

April 29, 2008

Biology Committee Web Conference Summary  
April 28-29, 2008

Biology Committee: Dave Irving, Shane Capron, Melissa Trammell, Kevin Gelwicks, Krissy Wilson, Dave Speas, Bill Davis, Tom Pitts, and Tom Nesler (Monday only). The environmental groups were not represented at the meeting.

Other participants: Tom Chart, Angela Kantola, Cassie Mellon, Trina Hedrick, Leisa Monroe, and Pat Martinez.

Assignments are indicated by “>” and at the end of the document.

Monday, April 28

*CONVENE 1:00 p.m.*

1. Review/modify agenda – The agenda was modified as it appears below
2. Update on Wyoming’s Biology Committee representative – Pete Cavalli will take over in July; Kevin Gelwicks will try to overlap with him for one or two meetings.
3. Approve Biology Committee meeting summary for [February 15, 2008](#) and conference call summary for [March 12, 2008](#) – The summaries were approved as written.
4. Review assignments from February meeting – See assignments list at end.
5. Review reports due list – Minor revisions were made to the list.
6. Review of reports for final approval
  - a. 110: Lower Yampa River Channel Catfish and Smallmouth Bass Control Program, Colorado, 2001-2006 (revised version for final approval posted to fws-coloriver listserver on 2/7/08) – Dave Irving said Sam Finney is now the principal on this report, but his primary focus is field work right now. Dave added that Tim Modde is leaving as of May 9 and they have new staff coming on board. Krissy said most of UDWR’s remaining comments are editorial in nature which >they will send to Dave Irving. Krissy noted that the paragraph that begins “Decreases in native fishes” on page 14 needs additional explanation with regard to the sentence that says “because Yampa is nearest highest elevation where successful smallmouth bass reproduction is known to occur.” (Dave Speas asked if latitude, rather than elevation is in question.) Tom Chart agreed, noting that more background would help, e.g., what Robbins and MacCrimmon meant by a growing season. Dave Speas sent comments in on this report that don’t seem to have been addressed; Melissa Trammell sent a copy of those comments to Dave Irving who will see that Sam addresses them. Melissa asked that the conclusions and recommendations be made more concise. The Committee approved the report as final with inclusion of the aforementioned revisions.

- b. 130 (22L): Population estimates for humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) in Cataract Canyon (revised version for final approval e-mailed to the Biology Committee on 3/10/08). Krissy said Cassie found a few inconsistencies and editorial changes that they'd like to address before this is final. Dave Speas asked if a better map might be provided. The Committee approved the report as final with inclusion of the aforementioned revisions.

7. Nonnative Fish Subcommittee updates:

- a. Prioritization of recommendations from previous workshops – Tom Chart said the Nonnative Fish Subcommittee has had two conference calls and one web conference and has been working on this, especially clarifying the meaning of each recommendation. Dave Speas has put the recommendations into a spreadsheet, phased-approach format and the subcommittee will convene again on May 5 to discuss this and prioritize that list, and then submit it to the Biology Committee for review within the next week or two. The recommendations are currently in four categories: prevention, policy, mechanical and research. Bill Davis asked about the criteria that would be used to prioritize the list; several were mentioned including previous prioritization, potential effectiveness, cost, etc. Tom Nesler suggested that not every idea generated at a workshop needs to be kept on the table and that the subcommittee should identify the best recommendations they believe we can accomplish, along with those that they believe will be addressed in the second level synthesis.
- b. Data synthesis – Tom Chart said the outline he provided previously will be the next thing the subcommittee will address with the goal of getting it to the Biology Committee as soon as possible. Hawkins' report was received, the comment period has closed and Hawkins is working on revisions. Tom had a conference call with the principal investigators on #123 to improve the synthesis; Leisa has the lead on this and is working on revisions. Lori Martin's report came to the Program Director's office on March 25 and comments were returned on April 10 with need for a little more work on the smallmouth bass portion. Tom Chart will check with Sherm Hebein to see when this report will be sent to the BC. Tom said that at minimum, the report needed bulleted conclusions, and then it could go to the Biology Committee with his comments attached.
- c. Nonnative fish control:
  - i. Leisa Monroe shared a PowerPoint presentation on the potential use of floating weirs to control nonnative fish in sections the Green River, describing the structure and function of the weirs at Klamath Falls in Oregon. Leisa e-mailed a proposed scope of work to the Committee last week that outlines a plan for FishBio to do a feasibility study to determine if these weirs might work on the Green River. The weirs are removable, and so could be taken out at the end of each field season and also moved to different sections of the river. Trina noted that catch rates could be compared within and outside the weir and among field season. Tom Nesler asked if we know if smallmouth bass move enough to make this worthwhile (it appears movement is fairly limited on the Yampa River, for example) and how we would avoid interfering with pikeminnow movements. Leisa said that even if there isn't a great deal of movement, the weir could

increase electrofishing efficiency. Trina shared Tom N.'s concern for impacting pikeminnow movements, but noted that the weir would likely be installed post spawning peak and someone would check the fish trap every day. UDWR is asking for Program funding in 2009 to determine both hydrological and biological feasibility. Bill Davis asked if they've looked at spacing of the PVC with regard to smallmouth bass head size. Melissa asked if FishBio could assess whether something like this would get washed out or scoured out underneath in the sandy, sediment-laden Green River system. Leisa said FishBio believes they have different options to address this. Bill Davis asked if they've considered other barrier/weir designs other than physical (e.g. bubbles, sound, visual). Trina thought this was a good suggestion; they're open to any methods that would improve upon intensive mechanical removal for 20 years in order to crash the population. Leisa suggested that many of the questions could be answered once we have a weir in place. The Klamath weir cost ~\$40K to build and install; a weir in the Green River should cost less because shear pins would not need to be driven into bedrock. Melissa noted that weirs are one of the recommendations brought out in the workshops. Tom Chart said he really appreciates the out-of-the-box thinking. Obviously, we have concerns about the feasibility of putting something like this in the Green River. Might there be an objective third party (not looking for a contract) that could advise as to the feasibility of this? Tom asked if we might be able to experiment with moving fish down toward a trap with temporary trap nets/wings. Leisa said that driving fish into seines has improved channel catfish catch rates in the San Juan. >Tom Chart will work with UDWR, Brett Johnson (who originally suggested using weirs), and the Nonnative Fish Subcommittee to further discuss this proposal from a broad, programmatic approach, and try to learn more about potential answers to the questions raised today.

- ii. Revisiting nonnative cyprinid control in Green River backwaters – Trina said they've been discussing if it might be time to revisit this; perhaps knocking the fish back during spawning (perhaps in FY 10). Trina said she'd like to discuss this with anyone who has given it consideration. Tom Nesler asked what we would do differently than what we tried before (where we found a never-ending supply of red shiners to take the place of those removed). Tom Chart suggested that the Program's scheduled synthesis of Green River backwater fish community information, similar to what Chuck McAda did on the Colorado River, should provide a better understanding of variability in these native / nonnative fish populations. Tom also noted that the available nonnative cyprinid removal information indicates we did have a short-term effect; and the Program Director's office is interested in pursuing that on an experimental basis.

## 8. Floodplain updates:

- a. Stirrup – Trina Hedrick said they've sampled the Stirrup a couple of times but haven't captured any razorbacks yet with fyke nets, trammel nets, or electrofishing; however, this doesn't mean the fish aren't there because the netting wasn't as effective as they would like due to depth and electrofishing was affected by low conductivity. They plan to install the PIT-tag array at the Stirrup next week (and leave it in until the Stirrup is no

longer connected to the river) to see if they detect any razorback movement out of the floodplain. Although they did find 100-150 razorback mortalities, more than 3,200 razorbacks were stocked in the Stirrup last year. If fish aren't detected with the PIT tag reader, it could either mean that the fish didn't survive or that they aren't ready to leave (if need be, UDWR will do overnight trammel netting). Tom Chart asked if the Stirrup connection will remain fairly discreet at very high flows we may get this year (e.g., 20,000 cfs). Trina said it wouldn't overtop the levee, but it might overtop the breach at the downstream end. Krissy e-mailed the Committee aerial photos of Green River floodplains to that show a very discreet breach at the Stirrup 18,524 cfs in 2005. Note: following the meeting, Tom Chart reviewed the Tetra Tech report from 2005, which indicated that at that high flow the connection channel was 46' wide with a max depth of 3.5'.

- b. Floodplain RFP – Dave Speas said only one proposal was received under the RFP process (from Bestgen at CSU); the technical review panel thought it was a good one and Reclamation made the award last week. >Dave Speas will send the proposal out to everyone and the Program will put it on the website.
- c. Baeser Bend – Dave Irving said Tim Modde and Dan Alonso have been working on this. The breach has been filled and Baeser is now dry and ready to be filled by pumping. They will have a conference call with Tom Chart on Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. (all are welcome to participate) to discuss the runoff forecast and decide if we should stock razorback larvae this year with the risk of the levee being overtopped by high flows this year (likely ~18,000 cfs). Mike Montagne could hold the fish at the hatchery for up to another month.

*ADJOURN: 4:20 p.m.*

Tuesday, April 29

*CONVENE 8:30 a.m.*

- 9. Finalizing *Fish Handling Guidance* (e-mailed to the Biology Committee by Tom Czaplá on 4/2/08) – Angela Kantola introduced the document, which has been a few years in development. Bill Davis asked if GCMRC has done anything similar with all their fish handling; Shane Capron confirmed they do have a protocol document ("Standardized Methods for Handling Fish in Grand Canyon Research", 2003, produced by Arizona Game and Fish). Melissa added that she expects there has been some coordination in that folks who have worked on humpback chub in the Grand Canyon have reviewed this document. Pat Martinez noted this document also covers translocation procedures for nonnative fishes (it's important that the interested public know we have protocols to assure the best possible survival). Pam Sponholtz probably has some fish handling transfer protocol for young humpback chub. Melissa, Krissy, and Trina and Dave said they'd reviewed the document and have no comments. The Committee accepted the Guidance document as final.
- 10. Electrofishing standardization table – Pat Martinez shared a PowerPoint presentation. He and Larry Kolz have been seeking further peer review of the information they presented at the researchers meeting, especially since it contradicts Darrel Snyder's 2003 report. Darrel's

report primarily addressed DC (and salmonids); Program researchers are now using Smith-Root 5.0 GPP's which use PDC. Darrel recommended 30Hz or less for PDC; however, Pat and Larry Kolz found different results. Current Federal permits are based on Darrel's report, but Pat's more recent recommendations are believed to better minimize fish injury. The recommendations are now in a format that can be provided to the field; Tom Czaplá sent out a table to researchers on April 16; Pat subsequently received phone calls from Paul Badame and John Hawkins saying they've arrived at these same settings through experience. Although the Federal permits will need to be changed, Pat Martinez would like to get formal peer review on his work with Larry Kolz, then >the Program Director's office will review needed changes with Pat Martinez and coordinate changes with the Service Permits office. The Committee concurred. Meanwhile, if field personnel could keep additional notes on performance of equipment settings and fish response, Pat would appreciate receiving those (>Pat will email principal investigators to remind them of this). Everyone apparently now has equipment to measure conductivity, which is critical. Pat's presentation from the researcher's meeting can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/doc/ELF-5.0-GPP-MOAB2008USE.pdf> (or <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/lhresmon.htm> if your browser requires you to go to the parent site rather than directly to the pdf).

11. Grand Valley facilities dedication – Debbie Felker said the Program will host a dedication of the Grand Valley capital facilities on July 1. This will begin with introductory remarks and refreshments at Price-Stubb 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., and then folks who can stay are invited to participate in a tour of the Redlands passage and screen and the Grand Valley Audubon floodplain site (returning to the Price-Stubb parking area ~1:00 p.m.) Reclamation is working hard on this and will have photos and information on all the projects for people to view at Price-Stubb. Invitations will go out in mid-May; everyone on the Biology Committee is invited.
12. Price-Stubb update –Tom Chart said that Price-Stubb is now substantially complete (and finishing touches will be done by May 16).
13. Flows Update
  - a. Flaming Gorge spring flow operations – Tom Chart said the latest forecasts remain fairly consistent with the early April forecasts. Reclamation is aiming for 18,600 cfs at or greater at Jensen and is willing to go beyond power plant capacity to achieve 18,600 cfs for 2-week duration, if possible. According to the most recent predictions from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, the most probable peak is 18,000 at Deerlodge and 22,300 at Jensen (normal time of the peak is near the end of May).
  - b. Discussion of Green River baseflows to disadvantage nonnative fishes – Tom said we've discussed this in the past and Kevin Bestgen is working on smallmouth bass otoliths to back calculate time of spawn. Flows manipulation might be useful during the spawn or at other baseflow times to reduce overwinter survival
  - c. Elkhead operations – As Tom Chart e-mailed the Biology Committee, Elkhead spilled for the first time this year around April 20. The District is working to establish wetlands in the upper portion of the basin and so are trying to pass as much of the runoff as

possible through the screened outlets while maintaining a full reservoir. Therefore, we should expect to see a long and heavy spill from Elkhead over the next 2-3 weeks. With regard to translocating smallmouth into Elkhead; Tom said John Hawkins does not believe it is likely they will escape. However, the plan is still to translocate fish to the Craig Justice Center ponds until the spill is over.

- d. Colorado River flows – Tom Chart said Jana Mohrman participated in the Coordinated Reservoir Operations conference call last week and another is scheduled for May 8. Although participants have some flooding concerns this year, they're still considering coordinated reservoir operations for this year.
  - e. Gunnison River – Melissa asked about Crystal operations to avoid spills (when we'd like to see the very opposite); Tom Chart and Bill Davis said there have been numerous meetings on Aspinall operations. Tom said the Service continues to be concerned about Reclamation's operations and this issue was raised again during the Service's recent sufficient progress discussions.
14. Fall 2008 Colorado River science symposium – Angela Kantola said that the symposium is scheduled for November 18-20 at the DoubleTree resort in Scottsdale. Another conference call is scheduled for this Friday to refine the agenda and technical sessions, session chairs, etc. If anyone wants to volunteer, they should contact Ted Melis at GCMRC.
15. Schedule next meeting – Friday, June 13 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Salt Lake City; >Krissy will arrange a room and for lunch to be brought in. However, Colorado's participation in this meeting is vital since there will be considerable discussion of nonnative fish management, thus, >the Program Director's office will check with Tom Nesler to determine if this time/place work for he and/or Sherm Hebein (it would be good if both could attend); if not, the Program Director's office will get back in touch with the Committee to reschedule.

*ADJOURN 10:15 a.m.*

Attachment 1

**Assignments carried over or modified from previous meetings:**

1. Tom Pitts will ask the WAC to adopt a report review procedure similar to the Biology Committee's. Tom Pitts will recommend changes to the Program Director's office for discussion at the next Biology Committee meeting. *Pending; however this is a WAC issue and so will come off the BC list after this meeting.*
2. The Program Director's office will provide the Biology Committee with a summary of what the White River flow recommendations report said and what the shortcomings were 4/23: *This will be provided to the Biology Committee in advance of the July 16 meeting. 7/16: Deferred to next meeting. 10/31: Tom Chart said the Program Director's office will be working on this and the Price River items in the coming months. 4/28: Dave Irving has been working on this report, the next step is to discuss it with the Program Director's office.*
3. Bob Muth will talk to Dave Campbell about funding from the SJRIP for the cyprinid key. 4/24: *Pending (Chuck McAda and Darrel Snyder have been discussing this). 7/16: San Juan Program funding doesn't look promising, although it is reflected in the scope of work. 10/31: >The Program Director's office will follow up with Sharon Whitmore on this. 1/8: San Juan PD considering. 2/15: San Juan Coordinating Committee to consider on Feb. 22. 4/15: San Juan Program will provide end of year funding, if available, otherwise has committed to provide their \$50K in FY 09. If it would help, Upper Colorado River could provide their FY 09 \$15,771 in FY 08. 4/28: Dave Speas said Mark McKinstry is looking for Middle Rio Grande funds for this, also.*
4. Craig Walker and George Smith will work together to finalize the Price River report using the table of exceedances that George provided. Craig will provide a report to George that discusses using surrogate streams, and if it seems appropriate, George will add that analysis. 7/16: *George said he didn't receive anything other than reference material on this and Craig has now taken another job within UDWR. George said he believes the work he did looking at the San Rafael is the most appropriate approach; >George will add his San Rafael analysis into the Price Report. 10/31: George has been working on this, putting technical information in appendices, and adding San Rafael hydrology. The Program Director's office will complete this in conjunction with White River report follow-up). 1/8: Pending. 4/28: Still pending.*
5. Bob Muth will call Dave Campbell regarding options for compatibility between databases since the SJRIP is moving their database to FWS. 7/16: *Bob Muth said Dave agrees this is a good idea and will be getting back to Bob on how to proceed. 1/17, 4/15: In progress.*
6. Shane Capron will get a firm commitment from Clayton Palmer and Kirk LaGory re: Western's contribution for additional report costs for this project 85f (sediment monitoring) in FY 2009. 10/31: *Program Director's office has verbal commitment; will seek firm commitment. 1/17: Bob Muth will check with George Smith re: his conversation with Clayton Palmer. 1/29: Program Director's office e-mailed Clayton, et al requesting confirmation; 2/15: Shane said we should have confirmation within a couple of weeks. 4/14: Western has indicated they are committed to providing \$32,600 in FY 09; e-mail*

*confirmation requested.*

7. Tom Czapla will work to get the questions regarding what hatchery repairs are needed at Grand Valley resolved as soon as possible. *10/31: Grand Junction working to get cost estimates; \$44.4K funds placeheld. 1/17: Chuck said that a larger de-humidifier would be too costly; their current plan is to repair the walls so they can withstand the humidity. The Biology Committee expressed interest in a full solution. >Chuck will provide the full estimate to Tom Czapla. >Bob Muth will discuss the possibility of using capital funds with Brent Uilenberg. 2/15: Reclamation & FWS working on getting this contracted; dehumidifier will be installed first, then walls will be repaired. 3/31: Reclamation waiting for report from an HVAC mechanical engineer on what's needed for dehumidification. Due to oil and gas activity in the Valley, they've had difficulty getting anyone to work on this relatively small project.*
8. The Program Director's office will make a recommendation to the Committee as to the meaning of "periodic monitoring" in Cataract Canyon. *10/31: Based on recovery goals: generation time (every 3 years). Melissa noted that the next scheduled monitoring would be calendar year 2008. >The Program Director's office will convene a conversation regarding methods for monitoring small chub populations. 1/17, 4/15: Pending. 4/28: Program Director's office has recommended two years on, two years off beginning this fall with FY 09 funds.*
9. Tom Nesler will see if CDOW can provide a report on Billy Atkinson's work on pike in Catamount and the river below. Update provided at nonnative fish workshop; workshop participants recommended CDOW provide some kind of management plan. *1/17: Billy will provide a Catamount pike removal document/strategy by the end of February. 4/15: Nesler will provide update at BC. 4/28: Tom has reminded Billy that this is overdue and will try to get it to the BC as soon as possible.*
10. Tom Nesler will look into expanding smallmouth bass removal into Yampa River RM 100-90 (which would be under Lori Martin's study). *2/15: Pending. 3/27: Expansion into 90-80 approved, but not 100-90. Per Nesler: "Data indicate adult numbers in RM 100-90 are less than half that of RMI 90-80 and only a quarter of South Beach; and juvenile numbers are greater than adult, but still considerably lower than RMI 90-80 or South Beach. Our approach is to apply control efforts to concentration areas for the target species. This is necessary due to limited available agency personnel and Recovery Program funding resources. Time possibly spent sampling RMIs 100-90 would be better spent sampling RMIs 90-80." Melissa asked about the concern about funding since personnel are already in that reach; Tom said it takes more time to collect, process, and move smallmouth bass; also, we're focusing on concentration areas and the data indicate that the 100-90 RM reach is not a concentration area. If we want to focus beyond concentration areas, that will need to be another discussion. Melissa suggested that the fact that this reach is bounded by concentration areas makes a valid argument for including it, but she's willing to discuss this at another time if that's what Colorado requires to take a more river-wide report.*
11. The Program Director's office will work with CDOW and Sam Finney on the potential for designing a permeable, hydrologically-stable (gravel?) berm that prevents NP access to the oxbow slough, and then clean it out once and for all. *2/15, 4/15: Pending. 4/28: Chart has*

*discussed with Nesler and with the Partners for Wildlife Program, also. Will focus on this summer/fall.*

12. Tom Nesler would like to know if there are enough adult native fish remaining in the Yampa River to detect a native fish response. He will discuss ways of determining this with Kevin Bestgen and Tom Chart. *4/15, 4/28: Nesler, Bestgen and Chart will review existing information and consider fisheries investigations in Yampa tributaries (to determine if there is a seed source of native fishes). Once Chart and Nesler and Bestgen determine the scope of effective monitoring, CDOW and the Program can discuss whether this would be funded by CDOW outside by the Program or if the Program would also provide funding.*
13. Tom Nesler will see if he can provide Rick Anderson's Colorado River fish community data to both Chuck McAda and Rich Valdez. *2/15, 4/15: Nesler will provide update at BC meeting. 4/28: Nesler provided information to Rich Valdez and Kevin Bestgen. Data is available on the CD that came with Rick's report.*
14. Tom Chart will review the latest draft of the nonnative fish stocking procedures and get comments back to the States no later than February 15, then Krissy, Kevin, Tom, and the Service will submit it for agency review (one month review time). *2/15: Dates need to be modified. 4/14: Group discussing a few more revisions before seeking agency approval. 4/28: Krissy said a bill passed in Utah's latest legislative session (the Aquaculture Revitalization Act) took away Utah's ability to issue a COR to anyone with a private pond; Krissy will provide language incorporating that within two weeks. Kevin Gelwicks should have comments back from Wyoming by early June, but doesn't expect anything substantive, and will try to expedite their comments. Tom Chart said Tom Nesler realized we may have missed stipulations that would apply to private pond owners within critical habitat outside the 100-year floodplain. Krissy will review that; she thought that a private pond outside the 100-year floodplain would still be covered if it had the potential to connect. Melissa suggested including language regarding extending and revising the document; Tom Nesler said we're on a 5-year revision schedule.*
15. Dave Speas will ask Wayne Hubert what information he could make available to PI's on sucker hybridization at this point. *The manuscript is in draft at this point, but it shows that the fish can be correctly identified in the field. Chuck McAda will provide photos to UDWR of fish they consider hybrids (done). 2/15: Krissy Wilson said UDWR will pull all the information together for field personnel. Krissy said they think it's important to document amount of hybridization; Rich Valdez noted it also will be important to document geographic distribution. 4/28: Cassie has put some information together for folks in their northeastern region and >will send this to the Biology Committee. (Done, 4/29.)*
16. Krissy Wilson will send Rich Valdez the information that UDWR worked on some years ago which is similar to what Rich has been entering into the research framework database. *4/28: Krissy has located the information and will review and provide it to Rich.*
17. Tom Nesler will discuss with CDOW and let the Committee and PI's know where to translocate northern pike from the Yampa River while there is still risk of the Yampa SWA ponds connecting. *4/15: Elkhead will be kept at full pool through this spring to establish wetlands; with the forecasted flows we should expect a prolonged spill. The hope was to*

*translocate all SMB to Craig Justice Center (CJC) pond until after the Elkhead spill, but CDOW thinks this could result in too many bass in the pond. Therefore, once CJC pond receives 500 SMB  $\geq 10$ "; translocation will be redirected to Elkhead. Perhaps this can be reviewed as the field season progresses (to consider where we are in the runoff period and how much fishing may have occurred at the CJC pond). Pike will be translocated to Loudy Simpson (no limit on translocation numbers); folks working in the upper Yampa can translocate pike to the Yampa SWA after riverine connection ends. Field crews will notify Program Director's office if the riverine connection at Loudy Simpson appears to be compromising our efforts. Tom Nesler and Sherm Hebein also looking into alternative, secure sites for northern pike. 4/28: Tom Nesler described an isolated pond right by the State Park headquarters and visitor center that they believe they can use while Yampa SWA is connected to the river. The Park can monitor anglers here and make it clear these fish are not to be returned to the Yampa River. Rio Blanco would be the last resort (and CDOW would discuss with the BC before translocating nonnatives there).*

18. Tom Chart will follow up with Tim Modde and Tom Nesler on additional sloughs that may need attention under #98b, and the best methods to use (gill nets instead of trammel nets, etc). Tom also will ask Sam Finney about the area just downstream of Carpenter Ranch on river right. 4/15: *Tim Modde and Sherm Hebein have coordinated on appropriate gear type; Finney will review data to determine if sites in addition to RM 151 oxbow need to be sampled.*
19. Brett Johnson will develop a revised C18/19 scope of work for the Committee's consideration. 4/14: *SOW has been finalized (with some revisions based on concerns re: reservoir risk assessment). 4/28: Tom Pitts said he believes it's fine for the contractor to assess and identify problems and potential solutions, but recommendations for specific solutions will need to be the topic for another scope of work. The Biology Committee concurred.*
20. Researchers are to submit all their nonnative fish data to Chuck McAda by April 1 (the Program Director's office will sent out an e-mail notification on this). 4/28: *Tom Chart said Chuck had only received data from Tim Modde ten days ago. Trina said they're making sure their data is in the right format. Tom Chart said that at a minimum, he would like the data sent to Chuck even if it's in the old format. >Tom Nesler will check on Lori's data; >Krissy will check on Moab's data. All the data on captured nonnative fish should be submitted, not just data on tagged fish; >Chuck will make sure the correct data are submitted and work with principal investigators if anything is missing.*
21. The Program Director's office will modify Rich Valdez' technical assistance scope of work as needed to accommodate the initial work on the second-level nonnative fish management synthesis. 4/14: *Pending.*
22. Tom Nesler will check on the status of revision of the Yampa River Aquatic Management Plan. 4/14: *Colorado's new completion date is May 1, 2009. In the interim, CDOW will need to produce an Upper Yampa River strategy to assist the Program in our prioritization of 2009 field activities. This strategy should ultimately be incorporated into the Aquatic Wildlife Management Plan for the Yampa River Basin. 4/28: Tom Nesler said they don't plan to provide a formal strategy, but will describe what they (primarily Billy Atkinson) are*

*doing down through Steamboat and with regard to isolating sloughs in Sam Finney's reach.*

**New Assignments:**

1. Krissy will send UDWR's remaining comments on the project #110 report to Dave Irving.
2. Tom Chart will work with UDWR, Brett Johnson (who originally suggested using weirs), and the Nonnative Fish Subcommittee to further discuss the Green River weir proposal from a broad, programmatic approach, and try to learn more about potential answers to the questions raised today.
3. Dave Speas will send the CSU floodplain proposal out to everyone and the Program will put it on the website.
4. After Pat Martinez gets formal peer review on his electrofishing standardization work with Larry Kolz, the Program Director's office will review needed permit changes with Pat Martinez and coordinate with the Service Permits office. Meanwhile, if field personnel could keep additional notes on performance of equipment settings and fish response, Pat would appreciate receiving those (Pat will email principal investigators to remind them of this).
5. Krissy Wilson will arrange a room and for lunch to be brought in at the next Biology Committee meeting on June 13 in Salt Lake. However, Colorado's participation in this meeting is vital since there will be considerable discussion of nonnative fish management, thus, the Program Director's office will check with Tom Nesler to determine if this time/place work for he and/or Sherm Hebein (it would be good if both could attend); if not, the Program Director's office will get back in touch with the Committee to reschedule.