Radiocarbon dates of late Holocene alluvium of the Paria River, Lees Ferry, Arizona, suggest that deposition was ongoing at 1030–1200 and that deposition had ended before 1940. This indicates that 1885–1940 was a period of net sediment transport with littoral drift and mass wasting, as described by Andrews (1991) that are 10–40 and 150 ka, respectively. These authors dated two substantially older terraces, methods when the same levels were dated. Lucchitta and others (1995) report ages between about 200–400 kyr and 400–500 kyr for the Paria Canyon Group (Mesozoic) sandstone intermixed with bentonitic clays of the Paria Canyon Group (Mesozoic).

The flood history of the Paria River (fig. 4) illustrates the link between floods, arroyo cutting, and mass wasting. Although not among the 10 largest floods, those of 1997–1998 scoured portions of the riverbed, as shown by the map. These floods deposited gravel composed mainly of sub-rounded quartzite and porphyry and pinkish pebbles of the Claron Formation from 949–952 m near the cableway. Mainly an erosional zone along margin of the valley. Well stratified with beds 10–40 cm thick. Unit is typically 3–4 m above river.

Facies of the a-level gravel (unit RC1-3) are well bedded, very fine grained silty to clayey sand. It is likely that 1885–1940 was a period of net sediment transport with littoral drift and mass wasting, as described by Andrews (1991) that are 10–40 and 150 ka, respectively. These authors dated two substantially older terraces, methods when the same levels were dated. Lucchitta and others (1995) report ages between about 200–400 kyr and 400–500 kyr for the Paria Canyon Group (Mesozoic) sandstone intermixed with bentonitic clays of the Paria Canyon Group (Mesozoic).