

1 Kane County Commissioners meeting July 18, 2005

2 My name is Mike Mayer and I am the Chief Ranger at Glen Canyon National  
3 Recreation Area in Arizona and Utah.

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5 I thank you for the opportunity to address the Commission today and to offer the  
6 following comments on the proposed Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) ordinance  
7 pending before the commission.

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9 As a member of the Kane County Trails Committee, we appreciate the opportunity  
10 to participate and look forward to the backcountry trails and roads planning  
11 process being undertaken by the county. We thank you for the recent removal of  
12 signs inadvertently placed in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

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14 The designation of OHV routes by county ordinance sends a conflicting message  
15 to the visiting public as Glen Canyon NRA has not determined, through a public  
16 planning processes where or if OHV use is compatible with existing park activities.  
17 We understand that this is an important issue for Kane County in the overall travel  
18 plans for the area. We can assure you that the management of our park road  
19 system is also a high priority for the NPS and it is our intention to manage park  
20 roads consistent with national park policies, park values, resource protection and  
21 visitor safety.

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23 We are required to comply with legal and policy requirements that are placed on  
24 the National Park Service and Glen Canyon NRA as we go forward with any  
25 planning process.

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27 Our public planning process will assure that all user groups are equally heard and  
28 ultimately provide Glen Canyon NRA with direction for management of the  
29 backcountry roads and vehicle use on these roads. We look forward to working  
30 collectively with the counties in this effort to provide the best recreational  
31 opportunities for the public while protecting the natural and cultural resources of  
32 park lands.

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34 We recognize the passage of a Kane County Off Highway Vehicle Ordinance as  
35 currently proposed will create a conflict between county and federal regulations. It  
36 is our hope that Glen Canyon NRA and Kane County can work cooperatively to  
37 resolve this inconsistency in a manner that is beneficial to both the NRA and the  
38 County.

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40 As stated in 36 CFR 4.10, Federal regulation and policy provide for off-road  
41 vehicle (ORV) use in national recreation areas, national seashores, national  
42 lakeshores and national preserves on routes that have been designated by the park  
43 superintendent through promulgation of special regulations. Special regulations  
44 must include appropriate NEPA compliance, be published as a proposed rule in the  
45 Federal Register, and provide an opportunity for public comments on the proposed  
46 rule.

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48 To date, Glen Canyon NRA has not promulgated special regulations designating  
49 specific ORV routes. The absence of the rule making process for Glen Canyon  
50 NRA and the passage of the pending Kane County ordinance is the essence of the  
51 conflict we face.

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53 We are committed to working on the special rule making and regulation process.  
54 Park resource management staff has started the process of using GPS technology to  
55 remap the backcountry roads in the park and transfer the data to new maps that can  
56 be used by all as a base reference. As Glen Canyon NRA covers two states and  
57 has common boundary with five counties and the Navajo Nation, it is best that we  
58 look comprehensively at a total backcountry road plan for the NRA. In turn, we  
59 ask that you work with us to resolve the immediate conflict that our mutual visitors  
60 will now face with two sets of rules for OHV use.

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62 In an effort to eliminate conflicting rules and regulations and confusion to the  
63 visiting public, we request that Kane County exempt Glen Canyon National  
64 Recreation Area from the application of this pending ordinance. In addition, we  
65 ask that Kane County remove from maps and publications any roads closed since  
66 1979 by the parks General Management Plan. We request that reference to OHV  
67 routes on existing park roads be withheld until the park completes a rule making  
68 process that may formally designate routes in the park.

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70 We look forward to working with Kane County in this planning process to provide  
71 the best recreational opportunities for the public while protecting the scenic,  
72 natural and cultural resources of the park.

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74 We would like the opportunity to meet with commission to discuss the specifics of  
75 the ordinance with respect to the National Recreation Area.

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77 Glen Canyon National Recreation Area July 2005