Refinement of the Colorado CRDSS Model to Better Reflect the Depletions and Flows of the Little Snake River

Green River Action Plan: Yampa and Little Snake Rivers (I.C.3.a)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is in the process of developing flow recommendations for an 82-mile segment of the Yampa River and the Little Snake River below Dixon, Wyoming. The recommendations will be provided to the Recovery Program for the benefit of the endangered fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin. In accordance with Program Guidelines, the recommendations will be submitted to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) for review, implementation, and incorporation into the Yampa Management Plan as appropriate.

A refinement to the CRDSS model would provide a tool that would enable the CWCB to evaluate the impacts on the Little Snake River instream flow from different levels and patterns of future water development.

The goal is to refine the CRDSS Model to extend the period of record to 1909 - 1998, modeling all uses within Colorado, including Wyoming's High Savery Dam and Reservoir Project. Wyoming will be asked to verify operations and aggregated depletions for Wyoming that are used in the model.

Study Area: Colorado and Yampa River Basins in Colorado.
VI. Study Methods/Approach:

The CWCB staff will review the current Little Snake River CRDSS model and databases. Changes will be made to reflect 1909 - 1998 conditions. Wyoming’s High Savery Project will be included in the model using information provided by the Wyoming Water Development Commission.

The CWCB staff will coordinate with the State of Wyoming to get information on Wyoming water uses from the Little Snake River. This information will be reviewed to determine how to best implement it into the Yampa River Basin water resource planning model.

VII. Task Description and Schedule:

The schedule will be dependent on CWCB acquisition of Wyoming's data. Model refinements are expected to commence during the calendar year 2000. Upon completion, the work will be documented in a report to the CWCB and Recovery Program.

VIII. FY-2001 Work: *This project is a cost share project between Colorado and Wyoming for the Recovery Program.*

Deliverables/Due Dates: See Item VII above.

Budget:
The project is estimated to cost $20,000 of in-kind services for CWCB staff.
The project is estimated to cost $10,000 of in-kind services for the State of Wyoming staff.

IX. Budget Summary:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY-2001</th>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>Wyoming</th>
<th>TOTAL (in-kind services)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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X. Reviewers:

Not Applicable

XI. References:

Not Applicable