 6/14/2006

PATRICIA ANN VERHOEVEN
55 NE BRIDGETON RD
PORTLAND, OR 97211

Date of Birth: ____/____/____
(MM) (DD) (YYYY)

* Please correct the above required information if it is incorrect or incomplete. If your name as listed on your driver's license is different than what is listed above, please print your driver's license name here:

_____, _____. (Last Name) (First Name) (MI)

Trip Deposit:

Since full payment for your 6/14/2006 launch is due so soon, we are waiving the deposit requirement until then. 90 days before launch full payment will be due to the River Permits Office.

Potential Alternate Trip Leaders:

Important: Trips may not be deferred. Listing potential alternate trip leaders here is a way of ensuring that if something comes up and you cannot go on this trip, someone else (one of the people you list here) can take over the trip and allow it to continue as originally planned. This is your last chance to list anyone as a potential alternate trip leader for your trip. If you cannot go and nobody is listed here or none of those listed below agree to take over the trip, the trip will be cancelled. Potential alternate trip leaders must be at least 18 years old before the launch and have not been on the river during the same year as the launch. Only complete entries are accepted, and more than three names can be listed. Please enter the names on this list in your preferred order of succession.

Legal Name from Driver's License:

Date of Birth: (mm / dd / yyyy)

| | |
|-------|----------------|
| _____ | ____/____/____ |
| _____ | ____/____/____ |
| _____ | ____/____/____ |
| _____ | ____/____/____ |

- ☐ **I do not wish to list alternate trip leaders.** ** Note: If a health issue, a work commitment, a family obligation, or any other situation occurs that prevents you from going on this trip and you have not listed a potential alternate trip leader in the spaces above, your trip will be cancelled. Listing people above would allow the rest of your group to continue if you suddenly can't make it. **This is your last chance to list potential alternate trip leaders.**

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

This form may be sent to the River Office by FAX (928-638-7844) or by certified mail with return receipt to obtain proof of timely submittal. Please do not send self-addressed, stamped envelopes. **Thanks!**

US Postal Service Mailing Address:

Address for Other Carriers:

Fax:

(928) 638-7844

River Permits Office
P.O. Box 129

Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-0129

River Permits Office
#1 Village Loop Road

Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Phone:

(800) 959-9164

-or-

(928) 638-7843

Cancellation Line:

(928) 638-7883