

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

Project No.: C-14 & PIP 12C

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

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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 or affecting the timing of reservoir filling. Participating reservoirs in the past have included Green Mountain and Ruedi (Reclamation), Windy Gap, Wolford Mountain (Colorado River Water Conservation District), Dillon and Williams Fork (Denver Water), and 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 releases 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 2010, coordinated reservoir releases were made June 2, 2010 through June 16, 2010.

IV. Study Schedule: 1995 - present

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

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2015 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

Coordinated Reservoir Operations were last conducted in 2010. In 2011 and 2014, wet conditions caused streamflows in certain areas of the basin to approach or exceed levels associated with minor flooding, so peak

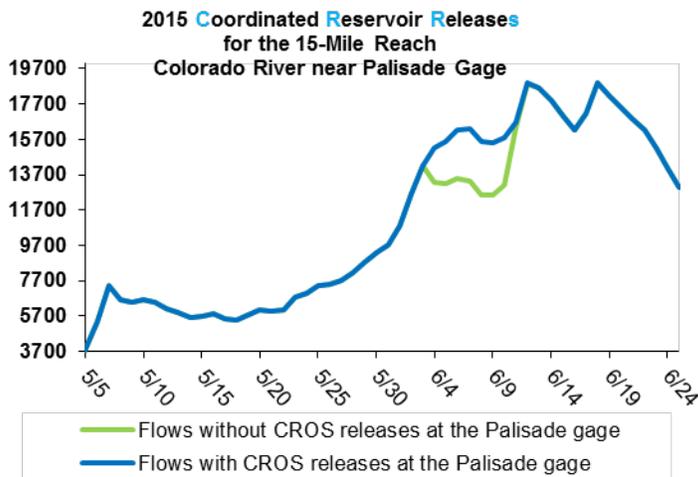
augmentation was not performed. In 2012 and 2013, reservoirs did not have surplus inflow to contribute due to extremely dry conditions.

Combined releases in 2015 of approximately 42,119 acre-feet. We continued to maintain very effective participant and public communications regarding CROS operations, developing peak enhancement operating plans, performing required coordination and maintenance activities to facilitate CROS as water supply allowed.

This year a series of news releases, vs. one news release announcing the program, was disseminated so that CROS information would be available in a real-time fashion and, therefore, more accurate. Reclamation presented the annual operations meeting for Ruedi Reservoir the first week of August in Basalt, CO. Additional public presentations that included CROS were made by either Reclamation or the Fish and Wildlife Service at the Colorado River District’s annual State of the Colorado River meetings in Frisco, Granby, and Basalt, CO, also in May.

The participating reservoirs voluntarily by-passed additional inflow above their normal operating plans as part of CROS as follows:

Granby	18,002 acft
Green Mountain Reservoir	11,292 acft
Ruedi Reservoir	4,599 acft
Wolford Reservoir	4,587 acft
Williams Fork	2,733 acft
Moffat Tunnel	<u>906 acft</u>
	42,119 acft



A detailed report documenting 2015 CROS operations will be prepared at a later date.

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 River Basin 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 & coordination, and improved accounting and monitoring. Additionally, the Recovery Program’s I&E Committee is encouraged to work with Participants and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve public education of CROS role and function in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

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 2015 Budget Status

	Federal	State (In Kind)
A. Funds Provided:	\$ 5,000	\$12,000
B. Funds Expended:	\$ 2,485	\$ 6,000
C. Difference:	\$ 2,515	\$ 6,000
D. Percent of the FY 2015 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 100%		
E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: \$0		

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

XI.

Jana Mohrman wrote for :

Signed: Michelle Garrison
Principal Investigator

Date:

Signed: Victor Lee
Principal Investigator

Date: