

Biology Committee Conference Call
March 3, 2006, 8:00 a.m.

Participants: Melissa Trammell, Dave Speas, Tom Chart, Bill Davis, John Hawkins, Krissy Wilson, Kevin Christopherson, Gary Burton, Tom Pitts, Pat Nelson, Angela Kantola, Kirk LaGory, Tim Modde, Dan Alonso, John Haynes, Tom Czapla, Dave Irving, George Smith, Kevin Bestgen, and Bob Muth

Assignments indicated by a ">" and at the end of the document.

1. SOW for razorback sucker larvae in L10 at Ouray NWR - Tim Modde introduced the no-cost scope of work sent to the Biology Committee on Feb. 24. The source of larvae will be overflow of larvae produced for stocking (hopefully at least 200,000-300,000, up to 500,000 or more). Ouray NWR will provide the water. Dan Alonso said the 150-acre L10 affords the greatest flexibility in terms of water sources (river, Pelican Lake, or pumping from the river). Tim said this fall, they will assess how many fish are in L10, provide an annual report, and then the Biology Committee can decide what to do with the fish at that point. They could be released to the river by removing the coffer dam and letting the fish return through the kettle structures (~95% of the water drains), or by fyke-netting. John Hawkins expressed concern about not knowing the source of the fish if they are not marked (Dave Speas and Tom Czapla agreed). Tim Modde said he thinks we first need to determine if we can rear fish successfully in L10. Melissa said she supported the project, but asked that a paragraph be added regarding what we'll do if L10 is successful in rearing large numbers of fish. The Committee agreed. Tom Czapla said he'd like the larvae to be tetracycline marked. The Committee gave the go-ahead for this work. >Angela Kantola will assign a project number and Tom Czapla will distribute the scope of work (also to the Management Committee). Dan Alonso said in preparation for this work, they're burning vegetation out of L10 and they're also elevating the levee between L9 and L10 to hold more water in L10.

2. Review of recommended RIPRAP items (posted to list server on 2/22 and 2/23, 2006).
 - a. RIPRAP assessment
 - 24, IVB&C Add (from tables in latter part of RIPRAP assessment) "Until stocked Colorado pikeminnow distributions in unoccupied habitat are investigated by CDOW, stocking Colorado pikeminnow is on hold."

 - 25, VA1&B2 Delete the exclamation points, as these are works in progress, not completed items.

 - 27, IC2 Price River report anticipated 9/06, not 4/06.

 - 27, IE >Krissy Wilson will forward Utah's report from the three species plan to George Smith.

28, IIA4 In last sentence of first paragraph add “and floodplain connectivity as a function of flow was evaluated (Tetra Tech 2005) and aerial photos taken to quantify area of inundation as a function of flow.”

31, IIIA1a2 The Committee debated at great length whether an “X” (significant shortcoming) indicator should be placed in front of the Elkhead screen failure and reluctantly concluded by leaving it with no indicator. The last sentence of the first paragraph will be made into it’s own paragraph and the exclamation point will be removed from the second paragraph (conservation pool and tower outlet screens).

38, IIA6 Add parenthetical identifying floodplain sites to be assessed.

b. RIPRAP tables

23, IIIA1c&1 We are beginning to evaluate hybridization with other native suckers (e.g., flannelmouth), esp. in Lodore. Add text to table to indicate that Program will monitor for evidence of hybridization as razorbacks increase in the system.

27, ID1 (New item): Develop study plan to evaluate flow recommendations.

28, IIA4a (New item): Add item to validate and refine as needed (floodplain management plan).

38, IIA6a (New item): Add item to validate and refine as needed (floodplain management plan).

c. RIPRAP text

2.1 Leave “or are being” in the text because the Price River flow recommendations are not yet complete.

2.2 “Studies are underway to determine how this interaction...” implies we’re conducting studies on the reset theory. Pat will clarify and clear with Bill Davis.

Clarify that the floodplain management plans are subject to revision as new information is gathered.

Clarify “additional” improvements to GVIC.

2.3 For fisheries management plan for the Yampa River basin, note that revision is pending.

- 3.1.2 Note that White River flow recommendations are interim.
 - 3.2.2 Note expansion of nonnative fish removal in Yampa River (add “In 2006, the 12-mile treatment reach will be expanded to 24 miles and the 11-mile South Beach reach will be added to better evaluate effectiveness of removal and response of native and endangered fishes.”)
 - 3.7.2 add “by Utah” to “Use of the Dolores River by endangered fish, particularly stocked bonytail, will be evaluated.”
3. 2006 Green River flow request update - Dave Speas emphasized the need to develop the flow request immediately. Kevin Christopherson said 14,000 cfs did not entrain larvae/beads and he can provide the data to show that. Thus, he’s recommended 16,000, 18,000, and 20,000 cfs test flows. Gary Burton countered that connectivity was seen at 14,000 cfs. Kevin Christopherson said that 1" of water indicates connectivity on aerial photos at 14,000 cfs, but 14,000 cfs did not entrain beads. Krissy has the data on Thunder Ranch and should have additional data by next Tuesday or Wednesday. Kevin said the raw numbers of beads entrained have already been provided in the annual report, but they are still working on the expanded numbers (rates of entrainment related to volume of water), and >will provide that to the Committee on Tuesday Mar 7th (evening). The Committee will have a conference call on Thurs, March 9 on the Program conference call line (888-842-7194, passcode 209309) at 3 p.m. Gary said that if the data show 14,000 cfs is not effective, then Western might suggest the next step to test would be 15,000 cfs. Kevin said he would look at their data with regard to that.

ADJOURN: 10:55 a.m.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Angela Kantola will assign a project number and Tom Czapla will distribute the scope of work (also to the Management Committee).
2. Krissy Wilson will forward Utah’s report from the three species plan to George Smith.
3. Utah will provide extrapolated data on numbers of larvae entrained to the Biology Committee on Tuesday evening. The Committee will have a conference call on Thurs, March 9 on the Program conference call line (888-842-7194, passcode 209309) at 3 p.m.