Help Us Complete Our New Website!

GCI is creating a new website that will be up and running in the coming month and we need your help to complete it! Major features of this innovative site will include a fully revamped events page, a new media center complete with photos, videos, articles, and publications, and an entire section devoted to the issues surrounding Glen Canyon, Grand Canyon and a free-flowing Colorado River.

Please help us complete our new website by making a donation today! This new site will be the premier source for information on the restoration of Glen Canyon.

Click here to make a donation. Thank you for your support!

Renew Your Membership!

GCI's annual membership renewal drive is still underway. If you have yet to renew your membership, we hope you will do so now by clicking here. Thank you to all of our members for your past support!

State Agrees to Fund Study of Costly Pipeline

On Thursday, September 15th, members of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) voted to spend an initial $72,000 to study the feasibility of piping water from the Green River near Flaming Gorge to Colorado's Front Range. While the board did reduce the amount originally proposed for spending, the vote to move forward with the study is a disappointing setback for the Green and Colorado Rivers.

Conservation groups from across the West, including GCI, adamantly opposed the pipeline study, citing drastic financial and environmental costs. Initial projections indicate that the pipeline could cost taxpayers somewhere between $7 and $9 billion, resulting in the most expensive water in Colorado State history. The pipeline would also cause irrevocable damage to the ecosystems of the Green and Colorado Rivers.

"We are encouraged that the state will waste less taxpayer money on this study, but we still think it's a complete waste of time and money even in its watered-down form," said Gary Wockner of Save the Colorado. The pipeline would drain an average of 20 to 25 percent of the Green River's entire flow each year.

We appreciate the support of everyone who signed the petition opposing the Flaming Gorge pipeline study. Over 21,000 signed the petition. We will need even more support in the future as this study gets underway. GCI will keep its members updated on how they can help.

Click here to read more about the decision.

Elwha Dam Removal Has Begun!

The biggest dam removal project in American history commenced last Saturday on the Elwha River in Washington. Both the Glines Canyon Dam in Olympic National Park and the Elwha Dam south of the park will be demolished over the course of three years to restore the Elwha River's unique ecosystem and the severely depleted native salmon population.
Biologists predict that the restoration efforts will boost the number of wild salmon in the Elwha from 3,000 to 300,000 as well as the number of bears, eagles, and other native wildlife.

The removal of these dams will come almost 20 years after the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act was passed by the Congress in 1992. This followed a ten-year campaign by conservationists and Native American tribes. This is a remarkable event that provides compelling proof that our nation is capable of reversing past decisions that result in outdated and ecologically harmful development.

The innovative project that will restore the Elwha River is a model for what could be achieved in restoring Glen Canyon and Grand Canyon. GCI will be closely monitoring this important effort, and will keep our members informed of its progress.

Road Show Stop in Aspen, Colorado

Please join us on Tuesday, September 27th for a special presentation at the Aspen Center For Environmental Studies. The presentation will feature the stunning film, *Resurrection: Glen Canyon and a New Vision for the American West*, along with a reading from author Bruce Berger.

Photographer James Kay and journalist Annette McGivney document the reemergence of Glen Canyon in the ground-breaking film *Resurrection: Glen Canyon and a New Vision for the American West*. By combining historical video clips of Glen Canyon before the dam along with more than 100 images from the book of the same title, this beautiful film showcases the remarkable reemerging canyons of the Glen while providing a hopeful message for the future of the West and its rivers.

Author Bruce Berger will read from his book *There Was a River*, where he recounts the last known trip down Glen Canyon before it was dammed.

The event will be held:
The event will be held:
Tuesday, September 27th, at 6:00 pm
Aspen Center for Environmental Studies
100 Puppy Smith Street
Aspen, CO 81611

**Correction - In the August 15, 2011 edition of the Colorado River Lowdown, the article, "Removal of Elwha River Dams Sets Precedent for River Restoration," erroneously stated that the removal of the dams "marks the first time in American history that a federally built dam will be removed." In fact, both the Elwha and Glines Canyon Dams were built by private power companies. The first federally built dam to be removed will be the Matilija Dam in the Ventura River Basin. It was built by the Corps of Engineers in 1948. Both the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps will be involved in the removal process.

Colorado River Lowdown is a periodic newsletter of Glen Canyon Institute. Co-editors: Eric Balken, Tyler Coles. Executive editor: Michael Kellett