

Biology Committee Conference Call
January 9, 2006, 1:30 p.m.

Participants:

Committee members: Melissa Trammell, Dave Speas, Tom Chart, Tom Nesler, Kevin Gelwicks, John Hawkins, Kevin Christopherson, Gary Burton, and Tom Pitts.

Others: Pat Nelson, Dave Irving, Patrick Goddard, Paul Badame, Julie Jackson, Trina Hedrick, Kevin Bestgen, Sam Finney, Mark Fuller, Tim Modde, Patty Gelatt, Chuck McAda, Bob Muth, and Angela Kantola.

Assignments indicated in bold and by a ">" within the document.

1. Nonnative fish control

- a. White River - Tom Nesler said CDOW hasn't discussed this yet, but he's inclined to recommend handling smallmouth bass in the White River the same as those in the Colorado River. The ability to do this will depend somewhat on how many smallmouth bass are found in the White (don't want to interfere with Colorado pikeminnow work); >**researchers** will report numbers to Committee as quickly as possible. Dave Speas noted that we still need to get isotope information and >**PI's** will need to coordinate with Pat Martinez on collection/delivery.
- b. Native fish management designations for river reaches - Dave Speas asked Tom Nesler what he means by "already have functionally in management objectives." Tom Nesler said the Yampa and Colorado are not being emphasized as sportfisheries, no stocking of sportfishes there, and no sportfish objectives. CDOW is considering formal designation. Trina Hedrick added that UDWR is also beginning to discuss this idea. The Committee encouraged >**Colorado and Wyoming** to pursue this. Meantime, Bob Muth recommended emphasizing to the public what's in the aquatic management plans.
- c. Yampa River smallmouth bass management - Tom Nesler asked what evidence suggests that more removal effort will get us beyond "digging a hole in the sand." Melissa emphasized the problem of removal efforts confounded by movement between the treatment/control reaches. Tom Nesler said he needs John Hawkins to identify if movement is significant enough to void the control/treatment design. Tom Nesler agreed to review the recommendations again to see if he believes the data support expanding into any of the recommended reaches. >**John Hawkins** will provide more analysis of the movement data between the control and treatment reaches (at the researchers meeting). John Hawkins emphasized the three concentration areas (24 mile reach in little Yampa Canyon, Lily Park, and the south beach area). >**Tom Nesler** agreed to raise with CDOW consistency of Yampa River nonnative fish management activities with their functional management strategy on the Yampa (as identified in the aquatic management plan).

>**Tom Nesler will meet with Steve Yamashita and Sherm Hebein** to discuss these recommendations later this week. Bob Muth asked >**Tom Nesler** to review with Steve and Sherm the recommendations for smallmouth bass and northern pike and provide a list of information needs by Tuesday, January 17 so we can have a breakout session at the researchers meeting to respond to CDOW on those needs by January 25. Meanwhile, >**PI's and Committee members** will review Tom Nesler's comments and begin preparing responses. >**Bob Muth and Tom Nesler** will then schedule a meeting to discuss this by the first week in February. Tim Modde asked that >**Colorado** also provide recommendations for how PI's should structure their permit applications in the interim. Bob Muth recommended focusing on the recommendations to: 1) change John Hawkins' control/treatment areas; 2) expand to the south beach area; and 3) expanding northern pike removal to include the Steamboat concentration area. Colorado also needs address the recommendation to remove smallmouth bass encountered during northern pike removal efforts.

2. Electrofishing gear standardization - >**Pat Nelson** will ask Larry Kolz if he thinks it would be better for him to visit each field station or have all researchers bring their rigs to Grand Junction at the same time. There will be a fish handling protocol discussion at the researchers meeting.
3. Revised SOW's - Pat Nelson said he received Chuck McAda and Bob Burdick's revised scope of work and Pat Martinez will submit a revised isotope SOW by this Wednesday. The remaining SOW revisions are on hold pending CDOW's decisions, but we need to reach final decisions in the next three weeks.

ADJOURN: 3:30 p.m.