

I. Project Title: Reclamation Program Management

II. Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number: N/A

III. Principal Investigator(s):

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IV. Abstract: In FY 2017, 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.

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 2017: 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 FY17, 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 provided technical reviews of most Recovery Program technical documents and projects pursuant to federal requirements for cooperative agreement monitoring.

We participated in implementation of the Larval Trigger Study Plan (LTSP), 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 LTSP. We prepared and presented materials to cover this information at Flaming Gorge Working Group meetings held in Vernal, UT during April and August 2017. We coordinated with Recovery Program participants to collect, organize and interpret temperature data from the 2016 peak- and base-flow period in the Green and Yampa rivers for compliance with the 2005 biological opinion on Flaming Gorge Dam operations.

We worked with Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) on continued refinement of a web-based database (Species Tagging, Research and Monitoring System, STReaMS; streamsystem.org) which serves both the Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs. We organized an end-user workshop for program participants in March 2017 (Fort Collins, CO). The STReaMS database is fully functional at this time but will likely receive minor updates and refinements as time goes on. We coordinated procurement and distribution of PIT tags and PIT antennas for use by program personnel in all field offices.

We assisted USFWS – CRFP field crews with their Colorado pikeminnow sampling activities on the White River (May 2017), razorback sucker sampling on Lake Powell (June 2017) and assisted with operations at the Government Highline and Redlands fish ladders near Grand Junction, CO (July 2017). We conducted a site visit to floodplain wetlands on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management along the Jensen/Ouray reach of the Green River (Stirrup, Above Brennan, Baeser Band) and prioritized them for modification under the auspices of LTSP and the floodplain wetland “White Paper” (completed by Speas et al. in January 2017). We identified and obligated non-program funds to begin quantification of larval entrainment through Green River levee breaches, a collaborative study between USGS, Colorado State University (pending) and USFWS. We also obligated non-program funding for passive interrogation array operation and maintenance and continued analysis on the utility of automated PIT data in recovery monitoring through Utah State University.

We gave several presentations at professional society meetings on Recovery Program projects (mostly floodplain wetland restoration and PIT technology), including Desert Fishes Council (Nov 2016, Albuquerque), Recovery Program Researcher’s Meeting (Jan 2017), and the CO/WY and UT chapters of American Fisheries Society (February 2017).

Task 2: Administer funding for Recovery Program projects.

Task 2 Accomplishments, Discussion, and Shortcomings: The Recovery Program FY17 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.

Due to additional DOI procurement reviews conducted during May and June of 2017, partial (and in one case, full) awards of some agreement were severely delayed; we are currently working internally to develop an expedited process in FY18.

- VIII. Additional noteworthy observations: None.
- IX. Recommendations: Continue this project at staffing levels proposed in the FY18-19 scope of work. A minor addition of funds (TBD) for regional BOR participation in the Recovery Program Management Committee may be necessary in FY18.
- X. Project Status: Ongoing
- XI. FY 2017 Budget Status
  - A. Funds Provided: \$236,575
  - B. Funds Expended as of September 30, 2017: \$236,575
  - C. Difference: \$0
  - D. Percent of the FY 2017 work completed: 100%.
  - E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: \$0
- XII. Status of Data Submission (where applicable): Not Applicable

Signed: /s/ Dave Speas  
Principal Investigator

Oct 16 2017