Provo River Delta Restoration Project

SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

May 31, 2010

Prepared for:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Mitigation Commission), the U.S. Department of the Interior's Central Utah Project Completion Act Office (CUPCA), and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD), on behalf of the June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program (JSRIP), are jointly preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review on a proposed stream channel and delta restoration project for the lower Provo River and its interface with Utah Lake. The JSRIP is a multi-agency cooperative effort that is intended to coordinate and facilitate the recovery of the endangered June sucker (*Chasmistes liorus*). The EIS will be prepared under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S. C. 4321 et seq.) and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508).

In 1986 the June sucker was listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The June Sucker Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan), a requirement of the Endangered Species Act, was finalized in 1999. June sucker are native to and occur naturally only in the Utah Lake system. The lower Provo River, representing the only known spawning location for the species in its native habitat, was designated as critical habitat at the time of listing. Habitat alteration, presence of nonnative fishes, and water development were identified as the major threats to the June sucker. By 1998 the wild June sucker population was estimated at only approximately 300 individuals.

Monitoring indicates that June sucker are recruitment limited, meaning that young June sucker are not surviving to the adult stage. Fish reared in captivity to several inches in length and introduced into Utah Lake are capable of surviving to adulthood. Some June sucker that were stocked into Utah Lake have survived and now enter the Provo River along with wild fish to spawn in the spring and early summer. Recovery measures to acquire and provide adequate stream flows in lower Provo River have allowed June sucker to spawn successfully in most years, as indicated by the presence of larval fish collected in standard monitoring efforts. However, fish older than 20 days, the age at which young June sucker have consumed their yolk sac and must begin actively feeding, have not been found.

It is believed that June sucker do not survive the larval stage due to the inadequacy of existing habitat in the lower Provo River and Utah Lake, which is compounded by predation by nonnative fishes. About 7–10 days after spawning, larvae hatch and drift downstream. Historically, the larvae would drift into a shallow, warm, complex wetland habitat at the mouth of the Provo River. Dredging and channelization have eliminated the historic complex habitat of the Provo River delta at Utah Lake. The river now exists in a single, homogenous trench-shaped channel unsuitable for young June sucker survival. Under current conditions, larvae cannot reach Utah Lake in most years. Instead, as they drift downstream they come in contact with the slack-water interface created by Utah Lake, which causes water to backup into the lower Provo River. There they are either eaten by non-native predators or starve and die.

2.0 SCOPING PROCESS

"Scoping" is the process of identifying significant issues that must be addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations require that agencies determine the significant issues to be analyzed in depth and to identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues that are not significant (40 CFR 1501.7). Significant issues are those with environmental effects that warrant resolution either through development of alternatives that reduce adverse impacts while achieving the proposed project's purpose and need, through application of mitigation measures, or both.

For the Provo River Delta Restoration Project, the following purposes and need for the project were identified.

The need for the project is:

- To restore, enhance or create habitat conditions in the lower Provo River and its interface with Utah Lake (the delta) that are essential for spawning, hatching, larval transport, survival, rearing and recruitment of June sucker to the adult stage.

The purposes of the project are:

- To preserve and improve fish, wildlife, riparian and wetlands habitats at the lower Provo River and its interface with Utah Lake.

- To expedite recovery of the endangered June sucker (Recovery Goals 3.2 and 3.4 of the approved Recovery Plan for the June sucker) by re-establishing essential June sucker habitat through restoration of the lower Provo River ecosystem at the Provo River/Utah Lake interface to a more natural condition.

- To provide recreational improvements and opportunities associated with the habitat restoration project.

- To provide for continued development of the Central Utah Project (CUP).

For the Provo River Delta Restoration Project, scoping issues were identified through several efforts:

- An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists (IDT) representing the Mitigation Commission, CUPCA, CUWCD, JSRIP, contractor BIO-WEST, Inc., and other agencies conducted background research and initial site visits during Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 to identify potential resource impact issues and alternative concepts. The IDT identified potential issues by analyzing various concepts for implementing the delta restoration project.

- The public scoping meeting of March 25, 2010, was announced by official Public Notice in three area newspapers on March 10 and March 21, 2010 (*Provo Daily Herald*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, and *The Deseret News*). A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS and announcement of public scoping was published in the Federal Register on March 16, 2010. Direct mailing of the scoping meeting notice was distributed to over 225 agencies, property owners, and other interested parties on the project mailing list. The public scoping comment period extended until April 30, 2010.

  At the scoping meeting, the public was invited to submit written comments or to provide oral comments to members of the project team. Oral comments were recorded on flip charts stationed around the room relating to potential topics of interest. Comments recorded on flip charts were incorporated into the issues summary presented in this report.

  Following the scoping meeting, the public was also invited to submit additional written comments until the comment deadline of April 30, 2010. A comment form was provided as part of a scoping meeting handout. A copy of the Public Notice and other scoping meeting materials is included in Attachment 1.

A total of 37 individuals signed the scoping meeting sign-in sheet (see Attachment 2). The scoping meeting was facilitated by Mark Holden (Mitigation Commission Project Coordinator), with support from the consultant project team and other agency representatives.

A number of issues were raised during the public scoping meeting and in comments received during the comment period. Approximately 17 comment forms, letters, or email messages were received during the formal comment period. Copies of these are included in Attachment 3.

- Additional public and agency comments were obtained through a series of meetings with key stakeholders during the formal scoping period, including the following:
    - Utah Lake Commission, March 25, 2010
    - Provo City Municipal Council Study Meeting, April 6, 2010
    - Presentation at annual assessment meeting of JSRIP, April 27, 2010
    - Provo City Mayor, staff and Mr. Dale Despain, landowner, April 28, 2010
    - John McMullin, Utah County Engineering Division, April 28, 2010
- Prior to the formal scoping period, informal meetings and data gathering sessions were held as follows:
    - January 21, 2009 – agency pre-planning meeting
    - April 20, 2009 – with Provo City Mayor and staff
    - May 20, 2009 – with Provo City department staff (public works, recreation, airport, water)
    - May 26, 2009 – Utah Department of Natural Resources and Division representatives
    - October 1, 2009 – with Utah County Commissioners
    - November 17, 2009 – with Mountainland Association of Governments
    - November 23, 2009 with Utah Department of Transportation
    - February – March 2010 met with or discussed the project with numerous landowners north of the Harbor Drive and West of 3110 West.
    - March 9, 2010 with Provo City Mayor and staff

3.0 ISSUES DERIVED FROM SCOPING

This section of the report identifies environmental impact issues raised during the scoping process, organized by topic. Conclusions under each section describe the relevance of issues to the EIS. Sources of scoping issues are documented using the following notation:

- Interdisciplinary team of consulting resource specialists (IDT)

- Public scoping meeting and comments received during the comment period (PS)
- Provo City Comments (Provo City)

3.1 Project Purpose and Need

The following comments responded to the draft statement of Purpose and Need that was presented to the public during scoping.

Issue 1: How do you know that this expenditure of public funds will successfully contribute to delisting of June sucker? (PS)

Issue 2: What is the evidence that this will work? (PS)

Issue 3: Could you wait to see if Hobble Creek is successful first? (PS)

Issue 4: Will larvae spawned in ponds or deltas survive? (PS)

Issue 5: What is the likelihood of success given predators (predatory fish, picivorous birds)? (PS)

Issue 6: How long before vegetation/habitat quality is viable as habitat for juvenile June sucker? (PS)

Issue 7: Will the semi-domestic ducks that utilize the existing lower Provo River channel work against the efforts to establish vegetation/habitat? (PS)

Issue 8: What, if any, public access will be provided? (PS)

Issue 9: Will the proposed action support any recreational uses of the lower Provo River? If so, which ones? (PS)

Issue 10: Opportunities should be pursued to maintain and enhance recreation uses and public access. (Provo City)

Conclusions: **All of these issues are concerned with the project purpose and the likelihood that the proposed action will successfully contribute to delisting of the June Sucker. These are relevant issues and will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).** The DEIS will document relevant experience at other locations where similar actions have been implemented. The Hobble Creek restoration is a related action that was also implemented to contribute toward the delisting of the June sucker. More information about the success of the Hobble Creek restoration will become available during the EIS process for the Provo River Delta Restoration Project. The Proposed Action for the Provo River Delta Restoration Project will also be described in detail in Chapter 1 of the DEIS. Existing recreational uses and future recreational uses will also be addressed in the DEIS. Resource evaluations required in the DEIS—such as hydrology, floodplains, and wildlife habitat–will help to inform the public and will assist decision makers in determining whether to select the Proposed Action, some other action, or no-action as the Preferred Alternative in the Final EIS (FEIS).

3.2 June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program Issues/Concerns

Issue 11: How does this action relate to the Central Utah Project (CUP)? (PS)

Issue 12: Can water supplied by the CUP completion project for Provo River and Hobble Creek be used together and/or at different times of year as appropriate to maintain flows? (Will there be enough flow for overall project success?) (PS)

Issue 13: Will carp removal from Utah Lake succeed? (PS)

Issue 14: Are there other things that can be done to remove carp, such as paying ordinary people and fishermen a bounty? (PS)

Issue 15: Will conditions of Utah Lake ever sufficiently replicate conditions when June sucker thrived? (PS)

Issue 16: Is the existing (or remaining) population of June Sucker actually a hybrid species? (PS)

Issue 17: Is enough known about wild June Sucker life history and general biology to know that recovery efforts are going to work? (PS)

Conclusions: **These are primarily background issues related to the broader June Sucker recovery effort.** Background issues will be briefly discussed in Chapter 1 of the DEIS and relevant information sources will be referenced including the June Sucker Recovery Plan (USFWS 1999), the Utah Lake Drainage Basin Water Delivery System Final EIS (CUWCD 2004), and other relevant background information leading up to the current Proposed Action.

3.3 Alternatives

Issue 18: Is creation of a delta a predetermined concept (are there other alternatives than creating a braided river delta)? (PS)

Issue 19: Can the existing river channel and flow be maintained, given the additional water delivery anticipated from the Central Utah Project? (PS)

Issue 20: Are there better ways to spend money to clean up the Lake (or to improve habitat conditions)? Why not spend the money to clean up the Provo River (e.g., garbage, sewer) instead? (PS)

Issue 21: Look at option of taking the river all the way north and out through Powell Slough. (PS)

Issue 22: Is there sufficient flow at another location already (Powell Slough, Mill Race Creek) to do this type of a project without affecting the Provo River channel and flow? (PS)

Issue 23: Could an "artificial" channel for June Sucker spawning be created in a different location than the existing lower Provo River channel by pumping lake water, thus leaving the existing lower Provo River channel unaffected? (PS)

Issue 24: Can the new channel be routed through existing low areas/wetlands that would have the least impact on landowners and home owners? (PS)

Issue 25: Consider utilizing some of the existing canals and drainage ditches (such as the "Fischer" ditch) to transport fish to Utah Lake. (PS)

Issue 26: Take water from the river through the property that is already wet or is a drainage area. (PS)

Issue 27: How about trying a "test delta" project on Mona Reservoir first? If successful, would this be adequate "recovery"? (PS)

Issue 28: Is there a different habitat improvement project alternative that could be pursued, such as improving/dredging Provo Bay, that would also create channels for fishing, boating, and recreating? (PS)

Issue 29: Would you consider involving potentially affected stakeholders in a "Problem Solving Summit" to find a win-win solution?

Conclusions: **All of these comments relate to potential alternatives to the Proposed Action or components of the Proposed Action. These issues are relevant to the development of alternatives to be evaluated in the DEIS.** As required by NEPA, the DEIS will evaluate a broad range of possible alternatives for meeting the purpose and need of this project. Chapter 2 of the DEIS will describe a broad range of alternative courses of action. For alternatives that are dismissed, the reasons why they were dismissed will be briefly discussed. A reasonable range of alternatives will be advanced for detailed evaluation and will be presented in comparative form. The public will have an opportunity to review the DEIS prior to any decisions being made.

3.4 Land Use and Public Access

Issue 30: Will the proposed action redirect all of the water out of the existing lower Provo River channel? (PS)

Issue 31: Will the existing channel be abandoned, resulting in stagnant water area? (PS)

Issue 32: Will the new river area create public access and impacts of public use on private properties? How will public access be provided? How will boundaries between private/public be delineated and protected? (PS, IDT)

Issue 33: Provo City has a conservation easement and a wetland mitigation site within the proposed project area. These interests need to be protected and enhanced if possible. (Provo City, IDT)

Issue 34: Who will manage the property acquired for this project and how will public access be provided for recreation activities such as hiking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing? (IDT)

Conclusions: **These issues are related to existing land uses and public access. These are relevant issues to be addressed in the DEIS.** The Proposed Action and other alternatives will be described in sufficient detail to evaluate impacts on existing land uses and public access.

3.5 Economic Impacts

Issue 35: Every effort needs to be taken to minimize and/or mitigate impacts on property owners and businesses along the existing and relocated river channel (Provo City).

Issue 36: Ranching operations depend on leasing lands in the area for grazing. What will be the impact on ranching operations from lost grazing leases? (PS)

Issue 37: What will be the impact on ranching/agricultural operations from land acquisition? (PS, IDT)

Issue 38: What are available options for livestock grazing if available acreage is reduced as a result of this action? (PS)

Issue 39: Will the proposed action affect planning for future roads that are part of Provo City planning or regional transportation planning? (PS)

Issue 40: There is an existing ropes course and recreation business (including canoe rentals and boat tours) located on the lower Provo River. How will this business be affected by project alternatives? (PS)

***Conclusions*: These issues are related to economic values derived from existing land uses and land ownership.** These are relevant issues to be addressed in the DEIS. The Proposed Action and other alternatives will be described in sufficient detail to evaluate economic impacts and impacts on land owners.

3.6 Flood Control

Issue 41: It seems obvious that dredging and channelization of the river has been done to prevent flooding and protect private land uses in the area. How would flooding be prevented with this project? (PS, IDT)

Issue 42: The existing channel provides flood protection to surrounding areas. How will project alternatives affect the existing floodplain? (PS)

Issue 43: Modification of the Provo River channel will impact existing flood control dikes and facilities. (Provo City)

***Conclusions*: Potential changes to the floodplain and flood control facilities are relevant issues and will be evaluated in the DEIS.**

3.7 Nuisance Species

Issue 44: Concerns have been expressed regarding the potential for this project to create many acres of prime mosquito breeding area. This would be a significant issue to nearby residential neighborhoods. (Provo City)

Issue 45: Would the project facilitate the introduction of Utah state-listed noxious weeds in the project area? (IDT)

***Conclusions*: These are relevant issues that will be considered in design of the Proposed Action and other alternatives evaluated in the DEIS.** The DEIS will evaluate control of nuisance species.

3.8 Local Planning

Issue 46: The Northwest Connector, a major collector road, is planned within the eastern portion (crossing Provo River in the area of 3400-3600 West) of the proposed project area. Coordination of both projects with each other will be required to fulfill the objectives of each. (Provo City, IDT)

Issue 47: The Provo City Airport is immediately south of the project area. Consideration for any potential conflicts with existing and/or future uses at the Airport need to be considered in planning modification and/or relocation of the Provo River delta. (Provo City)

Issue 48: Provo City and Utah County may have plans for trails along Utah Lake. Will the project affect these plans? (IDT)

***Conclusions*: Conflicts with local planning are relevant issues to be evaluated in the DEIS.** To date, the Mitigation Commission and the JSRIP have coordinated with Provo City, other planning entities and agencies, and Utah County to understand current planning projects. During the EIS process, the joint lead agencies will continue to coordinate with Provo City and Utah County to identify potential conflicts with and understand and incorporate current planning projects.

3.9 Water Rights

***Issue 49*:** What impacts on water rights will occur as a result of this project? Will water right holders still get water delivered to existing diversion points? (PS)

Issue 50: Expansion of the surface area of Utah Lake would increase evaporation, therefore the project would need to acquire water rights to offset those evaporative losses to the Utah Lake hydrologic system. (IDT)

Conclusions: **Water rights impacts are a relevant issue to be evaluated in the DEIS.** For all alternatives advanced for detailed analysis, water right points of diversion will be identified and impacts will be disclosed. The agencies will coordinate with any affected water right holders in determining appropriate mitigation.

3.10 Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation Resources

Issue 51: What are existing habitat values; will these be lost? (PS)

Issue 52: The existing lower Provo River channel is currently used as a recreation resource for sportfishing, canoeing, and other activities. The Utah Lake State Park includes other uses such as camping and a boat harbor. The river provides a fishing resource for riverbank anglers (people without boats). The slow channel is a good place for canoeing. The widened channel near the mouth accommodates larger boats. The trail adjacent to the river is used by pedestrians and bicyclists. How will these recreational uses be impacted by project alternatives? (PS)

Issue 53: Will project alternatives negatively affect sportfishing? (PS)

Issue 54: Could sports fishers be allowed to take walleye during their spawning run to help reduce predation on June sucker? (PS)

Issue 55: Could facilitation of gizzard shad populations provide another forage species for predatory fish and thereby help reduce predation on juvenile June Sucker? (PS)

Issue 56: Are there any other Threatened or Endangered Species or wildlife species of concern that may be impacted by this project? (IDT)

Issue 57: What wildlife habitat values are associated with the existing river channel? What impacts will the project have on existing wildlife habitat? (IDT)

Conclusions: **Fish, wildlife, and recreation resources are relevant issues to be addressed in the DEIS.** For all alternatives advanced for detailed analysis these impacts (both positive and negative) will be evaluated and disclosed. Appropriate mitigation for negative impacts will be determined in consultation with appropriate agencies such as the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) and Utah State Parks and Recreation. Issues 54 and 55 largely relate to UDWR management and are beyond the scope of the Proposed Action. Regarding issue 55, the evaluation of an alternative forage species as a potential buffer for predation effects is an element of the Recovery Plan. Utah State University conducted a study specifically using gizzard shad and determined that it would not provide a buffer for predation effects on June sucker (Petersen 1996).

3.11 Cultural Resources

Issue 58: Wasn't the lower Provo River an integral part of Fort Utah and the early settlers? (PS)

Issue 59: Are there any cultural or historic resources that would be impacted as a result of this project? (IDT)

Conclusions: **Potential impacts to cultural/historic resources are relevant issues to be evaluated in the DEIS.** Naturally occurring river channels are generally not considered historic resources. However, some water features such as irrigation diversion structures and canals that have retained their historic integrity may be protected under the National Historic Preservation Act. Other protected cultural resources can include buildings, bridges, and other structures at least 50 years old with historic integrity, as well as sites containing artifacts from past human activities (archaeological sites). The Area of Potential Effects (APE) on cultural resources will be determined in the DEIS. Impacts to any identified cultural resources will be disclosed for all alternatives advanced for detailed analysis in the DEIS. During preparation of the FEIS, the Joint Lead Agencies would negotiate a Programmatic Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to develop appropriate mitigation measures for any cultural or historical properties that may be affected by the project.

4.0 ACTIONS FOLLOWING SCOPING

At completion of the scoping process, the lead agencies will determine the Proposed Action and will develop a process for determining a reasonable range of alternatives to be advanced for detailed evaluation in the DEIS. Based on the significant issues identified in this scoping report, the lead agencies will determine data collection, analyses, and impact assessment criteria for determining the impacts of each alternative. Wherever needed, consultations with cooperating agencies and other agencies and resource experts will be obtained to determine impacts. For identified impacts, practicable mitigation solutions will be proposed.

At this time, the DEIS document is anticipated for release in the spring of 2012. A Notice of Availability will be published, indicating where the document will be available for public review and will describe provisions for submitting public comments. Agencies and individuals who have been added to the project mailing list will be notified by mail.

Following the preparation of responses to comments, a Final EIS (FEIS) document will be prepared and a FEIS Notice of Availability will be released. The FEIS will identify a Preferred Alternative. Following receipt of comments on the FEIS, a Record of Decision (ROD) will be prepared. The ROD will identify the selected alternative, document the reasons for its selection, and will specify any required mitigation and permits necessary for implementing the action.

5.0 REFERENCES

[CUWCD] Central Utah Water Conservancy District. 2004. Utah Lake Drainage Basin Water Delivery System Final Environmental Impact Statement. Prepared by Central Utah Water Conservancy District, Orem, Utah. September.

Petersen, M.E. 1996. The Effects of Prey Growth, Physical Structure, and Piscivore Electivity on the Relative Prey Vulnerability of Gizzard Shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*) and June Sucker (*Chasmistes liorus*). M.S. Thesis, Utah State University, Logan, Utah. 55pp.

[USFWS] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1999. June Sucker (*Chasmistes liorus*) Recovery Plan. Denver, CO: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. June.

ATTACHMENT 1: PUBLIC SCOPING MATERIALS

Provo River Delta Restoration Project

PUBLIC NOTICE:

You Are Invited to Attend a Public Scoping Meeting

The Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Central Utah Project (CUP) Completion Act Office, and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, in cooperation with the June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program (JSRIP), are jointly preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for public review on a proposed stream channel and delta restoration project for the lower Provo River and its interface with Utah Lake near Provo, Utah. The Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500). All interested citizens are invited to attend an upcoming public scoping meeting to learn more about the project and to provide input. The public scoping meeting for this project will be held:

Thursday March 25, 2010
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Utah Lake State Park
4400 West Center Street
Provo, Utah 84601

The purpose of the project is to restore, *re*-create, and enhance the ecological character of the historic Provo River delta and Utah Lake interface to support survival of June sucker (*Chasmistes liorus*), a federally listed endangered fish native to Utah Lake. This would be accomplished by developing a new river channel that would provide suitable instream habitat and sufficient slope to transport young fish to a developed bay, or delta, at Utah Lake with depths and vegetation cover suitable for June sucker rearing and recruitment. The project is intended to help recover the endangered June sucker by re-establishing essential habitat through restoration of the lower Provo River ecosystem to a more natural condition, as has been identified in the June Sucker Recovery Plan (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1999).

The public scoping meeting will include a brief presentation, a question and answer period, and informal discussions with meeting participants. For further information contact Mr. Mark Holden at the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, 230 South 500 East Suite 230, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84102; (801) 524-3146. More information can be found at www.junesuckerrecovery.org. Public comments will be accepted until April 30, 2010, at the above address or by email to urmcc@usbr.gov.

UTAH RECLAMATION MITIGATION AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

JUNE SUCKER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Provo River Delta Restoration Project
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING HANDOUT

WELCOME!

Welcome to the public scoping meeting for the Provo River Delta Restoration Project. The Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Central Utah Project Completion Act Office, and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, in partnership with the June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program (JSRIP), are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review on a proposed stream channel and delta restoration project for the lower Provo River and its interface with Utah Lake. The JSRIP is a multi-agency cooperative effort intended to coordinate and facilitate recovery of the June sucker. The EIS will be prepared under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S. C. 4321 et seq.) and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500). The map below shows the proposed study area.

BACKGROUND

In 1986 the June sucker (*Chasmistes liorus*) was listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The June Sucker Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan), a requirement of the Endangered Species Act, was finalized in 1999. June sucker are native to and occur naturally only in the Utah Lake system. The lower Provo River, representing the only known spawning location for the species in its native habitat, was designated as critical habitat at the time of listing. Habitat alteration, presence of nonnative fishes, and water development were identified as major threats to the June sucker. By 1998 the wild June sucker population was estimated at only approximately 300 individuals.

Monitoring indicates that June sucker are recruitment limited, meaning that young June sucker are not surviving to the adult stage. Fish reared in captivity to several inches in length and introduced into Utah Lake are capable of surviving to adulthood. Some June sucker that were stocked into Utah Lake have survived and now enter the Provo River along with wild fish to spawn in the spring and early summer. Recovery measures to acquire and provide adequate stream flows in lower Provo River have allowed June sucker to spawn successfully in most years, as indicated by the presence of larval fish collected in standard monitoring efforts. However, fish older than 20 days, the age at which young June sucker have consumed their yolk sac and must begin actively feeding, have not been found.

It is believed that first-year fish do not survive the larval stage due to the inadequacy of existing habitat in the lower Provo River and Utah Lake, which is compounded by predation by nonnative fishes. About 7 to 10 days after spawning, June sucker eggs hatch. Seven to ten days after hatching, larvae swim up out of the cobble substrate and drift downstream. Historically, larvae would drift into a shallow, warm, complex wetland habitat at the mouth of the Provo River. Dredging and channelization eliminated the historic habitat of the Provo River delta at Utah Lake. The river now exists in a single, homogenous U-shaped channel unsuitable for young June sucker survival. Under current conditions, larvae cannot reach Utah Lake in most years. Instead, as they drift downstream they come in contact with the slack-water interface created by Utah Lake, which causes water to backup into the lower Provo River. There they are either eaten by non-native predators, or starve and die.

In 1999 the joint lead agencies completed the Diamond Fork System 1999 Final Supplement to the 1984 Diamond Fork Power System Final Environmental Impact Statement, FEIS 99-25. The joint lead agencies subsequently issued Records of Decision (RODs) that included environmental commitments " . . . [to] participate in the development of a Recovery Implementation Program for June Sucker," and that . . . "Any future development of the Bonneville Unit of CUP (Cental Utah Project) will be contingent on the RIP [Recovery Implementation Program] making 'sufficient progress' towards recovery of June sucker." Those commitments were reaffirmed in 2004 through RODs by the joint lead agencies on the Utah Lake Drainage Basin Water Delivery System Final Environmental Impact Statement, FES 04-41. The June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program was established in 2002. The joint lead agencies for this proposed EIS are among the many agencies and organizations participating in the recovery of June sucker.

WHAT IS THE NEED FOR THE PROJECT?

- To restore, enhance or create habitat conditions in the lower Provo River and its interface with Utah Lake (the delta) that are essential for spawning, hatching, larval transport, survival, rearing and recruitment of June sucker to the adult stage.

WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES OF THE PROJECT?

- To preserve and improve fish, wildlife, riparian and wetland habitats at the lower Provo River and its interface with Utah Lake.
- To expedite recovery of the endangered June sucker by re-establishing essential June sucker habitat through restoring the lower Provo River ecosystem, at the Provo River/Utah Lake interface, to a more natural condition.
- To provide recreational improvements and opportunities associated with the habitat restoration project.
- To provide for continued development of the Central Utah Project (CUP).

WHAT IS SUITABLE JUNE SUCKER SPAWNING HABITAT?

- Access to spawning habitat in the Provo River from Utah Lake is provided (i.e., no barriers).
- Staging habitat is provided for adult June sucker in and around the mouth of the Provo River.
- Low-velocity, deep-pool resting habitat is provided for adult June sucker near spawning areas.
- Large deposits of clean, coarse gravel and small cobble substrate in run and riffle habitats are provided for adult June sucker to spawn.

WHAT IS SUITABLE JUNE SUCKER REARING HABITAT?

- June sucker eggs hatch and the emergent larvae drift downstream in the river.
- Larvae are sometimes found in the river, primarily in low-velocity, pool-type habitats.
- June sucker larvae require shallow, vegetated habitat with abundance of small zooplankton food.
- A combination of emergent and submergent vegetation types would likely provide available food supplies for young fish, lateral water temperature gradients, and escape cover from predators.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ISSUES?

- Public Access
- Flood Control
- Recreational Opportunities
- Nuisance Species Control
- Hydrological Changes
- Conflicts with Local Planning
- Land Acquisition
- Agriculture
- Others?

CONCEPTUAL PLANNING APPROACH

The JSRIP has identified that restoring, creating, and enhancing the ecological character of the historic Provo River delta and Utah Lake interface are the means to achieve the need and purposes for this project. This would be accomplished by developing a new river channel that will provide suitable instream habitat and sufficient gradient to transport young fish to Utah Lake. A new bay or delta would be developed at Utah Lake, with depths and vegetative cover suitable for June sucker rearing and recruitment. Preliminary investigations indicate the most feasible approach would be to create these conditions north of the existing lower Provo River channel, west of 3100 West Street.

Although alternative concepts for the channel and delta restoration project would be similar in many ways, there could be significant differences due to land acquisition needs, impacts on existing development, and local planning efforts. The following will be considered when alternative concepts are developed to meet the need and purposes of this project. Where equal or nearly equally viable options exist, alternative concepts should do the following:

- emphasize low operation and maintenance (O&M) costs
- minimize impacts to existing home and business owners
- avoid or minimize conflicts with existing or planned transportation infrastructure
- adhere to desires of the local community
- minimize adverse impacts on existing recreational opportunities

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

You can get involved in this project by letting us know your thoughts regarding the proposed project, suggesting other ideas or solutions to solving this problem, and/or identifying your concerns or questions about the project. This will help us plan the best solution possible to solve the June sucker recruitment problem in Utah Lake. Please give us your comments in writing using the comment form provided. Alternatively, submit comments by e-mail to urmcc@ usbr.gov or in writing to Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, 230 South 500 East, Suite 230, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84102-2045. **All comments must be received by April 30, 2010.** For more information on the JSRIP, please visit www.juneSuckerRecovery.org.

PROVO RIVER DELTA RESTORATION PROJECT
Public Scoping Meeting Comment Form

NAME: _____ MAILING ADDRESS: _____

_____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ _____

_____

REPRESENTING (*optional*) _____ Self _____ Other (*please specify*) _____

PLEASE NOTIFY ME OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES VIA E-MAIL ☐ *VIA U.S. POSTAL SERVICE* ☐ *(check one)*

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS:

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND PARTICIPATION!

Please detatch this page, fold in thirds, tape loose edge, affix postage, and mail.

place
stamp
here

Mark Holden
Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission
230 South 500 East, Suite 230
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

Important points about NEPA
- **The primary purpose of NEPA**
- **The goal of NEPA**
- **What NEPA does**
- **What NEPA does not**

NEPA is the basic national charter for the protection of the environment. It is the **goal of NEPA** to help public officials make decisions that are based on understanding environmental consequences. By this process, actions can be taken to protect, restore, or enhance the environment. The NEPA process begins early in the planning stages of a proposed action and includes document preparation and public participation activities.

What NEPA <u>does</u>:

- **Ensures that the environmental information in documents is made available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken.**
- **Provides opportunities for public participation.**
- **Ensures consideration of environmental concerns as an integral part of program planning and decision making.**

Often it is helpful to explain what an Act does not do in order to help in understanding what it does do. Compliance with NEPA **<u>does not</u>**:

- **Take a vote on which alternative to choose.**—Instead, the NEPA process provides for the development of reasonable alternatives, evaluates their potential impacts, and considers public comments, so that the decision maker can make informed decisions.
- **Prevent environmental impacts from occurring.**—Instead, NEPA compliance **(1)** requires full consideration of the environmental consequences of a proposed action, **(2)** encourages mitigation of potential adverse impacts, and **(3)** requires that potential impacts be disclosed before decision-making takes place.
- **Justify a predetermined action.**—The NEPA process is intended to identify and evaluate alternatives in an impartial manner.
- **Substitute for compliance with other Federal or State laws.**—The NEPA process can be used to facilitate compliance with other laws, such as the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, or the National Historic Preservation Act, but it does not replace the need for compliance with all appropriate laws and regulations before, during, or after a project is implemented.
- **Apply to non-Federal entities.**—NEPA applies only to actions by a Federal agency.

Importance of Public Participation

Public participation activities within the NEPA process **(1)** ensure that public needs and concerns are identified before making decisions that may affect the quality of the human environment, and **(2)** ensure that those needs and concerns are reflected in the decisions, to the extent possible. This is achieved through a continuous exchange of information and interaction between the lead Federal agency and the public.

Public participation typically occurs at two points in a NEPA process: **(a)** the Scoping Period and **(b)** the Public Review and Comment period. During the **Scoping Period** for an Environmental Assessment **(EA)** or an Environmental Impact Statement **(EIS)**, **input** from **State and Federal agencies, organizations,** and the **interested public** is **sought** in order to **identify issues** that should be **analyzed** in the document. **Once** a **draft EA or EIS** is prepared, it is made **available for public review and comment** for a minimum of **30 days** for an **EA**, or **60 days** for an **EIS**. If held, **public hearings** to receive oral and written comments, are **scheduled** to occur **during** the **public comment period** and not sooner than 15 days after the document is published. **All comments received**, whether **written or oral**, are **given full and equal consideration** in preparing the final EA or the EIS.

Summary of the NEPA Process and Required Documents

Once an action is identified and proposed, the **NEPA process** is **implemented by the lead agency**. If a Federal agency's proposed action clearly falls within a class of actions specified in that agency's **NEPA regulations** as having no significant environmental impact, then the action can be considered a **Categorical Exclusion (CE)**. This means that a **Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)** would be prepared, and that the action doesn't necessitate the preparation of an **Environmental Assessment (EA)** or an **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**.

If it is not known whether a proposed action will have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, an **Environmental Assessment** must be prepared. If the analysis in the Environmental Assessment concludes that the proposed action would **not** have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, then a **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)** would be prepared.

On the other hand, if the analysis in an Environmental Assessment concluded that the proposed action might have significant impacts on the human environment, then an **EIS** would be prepared. If it is clear that the proposed action could have significant impacts, it would **not** be necessary to prepare an Environmental Assessment before preparing the **EIS**.

When a **draft EA** is prepared, it is distributed to the interested public for review and comment. The public comment period lasts for at least 30 days. **Public hearings** to receive oral comments on a draft EA are **sometimes held** during the **public comment period**. **All comments** received—**whether written or oral**—are **given full and equal consideration** in preparing the **final EA**.

When a decision to prepare an **EIS** has been made, a **Notice of Intent (NOI)** to prepare the **EIS** is published in the *Federal Register*. This notice informs the public that an **EIS** will be prepared and that the **Scoping Process** will begin. **Scoping** is the early and open process in which public participation is sought to help determine the scope of issues to be addressed in an **EIS**. Once the **Draft EIS (DEIS)** has been prepared, the document is submitted to the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, whereupon the EPA issues a **Notice of Availability (NOA)** of the **DEIS** in the *Federal Register*, and the DEIS is made available for public review and comment.

Public hearings to receive oral comments on an EIS are conducted during a minimum 60-**day public comment period**, but no sooner than 30 days after public notification of such hearings. The agency then considers all written and oral comments received, before preparing a **Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)**. Upon publication of the FEIS, the EPA again publishes a Notice of Availability. Then, no sooner than 30 days after the FEIS is published, the lead agency prepares a **Record of Decision (ROD)**. The **ROD** is published in the *Federal Register* and provides a concise public record of the final decision on a proposed action.

Upon completion of the NEPA compliance process, whether through completion of a Categorical Exclusion Checklist or issuance of a FONSI or ROD, the agency is free to implement the proposed

HOW TO COMMENT

Comments may be the most important contribution from citizens. Accordingly, comments should be clear, concise, and relevant to the analysis of the proposed action. Take the time to organize thoughts and edit the document submitted. Comments that are solution oriented and provide specific examples will be more effective than those that simply oppose the proposed project. Comments that contribute to developing alternatives that address the purpose and need for the action are also effective. They are particularly helpful early in the NEPA process and should be made, if at all possible, during scoping, to ensure that reasonable alternatives can be analyzed and considered early in the process.

It also helps to be aware of what other types of issues the decisionmaker is considering in relationship to the proposed action (the purpose and need generally summarize the issues being considered). Commenting is not a form of "voting" on an alternative. The number of negative comments an agency receives does not prevent an action from moving forward. Numerous comments that repeat the same basic message of support or opposition will typically be responded to collectively. In addition, general comments that state an action will have "significant environmental effects" will not help an agency make a better decision unless the relevant causes and environmental effects are explained.

Finally, remember that decisionmakers also receive other information and data such as operational and technical information related to implementing an action that they will have to consider when making a final decision.

ATTACHMENT 2: PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING SIGN-IN

March 25, 2010
Utah Lake State Park
4400 West Center
Provo, Utah

UTAH RECLAMATION MITIGATION AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PROVO RIVER DELTA RESTORATION PROJECT

Public Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheet

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS	Please send me project mail by: e-mail	USPS
Susan Heringer	794 N Loafer Cyn Rd Elk Ridge 84651	801-473-1343	ssnheringer@yahoo.com	✓	
Karri Smith	P.O. Box 709058 Sandy 84070	801-833-9029	Karria smith@msn.com	✓	
Bill Loy SR	926 West 98 north Orem				
[illegible]	320 E 426 N Alpine	801-756 6935			
Moreno Robins	2373 N 175 E Provo 84604	80-592-4555	MORENO AND LA VINIA@hotmail.com		
Kenneth Angell	299 N 2520 W Provo 84601	801 377 0050	Ken@net-architect.net	✓	✓
Dell & Jo Ann Walter	277 E 1864 So Orem	801 875-5015			
Jim Brooks	510 N Main St 84663	801-489-7867			
John & Jean Muellner	306 N 2200 W Provo 84601	801-377-1317	johnmuellner43@msn.com	✓	
Arnold Horton	1101 Cherry Chase Cir SLC, UT 84117	801-268-1177			
Suzanne Rengers	9116 S. 1500 W. W. Jordan, Ut 84088	801-255-3132	Shrengers@yahoo.com	✓	
Ron Allphin	1167 N General Rd Provo	801-358-5583	remaxtoa@gmail.com		
Jeff Stubbs	964 S 1600 W Provo	377-4981			
Sonja Dyson	1185 E 2080 N Provo	8013740902	sonjafd@comcast.net		
Gail [illegible]	60 South 630 East Linden	801-785-4025			

March 25, 2010
Utah Lake State Park
4400 West Center
Provo, Utah

UTAH RECLAMATION MITIGATION AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PROVO RIVER DELTA RESTORATION PROJECT

Public Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheet

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS	Please send me project mail by: e-mail	USPS
KEITH MORGAN	2415 W. Center St Provo, UT	801-361-4180	keithbm1@yahoo.com	X	
LEE BAXTER	UDOT	379-1174	lbaxter@udot.gov		
Chris Crockett	UDWR	801 4915655	chriscrockett@utah.gov		
Benjamin Allen	3606 W Center	801 373-7932	benjamin@clasropes.com		X
Jim & Dixie Fisher	620 E Center, Lindon	801 785-5680			X
Chris Finlinson	3550 University Prkwy	801-226-7106	christine@cuwcd.com	✓	
TERRY HARWARD	1509 N. 1480 W. Provo	801-377-5600	terryharward@gmail.com	✓	
Tom Halladay	3460 W Center Provo	801 3742437	CTJJM@Comcast.net	L	
RICHARD HATFIELD	1371 So 350 E Provo		RHATFIELD@PROVO.UTAH.GOV	✓	
K. DALE DESPAIN	1185 E 2080 N PROVO	801-374-0902			
Kevin Fisher	~~3334~~ 353 E OCAMPO W. ElkRidge	801-423-7978	LKFisher5@msn.com		
Kurt Fisher	785 E Center St Lindon, UT 84042	801-796-3815			
Delton McLoard	2182 W 600 S 84601	801-318-0413			

March 25, 2010
Utah Lake State Park
4400 West Center
Provo, Utah

UTAH RECLAMATION MITIGATION AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

JUNE SUCKER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

PROVO RIVER DELTA RESTORATION PROJECT

Public Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheet

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS	Please send me project mail by: e-mail	USPS
Turpin	636 S 400 W	372 4039	tketurpin@AOL.		
Kris Halladay	3480 West center	801 372-2054			
Carne Fisher	60 S 630 E Lindon	785-4025	fishcare@comcast.net		
Robyn Pearson	280 E 4th/R Subdiv Alpine	435-654-5824	robynpearson@utah.gov		
Harry McCoard	2182 W 400 S.	318-0602	harry@survsgh.com		
UHAD Hinckley	3320 W Center	356-9475			

ATTACHMENT 3: COMMENTS RECEIVED

PROVO RIVER DELTA RESTORATION PROJECT
Public Scoping Meeting Comment Form

NAME: KEITH B. MORGAN MAILING ADDRESS: 2415 W. Center St
Provo UT 84601

E-MAIL ADDRESS: keithbm1@yahoo.com

REPRESENTING (*optional*) X Self X Other (*please specify*) UT WATER SKI CLUB

PLEASE NOTIFY ME OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES VIA E-MAIL [X] *VIA U.S. POSTAL SERVICE* [ ] *(check one)*

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS:

1. Guarantees of successful implementation?
2. How long before predators figure out new food source?
3. Vegetation to feed larvae – how long before it is viable?
4. Birds feeding on larvae at Hobble Creek Delta diversion now?
5. Will larvae spawned in ponds on delta survive?
6. What recreational development is provided?
7. Could we use both river flows together and/or at different times of year, as appropriate?
8.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND PARTICIPATION!

From: alanmy@comcast.net [mailto:alanmy@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 5:11 PM
To: URM Web Contact
Cc: Alan Myrup
Subject: Provo River Delta Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I believe the Provo River delta project is an excellent proposal to aid in young June sucker survival. Obviously, the river was channelized to prevent flooding and to protect private land in the area. A new delta to the north would not pose as great a flooding threat to the degree that changing the present channel to a delta would. I am also appreciative of the improvements to Hobble Creek and its entrance into the lake. I do have a few ideas that I believe should be considered although they may be unpopular with some people.

1. The high population of semi-domestic ducks at the Provo River mouth likely eat away any aquatic submergent vegetation trying to grow in the slower lower reaches of the river, thus taking away protective cover and food supply for young fish. The population of these ducks is beyond what the ecosystem would normally support due to people feeding the ducks. The solution would be to remove the ducks. Of course, people that bring their children down to feed the ducks would object. But what a great lesson could be taught to those children about how we impact the environment. Another would be to not allow the ducks to be fed which would reduce their numbers somewhat, but would be a nightmare to enforce and would be impossible to enforce the length of the river.

2. I'm sure someone has suggested reducing the numbers of predator fish, which may be harder than the attempt to remove the carp (Unfortunately, I doubt we will ever get to the low levels of carp required to allow submergent vegetation to return and the bottom to stabilize. I love to fish Utah Lake and the Provo River for white

bass, walleye and channel catfish. However, at present, the river is closed to fishing each year until the walleye run is over. The river used to be open to fisherman during this time. I suspect that the difficulty of law enforcement caused its closure. However, why not allow more walleye to be taken when these are predators of young June Suckers? Likely, the white bass are the main predators on young fish because of their sheer numbers.

I'm sure these ideas have been considered, but I decided to write in my own brainstorming thoughts anyway.

Thank you for reading this email and allowing comment.

Sincerely,
Alan Myrup
alanmy@comcast.net

From: rgroo@post.com [mailto:rgroo@post.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2010 9:54 AM
To: URM Web Contact
Subject: June Sucker Restoration

Dear Sir:

I think this plan to move the Provo River is disgusting.
The Provo River should be preserved just as much as endangered species.

I am all for saving species, but the cost and uncertain outcome of the measures being taken to save the June Sucker are not worth it.

If the Sucker can not survive as is, then put some in an aquarium in the museum, stop this senseless removal of Carp from the lake, and leave the lake as an example of how foolish humans can be.

----Robert Groo
Provo resident

From: D. E. Conklin [daeyel@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 7:48 PM
To: URM Web Contact
Subject: June Sucker

You are trying to save a fish that cannot be saved with current methods.

Utah Lake was a cold water lake for its entire existence. Only since the white man introduced the carp, has the lake been a warm water lake. The carp, as I am sure you are aware, is a bottom feeding fish. This bottom feeder stirs up mud, and this, clouding up the water, both raised the lakes temperature, and starved the plants of sunlight and oxygen, and killed them off. Yes, Utah Lake was once cold and clear as the mountain streams that feed it, with abundant plant life below the water, at the waterline, and above water.

These same plants that the June Sucker larvae relied upon to hide in while feeding and growing in the main lake.

Now you want to spend untold millions on creating a delta for the June sucker. Now, I'll admit that I am not aware of whether the Provo River had a delta before the arrival of the white man. If it did, then this proposal is indeed admirable, and should go forward. If the Provo River had no delta, then this is a waste that is unlikely to save the June Sucker.

If you truly wish to save the June sucker, restore the lake to its 1846 state - eliminate the carp, by poisoning the lake (as Strawberry was successfully poisoned) and restore it to a cold water lake! Only then will the June Sucker thrive.
And yes, if that means restoring an original Provo River delta, then add the delta.

As it is, you are pouring money and manpower to save a fish that isn't designed to survive in Utah Lake conditions as they currently are. So save yourselves generations of grief and money, and do it right the first time. It's cheaper in the long run.

Derek Conklin

From: Christopher Morales [mailto:garemite@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 10:43 PM
To: URM Web Contact
Subject: Provo River debate

Please keep the lower section of the Provo River open.

A concerned citizen of Utah County.

Chris Morales

From: William Black [mailto:william@ritraining.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 5:02 PM
To: URM Web Contact
Subject: Provo River

I writing with my concern about the proposal to shut down the lower Provo River.

At first I thought it was a joke.

Now I'm urgently writing as a Provo Citizen asking that this proposal be taken off the table ASAP.

I don't know where to begin as far as concerns because this all seems so common sense.

1. Why would we spend tax dollars diverting a naturally occurring river?
2. Why would we destroy any part of a river that in nationally and internationally renowned and a part of the tourism industry that increases our tax revenues in Provo?
3. There are businesses that depend on the lower Provo River. How would it be justified to destroy these businesses?
4. There is intense recreation that 10's of thousands depend on annually in the lower Provo River. Why would anyone think to dislocate so many who again are here helping our economy?
5. What about Provo's rich heritage? Wasn't the lower Provo River an integral part of Fort Utah and the early settlers?

Please reconsider.

I don't think very many citizens here know about this proposal. Let's find a better solution that doesn't involve devastating this critical area.

Respectfully,

William Black
801-471-0008 x101
www.RiTraining.com

TRAINING

PROVO RIVER DELTA RESTORATION PROJECT
Public Scoping Meeting Comment Form

NAME: Benjamin Allen MAILING ADDRESS: Benjamin Allen
3606 W. Center
Provo, UT 84601

E-MAIL ADDRESS: benjamin@clasropes.com

REPRESENTING (*optional*) X Self X Other (*please specify*) CLAS Ropes Course and Thousands of people who come here.

PLEASE NOTIFY ME OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES VIA E-MAIL [X] *VIA U.S. POSTAL SERVICE* [X] *(check one)*
Both please

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS:

Please see printed pages attached.

Thanks,
Benjamin Allen
801-373-7932
801-400-5865

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND PARTICIPATION!

June Sucker – Provo River Delta
Comments for the Public Scoping Meeting – March 25th 2010

My name is Benjamin Allen. About 17 years ago I quit my job and bought some land along the Provo River to build a ropes course. At that time in Utah, about the only people using ropes courses were considered the "bad guys," (In reality I had built ropes courses for the State Prison and several troubled youth facilities.) So my wife and I decided to build a ropes course that would help regular families, scout groups, church groups and anyone else who wanted to gain the benefits that come from a ropes course experience.

In 1993 we sold our home and almost everything else of value to buy the land and start our business. We lived on the property in a little cabin that was built in the 1880s. It was quite a struggle to make a living for the first few years, but eventually things began to improve.

As an integral part of our business these past 17 years, we have rented canoes. Thousands of people come each year to canoe up and down the Provo River. Families with young children bring bread to feed the ducks along the way. The canoers often see beaver, mink, muskrats, great horned owls, and all kinds of fish in the river. Many types of fish are caught right here in the river including trout, walleye, catfish, white bass, bluegill, carp, and other species.

Dating back into the 1800s, excursion boats have traveled up and down the river and out to Utah Lake. The Eastmond, The Florence, The Reanon W, and the SS Sho-Boat are just a few of those historical crafts. The SS Sho-Boat continued in operation until 1946. Fifty years later, as a part of our business plan, large excursion boats again began traveling up and down the river. We operate two professional excursion boats that will seat 40 people on each boat. For the last 14 years we have offered an annual Christmas Cruise on the Provo River. We also sponsor other cruises up and down the river which attract 7,000-8,000 people per year.

As you can see, the river is crucial to our business. If you decide to build the Delta Project, we ask that you leave half the water in the old channel and take half the water for the delta. This would still allow you to have more water than the Hobble Creek delta yet not destroy the business that we've built.

Speaking of the Hobble Creek Delta, I think that there should be significant proof that it is making the difference you claim, before you begin the Provo River Project. It doesn't make sense to me to spend millions of dollars on the mere "hope" that the project will work.

Also, let's look at all the alternatives before spending so much money and disrupting so many people's lives. At the meeting I suggested several things that could make a difference, but some minds are so set on this Provo River Delta that common sense is not even considered.

Please know that I do understand that the June sucker IS considered "endangered." But, it is painfully obvious for those who study history that chances are that this particular species that you're saving is a "hybrid" not the real McCoy. There have been several droughts over the past 100 years that reduced the lake to a mud puddle. So, as you read the following

questions please view them understanding that I know there IS a government mandate to try to restore the species, but also understand that I am skeptical as to whether or not a "hybrid" sucker is genetically strong enough to survive long-term regardless of how much money is being spent.

Even in your own literature you write "little is known about the life history and general biology of the species. And unfortunately, there are only a few wild June sucker remaining making it difficult to gain basic biological information, which is essential to recovery efforts."

The questions:

1. Is there a better way to eliminate the carp? In addition to hiring people to net the carp, what if you put a 10 cent bounty on each carp. Lots of ordinary people and fishermen would help with this problem. How much are you paying per carp right now? Wouldn't 10 cents per carp be less expensive?
2. If the Hobble Creek Delta is working (and I don't think there is any proof yet that it is), then why not turn the Powell Slough into a delta? There is good flow through the area and that would affect no one compared to the effect it will have on thousands of people if you divert the Provo River. Has this even been considered? If the answer is no, then a lot of people are not doing their job. (Even Mill Race Creek has more year-round flow than Hobble Creek.)
3. Would you consider creating a Provo Delta and just use water pumped up from the lake rather than diverting the Provo River? I understand there might be some sucker that will still try to spawn in the Provo, but remember, you are stocking 50-plus thousand of them each year and none of them KNOW they aren't in the river so they should adapt to "pumped" water as easily as they can to actual river current.
4. Why, if we are so concerned about the quality of environment for the sucker, don't we clean up all the trash coming down the Provo River? I suggested an easy, inexpensive way to clean up the Provo River and Utah Lake. The people in charge of the June Sucker Meeting said that cleaning up the Provo River and Utah Lake was not a priority. It's just plain common sense that cleaning up the river and the lake would help the June sucker. Why don't you try it first before spending so much money doing something you are not sure actually will help?

I know that some of these ideas may not work, but I have been teaching teamwork and problem solving skills here at CLAS Ropes Course long enough to know that even a bad idea can turn into a good one with the right people approaching the problem with open minds. I would love to be invited to a "Problem Solving Summit" because I am sure we can find a win-win solution.

Thanks for your consideration,

Benjamin Allen

801-373-7932h
801-400-5865c
Email: benjamn@clasropes.com

PROVO RIVER DELTA RESTORATION PROJECT

Provo City Comments on the Proposed Project

April 29th, 2010

Provo City desires to be supportive of efforts by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission's to modify the mouth of the Provo River channel at Utah Lake to accommodate recovery of the endangered June sucker fish. Following are a number of concerns that should be addressed during the Project planning process:

Opportunities should be pursued to maintain and enhance **recreation uses** and **public access.** The creation of enhanced recreational and public access facilities (trails, boardwalks, a beach, wildlife observation, public information and education locations, etc.) would facilitate public understanding and support for the project.

Every effort needs to be taken to minimize and/or to mitigate impacts on **property owners** and businesses along the existing and relocated river channel. Compensation and mitigation for property owners within the new project area will obviously need to be provided. Additionally, interests of property owners, who have acquired and/or use their property based upon proximity to the existing Provo River channel, which may be eliminated or significantly altered, will need to be considered.

The **Northwest Connector**, a major collector road, is planned within the eastern portion (crossing Provo River in the area of 3400 - 3600 West) of the proposed project area. Coordination of both projects with each other will be required to fulfill the objectives of each.

The **Provo City Airport** is immediately south of the project area. Consideration for any potential conflicts with existing and/or future uses at the Airport need to be considered in planning modification and/or relocation of the Provo River delta.

Modification of the Provo River channel will impact existing **Flood Control** dikes and facilities. Relocation and modification of these facilities will need to designed and constructed to current standards, to provide protection to existing development and land uses in the area.

Provo City has a **Conservation Easement** and a **Wetland Mitigation** site within the proposed project area. These interests need to be protected, and enhanced, if possible.

Concerns have been expressed regarding the potential for this project to create many acres of prime **mosquito** breeding area. This would be a significant issue so near residential neighborhoods.

From: Bryan Waldon Pope [mailto:bryan@mktgsuccess.com]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 8:25 AM
To: URM Web Contact
Cc: benjamin@clasropes.com
Subject: FW: Please Help the Provo River!
Importance: High

Note: The following message is in response to Mr. Benjamin Allen's message, which can be found at the end of this email. My message is intended for decision-making personnel at the Bureau of Reclamation as well as the media contacts to whom I have forwarded it. Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing this important issue.

****

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you concerning the matter addressed by Benjamin Allen in his email message below. I was altogether unaware of this issue until I read his email just now. I don't know the facts of the situation, nor am I any kind of environmentalist, so I won't speak to that with which I am not familiar.

I have but one point for consideration, and it is a simple one that doesn't require lengthy documentation, costly research, or public hearings. Too many people get worked up over the preservation of endangered species at the expense of neglecting our own. I'm all for being a responsible steward of this magnificent earth we've been given, don't get me wrong. My point is bluntly that efforts directed at the preservation of animal life are often damaging to our fellow human beings. Consideration must be given to all living things and their needs.

If Mr. Allen is correct in his statements, it seems a shaky (and costly) effort to pursue a project that may or may not bear fruit, while that same project will endanger, and likely ensure the extinction of, a human's enduring effort to support

his family. At what point do we realize a significant part of our stewardship as humans is to each other?

If, in fact, this project moves forward and diverts the Provo River, the responsibility-conscious people who are looking out for the best interest of the June Sucker (or its hybrid relative, as Mr. Allen asserts) need to be equally human in considering the best interest of our fellow species member and his family. Appropriate budget allocations made to relocate Mr. Allen, his family, his home, and his business to a site suited to the ongoing success of his endeavor would be necessary in the plan.

Unlike the report cited by Mr. Allen which indicates a lack of data surrounding the life history of the fish in question, which information is apparently "essential to recovery efforts," we have more than adequate data as to the life (and death) history of many an enterprising American's dream at the hands of irresponsible government decision-makers. If fighting for the future of endangered species is on the top of our priority list as a society, please add the American small business owner to the top of your list. Ironically, Mr. Allen and millions of other men and women in this country with the fortitude and drive to run their own businesses are the resource that creates jobs which, in turn, create revenues to fund projects like the one at hand (not to mention the salaries of government decision-makers). Consider this undisputable fact as you proceed.

Thank you in advance for your careful handling of the human and small business owner species. They're both worth preserving.

Sincerely,

Bryan Pope
Long-time Utah County resident

From: Benjamin [mailto:benjamin@clasropes.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 11:02 PM
To: benjamin@clasropes.com
Subject: FW: Please Help the Provo River!

From: Benjamin [mailto:benjamin@clasropes.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 10:30 PM
To: 'amberwizard@yahoo.com'

Subject: Please Help the Provo River!

Hi: We need your help!

Thousands of people canoe and fish the Lower Provo River every year. Now they want to divert the whole river about a half mile up stream from CLAS Ropes Course to make a delta for the June Sucker spawn. This would mean that no one could canoe or do the Halloween or Christmas Cruise because it will leave this section of the river dry. No more fishing, no more beaver, mink, or muskrats. The lower Provo River is a wonderful place to get away from the noise and commotion of the city.

Please read through the following response I wrote after listening to their proposal on March 25, 2010. They have asked for public input until the end of April. Please give them your thoughts about diverting the Provo River to make a delta for the June Suckers. If you know of others who love the lower section of the Provo River, please forward this information on to them also, and encourage them to write to the following email address:

urmcc@usbr.gov

or write to:
Mark Holden
Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission
230 S. 500 E., Suite 230,
SLC, Utah, 84102-2045

Thanks,
Benjamin Allen
801-373-7932h
801-400-5865c

My Response

My name is Benjamin Allen. Seventeen years ago I quit my job and bought some land along the Provo River to build a ropes course. At that time in

Utah, about the only people using ropes courses were considered the "bad guys," (In reality I had built ropes courses for the State Prison and many troubled youth facilities.) So my wife and I decided to build a ropes course that would help regular families, scout groups, church groups and anyone else who wanted to gain the benefits that come from a ropes course experience.

In 1993 we sold our home and almost everything else of value to buy the land and start our business. We lived on the property in a little cabin that was built in the 1880s. It was quite a struggle to make a living for the first few years, but eventually things began to improve.

As an integral part of our business these past 17 years, we have rented canoes. Thousands of people come each year to canoe up and down the Provo River. Families with young children bring bread to feed the ducks along the way. The canoers often see beaver, mink, muskrats, great horned owls, and all kinds of fish in the river. Many types of fish are caught right here in the river including trout, walleye, catfish, white bass, bluegill, carp, and other species.

Dating back into the 1800s, excursion boats have traveled up and down the river and out to Utah Lake. The Eastmond, The Florence, The Reanon W, and the SS Sho-Boat are just a few of those historical crafts. The SS Sho-Boat continued in operation until 1946. Fifty years later, as a part of our business plan, large excursion boats again began traveling up and down the river. We operate two professional excursion boats that will seat 40 people on each boat. For the last 14 years we have offered an annual Christmas Cruise on the Provo River. We also sponsor other cruises up and down the river which attract 7,000-8,000 people per year.

As you can see, the river is crucial to our business. If you decide to build the Delta Project, we ask that you leave half the water in the old channel and take half the water for the delta. This would still allow you to have more water than the Hobble Creek delta yet not destroy the business that we've built.

Speaking of the Hobble Creek Delta, I think that there should be significant proof that it is making the difference you claim, before you begin the Provo

River Project. It doesn't make sense to me to spend millions of dollars on the mere "hope" that the project will work.

Also, let's look at all the alternatives before spending so much money and disrupting so many people's lives. At the meeting I suggested several things that could make a difference, but some minds are so set on this Provo River Delta that common sense is not even considered.

Please know that I do understand that the June sucker IS considered "endangered." But, it is painfully obvious for those who study history that chances are that this particular species that you're saving is a "hybrid" not the real McCoy. There have been several droughts over the past 100 years that reduced the lake to a mud puddle. So, as you read the following questions please view them understanding that I know there IS a government mandate to try to restore the species, but also understand that I am skeptical as to whether or not a "hybrid" sucker is genetically strong enough to survive long-term regardless of how much money is being spent.

Even in your own literature you write "little is known about the life history and general biology of the species. And unfortunately, there are only a few wild June sucker remaining making it difficult to gain basic biological information, which is essential to recovery efforts."

The questions:

1. Is there a better way to eliminate the carp? In addition to hiring people to net the carp, what if you put a 10 cent bounty on each carp. Lots of ordinary people and fishermen would help with this problem. How much are you paying per carp right now? Wouldn't 10 cents per carp be less expensive?
2. If the Hobble Creek Delta is working (and I don't think there is any proof yet that it is), then why not turn the Powell Slough into a delta? There is good flow through the area and that would affect no one compared to the effect it will have on thousands of people if you divert the Provo River. Has this even been considered? If the answer is no, then a lot of people are not doing their job. (Even Mill Race Creek has more year-round flow than Hobble Creek.)
3. Would you consider creating a Provo Delta and just use water pumped

up from the lake rather than diverting the Provo River? I understand there might be some sucker that will still try to spawn in the Provo, but remember, you are stocking 50-plus thousand of them each year and none of them KNOW they aren't in the river so they should adapt to "pumped" water as easily as they can to actual river current.

4. Why, if we are so concerned about the quality of environment for the sucker, don't we clean up all the trash coming down the Provo River? I suggested an easy, inexpensive way to clean up the Provo River and Utah Lake. The people in charge of the June Sucker Meeting said that cleaning up the Provo River and Utah Lake was not a priority. It's just plain common sense that cleaning up the river and the lake would help the June sucker. Why don't you try it first before spending so much money doing something you are not sure actually will help?

I know that some of these ideas may not work, but I have been teaching teamwork and problem solving skills here at CLAS Ropes Course long enough to know that even a bad idea can turn into a good one with the right people approaching the problem with open minds. I would love to be invited to a "Problem Solving Summit" because I am sure we can find a win-win solution.

Thanks for your consideration,

Benjamin Allen

801-373-7932h
801-400-5865c
Email: benjamin@clasropes.com

From: ian mounteer [mailto:ianmounteer@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 5:22 AM
To: URM Web Contact
Subject: Lower provo river

I recently read some information regarding the diversion of the Provo river to create a delta for fish preservation. I am writing to you as a Provo resident who does not agree with the complete diversion of the river. A lot of good both environmentally and recreationally comes out of having the lower Provo river. I have been able to use it to teach scouts and other youth groups a great deal about native animals in the area that to find another habitat I have to drive several miles. I also enjoy the river trail and boating and such that can be done on approximately the last mile of the river that was widened out earlier in the last century. I also feel that a diversion would hurt the businesses (campground, boat harbor, and ropes course) on that end of the river.

While I do understand a need to help the fish I would like to see something such as a partial diversion or using the natural course of the river as a solution. Rather than once again mankind just decided to reroute something that mother nature has put a lot of time into creating, just because currently we feel that we know better. Please remember erosion control in the mid 20th century put junked out cars and old cement in to the riverbank because that was what was best at the time.

Please look in to as many options as possible in this situation to find which one is the best fit for both the fish and the Provo community. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ian Mounteer
Provo citizen

From: robertmfowler@paris.com [mailto:robertmfowler@paris.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 6:39 PM
To: URM Web Contact
Subject: provo river

Please don't divert the Provo River! We went canoeing down it and it was wonderful. Last weekend we rode bikes along the trail that runs next to the river.

From: Amber Allen [mailto:amberwizard@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 12:04 PM
To: URM Web Contact
Subject: Please Read

To whom it may concern,

I've been playing in the Provo River and enjoying its wildlife and scenery since I was very young. It is enchanting for me to see the baby ducks every spring and listen for the beavers at night. I often take my friends canoing at night and look up at the stars and moon. I swim in the river and boat on the Lake. I've been at many service activities where I was able to clean up the river. I love photography and take pictures down at the river often.

Recently, however, I heard that some people are trying to get rid of this river!! on behalf of some silly fish that is going extinct. I believe that this project is extremely uncalled for and I would even go so far as saying immoral. From a philosopher I heard the story told where a man in a very nice suit and brand new shoes was headed to a business meeting where he was the CEO and must not be late. He passed by a pond where a baby was drowning out in the middle. It was his moral duty to save the baby over his new pants and shoes. Now in this situation, there are people dying in third world countries - PEOPLE not FISH, and we are spending thousands of dollars to keep a fish from going extinct? Will this fish save lives? Will it provide food for starving children? What benifit does this fish have for PEOPLE? If you guys think that people are less important than fish, then by all means go ahead and spend that much money on this project and may you reap the consequences later. Going forward with this project could very well be seen as a nice business man leaving a child to drown in a pond to save his nice pants and shoes. If I had all the money you did, I sure wouldn't be spending it on the stupid June Sucker.

Sincerely,

Amber

From: Jenny Williams [jennycwilliams@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 3:21 PM
To: URM Web Contact
Subject: Provo River Delta Project

To Whom it May Concern:

Hi, my name is Jenny Williams, and I am a common visitor and user of the lower Provo River. I have learned of the new possibility of diverting the water in an attempt to decrease the Carp population, and create a habitat for the June Sucker spawn, with the Delta Project. I would just like to suggest my feelings and opinions in the matter.

I believe that the project is a major renovation for a lost cause. Millions of dollars would be put into this project, only as an attempt to fix some of the rivers problems. There is no scientific evidence, as far as I am aware of, that supports the positive effects of June Sucker population increase through introduction into the deltas.

Also, any destruction to a natural habitat that is not entirely necessary, I believe should not occur. In this case, it is the Provo River. It breaks my heart to see a natural beauty destroyed, and all of its inhabitants along with it.

Please consider this, and so many other's concerns while making the best decision in the project. Please consider other locations, or ways about developing this project. Please consider the interest of all those whom the project would be effecting.

Thanks you, and good luck with everything!

Jenny Williams
Jennycwilliams@hotmail.com

From: Ashley Radebaugh [ashparagus@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 1:15 PM
To: URM Web Contact
Subject: Provo River

PLEASE do not cut the water from the lower Provo River! Our family and friends have so many shared memories and experiences of canoeing on the lower river. We still continue to do so today. It is a beautiful part of our city, and it would be a shame to lose it. Please review ALL options before making any changes!!!!

Ashley Whimpey

PROVO RIVER DELTA RESTORATION PROJECT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING COMMENT FORM

Name: Don Allphin

Mailing Address: Don Allphin
1167 North Geneva Road
Provo, Utah 84601

Representing: Self, and Daily Herald Readers

Dear Mark Holden,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Those who know me are aware that I have argued about the need to "save" the June sucker from the very beginning. I still believe there was a fraud perpetrated upon us by those who "typed" this "hybrid" fish, and I've seen no science to disprove this statement. That being said, good old NEPA does seem to rule here and so if we want any more water in our transport systems from eastern Utah to Utah lake, we'd better face the music and realize we must play along with this unfortunate game.

The area proposed for the delta will completely alter and change the way the river enters the lake. This affects not only people who make their livings on or near the river, but it affects those who travel up and down the trails in the area, ride bikes, roller blade, and run. I strongly oppose any changes in the path the river takes.

If a delta is needed (which is still unclear in my mind since there is no data available from the Hobble Creek delta project), then I believe the water for such a project should be pumped from the current river, thus maintaining the flow we now have (with added CUP water) below the pumping area, yet allowing the Recovery Program to operate in their "new area". Though we may need to "dance" with the June sucker, there is no need to pour salt and vinegar in the wound.

There is a ditch in the general area of the proposed delta – the "Fisher" ditch that meanders through the fields to the north and west of the proposed area and ends in the lake. Why couldn't that "established" ditch be expanded and used for your purposes? It is my opinion that sucker most likely already use that ditch at times in the year, and it would seem to me that you would have a greater opportunity to perhaps "train" sucker to use a 100-plus-year-old ditch rather than starting new again.

But there is much more to my comments that those above. I would like to suggest a complete change in approach to saving and recovering the June sucker. As I see it, more than 80 per cent of my readers are opposed to ANY action to save the sucker. However, these same readers want better access to Provo Bay, for example, channels for fishing, boating, and recreating. They want parts of the lake dredged, deepened, and in short, cared for. So, why don't you come up with a plan that includes spending money on improving the lake and as a spillover benefit, you get everything you need to help the June sucker? To me, this wouldn't be a tough call. People don't mind that you "save" sucker – what they mind is the arrogance with which the project is administered, and lip service that is paid to those who sincerely

question the efforts of the agencies involved. We are in crisis mode with government spending and it irks people to see our hard-earned tax dollars being spent on something that even after 20 years of effort we don't really see numbers improving, which has to be a PR nightmare. Five or so years ago, a few Gizzard shad escaped from a reservoir upstream from the San Juan River in Lake Powell. And, with NO help from the government, the shad have expanded to all areas in the lake. So, why hasn't the June sucker done the same thing? People are asking that question of me almost weekly. If "saving" the June sucker were "part" of the Utah Lake Improvement District (or whatever title you wanted for it), I believe you would get immediate buy in and people would get off your backs and allow you to complete your work.

Finally, although this is near treason to suggest such a thing, if predation is one of the suckers' biggest hurdles in its recovery, why wouldn't having more forage fish in the lake help the project. Follow me on this: If the carp removal were to be successful, why wouldn't a fish like the gizzard shad for example serve to protect the sucker as they expand to take the place of the carp. I know there will be those who would say that they would compete with the sucker for food, but simply consider what having another excellent forage species in the lake would mean as sucker develop. Remember, shad are not grass eaters and would not tear up the bottom of the lake. The sucker would become less of a target and could grow in relative peace. Just a thought.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project and I pray you will consider all the comments received and continue to seek input as you prepare for the next step in your recovery plans.

Sincerely,

Don Allphin
801-358-5583
don@donallphin.com

_____
From: Darryl Alder [dalder@bsamail.org]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 9:14 PM
To: URM Web Contact
Subject: June Sucker and the Provo River

Mark

Please consider this our input to the suggested Provo Delta/River Diversion Project.

For many years we have used the facilities at CLAS Ropes Course. The river is part of the services we expect for our youth.

This year we have entered into a unique partnership with CLAS to provide High Adventure to our older youth--the river is an integral part of that program.

Please consider other lake areas that do not have such vital businesses on them for this reclamation project.

Sincere thanks

Darryl Alder
Director of Support Services
Utah National Parks Council, BSA and Learning for Life
1340 West 748 North, Orem UT 84057
cell 801.592.9749

PROVO RIVER DELTA RESTORATION PROJECT
Public Scoping Meeting Comment Form

NAME: Moreno Robins MAILING ADDRESS: 3373 N. 175 E. Provo, Utah 84604

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Morenoandlavinia@hotmail.com

LaDenn R. Christianson
717 E. 3230 N.
Provo, Utah 84604 marlinlance@yahoo.com

REPRESENTING (*optional*) X Self ____ Other (*please specify*) ____

PLEASE NOTIFY ME OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES VIA E-MAIL ☐ *VIA U.S. POSTAL SERVICE* ☒ *(check one)*

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS:

See attached letter (2 pages) and Map

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND PARTICIPATION!

Provo River Delta Restoration Project Public Scoping Meeting Comment

1. As land owners and ranchers, we have enjoyed productive use of this land for over 30 years. We have also extended the use of the land to others in the community for gatherings and activities (scouting, church, school, work, etc.) We feel that putting the location of the Provo River delta in the **unusable** marshland areas (as indicated on the map) directly north of the current river location would have the least amount of impact on local land owners and home owners.

   Approximate locations

2. As discussed with Mr. Mark Holden, we feel a possible solution with minimal impact to the land would be to utilize the existing canal system. The Fisher canal, (located in the Fisher land boundaries and continuing through the Despain land into the marsh area and into the lake) as indicated on the map, has existed for many years. We rented this land from the middle 1970s to the late 1980s and found carp and other fish from the lake existing in the canals (demonstrating the connectivity to the lake).

   (approximate)

3. At the land owners meeting of March 25, the question was posed as to the effectiveness of the Hobble Creek Delta project. It seemed that no conclusive answers were given. It would seem logical not to proceed with a larger project at tremendous cost if positive results are not exhibited.

4. A study of how more wetland will affect the mosquito population in this area is necessary. Local residents would be adversely affected if more

marshland were created by a new delta. The current mosquito swarms from May through September already plague the local neighborhoods.

5. We see that it would be **very difficult** to find any other land in this vicinity as a replacement for our livestock, as agricultural land is at a minimum and prices are high.

6. Your careful consideration of these concerns is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

M. Moreno Robins M.D. (801) 592-4555

M. Moreno Robins M.D.

Kipp M. Robins M.D.

Marlin L. Christianson M.D.

LaDonn R. Christianson (801) 400-3027

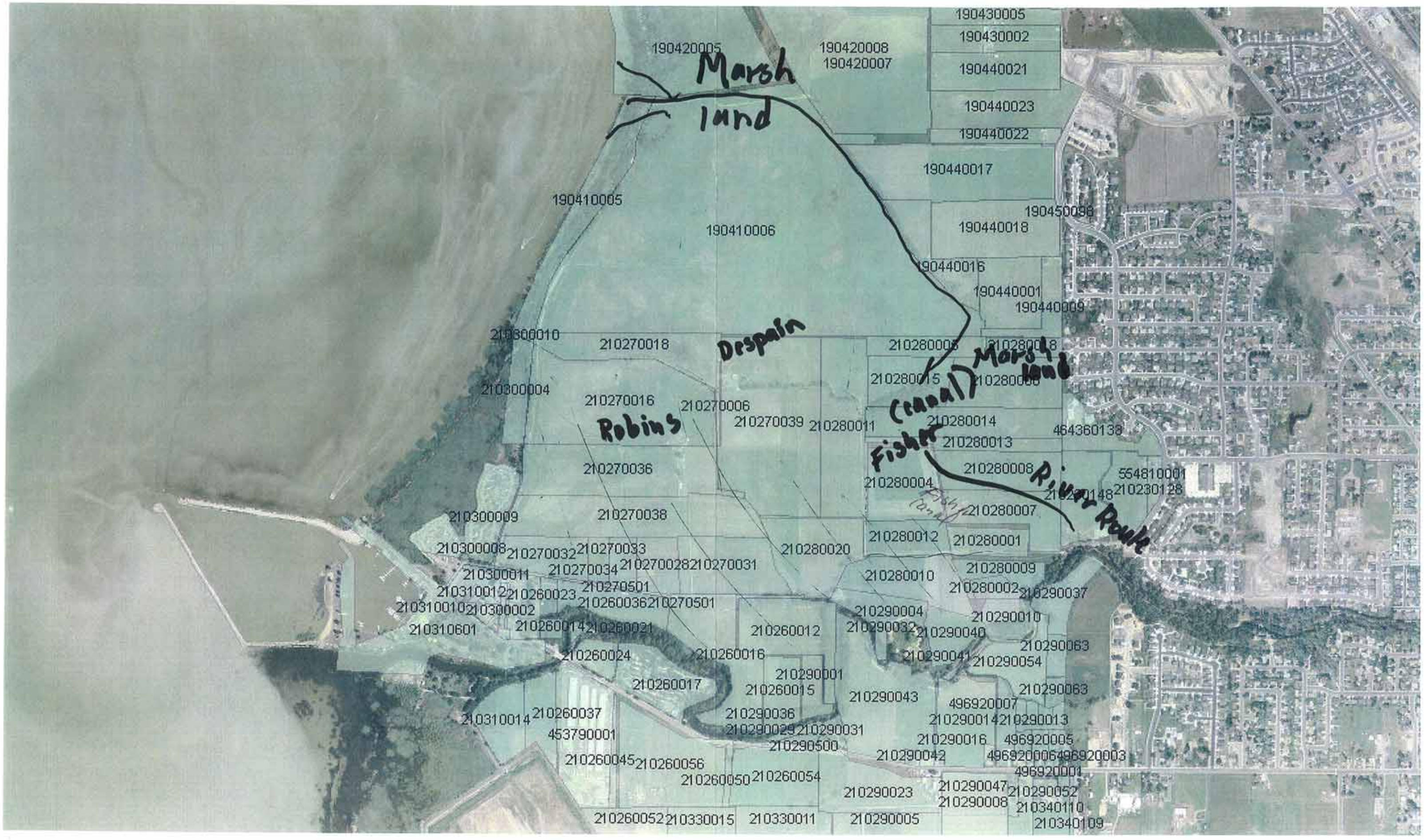
LaDonn R. Christianson

c/c

Mayor John Curtis, Provo

Gov. Gary Herbert

Rep. Jason Chaffetz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Robins
Marsh land
(canal)
Fishes
River Road
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