

BIOLOGY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

October 2, 2002

Biology Committee: Frank Pfeifer, Tom Nesler, John Hawkins, John Wullschleger, Tom Chart, Mark Wieringa, and Kevin Christopherson.

Other participants: Kevin Bestgen, John Hayse, Kirk LaGory, Gerry Roehm, Pat Nelson, Angela Kantola, Tom Czaplá, Mike Hudson, Julie Jackson, John Shields, and Paul Badame.

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

1. Scope of work for the Habitat Research Strategic Plan - Kirk LaGory said Argonne will have a draft scope of work out by October 7. They propose that the first part of the workshop would consist of presentations on the rationale for existing flow recommendations and uncertainties and data gaps within those recommendations (Green River - LaGory, Upper Colorado and Gunnison rivers - McAda, tributaries - Modde, and perhaps someone from the San Juan River). Kirk thought we might start with a brief overview of recovery goals from Rich Valdez (where the fish are, what we're aiming for, etc.). Kirk suggested that we may not have a presentation from the lower basin, but he does think we need someone from GCMRC to participate in the workshop. Kirk said he plans to ask Rich to serve as moderator/facilitator. Structured discussion based on the presentations would form the rest of the meeting. Kirk said Argonne would provide a summary of the workshop at the researchers meeting (and might follow up with an additional workshop in conjunction with the researchers meeting). Kirk says a draft plan would then be provided in March, and a final within a month of that. Frank suggested that most everyone should know the basic recovery goals information (at most, suggest that they review them before the meeting). John Shields asked if we might prepare a brief summary about the recovery goals that would serve both the need for the workshop and for the soon-to-be-prepared DC briefing document. Tom Czaplá recommended asking each of the presenters to include a slide or two discussing how their recommendations tie in with what's called for in the recovery goals. Tom Chart asked how we might include information/presentations from some of the channel monitoring and similar work that George Smith and others have been doing. Committee members agreed it would be useful to include a summary presentation of this work. John Hawkins recommended that we also need to address how to monitor floodplain habitat and Kirk agreed. Kirk said he plans to invite some lower basin folks, Jack Stanford, Bill Trush, etc. Frank Pfeifer asked why the meeting was moved from Grand Junction to Denver and asked that it remain in Grand Junction as previously decided by the Biology Committee. Kevin said he'd like to keep the meeting in Grand Junction so more UDWR people can attend. Frank Pfeifer said he can only attend part of the Biology Committee meeting if it's held in Denver. Tom Chart agreed to move the meeting back to Grand Junction and >will arrange a meeting room. Kirk said he expects ~45-50 participants.
2. Review for final approval: Bestgen, K.R., et al. 2002. *Status of Wild Razorback sucker in the Green River Basin, Utah and Colorado, Determined from Basinwide Monitoring*

and Other Sampling Protocols - Kevin Bestgen said he met with Tom Nesler and believes most of his comments have now been addressed. Tom Nesler agreed. The Committee accepted the report as written. >Kevin Bestgen will provide final copies.

3. Review for final approval: Hudson, M.J. 2002. *Centrarchid and Channel Catfish Control in the Middle and Lower Green River; 1997 and 1998* - Frank questioned the assumption in the report that smallmouth bass are in Bottle Hollow Reservoir. Frank said he knows of no smallmouth bass that have been collected from Bottle Hollow Reservoir (just reports from anglers that they've caught them there). Mike Hudson agreed to clarify this. Tom Nesler questioned the personal communication citation on page 14 regarding small-bodied fishes in channel catfish stomachs. Some data must have been recorded on this, and if so, that should be cited. Julie will better describe this. Tom Nesler said the statement on page 15 about "high negative effect" is not supported by the citations provided. Frank Pfeifer agreed. Julie will replace it with "potential negative effect." Tom Chart asked about the Crowl and Badame 2000 citation and suggested citing Badame's thesis instead, assuming that's appropriate. Julie agreed. Tom Chart suggested that the authors add information about public involvement conducted in the lower Green River reach. Frank Pfeifer suggested that the task detail be taken out of the conclusion section and that the authors just list bulleted conclusions. The Committee agreed. John Wullschleger said the recommendations probably shouldn't lump smallmouth bass and channel catfish together since the study didn't show any effect on smallmouth bass. Tom Nesler said it appears the authors recommend we attempt to control channel catfish and target the small to medium size groups; if so, that should be stated specifically. Mike Hudson said they'll add that to the first recommendation. Pat Nelson made suggestions for how to break out the recommendations. >Mike Hudson said they will clear up the issues in the conclusions and recommendations section and post those sections to the Biology Committee.
4. Field updates: Kevin Christopherson noted that Utah found no young of the year pikeminnow in the middle Green River this year. Kevin Bestgen said they did find larval pikeminnow produced this year in the Yampa, however. Kevin C. said that young of the year pikeminnow were found in the lower Green and Colorado rivers. Tom Chart said Reclamation is working on a contingency plan to provide additional water from Flaming Gorge in the event of a potential wash of sediment from heavy rain in the burn area below Flaming Gorge.
5. December meeting agenda items - Price Stubb EA (per Bill Davis' request), nonnative fish control public involvement plan, early FY 04-05 Program Guidance (unless the Committee holds a conference call earlier), any SOW revisions that the Biology Committee needs to discuss, reports on evaluation of stocked razorbacks (Burdick), two electrofishing reports (Hawkins), and Black Rocks humpback chub population estimate report (McAda), revised habitat synthesis report (Pat Nelson) (out next week), razorback sucker habitat plan and floodplain habitat model, and election of new chair.

ASSIGNMENTS

Tom Chart will arrange a meeting room in Grand Junction for December 10-12.

Mike Hudson and Julie Jackson will revise the conclusions and recommendations section of *Centrarchid and Channel Catfish Control in the Middle and Lower Green River; 1997 and 1998* and post those sections to the Biology Committee.