



**Approved Summary  
San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program  
Biology Committee Conference Call  
19 April 2013**

**Attendees:**

**Biology Committee Members:**

Bill Miller, Chair – Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
Jicarilla Apache Nation - absent  
Brian Westfall – 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  
Harry Crockett – State of Colorado  
Eliza Gilbert – State of New Mexico  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management – absent  
Tom Wesche – Water Development Interests  
David Gori – Conservation Interests

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

David Campbell  
Sharon Whitmore  
Scott Durst

**Interested Parties:**

Carrie Lile – Southwestern Water Conservation District  
Steven Platania – American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers  
Greg Gerlick – Colorado Park and Wildlife

**Friday 19 April 2013**

**Approve draft meeting summary for 26 March 2013 conference call; review Action Item list:**

- Durst revised the summary based on comments received from Wesche, McKinstry, and Miller. Wording was clarified concerning vegetation modeling versus monitoring on page 2. Action Items were completed as scheduled or are on-going.
- Wesche motioned to approve the summary as revised, Gori and Ryden seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Discussion of Ridges Basin non-native fish escapement report recommendations:**

- Miller distributed a draft memo on the BC's recommendations for the Ridges Basin report that included comments from Westfall, Gilbert, Gori, Wesche, and others. Westfall indicated that monitoring should occur in order to determine if additional control measures are necessary.
- Miller is concerned that if the reservoir is operated at lower elevations some level of escapement will occur. Miller does not feel that the burden to address fish escapement should be passed to the water users. Additional information is needed in terms of potential for escaped fish to disperse downstream into the San Juan River. A monitoring plan needs to be developed in advance although this plan is yet to be detailed. The monitoring plan should address how potential escapement will be addressed. This plan should be developed before the specifics of who will do the work or who will pay for it are sorted out. Although technological solutions to potential escapement may be developed in the future, a plan should be developed now given the best available methodology.
- Wesche was concerned that substantial Program resources would be devoted to developing and implementing a monitoring plan, developing escapement targets, and designing detailed secondary treatment plans before a problem is even identified.
- McKinstry cautioned that it will be important to prioritize monitoring and control efforts at Ridges Basin since any potential funding for that work has been used for projects outside the Program like the Lake Powell surveys and tributary work.
- Some of the questions that come up in terms of escapement from Ridges Basin can be addressed with the Population Model.
- Campbell indicated that the Biological Opinion details that Reclamation will develop a plan to deal with escapement. The BC supports Reclamation's efforts to develop a plan that will address potential escapement. The recommendations that the BC developed should be included in this plan. Ultimately the interpretation of the Biological Opinion is between Reclamation and the Service.
- Some noted that the efforts of Reclamation to prevent escapement at Ridges Basin should stand as a model to other reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin.
- Miller will send a revised memo that the BC can approve during the May meeting.

**Finalize 2013 LRP and project prioritization:**

- Whitmore recently sent a revised version of the LRP. She is also incorporating status updates to some projects as well. Since there were no specific comments from the CC, the BC will move forward with finalizing the LRP at the May meeting.
- There were no changes from previously discussed project prioritization.

**Discuss integration SOWs:**

- Some SOWs have been sent in without a clear idea of what specific integration tasks would be.
- The upcoming integration effort should address revision to the flow recommendations and workshops that will be held through FY 2014 to deal with this effort. These SOWs should cover participation at the workshops.
- Campbell is looking to put forth a draft SOW for the flow revision workshop in time for the Annual Meeting. Additional discussion can occur at the May meeting to flesh out these scopes and plan for any necessary integration. No further SOWs should be submitted to the PO.

**Addition discussion items not included on the agenda:**

- Ryden will continue to participate in BC meeting although Benjamin Schleicher will be nominated for the FWS R6 seat at the BC once Ryden moves to the CC.
- The SOW for videography was discussed. The Program will continue to use Reclamation flights to capture aerial imagery. McKinstry will see that the scope is submitted for inclusion in the 2014

AWP. Lamarra suggested having the flight in late July or early August in order to capture conditions as soon as the river is at base flow.

- Miller asked if all draft annual reports have been submitted. The Adult Monitoring report has been delayed because of interruption caused by sequestration. The UDWR report has not been submitted but Brandon Gerig committed to completing the report before he left his position.
- Whitmore reminded PIs to provide her with fish “hotspot” locations for the TNC threat assessment.
- Susan Behery is developing options on reduced base flow releases that should be submitted to the BC at the May meeting. This discussion will be added to the agenda for the May meeting.
- During the May meeting Miller asked for time on the agenda to run-through the Population Model with the BC.

**BIOLOGY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM LOG**

(Updated 10 May 2013)

Item No. *	Action Item	Meeting/O rigination Date	Responsible Party(s)	Due Date	Revised Date	Date Completed
1	Provide RBS/CPM stocking/capture/recapture data		P.I.'s to the Program Office	Annually before Jan. 1		
2	Provide Preliminary Draft Report Presentations		Project Leads (authors)	Annually at Feb. meeting		
3	Review LRP		BC	Annually at fall meeting		
4	Review Peer Review Comments from the February and May meetings		BC	Annually at fall meeting		
5	Provide Draft Reports		Project Leads (authors) to Program Office	Annually by end of March		
6	Scopes of Work		Project Leads to Program Office	Annually by end of March		
7	Provide Final Reports		Project Leads (authors) to Program Office	Annually by end of June		

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(Updated 10 May 2013)

Item No. *	Action Item	Meeting/O rigination Date	Responsible Party(s)	Due Date	Revised Date	Date Completed
8	Annual Data Delivery		Pls to Program Office	Annually by June 30		
9	T&E Species Data		BC to Program Office	Annually by Dec. 31		
10	Annually compile T&E data and Program progress into summary to address overall Program recovery goals/objectives for presentation at annual meeting		Program Office/BC	By Annual Meeting in May		
11	Distribute Consolidated Data and list of annual data collected and available in the Program's database		Program Office to BC	Annually by Jan. 31		
12	Recapture analysis on PIT tagged fish		Durst	Annually by March		
13	Coordinate CPM stocking closely with Reclamation to avoid negative impact due to high flows/releases		Project Leads	Annually		
14	Waterfall Inundation Whitepaper – review past meeting summaries, determine what is needed, and provide report at the next meeting.	05/18/07	Program Office	12/07/07	Not a current priority	

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15	Revise RBS Augmentation Goals (based on the outcome of experimental stocking)	5/10/10	FWS Fisheries/Program Office	5/2011 – provide update and extend as needed	ongoing	
16	Develop a detailed outline for San Juan River Recovery Program case history manuscript	11-5-08	Propst/Miller			On hold
17	Pursue Non-native fish stocking procedures	11/5/09	Crockett and Gilbert	12/1/09	5/14/13	
18	Pursue effects study on Hg/pikeminnow with other groups/programs	1/14/10	Program Office lead	ongoing		
20	Discussion of what is the appropriate number of fish to stock	3/23/10	BC	ongoing		
21	Southern Ute funding of Population Model	5/10/10	Miller	11/2010	ongoing	
22	Work with I&E Coordinator to determine feasibility of brochures and signs	11/10/10	PO	2/24/11	ongoing	
23	Revised positive population response criteria	11/15/11	PO and FWS to BC	2/13/12	5/7/13	5/7/13

**BIOLOGY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM LOG**

(Updated 10 May 2013)

Item No. *	Action Item	Meeting/O rigination Date	Responsible Party(s)	Due Date	Revised Date	Date Completed
24	Prepare memo to CC conveying BC recommendation to conduct a feasibility study on removing fish barriers in the lower Animas River	7/9/12	PO	8/20/12	5/7/13	
25	Provide historic perspective on historic San Juan data	11/8/2012	PIs	2/20/13	5/7/13	5/7/13
26	LRP revision for BC review	3/26/13	Whitmore, BC	4/3/13 and 4/15/13		4/19/13
27	Consolidate Ridges Basin non-native fish escapement recommendations	3/26/13	Miller, BC	4/1/13 and 4/15/13		4/19/13
28	Identify fish "hotspots" for TNC threats assessment	3/26/13	PIs to Whitmore	4/19/13		

\* Items were re-numbered after changes were made

Yellow highlight indicates annual action items

Green highlight indicates new action items

Red highlight indicates completed action items that will be removed from the next iteration of the Action Item Log

**Annual SJRRIP Cycle (Oct. 1 –Sept. 30)**

**January 2011 version**

Date	Annual Tasks	PO	CC	BC	P.I.
Oct.	Reclamation administers contracts	X			
Nov.	BC Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify questions for annual data integration</li> <li>• Review data integration results from previous year</li> <li>• Discuss Program priorities</li> <li>• LRP review and provide recommendations (pros and cons) to Program Office</li> </ul>	X		X	
Dec. 31	RBS/CPM stocking/capture/recapture data to Program Office				X
January	Notification/update of Program rosters/ mailing lists	X			
January	Executive meeting (Program Office; Reclamation Fund Manager; CC and BC Chairs) to do preliminary planning for upcoming year	X	X	X	
January	Updated LRP to BC and CC for review	X	X		
Jan. 31	Distribute consolidated PIT tag data and post other data	X			
February	BC Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for Annual Meeting</li> <li>• Provide preliminary results; draft report presentations</li> <li>• Review updated LRP</li> <li>• Review annual data integration priorities</li> </ul>	X		X	X
February	Final updated LRP to CC (with explanation of input included/not included)	X			
Feb/Mar	Approval of yearly LRP		X		
March	Annual guidance/solicitation for SOWs based on LRP/list of prioritized projects	X			
March 31	Draft reports due/SOWs to Program Office			X	X
April	Preliminary draft Annual Workplan and Budget	X			
May	Annual Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program overview</li> <li>• P.I. presentations</li> <li>• Review preliminary draft AWP</li> <li>• Committee reports</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X
June/July	Draft Annual Workplan and Budget	X			
June 30	Provide final reports and data sets				X
August	Tech review of draft AWP; recommendations with pros and cons to Program Office			X	
August	Revise AWP based on input and transmit final draft to CC with documentation of all input	X			
Sept.	Review and approve final AWP		X		
Sept.	Post final AWP to website	X			