

**RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2020-2021 SCOPE OF WORK for:**

Recovery Program Project Number: C-29a

(Salvage of native fish from the Grand Valley Irrigation Company and Grand Valley Water Users canals)

Reclamation Agreement number: TBD
Reclamation Agreement term: October 1, 2019 – Sept. 30, 2024

Note: Recovery Program FY20-21 scopes of work are drafted in May 2019. They often are revised before final Program approval and may subsequently be revised again in response to changing Program needs. Program participants also recognize the need and allow for some flexibility in scopes of work to accommodate new information (especially in nonnative fish management projects) and changing hydrological conditions.

Lead agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Grand Junction Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
Submitted by: Travis Francis, Fishery Biologist
Dale Ryden, Project Leader
Address: 445 West Gunnison Ave.
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Phone: (970) 628-7204
FAX: (970) 628-7217
Email: travis_francis@fws.gov
dale_ryden@fws.gov

Date Last Modified: 8/14/2019 2:16:00 PM

Category:

- Ongoing project
- Ongoing-revised project
- Requested new project
- Unsolicited proposal

Expected Funding Source:

- Annual funds
- Capital funds
- Other *[explain]*

I. Title of Proposal: Salvage of Native Fish from Grand Valley Irrigation Company and Grand Valley Water Users Canals.

II. Relationship to RIPRAP:

Colorado River Action Plan: Main stem
II.B.1.b. Screen Grand Valley Irrigation Company Canal.

III. Study Background/Rationale and Hypotheses:

A fish screen was constructed on the Grand Valley Irrigation Company (GVIC) irrigation canal in winter 2001 – 2002. However, for the first few years following construction, the screen was not operated for a full season. The GVIC fish screen is now fully operational. A fish screen was completed in the summer of 2005 for the Grand Valley Water Users (GVWU) Canal. It became fully operational in 2009. However, during events when debris or algae growth overloads the screens and water cannot pass through them, the irrigation companies have the

option of either lifting the screens (GVIC) or using the bypass channel (GVWU). When this occurs, fish can pass downstream of the fish screen and the underground pipe that are intended to return them to the river. Hence, large numbers of fish (all species and life stages) can swim freely down these canals and ultimately become entrained in them when they are dewatered each fall.

IV. Study Goals, Objectives, End Product(s):

Collect native fish entrained in the GVIC and GVWU irrigation canals. Return native fish to the Colorado River.

V. Study Area: The Colorado River from Palisade, CO downstream to near Fruita, CO.

Study Methods/Approach: FY 2020-2021

Due to Program budget limits in 2020 and 2021, FWS GJ will not be conducting canal salvage. We hope to start again beginning in 2022.

Sections of the GVIC and GVWU canals that hold water after irrigation diversion flows are terminated each fall will be sampled using a truck-mounted electrofishing system and/or seines. Native fish may also be salvaged from some major canals lateral to the GVWU canal (e.g., Palisade Irrigation, Orchard Mesa Irrigation District) if/when the opportunity presents itself and with the proper permissions for access to these facilities. Sampling will begin near Fruita, CO at 22 Road on each canal and continue eastwards toward the most upstream portion of the Grand Valley. Sampling will begin approximately one week after the canals have been shut off in the fall, allowing them to drain down to a water level that is accessible by the sampling crew. The sampling crew will travel the canal roads searching for pools of water that could still hold fish. When pools of water are found, crews will walk the canal using electrofishing probes and/or seines to capture all fish possible. Native fish will be enumerated by species, placed in a hatchery truck, transported to the Colorado River, and released alive. Records of native fish species salvaged (by species) will be maintained. Any endangered fish collected during this process will be measured, weighed, and checked for the presence of a PIT tag. If no PIT tag is present, one will be implanted prior to releasing the fish back into the Colorado River.

VI. Task Description and Schedule:

Description

Task 1. Sample GVIC and GVWU canals.

Task 2. Compile and summarize fish salvage data for fish collected in the GVIC and GVWU canals; prepare annual report.

Schedule

Task 1. 11/2021; 11/2022; 11/2023

Task 2. 11/2021; 11/2022; 11/2023

VII. Deliverables, Due Dates, and Budget by Fiscal Year: Please See Interagency Agreement Cost Estimating Tool Spreadsheet

Annual report submission by November each year and data submissions to STReaMS by the following January.

Submission of 6-12 photos of project components or individuals completing tasks by February 28th. Images can be uploaded to;
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/coloradoriverrecovery/>

Photographs can be taken with cell phone phones. Please upload photos to a folder named by project number. Each image will have a number, please email the I&E Coordinator the number and a brief description of the photo. For example, date, location, what is happening and who the photographer is.

FY2020

USFWS – Grand Junction FWCO (Grand Jct., CO) \$ 33,932.20

FY2021

USFWS – Grand Junction FWCO (Grand Jct., CO) \$ 34,610.85

2020-2021 Total = \$ 68,543.05

Estimated Budget Summary for Fiscal Years 2022-2024:

FY2022

USFWS – Grand Junction FWCO (Grand Jct., CO) \$ 35,327.84

FY2023

USFWS – Grand Junction FWCO (Grand Jct., CO) \$ 36,085.21

FY2024

USFWS – Grand Junction FWCO (Grand Jct., CO) \$ 36,885.39

2022-2024 Total = \$108,298.44

5-Year Total = \$176,841.49

VIII. Reviewers: Program Staff and Biology Committee

IX. References:

Crowley, B.J. and D.W. Ryden 2018. Retrieval of fish from the Grand Valley Irrigation Company and Grand Valley Water Users canals. Annual report prepared for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. Recovery Program Project Number C-29a. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Grand Junction Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, Grand Junction, Colorado.