

**Dolores River Dialogue  
Hydrology Committee Notes  
Held Tuesday, January 4th, 2011, 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at DWCD**

**Attending:** Peter Mueller, Jim Fisher, Don Schwindt, Logan Gafford, Shauna Jensen, Ann Oliver, Marty Robbins, Dale Smith, Chuck Wanner, Meghan Maloney, Vernon Harrell, Ken Curtis & Nathan Fey via telephone.

**Potential New SNOTEL Site:** Much interest by group. I explained that DRD Steering was supportive and we are looking at financial contributions. Should we fund additional soil moisture probes on older SNOTELS? How will satellite monitoring affect forecasting in general and SNOTEL use in future? Much interest in how forecast comes about. We will discuss some of the CRBFC web products next meeting.

**Brief update on Legislative Sub-Committee “A Way Forward” from Peter.** The CDOW is compiling their list of available data, then all going to 3 contractors who will commit to process and products resulting in a meeting towards late March for the Oversight Committee. Then there may be more coming back to the Hydrology Committee.

**1996 EA Review:** The group discussed the 1996 Environmental Assessment that changed the flow regime to a managed pool. Discussion started out with brief history of flow coming from the DPR, which was described. It was followed by a general description of the 1990 dry year resulting in releases of 20 CFS. Trout did not do well, particularly at 20 CFS so additional water was leased and released downstream temporarily. 25,400 AF was reserved for federal use downstream and the BOR purchased an additional 3900 AF from the DWCD to create a permanent pool of 29,300 AF. Then we discussed the history of downstream senior water rights and inundated water rights, which were initially originally planned as up to 3900 AF and included in this pool. When actually defined by existing valid water rights, only 1274 AF are used downstream. The BOR utilize 700 AF as mitigation to Paradox depletions based on inundated water rights. The left over water, was proportionately divided 524 AF to the fish pool, 417 AF to the UMUT and 985 AF to DWCD Full Service Area. Adding those portions that went to the fish pool yields 31,798 AF. With a spill, this quantity is spread over fewer days, but those permanent DP allocations, 25400 + 3900 + 524, are subject to shared shortages. There was also discussion around how commitments were made to rafters, in the 1978 FEIS, and cold water fishery, trout, instead of native fish. Does this document set out trout as a BOR environmental commitment? Vern made the point that the BOR believes the Biology Committee can recommend releases that benefit the downstream ecology as they see fit. The Native Fish don't need a new status, or NEPA document, but just a change of flow recommendations from the Biology Comm. Chuck, Dale & Dave gave some history of cold water fishery and trout priorities as evidenced by TU instigating the first change and being on the Biology Comm. Don pointed out that the EA took 5 years so all parties could learn and familiarize this potential change during the interim agreement. Additional questions asked about M&I and other DP allocations, to be brought back. Don explained we are reviewing this and other documents to find the legal underpinnings of commitments. Time brought discussions to a close and we will resume next meeting.

**Next Meeting Topics:** Continue review of 1996 EA (flow to pool releases) and forecasting presentation.

**Next Meeting scheduled for March 1, 2011, 1:00 Pm after the Steering Comm.** This was agreed to be beneficial for those traveling long distances, although we need to coordinate around forecasts and subsequent Spill Comm. around this time.