



**San Juan River Biology Committee  
Conference Call  
December 9, 2005**

**Members Present:**

Chuck McAda  
David Propst  
Ron Bliesner  
Mark McKinstry  
Paul Holden  
Jim Brooks  
Bill Miller  
Vince Lamarra  
Tom Wesche  
Greg Gustina

**Representing:**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6  
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish  
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Jicarilla Apache Nation  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2 Fisheries  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
Navajo Nation  
Water Development Interests  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management

**Program Management:**

David Campbell

Joann Perea-Richmann

**Representing:**

Program Coordinator  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Service  
Program Support Assistant  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Service

**Other Interested Parties:**

Steve Platania  
Keith Gido  
Steve Ross  
Howard Brandenburg

**Representing:**

University of New Mexico  
University of Kansas  
University of New Mexico  
University of New Mexico

**INTRODUCTIONS; REVIEW/MODIFY AGENDA (CHUCK MCADA)**

- ❖ Item added to the Agenda:
  - Updates on Program Document from Coordination Committee (CC) December 1, 2005 meeting

**PROGRAM DOCUMENT REVIEW (DAVID CAMPBELL)**

David Campbell informed the BC that the final draft of the Program Document had been tabled by the CC. Some members of the CC were not comfortable with the changes. They requested a redline strike-out comparison of the revised document with original Program Document. David Campbell said he is working on the program document with the sub-committee and has asked the Biology Committee (BC) to provide their comments to their CC counterparts. The CC will address any

proposed changes at a later time. David will be sending a DRAFT of the proposed changes to the sub-committee by December 28<sup>th</sup> for their review and comment.

#### **COMMENTS TO INTEGRATION REPORT (BILL MILLER)**

- ❖ Bill Miller stated he has drafted a response to the comments from Tom Pitts. He will work with Ron Bliesner and Vince Lamarra on temperature model issues and the habitat to flow section of the report. Other areas of concern are to provide clarification on projects on whether they were met or not and minor editing to the report.
- ❖ The BC discussed the purpose of the report and agreed that results of monitoring should be focused on. The BC members recommended working on a separate report yearly or every two years to focus on the Program's progress towards recovery of the species, and submit it to the CC.

#### **Action:**

Bill Miller will revise the report as needed based on Tom Pitts' comments and provide a final report. He will respond to comments that do not require a change in the report. He will also work with Ron Bliesner and Vince Lamarra and have to the BC by January 15, 2006 for review and comments.

#### **STATUS ON SAN JUAN ISOTOPE STUDY, STATUS OF FINAL REPORT (PROPST, GIDO)**

Chuck McAda reported that this draft report has been out for comments and that he's only received comments from the Peer reviewers and Paul Holden.

Keith Gido reported that they have looked over and addressed the comments from the Peer reviewers and Paul Holden and have sent out another draft for the BC to review.

- Bill Miller stated that he is concerned that the study has deviated substantially from the original study design proposal provided in the Statement-of-Work. Those areas in which the study deviated from the original proposal need to be explained in the report.
- Bill Miller suggested incorporating more information on invertebrates and more discussion on natural environment in this report stating that this would be more beneficial. He also said there is no discussion on prey behavior trials or predator efficiency as designed in the original study. There is some mention on limitations and prey setting/predator settings which were different in the original study.

Keith Gido addressed the committee saying that their may have been some miscommunication in the direction of what was expected of them by the BC. Keith stated the following.

- Their original proposal in Phase 1 was to simply do the experiments (ie., limitation, preferences for native and non-native prey species.)
- The proposal for the Phase 2 would be to evaluate data on sight, distributions of prey and in the next couple of summers to see if there are relationships in growth rates with Pikeminnow.

Ron Bliesner stated in the future when SOW are received their needs to be some thought of prioritizing and cost order, to make sure projects are completed when they are supposed to be and for the purpose of issuing RFPs.

#### **Action:**

Chuck McAda asked the BC to submit further comments on this proposal to Keith Gido as soon as possible.

Keith Gido will provide the BC with a final report taking into consideration comments by everyone, and will review his 2006-2008 proposal for clarification/changes and resubmit. Draft proposal will be sent by January 15, 2006 with a summary of results to include why or why not proposals were met.

**STATUS OF FINAL REPORT FOR SAN JUAN MODEL (BILL MILLER)**

Bill Miller stated he is currently working on a technical report which will include a summary with runs made in 2005 and some model assumptions. And another report which will discuss model development with a list of current model perimeters; model assumptions and literature sources.

**Action:**

Final draft on the San Juan Population Model from Bill Miller will be sent to the BC by January 31, 2006. The assumption report and appendix will be out around January 1 or 2, 2006.

**RAZORBACK SUCKER HATCHERY TECHNICAL REVIEW TEAM**

David Campbell stated that the CC has asked that a technical review group be put together to visit all the hatcheries who submitted proposals and provide a technical evaluation of their capabilities. Brent Uilenberg has asked David to contact Mr. Rham Dahn Khalsa of the Bureau of Reclamation who has expertise in this area. The group is will be David Campbell, Jim Brooks and Mark McKinstry and Mr. Rham Dahn Khalsa. The group will be evaluating facility infrastructures and water quality and quantity parameters.

**FEBRUARY MEETING FORMAT (DAVID CAMPBELL)**

Annual Review will take place at the Farmington Civic Center, Farmington, NM

**February 21, 2006 -- 1 pm – 6 or 7 pm**

**February 22, 2006 -- 8 am – 4 pm**

David announced that presentations will be 15 minutes and then ½ hour discussion. Presentations will fall in the order of monitoring, research, recovery, and augmentation.

On the second day a broader discussion will be on program projects, progress and direction of the program with the BC, CC and the Service.

**February 23, 2006 -- 8 am – 3 pm BC regular meeting,**

**Action:**

David will send the Draft agenda to the committee for comment by January 10, 2006.

BC members need to have abstracts and presentation on CD to Joann by February 1, 2006. These abstracts need to have the following:

Brief history of the project

Goals and objectives

Key findings

Outstanding questions and future direction of the project

**TEMPERATURE WHITE PAPER (VINCE LAMARRA)**

Vince Lamarra reported that he has an internal draft and that it will be forwarded to the BC by January 1, 2006. Vince indicated that the white paper will look specifically at species requirements and not necessarily adhere to modeling data on the SJRIP.

**MODELING TEMPERATURE REPORT FROM AMY CUTLER**

Mark McKinstry reported to the committee that the report has not been received from Amy due to her workload, but expects to have something to the committee by the end of December 2005. The report would include changes in modeling methods, new analysis, and non-steady state modeling instead of the state-to-state modeling.

**Action:**

Chuck McAda asked the committee to submit comments to Amy Cutler on the Model Temperature report by January 31, 2006.

**FRUITLAND AND APS WEIR PASSAGE REPAIR (RON BLIESNER)**

Ron Bliesner stated that he sent comments to Melissa Stamp on interpretation of new data regarding Fruitland and problems with the new ladder, there were no changes to the conclusions of the report. Chuck stated that the BC agreed to approve this with recommended changes of Ron and Bill Miller. She will forward another draft will to the BC.

**UPDATE ON HOGBACK AND FISH PASSAGE**

Ron Bliesner reported that Bureau of Reclamation has funded the Navajo-Nations contract with the local Water Users to complete repairs to the erosion of the behind screen from last years high flows. There are some issues with sediment along the diversion crest. Ron stated that they are looking into working this into the contract. Ron said at the last CC meeting Brent Uilenberg indicated if there's damage to the Diversion Dam capital money will not be used to fix it, the program would fund repair "only if it deals with the fish passage."

**Action:**

Ron will draft a memo of justification on the Hogback and Fish Passage repairs for the BC to review and comment then forward to CC for their approval.

**OTHER ITEMS OUTSTANDING:**

Shortage sharing wording– Chuck asked if the BC is ok with the wording on this for another year.

Modification for monitoring –BC members were to review their section and provide inputs to Bill Miller as soon as possible.

Habitat Restoration Draft Report comments need to submitted to Melissa Stamp by January 9, 2006.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Multi-Year Proposals

Relationship of BOR flow releases to flow recommendations

**NEXT MEETING FARMINGTON CIVIC CENTER, FARMINGTON NM**

February 21, 2006 (1:00 pm – 6 or 7:00 pm) Annual Review

February 22, 2006 (8:00 am – 4:00 pm) Annual Review

February 23, 2006 (8:00 am – 3:00 pm) Regular BC meeting

**ADJOURN 11:10 am**

(Updated January 9, 2006)

**BIOLOGY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS**

	<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Meeting/ Origination Date</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Revised Date</i>	<i>Date Completed</i>
1	Create an Action Item Log for the Biology Committee (BC).	07-18-05	Joann	11-09-05		12-15-05
2	The BC needs to establish monitoring protocols that work for population estimates.	7-18-05	BC	02-23-06		
3	Final DRAFT Integration Report needs to include information on model development, data sources, and data development, assumptions used in the model, model uses and limitations.	7-18-05	BC	12-09-05		
4	BC members are to review the Integration Report and distribute comments to other BC members prior to the Dec 9 conference call.	7-18-05	BC	12-08-05		
5	Copy FY2007 SOW for BC	07-18-05	Joann	11-09-05		11-09-05
6	Comments need to be sent to Melissa Stamp on the report for Hogback and Fish Passage repair.	07-18-05	BC	11-25-05		12-09-05
7	Joann will send out UNM website password.	07-18-05	Joann	12-09-05		12-16-05
8	Comments on Habitat Restoration report to Melissa Stamp	07-18-05	BC	01-09-06		

(Updated January 9, 2006)

**BIOLOGY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS**

	<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Meeting/ Origination Date</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Revised Date</i>	<i>Date Completed</i>
10	The New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office will develop a SJRRIP FTP Site.	07-18-05	David Campbell	02-23-06		12-12-05
11	Complete and post RFP for Pit Tag purchase. Award contract for it tags.	07-18-05	Mark McKinstry	RFP posted		11-23-05
12	Complete post RFP for water temperature monitoring, geomorphology, and habitat mapping.	07-18-05	Mark McKinstry	RFP posted		12-23-05
13	DRAFT of the Program Documents to the CC with red-line strike outs. BC is to submit their concerns to their CC counterpart.	12-09-05	David Campbell, BC	12-22-05		
14	Final Draft on the Integration report in red-line strike out to BC.	12-09-05	Bill Miller	01-15-06		
15	A current Isotopes Study proposal needs to be sent to the BC for review and further comments need to be sent to Keith Gido.	12-09-05	Keith Gido/BC	01-15-06		
16	Vince reported that he has an internal draft and will forward to the BC by <u>January 1, 2006</u> . Written comments from BC are to be sent to Vince Lamarra by January 31, 2006.	12-09-05	Vince Lamarra	01-31-06		
17	Chuck asked the committee to submit comments for temperature report on this new Draft by January 31, 2006.	12-09-05	BC	01-31-06		

**BIOLOGY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS**  
**(Updated January 9, 2006)**

	<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Meeting/ Origination Date</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Revised Date</i>	<i>Date Completed</i>
18	Ron will send out a memo of justification on Hogback and Fish Passage for the BC to review and comment then forward to CC for approval.	12-09-05	Ron Bliesner	02-23-06		
19	Modification for monitoring – all BC members need to review their section and provide inputs to Bill Miller asap.	12-09-05	BC	ASAP		
20	Send out Draft agenda to the BC for comment by December 22, 2005.	12-09-05	David Campbell	12-22-05		
21	Develop protocols and evaluation criteria for assessing the ability of fish hatcheries to provide extra 300mm razorback suckers. Make recommendation to BC and CC for awarding contract to meet recommended stocking needs for 300mm razorback suckers.	12-1-05	David C, Mark M. and Jim Brooks	2-23-05		