

Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC)
Status Update Memos to the Executive Committee (EC) on Ad Hoc
Groups and Science Efforts

Subject	SAMC Lead(s)	Associated Documents *
Status update memo to the EC on the Information & Data Quality Standards Ad Hoc Group	Ara Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Ad Hoc Group Charge • Revised Ad Hoc Group Charge • Project Summary Template • USGS Data Disclaimer
Status update memo to the EC on the RGSM Hypotheses Development Ad Hoc Group	Mick Porter, Alison Hutson, Ara Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Ad Hoc Group Charge • DRAFT Revised Ad Hoc Group Charge • DRAFT SAMC Memo to the EC on Floodplain Monitoring Data • PMWG Recommendations • Valdez 2021
Status update memo to the EC on the RGSM CEM/Genetics Ad Hoc Group	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad Hoc Group Charge • RGSM CEM • Transition Schematics
Status update memo to the EC on the Restoration Compendium Ad Hoc Group	Meaghan Conway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad Hoc Group Charge • DRAFT Restoration Compendium • DRAFT Compendium Organization PowerPoint
Status update memo to the EC on the SER Recovery Wheel Ad Hoc Group	Ondrea Hummel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad Hoc Group Charge
Status update memo to the EC on Vegetated Islands and Bank-Attached Bars	Ari Posner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRAFT Bibliography • SAMC Memo to the EC with Workshop Recommendations
Status update memo to the EC on Conceptual Ecological Models	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEMs for RGSM, YBCU, and SWFL • Species Conceptual Models for All Species • RGSM CEM/Genetics Ad Hoc Group Charge • Avian CEM Refinement Ad Hoc Group Charge

* Documents associated with these memos will be provided to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation by March 31, 2024.

[Link to full SAMC Status Update Memos List](#)

Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) Status Update Memos

See the following status update memo on the page below:

Status update memo to the EC on the Information & Data Quality Standards Ad Hoc Group



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

DATE: March 12, 2024

TO: The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP)
Executive Committee (EC)

FROM: The MRGESCP Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC)

RE: Information and Data Quality Standards Hybrid Ad Hoc Group Status Update

On August 26 and September 8, 2022, the SAMC and EC, respectively, tasked a Hybrid Ad Hoc Group with “*investigating the feasibility, utility, and necessity of applying Information Quality Act standards to the MRGESCP.*” On March 27, 2023, the Ad Hoc Group determined that developing these standards for the MRGESCP was not a feasible task since standards vary by organization and signatories must comply with their own agency standards or the standards of relevant funding agencies.

However, the Ad Hoc Group saw value in documenting data management practices for each project uploaded to the SAMIS to give users additional information about how data are collected, stored, and managed for individual projects. The charge was revised and approved on June 15, 2023 by the SAMC and June 29, 2023 by the EC. The revised charge is as follows:

The Information and Data Quality Standards Hybrid Ad Hoc Group will develop a form template that summarizes data QA/QC and management practices for each signatory project entered into the SAMIS, and will develop language for a data disclaimer for the Program Portal.

In the latter half of 2023 and early 2024, the Ad Hoc Group worked to address the revised charge, which included developing a form template. After discussion, the group also recommended that the USGS data disclaimer should be used on the Program Portal since this disclaimer already complies with existing federal and state guidelines. As of February 9, 2024, the Ad Hoc Group has completed the following tasks:

- Developed a form template that summarizes data QA/QC and management practices
- Recommended that the USGS data disclaimer should be adopted as the language on the Program Portal.

On March 12, 2024, SAMC members requested to review the templates developed by the Ad Hoc Group and to delineate more clearly how the QA/QC process will be put into practice.

All materials associated with this Ad Hoc Group will be provided to Reclamation by March 31, 2024.

[Link to full SAMC Status Update Memos List](#)

Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) Status Update Memos

See the following status update memo on the page below:

Status update memo to the EC on the RGSM Hypotheses Development Ad Hoc Group



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

DATE: March 12, 2024

TO: The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP)
Executive Committee (EC)

FROM: The MRGESCP Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC)

RE: RGSM Hypotheses Development Ad Hoc Group Status Update

This memo provides a status update on the RGSM Hypotheses Development S&T Ad Hoc Group.

The Ad Hoc Group was formed to address the following charge:

Review, translate and refine recommendations from the RGSM Population Monitoring Work Group (PMWG) status report (Valdez 2021) into specific questions with clear and testable hypotheses. If a hypothesis cannot be generated, provide an explanation and cite relevant literature.

Additional background and details are summarized in the attached charge document, which was approved by the SAMC on August 26, 2021, and approved by Ad Hoc Group members on August 16, 2022.

The Ad Hoc Group has not convened since November 28, 2022. On September 29, 2023, the Program Support Team met with Mick Porter, Alison Hutson, and Ara Winter to discuss next steps for the group. At that time, the charge was revised to list Mick Porter, Alison Hutson, and Ara Winter as SAMC leads for the Ad Hoc Group, as well as to adjust the order of tasks and deliverables. To date, the revised charge has not been reviewed or approved by the Ad Hoc Group members or by the SAMC.

On January 3, 2024, Mick Porter drafted a memo to be reviewed by Ad Hoc Group members and the SAMC to request additional information regarding floodplain monitoring data. On January 5, 2024, Ari Posner responded to the draft memo and noted the following with regards to the Population Monitoring Working Group's (PMWG) original recommendations:

“It would be prudent to review and consider these responses again as we help guide future efforts. I would propose that some of the recommendations are removed and/or reworded based on the feedback from the other PMWG members. The focus on those recommendations in which

there is higher level of agreement also helps constrain the scope of the effort.”

Further review of these items has not been completed by the Ad Hoc Group members or by the SAMC.

All materials associated with this Ad Hoc Group will be provided to Reclamation by March 31, 2024.

The SAMC recommends the following next steps for the Ad Hoc Group:

- Coordinate Ad Hoc Group and SAMC review of the draft revised charge
- Coordinate Ad Hoc Group and SAMC review of the draft memo requesting floodplain monitoring data

[Link to full SAMC Status Update Memos List](#)

Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) Status Update Memos

See the following status update memo on the page below:

Status update memo to the EC on the RGSM CEM/Genetics Ad Hoc Group



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

DATE: March 12, 2024

TO: The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP)
Executive Committee (EC)

FROM: The MRGESCP Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC)

RE: RGSM CEM/Genetics Ad Hoc Group Status Update

This memo provides a status update on the RGSM CEM/Genetics S&T Ad Hoc Group.

The Ad Hoc Group was formed to address the following charge:

Identify a series of genetics-related components that inform, and are informed by, the life history characteristics of the Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM), propagation and augmentation of the species, and environmental influences in the Middle Rio Grande (MRG). Incorporate these components into the conceptual ecological model (CEM) for the RGSM, found in Appendix B of the MRGESCP 2020 Science and Adaptive Management Plan (WEST 2020).

Additional background and details are summarized in the attached charge document, which was approved by the SAMC on April 22, 2021.

The group's efforts led to the creation of a draft RGSM CEM with genetics components added (to be provided to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation [Reclamation]).

In July 2022, the PST created the following list of remaining tasks for the Ad Hoc Group:

- Update original transition schematics to reflect new components
- Incorporate all relationships from transition schematics into RGSM_CEM_relationships table in spreadsheet
- Clean up relationship rows from original CEM (update to reflect new version)
- Finalize relationships and flag any questionable items
- Clean up tables B2 (categories) and B3 (components)
- Link relationships to main schematic (one-to-one correspondence)

- OPTIONAL: Modularize main schematic (clickable component categories expand to show relationship arrows) in PowerPoint
- Characterize uncertainties (importance, understanding, management)
- Summarize new CEM in report to SAMC and work on messaging to MRGESCP
- Review summary report and generate questions/considerations for peer review group

None of these tasks have progressed or been completed since July 2022.

All materials associated with this Ad Hoc Group will be provided to Reclamation by March 31, 2024.

The SAMC recommends the following next steps for the Ad Hoc Group:

- Identify a SAMC co-lead to support the group along with Alison Hutson

[Link to full SAMC Status Update Memos List](#)

Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) Status Update Memos

See the following status update memo on the page below:

Status update memo to the EC on the Restoration Compendium Ad Hoc Group



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

DATE: March 12, 2024

TO: The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP)
Executive Committee (EC)

FROM: The MRGESCP Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC)

RE: Restoration Compendium Ad Hoc Group Status Update

This memo provides a status update on the Restoration Compendium S&T Ad Hoc Group.

The Ad Hoc Group was formed to address the following charge:

Create a compendium of habitat/ecosystem restoration projects and resources within the Middle Rio Grande (MRG) Basin. The compendium should include project metadata (e.g., project location, lead agency, date range), as well as objectives, target species, and links to monitoring plans, adaptive management plans, and reports associated with each project, when available. In addition, the compendium should also contain a list of resources that can inform restoration planning, adaptive management, and monitoring in the MRG.

Additional background and details are summarized in the attached charge document, which was approved on August 21, 2023. The Program Support Team developed an initial draft version of the Compendium for the Ad Hoc Group to review and build from.

On August 31, 2023, a call went out for volunteers for the Ad Hoc Group. The following individuals have volunteered as group members or reviewers:

- Meaghan Conway, USFWS (SAMC Lead)
- Ondrea Hummel, Tetra Tech
- Ashlee Rudolph, Reclamation
- Betsy Bainbridge, USFWS
- Dana Price, USACE
- Hira Walker, USACE (Reviewer)

This group has yet to convene.

All materials associated with this Ad Hoc Group will be provided to Reclamation by March 31, 2024.

The SAMC recommends the following next steps for the Ad Hoc Group:

- SAMC lead should confirm that listed volunteers are still able to participate
- Convene the Ad Hoc Group

[Link to full SAMC Status Update Memos List](#)

Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) Status Update Memos

See the following status update memo on the page below:

Status update memo to the EC on the SER Recovery Wheel Ad Hoc Group



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

DATE: March 12, 2024

TO: The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP)
Executive Committee (EC)

FROM: The MRGESCP Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC)

RE: SER Recovery Wheel Ad Hoc Group Status Update

This memo provides a status update on the SER Recovery Wheel S&T Ad Hoc Group.

The Ad Hoc Group was formed to address the following charge:

Develop an ecosystem-level restoration assessment tool based on the Society for Ecological Restoration's (SER) Ecological Recovery Wheel, which visually represents recovery of a target ecosystem compared to a selected reference ecosystem using a 5-star rating scale across a set of attributes. The Recovery Wheel should be customized to the Middle Rio Grande (MRG) river-floodplain ecosystem. The process used to develop this tool should be fully documented to facilitate use and future updates to the wheel.

Additional background and details are summarized in the attached charge document, which was approved on August 21, 2023. Ondrea Hummel is the SAMC lead for this group.

On August 31, 2023, a call went out for volunteers for the Ad Hoc Group. The following individuals have volunteered as group members or reviewers:

- Ondrea Hummel, Tetra Tech (SAMC Lead)
- Meaghan Conway, USFWS
- Cetan Christensen, ABCWUA
- Chris Lippitt, UNM
- Jack Marchetti, NMDGF
- Stephanie Jentsch, USACE
- Jenny Davis, USFWS
- Shannon Weld, NM ISC

- Hira Walker, USACE (Reviewer)

This group has yet to convene.

All materials associated with this Ad Hoc Group will be provided to Reclamation by March 31, 2024.

The SAMC recommends the following next steps for the Ad Hoc Group:

- SAMC lead should confirm that listed volunteers are still able to participate
- Convene the Ad Hoc Group

[Link to full SAMC Status Update Memos List](#)

Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) Status Update Memos

See the following status update memo on the page below:

Status update memo to the EC on Vegetated Islands and Bank-Attached Bars



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

DATE: March 12, 2024

TO: The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP)
Executive Committee (EC)

FROM: The MRGESCP Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC)

RE: Vegetated Islands and Bank-Attached Bars Status Memo

This memo provides a status update on SAMC efforts related to vegetated islands and bank-attached bars.

On October 4-5, 2022, the MRGESCP held a workshop focused on management of vegetated island and bank-attached bars in the MRG with the goal: “*Identify planning and research needs for managing vegetated islands and bank-attached bars.*” On March 30, 2023, the SAMC recommended the four following tasks as next steps following the 2022 workshop:

- *Develop common definitions for relevant technical terms relating to vegetated islands and bars*
- *Identify currently available, relevant data sets and data gaps*
- *Summarize in a report the research, planning and management efforts and needs regarding management of vegetated islands and bank-attached bars.*
- *Develop a conceptual model representing the ecosystem functions and physical river conditions of interest and develop management goals around these (e.g., ideal conceptual river cross sections and profiles, functional wetlands).*

In mid-2023, the Program Support Team worked with Ari Posner and Dave Moore to develop a draft glossary of terms relevant to vegetated islands and bank-attached bars. After further discussion, it was determined that the best way to finalize this glossary and address the other three recommendations would be to create an S&T Ad Hoc Group. Ari Posner is currently developing a draft charge for the proposed Ad Hoc Group.

All materials associated with this effort will be provided to Reclamation by March 31, 2024.

The SAMC recommends the following next steps in support of efforts related to vegetated islands and bank-attached bars:

- Develop an Ad Hoc Group to finalize the vegetated islands and bank-attached bars bibliography and address the remaining deliverables from the 2022 workshop

[Link to full SAMC Status Update Memos List](#)

Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC) Status Update Memos

See the following status update memo on the page below:

Status update memo to the EC on Conceptual Ecological Models



Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

Est. 2000

DATE: March 12, 2024

TO: The Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP)
Executive Committee (EC)

FROM: The MRGESCP Science and Adaptive Management Committee (SAMC)

RE: Conceptual Ecological Models Status Update

This memo provides a status update on efforts related to Conceptual Ecological Models (CEMs) for Pecos sunflower (PESU), New Mexico meadow jumping mouse (NMMJM), yellow-billed cuckoo (YBCU), southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWFL), and Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM).

The RGSM CEM was first finalized and added to the MRGESCP Science and Adaptive Management Plan in 2020 and last updated in July 2022 as part of the RGSM CEM/Genetics Ad Hoc Group tasks (see RGSM CEM/Genetics Ad Hoc Group Status Update Memo for further details). The group's remaining tasks must be completed before the revised RGSM CEM is approved by the SAMC.

The SWFL and YBCU CEMs were developed in tandem by the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo Conceptual Ecological Model Refinement Ad Hoc Group and finalized and added to the MRGESCP Science and Adaptive Management Plan in 2020. Reformatted versions of the CEMs were developed for the SAMIS in May 2022 but have yet to be incorporated.

To date, no CEMs have been developed for PESU or NMMJM.

In mid-2023, the Program Support Team (WEST, Inc.) developed life history conceptual models for all five species in preparation for the 2023 Climate Futures Planning Workshop, which has since been canceled. These conceptual models differ in that they focus on major relationships between abiotic and biotic variables and species life history traits and are less detailed than a traditional CEM. The intent of these models was to provide a snapshot of each species that would be useful for discussions about managing species and ecosystems for a changing climate. The SAMC has not reviewed these models.

All materials associated with these conceptual models will be provided to Reclamation by March 31, 2024.