

Biology Committee Webinar Draft Agenda  
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Friday, February 24, 2012

To join the webinar, please follow the directions below. If you have not previously used Verizon Web Ex conferencing software, please test it prior to the meeting. Contact Angela Kantola ([angela\\_kantola@fws.gov](mailto:angela_kantola@fws.gov)) if you want to do a trial run (~5 min.). This will help us start our meeting promptly at 8:00 a.m. with no delays.

Meeting Time: 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME. Angela will start the web portion of the meeting by 7:45 a.m. so that everyone can get connected and work through any technical difficulties before the 8:00 a.m. start time.

Web Conference Details:

Meeting Number: 742936817

Meeting Passcode: (None)

Meeting Host: ANGELA T KANTOLA

1. To join the meeting, go to: <http://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=742936817&p=&t=c>
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**CONVENE: 8:00 a.m.**

1. Review/modify agenda (Crockett, 5 min)
2. Review of revised C-6/RZ RECR, “Razorback sucker survival and emigration from the Stirrup floodplain, middle Green River, Utah, 2007-2010 by T. Hedrick, A. Breton, and S. Keddy (30 min.)
3. Larval Trigger Study Plan (Chart, 20 min.) – *The Committee will review/approve the study plan (will be sent to the Biology and Management committees by Tom Chart by February 8).*
4. Flaming Gorge Flow request letter (Chart, 10min.) – *The Committee will review/approve the draft letter (will be sent to the Biology and Management committees by Tom Chart by February 17).*

**BREAK (10 min)**

5. Modified scope for C-6 Baeser (All, 15 min)
6. Need for temperature gauging at Yampa/Green confluence (Speas, 15 min.)
7. Review of draft RIPRAP revisions & assessment (Kantola, all, 1.5 hours) – *The Committee will review the draft RIPRAP revisions posted to the listserve on February 8.*

8. Updates
  - a. Price River position paper (Chart, 30 min)
  - b. White River flow recommendations (Chart, 5 min)
  - c. Tusher Wash mortality study (Czpara, 10 min)
9. Review previous meeting assignments (see Attachment 1) (All, 20 min)
10. Review reports due list (Kantola, 10 min) – *Angela Kantola will e-mail the Committee an updated list in advance of the meeting.*
11. Schedule next meeting and suggest agenda items (All, 5 min)
12. Consent items: Review and approve: a) January 12, 2012 Biology Committee Walton Creek conference call summary (sent by Melissa Trammell 1/25/12); b) January 26, 2012 Biology Committee meeting summary (sent via fws-coloriver listserver 1/30/12).

***ADJOURN by 12:30 p.m.***

Attachment 1: Assignments  
(Asterisked items also on meeting agenda)

Note: the order of some assignments has been changed to group similar items together. For earlier history of items preceded by an ampersand "&", please see [previous meeting summaries](#).

1. \* & 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.
  - 5/6/10: *The Program Director's office will complete the addendum to the White River report and provide a status update and recommendation on the draft Schmidt and Orchard report on peak (channel maintenance) flows for Biology Committee review by July 1, 2011.*
  - *Sent to BC July 1, 2011. 9/30/11: conflicting comments have been received, Tom Pitts has asked Jana for an extension on the comment deadline (extended to Nov. 2). See also agenda item #3c.*
  - *11/22/11 Progress on revising report delayed due to Price River report and Basin Study priorities; **Jana Mohrman** will provide a revised report to BC and WAC as soon as possible.*
  - *1/26/12 **Jana** will send the Biology Committee a packet of all the comments received to date. (Done 1/30/12)*
  
2. \* & **Program Director's office (Jana Mohrman and Tom Chart)** expect to provide a draft of the Price River report by the end of August 2009. 7/13/09: *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 shop in the loop on Price River.*
  - *12/12/10 Program Director's office will use the information currently available to >develop a position paper on Price River flow recommendations for Committee review. The Program Director's office will revise the draft Price River position paper and get it to the Biology Committee within the next week, with comments due a month later.*
  - *Price River position paper sent 12/30/10 with comments due Jan. 31/ 11. UDWR may submit a Price River PIT tag proposal for "activities to avoid jeopardy" funding.*
  - *3/11/11: **Tom Chart** will respond to comments and revise the report (in consultation with the Service) and bring it back to the Committee by July 1, 2011.*
  - *6/21/11: Sent to Biology Committee; on 7/12/11 agenda (7/12/11: review/approval deferred to 9/30/11 at Tom Pitt's request); 9/29/11 Pitts' comments submitted; 9/30/11: See agenda item 3a: >**Tom Chart and Jana Mohrman will meet with Tom Pitts** very quickly to try to work out technical issues, and get recommended revisions back to the Committee as quickly as possible. The Committee tentatively approved the report pending Committee e-mail (or potential conference call) approval of changes to be provided via the listserver from Tom Chart subsequent to he and Jana meeting with Tom Pitts. Tom Chart anticipates clarifying hydrologic analyses, but not overall report recommendations. Tom Pitts will still file a report on the non-technical issues. These issues were discussed at the [Management Committee on October 12](#). Potential technical revisions pending.*
  - *1/26/12 **Tom Chart** circulated Tom Pitts' recent draft technical and programmatic/policy comments and he and **Jana Mohrman** convened a small group (Tom, Jana, Tom Pitts, Krissy Wilson, and FWS-ES Utah (Amy DeFreese or other) to review the comments. Tom*

*will prepare responses to Pitts concerns and potentially a revision to the position paper for Biology Committee review in the very near future.*

3. &The **Program Director's office** will prepare a list of issues to be resolved regarding Tusher Wash screening (e.g., levels of mortality acceptable for what size classes, potential O&M costs, etc.) to help move this decision forward (and provide that to the Biology Committee and the Service). *Done.*
  - *5/6/10: A small group (Melissa, Kevin McAbee, Dave Speas, Tom Pitts, and Tom Czapla) will work with Kevin Bestgen to review/build on the risk assessment, focusing on understanding existing impacts and what could be gained by various screening options. Tentatively, it would seem the best choice would be fish friendly runners with a screen on the irrigation ditch (contingent on further analysis). BC to submit proposal to MC by 12/31/10.*
  - *12/13/10 BC discussion: The Biology Committee recommended >starting with a literature review (there may be good information from low-head structures in the eastern U.S.); working on outlining what would be needed in a mortality study (including engineering considerations); and further investigating whether the owners would consider full or partial decommissioning.*
  - *3/1/11 As Kevin McAbee gets engineering info from the irrigators, he will share it with the ad hoc group. Kevin also will inquire more about the purpose of the 9" (at riverbank) – 20" (at center) concrete cap, to determine whether it is to benefit the existing diversion, or both the existing diversion and the proposed diversion on river left.*
  - *5/13/11: Dave provided a list of questions from Juddson Sechrist; the Tusher ad hoc group reviewed and discussed these on April 4 (summary sent to BC 4/20/11), agreed to have another meeting (site visit) this summer, and re-iterated the need for an initial literature search/review focusing on fish mortality at other sites with small hydro-electric facilities and smaller hydraulic head differentials. Krissy Wilson would like to participate in the site visit. >Tom Czapla will schedule the site visit (and talk to Kevin McAbee to see if he can arrange for the group to tour the inside of the facility). The **Program Director's office** and **Reclamation** will discuss how to get the mortality study done after we determine the information needs and timeframe.*
  - *9/30/11: The **Program Director's office** will ask if Brent Uilenberg and Bob Norman can provide description/specifications of the hardware at Tusher to help us understand if it can be retrofitted (11/8/11: awaiting reply). Tom Czapla will send a Doodle request to reconvene the ad hoc group to discuss who should do the literature review.*
  - *1/26/12: Tom Czapla, Dave Speas and Kevin McAbee will draft a Tusher Wash mortality study and literature review RFP (or similar) for the Tusher Wash ad hoc group.*
4. & Tasks related to stocking and genetics have been gathered here under revising the Integrated Stocking Plan. Tom Czapla is convening a group to revise the plan, address humpback chub genetic issues, and develop a humpback chub action plan; he will send out a draft revised stocking plan in early October 2011 and convene a conference call of the ad hoc group to review it in October or early November.
  - *5/13/11: Cost-benefit analyses should be included in the revised stocking plan; Tom Chart said he thinks the **Program Director's office** can initiate this analysis. Results of the health condition profile meeting held at Dexter in March should be incorporated into the revised stocking plan. Discussion of humpback chub and back up pikeminnow broodstock were prominent in this meeting. Horsethief pond water may be whirling disease positive, but Krissy said that Utah can apply for a variance from their Fish Health Board since the fish*

- will be stocked where whirling disease is present and razorback are not known to carry WD.*
- *6/2/11: Core ad hoc group identified: Harry Crockett, CDOW; Krissy Wilson, UDWR; and Pete Cavalli, WFG; Dale Ryden and/or Dave Schnoor, Travis Francis, USFWS; Dave Campbell and Scott Durst, San Juan Recovery Program; and input from hatchery managers as needed (particularly as it pertains to space at facilities).*
  - *11/22/11: Conference call to discuss humpback genetics and potential refugia/propagation held 11/2/11; draft action plan materials sent to group from Tom Czapla.*
  - *1/26/12 Tom Czapla will remind the ad hoc group to submit comments.*

### Humpback Chub

The **Program Director's office** will communicate with Gary White to determine how many and which of the questions from the HBC workshop to focus on. *Pending.* **Derek Elverud** will provide the database for Westwater for Gary White to combine with Black Rocks, which will require a separate SOW.

- *5/13/11: Black Rocks and Westwater data have been transferred to Gary White; Program Director's office will check to make sure we've got this analysis covered. 2/6/12: Done and 131 SOW revised accordingly.*

After the ad hoc group meets, Melissa Trammell will draft an Environmental Assessment of the impacts of the humpback chub captivity management plan (also addresses how to deal with captured roundtail chub); **Krissy Wilson** will work with **Melissa** on the EA. **Tom Czapla** will send out the briefing paper he received with the humpback chub genetic data to the Biology Committee (*done*). **Melissa Trammell** will review *Dexter's new plan to see if it may impact this (also will talk to Tom Czapla).*

- *3/11/11: Melissa will talk to the Park about what they want to do with the chubs in captivity at Ouray and Mumma (likely return them to the river after acclimation) if the Program does not want to keep them. Melissa suggested assessing morphology now that the fish have matured somewhat (Travis said he's seen the fish and they don't look like humpback to him). The Committee agreed to keep the fish in captivity for now.*
- *5/13/11: >Harry Crockett will check with CDOW to be sure the putative humpbacks at Mumma get moved to Ouray NFH – Randlett (requires an import permit from Utah Dept. of Agriculture). (Krissy noted that all states now require imports to have AIS certification (Krissy sent the criteria to the Committee on 7/7/11, as well as disease certification.) >Dale Ryden will also talk to Dave Schnoor.*
- *1/26/12: Tom Czapla will provide researchers direction on collecting fin clips from adult humpback in Westwater and Black Rocks and other populations, i.e., Cataract Canyon, Desolation/Grey Canyons, Yampa Canyon, or wherever else they may be encountered.*

As identified in the sufficient progress assessment and requested by the Management Committee, the **Program** will develop an action plan for establishing refugia for humpback chub (avoiding getting bogged down in genetic analysis). Mike Roberts has recommended building in limiting factor/life history studies to better understand what's going on in the system that's affecting humpback chub populations.

### Razorback Sucker

& **Dale Ryden** and **Dave Schnoor** will write up the Ouray hatchery needs (water source for Randlett and generator for Grand Valley) and submit this to the Program via Tom Czapla. **Dale** also will seek Service funding for these needs. The report will include a discussion the

relative risks of power outages at Grand Valley. Melissa suggested that for the long-term, we need a feasibility study for alternative water sources for Randlett.

- 5/13/11: Dale said Reclamation says alternative water sources would have a \$10M price tag. The Service has been discussing the manganese problem and will convene a group to discuss (Program Director's office, hatchery folks, Reclamation, etc.). Dave Schnoor has explored the idea of a generator for the Grand Valley unit. The **Service** should have a more comprehensive idea about these things in a few months.
- 7/6/11: Dale e-mailed write-up (discussed briefly at 7/10-11 BC meeting).
- 8/24/11: Service purchased Grand Valley Unit generator. Service/Reclamation met to discuss manganese; proposal to hire contractor and install additional filters pending.
- 9/30/11: Proposal for **contractor** review of alternatives for remediating the manganese problem approved by Management Committee.

#### Bonytail

- **Dave Schnoor** will write up his thoughts on bonytail stocking and temperature. The **Mumma and Wahweap hatcheries** will compile their records of stocking temperatures and provide that to **Tom Czapl**a for consideration as part of the integrated stocking plan.
5. The **Biology Committee** will work on prioritizing their list of potential additional capital projects at a future meeting. *Ongoing*. By September 22, 2010, **Committee members and others** who suggested capital project ideas will provide short explanatory/descriptive text (preferably just a paragraph), and then the **Committee** will decide when to take the next steps (individual ranking, group discussion of combined ranking, etc.). *UDWR comments submitted; next BC discussion on hold*.
  6. The **Program Director's office** will follow up on establishing a process to track percentages of hybrid suckers using standardized protocol for identification of hybridization at fish ladders and in monitoring reaches. *Pending*. *Reclamation approved a CU study (through "other activities to avoid jeopardy") to crossbreed suckers and test fitness. 1/11/12: Discussed on 1/5/12 NNFSC call*.
  7. Northern pike synthesis – 5/13/11 **Harry Crockett** will let **Billy Atkinson** know it will be helpful to compare the recruitment information to Billy's tag records from above Hayden (Harry will ask Billy to make his data available to Kevin Bestgen and Koreen Zelasko).
  8. **Biology Committee members** will review the Research Framework recommendations in advance of reviewing the FY 12-13 work plan in July. *Not done; suggest review for FY 14-15 Program Guidance*. The **Program Director's office** will revise the Research Framework report on the web include a "last updated on" statement and a caveat that clarifies that this was incomplete and was a "point in time" database and direct users to the Program's laserfiche library and Program website. They also will correct the wording at the bottom of the second page of the report that suggests it is a "review draft." *Pending*.
    - 9/30/11: **Committee members** will send comments via e-mail (to the entire Committee) by October 31 as to whether they see items in those recommendations that should be captured in our current list of contingency projects or the next round of Program Guidance. 11/7/11: No comments received to date.
  9. Spring Flows 2011 – aerial photography - 7/10/11: See Attachment 2 for reaches flown. The

*Program Director's office will look into potential partners to help fund stitching and georeferencing. 8/24/11: In progress. 9/30/11: CWCB's floodplain mapping unit has offered to assist. COE may help, but hasn't found funds yet. WAPA also may be interested. 1/26/12: Program contingency funds added to cover stitching; also georeferencing and habitat delineation for the 13 floodplain sites.*

10. **Krissy Wilson** will forward the Committee UDWR's plan for larval light trapping in Flaming Gorge Reservoir (looking for burbot) when she gets it. *9/30/11: this survey for larval burbot couldn't be completed as the likely window was missed this year; willing to consider in next year's work plan. This will be discussed at the nonnative fish workshop. 1/11/12: Gardunio said burbot are attracted to light during larval stage, but such trapping in winter could be difficult.*
11. The **Program Director's office** will make a recommendation regarding whether or not to password protect the PIT tag GIS site. *Pending.*
12. **The PDO** will notify all potentially affected field personnel in the event of future Elkhead releases.
13. **\*Trina Hedrick** will revise the Stirrup report based on the comments received on 11/22/11 along with any other comments received by December 6, 2011. Trina will provide the revised draft by January 12, 2011 (so that the Biology Committee can review it on January 26). **Dale Ryden** will provide Trina with razorback sucker survival data from the San Juan Program (*done*). *PI is working to address Dave Speas' comments; reviewed deferred to 2/24 BC webinar.*
14. **Tom Chart and Jana Mohrman and Kirk LaGory** will convene a group fish biologists involved in developing the flow recommendations as well as geomorphologists (e.g., John Pitlick and Cory Williams) to identify logical next-steps (e.g., is MD-SWMS modeling the best way to proceed) to evaluate flow recommendations, particularly on (but not limited to) the Gunnison where sediment transport is so important. *Pending.*
15. New 2012 SOWs and revisions (and request for ETS units) are due from **>principal investigators** directly to the Biology Committee e-mail list by February 2. **PI's** are requested to attach their revised/new scopes of work and briefly describe the changes in their cover e-mail. **>Biology Committee members** have until February 9 to provide any comments or questions (all this will be done via e-mail).
  - **Jana Mohrman** will work with Reclamation on the aerial photography SOW. *Pending*
  - **Jana Mohrman, Tom Chart and Kirk LaGory** will work on a SOW to assemble a team to interpret the findings of Project 85f. *Pending*
  - **Tom Chart and Jerry Wilhite** will work with **Argonne** on a SOW for the C-6 Hydro work to assist with physical aspects of larval trigger study plan. *Pending.*
  - **UDWR & FWS** will modify their larval trigger SOWs to purchase Hydrolabs (\$7-10K each) for water quality monitoring. *FWS included mini DOT manufactured by PME for water quality monitoring.*
  - **NPS** may submit a water quality SOW for emerging contaminants in Dinosaur. *Submitted.*
  - **CPW** will modify SOW 98a (adding a \$10K contingency to account for additional field time if hydrology is average or drier). *Modified.*

- **PIs** will review now-available funds to determine if/how much additional funds would be needed to begin converting to ETS units this year. **Pat Martinez** will call ETS to discuss the “bulk” purchase and our need for a large number of units. *Done.*
  - 98c Upper Yampa pike removal above buffer zone and review of pike sources - >**Harry Crockett** and **Tildon Jones** will prepare a SOW (to be reviewed by Committee via e-mail, as discussed above), if this can be accomplished logistically this year. *Pending or CPW will cover.*
  - 126b **Harry Crockett** will see what’s needed to allow reconnaissance of potential nonnative fish sources and discuss with **Dale Ryden** and the **Program Director’s** office. *SOW revised.*
  - White River nonnative fish removal - **Colorado and the PD’s office** will schedule a public information meeting in Rangely. **Colorado, the Service, and the PD’s office** will work to make necessary landowner contacts before the public meeting announcement.
  - **LFL (Kevin Bestgen)** will prepare a revised SOW for #161. *SOW revised.*
  - 22f larval sampling in White R. discussion (sampling and analysis). **Kevin Bestgen** will prepare revised SOW for sampling and analysis. This may not be classic light-trapping (e.g., could be dip-netting, which is more involved). *SOW revised.*
  - **Kevin Bestgen and Dale Ryden** will revise SOW #131 to add additional analysis (from Gary White) with some recommendations for how it would be used in future reporting (from Kevin), that is, how to look at the data in the long-term). *SOW revised.*
  - In addition to the other specific SOWs mentioned in this list, **PIs** will revise SOWs for projects: 110, 123a, 123b, 125, 126a, 126b, 158, and 15. Please see dark green notes in FY2012 comments column (N) of FY12-13 budget table. *SOWs revised.*
16. **Angela Kantola** will add a place for Reclamation agreement numbers to the final report format on the web.
  17. The **Nonnative Fish Subcommittee** will put together a list of reservoirs where we have concerns about escapement and try to begin prioritizing those for treatment.
  18. **Kevin McAbee** will ask BioMark about battery packs for the solar arrays (which are said to only last ~5 years, with replacements at \$7-11K) and determine if replacements need to be worked into the negotiation with Questar.
  19. **Tom Chart** will send a copy of the Thunder Ranch agreement letter and Reclamation’s SOW to the Biology and Management committees. At some point, Krissy would like to know what the easement agreement called for (with a new landowner, it may be a good time to discuss those purposes again).