



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Dated: September 6, 2012

DRAFT
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE AGENDA
September 19, 2012

[Country Inn and Suites](#), 4343 N Airport Way, Denver, Colorado, 303/375-1105

CONVENE: 10:30 a.m.

1. Introductions, modify/review agenda, Chairman's updates (Steve Guertin, 10 min.) (10:30 – 10:40)
2. Approve revised March 5, 2012 conference call summary (All, 5 min.) (10:40 – 10:45)

Action Item: Minor revisions were received from Jana Mohrman and Patty Gelatt and a draft revised summary was sent out with this agenda. The Implementation Committee will make any additional revisions and approve the summary as final.

3. Program Director's report on the Recovery Program, status of the fish, and drought update (Tom Chart, 30 min) (10:45 – 11:15) (PowerPoint) – *Tom Chart will give an overview of Program accomplishments, issues, and future direction by recovery element.*
4. Nonnative fish management activities briefing (Tom Chart and Pat Martinez, 30 min) (11:15 – 11:45) (PowerPoint) – *The Committee will be apprised about the development of the Basinwide Nonnative Fish Management Strategy.*

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. LUNCH

5. Review of sufficient progress items (Tom Chart and Angela Kantola, 15 min) (12:45 – 1:00) – *Please see the status update on action items, attached.*
6. Updates
 - Capital projects (Brent Uilenberg, 15 min) (1:00 – 1:15)
 - Funding legislation (Tom Pitts and John Shields, 15 min) (1:15 – 1:30) – *H.R. 6060, "The Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2012," was introduced by Rep. Rob Bishop of Utah on June 29 with 13 of 14 members of the 4-state delegation sponsoring or co-sponsoring the bill. More than two dozen letters of support were submitted. The Water and Power Subcommittee heard the bill on July 10 and it. Mark-up in the House Resources Committee occurred on August 2nd and the bill was passed out of Committee by unanimous consent. The ranking member of*

- the Water and Power Subcommittee, Rep. Napolitano, suggested the authorization end date should be 2023 instead of 2016. Before the bill goes to the floor, cut-go requirements (~\$22 million off-set) will need to be addressed (being done by the Water and Power Subcommittee staff). A placeholder bill was previously introduced in the Senate by Chairman Bingaman (S. 1224) and efforts are underway to get him to bring it to mark-up (probably substituting the House-marked bill, although the Senate may object to the 7-year authorization limit). A Senate mini-omnibus bill is being discussed, which may be the only way S. 1224 gets through the Senate. If passed, it would be rolled over to the House, and then hopefully passed under a suspension of rules (wherein cut-go would not have to be addressed)*
- Washington, D.C. briefing trip (March 2013) (John Shields, 5 min) (1:30 – 1:35) *The 2011-2012 Program Highlights briefing booklet can be downloaded at <http://www.coloradoriverrecovery.org/committees/management-committee/dctrip/2012BriefingBook.pdf>. A trip report document providing an overview of the March briefing visits and outcome can be downloaded at: <http://www.coloradoriverrecovery.org/committees/management-committee/dctrip/2012DCTripReport.pdf>.*
 - Recovery goals and 5-Year Status Reviews (Tom Chart and Tom Czaplá, 15 min) (1:35 – 1:50) – *The humpback chub and Colorado pikeminnow status reviews are available on the Program's [website](#); the razorback sucker and bonytail 5-year reviews were just signed and will be on the website shortly. Letters have been sent to four prospective Colorado pikeminnow Recovery Team members and a draft recovery plan is ready for the team to review. Five prospective members for a humpback team also have been identified, but the pikeminnow team will be established first.*
 - Management Committee clarification of flow recommendation approval process (Tom Chart, 10 min) (1:50 – 2:00) – *The Program Director's office and Robert Wigington have drafted a document to clarify the Recovery Program's process for approving flow recommendations for the endangered fishes. This draft is in Management Committee review and will be discussed in the November 5 webinar.*
 - Green River flow protection (Jana Mohrman, 10 min) (2:00 – 2:10)
 - FY 2013 Work Plan update (second year of 2-year work plan) – (Angela Kantola, 10 min) (2:10 – 2:20) – *FY 2013 is the second year of the two-year FY12-13 work plan and the budget appears very tight, with ~\$50K not yet obligated. Final funding amounts won't be known until outcome of the legislation is determined and the October 2011 – September 2012 CPI is released (used to calculate the power revenue contribution to annual funds). Opportunities to fund contingency projects would appear minimal. Projects which might be considered in FY 13 if funds were available include: restoration of nonnative fish management projects to full budget to continue "expanded surge" begun in FY11; sediment monitoring (including development of a plan); floodplain site monitoring/management; FR-115 synthesis report; Lake Powell sampling; and chemical reclamation to eradicate nonnative fishes at Thunder Ranch and perhaps other locations, like Miramonte Reservoir.*

- [Southern Rockies LCC \(Landscape Conservation Cooperative\)](#) (Tom Chart and Steve Guertin, 10 min) (2:20 – 2:30)
7. Wrap-up and schedule next Implementation Committee meeting call (March 2013) and meeting (September 2013) (All, 10 min) (2:30 – 2:40).

ADJOURN: 3:00 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

Action Items from the [2012 Sufficient Progress Memo](#)

August 9, 2012

General – Upper Basin-wide				
#	Recommended Action Items	Lead	Due Date	Status
1	The Service will make a recommendation for how to ensure that all new petroleum pipelines have emergency shutoff valves and will investigate the use of the Pipeline Integrity Management Mapping Application (PIMMA) to address existing pipelines potentially needing shutoff valves (e.g., pipelines upstream of or near critical or other important habitat).	FWS	12/31/12	
2	The Program Director's office is working with the Nonnative Fish Subcommittee and signatories to the Nonnative Fish Stocking Procedures to address comments on the draft <i>Upper Colorado River Basin Nonnative and Invasive Aquatic Species Prevention and Control Strategy</i> . Following "internal" review by the Recovery Program's Biology and Management committees, the Program will seek external peer review prior to accepting the <i>Strategy</i> as final.	Program	Date TBD; will go to BC earlier than previously indicated.	A subgroup of the I&E Committee will refine comments on the I&E section of the <i>Strategy</i> and then have a conference call with the Nonnative Fish Subcommittee. Update of steps leading to completion will be provided to the Management and Biology committees in Autumn 2012. The Management Committee asked that the Program Director's office streamline the document somewhat and accelerate the schedule.
3	The Service recommends that the Recovery Program carefully review the applicability of proposed screens for nonnative fish on a case-by-case basis and scrutinize screen designs, including projected operation and maintenance costs in the future. And, that the Recovery Program fully recognizes that screens are only a component of a multi-faceted nonnative fish control strategy (e.g., one that adheres to the NNF Stocking Procedures, promotes compatible sportfisheries, and prevents new nonnative fish threats).	<i>Nonnative Fish Stocking Procedures</i> signatories	Ongoing	
4	Revised Integrated Stocking Plan needs to be completed.	PDO	12/31/12	Draft sent to <i>ad hoc</i> group 4/13/12; conference call held 5/9/12. Next draft to <i>ad hoc</i> group by mid-September.
5	The Program Director's Office will monitor results from ongoing humpback chub population estimates (Deso-Gray 2010-2011; Black Rocks and Westwater 2011-2012 and monitoring (Cataract Canyon annual CPUE; Yampa River information gathered through nonnative fish management projects). The Program Director's Office convened a panel to discuss humpback chub genetics and captivity and identify actions necessary to ensure the survival and recovery of humpback chub and an implementation plan for those actions in 2011. 200 age-0 Gila will be brought into captivity from Black Rocks/Westwater in 2012 (relates to broodstock development once fish are determined to be humpback chub).	PDO, Service, UDWR	Deso-Gray data reported annually; Black Rocks draft final report due 8/1/13; Westwater draft final report due FY13.	Results reviewed annually. Bringing age-0 <i>Gila</i> from Black Rocks into captivity planned for Autumn 2012.

Green River				
6	An RFP for a 2012-2013 mortality study and literature review is anticipated in April 2012. Meanwhile, Program participants are investigating the potential for an electrical barrier at the head of the canal as one option to reduce or eliminate entrainment (and thus, "take") of fish in the canal.	Tusher Wash <i>ad hoc</i> group.		No response to RFP (and so it's been dropped); Biology Committee discussed in July, will review options again in October; Tusher Wash <i>ad hoc</i> group continues to review and discuss options, with an electric barrier now looking like the most viable option.
7	Red Fleet Reservoir has been recommended for reclamation (rotenone). 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		Otoliths processed; draft report in review; data will be included in draft final C18/19 report due October 1, 2012 (although this deadline may have to slip due to PI illness).
Yampa River				
8	CWCB is scheduled to complete accounting of past depletions using the StateCU model by the spring of 2012. The depletion accounting report will include a discussion of the need for flow protection (which would require a peak flow recommendation). The Water Acquisition Committee will continue to discuss the need for a peak flow recommendation.	CWCB, WAC	June 2012	Depletion accounting for Yampa & Colorado rivers will be based on 2005 consumptive use (irrigated acreage based on satellite images and some aerial photography). CWCB is double-checking irrigated acreage, will have it verified by the Water Commissioner (hopefully by Christmas), and then can run the model.
9	CSU will complete the programmatic synthesis of smallmouth bass removal efforts , providing a comprehensive evaluation of the Program's removal efforts as well as a thorough assessment of escapement from Elkhead Reservoir (draft final report due to Recovery Program 8/31/2012). The Recovery Program will review the final report on escapement from Elkhead Reservoir and determine appropriate adaptive-management response. CSU also is conducting 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 (draft final report due to Recovery Program 6/30/13).	CSU, Program, CPW	Draft final smallmouth bass synthesis report due 8/31/12.	The programmatic synthesis report will consist of three parts and each will be separately peer-reviewed. Part 1, Elkhead escapement has been peer reviewed. Part 2, Population Dynamics is due October 1, 2012, and Part 3, Projection Tool, will follow shortly thereafter. The three parts will then be finalized in one document. The NNFSC continues to evaluate opportunities and priorities for applying appropriate responses to source populations.
10	Native fish conservation areas are being evaluated as part of the draft basinwide nonnative fish strategy. Subsequently, applicability to the Yampa River will be evaluated.	Program, CPW		See item #2 re: <i>Basinwide Strategy</i> .
11	CPW has detailed its ongoing and anticipated pike management actions throughout the drainage in its 2010 'Yampa River Basin Aquatic Wildlife Management Plan (CDOW 2010).' CPW will tabulate these activities for the Program Director's Office and, based upon Program Office feedback, will provide management objectives and actions for any waters within the drainage that CPW and the Program Office mutually agree are inadequately addressed by the 2010 Plan.	CPW		Pending. Tabulation complete and will go to PDO by September 1. Joint recommendations from PDO and CPW for how to address any inadequacies will be made at the NNF workshop.

White River				
12	A working draft <i>Flow Recommendations for the Endangered Fish of the White River, Colorado and Utah</i> was sent to the Biology and Water Acquisition committees and GRUWAT on July 1, 2011. Conflicting comments were received. A revised draft is expected by midsummer 2012. Work on a PBO is anticipated subsequent to report approval.	PDO	Summer 2012.	Pending. Good progress is being made and TNC is providing assistance.
13	Program scheduled to begin specific effort to remove smallmouth bass in 2012. CPW will propose plans to removing bag limit for smallmouth bass (and possibly other nonnative sport fishes) in the 400 yards below Kenney Reservoir that still has limits in 2013. Recovery Program supports multi-agency effort to designate White River as native fish conservation area.	CPW, UDWR		White River smallmouth bass removal conducted by Service & CPW; additional electric seining also conducted. CPW has prepared an issue paper on the bag limit for Commission consideration in this regulation cycle.
Colorado River				
14	Recovery Program participants will consider options and opportunities for meeting flow recommendations on a more consistent basis after completion of 10,825 agreements.	Program		All agreements are expected to be in place by December 31, 2012.
15	The CWCB will provide the depletion accounting for 2006-2010 for the Upper Colorado River using State CU in the spring of 2012. If the amount of consumptive use, location of use, and timing of use is not the same as in the past, they would then put that information into StateMod to show how those changes affect the river.	CWCB	June 2012	See item #8.
16	Completion of CFOPS Phase III should be out in draft in August 2012 and report completion anticipated by September 30, 2012.	Water users	September 30, 2012.	
17	In 2012, additional passes will be devoted in the reach of the Colorado River from Rifle to the Beavertail to remove invading northern pike. CPW will conduct a reconnaissance in floodplain & canal habitats to identify potential sources of this species. Sampling will also be conducted from Silt to Rifle to remove northern pike.	FWS, CPW	Service, CPW	Additional passes in progress. A critical new ramp was constructed that improves access.
Gunnison River				
18	Every effort should be made to ensure that the Gunnison River remains a native fish stronghold. The topic of precluding new species introductions also will be addressed in the draft Nonnative Fish Strategy.	Program		See item #2 re: <i>Basinwide Strategy</i> .

Dolores River

	The Nonnative Fish Subcommittee will review response options and propose action item(s) to be reviewed with the Dolores River Dialogue and Lower Dolores Working Group and potentially added to the RIPRAP in 2013.	NNFSC, others.	January 2013.	CPW is implementing emergency order removing all bag and possession limits on smallmouth bass in Miramonte Reservoir and has announced plans to rotenone the reservoir in late summer or fall of 2013.
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