

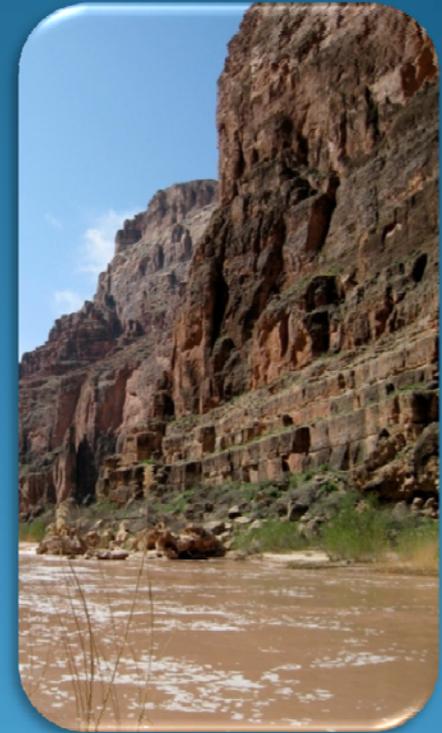


Non-native Fish Control Planning TWG Review and Comment

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Chair, Technical Work Group

Timeline

- Motions relating to non-native control planning
- TWG review and comments
- Outstanding issues
- Summary/next steps



Early AMWG and TWG Motions 2004

- On August 11, 2004 the AMWG passed the following motion:
 - “That GCMRC and TWG make a recommendation to AMWG in October 2004 on warm water species studies including a plan starting in January 2005”
- Subsequently on September 27, 2004 the TWG passed an additional motion:
 - “GCMRC will develop a process, a schedule, and a recommended budget for suppression and control of non-native fish (warm water species) to be presented to AMWG at their October meeting”

AMWG Motion October 2004

Authorize funds for workshops, and direct GCMRC to further develop warm water species plan with TWG. The workshops include the GCMRC workshop as described in the prospectus for warm water species research, and participation in the Upper Basin Recovery Implementation Plan workshop on non-native fish control.

2008 Biological Opinion

“Nonnative Fish Control – As first presented in the biological opinion on the Shortage Guidelines, Reclamation will, in coordination with other DOI AMP participants and through the AMP, continue efforts to assist NPS and the AMP in control of both cold- and warm-water nonnative fish species in both the mainstem of Marble and Grand canyons and in their tributaries, including determining and implementing levels of nonnative fish control as necessary. Because Reclamation predicts that dam releases will be cool to cold during the period of the proposed action, control of nonnative trout may be particularly important. Control of these species will utilize mechanical removal, similar to recent efforts by the AMP, and may utilize other methods, to help to reduce this threat. **GCMRC is preparing a nonnative fish control plan through the AMP process that addresses both cold and warm-water species that will further guide implementation of this conservation measure.**”



Timeline

- ✓ July 16, 2009 – Draft plan submitted to TWG for review, including SA comments and responses
- ✓ July 21, 2009 – TWG conference call with GCMRC, SA
- ✓ August 30, 2009 – TWG comment period ended
- ✓ September 29-30, 2009 – TWG meeting review of plan, comments, plan revisions
- ✓ November 17, 2009 – Revised document for review
- ✓ January 5, 2010 – TWG conference call, revision
- ✓ January 15, 2010 – Second revised document for review
- ✓ January 21, 2010 – TWG review, no recommendation

TWG Meeting September 2009

July 16 draft

- Numerous comments by BOR, WAPA, AZGFD
- Reviewed SA comments, echoed by many TWG members
- GCMRC presented a plan for revision and response to TWG comments, mid-November



Major TWG Comments

July 16 draft

- Overall strategy needed; implementation and recommendations
- Integration with implementing agencies, management plan, control plan, research?
- Risk assessment needed, priorities: next phase
- Mechanical removal of trout; trigger, cost
- Tribal concerns, specifically with efficacy of mechanical removal in benefitting HBC
- GCMRC agreed to address many of the TWG concerns, numerous specific comments



January 5, 2010 TWG Review

November 17 revision

- **Many concerns addressed to some extent**
- **Tribal concerns increased: adequacy of tribal consultation, ongoing consultation, and efficacy of mechanical removal**
- **January 13 tribal consultation meeting**
- **Additional technical comments by TWG members**
- **Further revision necessary with clarification on tribal consultation process**

January 21, 2010 TWG Review

January 15 revision

- Tribal concerns not resolved: adequacy of tribal consultation, ongoing consultation, and efficacy of mechanical removal
- January 13 tribal consultation meeting did not satisfy tribes that consultation would be satisfactory
- Some technical issues remain especially with the mechanical removal trigger
- Tribes did not support a recommendation to AMWG, thus TWG unable to consider a motion without further direction from AMWG
- Tribal consultation should include all interested tribes, not just Pueblo of Zuni

Other Unresolved Issues Beyond TWG's Purview

- Who's responsibility is it to pay for nonnative control efforts?
- Is nonnative removal cost effective?
- Do nonnative control activities become “management actions?”
- How will coordination be completed among implementing agencies?
- **This plan/document is caught between the science which can be provided by GCMRC and a management document of the program**

Summary

- Tribal consultation issues need to be resolved, TWG needs direction
- Risk assessment is critical to priority setting
- Nonnative control document is complicated by mechanical removal (biological opinion implementation, trigger, efficacy)
- Control plan or “Rapid Response Plan”, how to integrate cooperators?
- **Practical, urgent need to have an on-the-ground plan to address non-natives in Grand Canyon**