Executive Committee Meeting

February 10, 2020

Meeting Materials:

Agenda

Minutes

MRGESCP Draft 2020 Work Plan [read-ahead, draft, spreadsheet]

Draft MRGESCP PMWG 2020 Work Plan [read-ahead, draft]

Draft ScW/HR 2020 Work Plan [read-ahead, draft]

Draft MRGESCP Structure [read-ahead, draft]

MRGESCP Newsletter February 2020 [read-ahead, not included]

Charter for FPC of the MRGESCP [read-ahead]

MRGESCP AMWG Update [presentation]

MRGESCP Cost Share Report [read-ahead]

Draft MRGESCP Program Letter of Support for USACE [read-ahead, draft]

ScW/HR Project Descriptions [read-ahead]

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
February 10, 2020 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Location: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District
4101 Jefferson Plaza NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Call-in Information:
800-369-1174; passcode 26034

MEETING AGENDA

1:20 – 1:30 **Arrival**

1:30 – 1:40 **Welcome and Introductions** *Co-Chairs*

- Agenda review

➢ **Decision**: Approval of February 10, 2020 meeting agenda

1:40 – 1:50 **Past Meeting Minutes** *Co-Chairs*

- Action items from the September 2019 meeting

Read-ahead:

☐ September 2019 Meeting Summary

➢ **Decision**: Approval of September 2019 Meeting Summary

1:50 – 2:00 **Program Manager Update** *Program Support Team (PST)*

- Staffing update
- Newsletter
- Cost share report

Read-aheads:

☐ February 2020 MRGESCP Newsletter
☐ FY19 Cost Share Report

2:00 – 2:15 **2020 MRGESCP Work Plan Review** *PST*

Read-aheads:

☐ Draft 2020 MRGESCP Work Plan

➢ **Decision**: Approval of the 2020 Work Plan

2:15 – 2:30 **Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC) Update** *PST*

- Letter of support for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) MRGESCP budget
- FPC charter amendment requests

Read-aheads:

☐ Letter of Support to USACE
☐ FPC Charter

➢ **Action Item**: Next steps on the Letter of Support
➢ **Decision**: FPC charter amendments

2:30 – 2:55	**Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) Update** • Presentation: AMWG Update • Conversation on program structure • Next steps on AM process Read-aheads: ☐ Program structure ➢ **Decision**: Approval of Long-term Programmatic Goals	*PST*
2:55 – 3:05	**Break**	

3:05 – 3:25	**Science/Habitat Restoration Work Group (ScW/HR) Update**
	• 2020 Work Plan
	• Project descriptions
	  ○ Soil Moisture Holding Capacity Study
	  ○ Evaluation of Yellow-billed Cuckoo Prey and Associated Host Plants
	  ○ An Analysis of Overbank Flow and Its Relationship with Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo Territory Selection
	  ○ An Evaluation of Aerial Imagery and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo Habitat
	
	Read-aheads:
	☐ Draft 2020 ScW/HR Work Plan
	☐ Project descriptions
	
	➢ **Decision**: Approval of the ScW/HR project descriptions for submittal to signatories with funding by the April 2020 deadline
	➢ **Decision**: Approval of the 2020 ScW/HR Work Plan
		ScW/HR Co-chairs

3:25 – 3:40	**Population Monitoring Work Group (PMWG) Update** • 2020 Work Plan Read-ahead: ☐ Draft 2020 PMWG Work Plan ➢ **Decision**: Approval of the 2020 PMWG Work Plan	*Debbie Lee, PST*
3:40 – 4:00	**Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) Membership Request** • Presentation from BDD • Questions from Executive Committee	*Rick Carpenter, BDD*
4:00 – 4:10	**Hydrology Update**	
4:10 – 4:15	**Announcements**	
4:15 – 4:25	**Public Comment**	
4:25 – 4:30	**Action Items and Next Steps** • Action Item Review ➢ Next EC meeting date: May 2020	*Co-Chairs*
4:30	**Adjourn**	

A closed door session of only Executive Committee members will follow to discuss and vote on the BDD membership request.

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

Executive Committee (EC)
Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2019; 1:30 PM–4:30 PM
Location: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District
4101 Jefferson Plaza NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Decisions:

- ➢ Approval of February 10, 2020 EC meeting agenda with the following amendments:
  - o Move the hydrology update to earlier in the meeting
  - o Add a decision point for approval of the long-term Program goals
- ✓ Approval of September 16, 2019 EC meeting summary
- ✓ Approval of 2020 Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP or Program) Work Plan with the caveat that it will be accelerated whenever possible and is open for amendments as the Program structure evolves
- ✓ Approval of Letter of Support for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) MRGESCP budget being signed by the nonfederal co-chair and sent to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation pending the announcement of USACE's FY21 budget
- ✓ Approval of amending the Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC) charter to include the addition of non-federal and federal co-chairs
- ✓ Approval of the long-term Program goals with the following amendments:
  - o Include the listing status for each species
  - o Spell out all of the acronyms
  - o Revise goal statement B to read "recovery unit goals"
- ✓ Approval of Science/Habitat Restoration Work Group (ScW/HR) project descriptions for submittal to signatories with funding by the April 2020 deadline
- ✓ Approval of the 2020 ScW/HR Work Plan with addition of a plan for sunsetting the work group and moving towards the Science and Technical Network (STN)
- ✓ Approval of the 2020 Population Monitoring Work Group (PMWG) Work Plan
- ✓ Approval of the Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) membership request

Action Items:

WHO	ACTION ITEM	BY WHEN
EC Co-chairs and PST	Discuss a communication process between the co-chairs and the rest of the EC members	02/20/2020
PST	Revise the letter of support for USACE, and send it to the non-federal co-chair to sign	02/12/2020
John Stomp	Send to letter of support to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation pending the announcement of USACE's FY21 budget	TBD

PST	Amend the composition of the FPC's charter to include federal and non-federal co-chairs, and put appointment of co-chairs on the agenda for the next FPC meeting	TBD
AMWG	Review the lower half of the proposed Program structure and add detail where necessary for EC review and approval	May 2020
PST	Suggest that the Soil Moisture Holding Capacity Study Scope of Work (SOW) writing group consider including an option for lowering the surface aggregation to be closer to the water table	TBD
ScW/HR	Provide a short document explaining how the ScW/HR's functions and tasks will exist within the 2020 MRGESCP Work Plan	March 2020
PMWG	Provide a short document explaining how the PMWG's functions and tasks will exist within the 2020 MRGESCP Work Plan	02/26/2020
BDD	Presentation from BDD explaining its Biological Opinion	May 18, 2020

Next Meeting: May 18, 2020, 1:30—4:30; location TBD

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions

Ground rules
Agenda Review

The EC co-chairs, John Stomp, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA), and Brent Esplin, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, called the meeting to order, covered ground rules, and initiated introductions. The agenda was reviewed and amendments were requested. The Hydrology Update was moved up in the schedule. A decision on Long-Term Programmatic Goals was added to the meeting agenda. The agenda was approved with amendments.

- **Decision**: Approval of February 10, 2020 meeting agenda by the EC

Past Meeting Minutes

Action items from the September 2019 meeting

September 2019 meeting minutes, decisions, and action items were approved with no comments by EC members.

- **Decision**: Approval of September 2019 meeting minutes by the EC

Program Manager Update

Staffing update
Newsletter
Cost share report

Debbie Lee, Program Manager, Program Support Team (PST), presented the February Newsletter. There were no species updates for the birds or the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse. She noted that Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) Annual Report write-ups are due to the PST by February 27, 2020, and that the new Program Portal launched in December.

Clayton Derby, PST, gave a staffing update:

- Michelle Tuineau, Project Assistant, joined the team
- Ashley Tanner will be leaving
- Dr. Catherine Murphy begins February 24, 2020 as the new Senior Science Coordinator
- Shay Howlin will continue working with the PMWG
- Kevin McDonnel will continue working with the PMWG and AMWG

An EC representative questioned why the EC was not consulted on the Science Coordinator hiring process. The PST stated that in the past, the hiring process for the Program Manager included EC input, and the hiring process for the Science Coordinator did not. As part of the hiring process for the Science

Coordinator, the PST reached out to both EC co-chairs prior to making an offer, and neither raised any concerns. The co-chairs agreed to discuss a communication process between the EC co-chairs and the rest of the EC.

- **Action item:** The PST and the EC will discuss a communication process between the co-chairs and the rest of the EC members

Julie Dickey, PST, presented the Program's cost share report for FY19. She stated that the non-federal cost share was met at 74.7%, and has been met at 40% over the entire life of the Program. An EC representative asked if the cost share report goes any higher within federal or non-federal signatories. In response, the EC was informed that the report does not go higher than the region.

Hydrology Update

Page Pegram, NMISC, and David Gensler, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD), gave the hydrology update. They stated that New Mexico is in a debit situation of about 38,000 ac-ft. That water is required to be maintained upstream, primarily in El Vado Reservoir, under restrictions set forth by the Rio Grande Compact. New Mexico expects that a request will occur for to be water be released, beginning in November. The Elephant Butte Reservoir is low despite 2019 being a high water year. New Mexico had a compact debit in 2019 because the year had a high snowpack runoff; that means the State has a larger water obligation for Compact deliveries.

2020 MRGESCP Work Plan Review

Debbie L. presented the 2020 MRGESCP work plan and the EC members discussed the proposed implementation of the Long-Term Science and Adaptive Management Plan by January 2021. The EC agreed that the plan should be sped up wherever possible. The members also agreed that the work plan should be open to amendments as the structure of the Program evolves.

- **Decision:** EC approval of 2020 Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP or Program) Work Plan with the caveat that it will be accelerated whenever possible and is open for amendments as the Program structure evolves

Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC) Update

Letter of support for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) MRGESCP budget

Julie D. informed the EC that the FPC met and agreed on presenting a letter of support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) to the EC. The intent of the letter is to request reinstatement of the previous funding amount for the Program. During the conversation, a few members observed that sending a letter would bring attention to USACE's participation in the Program, which could be either positive or negative. One EC representative said the letter should appropriately be addressed to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation. It was noted that USACE is finalizing its 2021 budget, which may lead to reinstatement of Program funding, in which case the letter would not be necessary. The EC members agreed to approve the letter being signed by the non-federal co-chair and sent to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation pending announcement of USACE's 2021 budget.

- **Decision:** EC approval of Letter of Support for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) MRGESCP budget being signed by the nonfederal co-chair and sent to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation pending the announcement of USACE's FY21 budget
- **Action item:** The PST will revise the letter of support for USACE, and send it to the non-federal co-chair, John Stomp, to sign
- **Action item:** John Stomp will send the letter of support to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation pending the announcement of USACE's FY21 budget

FPC charter amendment requests

The PST requested an amendment to the FPC charter that would add a federal and non-federal co-chair. The EC approved the amendment. The PST will amend the composition of the charter and take it to the next FPC meeting.

- **Decision**: EC approval of amending the Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC) charter to include the addition of non-federal and federal co-chairs
- **Action item**: The PST will amend the composition of the FPC's charter to include federal and non-federal co-chairs, and put appointment of co-chairs on the agenda for the next FPC meeting

Work Group Updates

Adaptive Management Work Group

Presentation: AMWG Update

Ashley Tanner, Deputy Science Coordinator, PST, presented a PowerPoint on the long-term goals developed by the AMWG and walked the EC through an example of how the goals would inform the direction of the work being done in the Program down to the project-development level.

During the conversation that followed, one member questioned the attainability of the goals given that the Rio Grande silvery Minnow is unlikely to ever be delisted from the endangered species list, and requested that this be discussed at a future meeting. Other representatives believe the goals are lofty but meant to be strived for. One member noted that not having approved goals would slow down the Program's work plan. In response to some confusion around Goal B, a participant suggested revising the language to read "recovery unit goals" in place of "recovery unit." Another participant suggested the acronyms be spelled out for clarity and species status be included.

- **Decision:** EC approval of the long-term Program goals with the following amendments:
    - Include the listing status for each species
    - Spell out all of the acronyms
    - Revise goal statement B to read "recovery unit goals"

Conversation on program structure

The EC members discussed the new Program structure. Although the top half of the proposed cycle was agreed upon, the lower half was meant to be further developed by the AMWG. One representative asked

for revisions to the Program structure graphic and narrative to include more details. The EC agreed that the AMWG should revise the lower half of the structure and add detail where necessary.

- **Action:** The AMWG will review the lower half of the proposed Program structure and add detail where necessary for EC review and approval

Science/Habitat Restoration Work Group

2020 ScW/HR Work Plan

Kate Mendoza, ABCWUA and ScW/HR co-chair, presented the 2020 ScW/HR Work Plan to the EC. The representatives asked that the work plan include a plan to move towards the Science and Technical Network.

- **Decision:** EC approval of the 2020 ScW/HR Work Plan with addition of a plan for sunsetting the work group and moving towards the Science and Technical Network (STN)
- **Action:** The ScW/HR will provide a short document explaining how the ScW/HR's functions and tasks will exist within the 2020 MRGESCP Work Plan

Project Descriptions

Vicky Ryan (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USFWS) presented four projects descriptions:

1. Soil Moisture Holding Capacity Study
2. Evaluation of Yellow-billed Cuckoo Prey and Associated Host Plants
3. An Analysis of Overbank Flow and Its Relationship with Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo Territory Selection
4. An Evaluation of Aerial Imagery and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo Habitat

One representative suggested that the Soil Moisture Holding Capacity Study include an option for lowering the surface aggregation to be closer to the water table. In response to a question from a meeting participant, the PST confirmed that the project descriptions specified linkages to the USACE contract to develop critical uncertainties.

- **Decision:** EC approval of the ScW/HR project descriptions for submittal to signatories with funding by the April 2020 deadline
- **Action:** The PST will suggest that the Soil Moisture Holding Capacity Study Scope of Work (SOW) writing group consider including an option for lowering the surface aggregation to be closer to the water table

Population Monitoring Work Group

2020 PMWG Work Plan

Debbie L. presented the 2020 PMWG Work Plan to the EC. The EC requested that the work group prepare a document that explains how it will transition to the new Program structure and operate under adaptive management.

- **Decision:** EC approval of the 2020 PMWG Work Plan

- **Action:** The PWMG will provide a short document explaining how the PMWG's functions and tasks will exist within the 2020 MRGESCP Work Plan

Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) Membership Request

Questions from Executive Committee (EC)

Presentation from BDD

Kyle Harwood, representing BDD, explained that the BDD board approved requesting full membership to the Program. BDD has been attending Program meetings since 2011 as a wing of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC).

Questions from Executive Committee (EC)

An EC representative asked why the BDD would want to be involved in the Program when it does not see any of the endangered species of interest.

- Kyle stated that BDD is a diverter on the main stem and must account for effects on species in accordance with diversion permits

An EC representative asked if BDD would prepare a presentation for the EC on their Biological Opinion (BO).

- Kyle agreed to develop a presentation on BDD's BO.

Following the end of the meeting, the EC met in a closed-door executive session to vote on the BDD membership request.

- **Decision:** EC approval of BDD Membership Request
- **Action:** Presentation from BDD explaining its Biological Opinion

Announcements

- It is likely co-chair Brent Esplin's last meeting, and Wayne Pullan, the new Deputy Regional Director for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, will be taking over as federal co-chair
- Susan Millsap left the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) , and Seth Willey, the acting Ecological Services Field Office Supervisor, will take her place on the EC
- David Campbell is retiring from USFWS in April and will be leaving the EC
- Matthew Peterson is leaving the City of Albuquerque Open Space and Colleen Langan-McRoberts will take over as the City's EC representative until an appropriate replacement is chosen
- Trevor Birt is a new employee at NMISC and he will be working with Grace Haggerty
- The 2020 BEMP Crawford Symposium will be March 11
- Kim Eichhorst announced that BEMP has hired an interim director, Greg Dyson
- Jennifer Faler stated that she researched the level of effort to determine administrative costs related to the Program and the 2016 BO, and it will be relatively easy to acquire the costs

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Items and Next Steps

Action Item Review

- **Next EC meeting date:** May 18 2020, 1:30 - 4:30
- **Action item:** The PST will distribute follow-up meeting materials and presentations.

Adjourn

Meeting Participants

Participant	Organization
Debbie Lee	Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.
Brent Esplin	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
John Stomp	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Clayton Derby	Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.
David Campbell	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Matthew Wunder	New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
Janet Jarratt	Assessment Payers Association of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Cody Walker	Pueblo of Isleta
Kim Eichhorst	Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
Jennifer Faler	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Ashley Tanner	Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.
Page Pegram	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Nathan Schroeder	Pueblo of Santa Ana
LTC Dale Caswell	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Anne Marken	Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Paul Tashjian	Audubon New Mexico
Bill Grantham	New Mexico Attorney General Environmental Protection Division
Lynette Giesen	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Trevor Stevens	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Chris Shaw	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Kate Mendoza	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Trevor Birt	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

Brenda McKenna	U.S. House of Representatives, Debra Haaland's Office
Grace Haggerty	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Mike Marcus	Assessment Payers Association of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Kyle Harwood	Buckman Direct Diversion Board
Derek Jarner	Pueblo of Isleta
Jim Wilber	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Wayne Pullan	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Michael Porter	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Danielle Galloway	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicky Ryan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Julie Dickey	Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.
Ryan Gronewold	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Tom Turner	University of New Mexico
Johana Estrada	Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
David Gensler	Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Jim Wilber	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Megan Osborne	University of New Mexico
Michelle Tuineau	Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP)
DRAFT 2020 Work Plan Overview

Task	Program Group	Deadline	Deliverable	Status	Notes	Completed Date
STRATEGIC PLANNING						
Complete the Program's Long-Term Plan (LTP)	EC & PST	September 2020	LTP	Pending	The LTP and the Adaptive Management (AM) Plan will be a combined document	
Finalize development of the MRGESCP's AM Process	AMWG & PST	November 2020	Integration of the MRGESCP's AM Process	Ongoing		
Implement the new MRGESCP structure as approved in 2018	EC & PST	September 2020	Revised and implemented MRGESCP structure	Ongoing		
Continue discussions related to the MRGESCP's goals and strategies	EC, AMWG & PST	June 2020	Program goals	Ongoing	Draft goals were developed by AMWG	
Revise by-laws as needed	By-laws & PST	December 2020	Updated By-Laws	Ongoing	Updates related to the new structure	
ANNUAL PLANNING						
Implement the MRGESCP 2020 Work Plan	MRGESCP & PST	Ongoing through 2020	Completed 2020 Annual Work Plan tasks	Ongoing		
Develop the MRGESCP 2021 Work Plan	MRGESCP & PST	November - December 2020	Finalized 2021 Annual Work Plan for implementation	Pending		
Implement the Science/Habitat Restoration Work Group (ScW/HR) 2020 Work Plan	ScW/HR & PST	Ongoing through 2020	Completed 2020 Annual Work Plan tasks	Ongoing		

Develop the ScW/HR 2021 Work Plan	ScW/HR & PST	November - December 2020	Finalized 2021 Annual Work Plan for implementation	Pending		
Implement the Population Monitoring Work Group (PMWG) 2020 Work Plan	PMWG & PST	Ongoing through 2020	Completed 2020 Annual Work Plan tasks	Ongoing		
Develop the PMWG 2021 Work Plan	PMWG & PST	November 2020	Finalized 2021 Annual Work Plan for implementation	Pending		
ADMINISTRATION & REPORTING						
Annual Report						
Prepare first draft FY19 Annual Report for Program review	MRGESCP & PST	May 2020	Draft FY19 Annual Report for review	Ongoing	Signatories send FY19 write-ups to the PST	
Finalize and approve FY19 Annual Report	EC & PST	August 2020	Finalized FY19 Annual Report	Pending		
Begin preparing for the first draft FY20 Annual Report	MRGESCP & PST	October 2020	Signatory coordination	Pending	Signatory's send FY20 write-ups to WEST	
Cost-Share						
Report FY19 Non-Federal Signatory Cost-Share	Non-Feds & PST	February 2020	Cost Share Report	Ongoing	Report to EC at February 2020 meeting	
Report FY20 Non-Federal Signatory Cost-Share	Non-Feds & PST	August 2020	Cost Share Report	Pending	Signatories report to PST by November 2020	
Program Portal (Formerly DBMS)						
Maintain and Update Program Portal	MRGESCP & PST	December 2020	Operational Program Portal for MRGESCP use	Ongoing	Site was launched December 2019. PST will work with Program signatories and USGS to develop additional content, and update as needed	
ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH						

Science Symposium						
Hold targeted science workshop(s) on specific topics relevant to MRGESCP activities and planning	MRGESCP & PST	December 2020	Science Workshops	Ongoing	Topics TBD	

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Draft 2020 Work Plan

X	Meetings
X	Potential Meetings
X	Deadlines

	Program Group	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Meetings													
Executive Committee (EC) meetings	EC		X			X				X			X
Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG)	AMWG		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Science and Habitat Restoration Work Group (ScW/HR)/Science and Technical Network (STN)	ScW/HR & STN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Population Monitoring Work Group (PMWG)	PMWG		X			X			X			X	
River Action Team (RAT)	RAT		X	X	X	X							
Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC) meetings	FPC					X	X			X			
By-laws ad hoc group (By-laws) meetings	By-laws			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Science and Adaptive Management Committee	SAMC								X		X		X
Long-Term Plan (LTP)													
Develop a conceptual outline of the LTP	PST & AMWG	2019											
Complete incorportation of material from former	PST	X											
Approve Program goals	EC		X										
Complete Program activity tracking project (tie into	PST				X								
Complete development of Program strategies to	AMWG				X								
Update the EC on strategies to achieve Program goals	AMWG					X							
Complete Operational Space section	PST & AMWG						X						
Provide progress report to the EC	PST & AMWG									X			
Complete Introduction and Executive Summary	PST & AMWG										X		
Complete Reach Plans	AMWG										X		
LTP to EC for review and approval at December 2020	AMWG/EC											X	
Present on the full at the EC	PST & AMWG												X
Implementation of the LTP	EC												2021
MRGESCP's Science & Adaptive Management Process													
Complete conceptual ecological models (CEMs) for southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL) and yellow-	ScW/HR		X										
Complete Draft Science and Adaptive Management	PST & AMWG				X								

	Program Group	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Dece
Complete development of prioritization process for	ScW/HR					X							
Finish CEM for RGSM	ScW/HR					X							
Complete development of CEMs for New Mexico meadow jumping mouse (NMMJM) and Pecos	PST						X						
Develop list of uncertainties for SWFL, YBCU, and Rio	ScW/HR						X						
Develop a system-wide CEM	PST &							X					
Develop list of uncertainties for NMMJM and PESU	PST &							X					
Implement the prioritization process for the identified uncertainties; identify the first round of uncertainties	ScW/HR								X				
Plan for Independent Science Panel (ISP) and Peer Review													
Complete development of a peer review process	ScW/HR &				X								
EC approval to convene an ISP to review key Program documents (e.g. CEMs, critical uncertainties, LTP,	EC					X							
By-laws													
Finalize Work Groups section	By-laws			X									
Finalize Executive Committee section	By-laws					X							
Finalize Program Support Team section	By-laws					X							
Finalize Science and Adaptive Management	By-laws							X					
Finalize Organization section	By-laws								X				
Finalize Definitions	By-laws								X				
Revised MRGESCP By-laws to EC for approval and	By-laws									X			
Program Structure													
EC approval to transition ScW/HR to STN	EC/PST			X									
Approve charter for SAMC	EC							X					
EC decision on the composition of the SAMC	EC							X					
Convene the SAMC	SAMC								X				
Sunset AMWG	EC												X
RGSM Population Monitoring Work Group (Integrated Stock Assessment Model)													
Completion of RGSM Integrated Stock Asssessment	PMWG												X
Completion of data and methods documentation	PMWG												X
Begin drafting U.S. Geological Survey Open File Report	PMWG												X

	Program Group	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Dece
Project Development													
Draft project descriptions to submit for signatory budget planning	ScW/HR		X										
Submit scopes of work (SOWs) to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	PST				X								
Submit SOWs to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	PST				X								
Submit SOWs to New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission	PST				X								
Submit SOWs to Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District	PST				X								
Submit SOWs to Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority	PST				X								
Complete full SOWs from EC approved project descriptions	ScW/HR								X				
EC approval of SOWs to FPC to identify funding opportunities (if needed)	ScW/HR									X			
Ongoing Program Administration													
Cost Share													
Report FY19 cost-share to the EC	PST		X										
Provide FY20 cost-share to PST	All signatories										X		
Report FY20 cost-share to Reclamation	PST											X	
Program Portal													
Incorporate RGSM population monitoring dataset onto Program Portal	PST					X							
Complete uploading of historic Program documents to the Portal	PST									X			
Annual Report													
FY19 Project write-ups to PST	All signatories		X										
Draft FY19 Annual Report out for Program review	PST				X								

	Program Group	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Decem
Draft FY19 Annual Report comments to PST	All signatories						X						
Draft FY19 Annual Report to EC	PST								X				
EC approval of FY19 Annual Report	EC									X			
Project write-ups to PST for FY20	All											X	
Work Plans													
Approve and implement all 2020 Work Plans	EC		X										
Draft all work group and committee 2021 Work Plans	PST				X								
Approve and implement all 2021 Work Plans	EC												X

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
Population Monitoring Work Group
2020 Work Plan

The Population Monitoring Work Group (PMWG) was tasked with providing technical review, focused assessment, and recommendations related to monitoring of fish populations in the Middle Rio Grande (MRG), as impacted by water management and river dynamics.

The PMWG plans to complete the following tasks in 2020:

Task	Subtasks	Target Completion Date
1. Integrate and prioritize recommendations from the science panels	a) Evaluate recent modifications to RGSM population monitoring program	Currently on hold with development of the RGSM Integrated Stock Assessment model
	b) Gear selectivity study	December 2020
	c) Track progress in addressing panel recommendations	Ongoing in 2020
2. Analyze RGSM data to support modeling efforts	a) Survival, age composition, recruitment, and other analyses as identified	December 2020
3. Develop and review a RGSM Integrated Stock Assessment Model		December 2020
4. Development of PMWG report(s)	a) Scientific report documenting the data and methods of the RGSM Integrated Stock Assessment Model	December 2020
	b) USGS Open File Report	Ongoing in 2020
5. Give a progress update to EC		December 2020/January 2021

These tasks support the completion of Task 2 under the original PMWG charge approved by the EC in May 2016.

DRAFT

Science and Habitat Restoration Work Group
2020 Work Plan

PURPOSE:
Complete the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (Program) Science and Habitat Restoration Work Group (ScW/HR) 2020 Work Plan as approved at the 1/9/2019 ScW/HR meeting.

TASKS AND MANAGEMENT/SCIENCE IMPLICATIONS:
The following tasks are not listed in any specific order. The numbering is intended for conversational reference.

1) **Develop Conceptual Ecological Models for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse (NMMJM), Pecos Sunflower (PESU), Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM), Southwest Willow Flycatcher (SWFL), and Yellow-billed Cuckoo (YBCU).**

In the fall of 2019, the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) tasked the ScW/HR with developing conceptual ecological models for the five species encompassed within the Program. These models are intended to assist in the identification of knowledge gaps and subsequent formation of "critical uncertainties." By reducing critical uncertainties and filling knowledge gaps, the Program will be able to support managers in making more informed management decisions in the Middle Rio Grande (MRG). Utilizing subject matter experts, the ScW/HR will develop conceptual ecological models for the RGSM, SWFL, and YBCU by February 2020. Development of models for the NMMJM and PESU will begin by July 2020. All models will be presented to the AMWG.

2) **Identify and Prioritize Uncertainties Developed during the Conceptual Ecological Model Building Process**

The ScW/HR will identify uncertainties during the conceptual ecological model building process, prioritize those uncertainties, and identify overlap in uncertainties between species. By reducing critical uncertainties and filling knowledge gaps, the Program will be able to support managers in making more informed management decisions in the Middle Rio Grande (MRG). These uncertainties will drive project/scope of work (SOW) development each year. The ScW/HR will identify, asses, and prioritize uncertainties for the RGSM, SWFL, and YBCU starting in March 2020. The process by which uncertainties are developed and prioritized will be presented to the AMWG.

3) **Develop Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Project/SOW Descriptions and Full SOWs for Executive Committee (EC) Consideration**

The ScW/HR will utilize uncertainties identified in the conceptual ecological model building process to develop project/SOW descriptions for EC review by April 2020. The ScW/HR will solicit and incorporate feedback as needed during the SOW writing process. Full SOWs will be presented to the EC for consideration by August 2020.

4) **Determine Priorities for 2021**

The ScW/HR will discuss and identify which uncertainties will be a focus of project/SOW development for 2021 starting in September 2020. Project/SOW development for 2021 will begin immediately after this task is complete.

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5) **Consult as Needed with the AMWG**

The ScW/HR will continue to consult with the AMWG as needed to assist with Program planning and adaptive management (AM) moving forward.

6) **Continue Data Inventory and Consolidation Efforts**

The Program signatories have collected a large amount of data, including, but not limited to, endangered species population numbers, hydrology, water quality, and habitat restoration.

There is a need to inventory these data, and to consolidate datasets where possible. This will inform the Program's science and AM activities, and minimize duplicate efforts. Data inventory and consolidation will be a targeted and objective-driven effort, concentrating on specific datasets of interest to better meet the needs of the end data users. The ScW/HR will work with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and those working to develop the Program Portal (formerly the Program's database management system [DBMS]) to ensure that all data consolidation efforts result in a dataset that can be uploaded onto the Program Portal.

7) **Continue Participation in Program Portal Maintenance and Updates**

The USGS developed and launched a new Program Portal in December 2019 to replace the Program's prior database management system (DBMS). This Program Portal will need to be responsive to the needs of the Program, including its scientists and technical experts. The ScW/HR will provide input to the USGS as needed. Overall, a Program Portal will help the Program organize, store, share, and ultimately better utilize data collected and reports written by its multiple stakeholders. These services may inspire scientific studies, provide data for scientific research, and allow managers to interact with resources needed to inform decisions.

The ScW/HR will assist the PST in developing future content for the Program Portal; ensuring relevant reports, papers, and other documents are included in the document library; and supporting the development of other digital resources.

7) **Participate in the Planning of the Science Symposium**

The Program's Science Symposium aims to improve science communication, inform SOW development, and assist in long-term planning. The ScW/HR will assist as needed in the planning process.

8) **Plan and Participate in Program Field Trips**

Field trips will provide members of the ScW/HR with experience-based learning opportunities, such as field visits to restoration sites, float trips down the river, lab tours, hatchery tours, and more. These trips will provide members with the opportunity to learn more about the breadth of work underway in the Middle Rio Grande.

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TASKS SCHEDULE:

Task	By Date
Complete CEMs for the RGSM, SWFL, and YBCU for presentation to the AMWG at the following meeting	February 2020
Begin to develop a process by which critical uncertainties can be prioritized, and present this process to the AMWG	March 2020
Begin to assess and prioritize critical uncertainties for the RGSM, SWFL, and YBCU	April 2020
Submit project/SOWs descriptions to the EC for review	March 2020
Begin developing conceptual ecological models for the NMMJM and PESU	July 2020
Submit finalized projects/SOWs to the EC for approval to move forward	August 2020
Discuss 2021 priorities and projects/SOW	September 2020
Plan field trip(s)	Duration of 2020
Consult with the AMWG to inform development of the Program's AM plan	As needed

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MEMBER ROSTER:

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Thomas	Archdeacon	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Jonathan	AuBuchon	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jennifer	Bachus	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Trevor	Birt	N.M. Interstate Stream Commission
Holly	Casman	City of Albuquerque, ABQ BioPark
Meaghan	Conway	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Katherine	Cordova	Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
Clayton	Derby	Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc.
Julie	Dickey	Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc.
Kim	Eichhorst	Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
Amy	Erickson	Audubon New Mexico
Kim	Fike	Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
Danielle	Galloway	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lynette	Giesen	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Eric	Gonzales	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Grace	Haggerty	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Aubrey	Harris	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Chuck	Hayes	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Brian	Hobbs	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Monika (Mo)	Hobbs	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Alison	Hutson	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Kathy	Lang	City of Albuquerque
Debbie	Lee	Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc.
Joel	Lusk	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Shannon	Mann	Pueblo of Sandia
Mike	Marcus	Assessment Payers Association of the MRGCD
Anne	Marken	Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Yvette	McKenna	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kate	Mendoza	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Yasmeen	Najmi	Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Megan	Osborne	University of New Mexico
Robert	Padilla	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

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Kirk	Patten	NM Department of Game & Fish
Page	Pegram	NM Interstate Stream Commission
Matthew	Peterson	City of Albuquerque Open Space
Michael (Mick)	Porter	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Dana	Price	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Justin	Reale	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CESPA-DE
Ashlee	Rudolph	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stephen	Ryan	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicky	Ryan	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Jeff	Sanchez	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Nathan	Schroeder	Pueblo of Santa Ana, DNR
Summer	Schulz	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Michael (Scial)	Scialdone	Pueblo of Sandia
Lauren	Sherson	U.S. Geological Survey
Clint	Smith	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Dale	Strickland	Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc.
Kiara	Tackas	Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc.
Ashley	Tanner	Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc.
Douglas	Tave	Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium
Cody	Walker	Pueblo of Isleta - Natural Resources Department, Water Resources Div.
Lori	Walton	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kim	Ward	City of Albuquerque
Wade	Wilson	U.S Fish & Wildlife Service, Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center
Ara	Winter	Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
Leann	Woodruff	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Brooke	Wyman	Pueblo of Sandia

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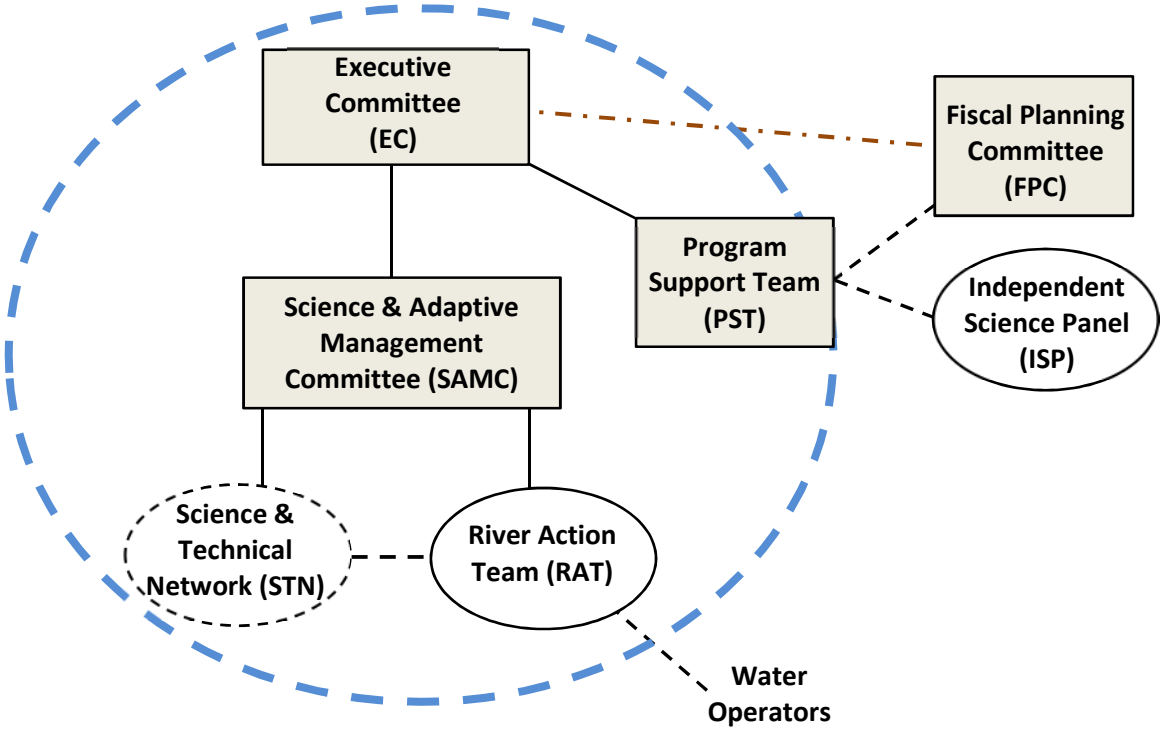
MRGESCP Program Structure

The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP) Executive Committee (EC) approved the following structure at the April 12, 2018 meeting. The By-laws ad hoc group was tasked with identifying the functions of and relationships between the Executive Committee (EC), Program Support Team (PST), Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC), and the Independent Science Panel (ISP). The Adaptive Management Workgroup (AMWG) was tasked with identifying the functions of and relationships between the Adaptive Management Committee (AMC), Science and Technical Network (STN), and the River Action Team (RAT).



PST Coordination

Group Communication

Program Recommendations

Direct Coordination

- Direction/Requests (top-down)
- Recommendations (bottom-up)

Meet at regular intervals

Convene as needed for specialized work

Subgroups meet with limited charge and timeline

MRGESCP Program Structure

Executive Committee (EC)

- ***Function***: Decision-making body of the MRGESCP
- ***Composition***:
    - One Federal Co-Chair, and one Non-Federal Co-Chair
    - Executive level signatory representatives
    - Each signatory appoints a primary and an alternate representative
- ***Meeting Frequency***: Quarterly meetings
- ***Roles***:
    - Provide direction/requests to Program committees, work groups, and the Program Support Team (PST)
    - Approve the Program's Long Term Plan and other documents (i.e. Annual Reports, Work Plans, Adaptive Management)
    - Makes recommendations to individual signatories or outside entities on behalf of the MRGESCP

Science & Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC)

- ***Function***: Coordinate Program science in support of related efforts in the Middle Rio Grande (MRG)
- ***Composition***:
    - Non-voting Chair: Senior Science Coordinator (PST)
    - Program Co-chairs: Federal & Non-federal
    - Membership TBD
- ***Meeting Frequency***: TBD
- ***Roles***:
    - Develop and maintain Long Term Plan and Triennial Work Plans
    - Provide direction to the Science and Technical Network to complete specific tasks (e.g. Scope of Work [SOW] development; specific task analysis; etc.)
    - Recommend topics to the EC for independent peer review panels
    - Coordinate with the Fiscal Planning Committee (FPC) on funding
    - Help coordinate presentation of results from Program activities

River Action Team (RAT)

- ***Function***: Provide short- and long-term forecasts and projections on the MRG to inform management decisions, water operations, and priority research areas
- ***Composition***:
    - Co-chairs
    - Signatory managers and technical experts based on topic
    - External experts as needed based on topic
- ***Meeting Frequency***: TBD
- ***Roles***:
    - Provide a specialized management-centric and technical review of MRGESCP work as needed with direction from the SAMC
    - Coordinate with the SAMC and the STN on answering questions regarding the future of the MRG ecosystem and watershed. For example:
        - Climate change
        - Vegetative cover
        - Water availability and projected needs

- Build on current hydrological and research programs in the MRG to better inform Program recommendations
- Coordinate to provide recommendations to the SAMC on annual water management and operations, and scientific and research studies
- Identify and provide research and monitoring priority recommendations to the SAMC
- Provide support for the adaptive management process
- Provide hydrology updates and forecasts to the EC

Program Support Team

- ***Function***: Coordinate and provide support for day-to-day and long-term MRGESCP needs
- ***Composition***:
  - Program Manager
  - Science Coordinator
  - Support staff
- ***Roles***:
  - Coordinate Program meetings and activities
  - Staff public outreach events on behalf of the Program
  - Maintain Program records and data on the Program Portal
  - Coordinate and provide support for Program initiatives including the Long Term Plan, Triennial Study Plan, Annual Work Plans and reports, developing and coordinating processes, facilitating and chairing meetings as requested, and other tasks as requested by the EC

Fiscal Planning Committee

- ***Function(s)***: Build a diverse financial support system for priority MRGESCP activities as set forth in the Long Term Plan
- ***Composition***:
  - Co-chairs: Federal and Non-federal
  - Signatory representatives appointed by EC representatives
  - PST coordination and point of contact

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed to coordinate for various timelines

- ***Roles***:
  - Coordinate on Signatory funding capabilities (i.e. authorities, budget restraints, interests, deadlines) to support priority Program work
  - Identify and pursue additional funding sources (i.e. grants, appropriations) in support of funding Program-related activities, including coordinating messaging for these efforts
  - Identify other potential resources (i.e. partnerships, grants) to support Program-related project implementation
  - Coordinate with other Program committees and workgroups to achieve the FPC's purpose
  - Report and communicate requests to the EC on the pursuit of external funding and other resources to support Program activities

Science and Technical Network

- ***Function***: Provide task-specific scientific and technical expertise
- ***Composition***:
  - Selected based on expertise and interest
  - PST coordination

MRGESCP Program Structure

- ***Meeting Frequency***: Task groups meet at the direction of the EC and when a specific task, timeline, deliverables, and group composition have been identified
- ***Roles***: Roles are defined by the SAMC

Charter for Fiscal Planning Committee
of the
Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Overview

The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (Program) By-laws, adopted by the Executive Committee on June 5, 2019 as amended, define the Program's organizational structure and discuss the functions of each organizational unit, including the Executive Committee, the Fiscal Planning Committee, Adaptive Management Committee, workgroups, and the Program Support Team. On June 5, 2019, the Executive Committee established the Fiscal Planning Committee with the directive that it report directly to the Executive Committee. The purpose of this charter is to further define the activities, roles, and responsibilities of the Fiscal Planning Committee as outlined in the By-laws.

Purpose

The Fiscal Planning Committee is created for the purpose of building a diverse financial support system for priority Program activities as set forth in the Long-Term Plan.

Composition

The Fiscal Planning Committee comprises Program Signatory representatives appointed by Executive Committee representatives. Participation may vary to adequately achieve the objectives set forth for each meeting.

Administration

The Program Support Team shall serve as the meeting facilitator and the single point of contact for the Fiscal Planning Committee. Responsibilities include the following administration and support duties:

- Coordinating meetings and meeting materials;
- Documenting and distributing action items and decisions;
- Providing notice to the Executive Committee and the Signatory representatives regarding meeting topics;
- Aiding to identify potential funding streams and other resources; and
- Providing Fiscal Planning Committee updates to the Program's other committees and workgroups.

Meetings

The Fiscal Planning Committee will meet quarterly at minimum, with additional meetings as needed to correspond with funding and other deadlines and timelines so as to fulfill its role.

Role and Responsibilities

The Fiscal Planning Committee's responsibilities include the following:

- Coordinate on Signatory funding capabilities (i.e. authorities, budget restraints, interests, deadlines) to support priority Program work
- Identify and pursue additional funding sources (i.e. grants, appropriations) in support of funding Program-related activities, including coordinating messaging for these efforts
- Identify other potential resources (i.e. partnerships, grants) to support Program-related project implementation
- Coordinate with other Program committees and workgroups to achieve the Fiscal Planning Committee's purpose

- Report and communicate requests to the Executive Committee on the pursuit of external funding and other resources to support Program activities

Individual signatories reserve the right to ensure appropriate use of their respective commitments consistent with applicable laws and regulations. The Fiscal Planning Committee and the Executive Committee may only make recommendations on how individual signatories allocate their respective funding, but the ultimate decision lies with the individual signatories.

Reporting Results and Communicating Decisions and Recommendations
The Fiscal Planning Committee shall report to the Executive Committee the results of securing funding and other resources for priority Program activities as set forth in the Long-Term Plan, as well as the identification of any remaining funding or other resource gaps, and recommendations for opportunities to fill those gaps.

MRGESCP Adaptive Management Work Group Update

Executive Committee Meeting

February 10, 2020

MRG Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Mission

The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP) provides a collaborative forum to support scientific analysis and implementation of adaptive management to the benefit and recovery of the listed species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act within the Program Area, and to protect existing and future water uses while complying with applicable state, federal and tribal laws, rules, and regulations.

Long-term Program Goals

A. Establish and maintain a self-sustaining population of RGSM distributed throughout the MRG.

B. Maintain and protect the MRG recovery unit for SWFL.

C. Maintain and protect suitable YBCU habitat in the MRG.

D. Establish and maintain a self-sustaining NMMJM population in the MRG.

E. Maintain and protect the Pecos Sunflower in the MRG.

F. Avoid the future listing or up-listing of species in the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program area.

G. Manage available water to meet the needs of endangered species and their habitat.

Goal C Example: **Maintain and protect suitable YBCU habitat in the MRG.**

Strategy

- Fill knowledge gaps for each of the listed species in the MRGESCP Program area.
- Increase populations in appropriate areas.

Uncertainty

What environmental variables determine cuckoo nest site selection and success?

Project

Evaluation of YBCU Prey and Associated Host Plants

Identifying the prey base of YBCU and the host plants needed to support those prey, and evaluating whether those plants are suitable for inclusion in habitat restoration projects in the MRG.

Long-term Program Goals

A. Establish and maintain a self-sustaining population of RGSM distributed throughout the MRG.
B. Maintain and protect the MRG recovery unit for SWFL.
C. Maintain and protect suitable YBCU habitat in the MRG.
D. Establish and maintain a self-sustaining NMMJM population in the MRG.
E. Maintain and protect the Pecos Sunflower in the MRG.
F. Avoid the future listing or up-listing of species in the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program area.
G. Manage available water to meet the needs of endangered species and their habitat.

Next Steps

- One-one-one meetings scheduled with AMWG members to discuss the adaptive management process
- Development of a Science and Adaptive Management strategy
- Continue developing a Long-Term Plan
- Continue development of conceptual ecological models
- Development of a process to prioritize uncertainties
- Identification of critical uncertainties
- Transition to new Program structure

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP) Cost Share Report

I. NON-FEDERAL SIGNATORY COST SHARE

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation's) budget for MRGESCP-related activities requires a 25 percent match from the non-federal signatories. Table 1 shows Reclamation's annual MRGESCP-related budget total and the annual reported non-federal signatory contribution from federal FY01 through FY19. Reclamation's FY19 budget subject to cost share match totaled $3,433,162.00. The FY19 non-federal cost share totaled $2,565,081.08, or approximately 75 percent. The following non-federal signatories reported FY19 cost share:

- New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
- Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
- City of Albuquerque Open Space Division
- Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
- University of New Mexico
- Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority

Table 1. Annual Breakdown of Non-Federal Cost Share

Federal Fiscal Year	Reclamation's Budget Amount Subject to Cost Share Match	Reported Non-Federal Cost Share Match	Percent Cost Share Met
FY01	$ 2,678,000.00	$ 588,965.02	22.0%
FY02	$ 6,968,271.00	$ 676,315.23	9.7%
FY03	$ 5,225,320.00	$ 2,119,560.27	40.6%
FY04	$ 3,964,984.00	$ 1,112,419.25	28.1%
FY05	$ 3,745,801.00	$ 1,361,120.11	36.3%
FY06	$ 7,064,120.00	$ 1,662,484.28	23.5%
FY07	$ 8,458,606.00	$ 2,359,140.22	27.9%
FY08	$ 8,109,366.00	$ 2,577,828.38	31.8%
FY09	$ 4,887,308.00	$ 1,578,545.77	32.3%
FY10	$ 4,008,423.00	$ 1,816,138.34	45.3%
FY11	$ 2,982,736.00	$ 1,248,427.27	41.9%
FY12	$ 1,457,225.00	$ 969,025.27	66.5%
FY13	$ 380,000.00	$ 1,135,223.41	298.7%
FY14	$ 1,178,000.00	$ 983,221.01	83.5%
FY15	$ 1,000,000.00	$ 1,009,649.00	101.0%
FY16	$ 3,304,197.00	$ 1,561,930.70	47.3%
FY17	$ 3,326,138.00	$ 2,271,462.57	68.3%
FY18	$ 3,355,654.00	$ 2,597,829.24	77.4%
FY19	$ 3,433,162.00	$ 2,565,081.08	74.7%
Total	**$ 75,527,311.00**	**$ 30,194,366.42**	**40.0%**

II. ALL SIGNATORY COST SHARE

FY19 combined federal and non-federal signatory MRGESCP cost share was approximately $8,758,508.00 (*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding not subject to non-federal match; *USACE amounts reflect the appropriation for the referenced fiscal year).

Table 2. Total Annual Contribution to MRGESCP Activities

Contributing Signatories	FY17 Annual Total	FY17 Percent Contribution	FY18 Annual Total	FY18 Percent Contribution	FY19 Annual Total	FY19 Percent Contribution
Non-Federal Signatory's	$2,271,463	~29%	$2,597,829	~31%	$2,565,081	~31%
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	$3,326,138	~42%	$3,355,654	~40%	$3,433,162	~44%
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	$2,367,000	~30%	$2,515,000	~30%	$2,117,000	~25%
Total	$7,964,601		$8,468,483		$8,333,274	

III. BREAKDOWN OF BUDGETS BY CATEGORY

Program Support

- Staff time at meetings (EC, by-laws, FPC)
- Program & Science Support Contract (Program Support portion)
- Program Portal
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Program and Endangered Species Act Support

Science Support

- Staff time at meetings (ScW/HR, PMWG, AMWG)
- Program & Science Support Contract (Science Support portion)
- MRG and species-related studies and monitoring

Habitat

- Restoration projects
- Monitoring and studies

Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Propagation & Augmentation

- Facility operations and activities
- Augmentation activities
- Population monitoring and studies
- Genetic monitoring and studies
- Literature reviews

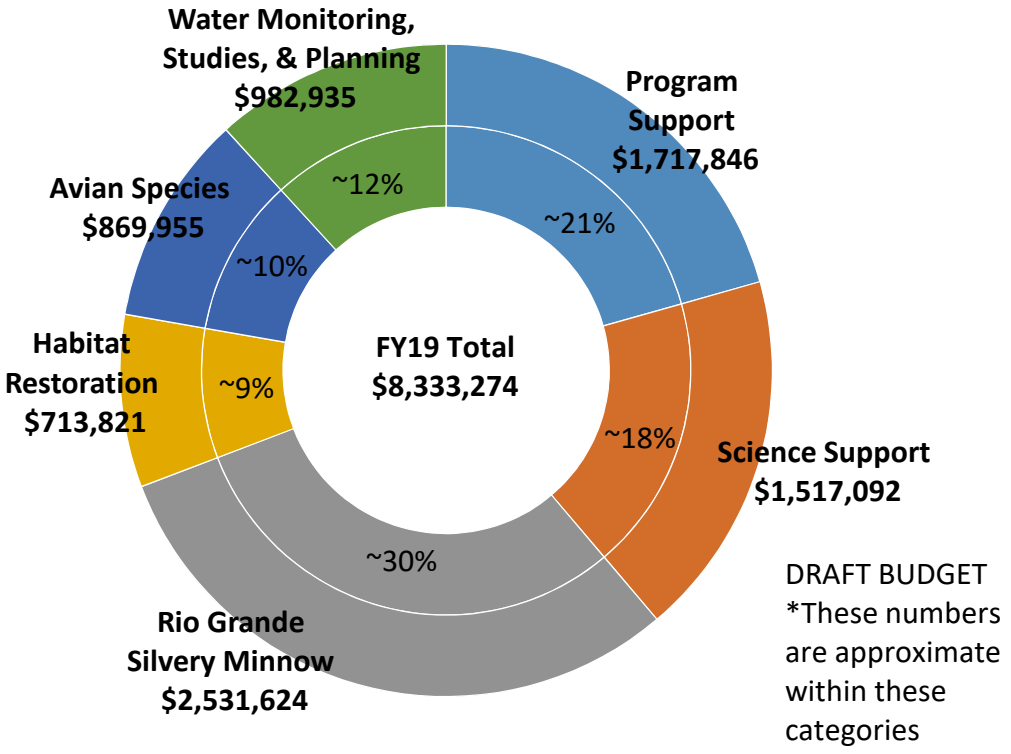
Avian Species

- Population monitoring and studies
- Genetic monitoring and studies

Water Studies, Planning & Operations

- Water leasing activities
- Water monitoring and studies

Figure 1. Breakdown of FY19 Spending by Category



DRAFT BUDGET
*These numbers are approximate within these categories

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

February XX, 2020

[NAME]
[TITLE]
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
[ADDRESS]
[ADDRESS]

Re: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Continued Planning and Administrative Assistance Funding for the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Dear [NAME]:

The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (Collaborative Program) is comprised of 16 federal, state, tribal, local, and non-profit signatory agencies and organizations working towards the recovery of the Middle Rio Grande's (MRG) five federally-listed species: the Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM), the southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL), the yellow-billed cuckoo (YBCU), the Pecos sunflower, and the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse (NMMJM). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been actively involved with the Collaborative Program since the beginning and participated in its pre-cursor, the Endangered Species Act Working Group, created in 2000. The USACE was one of the original signatories to the 2003 Memorandum of Understanding, which formally created the Collaborative Program. In 2008, USACE reaffirmed its commitment to the Collaborative Program by signing a new Memorandum of Agreement.

Since FY10, USACE has provided 30% to 50% of funding toward the Collaborative Program's priority activities each year. The Collaborative Program signatories recognize the crucial role USACE has played in supporting the recovery work for the listed species over the past two decades. We appreciate the agency's continued financial support by way of planning and administrative assistance under the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009 for Collaborative Program activities. The results of activities funded by USACE ensure the continued function of the Collaborative Program and development of science that supports better management and decision making related to the listed species and limited water resources within the MRG.

Between FY11 and FY18, USACE has contributed approximately $2,500,000 each year to the Collaborative Program's activities. However, in FY19 and FY20, congressional appropriations for USACE's Collaborative Program budget have decreased by over 47% from prior funding levels ($2,117,000 in FY19; $1,190,000 in FY20). On behalf of the Collaborative Program signatories, we are requesting the reinstatement of USACE's Collaborative Program budget of $2,500,000. These budget shortfalls adversely impact the abilities of the Collaborative Program signatories, partners, and other researchers working in the MRG to complete critical scientific analyses and long-term monitoring activities that benefit the MRG's listed species. Accomplishing the Collaborative Program's mission is contingent upon consistent funding and other resource contributions from all 16 signatories.

The reduced budget has resulted in loss of funding for several monitoring and surveying activities identified as priorities by the Collaborative Program in FY20. Researchers both within and outside of the Collaborative Program work on several ongoing and planned projects and studies that rely on the results of USACE-funded work. This work includes many long-term datasets. Gaps in these data can have significant negative impacts on analyses and the ability of agencies to make informed management decisions. The following is a list of some USACE-funded Collaborative Program priority activities that will not occur in FY20 as a result of budget cuts:

- Avian monitoring in the MRG
- Continuous water temperature monitoring of the MRG Basin
- Habitat restoration site surveying
- Los Lunas Habitat Restoration Project monitoring
- MRG groundwater monitoring
- Monitoring climate change in the MRG
- SWFL surveys on the Rio Grande in the Albuquerque metro area
- Tamarisk leaf beetle monitoring
- Water quality monitoring of aquatic refugia in the MRG

Since FY13, avian monitoring has provided baseline population data, population trends, and distribution of listed avian species in the MRG, which allows managers to make decisions that minimize negative impacts to the listed species and protect their populations. Since FY16, water quality monitoring has helped water managers determine how to support refugia for RGSM and the greater MRG fish community. Habitat restoration site surveying began in FY17 and support the development of general design guidelines and increased sustainability of restoration features for desirable RGSM habitat. Unfortunately, these and the other listed activities ceased in FY20, leaving gaps in data and information that are necessary for recovering the listed species. More information on each of the projects listed above and how they benefit the listed species can be found in the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report.

As a signatory of the Collaborative Program, USACE has made substantial contributions towards our mission. We thank you for your long-term support of the Collaborative Program over the past 20 years. As you work to finalize the FY21 and future Energy and Water Development Appropriations bills, the Collaborative Program urges you to commit at least $2,500,000 for the USACE-administered annual Collaborative Program budget. With reinstatement of this funding and continued collaboration amongst our signatories, the Collaborative Program will continue to work productively toward the benefit and recovery of the listed species in the MRG. We thank you for the many years of support and look forward to continuing our partnership.

Sincerely,

Debbie Lee
MRGESCP Program Manager

Project Description for
Soil Moisture Holding Capacity Study

I. Background

Native riparian vegetation thrives in conditions with moist soils, low salt content, shallow depths to groundwater, and opportunities for seasonal overbank flows. When these conditions are not met, less desirable, non-native vegetation may be established and potentially outcompete native vegetation. A better understanding of the bosque's soil moisture holding capacity would enable managers to take steps to increase the likelihood of native vegetation establishment and survival. A study of soil moisture holding capacity and topsoil health will provide valuable information to management, and especially restoration efforts, in the Middle Rio Grande bosque.

II. Objective

To design and implement a study to examine possible methods to increase soil moisture holding capacity with the end goal of increasing success of native vegetation establishment at habitat restoration sites. This could include evaluating soil improvements, microbial composition, and other potential amendments.

III. Conservation Benefit

The results of this study would inform future habitat restoration and increase the potential success of ecosystem restoration.

IV. Relationship to Panel Recommendations

This project idea is related to the following panel recommendations:

- Caplan (2018) SWFL critical uncertainty #1: What site selection and prioritization procedures contribute to the successful restoration of SWFL breeding habitats along the MRG?

V. Compliance Required?

If this study is carried out in the bosque, the researcher may need to secure Clean Water Act permits.

Project Description for
Evaluation of Yellow-billed Cuckoo Prey and Associated Host Plants

I. Background

Habitat restoration work for the southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL) and YBCU in the Middle Rio Grande (MRG) mainly focuses on planting vegetation related to the nesting site. The YBCU's food intake needs are great, as juveniles grow rapidly and fledge in seven days. Their main food source is large insects, such as caterpillars, dragonflies, and cicadas. To our knowledge, little work has been done to cross-reference the vegetation needs of the YBCU prey base with plants suitable for habitat restoration projects in the MRG. Having a reference of such plants would inform future restoration planning, and allow restoration managers to plan for the food base needed to support YBCU populations.

II. Objective

Complete a literature search and research project identifying the prey base of YBCU and the host plants needed to support those prey, and evaluating whether those plants are suitable for inclusion in habitat restoration projects in the MRG.

III. Conservation Benefit

The results of this research project would facilitate the inclusion of YBCU prey host plants, suitable for the MRG, in habitat restoration projects. This would improve the prey base for the YBCU and contribute to greater nest success, thus improving the value of the habitat restoration site.

IV. Relationship to Panel Recommendations

This project idea is related to the following panel recommendations:

- Caplan (2018) YBCU critical uncertainty #1: Which abiotic and biotic variables predict suitable YBCU habitats in the MRG across multiple spatial and temporal scales?

V. Compliance Required?

No permits would be required to carry out this project.

Project Description for
An Analysis of Overbank Flow and Its Relationship with Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWFL) and Yellow-billed Cuckoo (YBCU) Territory Selection

I. Background

Restoration projects have created native riparian habitat, yet few of these sites in the Middle Rio Grande (MRG) support breeding populations of SWFLs. The magnitude, frequency, and duration of flooding and overbank flow strongly influence the structure and function of riparian habitat and the invertebrate communities that provide abundant food resources for SWFL and YBCU. SWFLs, in particular, often place their nests in vegetation hanging over standing water. Although data on hydrological conditions along the MRG exist, no studies have analyzed response of riparian vegetation or SWFL and YBCU territory selection to quantitative data on river flow regimes within the MRG. Results of this study would inform adaptive water management to optimize the creation and maintenance of flycatcher and cuckoo habitat, and would help prioritize locations for habitat restoration with the highest probability of success.

II. Objective

The design and implementation of a research project exploring a potential correlation between overbanking and SWFL and YBCU territory selection. This would entail using existing data of overbank flows and SWFL and YBCU survey data to determine if there was an observed increase in territory selection in an overbanked area during the year of overbanking, and in successive years. This project would also include an analysis of vegetation types before and after flooding events, and whether the vegetation was more suitable for SWFL and YBCU habitat.

III. Conservation Benefit

The results of this project would help predict SWFL and YBCU territory selection, and could be used to inform future restoration projects site selection and development.

IV. Relationship to Panel Recommendations

This project idea is related to the following panel recommendations:

- Caplan (2018) SWFL critical uncertainty #1: What site selection and prioritization procedures contribute to the successful restoration of SWFL breeding habitats along the MRG?
- Caplan (2018) YBCU critical uncertainty #1: Which abiotic and biotic variables predict suitable YBCU habitats in the MRG across multiple spatial and temporal scales?

V. Compliance Required?

No permits would be required to carry out this project.

Project Description for
An Evaluation of Aerial Imagery and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWFL) and Yellow-billed Cuckoo (YBCU) Habitat

I. Background

Understanding the best locations to conduct habitat restoration for SWFL and YBCU in the Middle Rio Grande (MRG) would be a valuable approach to the management and conservation of these species. This could be accomplished by developing a GIS-based, habitat restoration suitability model for SWFL and YBCU. The foundation of this model would include using past survey and nest data of occupied SWFL and YBCU locations, and subsequently overlaying these layers with existing aerial imagery, vegetation maps, and habitat maps. This type of landscape-scale analysis would help determine the influence of patch size, edge effects, and adjacent land uses on SWFL and YBCU habitat uses. Habitat suitability model results would better inform habitat restoration site locations that provide the best opportunity for breeding activities.

II. Objective

An evaluation of aerial imagery of the MRG overlaid with occupied habitat for SWFL and YBCU in order to determine:

(1) any overlap in habitat characteristics for the two species, and
(2) any edge effects.

This would be include an analysis using existing aerial imagery, habitat maps, and vegetation maps. This project would not include collecting new data or imagery.

III. Conservation Benefit

The results of this project would inform habitat restoration efforts to maximize ability to attract both SWFL and YBCUs. It would also inform habitat restoration project siting based on adjacent and nearby land uses that would be beneficial to either or both species.

IV. Relationship to Panel Recommendations

This project description is related to the following panel recommendations:

- Caplan (2018) YBCU critical uncertainty #3: How similar are the YBCU and SWFL in their breeding habitat requirements in the MRG?
- Caplan (2018) YBCU critical uncertainty #1: Which abiotic and biotic variables predict suitable YBCU habitats in the MRG across multiple spatial and temporal scales?
- Caplan (2018) SWFL critical uncertainty #1: What site selection and prioritization procedures contribute to the successful restoration of SWFL breeding habitats along the MRG?

V. Compliance Required?

No permits would be required to carry out this study.