

Grand Canyon Adaptive Management Program Humpback Chub Comprehensive Plan



Glen Knowles
AMWG Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona
October 25, 2004

History of the HBC Plan

- January 28-29, 2003 AMWG meeting – recognizing that HBC numbers are declining rapidly, Grand Canyon Trust suggests motion to “start a process... to take a more comprehensive approach to addressing the plight of humpback chub (HBC).”

Motion passed (17, 0, 3): “AMWG meet in special session on or about April 1, 2003, to consider action to implement a comprehensive research and management program for the HBC, and in the interim an ad hoc committee of AMWG, TWG, GCMC, and science advisors develop recommendations and report to AMWG at the special session.”

History cont.

- May 29, 2003 AMWG meeting – Current version of “Status and Management Strategy for Humpback Chub in Grand Canyon” presented. Chairman Spiller notes that HBC Ad Hoc was unable to reach consensus on proposals, especially augmentation, although consensus was reached that a genetics management plan was necessary. Numerous comments received from AMWG.
- August 13, 2003 AMWG meeting – plan is redistributed at AMWG meeting. AMWG uses plan at August meeting in developing FY 2004 budget, but does not make any formal acceptance of the plan.

History cont.

- October 1, 2003 TWG meeting – Knowles provides update, suggests TWG create ad hoc to work on the plan. TWG decides to have the existing HBC AHG work on completing the report and present it to AMWG in January with the intent of having AMWG forward it to the FWS.
- February 3, 2004 TWG meeting – Kubly provides update that work continues on the plan and the intent now is to forward it on to the Secretary for incorporation into a recovery program with a cover letter explaining that not all projects are within the authority of the AMP but that the AMWG can make in/out decisions in its budget process.

History cont.

- March 3, 2004 AMWG Meeting – Spiller “if AMWG thinks plan should be sent to Secretary with a recommendation to present the plan to RD of Reg 2 than that is appropriate.”

- June 9, 2004 – Kubly delivers revised plan to HBC AHG.
 - ◆ Similar format and content
 - ◆ Names of potential contract recipients eliminated
 - ◆ Cost estimates removed
 - ◆ Project summaries shortened
 - ◆ Some projects combined
 - ◆ Two new projects added: Non-native stocking procedures and improve rearing habitats
 - ◆ Added discussion of project implementation in section 5

History cont.

- August 3, 2004 – Conference call, edits are made to first 4 sections; Kubly, Knowles, Stevens tasked with revision of section 5 (project implementation).
- August 17, 2004 - Second version distributed with August 3 edits.
- September 10, 2004 – Conference call identifies that too many conflicts exist to complete the plan in time for the October AMWG meeting. Decided that a powerpoint presentation would be given to the AMWG on the unresolved issues to seek guidance on how best to proceed.

History cont.

- September 13, 2004 – New section 5 distributed. Provides more detailed discussion of implementation and potential for impacts to other resources.
- September 20, 2004 – Conference call to identify issues of contention, results in a discussion of options AMWG might consider to complete the plan. Two tiers of concerns recognized: technical issues and policy issues.

HBC PLAN – Technical Issues

- Five technical issue concerns were common among Ad Hoc members:
 1. Removal of HBC from Grand Canyon
 2. Integration of plans (CMP, LTEP, HBC)
 3. Prioritization, linkages, sequencing
 4. Improve scientific basis of status, threats
 5. Risk analysis of each action/project

HBC PLAN – Policy Issues

- Three policy options were identified during the September 20, 2004, conference call:
 1. Forward HBC plan on to the Secretary with a recommendation to develop a recovery program for Grand Canyon HBC.
 2. Designate each HBC plan project as in or out of the AMP and fund accordingly.
 3. Fully incorporate HBC plan into the the AMP.