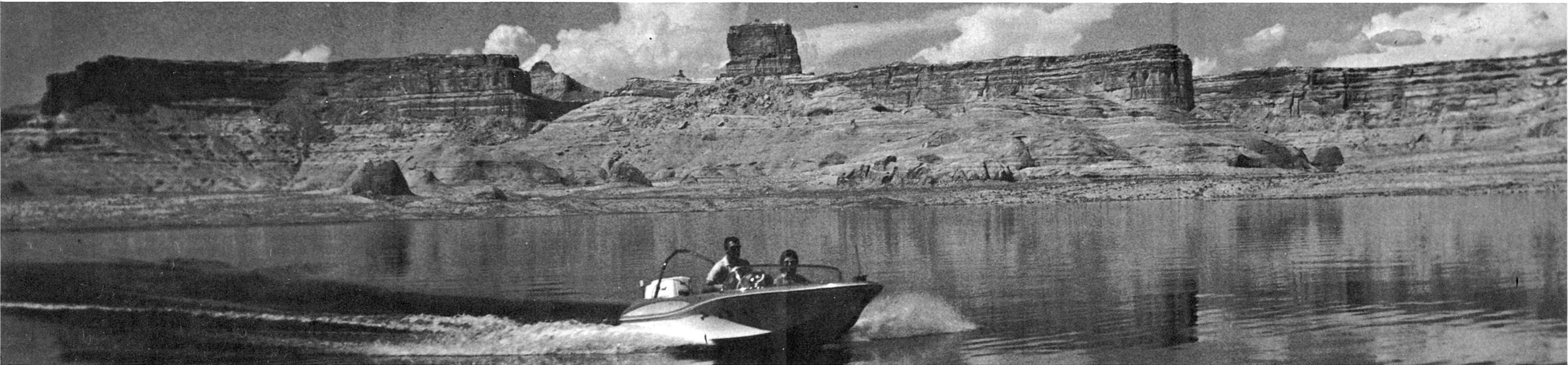


**GLEN CANYON**  
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



**Blue-green water, deep and clear, between steep walls of red sandstone; watery fingers winding through scores of narrow side canyons into high mesas—this is Lake Powell.**

The lake, when full, will be 186 miles long with 1,800 miles of shoreline. It was named for the explorer and geologist John Wesley Powell, who led the first expeditions through the canyons of the Colorado.

From the beginning, the recreation potential of the lake to be formed behind Glen Canyon Dam was considered to have national significance. When the Congress of the United States, in 1956, authorized construction of Glen Canyon Dam and other upper Colorado River projects, it also authorized the Secretary of the Interior to provide for recreational use of the reservoirs thus created.

Glen Canyon Dam was built by the Bureau of Reclamation. A masterpiece of engineering, it towers 580 feet above the bed of the river and has a crest length of 1,550 feet. At the information center at the dam, models and displays tell the exciting story of the dam and powerplant.

The Bureau of Reclamation administers the dam and powerplant. The National Park Service administers Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, supervising activities, plans, and developments within the area. Both are agencies of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Be carefree but not careless. This is a place for recreation, but it is just emerging from its wild state. The National Park Service urges you to play it safe.

### **THE RECREATION AREA TODAY**

Glen Canyon today offers much water-oriented recreation: boating, exploring, fishing, camping, swimming—all within a region of superlative scenery. Development, however, is in an early stage. See map for facilities in operation.

The National Park Service plans within a few years to provide at most of these sites an information and park ranger station, campground, picnic area, boat launching ramps, and paved approach road. Concessioners will supply marina facilities and snack bars at all sites, restaurants and cabins at some locations.

Interpretive programs also are planned. Announcements will be posted as the programs are begun.

#### **Places to Stay**

**Campgrounds.** Wahweap Campground, near the recreation area headquarters about 6 miles by paved road from the dam, contains campsites, drinking water, charcoal grills (firewood not obtainable), tables and benches, and modern restrooms. The campsites are for tents and trailers, although no utility hookups are available for trailers. The concessioner, at his nearby trailer camp, offers such hookups and also a store, coffeeshop, and taxi service.

Lees Ferry Campground, located at Lees Ferry about 55 miles by road downstream from Wahweap (below the dam) and reached by 5 miles of dirt road from U.S. 89A at Marble Canyon, is more primitive.

**Motels and restaurants.** A modern motel with restaurant, operated by the concessioner, is at the intersection of U.S. 89 and the Wahweap road, 4 miles from the dam.

Page and other nearby towns also have motels, restaurants, stores, garages, laundromats, banks, churches, and a hospital.

#### **Places to See**

**By boat.** Rainbow Bridge National Monument contains the largest known natural stone arch, high enough to cover the Capitol Building in Washington. Access to Rainbow Bridge was made easier by the formation of Lake Powell. It is 58 miles by boat from the landing at Wahweap and then about 1.7 miles by boat and trail from the landing in Forbidden Canyon.

Glen Canyon Dam, 5 miles from the landing at Wahweap, presents a striking aspect when seen from the lake it created.

Lake Powell's colorful, fiordlike side canyons are its chief distinction. Prominent among those in which you can cruise are Dungeon Canyon (about 45 miles from Wahweap), Cathedral Canyon (50 miles), Drift-

wood Canyon (51 miles), Twilight Canyon (59 miles), and Hidden Passage (64 miles). Nearer side canyons include Antelope Creek (7 miles), Navajo Creek (13 miles), Warm Creek (17 miles), Gunsight Creek (22 miles), Face Canyon (32 miles), Last Chance Creek (37 miles), and West Canyon (39 miles). These distances are approximate.

Other up-lake places you can visit by boat are the San Juan River junction (66 miles); Hole-In-The-Rock, the famous and seemingly impossible crossing of the Colorado River used by Mormons in 1879-80 (72 miles); the mouth of the Escalante River (76 miles); the Rincon, a 360° loop of the Colorado River that was abandoned when the river changed course, and the Waterpocket Fold, a doubling of the earth's crust well known among geologists (84 miles); and Gregory Arch (about 85 miles).

**By car.** Although roads in this new area have not yet been improved, you can drive to some of the more interesting places. At Lees Ferry (below the dam and 55 miles from Wahweap), you can examine Lee Fort and the old Spencer buildings. This is also the location of one of Father Escalante's camps. Jacob Hamblin, early Mormon leader and emissary to the Indians, had close association with this crossing place of the Colorado.

At Glen Canyon Dam, you can learn the absorbing story of the dam's construction at the Bureau of Reclamation information center.

#### Boating

Of all water sports, boating is supreme on Lake Powell. Powerboats, canoes and kayaks, and sailboats—all have their place here.

**Caution:** The water of Lake Powell is deep, right to the shoreline in most places, and—especially in side canyons—the smooth vertical cliff walls offer a swimmer no handholds. All safety precautions and regulations must be observed.

There are launching ramps at Wahweap, Halls Crossing, and Lees Ferry. Gas stations for powerboats are only at Wahweap and Halls Crossing.

The concessioner at Wahweap—Canyon Tours, Inc.—offers complete boating service: boat rentals, conducted tours, maintenance, and supplies. For further information and reservations, write to Canyon Tours, Inc., Box 1356, Page, Ariz. 86040.

#### Fishing

Rainbow trout, kokanee salmon, and largemouth bass have been planted in Lake Powell. Native catfish, too, are plentiful. Lees Ferry, well downstream from the dam, has been a fruitful ground for rainbow trout and catfish. You can examine fishing regulations at a park ranger station.

#### Swimming

**Caution:** Swimming in Lake Powell is not for the beginner. Only at Wahweap is there a supervised beach. In most places, very deep water extends from shore to shore, with no places for the tired swimmer to rest. Only the strongest and most experienced swimmers should swim here, and these will know that they must observe the basic commonsense rules of safety: Never swim alone. Never swim from an unanchored boat. Taking these warnings into account, you will find some delightful swimming coves, such as those in Last Chance Canyon. Use them but BE CAREFUL.



Gunsight Butte, Crossing of the Fathers, and Navajo Mountain.

### INDIANS AND EXPLORERS

Little known by the white man until relatively recent times, the rough canyon country of the Colorado Plateau was home to Indians for more than a thousand years. Basketmaker cultures in the early centuries of the Christian era were followed, beginning about A.D. 700, by Pueblo culture, which was distinguished in its later stages by cliff dwellings and other masonry structures. About 1200, for unknown reasons, these agricultural people left the Glen Canyon region.

The many small ruins found in this area represent small, usually temporary, outposts of Pueblo settlement. A large variety of stone and bone tools, basketry, pottery, and other artifacts have been found in authorized archeological surveys.

The first recorded description of the Glen Canyon area is found in the journal of Father Escalante, a Spanish Franciscan missionary. In July of 1776, Father Escalante and Father Dominguez and their party set out from Sante Fe, N. Mex., to pioneer a route to California. They were caught by snows in Utah, however, and decided to turn back, following a new route.

On October 26, the party reached the Colorado River at Lees Ferry. After a 2-week search, scouts found a possible ford.

On November 7, after cutting a few steps in the rock, the party led their animals down the side of the canyon to Padre Creek. They followed it to the Colorado and crossed successfully without having to swim their horses. The party arrived back in Sante Fe on January 2, 1777.



Canyon of the San Juan River from Muley Point, Navajo Mountain in the distance.



Goose-necks of the San Juan River from Muley Point.

Nearly a hundred years later, in 1869 and again in 1871, Civil War veteran Maj. John Wesley Powell led an exploring party down the dangerous Green and Colorado Rivers. Names he gave many features, including Glen Canyon, appear on maps today.

#### The Indians Today

The Navajo Reservation forms the southern boundary of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Within the reservation, the friendly Navajo people have, through their Tribal Parks, opened to all visitors their places of special scenic and recreational importance.

Although famous for weaving rugs and blankets and making silver and turquoise jewelry, Navajos derive most of their income from raising sheep and goats. Where suitable land is available, they also grow corn. Driving across the reservation, you will see their round houses called hogans.

You can obtain detailed information about the Navajo people and their Tribal Parks at Window Rock, Ariz.

### NATURAL HISTORY

#### The Rocks

The rock of the seemingly bare mountains and vertical cliffs is sedimentary; that is, its particles were laid down as sediments by water and air, and then, compacted by overlying sediments, became tightly cemented together.

Over great stretches of time, the sea repeatedly invaded and retreated from this region. When the area was above the sea, wind-worked sediments were deposited. When the sea covered the area, other types of sediments were laid down. You can see examples of wind-deposited sediments in the brick-red Navajo sandstone in the cliffs at Glen Canyon Dam, where the texture and slopes of one-time sand dunes are revealed. You can see examples of sea-deposited sedimentary rocks at Wahweap, where the red Carmel formation overlays the Navajo sandstone.

Other formations contain fossils of marine animals that lived here millions of years ago.

Navajo Mountain, the Henry Mountains, and others in this vicinity have cores of igneous (once molten) rock.

The last uplift of this region began about 60 million years ago. As the uplift progressed, meandering streams of the ancient low-lying Colorado basin ran faster, cutting a labyrinth of canyons. These are the canyons you can explore today on the waters of Lake Powell.

#### Plants

Although inconspicuous, many interesting plants grow in Glen Canyon's seemingly bare landscape.

Some of the streaks on canyon walls are lichens—associations between algae and fungi dependent upon each other for existence. Throughout the area grow several species of cactus and the bayonet-tipped yuccas. In spring, wildflowers spread their brilliance upon mesas, over dunes, and along streambeds; another blossoming season may occur after the summer rains.

Trees to watch for are cottonwoods, willows, and tamarisks near streams, and Utah junipers and pinyon pines at higher elevations.

#### Animals

Most desert animals do their hunting and feeding at night. Instead of watching for the nocturnal animals, then, you should look for their sign. On dunes and lakeshore, you will see the tiny footprints of rodents, occasionally the larger tracks of fox, and more rarely the doglike tracks of coyote and the rounded pad marks of bobcat. At upper reaches of the lake, you may see the sharp-pointed tracks of mule deer at drinking places. Where rodents are, predatory badgers usually are not far away. Their king-size burrows are unmistakable.

For countless centuries, beaver have lived along the Colorado River. It is hoped that these interesting rodents will be able to adapt to the fluctuations of a reservoir.

Reptiles of the desert, such as collared lizard, chuckwalla, and horned lizard ("horned toad"), are here, too.

Few species of birds are expected to leave the area with the filling of Lake Powell, and different kinds may be attracted to the lake. Birds of prey you are likely to see include sparrow hawk, marsh hawk, great horned owl, and golden eagle. In migration, dozens of waterfowl species will continue to use the river as a flyway. And canyon wrens will still sing from the shadowy depths of side canyons.

### REGULATIONS AND SAFETY MEASURES

**Camping.** Overnight camping, other than in designated campgrounds, is specifically prohibited in picnic areas, on designated swimming beaches, or adjacent to developed areas.

Camping from vessels is limited to 7 days at any one location. The campsite must be restored to its natural state when the camp is abandoned. All refuse must be returned to a boat landing and put in refuse containers.

**Fishing** is permitted within the area in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws. Fishing is prohibited in designated harbor or mooring areas and from, or within 200 feet of, any public raft or float designated for water sports.

**Swimming** from unanchored boats is prohibited. Children under 12 when in the water or in a boat and water-skiers when in "tow" must wear approved life preservers.

**Firearms.** Carrying loaded firearms or explosives in developed or concentrated public-use areas is prohibited.

**Pets** must be under physical control when in developed or concentrated public-use areas. Pets are not permitted in public eating places.

**Boating.** Before getting underway, be sure you know your boat and its operation. Make certain you understand and comply with State and National Park Service boating regulations.

These items should be included on your pre-sailing checklist:

1. Check the weather; when the water is rough, stay ashore. If you are on the lake when the water becomes rough, seek a sheltered cove and wait for calm water.
2. Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
3. Make sure fuel vapors are dispersed before starting your engine.
4. Be sure you have enough fuel for your round trip.
5. Make sure an easily available life preserver is carried for each person in the boat.
6. Know your distress signals; carry simple signaling equipment.
7. Remember: The loading of a boat has an important effect on the boat's stability. Keep the load low.
8. Do not stand up in a small boat.
9. Do not overload or overpower the boat.
10. Riding on the bow of the boat is prohibited.

In addition, you should be familiar with "Rules of the Road" for boatmen and the local use of navigational aids, such as buoys, lights, and charts.

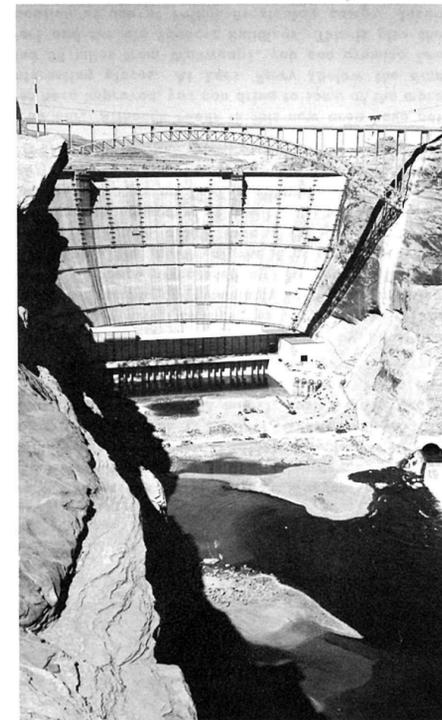
Two other ingredients are essential for good boaters: *consideration for others* and *commonsense*. Do not attempt to cruise Lake Powell without a good supply of both.



Entrance to a side canyon.



A Lake Powell largemouth bass challenges the skill of a fisherman.



Glen Canyon Dam and Bridge.



Twilight Canyon.

### ABOUT YOUR VISIT

#### When to Visit the Area

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is open all year. Boating services, lodging, and meals are available throughout the year. Roads are always open, and it is expected that the main waterways of the lake will be open all winter. Temperatures at Wahweap occasionally reach as low as zero in winter and as high as 106° in summer. Campers should be prepared for seasonal conditions.

#### How to Reach the Area

U.S. 89, kept open all year, intersects east-west routes both north and south of Glen Canyon. Airlines, buslines, and railroads serve Flagstaff and Salt Lake City. There is bus service from Flagstaff and Salt Lake City to Page, and there are scheduled flights from Phoenix and Salt Lake City to Page. Taxi service is available at Page for transportation to Wahweap, the first lakeside development.

### ADMINISTRATION

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, established in accordance with the agreement of April 18, 1958, between the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

A superintendent, whose address is Box 1507, Page, Ariz. 86040, is in immediate charge of the area.

### AMERICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America's Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.

## FACILITIES IN USE NOW

**Wahweap Basin.** Headquarters, campground, picnic shelters, boat-launching ramps, information station, and swimming beach. Concessioner-operated boat rental, boat excursions, boating supplies and repairs, moorage, restaurant, motel, modern trailer park.

**Lees Ferry.** Ranger station, boat-launching ramp, and campground. Concession facilities being developed. Consult supplementary information sheet.

**Halls Crossing.** Boat-launching ramp, primitive camping and picnicking area. Concessioner-operated boat rental, boat excursions, boating and camping supplies.

**Hite.** Launching ramp, concessioner-operated boat-fuel service, boat rental, boat excursions, groceries, and lodging.

**Rainbow Bridge Landing** (seasonal operation). Ranger station, restrooms, emergency communications, concessioner-operated boat-fuel service, and snackbar.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

**Warm Creek Basin.** Development planned.

**Hole-In-The-Rock.** Development planned.

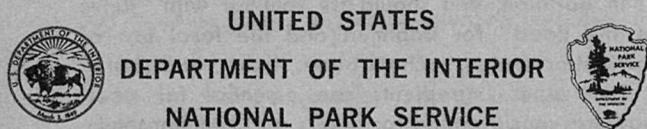
**Oil Seep Bar.** Development planned.

**Castle Butte.** Development planned.

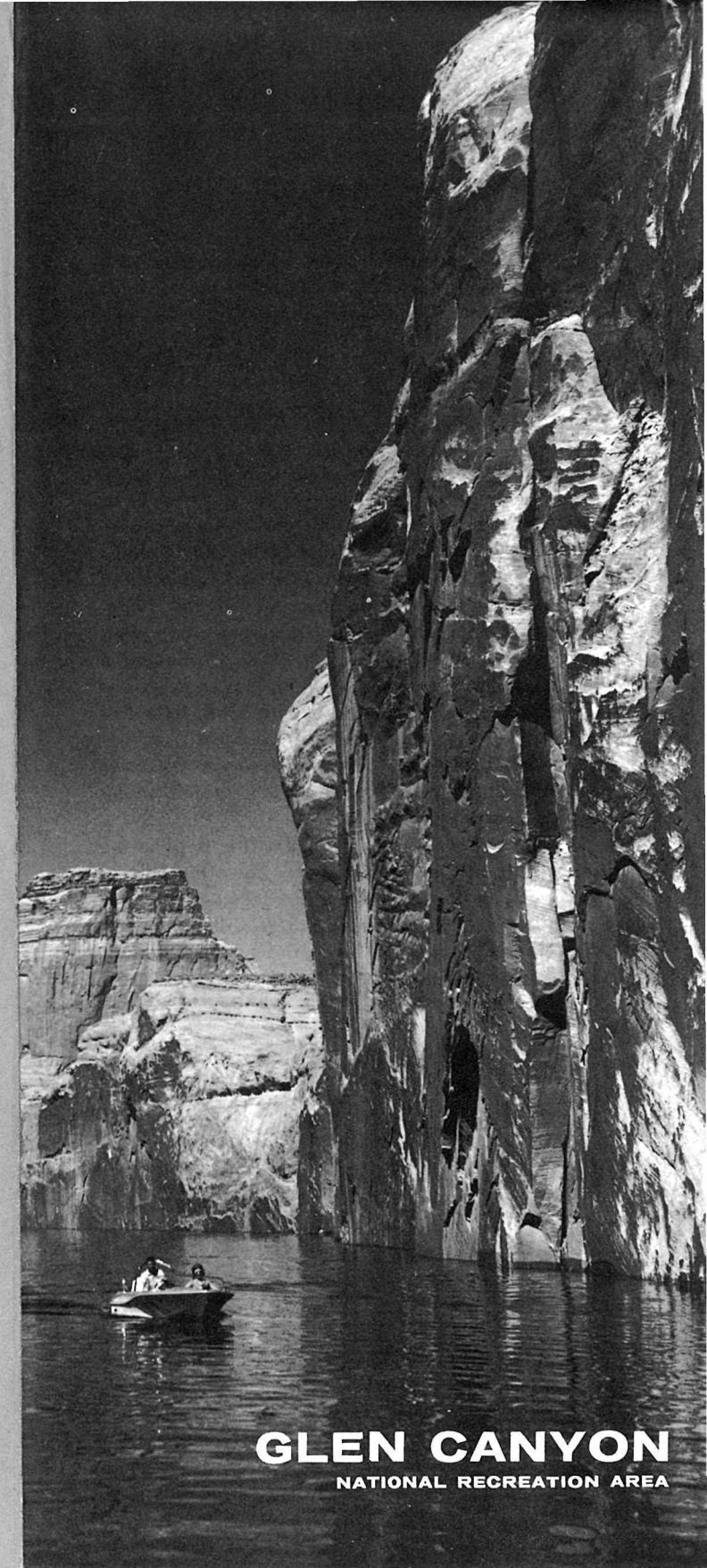
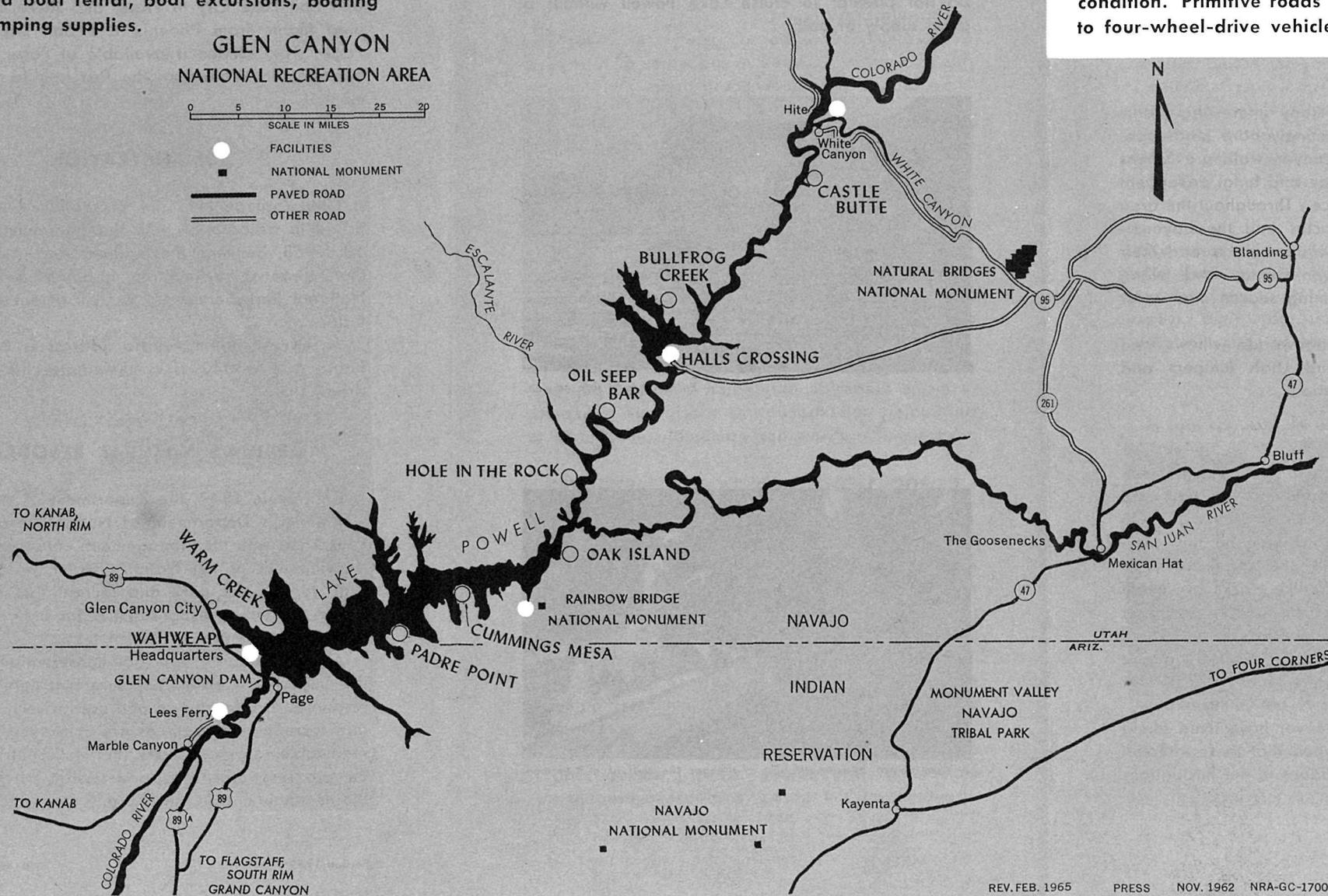
**Bullfrog Basin.** Under development.

**Padre Point, Oak Island, and Cummings Mesa.** Developments planned by the Navajo Tribe.

**Roads.** Before driving on the improved dirt or primitive roads, inquire locally as to their condition. Primitive roads are generally limited to four-wheel-drive vehicles.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



**GLEN CANYON**  
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA