

CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
Colorado River Management Committee
February 18, 2004

Participants: See Attachment 1

Assignments are highlighted in the text and listed at the end of the summary.

CONVENE - 3:00 p.m.

1. RIPRAP text and budget table - >The Program Director's office will make changes that parallel changes to RIPRAP tables and will try to provide this before the Implementation Committee meeting (if after, the Management Committee will have opportunity to review it before the revised RIPRAP goes to print).
2. Review of RIPRAP Revisions - >The Program Director's office will incorporate all the revisions to the RIPRAP tables in advance of the Implementation Committee meeting so that a copy will be available for taking back to Washington, D.C.

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan - No changes.

Green River Action Plan: Mainstem - No changes.

Green River Action Plan: Yampa/Little Snake - No changes.

Green River Action Plan: Duchesne River - No changes.

Green River Action Plan: White River

IA1&2 Tom Pitts said he can accept "TBD" here, but he may come back with recommendations on how to address this sooner (the water users will not want to wait until after the Gunnison River is addressed). >Bob Muth will check to see how the San Rafael is addressed and make it "TBD," also.

Colorado River Action Plan: Mainstem

IE The Committee generally agreed that activities under evaluating flow recommendations will need to be added to the RIPRAP in future years.

IIIA3a Also remove carat and asterisk from this item for nonnative cyprinid removal (work completed, but unsuccessful in reducing nonnative fishes).

Colorado River Action Plan: Gunnison River

IIB1f Revise draft Service comments to read: "The Redlands screen BA includes an environmental commitment of an operational target to provide 300cfs down through Redlands fish passage (until the R.O.D. on Aspinall is completed, after which this will be addressed under Aspinall operations)." *Done.*

3. Review of RIPRAP Assessment - Tom Iseman asked how we'll incorporate results of population estimates in the RIPRAP and Bob Muth said it will probably be in next year's assessment. The Committee had no comments on the assessment. Bob Muth said he hopes to provide the sufficient progress evaluation by May or June.
4. Proposed resolution regarding Colorado capital cost-share for Elkhead Reservoir enlargement - John Shields asked if "the actions required to" is necessary in the first whereas. The Committee discussed the Program Director's comments:
 - a. *The 3rd "whereas" references a "resolution approved by the Recovery Program Implementation Committee on December 9, 2002..." but this should read "proposal approved by the Recovery Program Implementation Committee on December 9, 2002..." (The meeting record clearly reflects the Committee approved the proposal rather than adopting a resolution.) The Committee agreed (see item c, below).*
 - b. *Do we somehow need to quantify "Colorado's remaining cost share payments" in the "therefore be it resolved" paragraph? The Committee said they could accept the language as already drafted. Quantification is happening through other processes (Reclamation's spreadsheet, Angela Kantola's spreadsheets, etc.).*
 - c. *The current draft resolution makes it sound like Elkhead enlargement is a "sure thing." Should we insert a caveat along the lines of "pending the signing of the cooperative agreement to implement the Yampa River Management Plan and completion of NEPA compliance and approval of the 404 permit for enlargement of Elkhead Reservoir"? John Shields suggested a footnote. Bob Muth suggested referencing the RIPRAP (which outlines environmental compliance, etc.). Tom Pitts questioned the need for a caveat, since if the project does not go forward, Colorado clearly won't be making their payments for Elkhead. John Reber and Tom Iseman suggested the resolution does need to acknowledge the permitting processes, etc. The Committee agreed to split the third "Whereas" as follows:*

“WHEREAS, on December 9, 2002, the Recovery Program’s Implementation Committee approved a proposal for Elkhead Reservoir enlargement, and on March 8, 2004, the Recovery Program’s Recovery Action Plan (“RIPRAP”) was modified to reflect the process for achieving that enlargement, and”

“WHEREAS, the the Recovery Program desires to have the Colorado River Water Conservation District (“River District”) receive and manage funds from state and federal entities for the Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement capital construction project and to coordinate and implement the Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement capital construction project, and”

>Angela Kantola will revise the draft resolution based on the discussion above and post it to the Management and Implementation committees. Comments on this revised version are due by Friday, February 20. >Bob Muth will make sure Tom Blickensderfer gets a

copy tomorrow. The draft resolution will then be considered by the Implementation Committee at their March 8 meeting.

5. Washington, D.C. Trip Itinerary - The Committee discussed letters of support, meeting schedules, and so forth.

ADJOURN: 5:00 p.m.

Assignments

1. The Program Director's office will make changes to the RIPRAP text and budget table that parallel changes to RIPRAP tables and will try to provide that before the Implementation Committee meeting (if after, the Management Committee will have opportunity to review it before the revised RIPRAP goes to print).
2. The Program Director's office will incorporate all the revisions to the RIPRAP tables in advance of the Implementation Committee meeting so that a copy will be available for taking back to Washington, D.C.
3. Bob Muth will check to see how the San Rafael management plan is addressed and make the status "TBD."
4. Angela Kantola will revise the draft Colorado-Elkhead resolution based on the discussion above and post it to the Management and Implementation committees. Comments on this revised version are due by Friday, February 20. Bob Muth will make sure Tom Blickensderfer gets a copy tomorrow. The draft resolution will then be considered by the Implementation Committee at their March 8 meeting.

**Colorado River Management Committee Conference Call
February 18, 2004**

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg	Bureau of Reclamation
Sherm Hoskins and Robert King	Utah Department Of Natural Resources
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
Bob McCue	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Gary Burton	Western Area Power Administration
Leslie James for Dave Mazour	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
John Reber	National Park Service
Tom Iseman	The Nature Conservancy
John Shields	State of Wyoming

Nonvoting Member:

Bob Muth	Recovery Program Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Recovery Program Staff:

Angela Kantola	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Others

George Smith	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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