

Warrior and Coosa Projects Combined

E10 IAG Work Plan

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Issue Statement

WE10 & CE10 Impacts of Project Releases - Effect of altered hydrology on the aquatic resources of the project study area.

IAG Tasks and Responsibilities

The IAG has been given the following responsibilities:

- review current project operations (see Initial Information Packages) and operational constraints regarding the operation of the Coosa (Weiss, Henry, Logan Martin, Lay, Mitchell, Jordan, and Bouldin) and Warrior (Smith and Bankhead) Projects.
- identify areas within the project study area that may benefit environmentally from changes in Project release flows
- identify goals and objectives for improving areas affected by project operations
- work with the APC Project Operations Group to identify “reasonable” (based on hydrologic, structural, and other limitations identified) changes and alternatives for modifying project operations
- identify studies (literature reviews, expert opinion, modeling input, etc.) needed for evaluating changes to project operations,
- assess and/or predict the operational and biological effects of potential changes in Project release flows, and
- make recommendations to the EcoRAT & WCRT regarding a range of reasonable alternatives to current Project release flows.

Warrior and Coosa Projects Combined

Work Scope and Product

- Task 1 Review the operational constraints and current operations of the Coosa and Warrior Projects as identified by APC and the ACOE.
- Task 2 Identify areas within the project study area where changes to Project release flows may incrementally improve environmental conditions and determine resource management goals for these identified areas (includes input recorded on the E10 Issue Sheet and additional input from IAG members).
- Task 3 Determine appropriate information necessary to assess different flow scenarios for each of these areas (literature reviews, field surveys, expert opinion, modeling input, etc.)
- Task 4 Use the information provided by the APC Project Operations Group to identify initial flow ranges for analysis and identification of “reasonable” operating scenarios. Also use information to develop answers to the Issue Sheet requests and identify necessary studies, if applicable.
- Task 5 Make recommendations to EcoRAT and WCRT regarding Tasks 1 through Task 4.
- Task 6 Develop study plans including study methods and review agreed upon flow studies, literature reviews, expert opinion, modeling input, etc.
- Task 7 Develop and recommend operation scenarios to the APC Project Operations Group for analysis.
- Task 8 Discuss results of APC Project Operations Group analyses.
- Task 9 Prepare and report a range of project operation alternatives and/or IAG recommendations to EcoRAT & WCRT.

Schedule

The E10 - IAG is anticipated to begin work with a kick-off meeting in early October and will continue meeting periodically over the coming months. The following is a “projected” schedule that may change with the group’s approval. These meetings can either be “face-to-face” or “conference call” meetings based on the group’s approval. Also, note that the RecRAT R4-IAG (effect of downstream flows on recreation) is working concurrently and that the two IAGs may need to jointly meet in order to reduce duplicate efforts and help further refine the issues/requests.

- Meeting 1 Discuss Work plan, discuss information needed for Task 1 and Task 2; Homework assignment is to prepare information for Task 1 (APC/ACOE) and Task 2 (agencies & stakeholders).
- Meeting 2 Discuss and develop Task 1, Task 2 and Task 3
- Meeting 3 Discuss Task 4 and forward initial flow alternatives to the APC Project Operations Group for analysis.
- Meeting 4 Present information to EcoRAT & WCRT (Task 5), including input from Task 1 through Task 4.
- Meeting 5 Develop study designs/methods/plans (Task 6) with input from Task 4 and the EcoRAT and WCRT members.
- Meeting 6-8 Field Meetings to implement/observe studies (Task 6).

Warrior and Coosa Projects Combined

- Meeting 9 Develop operating alternatives for APC Project Operations Group to analyze (Task 7).
- Meeting 10 Review and discuss APC Project Operations Group analyses (Task 8).
- Meeting 11 Develop range of recommendations for the EcoRAT & WCRT.
- Meeting 12 Present final recommendations or range of reasonable alternatives to EcoRAT & WCRT (Task 9).

Tracking Tool

The IAG will use a tracking document that identifies decisions and recommendations for each of the study areas proposed in Task 2. Information tracked will include:

- general description of area and habitat,
- description of environmental management goal,
- decision for study of area (study plan),
- spreadsheet that tracks various flow/operating alternatives and their impacts to both habitat and project operations, and
- range of recommendations on flows or range of reasonable alternatives to the EcoRAT and WCRT regarding including those that were not analyzed for further investigation.