

I. Project Title: **Research Framework for the Upper Colorado River Basin**

II. Principal Investigator(s):

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III. Project Summary: The goal of this research framework is to better understand how management actions are addressing factors that contribute to dynamics of endangered fish populations. The study will be conducted in two phases described under Objectives. Phase I will be implemented and completed first. Phase II will be implemented contingent upon approval by the Biology Committee and the Recovery Program office of a Phase I Report and an updated SOW. The purpose of this project is to repackage program actions for improved clarity to program participants, and to provide an informational tool for decision-makers.

PHASE I.—Evaluate How Effectively RIPRAP Management Actions Address Species Threats and Analyze Associations Between Environmental Correlates and Colorado Pikeminnow Populations.

- Develop conceptual life history models.
- Link RIPRAP management actions with the species models.
- Identify existing data sets.
- Analyze data for Colorado pikeminnow only in Phase I; contrast/ compare Green River subbasin and Upper Colorado River subbasin.

PHASE II.—Identify and Delineate Associations between Environmental Stressors and Fish Population Dynamics (conditional on successful completion of Phase I).

- Analyze data for humpback chub, razorback sucker, bonytail, and other key fish populations and environmental correlates.

Progress:

- A kickoff meeting was held with PIs and Recovery Program Coordinators on November 8, 2005.
 - Two meetings with BC (July 12-13, September 19-20, 2005).
 - Colorado pikeminnow life history model completed.
 - River regions important to life history of four species identified.
 - Information from studies being assimilated for each life stage and river region by each of the recovery program elements.
 - Key data sets being identified and assimilated.
- IV. Study Schedule: A Scope of Work was not finalized until September 20, 2005, and an Agreement with Larval Fish Laboratory was in place October, 2005. A Contract is expected to be completed for SWCA by late January 2006.
- V. Relationship to RIPRAP: V. Monitor Populations and Habitat and Conduct Research to Support Recovery Actions (Research, Monitoring, and Data Management)
- VI. Accomplishment of FY 2005 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings: A Scope of Work was finalized September 20, 2005. A kickoff meeting was held November 8, 2005. Initial information and data assimilation under Phase I is on hold pending receipt of a contract by SWCA.
- VII. Recommendations: Project schedule needs to be modified to reflect delays in finalization of scope of work and execution of agreements/contracts.
- VIII. Project Status: Project will continue into FY06. Work being done by SWCA is on hold, pending completion of a Contract from Bureau of Reclamation.
- IX. FY 2005 Budget Status
- A. Funds Provided: FY05: \$28,957; FY06: \$47,955.
 - B. Funds Expended: No funds expended to date.
 - C. Difference: \$0.
 - D. Percent of the FY 2005 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 50%
 - E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: \$0.
- X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): Data are not generated by this project for submission to the Database Manager.

XI. Signed: Richard A. Valdez, Ph.D. January 10, 2006
Principal Investigator Date