

Agenda
 Technical Committee Meeting
 Gila River Basin Native Fishes Conservation Program
 August 23, 2011

I. Review of Program funding concerns---proposed spending vs. available funds

A. Fixed existing + proposed outlays	
1. Annual AZGFD recovery/control outlays	\$ 275,000
2. Annual Bubbling Ponds NFCF outlays	\$ 100,600
3. Proposed NMDGF recovery/control outlays	\$ 150,000
4. Topminnow refuge maintenance	\$ 15,000
5. Fossil Creek monitoring	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
6. TOTAL (\$550,000 available)	\$ 570,600
B. Other anticipated Program needs	
1. Blue River stock tank surveys (~\$60K)	
2. Increase penalty/reward for illegal stocking (\$25K*)	
3. Start accumulating fish barrier construction \$\$?	
4. Continued piscicide purchases?	
5. Continued contribution to piscicide development?	
6. Miscellaneous expenses (BPNFCF, helicopter, etc.; ~\$25 K)	
7. Increased commitment to BPNFCF?	
8. White River loach minnow acquisition (~\$50K)	
C. Conclusion: We cannot fund everything we want; how much do we need in reserve?	
D. Resolution options	
1. Decrease funding to State GFDs	
a. AZGFD---eliminate one funded position?	~\$ 200,000
b. NMDGF---reduce proposed outlay?	~\$ 50,000
2. Increase funding to BPNFCF?	~\$ 150,000
3. TOTAL	\$ 400,000
E. Impacts	
1. AZGFD may have to reduce monitoring commitments and depend more upon inter-agency assistance and otherwise restrict CAP staff use	
2. NMDGF will not be able to implement all the actions it wants	
3. Bubbling Ponds needs to be fully funded to continue its primary role in the program	

II. Need to develop new fish barrier site alternatives

- A. Sonoita Creek---will need to find replacement outside of Santa Cruz subbasin
- B. Verde River---as a contingency
- C. Still short one barrier for biological opinion commitments
- D. Top sites based on conservation priority ranks or high species richness:
 - 1. Silver Creek (Agua Fria)
 - 2. Eagle Creek
 - 3. Canyon Creek
 - 4. Cherry Creek

5. Kayler Spring (Gila County)
 6. Oak Grove Canyon (Graham County)
 7. Spring Creek (Verde)
 8. West Clear Creek
 9. Black Canyon Creek, NM
 10. Main Diamond Creek, NM
 11. Tularosa River, NM
- E. Other methods to evaluate possible fish barrier sites
1. Which populations need replication the most, then search for nearest neighbor streams
 2. Which streams are most feasible, then search for which populations could be Replicated
 3. Other?

III. Changes to the way the information and education component of the BO is implemented

- A. Reclamation lacks authority to execute agreements with contracts to conduct educational programs
- B. Proposal is to transfer I&E funds to FWS for them to execute specific agreements

IV. 2012 fund transfer projects

A. Ongoing tasks

1. topminnow stock maintenance (yr 5 of 5)	\$ 14,000
2. NM private lands fish restoration (yr 5 of 5)	\$ 5,000
3. W Fk Gila River mechanical removal (NMDGF; yr 3 of 5)	\$ 20,000
4. Redfield Canyon green sunfish removal (yr 5 of 5)	\$ 7,500
5. Fossil Creek nonnative fish monitoring (yr 3 of 5)	\$ 30,000
6. W Fk Gila River mechanical removal (USFS; yr 3 of 5)	\$ 10,000
7. AZGFD recovery/control funds	\$275,000
8. Bubbling Ponds NCF	<u>\$100,600</u>
9. TOTAL	<u>\$462,100</u>

B. New tasks

1. Blue River stock tank surveys?	\$ 60,000
2. NMDGF funding?	<u>\$ 20,000</u>
3. GRAND TOTAL	\$542,100
4. Other?	

V. Other discussion items

- A. No fishing signage
- B. Reward/penalty for illegal stocking
- C. Status of rotenone use
- D. White River loach minnow
- E. Purchase Redfield Canyon property?
- F. Cease Verde/Black river rare species surveys?
- G. Blue River fish barrier update
- H. Temporary Fossil Creek fish barrier update
- G. Other?

* Johnson et al. (2009) recommends \$100K/\$50K for penalty/reward

Johnson, B.M., R. Arlinghaus, and P.J. Martinez. 2009. Are we doing all we can to stem the tide of illegal fish stocking? *Fisheries* 34:389-394.