

EcoRA Work Group Conference Call - February 17, 2000, 9 AM - 10:20 AM

Participants:

Steve Hughes, URS	
Phil Cernera, CDA Tribe	Dana Houkal, URS
Don Heinle, CH2M Hill	Joe Goulet, EPA
Dan Winstanley, CH2M Hill	Fred Kirschner, Spokane Tribe
Anne Dailey, EPA	John Roland, Ecology
Matt Kadlec, Ecology	Don Heinle, CH2M
Brad Frazier, USFWS	Harry Ohlendorf, CH2M Hill
George Brabb, CAC RI/FS Task Force	Jeff Fromm, IDEQ

Update on CSM5 - Spokane River

- provided an update on a meeting between Anne Dailey, Don Heinle, Joe Goulet and John Roland, Matt Kadlec, Fred Kirschner, and Julie Campbell on Feb. 9th regarding CSM5; agreed that the original CSM and segment boundaries for CSM5 will be maintained and will address habitat differences within each CSM unit
- there was discussion about the appropriate habitat classification for the upstream part of CSM5, Segment 1 (upstream of Post Falls Dam), Spokane River. Area is a backwater behind the dam and will be recognized as riverine habitat with back water conditions (analogous to upstream of Ninemile Dam and Upriver Dam) and not lacustrine habitat because there is a slow continuous current
- Matt Kadlec noted that some of the Spokane River NAWQA data is available that has gone through the USGS review; Matt provide the following details:
 - cadis fly tissue data are near background for Cd, Pb & Zn (samples collected in summer 1999)
 - fish tissue metal values are elevated for Cd, Pb, & Zinc
 - chlorophyll A and mass data, no algae assemblage data yet
 - invertebrate taxonomy has not been completed yet
- John Roland will forward the draft data electronically to Don Heinle and Brad Sample so that it can be incorporated in the EcoRA since they are actively working the portion of the EcoRA
- Results from the Ecology fish collection by USGS during the NAWQA effort are in the mail to John Roland, this includes data for:
 - rainbow trout - fillet for Pb & whole fish Pb, Zn & Cd
 - large mouth sucker - whole fish Pb, Zn & Cd

Receptor Table for the EcoRA

- Frank Frutchey could not be on the call today but called Dailey to suggest that the muskrat and grasses common in the CDA main stem flood plain area be included as

receptors

- Chip Corsi, IDF&G, also asked why the Harlequin duck was not included as a receptor since it is a state of Idaho species of concern. They have a somewhat different migration path (fly in from the coast) from other ducks and eat bugs & invertebrates. There are confirmed sitings of Harlequin ducks on the NFCDAR and unconfirmed sitings on the SFCDAR. After some discussion, it was suggested that the Harlequin duck has a similar habitat and food source as the dipper duck which could be used as an indicator for the Harlequin and addressed via the EcoRA text. (See below for follow-up to the Harlequin discussion)

- there is no riverine habitat in CSM unit 4 so the table will revised to reflect this

- Fred Kirschner asked about inclusion of Midnite mine species. Fred provided a comprehensive list of species in the area of Midnite mine to URS which includes red-band rainbow trout, Paiute sculpin, walleye, white sturgeon, golden eagle, pileated woodpecker, & elk

- it was noted that some of species not in the receptor table will be addressed in the EcoRA or via indicator receptors for which there may be more data available for risk evaluation (for example, white-tailed deer is the browsing ungulate for upland habitat - and will be an indicator for elk)

Matt Kadlec noted that some WA species of concern are not on the list (e.g., Lewis woodpecker, golden eagle, porcupine sedge, prairie cordgrass, etc.)

- May identify a linkage between various receptors and other species, e.g. not evaluate Lewis woodpecker but cover this species by evaluating an indicator species.

-following discussion it was decided to include state species of concern as a component of the special status species subset of the population level endpoint and include in this category

- Grass species will be addressed either in the EcoRA text or in the receptor table.

- It was how the receptors were selected....receptors are creatures/plants that may be exposed to mining wastes. Since it is not feasible to evaluate every plant, animal and microbe species, representative receptors are picked for evaluation based upon their ability to represent a broad range of species, their social importance, their sensitivity, ecological importance, and availability of data. The lists were assembled via several meetings, workshops, and teleconferences with parties knowledgeable about the basin.

==> The receptor table will be updated with the above information and then finalized.

Once the table is finalized it will then be distributed to the EcoRA work group for a closure discussion on the next EcoRA workgroup teleconference (3/2/2000).

==>> Receptor table follow-up - Harlequin duck:

- On 2/22/00 Brad Frazier, USFWS, indicated via an email message that there is very limited toxicity data on Harlequins and they will probably not be a "driver" in the risk assessment. This email was shared with the EcoRA group on 2/24/00 and Dailey suggested that we not add Harlequins as a receptor but continue to address them

through the EcoRA text. I asked for feedback on this suggestion and got only positive responses so the Harlequin will not be included as a receptor to be evaluated in the EcoRA but will be evaluated in the report text.

EcoRA Report Annotated Outline/Table of Contents

- An additional opportunity to comment on the annotated outline for the EcoRA report was provided since the document was provided just a day prior to the previous teleconference. Nobody, however, had any comments.

Schedule

- Dailey noted that there have been continuing challenges with the database which will be used to conduct the EcoRA risk assessment calculations. The situation is not yet resolved and may take another week or so to resolve the outstanding issues. Until the database is up and running satisfactorily, we will not have a revised EcoRA schedule. Bottom-line is that the draft EcoRA report will be somewhat delayed with the draft available no earlier than late April.

Next Teleconference

- Next EcoRA call will be on March 2, 2000 at 9 AM PST (call-in number is 206-553-4602; no pass code required)
- topics of discussion will include:
 - update on receptor list
 - update on CSM 5
 - fish population data from ID BURP data set; electro shock data conducted with single pass and needing to projecting what would be collected with a second pass; 20-30 BURP stations => only 5 stations done with a second pass