

LEES FERRY ANGLERS PROPOSED STOCKING and ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

5:00 - 5:10	Introductions/ Welcome	Jim deVos
5:10 – 5:25	State of the Lees Ferry Rainbow Trout	Dave Rogowski
5:25 – 5:35	Proposal to stock	Scott Rogers
5:35 – 5:40	Compliance and evaluation of impact	Chris Cantrell
5:40 – 5:50	Commissioner Davis' Perspective	Kurt Davis
5:50 – 6:00	Assistant Director deVos' Perspective	Jim deVos
6:00 – 7:00	Open Forum	

Arizona's Lees Ferry Rainbow Trout fishery has experienced a severe population decline, from an estimated 1.2 million trout to just over 325,000 today. Dam operations and the quality of water released have triggered dissolved oxygen fish kills during low reservoir elevation (e.g., 2004), impaired the aquatic food base, and allowed for the establishment of invasive species. The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) proposes to stock Rainbow Trout into Lees Ferry when necessary to mitigate the reduction in the Rainbow Trout populations. This proposed stocking will augment Rainbow Trout numbers at Lees Ferry during high angler demand to facilitate an increase in angler catch rates, quality of catch and satisfaction with the fishery.

Once compliance is in place, the Department may stock triploid Rainbow Trout monthly as needed into the Lees Ferry walk-in area (Lees Ferry to -2.5 mile) of the Colorado River in order to enhance angler catch rates and angler satisfaction. Rainbow Trout are to be stocked as "catchables" on average 250-300 mm (~10-12 inches) total length (TL). In total, up to 16,000 triploid Rainbow Trout may be stocked annually between April 1st and October 15th. Under the existing proposal from the Department, this will be a one to two year program. During this interim period, the Department will coordinate with stakeholders to develop and implement a long-term management program that will facilitate maintaining Lees Ferry as a world-class Rainbow Trout fishery.

Stocking activities will be evaluated using goals in the Department's Lees Ferry Fisheries Management Plan. Objective guidelines set in the Plan are: catch rates of ≥ 1 Rainbow Trout per hour with a condition factor ≥ 1 during the summer months; catch rates of 10 Rainbow Trout ≥ 14 inches in a 10-hour day, at least one ≥ 20 inches; use rate of $\geq 20,000$ angler days per year as measured by creel surveys.

The Department will monitor the efficacy of this stocking action using long-term monitoring methods (creel and fish population trend surveys). Accordingly, all stocked triploid Rainbow Trout will be marked to enable estimates of survival, return to the creel, and movement within and downriver from Lees Ferry. This monitoring will be done in collaboration and cooperation with other ongoing fisheries studies, including those by the Department as well as the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center. Also, the Department will coordinate with anglers and guides as part of its creel census program to enumerate the numbers of triploid trout caught by anglers.