



PO Box 1934
Flagstaff, AZ 86002
(928) 773-1075 phone
(928) 773-8523 fax
info@gcrg.org
www.gcrg.org

**Grand Canyon River Guides supports the
Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni
Grand Canyon National Monument**

As a non-profit educational and environmental organization dedicated to preserving and protecting Grand Canyon and the Colorado River experience, Grand Canyon River Guides (GCRG) would like to express our firm support for the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition as they call for permanently protecting lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park as the **Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument**. Until such a time as these sacred lands are afforded a greater layer of protection through national monument designation, the region's astounding beauty, profound cultural heritage, long-term economic importance, and unique biodiversity, remain vulnerable to despoilment.

In 2011, when Grand Canyon River Guides wrote to Secretary Salazar to support the 20-year uranium ban on public lands surrounding Grand Canyon, we ended our letter by saying: *Our greatest hope is that the withdrawal designation for lands adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park will one day become a permanent one.*" And here we are today with that ultimate vision within our reach, and in the most inspiring, and transformative manner possible – a Grand Canyon National Monument proposal put forth by the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition to protect 1.1 million acres of their traditional homelands in perpetuity.

Our firsthand experience has shown us that what happens on the rim and on lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park directly affects everything below. These lands proposed for a higher level of protection serve as the critical watershed for Grand Canyon, feeding its fragile springs and seeps, and ultimately, the Colorado River itself, the source of drinking water for tens of millions of Americans in Arizona, Nevada, and California. Additionally, over 24,000 people participate in multiple day river trips on the Colorado River each year – a rejuvenating and life-changing experience that in turn creates staunch advocates for Grand Canyon. The recreation economy is a huge boon to the region and to the state of Arizona that must not be compromised by uranium mining or other threats.

In conclusion, we leave you with our heartfelt statement, as river guides and passionate stewards:

"The Grand Canyon is more than just a magnificent crack in the earth where tourists flock and people check a mark on their bucket list. It also contains thousands of species that live on the many buttes, mesas, grasslands, and valleys that surround it. Just as a holistic living system must be cared for, so must

*Dedicated to the quality of the
Grand Canyon Experience*

*this incredible landscape, river system, and the greater Grand Canyon region in its entirety. Everything is interconnected here – from the Indigenous cultures and peoples who call it home, to the plants, animals, water, rock, and entire ethereal soul of Grand Canyon – as river guides, we believe that our relationship with it is reciprocal. It takes care of us, and we must take care of Grand Canyon in return. **If we want Grand Canyon to be preserved for future generations, for wildlife, for the health of our watershed, and for cultural justice, creating and signing the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument into law is mandatory.** On behalf of all Grand Canyon River Guides and the community we represent, we urge the Biden Administration to take action to permanently protect one of the most important environmental and cultural gems on the planet. This is a landmark opportunity and we thank you for preserving the entirety of our Grand Canyon.”*

With deepest respect,

The Officers and Directors of Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc.

Lynn Hamilton	Executive Director
Riley Burch	President
Jay Healy	Vice President
Chantal Mosman	Secretary-Treasurer
Shonie Hardeen	Director
Tess McEnroe	Director
Carter Mills	Director
Jake Skeen	Director
Shyanne Yazzie	Director
Glade Zarn	Director

*Dedicated to the quality of the
Grand Canyon Experience*