

I. Project Title: Gunnison River Water Demand Study

II. Principal Investigator(s):

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III. Project Summary:

The purpose of this study is to develop a projection of future depletions for all water use segments in the Gunnison River basin for a 50-year planning period. This information will be used as a baseline for agreements to be negotiated as part of the Gunnison Basin Programmatic Biological Opinion process. The study utilizes existing projections of future water use and population growth and standard water use estimating procedures to synthesize estimates of water demand in the basin through the year 2050. Preliminary estimates were developed in 2001 and circulated to the stakeholders for comment. The stakeholders requested an extension of the comment period, and the Bureau agreed to extend it to January 2002.

IV. Study Schedule: Initial year: 2001 – Final year: 2002

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan: VII. Provide Program Planning and Support (Program Management). The proposed study is a prerequisite to implementing the Gunnison Basin Programmatic Biological Opinion process.

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2001 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

Preliminary Study Results were developed in April 2001, including separate depletion estimates for the upper portion (upstream from Blue Mesa Dam, including Lake Fork), middle portion (Blue Mesa to Escalante SWA, including Cimarron, North Fork and Uncompahgre) and lower portion (from Escalante SWA downstream to Colorado River) of the Gunnison River basin. Stakeholder input suggested revising subbasin boundaries as follows:

Upper – no change

Middle – Blue Mesa to North Fork, including Cimarron and Gunnison tunnel

Lower – Downstream from North Fork, including North Fork and Uncompahgre

Tasks A - D from the FY-2001 Scope of Work were completed. The total future increase in annual depletions for the entire basin through 2050 was estimated at approximately 11,000 acre-feet.

VII. Recommendations: None

VIII. Project Status:

Stakeholder comments and input are due in January 2002. Modifications to the estimates based on this input will be completed and final study results will be produced in 2002. This project should be considered “on track and ongoing.”

IX. FY 2001 Budget Status

A. Funds Provided: \$16,500

B. Funds Expended: \$ 4,000

C. Difference: \$12,500

The difference can be attributed to use of simplified assumptions and methodology to develop the Preliminary Study Results and the fact that the completion date for the final results was delayed until 2002 at the request of the stakeholders.

D. Percent of the FY 2001 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 4 of the 6 tasks were completed in 2001 or 67%; projected costs to complete -- approximately \$5,000.

E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: \$0

X. Status of Data Submission: N/A

XI. Signed: Mike Baker / Brent Uilenberg
Principal Investigator

Dec. 8, 2001
Date

APPENDIX: NA