



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Revised Agenda Dated: March 17, 2014

March 20, 2014, Management Committee Webinar Draft Agenda

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 9:00 a.m. with no delays.

Meeting Time: 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME. The agenda includes a half hour break for lunch. Angela will start the web portion of the meeting by 8:15 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, **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).
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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 Meeting/Webinar: 8:30 a.m.

1. Introductions, review/modify agenda and time allocations, and appoint a timekeeper (5 min) – *The Committee will revise the agenda as needed and affirm election of new Committee chair, Henry Maddux.*
2. Approve February 11, 2014, revised draft meeting summary (All, 5 min) – *Comments on the summary (primarily editorial) were received from Kevin McAbee and Melissa Trammell. A revised, track-changes draft summary was provided on March 10 with the draft meeting agenda.*
3. Review/approval of draft RIPRAP revisions and assessment (Kantola, all, 1 hour) *The Committee will review revisions and recommendations as drafted by the Program Director's office (posted to the listserv February 6) and revised by the technical committees (to be posted to the listserv prior to the Management Committee meeting). The Implementation Committee has given the Management Committee their proxy to approve these documents.*

Related to section 1.4 of the RIPRAP text addresses estimated Program costs, is the annual depletion charge budget adjustment update which we'd not yet sent out this year. Please see Attachment 2.

BREAK (10 min)

4. Sufficient progress (Attachment 3) and nonnative fish action items status report (Chart, McAbee, 20 min)
5. Update on Ridgway Reservoir smallmouth bass escapement prevention planning (McAbee, Crockett, Pitts, 10 min) – *The Committee will hear an update on short (via operations and harvest) and long-term (potentially screening) plans to prevent illegally-introduced smallmouth bass from escaping Ridgway*

Reservoir (on the Uncompahgre, a tributary to the Gunnison River). If escapement were to occur, fish could be flushed into the Gunnison, where habitat is suitable for bass colonization (habitat in most of the upper Uncompahgre is not well-suited for bass).

6. Recovery planning update (Chart, Czapla, 40 min) *The Committee will discuss the proposal for a multi-species recovery plan (see Implementation Committee discussion and Tom Pitts March 4 e-mail (re-sent by Angela Kantola on March 5) entitled “Corrected Title RE: March 6 Agenda Item: Proposal for Multi-Species Recovery Plan”).*
7. D.C. Trip planning (Pitts, 20 min) – *The group will discuss logistics, participants, and assignments for the trip planned for the week of April 7.*

BREAK (10 min)

8. Flows and Water Acquisition Committee update (Mohrman, 15 min)
9. Flaming Gorge spring flow request (Chart, 15 min) – *Tom Chart sent the draft flow request letter to the Biology Committee on February 26, requesting any comments by March 4. Tom will subsequently send a revised letter to the Management Committee for approval. The FGTTWG kick-off meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2014.*
10. Update on Colorado State Water Plan (standing agenda item) (Garrison, 5 min)
11. Continued discussion of draft letter on risks associated with energy development in or in close proximity to endangered fish critical habitat (McAbee, 15 min)
12. Capital projects updates (Uilenberg 10 min)
 - Tusher Wash
 - OMID
 - Other
13. March 6 Implementation Committee webinar follow-up (All, 5 min)
14. Review previous meeting assignments (Kantola, all, 5 min) – *See Attachment 1.*
15. Schedule next meeting, webinar, or conference call (All, 5 min) – *The Committee typically schedules a webinar sometime after completion of the annual D.C. briefing trip.*

ADJOURN: by 1:00 p.m.

Attachment 1 Previous Meeting Assignments

1. **Tom Pitts** will work with **Clayton Palmer and Brent Uilenberg** and provide a list of additional Program contributions to be added to the Program's budget pie chart that appears in each year's briefing book. *In process.* For the 2012 & 2013 *Program Highlights*, we used the \$37.4M annualized estimate. **Western** contracted with Argonne to model and report actual Flaming Gorge power replacement costs going back to 2001. Subsequently, **Western** will provide annual power replacement cost for the previous year each January for inclusion in the *Program Highlights* pie charts. Those pie charts will include a footnote explaining the calculation and assumptions. **Program participants** will identify other significant costs that have not previously reported (e.g., the Granby component of 10,825 which is estimated at \$16M, \$1.25M contributed by Colorado for GVWM and \$1.5M for OMID, CRWCD contributed property for OMID, etc.) *(done)*. **Tom Chart** will ask **Dave Campbell** to work with the SJCC to determine their additional costs not currently reported. *A Cost Subcommittee was established and met several times via conference call to review the proposal for and results of the power replacement costs analysis. 1/29/14: Water user and Colorado additional costs added and documented in Kantola's Briefing Book Pie Chart Data spreadsheet. Power revenue replacement costs "placeholder" from previous years retained until Argonne report finalized and approved (currently in revision).*
2. **Michelle Garrison** will discuss with Ted Kowalski (and get back to Brent or Bob Norman) on the proposal of having the Programs ask the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to obligate \$200K of Colorado's San Juan NFWF funds by putting an "Upper Basin" label on them and then invoicing against that \$200K for Upper Colorado NFWF capital expenditures (e.g., Tusher \$40K and others) in the future. >**Michelle** will discuss with Brent and Ted.
3. D.C. Briefing Trip: **Tom Pitts** will provide names to Tom Chart's office to reserve a block of hotel rooms in D.C. *Done.* **John Shields** will check to see if a room is available in the Capitol Visitor's Center for a luncheon on Friday, April 11. **Tom Pitts** will hold a conference call among trip participants soon and will take care of letters from the water users.
4. **Committee members** will provide comments on the draft energy development letter by February 28.
5. **Tom Chart** will ask the Service's Regional Office for a projected turnaround time to review the draft Colorado pikeminnow recovery plan to better estimate a review schedule for the Implementation Committee on March 6. *Done; Service review draft anticipated by mid-March with a 45-day (or less) turnaround time.*
6. **Beverly Heffernan** will ask **Brent Uilenberg** if there are plans to announce to the public completion of Phase 1 and initiation of Phase 2 of OMID. *Done; Reclamation does not typically issue news releases on completed projects, but will mention completion of Phase 1 in the press release on contract award of Phase 2 (Regulating Reservoir).*

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
¹FY 2015 DEPLETION CHARGE AND ANNUAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS
March 3, 2014

ITEM	FY 2014	FY 2015
² DEPLETION CHARGE:	\$20.24	\$20.54
³ AGENCY ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS:	FY 2014	FY 2015
⁴ Bureau of Reclamation (maximum power revenues)	\$5,357,119	\$5,437,476
⁵ Fish and Wildlife Service	\$1,224,152	\$1,242,514
Colorado	\$212,286	\$215,471
Utah	\$149,125	\$151,362
Wyoming	\$47,211	\$47,919
ANNUAL/O&M TOTAL:	\$6,989,893	\$7,094,742

NOTES:

¹Adjustments for 2015 (except for Bureau of Reclamation annual contributions) are based on a 2013 Consumer Price Index increase of 1.5% over 2012 (source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/surveymost> [Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers, Series Id: CUUR0000SA0, Not Seasonally Adjusted, Area: U.S. city average, Item: All items, Base Period: 1982-84=100], released January 16, 2014).

²The balance (unaudited) reported by NFWF in the depletion charge ("Section 7") account was \$675,797.02 as of December 31, 2012.

³FY 2015 depletion charge and budget adjustments become effective October 1, 2014. Agency annual contributions shown are the established contributions; actual contributions may vary somewhat.

⁴Maximum power revenues adjusted for inflation will be calculated using CPI released in October 2014, per PL 106-392. (See Dec. 13, 2004, Management Committee meeting summary for an explanation of the difference.). Figure shown is estimate only, based on January 2014 CPI of 1.5%.

⁵The actual Service FY 15 contribution is expected to be about \$1,237,962 (\$720,293 recovery funds [if not reduced due to sequestration] and \$517,669 hatchery O&M). The actual Service FY 14 total contribution is anticipated to be \$1,489,841 (\$633,858 recovery funds [reduced due to sequestration] + \$517,669 hatchery O&M + \$268,314 Ouray NWR Johnson Bottom RBS recruitment + \$70,000 Tusher Wash fish passage contribution).

Attachment 3

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 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.

7.

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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