

**CHARTER**  
**Technical Subcommittee**  
**Gila-San Francisco Coordinating Committee**  
*April 2006*

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC), Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Group (SWNMWPG) or its successor, and New Mexico Office of the Governor (NMOG) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) forming the Gila – San Francisco Coordinating Committee (GSFCC). The GSFCC is charged with identifying potential effects of water withdrawal on proposed biological species under the terms of the Consumptive Use and Forbearance Agreement (CUFA). The deliverable from the efforts of the GSFCC will be a FW Coordination Act Report or Planning Aid Memorandum by 2009. As stated in Section IV of the MOU, the GSFCC will form and direct specific subcommittees to assist in achieving these tasks.

“Specific subcommittees, membership, subgroups, and tasks and will be determined by the GSFCC. Subcommittees proposed include, but are not limited to a Technical Subcommittee, and a Public Involvement Subcommittee.”

“The Technical Subcommittee will focus on technical and scientific issues related to the effects of potential water withdrawals under terms of the Consumptive Use and Forbearance Agreement (CUFA) on fish and neotropical migratory birds and other wildlife resources.”

**II. PURPOSE**

Using the best available data and science, the members of the Technical Subcommittee will evaluate effects on fish, neotropical migratory birds, hydrology, geomorphology, riparian community and other wildlife resources, based on those terms in the CUFA that provide for New Mexico’s diversion of additional water from the Gila Basin above those amounts allocated by the 1964 US Supreme Court Decree in *Arizona v. California*. The Technical Subcommittee will focus on the Upper Gila Basin above the Arizona-New Mexico State line and provide a summation of information that provides guidance in the Coordination Act Report. The Technical Subcommittee will recommend studies and actions to the GSFCC and undertake those studies and actions as prioritized and directed by the GSFCC.

**III. ORGANIZATION**

The Technical Subcommittee will be populated with technical representation from affected agencies and entities that represent an interest in Southwest New Mexico. In addition, the GSFCC will invite participation from individuals regardless of agency or group affiliation that can bring valuable scientific experience to the Subcommittee. If however, the Subcommittee becomes too large, unproductive, unmanageable, or generally not meeting the requirements of the GSFCC, the GSFCC will repopulate and restructure the Technical Subcommittee, as it is necessary.

**Membership Guidance:**

- At least one person from each MOU signatory
- At least one person from each of the following disciplines: hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, riparian community, forest hydrology, fisheries, neotropical migratory birds, herpetology, and other wildlife resources.
- Membership from federal agencies, state agencies, and stakeholders in the Upper Gila Basin.
- The chair individual for the Technical Subcommittee will be selected by the GSFCC.
- Additional members to the Technical Subcommittee can be added by the GSFCC.
- Members on the Technical Subcommittee can be removed by the GSFCC.
- All Technical Subcommittee members may have a designated alternate.

#### **IV. RESPONSIBILITIES**

The major tasks and responsibilities of the Technical Subcommittee include but are not limited to:

- Establish effective communications amongst members that supports individual opinions or differences and allows for professionalism within the group to be developed and expressed.
- Collectively determine baseline conditions through current data within identified disciplines.
- Recommend to the GSFCC technical studies necessary to determine the potential impact from water withdrawals (under the terms of the CUFA) on river channel function, fish, neotropical migratory birds, and other wildlife resources, and scope, monitor, and provide reports on the studies conducted.
- Outline investigations that support the scope of work in the Coordination Act Report.
- Report back to the GSFCC results of studies.
- Submit monthly updates to the GSFCC as to Subcommittee progress.
- After reviewing current and future investigations, the Technical Subcommittee should make recommendations for appropriate agencies to the GSFCC.
- By December 2006, the Subcommittee will have reported to the GSFCC recommendations for all studies, scopes, and schedules necessary to determine the impacts on listed species of water withdrawals under the terms of the CUFA and

that are required to receive a Coordination Act Report from US Fish and Wildlife Service by the end of calendar year 2009.

## **V. SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

The Technical Subcommittee will meet on a regular basis that allows the members to maintain a continuity in discussions on disciplines and supports reporting on assignments from the GSFCC within the designated timeframe.

- Meetings should be held in a location and manner that is most easily reached by a majority of members.
- Meetings will occur at a frequency that supports responsibilities assigned by the GSFCC.