



# Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Dated: May 24, 2010

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL AGENDA June 7, 2010

### CALL-IN INFORMATION: 888-842-7194, passcode 209309#

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 more efficient conference call, so please comply with this request if possible.

### CONVENE: 1:00 p.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 [April 7, 2010 conference call summary](#) and review previous meeting assignments (Attachment 1) (All, 10 min.) – *No revisions have to the April summary have been suggested to date.*
3. Review of draft 2010 sufficient progress memo (see Attachment 2) (All, 20 min.) – *The Service anticipates distributing its 2010 sufficient progress memo by May 28, requesting comments from Program participants by June 11, 2010, and finalizing the letter by the end of June. The Committee will discuss the draft memo, action items, and comments they may wish to provide for the Service's consideration. The Committee also will discuss Yampa River depletion accounting (see assignments).*
4. Congressional activities (20 min)
  - a. Approval of Washington, D.C. briefing trip summary – *John Shields sent the draft to the Implementation, Management, and Information & Education committees on May 6, 2010. The Committee will review and approve for posting to the Program website.*
  - b. Ruedi legislation (Pitts)
  - c. Annual funding legislation (Shields, Pitts)
  - d. Report to Rep. McClintock (Shields, Pitts)
5. Updates
  - a. Green River pikeminnow population good news (Czapla, 5 min)
  - b. Tusher Wash update (Trammell or Czapla, 10 min) – *The Committee will hear about the Biology Committee's May 6-7 discussion and follow-up action items.*
  - c. Green River flow protection (Mohrman, 10 min)
  - d. Hydrology (Mohrman, 5 min)

- e. Capital projects (Uilenberg, 10 min)
  - f. [10,825 Alternatives](#) update (Pitts, 5 min.)
  - g. Aspinall [EIS](#) and Gunnison River Study Plan (and component to determine what levels of selenium may impede recovery) (Uilenberg, Chart, 10 min)
6. Upcoming Management Committee tasks, schedule next meeting. (All, 5 min). *The Committee will schedule its next meeting (likely in Cheyenne in August).*

ADJOURN by 3:00 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. 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. See also capital projects discussion. See agenda item #5b.*
  
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 Czaplá 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. 4/7: Tom said the Service will maintain consistency with what has been done so far on recovery goal revisions, that is, relying on Service personnel to work with the partners in each program (e.g., Upper Colorado, San Juan, GCDAMP, etc.) throughout the Colorado River Basin. The Service does not plan to reconvene a recovery team at this time. Tom Pitts and others asked >the Service to provide a process and schedule to the Recovery Program as soon as possible.*
  
3. 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). 4/7: **The Service** will begin discussing a White River PBO during their sufficient progress review next week. 5/24: Pending completion of the White River flow recommendations addendum (12/31/10).

4. 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. The Program Director's office confirmed these will be done before the end of the calendar year, as was reported on the Washington, D.C. trip.*
5. \*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 (which also includes the affected area of the Colorado River from the Gunnison River confluence to Lake Powell).* 4/1: *Summary of FWS-Ecological Services contaminants activities sent to Biology and Management committees on 3/22/10. 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 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. Meanwhile, during fish community monitoring in the lower Gunnison River, tissue samples will be collected from razorback suckers, as well as a chosen surrogate species, to determine selenium concentrations. 4/7: The water users and other Program participants want to have input into development of the work plan that is produced to address this primary information need. >**The Service** will provide the Committee an outline of the process for developing the work plan. John Shields suggested that the Service develop an e-mail list or listserv for these conversations so everyone interested can remain informed and involved. See agenda item #5g.*
6. **Angela Kantola** will post the revised October 13-14, 2009, meeting and February 25, 2010 conference call summaries to the listserv. *Pending*
7. **Angela Kantola** will incorporate the Committee's changes to the RIPRAP tables and text (making sure changes to the tables are accurately reflected in the text) and post the final RIPRAP documents to the web. Angela also will incorporate the new capital projects cost estimates in the FY 10 and FY 11 work plan budget tables. *In progress.*
8. The **Water Acquisition Committee** should discuss Green River flow protection on their upcoming conference call and work with the WAT and the policy group to provide a process

and schedule for Management Committee approval. *Done.*

9. \*The **Service** will discuss Yampa PBO depletion accounting requirements (StateMod vs. StateCU) in their sufficient progress review next week and get back to Becky Mitchell and Adam Bergeron. This also will be discussed during the April 21 **Water Acquisition Committee** conference call. *See agenda item #3.*
10. The **Program Director's office** will inform the San Juan Program that the Management Committee has approved Horse Thief Pond construction. *Done.* >**Debbie Felker** will work with Reclamation, the Service, and CDOW to develop appropriate press releases. *Done.*
11. **Tom Pitts** will distribute the final version of the Ruedi legislation to the Management Committee before it is introduced.
12. **Jana Mohrman** will let the Committee know what other entities have objected to unperfected water right claims in Utah. *Done.*