

Science and Habitat Restoration Work Group Meeting
March 12, 2019

Meeting Materials:

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Minutes

Bibliography of Literature Published in 2018 [not included]



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

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

March 12, 2019 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Bureau of Reclamation, 555 Broadway Blvd NE

Conference Call Information:

Phone: (712) 451-0011 Passcode: 141544

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|---------------|--|----------------------|
| 10:30 - 10:40 | Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Decision: Approve meeting agenda | <i>Ashley Tanner</i> |
| 10:40 - 10:50 | Review of February 2018 ScW/HR meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action items update➤ Decision: Approve February meeting minutes | <i>Ashley Tanner</i> |
| 10:50 - 11:50 | Project Prioritization for FY 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on all prioritizations received, discuss top projects for funding in FY 2020➤ Action Item: Determine which projects will be developed into full SOWs for funding in FY 2020➤ Action Item: Form small groups to begin SOW development | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 11:50-12:00 | Additional items, follow-ups, and next meeting date <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next Meeting: April 9, 11am - 12pm• Brown Bag: Jose Solis (hydrologist, NMISC) April 9, 12:15pm - 1:15pm | <i>Ashley Tanner</i> |
| 12:00 | Adjourn | |



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

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

March 12, 2019 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Bureau of Reclamation, 555 Broadway Blvd NE

Decisions:

- ✓ The ScW/HR approved the March 12, 2019 meeting agenda with no changes
- ✓ The ScW/HR approved the February 12, 2019 meeting agenda with no changes

Actions:

WHO	ACTION ITEM	BY WHEN
Ashley T.	Discuss project #15 with the Population Monitoring Work Group prior to the March EC meeting	March 14
Ashley T.	Prepare descriptions for project numbers 20, 41, 77, and 87 for the EC's consideration in March	March 20
Ashley T.	Working through the appropriate avenues, contact all modelers working on RGSM in preparation for the discussion on project #87	March 29
Ashley T., Alison H., Yasmeen N., Mike M., Mick P., Kate M.	Convene small group to outline the SOW for project #20	April 2019
Ashley T., Danielle H., Brian H., Matthew P., Nathan S., Yasmeen N., Ara W., and Kim E.	Convene a small group to outline the SOW for project #41	April 2019
Ashley T., Grace H., Mo H., Mick P., Ara W., and Dana P.	Convene a small group to outline the SOW for project #87	April 2019
Ashley T., Danielle H., and Clint S.	Convene a small group to outline the SOW for project #77	April 2019

Next Meeting: April 9, 2019, 11 am – 12 pm

Brown Bag Presentation: April 9, 2019, 12:15pm - 1:15pm

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 March 12, 2019 meeting agenda with no changes**

Review of February 2018 ScW/HR meeting

Ashley T. reviewed the action items from the February 12, 2019 meeting.

- There was a significant increase in the amount of rankings submitted this year compared to last year.
- As a read-ahead, WEST had distributed a bibliography of literature published in 2018 with relevance to the Middle Rio Grande.
- **ACTION:** WEST will continue to schedule speakers for future Brown Bags.
- ✓ **The ScW/HR approved the February 12, 2019 meeting agenda with no changes**

Project Prioritization for FY 2020

Ashley T. reminded the ScW/HR that project descriptions need to go before the Executive Committee (EC) at the end of the month in order to be included in funding agencies' budgets for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20). ScW/HR participants had provided their ranked project prioritizations by signatory organization to inform the discussion on which projects should be submitted to the EC for approval to develop into full scopes of work (SOWs).

She asked for volunteers to form a small group for each project description that will go before the EC. Unlike last year, she indicated that there will be fewer meetings, and she offered to take on the task of writing each SOW.

Ashley T. reviewed the five projects that rose to the top:

- #15: Assess the persistence of stocked Rio Grande Silvery Minnows
 - A discussion followed about how to better frame the objectives of the study. The following questions were raised:
 - Is this already being covered with the Population Monitoring Program as ASIR collected data regarding marked fish?
 - Are stocked fish surviving at the same rate as unmarked wild fish?
 - What is their reproductive contribution to the next generation?
 - Could isotope markers be used?
 - Ashley T. asked if a small group including geneticists would be suitable to address these questions. A discussion followed with a variety of opinions, with a consensus that the Population Monitoring Work Group (PMWG) should be consulted regarding specific objectives during their March 14, 2019 meeting.

- **ACTION:** WEST will ask the PMWG for their input in the project description. If the PMWG agrees it should go to the EC at the March 27 meeting, WEST will ask the PMWG for help in refining the objectives for the description. If based on PMWG input, the description will be brought to the EC, Ashley T. will send an updated description of this proposal to ScW/HR workgroup prior to the March EC meeting.
- #18: Effects of temperature degree days and photoperiod on (RGSM) spawning
 - A SOW was developed for this proposal last year, and the ScW/HR agreed to remove it from consideration for this discussion.
- #20: Evaluate and quantify in channel habitat diversity and utilization for all life stages of RGSM
 - A discussion included relevance of having GIS and/or modeling efforts.
 - This SOW may include multiple parts, including: looking at existing data and developing a study.
 - Volunteers for a small group to help develop the SOW: Mike Marcus, Mick Porter, Alison Hutson, Clint Smith/Joel Lusk, and someone from MRGCD (TBD)
- #41: Habitat restoration revegetation techniques
 - In response to a question, it was clarified that this project description focused on planting success specifically, as opposed to natural revegetation.
 - The group agreed that a lot more discussion needed to happen regarding how this study should be structured, but that as a description, it should be brought to the EC.
 - Volunteers for a small group to help develop the SOW: Nathan Schroeder, Matthew Peterson, Yasmeen Najmi, Ara Winter, Kim Eichhorst, Dana Price, and Brian Hobbs
- #87: Demographic rates and environmental factors for the RGSM
 - A discussion followed regarding current efforts by several agencies (e.g., Utah State University, (USU) and New Mexico State University (NMSU))
 - Volunteers will consult with other agencies and meet to address existing gaps
 - **ACTION:** Ashley T. will rewrite the proposal with a more limited scope after members consult with other agencies; the modified proposal would be submitted to the EC
 - Volunteers for a small group to help develop the SOW: Mike Porter, Mo Hobbs, Ara Winter, Grace Haggerty, and someone from Reclamation.
 - The group should include the CORs for each of the contracts
 - Dana Price volunteered to join later once the conversation has progressed
- A question was asked regarding the absence of proposals for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (YBCU) in the short list. Ashley T. responded that project #66 was developed last year; the SOW has already been written and is available for funding.
- Ashley T. presented a list of other proposals receiving at least two votes (project ideas #19, 30, 39, 42, 66, 77, 88, and 89). The group focused on #77.
 - #77, Restoration Prioritization Strategy for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher 1: Strategy Development
 - The first steps are being pursued in a specific area; sites are being reanalyzed; a group is meeting March 13, 2019 to go over the refined list of sites developed by Tetra Tech.
 - Volunteers for a small group to help develop the SOW: Vicky Ryan, Clint Smith, Lynette Giesen.

The project ideas that were discussed today will be presented to the Executive Committee (EC) at the March meeting for approval to develop into full SOWs. The deadline for the full SOWs to be presented at the EC is September 2019, though they can be completed earlier.

- **ACTION:** Ashley T. will contact those who volunteered to follow-up with small group meetings to develop each SOW.

Additional items, follow-ups, and next meeting date

- Next Meeting: April 9, 11am – 12pm
- Brown Bag: Jose Solis (hydrologist, NMISC) April 9, 12:15pm – 1:15pm

Matthew Peterson, City of Albuquerque, invited the Program to a Candelaria Nature Preserve Discovery Hike on Friday, March 29 from 9-11 AM. The City of Albuquerque is soliciting input on the development of a resource management plan for the Nature Preserve.

Meeting Participants

Participant	Organization
Kim Eichhorst	Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
Danielle Galloway	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lynette Giesen	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Grace Haggerty	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Brian Hobbs	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kathy Lang	City of Albuquerque BioPark
Mike Marcus	Assessment Payers Association of the MRGCD
Kate Mendoza	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Yasmeen Najmi	Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Matthew Peterson	City of Albuquerque Open Space
Michael Porter	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nathan Schroeder	Pueblo of Santa Ana, DNR
Clint Smith	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Malia Volke	NM Department of Game & Fish
Ara Winter	Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
Janet Armstead	WEST, Inc.
Debbie Lee	WEST, Inc.
Ashley Tanner	WEST, Inc.