

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

17 August 2010 Meeting – 9:00 AM-11:30 AM

Interstate Stream Commission

### Actions

Stacey Kopitsch will convey the nominations of Rick Billings and Andrew Monie for Co-Chair to Jeanne Dye.

Stacey Kopitsch will email the “*Floodplain Habitat*”, “*Study Benefits of In-channel Refugia*”, “*Conduct floodplain habitat studies to determine important aspects for HR projects*”, and “*Increase understanding of RGSM life history and habitat needs through focused scientific studies*” Future Activity Summaries to the Peter Wilkinson, Doug Tave, Alison Hutson, and Michael Porter.

Anders Lundahl will email the “*Develop and Implement Program-wide System Monitoring and Trend Analysis for Adaptive Management*” summary to Stacey Kopitsch to disburse to the ScW and SWM workgroups.

Alison Hutson will distribute her summary of the 2008 and 2009 genetics monitoring reports. (*This action item was carried over from the 7/20/10 meeting*)

### Decisions

The July 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes were approved with no changes.

### Meeting Summary

- **Introductions and Agenda Approval** – Stacey Kopitsch (acting Co-Chair for Jeanne Dye) brought the meeting to order. The agenda was approved with the addition of an exercise to review the Database Management System (DBMS) data model to make additional edits and comments.
- **Approve 07/20/10 ScW Meeting Minutes** – The July 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes were approved with no changes.
- **Action Item Review** – All but one of the July action items were completed; the incomplete action item was extended as an action item for today’s meeting.
- **Co-Chair Election** – This agenda item was tabled for the September meeting due to inadequate representation of Science Workgroup (ScW) members. Andrew Monie and Ricking Billings were submitted as nominations. Stacey Kopitsch will convey the nominations to Jeanne Dye.
- **Review Overlapping Activity Summaries** – The ScW was joined by Anders Lundahl and Gina Dello Russo from the Habitat Restoration Workgroup (HRW) to discuss several HRW Future Activity Summaries (Summaries) that the Coordination Committee (CC) reviewed and thought were overlapping with ScW Summaries. The HRW Summaries discussed were “*Floodplain Habitat*”, “*Study Benefits of In-channel Refugia*”, “*Conduct floodplain habitat studies to determine important aspects for HR projects*”, “*Determine how to link HR effectiveness monitoring results to science results*” and “*Isleta Reach Floodplain and Refugial Habitat*”. The meeting attendees compared the HRW Summaries to several ScW Summaries that were thought to be overlapping: “*Increase understanding of RGSM life history and habitat needs through focused scientific studies*”, “*Improve understanding of the stream flows that will provide suitable habitat for all life stages of Rio Grande silvery minnow*”, “*Determine habitat quality at low flows*”, and “*Improve Habitat Restoration (HR) integration with Management for RGSM and SWFL*”. Meeting attendees discussed how these Summaries could be integrated.

- It was thought that the “*Floodplain Habitat*”, “*Study Benefits of In-channel Refugia*”, and “*Conduct floodplain habitat studies to determine important aspects for HR projects*” HRW Summaries could be integrated with the ScW Summary “*Increase understanding of RGSM life history and habitat needs through focused scientific studies*”. Peter Wilkinson and Doug Tave volunteered to revise the summary with assistance from Alison Hutson; Dana Price will ask Michael Porter if he will assist Peter, Doug, and Alison. Stacey Kopitsch will email the summaries to Peter, Doug, Alison, and Michael.
- The HRW summary for “*Determine how to link HR effectiveness monitoring results to science results*” will be combined with the ScW summary “*Improve Habitat Restoration (HR) integration with Management for RGSM*”. It was also thought that the ScW Future Activity “*Improve Habitat Restoration (HR) integration with Management for RGSM and SWFL*” would be more appropriate as a HRW Activity.
- The HRW Summary “*Isleta Reach Floodplain and Refugial Habitat*” has already been integrated with another HRW Summary.
- Revised Summaries are due to Yvette McKenna (yrmckenna@usbr.gov) or Jenae Maestas (jmaestas@usbr.gov) by September 1, 2010 for review at the September 8, 2010 working CC meeting.
- It was brought up that an HRW Summary “*Develop and Implement Program-wide System Monitoring and Trend Analysis for Adaptive Management*” might be more appropriate as a ScW activity. It was determined that it would most appropriate for ScW, HRW and Species Water Management (SWM) workgroup to all be lead for this activity; Anders Lundahl will email the “*Develop and Implement Program-wide System Monitoring and Trend Analysis for Adaptive Management*” summary to Stacey Kopitsch to disburse to the ScW and SWM workgroups.
- Due to the amount of workgroup overlap associated with the discussed Future Activities the ScW, HRW, and SWM workgroups should all be present when the SOWs for these activities are developed.
- **Program update**
  - **EC update** – The next Executive Committee (EC) meeting will be held on August 30, 2010.
  - **CC update** – The Coordination Committee (CC) has been focusing on the Long Term Plan (LTP) and reviewing the Future Activity Summaries; they have reviewed all of the ScW Priority 1 Future Activity Summaries and have review most of the HRW Future Activity Summaries. Reviewing the Future Activity Summaries will be an ongoing effort.
- **Announcements**
  - The Population Viability Analysis (PVA) workgroup will be meeting on August 25 -26, 2010. August 25<sup>th</sup> will be a full day meeting and August 26<sup>th</sup> will be a half day meeting.
  - At the next ScW meeting, attendees will start to prioritize projects and develop SOW. The most recent USGS Report will also be an item for discussion. If there are further comments on the two reports Stacey Kopitsch sent out for review they should email Stacey by 8/18/10 or forward them to Jeanne Dye.
- **Genetics Program Discussion** – This discussion was tabled for the September ScW meeting. The leader for this discussion was not able to attend today’s meeting.
- **DBMS** – The remainder of the meeting was spent as a working meeting where attendees reviewed the DBMS data model; comments were written directly onto hard copies of the data model. The ScW

voiced that it would helpful to have a working session with Kenny Calhoun present to further explain the data model.

**Next ScW Meeting September 21, 2010 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at Interstate Stream Commission**

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### Introductions and Agenda Approval

- Stacey Kopitsch (acting Co-Chair for Jeanne Dye) brought the meeting to order.
- The agenda was approved with the addition of an exercise to review the Database Management System (DBMS) data model to make additional edits and comments.
  - It was commented that it might be more valuable to have a working session where Kenny Calhoun would coach multiple workgroups through the data model; a working session would need to take place before the next Science Workgroup (ScW) meeting in order to get comments in before the deadline.

### Approve 07/20/10 ScW Meeting Minutes

- The July 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes were approved with no changes.

### Action Item Review

- The ScW performed an action item review:
  - **Alison Hutson will distribute her summary of the 2008 and 2009 genetics monitoring reports.**
    - Alison Hutson was unable to attend today's ScW meeting. This action item will be carried over to today's action items.
  - **Stacey Kopitsch will email the pdf version of the DBMS data model to the ScW for comments.**
    - Complete.
  - **Jeanne Dye will email the pdf version of the DBMS data model to the Propagation Work Group for comments.**
    - Complete.

### Co-Chair Election

- This discussion was tabled for the September 21, 2010 ScW meeting due to inadequate representation from the ScW.

**Action:** Stacey Kopitsch will convey the nominations of Rick Billings and Andrew Monie for Co-Chair to Jeanne Dye.

### Review Overlapping Activity Summaries

- The ScW was joined by Anders Lundahl and Gina Dello Russo from the Habitat Restoration Workgroup (HRW) to discuss several HRW Future Activity Summaries (Summaries) that the Coordination Committee (CC) reviewed and thought were overlapping with ScW Summaries.
- Packets of the HRW Summaries and ScW Summaries that were thought to be overlapping were distributed to meeting attendees. The HRW Summaries discussed were "*Floodplain Habitat*", "*Study Benefits of In-channel Refugia*", "*Conduct floodplain habitat studies to determine important aspects for HR projects*", "*Determine how to link HR effectiveness monitoring results to science results*" and

*“Isleta Reach Floodplain and Refugial Habitat”*. ScW Summaries discussed were *“Increase understanding of RGSM life history and habitat needs through focused scientific studies”*, *“Improve understanding of the stream flows that will provide suitable habitat for all life stages of Rio Grande silvery minnow”*, *“Determine habitat quality at low flows”*, and *“Improve Habitat Restoration (HR) integration with Management for RGSM and SWFL”*. Meeting attendees discussed how the summaries could be integrated.

- *“Floodplain Habitat”*
  - There is a fair amount of monitoring associated with floodplain which could provide data and future opportunities to learn about life history; habitat could be involved but it was felt that this summary would be better as a ScW activity.
  - It’s known that certain habitats are in the system. The habitats needs to be evaluated in a very scientific manner and incorporated into a life history study so it can be verified the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (minnow) are using the habitat. The percentage of fish using which parts of the habitat restoration work can be used to direct future research.
  - This project could be incorporated with the ScW *“Increase understanding of RGSM life history and habitat needs through focused scientific studies”* but design questions for habitat restoration need to be incorporated.
  - This study was supposed to inform the HRW in terms of floodplain habitat. As long as the revised *“Increase understanding of RGSM life history and habitat needs through focused scientific studies”* activity includes uses and needs for floodplain and refugial projects this activity would inform all habitat restoration activities; that’s the part that shouldn’t be lost.
- *“Study Benefits of In-channel Refugia”*
  - This study can fit into *“Increase understanding of RGSM life history and habitat needs through focused scientific studies”* as well.
- *“Improve Habitat Restoration (HR) integration with Management for RGSM and SWFL”*
  - It was thought that this activity was overlapping with an HRW activity *“Develop and Implement Program-wide System Monitoring and Trend Analysis for Adaptive Management”*.
  - The *“Develop and Implement Program-wide System Monitoring and Trend Analysis for Adaptive Management”* was felt to be important to allowing HRW to do a better job of being opportunistic and making better decisions about habitat restoration.
  - In order to make sure that all facets of the activities are retained it was determined that the two activities should be kept separate.
  - It was thought that it would be most appropriate for the *“Develop and Implement Program-wide System Monitoring and Trend Analysis for Adaptive Management”* activity to be a joint workgroup activity. ScW, HRW and Species Water Management (SWM) workgroup will all be lead for this activity.

**Action:** Anders Lundahl will email the *“Develop and Implement Program-wide System Monitoring and Trend Analysis for Adaptive Management”* summary to Stacey Kopitsch to disburse to the ScW and SWM workgroups.

- It was also thought that the ScW Future Activity *“Improve Habitat Restoration (HR) integration with Management for RGSM and SWFL”* would be more appropriate as a HRW Activity. The HRW activity *“Determine how to link HR effectiveness monitoring results to science results”* will be integrated into this activity.
- *“Conduct floodplain habitat studies to determine important aspects for HR projects”*

- This HRW activity will be combined with the ScW “*Increase understanding of RGSM life history and habitat needs through focused scientific studies*” activity.
- The HRW Summary “*Isleta Reach Floodplain and Refugial Habitat*” has already been integrated with another HRW Summary.
- Peter Wilkinson and Doug Tave volunteered to combine “*Floodplain Habitat*”, “*Study Benefits of In-channel Refugia*”, “*Conduct floodplain habitat studies to determine important aspects for HR projects*”, and “*Increase understanding of RGSM life history and habitat needs through focused scientific studies*” Summaries with assistance from Alison Hutson; Dana Price will ask Michael Porter if he will assist Peter, Doug, and Alison.

**Action:** Stacey Kopitsch will email the “*Floodplain Habitat*”, “*Study Benefits of In-channel Refugia*”, “*Conduct floodplain habitat studies to determine important aspects for HR projects*”, and “*Increase understanding of RGSM life history and habitat needs through focused scientific studies*” Future Activity Summaries to the Peter Wilkinson, Doug Tave, Alison Hutson, and Michael Porter.

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  - At the next ScW meeting, attendees will start to prioritize projects and develop SOW. The most recent USGS Report will also be an item for discussion. If there are further comments on the two reports Stacey Kopitsch sent out for review they should email Stacey by 8/18/10 or forward them to Jeanne Dye.
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**Science Work Group  
17 August 2010 Meeting Attendees**

| <b>NAME</b>                       | <b>AFFILIATION</b> | <b>PHONE NUMBER</b> | <b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>             |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Stacey Kopitsch (acting Co-Chair) | FWS                | 761-4737            | stacey_kopitsch@FWS.gov          |
| Jen Bachus                        | FWS                | 761-4714            | jennifer_bachus@fws.gov          |
| Peter Wilkinson                   | NMISC              | 827-5801            | peter.wilkinson@state.nm.us      |
| Rick Billings                     | ABCWUA             | 796-2527            | rbillings@abcwua.org             |
| Rebecca Houtman                   | COA                | 248-8514            | rhoutman@cabq.gov                |
| Dana Price                        | USACE              | 342-3378            | dana.m.price@usace.army.mil      |
| Douglas Tave                      | NMISC              | 841-5202            | douglas.tave@state.nm.us         |
| Gina Dello Russo                  | FWS/HRW            | 835-1828            | gina_dellorusso@fws.gov          |
| Anders Lundahl                    | ISC/HRW            | 383-4047            | anders.lundahl@state.nm.us       |
| Christine Sanchez                 | Tetra Tech         | 881-3188 x. 139     | christine.sanchez@tetrattech.com |