

Supporting Statement B
Colorado River Total Value Survey
OMB Control Number 1024-NEW

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g., establishments, State and local government units, households, or persons) in the universe covered by the collection and in the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form for the universe as a whole and for each of the strata in the proposed sample. Indicate expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection had been conducted previously, include the actual response rate achieved during the last collection.

Phase 1

Pilot Survey: We will mail 200 surveys to the two sample populations considered for study (Glen Canyon Dam Region and the rest of the US). The information from this effort will be used to conduct preliminary analysis on the data to determine if the attribute levels within the conjoint questions need to be adjusted up or down to create greater differences between the plans in the final survey. We expect that 35% (n=70) of those who receive the survey will return the completed survey.

	Number of Sampled Households	Estimated Response Rate	Estimated Respondents
Preliminary Survey	200	35%	70

Table 1

Phase 2

Final Survey: We will purchase a randomly generated list of names, addresses and telephone numbers from Survey Sampling International (SSI). The respondent universe for this collection will be adults (18 years of age or older) living in households within in the Glen Canyon Dam region and the rest of the United States (see Table 2 below). We mail surveys to a total of 4,626 residential mailing addresses with the expected response rate of 30% (n=1,041) response rate for the national survey and a 40% (462) for the regional survey.

Table 2: Sample Size and Response Rates

Sample Frames	Total Number of Households	Number of Sampled Households	Estimated Response Rate	Estimated Number of Responses
Glen Canyon Dam Regional Sample UTAH: Washington, Kane and San Juan Counties NEVADA: Clark County ARIZONA: Mojave, Coconino Navaho and Apache Counties	939,900*	1,156	40%	462
National Household Sample	115,226,000*	3,470	30%	1,041
Total		0		0

* U.S. Census Quickfacts (2014)

Phase 3

Non-response survey: From the list of all non-respondents we will randomly select and call 200 households with related telephone numbers. If we do not reach our goal of 70 responses we will return to the list of remaining non-respondents and randomly select *n* additional households. This selection process will continue until we reach 70 responses.

Table 3 Non- response Survey

	Total Number of Phone Numbers	Random selected telephone numbers	Estimated number of responses
Non-response Survey	3,123	200	70

2. Describe the procedures for the collection of information including:

- Statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection,
- Estimation procedure,
- Degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification,
- Unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures, and
- Any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

Using the mailing addresses purchased from SSI, we will use Dillman’s (2007) repeat-contact mail protocol to initiate the mail-out process. A cover letter will be used to explain the purpose of the survey and request that the adult in the household with the most recent birthday complete the questionnaire,

however, if that individual is not available any adult living in the household will then be eligible to respond to the questionnaire.

Estimation Procedure: Once the collection is completed, the data will be cleaned, coded, and edited. All data will be analyzed using SAS statistical software. The software will also be used to perform statistical tests on responses to key survey measures among the two primary subpopulations (national and regional).

We will generate statistics to summarize and compare responses, response rates, and individual characteristics across groups defined in the sampling plan. A post-stratification adjustment will also be generated to correct any detected non-response bias.

Estimating Household's Total Willingness-to-Pay (WTP)

To analyze the data from the conjoint/discrete choice experiment questions, we will apply a random utility modeling (RUM) framework, which assumes that survey respondents implicitly assign utility to each choice option presented to them. This utility can be expressed as

$$U_{ij} = V(X_{ij}, Z_i; \beta^i) + e_{ij} ,$$

- U_{ij} is individual i 's utility for a choice option (i.e., restoration option) j
- $V(\cdot)$ is the nonstochastic part of utility, a function of X_{ij} ,
- X_{ij} represents a vector of attribute levels for the option j (including its cost) presented to the respondent
- Z_i , a vector of personal characteristics
- β^i , a vector of attribute-specific preference parameters
- e_{ij} is a stochastic term, which captures elements of the choice option that affect individuals' utility but are not observable to the analyst. On each choice occasion, respondents are assumed to select the option that provides the highest level of utility. By presenting respondents with a series of choice tasks and options with different values of X_{ij} , the resulting choices reveal information about the preference parameter vector.

Conditional Logit Estimation

To estimate the parameters of the conjoint model, we will use a standard conditional logit (CL) model (McFadden 1986), which assumes the disturbance term follows a Type I extreme-value error structure and uses maximum-likelihood methods to estimate the attribute parameters. The conditional logit is a computationally straightforward estimation approach that can provide useful insights into the general pattern of respondents' preferences, trade-offs, and values.

The parameter estimates from the CL model will then be used to estimate the average marginal value of each non-cost attribute. They will also be used to estimate the average WTP for acquiring the combination of attributes associated with one management scenario (X_1) compared to the attributes of another scenario (e.g., the no action alternative) (X_0):

$$WTP_k = (\hat{\beta}_1 / \hat{\beta}_2)(X_1 - X_0)$$

The standard errors and confidence intervals for these value estimates will be estimated using the delta method (Greene 2003) or the Krinsky and Robb (1986) simulation method.

Degree of accuracy for the purpose described in the justification

Based on the results of similar surveys using similar methods of administration we expect a response rate of 30% to 40% resulting in more than 1,500 completed surveys for the two populations combined. The expected standard errors associated with the proportions calculated from responses to survey questions would be +/- 0.05 at a 95% confidence interval (based on an estimated proportion of 0.5).

Accuracy of the WTP values to be estimated from the Conjoint models cannot be specified *a priori* through the use of an analytical formula. Work by Orme (2006) indicates that based on standard rules of thumb, the sample sizes planned for the conjoint model estimations are more than adequate to estimate direct effect values for all included attributes. Results from the Klamath Passive Use study (Mansfield et al. 2012), which employed a very similar conjoint question, estimated mean household WTP for their National Sample with a 95% confidence interval that was +/- 25% of the mean WTP value. We would expect our full sample results to return estimates of WTP with similar precision.

3. Describe methods to maximize response rates and to deal with issues of non-response. The accuracy and reliability of information collected must be shown to be adequate for intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided for any collection that will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

Non-response bias is the expected difference between an estimate from the sample members who respond to the survey and an estimate from the target population, that is:

$$\bar{Y} = p_r \bar{Y}_r + p_n \bar{Y}_n, \quad (1)$$

Equation 1 shows that an overall population estimate, \bar{Y} , depends on the proportion of respondents and non-respondents (denoted as p_r and p_n respectively, where $p_r + p_n = 1$) and the mean response from both respondents and non-respondents (denoted as \bar{Y}_r and \bar{Y}_n respectively). Bias in an estimate due to non-response is given by the following equation:

$$Bias(\bar{Y}_r) = \bar{Y}_r - \bar{Y}, \quad (2)$$

The extent to which non-response bias occurs ultimately depends on (1) the extent of missing data and (2) the difference in an estimate between respondents and non-respondents. The bias can be expressed in the following equation:

$$Bias(\bar{Y}_r) = p_n (\bar{Y}_r - \bar{Y}_n). \quad (3)$$

It reveals that the non-response bias depends on two components, non-response rate (p_n) and the difference between mean responses for respondents and non-respondents ($\bar{Y}_r - \bar{Y}_n$). If both components are small, then the bias should be negligible. For bias to be significant, a large non-response rate (p_n) should exist, and/or with a large difference between the mean responses.

The likelihood (propensity, probability) of responding to the survey may be related to sampling unit characteristics, such as age. For example, that young people are less likely to respond than old people. It is evident when noting that both components of non-response bias (namely p_n and $\bar{Y}_r - \bar{Y}_n$) would

be magnified because young people may be less likely to respond and if they do respond, they may respond differently from old people. The non-response bias then can be expressed in another way as a function of how correlated response propensity is to a survey outcome variable:

$$Bias(\bar{Y}_r) \approx \frac{\delta_{Yp}}{\bar{p}} \quad (4)$$

where p is the response propensity, and \bar{p} is the mean propensity in the target population over sample realizations, given the sample design, and recruitment realizations. The stronger the relationship (δ_{Yp}) between the survey outcome variable and response behavior is, the larger the bias would be. Equation 4 also reveals that within the same survey, different survey outcomes can be subject to different non-response biases. Some, unrelated to the propensity to respond, can be immune from biasing effects of non-response, while others can be exposed to large biases.

Both equations 3 and 4 also imply that higher response rates do not necessarily mean low non-response bias for any survey or any given estimates. For example, if response rates are increased using devices that are not disproportionately attractive to the low propensity groups, the non-response biases may increase despite high response rates. It should be noted that two different viewpoints of non-response bias in Equations 3 and 4 implicitly assume all other sources of bias are absent, especially measurement error.

The study design aims to address the major sources of survey error that pose a substantial threat to the accuracy of survey estimates. Our approach to non-response bias includes three goals: increasing response rates, identifying non-response bias, and correcting for non-response bias post-data collection. We discuss each element in more detail below.

Increasing Response Rates

Coverage error: We address potential *coverage error* by using addressed-based sampling and selecting the survey samples from the USPS's Delivery Sequence File (DSF). The DSF contains all postal mailing addresses in the United States. Using mail as the primary contact method avoids under-coverage problems found with other methods by including residential addresses, but also other types, such as post office boxes and general delivery. Unlike other sampling frames, this also provides the ability to accurately stratify the sample geographically.

Encourage response to mail survey: We acknowledge that response rates in household surveys have been declining (Groves and Couper 1998; Stussman, Dahlhamer, and Simile 2005), and with this trend, non-response poses a substantial threat to survey inference. We will use Dillman TDM (2007) to optimize our survey response rate.

Identifying Possible Non-response Bias

Our sample design and data collection methods allow for a thorough non-response bias analysis after data collection is completed to assess whether non-response bias exists. This will be done in two ways:

- The respondents from the later mailings will be viewed as less cooperative than the respondents from the first mailing. In our experience, we have found that respondents to later mailings tend to have low response propensity, and tend to have characteristics similar to non-respondents. By comparing the WTP estimates between the first and second mailings, we will be able to measure the correlation between the response propensity and responses to survey outcome variables indirectly (δ_{yp} in Equation 4).
- After the third mailing, we will contact a random sample of 200 non-respondents by phone for a short non-response survey. The phone survey will only provide information about non-respondents with phone numbers. Information about non-respondents without phone numbers will come primarily from comparing non-respondents who are converted by the third mailing or are part of the non-response sample.

Using the address of the respondent, we can learn something about the non-respondents using other data available at the county, city, or state level. Again, we have to assume that the non-respondents' characteristics, attitudes, and habits are similar to those of people who live near them. Using data from the American Community Survey and the 2000 Census (although the Census data may be out of date), we can compare data on age, race, ethnicity, employment, education, and income.

Adjusting for Non-response Bias:

In the analysis, we will examine the impact of the variables collected in the survey on WTP estimates. We will assess to the extent possible whether factors that are significantly related to WTP also appear to be related to response rates.

To address the potential for non-response bias in our estimation sample, we will conduct additional tests and analyses to test for statistically significant differences between our samples' socio demographic characteristics (e.g., age, income, gender, race, education) and those from the general population from which they are drawn. A close correspondence in these characteristics will not necessarily ensure an unbiased sample for WTP estimation (nor would a lack of correspondence necessarily imply bias); however, it can at least be interpreted as lowering the potential for significant bias.

We will also compare the characteristics of respondents who returned their surveys at different times during the data collection period. We will compare individuals who returned their surveys after the first mailing, after the second mailing, and after the reminder phone call. Although all of these people will be considered as respondents, those who respond later may share characteristics with non-responders.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Testing is encouraged as an effective means of refining collections of information to minimize burden and improve utility. Tests must be approved if they call for answers to identical questions from 10 or more respondents. A proposed test or set of tests may be submitted for approval separately or in combination with the main collection of information.

The survey components and sampling design for this collection are largely based upon the methods used by Welsh *et al.* (1995) in the *Glen Canyon Dam, Colorado River Storage Project, Arizona—Nonuse Value Study* (OMB Control Number 1006-0016) and the implemented Klamath Nonuse Valuation Survey (OMB Control Number 1090-0010).

In order to further refine the draft survey instruments and procedures, we solicited feedback from three professionals with expertise in economic valuation, natural resource management and planning as well as survey design and methodology. These peer reviewers (Drs. John Loomis, Michael Welsh, and Lynne Koontz) were asked to provide comments concerning the structure of the survey and to provide feedback about the validity of each question and the clarity of instructions. Methodological and editorial suggestions by the reviewers were incorporated into the final versions of the surveys.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

Person consulted on the statistical aspects of survey and sampling design

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