

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

April 5, 2007, Denver, CO

CONVENE: 8:00 a.m.

1. Introductions, review/modify agenda and time allocations, and appoint a timekeeper - The agenda was revised as it appears below.
2. Approve [February 8, 2007 meeting summary](#) and review assignments (All) (15 min.) – The meeting summary was approved as written. Assignments still pending appear at the end of this summary.
3. Flaming Gorge ROD 4-tier communication process – Brent said Reclamation would like the Management Committee to endorse this process. John Shields asked about the January deadline for flow requests from the Recovery Program in light of how early this is in the hydrologic year. Brent Uilenberg agreed that the decision-making process is iterative with each successive hydrologic forecast. Bob Muth said the January letter each year would likely outline requests for a range of possible hydrologic conditions. John Shields said Reclamation’s process document addresses the decision-making process, but not communication of the decision and asked if something should be added to address how communication of the final decision will be shared. Brent said Reclamation will advise the Program and the public once its decision has been made and transmit the annual report of operations to each Program participant. Brent added that the Management Committee should be on Rick Clayton’s weekly e-mail update list at this point. Bob Muth emphasized the need to also be in communication about Green River base flows. Tom Iseman asked if Reclamation’s final operational decisions are made in compliance with the ROD and Brent said yes. The Management Committee supported the process as set forth by Reclamation in Appendix A of the 2006 operations report.
4. Review and approval (as delegated by Implementation Committee) of draft RIPRAP assessment, RIPRAP revisions, and FY 08-09 Program Guidance
 - a. RIPRAP assessment – The Management Committee accepted the Service’s recommendation to leave the caret and asterisk symbols in the RIPRAP.

22 IIB1-3 FWS-ES offices *will submit* annual reports.

>*23 IIIA2c Regarding the FWS addition about CDOW, CDOW’s annual (and synthesis) report for nonnative fish management have not yet been received and the lack of the annual report is impeding completion of the Yampa River nonnative fish management strategy requested by the Implementation Committee. Tom Iseman asked about the timeline for completing the reports and the strategy. Bob Muth said the Service will ask that the strategy be completed by a specific date in their sufficient progress letter.

24 IVB&C Bonytail distribution from Wahweap *will follow* the Integrated Stocking Plan *in the future*.

27 ID1 ! *Green River* Study Plan completed.

30 IB2a2aiii Tom Iseman asked if we'll be monitoring escapement over the Elkhead spillway and Pat Nelson said all nonnative fish stocked into Elkhead will be uniquely tagged to help determine escapement. Escapement thresholds will be addressed in the Elkhead Lake Management Plan.

>*33 ID2, IE ! The *Duchesne River Work Group*...

35 IA5e1&2 Tom Pitts will provide detailed language as to what the water users are doing on the 10,825.

36 IA5m2 base flow environmental pools in Ruedi and *the water users' 10,825 pool*.

>*37 IB4c2 (and 41, IC3c) Brent Uilenberg strongly encouraged Program participation in the tri-annual Aspinall coordination meetings. Leslie James agreed the primary format is the coordination meetings. Bob Muth said the Service would like to see more frequent meetings. Leslie suggested this request be brought up at the April 26 coordination meeting (1 p.m. in Grand Junction). Add: "*Reclamation and Service management will determine how this coordination can take into consideration the needs of the fish within existing operational procedures.*" Leslie added that it will really help the Black Canyon water right settlement when the "Federal family" comes forward with a settlement proposal. Leslie also suggested that folks get on Dan Crabtree's Aspinall listserve.

b. RIPRAP revisions

General

III.B.8. *Evaluate designation of native fish conservation areas (Program lead).*

IV.A.4.c.(3) Add who is responsible.

VII.A.5.e. goes into FY 08.

Green

I.C.2. Leave this item as "pending."

I.D.1 Brent expressed concern about how the recommended Green River studies get implemented, noting that it could potentially consume huge financial resources. The Committee will address this concern through the work planning process.

II.B.2.b.&c. Move Tusher Wash design and construction out one year.

V.D. The lead for this activity is TBD.

Yampa

IV.A.1.b. Make the description active (and this is ongoing).

Duchesne

III.A.3.b.(1) Add note that screening was determined unnecessary.

White

I.B.2. Delete note and text in after “Initial report complete (Irving et al 2004).”

Colorado

I.A.5.e. Add items to sign agreements and develop projects (if needed), change dates. (Note: water will continue to be provided from interim sources until permanent water is provided.)

II.A.2.d.&e Delete reference to any Hamilton reports not accepted by the Biology Committee (>Pat Nelson to check).

II.B.2.a.(4-5) Price Stubb operation will begin in '08 and there will be opportunity for evaluation in 08, as well.

Gunnison

II.B.2.a Add note that passage at Hartland was not identified as necessary for recovery in species' recovery goals.

II.B.2.c. Add note that this will be funded outside the Program.

Dolores

V.A. Cite UDWR report and show this as complete.

Text

With regard to the changes to the text suggested by Melissa in section 2.1, Bob Muth said we could add the Duchesne and Little Snake to the list of rivers in the sentence “Flow recommendations have been approved for reaches of...” Bob said he’s agreed to provide the Biology Committee a discussion of the White River flow recommendations. The Tyus and Saunders report completed in 2001 looked at both direct and indirect value of tributaries and the Price River, San Rafael, and Dolores ranked among the lowest tributaries examined (and even then the San Rafael ranking was mistakenly inflated). Bob said the White River is an important tributary and we do need to revisit the 2004 recommendations and what we should do with those next, but he questions whether we should expend resources on other tributaries. The Price River work was an

outcome of the Narrows biological opinion; however so few fish were found in that study that the data provide very little basis for conclusions. Bob Muth said he doesn't believe much has changed since we made this call on tributaries in 2001. Tom Iseman suggested that one thing that may have changed is what's happened to the native fish populations on the Yampa River and believes we should maintain a network of available habitat in our plan for recovery (this does not necessarily mean we need to make flow recommendations for or expend significant resources on these tributaries, however). Tom Pitts said he doesn't support the "other tributaries" language Melissa proposed and he's concerned that such language could divert resources away from what's necessary for recovery. Tom Iseman suggested the "if deemed necessary" language is pretty open and non-committal. Tom Pitts and Misti Schriener said the language could be added later, if a future need is determined; Tom Iseman countered that the proposed language is consistent with that point. Bob Muth suggested stating the facts on where we're at on each tributary; >he will provide revised language and e-mail it to the Management Committee for final review and approval (including language on the Little Snake River on page 17).

Budget table – matches Reclamation's February table; >By Monday, Brent Uilenberg will provide Angela and the Committee a revised table and >Angela will incorporate any changes into the RIPRAP budget table as well as the FY 08-09 Program Guidance (text and budget tables).

c. FY 08-09 Program Guidance

Angela Kantola said that due to regulations regarding competing new starts, Reclamation has suggested adding language to the Program Guidance introduction along these lines: "Note: The Recovery Program has not yet determined the process for soliciting scopes of work for new starts during FY 08 and 09, and as a result is not accepting SOWs for new starts at this time. Interested parties are discouraged from preparing and submitting scopes of work until a formal RFP is issued by Reclamation (most likely early each fiscal year), or until the Program determines an alternative course of action." >Angela will add language (set apart in a text box to bring attention to it) and also will revise related language and double-check dates in the introduction.

Bob Muth noted that most of the new starts came from the Green River Study Plan.

114 – Delete note (was for MC information only)

>The Program Director's office will annotate the population estimates table to explain symbols, etc.

>The Program Director's office will finalize and post the RIPRAP assessment, RIPRAP (after concurrence from the Management Committee on the tributary language), and Program guidance.

5. Washington, D.C., Trip report and follow-up – John Shields said the trip went very well; they had about 32 meetings, and were well received. John anticipates that 13 of 14 House members and 4 of 8 Senate members will sign the joint letters of support. There was some question about how the Program’s support for Ouray NFH funding was characterized (the support is for the President’s budget and there’s no attempt to create an earmark, but a committee staffer thought it read like an earmark). John is working with staff members in D.C. on that. There may be a joint letter sent to the Secretary of Interior in June regarding providing funds to complete the Program’s commitment to Elkhead. John said the luncheon went well, the location was very good, and Dan Birch made an excellent presentation. >Debbie Felker will e-mail the Committee the 1-page “success story” handout and nonnative fish handout the group provided in D.C. >John will send out the trip report shortly. John noted that when they met with DOI Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, it was suggested that our Program is the kind that DOI likes to recognize with their annual Cooperative Conservation Awards.

6. Updates
 - a. Report to Congress – Bob Muth said they’ve held an initial conference call and he will take the lead to draft an outline of what the report should contain. >Bob will include Dave Mazour and Leslie James in future communication on this item, since the report also will address use of power revenues. The group did give folks in D.C. an update on plans for the report. John Shields suggested setting some due dates for this and the expected review process; Tom Pitts agreed. The report is due September 2008, so we need to have a draft by about September 2007 to get it through the review process. >The group will prepare an outline within a couple of weeks, and then begin work on content development so the Committee has something to take a first look at in June. Bob Muth noted that folks in D.C. suggested the report shouldn’t be longer than 20 pages. >Bob will set up a conference call on this within the next 2 weeks. Dave Campbell should be invited to participate, also.

 - b. Status of 2007 recovery goal update and species status review – Bob Muth said Tom Czapla will lead the revision team; Dave Campbell, Bob Williams, Sam Spiller also are on the team. Four others from Region 2 are on the team, but will work through Sam Spiller. Chuck McAda will represent the Recovery Team. Rich Valdez will be working under contract to help with the revisions. >Tom Czapla will send a copy of the outline/strategy to the Management Committee. A letter has gone out to everyone in the Recovery Program announcing the beginning of the revision process and requesting input by May 31. Region 2 and CNO are sending similar letters and Chuck McAda sent a letter to the Recovery Team. A letter will go to the State Directors on the Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council. Tom Czapla said he anticipates a notice in the Federal Register in about a month announcing the 5-year status review on the four fish. The review process and the recovery goals will track together and the goal is to have the penultimate draft announced in the Federal Register for public comment on or before December 31, 2007. Tom Pitts noted that the Solicitor’s opinion on “significant portion

of the range” could have implications for these fish; Carol Taylor said the Service is still waiting for direction on how this will be applied.

- c. Water Acquisition Committee – George distributed the recent conference call summary. With regard to the RIPRAP, most of the Water Acquisition Committee’s items are complete. The remaining tasks are the more difficult ones, but all are discussed in the meeting summary. Management of flows for the 15-Mile Reach went fairly well last year and we continue to work to improve this process. With regard to the permanent supply of the 10,825 af, Tom Pitts said the east and west slope water users have put together a committee, hired a consultant to do an initial screening, and secured a \$200K grant for a more detailed assessment of alternatives (by the end of 2007). That will be followed by negotiations, additional assessments, and then selection of alternative(s). Permanent agreements would be signed by late 2009. Tom Iseman said the environmental groups would like to stay informed of this process and noted the potential for capital funding support through the roundtables, especially if additional environmental benefits are demonstrated. Boyd Clayton has been working on protection of Green River flows, however, options for protection are pretty limited, so they’re back to working on the concept of a policy from the State Engineer similar to the 1994 policy that subordinates future water filings. They would make the 1994 policy a year-round policy that goes from the dam down to the confluence with the Colorado River (with a goal of completing the policy in 2008). Utah only has a little more than 200KAF left to develop within their compact allocation. Randy Seaholm provided the Water Acquisition Committee an outline for the 15-Mile Reach PBO accounting and a graph which shows that consumptive use appears to have dropped over the last 5 years. The Water Acquisition Committee generally approved the approach of using a consumptive use model; CWCB expects to have a draft report for the Water Acquisition Committee to review by the end of May. The Water Acquisition Committee also discussed getting the Ruedi contract completed (before Wolford water needed this summer) and completing the municipal recreation contract before this summer, also. Brent said Reclamation received approval to negotiate and complete the contract yesterday. >Tom Pitts will send a thank-you to the Commissioner.

- d. Funding/Budget
 - i. Environmental groups funding – Tom Iseman said they continue to operate with a bare bones budget and hope to pursue other sources of funding (including the NFWF application). Tom Pitts said he and John Shields met with NFWF in D.C; NFWF has shifted strategy, which is probably one of the reasons the environmental groups grant application was denied. Tom and John asked NFWF for a grace period for this year, then the application will need to be revised to better match the NFWF strategy in future years (with no guarantee of funding, however, so the environmental groups should also be seeking other funding). We’ll need to emphasize how the environmental groups’ participation in the decision and management process affects the on-the-ground recovery actions for the fish. Bob

Muth said updating the cross-links document might be helpful, and he is working on that.

- ii. Myton Diversion rehab funding – Brent Uilenberg said that they were recently notified that \$10M will be provided in 2007 to fund Water 2025 proposals submitted in 2006. Myton ranked high among the 2006 proposals, so there's a good probability it will be funded. Awards will be made around June or July.
 - >Tom Pitts, Tom Iseman, and others will send letters of support into Rick Gold.
 - >Bob Muth will re-send the letter assuring the Recovery Program portion of the funding. Terry Hickman said they'll be asking their partners to submit letters, also. Reclamation will take the lead on NEPA (probably a categorical exclusion for O&M). Reclamation is reviewing the proposed cost and anticipates it will be fairly close to the original proposal. Terry said spring runoff may only be ~30% this year, so they'll probably focus more on providing 50 cfs this the summer than on providing spring flows.

- e. Capital projects – Brent said the Obermeyer gate at GVIC was open and in Fuse all winter. The GVIC fish screen retrofits were completed yesterday and operation is being tested now. The Grand Valley Project fish passage is operational, but Reclamation needs to get an O&M contract in place with the water users for both the passage and the screen, which could delay operation of the screen this year. Brent said they've had problems with HVAC at the 24 Road Hatchery and some upgrades are required to operate the hatchery at the higher temperatures necessary to optimize fish growth. Contractors who do this work are fairly busy, so it's taking some time to get this done. Grand Valley Water Management should be fully operational this summer and Brent anticipates improved performance from that project this summer. Bob Muth, Brent Uilenberg, and others will meet with the Grand Valley irrigators in May or June.
 - >George Smith will send a note to the group to arrange the meeting. Price-Stubbs budget issues were resolved; Reclamation notified the Town of Palisade of the \$2.9M total difference between the fish passage and fish passage with whitewater park alternatives. Palisade has until April 12 to come up with the bid difference in order to build the whitewater park.

- f. Sufficient progress assessment for 2007 – Carol Taylor said the Service met via conference call yesterday and proposes to get the sufficient progress assessment back on schedule by making this year's letter fairly brief, primarily addressing November 2006 through February 2007, items that need to get done this year, and referencing the November 2006 letter. A draft will go to the Management Committee around mid-May.

- g. Reports status – Angela Kantola distributed an updated reports list.

- h. Nonnative fish stocking procedures review/revision – Bob Muth said a conference call was held April 2 with initial members of the *ad hoc* Steering Committee for review/revision of the "1996 Procedures for Stocking Nonnative Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin". Pending approval by the respective State Fish and

Wildlife Directors and by the Service, Steering Committee members are: Krissy Wilson (Utah), Kevin Gelwicks (Wyoming), Tom Nesler (Colorado), and Pat Nelson/Bob Muth (Service). The Steering Committee recommended formation of an *ad hoc* Task Group which will "get down into the weeds" on reviewing/revising the Stocking Procedures. Within the next 2-3 weeks, Steering Committee members for the States will: 1) run this initial set-up past their Directors and recommend representatives for the Task Group; and 2) provide the Program Director's office lists of potential major topics for review/revision discussions and ideas for a process outline with a timetable. A common theme presented by the Steering Committee was the need to streamline the Stocking Procedures to make them more understandable/user friendly and effective. The Steering Committee also agreed to wait and see the scope of potential revisions before deciding on the level of public involvement. By April 30, the Program Director's office will send out an outline of the review/revision process with a timetable. The first joint meeting of the Steering Committee and Task Group is scheduled for May 17 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) in Denver. >Bob Muth will make sure everyone on the steering committee and task group receive a copy of the 2004 nonnative fish management policy and the October 2006 Implementation Committee nonnative fish management resolution.

- i. Elkhead Lake Management Plan – Bob Muth said one of the terms and conditions of the Yampa PBO is a revised, final Elkhead Lake Management Plan before nonnative fish can be moved into Elkhead Reservoir (this spring, so the plan needs to be completed by mid-May at the latest). Bob said he summarized the comments from Utah, Wyoming and the Service, sent those to Colorado and offered to provide any help needed. Sherm Hebein has been charged with completing the plan. (The States and the Service are responsible for approving the lake management plans.) Bob emphasized that it's very critical that this gets done.
 - j. Update on bringing Yampa River *Gila* in captivity – Bob Muth discussed the research plan to take up to 400 young *Gila* from the Dinosaur National Monument area and bring them into captivity at Mumma and Ouray to determine survival in transport and in the hatcheries. (There are indications that the Yampa humpback chub population has declined, so it's prudent to determine if/how we can raise them in hatcheries at this point.) The plan is to do this in the fall. Right now the proposal is going through the Service's approval process (getting a memorandum of decision) for bringing the fish into the Ouray NFH. Debbie Felker sent out a draft news release earlier this week, but it won't be sent until the Service's approval process is complete. The Park Service is working on the required permit.
7. 2007 nonnative fish management activities – Pat Nelson said he doesn't believe anything has changed since the last update to the Committee. The Biology Committee did ask for written verification of the changes that CDOW verbally approved. Pat said he doesn't yet have CDOW's response or the all of the scientific collection permits yet. Pat said it will be very important for Management Committee to come to the public meeting in Grand Junction. If the public meeting is July, there wouldn't be a Management Committee held at

the same time due to the need to have a meeting July 11 in Craig in association with the Elkhead dedication.

8. Representation/attendance at Biology Committee meetings – Tom Pitts said the Biology Committee hasn't had representation from the environmental groups or CREDA, and Colorado's participation has been intermittent. Hopefully, Colorado will have staff hired within the next few months. John Shields said he heard that when Kevin Gelwicks term as Biology Committee chair expires, he won't be participating on the Committee either, so John will be working on that concern. >Tom Pitts will talk to Leslie James about CREDA participation. >This will be on the agenda for the next MC meeting (and on the IC meeting agenda in November if it's still a problem). The science foundation, and thus the Biology Committee are vitally important to the Program. Tom Iseman agreed, but asked if the Biology Committee might be structured differently (than having a representative for each Program participant).
9. Upcoming Management Committee tasks and schedule next meeting – The Elkhead dedication is at 6 p.m. on July 11 (coincides with CWCB meeting in Craig July 11-12), so the Management Committee scheduled a meeting at the Holiday Inn in Craig from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on July 11 and 8:30 – noon on the 12th. >The Program Director's Office will arrange the meeting. Jim Pokrandt of the River District needs to know who will be speaking on behalf of the Recovery Program by June 1. The Committee will need to meet again by mid August to approve the 2008-2009 work plan, so the Committee tentatively scheduled a meeting on August 15 in Grand Junction from 8 to 4 (with August 14 as an alternate date if the 15th isn't workable for Clayton Palmer).

ADJOURN 4:30 p.m.

Assignments

Carry-over from previous meetings:

1. **Bob Muth** will draft a letter to the BLM state directors regarding coordination on energy development (*pending*).
2. **The Service** will prepare a comparison of what a BO under the Recovery Program looks like now and what it would look like using a no-jeopardy approach (*pending*).
3. **Tom Blickesnderfer** will determine when it might be most appropriate to brief the new western slope Wildlife Commissioners. There are probably some new west slope State legislators who should be briefed, so Tom also will provide a list of these new legislators to the Management Committee. Additional briefings will be scheduled for new DNR folks and perhaps the Governor (*pending*).

New assignments:

1. **Pat Nelson** will check to see which Hamilton reports were accepted by the Biology Committee and delete references in the RIPRAP (text and tables) to those not approved. **Bob Muth** will provide revised language regarding tributaries and flow recommendations for section 2.1 of the RIPRAP text and for the Little Snake River on page 17 and e-mail it to the Management Committee for final review. By Monday, April 9, **Brent Uilenberg** will provide Angela and the Committee a revised capital projects budget table and **Angela** will incorporate any changes into the RIPRAP budget table as well as the FY 08-09 Program Guidance (text and budget tables). **Angela** will add language to the Program Guidance about scopes of work not being requested for new starts at this time (set apart in a text box to bring attention to it) and also will revise related language and double-check dates in the introduction. The **Program Director's office** will annotate the population estimates table in Program Guidance to explain symbols, etc. The **Program Director's office** will finalize and post the RIPRAP assessment, RIPRAP (after Management Committee concurrence on the tributary language), and Program guidance.
2. **Debbie Felker** will e-mail the Committee the 1-page "success story" and nonnative fish handouts the group used in Washington, D.C. **John Shields** will send out the trip report.
3. **Bob Muth** will include Dave Mazour or Leslie James in future communication on the report to congress since it also will address use of power revenues. The group will prepare an outline within a couple of weeks, and then begin work on content development so the Management Committee has something to take a first look at in June. Bob Muth will set up a conference call on this within the next 2 weeks. Dave Campbell should be invited to participate, also.
4. **Tom Czapla** will send a copy of the recovery goals and species status review

outline/strategy to the Management Committee.

5. **Tom Pitts** will send a thank-you to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation regarding his approval to negotiate and complete the Ruedi municipal recreation contract.
6. Appropriate **Program participants** (Tom Pitts, Tom Iseman, et al) will send letters of support to Rick Gold on Water 2025 funding for rehabilitation of the Myton Township diversion. **Bob Muth** will re-send the letter assuring the Recovery Program portion of the funding.
7. **George Smith** will send a note to the Grand Valley irrigators group to arrange a meeting in May or June.
8. **Bob Muth** will make sure everyone on the nonnative fish stocking procedures revision steering committee and task group receive a copy of the 2004 nonnative fish management policy and the October 2006 Implementation Committee nonnative fish management resolution.
9. **Tom Pitts** will talk to Leslie James about CREDA participation in the Biology Committee. Biology Committee representation will be on the agenda again for the next Management Committee meeting (and on the Implementation Committee meeting agenda in November if it's still a problem).
10. **The Program Director's Office** will arrange the next meeting at the Holiday Inn in Craig from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on July 11 and 8:30 – noon on the 12th.

Attendees
Colorado River Management Committee, Denver, Colorado
April 5, 2007

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg	Bureau of Reclamation
Tom Blickensderfer	State of Colorado.
Robert King	State of Utah
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Carol Taylor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Leslie James for Dave Mazour	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
John Reber	National Park Service
Tom Iseman	The Nature Conservancy
Misti Schriener for Clayton Palmer	Western Area Power Administration

Nonvoting Member:

Bob Muth	Recovery Program Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Recovery Program Staff:

Angela Kantola	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pat Nelson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Czaplá	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Debbie Felker	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Others:

George Smith	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jana Mohrman	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Terry Hickman	Central Utah Water Conservation District