

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program  
Coordination Committee  
19 October 1993

The meeting of the Coordination Committee of the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (Program) was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. on 19 October 1993 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dr. John Rogers, Regional Director, Region 2, Fish and Wildlife Service chaired the meeting.

The roster of all attendees who signed in is attached. The following representatives of the signatories to the Program's Cooperative Agreement were present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
John G. Rogers	Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2
Jim Lutey	Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6
Rick Gold	Bureau of Reclamation
Leo R. Soukup	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Peter Evans	State of Colorado
David Vackar	State of New Mexico
Les Taylor	Jicarilla Apache Tribe
Scott McElroy	Southern Ute Indian Tribe

All committee members and attendees introduced themselves. Program Coordinator Jim Brooks was asked if Chairwoman Judy Knight-Frank from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe had been contacted concerning this meeting. He responded that Chairwoman Knight-Frank had been included in all mailings concerning the Recovery Implementation Program, but that no response had ever been received from her or the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

The minutes of the 15 June 1993 meeting of the Coordination Committee were approved, and the agenda of the current meeting discussed. Mr. Evans requested that all future agendas provide a specific item to review and revise the agenda. All agreed.

The topic of representation of various agencies and interest groups in the Program and on its committees was discussed. Dr. Rogers summarized the provisions set forth in the Program document for representation on the Coordination Committee: One representative each from the Water Development Interests and the Conservationists shall be selected by those groups to serve on the Coordination Committee. The Service has received numerous conflicting nominations from water developers/water users. In the absence of a single nominated individual no representative of that group was seated at the Committee.

Dr. Rogers then addressed the lack of representation by the State of Utah and the Navajo Nation. The Service has received correspondence from Ted Stewart, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources, expressing interest in official participation in the Biology Committee without resolution of the State of Utah's participation in the Program as a whole. The Fish and Wildlife Service will respond to Mr. Stewart's request. Mr. Stanley Pollack, representing the Navajo Nation expressed his surprise that the Program has continued without the official participation of the Nation. The Navajo's primary objection to the Cooperative Agreement executing the

Program was the open-ended obligation of participants such as the Navajo Nation to protect flows beyond the life of the Program; therefore they would not sign the Cooperative Agreement, but will continue to attend meetings.

No name of a representative for the conservationist groups has been proffered. Ms. Hewett iterated the reluctance of the conservationists to participate in the Program because of the perceived development rather than recovery emphasis of the Program.

An open discussion of the representation by water users/water developers in the Program was held by the Committee and attendees. There is considerable disagreement among water development interests concerning who may most reasonably represent them. It would appear that a significant impasse exists between the supporters for two individuals: Mr. Orion Utton and Mr. Tom Pitts. It was suggested by Mr. Evans that the Fish and Wildlife Service may wish to facilitate a meeting of the parties to resolve the conflicting nominations. Dr. Rogers declined involvement by the Service, stating that any participation by the Service might be interpreted as influencing the outcome. The Service supports the selection of a representative by the group of water users/developers but the interests must seek resolution among themselves. Mr. Orion Utton and Mr. Tom Pitts both addressed their respective qualifications to represent the water development interests on the Coordination Committee. Mr. Evans and Mr. Vackar then volunteered to act as facilitators in the process, drawing the proponents of either side together to reach resolution. This was supported by the Coordination Committee. Dr. Rogers will direct his staff to provide all nominating letters and petitions received by the Service to date and in the future to the two facilitators, with the thanks of the Service. Messrs. Pitts and Utton, as the two primary nominees, also requested copies of all nominating correspondence.

The Coordination Committee then addressed the request by the National Park Service for participation in the Program. Mr. John Ritenour iterated his agency's request based on the following criteria identified in the Program document:

1. Legal and regulatory responsibilities to protect listed species or designated critical habitat; and
2. Permitting or regulatory authority affecting either the endangered fish species or their habitat; and
3. Commitment to provide sufficient funding to significantly contribute to the activities identified in the long Range implementation Plan and comply with the agency's section 7(a)(1) responsibilities.

Discussion of the first two criteria among the members of the Coordination Committee acknowledged the responsibility of the National Park Service in these two areas of concern. The continuing question of ability to commit funds to the Program was brought up by the Mr. Gold. Without approval of the Fiscal Year 94 budget, Mr. Ritenour could not commit a specific funding amount.

A vote was taken by the Committee with the following results:

Bureau of Reclamation	Yes
Fish and Wildlife Service	Yes
State of Colorado	Yes
State of New Mexico	Yes
Bureau of Indian Affairs	No
Jicarilla Apache Tribe	No
Southern Ute Indian Tribe	No

Because the question of membership for the National Park Service did not pass with the required two-thirds majority of the vote, it failed.

Having dealt with all items of old business, the Committee turned to new business, the first item being a review by Jennifer Fowler-Propst of depletions from the annual 3,000 acre-feet ceiling. A table of the depletions was provided to all committee members and made available to all attendees. The depletions, to date, stand at 1,064 acre-feet, with a remaining 1,936 acre-feet available.

A review of ongoing and recently completed section 7 consultations by the New Mexico Ecological Services State Office was presented. Formal consultations for the reoperation of Navajo Dam (Bureau of Reclamation) and for Blocks 9 through 11 of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (Bureau of Indian Affairs) are ongoing. The consultation with the Bureau of Land Management (Farmington District) has been completed. The jeopardy biological opinion issued by the Service required, as elements of the reasonable and prudent alternative, the funding of contaminant investigations by the Bureau of Land Management and the participation by that agency in the Program. Accordingly, the representative of the Bureau of Land Management was seated by the Committee. Permanent representation will be by Mr. Joel Farrell on the Coordination Committee. In his absence on this date, Mr. Bob Moore of the Bureau of Land Management represented the Bureau for the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Evans requested the submission of names from committee members of individuals to represent them on the Navajo Dam Operating Committee to be formed under the aegis of the Program. The purpose of the committee is to facilitate coordination of Navajo Dam releases to assure that impacts to users of water stored in Navajo Reservoir and those located downstream of the dam are considered and minimized in the determination of release patterns. Mr. Pollack requested participation by the Navajo Nation on that committee. A unanimous vote by the Coordination Committee supported inclusion of the Navajo Nation on this committee, with the acknowledged and supported stipulation that this vote would set no precedent for any other committee or any other existing or potential participant.

The following individuals were named to represent their agencies/offices on the Navajo Dam Operating Committee:

Steve Cullinan	Fish and Wildlife Service
Brad Vickers	Bureau of Reclamation
Leo Soukup	Bureau of Indian Affairs
John Cawley	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bill Miller	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Ken Beegles	Colorado Division of Water Resources
Mike Johnson	Department of Navajo Water Resources

James Brooks, Program Coordinator, presented the executive summary of the 1992 research activities, and ongoing 1993 investigations of the Biology Committee and the results of the first meeting of the Biology Committee (held in September in Farmington, New Mexico).

The proposed 1994 work plan, approved unanimously by the Biology Committee, was discussed. A summary of the annual work plan is presented below and grouped according to each of the four categories: 1) core research, 2) other research, 3) proposed research activities (currently unfunded) and 4) contaminant studies (other funding sources or proposed for funding under the Seven Year Research Program).

#### 1. Core Research

Adult Monitoring and Radio Telemetry (FWS-R6)	62,700
Early Life History (Utah)	86,600
Secondary Channel (New Mexico)	91,500
Navajo Tailwater Trout	33,500
Non-native interactions	22,500
Videography (BR)	30,000
Specimen identification and curation (UNM)	43,000
San Juan Arm Lake Powell Young of Year (BR)	16,900
Program Management (BR)	30,000
Data Management (FWS)	5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$421,700</b>

#### 2. Other Research

Geomorphology and Hydrology (BIA)	
San Juan River geomorphology	47,100
Channel Dynamics	177,300
Habitat Mapping	238,900
Flow/Habitat Modeling	69,100
River Operation Modeling	21,600
Water Temperature Modeling	5,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$569,300</b>

Colorado Squawfish Habitat Use (Southern Ute)	
Macro- and Microhabitat Use	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59,300</b>

### 3. Proposed Research

Razorback Sucker Experimental Augmentation	53,850
Lake Powell Larval and Adult Razorback Surveys	10,000

### 4. Contaminants Research

Identification of Comprehensive Contaminants Research Plan  
Initiation of Synoptic Survey of Contaminants  
Initiation of Biological Effects Studies

TOTAL 100,000

Mr. Dale Ryden presented the elements of the proposal to experimentally stock razorback sucker (#3). The contaminants portion of the 1994 work plan was discussed. There exists a shortfall of approximately \$33,000 in funding all necessary work. The New Mexico Ecological Services State Office will cover these funds.

The 1994 work plan was submitted for approval by the Coordination Committee and passed by a unanimous vote.

The next meeting of the Coordination Committee is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on 30 June, 1994.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Attachment

Minor Depletions, San Juan River  
19 October 1993

Date	Entity (State)	Depletion	Duration	Annual Accounting of 3,000 a-f Minor Depletions						
				1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
3/5/92	Meridian Oil (NM)	50 a-f	5 years	50	50	50	50	50	0	0
3/5/92	Northern Heights Bloomfield Water and Sanitation (NM)	40 a-f	5 years	40	40	40	40	40	0	0
3/5/92	Elks Lodge No. 1747 (NM)	20 a-f	5 years	20	20	20	20	20	0	0
3/5/92	Mr. Douglas Lee (NM)	80 a-f	5 years	80	80	80	80	80	0	0
3/5/92	Nielson Incorporated (NM)	14 a-f	1 year	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
3/5/92	Bloomfield Refinery	340 a-f	1 year	340	0	0	0	0	0	0
3/5/92	San Juan Basin Water Haulers (NM)	500 a-f	5 years	500	500	500	500	500	0	0
12/22/92	North Heights Bloomfield Water and Sanitation (NM)	20 a-f	5 years	20	20	20	20	20	0	0
6/26/92	Forest Groves Estates Homeowners Association (CO)	43 a-f <sup>1</sup>	5 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/26/92	Los Ranchitos, Inc. (CO)	36 a-f <sup>1</sup>	5 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/26/92	Country Aire Estates (CO)	7 a-f <sup>1</sup>	5 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/18/93	Burns Fish Pond (CO)	1 a-f		0	1	1	1	1	1	1
6/17/93	Pagosa Springs (CO)	4 a-f		0	4	4	4	4	4	4
8/30/93	Elk Springs Ranch (CO)	3 a-f		0	3	3	3	3	3	3
Cumulative Annual Total (a-f).....				1,064	718	718	718	718	718	718
Balance Available (a-f).....				1,936	1,936	2,282	2,282	2,282	2,282	2,282

<sup>1</sup> Not included as a minor depletion because it was included in the 18,000 a-f baseline depletion for Colorado -- Region 6 (FWS) did not issue a biological opinion for these depletions.

NAME

ORGANIZATION

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