

Update on Core Monitoring Team meeting, 9 April, 2004

Presented to TWG 4 May, 2004



Process

- Collaborative
- Decision points
- Memos



Roles and responsibilities

- Role of the Chair
- Role of the TWG ad hoc
- Role of GCMRC
- Role of SAB
- Participation



Ultimate Goal



- Completion of a high quality, long-term, core monitoring plan by 30 September, 2004 that has a high probability of acceptance by the full TWG and AMWG.



More-proximate Goal



- The goal of the core monitoring program is to provide a consistent, long-term (10+ years) measure of the effects of Glen Canyon Dam operations on key resources in the Colorado River Ecosystem as defined in the GCDAMP Strategic Plan.



Definitions and Assumptions



Core



- 1, the central or innermost part of anything: 2, the most important part as of a matter, discussion, etc.; essence; pith

No ornaments or frills!



Core monitoring



- Core monitoring is consistent, long-term, repeated measurements using scientifically accepted protocols to measure status and trends of key resources to answer specific management questions. Core monitoring is implemented on a fixed schedule regardless of budget or other circumstances (e.g., water year, experimental flows, temperature control, stocking strategy, non-native control, etc.) affecting target resources.



Assumptions



- Use available technology, as appropriate
- Minimalist framework
- Meet the needs of stakeholders and answers their specific management questions
- Strive for automated techniques that are less invasive and more efficient
- The budget needs to support the plan (e.g., 40-60% of our budget for core?)
- Build for consistency
- Build for longevity
- Flexibility to incorporate new technologies
- The plan will be reviewed and accepted by SAB/TWG/AMWG, as appropriate
- The results of monitoring will be regularly reported

Resource categories



- A. Sediment
- B. Wildlife/Vegetation
- C. Fish
- D. Food base
- E. Cultural Resources
- Eb. Register eligible historic properties
- F. Hydrology
- G. Water Quality
- H. Recreation
- I. Threatened and endangered species
- J. Power
- K. Non-native species

Relevant questions



- What and why do managers need to know?
- Where do they want to know it?
- How frequently do they need to know?
- What are the general methods to obtain this information?
- What is the level of precision/accuracy needed
- How will the monitoring data be presented and is it answering the managers questions (what are the metrics of success?)



Assessing what we already have

- Goals, MO's, CMIN's (Fairley)
- GCMRC core monitoring in FY04-05 (GCMRC)
- PEP recommendations (Melis)
- SAB recommendations (GCMRC)
- Recreation CM needs for NPS (Henderson)





GCMRC proposal as a framework



Sediment

- **What:**
 1. Is there any significant change in the trend of sand storage over time (what is the starting condition)?
 2. What is the effect of dam operations and natural perturbations on sediment storage?
- **Where:** Lees Ferry, Marble Canyon, below the Little Colorado River
- **How often:** Fine sediment storage- every 2 years
- **Methods:** Sand bar area & Volume
Mass balance sediment transport determinations

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- History
- Mission/Goals
- Definitions
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- Questions
- Reporting process
- Feedback loop
- Roles and responsibilities (compliance support)
- Relationship to other components of amp
- Methods used
- Timeline and deliverables
- Development, decision, prioritization process
- Budget
- Scheduling/Implementation
- Flexibility/consistency (PEP)
- Accuracy and precision
- Data management
- Inter-relationships/integration/core metric
- Logistics, permitting, compliance
- Relationship to score report

Position statement



Timeline* and deliverables



- Writing must be completed in May
- June 9 draft
- June 23 review completed by SAB, TWG
- July 9 AMWG draft to Linda
- August 9 presentation to AMWG

**No margin for error, no room for ornaments*



What remains to be done?

- Should we use a systems approach?
- What is missing (resources/questions)?
- How do we define success/stopping points?
- Greater resolution of resource categories
- Stakeholder priorities



Writing assignments

- Larry Stevens – history of core monitoring efforts
- Dennis Kubly – fundamental mandates/obligations (GCPA, EIS/ROD)
- NPS – recreation core monitoring needs
- Each stakeholder – list of core monitoring priorities

