

Approved June 8, 2005



**San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program  
Biology Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 5, 2005  
Durango, Colorado**

**Members Present**

Chuck McAda  
David Propst  
Bill Miller  
Ron Bliesner  
Tom Wesche  
Vincent Lamarra  
Paul Holden  
Jim Brooks  
Mark McKinstry  
Tom Nesler  
Steve Ross, Peer Review

**Representing**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6  
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Water Development Interests  
Navajo Nation  
Jicarilla Apache Nation  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Fishery Resources  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Colorado Division of Wildlife  
University of New Mexico

**Others Attending**

Pat Page  
Steve Harris  
David Campbell  
Mike Buntjer  
Joann Perea-Richmann  
Jason Davis  
Melissa Trammell  
Julie Jackson  
Michael Farrington  
Lee Renfro  
W. Howard Brandenburg

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Southwestern Water Conservation District  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Ecological Svc.  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NM Fishery Resources  
National Park Service  
Utah DWR  
University of New Mexico  
University of New Mexico  
University of New Mexico

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Committee approved minutes for February 15-16, 2005

## **UPDATES ON WASHINGTON D.C. BRIEFING, PROGRAM DOCUMENT AND LONG RANGE PLAN**

### **Annual D.C. Trip**

- Meeting with Office of Budget Management. Ear marked funding money for many programs has been removed by OMB from the Presidents budget. The Upper Colorado was one of the programs affected by this. The non-Federal participants have been working with the Service to reinstate funding into the Services base funding to support both programs. Capital funding requires more documentation before money can be allocated to the program.
- OMB is also looking into developing metrics for recovery program and has requested that the Upper Colorado and San Juan Programs provide them with a document that cross-walks our programs work plan with the recovery goals for the species. David will be working with Bob Muth of the Upper Basin to generate this document.
- Both Programs are well understood and supported by the Congressional delegations from all four States.

### **Program Document**

- The Program document has been revised and sent to the BC and Coordination Committee (CC), The Coordination Committee will be reviewing the document at their May 13th meeting in Durango. The committee decided that a small group consisting of Jim Brooks, Paul Holden, Ron Bliesner, Pat Page and Mark McKinstry would review and forward their *comments to David by April 22, 2005*.
- The Long Range Plan is in the process of being updated. The BC felt that the group consisting of Jim Brooks, Paul Holden, Ron Bliesner, Pat Page and Mark McKinstry would work with Dave to update the Long Range Plan. A draft is expected by the end of June. The Committee will meet in July to finalize the LRP.

### **INTEGRATION REPORT UPDATES (BILL MILLER-MILLER ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS, INC.)**

Bill Miller indicated that all the comments provided to him have been incorporated. After lengthy discussions the committee determined that more emphasis is needed in the recommendations section of the document. Other sections of the report will be revised as needed by their respective authors.

The need to continue water quality monitoring was discussed? The committee agreed that basic monitoring should be done on a 5-year basis and be changed to biological sampling to detect trends in contaminant accumulation. To the extent that such monitoring is required as a result of Section 7 consultations, it would be appropriate to have the project proponent or action agency conduct the studies and provide the data to the program.

### **FY 2006 SCOPES-OF-WORK (DISCUSSION LEFT OUT OF LAST DRAFT MINUTES)**

2006 SOWs were briefly reviewed and most of the discussion dealt with whether they were within the funding limitations for 2006. Several researchers had minor changes to make to their SOWs based on comments on the drafts circulated earlier. Final SOWs are due to the list serve by April 22, 2005. Discussions on water quality monitoring will be done every 5 years. It was decided that two SOWs would go out for bid they are Physical Monitoring and Habitat Monitoring. (added per Paul Holden's comments)

### **COLORADO PIKEMINNOW AUGMENTATION EFFORT**

Tom Wesche sent an e-mail to the BC expressing concerns with the current Pikeminnow augmentation effort. Specifically, Tom Wesche expressed concerns about 1) the Program's inability to meet the annual stocking target. 2) The Program's reliance on a single size and source of fish and 3) the Program's present

lack of a plan to evaluate the survival rates which are the basis for the Plan. To enhance the likelihood of success for the program and to achieve recovery goals.

Tom Wesche recommended the following:

1. The program continue our existing agreement with Dexter to produce 300,000 YOY Colorado pikeminnow annually, the only recommended change being that we pay on a “per fish produced” basis, not a fixed cost contract.
2. For FY06, The Program issue a “new start” RFP for the annual production of at least 3000 150mm Colorado Pikeminnow to be ready for stocking by fall, 2007.
3. We conduct Colorado pikeminnow population estimates as early as 2006 to determine population status and develop survival rate estimates to allow and evaluate our Augmentation Plan and revise it.

The BC discussed the request and agreed that increasing the augmentation effort to include 3,000 larger (150mm) pikeminnow would be worthwhile. The Committee decided it would be to the committee best interest to consult Dexter to see if they could do the work. Jim Brooks contacted Dexter during the break Brooks reported back to the committee that Dexter could do the work for approximately an additional \$15,000 with the first delivery occurring in FY06. Manual Ulibarri would provide a revised scope of work reflecting this modification.

#### **IDENTIFY NEEDS FOR SAN JUAN RIVER HYDOLOGY MODEL RUNS**

- The BC will request that the model be evaluated and review flow recommendations of 2500 cfs and 5000cfs
- Request final report on Temperature Modeling from Hydrology Committee (HC) be sent to BC

#### **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS FOR STATEMENT OF WORK AND RFPs**

A briefing on budget format and content was given by Dick Beeman, Bureau of Reclamation. The Bureau discussed the information needed on budget work sheets included with the SOWs. It was also mentioned that multiple year projects must be resubmitted yearly with any changes; when any changes occur with funding BoR need to be notified and out year funding must also be provided. Samples of budgets were provided to the Biology Committee (BC).

Mylena Roberts, BOR, discussed competitive outsourcing and informed the Committee that all of the work the Committee is doing would be subject to the process, except for program management. The Committee expressed concerns regarding the process and the effect the process may have on the program.

The committee addressed the issue of having their project budget amounts being posted for others to see. BoR responded to the committee that SOWs could be posted leaving the costs out. David Campbell acknowledged that FWS would start leaving off costs and just show the proposals.

#### **DISCUSSION ON ONGOING SOWS AND THE NEED FOR COMPETITION TO EXTEND PAST/EXPIRING CONTRACTS**

- Jim Brooks and Mark McKinstry will work on modifying SOW to include 3000--150mm fish to be placed in ponds for FY06

#### **FY 2006 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

The 2006 Budget (attached) was discussed and approved by the Biology Committee.

**Action Items:**

Jim Brooks and Mark McKinstry will work on modifying SOW to include 3000—150mm fish to be placed in ponds for FY06.

Program documents

Comments to David by April 22, 2005

Integration Report

Comments due to Bill Miller May 21, 2005

Annual Reports

Comments to researchers due May 16, 2005

Final Annual Reports due June 3, 2005

Long Range Plan

Comments due to David by end of May

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

Conference call June 8, 2005, 9:00 am – 11:00 am – To discuss Integration Report

July 18 & 19 meeting at Civic Center in Farmington, NM to discuss Program Document and Long Range Plan meeting times are as follows:

July 18, 2005 (1pm – 4pm) and July 19, 2005 (8am – 4pm)

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

## San Juan RIP Biology Committee, Estimated FY 06 Funding

Title	Agency	Estimated Funding		
		Base	Capital	Other
<b>Monitoring</b>				
Adult/Juvenile Monitoring	FWS, GJ	\$97,492		
YOY/Small Bodied Fish Monitoring	NMDGF	\$75,959		
Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Survey	UNM,NMDFG	\$66,240		
Larval Razorback Sucker Survey	UNM,NMDFG	\$60,032		
Specimen Curation/Identification	UNM	\$24,725		
Long Term Channel Monitoring (rfp)	KB	\$181,000		
Habitat Data Analysis	KB/ERI	\$52,040		
Habitat Mapping (rfp)	KB/ERI	\$54,000		
Water Temperature Monitoring	KB	\$10,199		
Update and Maintenance of GIS Database	UNM	\$39,097		
<b>Subtotal</b>		\$660,784		
<b>Peer Review</b>				
Peer Review	Bio/West	\$25,000		
<b>Subtotal</b>		\$25,000		
<b>Research</b>				
Population Model Maintenance	MEC, ERI	\$32,536		
Trophic Relationships Among Colorado Pikeminnow and its Prey in the San Juan River	NMDGF, KSU	\$55,042		
Assessment of Colorado Pikeminnow Augmentation	Bio/West, UNM, NMDGF, UDWR	\$192,743		
<b>Subtotal</b>		\$280,321		
<b>Recovery</b>				
Nonnative Species Control in the Upper San Juan River	FWS, Abq	\$149,238		
Nonnative Species Control in the Lower San Juan River	UDWR	\$152,171		
Razorback Sucker Augmentation and Monitoring	FWS, GJ	\$142,623		
Stocking of Fingerling Colorado Pikeminnow	FWS, GJ	\$20,108		
Colorado Pikeminnow Fingerling Production	FWS, DNFHTC	\$71,258		
Razorback Sucker Production and Rearing	FWS, DNFHTC	\$74,596		
Pond Limnology Study	KB/ERI	\$52,746		
NAPI Pond Management and Operation of PNM Fish Passage	Navajo GF	\$117,038		

Purchase of PIT Tags and Readers	BR	\$48,450		
<b>Subtotal</b>		\$828,228		
<b>Biology Committee Ongoing Total</b>		\$1,794,333		

<b>San Juan RIP All Activities, Estimated FY 06 Funding</b>				
Title	Agency	Estimated Funding		
		Base	Capital	Other
<b>Biology Committee</b>				
Ongoing Projects		\$1,794,333		
New Starts				
<b>Subtotal</b>		\$1,794,333		
<b>Hydrology Committee</b>				
Maintenance and Operation of Model	BR, Durango	\$74,250		
Streamflow measurements	USGS	\$6,000		
<b>Subtotal</b>		\$80,250		
<b>Program Coordination and Management</b>				
Program Coordinator and Assistant	FWS Abq	\$225,000		
RFP and Funds Management	BR, SLC	\$84,949		
Capital Projects Management	BR, Grd Jct?		\$58,100	
<b>Subtotal</b>		\$309,949		
<b>SJ RIP Total</b>		\$2,184,532	\$58,100	
<b>Estimated Available Funds<sup>a</sup></b>		\$2,203,170		
<b>Difference</b>		\$18,638		

<sup>a</sup> FY05+3% (2,139,000 + 64,170)