



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Dated: August 31, 2010

DRAFT

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

September 22, 2010

[Country Inn and Suites](#), 4343 N Airport Way, Denver, Colorado, 303/375-1105

CONVENE: 10:30 a.m.

1. Introductions, modify/review agenda (Steve Guertin, 10 min.) (10:30 – 10:40)
2. Approve [March 3, 2010 conference call summary](#) (All, 5 min.) (10:40 – 10:45)

Action Item: Minor revisions were received from Tom Pitts and Jana Mohrman and a draft revised summary sent out with this agenda. The Implementation Committee will make any additional revisions and approve the summary in final.

3. Program Director's report on the Recovery Program, status of the fish and coordination with [San Juan Program](#) (Tom Chart, 30 min) (10:45 – 11:15) (PowerPoint) – *Tom Chart will give an overview of Program accomplishments, issues, and future direction by recovery element (deferring nonnative fish management to the next agenda item).*
4. Nonnative fish management (Tom Chart and Pat Martinez, 30 min) (11:15 – 11:45)

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. LUNCH

5. Strategic planning (Tom Pitts, John Shields, and Mike Roberts, (1hr 15 min) (12:45 – 2:00)
 - Recovery goals
 - o Anticipated downlisting timelines
 - o Need for recovery goals revision to be completed promptly
 - o Ramifications to Program of revising recovery plans
 - Annual and capital funding
 - o Annual Funding – *If the Senate version of the Program's annual funding bill (S.1453) is not passed, then ~\$2M (adjusted annually for inflation) will need to be in Reclamation's budget each year beginning in FY 2012, (otherwise we would have to significantly cut ongoing recovery actions and Program management; with consequences and progress towards recovery and thus ESA compliance). A projection of the 2012 Program budget without continued use of full power revenues and a discussion of the potential*

implications for ESA compliance will be sent out in advance of the meeting

- Enhancing communications with Congress/Administration
 - o Meeting specific Member and Committee data needs & supplemental information requests
 - o Tools, techniques & timelines

6. Updates

- Green River flow protection (Jana Mohrman, 10 min) (2:00 – 2:10)
- Aspinall [EIS](#) and Study Plan (Brent Uilenberg & Tom Chart, 15 min) (2:10 – 2:25)
- Capital projects (Brent Uilenberg, 15 min) (2:25 – 2:40)
- Status of 2009 – 2010 sufficient progress items (Angela Kantola, 10 min) (2:40 – 2:50). *Please see the status update on action items, attached.*
- FY 2011 Work Plan update – (Angela Kantola, 10 min) (2:50 – 3:00)
- Legislation (annual funding, Ruedi) (Tom Pitts, 10 min) (3:00 – 3:10)
- Washington, D.C. briefing trip (March 2011) (John Shields, 5 min) (3:10 – 3:15)
- [Southern Rockies LCC \(Landscape Conservation Cooperatives\)](#) (Tom Chart and Steve Guertin, 5 min) (3:15 – 3:20) – *Program Director's office recommends Tom Chart as point of contact/liaison to the LCC.*

7. Wrap-up and schedule next Implementation Committee meeting call (February or March 2011) and meeting (September 2011) (All, 10 min) (3:20 – 3:30).

ADJOURN: 3:30 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 3

Action Items from the [2010 Sufficient Progress Memo](#)

August 27, 2010

ACTION ITEM	LEAD	DUE DATE	STATUS
The Service will continue to closely follow the effectiveness of nonnative fish management actions and the responses of the endangered and other native fishes. Data should continue to be reported annually, and necessary changes to nonnative fish management actions should be made in a timely fashion.	FWS, CDOW, UDWR	Ongoing	Ongoing.
A research framework project (building on results and recommendations of previous population estimate reports and information developed as a result of previous population estimate workshops) was initiated in 2005 to conduct additional data analyses to further understand environmental variables and life-history traits influencing the dynamics of Colorado pikeminnow and humpback chub populations. The draft research framework report is significantly behind schedule (originally due in 2007), but the Program Director's office is working with the principal investigators to get the draft report to the Biology Committee for review in the summer of 2010. Results will be used to refine hypotheses and direct management actions.	PDO, Valdez, Bestgen		7/26/10: Draft sent to BC for review 7/16/10; comments due back to authors 8/31/10. Revised draft due to BC 9/30/10.
By September 30, 2010, the State of Utah will identify the legal and technical process and schedule to protect recommended year-round flows for the endangered fishes in the Utah.	Utah	9/30/10.	8/27/10: Draft work plan in review.
The Program Director's office will complete the Price River position paper and submit it for Biology Committee review by September 1, 2010.	PDO	9/1/10	
The Biology Committee (assisted by an ad hoc technical group) will analyze existing data to understand impacts and what could be gained by various screening options at Tusher Wash and make a final recommendation to the Management Committee by December 31, 2010.	BC	12/31/10	
CDOW will complete the Yampa River Aquatic Management Plan (with an Upper Yampa River northern pike strategy) by July 31, 2010. The Program will use this strategy and available information to evaluate the need for additional northern pike control upstream of Hayden to Steamboat Springs.	CDOW	7/31/10	8/11/10: Still not received; Becky Mitchell will find out when this will be submitted. Subsequent to receiving this plan from CDOW, the Program can consider any management actions called for in the plan which the Program may need to implement (and/or whether the plan adequately identifies actions which may be needed to manage nonnative fish sources in the upper Yampa River).
Based on their analysis of smallmouth bass recapture information, CDOW and the Recovery Program must decide, prior to the 2011 sampling season, if Elkhead Reservoir can continue to serve as a translocation site for smallmouth bass removed from the Yampa River.	CDOW	2/1/11	
In cooperation with the Service, the CUWCD will draft a water management report (chronicling how flow recommendations have been	CUWCD / FWS / DRWG	Fall 2010	

met over the past 5 years, describing yearly efforts, available water and evolution of past operations [release triggers, etc.]. This report will replace the "water management plan" that the 2005 Biological Opinion called for by December 2009. A second or third draft will be presented at the fall 2010 DRWG meeting. The DRWG will continue to examine the feasibility of other options for obtaining water.			
The Program Director's office will complete the addendum to the White River report and provide a status update and recommendation on the draft Schmidt and Orchard report on peak (channel maintenance) flows for Biology Committee review by December 31, 2010.	PDO	12/31/10	
Implementation of CROS provided good peak flow augmentation in 2009; however, some constraints on operations due to flooding concerns may remain. The CROS working group will consider Cameo flood guidance to maximize benefits of CROS operations for endangered fish habitat.	CROS working group	4/1/10	Good operations in 2010; draft flood criteria were incorporated into decision-making.
Work on CFOPS has resumed and the Phase III CFOPS report will be completed by September 30, 2010.	CFOPS working group	9/30/10	CWCB to have the 2008 report the week of 8/9/10 and the 2009 report shortly thereafter. Then can analyze how reservoir releases to augment the peak could be made. The concept is to the extent necessary, we would use a portion of the Service's pools of fish water to augment the spring peak, instead of later during base flows. Will require legal review. Concerns may remain regarding flows in the Fryingpan and reservoir levels for the Aspen Yacht Club.
Close coordination will be maintained by meeting twice a year with Grand Valley water users and conducting conference calls as needed to discuss river conditions prior to the weekly Historic User Pool calls. The focus should be on taking full advantage of water savings brought about by operation of the Grand Valley Water Management project for late summer flow augmentation.	PDO, water users	Meetings ongoing.	Fall meeting to be scheduled.
The 15-Mile Reach PBO requires agreement(s) for permanent sources of the "10,825" water by June 30, 2010. Water users will extend existing interim agreements through 2013 (and another 2 years, if necessary) until the permanent water is in place. They also are preparing permanent agreements (were due June 30, 2010), which propose to provide water from Ruedi and Granby reservoirs (contingent upon the various steps that still need to occur). The water users will provide water from interim sources until that time. The permanent agreements currently are in draft and being reviewed by the Service. Work will continue on the National Environmental Policy Act process for the permanent water from Ruedi and Granby reservoirs to be completed in early 2011.	Upper Basin water users, FWS	6/30/10	Interim 10825 agreements to provide water from Wolford and Williams Fork executed in July 2010. They extend the interim arrangements through July 1, 2013, with the possibility of a 2-year extension. Reclamation proposed additional comments on the permanent 10825 agreement. Representatives of the River District, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, CWCB, and the Executive Committee met with Interior and Reclamation staff in Washington on June 25 to discuss Ruedi legislation. By July 16, Reclamation committed to proposing alternatives for resolution of issues associated with capital costs, timing of releases, and payment of operation and maintenance costs (proposal not yet received). The River District Board reviewed Reclamation's comments on the permanent agreement on July 21 and decided to review Reclamation's

			pending Ruedi legislative proposals prior to accepting any changes to the permanent agreement proposed by Reclamation. Thus, approval of the permanent agreement is on hold pending receipt and reaction to Reclamation's proposal re: Ruedi legislation.
Condition of fish passing through the return pipes in the Grand Valley area fish screens has never been evaluated. The Program Director's Office will work with the Service and Reclamation to prepare a white paper on this issue and work with the Biology Committee to develop recommendations for conducting an evaluation in Fiscal Year 11 or 12.	PDO, Service, Reclamation, BC	TBD	PD has initiated discussions with Reclamation; data-gathering underway. Reclamation is closely watching the Grand Valley Project gates, but believes we need to seine below the return pipe to assess physical condition of fish passing through that pipe. The primary concern is high velocities especially when the gate openings are narrowed to maintain adequate water diversions >The Program Director's office will request a scope of work on this (perhaps employing white suckers captured in the passage).
Biennial scopes of work and annual reports are needed from <i>each</i> fish screen/passage facility (Grand Valley Project, Grand Valley Irrigation Company and Redlands). The Program Director's Office will work with Reclamation and the projects' operators to make sure these are submitted in a timely fashion (each November for annual reports and April in odd years for 2-year scopes of work).	PDO, facility operators, Reclamation	November 2010	
The Program Director's Office will work with the Biology Committee to craft a timeline/process for developing the Aspinall Study Plan and to form a subcommittee to prepare the plan (similar to the plan developed for the Green River in 2007). The plan will be completed by December 2010.	PDO, BC	December 2010	First ad hoc group meeting held in June 2010; drafting underway; next meeting September 1-2.