

SBSC Weekly Highlights, August 17-24, 2007

Grand Canyon Experimental Flood Trigger Met: GCMRC scientists have confirmed that sediment inputs from the Paria River exceed the amount needed to trigger an experimental Beach/Habitat Building Flow (BHBF). Since October 2006, significant flooding events on the Paria River have introduced approximately 2.1 million metric tons of new sand to Grand Canyon. The Paria River remains as the major sediment contributor to Grand Canyon since the construction of Glen Canyon Dam, which traps sediment from upstream. Declining sediment in Grand Canyon is related to beach erosion and habitat loss, BHBF experiments are investigating the possibility of altering dam operations to build and maintain beaches in Grand Canyon. During 2004's BHBF, .8 million metric tons of new sand were present in Grand Canyon above the Little Colorado; currently there are 1.8 million metric tons of new sediment, more than double the amount of sediment present during 2004's BHBF experiment. Contact Ted Melis, GCMRC, tmelis@usgs.gov, 928-556-7282