

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE WEBINAR AGENDA

March 6, 2014

We will offer a webinar option to go with this conference call for those who wish to view the meeting summary as it's being recorded and other documents as they are being discussed. If you are not able or do not wish to join the webinar portion, you may participate by phone only. To join the webinar, please follow the directions below. If you have not previously used Verizon Web Ex conferencing software, you may wish to 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 1:00 p.m. with no delays.

Meeting Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM MOUNTAIN STANDARD TIME. Angela will start the web portion of the meeting by 12:45 p.m. so that everyone can get connected and work through any technical difficulties before the 1:00 p.m. start time.

Web Conference Details:

Meeting Number: 742936817

Meeting Passcode: (None)

Meeting Host: ANGELA T KANTOLA

1. To join the meeting, **using the Internet Explorer browser**, 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).
3. Indicate that you have read the Privacy Policy.
4. Click on Proceed.

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: 1:00 p.m.

1. Roll call, review/modify agenda (2 min.) – *The Committee will consider the agenda, allotted time for each item, and make any necessary additions or revisions.*
2. (Action Item) Approve Final September 23, 2013, meeting summary (All, 5 min.) – *The draft summary was posted to the fws-coloriver listserv by Angela Kantola on 9/26/13. A revised draft with changes from Tom Pitts and Ted Kowalski incorporated was attached to the e-mail with this agenda.*
3. Program Director's update (Chart, 45 min) – *This update will include an update on the final basinwide nonnative fish management strategy*
4. Recovery plans update (Chart, Czapla, 15 min)
5. Update on developing a Program position on the oil and gas impacts in the floodplain (Chart, McAbee, 15 min) – *The Management Committee has been considering a letter to the States' oil & gas divisions about energy development near key endangered fish areas. The Program Director's office provided a revised draft letter prior to the Management*

Committee's February 11 meeting (copy included with this agenda). From the Management Committee's February 11 discussion:

"The Program Director's office hopes to get simultaneous review of this latest draft from the Committee and the Service. Tom Chart asked for >comments back on the draft letter by February 28. Kevin also asked that State Committee representatives reach out to the intended State recipients of the letter and give them a heads up. Robert King said they met with John Baza this past October. John Shields suggested making the request to attend a meeting more clear up front IN THE LETTER (and still reiterate it toward the end). Kevin McAbee said the Service recently worked with EPA and DOJ on Clean Water Act violations related to improper drilling in one of the Program's floodplain easements near Pariette Draw (Lamb Property). The case has been settled; Gasco agreed to plug & abandon the well, restore the floodplain, and pay damages. EPA had solicited expert witnesses in preparation for trial; Kevin Bestgen provided expertise on fish biology/ecology and outlined the risk to the endangered fishes of oil and gas activities within the 100-year floodplain. Andrew Gilmore asked about how/if we might want to publicize this case to educate folks about risks and procedures. Kevin McAbee indicated that EPA had asked for our input on a distribution list."

6. April Washington, D.C., briefing trip (Pitts, 15 min)
7. Sufficient progress
 - a. Review of 2013 sufficient progress items (see Attachment 1) (Chart, 10 min)
 - b. Update on 2014 sufficient progress schedule and strategic communications plan (Chart, 5 min) – *The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers the Program's assessment of progress under the RIPRAP as the Service reviews "sufficient progress" each spring, according to the following general schedule:*
 - *~March 31: RIPRAP assessment is completed and approved by the Program.*
 - *~April 15: Program Director's office distributes a draft of the sufficient progress memo (with final RIPRAP assessment attached) and a draft strategic communications plan to the Service and MC. The draft elements of the sufficient progress memo include: a) a population status update; b) a list of accomplishments and shortcomings; and c) discussion and recommended action items. Also included are reviews of action items in the Yampa PBO.*
 - *~April 30: Management Committee web conference to review and comment on the draft elements of the sufficient progress memo.*
 - *~May 7: Service web conference to review and comment on the RIPRAP and draft elements for sufficient progress memo. The Service considers the Management Committee comments during the review.*
 - *~May 15: Program Director's office prepares final draft sufficient progress memo/determination for Service review.*
 - *~May 30: Service sends Management Committee the final draft sufficient progress memo primarily for informational purposes. The Management Committee will notify the Service if members have any significant issues/concerns.*
 - *~June 15: Service finalizes sufficient progress memo.*

8. (Action Item) Review and approval of RIPRAP revisions/assessment (Kantola, 5 min) – *In keeping with past practice and to maintain the schedule for the Service’s sufficient progress determination, the Management Committee recommends that the Implementation Committee delegate review and approval of RIPRAP revisions/assessment to the Management Committee (meeting via webinar on March 20).*
9. Southern Rockies LCC update (Chart, Service, 5 min)
10. Regional Director’s 2014 Program priorities (Service, 5 min) – *Regional Director, Noreen Walsh (or designated representative), will discuss the [Region’s FY14 priorities](#) as they relate to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program:*

Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery
Fiscal Year 2014 Action Items:

- Finalize a basin-wide aquatic invasive species control strategy that provides a sustainable approach to managing threats of predation and competition to the endangered Colorado River fish. *Final approved by Management Committee February 11, 2014.*
 - Publish a draft Colorado Pikeminnow Recovery Plan. *Draft to Service for review anticipated mid-March with a 45-day (or less) review period.*
 - Convene a Recovery Team to begin revision of the Humpback Chub Recovery Plan.
 - Revise and finalize the Recovery Program’s Integrated Stocking Plan with the intent of improving survival of hatchery-reared bonytail.
11. (Action Item) Schedule September 2014 Implementation Committee meeting and identify agenda items (All, 5 min) *The Committee will schedule this meeting (typically held in at the Country Inn and Suites in Denver near DIA in mid-to-late September from 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) and discuss agenda items.*

ADJOURN by 4:00 p.m.

Attachment 1

Action Items from the [2013 Sufficient Progress Memo](#)

March 3, 2013

#	Recommended Action Items	Lead	Due Date	Status
General – Upper Basin-wide				
1	Swiftly complete & fully implement an effective, comprehensive <i>Upper Colorado River Basin Nonnative and Invasive Aquatic Species Prevention and Control Strategy</i> .	PDO, States	2013	MC approved 2/11/14.
2	Develop RIRPRAP addendum identifying a subset of specific, tangible actions from the Basinwide Strategy to be accomplished in the next 3 years, including: increased control efforts directed to sources of nonnative predators; adequate rapid response to recent and future “outbreaks”; and a strong outreach campaign that sends the message to the public that only nonnative fisheries that are compatible with endangered species recovery are acceptable.	PDO, States	2013	Addendum approved by States and accepted by USFWS; progress to achieve actions being tracked at Biology and Management committee meetings.
3	Determine how to investigate age-0 and age-1 humpback chub mortality (especially in Black Rocks/Westwater and Desolation canyons) as recommended in the Research Framework. If funds available, Program may develop a 2014 SOW to investigate age-0 and age-1 humpback chub mortality.	Program		CSU's recent robust population estimate analysis more clearly indicates that declines in the Westwater and Black Rock humpback chub populations are due to lapses in recruitment, i.e. adult survival rates have remained stable. PI's agree that reinitiating an Age-0 monitoring component is advisable.
4	200 age-0 <i>Gila</i> will be brought into captivity from Black Rocks/Westwater when conditions allow.	FWS	2013 2014	Flow conditions inadequate again in 2013; will try again in 2014.
5	A currently funded study at CSU combining Westwater and Black Rocks data sets and exploring alternative population models may shed some light on this issue from a stock assessment perspective.	CSU	2014	Initial results of combined WW/BR report provided during Bestgen presentation on 10/10/13 BC webinar; appropriate portions to be included in individual Black Rocks and Westwater reports.
6	Support research to determine dose response information (for selenium and other forms of contamination, e.g. petrochemicals, heavy metals, and endocrine disruptors) related specifically to the endangered Colorado River fish as well as necessary remediation.	Program	Ongoing	
Green River				
7	Closely coordinate Tusher Wash e-barrier (or other barrier) construction with NRCS's rebuild of the Tusher diversion structure.	PDO, USBR	2014	Construction tentatively scheduled to begin fall 2014, but realistic timeframes still being developed. Alternative presented to BC in January 2014 to provide an electrified weir wall with a fish return in the Green River Canal, downstream of the hydropower facility is being considered. PIT antennas installed March 2013 detected high level of entrainment of razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow; additional antenna will be installed in 2014 to further define fish movements.
8	Red Fleet Reservoir has been recommended for reclamation (rotenone) in 2014. A microchemical analysis of otoliths from both the reservoir and the river is underway to better understand the contribution of walleye to critical habitat from this potential source population.	UDWR	2014	UDWR formulating plans to reclaim in 2014.

Yampa River				
9	Complete accounting of past depletions using the StateCU model (Due date from YPBO - 1 st report July 1, 2010; 2 nd report July 1, 2015). The depletion accounting report will include a discussion of the need for flow protection (which would require a peak flow recommendation). The models will be updated through 2010 or 2011.	CWCB		(Also applies to Colorado River.) A contract for the irrigated acreage assessment was awarded in February 2013. Another contract still needs to be awarded to update the dataset. Colorado has given high priority to the Yampa and Colorado river basins portion of this work. .
10	Complete programmatic synthesis of smallmouth bass removal efforts , providing a comprehensive evaluation of the Program's removal efforts (draft reports due June 15 [Part 2] and August 15 [Part 3]). The Recovery Program will review the final report on escapement from Elkhead Reservoir (Part 1, completed May 1, 2013) and determine appropriate adaptive-management response.	CSU		Part 1 of 3-part report completed; Parts 2 & 3 in review; projection tool being rolled out. See also Basinwide Strategy (item #1).
11	Conduct a programmatic synthesis of northern pike removal efforts (2011-2012) to evaluate current removal efforts in the context of northern pike life history throughout the Yampa River drainage.	CSU		Report due to PDO 3/1/14 (final to BC 6/15/14). See also Basinwide Strategy (item #1).
12	The Program office will work with CPW to determine if any of the pike management actions identified in CPW's 2010 'Yampa River Basin Aquatic Wildlife Management Plan management actions are not being adequately addressed and seek necessary remedies.	PDO, CPW		CPW provided initial assessment 5/1/13; PDO returned comments 5/17/13; discussion pending. See also Basinwide Strategy (item #1).
Duchesne River				
13	Rely on findings of project # C18/19 to determine how to proceed with regard to currently unknown contribution of smallmouth bass or walleye produced in the Duchesne River below Starvation and entering Green River (Ute Tribe apparently not currently conducting nonnative fish removal.)			C-18/19 report peer reviews completed; BC reviewed and returned for minor revisions in Jan. 2014; final draft to BC 2/26. See also Basinwide Strategy (item #1).
White River				
14	Finalize flow recommendations as part of White River Management Plan.	PDO, FWS, UDWR	Winter 2014	Per White River Management Plan schedule: develop flow recs Fall 2013-Winter 2014; complete Program review Spring/Summer 2014; finalize management plan and flow recommendations Summer 2014.
Colorado River				
15	Explore opportunities to continue delivering Ruedi water (or a portion thereof) to replace the release of 10,825 acre-feet of Ruedi Reservoir water that concluded in 2012.	FWS, USBR, CRWCD		
16	Complete CFOPS Phase III report.	Water Users		Draft expected by March 31 and final by June 1.
17	HUP call participants will continue to discuss screen operation with the goal of more frequent operation at the GVIC canal (recognized as the oldest and most problematic design). The Program will continue to evaluate ways to improve screening operations and methods, and the Program will continue to fund salvage operations of fish remaining in the canals at the end of the irrigation season.	PDO, USBR, screen operators		USBR and OMID investigating mechanisms to operate GVIC Obermyer gate at lower flows.

Gunnison River				
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18	Mechanically remove northern pike from Crawford Reservoir.	CPW		Beginning in 2014
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