

Final Meeting Minutes
Gila River Basin Native Fish Conservation Program
Technical Committee

Bureau of Reclamation Phoenix Area Office
November 7, 2008

Attendance:

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

Review of the Program "economy":

Continuation projects for fy2009---RPA3

NMDGF spikedace repatriations (yr 3 of 5)	\$ 12,000
Gila forks community isotopes (yr 3 of 3)	\$ 55,900
NMDGF San Francisco drainage inventory (yr 2 of 2)	\$ 9,000
NMDGF private lands fish restoration (yr 2 of 5)	\$ 5,000
AZGFD recovery actions (yr 4 of n)	\$113,100
USFS San Francisco drainage inventory (yr 2 of 2)	\$ 9,000
FWS San Francisco drainage inventory (yr 2 of 2)	\$ 9,000
USFS spikedace repatriations (yr 3 of 5)	\$ 12,000
FWS spikedace repatriations (yr 3 of 5)	\$ 12,000
Bubbling Ponds O&M (yr 4 of n)	\$ 38,000
<u>Topminnow stock maintenance (yr 1 of 5)</u>	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
TOTAL*	\$281,000

*Not discussed at the meeting was a previously-agreed task to assist with lining of one of the refuge ponds at the TNC Lower San Pedro River Preserve, in the amount of \$35,000

Continuation projects for fy2009---RPA4

NMDGF Gila mechanical removal (yr 4 of 4)	\$ 30,000
NMDGF Little Creek mechanical removal (yr 2 of 3)	\$ 9,000
USFS Gila mechanical removal (yr 4 of 4)	\$ 30,000
FWS Gila mechanical removal (yr 4 of 4)	\$ 30,000
USFS Little Creek mechanical removal (yr 2 of 3)	\$ 30,000
FWS Little Creek mechanical removal (yr 2 of 3)	\$ 30,000
AZGFD nonnative control actions (yr 4 of n)	\$161,900
<u>Redfield Canyon green sunfish removal (yr 2 of 5)</u>	<u>\$ 7,560</u>
TOTAL	\$282,460

As continuation expenditures met or exceeded available funding for FY2009 (\$275K for each RPA), the Committee did not review in detail most of the proposed new projects shown in the meeting agenda (below), and we did not prioritize them. Of the potential projects listed in the agenda, it was agreed that NMDGF inventory of Gila River for roundtail chub (2a) would be considered next year, as would an update of the Gila River basin fish database (2c), extension of Fossil Creek monitoring period (2e), extra \$\$ for genetic biocontrol symposium (2f), and request for proposal from USGS for new taxon-specific piscicide work

(2g). The two outside proposals we received for consideration this year (nonnative control and restoration efforts in Cienega Creek basin [2b], and genetic structure of wild and captive populations of loach minnow) will be fully reviewed by the Committee by mid-December and potentially considered for funding in the future. Clarkson agreed to send out notices of insufficient funding to the principal investigators for the two outside proposals we received.

In addition, as continuation projects accounted for all FY2009 projects, there was no need to assign project blurb write-ups, i.e., all blurbs except the San Pedro Pond lining task have been previously prepared (Clarkson will prepare this blurb and assemble all others into a document for the Policy Committee).

The Committee also briefly reviewed contracting issues, problems, and progress, and it appears that most contracting difficulties with the states, FWS, and USFS are being slowly worked through. We did not specifically do the math to determine the status of the program balances for fund transfers between Reclamation and FWS, but our continued goal is to balance both agencies' books to revenue neutrality over time.

Sorensen agreed to attempt to schedule the joint Policy-Technical Committee meeting in January to present our recommendations for FY2009 project funding.

AGENDA
Gila River Basin Native Fish Conservation Program
Technical Committee Meeting
November 7, 2008

1. Review of the Program “economy”
 - a. Itemization of continuation project costs
 - b. Status of AZGFD and NMDGF spending, i.e., what is left and what is needed
 - c. How do the books balance relative to FWS and Reclamation?
 - d. Status of FY09 funding availability for new proposals

2. Review/recommendations for new proposals
 - a. Inventory of NM Gila River for roundtail chub (NMDGF)
 - b. Nonnative control and restoration efforts in Cienega basin (
 - c. Update Gila basin fish database
 - d. Extend topminnow maintenance agreement
 - e. Extend Fossil Creek monitoring period
 - f. Extra \$\$ for genetic biocontrol symposium
 - g. Request proposal from USGS for new taxon-specific piscicide work
 - h. Others?

3. Assemble the final FY09 recommendations
 - a. Prioritize new proposals
 - b. Assign project blurb write-ups

4. Miscellaneous Technical Committee business
 - a. Contracting issues, progress, problems
 - b. Schedule January Policy Committee meeting
 - c. Others?