

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Project No.: C-14 & PIP 12C**

**I. Project Title:** Coordinated Reservoir Operations (CROS)  
Operations and I&E

**II. Principal Investigator:**  
Jana Mohrman  
P.O. Box 25486, Denver, CO 80225-0486  
E-mail: [Jana.Mohrman@fws.gov](mailto:Jana.Mohrman@fws.gov)  
Phone: (303) 236-9883, Cell: (720) 232-6330

**III. Project Summary:**

This project involves voluntary operational coordination of selected reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin upstream from the confluence of the Colorado and Gunnison rivers. The goal is to enhance spring peak flows to improve endangered fish species habitat in the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River without diminishing reservoir yields, affecting the timing of reservoir filling or causing flows to exceed flood stage at Cameo. Participating reservoirs in the past have included Green Mountain and Ruedi (Reclamation), Wolford Mountain (Colorado River Water Conservation District), Dillon and Williams Fork (Denver Water), and Windy Gap, Willow Creek and Granby (Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District & Reclamation). CROS occurs in years when runoff conditions allow participating reservoirs to contribute without affecting their yield. The intent of CROS is to attempt to coordinate bypasses of inflow to enhance the natural peak flows on the Colorado river for 10 days to two weeks. This typically occurs during the last week of May and the first week of June.

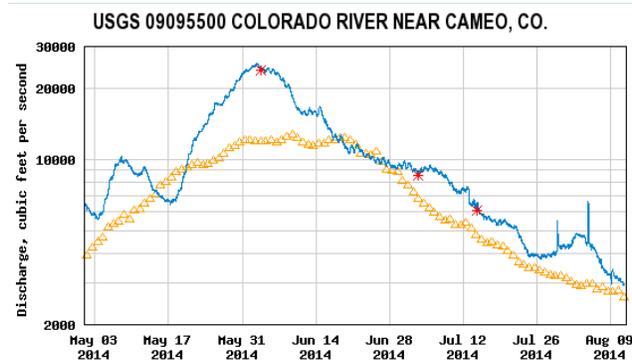
In 2014, Operators of Dillon, Granby, Green Mountain, Ruedi, Williams Fork, Willow Creek and Wolford Mountain reservoirs did not implement Coordinated Reservoir Operations (CROS) this year because of concerns for downstream flooding. In anticipation of this year's above average runoff, reservoir operators managed spring releases to eventually fill the reservoirs and avoid spills

**IV. Study Schedule:** 1995 - present

**V. Relationship to RIPRAP:** Colorado Mainstem Action Plan 1.A.5.I.

**VI. Accomplishment of FY 2011 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:**

*Tasks for the WY14 Water Year included:* A press release announcing that no CROS would occur was issued on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 days before the Colorado River peaked at Cameo. The target is for greater than 23,500 cfs, the daily peak was 25,000 cfs on June 12<sup>th</sup>.



**VII. Recommendations:** The Recovery Program should continue to support the efforts of and encourage participation in Coordinated Reservoir Operations. The participating entities should work with the NWS Colorado Basin River Forecast Center to improve peak runoff forecasts. The ongoing effort should continue to refine and improve the coordination process, and address issues including identification of inundation levels downstream of participating reservoirs, improved communication and coordination, and improved accounting and monitoring.

**VIII. Project Status:** The Coordinated Reservoir Operations is an ongoing activity and will continue to refine and improve the process and address issues identified to allow for greater effectiveness of the effort.

**IX. FY 2014 Estimated Budget Status**

|   | Federal  | State (In Kind) |
|---|----------|-----------------|
| <b>A. Funds Provided:</b>   | \$ 5,000 | \$12,000        |
| <b>B. Funds Expended:</b>   | \$ 2,485 | \$ 2,000        |
| <b>C. Difference:</b>   | \$ 2,515 | \$10,000        |
| <b>D. Percent of the FY 2011 work completed, and projected costs to complete:</b> | 100%     |                 |
| <b>E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges:</b>                   | \$0      |                 |

**X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable):** N/A

**XI. Signed:** Jana Mohrman                      **Date** Dec. 5, 2014  
Principal Investigator