Fiscal Year 2019 Funding and Budget Process Implications

Kathleen Callister, Reclamation
The Annual Federal Budget Process

Budget Info is not public until President’s budget is released

OMB provides guidelines to agencies

President submits budget request to Congress

OMB compiles final budget

Federal Agencies 1st budget drafts

OMB reviews drafts

Federal Agencies revise drafts

1st budget drafts

President submits budget request to Congress

House Budget Committee reviews Request

Budget Resolution

House Appropriations subcommittee hearings and markups

Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearings and markups

House Committee on Appropriations reviews and approves

Senate Committee on Appropriations reviews and approves

House of Representatives final reviews

Senate final reviews

Conference Committee

President signs into law

House of Representatives final reviews

Senate final reviews

House Committee on Appropriations reviews and approves

Senate Committee on Appropriations reviews and approves

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INTERNAL TO USGS/RECLAMATION - WE BEGIN OUR BUDGET FORMULATION PROCESS AT LEAST ONE YEAR PRIOR TO THIS PROCESS
The Federal Budget Calendar

**Phase 1: Agency Planning:** Agencies create 1st budget --> submit to OMB --> OMB comments --> Agencies revise or appeal and resubmit to OMB

**Phase 2: OMB Compiles Final Budget**

**Phase 3: Congressional Budget and Appropriations**

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**For FY2020**

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Differences between Appropriated Dollars and Power Revenues

**Appropriated Dollars**
- Requested 3 yrs in advance - next request will be for FY22
- Does not include CPI
- Do not carry over from year to year
- Must be obligated by the end of the FY
- Can be impacted by Continuing Resolutions

**Power Revenues**
- Included CPI
- Can be carried over from year to year
  - Experimental Fund
  - Native Fish Conservation Contingency Fund
  - NHPA Section 106 Contingency Fund
- Usually not impacted by Continuing Resolutions - but may get monthly increments instead of lump sum
Fall 2015

• Tour at Ouray NFH with Palisade High School (PHS) “River Dynamics” class. Science curriculum moving to local Colorado River issues.

• Discussed with Dale Ryden the idea of a collaboration project with a District 51 high school. There were no objections.

• Approached PHS science teacher Pat Steele with the idea of setting up a hatchery at PHS. Mr. Steele started researching how to implement the project.
2016-2017 Planning and Community Involvement

- Decided on an appropriate structure that could be renovated on PHS campus.

- Received multiple bids on construction cost. Initial estimates were at $82,000. Contractors began donating some services. Cost came down to $25,000.

- Local architect volunteered to draw official blueprints needed for construction and permitting.
2018-2019 Collaboration and Fund Raising

- PHS students created a fish hatchery leadership group, assembled a professional prospectus and to date have raised $42,000.

- Tom Chart approached the Management Committee to approve funding for the project. The total cost for aquaculture equipment was $11,533.01. Bureau of Reclamation paid $3941.55 and the Recovery Program paid $7591.46.

- Groundbreaking Ceremony. Press was in attendance. Construction has begun on building. All hatchery equipment is in Grand Junction awaiting completion of construction.

- Teachers will attend NCTC’s “Coldwater Fish Cultivation” class.
Class Details

- Class sizes will be 10-15 inside the hatchery at once (30-45 per class cycling through in groups).

- Initially, approximately 800 students will participate per year, but there is a potential for significantly higher numbers in future years after other District 51 schools start participating.

PHS students receive high school academic credit in classes such as River Dynamics, Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Science, Math and Literacy to name a few.

Agriculture in Palisade is successful due to the unique climate and the presence of the Colorado River, which provides irrigation water to the farmlands. The PHS Fish Hatchery project supports the community as a whole.

Recovery Program and its partners benefit with ongoing outreach in an engaged community. PHS students volunteered to pass out outreach materials during a recent parade in Grand Junction and are set to participate in this year’s Children’s Water Festival.

The PHS Hatchery experience provides the Palisade community a source of pride with this trailblazing opportunity. PHS example of cooperation across lines of boundaries such as the local school district, water boards, and government entities sets an important example to benefit other communities looking to create change.
Students to build Palisade hatchery

Project can offer hands-on learning in variety of topics

By KATIE LANGFORD

Press and TV Coverage

Media Coverage

Press and TV

https://www.kjct8.com/content/news/Palisade-High-School-breaks-ground-on-fish-hatchery-508033701.html
Proposal to Form a Friends Group

WHY FORM A FRIENDS GROUP?

The Recovery Program has been contacted by members of the public wanting to participate either through volunteering or by making donations. A friends group would give us a vehicle to meet the needs of the public, generate income and provide much needed assistance to outreach and field work in the basin. In areas of critical habitat, a cadre of trained volunteers would go a long way to: a) foster existing support b) win over neutral parties and c) change the hearts and minds of recovery program detractors.
Steps to a Friends Group

1. Identify core group willing to take on leadership role.
2. Write clearly defined mission statement.
3. Decide how you want your Friends Group to operate.
4. Define expectations of board members and committees.
5. Set Goals – What do you want to accomplish?
6. Objectives – How do you plan on meeting your goals?
7. Bold Vision – Take action to meet your objectives!
8. Recruit board members with a variety of skills, interests & contacts.
9. Create a non-profit 501(c)3 with the assistance of an accountant
10. Submit Friends Partnership agreement with USFWS
11. Design logo and website. Initiate social media campaign.
12. Seek base funding through grants and fundraising activities.
13. Create excitement through social media and press releases
14. Recruit volunteers at public events.
15. Contact project leaders to see how volunteers could help them.
16. Seek public physical locations in critical habitat.
Restrictions When Forming a Friends Group

- Federal employees may NOT serve on the board of directors. They may NOT work for the friends group on company time.

- USFWS employees must receive an ethics waiver to donate their time after hours.

- The process of forming a friends group is lengthy and I expect it will take a year to complete. It will take another 6 months to one year to be fully operational and functioning to support ongoing volunteer opportunities and to generate income. By the end of the 3rd year, it is my opinion that a full time director be hired to sustain and grow the organization.
Resources

• Information from the IRS regarding 501(c).(3) charitable organizations:

• Information from the USFWS regarding resources to setup a friends group:
  https://www.fws.gov/refuges/friends/resources.html

• Friends program partners:
  https://www.refugeassociation.org/
  http://www.nfwf.org/Pages/default.aspx

• Grant Programs:
  https://www.fws.gov/refuges/friends/grants.html
Post-2023 Update
In funding legislation, the Programs committed to work with the Secretary of the Interior to develop a Report to Congress (due by the end of FY2021).

The Report will define recovery actions needed post-2023 and estimated costs.
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- In 2018:
  - Explore options for alternative structures of governance. Identify a preferred institutional framework/approach. Develop framework to guide activities discussion.

- In 2019:
  - Develop Recovery Plans (Recovery Teams)

- In 2020:
  - Incorporate feedback from activity assessment and make final recommendations.

- In 2021:
  - Describe specific activities necessary to remain compliant (Technical teams)
  - Discuss and resolve legal and environmental compliance issues
  - Determine necessary funding and sources
  - Create a new Cooperative Agreement
Governance

- Subcommittee with members from the Management Committee, Coordination Committee (San Juan), Program Staff
  - Environmental Organizations
  - State of Colorado
  - State of Utah
  - State of Wyoming
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - US Bureau of Reclamation
  - Western Area Power Admin.
  - Water Users

- Major points of agreement
  - Remain separate from the lower basin
  - A set of actions will need to continue into the future
  - Documented and agreed upon commitments into the future by all partners
  - Goal remains recovery of all four species
    - Discussion of Conservation Reliant Species
    - Recovery goals need revision
Objectives

FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES
- Certainty of ESA compliance
- Certainty of costs
- Maximize ecosystem functionality that supports species recovery

ACCOMPLISHED BY:
- Providing increased certainty of implementation of management actions
- Consensus-based, science-driven approach
- Shared equitable responsibility, promoting collaboration and fairness
- Diversity of stakeholders / partners
- Increase collaboration across basins

ensuring that actions comply with ESA, state water law, and interstate compacts.
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Workshops

- Two 3-day workshops held in February and March
- Teams for each program element
  - Instream flow
  - Habitat
  - Nonnative Fish
  - Propagation
  - Research and Monitoring
  - Information and Education

- Experts from across the Program
  - Field biologists
  - Hatchery managers
  - Flow experts
  - Scientists
  - Outreach experts
  - Committee Members
### Alternative Development

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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Nature, Scope, and Degree of Action Considered Necessary to Provide:</th>
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<td><strong>Level 1:</strong> Low to moderate confidence this will support recovery</td>
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<td><strong>Level 2:</strong> High confidence this will support recovery</td>
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<td><strong>Level 3:</strong> Very high confidence this will support recovery</td>
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## Next steps

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<tr>
<th>Date/Time:</th>
<th>02/18/2019 14:18</th>
<th>Nature, Scope, and Degree of Action Considered Necessary to Provide:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost</strong></td>
<td>$1,910,000</td>
<td>Level 1</td>
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### Green River: Flaming Gorge Operations
- FG operations meet 2008 ROG flow targets, but fall short of incorporating full suite of 2018 Great flow recommendations into operating plans. Dose releases recommended continue to be constrained by the inability to use ROG supply for non-emergency purposes, and/or by providing releases that result in unforeseen fluctuation of floodplains.
- Can the program potentially influence drought contingency operating decisions from the standpoint of endangered fish recovery?
- Est Program or Partner Cost: None, beyond power interference costs comparable to those experienced from 2006 to present.

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### Green River: Utah Water Development
- Redesign continues to operate in compliance with the existing ROG.
- No more than 50% of all of new water development (net depletion) occur in the river basin. Where impacts to Reach 2 and Reach 3 base flows are not offset with water exchanged out of Flaming Gorge Reservoir, to cover any new development in excess of 50% of the base flows, a basin management plan and reop of similar consultations and agreements would be developed.

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### Green River: Wyoming Water Development
- [Check on what is addressed under no]

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### Green River: Revenue monitoring & research needs
- Sediment transport and sediment budget studies continue along Green River at 50% of the 2010 level of expenditure, adjusted for inflation.

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### Green River: Level 2
- ROG modified to not only assist in recovery but to maintain recovery.

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### Green River: Level 3
- ROG modified to not only assist in recovery but to maintain recovery.
- ROG modified to not only assist in recovery but to maintain recovery.

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### Submit Response

- [ ] Data is valid
- [ ] Data is invalid
Proposed timeline

- PDO will distribute tables to Committee Members and Interested Parties May 3rd for comment.
  - PDO will begin working on cost estimates
  - All suggested revisions due May 24th.

- PDO will distribute selection tool by June 14th
  - Committees and interested parties can “choose” their own programs from the listed elements.
  - Preferred options due by July 19th.

- Data from the exercises will be processed and distributed for consideration at the MC August/September meeting.
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