

Socioeconomics Ad Hoc Group Meeting
November 13, 2014, 2-3:00 (PST), 3-4:00 (MST)
Phone #: [877-932-7704](tel:877-932-7704)
Passcode: 8410783

Attendees:

Leslie James SEAHG Chair
BOR – Glen Knowles, Marianne Crawford, Todd Gaston
Argonne – Kirk LaGory, Les Poch, Tom Veselka, Tim Allison
NPS – Martha Hahn, Jan Balsom, Lynne Koontz, Bruce Peacock
TWG – Ted Kowalski, Cliff Barrett, Don Ostler, Jerry Myers, Vineetha Kartha, Jason Thiriot
WAPA – Clayton Palmer
SRP – Jenika Raub
GCMRC – Lucas Bair, Helen Fairley

SEAHG Review & Recap

Chair James provided a short history of SEAHG activities from 2007 onwards, culminating in the February 2012 recommendations approved by AMWG. This recommendation included Table 1 that recommended 4-5 years of proposed projects for AMP and Table 2 that outlines by year and activity. August 2012 – LTEMP co-leads responded to recommendations approved at the Feb 2012 AMWG meeting. To the extent this cumulative body of work is recognized and used, the group was asked to identify any gaps in the SEAHG recommendations to AMWG.

Lucas mentioned that he could not find any significant gaps when it came to resource categories, and most are covered via NPS, GCMRC or Argonne in most cases.

The group agreed however that there is a need to update the table to understand what the current activities and status are in relation to Table 1 &2. The group identified a need to tag action items and add another column to the tables identifying current status and responsible party.

Action Item – Lucas will coordinate with other relevant agencies and update the table.

LTEMP economic activities

Glen Knowles provided an update of the LTEMP economic activities. There are four aspects of economic analysis that are being carried out through LTEMP EIS – including a regional economic impact analysis (Argonne), an economic analysis that looks at the net value of recreation (Dave Harpman, BOR), an economic analysis of hydropower which includes capacity and ratepayer analysis (Les Poch, Argonne), and a non-use (or passive use) value survey (Bruce Peacock, NPS).

Only one project, the non-use value survey, will not be available to be included in the EIS.

WAPA mentioned that they were working on a non-market economic study related to water and hydropower under sponsorship from CREDA and UCRC. Study includes a preliminary analysis of people's perspectives on hydropower. This study has been peer reviewed and is expected to be included in the LTEMP EIS.

GCMRC socioeconomic activities

Lucas gave a brief overview of Project 13, socioeconomics program, now indoctrinated into the TWP. There are three aspects, recreation, tribal and decision analysis. The recreation aspect includes update on research concerning economic values, activities in the Grand Canyon (angling in Glen and rafting in Grand Canyons). Surveys primarily target folks engaged in such activities to ask for preferences for certain attributes, and how much they value resource conditions, flow conditions etc.

Lucas also provided a brief overview of OMB procedures with regard to the recreation survey (GCMRC). He has seen only one comment through the FR notice procedure. Participants mentioned that it would be helpful to know what the responses were to comment letters on the first step before moving on to the next step.

Bruce Peacock gave a brief update on the status of the Total Colorado River value survey, stating that the pilot survey has been approved. He did not know whether the survey is actually out for response.

Participants expressed a concern regarding the lack of integration with SEAHC on both the total value survey and the recreation surveys. In response to Bruce's comment on that coordination might be difficult, considering there are OMB requirements they have to honor, participants asked NPS to provide information on the requirements where the flexibility may be.

Action Items –

- Lucas will coordinate with NPS to find if there were any other comments that were received on the recreation survey proposal to OMB.
- Jan Balsom will circle back with Bruce regarding more information on total value survey and any flexibility available to them, re:coordination with SEAHC
- Ted and Leslie will send their previously filed comments to the group (done)

Next Steps:

Lucas to send a draft of the updated Table 1&2 by December 1st

Webinar the week of December 15th (Dec 17th & 18th are not good for Ted & Don, 16th not good for Jan) to discuss the updated table.