

September 25, 2009

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

Conference Room in the Western Colorado Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation  
2764 Compass Drive, Grand Junction, Colorado  
October 13-14, 2009

**NOTE: Those who have the lead for the agenda items listed below are *expected* to post a synopsis of your report on the fws-colorriver 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.

**Tuesday, October 13**

**CONVENE: 2:00 p.m. at Bureau of Reclamation Office, 2764 Compass Drive; then depart for tour of Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Facilities** (please be courteous to your fellow Committee members & tour hosts -- arrive BEFORE and be READY TO LEAVE AT 2:00 p.m.)

**Wednesday, October 14**

**CONVENE: 8:00 a.m. (Bureau of Reclamation Office)**

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. OMID tour follow-up (Uilenberg, all, 20 min.)
3. Follow-up on September 24, 2009, Implementation Committee meeting (Shields, all, 15 min.; draft summary posted to listserver on Sept. 25, 2009)
4. Approve August 10-11, 2009, meeting summary and review previous meeting assignments (All, 10 min.)
5. Review of tasks specified in the June 11, 2009 FY 2009 sufficient progress memo (see Attachment 2) (All, 15 min.)
6. Aspinall PBO & [EIS](#) (Service, Reclamation) (1.5 hour) – *Discussion will focus on the status of the PBO and EIS and a presentation on expected Reclamation and Recovery Program responsibilities pursuant to the PBO and the anticipated Record of Decision.*
7. Report on Green River flow protection (Utah, 30 min.) – *Utah will review the outcome of public meetings recently held in Vernal, Price, Green River, and Moab regarding subordination of new/changed water rights to year-round endangered fish flows down to the confluence of the Duchesne River and the Committee will discuss next steps.*
8. Butch Craig floodplain site (Uilenberg, all, 15 min) – *The Committee will hear any recommendations resulting from the Biology Committee’s recent tour and discussion of the*

*site (where the levee has undercut and the river may soon reclaim the floodplain). Program Director's office review and Reclamation cost estimates may still be pending at this time.*

9. Updates/Follow-up on Legislative and Program Authority-related activities
  - a. Status of legislation to maintain annual base funding for the Bureau of Reclamation for the Upper Colorado River and San Juan fish recovery programs through FY2023 (Shields & Pitts, 5 min.) – *A Senate hearing was held on S. 1453 on July 23 and a House hearing on H. 2288 on September 22.*
  - b. Status of requested legislation to permanently reallocate 5,412.5 acre-feet of the regulatory capacity of Ruedi Reservoir for delivery to endangered fish habitat on the Colorado River and assign all costs associated with the re-allocated water as non-reimbursable. (Pitts, 10 min.)

## **LUNCH**

10. Addressing renewed interests to drill in the floodplain (Chart, 20 min.) – *With renewed interests in drilling for oil and gas in the upper Colorado River floodplain, the Program may want to consider letters to State mineral development divisions restrict oil and gas activities to areas outside the 100 -yr floodplain. The potential risk of an oil or gas catastrophe in Critical Habitat could, in relatively short order, undo the Program's 20+ years of ecosystem restoration.*
11. Updates
  - a. [10,825 Alternatives](#) update (Pitts) (15 min.)
  - b. Capital projects (Uilenberg) (10 min)
  - c. Hydrology update (Mohrman) (15 min) – *Update on late summer/fall hydrological conditions fish flows.*
  - d. Program Director's Office updates (Chart, 15 min) – *Updates for the Committee on important recovery activities not discussed elsewhere on the agenda.*
  - e. Update on environmental groups' representatives to the Management, Biology, and Information and Education committees (5 min.)
  - f. Reports status (Kantola/Muth) (5 min.) – *An updated reports list will be provided and the Committee will be alerted as to Biology Committee's actions on recent reports.*
12. Upcoming Management Committee tasks, schedule next meeting (All) (10 min)

**ADJOURN by 3:00 p.m.**

**Attachment 1**  
**Assignments from Previous Meetings**

**Assignments**

Carry-over 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 there are other ways (e.g., a weir wall) to 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).*
2. The **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 done with the recovery goals, these Service offices would maintain communication with their stakeholders and then coordinate with one another. Tom would like to 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.*
3. **Brent Uilenberg** will provide a revised RIPRAP budget table ASAP. *Pending now that capital funds indexing has been determined. 8/10/09: Brent said they're working on this. They will need an estimate of needed rearing ponds (number, acreage, flow needs). Tom Czaplá 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.*
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. **Randy Seaholm** will update a relevant Board memo to better explain the issues related to the proposed Ruedi legislation, then **Tom Pitts** will schedule a conference call of the non-federal Program participants (before the August Management Committee meeting). *8/10/09: Although the bill has been drafted, more discussion is needed among Program participants to better understand the legislation. Dan McAuliffe will ask Randy if he has updated the board memo yet.*
6. **Randy Seaholm** will talk to the Division Engineer about Reclamation and/or the Division Engineer summarizing Aspinall/Black Canyon operations each year for the first several years. *8/10/09: This needs to be done before Randy retires in November. Dan McAuliffe said Randy is reviewing the comments about reoperation (and also is developing a transition plan, with his Aspinall work going to Michelle Garrison).*
7. **Dan McAuliffe** will discuss Yampa River habitat modifications with Tom Nesler and Sherm Hebein. Reclamation remains available to assist.
8. **The PDO** will generate a list of questions to assist the Biology Committee in developing a technical recommendation on how to proceed at the Butch Craig site (e.g. repair, leave alone, consider a site on the opposite side of the river, etc.). *9/21/09: Done; on 10/6 Biology Committee and this committee's 10/14 agenda.*
9. **Tom Czapl**a is working with hatchery managers and others to identify the Program's rearing pond needs.
10. The Program Director's Office (**Tom Czapl**a) will alert the committee when the 5-year status reviews are completed and provide a link to the documents. *Pending.*
11. The **Program Director's office** will provide an update at the Implementation Committee that reviews where we've been and where we're going in the Recovery Program (this also will help the Committee understand future staffing needs). *9/21: On Implementation Committee agenda.*
12. **Tom Pitts** will send the current draft Ruedi legislation and briefing paper to the Management Committee for review and schedule a conference call to discuss it.
13. When the extension to the Program's Cooperative Agreement is approved, the Recovery Program (**Debbie Felker**) will issue a news release and all signatories will receive an original copy of the signed document. *Done.*
14. **Angela Kantola** will post the latest depletion tables to the listserver along with the final "de minimis" memo declaring that water-related activities in the Upper Colorado River basin resulting in depletions of **less than 0.1 af/year** have no effect and do not require consultation with the Service for potential effects on the endangered fishes. *Done.*

15. **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). *Pending.*

ATTACHMENT 2  
**Action Items from the Draft 2009 Sufficient Progress Memo**  
September 22, 2009

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	7/13/09: Critical data from 2008 have now been submitted. CDOW has discontinued translocation of smallmouth bass to Craig Justice Center Ponds, which will be returned to a trout fishery. Elkhead Reservoir will remain the primary translocation site for smallmouth bass (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 Lake are now euthanized. Future actions are contingent on further contaminant results from riverine samples of northern pike and smallmouth bass. Elkhead Reservoir is still under a public fish consumption advisory. 2009 nonnative fish workshop scheduled for December 8-9.
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.	Valdez, Bestgen	7/31/09	8/24/09: Draft sent to PD's office and co-authors for review.
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.	USBR, FWS, WAPA	Ongoing	Ongoing.
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 downstream of the Duchesne to the confluence with the Colorado River.	Utah	Public meeting: 8/31/09 Schedule/outline: 9/30/09	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 discussed this process on September 22 and the State has public meeting scheduled at the end of September.

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.
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.
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 the 2010 peak flow.
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 to be provided by Oct. 1, 2009.
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.	USB, PD's office	Meetings and conference calls ongoing. Hydrologic model completion date?	7/31/09: Declaration of Green Mtn. surplus happens after other fish pools are applied, but should be fairly straightforward this year. CWCB is working on a hydrologic model to better predict base flows at Cameo based on snowpack, etc. (Dan McAuliffe checking with Michelle Garrison re: completion date).
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).	Upper Basin water users, FWS	Agreements to be signed by December 2009	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).