

Gila River Basin Native Fishes Conservation Program
(AKA: Central Arizona Project Fund Transfer Program)
Joint Policy-Technical Team Meeting
June 14, 2007

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Meeting location: New Mexico Game & Fish headquarters
Albuquerque, NM
Starting time: 10 am local

Attended by: Steve Spangle, Paul Barrett, and Doug Duncan (FWS); Rob Clarkson and Henry Messing (USBR); Renae Held and Dave Propst (NMGFD); Bob Broscheid and Jeff Sorensen (AGFD)

Action Items are underlined. [Attached files are in blue text.](#)

1. Rob provided a brief history of CAP Program and projects completed and current tasks (handouts on RPA3 and 4 tasks and expenditures).
2. The group discussed Rinne's revised 2007 proposal. We generally agreed that the proposed study is a management action (although for AGFD permitting needs, it still needs to be couched as an experiment). The Policy Committee approved Rinne's proposal for funding with the following stipulations: 1) Rinne must use a USFS statistician to approve the project's study design and data analysis; 2) population estimates from each pass of the 3-pass depletion sampling must be done; and 3) more robust statistical analysis of his data should be used. Rob, Dave, and Tony Robinson (AGFD) will develop a list of requirements that the CAP Program needs from Rinne's study, and forward that info to Rinne.
3. Steve opened the discussion on the option of including USFS and BLM representatives in CAP Program. In a recent Arizona interagency coordination meeting, Jeff Whitney (USFS) and Ted Cordery (BLM) had verbally requested that their respective agencies be represented in the CAP Program, since they are major landowners where many CAP-funded conservation actions are occurring. The group felt that each of those agencies may send 1 representative to participate on the Technical Committee only. Doug will draft the invitation letter to the USFS regional office and BLM Arizona state office.
4. Jeff provided copies of the revised CAP Strategic Plan, and led the discussion on its format and content. This version combines elements of the old strategic plan and CAP guidance document, and incorporates the recommendations from the WMI evaluation. The revised plan was approved with the addition of a few more edits and input ([see attached "final" version](#)). Jeff will compile all the final edits—the group will send suggested changes via email.

5. Should the revised CAP Strategic Plan be sent out to external reviewers? We decided to send the final plan (after a few more edits) to the WMI folks with a cover letter thanking them for their input—the revised plan will show them that we adopted most of their recommendations. Paul will draft the cover letter to WMI.
6. Bob discussed the recent changes in AGFC guidance (now revised as policy) concerning stocking listed aquatic species in Arizona ([see attached AGFC policy](#)). This discussion helped shed light on various the processes and impediments to getting fish back into the wild, following barrier construction.
7. Doug provided an update on the status of the revised CAP biological opinion—it is almost done (within a couple weeks).
8. Steve mentioned that the White Mountain Apache Tribe is interested in being more involved in the CAP Program. Steve will be meeting with the Tribe on June 15. Perhaps we may be able to get a stock of White River loach minnow in the future?
9. Rob requested that Tony Robinson (AGFD's CAP implementation lead) also participate in the Technical Committee meetings. Everyone agreed that would fine. Jeff will notify Tony on this.
10. The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for November 7th or 8th (not finalized yet).

Meeting minutes drafted by Jeff