

Notes from the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center Meeting of  
June 19, 1996  
Phoenix Arizona

Attendance

Robert Forest	ECA	Dave Garrett	MRC
Ted Melis	USGS	Larry Riley	AGF
Bill Persons	AGF	Jan Balsam	NPS
Mark Anderson	USGS	<del>Bob</del> Bill Winfree	NPS
Alan Downer	Navajo Nation	David Haskell	NPS
Don Metz	FWS	Norm Henderson	NPS
Owen Gorman	FWS	Tony Morton	WAPA
Steven Lloyd	USBR	Kurt Dongoski	Hopi Tribe
Dave Wegner	USBR		

Meeting Notes

Dave announced that he would be using Reclamation's UC Regional Office for his contracting.

Adaptive Management Work Group Charter

The Adaptive Management Work Group was discussed. Discussed the status of the Charter, that we were trying to send it back to Washington as quickly as possible. We desire to get the process started because of the amount of time it would take to establish the committee. The process of selecting members and establishing operating rules would also take additional time. I thanked everyone for their comments on the charter and told them that with few exceptions most of the comments were incorporated. Larry Riley asked about the general nature of the comments and I gave a brief synopsis of the types of changes made. Dave Garrett brought up the downstream issue because it has direct bearing on development of the long-term monitoring plan. I told everyone about the National Park Service's desire to include upstream issues into the Adaptive Management Program and that Reclamation felt the intent of the GCPA was focused on downstream issues. I said that NPS and Reclamation would have further discussions to resolve the issue. None of the other individuals said anything or gave an opinion.

Historic Preservation Plan

The status of the Historic Preservation Plan was discussed. Norm Henderson said that the current plan was incomplete because it didn't address upstream issues. Jan said that the current plan addressed the issues in the EIS. As other issues come up they will need to be addressed at that time.

### Priorities of the Long-term Monitoring Plan

The Biological Opinion and the Programmatic Agreement have top priority. Should the priorities of the AMWG or the GCMRC exclude required work under either of these programs, Reclamation would withhold sufficient funding from the GCMRC program to perform this work which is required by law.

The management objectives will need to be prioritized. The TWG will determine the priorities now and the AMWG will do it after the federal advisory committee has been established. The Secretary will have final approval.

### Technical Work Group

What is the process for establishing this group? (Reclamation should begin work on determining the process.)

### Competition in Contracting Monitoring and Research Work

Dave Garrett has not received the solicitors opinion on whether the federal government could compete with private firms. Dave Wegner said his communication with Bob Moeller had revealed competition would be possible. He had copies of various FAR clauses and read them to the group. Inherent government actions or science could be withheld from private competition. There was a considerable discussion on concerns over competitive bidding on all work. Mark Anderson expressed concern over work which they have inherently performed historically and private industry has not.

### Transfer of interim monitoring from GCES to MRC

Dave Wegner and Dave Garrett are working on a transition document to transfer the interim monitoring programs to MRC supervision. Every effort is being made to insure a smooth transition with no disruptions in the contracting process.

### Long-term Monitoring Plan (Research Program)

Dave Garrett has prepared a document which suggests possible research associated with the management objectives. He was questioned with respect to the terminology of research needs and he changed it in the latest document to information needs.

1. Fish and Aquatic Resources. Bill persons said they have a method to determine the health of fish. They don't have a permit this year to take fish so they can't test it yet. Since the humpback chub is an endangered species they are looking at the possibility of using a surrogate species. They also are trying to develop a method of determining the health of the population, this would help to determine problems sooner. Owen Gorman said the he would like to see population levels return to, not 1987 levels but, to pre 1963 or 1967 levels. He also noted that there are no records of what those numbers were. Bill Persons asked what the study area



restrictions will be. He would like to study the LCR five miles above the confluence. The EIS limited studies to the lower 1800 meter of the LCR. Larry Riley said that the Chub population appears to be on a slow steady decline. Reclamation has the responsibility to help recovery and avoid jeopardizing the viability of the population.

There was a recommendation to add to Garrett's condensed management objectives, "define impacts due to operation of the dam", throughout the document.

Larry said it is difficult to determine the causes and effects of a long-term, long-lived resource. Owen Gorman would like to look at genetics of native fishes in determining health.

2. Native fishes. add "and the mainstem to primary"

Larry and Dave Haskell stated that we should be monitoring the response of the chub population as a result of the preferred alternative.

It was commented that the information needs should be rewritten to reflect monitoring versus research studies. Studies would indicate we were looking for a new alternative when we haven't even tried the preferred alternative in the EIS. Don Metz said we should always be looking for new ways to improve conditions.

Larry said he couldn't determine a viable population existed in the LCR. A self-sustaining population would be more correct. The question was asked if there was already a second population of chub in the system. They have looked for a second population without success but, could not say for sure that one does not exist.

Dave Garrett changed the upcoming meeting schedules to include a second meeting on July 16 to finish up discussions on the management objectives. He will send an updated copy for our review.

Dave will also be organizing a group of scientists to help develop the LTP. Duncan Patton will be meeting with them.

Ted Melis recommended that someone knowledgeable about Adaptive Management come and talk to the MRC subgroup and to the TWG. Dave Garrett recommended Peter McLay, Buzz Hallings, or Carl Walters.

End of Meeting.