

December 15, 2008

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

December 11, 2008

[Holiday Inn](#), 755 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, Colorado

CONVENE: 8:15 a.m.

1. Introductions, review/modify agenda and time allocations, and appoint a timekeeper – The agenda was modified as it appears below.
2. Approve August 12 meeting summary – Angela Kantola noted corrections to the dates for the Washington, D.C., trip, under item #6. >Angela will post the revised summary to the listserv.
3. Nonnative fish management briefing
 - a) Tom Chart described the nonnative workshop over the past two days and presented information on northern pike management in the Yampa and Green rivers. He indicated that population estimates of northern pike declined in 2008 in the critical habitat reach downstream of Craig, Colorado (Project 98a and 125) as well as in the “buffer zone” upstream of critical habitat (Project 98b). Much of that reduction in population size appears to be attributable to the lack of juvenile northern pike we have seen in recent years. Unfortunately, further and substantial reductions will be needed to achieve our Interim Goal of < 3 northern pike / mile. The Recovery Program still needs to review CDOW’s upper Yampa River nonnative control strategy to determine if additional removal efforts upstream of Hayden, Colorado are warranted. CDOW committed to provide that strategy prior to the Upper Basin Researchers meeting in January 2009.
 - b) Paul Badame reviewed smallmouth bass management on the Yampa, Green and Colorado rivers. Population estimates increased throughout much of the Green River sub-basin in 2008, which was generally attributed to a very strong pulse of recruitment of smallmouth bass spawned in 2006 and 2007. However, smallmouth bass reproduction in 2008 was negatively affected by relatively high flows and cooler water temperatures. Researchers with USFWS and CDOW reported the third consecutive year of declining population estimates for smallmouth bass throughout the Colorado River. However, they caution that largemouth bass and other nonnative sunfishes are on the increase there. Researchers recommended that individual project population estimates for smallmouth bass be combined, where possible, to consider the breadth of the issue from a population level perspective. They also recommend that smallmouth bass removal efforts be expanded to include all sampled reaches of the Yampa River within critical habitat.
 - c) Kevin Bestgen described work to assess response of the native fish community to nonnative fish management activities in the Yampa and Green rivers. He presented compelling evidence that the smallmouth bass removal efforts (both juvenile / adult removal efforts in the main channel and electric seine removal in channel margin

habitats) on the Yampa River has resulted in decreased abundance of young smallmouth bass during late summer and autumn (Project 98a, 125 and 140). He also indicated that small bodied native fish are becoming more detectable in main channel habitats. Kevin delved a bit more deeply into the relationships between river temperature and smallmouth bass spawning time and Age-0 growth.

Tom Iseman asked if a summary report will be prepared after the three collaborative presentations at the researchers meeting. Tom Chart said we're working on an RFP for a synthesis of all our recent nonnative management efforts. Bob Muth commended the researchers for their very hard work on these projects.

4. Sufficient progress items – The Committee reviewed the status of these action items (see Attachment 2). The Committee will keep this on future meeting agendas.
5. Proposed amendments to the Recovery Programs' legislation and draft Report to Congress – John Shields recalled that the draft report to Congress was sent to D.C. in early December 2007 and subsequently moved on to OMB in July 2008. Robert King suggested we may want to take the report information and re-title it "Program Assessment" for our own use. On December 8, John Shields e-mailed the Committee a status report and recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Legislation Committee on potential legislation to amend the Recovery Programs' authorizations and address Upper Colorado Basin Fund issues. The Ad-Hoc Committee described four options to assure that annual base funds are available if the Basin Fund balance is inadequate. The next Ad-Hoc meeting will include the programs' Federal participants to discuss options for assuring annual base funds (including the option of a reserve fund). The Ad-Hoc also requested an analysis from Reclamation and Western of the sufficiency of the balance currently in the Basin Fund to meet the requirements of Section (3) (d) (3) of P.L. 106-392. Tom Iseman said they'd like to see this analysis annually. What legislation needs to be considered during the 111th Congress will depend in part on whether capital construction language in S. 3189 (as reported out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and contained in the Public Lands Omnibus bill that is scheduled to be taken up by Congress in early January or sooner) is enacted into law. If it isn't, legislation dealing with both the capital construction and annual base funding portion of our programs' authorizations would need to be reintroduced.
6. 2009 Congressional briefing trip and update on briefings for new Congressional representatives – The briefing trip is scheduled for March 4-10, with March 3 and the afternoon of March 10 as travel days. A block of rooms is reserved at the Capitol Hill Suites the nights of March 3-9. >Anyone who has not yet reserved their room in this block needs to do so by January 30, 2009, by calling 1-800-619-9468 and referencing U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. John described the outline for this year's briefing book, which also will include a fact sheet for each program to help the many new people this year. Mike Montagne of the Ouray National Fish Hatchery will give the luncheon talk on the stocking efforts of both recovery programs. Efforts to brief new staff are ongoing. Robert Muth said Matt Kales, R6 Congressional liaison, has offered to provide any help we need in setting up briefings, etc. The briefing(s) with Interior need to be set up to allow for more interaction this year. Leslie James has said either she or Dave Mazour will participate in part of the briefing trip this year.

7. Arrangements and agenda items for the Monday, February 23, 2009, Implementation Committee meeting at the [Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge](#) – The Arsenal is available and the meeting has been scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a break for a catered box lunch (~\$12/person) and short bus tour. By c.o.b. Thursday, February 19, >Management Committee members should provide the Program Director’s office (Mary_Nelson@fws.gov) a list of names of people from their agency/group attending the meeting (for the Arsenal gate staff to grant access) and if they want a box lunch. Agenda items for the meeting will include:

- Program and species status update (Muth)
- Status report on capital projects program, including San Juan (on agenda before legislative update) (Uilenberg)
- Update on status of sufficient progress items
- Update on nonnative fish management activities
- Discussion of San Juan Program and our coordination with them (invite Dave Campbell)
- Update on report to Congress and legislation (last item)
- Begin discussion of extending cooperative agreement through 2023 (Guertin lead)
- Schedule next IC meeting (approve of 2010-2011 work plan in September?)

Updates will include descriptions of plans for the coming year. John Reber said the Park Service has asked him to be their Implementation Committee representative; >John will notify Steve Guertin and cc: the rest of the Implementation Committee and the PD’s office.

8. Work planning

- a. Duchesne River transit loss study – Deferred (CUWCD and Duchesne working group still discussing).
- b. Offer of electronic library - Dan McAuliffe said the Colorado Water Conservation Board has a [Water Resource Information Center website](#); if the Recovery Program would like, their contractor can image (tif format) and index all the Program library documents and put them on the website (at no cost to the Program). Everything would be searchable, just like with Google. >Angela Kantola will work with Susan Lesovsky of CWCB to arrange for a meeting with the contractor and the PD’s office. Angela suggested beginning with the Program library of scientific reports, and then other documents (pre-Program administrative records, old annual reports, etc.), could be considered later.
- c. Western funding for report on 85f – Clayton Palmer said Western agreed to fund preparation of this report in 2008 (\$32.6K), but the funds weren’t transferred and Clayton is working on approval for this in 2009.
- d. FY 09 work plan – FY 09 is the second year in the 2-year FY 08-09 work plan. Most scopes of work are in place and funding transfers made or in progress. Projects still being considered, developed or finalized include:
 - Elkhead O&M
 - Green R. backwater topography
 - Fish entrainment in Yampa R. diversions

- Nonnative fish second-level synthesis
- Cross Mountain smallmouth bass removal
- Green R. backwater nonnative fish removal
- Nonnative fish control in lower Green R. and tributaries adjacent to Ute Reservation
- Grand Valley hatchery facility repair
- Survival of young *Gila* from the Yampa River (captivity)
- Baeser Bend
- Razorback remote sensing at Green R. spawning bar
- Development of razorback monitoring plan
- Gunnison River endangered fish survey

As always, modifications may be made to ongoing nonnative fish management activities after 2008 results are reviewed and discussed.

- e. FY 10-11 work planning process – Development of the FY 2010-2011 work plan begins in January. By February 1, the Program Director’s office will post the draft FY 10-11 Program guidance, along with a draft RIPRAP assessment and draft RIPRAP revisions. Technical committee comments are due in mid-February and then the Management Committee reviews these documents (and approves them, if so delegated by the Implementation Committee) in late February/early March.
9. Schedule next meeting – Reports from the Ad-Hoc Committee will be forthcoming to the Management Committee. The Management Committee may need to schedule a conference call in the interim, but scheduled their next meeting for Friday, March 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Salt Lake City. >Clayton Palmer will arrange a meeting room at WAPA’s office.
 10. 2008 base flows – Jana Mohrman reviewed 2008 flows on the Colorado, Yampa and Green rivers (see Attachment 3). Brent Uilenberg distributed a summary of Grand Valley Water Management project results from 2002-2008. Nearly 52KAF benefitted the 15-Mile reach flows in 2008.
 11. Updates
 - a. Capital projects – Brent Uilenberg said the GVP fish screen is operational and they’re working on sediment issues at the fish passage. Brent recommended placing monitoring equipment on the Price-Stubbs fish passage to document fish use; the Program Director’s office is working on this. Tusher Wash fish screen is on hold until we have more information about the diversion dam. Reclamation has an indexing recommendation before their Regional Director’s for approval. Tom Pitts noted that the ~\$6M the Program owed CRWCD has now been paid, thanks to the efforts of Reclamation staff in Grand Junction, Salt Lake City, and Washington, D.C.
 - b. Environmental groups’ Biology Committee representative – Tom Iseman said they have funding and >will prepare a scope of work to offer potential candidates. The representative’s focus would be on nonnative fish, the research framework, and recovery goals. Tom said they hope to have someone on board in January.

- c. Ruedi 10,825 replacement water: East and west slope water users have reached agreement on options for replacing the current demands on Ruedi Reservoir imposed by previous biological opinions in the amount of 10,825 acre-feet/year. The options include: 1) change of use of approximately 5,400 acre-feet/year from irrigation; and 2) a new contract for Ruedi water to provide water for this purpose. Redtop Valley Ditch is a tributary to Lake Granby. The right is very old and reliably produces water every year. Approximately half the ditch right would be converted to provide the 10,825 replacement water.

West slope entities would provide half the replacement water under a new contract with Reclamation for water from Ruedi. Although east and west slopes interest have reached tentative agreements regarding financial arrangements, the proposal is still a “considered to be a package and it goes forward together as a means of satisfying the terms of the Colorado River programmatic biological opinion, the terms of that opinion agreed to by east and west slope water users.”

Grand River Consultants is preparing a final report on the preferred options and the other options considered. The final report should be available in mid to late January.

In order to bring these options to reality, a number of activities have to take place. These include conversion of Redtop Ditch water in the water courts, some construction associated with the Redtop Ditch conversion, a possible new contract for temporary storage of Redtop Ditch water in Green Mountain Reservoir under an exchange agreement, contract for Ruedi water, east and west slope agreements regarding division of 10825 water during the interim period prior to the final options being implemented, and signing of long-term agreements with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to December 2009.

- d. Section 7 consultations

- o Depletions – Angela Kantola provided a summary of depletions through 6/30/08:

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program Summary of Section 7 Consultations by State 1/1988 through 6/30/2008				
		HISTORIC DEPLETIONS	NEW DEPLETIONS	TOTALS
State	Number of Projects	Acre-feet/year	Acre-feet/year	Acre-feet/year
Colorado	1084	1,483,769.86	173,305.70	1,657,075.56
Utah	83	421,867.74	70,985.92	492,853.66
Wyoming	142	83,498.31	32,409.92	115,908.23
Regional	238			
TOTALS	1,547	1,989,135.91	276,701.55	2,265,837.46

John Shields noted that the Aaron Million Flaming Gorge pipeline project is in pre-scoping (~165KAF).

- o Non-jeopardy biological opinions – The Service would like to change to issuing non-jeopardy biological opinions on water depletions below 4,500 af to (see draft e-mailed to the Committee by Angela Kantola on December 8). Projects exceeding the sufficient progress threshold or that have direct or indirect effects in addition to water depletions would be evaluated on a case by case basis pursuant to the Section 7 agreement. Robert King said Utah water users view this very positively. “No jeopardy” with the Recovery Program as the conservation measure better aligns with how water users understand the Program. Clayton Palmer said he understands that conservation measures *must* be implemented if the action agency is under DOI, thus it’s unclear to him if this indeed makes implementing the conservation measures the burden of the Recovery Program (as opposed to the action agency or project proponent). Bob Muth and Julie Lyke said the Service will carefully review language in the draft biological opinion template to be certain that the burden remains the Recovery Program’s. Tom Iseman asked what would change if the Program fails or does not achieve sufficient progress. John Shields said the Section 7 agreement clearly says that the Program would have to rectify that problem. Tom Iseman said he’d like to review this with Robert Wigington. >The Service will keep the Management Committee informed of progress on this.
- e. November 18-20 Colorado River science & resource management symposium (Scottsdale, November 2008) – John Shields e-mailed the group a copy of the Program. John said he thought it was a very worthwhile effort; others agreed. Another symposium likely will be held in 2010 (perhaps in Salt Lake City).
- f. Recovery goals – Tom Czaplá said that partner and stakeholder comments have been received and categorized. Draft responses to the more substantive categories of comments are being reviewed by the Service. The draft goals will be revised, sent out for peer review (with copies to all partners), and subsequently revised again and posted to the Federal Register for public review. John Shields asked that the revised version go out for peer review prior to the Washington, D.C. trip.
- g. Reports status – Angela Kantola distributed an updated reports due list. Dave Speas suggested that even when new due dates are established we should still note reports that are late. Perhaps the category in that case could be “overdue; date revised.”
- h. Proposed whitewater park at Palisade – Bob Muth said COE withdrew Palisade’s application and the project is on hold.
- 12. Upcoming Management Committee tasks - John Shields suggested the Committee consider more of a retreat-style meeting this summer.

ADJOURN 2:50 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; but pending decisions on dam rehabilitation.*
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). *Lew Coggins' open-file report, "Abundance trends and status of the Little Colorado River population of humpback chub: an update considering 1989-2006 data" was completed in 2007. The Service concurs with the results of the report and supports ASMR as the best method to assess recovery unit status, both from a cost/benefit and accuracy/precision basis.*
4. **Brent Uilenberg** will provide revised RIPRAP budget table ASAP. *Pending outcome of capital funds indexing discussions.*
5. The prioritized list of nonnative fish workshop recommendations will come to the **Management Committee** after it goes through the Biology and I&E committees.
6. **Tom Pitts** will arrange a meeting of Program participants with assistant Colorado DNR Director [Doug Robotham](#) (to include John Shields, Tom Iseman, Bob Muth, and perhaps others), focusing on nonnative fish issues and the status of the legislation.
7. The **Service** will provide (informal) clarification to the Management Committee on how they interpret the Section 7 Agreement to apply in the case of the potential >4,500 af Green River Pumping Project depletion.
8. The **States** will need to brief their Congressional representatives on the Recovery Program and proposed legislative amendments shortly after the election.
9. **Angela Kantola** will continue to work moving the RIPRAP tables from Excel to Word and adding an assessment column to prepare for the 2009 RIPRAP revisions and assessment.

New Assignments

1. **Angela Kantola** will post the revised August 12, 2008, Management Committee meeting summary to the listserver. *Done.*

2. **John Reber** will notify Steve Guertin (and cc: the rest of the Implementation Committee and the PD's office) that he is now the Park Service's representative on the Implementation Committee.
3. **Angela Kantola** will work with Susan Lesovsky of CWCB to arrange for a meeting with the contractor and the PD's office on getting the Program library on the Colorado Water Conservation Board's [Water Resource Information Center website](#).
4. **D.C trip participants** who have not yet reserved their room in this block needs to do so by January 30, 2009, by calling 1-800-619-9468 and referencing U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
5. By c.o.b. Thursday, February 19, **Management Committee members** should provide the Program Director's office (Mary_Nelson@fws.gov) a list of names of people from their agency/group attending the February 23, 2009, Implementation Committee meeting on February (for the Arsenal gate staff to grant access) and if they want a box lunch.
6. **Clayton Palmer** will arrange a meeting room at WAPA's office for the Management Committee's meeting on Friday, March 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Salt Lake City.
7. **Tom Iseman** will prepare a scope of work for potential candidates to represent the environmental groups on the Biology Committee.
8. **The Service** will keep the Management Committee informed of their progress in converting from jeopardy to non-jeopardy biological opinions.

Attachment 1
Attendees
Colorado River Management Committee, Denver, Colorado
August 12, 2008

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg	Bureau of Reclamation
Dan McAuliffe	State of Colorado
Robert King	State of Utah
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Julie Lyke	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Leslie James for Dave Mazour	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
John Reber	National Park Service
Tom Iseman	The Nature Conservancy
Clayton Palmer	Western Area Power Administration was not represented

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

Others:

Paul Badame	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Kevin Bestgen	Colorado State University, Larval Fishes Laboratory
John Hawkins	Colorado State University, Larval Fishes Laboratory
Melissa Trammell	National Park Service
Leisa Monroe	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Pete Cavalli	Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Dave Speas	Bureau of Reclamation
Shane Capron	Western Area Power Administration
Michelle Morgan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tildon Jones	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jana Mohrman	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sherm Hebein	Colorado Division of Wildlife
Dean Riggs	Colorado Division of Wildlife
Mark Fuller	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Cameron Walford	Colorado State University, Larval Fishes Laboratory
Kent Holsinger	Via phone for Colorado River Energy Distributors Association for agenda items 11. d-f

Attachment 2

Action Items from 2008 Sufficient Progress Memo

General (Upper Colorado River and Green River Subbasins)

ACTION ITEM (1): The Service will continue to closely follow the effectiveness of nonnative fish management actions and the responses of the endangered and other native fishes. Data should continue to be reported annually, and necessary changes to nonnative fish management actions should be made in a timely fashion. The Program needs to initiate second-level synthesis of nonnative fish removal data beginning in 2008. *The Nonnative Fish Subcommittee has been working on this and the Program Director's Office expects to recommend issuing an RFP. 11/26/08: A draft RFP is expected in January 2009.*

ACTION ITEM (2): The Program Director's office will coordinate with the Wahweap hatchery to ensure that the middle Green River bonytail are stocked near Jensen (in the alluvial reach) rather than at Island Park. The Mumma hatchery will continue to expose bonytail to flows for as long as two weeks prior to stocking. *Being done.*

ACTION ITEM (3): Principal investigators and the Program Director's Office should meet to further scrutinize initial population estimates, techniques, and environmental influences (at least for humpback chub in 2008). A [research framework project](#) (building on results and recommendations of previous population estimates and information developed as a result of previous population estimate workshops) is conducting additional data analyses to further understand environmental variables and life-history traits influencing the dynamics of Colorado pikeminnow and humpback chub populations. The draft research framework report is expected in August 2008. Results will be used to refine hypotheses and direct management actions. *Draft research framework report may be late (pending Rich Valdez work). 8/12: John Shields asked if we've considered starting this with a subbasin approach (e.g., Green River) first, then developing the larger report. 12/8: The work completed to date on the research framework project has been an Access database of the literature, and two draft reports dated December 2006 and October 5, 2007 to the Program Office. The draft reports contain conceptual life history models for each endangered fish species that identify and describe principal environmental stressors to various life stages and an initial spreadsheet identifying principal Recovery Action Plan management actions and monitoring programs. A final draft report will be submitted to the Program Director's Office by April 1 and to the Biology Committee by May 1, 2009. This report will link RIPRAP activities with hypotheses for each species by life stage, analyze how well we're addressing those hypotheses, and make recommendations for future management, research, and monitoring.*

Green River Subbasin – Green River

ACTION ITEM (4): The Flaming Gorge Technical Work Group (Reclamation, the Service, and Western) needs to continue to provide brief updates on current and projected Flaming Gorge operations at each Biology Committee meeting. In 2008, the Program will initiate a Request for Proposal to synthesize the physical and biological information on backwater nursery habitats. *RFP pending. 11/26/08: PD's office reconsidering need for RFP; may pursue a collaborative proposal by recognized experts, instead.*

ACTION ITEM (5): The Recovery Program and the Utah's State Engineer's office will work on mechanisms (extending the existing subordination) to protect year-round flows in the Green River below the Duchesne River to the Colorado River confluence. *In progress since this summer; anticipated to take about one year. 11/26/08: On track down to Duchesne/White confluence, the next step will be to pursue protection down to Green/Colorado confluence.*

Green River Subbasin – Yampa River

ACTION ITEM (6): The Program's Yampa nonnative fish management program needs to be modified in 2009 to match the [Yampa River Nonnative Fish Management Strategy](#). In particular, northern pike removal efforts need to focus on reproduction/recruitment sources and the Program needs to take advantage of every opportunity to remove smallmouth bass (e.g., remove smallmouth bass wherever northern pike removal occurs). *Pending. John Shields noted Colorado also needs to complete their Yampa River Aquatic Management Plan by May 2009, as promised. 11/21/08: On track; based on recent data, CDOW seriously considering expanding smallmouth bass removal throughout critical habitat in the Yampa River (to be decided by January 2009). CDOW will provide an outline of a conceptual framework for upper Yampa River northern pike strategy for December 2008 nonnative fish workshop. CDOW will complete Yampa River Aquatic Management Plan and upper Yampa northern pike strategy by May 2009. 12/11: Conceptual framework of strategy still pending; to be provided prior to January 2009 researchers meeting.*

Green River Subbasin – Duchesne River

ACTION ITEM (7): Following completion of the Myton Diversion rehabilitation, the Program, Service, and Duchesne Work Group will work together to determine changes in ongoing monitoring efforts necessary to further evaluate the flow recommendations. *Construction begins this fall and will be completed before irrigation season next spring. 11/25/08: Construction work on the Myton Diversion Dam Rehabilitation is proceeding on schedule. Concrete placements will be completed fall 2008. Gates and associated controls will be installed in February 2009 and the entire project completed in March 2009 prior to the 2009 irrigation season.*

Green River Subbasin – White River

ACTION ITEM (8): The Service and the Program Director's Office will revise and finalize [flow recommendations for the White River](#). The program should emphasize timely completion of the flow recommendations and work with Colorado to protect the recommended flows. *The Program Director's office will bring recommendations on*

finalizing the White River flow recommendations report to the Biology Committee next week. John Shields emphasized the importance of this report in light of the scrutiny it will receive from the energy industry. Dan McAuliffe asked if the Program contemplates acquiring water rights, noting that CWCB has \$500,000/year available to acquire instream flows to protect endangered species (an acquisition plan is required). 11/26/08: 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 by the end of January 2009 (also will recommendations for the Price River).

Upper Colorado River Subbasin – Colorado River

ACTION ITEM (9): Closer coordination will be maintained by meeting twice a year with Grand Valley water users and conducting conference calls as needed to discuss river conditions prior to the weekly Historic User Pool calls. The focus should be on taking full advantage of water savings brought about by operation of the Grand Valley Water Management project for late summer flow augmentation. *Brent said the HUP calls began last week. Tom Pitts asked about the meaning of the last sentence; Brent Uilenberg said at issue is arriving at a consensus on Green Mountain Reservoir surplus early enough in the process to do the most good for fish habitat. Brent said Eric Kuhn has suggested an arrangement with FWS in which if too much water is released early on, FWS would back-stop that with water from the "fish pools" in Ruedi, Wolford and/or Williams Fork; another approach would be to get better predictions (based on snow pack) of expected base flows at Cameo.*

11/25/08: An HUP Managing Entities and Water Managers Meeting was conducted on June 25, 2008, to begin coordination activities for the 2008 irrigation season. The first HUP weekly conference call was conducted on August 5, 2008, and continued through October 29, 2008. Green Mountain Reservoir releases to augment flows in the 15-Mile Reach were initiated on August 27, 2008, and concluded on October 29, 2008. A total of 73,024 acre-feet of water was released from Green Mountain Reservoir. Additionally, 20,423 acre-feet, 10,431 acre-feet and 10,377 acre-feet were released from Ruedi, Wolford Mountain and Williams Fork reservoirs respectively. These releases were the result of the cooperative efforts of participating reservoir operators and Grand Valley irrigation entities, 9,586 af of which were to address the unique circumstances caused by operational issues at the Shoshone Power Plant. Diversion records for the 2008 irrigation season have not yet been compiled for the Grand Valley Water Users Association; however, based upon preliminary information irrigation diversions were reduced by a substantial amount as a result of the operations of the Grand Valley Water Management Facilities. A report on actual results will be provided when irrigation diversion records are available from the Colorado Division 5 Office of the State Engineer. Fish and Wildlife Service 15 Mile Reach flow targets were met or exceeded for the majority of the irrigation season. (This data is based upon early provisional data provided by the Colorado Division 5 Office of the State Engineer.)

ACTION ITEM (10): The goal of the [10,825 Project](#) is to have agreements signed with the Service prior to December 2009 committing east slope and west slope water users to permanent sources of Ruedi replacement water, as required by the Colorado River

programmatic biological opinion. *Tom Pitts said this is on track. 12/11: See agenda.*

Upper Colorado River Subbasin – Gunnison River

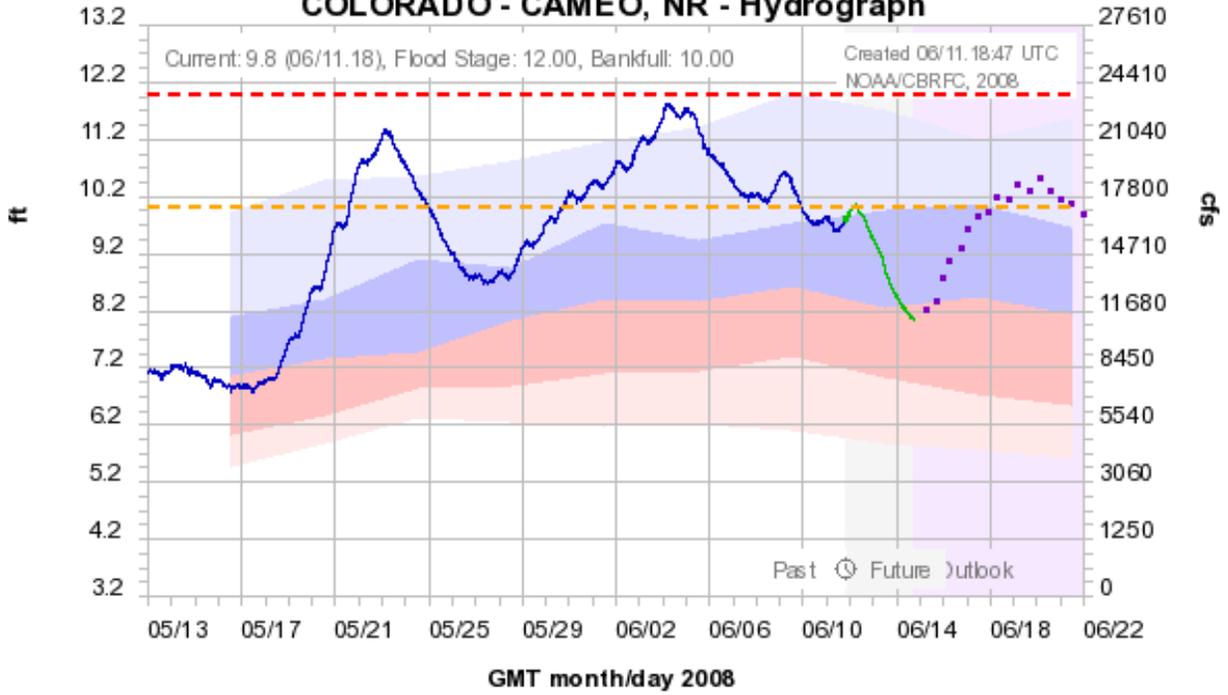
ACTION ITEM (11): Pending completion of the [Aspinall EIS](#) (and while continuing to emphasize timely completion of the EIS), Reclamation, the Service, and Western Area Power Administration and other cooperators need to determine how they can better manage Aspinall spring flows to meet endangered fish needs within existing operational procedures. *Brent Uilenberg said the draft EIS may go out to the cooperators this week, to the public by late October or early November. The last formal schedule from BOR contemplated a final EIS and ROD by the end of 2008; however, given the required review timeframes it is more likely that these will be in place before spring 2009. Clayton Palmer said that based on their review of the alternatives, Western is likely to have substantive comments on the draft released to the cooperating agencies.*

11/25/08: Cooperating agencies have completed reviews of the preliminary draft EIS on Aspinall Unit operations. Reclamation has tentatively identified a preferred alternative in informal consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Many issues have been resolved with the cooperating agencies and an operation plan including peak flow targets, duration targets, and base flows is generally agreed upon. A programmatic biological assessment is being prepared concurrently with the draft EIS. The assessment would address public and private water uses in the Gunnison Basin. The selenium issue is the major factor in delaying completion of the BA, and consequently the EIS. The issue includes the significance of selenium levels in fish recovery and the significant costs associated with accelerating selenium reduction programs. At the present time, the draft EIS is scheduled for release in January 2009 with a final EIS and Record of Decision in June and July of 2009 respectively. 12/11: Brent said there will be an internal review draft of the draft EIS and biological assessment next week, then it will go to the printer with possible release to the public in January 2009. Reclamation will have a pre-consultation meeting with the Service on the biological assessment, particularly related to the selenium issue.

Attachment 3: Flows Update

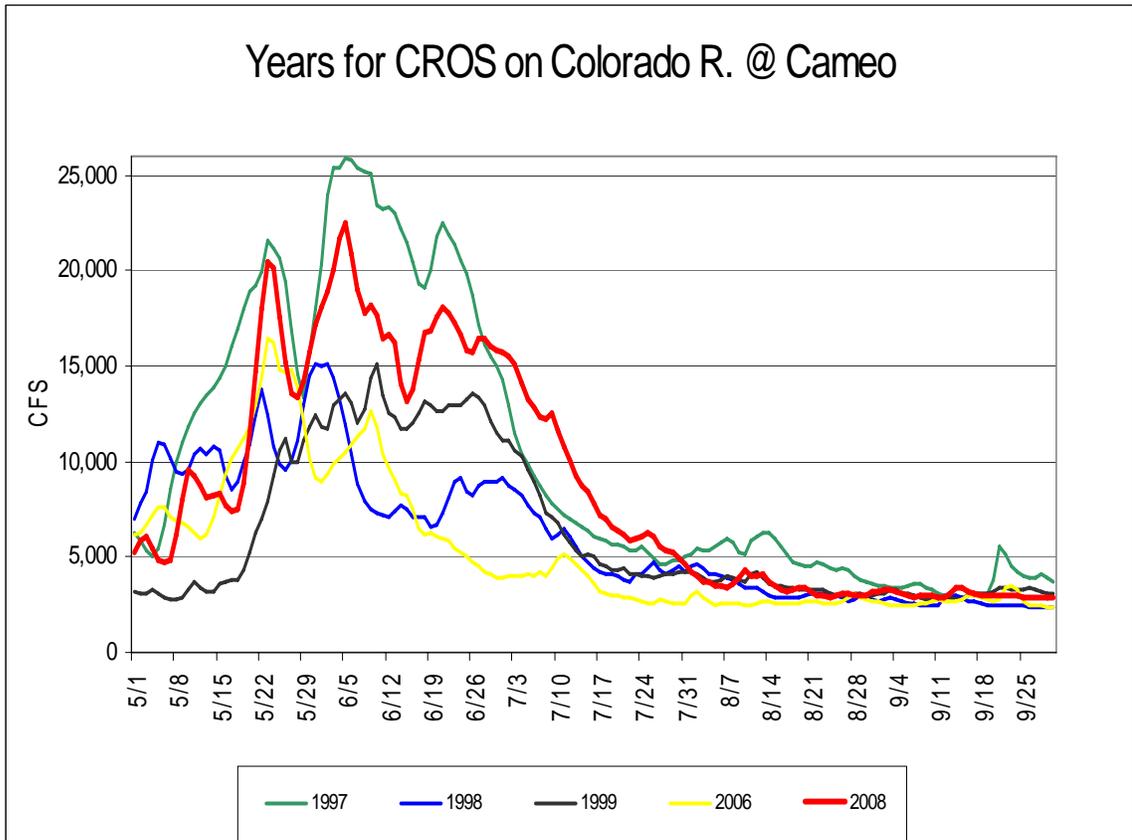
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center

COLORADO - CAMEO, NR - Hydrograph

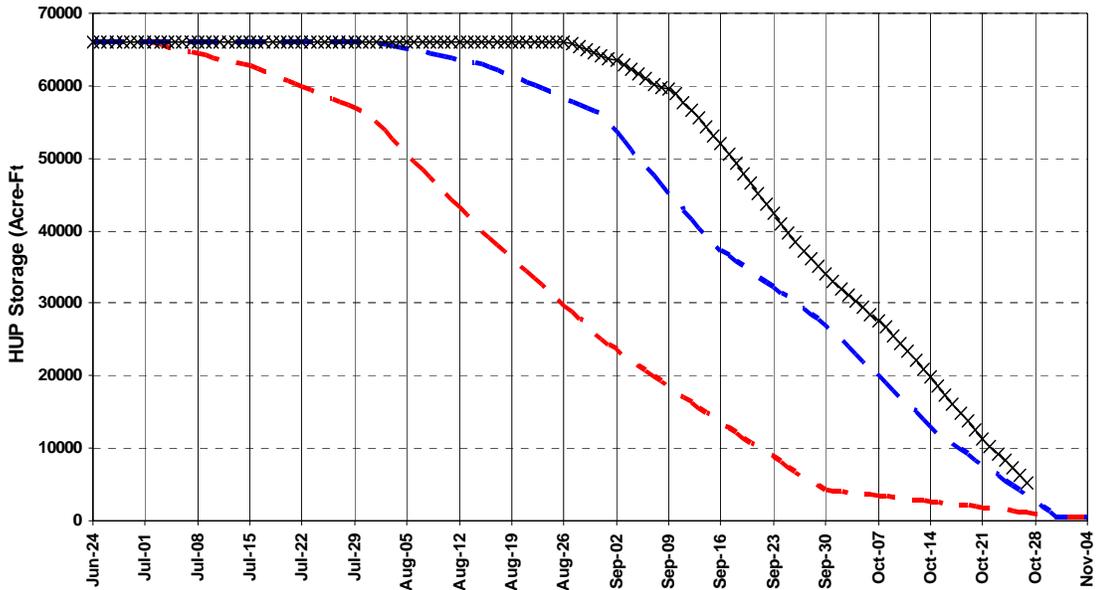


Observed — Forecast (06/11.18:00) — Outlook (increasing uncertainty) - - - Bankfull 10.00 - - - Flood 12.0 - - -

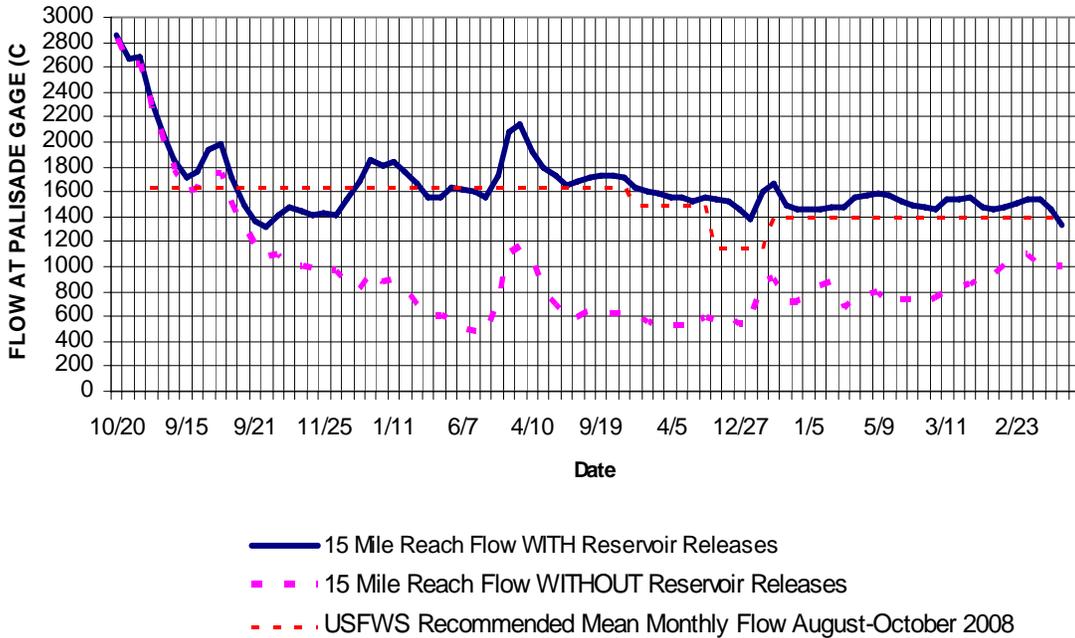
Years for CROS on Colorado R. @ Cameo



Green Mountain Reservoir
HUP Operating Criteria - Dry Years

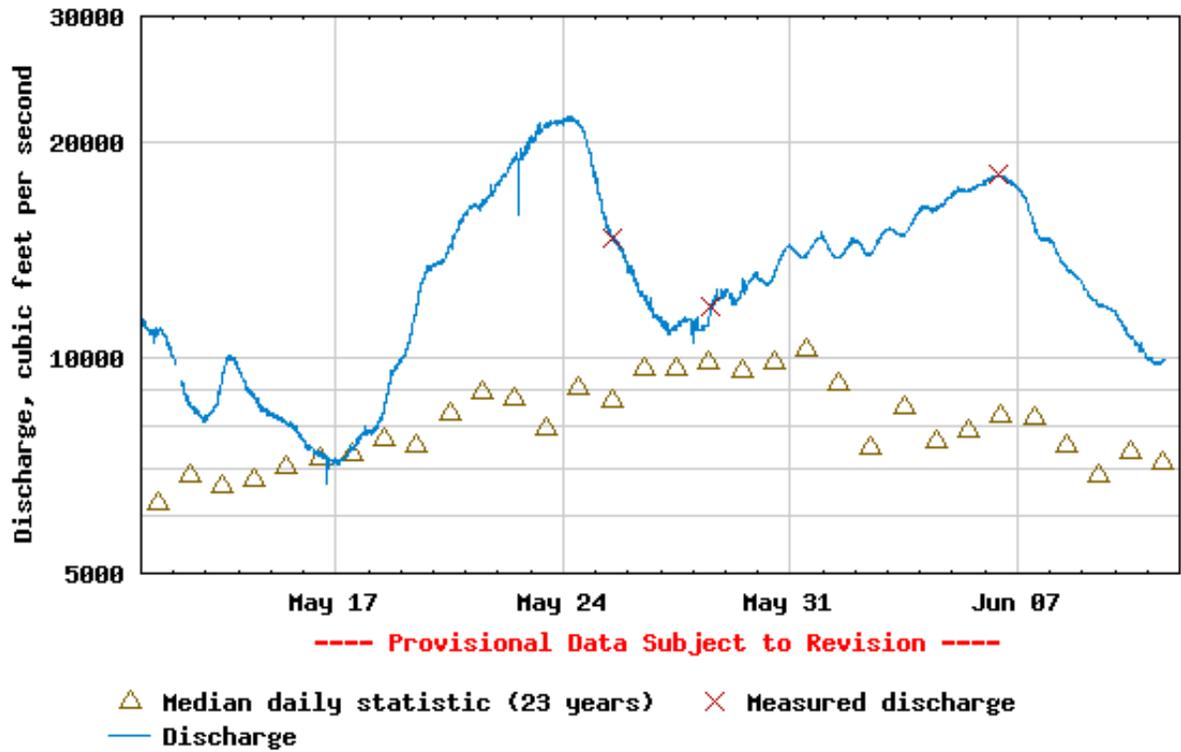


IMPACT OF LATE IRRIGATION SEASON RESERVOIR RELEASES IN THE 15 MILE REACH
(As Measured at the Colorado River at Palisade Gage)
2008 LATE SUMMER/FALL

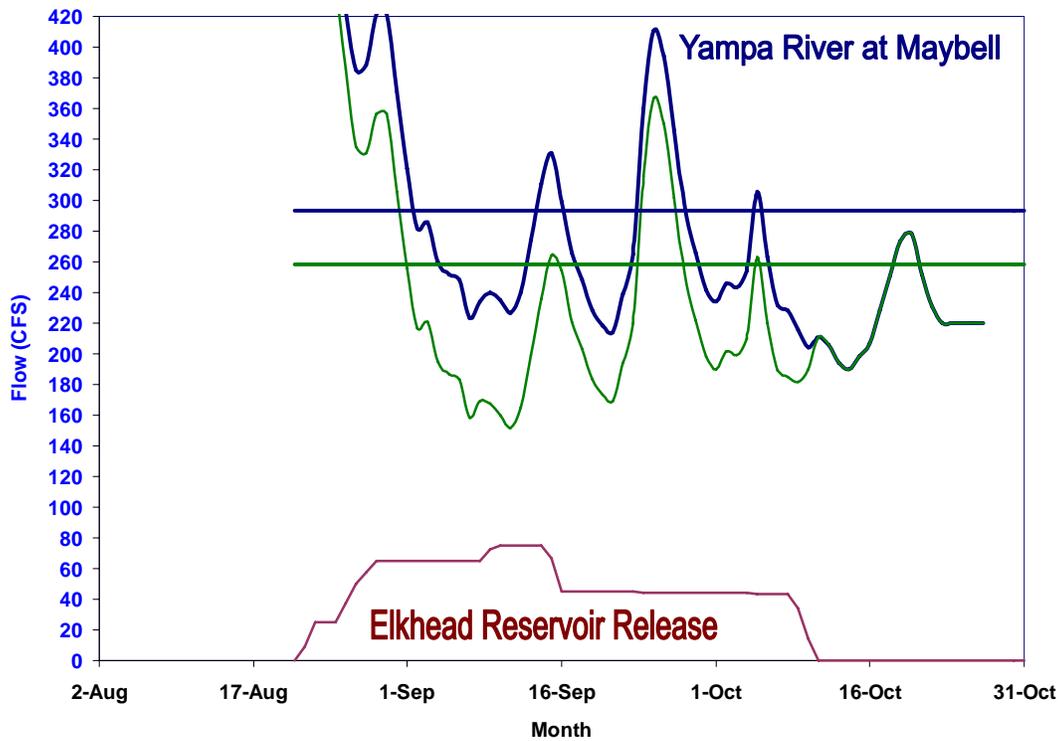




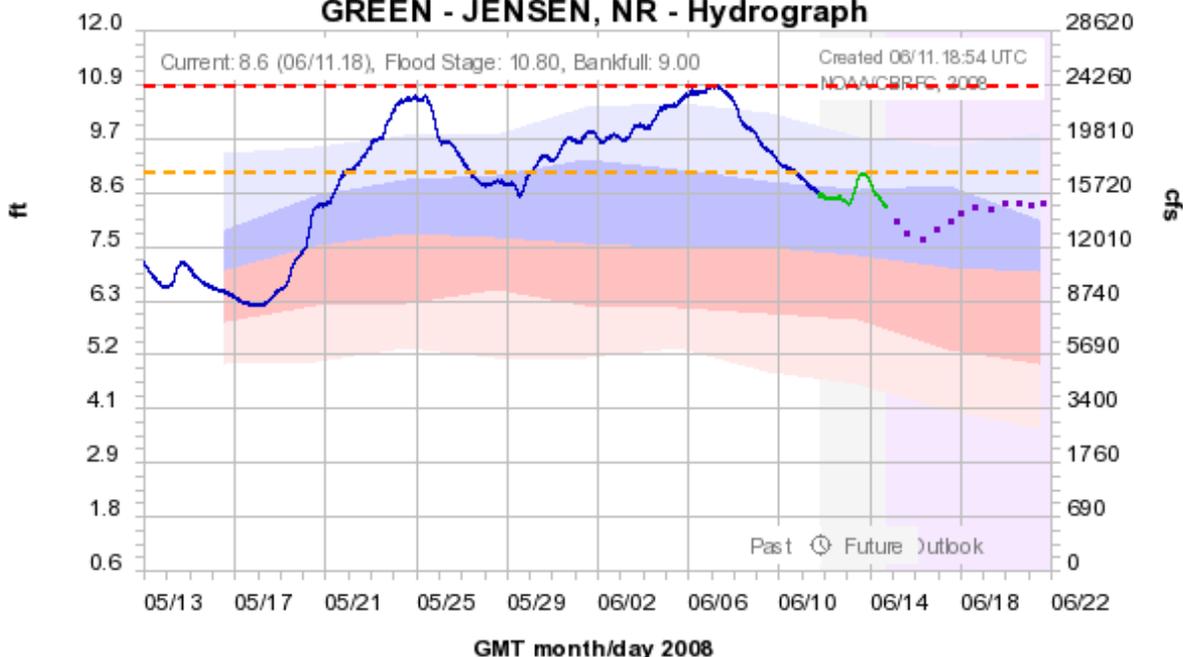
USGS 09260050 YAMPA RIVER AT DEERLODGE PARK, CO



Elkhead Reservoir 2008 CWCB 5000 AF Pool Releases



**Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
GREEN - JENSEN, NR - Hydrograph**



Observed — Forecast (06/11.18:00) — Outlook (increasing uncertainty) - - - Bankfull 9.00 — Flood 10.8 —
Historical Exceedance Probability (USGS): 90-75% 75-50% 50-25% 25-10% 10-0%

