

SPECIES OF MANAGEMENT CONCERN AD HOC COMMITTEE
DRAFT MEETING NOTES:
3 APRIL 2015 CALL

SMCAHG Notes (Larry Stevens, Chair – please direct edits to him)

Larry Stevens (GCWC, SMCAHG Chair) provided lists of native SMC reviewed from 2011, and lists of non-native plants, invertebrates and vertebrates in the CRE. In addition, he provided an overview of NPS-GCWC collaboration on riparian rehabilitation efforts at Hidden Slough (RM -6.5R) and Leopard Frog Marsh Springs (RM -9L).

At Hidden Slough, 7 ac of dense tamarisk was replaced by native Goodding's willow, Fremont cottonwood, and native shrubs, forbs, and grasses. At -9L Springs, three 5 m x 10 m, open ponds have been excavated to a depth of $\frac{3}{4}$ m. These ponds are being monitored for two years, prior to agency decision to proceed further with the project. Water quality in the first pond has been monitored for nearly a year, and temperature analyses indicate that the pond appears to be suitable habitat for northern leopard frog.

A large adult tiger salamander (*Ambystoma mavortium*) was recently detected at -9L Springs (Leopard Frog Marsh). The nativity of that individual has not been determined. Although opinion in the SMCAHG is divided, some recommend that the responsible agencies discuss how to resolve that question. If it is non-native, likely it can be removed to an appropriate holding facility or zoo. If it is native, that individual would be a conspicuous addition to the faunal assemblage of the CRE, and likely would fall under agency and Tribal jurisdictions.

Niobrara (Kanab) ambersnail –some committee members felt that no further action is needed on this still-endangered species, while others felt that a final compilation for delisting should be conducted, when time and funding allows. However, FWS and AGFD are presently overburdened with multiple listings.

Eagles were discussed in relation to the 1940 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act – no recent information is available on eagle presence or use of the river corridor. To provide such information, the NPS mentioned that it can request reporting from hawk migration monitoring efforts specifically about eagles, and/or a citizen science program could be implemented to provide information on eagle distribution along the river. Such efforts could be undertaken at little cost, as the NPS and AMP cannot fund additional monitoring projects; however, compilation of such data would require staff time.

Phragmites australis is rapidly colonizing the river corridor in wide reaches. This ethnobotanically important species may affect sand deposition on the sandbars at which it occurs. Additionally, non-native European *Phragmites* is actively invading in Utah and may arrive in CRE soon, if it is not already there. It may be more invasive than its native counterpart.

Considerable discussion ensued about the purpose and role of the SMCAHG. The original charter for the ad hoc committee was a motion from TWG to form the Species of Management Concern Ad Hoc on 24 Oct 2012:

TWG recommends that AMWG establish a Species of Management Concern Ad Hoc Committee to integrate and regularly present information on native and non-native species that influence CRE structure, function, and management decision-making.

The committee included consideration of non-native species late in 2014. The present effort is to develop a prioritized list of SMC and to provide AMP with information and recommendations about management of those species. Several members expressed concern that the scope of committee was

too large or not productive for advising AMP and the Secretary about dam management, and additional discussion about the scope of the committee is anticipated. As Chair, Larry Stevens feels that the purpose of this committee is open discussion about SMC, and sharing and vetting information that may affect the AMP and its advisory role to the Secretary.

Much discussion occurred over coordination on handling of non-native species during monitoring. Specifically, – brown trout are being captured and released in the Glen Canyon Reach, and some of those marked fish have been recontacted downstream at Phantom Ranch. Brown trout are a known threat to native fish, and simply monitoring and releasing them did not, in the eyes of several committee members, meet their expectations for preventing these piscivores from expanding in the CRE. Others felt that such discussion is the purview of the managing agencies, which incorporate Tribal concerns over unnecessary take. More discussion is likely on this topic.

For the next SMC call, TWG Chair Kartha requested that each of the major participating agencies (NPS, FWS, GCMRC, AGFD) provide a 5 minute overview of which species are being monitored, how and at what schedule.

Dr. Stevens also requested that ad hoc members review the lists of native and non-native SMC he provided, and be prepared to either refine the existing prioritization process, or develop a new process, for ranking those species the committee feels warrant management consideration. The next call will be held in May 2015, likely during the middle of that month.