

February 27, 2009

Biology Committee Final Meeting Summary  
Doubletree Hotel, Grand Junction, Colorado, January 15, 2009

Biology Committee: Dave Irving, Melissa Trammell, Pete Cavalli, Krissy Wilson (via phone), Dave Speas, Shane Capron, Tom Pitts, and Tom Nesler. The environmental groups and CREDA were not represented at the meeting.

Other participants: Tom Chart, Angela Kantola, Bob Muth, Tom Czapla, Bob Burdick, Chuck McAda, John Hawkins, Leisa Monroe, Tildon Jones, Jana Mohrman, and Kevin Bestgen.

Assignments are indicated by “>” and at the end of the document.

1. Review/modify agenda – The agenda was modified as it appears below.
2. Approve Biology Committee web conference summary for October 30-31, 2008 – The summary was approved as written.
3. Review assignments from October meeting (see assignments at end).
4. Review reports due list - Angela Kantola provided an updated list. The list now identifies reports for which revised due dates have been established. >Angela will send out a revised list after this meeting. >Tom Nesler will check on Lori Martin’s report.
5. Nonnative fish & subcommittee updates
  - a. Second level synthesis – Tom Chart said a draft RFP has been developed which is based on a population dynamics approach and focused on determining the changes we’ve seen in smallmouth bass populations over the last 4-5 years and what role our management actions have played in that, as well as what we can do in the future to reach our interim goal of 30 adult smallmouth bass per river mile. Tom Nesler emphasized the remaining need for external peer review of our nonnative fish management efforts that their Director wants to see. Shane suggested that this RFP is one tool that will go into a synthesis (it’s perhaps a synthesis of what we think we know about stock dynamics, but not of how we’re reaching our goals); Tom Chart thought it would serve as an evaluation of the current Program approach. Melissa noted the RFP does include the question of whether our current methods will allow us to reach our goal. Shane said he sees the nonnative fish subcommittee taking the stock dynamics product and producing a synthesis, which would then be peer reviewed. Dave Speas recommended making funding available when we do reach the peer review stage.
  - b. Outcome of nonnative fish workshop and nonnative fish session of researchers meeting. Tom Chart outlined and the Committee discussed recommendations from the workshop:
    - Continue projects 98a, 98b, 125, and 123b with additional coordination to synchronize sampling in the Yampa River.

- Northern pike sources – determine if expansion of removal into upper reaches of the Yampa is necessary based on Program review of CDOW’s Upper River Strategy.
- Sampling techniques
  - Further investigate apparent discrepancies in catch rates of Coffelt vs Smith-Root electrofishers
  - Gather necessary field measurements to maximize efficiency and reduce harm to native fish using the S-R GPP15, i.e. standardization of our EF fleet
  - Improve coordination of sampling schedules to obtain more powerful (accounting for movement) SMB pop estimates – similar to the NP strategy.
  - We need to get more fish tagged annually: further review available data to determine if delaying the tagging pass would help.
  - Larger fish may be more catchable in the spring: include a spring sampling pass in areas where not currently done.
  - Tags: PIT vs Floy revisited (make sure we’ve standardized our tagging)
- Data Analysis
  - Proceed with 2<sup>nd</sup> Level synthesis
    - Focus the evaluation of Program’s efforts via the development of population dynamics model to determine necessary levels exploitation
    - Use 2003 – 2008 (possibly 2009) data sets
    - Researchers need to submit 2008 standardized data sets to Chuck and Travis by March 01, 2009
- Flow / Temp manipulations
  - Proceed with developing study design.
- Proposed Changes to FY09 Work Plan
  - Expand SMB removal to include all occupied reaches of Critical Habitat
  - LFL and CDOW will consider expanding removal efforts to include carp and white sucker on the Yampa River. Tom Nesler said CDOW is agreeable to this as long as it doesn’t interfere with smallmouth bass and northern pike removal efforts.
  - UDWR will consider expanding removal on the Green River to include channel catfish (since we’re doing so many more passes than in years past where we removed catfish without effect). Krissy emphasized the need to evaluate effectiveness if we begin removing catfish, since removing this species will concern anglers. Tom Chart said a tagging pass would be expected. Tildon agreed and added that he thought the main target area would be Dinosaur National Monument. Dave Speas cautioned that work on the San Juan has indicated rapid recolonization when only one reach is treated. Bob Muth added that Yampa Canyon is likely the recruitment source. Dave noted that juvenile catfish may not be as piscivorous as adults. Analysis would need to include evaluation of size-shift. Tildon agreed this would be a trial and can only be done where it wouldn’t interfere with smallmouth bass removal (probably not possible at Split Mountain, for example). >Tildon will draft the objectives for this for the NNFSC to review.
  - USFWS and CDOW decided to maintain their current number of removal passes on the Colorado River, because: A) they don’t want to miss another possible pulse of recruitment; b) low turbidity may have contributed to the

- low catch rates experienced last season; and c) they have lingering concerns re: largemouth bass and other centrarchids.
- o Work in 2008 indicates that a concerted removal effort in Deso is not warranted. However, catch rates of SMB in the Duchesne River require follow-up – this may be a system that would allow for experimentation w/ alternative techniques (weir, flow manipulations, etc.)
- c. Upper Yampa River nonnative fish management strategy – Tom Nesler discussed their draft recommendations for 2009 activities and upper Yampa River management strategies provided to the Committee on January 14. To improve population estimates, CDOW suggests using passes 1 and 2 for removal, and pass 3 for marking to improve the population estimate. Tom suggested a similar approach on the Colorado River, changing the marking pass to the pass with expected peak catch. Bob Burdick asked if this would affect cross-year comparisons (apparently not). Kevin Bestgen said there may be ways of using recaptures on subsequent passes in the population estimate; >he will provide that information to the Committee within the next month. Tom Nesler said CDOW would like to repeat Anderson’s sampling above the passage barriers to monitor native fish. Tom Chart and Chuck McAda suggested it might be more important to monitor native fish in the bass hotspot areas on the Colorado River. >The PD’s office and CRFP-GJct will coordinate with CDOW on the development of a Colorado River native fish monitoring component for Program Guidance. CDOW’s ability to hire even temporary employees is threatened by the state hiring freeze (despite the fact that the funding sources are outside of CDOW’s base budget). Hopefully, DNR will forward CDOW’s request for an exemption for these positions to Colorado’s Office of State Planning and Budgeting. Tom Nesler said CDOW is ready to expand smallmouth bass removal throughout critical habitat and the buffer reach in the Yampa River. They propose that both CDOW and CSU remove smallmouth bass and northern pike (with CDOW analyzing the pike data and CSU analyzing the smallmouth bass data). Melissa noted that in coordinating sampling, crews also will need to coordinate their marking pass. Tom Nesler said their Upper Yampa strategy focuses on northern pike production sites and includes constructing exclusion berms, reducing pike in Catamount, eliminating backwater slough habitat, in-river electrofishing in the 2.5 miles of the Yampa River south of Steamboat Springs, and more. Tom Pitts asked why the electrofishing is limited to 2.5 miles; >Tom Nesler will find out. With regard to Stagecoach reoperation, Tom Pitts reiterated water user concerns about the Recovery Program not covering impacts of reservoir nonnative fishes and reservoir owners potentially being required to change operations (potentially affecting yield) to manage illegally introduced nonnative fishes. Tom said the water users would like to discuss these issues with CDOW. With regard to illegal transfers, >Tom Nesler will look into existing fines and enforcement (suggestions were made that the disincentives needed are real possibilities of CDOW closing sportfisheries like Elkhead and significantly fining those who illegally stock fish).
- d. Modifications to FY 09 nonnative fish management activities and scopes of work – Native fish work on the Colorado River would be the only new scope of work, several others will need to be revised. >The PD’s office will e-mail PI’s and the Committee with instructions for revising scopes of work.

6. Report review: 123, UDWR, Green River nonnative fish management (revised draft sent to BC 12/2/08) – Leisa described changes made at the Biology Committee’s request. In light of the problems encountered with consistency for data analysis, Melissa asked if this should be made a recommendation. Tildon said that consistency has now been incorporated into this and other projects. Dave Speas noted the need to correct the citation on p. 39. The Committee approved the report; >Leisa will finalize and distribute the report.
7. Floodplain update
  - a. Floodplain synthesis – Kevin Bestgen gave an update on the floodplain synthesis project begun last spring. Their analysis to date underscores the importance of a mosaic of floodplain habitats. A previously unknown spawning area just below razorback bar has been discovered. The numbers of larvae being captured indicate substantial reproduction by hatchery razorback. The Committee thanked Kevin for his very helpful update.
  - b. Stirrup – Leisa said the Stirrup has ~7” of ice and ~2” of snow and is ~4’ deep. They will get a d.o. measurement next week. UDWR will build the pit tag antennas the week of January 26.
  - c. Baeser – Dave Irving recalled the difficulty they had maintaining water levels. Still, September sampling revealed a population estimate of ~3,800 ~160mm razorback suckers (~10% survival!). More fish were stocked in October when with levels ~2’, then Baeser was later pumped back up to ~4’. Baeser currently has ~12” ice, 3” snow, 2.5’ water with d.o. of ~40%, 5mg/l. They may consider scraping snow off the ice. It may be less expensive to purchase instead of rent a pump in the future. ONWR has some surplus pumps, but they have to be disassembled, then reassembled on site. Another option would be to line Baeser with bentonite. Tom Czapl said Baeser is focused on acclimating stocked fish and Stirrup is focused on recruiting fish into the river.
8. 2009 Green River/Flaming Gorge flows – Dave Speas distributed a handout on the 2009 forecast. The Yampa forecast is average at this point, as is Flaming Gorge inflow. The Committee needs to consider 2009 entrainment work and any other items for peak flow requests. We also need to consider research questions in the base flow period in light of Kevin Bestgen’s data on smallmouth bass reproduction and growth. This will be more fully addressed in the 2010-2011 Program Guidance, but we may be able to consider something this year. The Committee will discuss these items on their February 4 conference call. >Tom Chart will provide Kevin’s smallmouth bass presentation to the Committee for review prior to the call.
9. FY 09 work plan update
  - a. Update on proposal to remove small nonnative fishes from Green River backwaters – See item #18 under assignments from previous meetings.
  - b. Other items – The Program Director’s office will bring revised (or new) 2009 scopes of work to the Committee as they are developed.

10. FY 2010-2011 work planning schedule – Angela Kantola noted the schedule for revising the RIPRAP and developing the FY 2010-1011 work plan:

- 2/1 Due from Program Director to technical committees (and their consultants and interested parties) and Management Committee:  
Draft RIPRAP assessment  
Draft revised RIPRAP; and  
Draft FY 10-11 Program guidance (including recommendations for new, ongoing, and ongoing-revised projects). *(1/23/09 NOTE FROM PD'S OFFICE: THIS WILL BE PROVIDED BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6.)*
- 2/15 Technical committees' review/recommendations on draft RIPRAP assessment, draft revised RIPRAP and draft Program Guidance due to Management Committee.
- 2/28 Management Committee review/recommendations draft RIPRAP assessment, draft revised RIPRAP and draft Program Guidance due to Implementation Committee (or IC may delegate approval to MC).
- 3/10 Implementation Committee approval by this date (if not delegated to MC). *Likely will be delegated; MC doesn't meet until 3/27/09.*
- 3/15 Program Director issues final RIPRAP assessment, revised RIPRAP and FY 10-11 Program Guidance. *Will slip by ~2 weeks.*
- 4/30 All (new, revised, and ongoing) FY 10-11 technical scopes of work due from principal investigators to Program Director. Coordinators begin working (with technical advisory panels and principal investigators) to review and refine technical scopes of work and develop recommended FY 10-11 technical work plans. *Will slip by ~2 weeks.*

11. Schedule next meeting – February 4 conference call from 1:30 – 3:30 to discuss Hawkins' report, the entrainment report, and Flaming Gorge flow recommendations. February 20 meeting in Grand Junction at the Doubletree from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (coffee and refreshments to be provided) to discuss RIPRAP revisions and assessment, Program Guidance, new/revised scopes of work (and entrainment and Winkelman report reviews, if time).

***ADJOURN 1:15 p.m..***

## Attachment 1

### **Assignments carried over or modified from previous meetings:**

1. Tom Czapla will work to get the questions regarding what hatchery repairs are needed at Grand Valley resolved as soon as possible. 10/31: Grand Junction working to get cost estimates; \$44.4K funds placeheld. 1/17: Chuck said that a larger de-humidifier would be too costly; their current plan is to repair the walls so they can withstand the humidity. The Biology Committee expressed interest in a full solution. >Chuck will provide the full estimate to Tom Czapla. >Bob Muth will discuss the possibility of using capital funds with Brent Uilenberg. 2/15: Reclamation & FWS working on getting this contracted; dehumidifier will be installed first, then walls will be repaired. 3/31: Reclamation waiting for report from an HVAC mechanical engineer on what's needed for dehumidification. Due to oil and gas activity in the Valley, they've had difficulty getting anyone to work on this relatively small project. 6/13: Contractor visited site June 5; appraisal study pending. 7/22: Report and initial cost estimate provided mid-July; BOR & USFWS discussing construction and contracting options. Tom Czapla said Reclamation likely will contract the planned building refurbishment (insulation, dehumidifiers, etc.) with assistance from FWS Engineering; with the goal of getting bids by the end of the calendar year. 1/15: Chuck reported that Reclamation is close to sending their RFP request to Salt Lake with the goal of work being conducted from the first of May through mid-October. Current cost estimates range from \$300-\$500K (annual funds) for a complete refurbishing of the system, new insulation, and one to two dehumidification systems.
2. Tom Nesler will see if CDOW can provide a report on Billy Atkinson's work on pike in Catamount and the river below. Update provided at nonnative fish workshop; workshop participants recommended CDOW provide some kind of management plan. 1/17: Billy will provide a Catamount pike removal document/strategy by the end of February. 4/15: Nesler will provide update at BC. 4/28: Tom has reminded Billy that this is overdue and will try to get it to the BC as soon as possible. 6/13: Nesler received the draft today and provide it to the BC by the end of July. 8/18: Nesler will provide Billy Atkinson's upper Yampa "strategy" report to the Biology Committee by September 18 (Nesler's and Chart's birthday). 10/30: Tom Nesler and Sherm Hebein will revise Billy's report and provide that to the Recovery Program (Biology Committee, NNFSC, PI's, etc.) along with an outline of CDOW's strategy for nonnative fish management in the Yampa River above the diversions for discussion as part of the nonnative fish workshop. Tom Chart said it would be very helpful to have that outline before the December. 9-10 workshop. Sherm noted that Billy removed >2,000 np from Catamount this year (>4,000 np total). 1/15: The upper Yampa strategy has been separated out and provided to the Committee; Billy's report is still being revised.
3. The Program Director's office will work with CDOW and Aaron Webber on the potential for designing a permeable, hydrologically-stable (gravel?) berm to prevent northern pike access to the oxbow slough at RM 151 on the Yampa, and then clean it out once and for all. 2/15, 4/15: Pending. 4/28: Chart has discussed with Nesler and with the Partners for Wildlife Program, also. Will focus on this summer/fall. 6/13: CDOW will be contacting the landowner regarding access, if they are amenable, then CDOW and Program will determine

*a feasible solution (before the end of spring runoff). 8/18: Tom Chart said Sherm will try to get someone from CDOW on this as soon as possible. The Biology Committee would like a date certain on this; >Sherm Hebein will accelerate this. 10/30 said CDOW has contacted the property owners of the RM 151 backwater, but hasn't been able to meet with them yet. Mark Wernke from Reclamation is willing to take a look at the property with CDOW. A fairly long berm would be required (>3,000') and we'll need to determine the best type of berm (more permanent configurations could be very expensive). The funding source would need to be determined, with Partners for Fish and Wildlife, lottery funds, grant funds, etc. as possible sources to be explored. 1/15: Tom Nesler said they plan to get engineers develop specs/estimates this spring for something like a 10-year berm structure; the next step will be to find funding (perhaps as a habitat project through GOCO). This would be the first of three or four such projects. Tom Pitts suggested that if the Program provides some matching funds (annual or capital), it might improve the probability of getting GOCO money. Tom also suggested that if we have a project in the hopper, we might be able to compete for end-of-year Reclamation funds.*

4. Tom Chart will review the latest draft of the nonnative fish stocking procedures and get comments back to the States no later than February 15, then Krissy, Kevin, Tom, and the Service will submit it for agency review (one month review time). 2/15: *Dates need to be modified. 4/14: Group discussing a few more revisions before seeking agency approval. 4/28: Krissy said a bill passed in Utah's latest legislative session (the Aquaculture Revitalization Act) took away Utah's ability to issue a COR to anyone with a private pond; Krissy will provide language incorporating that within two weeks. Kevin Gelwicks should have comments back from Wyoming by early June, but doesn't expect anything substantive, and will try to expedite their comments. Tom Chart said Tom Nesler realized we may have missed stipulations that would apply to private pond owners within critical habitat outside the 100-year floodplain. Krissy will review that; she thought that a private pond outside the 100-year floodplain would still be covered if it had the potential to connect. Melissa suggested including language regarding extending and revising the document; Tom Nesler said we're on a 5-year revision schedule. 6/13: A subgroup met yesterday, Wyoming has reviewed and provided comments, and Utah also has reviewed it. Further streamlining is underway. 7/11: Utah and Wyoming have reviewed; Colorado and FWS reviewing (FWS comments due 9/5/08). Colorado has shared the draft Procedures with their legal counsel and expects to provide any comments within two weeks. Krissy said Utah's legal counsel still needs to review this. 10/16: The PD's office is responding to Wyoming's recent comments, then will send these revisions to the States and Service for review, with the goal of beginning the surnaming process in November. 10/30: Tom said Bob Muth sent the revised stocking procedures to the States and the Service on October 22. Krissy said Utah has some new concerns about moving fish from one body to another and potentially spreading quagga mussels. >UDWR will provide draft language for review. Dave Irving said we also need to be sure we're not transferring mussels on equipment. Colorado and Utah have equipment-cleaning protocol in place. Sherm said they're using Sparquat for disinfection and Krissy said UDWR is using Quat128. Tom Nesler added that where the draft Procedures suggest certain stocking may become routine, we need to consider potential mussel transfer. 1/15: Tom Chart said Nesler has addressed the quagga mussel spread issue along with some other minor revisions; they've met with Krissy and UDWR is okay with the changes. After double-*

*checking with Kevin Gelwicks in Wyoming, the Program Director's office will move this forward for NEPA compliance (should be able to rely on the original document) and the Regional Director's signature.*

5. Researchers are to submit all their nonnative fish data to Chuck McAda by April 1 (the Program Director's office will sent out an e-mail notification on this). 4/28: *Tom Chart said Chuck had only received data from Tim Modde ten days ago. Trina said they're making sure their data is in the right format. Tom Chart said that at a minimum, he would like the data sent to Chuck even if it's in the old format. >Tom Nesler will check on Lori's data; >Krissy will check on Moab's data. All the data on captured nonnative fish should be submitted, not just data on tagged fish; >Chuck will make sure the correct data are submitted and work with principal investigators if anything is missing. 6/13: Krissy said Utah has submitted their data. Tom Chart said Tim Modde submitted Vernal's data; Tom will get with Chuck to determine what data are still needed and e-mail the PI's. Tom Nesler will check on Lori's data. Sherm suggested cross-checking with CDOW's data system to be sure all data is in both places (Chuck's database and CDOW's). 7/11: Data have been submitted by Vernal CRFP, Badame, Hedrick, Hawkins, Bestgen, Bestgen/Zelasko and Burdick. 4 August 2008: Harry Vermillion submitted an extract from ADAMAS in the appropriate format to Chuck McAda on August 4th. The extract included Colorado River data from 2003 and 2007; Gunnison River data from 2007; and Yampa River data from years 2004 - 2007. 8/18: >Chuck will send the most recent version of the database to the NNFSC; and the NNFSC will review status of the data with Chuck and Travis after the Biology Committee meeting. 10/30: Tom Chart said the NNFSC will follow-up on this at the workshop, most of the data are in; we need to determine how quickly we can get the 2008 data added. 1/15: Chuck said all the data are in through 2007. Delete all foregoing text. Researchers need to have all their 2008 data **IN THE CORRECT FORMAT** to Travis by March 1, 2009 (data not submitted in the correct format will be sent back with a copy to the appropriate Biology and Management committee members). Similarly, Biology and Management committee members will be notified of any data not submitted by March 1.*
6. The Program Director's office will modify Rich Valdez' technical assistance scope of work as needed to accommodate the initial work on the second-level nonnative fish management synthesis. 4/14, 6/13, 7/25, 8/18: *Pending. 1/15: delete after this meeting; the Program decided to go with an RFP for the second-level synthesis.*
7. Tom Nesler will check on the status of revision of the Yampa River Aquatic Management Plan. 4/14: *Colorado's new completion date is May 1, 2009. (In the interim, CDOW will need to produce an Upper Yampa River strategy to assist the Program in our prioritization of 2009 field activities. This strategy should ultimately be incorporated into the Aquatic Wildlife Management Plan for the Yampa River Basin. 4/28: Tom Nesler said they don't plan to provide a formal strategy, but will describe what they [primarily Billy Atkinson] are doing down through Steamboat and with regard to isolating sloughs in Sam Finney's reach. See #3, above.) 1/15: The Upper Yampa strategy will be directly incorporated into the Yampa River Aquatic Management Plan (which will be completed by May 1, 2009).*
8. The PD's office needs to schedule a humpback chub population monitoring workshop.

*Pending (the Program Director's office will discuss this with Rich Valdez); a workshop might also include discussion of humpback chub broodstock. 10/30: Tom Czapla said this is still pending. He would like to see the workshop address the issue of first acceptable population estimates.*

9. The Program Director's office and CDOW will send letters of thanks to Sherriff Tim Jantz for the use of the Craig Justice Center Ponds for nonnative fish translocation (with a cc: to the County commissioners and others, as appropriate). *Pending. 1/15: John Hawkins suggested a thanks to Ron Dellacroce and his supervisor in State Parks who provide a translocation site, facilitate our putting fish into Elkhead, and allow access to the boat launch areas critical to Yampa River management efforts.*
10. 1/15: Melissa suggested following up on signage at the translocation ponds acknowledging that the Recovery Program has provided the fish (but keeping in mind the concern re: potential elevated Hg levels; which CDOW will investigate).
11. Within the next month, >the Service and Program Director's office will provide the Committee a draft addendum to the White River report that will present the measured flow requirements in a historical hydrologic perspective. The Program Director's office also will research where we left Schmidt and Orchard's draft report on peak (channel maintenance) flows and recommend whether to have it reviewed by the geomorphology panel. The Program Director's office will use the information currently available to >develop a position paper on Price River flow recommendations for Committee review. *10/16 Pending; out by the end of November-1/5: February 2009.*
12. Dave Irving will call the Mantle Ranch landowner to give him an update on work to raise *Gila* in captivity (since the Ranch's cooperation made it possible for the Service to get the fish out to the hatchery quickly). *10/30: Dave Irving sent him a letter. CDOW and the Park need to discuss the future of the captive Gila in light of plans for those fish as broodstock under Three Species conservation and Colorado's Management Use agreement with the Park (Tom Nesler and Melissa will work on this). 10/30: Pending. The Program Director's office will move forward to establish a Yampa River humpback chub broodstock using young fish. Tom Czapla will work with Melissa on a letter to the Park. 10/30: Pending. Czapla said he's been drafting a refuge/broodstock plan for discussion within the Service, then for sharing with the Park Service and the Recovery Program. Tom Nesler and Krissy Wilson also are working on related roundtail plans. 1/15: Dave Irving said the landowner is open to our returning, as long as we coordinate with Ron Velarde. The fish are doing well at the Ouray hatchery and they believe they have 29 humpback chub. Dinosaur National Monument has asked what our plans are for the other fish. Dave will try to set up a conference call on this on February 5. Tom Nesler said disease testing will be required before any fish can be returned to the wild. Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado are considering a proposal for use of the roundtails for broodstock. Tom Czapla said he'd like to keep the humpback chub in captivity and conduct genetic testing (perhaps on some of the roundtail, also).*
13. Biology Committee members will provide comments on the nonnative fish priorities document by December 1 (and the NNFSC can discuss this as part of their December 12

meeting). *Comments were received from Trina Hedrick.*

14. Biology Committee members are invited to provide questions/expectations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> level synthesis to Tom Chart by November 28. The NNFSC will have a conference call at 8:30 a.m. on December 1 to further discuss the RFP. *1/15: No comments were received.*
15. John Hawkins will talk to Grant Wilcox in CDOW's Fort Collins office to see if smallmouth bass movement data can be mapped.
16. John Hawkins will revise the #125 report (in discussion with the commenters), and provide a copy to the Committee by January 5 so they can review and approve it at their January 15 meeting. *1/15: Revisions have been made; Tom Chart will send this to the Biology Committee next week and this will be on the next meeting agenda.*
17. Krissy Wilson will work with Zane Olsen to make sure that Wahweap's budget for FY 09 is accurate. *1/15: Krissy said UDWR now has Wahweap under their hatchery system. The FY 09 budget is still \$237.8K, but may be reduced in future years as they carefully track costs.*
18. Trina Hedrick, Dave Irving, et al. will prepare a rough draft SOW for removal of small nonnative fishes in the Green River in advance of the nonnative fish workshop. *1/15: Dave Irving said they met yesterday to discuss the draft scope of work; Leisa said they'll revise the draft to scale the scope back somewhat and include drift net samples. Tildon said the focus will be on verifying larval drift and arrival into the nursery reach and manipulating a few backwaters (blocking, etc. after removing all nonnative fish) to determine subsequent fish community effects. The revised scope will be reviewed by the PD's office, then it will come to the BC for approval in advance of the next meeting.*

### **New Assignments**

1. Angela Kantola will send out a revised reports due list after this meeting.
2. Tom Nesler will check on the status of Lori Martin's report (98a).
3. Tildon Jones will draft objectives for potential catfish removal from the Green River for NNFSC review.
4. Kevin Bestgen will let the the Committee know within the next month if there are ways of using recaptures on subsequent passes in the population estimate (when the tagging pass isn't done first).
5. The PD's office and CRFP-GJct will coordinate with CDOW on the development of a Colorado River native fish monitoring component for Program Guidance.
6. Tom Nesler will find out why CDOW is limiting upper Yampa in-river electrofishing to the 2.5 miles of the Yampa River south of Steamboat Springs.

7. Tom Nesler will look into existing fines and enforcement for illegal stocking (suggestions were made that the disincentives needed are real possibilities of CDOW closing sportfisheries like Elkhead and significantly fining those who illegally stock fish).
8. The PD's office will e-mail PI's and the Committee with instructions for revising nonnative fish scopes of work.
9. Leisa will finalize and distribute the report for project 123.
10. Tom Chart will provide Kevin Bestgen's smallmouth bass presentation to the BC for review prior to the February 4 conference call.