

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2012 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM
PROJECT NUMBER: C4-b

I. Project Title: **GVIC Fish Screen Return Pipe Monitoring**

II. Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number(s): R11PG40021

Project/Grant Period: Start date: 7/20/2011
End date: 9/30/2016
Reporting period start/end date: 10/01/2011 to 9/30/2012
Is this the final report? Yes _____ No X

III. Principal Investigator(s):

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IV. Abstract: The Recovery Program has constructed fish screens in the Government Highline Canal, the Grand Valley Irrigation Companies Canal, and at the Redlands Irrigation Canal (Grand Valley Area Fish Screens) as an important component of recovery efforts for Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker. The Service issued a biological opinion for the Grand Valley endangered fish passage facilities containing an incidental take statement to the Bureau of Reclamation for operations of the Grand Valley Project Fish Passage and Government Highline Canal Fish Screen (ES/GJ-6-CO-99-F-033-CP016 MS 65412GJ). The biological opinion required the Recovery Program to develop a plan to monitor the amount of take by September 30, 2001 and incorporate it into the Recovery Action Plan. High water in 2011 and low water in 2012 have pushed this project back another year to FY 2013.

V. Study Schedule: FY 2011 monies held over for FY 2013

VI. Relationship to RIPRAP: Colorado River Action Plan: Mainstem II.B.1b Screen GVIC diversion to prevent endangered fish entrainment, if warranted.

VII. Accomplishment of FY 2012 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

After an impressive water year in 2011, many fisheries projects in the Upper Colorado River were postponed and/or shortened because of safety and equipment limitations. This project was not only postponed, but completely set aside (with Recovery Program Office approval) until FY 2012. The reason for this was that average base flows were never achieved during the time slots that our field station had employees available to perform the work. These record flows in 2011 deposited a large cobble bar within and in front of the return tube, necessitating removal of this bar prior to this experiment in FY 2012. After removal in FY 2012, there was not enough time left in the FY 2012 field season to conduct the experiment. Work on this project will be completed in FY 2013.

In addition, after receiving the blueprints of the return tube's outlet structure, we realized that our original punch-plate design will not work. There are concrete walls that start at the shore and continue straight out into the riverbed at a 45 degree angle for approximately 15 ft. The only feasible way to capture released surrogate white sucker will be to use a large purse seine, being actively manned by many people, as opposed to the passive sampling method described in our SOW (e.g. fishing via fyke nets). We could still install a passive structure. However, the equipment and materials needed to build it would essentially break the budget, leaving no funds to cover sampling costs.

- VIII. Recommendations: Perform the work in July/August of FY 2013 with a large purse seine. No additional funding is required or requested for FY-2013.
- IX. Project Status: Delayed - field work will be performed in FY 2013
- X. FY 2012 Budget Status
 - A. Funds Provided: 18,100
 - B. Funds Expended: -0-
 - C. Difference: 18,100 for work in FY 2013
 - D. Percent of the FY 2012 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 0%
 - E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: -0-
- XI. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): Will be submitted in FY 2013
- XII. Signed:

<u>Travis Francis</u>	<u>11/01/2012</u>
Principal Investigator	Date

APPENDIX: N/A