Final Meeting Minutes
Gila River Basin Native Fish Restoration Program
Technical Committee
Bureau of Reclamation Phoenix Area Office
November 7, 2007

Attendance:
Rob Clarkson (Reclamation), Doug Duncan (FWS), Tim Frey (BLM), David Propst (NMDGF), Tony Robinson (AZGFD), Jeff Sorensen (AZGFD), Amy Unthank (USFS)

Status of current projects (pending or ongoing):
Task 3-7, water rights survey. Agreed to revisit this task at a future meeting to determine whether to pursue it again or delete it.

Task 3-43, miscellaneous support expenses. The original $5000 obligated for this task has been overspent; agreed to recommend additional funding to keep the task active.

Task 3-46, Gila basin chub genetics. Final report completion date nearing, Clarkson will check on status of the report with Tom Dowling (ASU), and Sorensen will check on exact due date under the agreement.

Task 3-49, Identify native-only streams (yr 1 of 2). Other ongoing surveys by AZGFD and NMDGF are collecting this information; agreed to delete this task and task 3-58 (yr 2 of 2) as no longer necessary.

Task 3-54, Romero and Paige Creek renovations. Romero renovation accomplished, will check with Don Mitchell (AZGFD) about status of Paige renovation.

Task 3-66, Post repatriation evaluations. Agreed to mark this task as ongoing under AZGFD activities and move it to the AZGFD recovery actions task.

Task 3-67, Chub propagation techniques (yr 3 of 3). Duncan will check on the due date and status of the outstanding *Gila robusta* report.

Task 3-70, Pupfish genetics (yr 3 of 3). Duncan will transmit draft final report to Technical Committee members for review.

Task 3-72, Bubbling Ponds O&M (yr 1 of n). Reclamation has a two-year agreement for this task, after which FWS will need to continue the agreement.

Task 3-73, Miscellaneous helicopter support. This fund has nearly $15,000 of the $25,000 identified yet unexpended, so no change in its funding status is needed yet.

Task 3-74, Topminnow stock maintenance. Paul Marsh (ASU) has expended less money than originally estimated on this task, and will request a 1-yr no-cost time extension until April 2009.

Task 3-75, AZGFD recovery actions (yr 1 of n). Clarkson requested more detailed expenditure reporting be added to progress reports. Subtasks under this project all ongoing with exception of Ash Creek repatriations and San Pedro Pond stockings. Agreed to bracket these subtasks until additional resolution of their potential is determined.

Task 3-76, NMDGF recovery actions (yr 1 of n). Spikedace/loach minnow declines (3-76a) and *Meda/Tiaroga* data assembly (3-76c) will be marked as completed based on submission of final reports. NM trout stream repatriations (3-76b) ongoing; Gila forks inventory (yr 1 of 2)(3-76d) will be marked as completed.

Task 3-77, USFS Gila forks inventory (yr 1 of 2). This task is now completed.

Task 3-78, AZGFD recovery actions (yr 2 of n). Subtask 3-78a will require a renovation, and will be renamed to Mineral Creek renovation and repatriation. A list of species to be repatriated needs to be developed. This task will be marked as ongoing.

Task 3-79, NMDGF recovery actions (yr 2 of n). This task and its subtasks are now ongoing.

Task 3-80, USFS Gila forks inventory (yr 2 of 2). This task is now ongoing.

Task 3-81, Bubbling Ponds O&M (yr 2 of n). This task is now ongoing.

Task 3-82, Additional cost for yr 2 of task 3-74. Addition of this money is completed.

Task 3-83, Additional cost for task 3-67. Addition of this money is completed.

Task 4-13, Stock tank easements. Agreed to retain this task and make its funding available to the FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. NMDGF may also have use for this funding, and Propst may submit a proposal in the future.

Task 4-15, Blue River barrier design. Additional work on this task is awaiting resolution of Wild & Scenic River designation issues.

Task 4-32, Redfield/Hot Springs barrier feasibility. Reclamation is beginning to actively work on this task.

Task 4-33, Redfield/Hot Springs barrier design. Reclamation is beginning to actively work on this task.

Task 4-37, Redrock Canyon barrier design. This task is now completed.

Task 4-39, Production of SW fishes book. This book has been accepted by the publisher, and is officially *in print*, with an expected autumn 2008 publication date.

Task 4-41, Tonto Creek barrier feasibility. A feasibility report has already been produced for Rock Creek, a tributary to Spring Creek in the Tonto drainage. Reclamation is also producing a feasibility report on a barrier location on Spring Creek downstream of Rock Creek.

Task 4-48, AZ oversight of renovations. A no-cost time extension request from AZGFD is pending. Agreed this task could be moved to the AZGFD nonnative control actions task. It was also noted that funds directed to the AZGFD Research Branch under the recovery actions and nonnative control actions tasks can be used by other AZGFD branches/regions if adequate tracking controls are in place.

Task 4-50, Stillman Lake renovation NEPA. Status uncertain, but it was believed that a public EA has been released.

Task 4-51, Miscellaneous stock tank surveys. Agreed to leave this task and its funds as pending, to allow future use of contractors to perform necessary stock tank surveys.

Task 4-59, USFS Gila mechanical removal (yr 1 of 4). This task is now completed.

Task 4-60, FWS Gila mechanical removal (yr 1 of 4). This task is now completed.

Task 4-61, Stillman Lake renovation. This task will be marked as pending until NEPA has been completed and a decision is made by AZGFD to proceed.

Task 4-63, Little Creek barrier design. USFS has money available to look at this barrier site, and USFS engineers will be put in touch with Reclamation engineers, who have already produced a feasibility report for this barrier. Propst is evaluating the merits of this barrier relative to a larger barrier upstream on the West Fork Gila River.

Task 4-64, AZGFD nonnative control actions (yr 1 of n). The Boyce-Thompson renovation subtask (4-64a) will be bracketed to denote that the cost-benefit of this project is being reviewed. The Fresno Canyon renovation subtask has been completed, but the project also includes repatriation of Gila topminnow and Gila chub, which has not yet occurred. The name of this subtask will be changed to Fresno Canyon renovation and repatriation to reflect this addition.

Task 4-65, NMDGF nonnative control actions (yr 1 of n). The NMDGF Gila mechanical removal subtask (yr 1of 4)(3-65a) is completed.

Task 4-67, West Fork Oak Creek fish barrier design. A meeting scheduled for Dec. 6 is intended to decide the future of the barrier proposal. If the project moves forward, Reclamation will complete the barrier design report.

Task 4-68, USFS Gila mechanical removal (yr 2 of 4). This task is now ongoing.

Task 4-69, FWS Gila mechanical removal (yr 2 of 4). This task is now ongoing.

Task 4-70, AZGFD nonnative control actions (yr 2 of n). This task is now ongoing. The Redrock Canyon and Bonita Creek renovation subtasks are pending completion of fish barriers, scheduled for construction in 2008.

Task 4-71, NMDGF nonnative control actions (yr 2 of n). This task is now ongoing.

Task 4-72, Genetic biocontrol symposium. Proposals to set up this symposium are active, in conjunction with the University of Minnesota (Kapuscinski). A plea for Paul Barrett (FWS) to keep the Technical Committee updated on this task was made.

Task 4-73, Rotenone purchase (new formulation). Sorensen has determined AZGFD can store approximately 36, 5-gallon buckets at their new facility. Clarkson will forward vendor information to Duncan, who will order the product.

Task 4-74, Additional O&M costs for Bubbling Ponds Hatchery. This task is now completed.

Proposed FY08 projects:

Recovery of Natives

3-84	AZGFD recovery actions a. Morgan City Wash repatriations	$ 109,600
3-85	NMDGF recovery actions a. Spikedace repatriations (yr 2 of 5) b. Gila forks community isotopes (yr 2 of 3) c. Red Rock cienega restoration (yr 2 of 2) d. San Francisco drainage inventory (yr 1 of 2)	 $ 17,000 $ 55,900 $ 7,500 $ 27,000
3-86	Bubbling Ponds O&M (yr 3 of n)	$ 38,000
3-87	Blue River Fish Hatchery investigations	$ 10,000
3-89	Additional funding for task 3-43	$ 10,000
	TOTAL	**$ 275,000**

Control of Nonnatives

4-75	USFS Gila mechanical removal (yr 3 of 4)	$ 30,000
4-76	FWS Gila mechanical removal (yr 3 of 4)	$ 30,000
4-77	AZGFD nonnative control actions (yr 3 of n) a. Spring Creek renovation and repatriation	$ 140,400
4-78	NMDGF nonnative control actions (yr 3 of n) a. NM Gila mechanical removal (yr 3 of 4) b. Little Creek mechanical removal (yr 1 of 3)	 $ 30,000 $ 23,000
	TOTAL	**$ 253,400**

The Technical Committee also discussed the various proposals for funding received in the past year not recommended for funding in fy08. Agreed to table funding for the UofA fish facility, as the Bubbling Ponds facility is meeting our current propagation/

holding needs. A possibility to cost-share O&M of the facility was discussed. The committee will complete formal evaluation forms for this proposal.

The New River and Camp Creek repatriation proposals, and the proposal to fund Dexter National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center to establish a new population of Bylas Springs Gila topminnow were tabled pending receipt of additional information. The USFS Rocky Mtn. Experiment Station Verde River nonnative mechanical removal proposal was also tabled due to uncertainty concerning the principal investigator's recent retirement, associated sole-source issues, continued technical problems with the proposal, and pending AZGFD management decisions.

Genetic biocontrol of nonnatives:
The state-of-knowledge of Trojan gene methods toward this goal have advanced considerably since the topic was last visited, and Clarkson will present this information to the Policy Committee at the January meeting for further discussion.

Suggested dates for January Policy Committee meeting:
The Technical Committee is available Jan. 21-23 and Jan. 28-31. These possible dates will be forwarded to Policy Committee members for final selection.