

February 23, 2010

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL AGENDA

February 25, 2010

NOTE: Those who have the lead for the agenda items listed below are *expected* to post a synopsis of your report on the fws-coloriver list-server or to the Management Committee in advance of the meeting. Committee members are reminded that this makes for a better meeting, so please comply with this request if possible.

**CONVENE: 1:30 p.m.    CALL-IN NUMBER: 888-842-7194, passcode 209309#**

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. Approve October 13-14, 2009, meeting and December 4, 2009, conference call summaries and review previous meeting assignments (All, 15 min.) – *Suggested revisions to the October summary were submitted by Randy Seaholm and Steve McCall and were provided with this agenda.*
3. Review of tasks specified in the June 11, 2009 FY 2009 sufficient progress memo (see Attachment 2) (All, 10 min.)
4. Updates
  - a. Fiscal Year 2011 Recovery Program Funding Recommendations Included in the President's budget (Uilenberg, Kantola, 5 min)
  - b. Washington, D.C., briefing trip (Shields, Pitts, 15 min)
  - c. Legislation: base funding & Ruedi (Pitts, 15 min)
  - d. Capital projects (Uilenberg, 10 min) – *Will include update on cost (\$125K) of Price-Stubb remote PIT tag detection array.*
  - e. [10,825 Alternatives](#) update (Pitts, 5 min.)
  - f. Aspinall PBO & [EIS](#) (Uilenberg, Chart, 10 min) (See Attachment 3)
  - g. Green River flow protection (Mohrman, 5 min)
  - h. Program Director's Office updates (Chart, 5 min)
    - 2011 depletion charge and annual agency budget adjustments – *Posted to fws-coloriver listserver on 2/6/10; CPI adjustment was -0.4%.*
    - RIPRAP revisions/assessment; 2011 work plan modifications – *PD's recommendations posted to listserver on 2/11/10; in technical committee review.*
5. Discuss agenda for March 3, 2010, Implementation Committee conference call (All, 10 min)
6. Upcoming Management Committee tasks, discuss agenda for April 7, 2010 meeting (All, 10 min). *Agenda items will include: review (and approval, if delegated by the Implementation Committee) of RIPRAP revisions and assessment and modifications to the 2011 work plan; and follow-up on Washington, D.C. briefing trip.*

**ADJOURN by 3:30 p.m.**

**Attachment 1**  
**Assignments from Previous Meetings**

1. The **Fish and Wildlife Service** will meet to consider if it would be acceptable to screen the irrigation water and not the low-head hydropower water at Tusher Wash or if there are other ways (e.g., a weir wall) to achieve our objectives for screening Tusher Wash. *Discussions underway; but pending decisions on dam rehabilitation. 8/10/09: Robert King said no decision has been reached yet on dam rehabilitation. Brent said a fish preclusion weir such as the one that will be installed at the Hogback Diversion on the San Juan could be an option if fish mortality in the power turbines isn't a significant problem (and would cost much less than the \$7-\$9 million to screen the entire canal flow). Brent Uilenberg will draft a recommendation for reviewing this. (Ask Biology Committee to review, first considering work done on similar turbines and potential for fish-friendly turbines, if needed. If this is unclear, field work may be needed to determine mortality at Tusher; this might be considered pre-design work under capital funds). Brent will prepare a decision tree outline.*
2. The **Program Director's office** will provide a more specific recommendation regarding establishing a basinwide recovery/conservation oversight team for the endangered fishes. *8/10/09: Tom Czapl said the Program Director's office believes that some continuing coordination by Service staff in California/Nevada and Regions 2 and 6 is the best way to accomplish this. As done with the recovery goals, these Service offices would maintain communication with their stakeholders and then coordinate with one another. Tom would like to ask that Service group for their suggestions on how they would like to continue this coordination role as the recovery goals revision process wraps up. Pending.*
3. **Brent Uilenberg** will provide a revised RIPRAP budget table ASAP. *Pending now that capital funds indexing has been determined. 8/10/09: Brent said they're working on this. They will need an estimate of needed rearing ponds (number, acreage, flow needs). Tom Czapl will provide additional information on pond space needed for humpback chub, backup bonytail broodstock, etc. Ponds may be developed at Horsethief State Wildlife Area and the Upper Basin may be first in line for capital funds in 2010-2012 due to delays in San Juan projects. 10/14: Pending shortly; Michelle Shaughnessy is meeting with Reclamation regarding ponds next week. 2/22: Service preparing a justification for building ponds at Horsethief to be reviewed by Biology Committee in March. PD's office working to provide Service expertise for the value-engineering review.*
4. The **Program Director** will further discuss with the Service developing a programmatic biological opinion for the White River Basin when the Gunnison River PBO nears completion. *Pending. 8/10/09: We need to review the flow recommendations. Tom Pitts also suggests reviewing water demand data from the state (unclear if that's been updated to include projected needs for oil and gas development). Dan McAuliffe said a pending roundtable report should address oil and gas development and associated water demand estimates. (Dan Birch can provide status update).*
5. **Dan McAuliffe** will discuss Yampa River habitat modifications with Tom Nesler and Sherm Hebein. Reclamation remains available to assist. *2/22: CDOW continues to modify connected slackwater habitats to hinder NP reproduction in the upper Yampa River. BOR determined that previously-contemplated habitat modification using berms at RM 151 was*

*not feasible due to local channel dynamics. However, other forms of channel manipulation may be possible to exclude northern pike (to be discussed by BC).*

6. The **Program Director's Office (Tom Czapla)** will alert the committee when the 5-year status reviews are completed and provide a link to the documents. *Pending.*
7. The **Program Director's Office** will develop FY 2011 guidance for research to determine levels of selenium that affect eggs of endangered Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker (working with the San Juan Program). *2/22: Not yet developed; should be a component of the Gunnison River Study Plan.*
8. **Utah** (Matt Lindon) will form a water acquisition team to identify options and make recommendations to the Management Committee for revising the RIPRAP to more accurately reflect what actions will work to protect flows in the Green River in Utah. (Note from Program Director's office: perhaps this same team would then later address protecting flows in the Colorado River in Utah.) *2/19: Team was formed and has been meeting; see 2/18 e-mail from Tom Chart with attached letter from Kent Jones, Utah State Engineer, to Julie Lyke, USFWS Management Committee representative, providing background information and summarizing Utah's recent progress on flow protection.*
9. **Tom Pitts** will follow up on why the "to the maximum extent practicable..." phrase was added to the most recent draft of the Ruedi legislation.
10. The **Program Director's office** will discuss drilling in the floodplain further with the states' Management Committee members to determine appropriate next steps. *On hold.*

ATTACHMENT 2  
Action Items from the Draft 2009 Sufficient Progress Memo  
February 19, 2010

ACTION ITEM	LEAD	DUE DATE	STATUS
<p>The Service will continue to closely follow the effectiveness of nonnative fish management actions and the responses of the endangered and other native fishes. Data should continue to be reported annually, and necessary changes to nonnative fish management actions should be made in a timely fashion.</p>	<p>FWS, CDOW, UDWR</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>7/13/09: Critical data from 2008 submitted. CDOW discontinued translocation of SMB to Craig Justice Center Ponds, which will be returned to a trout fishery. Elkhead will remain primary translocation site for SMB (subsequent to spills or until the upper reservoir can be accessed). CDOW will continue to translocate northern pike to State Parks Headquarters Pond (Kyle's pond), Loudy Simpson, and Yampa State Wildlife Area ponds (subsequent to connection in the latter two locations). Northern pike CDOW is removing from Catamount are euthanized. Future actions contingent on further contaminant results from riverine samples of northern pike and smallmouth bass. Elkhead under a public fish consumption advisory. After 12/8-9/09 nonnative fish workshop, PI's and the Program immediately began revising 2010 SOW's, (approved by BC 1/14/10). Revisions respond to need to increase removal / disruption of SMB spawning throughout Upper Basin by adjusting previous sampling schedules to better align with SMB spawning (a very strong year class of SMB spawned in 2007 is expected to reach sexual maturity in 2010).</p>
<p>A research framework project was initiated in 2005 to conduct additional data analyses to further understand environmental variables and life-history traits influencing the dynamics of Colorado pikeminnow and humpback chub populations. The draft research framework report is behind schedule (originally due in 2007), but is expected in July 2009. Results will be used to refine hypotheses and direct management actions.</p>	<p>Valdez, Bestgen</p>	<p>7/31/09</p>	<p>8/24/09: Draft sent to PD's office and co-authors for review; target date for BC review is <del>4/15/09</del> PD's office meets to discuss March 3.</p>
<p>The Flaming Gorge Technical Work Group (Reclamation, the Service, and Western) needs to continue to provide brief updates on current and projected Flaming Gorge operations at Biology Committee meetings.</p>	<p>USBR, FWS, WAPA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing and on track.</p>
<p>The Recovery Program and the Utah State Engineer's office have been working on mechanisms to protect year-round flows in the Green River; however, this is behind schedule. A schedule and outline of the steps required for both the year-round protection above the Duchesne (to occur in 2009) as well as flow protection below the Duchesne is needed: a) the public meeting held by August 31, and the protection finalized by December 31, 2009; and b) by September 30, 2009, a schedule outlining steps for year-round protection downstream of the Duchesne to the confluence with the Colorado River.</p>	<p>Utah</p>	<p>Public meeting: 8/31/09 Schedule/outline: 9/30/09</p>	<p>Public meeting held 8/20/09 for above Duchesne; completion anticipated by 12/30/09 (year-round above Duchesne). Outline/schedule for protection below Duchesne anticipated by 9/30/09. Program partners (Service, Reclamation, and Utah) are working to identify specific flow targets that would trigger subordination. The Water Acquisition Committee has been working on this and the State has held several public meetings in the basin. A Green River Utah Water Acquisition Team is established and is meeting regularly to identify alternative approaches for protecting flows for the endangered fish in the Green River.</p>

The Colorado Division of Wildlife will complete the Yampa River Aquatic Management Plan (with an Upper Yampa River northern pike strategy) by early July 2009. The Program will use this strategy and available information to evaluate the need to expand northern pike control upstream of Hayden to Steamboat Springs, possibly including removal efforts.	CDOW		8/10: Draft is in internal CDOW review. 9/22: CDOW sent the draft to the Program Director who forwarded it to the States and Service for a courtesy review prior to final approval. 10/14: Biology Committee comments are due back by the end of October 2009. 2/19: CDOW addressing comments.
Now that the Myton Diversion rehabilitation has been completed, the Program, Service, and Duchesne Work Group will work together to determine if any changes are needed in ongoing monitoring efforts necessary to evaluate the flow recommendations.	PD, FWS, DWG	Ongoing	8/10: Diversion operational and SCADA now online. Hydrological monitoring: after a full year's operation, the data will be examined to assure that the water is reaching the Randlette gage. Biological monitoring: Ute Tribe is conducting fish community surveys in the Duchesne; PD/FWS to define monitoring needed to evaluate flow recommendations.
Implementation of Coordinated Reservoir Operations (CROS) provided some peak flow augmentation in 2008; however, constraints on operations due to flooding concerns need further investigation to determine the feasibility of further enhancing CROS benefits.	NWS, Mohrman, CWCB, WAC	March 1, 2010	7/22/09: National Weather Service began a flood stage investigation last season which should provide some answers before 2010 peak flow. 11/27/09: NWS recommended revised bankfull, action and flood stage levels and will host a mid-December conference call to discuss. 2/19/10: NOAA met with Palisade and decided to raise the official flood stage at CAMC2 by 0.5 feet instead of 1 foot. Proposed advisory and flood stages are now: Bankfull --> 11 Feet (20.3 kcfs) Advisory --> 12 Feet (23.7 kcfs) Flood--> 12.5 Feet (~25.4 kcfs) If no objections by 2/26, NOAA will implement this change; FWS recommends flow stage be 13 feet and is discussing with NWS.
Work on Coordinated Facilities Operations Project (CFOPS) will resume and is expected to be completed in 2010, but a specific schedule needs to be developed by October 1, 2009.	Upper Basin water users	October 1, 2010.	Implementation schedule provided Oct. 1, 2009 and approved by Service 10/27; calls for completion of a final CFOPS report by September 30, 2010.
Close coordination will be maintained by meeting twice a year with Grand Valley water users	PD's office, water users	Meetings ongoing.	Fall meeting held December 1; need to schedule meeting for this spring (mid-April).
Close coordination will be maintained by conducting conference calls as needed to discuss river conditions prior to the weekly Historic User Pool calls. The focus should be on taking full advantage of water savings brought about by operation of the Grand Valley Water Management project for late summer flow augmentation.	CWCB, Reclamation	8/1/2010	10/14: CWCB is working with the Colorado Basin River Forecasting Center (CBRFC) to update their models and forecasting tools to provide late-summer forecasts for the HUP managing entities. Beginning in 2010, CBRFC will provide an early-August forecast of expected flow volumes for Green Mountain Reservoir and the Grand Valley for August – October. CBRFC also will provide statistical information about expected flows. CBRFC began providing additional short-term forecast information to the weekly HUP calls in 2009.
The goal of the 10,825 Project is to have agreements signed with the Service prior to Dec. 2009 committing east & west slope water users to permanent sources of Ruedi replacement water (as required by the Colorado River PBO).	Upper Basin water users, FWS	Agreements to be signed by July 2010	8/3/09 Tom Pitts will work with water user attorneys to draft commitments by the water users to implement the two-component 10,825 solution and provide drafts for Service review (meetings to begin in September). 10/14: Interim agreements actually don't expire until July 1, 2010, that's the date by which new agreements need to be in place. Agreements will be extended until permanent 10825 is finalized. Delivery of permanent 10825 should occur in summer 2013. There will be temporary extensions for Williams Fork and Wolford through 2012.

**New demands/needs for research, monitoring and other projects from Aspinall PBO**

**Recovery Program Obligations under the PBO:**

**Monitor fish populations in Gunnison River:** Program monitors pikeminnow populations and is developing a basin-wide razorback monitoring program to include monitoring of multiple life stages. Monitoring program design is expected to be completed in fiscal year 2010. Implementation to begin in 2010 and include multi-life stage monitoring on the lower Gunnison. Density estimates will be developed for Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker in the lower Gunnison River.

**Collect tissue samples during monitoring:** During fish community monitoring in the lower Gunnison River, tissue samples will be collected from razorback suckers, as well as a chosen surrogate species, to determine selenium concentrations.

**Assist in development of Study Plan to evaluate effects of Aspinall reoperation and how it improves habitat & contributes to recovery.** Complete within one year of PBO. Include an evaluation of the effects of reoperation on critical habitat in the Gunnison River and Colorado River from the Gunnison River confluence to Lake Powell. Focus on previously identified uncertainties related to geomorphic processes, floodplain inundation, and temperatures:

While relationships among initial motion, significant motion and streamflow are well defined, duration of flows necessary to accomplish habitat work is not completely known. Because flow duration recommendations were developed based on a wet period, the recommended durations require a large volume of water that may not always be available.

Water availability may limit the ability of the Gunnison River to meet the Flow Recommendations under certain conditions.

Because of timing and other differences in runoff patterns of the Colorado and Gunnison rivers, it is difficult to predict the effect of Gunnison River flow changes on the Colorado River.

The trade-off facing Colorado pikeminnow between stream bed maintenance and temperature regime in the Gunnison River is an uncertainty that may need to be evaluated by the Recovery Program.

The Recovery Program may need to evaluate the trade-off between high spring flows and base flows needed during the mid- to late summer to operate Redlands (and, to a lesser extent perhaps, maintain movement of sediment through the system).

**Conservation Recommendations:** (Discretionary agency activities to minimize/ avoid adverse effects of a proposed action on listed species or critical habitat, to help implement recovery plans, or to develop information.)

**Selenium:** Recovery Program initiate investigations to determine appropriate levels of selenium to insure recovery of Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker. Any new studies would follow established Recovery Program protocol for priority and funding.