



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

April 1, 2010

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport (16475 East 40th Circle)

April 7, 2010

NOTE: Those who have the lead for the agenda items listed below are *expected* to post a synopsis of your report on the fws-coloriver list-server or to the Management Committee in advance of the meeting. Committee members are reminded that this makes for a better meeting, so please comply with this request if possible.

CONVENE: 9:30 a.m.

1. Introductions, review/modify agenda and time allocations, and appoint a timekeeper (5 min.)
– *The Committee will consider the agenda, allotted time for each item, and make any necessary additions or revisions.*
2. Approve [February 25, 2010, conference call summary](#) and review previous meeting assignments (Attachment 1) (All, 15 min.) – *One suggested revision to the February summary was submitted by Mike Roberts who noted that the suggested timeline for flow protection on the Green River shown under item 4.g. on page 3 comes from the UT State Engineer's Office. The WAT itself has yet to discuss a timeline.*
3. Review of tasks specified in the June 11, 2009 FY 2009 sufficient progress memo (see Attachment 2) (All, 10 min.)
4. Review and follow-up on Washington, D.C. briefing trip (Shields) (30 min)
5. Legislative update (Pitts) (15 min)
6. Review of draft RIPRAP revision, assessment, and revisions to draft FY 2011 work plan (Kantola) (1+ hr) - *The Implementation Committee has again given the Management Committee their proxy to approve these documents. Draft documents from the Program Director's office were posted to the fws-coloriver listserver on 2/11/10; revised draft documents incorporating technical committee comments will be posted within the next week.*
 - a. RIPRAP assessment
 - b. RIPRAP revisions (Tables and text)
 - c. Updated FY 11 Work Plan

LUNCH 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

7. Review/approval of proposed new rearing ponds at Horsethief (Uilenberg, 10 min) – *The Management Committee will vote on moving forward with construction of the Horse Thief Canyon Fish Rearing Ponds (see March 26, 2010 e-mail from Angela Kantola to the Management Committee).*
8. Updates
 - a. Capital projects (Uilenberg, 10 min) – *Will include update on OMID and decision points for Tusher Wash screening.*
 - b. [10,825 Alternatives](#) update (Pitts, 5 min.)
 - c. Aspinall [EIS](#) and Gunnison River Study Plan (Uilenberg, Kantola, 10 min)
 - d. Green River flow protection (Mohrman, 10 min)
9. Upcoming Management Committee tasks, schedule next meeting. (All, 10 min).

ADJOURN by 3:30 p.m.

Attachment 1
Assignments from Previous Meetings

1. The **Fish and Wildlife Service** will meet to consider if it would be acceptable to screen the irrigation water and not the low-head hydropower water at Tusher Wash or if other methods (e.g., a weir wall) might achieve our objectives for screening Tusher Wash. *Discussions underway; but pending decisions on dam rehabilitation. 8/10/09: Robert King said no decision has been reached yet on dam rehabilitation. Brent said a fish preclusion weir such as the one that will be installed at the Hogback Diversion on the San Juan could be an option if fish mortality in the power turbines isn't a significant problem (and would cost much less than the \$7-\$9 million to screen the entire canal flow). Brent Uilenberg will draft a recommendation for reviewing this. (Ask Biology Committee to review, first considering work done on similar turbines and potential for fish-friendly turbines, if needed. If this is unclear, field work may be needed to determine mortality at Tusher; this might be considered pre-design work under capital funds). Brent will prepare a decision tree outline. 2/25/10: Brent will send this out. The key decision point is to determine if fish entrainment mortality through the turbines acceptable (which may require a scope of work to do some monitoring and evaluation). Perhaps "fish-friendly" turbines would be a good alternative. Another question is whether the owners plan to raise the height of the dam. The Committee agreed to put a discussion of this item on their April meeting. 3/24/10: Discussed by Biology Committee and on 4/7/10 Management Committee meeting agenda. The Program Director's office is preparing a list of issues to be resolved (e.g., what levels of mortality are acceptable for what size classes, potential O&M costs, etc.) to help move a decision on Tusher forward.*

2. **Program Director's office** will provide a more specific recommendation regarding establishing a basinwide recovery/conservation oversight team for the endangered fishes. *8/10/09: Tom Czapla said the Program Director's office believes that some continuing coordination by Service staff in California/Nevada and Regions 2 and 6 is the best way to accomplish this. As with the recovery goals, these Service offices would maintain communication with their stakeholders and then coordinate with one another. Tom will ask that Service group for their suggestions on how they would like to continue this coordination role as the recovery goals revision process wraps up. Pending. 2/25/09: Service Solicitor strongly recommended revising the full recovery plans (which will include the recovery goals). Tom Pitts asked if the recovery team would be reconvened; >the Service will look into this and also into Tom's question as to whether recent regulations have expanded potential recovery team membership.*

3. **Brent Uilenberg** will provide a revised RIPRAP budget table ASAP. *Pending now that capital funds indexing has been determined. 8/10/09: Reclamation is working on this, but will need an estimate of needed rearing ponds (number, acreage, flow needs). Tom Czapla will provide additional information on pond space needed for humpback chub, backup bonytail broodstock, etc. Ponds may be developed at Horsethief State Wildlife Area and the Upper Basin may be first in line for capital funds in 2010-2012 due to delays in San Juan projects. 10/14: Pending shortly; Michelle Shaughnessy is meeting with Reclamation regarding ponds next week. 2/22: Service preparing a justification for building ponds at Horsethief to be reviewed by Biology Committee in March. PD's office has recommended*

Manuel Ulibarri of Dexter NFH provide Service expertise for the value-engineering review. 3/24/10: Discussed by Biology Committee and on 4/7/10 Management Committee meeting agenda.

4. The **Program Director** will further discuss with the Service developing a programmatic biological opinion for the White River Basin when the Gunnison River PBO nears completion. *Pending. 8/10/09: We need to review the flow recommendations. Tom Pitts also suggests reviewing water demand data from the state (unclear if that's been updated to include projected needs for oil and gas development). Dan McAuliffe said a pending roundtable report should address oil and gas development and associated water demand estimates. (Dan Birch can provide status update).*
5. **Dan McAuliffe** will discuss Yampa River habitat modifications with Tom Nesler and Sherm Hebein. Reclamation remains available to assist. *2/22: CDOW continues to modify connected slackwater habitats to hinder NP reproduction in the upper Yampa River. BOR determined that previously-contemplated habitat modification using berms at RM 151 was not feasible due to local channel dynamics. However, other forms of channel manipulation may be possible to exclude northern pike (to be discussed by BC). 3/24/10: Discussed by Biology Committee; CDOW reviewing options like plant eradication and barriers) and working with USBR to flesh out proposal for fill the side channel pools with river-run gravel. Sherm Hebein believes this would greatly reduce spawning habitat, wouldn't interfere with return water at flood stage, and wouldn't affect the opposite bank.*
6. The **Program Director's Office (Tom Czapla)** will alert the committee when the 5-year status reviews are completed and provide a link to the documents. *Pending; no change in listing status anticipated.*
7. The **Program Director's Office** will develop FY 2011 guidance for research to determine levels of selenium that affect eggs of endangered Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker (working with the San Juan Program). *2/22: Not yet developed; should be a component of the Gunnison River Study Plan. 4/1: On March 30, Tom Czapla, Jana Mohrman, and Tom Chart met with Kevin Johnson (FWS-Region 6 Contaminants Coordinator) and David Campbell to discuss elevated levels of selenium (and mercury) detected in endangered Colorado River fishes throughout the Upper Basin (similar information has been reported from the Lower Basin as well). The group agreed that the primary information need was to determine how these contaminants are affecting our ability to recover the fish, i.e., better understand what constitutes harmful levels. The SJRRIP is tasked with reducing all threats to the recovery of Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker, but the upper basin Program has not historically dealt with threats associated with degraded water quality. In any case, the primary information need likely is larger than our the recovery programs' budgets could handle and perhaps beyond our expertise. Kevin agreed to start a dialogue with his colleagues in Region 6 as well as with FWS-Region 2, EPA and USGS to explore ways to answer this question.*
8. The **Program Director's office** will discuss drilling in the floodplain further with the states' Management Committee members to determine appropriate next steps. *On hold.*
9. **Angela Kantola** will post the revised October 13-14, 2009, meeting summary to the

listserver. *Pending.*

10. For the D.C. trip, **Program Director's office** will add a link to the Gunnison River PBO to the 1-page backgrounder in attachment 4 (and explain that the PBO it provides ESA compliance for all historic projects and a block of future water). *Done.*

ATTACHMENT 2
Action Items from the Draft 2009 Sufficient Progress Memo
April 1, 2010

ACTION ITEM	LEAD	DUE DATE	STATUS
<p>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.</p>	<p>FWS, CDOW, UDWR</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>7/13/09: Critical data from 2008 submitted. CDOW discontinued translocation of SMB to Craig Justice Center Ponds, which will be returned to a trout fishery. Elkhead will remain primary translocation site for SMB (subsequent to spills or until the upper reservoir can be accessed). CDOW will continue to translocate northern pike to State Parks Headquarters Pond (Kyle's pond), Loudy Simpson, and Yampa State Wildlife Area ponds (subsequent to connection in the latter two locations). Northern pike CDOW is removing from Catamount are euthanized. Future actions contingent on further contaminant results from riverine samples of northern pike and smallmouth bass. Elkhead under a public fish consumption advisory. After 12/8-9/09 nonnative fish workshop, PI's and the Program immediately began revising 2010 SOW's, (approved by BC 1/14/10). Revisions respond to need to increase removal / disruption of SMB spawning throughout Upper Basin by adjusting previous sampling schedules to better align with SMB spawning (a very strong year class of SMB spawned in 2007 is expected to reach sexual maturity in 2010).</p>
<p>A research framework project 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 behind schedule (originally due in 2007), but is expected in July 2009. Results will be used to refine hypotheses and direct management actions.</p>	<p>Valdez, Bestgen</p>	<p>7/31/09</p>	<p>8/24/09: Draft sent to PD's office and co-authors for review; target date for BC review is 11/15/09. PD's office met to discuss March 3, working to schedule conference call with PI's by mid-April.</p>
<p>The Flaming Gorge Technical Work Group (Reclamation, the Service, and Western) needs to continue to provide brief updates on current and projected Flaming Gorge operations at Biology Committee meetings.</p>	<p>USBR, FWS, WAPA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing and on track.</p>
<p>The Recovery Program and the Utah State Engineer's office have been working on mechanisms to protect year-round flows in the Green River; however, this is behind schedule. A schedule and outline of the steps required for both the year-round protection above the Duchesne (to occur in 2009) as well as flow protection below the Duchesne is needed: a) the public meeting held by August 31, and the protection finalized by December 31, 2009; and b) by September 30, 2009, a schedule outlining steps for year-round protection</p>	<p>Utah</p>	<p>Public meeting: 8/31/09 Schedule/outline: 9/30/09</p>	<p>Public meeting held 8/20/09 for above Duchesne; completion anticipated by 12/30/09 (year-round above Duchesne). Outline/schedule for protection below Duchesne anticipated by 9/30/09. Program partners (Service, Reclamation, and Utah) are working to identify specific flow targets that would trigger subordination. The Water Acquisition Committee has been working on this and the State has held several public meetings in the basin. A Green River Utah Water Acquisition Team is established and is meeting regularly to identify alternative approaches for protecting flows for the endangered fish in the Green River. RIPRAP tasks/due dates to be revised (suggested dates still being discussed). Modeling group is meeting and expects to have a product by late June.</p>

downstream of the Duchesne to the confluence with the Colorado River.			
The Colorado Division of Wildlife will complete the Yampa River Aquatic Management Plan (with an Upper Yampa River northern pike strategy) by early July 2009. The Program will use this strategy and available information to evaluate the need to expand northern pike control upstream of Hayden to Steamboat Springs, possibly including removal efforts.	CDOW		8/10: Draft is in internal CDOW review. 9/22: CDOW sent the draft to the Program Director who forwarded it to the States and Service for a courtesy review prior to final approval. 10/14: Biology Committee comments are due back by the end of October 2009. 2/19: CDOW addressing comments (Ted Kowalski or Dan McAuliffe will follow up with CDOW). 3/10: Sherm Hebein said he and Tom Nesler hope to finalize this by March 19.
Now that the Myton Diversion rehabilitation has been completed, the Program, Service, and Duchesne Work Group will work together to determine if any changes are needed in ongoing monitoring efforts necessary to evaluate the flow recommendations.	PD, FWS, DWG	Ongoing	8/10: Diversion operational and SCADA now online. Hydrological monitoring: after a full year's operation, the data will be examined to assure that the water is reaching the Randlette gage. Biological monitoring: Ute Tribe is conducting fish community surveys in the Duchesne; PD/FWS to define monitoring needed to evaluate flow recommendations. 4/1: The Duchesne River Working Group (DRWG) is preparing a water management report and investigating ways to provide additional water for delivery. Initial analysis shows that flow recommendations are improving flows for fish. Not yet enough information for revision or review of the Duchesne River Flow Recommendations. A few more years of operating with Myton Diversion rehabilitated will be needed before analyzing success.
Implementation of Coordinated Reservoir Operations (CROS) provided some peak flow augmentation in 2008; however, constraints on operations due to flooding concerns need further investigation to determine the feasibility of further enhancing CROS benefits.	NWS, Mohrman, CWCB, WAC	March 1, 2010	7/22/09: National Weather Service began a flood stage investigation last season which should provide some answers before 2010 peak flow. 11/27/09: NWS recommended revised bankfull, action and flood stage levels and will host a mid-December conference call to discuss. 2/19/10: NOAA met with Palisade and decided to raise the official flood stage at CAMC2 by 0.5 feet instead of 1 foot. Proposed advisory and flood stages are now: Bankfull --> 11 Feet (20.3 kcfs) Advisory --> 12 Feet (23.7 kcfs) Flood--> 12.5 Feet (~25.4 kcfs) FWS is working on operational language clarifying the minimal risk with flows up to 27,000 cfs (13 ft). NWS's final report is conservative, setting the Flood Warning Stage at 25,400 cfs (12.5 ft). The highest fish flow during CROS is 25,000 cfs. CROS should still be able to meet the high flow at the 15 Mile Reach if 3 days for delivery at Cameo allow the 25,400 cfs to occur and flows at the confluence of the Gunnison and Colorado River are at 12 feet or below.
Work on Coordinated Facilities Operations Project (CFOPS) will resume and is expected to be completed in 2010, but a specific schedule needs to be developed by October 1, 2009.	Upper Basin water users	October 1, 2010.	Implementation schedule provided Oct. 1, 2009 and approved by Service 10/27; calls for completion of a final CFOPS report by September 30, 2010. The team is now organized and will be moving forward shortly with goal of completing Phase III report by September 30, 2010.
Close coordination will be maintained by meeting twice a year with Grand Valley water users	PD's office, water users	Meetings ongoing.	Fall meeting held December 1; PD's office working to schedule meeting in April (potentially April 23).
Close coordination will be maintained by conducting conference calls as needed to discuss river conditions prior to the weekly Historic User Pool calls. The focus	CWCB, Reclamation	8/1/2010	10/14: CWCB is working with the Colorado Basin River Forecasting Center (CBRFC) to update their models and forecasting tools to provide late-summer forecasts for the HUP managing entities. Beginning in 2010, CBRFC

<p>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.</p>			<p>will provide an early-August forecast of expected flow volumes for Green Mountain Reservoir and the Grand Valley for August – October. CBRFC also will provide statistical information about expected flows. CBRFC began providing additional short-term forecast information to the weekly HUP calls in 2009. 4/1: Reclamation agreed to meet twice with Basalt during the release season to keep them informed of planned releases.</p>
<p>The goal of the 10,825 Project is to have agreements signed with the Service prior to Dec. 2009 committing east & west slope water users to permanent sources of Ruedi replacement water (as required by the Colorado River PBO).</p>	<p>Upper Basin water users, FWS</p>	<p>Agreements to be signed by July 2010</p>	<p>8/3/09 Tom Pitts will work with water user attorneys to draft commitments by the water users to implement the two-component 10,825 solution and provide drafts for Service review (meetings to begin in September). 10/14: Interim agreements actually don't expire until July 1, 2010, that's the date by which new agreements need to be in place. Agreements will be extended until permanent 10825 is finalized. Delivery of permanent 10825 should occur in summer 2013. There will be temporary extensions for Williams Fork and Wolford through 2013. 4/1: agreements are being drafted and reviewed.</p>