

April 1, 2008

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

March 31, 2008

Country Inn & Suites, 4343 Airport Way, Denver, Colorado

CONVENE: 9:55 a.m.

1. Introductions, review/modify agenda and time allocations, and appoint a timekeeper – The agenda was revised as it appears below.
2. Approve [February 6, 2008, meeting summary](#) and review assignments – Angela reviewed clarifying revisions to item e. i). of the nonnative fish management update. >Angela will post the revised summary to the listserv.
3. Washington, D.C. updates
 - a. Report to Congress – Bob Muth said two weeks ago he was asked to make a minor word change in two places in the report; he did that, but he has not heard if the document has moved forward. The question has been whether the report needs to be reviewed by OMB before it goes to the Secretary (which is USBR, but not UFWS, policy). Brent Uilenberg said they've had two conference calls on this since the D.C. trip. At this point, Larry Walkoviak and Carol DeAngelis are planning to strategize with Bob Muth and Steve Guertin to determine how to work with their Washington, D.C., staffs and move the report forward. Larry has told the Reclamation's D.C. staff that he believes the Fish and Wildlife Service has the lead on this report. >Carol Taylor will let Steve Guertin know that he and Larry need to discuss this.
 - b. Washington, D.C., Briefing Trip – John Shields noted he sent out the trip report, which has now been modified to include the support letters from the Senate side. We received signatures from four Senators and assurance of support from the Senators who sit on the Appropriations Committee. The letters may still be circulating on the House side. Changing procedures and conflicting information resulted in some delays in the House this year. The trip report will be updated again when we get the House letter. This year, the group also attempted to get language supporting Reclamation's budget into the forms that the Congressional representatives submit to the Appropriations Committee, but we don't know the outcome of that yet. John reported a good turnout for their meeting with the Department of Interior. It was the best meeting the group has had with Interior over the years. Tom Pitts said we continue to get good reviews from our contacts in Washington, D.C. Robert King agreed the meeting with Interior was very successful, and suggested it would be good if we could do similar joint meetings with the Congressional delegations. John Shields said there are some meeting rooms (e.g., Room 441 in Cannon) that could be scheduled on the House side for this purpose and we will look into that next year.
 - c. Potential amendments to recovery programs' legislation – Tom Pitts said draft language was provided to Senators Domenici and Bingaman in March. We've been told it's feasible to get the legislation passed this year. Tom said they'd asked Senator

Bingaman's office to delay introduction until the Secretary's Report is submitted. Meanwhile, Tom has discussed language related to the Report with Leslie James and he will seek to have that incorporated with the draft language already provided to Senator Bingaman. John Shields suggested that we wait another week for the Report, but then the non-Federal Program participants may need to contact folks in Interior if the Report hasn't moved forward by then. John noted the pending Cooperative Conservation Award might be mentioned as impetus to get the report finalized quickly. John added that Kiel Weaver (minority staff, Water & Power subcommittee) raised the issue of "PayGo" as it relates to the legislation; >Dave Mazour and Clayton Palmer will discuss this with Leslie James and develop a strategy for how to approach this.

4. Cooperative Conservation Award – John Shields said he, Bob Muth, Angela Kantola, Dave Campbell, Randy Seaholm, and Tom Iseman would be representing the Recovery Programs at the awards. Presentations are being made during a 2-day workshop in panel format. The Recovery Programs are on the "Water for America" panel, and John Shields will sit on the panel and give a brief presentation. >John will send the Management Committee a white paper he's drafted for that brief (3-5 minute) presentation. John noted that hearing about other programs' success during the 2-day workshop may offer ideas for how to improve our own efforts. John said he will be sharing the workshop agenda with people that the group met with on the Washington, D.C. briefing trip.
5. Potential implications of wild and scenic river designations – Dan Birch said about six months ago, the BLM Little Snake District sent out a draft EIS for their resource management plan (RMP) update which contained an analysis saying that three segments of the Yampa River are suitable for wild and scenic designation: Duffy Canyon downstream of Craig, Juniper Canyon downstream of Craig and upstream of Maybell, and Cross Mountain Canyon. If this becomes part of their RMP, BLM would manage these segments for wild and scenic attributes until Congress takes action for or against designation. The River District and others have been working on a locally-developed management plan so that BLM could recommend implementing that plan rather than wild and scenic designations. However, local interests have withdrawn from development of the Management Plan unless the environmental interests are willing to take a wild and scenic designation off the table to begin with. The local interests intend to appeal the wild and scenic suitability determination in the resource management plan update after the ROD comes out in 12-18 months. Dan said that as it relates to water, he envisions that a management plan would closely follow the Yampa Basin Management Plan and Yampa PBO. Debbie Felker asked how wild and scenic designation might affect our nonnative fish management activities, and Dan said it would likely be supportive, in that it would emphasize native fishes. Tom Pitts expressed concern that the negative local view of wild and scenic designation could also negatively impact our Program. The Committee thanked Dan for his presentation and asked him to keep the Management Committee informed as this proceeds. Dan said a similar process is underway on the Colorado River mainstem and some tributaries above Glenwood, but no EIS has been released yet. A broad-based coalition is meeting to develop a management plan to be used in lieu of a suitability analysis.

6. 10,825 Alternatives Study – Tom Pitts introduced Caroline Bradford of Grand River Consultants in Glenwood Springs. Caroline gave a presentation on the results of the Phase Two report, noting that the report and more information are available at www.grandriver.us/10825. The Phase II report is a refined list of recommended projects/combination of projects to meet the 10,825 water requirement in the Colorado River Programmatic Biological Opinion (to reduce water deliveries for the endangered fish from Ruedi Reservoir by 10,825 acre-feet/year by providing alternate sources of water). The report will be finalized by the end of 2008, when the stakeholders decide which alternatives to carry forward in their analysis. The primary objectives for the alternatives are to: 1) permanently supply 10,825 acre feet of water during late summer and fall months in all years, including dry years; and 2) not impair or reduce water supply available to any east or west slope water provider. Secondly, alternatives will benefit and/or have minor negative impacts on the headwater streams in the Colorado River Basin. The study showed that a proposed reservoir at Sulphur Gulch would probably be the first choice if providing water for the endangered fish were the *only* consideration, but that a combination of alternatives, particularly “C8,” (aka “the Kitchen Sink”) would best meet all considerations. Unfortunately, the study showed that the flow targets can’t be fully met in dry or below average years. Although it’s a water user decision to determine the best alternative for providing the 10,825 af., the Steering Committee welcomes input from all parties so they can consider those before selecting a preferred alternative. Comments may be sent to Caroline at Bradford@grandriver.us and she will forward them on to the group.
7. Review/approval of revised RIPRAP, RIPRAP assessment, and updated FY 08-09 work plan – Angela Kantola noted that the draft revised RIPRAP (tables, text, and budget table), draft 07-08 RIPRAP assessment, and updated FY 08-09 budget summary tables were posted in three messages to the listserv on February 1, then revisions of these documents incorporating technical committee comments were posted for the Management Committee on March 21. The Implementation Committee has given the Management Committee its proxy to approve these documents.
 - a. RIPRAP assessment – Angela distributed copies of a revised assessment she posted to the Management Committee via the fws-coloriver listserv on March 27. This revision incorporates comments submitted by Tom Pitts and others and notes areas where Management Committee discussion may be warranted.

25, IIIA2c Robert King asked about the “X” in front of “In general, we have yet to see significant response by native fishes to nonnative fish removal efforts.” Had we expected to see a response by now? This will be moved to the Yampa River, and changed to note that we are not meeting the interim criteria. Other river-specific items also will be moved to the appropriate section.

26, IIIC Tom Pitts expressed concern about the reservoir risk assessment (C-18/19) being conducted by an engineering graduate student (as approved by the Biology Committee on their recent conference call). Tom suggested the appropriate work for each body of water covered by this scope is: 1) determine if there is a lake management

plan; 2) identify any species present and determine if the lake management plan covers them all; 3) assess escapement potential; then 4) based on that assessment, make recommendations for what needs to be done next. Bob Muth said he thinks this is reasonable. Dave Speas suggested this may not require an engineering student. Melissa Trammell noted that some review of operations will need to be a part of assessing escapement potential. Bob Muth agreed that *existing* operations should be described to determine the potential for escapement. Tom Pitts said that the problematic portion of the SOW as currently written is “Finally, recommendations for alternative dam operations and other management measures that could reduce fish emigration through dam releases will be generated.” Tom said he doesn’t object to this being done; he just doesn’t want it done in a cursory manner. >Bob Muth and Tom Chart will get any necessary revisions made to the SOW by tomorrow (as it is already in Reclamation’s funding pipeline). The language in the RIPRAP assessment can remain as is.

28, VIIB Tom Pitts withdrew this addition.

29, IA3d >Clayton Palmer will provide proposed additional language on Flaming Gorge operations by Friday, April 4.

29, IA4a3&4 >By Friday, April 4, the Program Director’s office will discuss the Utah flow protection items with Boyd Clayton of Utah Division of Water Resources.

29, IC2 Made Price River report date specific (by December 31, 2008); same for White River.

30, IE1 Note that the San Rafael restoration work is under the three species plan.

30, IIB2b For Tusher Wash, delete sentence “If additional funding is available revise designs to accommodate screening the entire canal diversion.”

34, IIIA Melissa Trammell said that Sherm Hebein said Boyd Wright is working on the Yampa River Aquatic Management plan, but he didn’t give an estimated date of completion. >Tom Blickensderfer will find out the date and report to the Program Director’s office no later than Friday, April 4.

35, IIIA1b2b,c Pike removal from Catamount is currently part of a research project, not a management plan. Tom Nesler has suggested we need to wait and see if it’s necessary to move removal efforts up to Stagecoach Reservoir. The Committee deleted the existing text and asked for a specific due date from CDOW for the Yampa Aquatic Management Plan and upper Yampa River strategy (Tom Blickensderfer to determine no later than April 4).

36, 1G The Committee discussed how to reflect Duchesne River habitat work (riffle measurements and gains and loss study). Brent Uilenberg noted that Paul VonGuerard’s office (USGS, Grand Junction) did similar work on the short reach of the

Gunnison River from the Redlands Diversion to the confluence with the Colorado River. USGS is preparing a rough estimate for a similar study on the Duchesne. On the riffle study, the more germane question may be how much habitat is lost around 50 cfs. >A report will be made to the Management Committee at their next meeting on a cost estimate for the transit loss and recommendations for the scope of the habitat study.

37, ID2 & ID3 – >The Program Director’s office will revise language to correctly describe the Compact.

38, IA3b&c >The Program Director’s office to get a revised due date for the depletion accounting report from Randy Seaholm.

41, IIB... The first two sentences are not appropriate for the RIPRAP assessment, and so will be deleted. >The Program Director’s office will raise the issue of management and operation of storage releases as they relate to operation of the Government Highline Fish screen and passage at the Grand Valley irrigators meeting on May 14.

On both the Colorado and Gunnison River RIPRAP tables, >the Program Director’s office will discuss “review scientific language” and related language with Randy Seaholm and get it cleaned up in the RIPRAP and the assessment.

>The Program Director’s office will provide a revised RIPRAP assessment to the Committee by c.o.b., Friday, April 4 with comments due no later than April 11.

- b. RIPRAP revisions - >The Program Director’s office will make these consistent with changes made to the RIPRAP assessment. >Brent Uilenberg will provide revised budget table ASAP.
- c. Updated FY 08-09 Work Plan – FY 09 is the second year of a two-year work plan, so there have been no major changes, but, of course, minor revisions are part of the adaptive management nature of the work plan. >The Program Director’s office will update the FY 06-07 screen and passage O&M scopes of work so USBR-SLC can obligate FY 08 funds; then will work with the operators later in the season to refine these scopes of work.

8. Updates

- a. Spring flow forecasts – Jana Mohrman gave a brief rundown of current spring flow forecasts, noting they are considered quite preliminary at this point. (See attached graph and map.)
- b. Capital projects
 - i. Contracts – Brent Uilenberg said he believes the O&M contracts for GV Project fish passage and screen will be finalized this week.

- ii. Myton Diversion rehab – Brent Uilenberg said construction will begin in the fall.
 - iii. Status of Price-Stubb passage construction – Brent Uilenberg showed photos and said construction is nearing completion and water began to flow into the passage on Friday, March 21. The goal is to complete all of the in-channel work by April 15.
 - iv. Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement – The amended Elkhead repayment contract is under review by the Solicitor. The amendment allows extension from November 11, 2008 to November 11, 2009 (with a \$30,000/month penalty for every month after November 11, 2008).
 - v. Tusher Wash – Brent said that the Green River Canal Company is working with Utah on the possibility of raising the Tusher Wash Dam, and they are meeting to select a consultant next week. Screening needs can't be determined until we know the dam configuration. If the canal company decides to raise the dam, they will be responsible both to determine the need for, and if necessary, provide, fish passage at the dam.
 - vi. Grand Valley Hatchery Facility – Brent said they're waiting for a report back 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.
- c. Proposed whitewater park at Palisade – Brent Uilenberg said the meeting with the Service, the COE, and the Town of Palisade has been deferred until May because the engineers are having difficulty optimizing the model for the project conditions.
- d. Nonnative fish management
- i. Synthesis reports status – Tom Chart said all the synthesis reports have now been received, though some are still in the draft and review stages (see reports due list). We now have draft reports for both project #125 (John Hawkins, Larval Fish Lab) and #98a (Lori Martin, CDOW).
 - ii. Nonnative fish stocking procedures – A meeting was held in mid-February and the group is getting closer to submitting the revised procedures for signatures. The group has been working on adding language on illicit introductions as well as shifting the language to recognize the importance of management plans on each body of water. > Tom Chart will circulate a draft to the Management Committee for their information.
 - iii. Yampa strategy – The Biology Committee has approved this and it will come before the Management Committee for approval at their June meeting.

- e. Recovery goals – Tom Czapla said the drafts are very close to going out for stakeholder review, but they’re awaiting comments from the Solicitor and some additional internal Service review. Hopefully, they’ll go out within a week. Clayton Palmer asked if there are costs that relate to reoperation of Federal dams and expressed concern when Tom Czapla said no. Tom said about six weeks will be allowed for stakeholder review.
 - f. Fall 2008 Colorado River science symposium – Tom Czapla said the symposium is scheduled for November 18-20 in Scottsdale, AZ (the week after the Desert Fishes Council and the week before Thanksgiving). Bob Muth said we’ve been asked to provide \$10K in support of the symposium. The organizers plan to charge \$200 for registration and they’ve anticipated 400 attendees. Tom Iseman said The Nature Conservancy would be willing to be a cosponsor. The Committee expressed concern about putting together a quality symposium in the short timeframe between now and November, but approved the \$10,000 expenditure of FY 09 funds.
 - g. Reports status – Angela Kantola provided an updated reports list, noting one change not reflected – that the evaluation of larval razorback sucker drift and entrainment into Green River floodplain was submitted to the coordinator on March 24, 2008.
9. Upcoming Management Committee tasks, schedule next meeting – Approval of Yampa Nonnative Fish Management Strategy, update on amendments to the legislation, review of draft sufficient progress letter (May), dedication of Grand Valley facilities (July). The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 4 from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Denver (probably at the same hotel). If the agenda seems too full for lunch, we’ll arrange to order in.

ADJOURN 4:25 p.m.

Assignments

Carry-over from previous meetings:

1. The **Service** will meet to consider if it would be acceptable to screen the irrigation water and not the low-head hydropower water at Tusher Wash or if there are other ways (e.g., a weir wall) to achieve our objectives for screening Tusher Wash. *Discussions underway.*
2. The **Program Director's office** will provide a more specific recommendation regarding establishing a basinwide recovery/conservation oversight team for the endangered fishes.
3. The **Service** will provide written notification that they believe recent humpback chub sampling in the Grand Canyon has verified the GCMRC model (after they've reviewed the final report on concurrent sampling). *Pending receipt of final report.*
4. The **Program Director's office** will post information about the cooperative conservation award to the fws-coloriver listserv.

New assignments:

1. **Angela Kantola** will post the revised February 6, 2008, meeting summary to the listserv. *Done.*
2. **Carol Taylor** will let Steve Guertin know that he and Larry Walkoviak need to discuss how to work with Washington, D.C. staffs to get the report to Congress finalized.
3. **Dave Mazour, Clayton Palmer, and Leslie James** will discuss "PayGo" as it relates to the proposed legislative amendments and develop a strategy for how to address this.
4. **John Shields** will send the Management Committee a white paper he's drafted for the brief presentation on the Cooperative Conservation Award "Water for America" panel.
5. **Bob Muth and Tom Chart** will get any necessary revisions made to the C18/19 SOW by tomorrow (as it is already in Reclamation's funding pipeline).

RIPRAP items:

6. **Clayton Palmer** will provide proposed additional language for 29, IA3d no later than Friday, April 4.
7. By Friday, April 4, the **Program Director's office** will discuss 29, IA4a3&4 with Boyd Clayton of Utah Division of Water Resources.

8. 35, IIIA1b2b,c: **Tom Blickensderfer** will talk to CDOW and get a submission date for the Yampa Aquatic Management Plan and upper Yampa River strategy and report to the Program Director's office no later than Friday, April 4.
9. A report will be made to the **Management Committee** at June next meeting on a cost estimate for the Duchesne River transit loss and recommendations for the scope of the habitat study.
10. 37, ID2 & ID3 – The **Program Director's office** will revise language to correctly describe the Compact.
11. 38, IA3b&c – The **Program Director's office** to get new due date for the depletion accounting report from Randy Seaholm.
12. 41, IIB... At the Grand Valley irrigators meeting on May 14, **the Program Director's office** will raise the issue of management and operation of storage releases as they relate to operation of the Government Highline Fish screen and passage.
13. On both the Colorado and Gunnison River RIPRAP tables, **the Program Director's office** will discuss “review scientific language” and related language with Randy Seaholm and get it cleaned up in the RIPRAP and the assessment.
14. **The Program Director's office** will provide a revised RIPRAP assessment to the Committee by c.o.b., Friday, April 4 with comments due no later than April 11. They will revise the RIPRAP text and tables to make them consistent with changes made to the RIPRAP assessment. **Brent Uilenberg** will provide revised RIPRAP budget table ASAP.

15. The **Program Director's office** will update the FY 06-07 screen and passage O&M scopes of work so USBR-SLC can obligate FY 08 funds; then will work with the operators later in the season to refine these scopes of work.
16. **Tom Chart** will circulate a draft of the Nonnative Fish Stocking Procedures to the Management Committee for their information.

Attendees
Colorado River Management Committee, Denver, Colorado
March 31, 2008

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg	Bureau of Reclamation
Tom Blickensderfer	State of Colorado
Robert King	State of Utah
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Carol Taylor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dave Mazour	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
John Reber	National Park Service
Tom Iseman	The Nature Conservancy
Clayton Palmer	Western Area Power Administration (via phone)

Nonvoting Member:

Bob Muth	Recovery Program Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Recovery Program Staff:

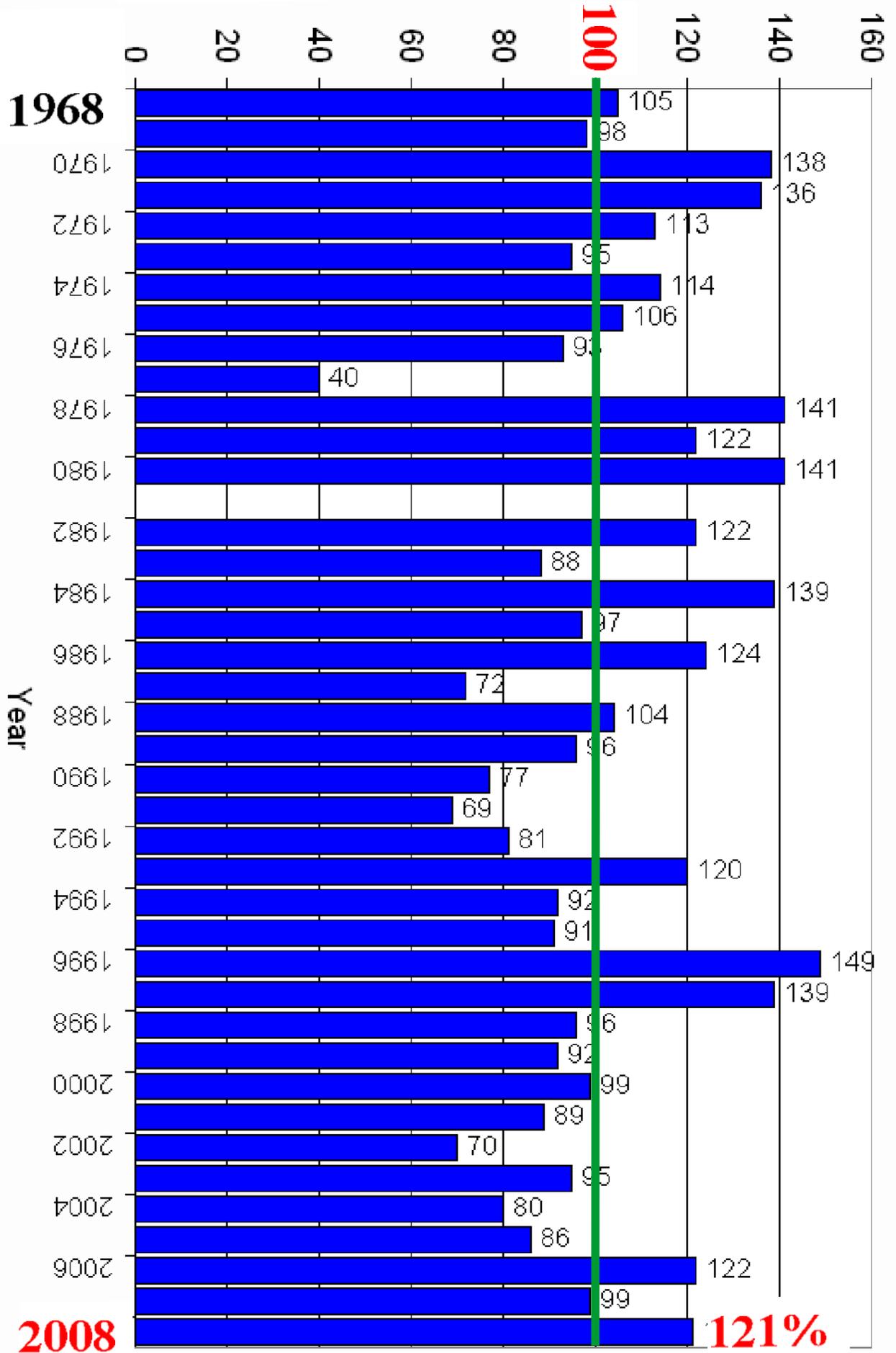
Angela Kantola	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Chart	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Czapla	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Debbie Felker	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Others:

Caroline Bradford	Grand River Consulting
Don Carlson	Northern Colorado Water Conservation District
Dan Birch	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Jana Mohrman	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Terry Hickman	Central Utah Water Conservancy District
Tom Ryan	Bureau of Reclamation
Dave Speas	Bureau of Reclamation (via phone)
Melissa Trammell	National Park Service (via phone)
Krissy Wilson	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (via phone)

Percent of Average

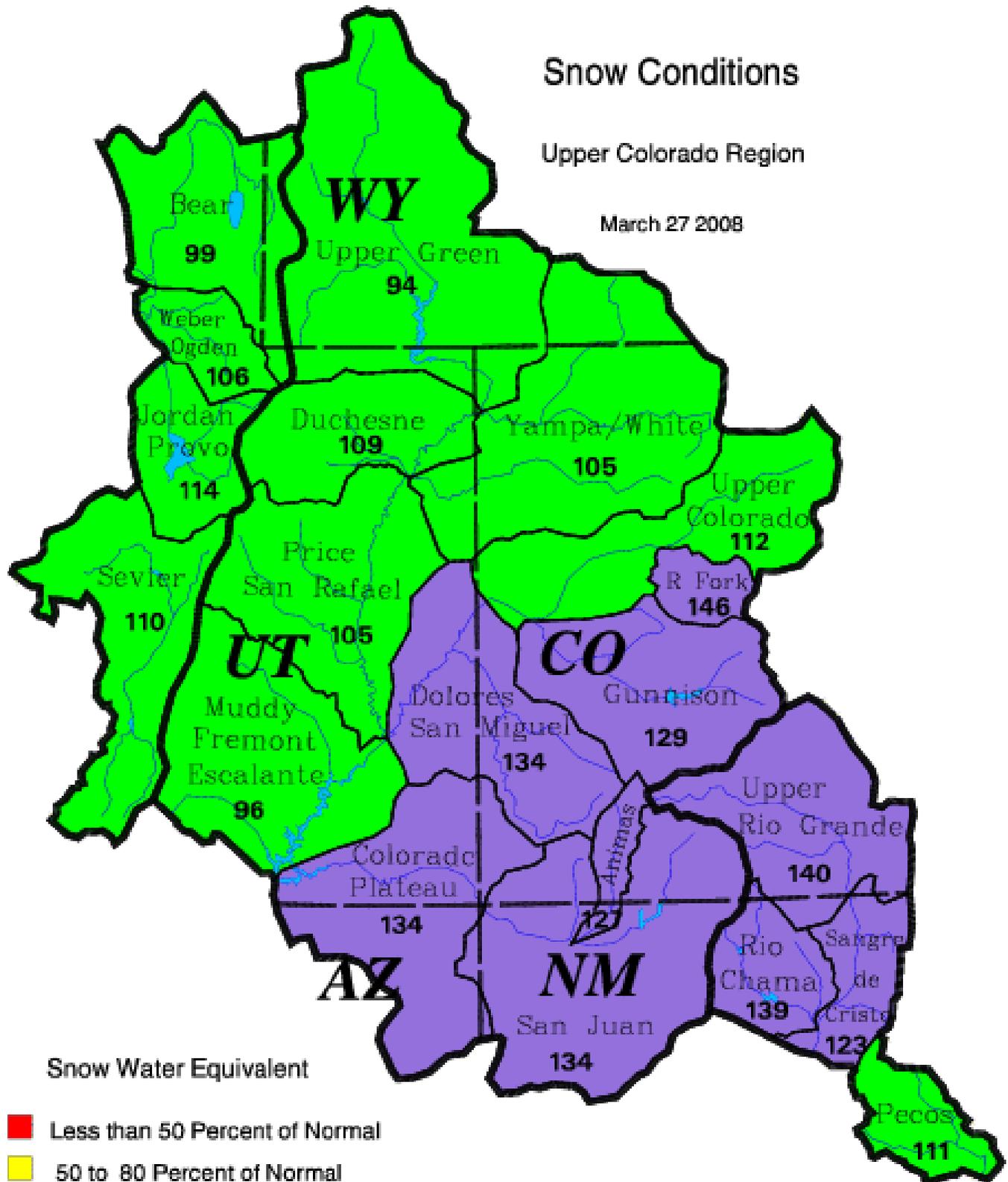
March 1 Upper Colorado River Basin Snowpack



Snow Conditions

Upper Colorado Region

March 27 2008



Snow Water Equivalent

- Less than 50 Percent of Normal
- 50 to 80 Percent of Normal
- 80 to 120 Percent of Normal
- 120 to 150 Percent of Normal
- Greater than 150 Percent of Normal

Upper Colorado
GIS
Region