

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Agenda Item Information
December 5-6, 2006

Agenda Item

Humpback Chub Recovery Consultation (HBCRC) Ad Hoc Group

Action Requested

√ Motion requested: Motion language as follows:

Recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior: That the Department of the Interior develop a Lower Colorado River Recovery Implementation Program (LCRRIP) led by the Fish and Wildlife Service, **to include Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service (NPS), and** appropriate Colorado River Basin State fish and game agencies to address big river listed fish concerns with initial priority focus on the humpback chub generally located in Marble and Grand Canyons. In recognition of the on-going conservation and planning efforts of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG), including the Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan; **NPS conservation actions for native fish;** the Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council State Agencies; the Upper Colorado River Recovery Implementation Program (UCRRIP); the San Juan Recovery Implementation Program (SJRIP); the Recovery Implementation Plan Scientific Work Group (RIPSWG); and the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCRMSCP); these entities should be advised of this effort. **Past, present and on-going conservation efforts, funding, and accomplishments should be recognized and, as appropriate, credited toward the implementation of the LCRRIP.**

[Note: **Bold font** in the motion language above represents wording that was not the result of consensus of the Ad Hoc Group, but rather is the recommendation from the Chair of the Ad Hoc Group. Please see Background Information, below, for additional information.]

Presenter

Sam Spiller, Co-Chair, Humpback Chub Recovery Consultation; and Lower Colorado River Coordinator, Fish and Wildlife Service

Previous Action Taken

√ By AMWG:

The following motion was approved by AMWG in March 2006:

MOTION: In recognition of the significance of Humpback chub conservation to the GCD AMP, AMWG directs the establishment of an AMWG ad hoc committee to work with the DOI Policy Group, to make a recommendation to AMWG at its August 2006 meeting on what actions AMWG should take with regard to the implementation of a program whose goal is recovery of the HBC under the Endangered Species Act, with geographic scope and other details to be included in the recommendation.

Humpback Chub Recovery Consultation Ad Hoc Group, continued

- √ By an Ad Hoc Group:
Sam Spiller chaired the Ad Hoc Group, with Rod Kuharich and Larry Stevens as co-leads. Members of the Ad Hoc Group were Mary Barger, Darryl Beckmann, Norm Henderson, Leslie James, Max Oelschlaeger, Don Ostler, Clayton Palmer, Nikolai Ramsey, Bruce Taubert, Bill Werner, and Gerry Zimmerman.

This group met via conference call several times, and developed a consensus recommendation, as follows:

Recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior: That the Department of the Interior develop a Lower Colorado River Recovery Implementation Program (LCRRIP) led by the Fish and Wildlife Service, to include appropriate Colorado River Basin State fish and game agencies to address big river listed fish concerns with initial priority focus on the humpback chub generally located in Marble and Grand Canyons. In recognition of the on-going conservation and planning efforts of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG), including the Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan; the Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council State Agencies; the Upper Colorado River Recovery Implementation Program (UCRRIP); the San Juan Recovery Implementation Program (SJRIP); the Recovery Implementation Plan Scientific Work Group (RIPSWG); and the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCRMSCP); these entities should be advised of this effort. Furthermore, it should be recognized that these entities possess knowledge and expertise that may be valuable in the development of the LCRRIP and when developed, their past, present and on-going conservation efforts, funding, and accomplishments should be recognized and, as appropriate, credited toward the implementation of the LCRRIP.

Relevant Science

- √ N/A

Background Information

- √ The background information for this agenda item is as follows:

AMWG Humpback Chub Recovery Consultation Ad Hoc Group Brief:

3/08/06 – Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) established an Ad Hoc Work to develop a recommendation on what actions AMWG should take with regard to the implementation of a program whose goal is recovery of the humpback chub with geographic scope and other details to be included in the recommendation.

7/31/06 – Work Group Chair (Sam Spiller) forwarded recommendation to AMWG Chair Mark Limbaugh via email.

12/05/06 – The recommendation before AMWG is slightly changed from the consensus motion from the Ad Hoc Group. The motion as proposed by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Group includes the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation as additional entities that would be involved in the RIP, and rewrites the final sentence to be more clear and succinct.

Related Information:

6/29/06 – Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) formed a team to develop a “strawman” Recovery Implementation Program (RIP) for the lower Colorado River Basin.

Fish species: bonytail and humpback chub, razorback sucker, and Colorado pikeminnow.

At this time, it includes the six geographic subunits consistent with the 2005 Management Plan for the Big River Fishes of the Colorado River Basin (approved by FWS, Arizona Game and Fish Department, California Department of Fish and Game, and Nevada Department of Wildlife):

1. Grand Canyon (Glen Canyon Dam to Separation Rapid),
2. Lake Mead (Separation Rapid to Hoover Dam),
3. Lake Mohave (Hoover Dam to Davis Dam),
4. Lake Havasu (Davis Dam to Parker Dam),
5. Parker-Imperial (Parker Dam to Imperial Dam), and
6. Gila River (the Gila River from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Coolidge Dam, including San Carlos Reservoir; the Salt River from the U.S. 60/State Route 77 bridge crossing to Roosevelt Diversion Dam; and the Verde River from Sycamore Canyon to Horseshoe Dam, Horseshoe Lake).

I hope to have these teams formed and begin to identify projects and other proposals soon.