



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Agenda Dated: March 8, 2012

March 21, 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 - 1:00 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
2. Approve February 13, 2012, revised draft meeting summary (All, 5 min) – *The revised draft summary (dated February 16, 2012) was posted to the listserv by Angela Kantola on February 16, 2012.*
3. Review/approval of draft RIPRAP revisions and assessment (Kantola, all, 1.5 hours) *The Committee will review revisions and recommendations as drafted by the Program Director's office (posted to the listserv February 8) and revised by the technical committees (to be posted to the listserv by March 9). The Implementation Committee gave the Management Committee their proxy to approve these documents.*

BREAK (10 min)

4. Aspinall EIS comments submitted by Program partners (McCall, 30 min) – *The draft ROD was sent to cooperating agencies February 3 and to the Management Committee February 5. On February 23, Reclamation mailed the final EIS and filed it with EPA on February 27. Following the 30-day waiting period, Reclamation can finalize the ROD on March 28. If they receive comments on the final EIS, those can be addressed in the ROD. Anyone submitting comments was asked to copy the Management and Implementation committees.*

The Committee will discuss any comments or new developments.

5. Flaming Gorge spring flow request letter and Larval Trigger Study Plan (Chart, 30 min) – *The Committee will review and approve the two draft documents that comprise the Recovery Program's 2012 Green River spring flow request: a) the Recovery Program's draft flow request letter to Reclamation, and b) a draft Study Plan to Examine the Effects of Using Larval Sucker Occurrence in the Green River as a Trigger for Flaming Gorge Dam (Larval Trigger Study Plan or LTSP).*
6. D.C. Trip review and Legislative update (Shields, Pitts, 45 min.)
7. Updates (10 min) – *Few updates are expected since the Committee last met on February 13 and the Implementation Committee on March 5; however, if there are new updates on capital projects (Uilenberg), recovery plans and status reviews (Chart, Czapla), or other items, they will be covered at this time. Capital projects (Uilenberg, 15 min)*

BREAK (10 min)

8. Review previous meeting assignments and sufficient progress action items (All, 10 min) – *See Attachments 1 and 2 (as with updates, this review should be brief in light of the short time since the Committee's last meeting)*
9. Schedule next meeting, webinar, or conference call (All, 5 min) – *The Committee typically schedules a webinar or conference call in mid-April to review draft elements of Service's sufficient progress memo (to be provided to the Committee in early April).*

ADJOURN: by 1:00 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. **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.*
4. **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; Brent Uilenberg will provide a copy of the contract to append to the SOW.*
5. D.C. trips & legislation assignments:
 - a. **Colorado** will ask Rep. Tipton's (and perhaps other Colorado representatives') office(s) to reach out to Rep. Bishop.
 - b. **John Shields** will try to arrange a meeting with just a few people (if McClintock is in town).
 - c. **Tom Pitts** will get back to Leslie regarding including power representatives in the meeting with Rep. McClintock and the water users.
6. The **Program Director's office** will work with Jerry Wilhite and Clayton Palmer on FY12

work plan items which Western may help fund.

7. **Tom Chart** will send the Management and Biology committees a copy of the Steamboat Springs letter(*done*); and also draft a second, brief follow-up letter to Steamboat emphasizing our desire to continue to work with them.
8. **Brent Uilenberg** will update the 5-year capital projects budget plan when the FY13 budget becomes available (before the D.C. trip).
9. Recovery Goals/Plans and 5-Year Status Review items
 - a. The **Program Director's office** will discuss with the Service how to best get stakeholder input and feedback (via the Recovery Team and subsequently involvement of the recovery programs' participants prior to broad public review via the Federal Register).
 - b. The **Service** (Region 6) will work out the perceived issues with Region 2.
 - c. The **Service** will consider Tom Pitts' request to put the bonytail and razorback sucker 5-year status reviews out for the programs' review. If this is done, any suggested changes will need to go back out for review by Regions 2 and 8, thus, there's a trade-off between getting them completed quickly (e.g., prior to the D.C. trip), or is broader review more important.
10. **Brent Uilenberg** will ask **Steve McCall** to participate in the March 21 Management Committee webinar.

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 (\$15K placeholder in FY12 work plan).
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 meeting.
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-March 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 Subcommittee met in November to discuss revisions. I&E folks/Committee have provided 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 proposed responses to Pitts' concerns, this was discussed by the Biology Committee on March 6, 2012. By April 20, the Program Director's office will provide a revised draft for Biology Committee review.
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. An RFP for a mortality study and literature review will go out in early April. The potential for using an electronic barrier on the canal also is being investigated.

Yampa River				
8	The Water Acquisition Committee will review mechanisms of current flow protection under the RIPRAP for both the 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).	WAC		7/19/11: WAC began discussing this; tabled until next call. MC: WAC needs to make call on whether instream flow filings 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 was 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 spring 2012.
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; next draft anticipated mid-summer 2012.
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. Draft to WAC expected early April 2012.
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	CP&W	2011	In progress and SOW revised.

	the summer when oxygen is depleted at depth to prevent fish 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.coloradodriverrecovery.org/documents-publications/work-plan-documents/sow/10-11/rsch/163.pdf . Final ROD expected in early 2012 prior to spring runoff.