

**Approved July 25, 2006**



**Biology Committee Conference Call  
May 8, 2006  
Durango, Colorado**

**Members Present:**

Chuck McAda  
Bill Miller  
Ron Bliesner  
Mark McKinstry  
Jim Brooks  
Resources  
David Propst  
Paul Holden  
Tom Wesche

**Representing:**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Fishery  
  
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish  
Jicarilla Apache Nation  
Water Development Interests

**Program Management:**

David Campbell

**Program Coordinator**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological  
Service

Joann Perea-Richmann

**Program Support Assistant**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological  
Service

**Interested Parties:**

Dale Ryden  
Jason Davis

**Representing:**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Fishery  
Resources

Mike Farrington  
Howard Brandenburg

University of New Mexico, Dept of Biology  
University of New Mexico, Dept of Biology

**1. Roll call and revisions to agenda (McAda)**

**Note: Minutes for February 23, 2006 were not reviewed.**

**2. Integration Report, Schedule for Final Review (Bill Miller)**

- Bill Miller informed the committee that his new e-mail address is [wjmill@millereco.com](mailto:wjmill@millereco.com).

- Bill reported the red-line strikeout draft report was sent out in March for comment. Comments received to date have been incorporated. Ron Bliesner's comments were received May 8, 2006 and will be incorporated. Some members reported they were not able to open the document. Bill will resend for final review and comments to be received no later than May 19, 2006.
- Final report will then be completed and sent to the Coordination Committee (CC).

### **3. Status of Population Model Report (Bill Miller)**

- Bill reported that he and Vince are currently working on incorporating the comments received from Steve Ross and Mel Warren (peer reviewers) and data submitted by Dale Ryden.
- Bill will get a draft to the BC by May 19, 2006.
- Final comments from BC will be due July 15, 2006 and final report will then be done and sent to the CC.

### **4. Schedule for review and decisions on YoY Colorado Pikeminnow monitoring report (Chuck McAda)**

- Comments on report are due to Paul Holden and Mike Golden by May 31, 2006. The report will be updated with comments and discussed at the next meeting.
- Paul Holden stated they would like to change their protocol for summer sampling to include a river-wide approach, similar to the small bodied monitoring every 3<sup>rd</sup> mile as opposed to the stations. When Julie and Jason are in the area they will pit tag fish over 150 mm. This would not affect the costs.

### **Discussion was conducted.**

#### **Recommendation:**

- Paul Holden made a motion to include Population Estimates during the summer and fall. Chuck McAda seconded the motion; a vote was taken; 2/3 majority not met (YES votes -Paul Holden, Chuck McAda, RonBliesner, Mark McKinstry [for one year only], Bill Miller, Tom Wesche --NO votes-Jim Brooks, Dave Propst) Non-Attendees-Vince Lamarra, Greg Gustina and Tom Nesler.
- Bill Miller made a motion to e-mail this vote to those committee members not on the conference call, Ron Bliesner seconded the motion. All approved. Chuck will send to members not on call will response by May 19, 2006.

### **5. Update on comments for Pond Management Report (Chuck McAda)**

- Report was sent to the BC by Vince Lamarra for comments.

Jim Brooks received comments on the Pond Management report from two FWS hatchery managers and the Chief of Hatcheries New Mexico Department of Game and Fish; comments centered on management of productivity since there was not an accompanying description of the propagation strategy. Jim also received comments

on pond management experience at NAPI from Dale Ryden and Ron Bliesner for use in developing/refining pond management from RBS production.

Jim is also developing a production strategy that reflects the shift to stocking with 200mm fish in moving towards a single cohort approach and rotating and following ponds. Primary concerns here are related to ability to drain ponds. Jim will be talking more with Albert Laphaie, BIA-NIIP, Ron, and Dale on other problems that need to be dealt with for better production.

**Conclusion:**

Jim Brooks will consolidate the comments he received from the FWS hatcheries and NMGF and submit to the BC. The committee will then submit comments to Vince and finalize report.

**6. NAPI pond update (Dale Ryden/Ron Bliesner)**

- Ron announced that aerators are now in place at the ponds and waiting for powerlines to be placed.
- Dale reported that he and the NAPI folks visited the ponds and hatchery.
  - Reviewed protocols, field schedules and pond harvesting process.
  - Training will be done with the personnel they currently have.
  - There are some concerns with stocking trucks, boat motors, and purchasing equipment.
- Jim Brooks stated that the FWS needs to help with concerns and work with them until NAPI is able to operate on their own. He said they would be working closely with Jeff Cole to make sure things are done.

**7. FY 2006 and 2007 Budget Update (David Campbell and Mark McKinstry)**

**Ouray NFH update** -- David stated that recommendation to the Coordination Committee for this project will be to not fund Ouray NFH for razorback production but set it a place holder for 2006 due to the cost. This will be re-evaluated for 2007 budget. The CC has already been notified and felt it was the right thing to do now.

**Habitat Restoration** -- David and Mark have had discussion on the recommendation by the BC on setting aside \$2.5M for non-native vegetation removal. An educational removal workshop or symposium is in the working stage and will be presented to the CC at May 9, 2006 meeting for their approval.

**Temperature White Paper** -- David stated that Vince requested an additional \$10,000. Vince Lamarra was notified that a scope-of-work is needed with more details on what the additional funds are for. As of now nothing has been submitted, therefore it cannot be presented to the CC for approval at tomorrows meeting.

**Schedule for FY2007 work plan** – 2006 and 2007 work plans with reflected changes will go to the CC for approval May 9, 2006. Mark informed the committee that he went back as far as 1992 to check on projects and found there were some obligated monies not used. This will be de-obligated and returned to the program. This will allow the program to use it for other priorities such as pit tags, or projects for the future.

Discussion on where to use program money and capital money.

**Recommendation:**

- David suggests waiting until 2007 to see where Uvalde is with production and then see where the BC needs to go from there. The BC concurred with this recommendation.

**RFP for habitat monitoring work** – Mark stated he still does not have contracts on habitat mapping, long term morphology and water temperature projects and was still waiting on information and direction from the BC and CC. Mark stated that as the program goes down the road the BC may not be able to use who they want to work on projects since they are on Tribal Land.

**8. Additional Topics – All Protocol and Annual reports due to David Campbell.**

**Other reports:**

Jason Davis reported that during an intensive non-native removal trip from Shiprock, New Mexico to Mexican Hat, the crews from FWS-ABQ and FWS-Grand Junction identified a possible spawning aggregation of razorback sucker at the mouth of McElmo Creek. Three male razorbacks were collected just downstream of the mouth of McElmo creek and upstream of the cobble bar on river right. Two of these fish were ripe males. An additional razorback sucker was observed but not netted. A fourth razorback sucker was collected on river left immediately across from McElmo Creek.

Howard Brandenburg of UNM reported a few larval razorback sucker larvae were found in two of their April's collections as they were sampling. They recently finished the identifications of the April collections and found one larval razorback sucker in reach 2 (RM 33.4), and twelve larval razorback sucker in Reach 1 (RM 8.0). This was the first time they have ever collected larval razorback sucker in April.

**9. Set next meeting date**

July 25, 2006, 8:30 am – 4 pm,  
San Juan Public Lands Center (US Forest Service)  
15 Burnett Ct Durango Tech Center– Hwy 160 West  
Durango, CO



**BIOLOGY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS**  
**(Updated May 15, 2006)**

	<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Meeting/ Origination Date</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Date Due</i>	<i>Completed</i>
3	Final Draft of Population Model report needs to include information on model development, data sources, and data development, assumptions used in the model, model uses and limitations. BC to receive 3-1-06.	7-18-05	Bill Miller	03-31-06	07-15-06	
16	BC feels Vince Lamarra should work with Amy Cutler on Water Temperature and submit to BC with analysis.	02-23-06	BC	04-01-06		
18	Long Range Plan comments due to David Campbell	02-23-06	BC/David	03-31-06	07-25-06	
19	SOW on development of SOW for removal of vegetation removal for Feasibility Evaluation Restoration Options using capital monies.	02-23-06	David C. , Ron B. & Mark M	05-08-06		
20	Tagging and transporting of additional Colorado Pikeminnow will be discussed by Jim. Brooks and Roger Sorensen. Jim will report discussion.	02-23-06	Jim Brooks	05-08-06		
21	Peer reviewers were asked to review and provide comments to revised SOWs and submit to David.	02-23-06	PR/David	04-15-06		
22	BOR to perform feasibility/design study for nonselective passage improvements for APS/Fruitland.	02-23-06	Mark McKinstry	05-08-06		

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23	BOR needs to coordinate with the BC on design criteria and for design review for APS/Fruitland.	02-23-06	Mark McKinstry	05-08-06		
24	BC to submit comments on Integration Report	05-08-06	Bill Miller and BC	05-19-06		
25	Population Model Report comments by BC	05-08-06	Bill Miller and BC	07-15-06		
26	Chuck to will e-mail BC members not present on the Conference Call regarding their vote on YoY CPM protocol change.	05-08-06	Chuck McAda	05-19-06		

(Updated March 17, 2006)

**BIOLOGY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS**  
**BIOLOGY COMMITTEE COMPLETED ACTION ITEMS**

	<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Meeting/ Origination Date</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>DateDue</i>	<i>Completed</i>
1	Create an Action Item Log for the Biology Committee (BC).	07-18-05	Joann	12-09-05		12-15-05
2	The BC needs to establish and submit monitoring protocols to David Campbell.	7-18-05	BC	03-01-06		03-01-06
4	BC members should review the Integration Report and distribute comments to prior to the Dec 9 conference call.	7-18-05	BC	12-09-05		11-9-05
5	Copy FY2007 Scopes of work for BC members	07-18-05	Joann	12-09-05		11-09-05
6	Comments need to be sent to Melissa Stamp for Hogback and Fish Passage report.	07-18-05	BC	11-25-05		12-9-05
9	Joann will send out UNM website password.	07-18-05	Joann	12-09-05		12-12-05
10	The New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office will develop a SJRRIP FTP Site.	07-18-05	David Campbell	12-09-05		11-23-05
11	Complete and post RFP for Pit Tag purchase. Award contract for pits tags	07-18-05	Mark McKinstry	11-9-05		12-23-05

	<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Meeting/ Origination Date</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>DateDue</i>	<i>Completed</i>
12	Complete and post RFP for water temperature monitoring geomorphology, and habitat mapping.	07-18-05	Mark McKinstry	11-9-05		12-23-05
13	Will provide a current Isotopes study proposal to the BC to review and submit comments.	12-09-05	Keith Gido	01-15-06		12-09-05
14	White paper from Vince Lamarra to BC by 1-1-06. BC to review and comments by 1-31-06.	12-09-05	Vince Lamarra/BC	01-31-06		02-01-06
15	Comments on Amy Cutler Temperature report on this by 1-13-06.	12-09-05	BC	01-31-06		02-01-06
17	BC to send revised SOW with 2.6% cut to program office.	02-23-06	BC	03-10-06		03-17-06