

SAN JUAN RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

June 28, 1995

Members of the Committee present:

Lynn Starnes	Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2
Jim Lutey	Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6
Rick Gold	Bureau of Reclamation
Joel Farrell	Bureau of Land Management
Leo Soukup	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Peter Evans	State of Colorado
Bill Miller	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Dan Israel	Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe
Bill Miller	State of New Mexico
Les Taylor	Jicarilla Apache Indian Tribe
Tom Pitts	Water Users

List of attendees is attached.

New Mexico State Engineer Tom Turney has been appointed the representative to the Coordination Committee for the State of New Mexico. Mr. Bill Miller attended in Mr. Turney's place. Mr. Scott McElroy was represented by Southern Ute Biology Committee member Dr. Bill Miller.

Lynn Starnes welcomed the attendees and opened the meeting at 9:10. The agenda was reviewed and approved with a modification of moving the discussion of low winter flow alternatives to 1:00 from 1:30. The draft summary of the Committee's April 20, 1995, meeting was also approved.

In order of the discussion items on the agenda (attached). Action items are underlined in the the text to ensure appropriate response times are accomplished.

Review of 31 May 1995 Biology Committee Meeting

The Biology Committee met to address assignments given by the Coordination Committee at the April 20, 1995, meeting:

1. To discuss the timing of delivery and review of the Integration Report

Almost all annual reports needed for the integration report have been received from individual researchers. The target is for a draft to the Biology Committee by August 10; review by that committee during its August 31-September 1 meeting; submittal to Coordination Committee members by September 15 for discussion at the latter committee's September 29, 1995 meeting.

2. To review the process of peer review of Program products and methodologies.

The Biology Committee discussed the level at which peer review would be brought into the process: would it be at the annual report, the integration report, the project completion report, or when individual research products are submitted to peer reviewed journals? It was decided more specific information was needed from the Coordination Committee on what was meant by "peer review".

The Coordination Committee discussed several alternative levels of peer review, agreeing that individual research elements would not be appropriate for such an effort. A more proactive approach of assembling a panel (similar to the Upper Basin) to look at the goals of the Program and the existing research and other actions taken to achieve those goals was suggested. This would take into account the lessons learned and limitations identified in other research in other areas, to benefit from what other researchers have done.

Rather than the Long Range Plan, which would not provide the type of detail needed for that review, the Coordination Committee agreed with the Biology Committee position that the Integration Report to be produced this fall would be a good starting point. Major research areas such as contaminants, the role of non-native species, and flow recommendations could be the basis for convening a panel to give recommendations. It was noted that the panel would be of recognized experts in the field of study under review and would not be charged with resolution of disagreements or with designing the research program, but merely to provide expert recommendations if and where improvements were needed. A question raised was but not resolved was how differences of opinion between the panel and researchers would be handled.

Jim Brooks will contact John Hamill of the Upper Basin Program to discuss the process of assembling such a panel and the criteria used to select experts. This information will be provided to the Biology Committee. The Biology Committee will then identify areas where such a review panel would be needed or beneficial. By July 15, 1995, the Coordination Committee members will provide, in writing to Jim Brooks, their individual ideas on how such peer review would be incorporated into the process and any priorities or directions for such review.

During this discussion, the question of Water Development Interests representation on the Biology Committee was raised. Such representation would also contribute to a fresh look at what has been undertaken, particularly in regards to flow-related issues. As was stated in the three previous meetings, the Water Development Interests hope to get their representative on board soon.

3. Long Range Budget

Discussed below.

4. Winter Low Flows

Discussed below.

Long Range Budget

In response to the Coordination Committee's request to provide an estimate of long term funding needs for the Program, the Biology Committee devised, guided by the Program Document and Long Range Plan, an estimate of expenditures through 2007.

The question of whether to include in-kind expenditures in the budget was brought up; also, the ongoing work in the basin that supports the Program but is not funded by it. Questions were also raised pertaining to cost beyond 2007. It was noted that the Biology Committee was charged with drafting a budget based upon identified work in the Long Range Plan for the program after 1997, not necessarily as addressed by the questions raised.

The Coordination Committee requested that the Biology Committee provide more specific targets or action items under the categories already delineated in the table and give funding needs for those. The Biology Committee will provide the more specific items to a Working Subgroup of Messrs. Rick Gold, Tom Pitts, and Bill Miller (New Mexico). The subgroup will then provide that material to other Coordination Committee members who will provide additional agency or other costs that support and are needed by the Program.

CREDA-related Strategy Development

Committee member Peter Evans provided the Committee with a summary of the progress of developing CREDA-related funding for submission to Congress for the Upper Basin and the San Juan Recovery Implementation Programs (as two separate efforts, not one recovery implementation program). The draft discussion paper

provided for review by Jim Martin has not received much distribution. The paper is a good summary of discussions to date, clearly identifies issues, but does not provide much in the way of a course of action. The next meeting of the CREDA group is July 17, 1995, at the Denver International Airport. Few Coordination Committee members have planned to attend. Mr. Evans pointed out the possibility of the San Juan Recovery Program losing support and funding in this arena if little or no effort is given to it by the Committee.

Research Flow Requests and 1995-96 Winter Low Flow Request

Jim Brooks opened the discussion by reviewing the basic process, as outlined in the Program document, for identifying and recommending research-related flow requests by the Biology Committee and the alternatives reviewed by the Biology Committee in response to the Coordination Committee's April 20 directive to discuss and identify other operational or research means by which the information could be gathered.

Biology Committee members Dave Propst and Bill Miller discussed available information, modeling capabilities for habitat response, and other means by which the Coordination Committee's request could be met. It was pointed out by the Biology Committee that minimal information could be obtained from the shorter release period. However, given the time needed to complete NEPA actions for the four month release, the shorter release was the next best scenario that would allow for collection of any data at all. Concern was expressed by a member of the public who attended the Biology Committee meeting regarding the reference of "preferred alternative" for the shorter release. Jim Brooks stated that the reference was his alone and based upon his review of the meeting summary and deduction of the most logical next step. However, Dave Propst and Bill Miller concurred that the shorter release was the best alternative considered. The Navajo Nation Water Counsel indicated dismay that the alternative shorter release was apparently a response to political pressures and not conduct of credible science. It was reiterated that the proposed action of a four month winter low-flow release had not changed. Rather, alternatives were being considered given preliminary NEPA results reviewed by the Bureau of Reclamation and the time frame involved.

A discussion of whether or not the proposal to reduce the winter low flow experiment from four months to two weeks and the NEPA responsibilities of the Bureau of Reclamation for either one or both of these alternatives resulted in the motion by Mr. Israel for the Coordination Committee to forward the abbreviated flow proposal (1-2 weeks of 250 cfs in January or February 1996) to the Bureau. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion was passed unanimously, with Mr. Pitts abstaining.

The Bureau will consider the recommendation from the Committee,

without abrogating its authority and responsibility under NEPA to make the final determination, and also provide at the September meeting an analysis of the NEPA requirements and process to address the need to gather data that would be provided with a 4-month flow reduction and study.

The need to more thoroughly inform the public of the actions of the San Juan Program was discussed. Funding for such outreach should be included in the 1996 budget estimate.

Meeting Schedules

The Coordination Committee will meet September 28 from 9:00 to 4:00 in Farmington, New Mexico, to discuss the Integration Report, long term budget projections with agency funding estimates from committee members, peer review panel, and the low flow research NEPA needs identified by the Bureau.

The Coordination Committee will meet September 29 in Farmington to discuss the FY1996 Work Plan, Integration Report, Long Range Budget, and Low Flow Research.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Attachments

SAN JUAN RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

28 JUNE 1995

AGENDA

- 9:00 AM Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director
- Opening Remarks
- Review of Agenda
- Review of 20 April 1995 meeting summary
- 9:30 Old Business
- 9:45 Review of 31 May 1995 Biology Committee Meeting
- Integration Report
- Peer Review
- Committee Chair rotation
- 10:15 Long Range Budget
- Budget table draft by Biology Committee
- Funding sources
- Coordination Committee responsibilities
- Status of Upper Basin/San Juan Basin joint funding proposal
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 Budget Discussion continued (if necessary)
- 1:30 Winter Low-flow Research Request
- Biology Committee discussions/options etc.
- Discussion by Coordination Committee
- 3:00 Other Business
- 3:45 Meeting Scheduling
- 4:00 Adjourn

Minor Depletions, San Juan River
28 June 1995

Date	Entity (State)	Depletion	Duration	Annual Accounting of 3,000 a-f Minor Depletions						
				1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
3/5/92	Meridian Oil (NM)	50 a-f	5 years	50	50	50	50	50	0	0
3/5/92	Northern Heights Bloomfield Water and Sanitation (NM)	40 a-f	5 years	40	40	40	40	40	0	0
3/5/92	Elks Lodge No. 1747 (NM)	20 a-f	5 years	20	20	20	20	20	0	0
3/5/92	Mr. Douglas Lee (NM)	80 a-f	5 years	80	80	80	80	80	0	0
3/5/92	Nielson Incorporated (NM)	14 a-f	1 year	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
3/5/92	Bloomfield Refinery	340 a-f	1 year	340	0	0	0	0	0	0
3/5/92	San Juan Basin Water Haulers (NM)	500 a-f	5 years	500	500	500	500	500	0	0
12/22/92	North Heights Bloomfield Water and Sanitation (NM)	20 a-f	5 years	20	20	20	20	20	0	0
6/26/92	Forest Groves Estates Homeowners Association (CO)	43 a-f ¹	5 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/26/92	Los Ranchitos, Inc. (CO)	36 a-f ¹	5 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/26/92	Country Aire Estates (CO)	7 a-f ¹	5 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/18/93	Buzns Fish Pond (CO)	1 a-f		0	1	1	1	1	1	1
6/17/93	Pagosa Springs (CO)	4 a-f		0	4	4	4	4	4	4
8/30/93	Elk Springs Ranch (CO)	3 a-f		0	3	3	3	3	3	3
1/6/94	Pond Construction (CO)	5.1 a-f		0	0	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1
5/1/94	E. Earl Hickam	150 a-f	1 year	0	0	150	0	0	0	0
6/1/94	Bureau of Land Management	176 a-f	5 years	0	0	176	176	176	176	176
7/20/94	Pine Gulch Ponds (CO) CoE	.5 a-f		0	0	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
8/10/94	Delzell Stock Tank (CO) SCS	.5 a-f		0	0	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
8/10/94	Delzell Stock Tank (CO)	.5 a-f		0	0	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
10/11/94	Bureau of Land Management	50 a-f		0	0	0	50	50	50	50
12/22/94	Pine River CoE	.14 a-f		0	0	0	.14	.14	.14	.14

Date	Entity (State)	Depletion Duration	Annual Accounting of 3,000 a-f Minor Depletions						
			1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
1/23/95	FHwy	87 a-f	0	0	0	87	87	87	87
2/21/95	Scott Gravel CoE	15 a-f	0	0	0	15	15	15	15
4/26/95	Shenandoah CoE	54.9 a-f	0	0	0	54.9	54.9	54.9	54.9
5/8/95	Cortez Ponds NRCS	6.33 a-f	0	0	0	6.33	6.33	6.33	6.33
6/7/95	Durango CoE	85 a-f	0	0	0	85	85	85	85
6/16/95	Mary Fletcher CoE	0.07 a-f	0	0	0	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07
6/16/95	Day Gravel CoE	11.6 a-f	0	0	0	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6
Cumulative Annual Total (a-f).....			1,064	718	1,038	1,199	1,199	601	601
Balance Available (a-f).....			1,936	2,282	1,960	1,801	1,801	2,399	2,399

¹ Not included as a minor depletion because it was included in the 18,000 a-f baseline depletion for Colorado -- Region 6 (FWS) did not issue a biological opinion for these depletions.

San Juan River Recovery Implementation Prog.
 Coordination Committee Meeting
 28 June 1995, Farmington, NM

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Joel Farrell	BLM	Farmington, NM
William J. Miller	Miller Ecological / Southern Ute Tribe	Fort Collins, CO
Tim Lutey	USFWS	Denver, CO
Les Taylor	Jicarilla Apache Tribe	Albuq. N.M.
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