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September 8, 2009

Superintendent Steve P. Martin
Grand Canyon National Park
PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-0129

Re: AML Closure EA

Dear Superintendent,

Grand Canyon River Guides is a non-profit educational and environmental organization dedicated to the continued protection of Grand Canyon and the Colorado River experience. We are encouraged that the NPS is planning to correct health and safety hazards at abandoned mine lands and other sites within Grand Canyon National Park, Coronado National Memorial, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and Saguaro National Park.

As you work to develop the Environmental Assessment for your Abandoned Mine Lands Closure Plan, and specifically Alternative 2, Grand Canyon River Guides concurs with protecting wildlife habitat and cultural resource values as you work to protect health and safety for park visitors. Additionally, as a diverse organization that celebrates the long and vibrant history of river running in Grand Canyon, **we also encourage you to consider that many sites have specific meaning or relevance to Colorado River running history.** These could include, for example, historic boring holes for dam sites, mining sites in close proximity to the river, etc....

If this should be the case, we respectfully request that you:

- Consult with GCRG and other river stakeholders so that we can provide you with our unique perspective on our “traditional cultural properties.”

- Expand your analysis to include potential impacts to the preservation and interpretation of river running history in Grand Canyon.

We understand that Grand Canyon is on the reserve list with only enough funding to conduct planning and compliance at this time, but at least the groundwork will be laid. As passionate river stewards, GCRG looks forward to participating in the EA when it is available to the public after the first of the year. Thank you for considering our “resource” in the equation.

Sincerely,

Lynn Hamilton, Executive Director
FOR
The Officers and Board of Directors
Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc.