



Fact Sheet

Grand Canyon Escalade Project

February 2013



FACTS

- ◆ The Grand Canyon Escalade is a proposed 420-acre tourism attraction on the Navajo Nation Reservation at the confluence of the Colorado River and the Little Colorado River.
- ◆ The proposed project includes a gondola tramway from the rim of the Grand Canyon to an elevated river walk on the canyon floor. It also includes a walkway and food pavilion at the bottom of the canyon, and hotels, restaurants (including fast food) and an R.V. park on the canyon rim.
- ◆ One of the major sacred places of Hopi Tribal origins and religious beliefs is the Grand Canyon, known to the Hopi as *Öngtuvqa*, including the area of the confluence. It is believed to be a place where many Hopi ancestors lived and their spirits still dwell there including many cultural resources that support its revered status for Hopi people.
- ◆ The entire region of the Grand Canyon and Colorado Rivers is of paramount importance to the Hopi religious traditions.

MYTHS vs. FACTS

Myth: The Grand Canyon Escalade will not be close to the area considered sacred to the Hopi Tribe.

Fact: *The Grand Canyon itself is considered sacred as this is one of the places where the Hopi Tribe originated from.*

Myth: The Grand Canyon Escalade will not be close to the actual confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers.

Fact: *Although reports from the Confluence Partners, LLC vary- the river walk may only be anywhere from 1-3 football fields away (300-900 feet).*

Myth: The Grand Canyon Escalade will only affect the Navajo heritage and the Navajo community entirely supports the project.

Fact: *The Grand Canyon is part of several tribes' histories and many of the Navajo people who live in the area oppose the project as well.*

Myth: The Grand Canyon Escalade will not go any place that hikers and river tours don't already go.

Fact: *Sacred areas near the Grand Canyon Escalade that are only allowed to be accessed by native people will be exposed. Unlike guided river tours, tourists visiting the Grand Canyon Escalade may not be supervised on where they can and cannot go.*

HOPI TRIBE STANCE

- ◆ The Grand Canyon Escalade project will irreversibly compromise the tranquility and sacredness of all the surrounding development area.
- ◆ Hopi religious leaders and the Hopi people in general strongly oppose this proposed development.
- ◆ The Hopi Tribal Council passed Tribal Council Resolution # H-113-2012 by unanimous vote to formally oppose the proposed Grand Canyon Escalade project by Confluence Partners, LLC.
- ◆ The Hopi Tribe and many other Southwestern Tribes hold the Grand Canyon as a sacred place of reverence, respect and conservation stewardship.
- ◆ The Hopi Tribe invites your support in opposition to the Grand Canyon Escalade project.