

100th Meridian-Columbia Basin Team
Doubletree Hotel Parkcenter
December 2-3, 2003
Boise, Idaho

Attendees: Jim Athearn (USACE), Tim Darland (USACE), Paul Heimowitz (USFWS), Jim Irish (BPA), Fred Partridge (IDFG), Stephen Phillips (PSMFC), Tina Proctor (USFWS), Kathy Shimojima (PSMFC), Chris Starr (USFWS), Michael Stephenson (IPC), Mark Sytsma (PSU-CLR), John Wachsmuth (MFWP), Will Whelan (TNC), Erin Williams (USFWS), Patti Williams (USACE), Bill Zook (PSMFC), Will Whelan (IDNC).

Via Conference Call: Kevin Aitkin (USFWS), Randy Henry (OMB), Pam Meacham (WDFW), Blaine Parker (CRITFC), Scott Smith (WDFW)

INTRODUCTION

The meeting began with an introduction by Jim Athearn and his thanks to Fred Partridge from IDFG for making the arrangements for this first meeting of the 100th Meridian Columbia Basin Team. All of the participants in attendance, either in person or via conference call, made their introductions as well.

OVERVIEW

Bill Zook voiced that the goal of this meeting was to instill a working and advisory team, emulating the team that exists for the Colorado Basin.

Stephen Phillips gave a short talk on how Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission became involved in ANS issues in 1999 and continues produce work and research very much like what is done in the Missouri Basin.

Bill then moved to the agenda and made a substitution. Bob Pitman from the USFWS was unable to join and give a presentation so Scott Smith from WDFW would step in to give a presentation on the spread of ZM from the El Dorado Reservoir in Kansas to the Columbia Basin

Tina Proctor discussed events that were going on in relation to the 100th Meridian Initiative and the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. She gave a brief overview stressing that the 100th Meridian was not just about zebra mussels, but other ANS also. The initiative's role is to provide information and education for all. She also stressed that she has some booklets available.

She announced that there had been a new siting 45 minutes from Wichita in the El Dorado Reservoir. The rapid response team was dispatched to the area when the report came in. This location is one where a lot of boaters go to and come from, but fortunately it is not west of 100th Meridian.

Patti Williams handed out "Discovering the Legacy of Lewis and Clark" brochure that has a blurb about ANS. There are 15 major events that follow from Missouri to the Columbia and back from 2004-2006. Not to mention a lot of smaller events. A lot of people putting boats in for a short time, pulling out and then putting back in somewhere else. Because of this type of activity, the USACE is endorsing & supporting plan the Missouri River team put together in March.

Bill Zook went over the Mission of this newly formed Columbia River Team:

Decide what steps to take to reduce the risks of zebra mussels and other ANS being inadvertently introduced into the Columbia River Basin as a result of boating activity, particularly from the high out-of-state boater use expected during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

REDUCING THE SPREAD OF ZEBRA MUSSELS

Presentation by Scott Smith

The Washington State Legislature required Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington State Patrol to produce a report on how they can prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other AIS into Washington from recreational boating? After presenting a few slides that addressed how many bodies of water can be directly affected by the El Dorado Reservoir siting he went over how aquatic invasive species are introduced into new bodies of water and what steps can be taken to stop them.

The state of Washington knows that it is at an increasing level of risk from a ZM introduction and that they will not be able to stop it by themselves. WDFW and WSP needs to add personnel in order to check boats at port of entry weigh stations, in areas of high watercraft activity, and to implement a boaters education program dedicated to how AIS are spread. The state of Minnesota was able to reduce the spread of milfoil and zebra mussels by implementing such an education and outreach program. This is also something that could and should be done regionally. Doug Jenson of MN Sea Grant is a good contact on this.

John Wachsmuth said that Maine has good educational materials as well.

Mark Sytsma announced that there is a workshop scheduled in Portland in April or May.

Missouri Basin Overview Presentation by Bill Zook—Program based on Repetitive Message in about the Importance of Boat Inspection and Cleaning-- From Trip Planning to the Boat Launch. This is a six-step plan for getting the message out to recreational boaters at as many points of contact as possible.

The first stage is an exclusion strategy where the first step is in the trip-planning process by using national and regional publicity as conduits. Then increase awareness by utilizing TIS Stations on likely tourist routes along the Lewis and Clark trail. The next points of contact will be the marina concessionaires as travelers buy supplies. The Missouri River Water Partnership is in place to dispense the educational materials provided to them. The final stage is to have information at the boat ramp and every access area.

We need an emergency (rapid) response plan. Group agreed on this need.

Patti asked how the response plan dealt with the El Dorado instance. Tina responded that with the ZM Task force in place, they were able to start doing tasks right away. Her region received money from NOAA Fisheries to develop a rapid response plan for ZM in the West in 2004.

Jim Irish asked if we were able to respond to a Zebra Mussel siting faster than what was experienced in Kansas since the ZM there had been present for a year or two. Tina responded that the plan went into effect as soon as the siting was reported. Monitoring is the key to successful response plans. Jim Athearn also mentioned that typically there is a delay in finding ANS in an area the first time.

Bill's desire is to develop a rapid response plan for the Columbia River basin before an introduction is made. Mark suggested that the California caulerpa model might be a more successful model to use than the Missouri plan.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Over the next couple of years

Paul said that he has 3 sources for dedicated funds, within USFWS

- 365K nationwide for 100th Meridian
- \$30K in Region 1 for ZM Monitoring Network
- \$30k for ZM Rapid Response Plan
- \$20K California boater surveys

OR, MT, and WA have been receiving funding from USFWS (Task Force) for ANS Programs, but state amount shrinking because of more approved plans. For FY04-05 \$1 million was added to those projects with some of the money going to ANS plans.

Erin and Tina have several coastal programs that they will be continuing in FY 04

- Puget Sound Program (Covers broader range ANS)
- Oregon Coast Program
- Some others in SF Bay (Spartina) & San Diego

Bill asked if they would be able to use National Boat Tax revenues for ANS programs.

Stephen gave an overview of PSMFC activities and funding:

- USFWS and BPA funding is being used for a ZM substrate program that Mark supervises at PSU, administration of an 800 number for the Crime Witness Program (this number can be called to report a sighting of zebra mussels and a local ANS official can respond), ANS education and outreach at trade shows for recreational fishers. Possibility some of these funds will be lost due to the severe program cutbacks BPA is warning about.

PSMFC also received federal appropriations for Atlantic Salmon research in WA. Projects that will be funded with this money are:

- Mitten Crab research at PSU.
- FY-03 ID ANS work (IDFG, IDOA)
- Cooperative agreement to PSU and OSFW for ANS work
- Marine seaweed work in CA
- WDFW monitoring for Atlantic salmon
- Green crab monitoring – OR (OSU)

Any additional money PSMFC might receive from Congress will probably be used for ballast water issues since PSMFC already administers a ballast water contract.

PSMFC has also received \$117K from USFWS for Missouri Valley, Minnesota, and Columbia River Basin activities. Currently this amount is enough for one TIS and Bill Zook's time in FY04. Whatever extra money we can receive from Paul, Erin or Tina can be used for education, monitoring, etc. USFWS also funds Chinese mitten crab work.

Jim Irish reported that due to BPA's revenue shortfalls, fish and wildlife program budgets are going to experience cuts. Programs administered through the power side will collectively have to reduce spending by \$2M. Even though BPA will be taking a hard look at contracts larger than \$70K/yr for budget cuts, the Sr. Vice President has been very supportive of the ANS project thus far.

Stephen reminded the group that PSMFC is always looking for additional funds to support and enhance current projects and jumpstart new ones. Tina informed the group that there is money available for 100th meridian projects and activities.

The Lewis & Clark Bicentennial people should be included in discussions of project funding.

NATIONAL/REGIONAL OUTREACH STRATEGIES

Bill presented information on national and regional outreach strategies. The question is “How can we tap into the information resources to get people to be careful about transporting zebra mussels?”

The answer is by repeating the message to boaters at every contact point.

- Contact top Lewis & Clark websites and get link to our website or get them to place something about ZM on their site.
- Coordinating with “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” at every turn.
- Contact fishing groups and publications and get free advertising or articles and stories they can print.
- Contact State Tourism agencies (have some already w/ brochures etc), Boat Manufacturers & publications
- Get PSA’s recorded and broadly distributed (Clark & Lewis radio ads)
- News Media Stories

Currently 25% complete.

Jim Irish mentioned the need to get PSA’s on cable television.

DEBUT OF NEW PSA/TIS MESSAGES

Tom Donahue of Donahue Creative Services produced two: 60 second ads using the voices from the Horizon Air “Clark & Lewis” ads. He brought a CD containing both ads and pictures of the taping of the spots to unveil at the meeting. Both ads were well received and Mark asked about using “Clark & Lewis” for New Zealand mud snail messages. Stephen also said that he would like to use Tom more in the future.

TIS STATUS & SITE PLANNING

John led the group in a discussion about costs, siting criteria and effectiveness of Traveler Information Systems. Are TIS systems viable in the future? Currently TIS projects are either in the planning stages or in place in (SD, ND, IA, MO, and MN). If additional funding works out, John would help out with states that need it to get TIS systems in ID, WA, OR, MT.

Bill has a list of 12 sites that are either proposed or installed on the Missouri River. Installation will be done prior to 2004 boating season.

For future sites in Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Montana what natural spots along highways should the group be thinking about?

- Bonneville Dam? Tim Darland will check if already have one.
- Astoria—maybe partner with Oregon Marine Board and boat safety messages
- I-84/SR-14
- I-15
- Hwy 12
- I-90
- Helmut Bar on the Upper Snake

Erin brought up that sometimes cities will put up signs that don't have to be official DOT signs. Should the group be looking beyond the highway systems, and would placing the signs at boat ramps also be effective.

Walleye fishermen are going to be coming from certain lakes and reservoirs. There will be certain bodies of water that some people are going to go a lot further to fish. Currently there are approximately 500 active access points to the Missouri that have ANS signs.

The group needs to think of a 3 layer approach: TIS, marina, & boat ramp.

- Tim Darland will work with Bill Zook on I-84.
- Bill with Pam on US 2
- Fred will work on Hwy 12

Might have to get on a conference call to later prioritize sites for funding as it becomes available. Once the inventory of new sites has been used, then we need to identify the piggyback opportunities. The FWS is all about partnerships like setting up FWS displays that discuss ANS issues. These could include 'popup ads' at hotels and/or motels along the Lewis & Clark Route

The OMB has boat ramp use on the Columbia that could be helpful in determining the best sites for education and outreach. Randy Henry may be able to email Bill Zook the surveys

Adjourned for the day

Wednesday, December 3, 2003

MARINA/CONCESSION/PORTAGE OUTREACH PARTNERSHIPS

Bill Zook discussed the incentive program he worked on with marina operators on the Missouri River. This program included media packets to operators and concessionaires on the Missouri. He also targeted bait & tackle shops located near the marinas. He ended up pursuing several ideas the operators came up with for incentives.

- High quality Counter top or Wall Mounted display case and ANS brochures
- Plexiglas poster holder with ZM sample embedded in it.
- Power Wash Advertising Banner for existing onsite power wash equipment "ZM Power Wash available Here"
- Postage subsidies for routine mailings from the marina if they would include ZM brochure. (\$50 <200 mailings annually & \$100 > 200 mailings)
- River Watch plaque, thank you advertisement in local paper and cash award (\$100-\$500) for Three Year Partnership if they stayed with the program for the duration of the Lewis & Clark expedition.
- 23 of 54 possible operators are participating
- Some of the others may get with the program this year.

The question was if the group wanted to pursue the same on the Columbia River. Jim Athearn reminded all that there aren't many ramps on the Columbia that are run by the Corps of Engineers. Bill reminded the group that the Missouri program cost \$25K and wanted everyone to think if the group was willing to spend this kind of money on the Columbia by the summer of 2005.

The group decided that going out and taking the pulse of the Columbia River marina operators and getting a list of interested locations as an initial step was a good idea. This would also possibly include getting Idaho Power and several other PUDs as well as tribes like the Colvilles and Nez Perce involved. The Corps has a map of all the boat ramps and marinas that was done in cooperation with OMB. Randy offered helping with marinas and ramps on the Oregon side. The idea is to cast the initial net pretty broad and then narrow it if need to. Bill will start contacting people and will compile a broad list of sites in cooperation with the team members.

Patti offered a Corps of Engineers list of portage concessionaires for the Columbia and Jim Athearn said that the Walla Walla district probably has one too. Bill said that he would draft a letter and possibly do site visits when that list was made available to him.

A question was raised is to if there are any ANS inspections at the Canada border. That issue was talked about at the last WRP meeting and there was a general agreement that it should be done. A person from the USDA was

interested in having some guidelines in place. Jim Irish said that Mark Schneider at NOAA fisheries could be of assistance with the Canadians

BOATING ACCESS AREA SIGNS

Signs were being posted at less than 10% of the access areas on the Missouri River.

PSMFC had some signs made up that will go up soon at boat ramps (up by 2004). Signs have each state's individual Agency logo state contact numbers.

- Two sizes, Yellow Plastic, Two Color, Three ANS Species Pictured
- Individual Agency Logo and Contact Information
- Common and Up-Dated Message
- Will increase the number of signed access areas from just over 100 to nearly 500.

Idaho made up its own ANS poster that includes purple loosestrife to put up at all boat access points throughout the state. Mike Stephenson from Idaho Power said that a NZMS poster is already up in Idaho.

Would be a good idea to standardize the preventative information to everyone from Iowa to Idaho so that everyone gets the same information. Someone from each state needs to come up with an inventory of signs at boat access points and their status of ANS signs. We need to get sign management under control and have region wide consistency. Bill will also survey rest areas, etc. for signage while doing "meet and greets" in the Columbia River Basin.

This list needs to have all access areas by state (anywhere a boat can be launched), what kind of access area it is, what is the scope of the sign, and what condition are the signs are in. Mark thought that this information would be best used if it were in a database format and offered one of his graduate students to enter the information. Randy said that the state of Washington already had such an online database.

All sign & marina assignments due by Jan. 15, 2004

PAM' S INSPECTION VIDEO

WDFW has finished filming and is currently working on the editing. This video "starred" a Washington State Patrol inspector that did a brief explanation on what to do on 5 different types of watercrafts. Should have the finished product by the end of December. WDFW has not yet determined how many copies they will have made or where it will be distributed. The film will also be available in streaming video.

ZM MONITORING

Pam reported that WDFW has taken approximately water 50 samples for veligers—primarily out of the Columbia. There are also about 90 substrates out in lakes and rivers and they actively monitor about 18 sites on the Columbia.

Mark did a short power point presentation on the substrate monitoring program Then turned it over to Mary Pfauth who gave a summary of the program's activities.

The database she has prepared for substrate surveys has all existing data in Access, but needs to build more fields to represent all the information on her response cards. To date, she hasn't been able to merge hers with Kevin's due to differences in entry fields (e.g., contact info, lat & long and physical description of where the substrate is located, winter hold category). Kevin's is about 3 or 4 years old, is on a county level for substrate placement, and doesn't include lat and long. She thought hers could be more sophisticated if she had more time and knowledge of Access.

Paul suggested she try and include the California people and get together with David Britton on boaters' surveys. Then the databases could be a little more interactive and would get it on the 100th Meridian web site. Paul offered to coordinate a meeting between Mary, Kevin & California.

After getting the vital information about the substrates Mike from Idaho Power offered his agency's services in getting more substrates distributed in their service areas.

When asked if there is adequate coverage in the Columbia, Mark didn't think there was adequate monitoring due to insufficient effort. Currently the program is functioning only at a bare minimum. Maybe we should go to veliger sampling like WDFW, but is probably too costly.

Paul brought up a publication from Louisiana Sea Grant that addressed sampling Zebra Mussel substrates at industrial facilities. Included was a high, moderate and low colonization map for California. The risk assessment models don't come up with anything other than high. The group needs to get placement information for the eastern 100th meridian area because some states already have them, but we just don't know where they are. Jim Athearn thought that the Corps has the "high-risk" areas monitored already.

Bill will follow up with a request on info/input about where we need to add monitoring in the Columbia Basin. John suggested he use the 100th meridian database to find out where people are coming from.

BREAK

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

John worked on a 2004 weed calendar for Montana and he has been asked to work on the 2005 version. It might be able to include ANS and maybe put in quarterly free car wash coupons for boats at Towne Pumps.

Should the group move forward on boat washes? Tina brought up an email that included power point slides from Doug Jensen from MN Sea Grant that dealt with the efficacy of boat washes. His opinion was that they are poor substitutes for education and outreach. Cases in point are Lake Mead and Lake Powell where high-risk boats are required to go through a power wash, but there still isn't compliance.

Even though it is not the most valuable tool, we shouldn't write off boat wash stations because there is some use for them. Education and outreach are still valuable tools.

Boater surveys are another tool at the group's disposal. Bob Pitman is working with David Britton to get PDA's that can be used to do surveys at marinas, parks and boat ramps. He used 100th Meridian funds to buy 6 PDA's that the surveys were completed on and used a map of where we've done surveys in the past.

The surveys that PSMFC did in 2001 found that boaters didn't know very much about ANS.

After collecting about 2000 samples it was found that most people aren't educated about ANS so PSMFC decided the money would be better spent on the substrate and educational programs.

Boaters guide maps posted at marinas with ads all around them could be used as an educational tool. For \$85/month we could get ANS educational messages or images on these maps. The media is becoming more interested in invasive species issues and local municipalities need to be reminded of the cost to take care of things. State and local agencies need to know what the impacts will be if we don't get the message out to the boating public. This is also a good idea for national and regional publications.

Mark handed out a one-sheet report from Robyn Draheim Waldeck describing the Lower Columbia River Aquatic Nonindigenous Species survey. LCRANS is coming to an end and the final report will be coming out soon.

Mike gave a brief rundown on what Idaho Power is doing about New Zealand mudsnails. Although they have not had a lot of success controlling the snail they

are funding research and education through boat access signs. They are also looking into using parasitic vectors as a means of biological control

Fred said that IDFG is looking at fish stocking locations because that's a vector. It is very probable that the snail came in from commercial trout stock from NZ. Eradication will be very difficult because a lot of fish facilities are contaminated already. Right now they are focusing on already known areas, but will do a more comprehensive survey of where they are next summer. The snails are probably already distributed throughout the state through fish stocking and other vectors

Paul indicated that the Hagerman fish hatchery is renegotiating with the state and has initial plans to stop stocking. As an alternative they are looking at bringing fish in from Dworshak NFH.

The group fielded questions like, "How sure are you that snails aren't in an area even after a survey?" There is concern of one snail getting into a raceway and fish eating the snail that will then survive into a new system. Is there anything they can do to treat the fish while still in the truck? Agencies still haven't seen real problems, economic or ecological, so there is some talk of how much do you spend—is it really a problem? Because that can't be answered yet, agencies are staying on the conservative side.

To that statement someone commented that studies have shown that there is reduced trout and weed biomass. There are no eradication efforts being done for NZMS, which sets a bad precedent or example dealing with zebra mussels. Need to be more careful about where we can or can't do anything about mudsnails.

Other entities to get involved with ANS issues were discussed. Mark has spoken to Willamette River Keepers about aquatic weeds and emphasized that we need to have these groups on board from the beginning.

Will said that Idaho Power and Idaho Water Users Assoc have expressed interest with IPC particularly interested in zebra mussels. Patti—another group is the ports. They need to be in the loop and they have money.

Agencies like the different ports need to be in the loop, but may not always have the money to make a big contribution (e.g. Port of Portland's involvement in CRANSI) The Columbia River Bar Pilots Assoc. is currently involved and can help with financial support. The Lewis & Clark Association and the Treaty tribes are other sources that should be engaged. Blaine is helping with this by being a liaison between PSU ANS studies and the tribes.

It was suggested that there should be different levels of involvement and participation in this group: 1) an active work group level, and 2) a less involved

level that just needs to be informed. Anyone that has anything to do with the river should be aware of what we are doing.

The group decided that a follow-up meeting is needed this spring. Take assignments from this meeting and come back in the spring with the information and get a decision for some things by the group. Paul offered the possibility of travel money if it's needed. This could give Pam the opportunity to participate in the meeting because her representation of WDFW is critical.

REVIEW ACTIONS, TIME FRAME AND RESPONSIBILITY

The group agreed that we are not at the point to make decisions because more legwork has to be done. A team work plan has to come out of the notes from this meeting because all these different projects relate. There is 100th Meridian money for the Columbia River, but need to know how much money we have so we can plan activities. That will become clearer after the USFWS determines how to allocate funds later in 2004.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

Governor's Invasive Summit—February 17th, 2004 at Owyhee Plaza in Boise— This will be a summit of institutional readiness. There will be a one afternoon session on ANS that leads up to a state ANS plan. Fred current plan has a timeline to be done in a year from now.

ADJOURNMENT

Literature Hand-outs

Discovering the Legacy of Lewis and Clark, USACE, Booklet on signature events being held on the Lewis & Clark

Lower Columbia River Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Survey, Robyn Draheim Waldeck, 12/01/03 Update

Summary of Activities on the Zebra Mussel Volunteer Monitoring Project, Mary Pfauth, PSU Center for Lakes & Reservoirs, Dec. 2003