

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Agenda Item Information
February 25-26, 2015

Agenda Item

Panel on Current Projects and Issues in Utah

Action Requested

Information only

Presenters

Beverley Heffernan, Manager of Environmental Resources Division, Bureau of Reclamation,
Moderator

Mark Holden, Projects Manager, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission

Eric Millis, Director, Utah Division of Water Resources

Reed Murray, Director, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office

Wayne Pullan, Manager, Provo Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation

Previous Action Taken

N/A

Relevant Science

N/A

Background Information

One of the purposes of meeting in Salt Lake City is to further the knowledge of the AMWG of the challenges and the science that affects the Colorado River *outside* of the Grand Canyon. The purpose of this panel is to highlight the panelists' respective roles and how their agencies and missions affect the work of the GCDAMP, and how they fit into the big picture of the Colorado River Basin. They will share their projects and how they might be affected in a potential future with less water.

The Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission was established in 1992 under the Central Utah Project Completion Act, an amendment to CRSPA.¹ Mark Holden will explain that the Commission plans, funds, and administers the fish and wildlife (environmental) mitigation and conservation program authorized by the Act, according to an "ecosystem mandate." Since its formation in 1994, the Commission has implemented numerous mitigation and conservation projects in Utah with various partners including federal, state, and local agencies, Indian Tribes, and universities and NGOs. Challenges the Commission faces are similar to those facing the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program: finding a way to carry out a responsible program that addresses ecosystem needs in the face of changing water supply and

¹ The Mitigation Commission is an independent Federal agency established by the Central Utah Project Completion Act of 1992. The Commission is responsible for planning, funding, and implementing projects that benefit fish, wildlife, and related recreation resources in order to offset impacts caused by the Central Utah Project, and other Federal water reclamation projects in Utah.

delivery demands, hydropower generation, Native American concerns, and limited funding. Examples and highlights of completed Commission projects and thoughts on future program direction will be presented.

Utah Division of Water Resources is the state's water resource planning and development agency. Eric Millis will explain that division staff participates in the programs and committees involved with the successful operation and protection of the Colorado River in eastern Utah and the Bear River in northern Utah, and in ensuring Utah can develop its allocation of those rivers. Water planning for the state involves a quantification of future need and how to meet those needs, a growing percentage of which will be municipal and industrial. Water conservation, agricultural water conversion and new water projects will play the largest part in meeting those needs; however, the settlement of federal reserved water rights, drought, climate change, invasive species, etc. will affect these decisions. Utah's plans for its use of the Colorado River water and challenges it faces will be presented.

Central Utah Project Completion Act Office. Reed Murray will describe the history of the CUP and the implementation of current and future projects for water delivery and power development. He will discuss how they are meeting the challenges of compliance with the ESA and the importance of their relationships with the state of Utah and other agencies.

Provo Area Office USBR. Wayne Pullan will describe mission and responsibility of Provo Area Office and its relationship to the Colorado River outside of the Grand Canyon. He will report on the status of current and future projects and Coordination of the Weber and Provo Rivers. He will also describe the greatest challenge in meeting future water demands and how their projects could be affected if less water is available.