

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program**  
**Science Work Group Meeting**  
20 April 2010 Meeting – 9:00 AM-11:30 AM  
**Interstate Stream Commission**

### Recommendations

The March 16, 2010 ScW meeting minutes were approved with no changes

Regular ScW meetings will be held at the ISC office on San Antonio

The ScW recommends the Genetics study and the Population Monitoring Reports be submitted for peer review by a panel.

### Actions

Stacey Kopitsch will clarify with the CC if they are requesting ScW to review the “Through the Lens of Past Monitoring Data” presentation, or the Recovery Plan itself.

Stacey Kopitsch will send comments on task three of the community Sampling/Gear Evaluation to Jeanne Dye and Terina Perez. After the comments have been consolidated, Jeanne will forward them to the contractor.

Stacey Kopitsch will email the workgroup a template for writing activity summaries. Activity summaries are due back to Stacey by April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Jeanne Dye will confirm with those activity summaries were assigned to but that were not present at the meeting. Activity summaries will be written by:

**Allison Hutson, Douglas Tave, and Peter Wilkinson:** 7.1.A.1: 1) Determine Which Suites of habitats the RGSM will occupy in different life stages if that habitat type is available and effects on long term survival including relationship curves by life stage and identifying meso-habitat needs vs. reach wide needs; 2) Research reach specific habitat types including Spawning and Recruitment, Residential, and Refugia; and 3) Identify relationships between quality and habitat conditions.

**Allison Hutson:** 7.4.A.4: 1) Annually update a controlled propagation plan for long term RGSM propagation activities; 2) Evaluate and annually refine methods of RGSM propagation; 3) Annually review and revise the RGSM augmentation plan for the MRG; and 4) Coordinate augmentation needs with propagation activities.

**Peter Wilkinson:** 7.1.A.8: Evaluate and apply modifications to habitat management projects as necessary

**Jason Remshardt:** 7.1.A.7: Compile results of past studies and determine need for entrainment management. 7.4.A.6: 1) Augmentation; and 2) Population Estimation. 7.4.A.7: Continue monitoring of PIT tagged fish. 7.6. A.2: RGSM Rescue/Salvage

**Jeanne Dye:** 7.4.A.1: Continue genetic monitoring and study of propagated RGSM. 7.4.A.2: Develop a larval fish key for the MRG and for stream segments where reintroductions are likely

**Yvette Paroz:** 7.4.A.5: 1) Continue RGSM captive propagation activities; and 2) Captive rearing/breeding (O&M)

**Mark Brennan:** 7.4.A.6: 1) Identify Hurdles for successful reintroduction by reach; 2) Assess habitat in 10j areas; 3) Activities that would be needed to support establishing 10j populations elsewhere for the next 5 to 10 years 4) Continue 10j population

monitoring; and 7.6.A.1: Develop method to test feasibility of establishing a population in a certain location, then for currently occupied reaches, historically occupied reaches, and any other potential reintroduction sites.

**Rick Billings:** 7.5: Water Quality Management, all listed on the priority list and the priority 2 list.

Jeanne Dye will email the list of questions developed during the meeting for peer review to the workgroup. Workgroup members will review the questions and provide further comment/suggestions to Jeanne by close of business on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.

## Summary

- Jeanne Dye called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table. A brief discussion was held regarding regular meeting location. The workgroup agreed that the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) will be the location for all future ScW meetings.
- The March 16, 2010 ScW meeting minutes were approved with no changes
- The workgroup conducted an action item review. All actions were either completed or will be discussed later in the meeting.
- A brief discussion was held regarding a discussion in the ScW of the “Through the Lens of Past Monitoring Data” presentation given at the EC and ScW. The CC did not view the presentation, but would like to hear feedback from ScW. The ScW generally agreed that the discussion could take up to two hours, and therefore should be held in an additional meeting specifically for the presentation. The workgroup will set a date for the additional meeting as regular business on May 18, 2010.
- An update on the outcome of the special meeting for Community Sampling/Gear Evaluation presentation was given. Workgroup members are to review task three: the draft field study design and return to Stacey Kopitsch by April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Stacey will email the comments to Jeanne Dye and Terina Perez. Jeanne will then forward them to the contractor.
- A list of Long Term Plan (LTP) future activities was distributed to the workgroup. Activity summaries are required for each in order to be included in the LTP. The due date for priority one LTP Future Activity summaries is April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. As there were several priority one activities that should have summaries written, the list was reviewed and workgroup members were assigned activities to write summaries for. Workgroup members will send the activity summaries he or she is responsible for to Stacey Kopitsch by April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- The ScW workgroup discussed reports for peer review and suggest the genetics study and the Population Monitoring in addition to the Population Estimation report be peer reviewed. In further discussion, the ScW decided that a panel review would serve as the best avenue for peer review on these particular reports. A list of questions was developed using the questions for peer review from the San Acacia A&R report as a template. The questions will be emailed to the workgroup for further review/comment, and Jeanne Dye will submit.

**Next ScW Meeting May 18, 2010 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at ISC**

## Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program Science Work Group Meeting

20 April 2010 Meeting – 9:00 AM-11:30 AM

Interstate Stream Commission

### Introductions and Agenda Approval

- Jeanne Dye called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table.
- The agenda was approved with the addition of confirmation of Science workgroup (ScW) meeting locations and a discussion on the Population Estimation report peer review.
- The ScW confirmed that they will be meeting at Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) for the rest of the year. The room is reserved for the whole day; Monitoring Plan Team (MPT) and Habitat Restoration workgroup (HRW) will be meeting at ISC also.

### Approve 03/16/10 ScW Meeting Minutes

- The March 16, 2010 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

### Action Item Review (see below)

- All March action items were completed. Action item “*ScW members are to review the remaining science activities in the future activities table; changes are to be tracked in an electronic copy using highlighting to capture those changes and send to Stacey Kopitsch by next week for compilation*” will be discussed at today’s meeting.

### Program update

- *EC update* – The Executive Committee (EC) was shown an Adaptive Management 101 presentation. The EC had a receptive response. The ScW will discuss Adaptive Management at the July or August ScW meeting.
- *CC update* – The CC would like to hear feedback from ScW on the “Through the Lens of Past Monitoring Data” presentation that was given at EC and ScW. The ScW expressed confusion about whether the CC would like ScW to review the presentation or the Recovery Plan. The ScW generally agreed that the discussion could take up to two hours, and therefore should be held in an additional meeting specifically for the presentation. The workgroup will set a date for the additional meeting as regular business on May 18, 2010.

**Action:** Stacey Kopitsch will clarify with the CC if they are requesting ScW to review the “Through the Lens of Past Monitoring Data” presentation, or the Recovery Plan itself.

### Update on Special Meeting for Community Sampling/Gear Evaluation presentation (April 6, 2010)

- An update on the outcome of the special meeting for Community Sampling/Gear Evaluation presentation was given.
- Everyone should have all the documents needed for the Gear Evaluation. The SOW is out.
- The deadline for comments on task three: the draft field study design, are due April 28, 2010.

**Action:** Stacey Kopitsch will send comments on task three of the community Sampling/Gear Evaluation to Jeanne Dye and Terina Perez. After the comments have been consolidated, Jeanne will forward them to the contractor.

### Long Term Plan Future Activities update

- The most recent version of the Long Term Plan (LTP) Future Activities table was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. The activities that already have summaries are highlighted in yellow. The stapled pages are priority twos. It was noted that some project summaries could be consolidated.
- The due date for priority one LTP Future Activity summaries is April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. As there were several priority one activities that should have summaries written, the list was reviewed and workgroup members were assigned activities to write summaries for.
  - **Allison Hutson, Douglas Tave, and Peter Wilkinson:** 7.1.A.1: 1) Determine Which Suites of habitats the RGSM will occupy in different life stages if that habitat type is available and effects on long term survival including relationship curves by life stage and identifying meso-habitat needs vs. reach wide needs; 2) Research reach specific habitat types including Spawning and Recruitment, Residential, and Refugia; and 3) Identify relationships between quality and habitat conditions.
  - **Allison Hutson:** 7.4.A.4: 1) Annually update a controlled propagation plan for long term RGSM propagation activities; 2) Evaluate and annually refine methods of RGSM propagation; 3) Annually review and revise the RGSM augmentation plan for the MRG; and 4) Coordinate augmentation needs with propagation activities.
  - **Peter Wilkinson:** 7.1.A.8: Evaluate and apply modifications to habitat management projects as necessary
  - **Jason Remshardt:** 7.1.A.7: Compile results of past studies and determine need for entrainment management. 7.4.A.6: 1) Augmentation; and 2) Population Estimation. 7.4.A.7: Continue monitoring of PIT tagged fish. 7.6. A.2: RGSM Rescue/Salvage
  - **Jeanne Dye:** 7.4.A.1: Continue genetic monitoring and study of propagated RGSM. 7.4.A.2: Develop a larval fish key for the MRG and for stream segments where reintroductions are likely
  - **Yvette Paroz:** 7.4.A.5: 1) Continue RGSM captive propagation activities; and 2) Captive rearing/breeding (O&M)
  - **Mark Brennan:** 7.4.A.6: 1) Identify Hurdles for successful reintroduction by reach; 2) Assess habitat in 10j areas; 3) Activities that would be needed to support establishing 10j populations elsewhere for the next 5 to 10 years 4) Continue 10j population monitoring; and 7.6.A.1: Develop method to test feasibility of establishing a population in a certain location, then for currently occupied reaches, historically occupied reaches, and any other potential reintroduction sites.
  - **Rick Billings:** 7.5: Water Quality Management, all listed on the priority list and the priority 2 list.

**Action:** Stacey Kopitsch will email the workgroup a template for writing activity summaries. Activity summaries are due back to Stacey by April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Jeanne Dye will confirm with those activity summaries were assigned to but that were not present at the meeting.

### Peer review recommendations (due May 5, 2010)

- There will be a peer review of the Population Estimation report.
- The ScW will have to decide if there's one or two more projects to recommend for peer review.
  - It was suggested that the Genetics study go to external review. It would be beneficial to have other geneticists look at it.

- Should the Population Monitoring and Population Estimation reports be lumped under the same review?
  - They would have to have different reviews.

**Recommendation:** The ScW recommends the Genetics study and the Population Monitoring Report be submitted for peer review.

- Is this peer review going to be the same as the San Acacia Reach A&R peer review?
  - The San Acacia Reach A&R had a panel review.
  - A National Academy of Sciences review was suggested.
    - It was asked what the cost would be for a National Academy of Sciences review?
    - Don't know, but it's an existing IDIQ that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has that we can tap into. Should estimate 25 to 30 thousand.
  - The ScW decided to go with a panel review.
- Questions for peer review were developed for the Population Estimation report using the questions for from the San Acacia Reach A&R report peer review as a template.
  - Q.1. Is the scientific material referenced in the document preparation comprehensive? Are there other relevant studies or data sets that are readily available and are not referred to? If there is additional relevant information, how would it change the conclusions of the scientific analysis in this report?
  - Q.2. Are the descriptions of species life history and habitat needs accurate?
  - Q.3. Was the experimental design appropriate to achieve the desired goal?
  - Q.4. Were the best applicable statistical analyses, models and other techniques utilized? Were the data analyzed appropriately and well-based in quantitative and experimental approaches?
  - Q.5. Are the conclusions made by the scientists supported by the material presented? Are the results based on a sound reading of the science?
  - Q.6. When there are gaps in the information or data, are such gaps identified clearly? Are there unidentified data gaps that (if addressed) might improve future analysis and decision-making to direct future research in this field?
  - Q.7. Similarly when there are uncertainties in the information, are these uncertainties identified and presented clearly?
  - Q.8. Can you identify any additional methodologies, analytical techniques or field activities to improve the population estimation program?

**Action:** Jeanne Dye will email the list of questions developed during the meeting for peer review to the workgroup. Workgroup members will review the questions and provide further comment/suggestions to Jeanne by close of business on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.

- Questions for the Genetics study and the Population Monitoring Reports will be developed through discussion by email.

### Announcements

- A meeting of the American Waterworks Association is taking place on Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 11:30 am at the Golden Corral near Cottonwood Mall.

- DBS&A will be presenting on riparian groundwater

**Next ScW Meeting May 18, 2010 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at Interstate Stream Commission**

**Science Work Group  
20 April 2010 Meeting Attendees**

| <b>NAME</b>     | <b>AFFILIATION</b> | <b>PHONE NUMBER</b> | <b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>           |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jeanne Dye      | Reclamation        | 462-3564            | jdye@usbr.gov                  |
| Rick Billings   | ABCWUA             | 796-2527            | rbillings@abcwua.org           |
| Stacey Kopitsch | FWS                | 761-4737            | stacey_kopitsch@FWS.gov        |
| Peter Wilkinson | NMISC              | 827-5801            | peter.wilkinson@state.nm.us    |
| Douglas Tave    | NMISC              | 841-5202            | douglas.tave@state.nm.us       |
| Terina Perez    | COA                | 848-7174            | tlperez@cabq.gov               |
| Sarah Beck      | USACE              | 342-3333            | Sarah.E.Beck@usace.army.mil    |
| Mark Brennan    | FWS                | 761-4756            | mark_brennan@fws.gov           |
| Alison Hutson   | NMISC              | 841-5201            | alison.hutson@sate.nm.us       |
| Cassie Brown    | Tetra Tech, EMI    | 881-3188 ext. 106   | cassandre.brown@tetrattech.com |