

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

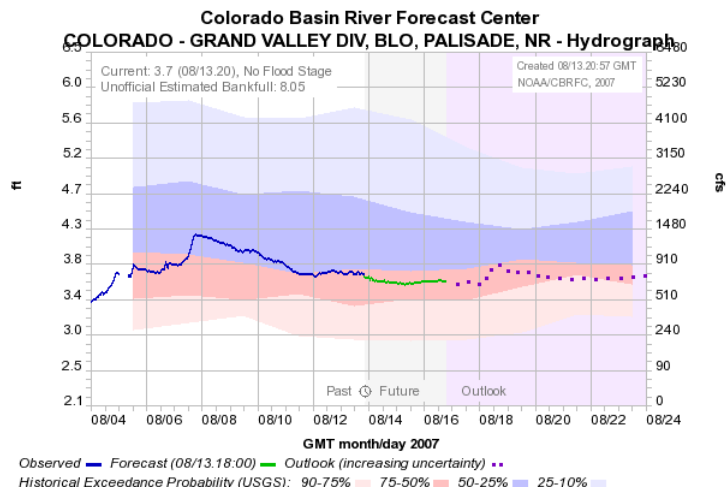
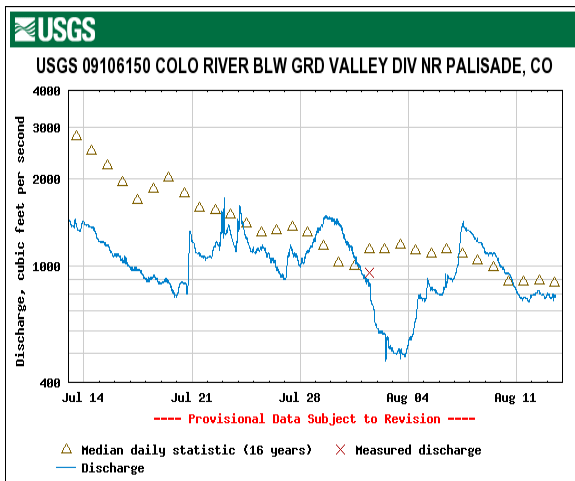
August 14-15, 2007

Holiday Inn, Grand Junction, Colorado

Tuesday, August 14

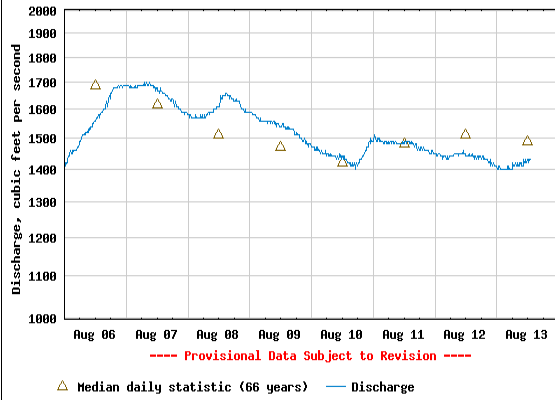
CONVENE: 1:00 p.m.

1. Introductions, review/modify agenda and time allocations, and appoint a timekeeper – The agenda was revised as it appears below.
2. Approve July 11-12, 2007 meeting summary – The meeting summary was approved as written.
3. Hydrologic conditions – George Smith provided graphs of current hydrologic conditions.

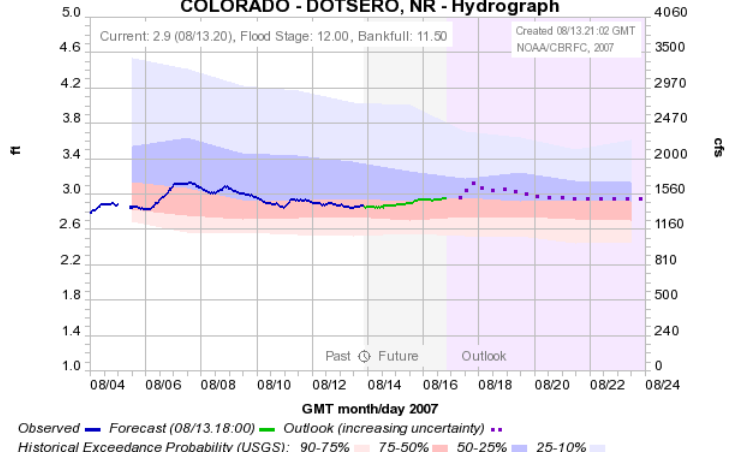




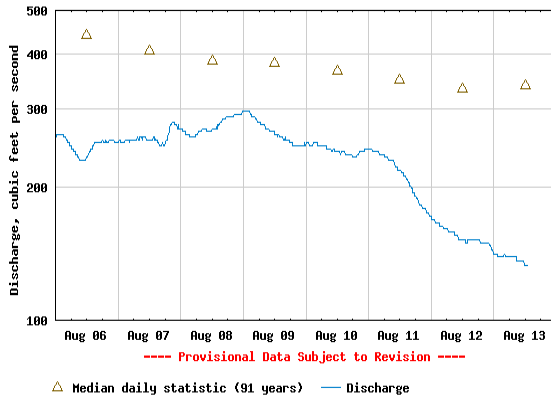
USGS 09070500 COLORADO RIVER NEAR DOTSERO, CO.



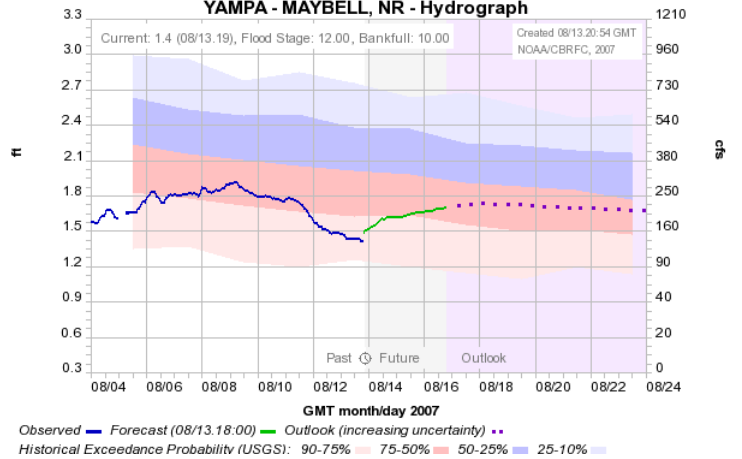
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center COLORADO - DOTSERO, NR - Hydrograph



USGS 09251000 YAMPA RIVER NEAR MAYBELL, CO



Colorado Basin River Forecast Center YAMPA - MAYBELL, NR - Hydrograph



- a. Shoshone Power Plant – Brent explained that operation of the Shoshone Power Plant is a prerequisite for declaring a Green Mountain surplus to provide water for the fish, so the non-operation of Shoshone plant created a problem. As a temporary resolution, one-year agreements have been reached for 5,000 af from Denver Water from Williams Fork; 2,500 af from the River District from Wolford; and likely 1,000 af from Middle Park Water (with an agreement from Northern) from the Windy Gap project. This 8,500 af and Reclamation’s commitment of 12,000 af from Green Mountain as a discretionary power plant release combines with our 37,650 af from Ruedi, Williams Fork, and Wolford reservoirs to total 58,150 af available to augment instream flows on the Colorado River this year. Thus, we should be able to meet (and possibly exceed) the 810 cfs at Palisade. This has been a terrific cooperative effort. >Bob Muth will draft a letter of appreciation from Mitch King.
- b. Contracts – The Green Mountain surplus water contract is expired and Reclamation is working to get it renewed. Brent expects they will get at least one, and possibly two of the municipalities to sign (only one is needed).

4. Updates

a. Capital projects

- i. Myton Diversion rehab funding – The Water 2025 Grant for rehabilitation of the Myton Diversion was awarded a few weeks ago. The Committee is asked to approve the Program's 55% share of this project (\$217,580 in Section 7 funds, slightly higher than the \$172,000 originally approved). The Committee approved the \$217,580. With regard to how funds are transferred from NFWF, Terry Hickman is trying to get USBR in Provo to handle the reimbursable account. The actual grant application was submitted by the Uintah Indian Irrigation Project. Brent said they’re working out details on the funding recipient, and then will be working with NFWF to transfer the funds. The Program will do a news release (perhaps a joint release from the Program, CUWCD, and Reclamation) as soon as the funding recipient is determined (Debbie to work with Terry Hickman and Robert King). John Shields noted that this news release should be appended to the Program’s application for the cooperative conservation award.
- ii. Status of Price-Stubb passage – Brent said things are going very well. The work began in June, site preparation is done, and the initial coffer dam has been constructed. The river will be moved into the bypass channel in ~3 weeks and then they can begin placing rock. >Brent will post photos to the Committee. The only problem so far has been getting water for dust control and that has been worked out using a small amount of Recovery Program water. Dave Kanzer asked if the bypass channel can accommodate the upstream releases and Brent said it should (they’re more concerned about monsoon events, actually) and that the contractor is watching the gage very closely. Brent offered a tour to anyone interested tomorrow afternoon.

- iii. Follow-up to last meeting's discussion about Tusher Wash screening – Bob Muth said the Service has not yet had opportunity to discuss if it would be acceptable to screen the irrigation water and not the low-head hydropower water at Tusher Wash, but Bob has been talking to both the Service and Reclamation and hopes to have a meeting in Green River, Utah the first week in September. Brent said we might be able to apply the weir wall concept to be used at the Hogback Diversion on the San Juan River to Tusher Wash.

- b. Fiscal Year 2009 Program funding – John Shields distributed copies of the House letter to the Secretary of the Interior (signed by 11 of the 14 members). The Senate letter got six signatures and was signed August 13. Tom Pitts acknowledged the work of John Shields, Tom Blickensderfer, and Randy Kirkpatrick (executive director of the San Juan Water Commission) and on the House letter.

- c. Environmental groups funding – Tom Iseman said NFWF's Bring Back the Natives grant funding won't be announced until late August. The environmental groups want to get funding to get John Hawkins involved helping them with the Yampa River nonnative strategy, and hopefully get him back to Biology Committee meetings. Ed Wick also has said he might help them on a pro bono basis. John Shields asked that the environmental groups let the Committee know if the group should visit agency representatives in the Bring Back the Natives program during the Washington trip.

- d. Nonnative fish management synthesis reports – Pat Nelson said 7 of the 9 synthesis reports have been completed (John Hawkins' report was expected at the end of July, so >Pat will check with him on the status; Lori Martin is still waiting on input from Tom Nesler to complete her report). Comments on the reports submitted to date are due August 15. Pat will ask the PI's to take the comments received and revise their reports and submit them for approval. These reports need to be back to the Biology Committee by the first of October so that Committee can act on them at their meeting at the end of October. Numerous comments have been received on the nonnative fish strategy. Rich Valdez is going to go ahead and work on revising the strategy (absent the two critical Yampa reports, however). Bob Muth said he thinks it would be good to have Tom Nesler work with Rich (as Tom N. suggested he would) on the strategy. The strategy also needs to be back to the Biology Committee by October 1. >Tom Blickensderfer will check with Tom Nesler on Lori Martin's report and on Nesler working with Rich on the strategy). Tom Iseman said they would like to remain involved in reviewing drafts of the nonnative strategy.

- e. Reports status – Angela Kantola distributed an updated reports list.

- f. Program Director's Office update – Bob Muth said Pat Nelson will retire at the end of September (after 30 years of Government service). Bob said he's hired Tom Chart as the new instream flow coordinator (he begins September 16).

- g. Aspinall update – John Shields noted that the Committee received copies of the environmental groups’ letter to Reclamation regarding the need to get the Aspinall EIS process back on track (and provide flows for fish in the interim). Tom Iseman said they’d at least like to hear from Reclamation what (if any) parts of the process could move ahead. On a separate note, Clayton Palmer said he will draft an issue paper on the relationship of Aspinall operations to the Recovery Program (requesting help from Colorado and Reclamation) for discussion at a future Management Committee meeting).
5. Report to Congress - Tom Pitts said the draft issue paper is considerably longer than the two pages originally contemplated. The paper characterizes what's eligible for power revenue base funding now and what will be eligible after 2011 if no changes are made to the legislation. Almost \$2M of activities in the upper basin are ineligible, including program management, research, nonnative fish removal, and information/education. Nonnative species management is one of the most important activities that would not be eligible for continued power revenue base funding. The paper also addresses availability of funding in times of drought, an issue raised by CREDA and WAPA, as well as continued State and FWS funding. Leslie James said she can't offer an opinion on which option may be best since her board has not reviewed this yet. She noted that power purchase costs have been much higher than anticipated this year and Western has begun another rate increase process. In addition, environmental issues at Glen Canyon Dam and restricted operations continue to impact the Basin Fund., so there's no good news on the horizon for the Basin Fund at this point. Clayton said Western is working on a report on how to prepare for dry years in wet years and is considering options. Clayton said the question is how to provide more certainty for program funding.. >Clayton will discuss these ideas with Western and quickly report back to the Committee. >Tom Blickensderfer will find out if borrowing from the Water Conservation Board construction fund would be a viable option to temporarily offset program funding shortfalls in the event of drought, with repayment in wet years.

The San Juan Recovery Program Implementation Committee will discuss the aspects of this report on September 7.

To meet the October 1 deadline, we need to begin drafting the actual report to Congress now. Questions to be answered are do we agree with funding eligibility, and can we come to agreement on base funding, State funding, and Service funding.

Next steps (discussed August 15): >The Program Director's office will provide a draft of the report (as outlined on pages 16-17 of the discussion paper) by September 7 for review by a small group (and will work with Dave Campbell to get the San Juan portions of the report). The small group will have a week to return comments, then Bob Muth will provide a revised draft to Program participants by September 21 (this will be when Management Committee members need to seek their Implementation Committee members input and approval), with comments due by October 22.

August 14, 7-9 p.m. @ Holiday Inn: Public Meeting to update interested public on Program activities. Fewer than ten members of the public attended. Steve Yamashita introduced the speakers and hosted the evening's program. John Shields provided an overview on the Program followed by numerous Program participants offering their perspectives. Tyler Peck of Western Slope Anglers said they don't oppose the Recovery Program, just the removal of nonnative fish from the river. Distrust was expressed in the reported numbers of fish removed. Deedee Ransomberger of Palisade expressed overall dissatisfaction with the Program, saying the Gunnison basin needs Dominguez Reservoir.

The Committee discussed the public meeting the following morning. John Shields said Rich Baca, of Representative Salazar's regional staff attended the meeting. Tom Pitts observed that the low turnout (compared to ~60 people in 2003) shows we're making real progress. Tom suggested we need to maintain our I&E effort (about the Program as a whole, benefits to water, and nonnative fish removal), but we probably don't need another public meeting in the near future. John Shields suggested that in the future, we provide the numbers of fish we've removed and translocated to dispel doubts and rumors. Clayton Palmer cautioned against arguing with those who make public comments. Chuck McAda wondered if there is a way to support off-channel sportfisheries in the basin. Tom Blickensderfer suggested we should have outlined specifically what management actions we're taking and how we've prioritized capital projects.

Wednesday, August 15

CONVENE: 8:30 a.m.

6. Carol Taylor presented Chuck McAda with his 30-year Service pin and certificate, and engraved Leatherman.
7. Upcoming Management Committee tasks, review assignments, and schedule next meeting – December 6 in Salt Lake City starting at 10:00 a.m. and adjourning by 4:00 p.m. >Robert King will arrange a meeting room at Utah DNR.
 - a. Coordination with lower basin and joint researchers meeting – Tom Czapla outlined requirements (under a biological opinion) in the LCRMSCP to coordinate with the upper basin. Tom Burke would like to make a 15-20 min. presentation on the LCRMSCP at an upcoming Management Committee meeting. The Management Committee agreed. >Tom Czapla will invite Tom Burke to make his presentation at the December 6 Management Committee meeting in Salt Lake City. Tom Pitts suggested that a complementary presentation from Sam Spiller on potential lower basin recovery effort(s) would also be helpful. >Bob Muth will ask Sam if he would come give that presentation. Tom Czapla said he and Bob Muth discussed the idea of a joint 2008 researchers meeting with John Hamill, but haven't received a response from John on this. John Shields said this sounds fine, but we should make it an additional meeting, not one that usurps our very valuable January researcher's meeting. Bob Muth agreed.

8. Implementation Committee meeting – The Committee recommended deferring an Implementation Committee meeting until 2008 (since the November 20 date is no longer workable). The Committee chair, Mitch King, is retiring and the Service does not yet know who will replace him as Regional Director. A meeting before the annual D.C. trip in early to mid-March is recommended and would include discussion of recommendations in the Secretary’s report submitted to Congress. The Committee tentatively scheduled the D.C. trip for March 5-11 (to be confirmed in December) >Angela Kantola will send Management Committee members a matrix of available dates the week of February 18 or 25 for a meeting in Salt Lake City.
9. Review and approve FY 08-09 Work Plan – Angela Kantola introduced the draft FY 08-09 work plan. We were able to pre-pay the estimated FY 08 O&M costs for our Ruedi water with remaining FY 07 funds, so that freed up some FY 08 funds. We currently have ~\$194K of “freeboard” for FY 08, but up to ~\$100K worth of additional work in placeholder projects (some of which are new starts for which we’ll issue RFP’s). For FY 09, there is ~\$400K freeboard and ~\$185K of placeholders.

(This item discussed Tuesday, August 14) Per Brent Uilenberg's request, Angela e-mailed the Committee a scope of work requesting a \$10,000-\$15,000 annual contribution from the Recovery Program toward facilitation/coordination of the Gunnison and Grand Valley Selenium Task Forces. Having just been submitted by the River District, this scope was not included in the Program Director's recommended FY 08-09 Work Plan, and it was not reviewed by the Biology Committee. Brent said this is an outgrowth of NIWQP which identified sources of selenium loading (irrigation in the Gunnison and Grand Valley being significant sources). Interior no longer provides funding through NIWQP, but the work the task forces have done has been very good (e.g., see the tangible results shown in their proposed scope of work). Dave Kanzer said that they wanted to let the Program know what work they’ve been doing to reduce selenium and the water they’ve been saving through this work. The River District is now the sole funder of the task force, and they would like to see some recognition and support from the Recovery Program. Brent noted that the recovery goals do have an element regarding continuing to reduce selenium loads. (Robert Muth added that’s *if* selenium is determined to be a problem). The Committee discussed whether to fund this scope of work in the context of their discussion of the entire FY 08-09 work plan on August 15 and felt that although the selenium task force is doing good work, selenium has not been identified as a limiting factor to recovery and the Committee can’t support providing Recovery Program funds for this work. The Committee suggested that other sources of grant funding should be pursued.

August 15: The Committee went through the work plan budget tables and discussed projects as outlined below.

C-20 >Pat Nelson will check into the repairs Sherm Hebein mentioned are needed to the Highline net.

Nonnative fish activities: Tom Iseman noted that they believe it's important to recognize we may need to increase our resources in this recovery element, depending on the outcome of the Yampa strategy and the nonnative fish meeting.

29b >Tom Czaplak will get a scope of work for Ouray NFH O&M.

12b Brent Uilenberg said most of the capital projects I&E is done and they can fund Justyn's participation on this with capital projects program management.

The Management Committee approved the FY 08-09 work plan.

ADJOURN 11:37 a.m.

Assignments

Carry-over from previous meetings:

1. The **Service** will meet to consider if it would be acceptable to screen the irrigation water and not the low-head hydropower water at Tusher Wash or if there are other ways (e.g., a weir wall) to achieve our objectives for screening Tusher Wash.

New assignments:

1. Bob Muth will draft a letter of appreciation from Mitch King to all the entities that have cooperated to make it possible to provide water for the fish absent the Shoshone call.
2. Brent will post photos of the Price-Stubbs construction to the Management Committee.
3. Pat Nelson will check with John Hawkins' on the status of his Yampa nonnative fish synthesis report.
4. Tom Blickensderfer will check with Tom Nesler on Lori Martin's report and on Nesler working with Rich on revising the nonnative fish strategy.
5. Clayton Palmer will discuss ideas about the maintaining Program funding during drought with Western these ideas with Western and quickly report back to the Committee.
6. Tom Blickensderfer will find out if borrowing from the Water Conservation Board construction fund would be a viable option to temporarily offset program funding shortfalls in the event of drought, with repayment in wet years.
7. The Program Director's office will provide a draft of the report to Congress (as outlined on pages 16-17 of the discussion paper) by September 7 for review by a small group (and will work with Dave Campbell to get the San Juan portions of the report). The group will have a week to return comments, then Bob Muth will provide a revised draft to Program participants by September 21 (this will be when Management Committee members need to seek their Implementation Committee members input and approval), with comments due by October 22.
8. Robert King will arrange a meeting room for December 6 at Utah DNR.
9. Tom Czaplak will invite Tom Burke to make his presentation at the December 6 Management Committee meeting in Salt Lake City. Bob Muth will ask Sam if he would come give a complementary presentation from Sam Spiller on potential lower basin recovery effort(s).

10. Angela Kantola will send Management Committee members a matrix of available dates the week of February 18 or 25 for a meeting in Salt Lake City.
11. Pat Nelson will check into the repairs Sherm Hebein mentioned are needed to the Highline net.
12. Tom Czapla will get a scope of work for Ouray NFH O&M.

Attendees
Colorado River Management Committee, Grand Junction, Colorado
August, 14-15, 2007

Management Committee Voting Members:

Brent Uilenberg	Bureau of Reclamation
Tom Blickensderfer	State of Colorado
Robert King	State of Utah
Tom Pitts	Upper Basin Water Users
John Shields	State of Wyoming
Carol Taylor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Leslie James for Dave Mazour	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
John Reber	National Park Service
Tom Iseman	The Nature Conservancy
Clayton Palmer	Western Area Power Administration

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
Pat Nelson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Czapla	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Others:

George Smith	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jana Mohrman	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Melissa Trammell	National Park Service
Dave Kanzer	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Chuck McAda	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service