COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM

FY-2004–2005 PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK for:
(Retrieval of native fish from GVIC and GVP canals)

Note: Annual reports only.

Lead Agency: Fish and Wildlife Service
Colorado River Fishery Project

Submitted by: Chuck McAda, Project Leader (lead)
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Category: Expected Funding Source:
_ Ongoing project  x Annual funds
_ Ongoing-revised project  _ Capital funds
x Requested new project  _ Other (explain)
_ Unsolicited proposal

I. Title of Proposal:

Retrieval of native fish entrained in GVIC and GVP irrigation canals.

II. Relationship to RIPRAP:

COLORADO RIVER ACTION PLAN: MAINSTEM
II.B.1.b. Screen GVIC diversion to prevent endangered fish entrainment.
II.B.3.b. Screen Government Highline diversion to prevent endangered fish entrainment.

III. Study Background/Rationale and Hypotheses:

A fish screen was constructed on the Grand Valley Irrigation Company (GVIC) irrigation canal in winter 2001 – 2002. The fish screen was not operated during 2002 because of operational problems. A fish salvage operation was conducted in the canal after diversions were halted for the winter to determine if fish were being lost in the canal — about 3,400 native fish were salvaged from the canal at that time. Modifications have been made to the canal intake and fish screen to improve operation and reduce impacts to the company’s ability to fill the canal. The fish screen was not operated during the first two months of the irrigation system, but it is proposed to be operational for most of the irrigation season once repairs are made. This study proposes to sample the canal in fall 2003 and 2004 to compare fish numbers with those found in 2002.
For the Grand Valley Project canal system, native fish will be retrieved until the screen is in place and functioning properly.

IV. Study Goals, Objectives, End Product:

Estimate the number of fish entrained in the GVIC and GVP canals. Return native fish to the Colorado River.

V. Study Area

GVIC and GVP irrigation canals, Grand Junction, Colorado

VI. Study Methods/Approach

The entire length of the GVIC canal and major laterals that hold water after irrigation diversions are terminated will be sampled using a barge electrofishing system carried in the back of a pickup truck. The truck will travel the canal road 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 capture all fish possible. Native fish will be placed in a hatchery truck, transported to the Colorado River and released alive. Records of species and numbers of fish collected will be maintained.

The same approach will be used for the Grand Valley Project canal system.

VII. Task Description and Schedule

Task 1. Sample GVIC and GVP canals in November.

VIII. FY-2004 Work

- Deliverables/Due Dates
  Sample canals, provide summary of fish collected — November, 2003

- Budget

Note: Budget has been multiplied by 2 to include the Grand Valley Project canals.

- Labor
  Project Leader (1 week at 1,880/week) 1,880
  Fishery Biologist (2, GS 11, 1 week at 1,620/week) 3,240
  Fishery Biologist (3, GS 9, 1 week at 1,222/week) 3,666
  Bio Tech (2, GS 7, 1 week at 820/week) 1,640
  \[ 10,426 \]

- Equipment (vehicle gas, generator gas, miscellaneous equipment) 500

- Total 10,926 x 2 = 21,852

GVIC screen evaluation C-29a page 2
FY-2005 Work (for multi-year study)

- Deliverables/Due Dates
  Sample canal, provide summary of fish collected — November, 2004

- Budget
  - Labor
    Project Leader (1 week at 1,974/week) 1,974
    Fishery Biologist (2, GS 11, 1 week at 1,701/week) 3,402
    Fishery Biologist (3, GS 9, 1 week at 1,271/week) 3,813
    Bio Tech (2, GS 7, 1 week at 861/week) 1,722
  - Equipment (vehicle gas, generator gas, miscellaneous equipment) 550
  - Total 11,461 x 2 = 22,922

IX. Budget Summary

FY-2004 $10,926 x 2 = 21,852
FY-2005 $11,461 x 2 = 22,922
Total: $22,387 x 2 = 44,774

X. Reviewers

XI. References

* Do NOT include overhead costs on funds transferred from Reclamation to the Service.