SAN JUAN RIVR BASIN RECOVERY
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (SJRIP)
BIOLOGY COMMITTEE (BC) MEETING SUMMARY
Durango, CO
6-8 December 2022

Biology Committee (BC) Members	**Representing**
Harry Crockett	State of Colorado
Matthew Zeigler	State of New Mexico
Sarah Seegert	State of Utah
Jacob Mazzone	Jicarilla Apache Nation
William Miller	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Vincent Lamarra	Navajo Nation
Absent	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Brian Westfall	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Stephen Davenport	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2
Mark McKinstry (Chair for Crockett)	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Benjamin Schleicher	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6
AJ Keith	The Nature Conservancy
Tom Chart	Water Development Interests

Program Office (PO)	**Representing**
Melissa Mata, Program Coordinator	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Eliza Gilbert, Assistant Program Coordinator	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Scott Durst, Science Coordinator	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Raphaela Ware, Program Biologist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jim Sykes, Program Support Assistant	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Other Interested Parties	**Representing**
Chris Kitcheyan	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Wade Wilson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Nathan Franssen	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Nate Caswell	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Keegan Epping	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dale Ryden	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bill Rice	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Diego Araju	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Weston Furr	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Paul Badame	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Shannon Nelson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Nathan Clifton	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tracy Diver, BC alternate	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Adam Barkalow, BC Alternate	State of New Mexico
Jill Wick, BC Alternate	State of New Mexico

Other Interested Parties	Representing
Colleen Cunningham, CC Alternate	State of New Mexico
Susan Behery	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kerri Pedersen	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Eric Creeden	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Bill Stewart	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Lee Traynham	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kevin Moran	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
David Speas	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Katie Creighton, BC Alternate	Utah Department of Wildlife Resources
Brian Hines	Utah Department of Wildlife Resources
Steven Platania	American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers
David Camak	American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers
Mike Farrington	American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers
Jerrod Bowman	Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife
Jeff Cole	Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife
Anthony	Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife
Emily DeArmon	Museum of Southwestern Biology
Carrie Padgett, BC alternate	Water Development Interests
Ben Zimmerman	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Melissa Trammell	National Park Service
Mel Warren, Peer Reviewer	U.S. Forest Service
Kara Scheel	Colorado Water Conservation Board
Quinn Donnelly	River Restoration
Abigail Lawson	United States Geological Survey

Introductions and changes to the agenda
In-person and virtual meeting participants introduced themselves. Zeigler asked for an update on the nonnative fish stocking procedures agreement on Thursday.

Approve draft summary from 14 July 2022 BC meeting; review Action Item list – Ware
Ware incorporated minor comments from Miller, Chart, and Trammel. Bowman reported that there is not road access for a boat ramp at the Hogback Diversion so construction of a ramp at this site is currently off the table. Mazzone motioned to approve the July summary, Westfall seconded, there was no further discussion, and the summary was unanimously approved.

Action Items from 14 July 2022 BC meeting

1. Behery will send BC monthly updates on the forecast shortage. *Completed*.
2. The PO will organize a BC group (Drought Baseflow Small Group) and provide feedback to Behery for testing ideas by August 3rd or September 2nd, 2022. *Completed.*
3. Crockett will inform the CC of the potential budget increase inequality on behalf of entire BC. *Completed.*
4. Ware will investigate BC Listserv communications error for specific BC members. *Completed.*
5. Mata will investigate venues for in-person meeting with hybrid communications capacity for the December BC meeting. *Completed*.

6. McKinstry will inquire with Traynham about using capital funds for a feasibility approach to developing a grow-out pond in Bluff, UT, and work on a SOW. *Completed*.
7. BC will let Gilbert know if there are any changes or additions needed for the San Juan River points-of-interest Google Earth KMZ file. *Completed*.
8. Franssen will send out a SOW for boat ramp installation above PNM Weir. *Completed*.
9. Bowman will provide updates about a boat ramp installation location at Hogback. *Completed (see above for update)*.
10. Durst will send out Doodle Poll for a February 2023 meeting. *Completed.*

Nomination of Sarah Seegert as State of Utah BC representative and Katherine Creighton as State of Utah's BC alternate

Seegert is the Assistant Aquatic Section Chief for Native Species (replacing Paul Badame). She has previous experience with the June Sucker Recovery Program but is not familiar with the San Juan although she is eager to learn the system. Creighton has been with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) in Moab for 15 years and has been the Project Leader in that office for the last 10 years. She has lots of experience working on the San Juan. The BC expressed their appreciation for the history of Utah's work in the San Juan River Basin. The BC discussed the nominations and with no objections Seegert and Creighton were seated as the BC representative and BC alternative for the State of Utah, respectively.

Hydrology/DROA/Shortage updates – Behery

Behery reported that the third La Niña is expected this winter with below average snowpack in the Southwest and San Juan River Basin. Although soil moisture conditions are still below average, they are better than recent years. For a 21-day spring peak release from Navajo Reservoir, inflows would need to be 135% above average and the current chance of conducting a spring peak release is only 7%. Similarly, due to a good monsoon season and recent autumn precipitation, the chance of shortage has declined to 7%. A shortage is forecast when the Navajo Reservoir elevation falls below 5,990 feet and Navajo Indian Irrigation Project is unable to divert water from the reservoir. Because of the risk of shortage, no maintenance releases are planned for the 2023 water year. Also, no Drought Response Operation Agreement (DROA) releases from Navajo are currently planned for the 2023 water year. Finally, work is being conducted at the Tulley-Manzanares ditch this winter and releases from Navajo will drop to 250 cfs for a few days to facilitate this work.

Four Corners Power Plant funding update – Franssen

UDWR completed a report detailing mercury and selenium monitoring for Colorado Pikeminnow in the San Juan River in 2019-2020. A total of 57 individuals (size range: 201-786 millimeter in total length) were sampled from Shiprock, NM to Clay Hills, UT. Mercury concentration increased with size and exceeded Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) thresholds. Selenium concentration decreased with size and the largest had selenium values below EPA thresholds. Hines will present this work at the upcoming Researchers Meeting and a final report is available as well.

Four Corners Power Plant funds are being used to construct a Razorback Sucker spawning bar below the Piute Farms Waterfall. The BC previously reviewed this proposal. Translocation efforts move only ~20% of individuals detected at the waterfall and if spawning habitat was available at the waterfall those fish would not have to be moved. However, the BC would need to make an assessment in the future to determine if translocation or maintaining the spawning bar is the most beneficial management action. The spawning bar will be constructed in February 2023 prior to the

upcoming spawning season if all permitting is completed in time. The success of the spawning bar will be examined with egg, sediment, and PIT antenna monitoring.

The trash rack at the PNM fish passage will be upgraded this winter with a polyethylene trash rack that has wider spacing to allow larger fish to pass when the passage is run passively (i.e., open with no trapping). Also, a polyethylene trash rack will reduce interference on the PIT tag antenna installed outside of the trash rack compared to the current metal trash rack. An automated Landy trash rake could be installed in the future to facilitate cleaning debris from the trash rack so the passage can be run more efficiently.

Discuss operating PNM fish passage "open" all year – PO
Franssen provided background on the PNM fish passage and orientation to the operation of the fish passage. Debris and sediment accumulation upstream and inside the fish passage limits effective operation of the fish passage. The fish passage has been run open from March-May since 2018 to increase passage of T&E fish when few Channel Catfish are typically present. The fish trap has continued to be operated June-October since 2018 (like it was year-round prior to 2018). The majority of Colorado Pikeminnow are detected at the passage on the descending limb of the hydrograph. Most Razorback Sucker are detected at the passage prior to spring runoff (when the passage is being run open) but a second pulse has been detected on the descending limb of the hydrograph. In some years high numbers of Channel Catfish are detected at the fish passage in July and August. Opening the fish passage in the spring increased the numbers and proportion of Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker passing the barrier. Opening the passage year-round would likely increase annual passage rates for Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker but would allow more Channel Catfish to move upstream to a reach of the San Juan River that currently holds few Channel Catfish. The BC debated the benefits of increased passage of endangered fishes at PNM compared to an increase in Channel Catfish densities upstream of the barrier. Navajo Nation indicated the trash racks will need to be kept in place to keep debris from accumulating inside the passage and debris and sediment will continue to need to be removed from the trash rack regardless of how the fish passage is operated.

The BC approved the proposal to keep PNM fish passage open during all seasons for one year to assess changes in numbers of endangered fishes and passage rates (Schleicher was the lone dissenter). Adult, small-bodied, and larval monitoring will occur upstream of PNM in 2023 and will be used to assess Channel Catfish numbers and densities upstream of the barrier. The BC will reassess operations at the PNM fish passage following one year of running it open year-round.

Possible metrics to inform the decision how to operate the passage in the future will be discussed during the February meeting. The PO will explore options to pipe water into the fish passage to increase flow and fish attraction to the facility (water rights to conduct this needs to be investigated). Crockett will draft a memo detailing this BC recommendation to the Coordination Committee (CC).

Discuss options for fish passage at APS Weir – Reclamation, Bill Rice, PO
Gilbert provided an overview of the APS weir and history of the SJRIP's efforts to improve fish passage at this location. The barriers at Hogback, APS, and PNM can have a large cumulative effect on passage rates if there's moderate or low efficiency at individual locations. At flows < 2000 cfs there's only limited passage at APS through the river left sluiceway. The 2015 Four Corners Power Plant Biological opinion included measures for improving fish passage at the APS weir. Previously the BC recommended and CC approved the downstream facing rock ramp (Alternative 1). Reclamation subsequently refined Alternative 1 and provided a new Alternative 2 (a concrete passage on river right with steel baffles like Grand Valley Diversion Dam) and new Alternative 3 (a rock

passage with chevron baffles like the Price Stubbs Diversion Dam). Bill Rice and Nathan Clifton detailed a comparison of these alternative with Alternative 1 generally being the best option for fish passage with minimal maintenance but the most expensive alternative to construct. The BC agreed that alternatives on river right would likely need substantial maintenance and not allow for efficient upstream passage.

Schleicher motioned to recommend the refined Alternative 1, Crockett seconded, and none opposed. Miller had ideas for potential cost savings for Alternative 1 that he'll share with the engineers. The increased cost of Alternative 1 will need to be approved by the CC. APS has the right to veto Alternative 1 if it does not suit their operation of the weir and pumping plant. A Reclamation value engineering study still needs to be conducted.

Structure Decision Making and Adaptive Management for the SJRIP – Abigail Lawson
Gilbert provided background on the work of the BC's nonnative subgroup's recommendation to use a structured decision making (SDM) approach to develop an adaptive management (AM) plan for nonnative fish management in the San Juan River. The SJRIP decided to take a hiatus from typical nonnative fish management to design an improved nonnative fish management strategy to benefit Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker recovery. The subgroup identified activities that have become SOWs for the 2023 workplan including a literature review of Channel Catfish and assessment of Channel Catfish spatial and temporal spawning patterns in the San Juan River. The subgroup had difficulty determining what actions the SJRIP should take following the 3-5 year hiatus from nonnative management. Given this impasse, the group recommended taking a SDM approach to develop an AM plan starting with nonnative fish management and possibly expanded to the entire SJRIP.

Lawson gave a primer on SDM and AM and what those processes might look like for the SJRIP. Increasingly complex decisions require more sophisticated tools and decisions with high stakes and lots of uncertainty can be addressed with a best management practice that's provided with SDM. SDM can be suitable for one-time decisions but recurring decisions can be best addressed with AM (through SDM). Ideally, goals should define the choices between alternative actions rather than selecting among alternative without first identifying the fundamental objective. Critically, objectives need to be measured to determine if they are successfully attained by implementing management alternatives. Elements of SDM include identifying the problem to be analyzed, developing measurable objectives based on management goals and values, coming up with alternative possible actions that can achieve management objectives, predicting the consequences of implementing an alternative on an objective, making tradeoffs by assessing the relative weight of objectives. When stakeholders have different values, it's a case of competing objectives that can be addressed by examining tradeoffs in an AM framework.

AM is a special case of SDM with recuring decisions where management is conducted to learn and management is informed by learning in an iterative loop. AM is suitable when there's high uncertainty and high controllability in the system (variables of interest respond to management actions). Monitoring should be tailored to address questions specific to the decision being made. Both SDM and AM require articulation of goals and alternatives, prediction of consequences, and reassessment. AM could be implemented through a series of experiments where parameters and metrics are identified in advance. Components of AM include a recurring decision, uncertainty of a key issue, management alternatives with decision alternatives, models that predict the consequence of an action, and data collection following the decision to confront model predictions.

SDM and AM can be developed for the SJRIP for a single management activity (like nonnative removal) or for the entirety of the SJRIP's management activities. SDM could be used to identify nonnative management tools but AM could guide activities into the future. An AM program could be set up over 2-3 years followed by an iterative phase of 3-5 years where experiments are implemented and reassessments are conducted. Conducting AM in the SJRIP would require long-term institutional commitment and a dedicated working group of decision makers, stakeholders, subject matter experts, facilitators, and decision analysts. An outcome of AM in the SJRIP would be a development of management actions that are most likely to achieve objectives and a monitoring framework that informs management decisions.

How do we plan SJRIP activities over the next 15-year authorization period to achieve recovery for Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback sucker?

Incorporate nonnative subgroup recommendation of structured decision making and adaptive management plan

What questions do we still need to answer to help us reach recovery?

What process can we use to guide how we answer outstanding questions and implement activities over the next 15 years?

What capital projects do we need to implement to support recovery?

The group discussed the merits of using a SDM approach to develop an AM program and the scope of management activities that would be included in this process. Many in the group thought the time horizon detailed by Lawson to do this process was too long. Crockett reported on his positive experience using these tools to develop the Boreal Toad recovery plan. Chart asked if taking this approach for the SJRIP would require a programmatic approach for both recovery programs and if it would be essentially retrofitting the existing programs? Members of the BC subgroup thought this approach could be useful to at least move forward with nonnative fish management. If the SJRIP doesn't come up with a productive way of moving forward with nonnative fish management, the opportunity of the hiatus could be lost. While the SJRIP could move forward with a SDM and AM approach without facilitation, it has not made much progress to date. The group talked about the SJRIP's stocking efforts and experiments with nonnative fish management as an example of past success implementing AM. Based on Crockett's experience, the selection of a facilitator is a critical part of this process. Zeigler sees the SJRIP's past efforts as trial and error and sees AM as a way to move forward in making decisions and evaluating management actions. Schleicher suggested the subgroup not go beyond its original purview of nonnative fish management and Colorado Pikeminnow stocking. McKinstry suggested that management actions need to be "pushed" to a degree that there's a response from the system. Most SJRIP management actions appear to not have sufficiently pushed the system. Alternatively, there could be some factors that don't exhibit a response to management actions no matter how far they are "pushed". The SJRIP does so much monitoring that resources aren't available to implement management actions that could have an effect. Maybe an approach that puts all resources into one management action sequentially to see if there's an effect would be a better approach? However, because fish, habitat, and flow are all interconnected, an approach that only addresses a single management action may not be efficient. Westfall asked, isn't the key question to ask is what is limiting recruitment of the endangered fish rather than are nonnative fish a problem? If nonnative fish are not the major issue in the San Juan, why would we build an AM program to address them? Franssen asked how do we use the information about how the system used to look before Lake Powell was created and Navajo Reservoir was

constructed? We need to recover the fish in the system we currently have not the pre-dam system. An approach to help the SJRIP prioritize its activities to address limiting factors to recovery would be helpful. The BC asked for more information from programs that have implemented this approach, like the Platte River Recovery Program. Some thought an AM approach would allow the BC to move from debate to action to recover the fish. The BC subgroup was tasked with what to do during the hiatus and at the end of the hiatus. They suggested this approach to the BC and are looking for feedback. Should the BC subgroup be disbanded? If so, how do we move through the hiatus and what do we do at the end of the hiatus? Should we complete the FY23 SOWs on the Channel Catfish literature review and spatial and temporal spawning study to inform these decisions? Previously the subgroup couldn't agree on using Colorado Pikeminnow annual survival as a metric to guide future nonnative fish management decision, in an adaptive management framework it will be important to identify metrics to guide decisions.

Zeigler motioned that the PO work with Lawson to develop a SOW to do SDM and AM for the entirety of the SJRIP. Westfall seconded and the motion was supported unanimously although Mazzone preferred this SOW be developed through an RFP process rather than sole sourcing with Lawson. The PO will work with Lawson to develop this SOW for submission in the usual AWP process.

What should the SJRIP do in the interim if it develops an AM program? Status quo? Do more work in the San Juan arm of Lake Powell and the inflow? Some suggested conducting small-bodied monitoring in the reach below the waterfall. Capital funds could be available to get boats to facilitate that work.

Mata asked how the SJRIP can plan ahead for multiple years of work. Perhaps this could be addressed by planning along each Program Element? Due to the loss of the Colorado Pikeminnow broodstock at SNARRC, is there a need to collect more juvenile fish from the wild? If conditions in the Colorado and Green Rivers are good, the SJRIP could fund collection of more fish since SNARRC has space to house them. Also due to the loss of broodstock, the group discussed options to move existing broodstock to other locations to minimize risk. SNARRC will spawn the 2016-year class in 2023 and we'll see how many larvae they can produce. SNARRC is confident they can meet age-1 stocking commitments in 2023 and 2024 but can't guarantee that planned egg and larval stocking in 2023 will occur.

Are there capital projects that can be implemented to benefit habitat? Is it worth redoing Phase 3 with adequate engineering? There's available capital funding from the SJRIP's original authorization that can be spent. Some suggested implementing ideas from the Stamp et al. 2006 report in appropriate reaches of the river to benefit the endangered fish. The group discussed what habitats are needed to benefit the fish. These included increased baseflows to provide more secondary channel habitat, persistent zero velocity habitats or off-channel wetlands, also habitat could be provided upstream if entrainment and passage issues are addressed at diversions. Caswell volunteered to organize a group to build momentum on using capital funds to enhance habitat in the San Juan River. McKinstry, Westfall, NMDGF, and Chart offered to join this group. Westfall lamented the contracting process with Reclamation and indicated Keller-Bliesner will not go through this process because of their inability to control how work gets completed. Also, McKinstry and Mata are exploring other Service and Reclamation tools to facilitate contracting. Miller indicated identifying habitats that are needed to address the apparent recruitment bottlenecks will be key to guide how the SJRIP should move forward in habitat management, construction, and restoration. Further investigation into means of leasing water need to be explored to be able provide more water in the system in the absence of adequate releases from Navajo Reservoir.

SJRIP updates

BC review of Colorado Pikeminnow RIS – Jones

Jones informed the BC that the draft recovery plan is out for public comment. The Upper Colorado BC made significant changes to the RIS that were incorporated in the version distributed to the SJRIP BC. Jones reminded the group that RIS and recovery plan provide FWS guidance for what is thought to be needed for recovery. The Long Range Plan should provide more detail on how the actions and activities detailed in the RIS will be implemented in the SJRIP. Jones hopes to have all of the recovery programs' comments/input on the RIS completed in February or March. Zeigler will confirm with Cunningham about distributing New Mexico ISC's comments. The BC will provide Jones any comments on the RIS by 16 December. Jones will distribute an updated RIS in January, the final BC recommendation on the RIS will be provided over email, and Mata will organize a CC meeting to review/discuss the RIS.

Off-channel wetland in Bluff – McKinstry

McKinstry gave an update on his efforts to construct an off-channel wetland in Bluff. It's been difficult to identify a partner to develop the necessary plans and engineering, but Quinn Donnelly from River Restoration is available and interested. McKintry originally intended stocking larval Razorback Sucker in the wetland, but it could also be designed to entrain wild-produced larvae. The pond could probably be filled by pumping, a gravity-fed by the channel from the mainstem San Juan River, or a downstream connection. Jones noted that it will be important to consider how the pond will be harvested. Miller asked about O&M costs following construction and indicated the importance of articulating the purpose and objective of what the wetland will accomplish for addressing the recruitment bottleneck. The BC was generally supportive that McKinstry and Donnelly develop an initial proposal to build the wetland in Bluff. The BC needs more discussion about how the wetland should best be used but an off-channel wetland is probably the best way to increase the amount of zero velocity habitat in the San Juan River.

FY 2023 funding – McKinstry

A continuing resolution that runs until 16 December has limited Reclamation's ability to provide funding for the SJRIP. A full budget from Congress would alleviate this limitation but it's uncertain what will happen when the current continuing resolution expires. Reclamation now has an interagency agreement with the Service through the PO that covers all Service work for the SJRIP except SNARRC. McKinstry is close to awarding the contract to install Soft Start pumps at Hogback prior to irrigation season that will not interfere with PIT tag antennas.

Infrastructure improvements at SNARRC – PO

Mata reported that BC recommended improvements at SNARRC are moving forward with the help of Service engineers. Hopefully funds can be obligated in FY24 for construction.

Archived Razorback Sucker hybridization assessment – ASIR/SNARRC

Farrington provided samples from ~200 juvenile Razorback Sucker collected from 2009-2018 housed at the Museum of Southwest Biology. All fish were age-0 juveniles from 20-70 mm TL. Wilson reported that all years had some level of hybridization but there were pure Razorback Sucker juveniles too. A report detailing these results is forthcoming. Miller asked if there were environmental conditions that affected the annual rate of hybridization. Addressing this would likely require a dedicated SOW. A hybridization experiment with wild-collected adult Flannelmouth Sucker should be conducted this spring at SNARRC (with funds outside the SJRIP).

Post-2023 – Mata

The post-2023 funding group agreed to annual funding of $4.2 million for the SJRIP adjusted for inflation. There's also been agreement on a total of $100 million in capital funding for both recovery programs. Mata detailed the 61.4% Tribal Trust responsibility from the proportion of Tribal depletions in the Hydrology Model as a Federal Government funding commitment to the SJRIP. However, this number may change based on recent comments to apply the Tribal Trust responsibility to Pueblos along the Rio Grande that receive water from the San Juan Chama Project. Mata and Stahli are working on an Environmental Assessment for the recovery programs. Funding legislation has been drafted with hope of it being introduced early in the new Congress.

Information and education – Mata
Shannon Nelson has been hired as the new I&E coordinator in the Upper Colorado Program. Also, Mata is looking for more field photos from PIs to include in future outreach materials but noted that written permission is needed to post images of private individuals to the website.

Resolving outstanding BC chair questions
Rotating chair?
Need for a back-up?
Miller suggested that the BC follow the Program Document on this topic. Mazzone suggested rotating the chair among all BC members and all BC members should be willing to serve as chair. Mata will bring up all BC members being available to serve as chair to the CC.

NNF cooperative agreement – Mata
The States (besides Utah since it just joined the SJRIP) and Federal agencies have signed the agreement, but some Tribes are concerned how it affects their ability to manage resources. Mata is meeting with Navajo Nation next week to address these concerns and will give an update at the February BC meeting. Mata will also work with Utah representatives for their review and signature of the agreement.

Next meetings
The BC and PO discussed the need to hold the meetings in the basin and the potential to hold some meetings at other locations. The change in technology allows for hybrid meetings and participation from almost any location. There may be times when it is more beneficial and logistically feasible to hold meetings outside the basin to accommodate larger groups. It may be useful to discuss the potential to hold meetings at locations such as Albuquerque or Salt Lake federal facilities with the better technological capabilities for hybrid in-person/virtual meetings when facilities in the basin are not available.

Researchers Meeting at the Double Tree in Grand Junction on 31 January – 1 February 2023

BC meeting 21-23 February 2023 in Durango at either the Public Lands Center or Fort Lewis College.

Gilbert will send a Doodle poll to identify dates for an in-person May annual meeting

Action Items
1. The PO will explore options to pipe water into the PNM fish passage to increase attraction flows
2. Crockett will draft a memo to the CC detailing the proposed change to operate PNM fish passage open year-round and evaluate the effect after one year

3. PO will work with Lawson to develop a SOW for developing a structured decision making and adaptive management process for the entirety of the SJRIP
4. Caswell will organize a subgroup to identify habitat projects that could be constructed using capital funds
5. Zeigler will confirm sharing New Mexico ISC's RIS comments
6. The BC will provide its comment on the RIS to Jones by 16 December 2022
7. McKinstry and Donnelly will develop a proposal to develop a future proposal to build a wetland in Bluff
8. Gilbert will send a Doodle poll for the May meeting