

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY-2012 PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK for:
(Show brief title of project here)

Project No.: C-9

Lead Agency: Colorado River Water Conservation District
Submitted by: Ray Tenney

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Date: 3-13-12

Category:

Expected Funding Source:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing project | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual funds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing-revised project | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital funds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Requested new project | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unsolicited proposal | |

I. Title of Proposal:

Operation and Maintenance of Elkhead Reservoir to make releases for Yampa River flow augmentation.

II. Relationship to RIPRAP:

Green River Action Plan: Yampa and Little Snake Rivers, I.B.2.a.(2)(b), Deliver water for endangered fish.

III. Study Background/Rationale and Hypotheses:

Flow augmentation deemed beneficial to recovery of listed fishes in the Yampa River.

IV. Study Goals, Objectives, End Product:

Release water requested by Recovery Program for augmentation of Yampa River flows, maintain the reservoir facilities and comply with all permit requirements.

V. Study area: Elkhead Reservoir, Elkhead Creek, Yampa River Basin

VI. Study Methods/Approach:

Agreements provide for the release of 5,000 af of stored water for augmentation of Yampa River flows. The Recovery Program requests reservoir releases for various purposes. The River District and the City of Craig operate the reservoir to make the requested releases and keep all required records.

VII. Task Description and Schedule:

Winter – reservoir operations are limited. Low flow releases are made to assist with maintenance of open stream conditions for stock watering downstream of the reservoir. Diversion records from previous water year are completed and submitted to the SEO.

Winter 2011-12 releases were maintained higher than normal (20 cfs vs. 5 cfs) due to high reservoir levels after 2011 operations. Higher releases maintained to help with spill avoidance in spring.

Spring – reservoir operations are complicated by the desire to minimize un-screened spills over the spillway. Reservoir fill is managed to reach elevation 6371 prior to commencement of runoff to protect wetland mitigation features in the upstream end of the reservoir. Outlet releases are adjusted to increase discharges as inflows increase until the outlet capacity is exceeded by inflow and the reservoir spills. Effort requires daily attention to flow, snowpack, weather and release rates. Weed control is undertaken on reservoir lands.

2012 work will include diver examination of movable fish screen on 60” inlet at bottom of outlet tower to determine why the fish screen will not open fully, and clear any debris and repair as necessary.

Summer – reservoir is operated to bypass inflow necessary to meet Elkhead Creek demands from senior water rights holders and to make releases requested by the Recovery Program, any contracts for River District water and releases requested by the other pool owners the City of Craig and the Craig Station power plant. Routine maintenance is performed. Wetlands mitigation area performance is evaluated and reporting prepared. Weed control and routine maintenance. Seepage at three downstream locations has been identified as requiring action by the State Engineer during annual dam safety inspections. Some budget has been included to address these seeps. Observation, evaluation, design and remedial construction may be necessary.

Fall – reservoir releases abate as irrigation demand downstream slows and calls for fish releases cease.

2012 Specific Activities

- 2012 will require a new weed control contractor.
- 2012 will be last year for wetlands compliance monitoring on the constructed wetlands. The inflow wetlands naturally developing will require monitoring for 5 more years.

- 2012 will require an inspection of the pressure tanks of the fish screen air backwash system
- 2012 will include an impressed current corrosion protection system evaluation and design with possible installation.

VIII. FY-2012 Work

- Deliverables/Due Dates
- Budget – Recovery Program Portion Only – Total \$ 72,683.15; use estimate of \$75,000 (Recovery Program pays these CY12 expenses in FY13).

See attached spreadsheet with estimate for 2012 based on 2011 expenses and 2012 work plan.

FY-2013 Work (for multi-year study)

- Budget estimate \$80,000 (paid in FY14)

FY-2014: - Budget estimate \$80,000 (paid in FY15)

IX. Budget Summary:

- FY-2012 - See attached spreadsheet
- FY-2013 - Estimated cost including corrosion protection system updates
- FY-2014 - Similar to 2011 costs with inflation escalation

Total: Ongoing – no total appropriate

- X. Reviewers [*For new projects or ongoing-revised projects, list name, affiliation, phone, and address of people who have reviewed this proposal.*]

XI. References

2011 Operations Expenses
 Quotation from ASI for dive work to free fish screen
 2011 evaluation of corrosion protection system by Qualcor