



# Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Agenda Dated: October 23, 2012

## November 5, 2012, Management Committee Webinar Draft Agenda

To join the webinar, please follow the directions below. If you have not previously used Verizon Web Ex conferencing software, please test it prior to the meeting. Contact Angela Kantola ([angela\\_kantola@fws.gov](mailto:angela_kantola@fws.gov)) if you want to do a trial run (~5 min.). This will help us start our meeting promptly at 9:00 a.m. with no delays.

Meeting Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM MOUNTAIN STANDARD TIME (we go back to standard time on Sunday, November 4). The agenda includes a 1-hour break for lunch. Angela will start the web portion of the meeting by 8:45 a.m. so that everyone can get connected and work through any technical difficulties before the 9:00 a.m. start time.

### Web Conference Details:

Meeting Number: 742936817

Meeting Passcode: (None)

Meeting Host: ANGELA T KANTOLA

1. To join the meeting, go to: <http://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=742936817&p=&t=c>
2. Enter the required fields (name, e-mail, company) (no passcode required).
3. Indicate that you have read the Privacy Policy.
4. Click on Proceed.

### Phone Conference Details:

Please dial in using the toll-free number: 866-762-0576, Participant Passcode: 2759325# (**NOTE: THIS IS A DIFFERENT NUMBER THAN THE ONE TYPICALLY USED FOR PHONE-ONLY CONFERENCES**)

## **CONVENE Webinar: 9:00 a.m.**

1. Introductions, review/modify agenda and time allocations, and appoint a timekeeper.
  - Welcome new Committee members Patrick McCarthy (TNC) and Bridget Fahey (USFWS).
2. Approve August 7, 2012, revised draft meeting summary (All, 5 min) – *A revised draft summary will be sent to the Committee in advance of the webinar.*
3. Legislative update (Shields, Pitts, 45 min.)
4. D.C. Trip planning (Shields, Pitts, 15 min.) – *The briefing trip likely will be scheduled in mid- to late-March (likely the week of March 11 or 18), and will need to be scheduled by the end of November.*
5. Flow recommendation approval process, draft uniform review process for all Program technical reports (Chart, Wigington, Pitts, 30 min.) – *A draft will be sent to the Committee in advance of the webinar.*
6. Capital Projects update (Uilenberg, 30 min.)
  - OMID

- Tusher Wash
- Other

***LUNCH BREAK 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.***

7. Nonnative Fish update (Chart, Martinez, Pitts 30 min.) – *The Committee will hear updates on recent nonnative fish management activities/issues and a preview of the December nonnative fish workshop.*
8. Recovery plans and Lake Powell update (Chart, Czapla 10 min)
9. Information and Education Update (Felker, 5 min.) – *The Committee will get a preview of the upcoming newsletter topics.*
10. Work planning (Kantola, Chart, 15 min) – *The FY13 budget is very tight, with almost no “freeboard.” Beginning in January, we will be entering the 2-year work planning process for FY14-15. New considerations on that horizon will include population estimate and research recommendations from the just-approved Razorback Sucker Monitoring Plan report; expanded data management (perhaps for both Recovery Programs) to address increased data from remote PIT tag readers (e.g., in the White River), improved consistency, and analytical needs; and Lake Powell surveys.*
11. Review previous meeting assignments and sufficient progress action items (All, 15 min) – *See Attachments 1 and 2.*
12. Schedule next meeting, webinar, or conference call (All, 5 min)

**ADJOURN: by 2:00 p.m.**

## **Attachment 1 Previous Meeting Assignments**

1. The **Management Committee** will consider naming a floodplain site for Pat Nelson. *The Service's Grand Junction field office is considering what might be an appropriate location. We do have a memorial to Pat on the pikeminnow bench at Walter Walker SWA.*
  
2. **Tom Pitts** will work with **Clayton Palmer and Brent Uilenberg** and provide a list of additional Program contributions to be added to the Program's budget pie chart that appears in each year's briefing book. *In process.* For the 2012 *Program Highlights*, we used the \$37.4M annualized estimate. By July 2012, **WAPA** will complete modeling and report actual power replacement costs going back to 2001. Subsequently, **WAPA** will provide annual power replacement cost for the previous year each January for inclusion in the *Program Highlights* pie charts. Those pie charts will include a footnote explaining the calculation and assumptions. **Program participants** will identify other significant costs that have not previously reported (e.g., the Granby component of 10,825 which is estimated at \$16M, \$1.25M contributed by Colorado for GVWM and \$1.5M for OMID, CRWCD contributed property for OMID, etc.). **Tom Chart** will ask **Dave Campbell** to work with the SJCC to determine their additional costs not currently reported. *1/30/12: Tom Pitts provided additional costs to be included in the briefing book pie chart; need to follow up with documentation for the record. 3/21/12: Clayton will be asking modelers/analysts to look at economic impact of re-operation of Flaming Gorge Dam beginning in FY2001. Tom Pitts said P.L. 106-392 recognizes power replacement costs as non-reimbursable; is that the same thing as economic costs? John Shields asked why not include the ~7 years of "study flows" preceding 2001. Clayton will do both, since Flaming Gorge was originally reoperated in water year 1991 (a separate table for 2001 and forward will be included responding specifically to the P.L. 106-392). Clayton also will include analysis to show the year in which FG was reoperated under the new EIS (2006 to present). John said he and Robert were asked about retail power cost levels yesterday; Leslie doesn't believe that can be reported since each individual utility has a different amount of hydropower in their mix. Tom Pitts suggested setting up a work group of himself, Leslie, Clayton, Robert Wigington, Angela Kantola and/or Tom Chart; Tom Pitts will send out preliminary materials. 6/26/12: Work group held conference call 4/27/12; Argonne working on power replacement costs, water users working on their additional costs, San Juan also working on their additional costs. 6/22/12: Clayton provided the group a description of how they'll conduct the economic analysis of Flaming Gorge dam reoperation.*
  
3. **Brent Uilenberg and Dave Speas** will discuss the possibility of using "activities to avoid jeopardy" funds on the Elkhead screen repair. *Reclamation will review available funding sources when this is billed in early CY 2013.*
  
4. The **Program Director's Office** will prepare a timeline for the recovery plans. *See item 8.e. in the meeting summary. A read on review time is needed from the Colorado pikeminnow team.*

5. The **Program Director's office** will post the final Price River position paper to the Program's website. *Pending.*
6. The **Program Director's office** will finalize the basinwide strategy that Pat's been working on (the PDO will provide a more specific date - hopefully, in time to affect RIPRAP changes in 2013). Tom will brief the Implementation Committee about this in September and let them know that it represents a shift in policy toward prevention (*done*).
7. **The Program Director's office** will draft a letter to Wyoming Game and Fish that: a) expresses our concerns that pike could increase if they access habitat upstream and become a source of additional pike downstream in critical habitat; b) encourages waiting to remove the old diversion until *after* the downstream barrier is in place; c) offers to help fund removal of the pike above the barrier; and d) asks how the pike population will be monitored. *Done.*
8. The **Program Director's office** will incorporate today's discussion and provide a revised draft process for approving flow recommendations (aiming for something clear and concise, maybe a page and a half in length) for Committee review and comment by September 14 (and we'll be able to tell the Implementation Committee we have a first draft in review). *On agenda.*
9. **Tom Pitts and other key Committee members** will contact Reclamation to encourage them to renew the Green Mountain Reservoir Municipal Recreation Agreement expiring at the end of August.

## Attachment 2

Action Items from the [2012 Sufficient Progress Memo](#)

October 22, 2012

General – Upper Basin-wide				
#	Recommended Action Items	Lead	Due Date	Status
1	The Service will make a recommendation for how to ensure that all new petroleum pipelines have emergency shutoff valves and will investigate the use of the <a href="#">Pipeline Integrity Management Mapping Application</a> (PIMMA) to address existing pipelines potentially needing shutoff valves (e.g., pipelines upstream of or near critical or other important habitat).	FWS	12/31/12	Service may consider asking industry to assist via Section 7 consultation.
2	The Program Director's office is working with the Nonnative Fish Subcommittee and signatories to the <a href="#">Nonnative Fish Stocking Procedures</a> to address comments on the draft <i>Upper Colorado River Basin Nonnative and Invasive Aquatic Species Prevention and Control Strategy</i> . Following "internal" review by the Recovery Program's Biology and Management committees, the Program will seek external peer review prior to accepting the <i>Strategy</i> as final.	Program	Date TBD; will go to BC earlier than previously indicated.	A subgroup of the I&E Committee will refine comments on the I&E section of the <i>Strategy</i> and then have a conference call with the Nonnative Fish Subcommittee. Update of steps leading to completion will be provided to the Management and Biology committees in Autumn 2012. The Management Committee asked that the Program Director's office streamline the document somewhat and accelerate the schedule (in progress).
3	The Service recommends that the Recovery Program carefully review the applicability of proposed screens for nonnative fish on a case-by-case basis and scrutinize screen designs, including projected operation and maintenance costs in the future. And, that the Recovery Program fully recognizes that screens are only a component of a multi-faceted nonnative fish control strategy (e.g., one that adheres to the NNF Stocking Procedures, promotes compatible sportfisheries, and prevents new nonnative fish threats).	<i>Nonnative Fish Stocking Procedures</i> signatories	Ongoing	
4	Revised Integrated Stocking Plan needs to be completed.	PDO	12/31/12	Draft sent to <i>ad hoc</i> group 4/13/12; conference call held 5/9/12. Revised draft to <i>ad hoc</i> group 9/27/12; comments due Oct. 31.
	The Program Director's Office will monitor results from ongoing humpback chub population estimates (Deso-Gray 2010-2011; Black Rocks and Westwater 2011-2012 and monitoring (Cataract Canyon annual CPUE; Yampa River information gathered through nonnative fish management projects). The Program Director's Office convened a panel to discuss humpback chub genetics and captivity and identify actions necessary to ensure the survival and recovery of humpback chub and an implementation plan for those actions in 2011.  200 age-0 Gila will be brought into captivity from Black Rocks/Westwater in 2012 (relates to broodstock development	PDO, Service, UDWR	Deso-Gray data reported annually; Black Rocks draft final report due 8/1/13; Westwater draft final report due FY13.	Results reviewed annually. Bringing age-0 <i>Gila</i> from Black Rocks into captivity was planned for fall 2012, but deferred until spring due to high mortality risk from low flow conditions.

	once fish are determined to be humpback chub).			
<b>Green River</b>				
6	An RFP for a 2012-2013 mortality study and literature review is anticipated in April 2012. Meanwhile, Program participants are investigating the potential for an electrical barrier at the head of the canal as one option to reduce or eliminate entrainment (and thus, "take") of fish in the canal.	Tusher Wash <i>ad hoc</i> group.		No response to RFP; dropped. Biology Committee discussed in July and October and endorses electric barrier option.
7	Red Fleet Reservoir has been recommended for reclamation (rotenone). A microchemical analysis of otoliths from both the reservoir and the river is underway to better understand the contribution of walleye to critical habitat from this potential source population.	UDWR		Otoliths processed; draft report in review; data will be included in draft final C18/19 report due October 1, 2012 (behind schedule due to PI illness). Red Fleet very low and UDWR may rotenone soon with funding assistance from Program.
<b>Yampa River</b>				
8	CWCB is scheduled to complete accounting of past depletions using the StateCU model by the spring of 2012. The depletion accounting report will include a discussion of the need for flow protection (which would require a peak flow recommendation). The Water Acquisition Committee will continue to discuss the need for a peak flow recommendation.	CWCB, WAC	<del>June 2012</del> 12/31/12	Depletion accounting for Yampa & Colorado rivers will be based on 2005 consumptive use (irrigated acreage based on satellite images and some aerial photography). CWCB is double-checking irrigated acreage, will have it verified by the Water Commissioner (hopefully by December 31, 2012), and then can run the model.
9	CSU will complete the <a href="#">programmatic synthesis of smallmouth bass removal efforts</a> , providing a comprehensive evaluation of the Program's removal efforts as well as a thorough assessment of escapement from Elkhead Reservoir (draft final report due to Recovery Program 8/31/2012). The Recovery Program will review the final report on escapement from Elkhead Reservoir and determine appropriate adaptive-management response. CSU also is conducting a <a href="#">programmatic synthesis of northern pike removal efforts</a> (2011-2012) to evaluate current removal efforts in the context of northern pike life history throughout the Yampa River drainage (draft final report due to Recovery Program 6/30/13).	CSU, Program, CPW	Draft final smallmouth bass synthesis report due 10/1/12.	The programmatic synthesis report will consist of three parts and each will be separately peer-reviewed. Part 1, Elkhead escapement has been peer reviewed. Part 2, Population Dynamics is due October 1, 2012, and Part 3, Projection Tool, will follow shortly thereafter. The three parts will then be finalized in one document. The NNFSC continues to evaluate opportunities and priorities for applying appropriate responses to source populations.
10	Native fish conservation areas are being evaluated as part of the draft basinwide nonnative fish strategy. Subsequently, applicability to the Yampa River will be evaluated.	Program, CPW		See item #2 re: <i>Basinwide Strategy</i> .
11	CPW has detailed its ongoing and anticipated pike management actions throughout the drainage in its 2010 'Yampa River Basin Aquatic Wildlife Management Plan (CDOW 2010).' CPW will tabulate these activities for the Program Director's Office and, based upon Program Office feedback, will provide management objectives and actions for any waters within the drainage that CPW and the Program Office mutually agree are inadequately	CPW		Pending. Tabulation complete and will go to PDO by September 30. Joint recommendations from PDO and CPW for how to address any inadequacies will be made at the NNF workshop.

	addressed by the 2010 Plan.			
<b>White River</b>				
12	A working draft <i>Flow Recommendations for the Endangered Fish of the White River, Colorado and Utah</i> was sent to the Biology and Water Acquisition committees and GRUWAT on July 1, 2011. Conflicting comments were received. A revised draft is expected by midsummer 2012. Work on a PBO is anticipated subsequent to report approval.	PDO	Summer 2012. 12/31/12.	Pending. Good progress is being made and TNC is providing assistance.
13	Program scheduled to begin specific effort to remove smallmouth bass in 2012. CPW will propose plans to removing bag limit for smallmouth bass (and possibly other nonnative sport fishes) in the 400 yards below Kenney Reservoir that still has limits in 2013. Recovery Program supports multi-agency effort to designate White River as native fish conservation area.	CPW, UDWR		White River smallmouth bass removal conducted by Service & CPW; additional electric seining also conducted. CPW has prepared an issue paper on the bag limit for Commission consideration in this regulation cycle. (Regulation expected to be finalized in November and go into effect in March 2013.)
<b>Colorado River</b>				
14	Recovery Program participants will consider options and opportunities for meeting flow recommendations on a more consistent basis after completion of 10,825 agreements.	Program		All agreements are expected to be in place by December 31, 2012.
15	The CWCB will provide the depletion accounting for 2006-2010 for the Upper Colorado River using State CU in the spring of 2012. If the amount of consumptive use, location of use, and timing of use is not the same as in the past, they would then put that information into StateMod to show how those changes affect the river.	CWCB	June 2012	See item #8.
16	Completion of CFOPS Phase III should be out in draft in August 2012 and report completion anticipated by September 30, 2012.	Water users	September November, 30, 2012.	Draft now expected in October.
17	In 2012, additional passes will be devoted in the reach of the Colorado River from Rifle to the Beavertail to remove invading northern pike. CPW will conduct a reconnaissance in floodplain & canal habitats to identify potential sources of this species. Sampling will also be conducted from Silt to Rifle to remove northern pike.	FWS, CPW	Service, CPW	Additional passes completed. A critical new ramp was constructed that improves access. CPW seeking landowner permission for reconnaissance work.
<b>Gunnison River</b>				
18	Every effort should be made to ensure that the Gunnison River remains a native fish stronghold. The topic of precluding new species introductions also will be addressed in the draft Nonnative Fish Strategy.	Program		See item #2 re: <i>Basinwide Strategy</i> .
<b>Dolores River</b>				

19	The Nonnative Fish Subcommittee will review response options and propose action item(s) to be reviewed with the Dolores River Dialogue and Lower Dolores Working Group and potentially added to the RIPRAP in 2013.	NNFSC, others.	January 2013.	CPW is implementing emergency order removing all bag and possession limits on smallmouth bass in Miramonte Reservoir and has announced plans to rotenone the reservoir in fall 2013.
----	---	----------------	---------------	--