

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 2015 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM  
PROJECT NUMBER: 2

- I. Project Title: Reclamation Program Management
- II. Principal Investigator(s):

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- III. Project Summary: In FY 2015, Reclamation provided representation to the Recovery Program biology and management committees and managed financial assistance agreements and contracts (including interagency agreements) with program cooperators to implement the annual work plan.
- IV.
- V. Study Schedule: Ongoing
- VI. Relationship to RIPRAP: General Recovery Program Support Action Plan, Provide Program Planning and Support (Program Management), Task No. VII
- VII. Accomplishments during FY 2015: Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings: Program management funds are used to provide Reclamation participation in general Recovery Program activities not covered by specific scopes of work. Examples of these types of activities include administration of “base” or annual project funding agreements (i.e., not inclusive of capital projects), work planning, monitoring project progress and performance, and other general program management and administration.

Task 1: Work with Recovery Program participants to coordinate work plans.

Task 1 Accomplishments, Discussion, and Shortcomings: In FY15, Reclamation participated in Biology and Management committee-related functions related to review and approval of work plans. Reclamation also participated in RIPRAP revisions, review and completion of final reports, and other issue papers pursuant to Task 1. We worked with Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) on development of a functional (but partially incomplete) web-based database (Species Tagging, Research and Monitoring System, STReaMS; [streamsystem.org](http://streamsystem.org)) which will serve both the Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs. We improved passive interrogation array (PIA) facilities at the Green River Canal (Utah) by adding an additional PIT array while also providing operation and maintenance (O/M) needs

on other PIAs. We also installed a new PIA on the Dolores River in Utah. We organized a special session at the 36th annual researchers meeting on the purpose and recovery monitoring applications of contemporary PIT tag detection equipment. We procured and made available to researchers several submersible PIT tag antennas (and training on their operation) which proved to be effective in a variety of field applications. Together with Recovery Program representatives and CNHP, we also attended the biennial PIT Tag Workshop hosted by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission in Stevenson, WA during January 2015, which resulted in considerable networking opportunities related to STReAMS development.

We coordinated with Recovery Program participants to collect, organize and interpret temperature data from the 2015 peak- and base-flow period in the Green and Yampa rivers for compliance with the 2005 biological opinion on Flaming Gorge Dam operations. We participated in implementation of the Larval Trigger Study Plan, which experimentally modifies operations of Flaming Gorge Dam to increase benefits to razorback sucker. We participated in the GREAT (Green River Evaluation and Assessment Team) to evaluate efficacy of the Green River Flow Recommendations under the 2006 ROD. We participated in the Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group and functioned as a liaison between the Recovery Program and Reclamation managers in implementing the 2006 ROD, which involved close coordination with researchers from UDWR and USFWS to implement the Larval Trigger Study Plan. We prepared and presented materials to cover this information at Flaming Gorge Working Group meetings held in Vernal, UT during April and August.

We assisted field crews from Colorado State University in their sampling activities in the Yampa (May 2015) and Green (Lodore/Whirlpool; Sept 2015) rivers, and also assisted the USFWS with their Yampa River sampling activities in June 2015. We identified and obligated non-program funds to continue the Lake Powell razorback sucker investigations in 2016, continue to provide PIA O/M, and also to launch new investigations (through Utah State University) on the utility of automated PIT data in recovery monitoring. We provided comments on the draft revised Colorado Pikeminnow Recovery Plan. We attended the Desert Fishes Council annual meeting in San Jose Del Cabo, Mexico (November 2014), and presented results on two recovery program projects. Finally, we provided technical reviews of most Recovery Program technical documents and projects pursuant to federal requirements for cooperative agreement monitoring.

Task 2: Administer funding for Recovery Program projects.

Task 2 Accomplishments, Discussion, and Shortcomings: The Recovery Program FY15 work plan required us to create or modify several funding agreements between cooperators and Reclamation pursuant to Task 2. Each agreement required multi-faceted administrative maintenance, including requests for Federal assistance for Recovery Program-approved projects, communication with Recovery Program Director's office on funding issues, preparation of determination and findings documents, review and approval of project budgets, requests for obligations to cover

funding agreements, agreement or contract awards, maintenance of agreement and contract filing systems (including agreement instruments, invoices, and accruals), tracking of budgets, review and approval of invoices, performance of periodic site visits to monitor project performance, filing of advanced procurement reports, tracking project performance and status of deliverables, filing project monitoring reports, filing recipient performance reports, answering agreement inquiries from auditors, and other related tasks. Most funding agreement modifications for FY15 were completed during the first half of the fiscal year, a marked improvement over the previous three years. This was due largely to a reorganization of the Acquisitions Management Division and continued support from Reclamation's Environmental Resources Division budget analyst.

VIII. Recommendations: Continue this project at staffing levels proposed in the FY16-17 Scope of Work.

IX. Project Status: Ongoing

X. FY 2015 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$191,443
- B. Funds Expended as of September 30, 2015: \$191,443
- C. Difference: \$0
- D. Percent of the FY 2013 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 100%.
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: \$0

XI. Status of Data Submission (where applicable): Not Applicable

Signed: /s/ Dave Speas  
Principal Investigator

Nov 24, 2015