

**100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative  
Colorado River Basin Team  
Grand Junction, Colorado  
July 31, 2002**

1. Welcome from Bob Burdick, US Fish and Wildlife Service
2. Member Reports:

**Don Archer** - Utah Division of Wildlife Resources - Utah ANS Task Force is made up of 13 agencies. They produced signs that have been put around marinas and boat launches in the Colorado River Basin.

**Wen Baldwin** - Lake Mead Boat Owners Association - Concerned about zebra mussels in the area. Interested in educating boat owners and will be working with media.

**Tom Scoville** - Bureau of Reclamation in Utah - concerned about ANS in canals. At this point mostly weed problems but want to make sure zm's don't come in.

**Sandra Caskey** - Bureau of Reclamation in Grand Junction - new invasive species coordinator. Does a newsletter and is putting together a class for the surveyors so that when they are looking at canals they can note weeds, etc.

**Josh Hoines** - Lake Mead National Recreation Area - Concerned about zm's in the Colorado

**Kathy Abramson** - Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests - administer lands in higher elevations but interested in finding out how they can help.

**Mark Anderson** - National Park Service - Glen Canyon NRA - operates a prevention program. Each boat gets asked questions as they enter. If they come from a state that has zm's, they get a packet: brochures, map where they can get a free boat wash. 15 boats have been identified as high risk boats this year - they get coupon. NPS looking at language which will make the boat washing mandatory. They have signs in bathrooms and bulletin boards that say "Stop the Zebra Mussel Invasion." Also produced a mailer insert - specific threat to Lake Powell. Started two groups near Lake Powell called the Zebra Mussel Prevention Task Force. Have newsletter that goes to 40 local people.

**Stephen Phillips** - Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission - Reprinted "Zap the Zebra" brochures with the 1-800-437-2744 Crime Witness Hotline number on the front. If people see zebra mussels, they can call the number and a list of people will be notified. New posters produced about zebra mussels. Received grant funds from FWS which will cover staff person to visit marinas and portage operators along the Missouri River to educate them to look for zebra mussels. They will receive packets of information and trinkets. Also building Traveler Information Stations in Montana to reach Lewis and Clark travelers. Portland State University has created a cadre of volunteers who put PVC

pipe hanging from piers, etc. which are checked monthly for zm's. PSMFC has a road show and goes to fairs and events. Mitten crab and green crab sampling.

**Gary Burton** - Western Area Power Association in Denver - works on keeping agency informed. 17,000 miles of transmission lines. Water and dams creating the power, so zm's definitely a concern.

### 3. ECONOMIC ISSUE

Big need for economic analysis of what impact zm's will have in the west. Army Corps of Engineers (Jim Athearn) has done a risk analysis.

**Action Item: Team will locate an economist to do an analysis and get an idea of cost. Bob has the name of a person who has done zm work before.**

### 4. SIGN DISTRIBUTION IN THE UPPER COLORADO

**Action Item: Last meeting we decided to produced "Stop signs" from the Utah ANS Task Force. 250 distributed in the lower Colorado by Bob. 50 sent to Wyoming. BuRec will take 50 today. Blue Mesa Reservoir on the Gunnison River - Kathy will take some to them. Tina will distribute signs to the three NWR's on the Green River and to the Colorado Division of Wildlife.**

**Action Item: Idea from Kathy: send the "Protect Your Water" stickers out with boat registrations through state parks.** Don described how Utah developed an ANS action team that includes many state and federal agencies, so that these kinds of projects get done. We decided to be sure that the Colorado RiverTeam has representatives from state parks departments.

Sandra suggested that state legislators need to be informed about what we are doing.

Don mentioned that the state of Maine has a \$10.00 surcharge on boat registration which gives boat owners a stamp - the money is for the State ANS program.

### 5. BOATER SURVEYS

Surveys can be found on the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian website. ([www.100thmeridian.org](http://www.100thmeridian.org)) The data has been collected over the last 5 years by the University of Texas at Arlington and can be queried and searched on the website. PSMFC has done 2-3,000 interviews over the past few years. They use graduate students and have been able to do surveys on the national parks.

**Action Item: Look at contract with University of Nevada to do surveys at Lake Mead, Mohave and Powell with the purpose of finding where people are coming from and how long their boats have been out of the water.**

Discussion of getting 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian information to boating shows. Literature, Powerpoint presentation, answer questions. Purchase tabletop and have people to staff - \$30k for six shows. Phoenix, Salt Lake City and Denver all have shows. Could do a multi-agency approach with outreach.

**Action Item: put “Clean Your Boat” video with John Ratsenberger on the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian website with a clip and ordering information.**

Discussion on Asian Carp which have proliferated in the South, are heading north toward the Great Lakes and west in the Missouri. Bob talked about Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) training which has been created by Minnesota Sea Grant. In some states, it is mandatory now. Two trainings coming up in Portland, OR on August 7-8 and Bozeman, MT on August 27-28.

**Action Item: Create 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Watch Cards for people to distribute.**

## 6. RAPID RESPONSE PLAN

There was discussion about what happens when someone finds zebra mussels on a boat. **Action Item: We will develop protocol to put on the web site**, e.g. what happens if the contact on the crime witness hotline is not available. What should the contact person do when they get a call? Have each person from the state determine who should be on the contact list for their state. Get existing material from the Great Lakes.

## 7. WORKING WITH STATE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION

One of our objectives is to see that state ports of entry are paying attention to commercial boat haulers. Many of the ports are not staffed with people any more. Tina has an appointment on August 6 with the Chief of the Ports of Entry in Colorado, which is in the Department of Revenue, to talk about how state inspectors could be trained to spot zm's.

## 8. OUTREACH NEEDS

**Action Item: Bob will create a table top display which can be taken to outdoor shows**, etc. Can pictures be put into .pdf file on the web site? We'll look into that. Or create a CD of pictures. Don mentioned that he needs a sign for New Zealand mud snails.

**Action Item: Create NZMS sign.**

Bob has created a watch card for anglers that will be printed in the next few weeks. Anglers can spread these critters around in gear, equipment, waders, etc. He passed out the earlier watch cards that had been created for research biologists. Research is going on right now on the effect of nzms on native mussels and other invertebrates, and ultimately what the effect may be on trout and other fish. This snail

has many of the characteristics of a damaging invasive species and we need to be educating people immediately.

9. NGO INVOLVEMENT IN THE TEAM

Boat Owners Associations; extend invitation to NGO's to participate and be part of the process.

**NEXT MEETING: LAST WEEK IN JANUARY AT NPS LAKE MEAD NRA**

## Persons Attending

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