



# Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Dated: February 11, 2014

## October 29, 2013, Management Committee Webinar Summary

**Participants:** See Attachment 1

**CONVENE: 9:00 a.m.**

1. Introductions, review/modify agenda and time allocations, and appoint a timekeeper.
2. Approve August 14-15, 2013, revised draft meeting summary (All, 5 min) – The revised draft summary (dated October 14, 2013) was posted to the listserver with the meeting agenda with comments on the summary received from Tom Pitts and Kevin McAbee incorporated. Subsequent recommended changes were sent to the Committee on October 28. The Management Committee clarified the Blue Cut discussion in the second bullet under item 4.a. and finalized the summary (which Angela posted to the listserver).
3. Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) presentation – Lynn Jeka, CRSP Manager, said she gave this presentation at the August AMWG meeting and appreciates the opportunity to present it to the Management Committee. Lynn reviewed Western’s mission, to market and deliver clean, renewable, reliable, cost-based federal hydroelectric power and related services. Lynn noted that in 2012, Glen Canyon generated 4.3 billion kilowatts of electricity (which if coal-generated, would have resulted in 2.9M tons of CO<sub>2</sub>). Western is one of four power-marketing administrations under the Department of Energy. Western/CRSP manages the Basin Fund, sets rates, supports electrical grid reliability, and complies with environmental and cultural resource requirements. Reclamation owns and operates power plants, while Western owns and operates the transmission systems. Revenue from the sale of generated power is used to pay CRSP project debt to the U.S. government, as well as facility O&M and replacement costs. The mainstem dams provide 97% of the power that CRSP markets. (Note: Aspinall is part of CRSP, though the map in slide 7 is confusing). CRSP has 1,817 megawatts of total capacity. Several long-term contracts expire in 2024, so Western will be evaluating generation (especially from Glen Canyon Dam, for example); if additional capacity is available, that may be offered to additional customers. 42% of the CRSP energy goes to municipalities, 32% to electrical cooperatives, and another 12% to Native American Tribes.  
**Capacity** is the total power plant generation capability at any point in time in megawatts. **Energy** is the amount of electricity actually *delivered* over time in hours (must be produced at the same instant and in the same amount as it is used by customers). Utilities are required to have enough power-generating capability (capacity) to meet anticipated demand. A SCADA system measures how much energy is being consumed so that Western can make sure the capacity is there to meet the demand. The CRSP Montrose offices operates 24/7 and schedules and markets power and transmission (month ahead, day ahead, and real-time). Rates are set to include and be reimbursed for all reimbursable expenses: purchase power to “firm” contractual commitments; operations & maintenance; required principal & interest payments; amortized capital replacements (Western & Reclamation); irrigation assistance for participating projects; and the Salinity Control Program to reduce salt in Colorado River water. Lynn described the annual rate calculation, noting that the Basin Fund balance is not a factor in rate setting. Wholesale customers pay ~3 cents/kilowatt hour. Non-reimbursable expenditures (like the Recovery Programs’ annual funding and other environmental expenditures [note slide should read \$4M indexed for upper basin program]) are credited as if they had been paid to the Treasury against the project debt (called “constructive return”). The Treasury doesn’t receive the revenue, but doesn’t lay out cash, either. The GCDAMP and High Flow

Experiment also are non-reimbursable expenditures. Western has calculated the impact of the upcoming High Flow Experiment on power sales at \$1.7M. CRSP benefits include:

- Delivery of clean, reliable, renewable, cost-based federal hydroelectric power  
Over the last 10 years, Glen Canyon has offset over 25 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, or over 2.5 million tons annually (based on coal generation)
- O&M for generation & transmission assets
- Repayment of federal investment
- Funding for non-reimbursable activities  
Adaptive Management & Recovery Programs  
High-flow experiments

4. Update on power replacement costs and other (e.g., water user) costs to be included in briefing book pie charts –The Committee received an update on progress to determine power replacement costs so that these costs, and other Program costs (e.g., water users) to be reflected in the 2013-2014 Program Highlights Briefing Book. (See also Assignment #1 in Attachment 2). Tom Pitts is working on documenting the 10,825 and other water user costs, estimated at ~\$25M. Tom will provide the costs and documentation to the Committee in plenty of time to include it in the 2013-2014 briefing book. Clayton Palmer said Argonne is calculating the power replacement costs (non-Federal contribution) from 2001 through 2012. The report is in Argonne peer review now. A draft will be sent to interested Program participants next week; comments will be requested (within 2 weeks – just before Thanksgiving) as to whether the costs are fairly described and the report contains required results; then the report will go through a technical writing review and be finalized as an Argonne Technical Memo (anticipated by mid-December). >Clayton will request annual updates of this information for Flaming Gorge and Aspinall (e.g., 2013, to be available for the 2014-2015 briefing book). 2013 will be the first year to include costs related to Aspinall. Leslie James believes that Aspinall-related costs prior to 2013 should be included; >Brent Uilenberg will arrange a conversation about this with Leslie and Ed Warner. John asked about the cost of power absent of market manipulations occurring at the time; Clayton said that may still an issue. The corrected estimated replacement power cost from 2001-2012 is \$42M (corrected for Marketable Capacity; actual is \$35M).

5. Capital projects updates

- Tusher Wash – Brent Uilenberg said alternative development for rehabilitation is proceeding well. Alternatives include upstream replacement, downstream replacement, and rehabilitation at current location, with downstream replacement the most likely alternative at this point. Reclamation has provided input on all three alternatives and the team has been very responsive. Brent's main concern is the potential effectiveness of an e-barrier (based on experience of Reclamation engineers in other parts of the country). Brent recommends a careful evaluation before proceeding with an e-barrier; Tom Chart and Kevin McAbee agree. Kevin said he and Dave Speas and Bob Norman and others will be reviewing the literature sets provided by Reclamation and Smith-Root. Brent said that some literature indicates near-zero effectiveness in preventing fish access in a downstream configuration. We've always known this would be experimental, but we need to carefully evaluate the likelihood of success and make sure it meets a to-be-determined level of required effectiveness. Kevin is expecting a memo from Smith-Root that will have more specific information for the Tusher Working Group to consider. Brent said the diversion rehabilitation as now contemplated will have greater head than the existing diversion, which would be more suitable for a mechanical screen, if needed. A retired Reclamation engineer with e-barrier experience expressed caution about e-barrier in a downstream configuration (citing, for example, the facility on the St. Mary's River in Montana). Smith-Root has provided other examples. Tom Chart noted we now have a 2D model to examine velocities, which will be critical. Brent added that the cost savings of an e-barrier make it worth our while to fully evaluate the risks/benefits.

- OMID – Brent said contracts are in place and the check structure construction will begin shortly. The regulating reservoir is the next component; designs will be completed by December or January and hope to award a construction contract in 2014. The third major component is replacing open laterals, which would probably take place in 2015-2016 (along with completion of other small components of the system). Brent said he believes we'll be able to maintain the OMID schedule based on budget projections under a continuing resolution or if a budget is passed. Upper Basin FY13 actual capital funds after sequestration were \$7,948,000.
6. [Western Governors Association](#) – The Committee discussed potentially getting the Recovery Program on a Western Governor's Association meeting agenda to: a) educate / remind the Governors about how our the Recovery Programs are working with water users and bringing Federal funds to recover fish; and b) how invasive species are precluding the Program's success. Tom shared the draft 1-pager (Attachment 3) with Carlee Brown, WGA's Policy Manager last week. Carlee will talk with Holly Propst, WGA Policy Director, about how to integrate the Recovery Program's expertise into their ESA and invasive species work, and about the Program's interest in presenting before the Governors. Carlee suggested it may be more appropriate to present to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA.) Carlee noted that WGA has policy regarding invasive species and is ramping up their program in that regard. She provided links to the invasive species policy and their ESA and Water Resource Management resolutions:
- [Policy Resolution 13-02: Combatting Invasive Species](#)
  - [Policy Resolution 13-08: Endangered Species Act](#)
  - [Policy Resolution 11-07: Water Resource Management in the West](#)

Leslie James recommended talking with WGA staff to be sure such a Recovery Program presentation would be well received by the members and to clarify what we might be asking. Bridget agreed that if WGA staff thinks a presentation would be useful, that would be very valuable input as to whether we should proceed. Several Committee members have provided comments on the draft. Tom Pitts suggested that since this would be our initial presentation to this prestigious group, the presentation should also:

- include both the Upper Colorado and San Juan programs;
- emphasize consistency with state water and wildlife law;
- state that no changes were needed to the ESA or any ESA regulation to implement the program;
- state the reason why recovery was chosen as the goal;
- point out the diverse members of the two programs and grassroots support; and
- emphasize bipartisan congressional support for funding.

Tom said he supports describing the critical role of the states in the Programs, emphasizing the need for nonnative fish control need/effort. Robert King that Tom Pitts' third bullet, above, while correct, would be contrary to some members' position on the ESA.

John Shields said potential gains from a presentation would be greater support from States/Governors (e.g., governors' letters of support from governors and support for State wildlife agencies in needed changes to nonnative fish management. John emphasized this proposal would first need to be agreed to by the Management, then Implementation committees. Patrick understands the need to more broadly elevate the issue of nonnative fish issues and asked if Tom Chart believes this presentation would bolster the nonnative fish strategy enough to offset risks associated with raising issues about the ESA. Tom Chart agreed we'll have to take WGA staff cues on this. Many issues in WGA's ESA resolution are ones this Program has dealt with; it would be good to communicate that, show the connection to their invasive species resolution, and discuss implications for recovery and ESA compliance. Tom agreed that we need to carefully consider whether the overall result of a presentation would be positive and helpful. John emphasized that in light of our most recent sufficient progress assessment, the Program's ability to continue to provide ESA compliance for water use and development is a greater point of risk in all of this than the potential for a

WGA member to disagree with something about the Program. >Tom Chart and John Shields will explore this further with WGA staff, carefully considering potential adverse reactions, and report back to the Committee.

7. Developing a Program position (e.g., letter to the appropriate State offices) for Implementation Committee approval on risks associated with energy development in, or in close proximity to designated Critical Habitat for the Colorado River fish. (Tom Chart, 15 min.) – On their September webinar, the Implementation Committee agreed that the Program Director’s office should work with the Management Committee to develop a Program position (e.g. letter to the appropriate State offices) for Implementation Committee approval on risks associated with energy development in, or in close proximity to designated Critical Habitat for the Colorado River fish. The Committee discussed a draft letter provided by the Program Director’s office and commented on by several Committee members. Leslie James, Patrick McCarthy, Bart Miller, Robert Wigington, Doug Frugé, and Tom Pitts have provided comments (>Kevin will send out Doug’s comments). Tom Pitts suggested redrafting to clarify the request to the state agencies (e.g., if we’re asking for a general solution to energy development versus endangered species protection, seeking alternative site/s that would allow Thurston to complete their project). Tom Chart agreed; noting that it would be good to use Thurston as an example, but Tom also wants to ask that the states’ divisions of oil and gas find alternatives to energy exploration within and in close proximity to critical habitat throughout the basin. In response to questions from Tom Pitts, Kevin said he thinks we’re looking to raise state awareness of the concerns and gain support of the concept of finding alternatives to drilling in the floodplain, so that we have a consistent message from all program partners with permitting authority (USFWS & State Oil and Gas Departments). Robert King said UDNR has discussed this, but it’s difficult to find land that isn’t already leased. Tom Pitts encouraged including a map of critical habitat and explaining that it includes the 100-year floodplain. Likely, the letter would be signed by Noreen Walsh as chair of the Implementation Committee. >The Program Director’s office will provide a revised draft for the Committee’s consideration within two weeks.
8. D.C. trip planning – The Committee discussed plans for the March 2014 briefing trip. John Shields said briefing book development has begun early this year and some reformatting is being considered (putting more emphasis on fish status and tying that more closely to demographic and threat removal criteria, for example). John had recommended scheduling the trip March 10-14 (17-22 does not look good for John or Leslie); however, the week of the 10<sup>th</sup> doesn’t work too well for Patrick due to a conference. Discovering that Congressional recess appears scheduled for the weeks of March 17 and 24, the Committee tentatively penciled in the week of April 7). Unfortunately, the President’s budget wasn’t released until after last year’s trip. It’s become more difficult to get programmatic funding support letters from the States’ governors. We need to have participation in the trip from each of the states in the recovery programs. Tom Pitts emphasized the importance of this trip. Speaking as the Committee chair, John Shields emphasized the importance of participation in the trip by someone representing Colorado. > Michelle said she would follow up on this.
9. Hydrology/Water Acquisition Committee updates
  - Report on White River meetings – Jana Mohrman recalled that the scope of work for developing a White River Management Plan was approved at the Committee’s August 14 meeting. The next item in the schedule was to hold public meetings to communicate the proposed approach to stakeholders and seek their initial input. Leith Edgar distributed a press release on the meetings just before the furlough; Melanie Fischer sent out a postcard invitation to all water rights holders on the White River in Utah; and 153 e-mail invitations went out to a variety of interested folks (serving on relevant committees, etc.). Jana contacted BLM folks in Colorado and Utah and included them in the list of partners in the final SOW; however, no one from BLM attended the public meetings due to the furlough (we will be following up with the BLM). Between the three meetings in Vernal, Craig and Rangely, 65 people

attended, with the majority at the Roundtable. Jana said the Service introduced the White River plan to the Ute Tribe in a letter dealing with several other endangered species issues. . The Tribe has significant water rights on the White and nearby Green Rivers; talks have resumed with the State of Utah to settle these rights. Angela Kantola said the reception at the public meetings was positive. Interest was expressed at the Yampa/White Roundtable in the value of the White River above Kenney Reservoir for recovery and whether the Recovery Program might consider partnering in an off-stream reservoir if Kenney (rapidly filling with sediment) were decommissioned. T. Wright Dickinson extolled the Recovery Program and encouraged folks to get involved in the White River Management Plan process. It will be important to coordinate with other ongoing modeling efforts on the White River (efforts are ongoing to model for input to the State Water Plan and also to consider a possible replacement reservoir for Kenney). In Rangely, emphasis was made on the need for extensive local outreach, perhaps working through the Rio Blanco Conservancy District. The next step in the White River Management Plan will be to hire a consultant (CWC lead).

- Colorado State Water Plan – Becky Mitchell described the plan to Jana as a grass roots effort in which the roundtables have one year to respond with their plans. Jana spoke with the three roundtables in our basin -- Dave Kanzer on the Gunnison, Jim Pokrandt on the Upper Colorado and Geoff Blakeslee on the Yampa/White/Green – and they said the endangered fish needs were built into all of their plans. Brent Uilenberg mentioned that Reclamation sits on the Gunnison and Colorado River roundtables and also would be tracking the needs of the fish.
- Geomorphology – The work group has met 4 times, prioritized reaches to reevaluate flow recommendations, and hopes to have a white paper to support a scope of work composed before January.
- GRUWAT – As copied to the Committee, Mike Styler (UDNR) wrote Tom Chart a September 4, 2013, letter request to modify Green River flow protection work plan. Delays have occurred due to the very complex modeling and incorporating data from Reclamation’s recent Basin Study. Dates for the last three tasks of the work plan need to be changed to:
  - Task 5 Analyze model results, 2010-2014
  - Task 6 Obtain additional authority to protect flows 2014-2016
  - Task 7 Implement legal protection 2016-2017Patrick said it’s somewhat discouraging to see these dates moved out a full two years, but respects the time needed to accomplish this objective. Tom Chart understands Patrick’s concern and recommended that the >Water Acquisition Committee review the request and let us know if they see any opportunities to accelerate the schedule.

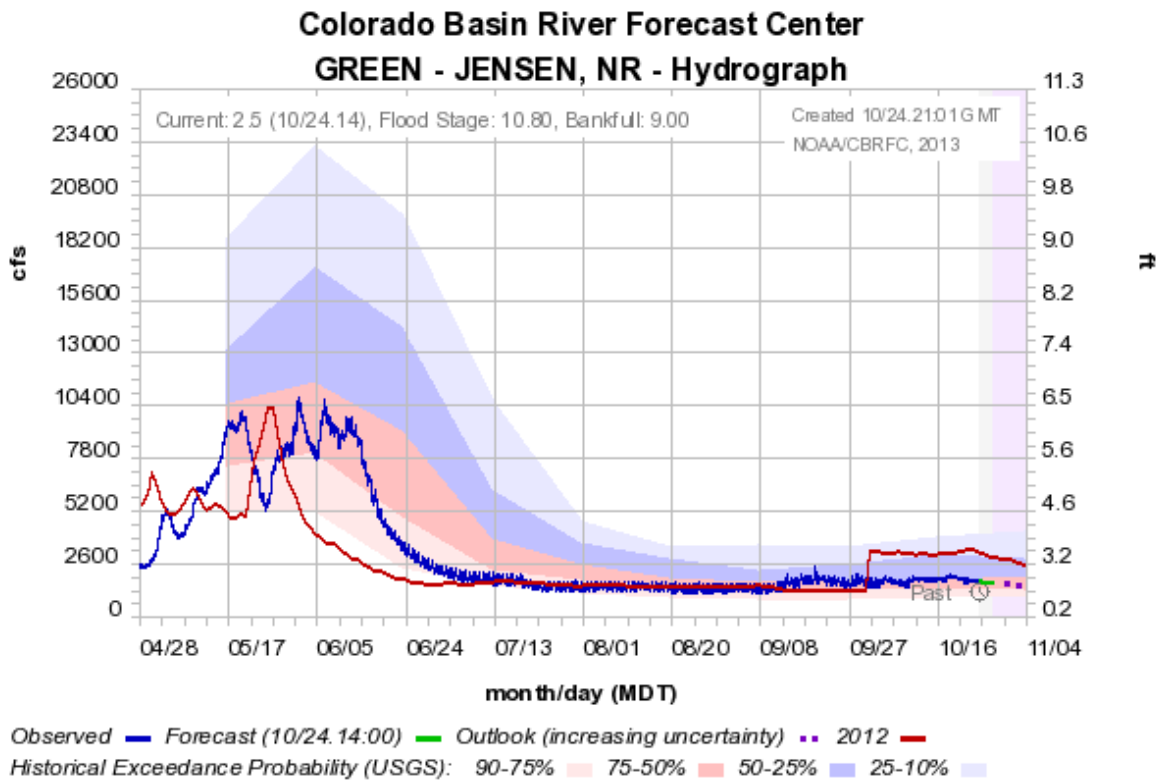
- 15-Mile Reach

10825 – Jana described cooperation among reservoir operators as hydrologic conditions shifted in the 15-Mile Reach in September. Lake Granby had been releasing water when conditions turned from dry to wet. At that point, Granby water was no longer needed to meet the 15-Mile Reach flow target, but Grand County was concerned that brown trout redds in the headwaters could be stranded if Granby releases were cut back. Therefore, instead of reducing the Granby releases, Williams Fork and Wolford reservoirs cut back/re-timed their releases and were able to store some fish water for later use. The wet conditions in September presented an unusual situation, but we were quite pleased with the quick-acting cooperation of the reservoir operators during the first year of releases of 5412.5 af from Granby.

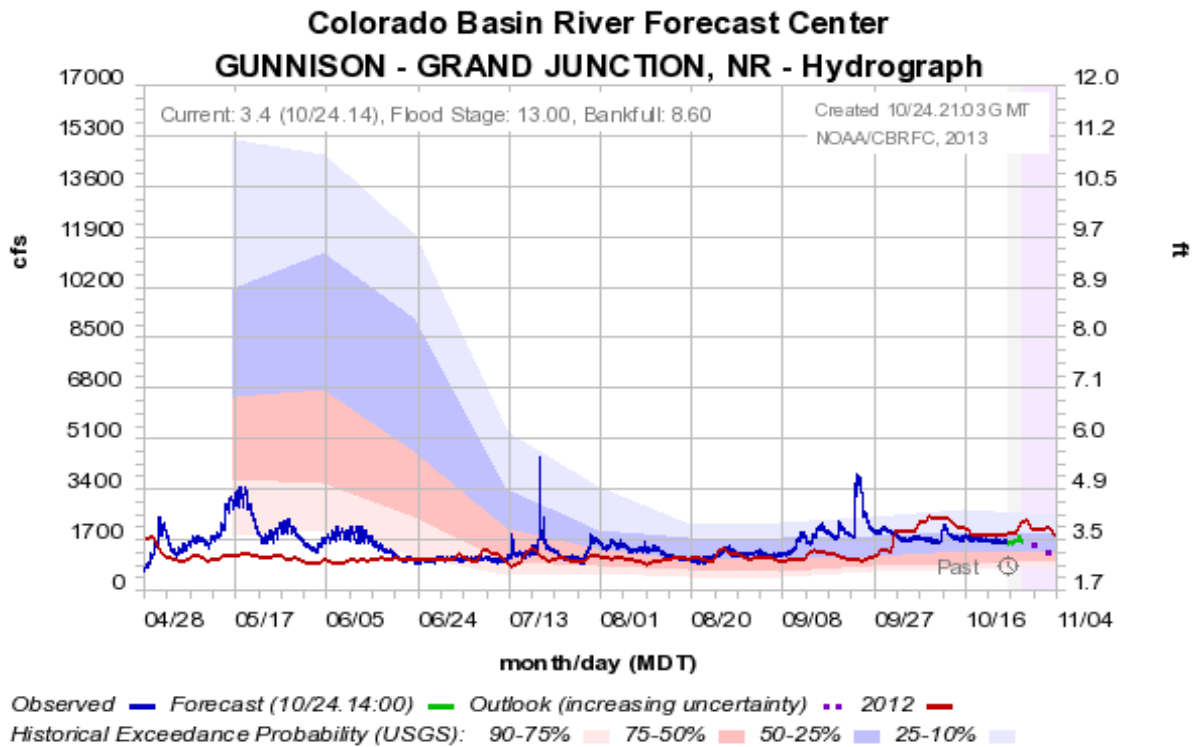
“April Hole” – a draft white paper will be shared with a group of concerned individuals before it is presented to the group of cooperators in the Grand Valley.

- 2013 hydrology:** In mid-September, weather turned wetter, therefore some carry-over fish water was generated for 2014:
  - Williams Fork: 1235 acft
  - Wolford: 3232 acft = 223 acft from Granby trade + 2999 acft from the 6000 acft pool for 2014
  - Elkhead Reservoir: from the 2013 lease 1,000 acft

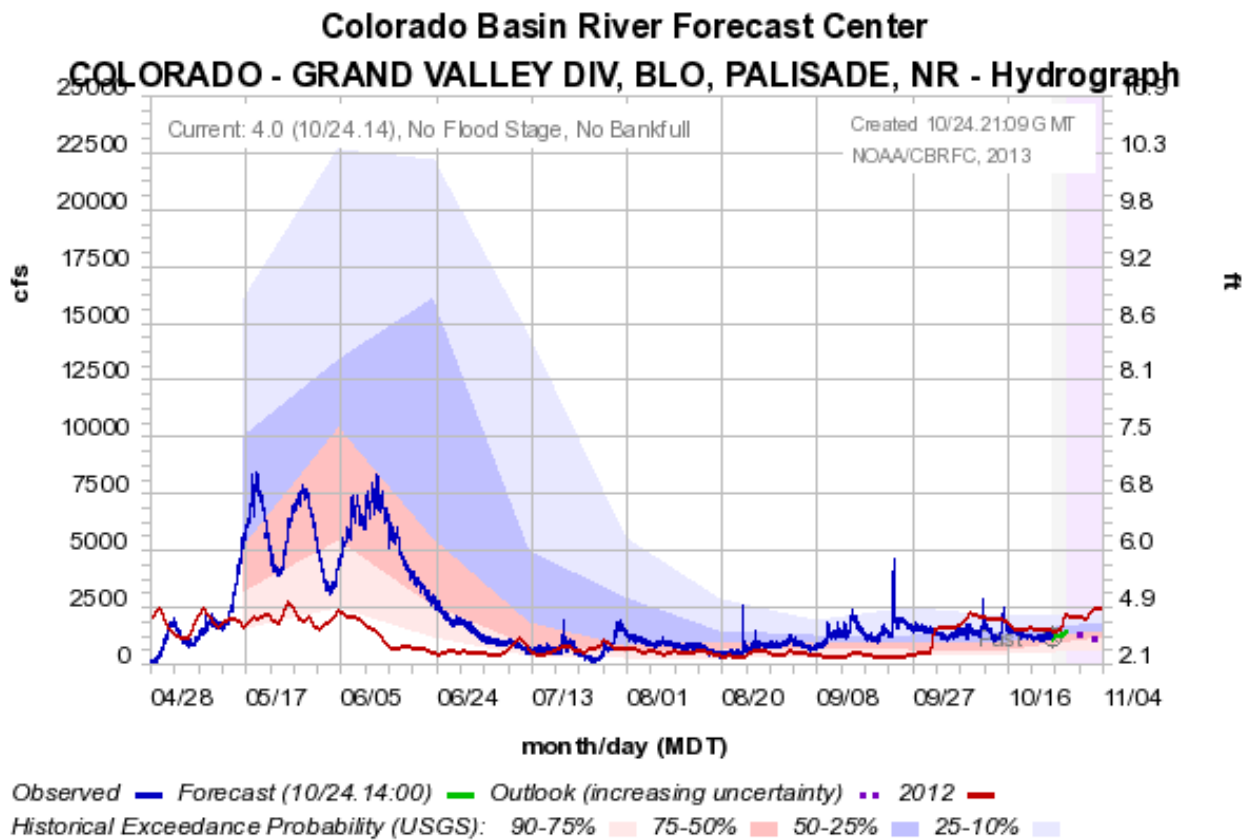
Flaming Gorge: Green R. at Jensen: from dry to wet (25% to 10% exceedance)



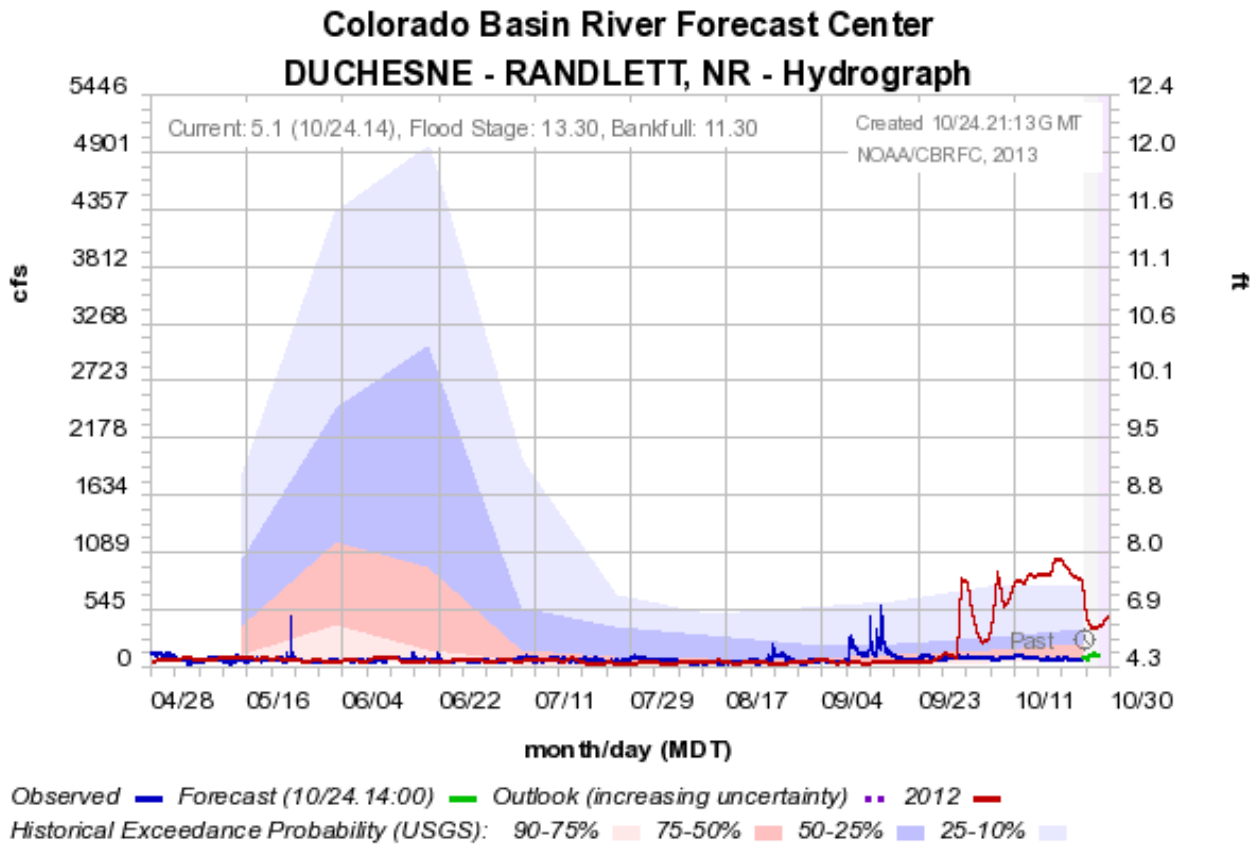
Aspinall Units: Gunnison R: from dry to wet (25% to 10% exceedance)



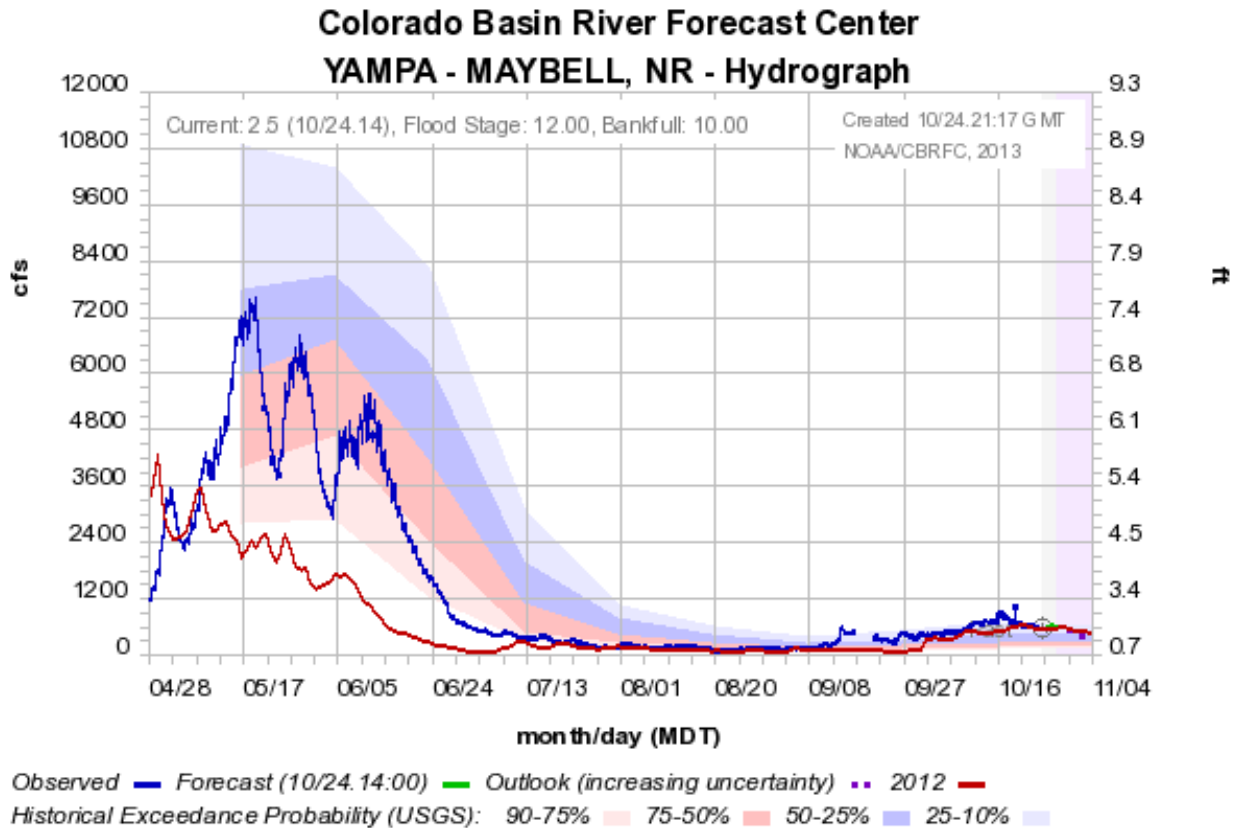
Colorado R. at Palisade: from dry to wetter (50% to 10% exceedance)



Duchesne R. at Randlett from dry to wetter storm runoff, but not as wet as 2012



Yampa R. at Maybell: 163 cfs (target 134 - 200 cfs)



10. Sufficient progress (Chart, Kantola, 20 min)



- RIPRAP addendum – Contents were discussed with the Management Committee in August. The Program Director’s office has asked the States’ Biology Committee representatives to provide a progress report on the RIPRAP addendum (nonnative fish management actions to be focused on over the next 3 years) at the December Nonnative Fish Workshop. Tom Chart will provide an update on the Committee’s February 11 webinar.
  - Action item review – The Committee reviewed action items from the Service’s 2013 Sufficient Progress letter (See Attachment 4).
11. Recovery plans update
- Progress report – Tom Czapla said the Recovery Team is working on the threats assessment on a basin-by-basin basis. The next webinar will occur in mid-November. Rich Valdez will outline a timeline for when the draft plan will be available for review.
  - Continued discussion of benchmarks/path to recovery – The Recovery Team will discuss this in their mid-November webinar. Tom Chart suggested that he and Tom Czapla be the liaison between the Recovery Team and the Management Committee, rather than holding a joint meeting among the Team and the Committee.
12. Review previous meeting assignments (All, 5 min) – Deferred; please review Attachment 2.
13. Schedule next meeting, webinar, or conference call – The Committee scheduled a webinar for February 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Agenda items will include: 1) update on Colorado State Water Plan from Michelle (standing agenda item) (note: the Nonconsumptive Needs Committee is covering the endangered fish flows.); 2) RIPRAP addendum

**ADJOURN: 1:08 p.m.**

## **Attachment 1: Participants**

Colorado River Management Committee Webinar, October 29, 2013

### Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg	Bureau of Reclamation
Michelle Garrison	State of Colorado
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Bridget Fahey	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Melissa Trammell	National Park Service
Patrick McCarthy	The Nature Conservancy
Clayton Palmer	Western Area Power Administration
Leslie James	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
Robert King	State of Utah

### Nonvoting Member:

Tom Chart	Recovery Program Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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### Recovery Program Staff:

Tom Czapla	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kevin McAbee	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Angela Kantola	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Others

Lynn Jeka	Western Area Power Administration
Greg Lanning	State of Wyoming
Jana Mohrman	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jerry Wilhite	Western Area Power Administration
Dave Speas	Bureau of Reclamation

## **Attachment 2: Meeting Assignments**

- Tom Pitts** will work with **Clayton Palmer and Brent Uilenberg** and provide a list of additional Program contributions to be added to the Program's budget pie chart that appears in each year's briefing book. *In process.* For the 2012 *Program Highlights*, we used the \$37.4M annualized estimate. By July 2012, **WAPA** will complete modeling and report actual power replacement costs going back to 2001. Subsequently, **WAPA** will provide annual power replacement cost for the previous year each January for inclusion in the *Program Highlights* pie charts. The pie charts will include a footnote explaining the calculation and assumptions. **Program participants** will identify other significant costs that have not previously reported (e.g., the Granby component of 10,825 which is estimated at \$16M, \$1.25M contributed by Colorado for GVWM and \$1.5M for OMID, CRWCD contributed property for OMID, etc.). **Tom Chart** will ask **Dave Campbell** to work with the SJCC to determine their additional costs not currently reported. *1/30/12: Tom Pitts provided additional costs to be included in the briefing book pie chart; need to follow up with documentation for the record. 3/21/12: Clayton will be asking modelers/analysts to look at economic impact of re-operation of Flaming Gorge Dam beginning in FY2001. Tom Pitts said P.L. 106-392 recognizes power replacement costs as non-reimbursable; is that the same thing as economic costs? John Shields asked why not include the ~7 years of "study flows" preceding 2001. Clayton will do both, since Flaming Gorge was originally reoperated in water year 1991 (a separate table for 2001 and forward will be included responding specifically to the P.L. 106-392). Clayton also will include analysis to show the year in which FG was reoperated under the new EIS (2006 to present). John said he and Robert were asked about retail power cost levels yesterday; Leslie doesn't believe that can be reported since each individual utility has a different amount of hydropower in their mix. 6/26/12: A Cost Subcommittee was set up (Tom Pitts, Leslie, Clayton, Robert Wigington, Angela Kantola and/or Tom Chart) and held conference call 4/27/12; Argonne working on power replacement costs, water users working on their additional costs, San Juan also working on their additional costs. 6/22/12: Clayton provided the Subcommittee a description of how they'll conduct the economic analysis of Flaming Gorge dam reoperation. 1/24/13: The Cost Subcommittee held a call on January 9 and identified the need to outline the process for arriving at fully substantiated power replacement costs going forward. If more substantiated power replacement costs are to be included in the 2014 briefing book, the numbers will need to have been fully vetted and agreed upon by the Subcommittee (and perhaps the Management Committee as a whole) and go through the peer review described by Western by mid-December 2013. Les Poch provided new runs of the power model and an assessment of the economic impact of reoperating Flaming Gorge Dam for endangered fish species for the period 2001 – 2011 and those were discussed with Cost Subcommittee members on January 24 and 25. 2/7/13: Clayton Palmer thinks we can get an estimate of power costs in time for Management Committee approval by mid-December 2013 (to meet the deadline for the 2014 briefing book). Other contributions to be documented include those from water users and also some from the Colorado's Species Conservation Trust Fund. These need to be described in a table and provided for Management Committee review/approval before they're included in the pie chart. 4/2/13: Clayton has established a deadline of no later than the end of the FY to reach a conclusion on replacement power costs. Tom Chart asked that Clayton send the document to the Cost Subcommittee before sending it out for peer review; Clayton agreed. John Shields noted they were asked about the \$44M estimated power replacement costs on the D.C. trip. Tom Pitts is working on the additional water user contributions (should include \$945K CRWCD contribution for OMID reservoir site). Michelle Garrison will provide information on any funds from the Native Species Trust Fund (e.g., OMID grant, the \$250K approved for the White River, CPW expenditures). For NSTF funds, it may be best to report by project once they're all expended. 8/14/13: Water Users will provide 10,825 costs. 10/29/13: Clayton will request annual updates of power replacement costs for Flaming Gorge and Aspinall (e.g., 2013, to be available for the 2014-2015 briefing book). >**Brent Uilenberg** will arrange a conversation about inclusion of Aspinall-related costs prior to 2013 with **Leslie James and Ed Warner**.*

2. The **Program Director's office** will finalize the basinwide strategy (the PDO will provide a more specific date - hopefully, in time to affect RIPRAP changes in 2013). *Revised document sent to Management and Biology committees on January 13, 2013; meeting held with States' Fish Chiefs May 21-22; PD's office finalized for Program review; Biology and Information & Education committees' comments due October 31, 2013.*
3. RIPRAP:
  - a. General: To provide ample time for **Program participants** to provide recommendations for improving the RIPRAP, the deadline for comments was changed to June 1 (and subsequently June 11). After comments are received, the **Program Director's office** will compile and share them with the Management and technical committees along with recommendations for how to proceed. *7/31/13: No comments received; PD's office will finalize 2013 RIPRAP and consider more general RIPRAP revisions/"tune-up" next year.*
  - b. Text: the **Program Director's office** will update the table of contents.
  - c. Tables: the **Program Director's office** will: 1) add stocking records back to 1996 (*done*); 2) Green River - provide wording to revise rows 48-50 regarding the Price River and provide that to Management Committee for final approval (and will reference Price River Position paper [in line 46]) (*done*); 3) Green River – reference the completed report in the merged cells of line 73 (*pending*); and 4) add a new item for Miramonte to the Dolores table (*done*). **Melissa Trammell** offered to continue looking for what documents commit the Program to addressing this reach of the Colorado River below the confluence with the Green River (*done*). **Tom Chart, Pat Martinez, Dave Speas, and Harry Crockett** will add language to assessment column of row 7 of the Dolores table regarding that work group and provide that to the Management Committee along with the Price River language (*pending*).
4. **Michelle Garrison** will discuss with Ted Kowalski (and get back to Brent or Bob Norman) on the proposal of having the Programs ask the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to obligate \$200K of Colorado's San Juan NFWF funds by putting an "Upper Basin" label on them and then invoicing against that \$200K for Upper Colorado NFWF capital expenditures (e.g., Tusher \$40K and others) in the future.
5. The **Service** will do a news release on completion of the 10,825 contracts and releases now being made. *Pending.*
6. **Tom Chart** and **John Shields** will explore the idea of a presentation to the Western Governors Association (WGA) further with WGA staff, carefully considering potential adverse reactions, and report back to the Committee.
7. The **Program Director's office** will provide a revised draft energy development / critical habitat letter for the Committee's consideration within two weeks. **Kevin McAbee** will distribute Doug Frugé's comments to the Committee.
8. Michelle Garrison will follow-up on who from Colorado will participate in the D.C. briefing trip.
9. The Water Acquisition Committee will discuss the request to modify the Green River flow protection work plan schedule and inform the Management Committee let us know if the see any opportunities to accelerate the schedule.

## Attachment 3

DRAFT

To: Management Committee

From: Tom Chart and John Shields

Subject: October 29, 2013 webinar discussion topic #5 - Western Governor's Association

What – Should the Recovery Program(s) pursue a speaking engagement with the WGA ?

Why - The primary purpose for seeking audience with such an auspicious group would be to elevate our concerns over invasive species as an impediment to recovery and how this could jeopardize ESA compliance for over 3 MAF of water development throughout the Upper Colorado River Basin.

How should we convey those concerns – 1) Start the conversation by reviewing the structure, stakeholders, and goal of the Recovery Programs. 2) Review the 7 goals of WGA's recently revised resolution regarding the ESA and importantly how the Recovery Program has met many of those challenges. Specifically those goals are:

- Require recovery goals for listed species – *reference our 2002 Recovery Goal docs*
- Significant portion of the range must be defined - *reference our 2002 Recovery Goal docs*
- Enhance the role of state governments in recovering species – *respect for State Water law; States as Program partners; and members on the CPM Recovery Team*
- Ensure the use of sound science in ESA decisions – *peer review; Flow Study Plans that follow and adapt an approach; robust pop estimate design; nonnative synthesis efforts*
- Incentives and funding for conservation are essential – *funding legislation*
- Foreseeable future must be defined – *Cooperative agreement / recovery goals.*
- States should be full partners in listing and recovery planning decisions, particularly when modeling is used in analysis – *this is a FWS-lead activity, but States participate on all levels (e.g. rec teams; States were a driving force behind formulation of the 2002 Recovery Goals).*

3) Review major Program accomplishments; 4) Drill down on the nonnative threat and how much we all stand to lose; 5) Recommendations for how we move forward; why this should be important to the WGA (mostly water user perspective); and how the WGA can help (e.g. support / promote state rule and reg changes to assist in the nnf battle; promote a Statewide position on the economic and ecological consequences of persistent nnf populations and the threat of their expansion (illegal introductions).

Who – a tag team presentation from Water Users and Enviro's might bring the most powerful message.

## Attachment 4

Action Items from the [2013 Sufficient Progress Memo](#)

October 29, 2013

#	Recommended Action Items	Lead	Due Date	Status
<b>General – Upper Basin-wide</b>				
1	Swiftly complete & fully implement an effective, comprehensive <i>Upper Colorado River Basin Nonnative and Invasive Aquatic Species Prevention and Control Strategy</i> .	PDO, States	2013	Final draft sent for Biology and I&E Committee review 10/8/13 (comments due 11/1/13).
2	Develop RIRPRAP addendum identifying a subset of specific, tangible actions from the Basinwide Strategy to be accomplished in the next 3 years, including: increased control efforts directed to sources of nonnative predators; adequate rapid response to recent and future “outbreaks”; and a strong outreach campaign that sends the message to the public that only nonnative fisheries that are compatible with endangered species recovery are acceptable.	PDO, States	2013	Addendum approved by States and accepted by USFWS; will be discussed during December 4-5, 2013 Nonnative Fish Workshop.
3	Determine how to investigate age-0 and age-1 humpback chub mortality (especially in Black Rocks/Westwater and Desolation canyons) as recommended in the Research Framework. If funds available, Program may develop a 2014 SOW to investigate age-0 and age-1 humpback chub mortality.	Program		
4	200 age-0 <i>Gila</i> will be brought into captivity from Black Rocks/Westwater when conditions allow.	FWS	2013	
5	A currently funded study at CSU combining Westwater and Black Rocks data sets and exploring alternative population models may shed some light on this issue from a stock assessment perspective.	CSU	2014	Initial results of combined WW/BR report provided during 10/10/13 BC webinar; PI's discussing final reporting.
6	Support research to determine dose response information (for selenium and other forms of contamination, e.g. petrochemicals, heavy metals, and endocrine disruptors) related specifically to the endangered Colorado River fish as well as necessary remediation.	Program	Ongoing	
<b>Green River</b>				
7	Closely coordinate Tusher Wash e-barrier (or other barrier) construction with NRCS's rebuild of the Tusher diversion structure.	PDO, USBR	2014	Construction tentatively scheduled to begin Fall 2014, but realistic timeframes still being developed.
8	Red Fleet Reservoir has been recommended for reclamation (rotenone) in 2014. A microchemical analysis of otoliths from both the reservoir and the river is underway to better understand the contribution of walleye to critical habitat from this potential source population.	UDWR	2014	
<b>Yampa River</b>				
9	Complete accounting of past depletions using the StateCU model (Due date from YPBO - 1 <sup>st</sup> report July 1, 2010; 2 <sup>nd</sup> report July 1, 2015 ). The depletion accounting report will include a discussion of the need for flow protection (which would require a peak flow recommendation). The models will be updated through 2010 or 2011.	CWCB		(Also applies to Colorado River.) A contract for the irrigated acreage assessment was awarded in February 2013. Another contract still needs to be awarded to update the dataset. Colorado has given high priority to the Yampa and Colorado river basins portion of this work. .

#	Recommended Action Items	Lead	Due Date	Status
10	Complete <a href="#">programmatic synthesis of smallmouth bass removal efforts</a> , providing a comprehensive evaluation of the Program's removal efforts (draft reports due June 15 [Part 2] and August 15 [Part 3]). The Recovery Program will review the final report on escapement from Elkhead Reservoir (Part 1, completed May 1, 2013) and determine appropriate adaptive-management response.	CSU		Part 1 of 3-part report completed; Part 2 due to PDO 11/1/13 (final to BC 2/15/14); Part 3 due to PDO 12/31/13 (final to BC 4/15/14). See also Basinwide Strategy (item #1).
11	Conduct a <a href="#">programmatic synthesis of northern pike removal efforts</a> (2011-2012) to evaluate current removal efforts in the context of northern pike life history throughout the Yampa River drainage.	CSU		Report due to PDO 3/1/14 (final to BC 6/15/14). See also Basinwide Strategy (item #1).
12	The Program office will work with CPW to determine if any of the pike management actions identified in CPW's 2010 'Yampa River Basin Aquatic Wildlife Management Plan management actions are not being adequately addressed and seek necessary remedies.	PDO, CPW		CPW provided initial assessment 5/1/13; PDO returned comments 5/17/13. See also Basinwide Strategy (item #1).
<b>Duchesne River</b>				
13	Rely on findings of project # C18/19 to determine how to proceed with regard to currently unknown contribution of smallmouth bass or walleye produced in the Duchesne River below Starvation and entering Green River (Ute Tribe apparently not currently conducting nonnative fish removal.)			C-18/19 report peer reviews completed; final draft pending to BC. See also Basinwide Strategy (item #1).
<b>White River</b>				
14	Finalize flow recommendations as part of White River Management Plan.	PDO, FWS, UDWR	Winter 2014	Per White River Management Plan schedule: develop flow recs Fall 2013-Winter 2014; complete Program review Spring/Summer 2014; finalize management plan and flow recommendations Summer 2014.
<b>Colorado River</b>				
15	Explore opportunities to continue delivering Ruedi water (or a portion thereof) to replace the release of 10,825 acre-feet of Ruedi Reservoir water that concluded in 2012.	FWS, USBR, CRWCD		
16	Complete CFOPS Phase III report.	Water Users		Draft by November 15, 2013, and final report by January 15, 2014
17	HUP call participants will continue to discuss screen operation with the goal of more frequent operation at the GVIC canal (recognized as the oldest and most problematic design). The Program will continue to evaluate ways to improve screening operations and methods, and the Program will continue to fund salvage operations of fish remaining in the canals at the end of the irrigation season.	PDO, USBR, screen operators		
<b>Gunnison River</b>				
18	Mechanically remove northern pike from Crawford Reservoir.	CPW		Beginning in 2014

