

Biology Committee Conference Call
October 20, 2004
1-4 pm

Participants: Melissa Trammell, Dave Speas, Tom Chart, Bill Davis, Kevin Gelwicks, Dave Irving, John Hawkins, Kevin Christopherson, Gary Burton, Tom Pitts, Tom Nesler, Tom Czapla, Pat Nelson, Angela Kantola

1. Review agenda and previous meeting summaries - Gary Burton said John Hayse is preparing a revised draft of the floodplain white paper and a response to comments to accompany the revised draft. After Pat Nelson and Bob Muth review that, it will be sent to the Biology Committee, and then finalized. The August 23, 2004, meeting summary was approved as written. With regard to the nonnative fish stocking permitting discussed at the August meeting, Kevin Christopherson said he's reviewed Utah's processes and he doesn't think they have a problem with compliance, although pond screening is only checked once a year. Kevin Gelwicks said he reviewed Wyoming's processes, also, and doesn't believe they have gaps along the lines of what was described in Colorado. Almost all private fish stocking in Wyoming is of trout. Wyoming requires permits to stock fish in private waters, to raise fish in a hatchery environment, and to sell fish.
2. Review reports list and Discussion of Reports Status - >Angela Kantola will post the updated reports list to the listserver.
3. Review Program Reports for approval: Modde and Christopherson – ‘Evaluation of Larval Razorback Sucker and Bonytail Survival in the Stirrup Floodplain Depression with Nonnative Fish Species (*revised and posted on October 5 by Kevin Christopherson.*) Kevin Christopherson said he hasn't prepared a response to the BC comments, but he tried to address each comment. Melissa said she thought the second conclusion about razorback not using cover or avoid predators should be deleted and only discussed in the text. Tom Chart agreed, and noted that it appears contrary to Gordon Mueller's observations. Kevin said they clearly saw something different with the early larval stages than what Gordon has observed, but he will take it out of the conclusions. Tom Pitts noted that the recommendations focus mostly on additional research, and asked if there are management recommendations that can be made. Kevin said the implied recommendation is that the reset concept can work, and he will add that. Tom Chart raised again the razorback population estimate outside the confidence bound (in Table 2), noting that some explanation still needs to be added; Kevin will do that. Bill Davis questioned if the predator density in the study really mimicked reset conditions and Kevin said he thought it did (based on levels seen in the first year of levee removal). Bill Davis said the sentence on page 4 that says “based on densities in the levee removal study” needs to be better explained; Kevin agreed to do that. Bill noted that the paragraph on page 2 discusses reset, but it's not mentioned in the objectives section. Kevin will address that. On page 10, Bill said survival is the important issue, but the survival estimates don't take into account all the confounding factors. Melissa and Kevin said they thought the caveats had been adequately

flagged. Bill noted on page 18 where it says “this study showed the reset concept could work” seems overstated; Kevin said he’d add a qualifier to that. Also, at the bottom of page 18, Bill suggested that “predator density may be managed” should be further qualified (and cite the levee removal study). On the last page, Bill said the first conclusion about survival and growth in a simulated reset floodplain should be more clear (what was simulated was predator load). In the third recommendation, Bill suggested that we should test this, but not make a management recommendation until it’s proven to work. Melissa and Dave disagreed that this recommendation suggests wholesale implementation; Kevin will make this clear in the management recommendation that Tom Pitts asked him to add. Bill suggested some of the text in the last two recommendations be moved to the discussion. Kevin said he’ll make sure that’s included in the discussion and delete it from the recommendations. Pat will send his editorial comments to Kevin. The Committee approved the report with these changes. >Kevin will summarize the changes he makes and provide that to the Committee along with the revised report.

4. Yampa nonnative fish management and Criteria, Discussion of recent findings – Tom Nesler posted criteria on 6/14/2004. The Committee will need to make a decision on the criteria after the nonnative fish control workshop. Dave Speas encouraged Committee members to think about basic assumptions underlying the criteria and about how we define the problem of nonnative fish abundance prior to the workshop (e.g., are percentages of allowable escapement the right approach, etc.).
5. Nonnative Control Workshop – December 8 starting at 8:00 a.m. and concluding at 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 9 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Grand Junction. A Biology Committee meeting will follow from 8:00 a.m. - noon on December 10 (also at the Adams Mark), and will focus on follow-up discussions after the nonnative fish workshop (e.g., changes to FY 05 work plan, etc). Pat said he would hope to have all the annual reports and presentations compiled and available prior to the workshop. Tom Pitts suggested that a list of recommendations from the PI’s also be compiled in advance, then the Biology Committee can consider those on Friday, based on the presentations and discussions from the previous two days. >Angela Kantola will compile notes during the workshop. >Tom Nesler will compile as much of the summary data as possible prior to the workshop (along the lines of what he provided prior to this call). >Tom Nesler and Pat Nelson will provide the instructions given to presenters to the Committee. >Committee members should communicate any specific objectives, expectations, questions, etc. for the workshop to Tom Nesler and Pat Nelson. In addition to a handout on the PowerPoint presentation, >Tom Nesler and Pat Nelson will ask presenters to provide their existing FY 05 scope of work on the project.
6. Stocking Evaluation Update: Tom Czapla said that they’ve run into difficulties with the data, but he anticipates having a draft report (including some analyses) out by the end of the calendar year. Tom said he will need to spend about a week with Chuck McAda in Grand Junction to get questions cleared up on stocked fish data.

7. Set date for next meeting and review agenda items - The December 10 meeting will focus on nonnative fish follow-up, the Starvation Reservoir escapement question, and anything else related to refinements of the FY 05 work plan. Reports on Aspinall temperature control, nonnative cyprinids (Trammell), pike removal report (Hawkins), Anderson report, and Miller report will need to wait until the next meeting in January. >Tom Nesler will begin work on the researchers meeting which will be held in Grand Junction January 19-20 (starting at 10:00 a.m.) followed by a Biology Committee meeting on January 21. Melissa Trammell and John Hawkins offered to help with the researchers meeting. Tom Pitts asked Tom Nesler to get the invitation out early to the San Juan River Recovery Program. Bill Davis asked for a schedule of due dates, etc., to the Program (see attachment).

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Angela Kantola will post the updated reports list to the listserv.
2. Kevin Christopherson will summarize the changes he makes to the Stirrup report and provide that to the Committee along with the revised report (which the Committee approved, with revisions).
3. Angela Kantola will compile notes during the nonnative fish workshop.
4. Tom Nesler will compile as much of the nonnative fish control summary data as possible prior to the workshop (along the lines of what he provided prior to this call).
5. Tom Nesler and Pat Nelson will provide the instructions given to presenters to the Biology Committee.
6. Committee members should communicate any specific objectives, expectations, questions to be answered, etc. for the nonnative fish workshop to Tom Nesler and Pat Nelson.
7. In addition to a handout on the PowerPoint presentation, Tom Nesler and Pat Nelson will ask presenters to provide their existing FY 05 scope of work on the project.
8. Tom Nesler will begin work on the researchers meeting which will be held in Grand Junction January 19-20

ADJOURN: 3:00 p.m.

Note: This is the basic schedule for Program work planning. Some dates may have to be changed based on timing of field reports and the need to modify work for the next field season, etc.

FY 06-07 RECOVERY PROGRAM WORK PLANNING SCHEDULE

11/10/04	FY 2004 project reports from principal investigators due to Program Director's Office.
12/1/04	Preliminary Program guidance for FY 06 new starts (and 07 new starts which can be identified) requiring peer review (draft to Biology Committee in November).
1/19-20/05	Annual reporting/researchers' meeting (Grand Junction, Colorado).
2/1/05	Due from Program Director to technical committees (and their consultants and interested parties) and Management Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Draft revised RIPRAP, ando Draft FY 06-07 Program guidance (including recommendations for new, ongoing, and ongoing-revised projects).
2/15/05	Technical committees' review/recommendations on draft revised RIPRAP and draft Program Guidance due to Management Committee.
2/28/05	Management Committee review/recommendations draft revised RIPRAP and draft Program Guidance due to Implementation Committee.
3/10/05	Implementation Committee approval by this date.
3/17/05	Program Director issues revised RIPRAP and FY 06-07 Program Guidance.
4/29/05	All (new, revised, and ongoing) FY 06-07 technical scopes of work due from principal investigators to Program Director. Coordinators begin working (with technical advisory panels and principal investigators) to review and refine technical scopes of work and develop recommended FY 06-07 technical work plans.
6/21/05	Recommended FY 06-07 technical work plans and refined technical scopes of work due from Program Director to technical committees.
7/1/05	FY 06-07 Program management scopes of work due from agencies to Program Director.
7/15/05	Technical committees meet to discuss recommended FY 06-07 technical work plans drafted by Program Director.
7/22/05	Technical committees' review/recommendations on recommended FY 06-07 technical work plans due to Management Committee. Recommended FY 06-07 Program management work plan due from Program Director to Management Committee.
8/10/05	Management Committee meeting by this date to discuss recommended technical and Program management FY 06-07 work plans and approve projects for draft FY 06-07 Biennial Work Plan
8/25/05	Draft FY 06-07 Biennial Work Plan due to Implementation Committee.
9/9/05	Implementation Committee approval by this date
10/3/05	Final FY 06-07 Biennial Work Plan distributed to Program participants.
10/14/05	Final scopes of work for FY 06-07 Biennial Work Plan distributed to Program participants.
11/10/05	FY 2005 project reports from principal investigators due to Program Director's Office.

12/1/05 Preliminary Program guidance for any additional FY 07 new starts requiring peer review (draft to Biology Committee in November).

1/13/06 Annual reporting/researchers' meeting held no later than this date.

2/1/06 Due from Program Director to technical committees (and their consultants and interested parties) and Management Committee:

- o Draft revised RIPRAP, and
- o Draft FY 07 Program guidance (recommendations for any additional FY 07 new starts and any *significantly* revised ongoing, projects)

2/17/06 Technical committees' review/recommendations on draft revised RIPRAP and draft Program Guidance (any additional FY 07 new starts and any *significantly* revised ongoing, projects) due to Management Committee.

2/24/06 Management Committee review/recommendations draft revised RIPRAP and draft Program Guidance (any additional FY 07 new starts and any *significantly* revised ongoing projects) due to Implementation Committee.

3/10/06 Implementation Committee approval by this date.

3/17/06 Program Director issues revised RIPRAP, FY 07 Program Guidance (for any additional FY 07 new starts and any *significantly* revised ongoing, projects), and FY 07 budget table.

4/28/06 Scopes of work for FY 07 new starts and any *significantly* revised ongoing projects due from principal investigators to Program Director. Coordinators work (with technical advisory panels and principal investigators) to review and refine these scopes.

6/20/06 Recommended FY 07 new starts, any *significantly* revised ongoing projects, and refined FY 07 budget table due from Program Director to technical committees.

7/14/06 Technical committees meet to discuss recommended FY 07 new starts, any *significantly* revised ongoing projects, and FY 07 budget table.

7/21/06 Technical committees' review/recommendations on recommended FY 07 new starts, any *significantly* revised ongoing projects, and FY 07 budget table due to Management Committee.

8/11/06 Management Committee meeting by this date to discuss recommended FY 07 new starts, any *significantly* revised ongoing projects, and FY 07 budget table.

8/25/06 Recommended FY 07 new starts, any *significantly* revised ongoing projects, and FY 07 budget table due to Implementation Committee.

9/8/06 Implementation Committee approval by this date.

10/2/06 Final FY 07 budget table and distributed Program participants.

10/15/06 Final scopes of work for FY 07 new projects and any *significantly* revised ongoing projects distributed to Program participants.

11/10/06 FY 2006 project reports from principal investigators due to Program Director's Office.