

Science and Habitat Restoration Work Group Meeting
January 9, 2019

Meeting Materials:

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Minutes

Timelines



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

Science/Habitat Restoration Workgroup (ScW/HR) Meeting Agenda

January 9, 2019 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Bureau of Reclamation, 555 Broadway Blvd NE

Conference Call Information:

Phone: (712) 451-0011 Passcode: 141544

| | | |
|---------------|--|----------------------|
| 9:00 – 9:10 | Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Decision: Approve meeting agenda | <i>Ashley Tanner</i> |
| 9:10 – 9:25 | Review of December 2018 ScW/HR meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action items update➤ Decision: Approve December meeting minutes | <i>Ashley Tanner</i> |
| 9:25 – 10:00 | Adaptive Management Plan Update | <i>Dave Wegner</i> |
| 10:00 – 10:10 | Break | |
| 10:10 – 11:00 | Review of priorities for projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each agency/organization to identify 2-3 projects that are a priority• Discuss projects prioritized by multiple agencies/organizations➤ Decision: Determine which projects will move forward into SOW development for FY 2020 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 11:00 - 11:55 | Review and discuss timelines for SOW process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timeline for Development and Implementation of a Prioritization Process<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discuss emphasis on panel recommendations○ Discuss transition to a model or other driver• Timeline for Transitioning to a Triennial Work Plan<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Review and adjust timeline based on perceived workload and feasibility• Long Term Plan Timeline<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discuss timeline | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 11:55-12:00 | Additional items, follow-ups, and next meeting date <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next Meeting: February 12, 9am – 12pm | <i>Ashley Tanner</i> |
| 12:00 | Adjourn | |



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Science/Habitat Restoration Work Group (ScW/HR) Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2019 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Bureau of Reclamation, 555 Broadway Blvd NE

Decisions:

- ✓ The ScW/HR approved the January 9, 2019 meeting agenda with no changes
- ✓ The ScW/HR approved the December 6, 2018 meeting minutes with no changes

Actions:

| WHO | ACTION ITEM | BY WHEN |
|----------------------------|---|------------|
| Ashley Tanner | Send a volunteer sign-up sheet to staff the Program table at the TWS/AFS Joint Annual Conference (February 7-9, 2019) | January 18 |
| All signatory participants | Continue sending SOW ideas to WEST | Ongoing |
| WEST | Redistribute the full projects ideas list from the Interim Long-Term Plan | ASAP |
| Ashley Tanner | Include relationship to panel recommendations for each project in the Interim Long-Term Plan. | ASAP |
| All signatory participants | Provide priorities for projects to develop SOWs for in 2019 | February 1 |

Next Meeting: February 12, 9am – 10:30 am

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Ashley Tanner, Deputy Science Coordinator with WEST, opened the meeting and reviewed the proposed meeting agenda.

- ✓ **Decision: The ScW/HR approved the January 9, 2019 meeting agenda with no changes**

Review of December 2018 ScW/HR meeting

Ashley T. reviewed the action items from the December 6, 2018 ScW/HR meeting.

- An organization contact list for Habitat Restoration (HR) Project Compilation work (being conducted by Chad McKenna of GeoSystems Analysis) was circulated following the December 2018 meeting with a window to identify and provide specific contact information within each organization.
- Ashley T. revised the ScW/HR 2019 Work Plan to include disclaimer language; it will be reviewed at the next EC meeting.

- The Program has a booth reserved for the 2019 Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of The Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society on Feb 7-9 in Albuquerque. Ashley T. will be both attending and presenting. Registration is still available. Volunteers are needed to cover the booth, and additional information on the conference can be found at <http://wildlife.org/nm-chapter/annual-meeting/>.
 - **Action Item: Send a volunteer sign-up sheet to staff the Program table at the TWS/AFS Joint Annual Conference (February 7-9, 2019) by January 18th**
- WEST continues to accept Scope of Work (SOW) ideas, as the development of a multitude of SOWs will be crucial for the Adaptive Management (AM) process during the next couple of years. Email your SOW ideas to Ashley T. and she will help.
 - **Action Item: Continue sending SOW ideas to WEST**
- Each signatory agency was supposed to select a list of 2-3 projects to bring to the January 2019 meeting; they will be discussed later on today's agenda.
- ✓ **Decision: The ScW/HR approved the December 6, 2018 meeting minutes with no changes**

Adaptive Management Plan Update

Dave Wegner (WEST) presented an update from the recent AMWG meeting (January 8, 2019) where he provided a draft report for the AM framework approach; comments from AMWG participants are expected by January 25th. The approach is at a general level while it is under consideration.

- Besides agreeing on a broad definition of AM for the Middle Rio Grande, a triennial work plan was discussed by the AMWG. From the triennial work plan, annual work plans can be established using science-driven decision-making. The conceptual Long Term Plan (LTP) will entail a broad-scale view of the Collaborative Program's goals. Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) will need to be established to bridge the different timescales in the work plans. Once the Executive Committee (EC) is on board, the ScW/HR will help populate the science side of the framework.
- A question was asked regarding whether the entry point for initiating AM should be with the science side or the management side. A discussion followed regarding whether management questions or DFCs would be preferred in driving the process.

Review of priorities for projects

Ashley T. led the discussion about prioritization of projects identified by the multipole agencies/organizations.

- ✓ **Decision: Determine which projects will move forward into SOW development for FY 2020**
- For the present, prioritization will be achieved by developing some top projects into SOWs. Next year, the process will be different. Ashley T. provided a handout to facilitate discussion of short-term and long-term priorities.
 - For today's meeting and for completing our 2019 work plan, it is necessary to consider some FY20 projects for SOW development. A discussion followed regarding ideas to improve the level of engagement. Julie Dickey (WEST) commented that several documents from WEST contain projects, including the Annual Report, the Interim-LTP (I-LTP), and SOWs; plans need to be set in motion now on outstanding projects to avoid missing deadlines approaching in 2022, for example.
 - A question was asked regarding the match-up of priorities among different groups. Dave W. indicated the AM approach is intended to work around this problem while ensuring a scientific-driven process; the process drives the decision-making.

- Ashley T. suggested a process used with the Platte River whereby peer review facilitated progress: when they submitted a paper, it went through multiple levels of review followed by another review to make sure the review process was done right. It requires moving through small enough increments that there is trust along the way. Even if we don't like the question that is moving through the process, we can agree to address the question so that people are held accountable. It might be tedious. But it would be worthwhile to make sure that people are comfortable every step of the way.
- Ashley T. directed attention to the handout that provides a steady path forward. (Handout: timeline for development and implementation of a prioritization process for the short-term and then the long-term.) The Program is in a good starting place with plenty of peers to weigh in, several panel recommendations, and SOWs developed in-line with those recommendations. Panel recommendations can serve as a short-term driver of the prioritization process. A long-term driver might be conceptual ecological models as mentioned in the AM report. There is still time for development of our future driver.
- Time can be allotted for testing and training regarding conceptual ecological models (as recommended by Lower Colorado); there is a cyclical process between model updates, LTP update, and finally feedback into a model based on projects, monitoring, etc. A discussion followed regarding types of models.
- Conceptual ecological models help users better navigate and understand uncertainty (knowledge gaps) about a system or species. Panel recommendations assist in navigating some uncertainties in the short term, but the question remains: how will we identify the knowledge gaps moving forward? Regarding the five-year-line in the handout, we could choose what panel recommendations we want to focus on annually or bi-annually. SOW ideas that aren't addressing one of the panel recommendations of focus in these choices would be done at a future time.
- Ashley T. stated that EC needs to approve some descriptions in March, so we need to choose some SOWs to move forward. Her goal for ScW/HR was to get 6 months ahead of where we were last year so we can work to meet the timeline to transition to the Triennial Work Plan (TWP).
- As the ScW/HR did last year, each agency/organization should overview the I-LTP project list and send top priorities to the Program Support Team. The ScW/HR will then decide which priorities will move forward to the EC. There is a plan to use panel recommendations to prioritize projects to move forward in FY2021, which we also have to work on this year. Look at the I-LTP and determine your top priorities. At the next meeting we will discuss these and move forward as a group. Note that funding should not be a consideration – just what you determine is important. (We'll work on the funding piece in Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC)).
 - **Action item: Redistribute the full projects ideas list from the Interim Long-Term Plan**
 - **Action item: Provide priorities for projects to develop SOWs for in 2019, by February 1st.**

Review and discuss timelines for SOW process

Ashley T. discussed the following timelines during the previous discussion.

- Timeline for Development and Implementation of a Prioritization Process
 - Discuss emphasis on panel recommendations
 - Discuss transition to a model or other driver
- Timeline for transitioning to a Triennial Work Plan

- Review and adjust timeline based on perceived workload and feasibility
- Long Term Plan Timeline
 - Discuss timeline

Additional items, follow-ups, and next meeting date

- Next meeting: February 12, 9 am – 10:30 am
- There will be a brown bag after the February meeting
- Feedback on the contact list for the HR compilation effort due by Friday, January 11th
- TWS/AFS meeting Feb 7-9; volunteers will be needed for the table. A sign-up sheet for volunteering will be distributed
 - Send WEST any updated marketing materials for the table

Meeting Participants

Julie Dickey
WEST, Inc.

Dave Wegner
WEST, Inc.

Lynette Giesen
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

Ara Winter
Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program

Eric Gonzalez
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Grace Haggerty
ISC

Mo Hobbs
ABCWUA

Danielle Holloway
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Alison Hutson
ISC

Debbie Lee
WEST, Inc.

Mike Marcus
Assessment Payers Association of the MRGCD

Kate Mendoza
ABCWUA

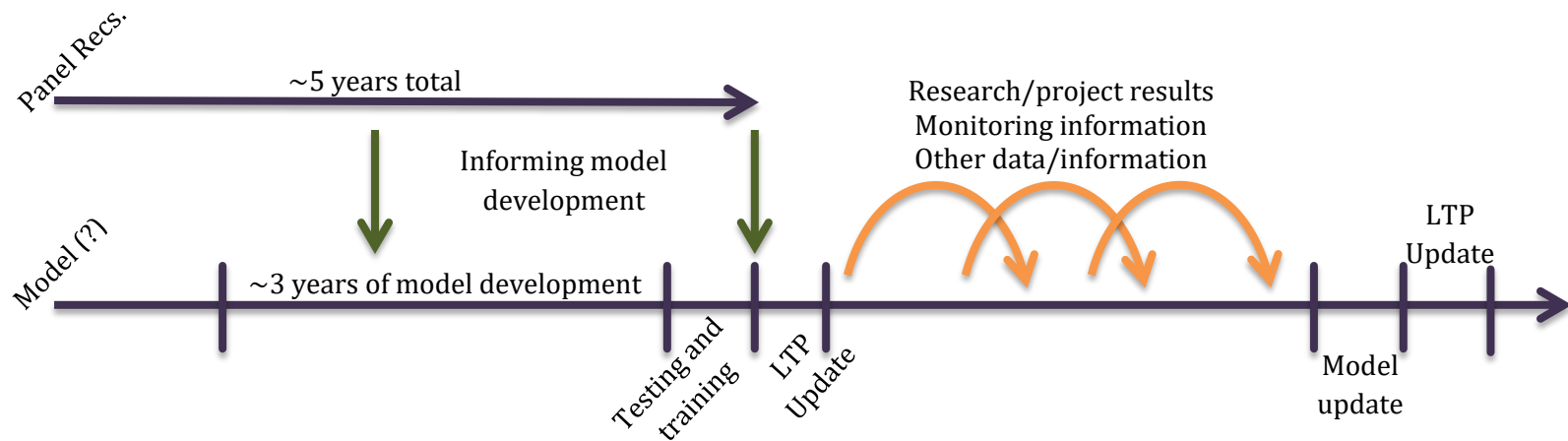
Michael Porter
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Michael Scialdone
Pueblo of Sandia

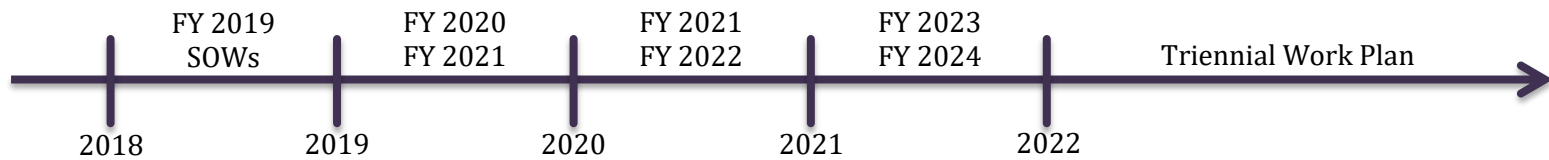
Ashley Tanner
WEST, Inc

Malia Volke
N.M. Department of Game and Fish

Timeline for Development and Implementation of a Prioritization Process



Timeline for Transitioning to Triennial Work Plan (SOW Centric)



Long Term Plan Timeline (9 years)

