

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2015 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM
PROJECT NUMBER: FR-171

I. Project Title: Protecting flows in the Price River:

II. Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number(s): N/A

Project/Grant Period: Start date (Mo/Day/Yr):
End date: (Mo/Day/Yr):
Reporting period end date:
Is this the final report? Yes _____ No _____

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IV. Abstract: Gather interested parties to begin discussions about flow protection and habitat improvement in the lower Price River.

V. Study Schedule: ongoing

VI. Relationship to RIPRAP: Green: I. C.3. Work with State of Utah and local water users to provide and enhance summer base flow conditions (either increase average daily flow thresholds or increase the frequency that those flows occur) in the lower Price River that are conducive to pikeminnow use. For example, consider securing an emergency pool of water to avoid periods of dewatering in the lower Price River.

VII. Accomplishment of FY 2015 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings

All presentations, related documents, and summaries located at:
<https://sites.google.com/a/utah.gov/three-species-2015/home>

- Price River PIA and sampling summary – Gary Thiede
- [See Presentation](#)
 - Trying to document the use of tributaries (Price River) by endangered fish and 3spp
 - PIAs on the Price River. Woodside and Confluence sites. Updates given on their status and some of the improvements.
 - Numbers of PIT tag detections were presented by SPP. Illustrating fish movement compared to flows: timing, flow, etc.

- Update given about the vegetation mapping for the San Rafael River for the prioritization of potential restoration reaches. Allows the comparison of habitat units and the relative availability of each of these habitats.
- This work is done to gauge the potential for restoration and what that restoration would need to look like. A team will discuss the data, analysis, and coming up with answers.
- Price River Restoration Team status update – Dan Keller
- [-See Presentation](#)
 - Overview of the Price River was given by Dan in terms of ownership (lots of BLM) and fish barriers. Roundtail chub extirpated.
 - Minimum flow recommendations given in 2005. Eventually, a recommendation was given from the Recovery Program to be 30 cfs.
 - Flow regime in San Rafael similar to that of the Price River.
 - Monitoring results given from two sites in 2015.
 - BH absent in 2014 and 2015. This is concerning.
 - Olsen Reservoir (1000 acre feet when constructed) potentially used as a water storage site. Raising the dam will increase water from 300 acre/feet to 600+ acre/feet.

Discussion: future projects and activities

- Finding water for the Price River, Olsen Reservoir – Dan Keller (10)
 - [-See Presentation](#)
 - Need to purchase water and the Carbon Canal Company has approx 400 ac/ft they would like to sell. Potential partners in the purchase include: Nature conservancy, ducks unlimited, others involved in this process.
 - 600ac/feet is the goal.
 - \$150,000 (NFWF) + \$100,000 actual matching funds would buy 100 acre feet at \$2,500/acrefoot)
 - Price City has a 5000 acre/foot storage water right in the White River (Trib. to Price). They plan to develop this water right with the construction of a new reservoir. Communication and collaborative efforts in the near future could help with maintaining water for native fish in the Price River. (within 5 yrs)
 - Native fish seem to be doing well in the Price River near the town of Helper (upstream of Price City). Particularly bluehead sucker. This section has not been monitored for 3SPP in the past; so, it was a bonus to find so many natives.

VIII. Mailing List for meeting invitations:

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- IX. Recommendations: Recovery Program will work with Utah Water Users, the State of Utah, and local groups (eg. the Price River Enhancement Committee) to improve and maintain summer base flow conditions that support Colorado pikeminnow seasonal use of the



EasyGrantsID: 51019

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Bring Back the Natives / More Fish 2015, Full Proposal

Title: Price River Flow Enhancement by Restoration of Olsen Reservoir Wetland.

Organization: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Grant Information

Title of Project

Price River Flow Enhancement by Restoration of Olsen Reservoir Wetland.

Total Amount Requested	\$ 150,000.00
Matching Contributions Proposed	\$ 150,000.00
Proposed Grant Period	10/01/ 2016 - 10/02/ 2017

Project Description

To help ensure persistence of native fish in the Price River, an overall management plan that addresses the main threats to persistence is being developed. Dewatering in late summer is a limiting factor for native fish species that we hope to address with this proposal.

The primary activity proposed is to acquire water to store in Olsen Reservoir that will provide wildlife habitat and emergency flows to support native fish during dry periods of the year. Storing water at this location will recharge a wetland that is drying up, benefiting a whole host of wildlife and attracting interest from wetland conservation groups. The Wetland also has the potential to be used as a native fish propagation pond to reestablish a species (roundtail chub) that has been extirpated from the Price River.

We prefer outright purchase of shares in the Carbon Canal, The Nature Conservancy will purchase the water if this is an option. A long term lease/agreement to deliver water will also be pursued.

Project Abstract

The Price River provides year round habitat for state conservation species as well as federally endangered fish of the Colorado Basin. Dewatering in late summer is a limiting factor for native fish species that we hope to address with this proposal. The primary activity proposed is to acquire water to store in Olsen Reservoir that will provide wildlife habitat and emergency flows to support native fish during dry periods of the year. Our intention is to use multiple funding sources to eventually reach our goal of 400 acre-feet of water. The \$150,000 we seek in this proposal plus the \$100,000 actual matching funds could buy 100 acre-feet, securing one fourth of our long term goal. We will also investigate long term leases for delivery of water to Olsen Reservoir, the cost of leasing water will be significantly less; however, water acquired through this method would not be secure long-term.

By pursuing these activities the project will support conservation of native fish on the Price River, and this will contribute to achieving the goals of state and regional conservation plans, including the statewide and regional three species conservation agreement and the Colorado River endangered species recovery program.

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Keywords	Conservation Action; Conservation Threat; Other; Species
Sub-keywords	Action - Land/Water Protection; Bird - Waterfowl; Fish
Other Keyword(s)	