

Proposed Agenda
Joint Policy-Technical Committee Meeting
Gila River Basin Native Fishes Conservation Program
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Albuquerque
February 6, 2013

1. Electrical fish barriers – improve, replace, abandon?

Under the original BO, three electrical barriers were emplaced on canals to prevent escapement of nonnative fishes from the CAP to interconnected rivers. A second 10-yr review has found they still are not 100% effective, and the issue is whether to improve, replace, or abandon them, or maintain the status quo.

- a. Purpose and need
- b. Performance/effectiveness
- c. Recommendations

2. Low head fish barriers – identification of alternative sites

The BO called for Reclamation to construct 12 fish barriers by 2017. Six are completed, one is pending, and presently no additional barriers are a certainty. This topic will update the status of Reclamation's barrier program, review its problems, and discuss options to proceed.

- a. Status of completed/planned barriers
- b. Evaluation of alternative sites
- c. Process for replacement sites (FWS)
- d. Development of MOUs for new barrier projects, especially commitment for management against nonnatives upstream

3. Update of strategic plan

A strategic plan was developed for the GRBNFCP in 2008 that was intended to guide the program's implementation for the next five years. A second 5-yr plan has been developed that requires Policy Committee approval.

4. Summary of new funds transfer process/agreements

A new agreement format for funds transfers between Reclamation and FWS was implemented in 2012, and this topic will review the new process and how funds are disbursed to FWS subcontractors.

- a. Update on new Reclamation/FWS process for transferring funds
- b. Process to disburse funds from FWS to subcontractors

5. Approval of proposed FY2014 fund transfer tasks

One of the routine tasks of the Policy Committee is to approve projects proposed by the Technical Committee for funding in the upcoming fiscal year. Proposed FY2014 projects will be presented, and the prospect for provision of additional 2014 funding will be discussed.

Proposed FY2014 tasks:

Topminnow stock maintenance (yr 5 of 5)	\$ 20,034
NMDGF tasks (yr 1 of n)	\$ 55,000
AZGFD tasks (yr 7 of n)	\$ 275,000
Gila National Forest tasks (yr 1 of n)	\$ 32,000
FWS (NM) tasks (yr 1 of n)	\$ 49,000
BLM (NM) tasks (yr 1 of n)	\$ 10,500
Bubbling Ponds Native Fish Conservation Facility (yr 7 of n)	\$ 100,600
Redfield Canyon green sunfish mechanical removal (yr 5 of 5)	~\$ 10,000
<u>Black Canyon Heritage Park solar pumps (yr 1 of 1)</u>	<u>\$ 20,400</u>
TOTAL	~\$ 572,534

6. Review of native/nonnative fish monitoring

Last year the bulk of fish monitoring was directed towards monitoring of native fish streams and away from monitoring of CAP-interconnected waters. This topic will briefly review this change and provide a status update.

7. Update rotenone application process

AZGFD developed a new rotenone application approval and implementation process that is integral to the goals of the GRBNFCP. The status of that procedure will be updated, and its impact on Program goals will be discussed.

- a. Potential for new legislation and its impact on rotenone application
- b. Lessons learned from recent Fossil Creek rotenone project
- c. Timeframes for implementation of new projects (e.g., Blue River)