I. Project Title: Tusher Wash Fish Screen

II. Principal Investigator(s): Brent R. Uilenberg
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III. Project Summary: The Tusher Wash Diversion Dam, located on the Green River above Green River, UT diverts water into the Green River Canal Company Main Canal. Entrainment of native fish has been documented. The project consists of constructing a fish screen and fish return pipeline in the Green River Canal Company Main Canal approximately one mile downstream from the diversion dam.

IV. Study Schedule: This project has been deferred for a number or years, initially due to water right litigation between the Green River Canal Company and Thayne Hydropower which was ultimately resolved in the Utah Supreme Court. The project was placed on hold pending completion of the Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement and award of the Price-Stubb Fish Passage construction contract in order to determine the amount of remaining funding under the cost ceiling established by P.L. 106-392 as amended. Both of these milestones have been achieved and the final construction cost for the Price-Stubb Fish Passage has been determined and the final payment for the Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement and Fish Screen has been made to the Colorado River Water Conservation District. Reclamation staff are currently working on a final determination of appropriate procedures for indexing the construction cost ceiling established by P.L. 106-392 (as amended) which will allow a determination of remaining cost ceiling available for constructing the Tusher Wash Fish Screen. Legislation has been introduced that would increase the construction cost ceiling by $15 million but it is uncertain when and if this legislation will be enacted. Additionally, the State of Utah and the Green River Canal Company are currently conducting an evaluation of the rehabilitation of the Tusher Wash Diversion Dam which could potentially result in significant modification to the existing structure. Until a decision is made regarding the dam rehabilitation and the amount of available financial resources are determined the design process for the fish screen cannot move forward.

V. Relationship to RIPRAP: Green River Action Plan: Mainstem II.B.2 Screen Tusher Wash diversion to prevent endangered fish entrainment

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2008 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings: Reclamation staff participated in the dam rehabilitation evaluation and conducted limited additional design data collection.
VII. Recommendations: Continue to participate in dam rehabilitation evaluation, finalize cost ceiling indexing procedure, monitor status of proposed legislation. Proceed with design, permitting and construction when appropriate.

VIII. Project Status: On hold.

IX. FY 2008 Budget Status

A. Funds Provided: $0  
B. Funds Expended: $9,227  
C. Difference: -$9,227  
D. Percent of the FY 2008 work completed, and projected costs to complete: NA  
E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: NA

X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): NA

XI. Signed:  

Brent R. Uilenberg  
November 20, 2008  
Principal Investigator  
Date