

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group

Agenda Item Form

February 15-16, 2017

Agenda Item

Science Advisors Program Update

Purpose of Agenda Item

To provide an update on Science Advisors Program activities and plans for FY 2017 and beyond.

Action Requested

Feedback requested, especially on topics the AMWG may want independently, externally reviewed through the Science Advisors Program over the course of the next Triennial Work Plan (FY 2018-2020).

Presenter

David Braun, Sound Science LLC, Science Advisors Executive Coordinator

Previous Action Taken

N/A

Relevant Science

N/A

Summary of Presentation and Background Information

The Executive Coordinator relaunched the Science Advisors Program in FY 2016, after a hiatus which included a transfer of administration from the GCMRC to Reclamation and the hiring of Sound Science LLC by Reclamation to serve as the program's new Executive Coordinator. The Science Advisors Program is responsible for carrying out independent, external reviews of topics vital to the mission of the AMP. The AMWG directly requests reviews as Action Items or approves reviews recommended by the TWG, GCMRC, or Executive Coordinator. One Executive Coordinator activity begun in FY 2016 and concluded in December consisted of collaborating with the GCMRC to organize a "Protocol Evaluation Panel" to review the AMP fisheries science program. This collaboration allowed the GCMRC and the Executive Coordinator to clarify the relationship between independent reviews carried out by each (Protocol Evaluation Panels versus other kinds of reviews) to address the goals of the program of "Independent Review Panels" established by the 1995 FEIS and 1996 ROD.

Executive Coordinator activities for FY 2017 will focus on developing a three-year plan for external reviews during FY 2018-2020 responsive to AMP needs. These current activities include collaborating with the TWG on the ongoing Knowledge Assessment (see separate Agenda Item) to identify topics for which an external review might help address mission-critical uncertainties. Plans remain on hold for an external review in FY 2017 focused on Tribal concerns, and for completion of an updated Science Advisors Program charter and protocols for AMWG consideration, pending completion of Reclamation consultations with the Tribes on other matters.

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program:
Science Advisors Program Update

David P. Braun, Sound Science LLC
GCDAMP Executive Coordinator for Science Advisors
AMWG Meeting, Phoenix, AZ, February 16, 2017

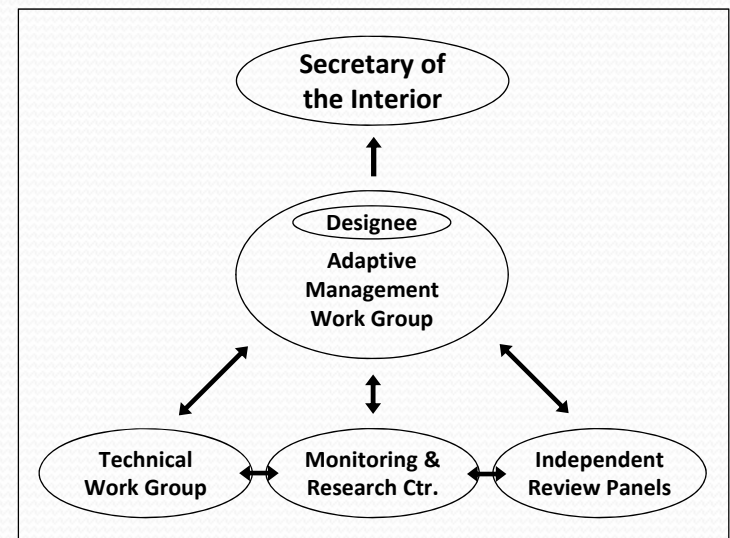


Presentation outline

- Purposes of Independent Review Panels (IRPs)
- Science Advisors program responsibilities
- FY2017 objectives
- Possible external review topics for FY2018-20

Independent Review Panels

- Established by 1995 FEIS & 1996 ROD, coequal with TWG and GCMRC
- *“Periodically review[] resource specific monitoring and research programs and ...make[] recommendations to the AMWG and the center [GCMRC] regarding monitoring, priorities, integration, and management” (1995 FEIS).*





IRP responsibilities per 1995 FEIS

- Annual review of monitoring & research program
- 5-year reviews of monitoring & research protocols
- Technical advice as requested by AMWG, GCMRC
 - *AMWG Action Items*
- Other periodic reviews of monitoring & research priorities, integration, and adaptive management as requested by AMWG, GCMRC
 - *AMWG Action Items*



Division of IRP roles

- GCMRC
 - USGS reviews all technical proposals and products for USGS publication series
 - Articles peer-reviewed for professional journals
 - Annual report; Annual Reporting Meeting with TWG
 - Protocol Evaluation Panels (~ “5-year reviews”)
 - Expert workshops, esp. on emerging topics
- Science Advisors Program (SAP)
 - **Independent, external** advice and reviews regarding investigative priorities, knowledge integration, emerging topics, and adaptive management process
 - Administered by Reclamation (formerly by USGS) for AMWG



SAP FY2017 Tasks

- Advise/support TWG Knowledge Assessment
- Develop SAP three-year plan
 - AMWG input requested: external review needs for FY18-20
- Review draft Triennial Work Plan for TWG
- External review of GCDAMP integration of tribal traditional cultural values into AMP goals & methods?
 - On hold; possibility for triennial plan
- Complete SAP charter and protocols update?
 - Tabled in FY16; possibility but lower priority than TWP
- Rebuild SAP archive, in wiki site



Possible IRP topics for FY 2018-20

- Brown trout dynamics: status, causal factors, ecological effects, management options and risks (*multi-stakeholder*)?
- Incorporating tribal cultural values into GCDAMP management considerations
- Socioeconomic valuation of non-hydropower resources and impacts: methods and findings
- A “Lake Mead to Lake Powell” perspective on the Glen-Marble-Grand Canyon aquatic ecosystem
- Fluvial and eolian sediment dynamics below GCD: monitoring and forecasting methods, findings, and needs
- Beyond fish: wider ecological impacts below GCD (e.g., on bugs, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals)
- *AMWG requests, suggestions?*

Questions?