

Science and Habitat Restoration Work Group Meeting
September 19, 2017

Meeting Materials:

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Minutes

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Habitat Restoration and Science Joint Workgroup Meeting
September 19, 2017
1:00-3:00 PM
at USACE**

HRW/ScW Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of April meeting notes
4. Announcements
5. Program Updates
6. Action Item Review
7. Discussion/ Action item: FY2018 Project SOWs

Ongoing Action Items:

- After May, Mick Porter will revisit soliciting agency volunteers to review the GIS data tables (populate fields, review for accuracy, etc.) and/or convene a “focus group” of agency representatives (and/or ScW/HRW members) to review the GIS/geodatabase and discuss restoration site name standardizations. *(revised from previous action)*
- Matt Johnson will email the ScW/HRW co-chairs with the USGS climate change report website links.
- Matt Johnson offered to provide information on which bird species experienced significant impact (“dropped out”) due to tamarisk habitat changes and whether or not they “rebounded” with restoration efforts (for the Virgin River).
- Debbie Lee will contact Ann Demint for updates on the DBMS and Program Website needs. Reclamation and the Corps are in the process of determining what options are available.
- Debbie Lee will add the discussion on how all groups will “tie” into the Program to the EC Retreat agenda. The Genetics & Propagation Workgroup will be used as a specific example. *(modified from 02/21/17)*
- Ken Richard will develop examples of his proposed site naming convention and present them to the workgroup at the April meeting.
- Debbie Lee will discuss the potential for WEST to host the ScW/HRW geo-database/GIS. Contractual and hardware limitations need to be considered. *(continued from 02/21/17)*

- Mick Porter will contact the State Forestry in an attempt to incorporate fire location data into the geo-database/GIS. *(continued from 02/21/17)*
- Mick Porter will contact Paul Tashjian to find the “naming convention” references. *(continued from 02/21/17)*
- Mick Porter will update the geo-database/GIS with the suggested revisions from today’s discussion and will distribute the data tables (sites and associated data) to meeting attendees upon completion. *(continued from 02/21/17)*

Next Meeting: October 17, 2017 from 1:00-3:00 PM at ISC

**Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Science and Habitat Restoration Work Group Meeting
September 19, 2017 – 1 PM – 3 PM**

Location: Army Corps of Engineers, First Floor Conference Room

Decisions:

- With no objection voiced the group decided to delegate the responsibility of revising the *Re-analyses of Existing Data Collected during Population Monitoring of Rio Grande silvery minnow, 2009-2016* Scope of work to the Population Monitoring Work Group.
- With no objections voiced the group decided to delegate the remaining three of four previously developed SOWs to ad hoc subgroups.

Actions:

- Convene subgroup to collaborate with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on revising the *Identifying Restoration Priorities for Threatened Tamarisk Dominated Habitat to Benefit Future Habitat for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher* SOW:
 - Vicky Ryan, Dana Price, Danielle Galloway, Lori Walton, and Malia Volke, will follow up with Lynette Giesen.
- The Genetics Subgroup will reconvene with the Science Coordinator regarding the genetics recommendations and the genetics SOW.
- Convene a subgroup to refine the *Rio Grande silvery minnow Spawning Cue and Early Life History* SOW.
 - Michael Porter, Alison Hutson, Mike Marcus, Rick Billings, Thomas Archdeacon, Justin Reale, Kathy Lang, Dana Price. It was requested that Eric Gonzales and Joel Lusk be kept in the loop.
- Alison Hutson will send the names for the genetics subgroup to Luc Moulson.

Requests/Recommendations:

- Please send any additions or deletions to the Sci/HR work group mailing list to Luc Moulson (lmoulson@west-inc.com)
- Mike Marcus would like the work group to remind the EC that the Science/Habitat Restoration Work Group would like to transition into the Adaptive Management committee.

Announcements:

- Todd Caplan, GeoSystems Analysis, has released the draft report for USACE's Adaptive Management Framework contract to the Adaptive Management Team for review and comment to be completed by October 16. The document has only been released to AMT members at the moment.
- The draft 2017 Rio Grande silvery minnow Spawning Monitoring Report was sent out to the Science/Habitat Restoration Work Group mailing list for comment.
- The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program Field Tour is scheduled for October 26 from 10 AM – 1 PM. For further information contact Katie Higgins.
- The Science Coordinator, Dave Wegner, will be in town September 19 -22 and will be meeting with various program stakeholders.

Meeting Summary

Introductions and Approval of Agenda:

- Agenda was approved with an addition to continue the Sci/HR work groups' prior discussion about transitioning to the Adaptive Management Committee (AMC), as a recommendation to the Executive Committee (EC).

Approval of April Meeting Notes:

- With no objections voiced the April Science/Habitat Restoration (Sci/HR) Work Group meeting minutes were approved.

Program Updates:

- Dave Wegner was hired by WEST for the position of Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (Program) Science Coordinator and started on August 20. He has extensive experience with adaptive management (AM) programs from both the public and private spheres.

Discussion of Adaptive Management (AM) Resolution:

- In October of 2016 there was talk of the Sci/HR Work Group becoming an AMC.
 - There was a general consensus that this had been the case.
- It was noted that previously, the group had expressed interest in transitioning into an AMC, and the group discussed whether to formally make this a recommendation to the EC.
- Debbie Lee, Program Manager, updated the group that discussions and decisions about Program structure have been tabled for now, until the EC determines the direction, scope, and activities of the Program.
- It was discussed that all the work groups should be related to AM so it would make sense to have an AMC to coordinate between the groups.
- Some felt that as it stands the Sci/HR Work Group only does scopes of work, and are unsure what the group would do if it became the AMC.
 - A structure with defined reporting channels is needed so that the group can act in a new way instead of staying the same.
- There were some concerns voiced about transitioning both the Science and Habitat Restoration groups into the AMC.
 - Individuals felt the HR group was useful for the sharing of HR techniques, and there was a concern that would be lost in an AMC.
- Clarification was given that groups like the HR work group could be sub groups of the AMC, which would be coordinated by the greater AMC. Therefore, the unique role of the HR work group would not be lost.
- There was general agreement among work group members that there needed to be more direction from the EC on specific charges, as well as how the group would fit into the overall future Program structure.
 - There were questions about whether the group would take its marching orders from the EC or create a long term plan for the science the group wants to do.
- It was voiced that more direction would make it easier to justify funding as the budget becomes increasingly tight.
- Need evaluation of habitat restoration and quantification of results; follow-up monitoring

Mailing List Update:

- Luc Moulson, WEST, noted he is working on updating the work group mailing list.
 - The group was asked to notify Luc Moulson of any deletion or additions to the mailing list as needed.
- It was suggested that at the beginning of each year, the mailing list be updated by proactively contacting each signatory.

Action Item Review

Discussion of FY2018 Project Scopes of Work:

- Vicky Ryan, Dana Price, Danielle Galloway, Lori Walton, and Malia Volke, will follow up with Lynette Giesen regarding the *Identifying Restoration Priorities for Threatened Tamarisk Dominated Habitat to Benefit Future Habitat for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher* Scope of Work (SOW) and discuss whether it needs to be refined before folding it into the current U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) contact.
 - The group will also look at the SWFL recommendations from GeoSystems Analysis.
- The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) needs tasks, schedule, and deliverables in SOWs submitted for funding.
 - It was added that USBR also needs cost estimates in SOWs.
- The chair suggested that the main Sci/HR work group brainstorm ideas and delegate the refinement of the SOWs to subgroups.
 - It was suggested that subgroups might benefit from a USBR timeline for the best chance of funding.
 - The topic will be addressed at the upcoming September EC meeting
- Genetics SOW
 - It was mentioned that the high through-put genetic markers SOW feeds into the Genetic Monitoring Group.
 - There was discussion that the high through-put genetic markers' SOW does not fit within the current 5 year plan being developed by the Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM) Genetics and Propagation Work Group, which is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) group, not a Program group.
 - The Genetics Subgroup has not yet completed its work on prioritizing recommendations from the genetics review panel due to lack of consensus around key recommendations.
 - The group suggested that the Genetics subgroup reconvene, led by the Science Coordinator, to complete its review and prioritization of the genetics panel recommendations. The group also suggested that the Genetics SOW go to the Genetics subgroup for refinement.
 - February 2018 was agreed upon as a deadline for the genetics SOW to be finished.
 - Regarding the Genetics and Propagation Five Year Plan, it was suggested that the group talk to Wade Wilson at Southwestern Native Aquatic Resource and Recovery Center, who is working on the plan, to find a way to incorporate the SOW.
 - Discussion of the possibility of using the Los Lunas silvery minnow Refugium to do a paired spawning study. A plan was submitted to USFWS, but that plan was rejected and discussions are ongoing.
 - It was suggested that the group could use the older RGSM genetic markers using paired spawning.
 - It was noted that this idea would require a separate SOW.
- Early life history SOW:
 - The *Rio Grande silvery minnow Spawning Cue and Early Life History* (Early Life History) SOW is being workshopped to have a greater focus on temperature, as that was an uncertainty of interest for a number of technical experts.
 - In response to the concern that the SOW lacks an objective, it was suggested that the objective be a management decision that would be shaped by the study.
 - There was a question about how the study would be done. It was suggested that eggs and larvae would be monitored in outdoor tanks and in the river as comparison groups.
 - USACE will be funding the Early Life History SOW, and requested the work group develop specific tasks, deliverables, and timelines to include in a full SOW. A small group would convene to work on this.

- Subgroup Volunteers: Mick Porter, Alison Hutson, Mike Marcus, Rick Billings, Thomas Archdeacon, Justin Reale, Kathy Lang, Dana Price. It was requested that Eric Gonzales and Joel Lusk be kept in the loop.
- Refinement of the SOW:
 - The question of the SOW needs to be refined.
 - It was requested that standardized language and consistent terminology for early life history is needed.
 - Paper by Brown and Peterson 2011 was suggested.

Meeting Adjourned

Attendees:

<i>Name</i>		<i>Agency</i>
Brian	Bader	SWCA
Rick	Billings	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Ann	Demint	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Julie	Dickey	WEST, Inc.
Kim	Eichhorst	Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
Danielle	Galloway	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Eric	Gonzales	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Grace	Haggerty	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Alison	Hutson	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Kathy	Lang	City of Albuquerque, BioPark
Debbie	Lee	WEST, Inc.
Joel	Lusk	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mike	Marcus	Assessment Payers Association
Kate	Mendoza	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Dana	Price	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Justin	Reale	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicky	Ryan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michael	Scialdone	Pueblo of Sandia
Clint	Smith	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Malia	Volke	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish