

FY 98 PROGRAM GUIDANCE
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INTRODUCTION

This is the guidance for development of the Recovery Program's FY 98 Work Plan. The guidance was developed on the basis of the Recovery Program's Recovery Action Plan (RIPRAP) and input from the technical and Management committees. The RIPRAP identifies all the activities currently believed necessary and feasible to recover the endangered fish in the Upper Basin. Thus, annual Program guidance is closely tied to the RIPRAP.

Like the RIPRAP, the guidance is organized by recovery element. Within each recovery element, guidance is provided for ongoing, ongoing-revised, and new projects. Ongoing projects are those previously approved for out-year funding for which goals/objectives, methods, cost, and expected outcome have not changed significantly. Scopes of work for these projects should require only minor updates. Ongoing-revised projects are those previously approved for out-year funding for which goals, objectives, methods, cost, or expected outcome have changed significantly (as outlined in the guidance), thus their scopes of work may require more changes. New projects are those not previously approved for out-year funding and completely new scopes of work will be developed for these.

FY 98 guidance is a request for proposals for FY 98 activities; proposed scopes of work are requested for each of the projects listed in the final guidance. Scopes of work should be prepared according to the format in Appendix B. Please review this format carefully, especially the explanatory text printed in italics. Scopes of work which do not contain the information requested will be returned to the principal investigator for revision. This could prevent the scope from receiving FY 98 funding consideration because of the tight work plan development schedule. The format is available electronically by request to angela_kantola@mail.fws.gov. Individuals submitting new and revised scopes of work are strongly encouraged to work with Program coordinators in developing the scope and in coordinating it with other recovery activities.

To allow time for outside peer review, scopes of work for new projects were due to Program coordinators in WordPerfect 5 format by electronic mail or on disk by March 3. Due to late changes in the Program Guidance, some of these scopes may have to be submitted a bit late; please work with the appropriate Program coordinator in determining an appropriate due date. (New projects are: ice processes and effects below Flaming Gorge, channel monitoring for the mainstem Colorado River [to be incorporated under ISMP umbrella]; peer review of channel monitoring projects; GVIC fish passage evaluation; Tusher Wash diversion structure studies; selenium effects on razorback sucker reproduction; small nonnative cyprinid removal from the Colorado; Green, and Gunnison rivers; channel catfish removal from the Yampa River; centrarchid removal from the Colorado River; nonnative fish removal from connected gravel pits; ponds, and other floodplain habitats on the Colorado, Green, and/or Gunnison rivers; determination of potential hybridization of bonytail on humpback chub and roundtail chub; distribution and use of spawning areas in the middle Green River by hatchery reared, stocked razorback sucker [to be incorporated under ISMP umbrella]; and an exhibit at the Vernal Information Center.) Several of these projects were included in the preliminary Program Guidance issued December 23, 1996.

For your information, the evaluation form that will be used by the Recovery Program in evaluating new scopes of work is shown in Appendix C. Also included for your information is the evaluation form used by the Recovery Program in reviewing and commenting on final project reports (Appendix D).

Scopes of work for ongoing and ongoing-revised biological and water acquisition projects (under recovery elements I-V are due NO LATER THAN April 25, 1997 (this includes scopes of work for capital funding projects). Submit new, ongoing-revised, and ongoing scopes of work for

these projects to the appropriate Program coordinator (see list at end) in WordPerfect 5 format by electronic mail or on disk. IN ADDITION, submit a courtesy hard copy of new and ongoing-revised biological scopes of work to each member of the Biology Committee (list attached) and water acquisition scopes of work to each member of the Water Acquisition Committee. (These committees do not need to see ongoing scopes of work until later in the work plan review process, and these will be sent to them by the Program Director's office.)

Scopes of work for information & education projects (under recovery element VI) also are due April 25, 1997, and should be submitted in WordPerfect 5 or 6 format to Connie Young (connie_young@mail.fws.gov).

Program management scopes of work (under recovery element VII) are due by July 1, 1997 (in WordPerfect 5 or 6 format by electronic mail to angela_kantola@mail.fws.gov or on disk).

Upon receipt of the proposed scopes of work, the Program Director's office will begin working (with technical advisory panels and principal investigators) to review and refine the scopes of work and develop a recommended technical annual work plan. This recommended work plan and refined scopes of work will be submitted by the Program Director to the technical committees for review on June 20. Technical committee comments are then due to the Program Director and the Management Committee by July 18. The recommended Program management work plan also is due from the Program Director to the Management Committee at this time. The Management Committee will meet in early August to discuss the recommended work plans and approve projects for the Draft FY 98 Work Plan. The Draft Work Plan will be submitted to the Implementation Committee for review by August 22. The Implementation Committee will meet in early September, the final FY 98 Work Plan will be distributed to Program participants by October 1, and final scopes of work will be distributed by October 15.

If you have any questions about this guidance or the FY 98 work plan development process, please contact Angela Kantola at 303/236-2985, ext 221, or the appropriate coordinator:

Instream flow and nonnative fish - Henry Maddux 970/243-2778, henry_maddux@mail.fws.gov
Habitat restoration - Pat Nelson 303/236-2985 ext. 226, pat_nelson@mail.fws.gov
Genetics and propagation, monitoring/research/life history - Tom Czaplá 303/236-2985 ext. 228, tom_czapla@mail.fws.gov
Information, education, and public involvement - Connie Young 303/236-2985 ext. 227, connie_young@mail.fws.gov
Program management - Angela Kantola 303/236-2985 ext. 221, angela_kantola@mail.fws.gov

I. INSTREAM FLOW IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION:

Instream flow identification activities for FY98 should focus on: 1) final flow recommendations, acceptance, implementation, and legal protection; and 2) developing and implementing Yampa River Management Plan.

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	PROJECTED FY 98 BUDGET
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ONGOING PROJECTS

7 HMG/9298	RETURN FLOW GAGE OP/DATA ANAL.	0
Funds included under #9 (estimate 8.0K). FY 98 will be the final year for this work.		
8 HMG/90--	15-MILE REACH GAGE OP. & MAINT	4.1
No major changes to project scope or budget expected.		
9 HMG/91--	WATER RIGHT ACQ. CONSULTANT	24.5
No major changes to project scope or budget expected.		
19H HMG/85--	WATER ACQ. HYDROLOGY SUPPORT	36.5
No major changes to project scope or budget expected.		
67 CAP/92--	STEAMBOAT LAKE WATER LEASE	0.0
The change in decree should be completed very soon.		
70 HMG/95--	CO. INSTREAM FLOW PROTECTION	TBD
Colorado needs to update the scope of work to reflect 1996 accomplishments, 1997 and projected 1998 activities and costs.		
71 HMG/95--	COLO. RIVER DECISION SUPP. SYSTEM	TBD
CAP-4C	GAGE BELOW REDLANDS DIVERSION	9.7
Water acquisition Committee recommended continuing funding while Redlands fish passage is being evaluated. Reclamation should explore funding this gage under Aspinall annual O&M.		
CAP-11	GRAND VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT	2,380.0
No major changes to project scope or budget expected.		
HMG/8697	FLAMING GORGE STUDIES:	
53	FG INTEGRATION REPORT	50.0
Based on responses received, draft final report may require some revision in early FY 98.		

HMG/9297 ASPINALL UNIT STUDIES:

54 ASPINALL SYNTHESIS OF STUDIES 62.0
Complete combined summary report.

ONGOING PROJECTS NEEDING REVISION

17 HMG/91-- BASIN WIDE CHANNEL MONITORING 24.0
Has been moved to Section V. under 22 RMD/85--INTERAGENCY STANDARDIZED MONITORING PROGRAM

CAP-9 YAMPA OPERATION PLAN 1,500.0
FY 98 activities will include: 1) scoping of NEPA alternatives; 2) completion of flow and passage studies; and 3) public involvement. Also under the umbrella of this scope of work, a Yampa and Green River sediment monitoring plan is being peer-reviewed and will be implemented in FY 98. Scope of work should be updated to reflect expanded activities in several areas.

CAP 14 COORDINATED RESERVOIR OP. 50.0
Plan and agreement have been developed and the report completed. A revised FY 98 scope of work will cover coordinated operation of reservoir on the upper Colorado River.

19B HMG/85-- BIOLOGY HYDROLOGY SUPPORT 52.0
Support activities for FY 98 will shift somewhat with the completion of Flaming Gorge and Aspinall biological opinions. Temperature data and collection, flood mitigation work and hydrology support for development of flow recommendations will continue.

84 HMG/9702 DUCHESNE RIVER BIOLOGICAL STUDIES 150.0
Needs to be updated to include FY 98 work and outyears. Can then be prioritized based on other needed recovery actions.

NEW PROJECTS

ICE PROCESSES AND AFFECTS ON OVERWINTERING ENDANGERED FISH

Riprap Item Number: Green River Action Plan: Mainstem, I.A.1. Initially identify year-round flows for recovery while providing experimental flows. b. winter/spring.

General Project Title: Understanding Ice Processes in the Green River Below Flaming Gorge Dam and the Effects on Overwintering Age 0 Endangered Fish and Endangered Fish Winter Habitat

Rationale/problem Statement: Winter releases from Flaming Gorge Dam probably affect ice formation, breakup and movement in downstream reaches of the Green River. However, the specific relationship between winter releases and downstream ice processes has not been determined. The FY97 Ice Study was initiated for this purpose and to support determination of winter flow recommendations. The study will provide predictive ice process modeling for the reaches of the Green River affected by regulated flows from Flaming Gorge Dam. Baseline data is being collected on the hydrologic and geomorphic characteristics of backwater habitats affected by ice processes. These backwaters are presumably overwinter habitats for age 0 endangered fish. Previous studies have presumed a negative relationship between fluctuating winter releases and ice cap destabilization, winter habitat impacts, and overwinter survival of age 0 endangered fishes. Inconclusive data (primarily due to mild climatic conditions in three successive winter

seasons) have been collected in three previous ice studies designed to investigate this relationship. The FY97 study was implemented to take advantage of the current year's more seasonal, ice-forming winter conditions to collect some of the necessary information. Results of the study will provide additional information for winter flow releases from Flaming Gorge Dam.

The FY97 study does not include a biological component to link ice processes with effects on winter habitat and overwintering age 0 endangered fish. This was the major criticism

NEW PROJECTS
SMALL NONNATIVE CYPRINID REMOVAL FROM THE MAINSTEM
COLORADO RIVER III-1
CHANNEL CATFISH REMOVAL IN THE YAMPA RIVER III-2
CENTRARCHID REMOVAL FROM THE COLORADO RIVER. III-3
NONNATIVE FISH REMOVAL FROM GRAVEL PITS, PONDS
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FACILITIES O&M IV-1
31 RMD9100 CHEMORECEPTION IV-1
CAP7 PROP. FACILITIES CONSTR. IV-1
50 RAZORBACK SUCKER STOCKING
TO BE INCORPORATED IN ISMP V-2

NEW PROJECTS

DETERMINATION OF POTENTIAL HYBRIDIZATION OF BONYTAIL
ON HUMPBACK & ROUNDTAIL CHUB IV-2
DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF SPAWNING AREAS IN THE MIDDLE
GREEN RIVER BY STOCKED RAZORBACKS
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V. RESEARCH, MONITORING, & DATA MANAGEMENT V-1

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16 RMD/85-- DATA MANAGEMENT V-1
22 RMD/85-- STANDARDIZED MONITORING PROGRAM V-1
17 HMG/91-- BASIN WIDE CHANNEL MONITORING
TO BE INCORPORATED IN ISMP V-2
50 RAZORBACK SUCKER STOCKING
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NEW PROJECTS

CHANNEL MONITORING FOR THE MAINSTEM COLO. RIVER
TO BE INCORPORATED IN ISMP V-2
DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF SPAWNING AREAS IN THE MIDDLE
GREEN RIVER BY STOCKED RAZORBACKS
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VI. INFORMATION, EDUCATION, & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT VI-1

ONGOING PROJECT

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No major changes to project scope or budget expected.		
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No major changes to project scope or budget expected.		
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53	FG INTEGRATION REPORT	50.0
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HMG/9297 ASPINALL UNIT STUDIES:

54 ASPINALL SYNTHESIS OF STUDIES 62.0
Complete combined summary report.

ONGOING PROJECTS NEEDING REVISION

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NEW PROJECTS

ICE PROCESSES AND AFFECTS ON OVERWINTERING ENDANGERED FISH

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General Project Title: Understanding Ice Processes in the Green River Below Flaming Gorge Dam and the Effects on Overwintering Age 0 Endangered Fish and Endangered Fish Winter Habitat

Rationale/problem Statement: Winter releases from Flaming Gorge Dam probably affect ice formation, breakup and movement in downstream reaches of the Green River. However, the specific relationship between winter releases and downstream ice processes has not been determined. The FY97 Ice Study was initiated for this purpose and to support determination of winter flow recommendations. The study will provide predictive ice process modeling for the reaches of the Green River affected by regulated flows from Flaming Gorge Dam. Baseline data is being collected on the hydrologic and geomorphic characteristics of backwater habitats affected by ice processes. These backwaters are presumably overwinter habitats for age 0 endangered fish. Previous studies have presumed a negative relationship between fluctuating winter releases and ice cap destabilization, winter habitat impacts, and overwinter survival of age 0 endangered fishes. Inconclusive data (primarily due to mild climatic conditions in three successive winter

seasons) have been collected in three previous ice studies designed to investigate this relationship. The FY97 study was implemented to take advantage of the current year's more seasonal, ice-forming winter conditions to collect some of the necessary information. Results of the study will provide additional information for winter flow releases from Flaming Gorge Dam.

The FY97 study does not include a biological component to link ice processes with effects on winter habitat and overwintering age 0 endangered fish. This was the major criticism