

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Agenda Item Information
August 24-25, 2011

Agenda Item

Stakeholder Perspective: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Action Requested

✓ Information item only.

Presenter

Sam Spiller, Lower Colorado River Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Previous Action Taken

N/A

Relevant Science

N/A

Background Information

This item gives AMWG members an opportunity to inform the full AMWG about the people they represent and their connections to the Colorado River. They can also explain why they are interested in the AMP and what they hope to achieve through their participation.

Sam Spiller will present the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's interests with regard to the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program.

**U.S.
FISH & WILDLIFE
SERVICE**



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Working with others to conserve, protect
and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and
their habitats for the continuing benefit of
the American people

History

- 1871 – U.S. Commission on Fish and Fisheries created by Congress.
- 1885 – Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy established by U.S.D.A.; later became the Bureau of Biological Survey.
- 1903 – 1st Federal Bird Reservation established by President T. Roosevelt on Pelican Island, FL; these were redesignated National Wildlife Refuges (1942) (President F. Roosevelt).

Laws

- 1918 – Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- 1934 – Migratory Bird Hunting Act (Duck Stamp Act); resulted in protection of about 4.5 million acres of waterfowl habitat.
- 1946 – In response to amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), River Basins Study program (led to Ecological Services Division) to help minimize and prevent damage to fish and wildlife resources resulting from Federal water projects.
- 1973 – Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Resource Concerns

- Loss of wildlife populations due to excessive harvest; diminishment of waterfowl, shorebirds, egrets.
- Impacts of land use on habitat: draining on waterfowl, reservoirs to salmon migration and riparian habitat maintenance for neotropical songbirds.
- Pesticides; DDT (identified by Rachel Carson “Silent Spring”).”

Resource Concerns (cont.)

- Invasive species:
 - smallmouth bass, trout, & crayfish on native fish;
 - impacts of European starling on cavity nesting birds;
 - non-native grasses replacing native plant species and pollinating organisms with effects to higher food chain species; and
 - probably equally if not more significant, the general proliferation of non-native pathogens and insects on native plants and animals.

USFWS Divisions

- National Wildlife Refuge System
- Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
- Migratory Birds
- Law Enforcement
- International Affairs
- Fisheries and Habitat Conservation
- Endangered Species

Why is USFWS at the AMWG Table?

- We want to work with all the stakeholders to benefit fish and wildlife resources.
- We will do this consistent with our responsibilities that we carry out within the DOI in behalf of the Secretary of the Interior and our USFWS leadership.
- Our view of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (AMP) is that:

Our Mission, History, and Laws and Our Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (AMP)

- USFWS – The AMP provides us opportunity through the Adaptive Management Work Group to carry out this Mission through the Grand Canyon Protection Act and other applicable laws and mandates: “... working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.”

AMP Resources

- USFWS recognizes and respects the value of water delivery by the Bureau of Reclamation and use by the 7 Basin States and Mexico.
- USFWS recognizes and respects value of hydropower provided by Western Area Administration and other agencies to rural and municipal users, the needs of Tribes, rafters, Lees Ferry fishing interests, and environmental groups.

Resources (cont.)

- USFWS recognizes and respects the value of Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area for its sacred, religious and other cultural values, biological values, and recreational uses.
- USFWS recognizes and respects our agency's responsibility to our Public to protect biodiversity in such places for humpback chub and other species, to keep other species from being listed, recreational trout fishery, and migratory birds.

Resources (cont.)

- And, we know that this AMP program, the Adaptive Management Work Group and supporting Technical Work Group and various ad hoc groups with the monitoring and research leadership of USGS; all represent our means to accomplish conservation and maintenance of all these important resources and values for the Public.



Summary of Resource Concerns

- Humpback Chub conservation, as well as other species listed by ESA.
- Continued maintenance of the Lees Ferry trout fishery in a manner that does not detrimentally impact native humpback chub and other native fish significantly and restores the trout fishery to a trophy status.



Resource Concerns (Cont.)

- Conservation of non-listed native fish with a goal to avoid the need for additional listings.
- Conservation of migratory birds and their aquatic and marsh (waterfowl and other wetland species) and riparian habitats (neotropical songbirds).

Closing Statement

- We see ourselves best accomplishing this by:
 - Recognizing all laws and other guidance documents that affect river management,
 - Working with all the stakeholders in respect to their needs: cultural, economic, environmental and/or social, and
 - Using the “adaptive management” aspect in our AMP to guide this collaborative effort.