



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Dated: September 29, 2011

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

October 12, 2011

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

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. All on the Committee will recognize prior access to information facilitates a more efficient meeting, so please comply with this request if possible.

CONVENE: 10:00 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 [August 10-11, 2011 meeting summary](#) (Attachment 1) (All, 5 min.)
3. Legislative and Congressional activities (Pitts and Shields, 45 min) – *The Committee will hear updates on and discuss status of:*
 - *The non-Federal Program participants recent report to Congress;*
 - *New cost-sharing calculations (and getting those incorporated into future Program Highlights budget pie charts);*
 - *The meeting to be scheduled between Reps. Bishop and McClintock;*
 - *Introducing annual funding legislation in the House;*
 - *How the legislation may address “cutgo” requirements; and*
 - *Scheduling a Congressional conference call after the legislation is introduced.*
4. FY 2012 Budget Update (Uilenberg and Kantola, 15 min) – *As reported to the Implementation Committee, Reclamation pre-obligated FY11 appropriated funds to make the Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs’ FY12 budgets essentially whole.*
5. Flaming Gorge Trigger (Chart, 15 min) – *Update on 9/30/11 Biology Committee discussion of responses to Reclamation’s recent questions about how the Recovery Program intends to incorporate new information presented in the Floodplain Synthesis (Bestgen et al. 2011) regarding the timing of Green and Yampa river spring peak hydrology (floodplain inundation in Reach 2) and the presence of larval native suckers. (See 9/26/11 e-mail from Tom Chart and look for Biology Committee meeting summary from fws-coloriver listserver the week of Oct. 3)*
6. Process for Reviewing Flaming Gorge Flow & Temperature Recommendations (Chart, 20 min) – *Update on 9/30/11 Biology Committee discussion of how and when will the Recovery Program assess / evaluate Muth et al. 2000 as per recovery action # I.D.2 in the Green*

River mainstem portion of the RIPRAP and the broader Recovery Program progress on information needs identified in the Green River Study Plan. (See 9/26/11 e-mail from Tom Chart and look for Biology Committee meeting summary from fws-coloriver listserv the week of Oct. 3).

LUNCH: 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

7. Price River Report (Chart, Mohrman, 30 min) – *Assuming approval on the 9/30/11 Biology Committee webinar, as a flow recommendations report, it subsequently comes to the Management Committee for final approval.*
8. Capital projects update and approval to use NFWF capital funds to determine solution to the manganese problem at Ouray NFH (Uilenberg, 20 min) *Brent will provide updates on the Horsethief Rearing Ponds, OMID, and other capital project activities. The Committee will review and potentially approve the proposal for a contractor to review the Ouray NFH manganese problem and recommend a solution (see 9/28/11) e-mail from Angela Kantola.*
9. Updates
 - a. [10,825 Alternatives](#) & agreements update and Status of Ruedi legislation (Pitts, 15 min.)
 - b. Aspinall [EIS](#) (Uilenberg, 5 min)
 - c. Draft Basin-wide Nonnative and Invasive Aquatic Species Prevention and Control Strategy (Martinez, 10 min) – *The draft strategy went to the Biology Committee on 8/29/11; the Committee will get an update on the review process/progress.*
 - d. Recovery plan schedule and recovery timelines (Czapla, 10 min) – *This report will also inform the Committee of the status of the five-year status review document packages for the bonytail and the razorback sucker.*
10. Review previous meeting assignments and sufficient progress action items (All, 15 min) – *See Attachments 1 and 2.*
11. Washington, D.C., briefing trip (Pitts, all, 5 min) – *Tom Pitts has suggested that the 2012 D.C. trip fall somewhere between March 12 and 27, 2012 (note: Leslie James is not available March 22-23).*
12. Upcoming Management Committee tasks, schedule next meeting. (All, 5 min). *The Committee will schedule its next meeting, webinar, and/or conference call (typically held in January or February).*

ADJOURN: by 4:00 p.m.

Attachment 1

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. The **Program Director's office** will ask Ouray NWR to document their floodplain management recommendations in their draft FY 12-13 easement scope of work (and also ask how the Program might better participate in the Refuge's planning process). *Pending: PD's office is discussing with Ouray NWR.*
3. By September 30, 2011, as required in the RIPRAP, the **Water Acquisition Committee** will review mechanisms of current flow protection under the PBO's for the Yampa and Colorado rivers to determine if additional mechanisms or instream flow filings are needed at this time (and this will be reviewed every 5 years). This discussion will include whether or not depletion accounting is working (are we able to adequately document depletions); however, the depletion accounting does not need to be completed in order to determine if additional mechanisms or instream flow filings are needed at this time. Peak flows on the Yampa should be discussed, but a peak flow recommendation may be the first step in this process. *7/19/11: WAC began discussing this; tabled until next call.*
4. The **Recovery Programs' directors** will make recommendations for FY12 work plan formulations based on a potential ~\$1M shortfall and bring that back to their technical committees and, if legislation isn't passed or other funds aren't found, to the Management (Upper Colorado) and Coordination (San Juan) committees. In addition, the **Recovery Programs' director's offices and Reclamation** should discuss allocation of the FY 11 \$2M capital funds Reclamation is making available to help meet the shortfall. *Done; Reclamation found funds to cover shortfall and distributed according to 66.6% Upper Basin and 33.3% San Juan.*
5. **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.
6. **Brent Uilenberg** will modify the OMID scope of work to reflect the ITRC contract to design the SCADA system. The **PD's office** will post the revised SOW to the web. *Pending.*
7. The **Service and Biology Committee** will work on answering the questions Reclamation has raised about the Flaming Gorge trigger and the **Management Committee** will receive updates. *PD's office provided background material to Biology Committee; on 9/30 BC agenda for discussion.*
8. How to approach the required review of the Flaming Gorge flow and temperature recommendations and which recommendations are most in need of review/reconsideration in light of new scientific findings will be on the next **Biology Committee** agenda along with addressing Reclamation's questions, above. The **Service and PD's office** will provide guidance, reviewing Bestgen's (and other relevant) recommendations and providing the BC with an analysis of what they mean and what the options are. *PD e-mailed guidance to BC 9/26/11; on 9/30 BC agenda for discussion.*

9. The **PD's office** will work to reschedule the September Implementation Committee meeting (perhaps as a 2-hour conference call). *Done; rescheduled to September 19 conference call.*
10. **John Shields** will prepare and share a separate summary of the roundtable discussion with the San Joaquin River Restoration Program participants.

General – Upper Basin-wide				
#	Recommended Action Items	Lead	Due Date	Status
1	Cory Williams to send revised draft sediment report to USGS editorial by June 1, then revise & send to BC/WAC for final approval by August 1.	USGS	8/1/11	Sent to BC/WAC July 22 ; review webinar scheduled for October 13.
2	The Program Director's office will work with the signatories to the Nonnative Fish Stocking Policy to develop a Nonnative Fish Strategy that squarely addresses the issue of illicit stocking (draft due 9/1/11).	USFWS-PD	9/1/11	Draft strategy sent to BC 8/29/11. Tom Chart also sent a letter to the States about illicit introductions and addressing this issue in the nonnative fish strategy.
3	The Larval Fish Lab is scheduled to submit the draft razorback monitoring plan by May 31, 2011.	LFL	5/31/11	Behind schedule, but larval razorback monitoring is included in draft FY12-13 Work Plan in project #22f, #160 & #163, as well as an additional placeholder,
4	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 will convene 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.	USFWS-PD		The Program Director's Office has assembled an ad hoc group (three geneticists and Rich Valdez, Melissa Trammell, and Brandon Albrecht) to work on a humpback chub genetics management plan. They will have an initial conference call in October.
Green River				
5	The Program Director's Office will provide a draft Upper Basin Nonnative Fish Strategy for Program review by September 1, 2011. This strategy will identify actions needed to prevent introduction of new invasive species and also identify actions to eliminate newly-emerging invasives such as burbot and gizzard shad.	USFWS-PD	9/1/11	Draft strategy sent to BC 8/29/11.
6	The Program Director's Office will provide a final draft Role of the Price River in Recovery of Endangered Fish and the Need for Flow Management for Program review by July 1.	USFWS-PD	7/1/11	Provided. Submitted 6/21/11 and discussed at 7/11-12/11 BC meeting. BC deferred review/approval to their September 30 webinar.
7	The Tusher Wash Ad Hoc Group is gathering information (literature review to be completed in summer 2011, and a potential mortality study, if needed and funding available) to develop a screening recommendation.	Tusher Wash Ad Hoc Group		Most recent BC discussion deferred to 9/30/11.
Yampa River				
8	The Water Acquisition Committee will review mechanisms of current flow protection under the PBO's for both the Yampa and Colorado rivers to determine if additional mechanisms or instream flow filings are needed at this time (this will be reviewed every 5 years). As part of this review, the Committee will discuss the need for peak flow protection (which would require a peak flow recommendation).	WAC		7/19/11: WAC began discussing this; tabled until next call. MC: WAC needs to make call on whether instream flow filings currently necessary AND add language to RIPRAP to allow review before 5 more years, if needed. Also need to consider whether additional mechanisms for flow protection are needed.
9	CWCB will create a Consumptive Uses & Losses Report for 1975-2009, compare those to the old 1975-1998 numbers, and compare their new estimates for 1975-1998 to 1999-2009. The StateCU model will be completed by June 1, 2011;	CWCB, FWS, TNC, WAC	6/1/11	8/11/11: Report not yet ready for sharing, but will be by 12/31/11.

	Subsequently, meetings will be held with TNC to discuss StateMOD. CWCB, the Service, and the Water Acquisition Committee also should discuss whether we are able to adequately document depletions.			
10	CSU will complete the programmatic synthesis of smallmouth bass removal efforts (2012) which will provide a comprehensive evaluation of the Program's removal efforts as well as a thorough assessment of escapement.	CSU-LFL	8/31/2012	Draft final report due to Recovery Program 8/31/2012.
11	CSU will conduct a programmatic synthesis of northern pike removal efforts (2011-2012) which will evaluate current removal efforts in the context of northern pike life history throughout the Yampa River drainage. The Service supports the Program Director's Office recommendation that there be additional emphasis on northern pike control above Hayden.	CSU-LFL	6/30/13	Draft final report due to Recovery Program 6/30/13.
White River				
12	The Program Director's Office will submit a draft flow recommendations report to BC/WAC by July 1, 2011. Program participants have initiated efforts to develop a White River Management Plan that likely will lead to a programmatic biological opinion.	USFWS-PD	7/1/11	Draft report submitted July 1, 2011. Jana will update Biology Committee on comments received (some of which are conflicting) during September 30 webinar.
Colorado River				
13	Recovery Program participants will consider options and opportunities for meeting flow recommendations on a more consistent basis after completion of 10,825 EA and agreements.	Program	Pending	
14	Recovery Program participants will complete the final CFOPS report by September 30, 2011.	Program	9/30/11	2008, 2009, and 2010 CROS reports that will allow completion of the assessment of the potential benefits of CFOPS distributed. Conference call held 8/3/11, schedule revised: draft report to CFOPS team by 9/23/11 10/11/11, to WAC 10/31/11 11/18/11; final to Program 11/30/11 12/16/11.
15	The Service will document condition of a surrogate species (white sucker) below the Grand Valley Irrigation Company return pipe (begins July 2011).	USFWS	2011	This work had to be deferred to 2012 due to high flows. Results and recommendations to be documented in the 2012 annual report.
16	CDOW and the Recovery Program have coordinated with Parks so that the 2011 unscreened outlet release will be scheduled in the summer when oxygen is depleted at depth to prevent fish escapement. The Recovery Program also will coordinate with Parks to revise the scope of work accordingly (to assure that unscreened outlet releases only occur when oxygen levels are ≤ 2 mg/l).	CDOP&W	2011	In progress and SOW revised .
Gunnison River				
17	The Aspinall Study Plan will begin to be implemented in FY11. Reclamation will complete the final Aspinall Environmental Impact Statement by December 31, 2011.	Program/Reclamation	2011	SOW at http://www.coloradoriverrecovery.org/documents-publications/work-plan-documents/sow/10-11/rsch/163.pdf . Final ROD now expected in early 2012 prior to spring runoff.

