

Adopt – A - Beach

HOW THIS WORKS

Your packet should include: camera, datasheets, pen/marker, reference photos, info page, talking points (see reverse) and a return mailer if requested.

FILL IN THE DATE/TIME/LOCATION ON THE DATA SHEET. TAKE A PHOTO OF IT. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE DATE/TIME/LOCATION CAN BE READ IN THE PHOTO.

* Adopters often have a fellow crew member or passengers hold the sheet and you can include their portrait. *

USING THE REFERENCE IMAGES, DUPLICATE THE PHOTOS OF YOUR BEACH. MATCH YOUR PHOTOS AS EXACTLY AS POSSIBLE USING ROCKS, VEGETATION AND SKYLINE AS REFERENCE POINTS. PLEASE TRY TO AVOID HAVING BOATS OR PEOPLE IN THE PHOTO WHICH OBSCURE THE BEACH. WE KNOW THAT CAN OFTEN BE DIFFICULT! YOU CAN INCLUDE ADDITIONAL SHOTS OF EROSION, ROCKFALL OR OTHER CHANGES IF DIFFERENT THAN THOSE ON YOUR REFERENCE PAGES.



PLEASE TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO FILL IN THE DATA SHEET. YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT CHANGES FOUND GREATLY INFORM THE EVALUATION OF THE PHOTOS.

If you adopted more than one beach, use the same camera and repeat the steps for each beach.

More datasheets, batteries, etc are available from Grand Canyon River Guides. Contact Lynn to resupply.

AFTER YOUR LAST TRIP, OR BY OCTOBER 31 AT THE LATEST, TAKE A MUGSHOT OF YO'SELF AND DELIVER YOUR PACKET TO:

Mail: Grand Canyon River Guides
P. O. Box 1934
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Drop Off: GCRG Office
515 W Birch
Flagstaff, AZ

For assistance contact Lynn at 928 -773 – 1075 or gcrg@infomagic.net

The Adopt-a-Beach program is an excellent opportunity for adopters to talk to their passengers about the necessity of monitoring Grand Canyon beaches and the importance of the Adaptive Management Program of Glen Canyon Dam. Here are a few talking points that can help you present this information productively and positively:

What is the Adopt-a-Beach program?

The Adopt-a-Beach program was developed in 1996 to objectively monitor the Beach Habitat Building Flow: a historic experiment designed to test whether such flows could replenish the sediment on beaches in Grand Canyon. Our program continues to monitor sediment distribution on 40+ camping beaches in five "critical reaches" along the Colorado River (critical reaches are areas where beaches are scarce or in high demand). The focus of this program is the health of the recreational resource used by over 20,000 people each year.

Why is the Adopt-a-Beach photo monitoring important?

The primary focus of the Adopt-a-Beach program is recording and archiving a visual record of a representative number of beaches distributed along the river corridor. This photographic archive and the observations about beach change contribute to our overall knowledge of the evolving state of Grand Canyon beaches in this dam managed system. The extensive Adopt-a-Beach photographic record documents the effects of dam releases, wind, flash floods, and other processes that affect the beaches. AAB brings diverse constituencies together in a stewardship effort to monitor this resource of collective concern.

What is the role of the Adaptive Management Program of Glen Canyon Dam?

After the completion of Glen Canyon Dam and during the filling of Lake Powell in the 1970's it became apparent that dam operations were impacting the downstream river ecosystem. The Record of Decision from the Environmental Impact Statement in 1996 called for the establishment of the Adaptive Management Program, a work group of 24 stakeholders who advise the Secretary of the Interior on how to best manage the dam to mitigate adverse impacts on downstream resources.

What does "Adaptive Management" mean in this context?

Adaptive management provides a scientifically credible framework to continually refine and modify the operations of Glen Canyon Dam to satisfy the intent of the Grand Canyon Protection Act. The program integrates testable hypotheses based on data collected through long-term monitoring, modeling, and research. Each new experiment builds on the knowledge previously gained.

How does the Adopt-a-Beach program relate to the Adaptive Management Program?

The photographs, data, recommendations, and report generated by Adopt-a-Beach are disseminated to these key river managers to help inform future management decisions. This information is also being used by Grand Canyon Monitoring & Research Center scientists as they examine resource concerns such as sediment depletion and vegetation encroachment. In addition to preserving the natural and cultural resources of the river corridor, the Adaptive Management Program is also charged with recognizing and addressing recreational concerns. Towards this end, the AMP recognizes the value of the Adopt-a-Beach program as it meshes collaboration and cooperation with significant public outreach and educational opportunities.