



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Summary Dated: February 24, 2011

Water Acquisition Committee
Draft Web Conference Summary
February 22, 2011

Participants: Tom Pitts, Dan Luecke, Brent Uilenberg, Andrew Gilmore, Michelle Garrison, Gene Shawcroft, John Shields, Jana Mohrman, Amy Cutler, Terry Fulp, Ray Tenney, Tom Chart, and Angela Kantola.

Assignments are indicated in the document in bold, preceded by a “>”.

1. Review/modify agenda – The agenda was modified as it appears below.
2. Approve meeting notes from October 12, 2010 – The Committee approved the summary with the revisions provided by Tom Pitts. Angela Kantola posted the revised summary to the listserv.
3. Briefing on the combined Basin Model – Terry Fulp discussed the Colorado River Basin Study and its relationship to Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) and the West-Wide Climate Risk Assessments (WWRAs). The WWRAs look at risks and impacts and the basin studies focus on adaptation and mitigation strategies. They are about a year into this 2-year, \$2M Basin Study, having spent the last 9 months or developing future scenarios to address the broad spectrum of future possibilities. The supply scenarios are fairly developed at this point; demand scenarios less so. Terry described how to participate in the Basin Study via the project website, webinars, updates, Sub-Teams, and more. If folks have ideas, questions, etc., they can contact tfulp@usbr.gov or coloradoriverbasinstudy@usbr.gov. Jana provided all the fish flow recommendations for the UCRB to the Basin Study. Jana noted that the Basin Study information has been helpful in the Green River modeling work. John Shields asked about the interim report; Terry said they’d originally planned to produce a report for each of the four phases of the study (water supply, water demand assessment, system reliability analysis, and development & evaluation of opportunities), but the work is too dynamic, so instead they are producing “snapshot-in-time” interim reports to provide conclusions and key findings. The first interim report is in internal review and should come out in draft in March. Three more interim reports will follow, with the next one in ~July.
4. Introduce Utah’s GRUWAT new chairman – Jana Mohrman said Matt Lindon has retired and James Greer has taken his place. The group has had one meeting since that time, focusing on modeling.
5. White River update – Jana said the Service was very pleased to see that a condition to protect natural flow was approved on a new White River flow water right application [49-2295 (F78340)] resulting from a FWS objection. It requires flows in the White River at Watson to be greater than 161 cfs. Dan Luecke asked about White River peak flow recommendations and Jana said she and Tildon Jones are working on these and plan to have a draft to the Biology Committee in about a month.

6. Review draft RIPRAP revisions and assessment, and draft FY 12-13 Program Guidance

- RIPRAP tables (revisions and assessment)

General – Sediment Study (I.A.4.b.) Tom Pitts asked about sediment hydraulics; Jana said the Program funded the 2-dimensional work on spawning bar in report; additional work (not Program-funded) on spawning bar will be part of his thesis (out in ~4 months). **>Jana will review SOW to make sure what it called for is in the report.** Jana noted she's currently working on a letter with regard to other items in the SOW

Green – Flow protection (I.A.4.b.(2)&(a)) **>Gene Shawcroft will review this and the Green R Flow Protection worksheet with Utah.** Gene was unsure if Utah would be comfortable with detail in the Green R Flow Protection worksheet, but Dan Luecke said environmental groups would like to see this specificity. Therefore, Utah's input will need to come back to the WAC or MC (may be done via e-mail). The environmental groups suggested that the reporting occur before the rush of the Christmas Holiday; **>Gene will confirm with Utah that they can submit the annual progress report be submitted in mid-November with annual project reports.**

Yampa – I.B.3.d Need to add a separate item to the RIPRAP (and move the assessment comments) to "Calculate new depletions every 5 years" (like I.A.3.c on Colorado River) (and determine if need to show under all three reaches). This is different than the instream flow filing review.

Yampa – II.A.2.a. Need to cite Hawkins' previous reports on Maybell.

Duchesne – The group reviewed and refined updates provided by FWS on Duchesne flow protection. With regard to I.C.2.b., **>Gene will verify the 300 af made available via CUPCA Section 207 (b)(4) (water conservation section), as the amount may actually be greater than that.**

Colorado – I.A.3.c. assessment revised: "CWCB/WAC did not prepare work plan by October 1, 2010; CWCB will provide to WAC for review in April 2011. Review needs to include what are new vs. historic depletions."

Colorado – I.A.5.b. OMID water has nothing to do with the 2012 water. PBO allowed expiration of this water in 2012 because it is compensated for through additional habitat provided through fish passage. Assessment revised: "Program still struggles to meet flow recommendations in drought years; FWS and Reclamation may explore opportunities (and would include Colorado and the River District in these discussions) to continue delivering some of this water after 2012." "X" deleted in assessment comment for EA & FONSI on permanent 10,825 because delay is not affecting water delivery. WAC recommended reorganizing/revising this section of the RIPRAP to clarify which water is what, so to speak. **>PD's office has revised and will review with Tom Pitts.**

Colorado – I.A.5.n.(1) Modified assessment to read: "X Completion of CFOPS Phase III on hold, waiting for 2008-2009 annual CROS reports (anticipated March 31, 2011) (2010

data available, but won't be helpful since snowmelt was too rapid to have contributed). Anticipate final CFOPS report by September 30, 2011.”

Colorado – I.A.5.m.(2) Assessment added “! Re-regulating reservoir site secured. OMID, CWCB, River District and Reclamation nearing final draft of cost-share agreement.”

Colorado – I.A.5.n.(1) Assessment revised “X Completion of CFOPS Phase III on hold, waiting for 2008-2009 annual CROS reports (anticipated March 31, 2011) (2010 data available, but won't be helpful since snowmelt was too rapid to have contributed). Anticipate final CFOPS report by September 30, 2011.”

Colorado – II.A. Assessment moved from line II.A.1.d. and revised “O&M for floodplain sites has been characterized as TBD pending evaluations. BOR did C-6 Hyd work (to determine connections, etc.) in '08; report submitted to Program Director's office” >**Brent Uilenberg will ask Terry Stroh to re-send the report to the PD's office so they can cite it in the RIPRAP.**

Gunnison – I.D.1. Assessment revised “! Draft study plan sent to Biology Committee (with copy to Management Committee) 11/29/10; anticipate completion by April 2011.”

- RIPRAP text – No changes; however Program Director's Office notes they still need to check with CWCB regarding the sentence near the bottom of page 17 that reads: “In 2009, the Recovery Program and CWCB will review CDOW's flow recommendation methodology and progress of performance under the Yampa PBO.”
 - Program Guidance – The Committee discussed development of a White River management plan. >**Jana will set up a conference call in April** to discuss the process to develop a SOW. Participants will include Ray Tenney, Dan, Jana, Tom Pitts, Michelle, Angela, Tom Chart, Patty Gelatt and/or someone from the Service's Salt Lake City Ecological Services office. The SWSI projections (Michelle) and White River flow recommendations (Jana) will be provided in advance of the call.
7. USGS Sediment Transport Report 85F – Jana described the revised review schedule 2nd review before the report goes to USGS Editorial review. PD will send the updated version to the WAC/BC for final review after February 14, a Webinar hosted by the author (with peer reviewers invited) is scheduled Friday, March 4, 9 a.m. The WAC/BC will provide feedback during webinar or no later than 1 week after. Cory will make any needed revisions, then revise based on USGS review and send to BC/WAC for final approval.
 8. OMID – Brent Uilenberg – See [Management Committee summary](#).
 9. Tusher Wash – Reviewed under RIPRAP.
 10. Updates
 - Yampa River and mainstem Colorado River depletion report is overdue (State of Colorado) – Reviewed under RIPRAP.
 - 10,825, Ruedi legislation, CFOPS – Michelle said Colorado finishing 2008-2009 CROS reports (by March), then Tom Pitts will provide the CFOPS report by end of September

2011. (Colorado also will provide 2010 data, but it won't really particularly helpful there wasn't opportunity to add water in 2010). With regard to the possibility of continuing to provide some of the 2012 (10,825) water after 2012, Ray Tenney said the feedback he's gotten is that the West Slope would not agree to that.

- Gunnison River EIS – See [Management Committee summary](#).
- USGS' Elkhead Creek Transit Loss Report is finished and can be found at (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5198/>). The result is: the reach of Elkhead Creek immediately downstream from Elkhead Reservoir to the streamflow-gaging station 09246500, Elkhead Creek near Craig, CO, is neither a gaining nor losing reach. The instantaneous measurements downstream from the dam and the combined measurements of the Norvell ditch plus streamflow-gaging station 09246500 are mostly within the plus or minus 5-percent measurement error of each other.

11. Schedule next WAC conference call – No call was scheduled at this time; >Jana will track items the Committee may need to discuss and schedule a call when needed.