

**River Ecology.** Five weeks after the flood, the concern for the native fish populations had eased. Some of the larger fish may have been washed downstream, but the small fish found safe harbor in the natural eddies of the river. They stayed in these eddies after the water level went down. The floodwater had created more backwater areas for these fish to spawn and grow in healthy numbers.

The endangered snails survived in backwaters and eddies. The marshes were able to withstand the floodwaters and later provided shelter and food for the aquatic animals living in the river.

It was not known immediately whether the trout had survived the flood. It is likely that they did, finding refuge in the eddies and backwaters where the current was reduced.

**Conclusion.** Scientists were able to collect and analyze a great amount of data before, during, and after the flood. They have made some conclusions about the effects of the flood and continue to study the results to help them come up with ideas about how to manage the Glen Canyon Dam and Colorado River in the Grand Canyon.

This article was adapted from material from the U.S. Geological Survey. Photographs are from USGS and the Sandbar Studies Lab, Department of Geology, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ.



1. Imagine that you are one of the scientists on the planning team for the 7-day Grand Canyon flood. Write an investigation report using the information in this article. Be sure to include
  - A focus for your investigation. Choose one of the topics (e.g. water flow). Describe the setup, location (find it on your *Grand Canyon Map*, page 3), and measurements.
  - What you knew about the river system before the flood.
  - What you hoped to find out during and after the flood.
  - Recommendations you would make for further study.
2. How are the Grand Canyon flood investigations similar to the stream-table investigations shown on the *FOSS Earth History* CD-ROM? How are they different?
3. Observe the photographs from National Canyon. Describe the changes you see during and after the flood.