

January 6, 2010

Biology Committee Draft Agenda
[Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites](#), 2571 Crossroads Blvd
Grand Junction, Colorado
Thursday, January 14, 2010

CONVENE: 8:00 a.m.

1. Review/modify agenda (Trammell, All; 5 min.)
2. Elect new vice-chair (All, 10 min.) *Melissa Trammell, current vice-chair, assumes chairmanship as of this meeting*
3. Approve Biology Committee October 6 meeting and November 10 conference call summaries. (All, 30 min.) *The [October 6 summary](#) was posted to the fws-coloriver listserv by Dave Irving on October 19 and comments were posted shortly thereafter by Tom Nesler and Pete Cavalli. The [November 10 conference call summary](#) was posted to the fws-coloriver listserv by Dave Irving on November 16. Melissa Trammell submitted comments and follow-up e-mails on the meeting were exchanged by Tom Nesler and Tom Czapla the same day.*
4. Review previous meeting assignments and reports due list (Kantola, all; 30 min.). *An updated reports due list will be sent to the Biology Committee in advance of the meeting.. The status of Committee assignments is annotated at the end of this agenda (please review in advance of the meeting to reduce discussion time).*
5. Report reviews (All, 1 hour)
 - a. 132 Westwater HBC 2003-2005. *Tom Czapla sent for Biology Committee review (just completing this one, focus for any changes will be on 06-08 report) on July 16, 2009.*
 - b. 121a Larval RBS. *Doug Osmundson sent the draft final to the Committee with comments/responses on 12/30.*
6. Development of a flow request for Flaming Gorge Reservoir. (Speas, 1 hour) *This was discussed briefly at the nonnative fish workshop; 2010 would be a good year to try another flow manipulation to disadvantage bass.*
7. Review of revised Baeser Bend SOW (Irving or Webber, 30 min.) *Tom Chart sent the draft revised SOW to the Committee on January 4.*

LUNCH: 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

8. Nonnative fish SOW revisions for 2010 (Speas, NNF PI's, 1.5 hour) *PI's not at the meeting will be available via conference phone (888-842-7194, passcode 209309) for this part of the meeting.*
9. Other nonnative fish items; review/approve NNF workshop summary (Speas, 30 min.)
10. Overview of new demands/needs for research/monitoring or other projects resulting from the Aspinall PBO (PD's office, 30 min)
11. Schedule next meeting (All, 10 min) - *Ideally, the Committee needs to meet in late February to review/make recommendations on documents provided by the PD's office by February 15: draft RIPRAP assessment, draft revised RIPRAP and draft Program Guidance (additional FY 11 new starts and any significantly revised ongoing, projects). This year's schedule is:*

2/1 (2/15 in 2010)	Due from Program Director to technical committees (and their consultants and interested parties) and Management Committee: Draft RIPRAP assessment Draft revised RIPRAP; and Draft Program guidance (recommendations for any additional FY 11 new starts and any significantly revised ongoing, projects)
2/15 (2/28 in 2010)	Technical committees' review/recommendations on draft RIPRAP assessment, draft revised RIPRAP and draft Program Guidance (additional FY 11 new starts and any significantly revised ongoing, projects) due to Management Committee.
2/28 (3/15 in 2010)	Management Committee review/recommendations draft RIPRAP assessment, draft revised RIPRAP and draft Program Guidance (FY 11 new starts and any significantly revised ongoing projects) due to Implementation Committee (or IC may delegate approval to MC).
3/10 (3/25 in 2010)	Implementation Committee approval by this date (if not delegated to MC).
3/15 (3/30 in 2010)	Program Director issues final RIPRAP assessment, revised RIPRAP, FY 09 Program Guidance (for any additional FY 11 new starts and any significantly revised ongoing, projects), and updated FY 10-11 budget tables.

Another agenda item will include development and prioritization of projects to support with capital appropriations from PL 111. BC input on this subject would be helpful to the MC. The PD's office will introduce this topic, then, advance of the February meeting, will draft a list for BOR review and then send to the BC.

ADJOURN by 3:30 p.m.

Attachment 1

Assignments carried over or modified from previous meetings:

1. Tom Nesler will see if CDOW can provide a report on Billy Atkinson's work on pike in Catamount and the river below. Update provided at nonnative fish workshop; participants recommended CDOW provide some kind of management plan. *1/17: Billy will provide a Catamount pike removal document/strategy by the end of February. 6/13: Nesler received the draft today and will send to the BC by the end of July. 10/30: Nesler and Sherm Hebein will revise Billy's report and provide to the Recovery Program (Biology Committee, NNFSC, PI's, etc.) along with an outline of CDOW's strategy for nonnative fish management in the Yampa River above the diversions for discussion as part of the nonnative fish workshop. Tom Chart said it would be very helpful to have that outline before the December. 9-10 workshop. Sherm noted that Billy removed >2,000 np from Catamount this year (>4,000 np total). 1/15: The upper Yampa strategy has been separated out and provided to the Committee; Billy's report is still being revised. 2/20: outline strategy provided prior to last meeting; full strategy due May 1.*
Tom Nesler will check on the status of revision of the Yampa River Aquatic Management Plan. *4/14: Colorado's new completion date is May 1, 2009. (In the interim, CDOW will need to produce an Upper Yampa River strategy to assist the Program in prioritization of 2009 field activities. This strategy should ultimately be incorporated into the Aquatic Wildlife Management Plan for the Yampa River Basin. 4/28: Nesler said they don't plan to provide a formal strategy, but will describe what they [primarily Billy Atkinson] are doing down to Steamboat and regarding isolating sloughs in Sam Finney's reach.) 1/15: Upper Yampa strategy will be directly incorporated into the Yampa River Aquatic Management Plan (which will be completed by 5/1/09). 7/8: In CDOW review/revision with commitment to MC to provide by early July. 7/13: Draft will be available for internal review by mid-July. CDOW will send the draft out the States and Service (NNFSP) prior to Greg Gerlich's final approval. 9/21: The draft final will be distributed to the Recovery Program office and the NNFSP Agreement signatories as a courtesy copy for review and comment as desired. This should be distributed soon. Pending comments received and further revision, Greg Gerlich and Tom Nesler will approve the plan. 10/6: The plan has been sent to the Program Director's office and the signatories to the NNFSP for courtesy review (comments due by the end of October). 1/15/10: FWS provided comments in early November.*
2. The Program Director's office will work with CDOW and Aaron Webber on the potential for designing a permeable, hydrologically-stable (gravel?) berm to prevent northern pike access to the oxbow slough at RM 151 on the Yampa, and then clean it out once and for all. *2/15, 4/15: Pending. 4/28: Chart has discussed with Nesler and with the Partners for Wildlife Program, also. Will focus on this summer/fall. 6/13: CDOW will be contacting the landowner regarding access, if they are amenable, then CDOW and Program will determine a feasible solution (before the end of spring runoff). 8/18: Tom Chart said Sherm will try to get someone from CDOW on this as soon as possible. The Biology Committee would like a date certain on this; >Sherm Hebein will accelerate this. 10/30 said CDOW has contacted the property owners of the RM 151 backwater, but hasn't been able to meet with them yet. Mark Wernke from Reclamation is willing to take a look at the property with CDOW. A fairly long berm would be required (>3,000') and we'll need to determine the best type of*

berm (more permanent configurations could be very expensive). The funding source would need to be determined, with Partners for Fish and Wildlife, lottery funds, grant funds, etc. as possible sources to be explored. 1/15: Tom Nesler said they plan to get engineers develop specs/estimates this spring for something like a 10-year berm structure; the next step will be to find funding (perhaps as a habitat project through GOCO). This would be the first of three or four such projects. Tom Pitts suggested that if the Program provides some matching funds (annual or capital), it might improve the probability of getting GOCO money. Tom also suggested that if we have a project in the hopper, we might be able to compete for end-of-year Reclamation funds. 2/10: The PD's office considers this a high priority and will contribute funds, if available (see revised FY09 budget). This project also was submitted in the Service's list of potential projects for the Economic Stimulus Package. 2/20: Recovery Program funds likely available; CDOW working to get engineers on the ground; Nesler considering different approaches (berm, fill the oxbow, etc.). Muth and Chart discussed with Uilenberg; Wernke available when landowner grants access. Bob Muth suggested Jeff Blakeslee of TNC may know the landowner. 2/20: The Program Director's office will contact Jeff Blakeslee, and then get back with CDOW and Reclamation on the Yampa habitat work. 4/14: CDOW is handling. 4/20: Tom Nesler said they've met with the landowner and Reclamation engineers will do an onsite survey as soon as the snow melts. 7/13: CDOW has not yet asked Reclamation engineers to come on site. Tom Nesler will coordinate with Sherman after other State priorities (e.g. 98a report) have been accomplished. 1/5/10: Project deferred indefinitely; Reclamation cautions that the lesson from the Butch Craig floodplain site is that we need to be very cautious before considering modifying habitats and based on the channel dynamics in this area of the Yampa River, it would be unwise to construct an impervious dike at the mouth of this backwater.

3. Within the next month, >the Service and Program Director's office will provide the Committee a draft addendum to the White River report that will present the measured flow requirements in a historical hydrologic perspective. The Program Director's office also will research where we left Schmidt and Orchard's draft report on peak (channel maintenance) flows and recommend whether to have it reviewed by the geomorphology panel. The Program Director's office will use the information currently available to >develop a position paper on Price River flow recommendations for Committee review. 10/16 Pending; out by the end of ~~November~~ 1/5: February 2009. 2/20: Bob Muth said he's making good progress on this and he'll have a draft to the Committee by ~~early March~~ end of April. 7/8: Mohrman and Chart expect to provide drafts of this and Price River report by the end of August 2009. 7/13: Dave Speas said the goal for the Narrows EIS is to get it out for public review in the fall, so the above schedule should work. The PD's office will keep the Service's SLC-ES Larry's shop in the loop on Price River. 9/21: Chart and Mohrman have made good progress on this, but other priorities have so far prevented completion. 1/5/10: still pending.
4. Melissa believes an Environmental Assessment of the impacts of the Humpback chub captivity management plan (also addresses how to deal with captured roundtail chub) will need to be written; Krissy will work with Melissa on the EA. 7/13: Melissa needs to coordinate with the NPS if this is the case and she intends to do that in the next few weeks. 10/6: John Reber reported that Melissa Trammell will do the EA for this.
5. Krissy Wilson will provide Utah's Health Condition Profile to Tom Czapla. 4/20: Krissy has asked for a formal write-up from their hatchery folks. 7/13: Krissy will condense relevant

information gleaned from hatchery managers and consider organizing workshop(s) in the future. 10/6: Krissy provided this information to Tom Czapla and will work with Tom to determine if a workshop is in order for hatchery personnel.

6. Tom Chart will ask Brett to include more detailed progress in the annual report in revision / expansion of the C-18/19 project (as discussed during the 6/30 conf call). 1/5/10: Done.
7. UDWR will consider modifying their existing Deso/Gray HBC population estimate SOW to bring chubs into captivity. *Done.* The PD's office will investigate the need for permits and NEPA compliance. *Done; chubs brought into captivity at the Ouray NFH on 10/22/09.*
8. The PD's office will communicate with Gary White to determine how many and which of the questions from the HBC workshop to focus on.
9. The PD's office, Vernal CRFP and UDWR will coordinate with the Ute Tribe (Jay Groves) to see if there is interest in a greater level of sampling on the White River. *Pending. 10/6: UDWR has been sampling in the White and the Tribe will be sampling there next week.*
10. Derek Elverud will provide the database for Westwater for Gary White to combine with Black Rocks, which will require a separate SOW. *10/6: Travis said they plan to complete the reports, then revisit the SOW.*
11. The Program Director's office will revise the final report format to indicate the need to include the agreement number on final reports. *1/5/10: Pending.*
12. Reclamation and the Service will work together to get a qualified geomorphologist on the ground to quickly review the Butch Craig site (BLM also should be contacted). Once the geomorphologist reviews the site and prepares an opinion to be reviewed by the geomorphology panel. Then the Biology Committee will need to weigh the best biological options based on what the river is most likely to do. *1/5/10: Review by a geomorphologist and hydraulic engineer from the Denver Technical Service Center strongly recommended repairing the levee and riprapping 650' of the bank. On 12/4/09, the Management Committee authorized up to \$500,000 of capital construction funds by Reclamation to proceed with these repairs.*
13. Tom Chart will discuss Maybell Ditch with Patty Gelatt and will write a cover memo explaining the issues and potential next-steps and transmit John Hawkins' report to the Service. *1/5/10: Done and copied to BC on 12/2/09.*
14. Paul Badame will discuss the Desolation humpback chub proposal with Jay Groves. Dave Speas will check with Reclamation's helicopter pilot and Paul Badame and Mike Montagne will check on private helicopter options for taking fish out of the canyon (done; boat option selected). >Tom Chart will check to see if this work is covered under existing Federal collecting permits. *Done.*
15. Tom Czapla will provide more information on the remote PIT-tag array at Price-Stubb fish passage to the Biology Committee (*done*) and to the Management Committee for approval via e-mail (respond by a date certain if they don't approve).