

Talking Points against the Fill Lake Mead First Proposal

- The Glen Canyon Institute and the Sierra Club have tried for nearly 20 years to reverse construction of Glen Canyon Dam and drain Lake Powell. The Fill Mead First proposal is the latest attempt to disparage the benefits of Lake Powell.
- The Bureau of Reclamation recognizes the importance of Lake Powell as a critical component of the Colorado River Basin Project.
- The GCI proposal is a ploy to drain Lake Powell by requiring the transfer of water from the Upper Basin to the Lower Basin to avoid a shortage call in the Lower Basin. The proposal only serves to stir up inter-basin tensions on the Colorado River. It is politics at its worst.
- The proposal would compromise recreational opportunities at Lake Powell by leaving boat ramps stranded, forcing marina shutdowns, and depriving millions of visitors the joy of visiting Lake Powell. It would undermine the economic vitality of northern Arizona and southern Utah.
- The BOR's 2007 Interim Guidelines serve to coordinate operation of both Lake Mead and Lake Powell and encourage efficient use and management of Colorado River water in the Lower Basin to avoid a shortage call. These guidelines were designed to balance the needs of both Colorado River basins in regards to water supply, power production, recreation, and other environmental resources.
- The bank storage rate at Lake Powell represents but a fraction of the reservoir volume. The rate has slowed significantly since the early decades when the lake first filled to full pool. Now, as the bank storage approaches equilibrium, the rate of bank storage seepage continues to decrease. Bank storage is not lost and contributes to recharging the regional N-aquifer (Navajo Sandstone aquifer).
- Water stored of Lake Mead is subject to evaporation rates twice that of Lake Powell owing to the lower elevation (1,100 feet above sea level), increased surface area and hotter temperatures.
- Reduced power production at Glen Canyon dam would affect non-profit entities who serve over five million customers within the states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.
- Lake Mead would be nearly empty today had it not been for the critical waters stored in Lake Powell.

