

| Approved Nov 9, 2010



**San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program
Biology Committee Conference Call
3 September 2010**

Attendees

Biology Committee Members:

Bill Miller, Chair – Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Paul Holden – Jicarilla Apache Nation
Keith Lawrence – Bureau of Indian Affairs
Jason Davis – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2
Mark McKinstry – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Dale Ryden – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6
Vincent Lamarra – Navajo Nation
Tom Nesler - State of Colorado
David Propst – State of New Mexico
Greg Gustina – U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Tom Wesche – Water Development Interests

Program Office – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2:

David Campbell

Interested Parties:

Amy Kraft – Southwest Water Conservation District
James Morel – Navajo Nation
Brian Westfall – Keller-Bliesner Engineering
Steve Platania – American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers

New State of Colorado BC Representative - Nesler presented John Alves and his credentials to the BC. Holden made a motion to accept; Ryden seconded; motion unanimously approved.

May 13, 2010 BC Meeting Summary Approval – Summary approved. Ryden asked Nesler about the status of the non-native fish stocking agreement. Nesler will brief Alves on it and move it forward.

2011 Annual Work Plan – Campbell reported on Program reauthorization and the possibility of legislation not getting passed which would limit the use of power revenue dollars to only O&M and monitoring in 2012. Other activities would require appropriations that are not yet part of Reclamation's budget. Campbell will review Program activities to determine what can be classified as monitoring. Data analysis and integration should be included because they are essential for evaluating recovery actions. May need to include all monitoring activities in 2011 AWP to have full budget for 2012

The 2010 money has been carried over but what is the plan for this money in 2011. The flight data from 2010 is available. It's just a point to decide how the 2010 money will be spent. The 2010 temperature data is available. SW indicates that the summary is largely accurate. The SOW will detail what exactly will happen. An RFP will be developed to guide this. The work will include 2010 and 2011 work. Or do we just do one year one data? Whatever happens should be dictated according to the protocol. Start with 2011 and if there's money left over then also do 2010 work. (This was a discussion lead by Holden). Temp data, digitized files, every 5 year plan we should cycle through the habitat protocol. 2007 habitat data provides the ground truthing for the next 5 years.

Campbell provided an overview of all scenarios. Habitat and temperature monitoring would be through an RFP for 2011 or 2012. The 2010 funding for habitat and temperature monitoring work will be carried over for use in 2011. McKinstry said he secured \$25,000 for the Lake Powell study so all scenarios can be reduced accordingly. He said he also secured \$50,000 for Jackson Gross (USGS Montana) to investigate the effects of repeated electrofishing on razorback sucker fecundity and eggs. The work will be conducted at Uvalde.

The group discussed Scenario 1 that included full funding for the Lake Powell survey and all monitoring. Propst asked if there was a downside to Scenario 1. Ryden questioned if it changes the approach of suspending some monitoring activities to focus on integration. At this time, it may be better to approach integration with key questions and continue with monitoring. Wesche said there is a section for integration in the monitoring plan now and asked when it will be addressed. Need to get questions out as soon as possible for discussion in November. McKinstry said Scott Durst should not have to handle all integration and said some work could be included in individual SOWs and be done by P.I.'s. P.I.s may not have time to do additional tasks with current work loads. Need to include integration and data management under Element 4 in the AWP because both should be funded by power revenue dollars. Any surplus dollars in the budget could be used for planning or to identify key questions. No downside to Scenario 1 was identified.

✓ BC recommended Scenario 1 be submitted to the CC for their review and approval.

The group discussed habitat and temperature monitoring. Westfall and McKinstry explained the contract issues with BIA that resulted in 2010 funds being pulled and carried over into 2011. Holden expressed concerns that habitat work has not been done for a couple years. Lamarra and Holden said the data is needed this year. Contractual problems will prevent this work being done in 2010. Westfall said they are willing to do the work and an RFP will be a better way to do it in the future. 2011 can be used as a ground-truthing year. Westfall clarified that the 2010 SOW planned to use 2007 photography and no new ground-truthing was included in the SOW. Lamarra recommended using 2011 as a ground truth year and process 2010 as well. An RFP will be developed for habitat monitoring in 2011.

Temperature monitoring is a separate SOW. In 2010, additional loggers were going to be installed in McElmo and Mancos. Platania said larval crew placed a logger in McElmo in April so will have some

data. The Mancos is dry. McKinstry pointed out the larval crews could check loggers since they are on the river often. An RFP will be developed for temperature monitoring in 2011.

Propst's Retirement in January 2011 – Propst reported NM will continue with small-bodied and larval monitoring. NM will make a recommendation for BC representation in November.

Monitoring Plan and Protocols – P.I.s will send their sections to Miller by September 15. Miller will combine and distribute to group. Miller will re-send the draft protocols to the P.I.'s with peer review comments.

Non-native Fish Workshop – Whitmore will send out summary and recommendations to BC by September 22.

Nominations for BC Chair – No nominations were submitted; Miller suggested he would continue another year

RERI Trip Survey – Westfall reported Keller-Bliesner has a contract with TNC to do the habitat restoration work. A crew went out Monday for a couple days and looked at 18 sites and surveyed some with a total station. The team worked well together. He will put together a detailed field report with survey data and photos. McKinstry asked about the process for moving forward. Westfall said Keller-Bliesner will make a recommendation on which sites to use. He expects this to come back to the BC for concurrence. Campbell said the Program will pick up costs for post construction work if needed in 2012 using capital funds. McKinstry asked about the status of a blanket permit for the work. Campbell said it will be done through an intra-Service consultation and he does not anticipate any problems.

Review of Action Items from May BC Meeting – Need to add an item to develop RFPs for habitat and temperature monitoring. Campbell and McKinstry will draft. Should meet the needs of the BC and be in-line with the monitoring protocols.

Next Meetings –

November 9-10 in Farmington; starting at 8 a.m. the first day and ending at noon the second day; agenda items identified for next meeting:

- RERI Trip Survey
- Monitoring Protocols
- Non-native Workshop

December 13-14 in Farmington: starting at 1:00 pm on the 13th and finish by 3:00 pm on the 14th.

- Long Range Plan and BC priorities