

# MEETING SUMMARY

## **SMP Work Group Meeting**

August 27, 2024

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: Conference Room A, Bureau of Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office and remote meeting via Microsoft Teams

**Attendees:** Jenny Ward (Reclamation), Mark Wernke (Reclamation), Frederick Busch (Reclamation), Christina Wyatt (Reclamation), Cory Williams (USGS), Joel Homan (USGS), Christina Briseno (USGS), John (Ryan) Banta (USGS), Natalie Day (USGS), Charles Wahl (USGS), Ken Leib (USGS), Creed Clayton (FWS), Kurt Broderdorp (FWS), Kevin Hyatt (BLM), Jed Sondergard (BLM), Nora Flynn (CWCB), Kenan Diker (CDPHE), Raquel Flinker (CRWCD), Allen Distel (BPWCD), Paul Kehmeier (DCD)

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## **Introductions and Discussion of Agenda**

The agenda was accepted, and introductions were completed.

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## **Species Conservation Trust Fund Update**

Nora Flynn met with Megan Patterson this morning and they have a draft contract for a \$620,000 grant coming out of the SCTF put together. They plan to complete this contracting effort within the next couple of weeks so funding is available in early September.

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## **Task 1 and Task 2 Update**

Task 1 includes publishing a data release of existing selenium and mercury data that was collected. The USGS indicated this data release would be completed by April 1, 2025.

Fish sampling on the Gunnison River will begin in April 2025. This sampling effort will help inform the development of a selenium monitoring plan which specifically focuses on the biology aspect of selenium in the Gunnison River. The USGS performed a pilot sampling effort in August to make sure their proposed methods work and to learn if anything needed to be tweaked.

Task 3 will be to implement the monitoring plan. This work is scheduled to begin in Spring 2025.

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## **Updated Science Plan Update**

The Updated Science Plan has finished going through the editing process and the circular is in the final approval stages. The USGS expects the Updated Science Plan to be out in December 2024.

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## **Deep Dive Presentation and Well Monitoring Network**

The USGS presented a PowerPoint presentation on Groundwater Levels in the Lower Gunnison Well Network, conducted a “deep dive” presentation on the SMP Workgroup’s questions regarding selenium and mercury, and presented a preliminary SMP Annual Summary Data Release for Water Year 2023. The Lower Gunnison Well Network and the “deep dive” presentations are available upon request. Once the SMP Annual Summary Data Release for Water Year 2023 is finalized, it will be provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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## **Other Topics**

Allen Distal asked if the USGS is still doing salinity samples on Cimarron Creek. The USGS indicated they did sampling in the area and the area appears to be high in salinity. The USGS needs to give this information to the Salinity Control Forum. The USGS is no longer collecting samples.

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## **Schedule for next SMP Meeting**

The SMP Science Team will meet in October, so it is planned to have the next SMP Workgroup meeting in November. Jenny will send out a Doodle Poll to get these meetings scheduled.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- The Science Team will discuss the information that was presented during the “deep dive” presentation and see if there are any relevant analyses the SMP wants to pursue.
- The Science Team will discuss the Selenium trend at Whitewater a bit more in depth than what was discussed during this meeting.