

**Biology Committee Webinar Revised Draft Agenda
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 4, 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) 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: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME. Angela will start the web portion of the meeting by 8:45 a.m. so that everyone can get connected and work through any technical difficulties before the 9:00 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>
2. Enter the required fields (name, e-mail, company) (no passcode required).
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Phone Conference Details:

Please dial in using the toll-free number: 866-762-0576, Participant Passcode: 2759325# (NOTE: THIS IS A DIFFERENT NUMBER THAN THE ONE TYPICALLY USED FOR PHONE-ONLY CONFERENCES)

CONVENE: 9:00 a.m.

1. Review/modify agenda (Crockett, 5 min)
2. Review of position paper on role of the Price River (Chart, all, 1 hour) – *Tom Chart e-mailed a revised draft of this report on April 23, 2012.*

BREAK (10 min)

3. Review of "Native Fish Response to Nonnative Fish Removal from 2005-2008 in the Middle Green River, Utah" (Breen, all, 30 min.) – *Pat Martinez e-mailed this final draft report to the Biology Committee on March 5, 2012.*
4. (If time; otherwise move to after lunch) Review reports due list (Kantola, 15 min) – *Angela Kantola will e-mail the Committee an updated list in advance of the meeting.*
5. (This item will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m.) Proposal for electrical fish barrier at Tusher Wash diversion (Czapla, Aaron Murphy [Smith-Root], 1 hour) – *The Committee will discuss the proposal e-mailed by Tom Czapla on April 2. Aaron Murphy will participate and be available to answer questions regarding barrier specifications, effectiveness and maintenance; impacts on drifting larvae; etc. (see also subsequent e-mails from Tom Czapla and Melissa Trammell)*

LUNCH: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

6. Nonnative Fish Subcommittee Update (Martinez, 30 min) – *The Committee will get an update on NNFSC activities (the Subcommittee will have met earlier that week).*
7. Electrofishing training courses (Speas, Martinez, 20 min) – *Dave and Pat will provide an update on recent courses they've attended (led by Jim Reynolds).*
8. USBR procurement updates (Speas, 20 min)
9. Park Service Yampa River studies (Trammell, 20 min) - *Melissa will describe studies the Park Service is conducting on the Yampa River (see attachments provided with this revision of the agenda on 4/25/12).*
10. 2012 field operations/schedule adjustments (All, 30 min) – *The Committee will begin a discussion of whether any 2012 field activities/schedules need to be adjusted in light of predicted low flows. The Committee may call for suggested adjustments from PI's and schedule a conference call among a smaller group of PI's and managers to discuss this in greater detail.*
11. Review previous meeting assignments (see Attachment 1) (All, 25 min)
12. Schedule next meeting and suggest agenda items (All, 5 min)
13. Consent items: Review and approve: a) [February 24, 2012 Biology Committee webinar summary](#) (sent by Melissa Trammell 1/25/12); b) March 6, 2012 Biology Committee webinar summary (revised summary sent with this agenda).

ADJOURN by 4:00 p.m.

Attachment 1: Assignments
(Asterisked items also on meeting agenda);
(A “-“ before an item indicates it likely can be deleted after this meeting)

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.*
 - *3/6/12 **Jana Mohrman** will provide a revised report to BC and WAC by mid-summer.*

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: >**Tom Chart and Jana Mohrman will meet with Tom Pitts** 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.*
 - *2/21/12 Tom Chart provided BC with draft responses to the water users’ concerns along with a list from Tom Pitts of water user issues still not addressed.*

- 3/6/12: Based on his proposal and today's discussion, **Tom Chart** will provide the Committee with a revised draft by April 20.
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 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 accomplish the mortality study after information needs and timeframe are determined.
 - 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 review by folks who would not be submitting a proposal. 4/17/12: RFP sent out April 13.
 4. & Revise the Integrated Stocking Plan (ISP) and related issues. **Tom Czapla** is convening a group to revise the ISP.
 - 5/13/11: Cost-benefit analyses should be included in the revised ISP; 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 Program; and input from hatchery managers as needed (particularly as it pertains to space at facilities).

- *4/17/12: Tom Czapla send out a rough draft revised ISP to the core group on April 13, 2012 and will send a Doodle request for a conference call in early May.*

Humpback Chub (population estimates)

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. 3/6/12: 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)*. 3/6/12: *This is on hold (if even necessary) until the humpback chub ad hoc committee finishes their plan. If fish are not removed from the Yampa River, an EA won't be needed.*

Humpback Chub (broodstock development / genetics)

- *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.*
- 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)*. 3/6/12: *This is on hold (if even necessary) until the humpback chub ad hoc committee finishes their plan. If fish are not removed from the Yampa River, an EA won't be needed.*
- *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. 3/6/12: pending.*
- *3/6/12: **Tom Czapla** will remind the humpback chub genetics ad hoc group to submit comments.*
- 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 summarize Ouray hatchery needs (water source for

Randlett and generator for Grand Valley) and submit it to the Program via Tom Czapla. **Dale** also will seek Service funding. 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 manganese approved by Management Comm. 3/6/12: **Tom Czapla** will check on the status, as the contractor has not yet been onsite.*

Bonytail

- **Dave Schnoor** will write up his thoughts on bonytail stocking and temperature (*3/6/12: draft provided to Tom Czapla, Dave Schnoor revising and will send to BC*). The **Mumma and Wahweap hatcheries** will compile their records of stocking temperatures and provide that to **Tom Czapla** 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). *In process.*
 8. 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.*
 9. **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.* 3/6/12: **Krissy** will provide the annual report (and other relevant reports) to the Committee; **Pete Cavalli** will forward a copy of Wyoming's report(s), also. *Krissy said she asked and they do not capture smallmouth bass or burbot just below the dam. **Melissa Trammell and Pat Martinez and Krissy Wilson** will work on a Flaming Gorge burbot risk assessment.*

10. - The **Program Director's office** will make a recommendation regarding whether or not to password protect the PIT tag GIS site. 2/24/12: *Jana Mohrman spoke with the FWS Regional Office, and they didn't think we needed to password protect the site. Kevin McAbee suggested and Patty Gelatt agreed that the risk from any negative use of the data (poaching, etc.) is so small that it is outweighed by the positive use of getting data out to the general public (education, research, etc.); however, it is important to protect spawning locations (3/6/12: Tildon Jones said he doesn't think spawning locations could be discerned from the available data).*
11. **Tom Chart and Jana Mohrman and Kirk LaGory** will convene fish biologists involved in developing flow recommendations and 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.*
12. New 2012 SOWs and revisions:
 - **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.*
 - - 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. *Done.*
13. **Angela Kantola** will add a place for Reclamation agreement numbers to the final report format on the web.
14. 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. 3/6/12: *captures of smallmouth bass in the Dolores need to be included in this discussion.*
15. **Kevin McAbee** will ask BioMark about battery packs for the solar arrays (said to only last ~5 years, with replacements at \$7-11K) and determine if replacements need to be worked into the negotiation with Questar.
16. - **Dave Speas** will check on what gets prepared/distributed in the way of a FGWTG meeting summary (per mention in the draft flow request letter). **Kevin McAbee and the Service** will

work with Reclamation and the PD to draft a letter that covers the remaining years of the Larval Trigger Study Plan, and will discuss this at the March 8 meeting.

17. - **Dave Speas** will check on the ability to order the flat plate antenna equipment now and return it, if needed (e.g., if the Committee doesn't decide to move forward with this). **Reclamation** will purchase the antenna gear and the **Service** will revise the SOW to address BC (e.g. permitting; include spawning bar photos and graphics the Committee looked at over the last few days; other possible application of the gear; and Dr. Bestgen's suggested uses of the data collected). *3/6/12: Equipment ordered last week with goal of getting to Vernal by 3/15/12.* **Jana Mohrman** was to ask Cory Williams if he can predict velocities at the razorback spawning bar site; however, subsequent discussions with Aaron Webber and Tildon Jones indicated that the flat plate PIT tag reader site that has been chosen will not really benefit from simulated velocities. To begin with, we don't know at what velocity the equipment would be "blown out" anyway. The spawning bar is on the inside of a bend with cobble and gravel substrate (if it was a depositional area, they would see sand). The Service will stake the equipment as strongly as possible.
18. **Jana Mohrman** will investigate the option to install a redundant temperature logger on a separate cable at the Yampa/Green confluence site. **Dave Speas, Jana, Kevin Bestgen, Carrie Cordova and Jim Renne** will discuss all this (including other sites) further. *3/6/12: group has a conference call scheduled for 3/9/12.*
19. **Harry Crockett** will provide a summary of Kenney Reservoir Sampling ('07, '08, '10, no smallmouth detected). *Done; Harry provided the following on 4/20/12:*

Our recollection was that both Kenney and Rio Blanco were sampled in all 3 of those years, but when we dug out the data we found that only Rio Blanco was sampled in 2010. I apologize for the misinformation. Although the available data for Kenney are less recent than I thought, the facts remain that we have never collected a smallmouth bass in Kenney Reservoir (which was also sampled several times in the '90s), nor has one been reported to us by anglers. Recent anecdotal accounts from anglers are in agreement with this. Kyle fully intends to sample Kenney in 2012, so we should soon have more up-to-date information, barring unforeseen difficulties. Kyle is going to be a very busy guy.

In both years otoliths were collected for Martinez/Johnson microchemistry studies, and either those researchers or their students/technicians were among the crew.

Kenney 6/28/2007. 4 boat electrofishing stations, effort 18.75 – 21.75 mins each. SE, SW, N and NW shorelines:

Species	N	Length (mm) min-max
Black crappie	3	174-195
Bluegill	1	183
Channel catfish	14	214-359
Common carp	32	216-580
Flannelmouth sucker	1	135
Fathead minnow	14	avg = 60 mm
Rainbow trout	7	208-285
Red shiner	9	avg = 67 mm
Green sunfish	265	9-166

Kenney 5/20/2008. 3 boat electrofishing stations, effort 9.25, 20, and 25.5 mins:

Species	N	Length (mm) min-max
Black bullhead	1	158
Black crappie	17	89-258
Common carp	2	449-593
Flannelmouth sucker	7	201-365
Rainbow trout	54	158-302
Green sunfish	17	79-178

20. The **Program Director's office** will review the critical habitat appendix to the RIPRAP text and consider whether it should remain as written, be revised, or be deleted. *Done; the Management Committee discussed this and agreed the appendix should be retained.*