

Conference Call Summary
Colorado River Management Committee
April 11, 2006

Participants: See Attachment 1

CONVENE - 1:30 p.m.

1. RIPRAP review/approval

- a. Review of revised draft RIPRAP assessment - Brent Uilenberg recommended moving Tusher Wash out one year (due to concerns about timing of appropriations and perhaps the cost ceiling); the Committee agreed. Gary Burton noted that Western has concern about the target minimum entrainment of 400 larvae per acre cited in Brunson and Christopherson 2005, but will raise that to the Biology Committee. Revise >*33, IIIA3c “Flows were adequate *to allow* capture and removal of...” Tom Pitts requested adding the sentence “Water users will submit a plan for developing permanent sources of water by the end of 2006.” to the end of 35, IA5e1,2. Tom said this will be a work plan and schedule for how and when this will be done (it won’t identify specific sources by the end of 2006, but will set forth a process and timeline, including planning, design, and construction). Delete language throughout the document that refers to “pending passage of legislation...” Revise date for: 40, VC1 “~~X~~ Black Rock population report is behind schedule, anticipate to Program Director’s Office by *May* 31, 2006.” The Committee approved the assessment with the foregoing revisions.

- b. Review of revised draft RIPRAP tables - GREEN RIVER: Gary Burton asked that “and record of decision” be added to items 1A3c&d on page 27 (agreed). Gary also requested addition of an item to “address environmental commitments in the Flaming Gorge Biological Opinion and ROD” either to 1A3d2 or 1D1. Tom Pitts asked if all those commitments relate to the Recovery Program. >By April 28, Gary Burton will e-mail the Committee specific items that relate to recovery of the fish (to consider placing under item 1D1). Bob Muth suggested that the first step would be to identify the commitments that the Program needs to act on, and those would be addressed in the study plan and built into the RIPRAP. Tom Czapla noted also that we should add Bestgen 2006 to item #1D. Change the Tusher Wash dates to add an “x” in 08 and 09 on page 28. DUCHESNE RIVER: No change, but John Shields will write a letter of support for the Water 2025 grant application for Myton Town Diversion rehabilitation on behalf of the Program (Tom Pitts also will submit a letter on behalf of the water users). WHITE RIVER: Melissa asked when the future water demands and need for tributary management plan will be determined. Bob Muth said we haven’t yet decided whether or when to do a demand study. John Reber suggested BLM may be able to provide information on current activity and research (as they may have some idea of water demands for those activities) and offered to >contact them.

George Smith noted that he reviewed a couple of studies with demand information a few years ago that came to 3,000 - 5,000 af of depletions. Bob Muth suggested water demands related to energy development on the White River is still unknown. The White River does provide important habitat for Colorado pikeminnow. Tom Pitts said he sees this as a low priority at this point in comparison to other Program activities; John Shields agreed. No modifications to the RIPRAP at this time. >Tom Blickensderfer will provide the White River demands from SWASI. COLORADO RIVER: IA515 This contract for Green Mountain Water needs to be extended in 2006 (it was a 5-year, not a 15-year contract). The Committee approved the RIPRAP tables (on behalf of the Implementation Committee) pending further discussion of additional item regarding the environmental commitments in the Flaming Gorge EIS.

- c. Review of RIPRAP text: Update section VI to note new public law. Page 2, section 1.4: accepted change recommended by Melissa under Yampa River.
- d. Review of RIPRAP budget table: >Brent Uilenberg will send out a revised draft capital projects budget table for the Committee's review by May 1. Tom Iseman recommended that the Committee will need to discuss the updated Elkhead budget. The Committee agreed it would be best to rely on Reclamation's capital funds table (which they update and provide to the Committee periodically) to document past and planned capital expenditures. The RIPRAP will no longer contain a budget table, just the totals in section 1.4 of the text).

>The Program Director's office will finalize the RIPRAP assessment. The RIPRAP will be finalized, printed & distributed, and posted to the web by late May.

- 2. Recovery Program role in implementing the Flaming Gorge ROD - The Committee discussed how the Recovery Program will be involved in the Flaming Gorge decision process. Randy Peterson introduced the FGTWG's proposed flow and temperature targets for 2006 sent out yesterday by Rick Clayton and asked if anyone had comments. Leslie James asked about the physical condition and use of the spillway; Randy said the spillways are inspected after each use and air slots have been installed to reduce any potential damage. Leslie said the power users have concerns about costs of potential repairs. John Shields noted that the press release doesn't really address targeted flow and duration (and what can be expected in Vernal/Jensen, for example). John added that the address of public meeting location (Western Park) needs to be included in the press release. Randy said this year's process was very compressed and outlined how Reclamation envisions the process would work next year (e.g., allowing opportunity for the Management and Biology committees to discuss Recovery Program proposals for research flows as well as spillway use as it relates to nonnative fish and spillway damage). (See Randy's e-mail of April 6.) The Committee discussed at some length the appropriate role for the Recovery Program in implementing the Green River flow and temperature recommendations (particularly spring peak flows). Bob Muth said Reclamation's implementation of the record of decision should be done through informal

consultations with the Service and Western. Randy said they'll continue their internal discussions about what to do if the Yampa River flows are higher than currently expected. Heather said she understands that the Biology Committee brought a technical recommendation to the FG TWG, but doesn't understand what Randy is asking since *policy* hasn't been discussed at this point. Randy said that since the Biology Committee might recommend something the Management Committee doesn't support, Reclamation would prefer that the Program resolve any differences of opinion before submitting a request to Reclamation. Bob Muth said that's why he e-mailed the Management Committee the Biology Committee's request this year (and no one had comments on it). Gary noted that there was some confusion at that point about the roles of the committees and the FG TWG. Randy said Reclamation would like to hear the Program's input on the whole range of issues related to FG operation, but that he views the FG TWG as also encompassing an informal consultation between the action agencies and the Service; Bob Muth countered that he believes the Program's input should be restricted to the biological issues (although he agreed that the Management Committee does need to approve the Biology Committee's request/comments). Bob Muth said he believes Program partners should weigh in on other issues not as a Program, but in other fora. Randy Peterson believed the Program should speak with one voice and that the place for discussion among Program partners was within the Program as opposed to public meetings. John Shields expressed concern about Program recommendations being misconstrued by the public. Bob Muth suggested that as we go into each year, it would be helpful if Reclamation provided questions they would like the Program to address; Randy agreed. Larry Gamble commented that the process proposal Randy provided doesn't seem to fully reflect what he's suggested on the call today. Randy said they'll work out some of these issues between now and Thursday and have more discussions on this over the coming year.

3. IC availability - >Committee members will provide their own and their Implementation Committee member's availability to Angela Kantola by tomorrow noon. >The Program Director's office will set the date of the meeting based on everyone's availability and began developing agenda (with help from John Shields). John Shields suggested it might be good to provide an in-depth discussion of one topic for the Committee (e.g., nonnative fish control). John also suggested inviting someone like Mark Limbaugh or Dale Hall to the meeting. Larry noted there will need to be a very important event for that to occur.

ADJOURN - 4:30 p.m.

Assignments

1. By April 28, Gary Burton will e-mail the Committee specific items (environmental commitments from the Flaming Gorge ROD) that relate to recovery of the fish (to consider placing under item 1D1).
2. The Program Director's office will set the date of the meeting based on everyone's availability and began developing agenda (with help from John Shields).
3. John Reber will contact BLM for information on current activity and research related to water demands on the White River.
4. Tom Blickensderfer will provide the White River demands from SWASI.
5. Brent Uilenberg will send out a revised draft capital projects budget table for the Committee's review by May 1.
6. The Program Director's office will finalize the RIPRAP assessment. The RIPRAP will be finalized, printed & distributed, and posted to the web by late May.
7. Committee members will provide their own and their Implementation Committee member's availability to Angela Kantola by tomorrow noon.
8. The Program Director's office will set the date of the September Implementation Committee meeting based on everyone's availability and began developing agenda (with help from John Shields).

**Colorado River Management Committee Conference Call
April 11, 2006**

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg & Randy Peterson	Bureau of Reclamation
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Larry Gamble	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John Reber	National Park Service
Tom Blickensderfer	Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Dave Mazour	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
Gary Burton and Heather Patno	Western Area Power Administration
Tom Iseman	The Nature Conservancy

Nonvoting Member:

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

Recovery Program Staff:

Angela Kantola	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pat Nelson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Czaplá	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
George Smith	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Others

Leslie James	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
Melissa Trammel	National Park Service
Dave Speas	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation