

I. Project Title: Basin Wide Stream Gage Operation & Maintenance

II. Principal Investigator:
George Smith
P.O. Box 25486, Denver, CO 80225-0486
E-mail: george_smith@fws.gov
Phone: (303) 236-5322, ext. 235
Fax: (303) 236-4224

III. Project Summary:

In 1990, the Recovery Program first identified a need for a permanent USGS gage in the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River. The gage was installed during the summer of 1991 and became operational on October 1, 1991. The gage was to ensure that water secured under the Recovery Program is delivered to the 15-Mile Reach. In 1996, the Recovery Program again identified a need for gages on the Yampa River, and the USGS installed gages above and below the confluence with the Little Snake River. Annual gage operation and maintenance are provided by USGS under contract with CDOW. The gage on the Colorado River was very helpful in 2002 in the management of releases from Colorado River mainstem reservoirs such as Ruedi, Green Mountain, Williams Fork, and Wolford to augment flows in the 15-Mile Reach. The gages on the Yampa River were used for monitoring river conditions but no water was released for habitat support of endangered fish.

IV. Study Schedule: Initial Year - 1990, Final Year - Ongoing

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

Colorado River Action Plan: Mainstem; I.A.5; Provide and legally protect instream flows pursuant to Colorado River PBO

Green River Action Plan:

Duchesne River; I.A; ID Year-round flow needs for recovery

Yampa River; I.A.1; ID fish habitat and flow needs

VI. Accomplishments of 2002 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

The USGS operates and maintains the gages as specified in their Cooperative Agreement with the CDOW. USGS produces daily flow and temperature records, which will be published in the annual Water Resource paper for Colorado. Interim data are available by FAX from the Grand Junction USGS office, 970-245-5257. Near real-time data from the gages can also be

found on the Internet @ <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/current/?type=flow>.

- VII. Recommendations: The Recovery Program should look to consolidating gage operation and maintenance at one agency in every State. This will make it easier to track contracts, invoices and payments.
- VIII. Project Status: On track and ongoing. The gages are operational and information is available from the Internet, Watertalk, and the USGS Water Resource paper for Colorado and Utah.
- IX. FY- 2002 Budget:

Station Name	Total Cost	UCRIP Cost	CUWCD Cost
Yampa River Near Craig	\$1,350	\$1,350	\$0
Colorado River Near Palisade	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$0
Yampa River Above Little Snake	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$0
Yampa River Below Little Snake	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$0
Green River near Jensen (DCP & Top)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Duchesne River near Randlett	\$5,050	\$0	\$5,050
Duchesne River above Randlett	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$0
Uinta River at Randlett	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$0
Duchesne River near Randlett (Top)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Price River Flow and (Temp)	<u>\$8,050</u>	<u>\$8,050</u>	<u>\$0</u>
 TOTAL:	 \$46,750	 \$41,700	 \$5,050

The operation and maintenance would be a recurring cost that increases between \$250 and \$300 each year.

A. Funds provided: \$41,700
 B. Funds expended: \$41,700
 C. Difference: \$ 0

- X. Status of Data Submissions: Not applicable.

XI. Signed: George Smith
 Principle Investigator

December 10, 2002
 Date