

Protect the Flows Project, Molly Mugglestone

Molly Mugglestone from Protect the Flows will discuss the role and voice of tourism and recreation based businesses in the 7 Colorado River Basin states. Protect the Flows is a coalition of over 500 businesses who depend on the river for their livelihoods. They advocate for healthy flows for the economic benefit healthy rivers bring to communities. Bringing this business perspective to discussions of water management, the USBR Basin Study and overall Colorado River discussions is a goal of the group. This perspective has not had a clear voice in the past and Protect the Flows aims to bring the unique perspective of the businesses who depend on the river to the table. We have met with Department of the Interior and USBR representatives in Washington, DC twice as well as congressional offices from all 7 states to bring this perspective to decision makers. The group recently commissioned a study from Southwick Associates that quantifies this economic impact of the Colorado River. This study and the anecdotal stories from Protect the Flows businesses will be the focus of this presentation.