

**CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY**  
**Colorado River Management Committee, Denver, Colorado**  
**March 29, 2002**

Participants: See Attachment 1

Assignments are highlighted in the text and listed at the end of the summary.

CONVENE - 10:00 a.m.

1. Extending the authorization period for federal and non-federal funding under P.L. 106-392 - John Shields recounted that Program participants were advised in Washington that it would be wise to seek the extension now. Dave Mazour asked if the Implementation Committee has discussed and agreed to seeking an extension. (No.) Leslie noted that the previous Management Committee meeting summary didn't reflect agreement to seek the extension now and that CREDA believes that this is a major policy issue. Tom Pitts said he agrees the Committee didn't want to ask Congress for an extension this year, but that Committee members did say they would give Congress a "heads up" that we aren't getting capital construction completed as quickly as we'd hoped. Congressional staffers responded by encouraging Program participants to seek the extension now. Leslie James and Tom Blickensderfer indicated that they believe the Implementation Committee will need to discuss and agree on the extension. Tom Pitts agreed. Leslie asked what date might be proposed for the extension. She will need to brief CREDA's board before she can agree to seek an extension. Brent Uilenberg said he'd discussed 2008 with Tom Pitts. Brent said that Reclamation is formulating the 2005 budget and needs to know now if we will have appropriations request beyond 2005. Several projects may not be completed by 2005: Price-Stubbs, Tusher Wash, and Elkhead Reservoir enlargement and perhaps the Redlands fish screen. John Shields said he's prepared draft amendment language.  
>Leslie James, Dave Mazour, Brent Uilenberg, Tom Pitts, John Shields, Bob Norman, Bob Muth and Angela Kantola will have a conference call next Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. to discuss this issue further. >The Program Director's Office will set up the call.
1. Consideration of request to continue acquisitions at two key habitat areas (Thunder [Escalante] Ranch on the Green River and the Hot Spot Complex on the Colorado River) Brent Uilenberg asked about contaminant issues at Thunder Ranch. Bob Muth said we are waiting on the contaminants report that will contain remediation options and cost estimates. We will move forward with the appraisal process only if those options and cost estimates appear reasonable. >Pat Nelson will contact Larry Gamble and Bruce Waddell to check on the status of the contaminants report. Bob would like to move ahead with an appraisal and a cost estimate for habitat restoration at Thunder Ranch. He would then come back to Committee to seek approval for making an offer, if appropriate. At Hot Spot Complex, we would like to acquire 2 of 5 properties (we can simply work with the other owners of the other 3 properties). Bob would like to move forward with an appraisal on the Ron Tipping and Mesa County properties, then come back to the Management Committee with a recommendation for an offer. Bob said he expects he to have more information for the Committee by May. Brent noted that we need to be sure that flooding issues on adjacent properties have been addressed. The Committee agreed

the Program could proceed, with the understanding that no offers will be made without Management Committee discussion and approval. It was understood that the synthesis report on floodplain habitat acquisition and restoration will be available before decisions on offers need to be made.

2. Update on the status of the Blue Stone Ditch/DeBeque Wildlife Area rearing ponds issue - Brent Uilenberg said he made an offer of \$5,000 per year which was firmly rejected. At that point, Brent believed it best not to pursue the negotiations further. The Committee agreed. The Program is now pursuing pumping to provide water for the ponds, but will need to contract to initially fill the ponds this year (bids are running about \$9,000). Subsequently, a permanent pump will be installed by Reclamation. The Committee approved spending the \$9,000 for the initial fill, unless there are other options (e.g., pumps at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge could be brought over and used [George Smith recalls that the Recovery Program bought one for the Refuge 6-8 years ago to fill Old Charley Wash]). The Committee also approved purchasing the permanent pumps and associated costs for the long-term solution (up to \$20,000). Reclamation has proposed that the water come from Wolford (Bob Muth has written the Division 5 Engineer regarding using 250 acre-feet per year from the Wolford commitment of water to the Recovery Program).
3. Update on meeting with the Green River Canal Company regarding Tusher Wash - Sherman Hoskins said the Canal Company's legal staff called and asked to meet with them. The Company still has a lawsuit with Thayne, but they said they are willing have a screen constructed that is large enough to accommodate Thayne's water needs, as well. They agreed they would maintain the screen (for which they'd like some financial assistance, but are willing to discuss what's appropriate). They pointed out that there is a diversion on the opposite side of the stream, and asked if the Program proposing a screen there, too. Bob Norman said he thinks that diversion (a water wheel) is on the order of .25 - 1 cfs. >Utah will find out more information about that diversion. Brent said since the screen will cost \$3,000 per cfs, it would be very expensive to overbuild it (~\$415K versus ~\$1M). The Committee discussed implications of the various potential outcomes of the lawsuit, and agreed we probably should wait for that to be settled. >Bob Muth and Sherman Hoskins will talk with Henry Maddux of the Fish and Wildlife Service about not holding the Canal Company responsible for take in the interim. We will have a status report on this at the April meeting.
4. Bob Norman said Colorado has signed their cooperative agreement with NFWF and Reclamation is proceeding with the contract for the rest of the Grand Valley improvements. Colorado's funds are on the way but not in the NFWF account yet; the Committee agreed that we should proceed with the contract.
5. Schedule next meeting - April 29, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in Denver. >The Program Director's Office will arrange a meeting room.

ADJOURN: 12:00 p.m.

## ASSIGNMENTS

Leslie James, Dave Mazour, Brent Uilenberg, Tom Pitts, John Shields, Bob Norman, Bob Muth and Angela Kantola will have a conference call next Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the issue of extending the authorization period for federal and non-federal funding under P.L. 106-392. The Program Director's Office will set up the call.

Pat Nelson will contact Larry Gamble and Bruce Waddell to check on the status of the Thunder Ranch contaminants report.

Utah will find out more information about the diversion opposite Tusher Wash.

Bob Muth and Sherman Hoskins will talk with Henry Maddux of the Fish and Wildlife Service about not holding the Green River Canal Company responsible for take while the lawsuit with Thayne is pending.

The Program Director's Office will arrange a meeting room for the April 29 Management Committee meeting in Denver.

**Colorado River Management Committee Conference Call  
March 29, 2002**

Management Committee Voting Members:

Tom Blickensderfer	Brent Uilenberg Bureau of Reclamation State of Colorado
	Sherman Hoskins & Robert King Utah Department Of Natural Resources
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Shane Collins	Western Area Power Administration
Bob McCue	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	Dave Mazour and Leslie James Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
	Skip Ladd National Park Service

Nonvoting Member:

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

Recovery Program Staff:

Angela Kantola	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	Pat Nelson U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Others:

George Smith	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bob Norman	Bureau of Reclamation