

July 8, 2009

Biology Committee Draft Agenda
Doubletree Hotel, Grand Junction, Colorado
July 13-14, 2009

Monday, July 13

CONVENE 1:00 p. m.

1. Review/modify agenda (Irving, All; 5 min.).
2. Approve Biology Committee [April 20 web conference](#) and June 30 conference call summaries. (All, 5 min.) *The June 30 summary was posted to the fws-coloriver listserver by Angela Kantola on July 7. Tom Nesler proposes the following changes on page 1 under item #4:*

“Tom Nesler agreed that we might examine the causal differences in trends between the two populations; but we should not expect synchrony in trends; clearly promoting more strong or moderate year classes in each subbasin is helpful. The ad hoc population monitoring committee may want to discuss the differences in the populations. The Committee approved the report with the few minor revisions mentioned above; >Doug will provide a final version by July (if not sooner).”
3. Review assignments (Irving, All; 30 min.). *The status of assignments is annotated at the end of this agenda (please review in advance of the meeting to reduce discussion time).*
4. Discussion and review of FY 10-11 scopes of work (PD's Office, all; 3 hours). *Angela Kantola posted draft budget tables and the link to [the draft scopes of work](#) to the listserver on June 19, 2009.*

Tuesday, July 14

CONVENE 8:00 a. m.

Discussion and review of FY 10-11 scopes of work, continued (if needed).

5. Review/approval of revised Yampa Pike Sources report (R. M. Fitzpatrick and D. L. Winkelman. 2009) (15 min.) *Tom Nesler is working with Ryan Fitzpatrick and Dana Winkelman to >provide a track-changes revision to the report to the Committee by July 10 (as discussed on the Committee's June 30 conference call).*
6. Humpback chub workshop update (Czapla, 15 min.) *Tom Czapla will e-mail a meeting summary in advance of the meeting.*
7. Humpback chub draft captive management plan (Czapla, 15 min.) *This plan is the initial development to meet requirements of Dinosaur National Monument to allow the Program to collect more Gila; a broodstock and propagation plan should follow. The BC discussed this on 6/30 and Tom Czapla sent revision that was commented on by Melissa Trammell and Tom Nesler. Tom Czapla provided the BC a final revision based on those*

comments on July 8.

8. Review reports due list (Kantola, All; 20 min.). *Angela Kantola included an updated list with this meeting agenda.*

9. Schedule next meeting (All, 10 min.).

ADJOURN by 12:00 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; 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. 4/15: Nesler will provide update at BC. 4/28: Tom has reminded Billy that this is overdue and will try to get it to the BC as soon as possible. 6/13: Nesler received the draft today and provide it to the BC by the end of July. 8/18: Nesler will provide Billy Atkinson's upper Yampa "strategy" report to the Biology Committee by September 18 (Nesler's and Chart's birthday). 10/30: Tom Nesler and Sherm Hebein will revise Billy's report and provide that 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 our prioritization of 2009 field activities. This strategy should ultimately be incorporated into the Aquatic Wildlife Management Plan for the Yampa River Basin. 4/28: Tom Nesler said they don't plan to provide a formal strategy, but will describe what they [primarily Billy Atkinson] are doing down through Steamboat and with regard to isolating sloughs in Sam Finney's reach. See #3, above.) 1/15: The Upper Yampa strategy will be directly incorporated into the Yampa River Aquatic Management Plan (which will be completed by May 1, 2009). Tom Nesler will remind Sherm Hebein about this due date. 4/20: Tom Nesler said CDOW expects to meet this due date. 7/8: In CDOW review/revision with commitment to MC to provide by early July.
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.

3. Tom Chart will review the latest draft of the [nonnative fish stocking procedures](#) and get comments back to the States no later than February 15, then Krissy, Kevin, Tom, and the Service will submit it for agency review (one month review time). 7/8: Complete.
4. Researchers are to submit all their nonnative fish data to Chuck McAda by April 1 (the Program Director's office will sent out an e-mail notification on this). 4/28: Tom Chart said Chuck had only received data from Tim Modde ten days ago. Trina said they're making sure their data is in the right format. Tom Chart said that at a minimum, he would like the data sent to Chuck even if it's in the old format. >Tom Nesler will check on Lori's data; >Krissy will check on Moab's data. All the data on captured nonnative fish should be submitted, not just data on tagged fish; >Chuck will make sure the correct data are submitted and work with principal investigators if anything is missing. 6/13: Krissy said Utah has submitted their data. Tom Chart said Tim Modde submitted Vernal's data; Tom will get with Chuck to determine what data are still needed and e-mail the PI's. Tom Nesler will check on Lori's data. Sherm suggested cross-checking with CDOW's data system to be sure all data is in both places (Chuck's database and CDOW's). 7/11: Data have been submitted by Vernal CRFP, Badame, Hedrick, Hawkins, Bestgen, Bestgen/Zelasko and Burdick. 4 August 2008: Harry Vermillion submitted an extract from ADAMAS in the appropriate format to Chuck McAda on August 4th. The extract included Colorado River data from 2003 and 2007; Gunnison River data from 2007; and Yampa River data from years 2004 - 2007. 8/18: >Chuck will send the most recent version of the database to the NNFSC; and the NNFSC will review status of the data with Chuck and Travis after the Biology Committee meeting. 10/30: Tom Chart said the NNFSC will follow-up on this at the workshop, most of the data are in; we need to determine how quickly we can get the 2008 data added. 1/15: Chuck said all the data are in through 2007. Delete all foregoing text. Researchers need to have all their 2008 data **IN THE CORRECT FORMAT** to Travis by March 1, 2009 (data not submitted in the correct format will be sent back with a copy to the appropriate Biology and Management committee members). Similarly, Biology and Management committee members will be notified of any data not submitted by March 1. 2/10: Pending. PD's office will send out a reminder. 4/20: Data are still needed on project #98a; Tom Nesler will check with Sherman Hebein.

5. *The PD's office needs to schedule a humpback chub population monitoring workshop. *Pending (the Program Director's office will discuss this with Rich Valdez); a workshop might also include discussion of humpback chub broodstock. 10/30: Tom Czaplá said this is still pending. He would like to see the workshop address the issue of first acceptable population estimates. 2/20: Bob Muth said he's talked with Rich Valdez and is considering a workshop with the PI's in May or June. If the current drafts indeed satisfy the current contract obligations, then the PD's office will provide those to Dave Speas. 7/8: Workshop June 15-16.*

6. The Program Director's office and CDOW will send letters of thanks to Sherriff Tim Jantz for the use of the Craig Justice Center Ponds for nonnative fish translocation (with a cc: to the County commissioners and others, as appropriate). *Pending. 1/15: John Hawkins suggested a thanks to Ron Dellacroce and his supervisor in State Parks who provide a translocation site, facilitate our putting fish into Elkhead, and allow access to the boat launch areas critical to Yampa River management efforts. 2/10: Muth and Chart will work with Debbie Felker to get letters out prior to the 2009 translocations. 4/14: In draft. 4/20: CDOW crews have noted that Elkhead Reservoir is down, which should reduce nonnative fish escapement due to spill this spring. 7/8: The letter to Sheriff Jantz was sent in April; thank you / sampling season heads-up letters also sent to Sheriff Gary Wall (Routt Co.) and Sheriff Si Woodruff (Rio Blanco Co). in addition to Sheriff Jantz. E-mail sent to Ron Dellacroce (and others) expressing Recovery Program concerns over potential funding cuts to the Yampa River State Parks and why those parks are so important to recovery efforts. 1/15: Melissa suggested following up on signage at the translocation ponds acknowledging that the Recovery Program has provided the fish (but keeping in mind the concern re: potential elevated Hg levels; which CDOW will investigate). 2/10: Chart will discuss this with the I&E Committee at their meeting Feb 12, 2009. 2/20: The PD's office met with the I&E Committee last week; it was suggested that a sub-group of that Committee work with the Nonnative Fish Subcommittee to discuss/implement appropriate signage (keeping in mind on concerns regarding mercury levels). 4/14: Pending. 4/20: Tom Nesler said they first need to get the mercury results to determine if consumption advisories are needed. The nonnative fish subcommittee will discuss further, but not move forward until the mercury question is resolved.*

7. 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.*

8. *Dave Irving will call the Mantle Ranch landowner to give him an update on work to raise *Gila* in captivity (since the Ranch's cooperation made it possible for the Service to get the fish out to the hatchery quickly). *10/30: Dave Irving sent him a letter. CDOW and the Park need to discuss the future of the captive Gila in light of plans for those fish as broodstock*

under Three Species conservation and Colorado's Management Use agreement with the Park (Tom Nesler and Melissa will work on this). 10/30: Pending. The Program Director's office will move forward to establish a Yampa River humpback chub broodstock using young fish. Tom Czapla will work with Melissa on a letter to the Park. 10/30: Pending. Czapla said he's been drafting a refuge/broodstock plan for discussion within the Service, then for sharing with the Park Service and the Recovery Program. Tom Nesler and Krissy Wilson also are working on related roundtail plans. 1/15: Dave Irving said the landowner is open to our returning, as long as we coordinate with Ron Velarde. The fish are doing well at the Ouray hatchery and they believe they have 29 humpback chub. Dinosaur National Monument has asked what our plans are for the other fish. Dave will try to set up a conference call on this on February 5. Tom Nesler said disease testing will be required before any fish can be returned to the wild. Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado are considering a proposal for use of the roundtails for broodstock. Tom Czapla said he'd like to keep the humpback chub in captivity and conduct genetic testing (perhaps on some of the roundtail, also). Melissa Trammell will provide a summary of their recent conference call. Some of the roundtail chub will be returned to the Monument. Czapla is preparing a management plan for the humpback. 4/14: Czapla sent out draft plan 3/20/09. 7/8: BC discussed 6/30 and Tom Czapla sent revision that was commented on by Melissa Trammell and Tom Nesler. 6/30: This plan is the initial development to meet the requirements of the Monument so the Program can collect more Gila; a broodstock and propagation plan should follow. Melissa and Tom Nesler need to agree upon an acceptable plan for returning the roundtails to the river by the next BC meeting. PDO needs to add a line in RIPRAP under the Yampa section about the annual removal of Gila from the Yampa for a refugia and potential broodstock and propagation program. Melissa believes and Environmental Assessment of the impacts of this effort will need to be written; Krissy will work with Melissa on the EA.

9. Tom Nesler will check on the status of Lori Martin's report (98a). No word as of Feb 10, 2009; this will be an issue in the Service's upcoming Sufficient Progress Review. 2/20: CDOW working on it (no new BOR funds until this and the annual report are completed). Tom said Sherm has promised these reports will go to Tom Chart within 2 weeks. 4/14: Annual report provided; synthesis report still in internal revision. 4/20: Tom Nesler said he and Sherm Hebein have a few comments to reconcile which they will work on this afternoon, so Tom expects to have the report to Tom Chart by later today or tomorrow morning; Tom plans to send the report to the Biology Committee the same day. 4/21: PD's office received 4/21 and will e-mail to BC. 7/8: Report and peer-reviews have been submitted; BC comments were due by July 6.
10. Krissy will provide Utah's HCP protocol to Tom Czapla. 4/20: Krissy has asked for a formal write-up from their hatchery folks.
11. Bob Muth will send the Maybell report to the Committee in 4/14: ~~March~~ April.
12. Tom Chart will check on the status of Reclamation's 2008 work under C-6 Hyd. Terry Stroh is working on the annual report for this.
13. Aaron will provide more detail on the Baeser pump to Dave Speas as he receives it over the next few days. 4/14: FWS seeking bids. 7/8: Done and pump has been delivered.

14. Lower Green larval, juv RBS monitoring pilot study should say work will begin when water temperatures and flows are favorable.” >Tom Czapla will work with Paul Badame to make that change. 7/8: *Pending*.
15. Tom Chart will work with Brett Johnson to revise the C18/19 SOW to post to the web. *Pending*.
16. Doug Osmundson will provide a final version of the Colorado River pikeminnow population estimate report by July (if not sooner).
17. Koreen Zelasko will provide a [finalized pdf of the razorback stocking report](#) by the end of this week. *Done*.
18. *The Program Director’s office will get answers to the questions about the *Gila* genetics scope of work and get a revised scope back to the Committee. Also, the PD’s office will add “if samples received in a timely fashion” after “potentially earlier” in “Final report will be provided no later than September 30, 2010 (potentially earlier).” The Committee will discuss the scope (via e-mail if possible, or scheduling another conference call, if needed) after we get answers to these questions.
19. Tom Chart will ask Brett to provide an update and progress report on C-18/19 to the Committee before the beginning of next year.