

CR/FY-02 UCRRIC
Mail Stop 65115

Memorandum

To: Implementation Committee
Management Committee, Consultants, and Interested Parties
Meeting Attendees

From: Assistant Director, Upper Colorado River Recovery Implementation Program

Subject: Draft July 23, 2002, Recovery Implementation Committee Conference Call
Summary

Attached are the draft action and assignment summary and the general meeting summary from the recent Implementation Committee conference call. Please review these documents and contact me (303/969-7322, ext. 221) if you think any changes are necessary.

Attachment

- Summary -

Actions and Assignments
Recovery Implementation Committee–July 23, 2002

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

1. Scheduled their next meeting for October 15 in Denver near DIA from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Bob Muth will send John Shields a summary of the meeting with Glen Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC).
2. Carol DeAngelis will ask that Grand Canyon humpback chub monitoring be put on the Glen Canyon technical working group meeting on August 15-16.
3. Updates on lower basin monitoring will be on upcoming Management and Implementation committee meetings.

- Summary -
July 23, 2002, Implementation Committee Conference Call
Denver, Colorado

CONVENE: 3:30 p.m.

1. Timelines to recovery - Bob Muth asked if the Committee had any questions on the document ("Estimated Time Lines for Recovery of Razorback Sucker and Bonytail: Rationale for Estimates," previously reviewed by the Biology and Management committees). Tom Blickensderfer said they just want to be sure we have plenty of discussion about the monitoring periods and make sure we know what monitoring means, etc. Bob Muth said he thinks the recovery goals do a good job of describing that, and added that the stocking plans and developing a monitoring program for stocked fish will be discussed at a workshop in late August, after which we should have more information. Bob noted that survival rates of stocked fish are an uncertainty at this point, which will be answered as we monitor the fish we've stocked. If survival estimates are higher than we expect, we could get to recovery sooner than currently predicted. These timelines to recovery have been in the draft recovery goals for two years (the figures showing the timelines were added about a year ago). A report on the outcome of the workshop will be on the next Implementation Committee meeting agenda. John Shields asked about attendance of Glen Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) and San Juan Recovery Program representatives at the workshop. Bob said his office met with GCMRC folks a few weeks ago and felt they reached agreement about a comprehensive population estimate for humpback chub in Grand Canyon. Bob said he thinks that the current monitoring program in Grand Canyon does not account for the entire population. Bob Muth will send John Shields a summary of the meeting with GCMRC. Tom Pitts said we need to make sure that the lower basin monitoring is adequate. Clayton Palmer recommended that this be an agenda item at the next Glen Canyon technical working group meeting on August 15-16. Tom Pitts asked the Service to make that request as well and Bob McCue said he'd work with Region 2 to get this on the agenda. Bob McCue noted that Dale Hall became the new Regional Director of Region 2 on July 8. Carol DeAngelis will ask that this item be put on the technical working group meeting agenda. Updates on lower basin monitoring will be on upcoming Management and Implementation committee meetings.

2. Recovery goals update - Bob Muth said the Service provided a courtesy briefing to the directors of New Mexico, Nevada and Arizona Game and Fish (and a separate meeting with the Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council staffers) last week and got their concurrence to move forward to finalize the goals. The final goals are being routed to Ralph for signature and the Federal Register announcement will be submitted next week. Publication in the Federal Register usually takes 2-3 weeks, after which we'll have them in final form for everyone (expected in mid-August). They will be available as paper copies, on CD-ROM, and on the Recovery Program website. John Shields encouraged all participants to coordinate with each other on any news releases regarding the goals

(and recommended that the first release come from Region 6 of the Service). Bob McCue said the Service's press release will likely come out the day of publication in the Federal Register.

3. Legislation update (extending implementation of capital projects) - The bill to extend the authorization period for the Upper Basin and San Juan recovery programs was introduced in the House (H.R. 5099). It will be put into an omnibus bill for passage in September. Program participants should have letters of support signed and ready to fax to Washington (only) if they're called for. (Tom Pitts posted a draft letter to the listserv earlier today.) A similar bill will be introduced in the Senate.
4. Environmental group representation in the Recovery Program- Tom Iseman said he doesn't have any news. The environmental groups are still interested in having Dan Luecke represent them, but Dan needs to resolve some issues with Environmental Defense first. Tom said that whoever Dan affiliates with, the environmental groups expect he would be represent primarily his own views as an experienced environmental representative in the Program.
5. Scheduling the next meeting - in Denver near DIA from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on October 15. Agenda items will include: report on the outcome of the monitoring stocked fish workshop, update on lower basin monitoring, and approval of the 2003 work plan revisions.

ADJOURN: 4:15 p.m.

Attachment 1 - Participants
Colorado River Recovery Implementation Committee Conference Call, July 23, 2002

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Bob McCue for Ralph Morgenweck, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Chairman)
Carol DeAngelis, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Tom Blickensderfer for Greg Walcher, Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Tom Pitts, Upper Basin Water Users
Pat Tyrrell, Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Bob Morgan, Utah Department of Natural Resources
John Reber for Karen Wade, National Park Service
Leslie James, CREDA
Clayton Palmer, Western Area Power Administration
Tom Iseman for The Nature Conservancy
Program Director Bob Muth, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (nonvoting)

OTHERS:

Brent Uilenberg, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John Shields and Sue Lowry, Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Sherm Hoskins and Robert King, Utah Department of Natural Resources
Shane Collins, Western Area Power Administration
Angela Kantola, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Recovery Program
Frank Pfeifer, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service