Updating the GCMRC’s Strategic Science Plan and Monitoring and Research Plan

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program
Adaptive Management Work Group Meeting
September 10, 2008

John Hamill, Chief, GCMRC
Identify strategies that will be pursued by the GCMRC to provide credible, objective science support to the GCDAMP over the next 5 years:

- Utilize an Adaptive Environmental Assessment Approach
- Emphasize interdisciplinary, integrated river science
- Bridge science and management
- Address strategic science questions related to priority AMWG goals and questions
- Address critical research and monitoring needs outside the scope of the GCDAMP
- Directs MRP activities
Monitoring and Research Plan
Purpose and Scope

Identify the scope and objectives of research and monitoring activities to address priority goals and information needs of the GCDAMP during the next 5 years.

- Focus on AMWG priorities, related strategic science questions, and information needs
- Collaborative science planning process
- Placeholder for the long-term experimental plan
- Provides basis for the Annual/Biennial Work Plan
Background

December 2006: AMWG recommended approval of the SSP to the Secretary of the Interior
  • Recommendation accepted by the Department of the Interior.

August 2007: The AMWG recommended approval of the MRP to the Secretary of the Interior with the understanding that it would be revised to reflect the results of the final Long-Term Experimental Plan EIS.
  • Recommendation accepted by the Department of the Interior.
Status

- March 2008 EA and Biological Opinion set experimental research direction for next 5 years
- LTEP EIS on hold; future uncertain
- SSP/MRP are essential to effective work planning and budgeting
- May 2008: AMWG directs TWG to work with GCMRC to update the MRP to reflect new program direction associated with the recent BO and EA and recommend MRP revisions for review/approval at the fall/winter 2008 AMWG meeting
Next Steps

GCMRC will update the SSP/MRP to include:

- Direction provided in March 2008 EA and related Biological Opinion
  - March 2008 HFE and related reporting
  - Near Shore Ecology/Fall Steady Flow Study
  - Nonnative Fish Removal
- New direction in tribal monitoring efforts
- Updated schedules and direction consistent with the approved Annual Work Plans
- De-emphasis on TCD planning and evaluation

USGS
Next Steps (continued)

- No change in overall SSP/MRP direction or priorities
- Schedule:
  - TWG and SA review -- October 15, 2008
  - AMWG review -- December, 2008
Questions/Discussion