RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

New Melones Reservoir Revised Plan of Operation

Biological Science Group February 24, 2006

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Purpose

The purpose of the Biological Science Group (BSG) is to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to identify, develop, and critique the biological information required to develop a minimum instream flow schedule for the lower Stanislaus River.

Updates

- **Compile a list of Stanislaus River data currently available**
  - **SP Cramer provided a list of existing data**
  - **Request comments**
    - **What's the best way to format the list?**
    - **Any missing data?**
  - **Schedule – please provide comments on the format and content of list before the next BSG meeting**

Updates Continued

- **Upgrade website for BSG to include:**
  - **Background documents**
  - **Meeting materials**
  - **Data sources and links**
  - **Other expectations or suggestions?**
  - **Schedule - updated website online before the next BSG**

Updates Continued

- **Habitat Use Investigation**
  - **Final study design being prepared**
  - **High flow survey likely to occur during VAMP and low flow survey in the summer**
  - **Pursuing efforts for electrofishing permit**

Updates Continued

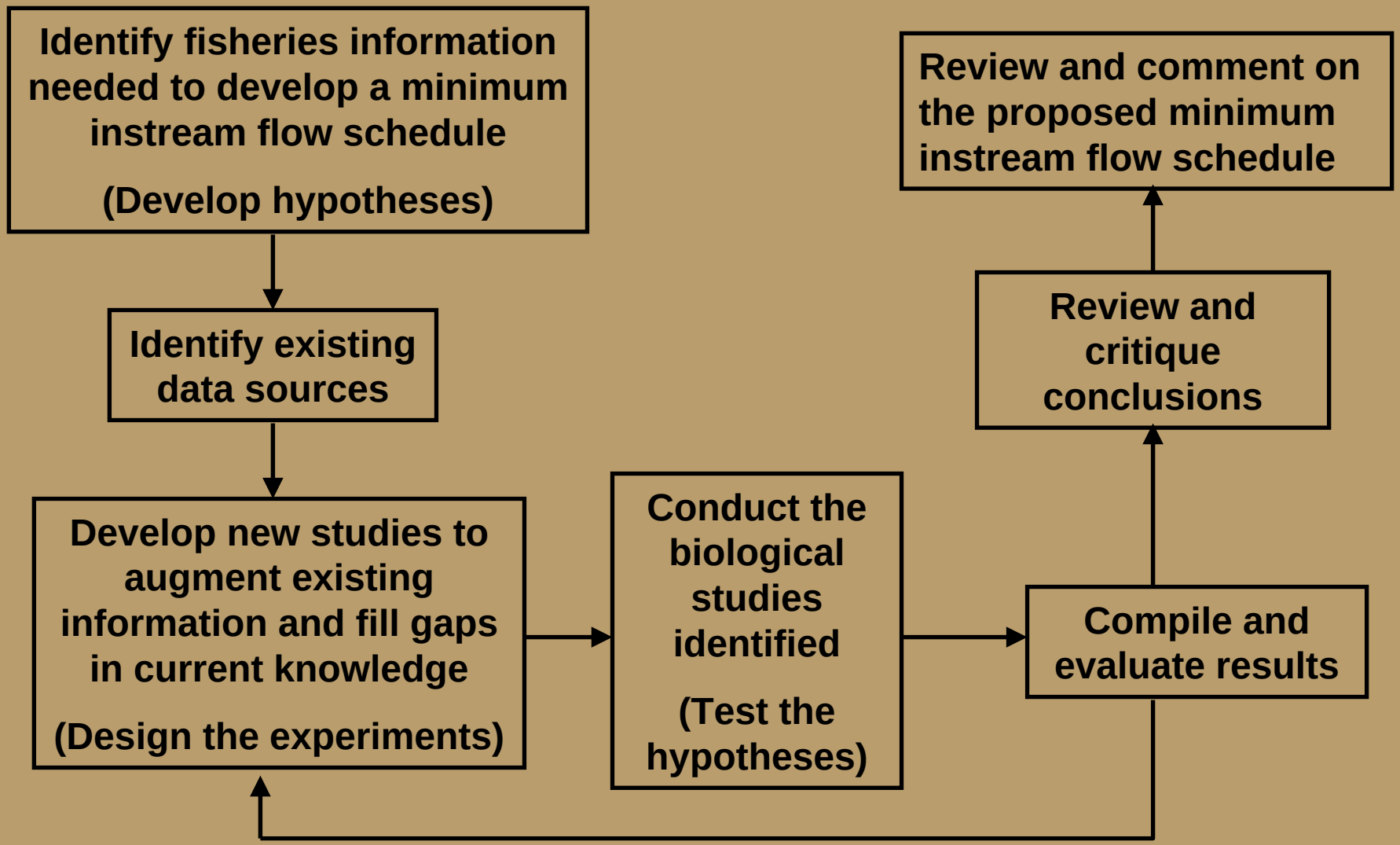
- **Water Supply Group**
  - **Initial meeting on January 27, 2006**
  - **Meeting summary on NMRPO website www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/nmrpo/**
  - **March 10th meeting to be rescheduled - date to be determined**
  - **Tentative agenda items**
    - **Presentation by the COE on the NM flood control diagram**

Updates from the group?

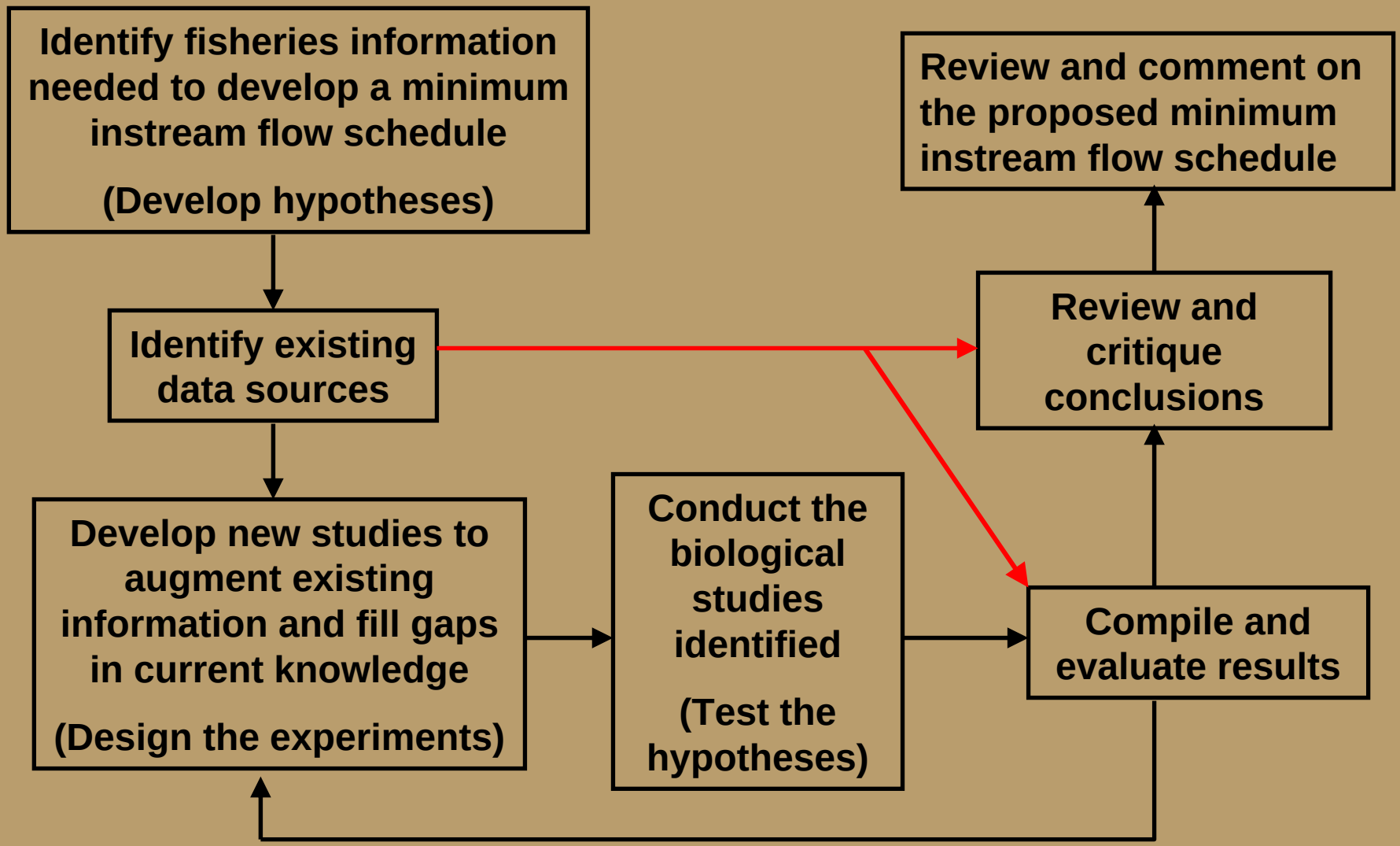
Meeting Objectives

- **Identify information needed to develop a Stanislaus river minimum instream flow schedule.**
- **Review proposed fall-run Chinook salmon conceptual model.**
- **Discuss proposed CDFG report to address remaining elements of the 87 Agreement.**

Proposed BSG Activities



Proposed BSG Activities Revised



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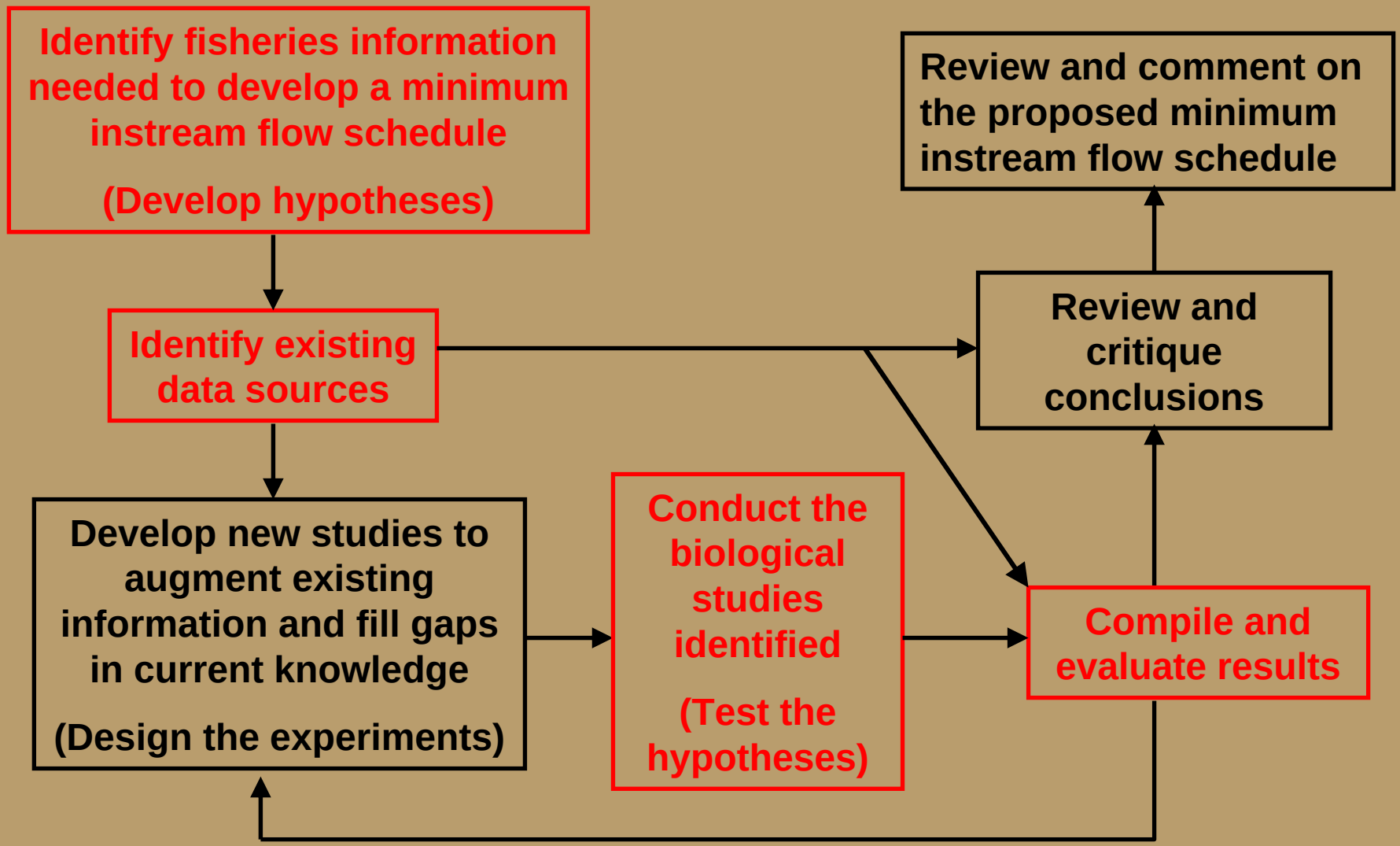
Proposed steps

1. Define the objective of a minimum instream flow schedule
2. Describe how and when target species use the river throughout the year (conceptual model)
3. Identify fisheries information needed to develop a minimum instream flow schedule
4. Review and analyze existing information; identify data gaps
5. Identify potential studies to initiate

Current Activities



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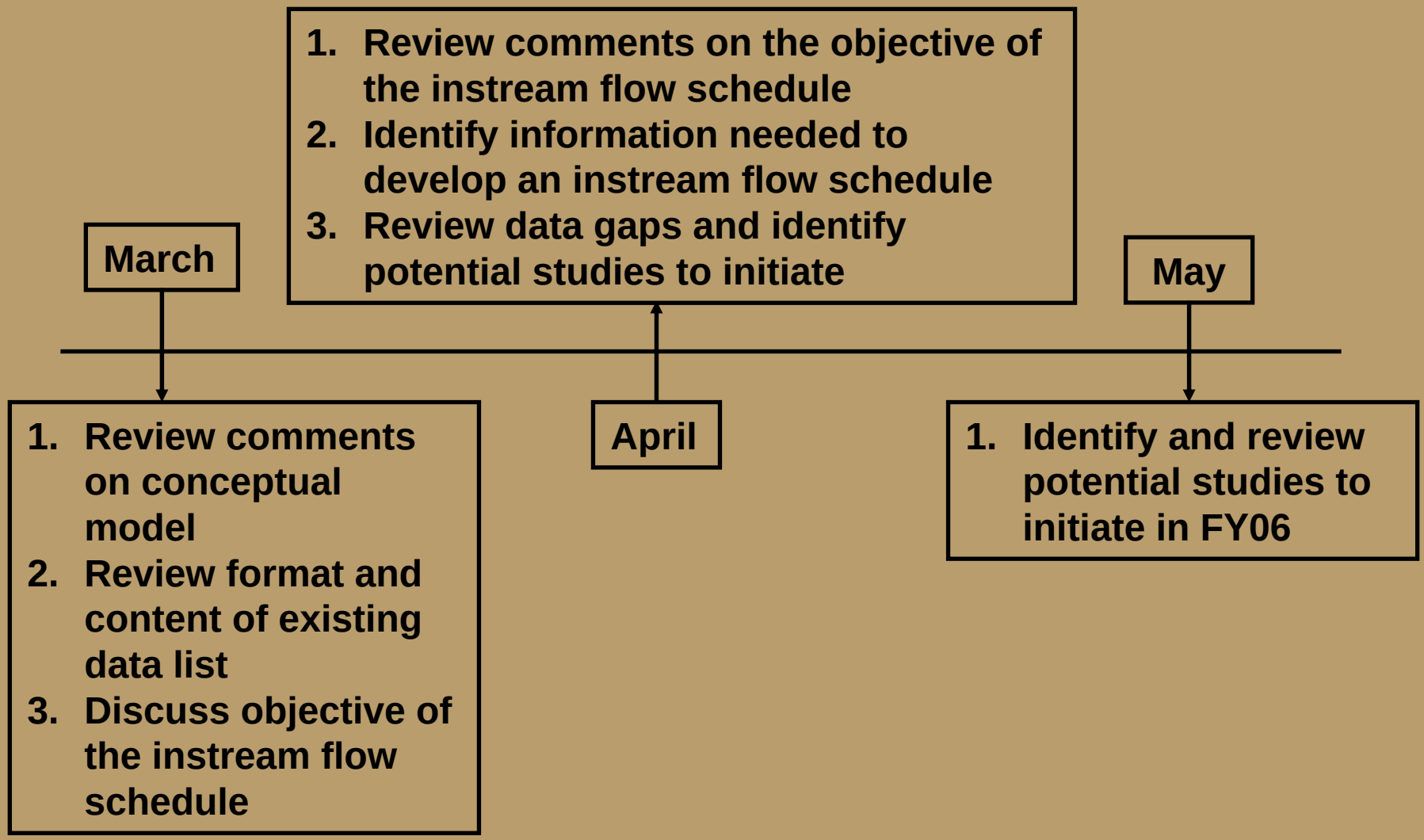
Proposed BSG timeline



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Flow schedule considerations

Biological components (e.g. life history stages, biologically significant thresholds)

Water year type (e.g. hydrologic period of record, probability of occurrence)

Hydrologic index (one or more mechanisms for forecasting conditions)

Species Periodicity Chart

- **Seasonal timing of habitat use by fish provides a basis for determining the timing and magnitude of instream flows.**
- **Biological information includes:**
  - **Species**
  - **Life history stages present**
  - **Timing of key biological activities**
    - **spawning – adults only**
    - **rearing and instream migration – may occur at several life stages**

Source: 2002. British Columbia Instream Flow Standards for Fish Phase 1 – Initial Review and Consultation.

http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/phase1_bc_instreamflow_standards_fish.pdf

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Next Meeting

- Date
- Location
- Agenda items
- Meeting materials