



COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 15, 2024

ITEM TITLE, PRESENTER: Consideration and Approval of Comment Letter on Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Proposed Rule for OHV and Street-legal ATV Use

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Letter

SUMMARY

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area has opened a 60 day comment period (ending November 15th) on a proposed rule change that would prohibit OHV and Street-legal ATV use on certain roads within the National Recreation Area. The proposed rule changes are the result of a recent Settlement Agreement between Glen Canyon and the complainants who allege that OHV and Street-legal ATV travel off designated roads is damaging resources. Specific roads to be closed to these classes of vehicles in San Juan County are the John's Canyon Road (Class B, 7.49 miles), Muley Point Road (Class B, 1.26 miles) and Dry Mesa Road (Class D, 4.3 miles). These roads are currently open to travel by OHV and Street-legal ATVs and are popular routes for these classes of vehicles. The John's Canyon Road is one of the routes on the annual San Juan ATV Safari and if the proposed rule is approved, this route would be dropped from the Safari. The Settlement Agreement specifies that the National Park Service retains the discretion to decide whether it will adopt the proposals described in the Agreement. Such discretion supposedly allows NPS consideration of public comments in making a final decision.

HISTORY/PAST ACTION

San Juan County participated as a Cooperating Agency in the development of the Glen Canyon Off-road Vehicle Management Plan which was finalized in 2018. That plan specified that the roads now to be closed were open to OHV and Street-legal ATVs, a point promoted and supported by San Juan County.

FISCAL IMPACT

Unknown