

Platte River Pallid Sturgeon Workshop: Pre-read Cover Note

September 13-14, 2017

Workshop Objectives

Attached is the agenda and pre-reading for the workshop on September 13-14 in Kearney. The objective of the workshop is to clarify the approach the Program will take with respect to pallid sturgeon for the First Increment Extension. To support this, the workshop is designed to:

1. Clarify and build common understanding among GC members of the state of knowledge on pallid sturgeon (a process that began with the July 10 webinar);
2. Clarify existing Program goals and AMP objectives with respect to pallid sturgeon;
3. Identify and evaluate the range of actions the Program could take with respect to pallid sturgeon for the First Increment Extension.

The majority of the workshop agenda is allocated to #3 – evaluating the actions the Program could take for pallid sturgeon in the First Increment Extension.

The intended outcome is either a decision on the Program's approach to pallid sturgeon for the First Increment Extension, or identification of outstanding information needs or other next steps required to support a decision.

Process Update

In preparation for the workshop, Compass has:

- Interviewed GC members to clarify their perspectives on Program policy and expectations for the workshop;
- Summarized the different policy statements relative to pallid from the Program documents;
- Established a task group to explore and summarize what is known and not known about pallid sturgeon ecology and use of the river and the ability of the Program to affect them, and documented the findings in a set of Knowledge Summaries and a Pathway Database;
- Developed a set of alternatives representing the range of actions that the GC could consider for the period of the Extension;
- Summarized some of the trade-offs and key questions raised by these alternatives, for the consideration of GC members.

Overview of the Pre-reading

In addition to the agenda and this cover memo, the pre-reading is organized into nine numbered documents. **Please read them in order**, with the exception of #9, the Overview of the Pathway Tool. You may wish to use the Pathway Tool as you read the Knowledge Summaries, as it provides a visual aid to understanding what is known at each link in the pathway between

Program action and pallid outcomes, and it contains live links to some of the key reference documents.

#1. Decision Summary. This document lays out the context for the decisions to be made at the workshop, and summarizes a preliminary set of objectives and alternatives, intended as a starting point for discussion and refinement at the workshop. Expected consequences relative to pallid sturgeon are broadly characterized using the information in the Knowledge Summaries. Some key trade-offs and discussion questions are noted.

#2 through #7. Pallid Sturgeon Task Group (PSTG) Knowledge Summaries. These documents are products of the Pallid Sturgeon Task Group. #2 contains a high-level summary of all of the key messages. #3 and #4 summarize findings with respect to *use* of the lower Platte River by pallid sturgeon at different life stages, and #5 summarizes what is known about *effects*. #6 summarizes findings related to the *Stage Change Study*. #7 summarizes key messages about the *ability of the Program to cause downstream effects*, based on the longer EDO document in #8. Please replace the versions distributed prior to the July 10 webinar, as there are minor changes in these final documents.

#8. Downstream Impacts of Program Water Management. This document was prepared by the EDO, and summarizes the ability of Program water operations to impact the lower Platte River.

#9. Pathway Tool Overview and Directions. The Pathway Tool organizes information from the Knowledge Summaries in a way that supports a better understanding of what is known at each link in the pathway between Program action and pallid outcomes. This document provides instructions for using the tool. In addition to summarizing the information in the Knowledge Summaries, the tool contains links to key reference documents for those of you who are interested in this level of detail.

We have previously distributed notes from the GC interviews and a summary of the policy statements. Reviewing these documents is optional for this meeting.

Preparing for the Meeting

The meeting agenda assumes that participants have read the pre-reading and considered key issues and discussion points in advance. If you have questions or comments, please submit them to EDO by September 5. We will use any input received in advance to refine the agenda and prioritize discussion topics, and if possible/appropriate, to bring additional information to the meeting to support your deliberations. In particular, if you have specific technical questions with respect to the Knowledge Summaries presented at the July 10 Webinar, it will be helpful if you can submit them in advance, as the time allocated to this agenda item is limited.