

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

II. Principal Investigator:  
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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 were again in 2003 very helpful in the management of releases from Colorado River mainstem reservoirs such as Ruedi, Green Mountain and Williams Fork 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. To better understand and manage water acquired to improve fish habitat the gage the Recovery Program had installed above the Yampa Little Snake confluence mover to above Elkhead Creek. The Recovery Program is also a cooperator in the operation of 2 gages on the Duchesne River. These gages are used to monitor peak flow and late summer flows.

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 2004 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 consolidating gage operation and maintenance at one agency in every State. This has made 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.

X. FY- 2004 Budget:

	Total	UCRIP	CUWCD
Yampa Deerlodge & Lodore Temperature	\$6,440	\$6,440	\$0
Yampa River Near Craig	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0
Colorado River Near Palisade	\$9,420	\$9,420	\$0
Yampa River Above Elkhead Creek*	\$9,420	\$9,420	\$0
Yampa River Below Little Snake	\$9,420	\$9,420	\$0
Green River near Jensen (DCP & Temp)	\$4,565	\$4,565	\$0
Duchesne River near Randlett	\$6,200	\$0	\$6,200
Duchesne River above Randlett	\$6,200	\$6,200	\$0
Uinta River at Randlett	\$6,200	\$6,200	\$0
Duchesne River near Randlett (Temp)	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$0
Price River Flow and (Temp)	\$8,350	\$8,350	\$0
Duchesne River Flow Measurements	<u>\$8,500</u>	<u>\$8,500</u>	
TOTAL:	\$80,895	\$74,694	\$6,200

\* Includes \$2,000 to move the gage in 2004

A. Funds provided:	\$80,895
B. Funds expended:	<u>\$80,895</u>
C. Difference:	\$ 0

X. Status of Data Submissions: Not applicable.

XI. Signed: George Smith  
Principle Investigator

November 16 2004  
Date