

To: Deputy Assistant Secretary
Assistant Secretary - Water and Science

From: Chair
Glen Canyon Dam Technical Work Group

Date: April 19, 2012 (sent electronically)

Subject: The Glen Canyon Dam Technical Work Group (TWG) Report on Budget Issues for Review by the Department of Interior on the FY 2013-14 Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program Budget and Work Plan

The TWG has reviewed the initial FY 2013-14 budget recommendations provided by Jack Schmidt (GCMRC) and Glen Knowles (Reclamation) dated April 6, 2012 and April 9, 2012. The Budget Ad Hoc Group (BAHG), met via conference call on April 12 to review and consider the budgets. The Cultural Resources Ad Hoc Group (CRAHG) provided a report to TWG on budget issues and John Halliday (DOI) provided a report on tribal concerns. The Science Advisors also considered the budget and provided an initial review (L.D. Garrett, April 11, 2012).

During review of the budget and work plan, the TWG and BAHG, have continued to implement the budget process as requested by Anne Castle (Secretary's Designee: March 31, 2011; May 4, 2011). The goal of this process is to identify and resolve technical issues of detail at the TWG/DOI level and pass only policy-level issues up to AMWG.

The TWG requests consideration and feedback from DOI on the unresolved technical issues described below before its June 20-21 meeting. We are also transmitting the draft policy issues to DOI that the TWG will present to the AMWG at its May 10 webinar. It is possible that further technical issues may surface at the June TWG meeting. If so, the TWG Chair will forward those to you for consideration by DOI in the development of the draft budget that AMWG will consider in August.

Many of the issues described below stem from a need for further information. Dr. Schmidt has made substantial changes to the way GCMRC operates and its budget and workplan and the summaries of projects are not adequate for full consideration at this time. Based on our discussion, I believe the TWG generally supports the direction Dr. Schmidt is taking GCMRC, but has a keen interest in the details which are expected to come soon after the May 10 AMWG webinar (full budget and work plan). However, the area of most concern continues to revolve around the cultural monitoring program and the lack of a specified monitoring plan. We understand the National Park Service (NPS) and GCMRC are working to resolve differences and to develop a coordinated plan. When this project is described later this spring, the TWG would like GCMRC and the NPS to provide the rationale for how the new plan meets the needs described in the previous monitoring program approved by AMWG. We also hope that DOI endeavors to include the tribes in the development of the plan, to the extent possible, in order to fully include tribal considerations.

Technical Issues for Consideration by DOI (via Caramanian)

General Information Needs

1. There were a number of projects in the GCMRC FY 13-14 budget that are new starts in FY 13-14 and the TWG felt that there was not enough information to evaluate these projects. The GCMRC proposal is over-budget and lacks a cultural resources monitoring component. The TWG would like more information in the form of written project proposals for each project to fully evaluate these to make recommendations on prioritization and project selection. Several projects were also specifically identified as needing more information:
 - a. Project series I. Integrated riparian vegetation studies
 - b. The new starts for humpback chub, project series D. Mainstem humpback chub aggregation studies and E. Humpback chub early life history near LCR
 - c. Project series A. Sandbars and sediment storage dynamics and B. Stream flow, water quality, and sediment transport
 - d. Project A. 4. Geochemical signatures of mined pre-dam sediment
 - e. Project series G. Interactions between native fish and nonnative trout
 - f. Bureau of Reclamation project “Admin Support NPS Permitting”

Cultural/Tribal Issues

2. DOI should consider funding for Tribal contracts based on requests from the tribes, including the possibility of CPI increases or increasing the base amount.
3. Funding for cultural resources, whether it be NHPA or GCPA needs to be fully developed and vetted through agencies and Tribes for the program as a whole. Add a cultural resource advisor to the Science Advisors.
4. Tribes will work with GCMRC staff to develop and implement a research project utilizing TEK for the FY 13-14 budget. (riverine ecology - aquatic ecology and riparian).

Fish/Aquatic Resources Issues

5. Do additional research proposals significantly increase handling, stress, and mortality on HBC when program has already been criticized for handling through monitoring? What is absolutely necessary to answer key questions? Make sure there is no duplication of efforts.
6. Due to ESA status, do not cut back on humpback chub monitoring except as it applies to handling issues described above. High priority is more frequent ASMR runs (e.g., every 2 years).
7. Important to maintain this work because it provides a wide view of fish population dynamics in the river. More emphasis on Diamond Down for mainstem spawning. Also focus on tributaries until temperature issue in mainstem is resolved.
8. Consolidate, combine trips to reduce costs. Collaborate with NSE project, warm water native/non-native fish surveys at Lees Ferry. Include foodbase as well, coordination with MSCP.
9. The ovaprim study should be conducted as a pilot in a lab setting first. Do otoliths research instead.
10. Speed up information for Martell to develop length-frequency method for aging to resolve errors. ASMR should be run more frequently so different management efforts can be evaluated.

Management Issues

11. Resolve conflicts regarding the treatment plans and implement the treatment plans by the end of FY12.
12. Ensure the Science Advisors' contract is fully funded, as defined in the contract.
13. Clearly identify the cultural resources budget. [Budget is currently \$0.5 M over without cultural resources funding needs being identified]
14. Examine the possibility of further reducing logistical costs through consolidation of resources.
15. Reevaluate the scope of work of the facilitator position with the goal of reducing as appropriate.
16. Identify funds for biological opinion (ESA) and Section 106 compliance, and for HFE and non-native EA's.
17. Identify all sources and amounts of funds in the AMP program. [to include outside funds, appropriations, etc]
18. Identify the possibility of a stakeholder field trip down the CRE or other activity near the CRE.

Accountability Issues

19. Please provide a brief description of delivered reports, accomplishments and a tracking of funds spent on the development of the cultural resources monitoring program. Please describe how the AMWG approved monitoring program is being proposed to be modified by DOI in May.
20. Please provide funding for the preparation of summaries of the knowledge assessment workshops in time to be considered for the LTEMP EIS.
21. The biological opinion requires periodic monitoring for Kanab Ambersnail, however this is not provided for in the draft budget. Provide funding for taxonomic report in 2013.
22. Please provide clarification on the agencies involved and principal investigators for all projects. Also, please consult in FY13-14 with collaborative agencies involved.
23. Please provide funding for periodic reports on Lake Powell water quality and the implications for downstream ecology.
24. Please provide funding for a science plan for the Rapid Response HFE.

Policy Issues for Consideration by AMWG

1. Tribes should be included in the process as equal partners in the program. Specifically, Tribes, as sovereign governments, should participate at the earliest moments of development of programs, projects, and budgets.
2. Clarify funding for Lees Ferry Creel surveys. If annual Creel surveys are important, funding needs to come from this program [GCDAMP]. AGFD can do only every 3 years. Supplement with AMP; coordinate.
3. Identify funding sources and funding amounts for GCMRC and Science Advisors support for LTEMP EIS development and implementation.
4. The budget for FY 2013-14 must have a clear plan for implementing the SEAHG recommendations and set priorities. [socioeconomic implementation plan]
5. Examine the possibility of using NNFC contingency funds to fund GCMRC for overage.
6. POAHG should re-evaluate the true budget needs and reduce accordingly.