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COVER  
Within the Grand Canyon, 161 rapids account for most of the drop in elevation of the Colorado River. The rapids occur in bedrock fracture zones where steep side-canyon tributaries deliver large debris to the parent stream. Before the existence of Glen Canyon Dam (1963), the mean annual flood height was 3.5 times the present 800 cubic meters per second, so the large alluvial fan debris was periodically moved down the river. Since this process is no longer occurring, the alluvial fans are growing and the rapids are becoming larger. See page 629. [Robert Dolan and Alan Howard, University of Virginia, Charlottesville; David Trimble, North American Exploration, Charlottesville, Va.]