

Approved February 15, 2007



**Biology Committee Meeting Summary
December 6, 2006
Farmington, New Mexico**

Members Present:

Chuck McAda
Paul Holden
Ron Bliesner
Jason Davis
Vince Lamarra
Mark McKinstry
David Propst
Tom Wesche
Bill Miller
Steve Ross (Peer Reviewer)
John Kendall for Gregory Gustina

Members not in attendance:

Tom Nesler

Program Management:

David Campbell

Joann Perea-Richmann

Interested Parties:

Yvette Paroz
Ernie Teller
Melissa Trammell
Darek Elverud
Brent Uilenberg
Steve Harris
Viola Willeto
Michael Howe
Steve Laped

Representing:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6
Jicarilla Apache Nation
Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 2
Ecosystems Research Institute
Bureau of Reclamation
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
Water Development Interests
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Museum of Southwestern Biology, UNM
Bureau of Land Management

State of Colorado

Program Coordinator

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 2, NM
Ecological Services Field Office
Program Support Assistant
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 2, NM
Ecological Services Field Office

Representing:

New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
Bureau of Indian Affairs-NIIP
National Park Service
Utah Division Wildlife Resources-Moab, Utah
Bureau of Reclamation
Southwest Water Conservation Division
Navajo Fish and Wildlife
Bureau of Indian Affairs-NIIP
Bureau of Indian Affairs-NIIP

Welcome and Introductions

Members not in attendance BLM and Colorado.

1. Review/modify agenda Chuck McAda
2. Review/Approve October 10 – 11 workshop summary Chuck McAda
 - Approved with edits.

New issue

Do we need a list of Alternates for Biology Committee (BC) members; do alternates need to be approved by BC?

- The committee discussed this and decided it was not needed. The BC decided that it was up to the committee member to educate their alternate on any issues if they will be attending the meeting on their behalf. Therefore, giving them their proxy to vote for them. The member must notify the committee of their attendance prior to the meeting.
- Chuck McAda requested that members provide the name of alternates to him and then Joann Perea-Richmann will update the rosters on the website.

3. Program Coordinators Report David Campbell

- Interviewing process for a new position for the San Juan Recovery Implementation Program (SJRIP) Biologist will take place within the next couple of weeks.
- The SJRIP Assistant Program Coordinator position has not been advertised yet, but will be done within the next few weeks.
- A letter has been sent to UNM indicating that SJRIP GIS Database will be reclaimed and moved to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office and maintained there. It was discovered that UNM lost data due to a crash in the system. Therefore it's possible that the original consultant who designed the system will be asked to return in order to re-establish the system. David Campbell asked if anyone has any of the old information via CD or otherwise please get it to him. Also, in the future a standard format will be incorporated by the program for future input.

4. Long Range Plan update with review of Coordinating Committee comments David Campbell

- David Campbell informed the committee that final edits are being made and that the document would be out to the Biology Committee (BC) for final review and ready to present at the Annual Review in February.

5. Discussion of additional endangered fish sampling added to Physical Habitat Scope of work (Chuck McAda, Paul Holden).

Final vote needed on additional work.

- Needs to be a specific targeted effort to link fish to the mapped habitats. How does habitat and fish use of habitats respond to changes in flow?

Vote on concept of adding fish sampling component to habitat mapping. This is to replace data that was lost (now not being collected) from YOY project.

Conceptually the BC agrees with adding a specific fish sampling component to habitat mapping, approval of the SOW depends on the agreement on study design. Peer Reviewers need to review and comment on study design. To BC Wed Dec. 13 – Comments by Dec 22; Responses/revised SOW by Jan 5; email vote by January 8.

6. Discussion of Population Model review and Population Estimate Methodology workshop (Mark McKinstry)

Committee needs to address the following issues: 1) are these separate issues; 2) can we do both at the same time; 3) what type of resources are needed; 4) what is the expected outcome.

- 1) Separate issues

- A) Population model review and workshop
- B) Population Estimate methodology workshop
- 2) Separate workshops, different list of participants

7. Population Model Workshop

Mark McKinstry informed the committee that he is still trying to coordinate with Bill Miller and the reviewers as to their availability for the workshop. The committee determined that April 9-13 in Ft. Collins, Co. would be a projected date.

- The committee will need to get a copy of model and it's components to reviewers prior to workshop
- BC will review original questions and responses and provide refinements to Mark McKinstry/Dave Campbell
- Bill Miller will finalize report
- Vince Lamarra and Bill Miller to provide the uses/purposes of the model to Mark McKinstry/Dave Campbell
- Mark McKinstry will check with Vince Tidwell

1st day - Review of data, how model was developed, Bill Miller to develop agenda and briefing paper.

8. Population Monitoring Methodology

In the May meeting evaluate current monitoring program and refine methods to develop population estimates for RBS and CPM. How or does our current monitoring program work for pop estimates?

UBRIP multiple pass mark /recapture approach.

9. Capital Projects discussion and recommendations Chuck McAda, Mark McKinstry and Brent Uilenburg

Committee needs to discuss various aspects related to construction of experimental backwaters and large scale vegetation removal projects. Capital funds may not be appropriate for construction of backwaters. Concept of large scale vegetation removal projects did not receive much support from the Coordination Committee. Does committee have any other Capital Project needs? If so they need to be identified very soon so they can be incorporated into the FY 2010 budget this summer.

- Remove nonnative vegetation project from LRP. After some discussion it was agreed by the BC to not support this project.
- Construction of stocking/acclimation backwaters
 - Primary purpose is for retention and acclimation of stocked CPM
 - Fits into definition of capital project
 - Design phase and construction phase
 - Programmatic 404, will need NEPA, ESA
 - Will need Fruitland Irrigation District
 - May need O&M agreement (may have annual base fund requirement)
 - 1st step is to get a team in the field to develop conceptual designs and cost estimates for the design and construction. (time frame spring 07)
 - Brent U. and Ron B discussed make up of assessment team.
- Any additional ideas/proposals for capital projects need to be in place by this summer 2007
- Additional stocking needs and associated capital costs

Discussed feasibility of Lake Powell Fish Barrier. Committee decided not to move it forward. Discussion to provide funding to USGS upgrade gages occurred and recommended for funding. Brent raised the issue of the end of the Programs funding authorization date 2012.

10. Discussion of FY07 workplan. Any additional needs? (Chuck McAda, David Campbell and Mark McKinstry)

- GIS Database SOW will be redone to reflect FWS as project lead
- Physical Habitat Scope of work will be completed
- Program Review and DOI Recommendation SOW

David, Mark and Chuck will compile SOW

11. Discussion of Monitoring plan

- David Campbell will forward protocols for all monitoring projects and the BC will review and submit comments

12. **February 13-14 annual review meeting. Discuss changing structure ...decided not to.**

1st day – Presentations; 15 minute presentation; five minute questions

2nd day – Presentations; 15 minute presentation; five minute questions

3rd day – Biology Committee - Discussion and Integration

13. Discuss FY 2008 work plan and budgeting process. (David Campbell, Chuck McAda)

- Mark McKinstry indicated that Ron Bliesner's SOW will stay in as RFP projects

14. Researcher's meeting, January 17-18, 2007 (Chuck McAda)

- Chuck McAda announced the Upper Colorado will host the Researchers meeting in Grand Junction, CO all are encouraged to attend

15. Additional topics

- a. List of additional equipment needs for specific projects need to be submitted to David Campbell by January 15, 2007
- b. 2008 SOW to Program by January 15, 2007, using format to be sent to BC members by Joann Perea-Richmann

16. Set meeting dates subsequent to Annual Review meeting

- a. May 17-18, 2007 Farmington Civic Center, Farmington, NM

Adjourn

BIOLOGY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS
(Updated January 30, 2007)

	<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Meeting/ Origination Date</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Date Completed</i>
16	BC feels Vince Lamarra should work with Amy Cutler on Water Temperature and submit to BC with analysis.	02-23-06	BC	On going	04-01-06	
19	SOW on development of SOW for removal of vegetation removal for Feasibility Evaluation Restoration Options using capital monies.	02-23-06	David C & Mark M	On going	05-08-06	
22	BOR to perform feasibility/design study for nonselective passage improvements for APS.	02-23-06	Mark McKinstry	On going	05-08-06	
27	David Campbell will work with Bob Muth to discuss integration of workshops for both programs	10-10-06	David C.	On going		
29	David Campbell will resend Monitoring Plan and finalize LRP by October 25	10-10-06	David C.	Completed		
30	David Campbell will send email to the BC for 2008 SOW and their due date	10-10-06	David C.	Pending		
31	Need mapping information	10-10-06	Vince Lamarra	Pending		
32	Mark McKinstry will prepare draft SOW for non-native vegetation removal project	10-10-06	Mark McKinstry	Pending		

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33	Mark McKinstry will prepare draft SOW for experimental backwaters project	10-10-06	Mark McKinstry	Pending		
35	David Campbell will send updated LRP with table to BC for final review, then present at Annual Review Mtg.	12-6-06	David/BC	Pending		
36	Mark McKinstry/Bill Miller/Paul Holden and Chuck McAda will work on dates and place for Population Model Workshop.	12-06-06	2-15-06	Pending		
37	BC need to compile a list of questions for Peer Reviewers and what they want from the Model	12-6-06	2-15-06	Pending		
39	Bill Miller will compose an agenda for the 2-day Population Model workshop and will check on some Peer Reviewers and forward to Mark McKinstry and David Campbell.	12-6-06	Bill M./Mark M./David C.	Pending		
40	Paul Holden and Chuck McAda will work on BC May meeting Population Estimate Methodology workshop. Paul will structure with David C.	12-6-06	Paul H./Chuck M. and David C.	Pending		
41	Chuck McAda will provide Population Estimate reports from UBRIP the committee.	12-6-06	Chuck M.	Pending		
45	Mark McKinstry and Ron Bliesner will work on design for feasibility (purpose section) with BoR.	12-6-06	Mark M. and Ron B.	Pending		