



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Dated: January 30, 2012

February 13, 2012, 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: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME (With a short break for lunch). 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 Webinar: 9:00 a.m.

1. Introductions, review/modify agenda and time allocations, and appoint a timekeeper – The agenda was revised as it appears below.
2. Approve October 12, 2011 meeting summary (All, 15 min) – *The draft summary was posted to the listserv by Angela Kantola on 10/18/12 and included again with this draft meeting agenda. The draft summary contained a tracked change and comment related to the Flaming Gorge EIS and “backcasting” of the action alternative. The Committee will review and perhaps revise this edit. Tom Pitts’ has commented: “1995 came from the fact that the action alternative later defined in the FG EIS was actually implemented in 1995, i.e., it wasn’t backcasted, it was actually implemented and became the action alternative in the EIS. FG was first reoperated in 1991, according to Clayton. Whether this was the result of the ‘92 BO is not clear.”*
3. Legislative and Congressional activities (Shields, Pitts 30 min)
 - a. The non-Federal Program participants’ recent communique to Congress
 - b. Legislation outlook and mtgs. with and among Reps. Bishop and McClintock
 - c. How the legislation may address “cutgo” requirements

- d. Scheduling a Congressional conference call after the legislation is introduced
4. Washington, D.C., briefing trip (Shields, Pitts, 30 min)

BREAK (15 min)

5. Budget Update (FY 2012 and 2013) (Chart, Kantola, Uilenberg 20 min) – *The Committee will review and approve proposed FY 2012 budget modifications and discuss 2013 annual funding.*
6. Capital projects (Uilenberg, 15 min)
 - a. Thunder Ranch setback levee repair and associated issues, including scheduling
7. Updates
 - a. [10,825 Alternatives](#) & agreements update and Status of Ruedi legislation (Pitts, 5 min)
 - b. Aspinall [EIS](#) (Uilenberg, 10 min)
 - c. Price River Report (Chart, 5 min)
 - d. Utah's 2011 progress on actions to protect Green River flows (Utah, 15 min)
 - e. Program's 2012 Green River Spring Flow Request letter (Chart, 10 min)
 - f. White River flow recommendations – status (Chart, 5 minutes)

BREAK (15 min)

- g. Draft Basin-wide Nonnative and Invasive Aquatic Species Prevention and Control Strategy (Martinez, Chart 15 min)
- h. Recovery plan schedule and recovery timelines (Czapla, 10 min)
8. Review previous meeting assignments and sufficient progress action items (All, 20 min) – *See Attachments 1 and 2.*
9. March, 5, 2012, Implementation Committee conference call (Shields, Chart, all 10 min.) – *The Committee will discuss agenda items for this call, which may include:*
 - *Brief Program Director's update*
 - *D.C. Trip, legislation and budget update*
 - *Delegating approval of RIPRAP revisions and assessment to the Management Committee*
 - *Agenda items for September 19, 2012, Implementation Committee meeting*
10. Upcoming Management Committee tasks, schedule next meeting. (All, 10 min) – *Agenda items will include:*
 - *Review of draft RIPRAP revisions and assessment*

- *D.C. Trip review*
- *Legislative update*
- *Scheduling conference call to review draft elements of Service's sufficient progress memo.*

ADJOURN: by 1:15 p.m.

Attachment 1 Previous Meeting Assignments

1. The **Management Committee** will consider naming a floodplain site for Pat Nelson. *The Service's Grand Junction field office is considering what might be an appropriate location. We do have a memorial to Pat on the pikeminnow bench at Walter Walker SWA.*
2. The **Program Director's office** will ask Ouray NWR to document their floodplain management recommendations in their draft FY 12-13 easement scope of work (and also ask how the Program might better participate in the Refuge's planning process). *Pending: See related discussion in the October 12, 2011 meeting summary regarding Thunder Ranch, which addresses one of ONWR's and the BC's highest priorities. PD's office has asked to discuss with Ouray NWR.*
3. By September 30, 2011, as required in the RIPRAP, the **Water Acquisition Committee** will review mechanisms of current flow protection under the PBO's for the Yampa and Colorado rivers to determine if additional mechanisms or instream flow filings are needed at this time (and this will be reviewed every 5 years). This discussion will include whether or not depletion accounting is working (are we able to adequately document depletions); however, the depletion accounting does not need to be completed in order to determine if additional mechanisms or instream flow filings are needed at this time. Peak flows on the Yampa should be discussed, but a peak flow recommendation may be the first step in this process. *7/19/11: WAC began discussing this; tabled until next call. 10/12/11: Mike Roberts has discussed with Jana and suggested RIPRAP language: "The WAC can revisit the question of flow protection in the Yampa River at any point during, but not to exceed, five years to determine if instream flow filings or other protective mechanisms are appropriate at that time." The notes section of the RIPRAP reporting status would be updated to read: "At the terminus of this five year interval, the WAC determined that additional and permanent protection, in the form of instream flow filings, was not deemed necessary at this time." The WAC will consider this on their next conference call. Melissa Trammell said NPS is funding a synthesis of available sediment information, which may provide information for a peak flow recommendation.*
4. **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; see discussion in agenda item #3.b.* For the 2012 *Program Highlights*, we will use the \$37.4M annualized estimate. By July 2012, **WAPA** will complete modeling and report actual power replacement costs going back to 2001. Subsequently, **WAPA** 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 (the 2012 footnote will explain that these are annualized estimates which will be verified beginning in 2013). **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.). **Tom Chart** will ask **Dave Campbell** to work with the SJCC to determine their additional costs not

currently reported. *1/30/12: Tom Pitts provided additional costs to be included in briefing book pie chart; need to follow up with documentation for the record.*

5. **Brent Uilenberg** will modify the OMID scope of work to reflect the ITRC contract to design the SCADA system. The **PD's office** will post the revised SOW to the web. *Pending.*
6. The **Service and Biology Committee** will work on answering the questions Reclamation has raised about the Flaming Gorge trigger and the **Management Committee** will receive updates. *During their September 30, 2011 webinar, the BC recommended an ad Hoc effort to develop a "Larval Trigger Study Plan" which is intended to be responsive to Reclamation's question and will inform future Recovery Prom spring flow requests. 1/30/12: Study plan has been drafted and will go to the Biology Committee in early February.*
7. If it's not possible for Reclamation to share the draft Aspinall ROD with cooperators and the Management Committee, **Reclamation** will notify the Management Committee. Western would like the **Service** to consider the implications for sufficient progress if the preferred alternative weren't implemented this spring.
8. **John Shields** will contact the Capitol Visitor's Center to get the luncheon meeting room on the March 16th. **John** also will let the San Juan Coordination Committee know about the proposed March 14-19, 2012 dates for the D.C. briefing meetings. *Done. The March 16th luncheon will be held in CVC Room 217. The first briefing meeting has been set, with the assistance of Assistant Director for Endangered Species Gary Fraser, with members of the USFWS Directorate on March 19, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Main Interior Building.*

General – Upper Basin-wide				
#	Recommended Action Items	Lead	Due Date	Status
1	Cory Williams to send revised draft sediment report to USGS editorial by June 1, then revise & send to BC/WAC for final approval by August 1.	USGS	8/1/11	Sent to BC/WAC July 22; BC/WAC review webinar scheduled for October 13. 10/13/11: Report approved with minor revisions. PDO will assemble a group of experts to assist with interpretation of the USGS' findings.
2	The Program Director's office will work with the signatories to the Nonnative Fish Stocking Policy to develop a Nonnative Fish Strategy that squarely addresses the issue of illicit stocking (draft due 9/1/11).	USFWS-PD	9/1/11	Draft strategy sent to BC 8/29/11. Tom Chart also sent a letter to the States about illicit introductions and addressing this issue in the nonnative fish strategy. 10/12/11: Pat Martinez, the Service, and the Upper Basin met October 17, 2011 to discuss illicit introductions. The States have asked to set up the next mtg.
3	The Larval Fish Lab is scheduled to submit the draft razorback monitoring plan by May 31, 2011.	LFL	5/31/11	Behind schedule (now expected in mid-February 2012), but larval razorback monitoring is included in FY12-13 Work Plan in project #22f, #160, #163 and new larval trigger study plan proposals.
4	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 will convene 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.	USFWS-PD		The Program Director's Office has assembled an ad hoc group (three geneticists and Rich Valdez, Melissa Trammell, and Brandon Albrecht) to work on a humpback chub genetics management plan. They held an initial conference call and are reviewing a draft report with recommendations . In 2012, researchers will gather fin clips from chubs throughout the Upper Basin to determine genetic purity. Because Black Rocks / Westwater humpback chub are presumed to be the most pure researchers will secure 200 Age-0 chubs from there in 2012.
Green River				
5	The Program Director's Office will provide a draft Upper Basin Nonnative Fish Strategy for Program review by September 1, 2011. Strategy will identify actions to prevent introduction of new invasive species and also identify actions to eliminate newly-emerging invasives such as burbot & gizzard shad.	USFWS-PD	9/1/11	Draft strategy sent to BC 8/29/11. The NNF SubComm met in November to discuss revisions. I&E folks/Committee are providing input on the I&E section of the plan.
6	The Program Director's Office will provide a final draft Role of the Price River in Recovery of Endangered Fish and the Need for Flow Management for Program review by July 1.	USFWS-PD	7/1/11	Draft provided. Submitted 6/21/11 and discussed at 7/11-12/11 BC meeting. BC discussed on September 30 webinar; Tom Chart, Jana Mohrman, and Tom Pitts discussing technical issues; Tom Pitts provided comments. The Program Director's office will prepare responses to Pitts concerns and potentially a revision to the position paper for Biology Committee review in the very near future.
7	The Tusher Wash Ad Hoc Group is gathering information (literature review to be completed in summer 2011, and a potential mortality study, if needed and funding available) to develop a screening recommendation.	Tusher Wash Ad Hoc Group		10/12/11: PD's office asked Reclamation if description / specifications of the current Tusher hardware could help us understand if it can be retrofitted. PD's office is working to draft a request for a proposal (or similar) for a mortality study and literature review.
Yampa River				
8	The Water Acquisition Committee will review mechanisms of current flow protection under the RIPRAPPBO's for both the	WAC		7/19/11: WAC began discussing this; tabled until next call. MC: WAC needs to make call on whether instream flow filings

	Yampa and Colorado rivers to determine if additional mechanisms or instream flow filings are needed at this time (this will be reviewed every 5 years). As part of this review, the Committee will discuss the need for peak flow protection (which would require a peak flow recommendation).			currently necessary AND add language to RIPRAP to allow review before 5 more years, if needed. Also need to consider whether additional mechanisms for flow protection are needed. 10/12/11: Language has been proposed for WAC consideration; and will be included in 2012 draft RIPRAP revisions.
9	CWCB will create a Consumptive Uses & Losses Report for 1975-2009, compare those to the old 1975-1998 numbers, and compare their new estimates for 1975–1998 to 1999–2009. The StateCU model will be completed by June 1, 2011; Subsequently, meetings will be held with TNC to discuss StateMOD. CWCB, the Service, and the Water Acquisition Committee also should discuss whether we are able to adequately document depletions.	CWCB, FWS, TNC, WAC	6/1/11	8/11/11: CWCB intends to produce this report by 12/31/11.
10	CSU will complete the programmatic synthesis of smallmouth bass removal efforts (2012) which will provide a comprehensive evaluation of the Program's removal efforts as well as a thorough assessment of escapement.	CSU-LFL	8/31/2012	Draft final report due to Recovery Program 8/31/2012.
11	CSU will conduct a programmatic synthesis of northern pike removal efforts (2011-2012) which will evaluate current removal efforts in the context of northern pike life history throughout the Yampa River drainage. The Service supports the Program Director's Office recommendation that there be additional emphasis on northern pike control above Hayden.	CSU-LFL	6/30/13	Draft final report due to Recovery Program 6/30/13.
White River				
12	The Program Director's Office will submit a draft flow recommendations report to BC/WAC by July 1, 2011. Program participants have initiated efforts to develop a White River Management Plan that likely will lead to a programmatic biological opinion.	USFWS-PD	7/1/11	Draft report submitted July 1, 2011. Jana updated Biology Committee on comments received (some of which are conflicting) during September 30 webinar. Comments were received from the Service, environmental groups, Reclamation, Tom Pitts, and Utah's Divisions of Water Rights and Wildlife Resources. Addressing comments has been delayed while Jana Mohrman works with Reclamation to put Program flow recommendations in appropriate format for the Basin Study. Jana is dealing with conflicting comments on both the peak and base flow aspects of the draft recommendations.
Colorado River				
13	Recovery Program participants will consider options and opportunities for meeting flow recommendations on a more consistent basis after completion of 10,825 EA and agreements.	Program	Pending	
14	Recovery Program participants will complete the final CFOPS report by September 30, 2011.	Program	9/30/11	2008, 2009, and 2010 CROS reports that will allow completion of the assessment of the potential benefits of CFOPS distributed. Conference call held 8/3/11, schedule revised. Revised draft to CFOPS team by 1/6/12 , then meeting to be scheduled with SEO to discuss legal issues associated with storage, releases, and exchanges.
15	The Service will document condition of a surrogate species (white sucker) below the Grand Valley Irrigation Company return pipe (begins July 2011).	USFWS	2011	This work had to be deferred to 2012 due to high flows. Results and recommendations will be documented in the 2012 annual report.
16	CDOW and the Recovery Program have coordinated with Parks so that the 2011 unscreened outlet release will be scheduled in the summer when oxygen is depleted at depth to prevent fish	CP&W	2011	In progress and SOW revised.

	escapement. The Recovery Program also will coordinate with Parks to revise the scope of work accordingly (to assure that unscreened outlet releases only occur when oxygen levels are ≤ 2 mg/l).			
Gunnison River				
17	The Aspinall Study Plan will begin to be implemented in FY11. Reclamation will complete the final Aspinall Environmental Impact Statement by December 31, 2011.	Program/Reclamation	2011	SOW at http://www.coloradoriverrecovery.org/documents-publications/work-plan-documents/sow/10-11/rsch/163.pdf . Final ROD now expected in early 2012 prior to spring runoff.