



# Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Dated: October 29, 2013

## August 14 – 15, 2013, Management Committee Meeting Summary Cheyenne, Wyoming

**Participants:** See Attachment 1

**CONVENE: 1:15 p.m.**

1. Approve April 2, 2013 and May 28, 2013, web conference summaries and review previous meeting assignments – The Committee approved the summaries as revised; Angela Kantola will post the final summaries to the listserv (*done*).
2. Nonnative Fish and Sufficient Progress – Tom Chart reviewed progress on the Nonnative Fish Strategy, recent discussions with the States’ Fish Chiefs, and the Service’s work to date on the 2013 sufficient progress assessment. Last August, the Management Committee asked the Program Director’s office to provide condensed tables in the draft Nonnative Fish Strategy that could be inserted in the RIPRAP. The Committee agreed in April that they should meet with the States’ Fish Chiefs to discuss remaining concerns with the draft Strategy and that meeting was held May 21-22. Tom prefaced that meeting by letting the Fish Chiefs know that the Service would be faced with a difficult sufficient progress review this year in light of declining Colorado pikeminnow status and abundance of nonnative predators. In its sufficient progress review meeting on June 25, the Service did not believe it could conclude the Program is making sufficient progress and directed Tom Chart to work with States to develop a list of actions the Program would commit to implement in the next few years to make the needed progress to reduce the nonnative fish threat. The Service recognizes that a “jeopardy call” would directly impact water users, whereas the threat of greatest concern is nonnative fish abundance. Bridget Fahey affirmed that the Service sees tackling the nonnative fish threat as the Program’s current highest priority. Tom Chart reviewed the draft list of actions he’s been working on with the Fish Chiefs. Melissa asked if anything on the list isn’t in the strategy; Tom and Harry said that although some items on the list are more specific, all are in the strategy. With regard to must-kill regulations, Tom Pitts, Melissa Trammell, and Tom Chart echoed the importance of the message must-kill regulations send to the public: that certain fish species are not acceptable in the upper Colorado River basin. Committee members asked how Program participants might be helpful in getting these regulations in place in Colorado. Tom Pitts and Brent Uilenberg argued that CPW seems to want to hold the Program to a higher standard (e.g., “show me that must-kill regulations will help recover the fish”) than we’ve held providing flows for endangered fish. Tom Pitts asked if the Management Committee should meet with CPW to discuss these issues. Robert King and Tom Pitts emphasized that we’ve just heard that the Service is considering a jeopardy decision and that is not an acceptable place for the Recovery Program to be. Harry clarified that CPW is tracking these issues closely and that CPW had proactively scheduled their internal meeting to discuss needed nonnative fish management actions *before* the Service held their sufficient progress meeting. Harry Crockett said the three State fish and wildlife agencies are meeting next week and will

discuss must-kill regulations. Tom Pitts asked about the lake management plans; Harry said he's still gathering them. Tom Pitts emphasized the need for all these plans to be consistent with the Nonnative Strategy, once it's finalized. Tom Chart said the States are reviewing the action item list and he anticipates their final input shortly (Utah responded with their approval today). When the list is approved, Tom will discuss it with the Service's Regional Directorate with regard to the sufficient progress assessment. Tom Chart said he thinks it's a good list, and he very much appreciates the States' work on it. Bridget said the Service does need to be able to make an honest call on sufficient progress and affirmed Service's appreciation for the work the States' have done to develop a list of actions to substantially reduce the nonnative fish threat over the next few years. The Recovery Program is a national model of cooperation, collaboration, and getting projects done on the ground, but we are at a point where we need to see a response from the species. With regard to the Basinwide Nonnative Fish Strategy, Tom said the States' are reviewing the revised version (comments requested by August 30), the next step will be Biology Committee review and approval, and then it will come to the Management Committee, hopefully by this fall.

3. White River Management Plan scope of work – On July 11, the Water Acquisition Committee revised and approved a draft scope of work to develop a White River Management Plan (revised draft scope sent to the Committee by Jana Mohrman on July 31). This scope now comes to the Management Committee for approval. The goal of the scope of work is to develop a management plan that: 1) identifies historic and a most likely future depletion scenario; 2) uses (and refines) the Recovery Program's draft endangered fish flow recommendations and current hydrology to identify the effects of past and future water development on endangered fish habitat; 3) develops flow recommendations for the White River and 4) identifies recovery actions needed to offset depletion effects. A federal-state cooperative or other agreement to implement the resultant management plan will constitute the federal action (likely via USFWS participation) that serves as the basis for a Section 7 consultation and development of a White River PBO.

Michelle Garrison said the full \$250K from the native species trust fund is available for this work; the Committee thanked Michelle and Ted at CWCB for making those funds available. Colorado will direct the contract.

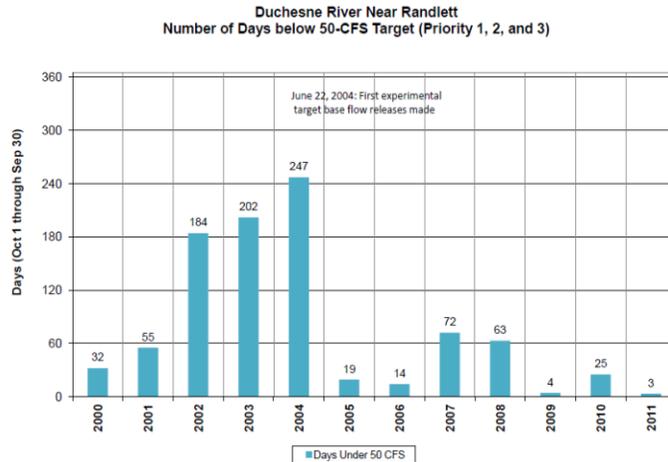
Dave Speas recommended noting that BLM (both Colorado and Utah) will be included as a stakeholder; Jana said she thinks they are on the list. Kevin concurred, noting BLM permits much of the activities that would be covered under a White River BO. Dave Speas noted the scope of work seems to focus on flows; Tom Pitts and others clarified that the management plan will need to include all applicable recovery elements. John Shields emphasized the importance of the planned public meetings and outreach to water users in this scope of work. Since we don't currently have a public relations coordinator, we need to be sure we've put the appropriate thought and preparation into these things prior to the public meetings. Tom Chart said he has a commitment from the Regional External Affairs office to share a public relations position half time which will give us important access to that office's expertise. Brent asked about interaction with the energy industry and with the Yampa/White River Roundtable. Tom Pitts said that the potential range of water demands will be a big issue. Tom Pitts asked if the Water Acquisition Committee or technical team can review the RFP and Michelle said yes. The Committee approved the scope of work. Michelle warned that the roundtables have been tasked with working on the State Water Plan the Governor has

requested within 18 months. This could impact their participation and therefore, potentially alter the timeline outlined in this scope of work. Tom Pitts said several of his constituents have asked if the Program should be included as part of the State Water Plan and Tom has said he believes the Program should be part of the State Water Plan, given the extensive management of water that occurs under the auspices of the Program to benefit endangered fish. Jana said Ted Kowalski has told her she is welcome to participate. Brent added that the nonconsumptive use representatives in each of the basins also are aware of the Program's flow recommendations.

#### 4. Updates

##### a. Report on Hydrology and from Water Acquisition Committee

- 10,825 contracting – Tom Pitts said replacing the water previously provided from Ruedi Reservoir has been a long process, but all contracts are now complete. Water users will provide information to the Program Director's office on costs (>\$25M) for the budget pie charts. Jana said water already is being released under these contracts. John Shields suggested the >Service do a news release on this.
- Water for the San Rafael River – Jana outlined the proposed [Blue Cut agreement](#), a portion of which will provide 3 cfs year-round in exchange for the Service subordinating an old water right. This water may be of greatest benefit to the three species in the upper reaches of the San Rafael. John Shields asked if any costs should be reflected in the budget pie chart. This non-Federal expense from the Basin Fund of \$6,500,000 to the irrigation company to pay for water conservation measures, which includes 3 cfs will be left in Cottonwood Creek -- at least a portion of which is expected to reach endangered fish habitat in the San Rafael River -- should be tracked in the Program's pie chart. Jana said part of the agreement was that FWS would subordinate their unused water right to this project (at the request of Reclamation).
- Duchesne Water Management report – Jana said the Duchesne River Working Group recently completed this report. Management began in 2005 and the trend in decreasing the number of days where flows fall below 50\_cfs has been very encouraging as indicated in the graph below.



Much has been learned regarding water travel time and the need for anticipatory releases. 2013 has been very dry and the target has been dropped to 40cfs in hopes of making the available release water last longer.

- Green River flow protections – Utah has completed their water rights model from Flaming Gorge to the confluence of the Colorado River (1970-2005). Reclamation recently provided data runs from the Basin Study model and the Flaming Gorge Operations model, but hasn't indicated when the information will be final. The work is about a year behind; a revised timeline will be provided to the Management Committee in the near future.
- A geomorphology committee is now established to work on evaluation of flow recommendations (chaired by Kirk LaGory).
- 2013 hydrology – August 13 flows show all but Colorado and Duchesne river targets being met:
  - Flaming Gorge: Green R. at Jensen 1300-1400 cfs (target 900 - 1100 cfs)
  - Aspinall Units: Gunnison R. at GJ 1290 cfs (target 900 cfs)
  - Colorado R. at Palisade: 724 cfs (target 810 cfs)
  - Duchesne R. at Randlett: 27 cfs (target 50 cfs)
  - Yampa R. at Maybell: 163 cfs (target 134 - 200 cfs)

Elkhead Fish pool volume:

Existing pool:	5,000 af
2012 carry over:	418 af minus 26 af evaporation
2013 lease:	1,000 af (some may be carried over to 2014)
Total:	6,392 af

- “April Hole” – This year lack of snow melt from late cold conditions, the beginning of the irrigation season in April, low soil moisture, and low reservoir levels due to the previous year of drought resulted in flows at Palisade below the 810 cfs target for 28 days in April and below 54 cfs for 5 days. A technical group is working on a paper reviewing irrigation mechanics, hydrology, etc., and that paper should be done this fall. Brent said, in retrospect, we might have advised OMID to ease into closing the check to avoid abrupt de-watering in the 15-Mile

Reach. However, if we hadn't received the July moisture, we would have been very grateful for the preserved storage.

b. Capital projects

- OMID – Brent reported the draft EA was released in July; the comment period ended August 5. The only comment was Mesa County's concern about the location of the regulating reservoir in the drainage above an elementary school. Reclamation's value engineering study resulted in anticipated savings of half the originally projected cost for the 33 (now gateless) check structures in Canal 1 & 2, which is the first part of the project that will be contracted. To contract it this year, Reclamation is using a purely negotiated contract process, which could cut into some of the savings, but will get the structures in place for the 2014 irrigation season. The regulating reservoir (~100 af of storage) portion of the project will have to be bulletproof from a dam safety perspective. Another component of the project is piping laterals as well as vibratory compaction of earth portions of canals (used in California's Central Valley, but experimental in Colorado due to freeze-thaw patterns). Completion of the whole project will probably take 3-4 years. Brent said he does not have an update on capital appropriations at this time in light of current Federal budget uncertainties.
- Tusher Wash – Reclamation has declined to be a cooperating agency for the EIS on the dam rehabilitation, but they will be involved at the level necessary to effectively and efficiently incorporate an e-barrier into this project. Kevin McAbee said the Service's Fisheries program has committed \$70K to the fish passage component of the project in 2013. Although the dam rehabilitation and e-barrier will be under separate processes, the Service also is working to make sure they work well together. If all goes as planned, we'll have reduced entrainment for ~800-900 cfs of canals and consistent fish passage over 95-98% of the time. John Shields encouraged the group to capitalize on the e-barrier modeling in anticipation of possible retrofits at GVIC or Grand Valley Project. The Uncompaghe Valley Water Users have installed an e-barrier that may give us some insights to operation of this technology.
- Others (e.g., San Juan Program, etc.) – Brent said the Hogback fish barrier (weir wall) was built this spring and is operating very well from the water users' perspective. Since the weir creates a pool, it's being evaluated as a diversion point. Another project, mechanical habitat restoration on the San Juan, has been successful and follow-up LIDAR imaging is planned to study success and help with design and monitoring of additional sites. It's already shown to provide effective larval razorback sucker habitat. John Shields noted that the San Juan Program received an America's Great Outdoors award for this habitat restoration work. The Committee congratulated the San Juan Program on this award.
- Green Mountain Reservoir Municipal Recreation Surplus Water Contracts – Three one-year contracts are now in place for 10,000 af each, allowing legal protection of up to 30KAF if a surplus is declared (which could still happen this year). Reclamation is working on 40-year contracts for the future.

c. Section 7 Consultation

- Updated consultation list – Angela Kantola e-mailed a list through June 30, 2013 to the Committee on August 7. Angela thanked Kevin McAbee for his diligence in following up on unpaid depletion charges in Utah.
- Section 7 funds update – Through March 31, 2013, \$589K was available in the NFWF-managed Section 7 funds account with \$45K of that amount now spent or obligated (2013 Elkhead water lease, recovery goals technical assistance). Additional potential new expenditures include continued recovery goals technical assistance, continued standardization of the electrofishing fleet, assistance to Utah to reclaim Red Fleet reservoir in 2014, water rights consulting and geomorphology peer review.

**ADJOURN: 5:00 p.m.**

**BBQ and Evening Social Event:** The Committee enjoyed a barbecue hosted at the home of John and Janelle Shields.

**Wednesday, August 8**

**CONVENE: 8:30 a.m.**

- d. Recovery plans, teams/meeting summaries, and timeframes – Tom Chart sent a progress report, timeline, and compilation of recovery team meetings to the Committee on August 6. The proposed recovery plan revision schedule is:
  - October 15, 2013 – send draft CPM Recovery Plan to Service (Regions 6, 2, and 8) for review.
  - December 31, 2013 – send Service reviewed Recovery Plan to stakeholders groups (Upper Colo and SJR Recovery Programs; Glen Canyon Dam AMP; Lower Colorado MSCP).
  - January / February, 2014 – Writing Team meets with / presents the draft Recovery Plan to stakeholder groups.
  - March 1, 2014 – publish the draft Recovery Plan in the Federal Register.

Tom Pitts said the meeting summaries seem to indicate there will not be recovery of Colorado pikeminnow in the Lower Basin; Tom Chart replied that this has not changed since the 2002 Recovery Goals indicated recovery could occur in just the Upper Basin. Tom Chart said the Colorado pikeminnow team is considering a demographic criteria that, in the interest of redundancy and protection from catastrophic events, would require a resident population of adults occupying the Gunnison River the majority of the year. The importance of tributaries to the Colorado and Green populations also is being emphasized. In light of all the Program has already done in the Gunnison, requiring a redundant resident population there would require a conversation about what additional recovery actions can be taken to establish this population. Many Committee members agreed it would be difficult to know what additional actions could be taken in the Gunnison River. Tom Pitts pointed out the long-term (20 year) stability of the Colorado River population at about 600 adults in the face of adverse events like the 2002 drought, oil spills, and more. Melissa asked about water temperature and Tom Chart said it has been discussed, but the Team acknowledges that the 30-40 miles of the lower Gunnison have temperatures appropriate for pikeminnow.

Tom Pitts' July letter to Regional Director re: recovery teams (sent to listserver July 12, 2013) were spurred by the delay in Colorado pikeminnow downlisting, the adverse reaction to the delay by congressional staff, concern that additional delays may occur as plans for other species are developed, and the potential impact on long term support in Congress for the Upper Colorado and San Juan programs. Tom Pitts said he asked the Service to expand and diversify the existing pikeminnow team and immediately initiate (expanded and diversified) teams for the other three species to accelerate the date of their final recovery plans. Tom doesn't question the delay in downlisting, but believes we need to know where we are with these species and if there will be any additional requirements for recovery so that we can adjust our recovery actions accordingly. Many things have gone well in this Program, but the biological response to date has not yet been what we need. Recovery is the goal. Program participants are collectively and individually accountable for meeting the biological goals. Tom Chart said the Deputy Regional Director signed a response to Tom Pitts' letter on August 7. The Regional Directorate tracks the Recovery Program's progress carefully and the Service's recent

sufficient progress review and delay of sufficient progress letter indicates that the Service shares the concerns Tom Pitts has expressed. With regard to Tom Pitts' request, the Regional Director understands the linkage between the recovery plans and the operations of the recovery programs, but can't free up more resources to expedite as development of the plans (especially in light of the need to maintain resources working on addressing the threats to these species). Tom Chart said the Service would overlap development of the species recovery plans to the extent possible. Tom Pitts said his initial response is that he doesn't feel the Service's response fits with the priority that has been placed on the recovery programs by the Service, Congress, and participants, particularly given that more than \$300 million has been spent to date on recovery by the two programs. John Shields added that we also haven't yet discussed how the conservation agreements required before delisting can occur will be negotiated or what will need to be in these agreements. Bridget said that in light of the serious budget cuts the Federal government is facing, the Service's Director has outlined his priorities and those include focusing on recovery *implementation* over recovery *planning*. Revising the recovery plans doesn't necessarily move the bar "on the ground," which is where the Service wants to focus its resources. Pitts said the programs are the implementation vehicle. The cost of developing the recovery plans is very small compared to the cost of implementation by the programs. Updating the recovery plans will assure that the programs are addressing the high priority items leading to recovery in a timely manner through the programs' annual budgeting processes. Bridget asked if there are other ways to address Tom Pitts' (and others') concern that we might approach the proposed 2018 downlisting date and then have the Service say something more is needed for recovery. Clayton said Western supports expediting development of the recovery plans because they are particularly concerned about perceived differences in demographic criteria for humpback chub recovery among Service regions. Biological opinions issued by Region 2 appear to Western to be inconsistent with the 2002 recovery goals. Clayton suggested that if it's a question of resources, perhaps DOE could provide some assistance. Tom Pitts and Robert King emphasized that we need to know that we're on the right path and that it's achievable.

Request for Program to identify a 10-year path to recovery – Tom Pitts said it's not clear to him that we will recover and delist these fish by 2023. Therefore, he wants the recovery programs to identify the goals (endpoints), the threats that need to be removed, and the actions and benchmarks required to remove those threats and achieve the goals by 2023. Melissa asked the distinction between what Tom is requesting and the recovery goals and RIPRAP and expressed concern that developing new path-to-recovery plans would take more resources away from implementing recovery actions. John said he thinks a 10-year plan has to build from what we already have, which is the RIPRAP. Dave Speas suggested what Tom Pitts is looking for might be useful focus points for the recovery team, for example, "in 3 years, we need to see a certain number of recruit-size pikeminnow in these locations..." Robert King thought this might also be helpful to the Service in their sufficient progress reviews. John Shields agreed, but noted that we will need input from all Program participants (not just the recovery team) on these focus points. John noted that we can't place this recommendation for a 10-year path to recovery for each species before the Implementation Committee without a recommended way to achieve it. John added that the "crosswalk" document several years ago linked the recovery goals and the RIPRAP. Tom Chart said part of the

conversation has to be what a realistic timeline to recovery is in light of threats like nonnative fishes and what it will take to reduce that threat. Tom Pitts suggested that we will need benchmarks -- for example, for resetting the fish community (reducing nonnative fishes) in the Yampa River. Tom Pitts emphasized his sense of urgency is not just 10 years out, but also arises from the sufficient progress review and the upcoming visit to Congress. The non-federal program participants need to be able to assure congress that recovery goals will be met as scheduled. Tom emphasized that greatest threat to the Program is failure to perform. Bridget agreed that the Program has indeed implemented significant recovery actions, but largely hasn't seen a biological response from the endangered fish due to the nonnative fish threat. Therefore, the Program is at a crossroads where we have a very difficult threat of nonnative fishes that we need to control (and we don't even know if it's possible) and we need a no-holds barred attack on that problem to see if we can address the nonnative threat and see a biological response.

(The Committee tabled the discussion and returned to it at the end of the meeting.) John asked if the Committee agrees the Program needs to develop these 10-year paths to recovery. Melissa Trammell expressed concerns about resources required and how *not meeting* the identified benchmarks would affect sufficient progress and Program funding. Tom Pitts noted the Service has to consider population status in their sufficient progress assessment. Tom believes we do need to be able to tell Congress where the Program is with regard to progress toward recovery. Bridget says she wants to be very transparent about where we're going and how we're going to get there, but wonders what it would do for us right now, when it appears what we most need to focus on is a more coordinated no-holds-barred approach to nonnative fish management. In addition, Bridget has seen the Service challenged on almost every delisting and cautioned that the more specifics we commit to in terms of recovery criteria, the more complicated it can become to downlist or delist if one particular criteria are not met (even while we may have exceeded other criteria). Melissa said she thinks our annual sufficient progress report can be more transparent with regard to the current sense of population status even before final population estimate reports are completed. John Shields suggested we might also have more focused presentations on overall population status at the annual researchers meeting. John said he appreciates Melissa and Bridget's concerns, but also would like to see if we can explore Tom Pitts' request further and perhaps insert benchmarks in the RIPRAP, have the recovery team consider timelines, or find some expeditious way of getting at what Tom Pitts has suggested. John thought perhaps Tom Chart could broach the topic at next week's recovery team meeting and then we could subsequently schedule a brainstorming conference call of the Management Committee and the recovery team to hear the recovery team's thoughts and discuss the matter. Patrick said he sees that Tom is trying to address two problems: 1) clarity and accuracy of communications with Congress and our other constituents; and 2) good planning and priority-setting to make sure we're on the right path to get where we want to go. Patrick thinks we can readily address the communication problem by modifying D.C. trip presentations and how we present information in the briefing book. The planning/priority-setting challenge is a bigger issue and Patrick said he's somewhat reluctant to embark on this in light of the enormous effort and Bridget and Melissa's concerns. Tom Chart said he shares everyone's sense of urgency. We've held nonnative fish workshops since 2002, but the

problem has really stayed out in front of us. While the recovery team is revising the recovery plan and timeline, Tom believes we need to stay focused on the threats (e.g., the list of actions under discussion with the States' Fish Chiefs). We have a monitoring program in place to track the populations. Tom said he believes the RIPRAP and sufficient progress reviews are the keys to keeping us on track. That said, in reality, we can't entirely predict how a long-lived (~50 year) species that doesn't reproduce until it's 9 years old will respond to our recovery actions. Tom Pitts noted that the authorizing legislation for annual funding terminates in 2019 and capital funding in 2023, and this termination date was based on the expected date of recovery for the four species. If in a few years we discover that the goals will not be met, the non-federal participants will be placed in the position of justifying an extension in time and money to meet recovery goals. Such a request, after more than three decades of effort and – by then – possibly \$400 million in expenditures, would face considerable scrutiny in Congress, and may not be accepted. The programs, now national models of how the ESA should be implemented, could become national models of failure of the ESA, which would have national impacts on ESA implementation. Tom Pitts moved to table the recommendation and the discussion at this time. Informal discussions will continue.

## 5. Technical Committee Reports

### a. Information and Education Committee – Angela Kantola reported on Information and Education Committee activities.

- The Program Director's office has really missed Debbie Felker after her retirement, but with considerable assistance from Program partners and I&E Committee members, is working to keep the most critical I&E activities moving. The Program Director's office hopes to share a public relations person half time with our Regional Office External Affairs, probably beginning in September or October.
- Melanie Fischer joined the Program Director's office staff as administrative support assistant this past March. Melanie is the graphic artist who designed the Upper Basin Program's website, the San Juan Program's logo, tradeshow booth, banner stands and Program Highlights briefing book. In addition to her administrative role, Melanie will provide graphic design and layout for Program Highlights, the Swimming Upstream newsletter, take over most of the administration of the Upper Basin Program's website, and lead our efforts on social media.
- The UCR and San Juan recovery programs are launching into social media with facebook, Twitter, and Flickr accounts (combined accounts for both programs) to help us communicate our messages to new and broader audiences and get more photos, videos, and clickable URLs in front of those audiences. Protocols the Service has already established make our entry into social media much simpler. Angela said the goal is to use these outlets as additional means of reaching the public, but the Program Director's office doesn't anticipate dedicating inordinate amounts of time and will remain flexible to embrace new media as this fast-changing arena demands. The Program Director's office will be careful to consider and represent all Program partner views in our postings, and welcomes Program participants input and comments as we establish our social media presence. We'll be soliciting field folks for videos as well as photos.
- Recent Recovery Program or Program-related press releases include: announcement that coordinated reservoir releases for the endangered fish wouldn't occur this year (May 24) and release of draft EA for OMID canal improvements (July 10).
- We are just beginning to plan the newsletter; articles likely will be due by mid-September.
- Briefing book planning will begin in late October.

### b. Biology Committee – Jerry Wilhite reported on Biology Committee activities.

- Recently completed reports include razorback sucker monitoring plan and the Elkhead smallmouth bass escapement report (one part of a 3-part report). In review or coming up for review are the other two portions of the smallmouth bass

population dynamics modeling, centrarchid isotope analysis, Colorado River Colorado pikeminnow population estimate, and backwater synthesis report.

- As data increase exponentially with PIT tag antennas and the larger number of fish in the system, the Committee has discussed a new database to automate this data analysis. A subcommittee has been established to identify needs. Representatives from the San Juan Program are participating.
  - The Program has made significant progress addressing entrainment of endangered fish at Tusher Wash with planned installation of an e-barrier. The Committee has discussed how to study impacts of the barrier on fish and will focus on determining: 1) the minimum field strength needed to deflect downstream passage of adult fish; and 2) success of the e-barrier once it's installed. We've started on the second objective with the PIT-tag antenna measuring fish currently entering the irrigation canal *without* the e-barrier (the number of which already has clearly affirmed our need for the barrier).
  - We've made some progress with regard to nonnative fishes, including suspending population estimates for smallmouth bass and northern pike in the Yampa River (except Yampa Canyon) in this year (i.e., lethal removal of all smallmouth bass and northern pike on all passes, rather than conducting one marking-only pass for mark-recapture population estimates); modifying "the surge" on the Yampa to have the greatest impact; reallocating more effort to the White River to respond to smallmouth bass there; and controlling northern pike in the Little Snake River. Colorado reclaimed Paonia Reservoir and improved messaging in their regulations highlighting detrimental effects of nonnative fish. Utah and Wyoming have must-kill regulations and similar messaging.
  - The Larval Trigger Study Plan was implemented for a second year in 2013 and much was learned in 2012. We are still working to understand how to operate floodplain habitats. Utah took a novel approach this year in Stewart Lake, using a picket weir to remove larger-bodied nonnatives as they're entrained and again when they drained Stewart Lake. Dave Speas said Utah intercepted ~700 age-0 razorback sucker up to about 85mm as the lake was drained.
  - The Biology Committee, Program Director's office, and principal investigators worked hard to find cost savings in scopes of work to stay within budget. Not everything could be funded, and important contingencies include identifying razorback sucker spawning areas in the Green River (need to determine best study sites) and evaluation of Flaming Gorge flow recommendations (after the backwater synthesis report completed). The work of the sediment work group will provide input on evaluation of the Flaming Gorge (primarily peak) flow recommendations. The Committee appreciated Utah finding funds to make up shortfalls on Stewart Lake and lower Green River juvenile razorback sucker monitoring.
6. FY14-15 Work Plan Review – Angela Kantola said the Program Director's draft FY14-15 Work Plan was sent to the technical committees on 6/21/13 (see fws-coloriver listserver posting by Angela Kantola) and draft FY14-15 scopes of work are posted at

<http://www.coloradoriverrecovery.org/documents-publications/work-plan-documents/project-scopes-of-work.html>) Technical committees reviewed the draft work plan and scopes of work in July and made minor modifications. Technical committee annotations appear in green (Biology Committee), blue (Water Acquisition Committee) and pink (Information & Education Committee) text in the comments columns of the draft FY 14-15 Work Plan budget spreadsheet that Angela sent the Committee on August 7. Jerry said evaluation of Flaming Gorge flow recommendations are a high priority for Western and they are willing to consider a cost share once we determine what's needed (after the pending backwater synthesis is completed and reviewed).

Program Management scopes of work which are to be reviewed by the Management Committee were posted at <http://www.coloradoriverrecovery.org/documents-publications/work-plan-documents/project-scopes-of-work.html#VII>. Program Management costs are at ~11% of the Program's total budget. The Committee approved these scopes of work. John Shields informed the Committee that Reclamation transferred funds for the entire Program cost of the gage scope of work in FY13, so Wyoming has their ~\$27K FY13 contribution still available through June 30, 2014 (and probably could "park" the funds at NFWF; John and Angela will work to make that happen). Jana noted the gage budget has increased for FY14 because USGS will no longer provide matching funds. The CUWCD has offered ~\$30K for 2014 only toward the gages in their area; the Program will need to cover an additional ~\$20K in FY14 and ~\$50K in FY15.

Under the current draft funding projections, the **very** tight draft budget totals (with the additional gage costs just discussed) show a little over \$162K surplus for FY14, but a deficit of ~\$768K for FY15 due to the impacts of sequestration. Final funding amounts won't be known until the October 2012 – September 2013 CPI is released (used to calculate the power revenue contribution to annual funds). Although this is a two-year work plan, it is very difficult to accurately predict available FY15 funds in the current budget climate. Therefore, even though the FY15 amounts recommended by the Program Director's office result in a significant (~\$718K) deficit, the Program Director's office is reluctant to recommend any modifications to scopes of work until we have better information about available FY15 funds.

The Committee thanked the technical committees and the Program Director's office for their development of the work plan and approved the work plan subject to ratification by the Implementation Committee in September.

Sequestration impacts 2013 (actual) and 2014 – 2015 (projected): A summary of impacts was sent to the Committee on August 7 (see Attachment 3). >The Program Director's office will work with Tom Pitts and John Shields to define the impacts of sequestration in terms of a list of activities/projects the Program isn't funding this year and next and how we're going to deal with that. With regard to the Basin Fund, Leslie James said that the 7.48MAF release will have a real negative impact on power and noted that Lynn Jeka's "what is CRSP" presentation might be something this group would appreciate. The MC agreed to put the presentation on an upcoming meeting agenda.

7. Development of September 23, 2012, Implementation Committee webinar agenda. Agenda items will include:

- Approve March 5, 2013, Implementation Committee webinar summary
  - Ratify the FY14-15 Work Plan
  - Review impacts of sequestration
  - Program Director's update (including nonnative fish management updates)
  - Recovery plans update and request to outline a 10-year path to recovery
  - Review of sufficient progress status/items
  - Southern Rockies LCC update (e.g., funded projects and current priorities)
8. Upcoming Management Committee tasks, schedule next meeting. The Committee will meet via webinar October 29, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. >Jerry Wilhite will talk to Lynn Jeka about making a CRSP presentation on this webinar (*done; Lynn is available*).

**ADJOURN: 12:00 p.m.**

Attachment 1: Attendees  
Colorado River Management Committee Meeting, August 14-15, 2013

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg	Bureau of Reclamation
Michelle Garrison	State of Colorado
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Bridget Fahey	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Melissa Trammell	National Park Service
Patrick McCarthy	The Nature Conservancy
Clayton Palmer (via phone)	Western Area Power Administration
Leslie James	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
Robert King	State of Utah

Nonvoting Member:

Tom Chart	Recovery Program Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Recovery Program Staff:

Tom Czapl	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kevin McAbee (joining Program staff at end of August)	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Angela Kantola	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Others

Jana Mohrman	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Harry Crockett	Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Jerry Wilhite	Western Area Power Administration
Dave Speas	Bureau of Reclamation

## Attachment 2: Meeting Assignments

1. **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. 1/24/13: The Cost Subcommittee held a call on January 9 and identified the need to outline the process for arriving at fully substantiated power replacement costs going forward. If more substantiated power replacement costs are to be included in the 2014 briefing book, the numbers will need to have been fully vetted and agreed upon by the Management Committee sub-group (and perhaps the Management Committee as a whole) and go through the peer review described by Western by mid-December 2013. Les Poch provided new runs of the power model and an assessment of the economic impact of reoperating Flaming Gorge Dam for endangered fish species for the period 2001 – 2011 and those were discussed with Cost Subcommittee members on January 24 and 25. 2/7/13: **Clayton Palmer** will think we can get to an estimate of power costs in time for Management Committee approval by mid-December 2013 (to meet the deadline for the 2014 briefing book), but it will depend on other priorities (like LTEMP); >Clayton will let the Committee know if they can meet the deadline for next year's briefing book. Other contributions which still need to be documented include those from water users and also some from the Colorado's Species Conservation Trust Fund. These need to be described in a table and provided for Management Committee review/approval before they're included in the pie chart. 4/2/13: Clayton has established a deadline of no later than the end of the FY to reach a conclusion on replacement power costs. He has a conference call with Argonne*

tomorrow to discuss the capacity issue. Clayton anticipates the document will be ready within about a month or so. Tom Chart asked that Clayton send it to the team before sending it out for peer review; Clayton agreed. John Shields noted they did get questions about the \$44M estimated power replacement costs on the D.C. trip. Tom Pitts is working on the additional water user contributions (should include \$945K CRWCD contribution for OMID reservoir site). **Michelle Garrison** will provide information on any funds from the Native Species Trust Fund (e.g., OMID grant, the \$250K approved for the White River, CPW expenditures). For NSTF funds, it may be best to report by project once they're all expended. 8/14/13: The **Water Users** will provide 10,825 costs.

2. The **Program Director's office** will finalize the basinwide strategy (the PDO will provide a more specific date - hopefully, in time to affect RIPRAP changes in 2013). *Revised document sent to Management and Biology committees on January 13, 2013; meeting held with States' Fish Chiefs May 21-22; PD's office working to finalize for Program review.*
3. RIPRAP:
  - a. General: To provide ample time for **Program participants** to provide recommendations for improving the RIPRAP, the deadline for comments was changed to June 1 (and subsequently June 11). After comments are received, the **Program Director's office** will compile and share them with the Management and technical committees along with recommendations for how to proceed. 7/31/13: *No comments received; PD's office will finalize 2013 RIPRAP and consider more general RIPRAP revisions/"tune-up" next year.*
  - b. Text: the **Program Director's office** will update the table of contents.
  - c. Tables: the **Program Director's office** will: 1) add stocking records back to 1996 (*done*); 2) Green River - provide wording to revise rows 48-50 regarding the Price River and provide that to Management Committee for final approval (and will reference Price River Position paper [in line 46]) (*done*); 3) Green River – reference the completed report in the merged cells of line 73 (*pending*); and 4) add a new item for Miramonte to the Dolores table (*done*). **Melissa Trammell** offered to continue looking for what documents commit the Program to addressing this reach of the Colorado River below the confluence with the Green River (*done*). **Tom Chart, Pat Martinez, Dave Speas, and Harry Crockett** will add language to assessment column of row 7 of the Dolores table regarding that work group and provide that to the Management Committee along with the Price River language (*pending*).
4. **Michelle Garrison** will discuss with Ted Kowalski (and get back to Brent or Bob Norman regarding) on the proposal of having the Programs ask the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to obligate \$200K of Colorado's San Juan NFWF funds by putting an "Upper Basin" label on them and then invoicing against that \$200K for Upper Colorado NFWF capital expenditures (e.g., Tusher \$40K and others) in the future.
5. The **Service** will do a news release on completion of the 10,825 contracts and releases now being made.
6. The **Program Director's office** will work with Tom Pitts and John Shields to define the impacts of sequestration in terms of a list of activities/projects the Program isn't funding this year and next and how we're going to deal with that.

## Attachment 3

August 15, 2013

## Sequestration Impacts

USBR		FWS		USBR+FWS
<b>2012</b>				
2012 scheduled contribution	\$5,087,791	2012 scheduled contribution	\$1,161,796	
2012 obligated (pwr rev)	\$3,199,255	2012 obligated (ES)	\$720,293	
2011 obligated for 2012 (approp.)	\$1,660,754	2012 obligated (FAC)	\$511,424	
Difference (not due to seq):	<b>(\$227,782)</b>	Difference (not due to seq):	\$69,921	<b>(\$157,861)</b>
<b>2013</b>				
2013 scheduled contribution	\$5,189,547	2013 scheduled contribution	\$1,198,973	
2013 obligated (pwr rev)	\$4,924,881	2013 obligated (ES)	\$695,803	
2013 obligated (approp.)	\$217,471	2013 obligated (FAC: all Ouray NFH \$)	\$569,645	
2013 EOY add'l approp. \$ for c/o to 2014	\$249,975			
Difference:	\$202,780	Difference:	\$66,475	\$269,255
<b>2014</b>				
2014 scheduled contribution (at Dec-Dec CPI of 2.1%)	\$5,298,527	2014 scheduled contribution	\$1,224,152	
2014 projected	\$4,666,817	2014 projected (ES)	\$633,858	
		2014 projected (FAC: all Ouray NFH \$)	\$533,285	
Difference:	<b>(\$631,710)</b>	Difference:	<b>(\$57,009)</b>	<b>(\$688,719)</b>
<b>2015</b>				
2015 scheduled contribution (at previous year's Dec-Dec CPI of 2.1%)	\$5,409,796	2015 scheduled contribution (at previous year's CPI of 2.1%)	\$1,249,859	
2015 projected	\$4,422,276	2015 projected (ES)	\$590,640	
		2015 projected (FAC: all Ouray NFH \$)	\$496,924	
Difference:	<b>(\$987,520)</b>	Difference:	<b>(\$162,295)</b>	<b>(\$1,149,815)</b>
<b>FY12-15 total difference from scheduled contribution</b>				<b>(\$1,727,140)</b>
<b>FY13-15 total difference from scheduled contribution (due to sequestration)</b>				<b>(\$1,569,279)</b>
<b>Numbers in red &amp; parentheses are negative.</b>				
<i>All numbers in italics are estimates or not finally confirmed.</i>				

