



**Draft Summary  
San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program  
Biology Committee Conference Call  
13 August 2012**

**Attendees:**

**Biology Committee Members:**

Bill Miller, Chair – Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
Jicarilla Apache Nation – Absent  
Brian Westfall – Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Jason Davis – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2  
Mark McKinstry – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Travis Francis – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6  
Vincent Lamarra – Navajo Nation  
Harry Crockett – State of Colorado  
Eliza Gilbert – State of New Mexico  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management – Absent  
Tom Wesche – Water Development Interests  
Patrick McCarthy – Conservation Interests

**Program Office – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2:**

David Campbell  
Scott Durst

**Interested Parties:**

Carrie Lile – Southwestern Water Conservation District  
Steven Platania – American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers  
Benjamin Schleicher – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6  
Howard Brandenburg – American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers

**Monday 13 August 2012**

**Changes to agenda:**

- No changes to draft agenda.

**Approve 9 July 2012 draft meeting summary and review Action Item list:**

- Durst did not receive any comments after the summary was distributed. Wesche motioned to approve the summary as distributed, Crockett seconded, and the summary was unanimously approved.

**Discuss options for conducting work in Lake Powell in 2013 with proposed BR cost-share:**

- McKinstry sent out an email detailing BR's proposed cost-share with the SJRIP and Upper Colorado River Recovery Program. The Upper Colorado Program had a recent BC meeting and they have hesitation about conducting this work because of budget constraints. The Upper Program is waiting to see what position the San Juan Program takes on this proposal.
- If work is done in Lake Powell on both the San Juan and Colorado arms, FWS-Grand Junction and UDWR will need to know ASAP in order to plan for additional equipment and personnel.
- There is general support from the BC to continue work in Lake Powell as long as it does not affect other Program priorities for 2013. Campbell indicated that about \$80,000 is available in the 2013 budget to contribute to this effort (including about \$60,000 of carry-over in the Program Office budget). In order to fund the same work that has previously occurred in Lake Powell, it would require a 2-to-1 match from BR. The SOW would have to be revised if the match is limited to 1-to-1. Limiting 2013 work in Lake Powell to a smaller window in time (during spawning) or tracking sonic tagged fish would help reduce the budget.
- Westfall asked if the razorback suckers in Lake Powell count toward recovery. It was the recollection of the BC and Durst from previous discussion that if recruitment is occurring in Lake Powell, then stocked fish count toward recovery demographic criteria. So it's important to understand what is happening in Lake Powell because those fish can contribute toward recovery.
- Miller motioned that Ryden and Francis revise the SOW for 2013 work in the San Juan Arm of Lake Powell so it fits into budgetary, equipment, and personnel constraints. This revised SOW will be reviewed by the BC. Wesche seconded and the BC unanimously approved of this motion as long as no other Program priorities are affected.

**Final prioritization of 2013 AWP:**

- Lamarra provided details on changes made to the Habitat-Temperature SOW. Because the amount of time necessary to task the satellite to map the entire San Juan River (30-60 days), mapping will be carried out with helicopter videography (as in past years). Monitoring at the RERI sites will include flow into and out of the sites along with cross-stream transects. The habitat retrospective portion of the scope will examine 30-35 complex reaches and include archived satellite imagery and older KB and ERI pre and post dam imagery to examine how the channel has changed. The retrospective study will look at reaches before and after high and lows flows so there is no more than a 5 year lag between any time period in the analysis. Examinations of antecedent flow conditions will be based on criteria in the Flow Recommendations. Wesche and McCarthy commended Lamarra for incorporating these changes.
- Platania updated the ASIR opercle and natal origin SOWs. These changes addressed clarification in the text and budget. There were no substantial changes to the work described in the SOW.
- The BC did not suggest any changes to existing priorities. Davis motioned to approve the prioritization of the AWP with the amended SOWs and pass this prioritization along to the CC. Wesche seconded and the BC approved unanimously.

**Update on BIA shuttle running issues:**

- Davis updated the group of his discussion with Michael Howe. Howe is acting as the lead for the BIA-Farmington office for the next two months (until 28 September). While Howe is acting in his current role, the BIA will continue to provide shuttle services for Program activities. So field work

for the remainder of this year will be covered by this commitment. Howe will urge his successor to maintain this service. Davis will keep the BC updated of this situation after 28 September.

**Update on using Horsethief Ponds for rearing razorback suckers:**

- Francis updated the BC that this facility is close to completion. Otter proof fencing has been installed at the ponds and “canary” fish have been put into the ponds. Fertilization testing will start soon. The facility has been renamed Grand Valley Pond at Snook Bottom.
- Approximately 2,000 – 4,000 razorback suckers are available for the Snook Bottom Ponds from the 24 Road Hatchery. These fish would be ready to stock into the San Juan River by fall 2013. Ryden submitted a \$17,000 SOW for 2013 to deal with O&M for these ponds. Since the San Juan Program is committed to providing some portion of O&M for these ponds the BC felt it was best to have fish in these ponds that will be stocked in to the San Juan River in order to test the retention of fish from alternative sources. The 2,000 – 4,000 razorback suckers at these ponds would be adequate to test survival and retention from this facility. These fish would have 1.5 year to grow-out before stocking, similar to fish stocked in the San Juan River from other sources.
- Davis recently sent out some preliminary information on recaptures of razorback suckers stocked from Uvalde. It appears that Uvalde’s revised management in 2011 is improving the retention of those fish in the San Juan River. Many razorback suckers from Uvalde were stocked upstream of PNM and this area has yet to be sampled. The upcoming Fall Monitoring effort may detect many individuals in this area. Plans are underway to sample the San Juan River upstream of the Animas River confluence and in the lower portion of the Animas River. Low water could limit sampling in the Animas River.

**Other items:**

- Brandenburg reported that Farrington is recovering from his accident on the San Juan River.
- Durst reported that Cathcart has multiple mobile antennas in the McElmo system to detect tagged fish.
- The next BC meeting is scheduled for 7-8 November 2012 at the Public Lands Center in Durango, CO. The meeting will from 8am – 5pm both days. Revision to the LRP will be a major agenda item and other will follow as the meeting gets closer.

**BIOLOGY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM LOG**

(Updated 14 August 2012)

Item No.*	Action Item	Meeting/O rigination Date	Responsible Party(s)	Due Date	Revised Date	Date Completed
1	Provide RBS/CPM stocking/capture/recapture data		P.I.'s to the Program Office	Annually before Jan. 1		
2	Provide Preliminary Draft Report Presentations		Project Leads (authors)	Annually at Feb. meeting		
3	Review LRP		BC	Annually at fall meeting		
4	Review Peer Review Comments from the February and May meetings		BC	Annually at fall meeting		
5	Provide Draft Reports		Project Leads (authors) to Program Office	Annually by end of March		
6	Scopes of Work		Project Leads to Program Office	Annually by end of March		
7	Provide Final Reports		Project Leads (authors) to Program Office	Annually by end of June		

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8	Annual Data Delivery		PIs to Program Office	Annually by June 30		
9	T&E Species Data		BC to Program Office	Annually by Dec. 31		
10	Annually compile T&E data and Program progress into summary to address overall Program recovery goals/objectives for presentation at annual meeting		Program Office/BC	By Annual Meeting in May		
11	Distribute Consolidated Data and list of annual data collected and available in the Program's database		Program Office to BC	Annually by Jan. 31		
12	Recapture analysis on PIT tagged fish		Durst	Annually by March		
13	Coordinate CPM stocking closely with Reclamation to avoid negative impact due to high flows/releases		Project Leads	Annually		
14	Waterfall Inundation Whitepaper – review past meeting summaries, determine what is needed, and provide report at the next meeting.	05/18/07	Program Office	12/07/07	Not a current priority	

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15	Revise RBS Augmentation Goals (based on the outcome of experimental stocking)	5/10/10	FWS Fisheries/Program Office	5/2011 – provide update and extend as needed	ongoing	
16	Develop a detailed outline for San Juan River Recovery Program case history manuscript	11-5-08	Propst/Miller			On hold
17	Pursue Non-native fish stocking procedures	11/5/09	Crockett and Gilbert	12/1/09	5/14/12	
18	Pursue effects study on Hg/pikeminnow with other groups/programs	1/14/10	Program Office lead	ongoing		
19	Blank database structure for data integration	1/13/10	Durst	3/23/10	2/24/11	
20	Discussion of what is the appropriate number of fish to stock	3/23/10	BC	ongoing		
21	Southern Ute funding of Population Model	5/10/10	Miller	11/2010	ongoing	
22	Work with I&E Coordinator to determine feasibility of brochures and signs	11/10/10	PO	2/24/11	Ongoing	

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**(Updated 14 August 2012)**

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23	Revised positive population response criteria	11/15/11	PO and FWS to BC	2/13/12	5/14/12	
24	Review RPAs concerning BIA's obligations to provide shuttle service	7/9/12	PO	8/13/12		8/13/12
25	Explore other shuttle options with BIA-Shiprock, BR-Farmington, BLM	7/9/12	Davis and Ryden	8/13/12		8/13/12
26	Prepare memo to CC conveying BC recommendation to conduct a feasibility study on removing fish barriers in the lower Animas River	7/9/12	PO	8/20/12		
27	Revise and distribute natal origin and opercle deformity investigation SOW	7/9/12	ASIR	7/20/12		8/13/12
28	Revise and distribute habitat retrospective SOW	7/9/12	Miller and Lamarra	7/20/12		8/13/12
29	Prepare Lake Powell summary analysis SOW	7/9/12	PO	7/20/12		
30	Guidance on preparing 5 year budgets	7/9/12	BR	7/20/12		8/13/12
31	Revise Lake Powell 2013 SOW	8/13/12	FWS-GJ	8/31/12		

\* Items were re-numbered after changes were made

Yellow highlight indicates annual action items

Green highlight indicates new action items

Red highlight indicates completed action items that will be removed from the next iteration of the Action Item Log

**Annual SJRRIP Cycle (Oct. 1 –Sept. 30)**

**January 2011 version**

Date	Annual Tasks	PO	CC	BC	P.I.
Oct.	Reclamation administers contracts	X			
Nov.	BC Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify questions for annual data integration</li> <li>• Review data integration results from previous year</li> <li>• Discuss Program priorities</li> <li>• LRP review and provide recommendations (pros and cons) to Program Office</li> </ul>	X		X	
Dec. 31	RBS/CPM stocking/capture/recapture data to Program Office				X
January	Notification/update of Program rosters/ mailing lists	X			
January	Executive meeting (Program Office; Reclamation Fund Manager; CC and BC Chairs) to do preliminary planning for upcoming year	X	X	X	
January	Updated LRP to BC and CC for review	X	X		
Jan. 31	Distribute consolidated PIT tag data and post other data	X			
February	BC Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for Annual Meeting</li> <li>• Provide preliminary results; draft report presentations</li> <li>• Review updated LRP</li> <li>• Review annual data integration priorities</li> </ul>	X		X	X
February	Final updated LRP to CC (with explanation of input included/not included)	X			
Feb/Mar	Approval of yearly LRP		X		
March	Annual guidance/solicitation for SOWs based on LRP/list of prioritized projects	X			
March 31	Draft reports due/SOWs to Program Office			X	X
April	Preliminary draft Annual Workplan and Budget	X			
May	Annual Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program overview</li> <li>• P.I. presentations</li> <li>• Review preliminary draft AWP</li> <li>• Committee reports</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X
June/July	Draft Annual Workplan and Budget	X			
June 30	Provide final reports and data sets				X
August	Tech review of draft AWP; recommendations with pros and cons to Program Office			X	
August	Revise AWP based on input and transmit final draft to CC with documentation of all input	X			
Sept.	Review and approve final AWP		X		
Sept.	Post final AWP to website	X			