

EcoRA Work Group Conference Call - June 22, 2000, 9 AM - 9:45 AM

Participants:

Dana Houkal, URS	Joe Goulet, EPA
Harry Ohlendorf, CH2M Hill	Don Heinle, CH2M Hill
Anne Dailey, EPA	Brad Frazier, USFWS
Julie Campbell, USFWS	Dan Audet, USFWS
Dick Martindale, EPA	Dan Winstanley, CH2M Hill
Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane	Jeff Fromm, IDEQ
Phil Cerner, CdA Tribe	Merril Coomes, City of Coeur d'Alene
Bob Foley, USFWS	John Roland, Ecology

CSM5 and CSM Summary & Update

- EPA and URS/CH received comments on CSM5 during the last conference call, Fred Kirschner also provided written comments (which have been provided to the EcoRA work group) and URS/CH is going to be incorporating comments into the CSM Summary and Update document
- EPA has tasked URS/CH to prepare a draft final CSM Summary and Update for distribution to the EcoRA work group. The CSM5 excerpt provided several weeks ago was taken from a larger draft CSM Summary and Update document. EPA and others have provided comments to URS/CH on the draft CSM Summary; these comments will be addressed and then the revised document will be shared with the work group
- EPA believes that the draft final CSM Summary and Update document will provide a good context for reviewers of the draft EcoRA. The substance of the CSM Summary and Update will ultimately be present in the RI report and an appendix to the RI but this material will not be available until after the EcoRA report review period is completed.

ESA-related issues:

- A change will be made to the receptor table for the EcoRA to reflect the change in status for the lynx from proposed to threatened. The change in status for the lynx was made March 24, 2000
- EPA has officially requested from the USFWS an update of the ESA listed species present in the CDA RI/FS project area; the updated list is anticipated to reflect the change in status of the lynx and westslope cutthroat trout
- These changes will not impact the risk evaluation since these species were already being addressed at the individual-level

ArcExplorer Project:

- EPA is conducting another internal review of an ArcExplorer project prepared by URS which will provide parties with a graphical representation of surface water, groundwater, and soil/surface sediment cadmium, lead and zinc concentration in the RI/FS project area
- ArcExplorer is a map viewer software distributed free of charge by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)
- After completion of EPA's review of the ArcExplorer and resolution of any comments, EPA anticipates distributing the ArcExplorer application to the CDA basin stakeholders prior to distribution of the draft EcoRA
- For parties with a need to do additional data manipulation, Dan Winstanley noted that ArcView can be purchased from ESRI and provides greater capabilities for relatively sophisticated computer users
- Dan Winstanley also mentioned that there maybe an issue with inclusion of the state of Washington water quality data in the ArcExplorer application....Dailey agreed to follow-up with the URS Greiner staff working on the ArcExplorer

Update of EcoRA schedule:

- The EcoRA review schedule is as follows:

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|------------|--|
| 8/31/00 | draft EcoRA mailed to EcoRA work group for review
document will be distributed on CD-Rom with hard copies provided to specific individuals who have requested hard copies (Frank Frutchey and Dolly Hartman so far); both the CD-Rom version and hard copy version will be placed in the repositories |
| 9/27-28/00 | EcoRA work group workshop in CDA regarding draft EcoRA document (to be held at USFS facility on Kathleen Road) |
| 10/6/00 | Written comments on EcoRA due to EPA |

Dailey will be sending a separate e-mail message to the EcoRA Work Group noting the EcoRA review schedule and plan to distribute the draft EcoRA via CD-Rom. EPA is planning to distribute the EcoRA in an electronic, CD-Rom format because the draft document will be large (about 600 pages) which would require a substantial amount of paper to do the full distribution via hard copies. It is also much more economical to reproduce the CD-Rom and mail them than the paper versions. With application of an index feature, the CD-Rom version will have the added advantage that it will be electronically searchable which will make it easy for readers to identify specific areas of interest. Both CD-Rom and paper versions will be available in the repositories within the CDA Basin.

>>If work group members really need a paper copy instead of a CD-Rom version, they will be asked to notify EPA by July 26th so that we can make the necessary

arrangements.

Waterfowl Feeding Study:

- USFWS has provided a proposal to assess the bioavailability of soil amendments when mixed in with sediment (the proposal was forwarded by Mary Jane Nearman on 6/19/00)
- the proposed study follows the protocol used in the Heinz et al., 1998 study of waterfowl feeding
- USFWS hopes to do the study this fall during an 8 week period; 70 pens are needed to do the study so space at the Patuxent lab and timing for the study are issues
- five different amendments are proposed for testing; Keeco Co. in Lynnwood, WA is interested in providing samples of their soil amendment for the study but the other four amendments yet need to be identified
- the results of the study would be applicable to both wetland sediment and soil
- Jeff Fromm shared a comment from Kathy Johnson noting it may be necessary to do a field test in addition to address the effects of weathering on the bioavailability of the amendments
- it seems that there are several key questions concerning the soil amendments: 1) do they effect bioavailability and 2) how stable are the compounds (or how does weathering impact the long term bioavailabilty)?
- both of the above are important questions, however it may make sense to initially address the question of whether the amendments are effective at reducing bioavailablity and then address stability/weathering concerns....

>>> Subsequent to the EcoRA teleconference, a follow-up teleconference has been scheduled for Thursday, June 29th at 9-10:30 AM PDT to further discussion the feeding study proposal. This will immediately follow the 8 AM CDA basin-wide call on the 29th. The call-in number is 206-553-4602 (no pass code). The primary of focus of this call will be to further discuss the waterfowl feeding proposal, how to address uncertainty related to weathering of the amendments, other issues related to the FWS study proposal, other proposed feeding studies, and ???.

EPA Duluth Lab Study Regarding Rainbow Trout:

- Dailey noted that EPA was contacted by Dave Mount of EPA's Duluth Lab regarding a study that they are doing regarding the effects of dietary uptake of metals by rainbow trout. In essence they are trying to reproduce the effects observed by Woodward and Farag (using field collected invertebrate-based diets) in the lab using lab-reared organisms. They will rear aquatic earthworms in contaminated sediment and then feed these live and intact to the rainbow trout. EPA, with the able assistance of FWS, will provide contaminated CDAR basin sediment to the Duluth lab for the research. Sediment from the Clark Fork will also be used in the study.

Next Teleconference:

- Next EcoRA call will be on July 6, 2000 at 9 AM PST (call-in number is 206-553-4557; no pass code required)
- topics of discussion will include:
 - waterfowl feeding study
 - status of the EcoRA
 - other topics as appropriate