

Glen Canyon

Official Map and Guide

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Arizona and Utah
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Throughout history humans have adapted their surroundings to better suit their needs. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, established in 1972, provides a dramatic example of one of nature's most inspiring settings combined with an ambitious human project. Impounded behind the Bureau of Reclamation's Glen Canyon Dam, waters of the Colorado River and tributaries are backed up about 185 miles, forming Lake Powell. The lake and more than one million acres of desert-and-canyon country offer leisure-time activities for American and international visitors. Fishing and water sports are dominant activities. Exploring

on foot can provide intimate contact with the natural and cultural features preserved here for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Earth's forces shaped this topography, which now appears as talus slopes, buttes, mesas, canyons, and cliffs. Prehistoric human inhabitants occupied the area and left behind scattered indications of their presence.

Early Spanish explorers searching for an overland route to California left us a detailed account of their expedition. Maj. John Wesley Powell also chronicled the first expedition down the Col-

orado River. Powell named this stretch of the river Glen Canyon. Not long after his voyage, permanent settlements were established at the easiest and most reliable river crossings. An early writer about water issues and limits in this arid country, Powell was eventually honored by having the lake named for him. Born amid controversy and compromise, the dam fulfills its goals of water storage and power generation, and it provides major recreational opportunities. The resulting lake enables many people to view natural marvels and cultural features. Construction of the concrete arch dam began in 1956, and the final two generating

units began providing power in 1966. The lake reached full pool level in 1980, 1983, and 1984. In 1983 and 1984 excess floodwater went over the spillways and through the diversion tunnels on each side of the dam. Lake Powell's presence in a desert landscape has modified the species of plants and animals that now inhabit Glen Canyon. Today, Lake Powell is one of the Southwest's finest lake recreation areas.

Sunset at Padre Bay (above) ©Gary Laist

"A curious ensemble of wonderful features . . ." John Wesley Powell, 1869

The first human migration into North America from Asia may have occurred from 15,000 to 12,000 years ago. In small groups, these people dispersed throughout North and South America and lived in isolation for thousands of years. Tribes in this area, which we call the Desert Archaic people, were hunters and gatherers. Their continuing subsistence needs left little chance for development of higher cultural skills or for population growth. About 2,000 years ago a major cultural change— from causes about which we can only speculate—transformed these nomads into more station-



Ancestral Puebloans These ancient Indians, named Anasazi by the Navajo, are believed to be the ancestors of modern Puebloan tribes such as the Hopi. The Ancestral Puebloans constructed stone dwelling complexes (pueblos) throughout the southern Colorado Plateau. These people left this area in the 1300s, perhaps because of climate changes, perhaps for reasons known only to themselves.

ary farmers, now called Basketmakers. Their weaving materials included cotton that was introduced to them by groups from the south. As they incorporated ideas from southern cultures, including above-ground houses, these Basketmaker people evolved into the culture we call Ancestral Puebloans, or Anasazi.

Exploration In 1776 two Spanish priests began an expedition that provided the first written record of Glen Canyon. Father Dominguez, Father Escalante, and their party set out from Santa Fe in July to pioneer an overland route to a military garrison on the California coast. After three months, having bypassed the canyon country, the party reached the Great Basin in Utah, where they decided to turn back before the onset of winter. On October 26, the party reached the Colorado River at the mouth of the Paria River. When crossing there proved nearly disastrous, the explorers climbed out of the river bottom and camped near today's Wahweap Marina. They spent

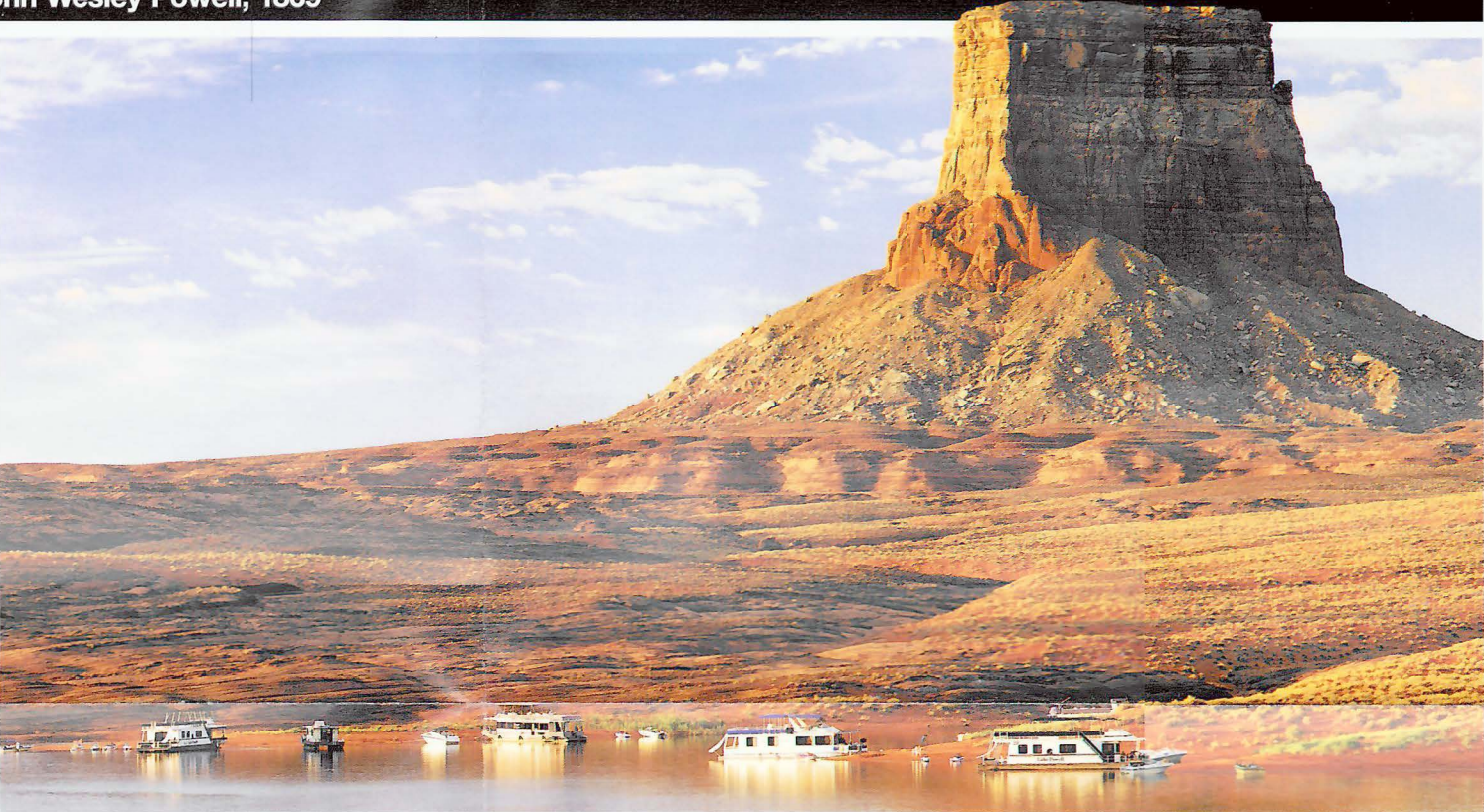
four days searching for a way across the river. Finally, on November 7, they chopped steps into the sandstone wall at Padre Creek and safely led their pack stock to the banks of the Colorado. The Crossing of the Fathers today lies beneath Padre Bay.

Another journey of discovery began nearly 100 years after the Dominguez-Escalante expedition. Geologist John Wesley Powell set out to map the region and record its natural history. After a five-year study Powell was convinced that with careful planning the area could be settled, and his reports became the basis for reclamation in the West. In May 1869, Powell and his crew of nine men left Green River, Wyo., to follow the fabled Colorado. On July 28, they entered Glen Canyon and found its waters calm compared to the rapids of Cataract Canyon. Their trip eventually took them through the Grand Canyon and to the mouth of the Virgin River in Nevada.

Railroaders with visions of a line from Grand Junction, Colo., to the Gulf of California explored farther along the Colorado River. They declared the route feasible and said trains could be powered by electricity generated from the flow of the river; their bankers disagreed. Prospectors searched the area for



Glen Canyon Dam Concrete for the arch dam and powerplant was poured around the clock for more than three years. The dam's crest is 1,560 feet long. It lies 710 feet above bedrock and 583 feet above the original river channel. At its full-pool elevation of 3,700 feet, Lake Powell measures 560 feet deep at the dam.



Houseboats anchor in Labyrinth Canyon, a southern tributary of Padre Bay. Sunrise illuminates Tower Butte, which is on the land of the Navajo Nation.

riches. They discovered gold in the river's sands, but it was too fine to be mined commercially. Next came the pioneers, passing through in search of better lands. With them came the ferry-men, who were indispensable to that effort.

Settlement Although the Colorado River is accessible near the mouth of the Paria, as Dominguez and Escalante discovered it cannot be crossed easily. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon Church) sent John D. Lee there to build and operate a ferry. He built the Lonely Dell Ranch for Emma Lee, his 17th wife. By 1873 Lee had built a ferryboat named the *Colorado*. Lee was executed in 1877 for his part in the 1857 Mountain Meadows

Massacre, the attack by Mormons and Paiutes on California-bound settlers. The Mormon Church eventually bought the enterprise from Emma. The ferry ran continuously until 1928. It was replaced by the Navajo Bridge, completed across Marble Canyon in 1929. Mormons colonizing the San Juan Valley created a river crossing at Hole-in-the-Rock, below the confluence of the Colorado and Escalante rivers. These pioneers blasted and fabricated a road 0.75 mile long that descended nearly 1,000 feet. Charles Hall later found a better crossing about 35 miles upstream. He ferried travelers at Halls Crossing until Cass Hite developed a more accessible crossing. The ferry and the town of Hite were active until flooded by the waters of Lake Powell.



Photo: Gary Laist

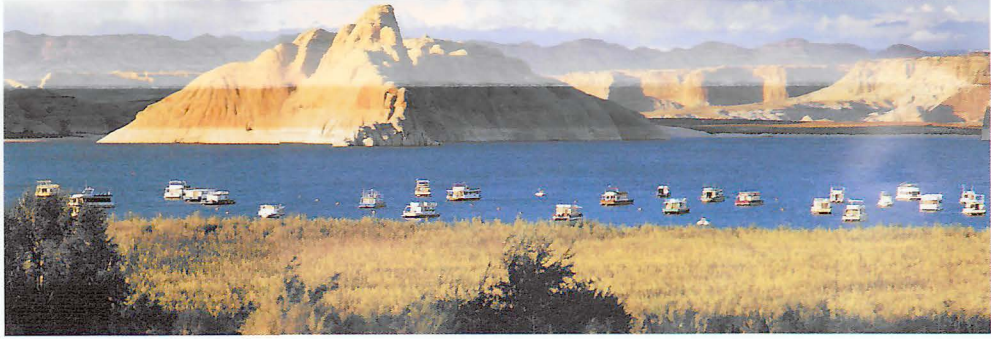
Places to Visit



Lees Ferry Fort was built in 1874.

Lees Ferry Lees Ferry lies in the break between Glen, Marble, and Paria canyons, downriver from Glen Canyon Dam. This natural corridor was the only place a wagon road could be built to connect Utah and northeastern Arizona. Lees Ferry was named for and settled by Mormon John D. Lee, who established the first Colorado River crossing at the site. From 1873 to 1896, the ferry was run by Warren Johnson and his son. A stone fort, built in 1874 in anticipation of conflict between the Navajo and settlers, was used briefly as a trading-post. Trails at the fort, along the Colorado River, and at the Lonely Dell Ranch in nearby Paria River Valley offer glimpses of what life was like for early miners and Mormon pioneers.

Today Lees Ferry has a ranger station, campground, launch ramp, dock, fish-cleaning station, and access to 15 miles of the Colorado River (upriver only). Navajo Bridge Interpretive Center at Marble Canyon on Highway 89A offers information, a bookstore, exhibits, and a pedestrian walkway over the Colorado River; open April through October. River trips through the Grand Canyon begin at Lees Ferry; permits are required and may be obtained from Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-0129.



A September evening highlights Wahweap Bay and Wahweap Marina.

Carl Hayden Visitor Center, Wahweap, and Page Carl Hayden Visitor Center, next to Glen Canyon Dam and Bridge, is open daily except Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1. Here you will find information, exhibits, audio-visual programs, a relief map, free dam tours, and a bookstore. Rangers can help you plan your visit.

Wahweap Marina, 5.5 miles from the visitor center along Lakeshore Drive, is the largest marina and lodging facility in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The concessioner provides lodging, food services, gift shops, two campgrounds (one with hookups), laundry, showers, and a service station. The marina has full services, including slips, buoys, boat rentals, tours, repairs, dry storage, and fueling.

The National Park Service offers free summer ranger programs, a self-service ranger station, drinking water, restrooms, two free dump/pumpout stations, picnic area with grills, and a fish cleaning station.

Page, Ariz., two miles from the dam and visitor center, has stores, motels, restaurants, churches, a hospital, and a museum. Page can be reached by surface roads year-round and by air from Phoenix.

Dangling Rope and Rainbow Bridge Dangling Rope Marina, between buoys 40 and 43, is accessible only by boat and has a ranger station, restrooms, free boat dump/pumpout station, emergency medical services, boat fuel, minor boat repairs, and a supply store. This floating marina, 40 miles uplake from Glen Canyon Dam, replaces the former Rainbow Marina that was in Forbidding Canyon.

Rainbow Bridge National Monument Marina is 15 miles above Dangling Rope Marina and about 50 miles by water from Wahweap, Bullfrog, or Halls Crossing. Rainbow Bridge, the world's largest natural bridge, spans 275 feet and is 290 feet high. The top is 42 feet thick and 33 feet wide. Rainbow Bridge is composed of Navajo sandstone, which stands on a bench of harder Kayenta formation. Rainbow Bridge may also be reached by trails across the Navajo Nation—permits are required. Note: Rainbow Bridge is sacred to Native American nations. Please respect these long-standing beliefs. We request your voluntary cooperation in not approaching or walking under Rainbow Bridge. For information and permits contact: Navajo Nation, Parks and Recreation Department, Box 9000, Window Rock, AZ 86515. Call: 928-871-6647.

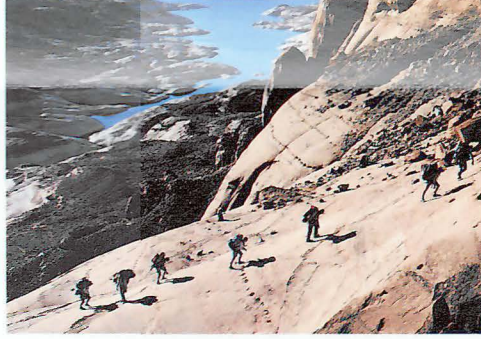


Rainbow Bridge. Navajo Mountain is in the distance.

Canyons of the Escalante The canyons of the Escalante River and its tributaries long have been favorites of modern-day explorers seeking the canyon country at its wildest. The mouth of Escalante Canyon meets Lake Powell about 70 miles uplake from Glen Canyon Dam. Some of its canyons can be explored from small boats.

Hikers can reach the backcountry on foot by trails from the unpaved Hole-in-the-Rock road. Natural bridges, arches, narrow canyons, and dwellings of prehistoric inhabitants are just some of the region's attractions. Many people feel that the canyons of the Escalante are reminiscent of Glen Canyon before the dam was built. In recognition of their value, portions of the Escalante canyons region have been recommended as and are managed as wilderness.

A permit (free) is required for all backcountry camping in the Escalante area. Travelers should inquire locally before beginning a trip. Minimal impact camping is essential; leave no trace of your stay. A visitor center in the town of Escalante, Utah, houses National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management offices.



Hikers climb slickrock near Balanced Rock Canyon.

Halls Crossing and Bullfrog Bay Halls Crossing, reached from Blanding, Utah, via state highways, offers a ranger station, free boat dump/pumpout station, and launch ramp. The concessioner provides lodging (housekeeping units), two campgrounds (one with hookups), laundry, showers, store, and service station and has marina services. The Cal Black Memorial Airport is located east of Halls Crossing.

Bullfrog Bay, set amidst the beautiful Waterpocket Fold country on one side and the Henry Mountains on the other, can be reached by paved state highways from Hanksville, Utah. A visitor center offers information, exhibits about area human and natural history, a full-scale slot-canyon model, dioramas of the Ice Age environment; and a bookstore. During the summer, the National Park Service provides a medical clinic and limited ranger programs. Year-round facilities include a launch ramp, free boat dump/pumpout station, fish-cleaning station, picnic area, and paved aircraft landing strip. A concessioner provides lodging, food services, gift shop, stores, two campgrounds (one with hookups), laundry, showers, and service station and offers full marina services. A regularly scheduled ferry (fee) runs between Halls Crossing and Bullfrog Bay.



A houseboat camps in Confluence Cove.

Hite Cass Hite originally named this country Dandy Crossing because it was the best ford in the Colorado above Lees Ferry. Prehistoric people also used the crossing. Remains of their structures can still be seen nearby. During the 1880s and 1890s, gold miners would rendezvous here, for Hite had the only post office in Glen Canyon. Today, Hite, the Dirty Devil River, and the upper stretches of Lake Powell are reached by paved Utah Hwy. 95.

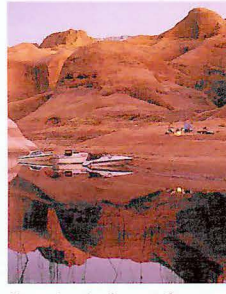
Many people find the region around Hite to be the most scenic in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Just uplake from the present site of Hite Marina, the Dirty Devil River meets the Colorado, making good catfish habitat, while the Colorado itself courses through scenic Narrow Canyon. The National Park Service offers a ranger station, launch ramp, free boat pumpout/dump station, and primitive camping.

The concessioner provides lodging (housekeeping units), store, service station, and full marina services (except boat tours).

Activities

Water Sports Water dominates the activities at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Concessioners offer boat tours that last from one hour to all day and provide boat rentals at developed areas. Houseboats provide comfort at a relaxed pace, as well as a chance to sightsee beyond the developed areas. Canoes and

kayaks give access to secluded areas in small canyons. Water in the lake is relatively warm from June through September, making swimming, snorkeling, SCUBA diving, and waterskiing enjoyable.



Camping in Secret Canyon.



Kayakers explore a side canyon.

Camping There is excellent camping on flat sites along the lakeshore. You can supplement water sports with a hike in the desert side canyons on trails of your own choosing. Please use reasonable caution.

Backcountry Backcountry hiking requires advance planning and stamina, but the experi-

ence can outweigh the efforts of preparation and the exertion.

Mountain Biking

Bicycles are restricted to traveling on vehicle roadways. Off-road travel is prohibited.

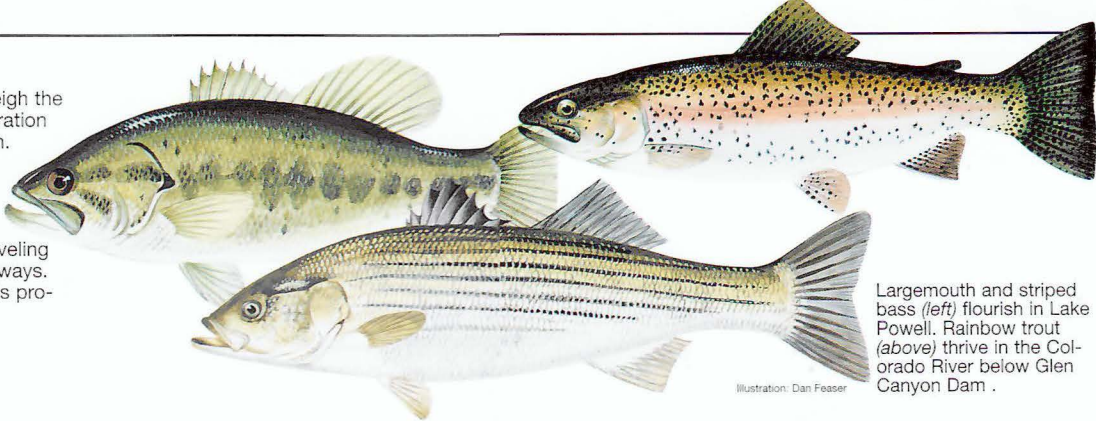


Illustration: Dan Fessler

Fishing Fishing is rewarding all year. The primary game species are largemouth and striped bass, black crappie, catfish, bluegill, trout, and walleye. The cold water of the Colorado River below the dam provides excellent trophy trout habitat. Anglers frequently catch large rainbow trout upstream from Lees Ferry.

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For a Safe Visit

Real dangers exist here. Every year deaths result from simple mistakes made in this unfamiliar environment. Read the list of regulations available in the park newspaper and at all marinas, ferry stations, and launch ramps. See the safety exhibits at launch ramps and marinas. Learn how to protect yourself from danger.

Safety and Regulations

- **Driving and Bicycling** Motor vehicles and bicycles must stay on park

- roads except at Lone Rock, where off-road driving is permitted in a limited, signed area.
- **Sand** Digging a tunnel or cave in the sand is tempting, but sand can suddenly collapse, cause suffocation and death.
- **Pets** Pets must be on a leash at all times. Pets left in vehicles in hot weather even for a short time may suffer heat stroke and die.
- **Weapons** Possession or use of a loaded weapon except when legally hunting violates federal law. Water balloon launchers

- are considered weapons; their use is prohibited. Fireworks are illegal.
- **Antiquities** Federal law provides severe penalties for the removal or destruction of any cultural artifacts or sites. Sitting or walking on walls of prehistoric structures, walking off designated trails, and touching rock art is prohibited.
- **Plants, Animals, Rocks, Natural Features** These are protected in the park. Removing, disturbing, or destroying plants, animals, rocks, fossils, or natural features is illegal.

- Water-related Activities**
 - **Personal Watercraft** Personal watercraft are vessels; boating regulations govern their use. In Utah you must be 18 to operate a personal watercraft alone (unless you comply with state personal watercraft operator conditions); in Arizona you must be 12 years old.
 - **Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)** An accessible, U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD (life jacket) must be available for every person aboard a vessel. Children 12 and

- under must wear PFDs.
- **Alcohol and Boating** Boating under the influence of alcohol is dangerous and illegal. Many boating accidents are alcohol related.
- **Speed** All vessels must operate at wakeless speed when within 150 feet of another vessel, a water skier, or a person in the water and when in all signed marina areas.
- **Bow Riding** Federal regulations prohibit riding on the bow of a boat at all speeds greater than wakeless.

- **Waterskiing** All boats towing a waterskier must have at least two people on board: a competent observer and the boat's operator. An orange or red flag must be held high when the skier is down in the water.
- **Swimming** Swim at your own risk. Never jump or dive from boats or cliffs. Invisible submerged rocks make such activities extremely dangerous. There are no lifeguards in the recreation area.

- **Carbon Monoxide** This colorless, odorless gas is highly poisonous and causes many injuries and deaths at Lake Powell. Stay away from engine and generator ports. Equip enclosed areas with working carbon monoxide detectors. Watch for signs of poisoning: headache, nausea, dizziness, confusion, vomiting, drowsiness or fatigue, and loss of consciousness.

Weather

The summer months are very hot with severe,

daily thunderstorms that can flood side canyons quickly. During severe weather, wait out storms in sheltered caves. Drink at least one gallon of water daily during hot weather.

Camping

In developed areas camp only in designated campgrounds (see map). Primitive camping is allowed when at least 100 feet from a paved road and outside of alcoves and archeological sites. Camping is allowed

along the Colorado River below the dam in designated sites. Stays are limited to 14 consecutive days and a total of 30 days per year. Permits are required to camp in the Orange Cliffs (call 435-259-7164) or along the San Juan River above Clay Hills Crossing. On the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam, fires are allowed only in grates. In the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, ground fires are prohibited.

Fishing

Either an Arizona or Utah fishing license is required to fish on Lake Powell. Both states sell reciprocal stamps to extend their license to the other state. Licenses are sold at all marinas and in nearby communities. It is illegal to remove humpback or bonytail chub and razor-back sucker.

Human Waste

Anyone camping in the park within 1/4 mile of Lake Powell, the San Juan River, or the Col-

orado River must carry and use a device for containing solid human waste, unless toilets are available on the beach. The use of plastic bags as receptacles for human waste is prohibited. Containerized human waste must be disposed of at the marina dump/pumpout stations. Eight floating restroom/dump/pumpout stations (see map below) are also available. Lake Powell is a no-discharge lake. If your vessel has a marine sanitation device that can discharge from its holding

tank, the device must be sealed so that overboard discharge is impossible.

More Information
Contact the park for information about activities, services, and regulations.

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
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www.nps.gov/glca

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