

- I. Project Title: Reclamation Program Management
- II. Principal Investigator(s):  
  
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- III. Project Summary: The purpose of this project is to provide Reclamation participation in Recovery Program management.
- IV. Study Schedule: Ongoing
- V. Relationship to RIPRAP: General Recovery Program Support Action Plan, Provide Program Planning and Support (Program Management), Task No. VII
- VI. Accomplishment of FY 2011: Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings: Program management funds are used to provide Reclamation participation in general Recovery Program activities not covered by specific scopes of work. Examples of these types of activities include administration of “base” or annual project funding agreements (i.e., not inclusive of capital projects), work planning, monitoring project progress and performance, and other general program management and administration.

Task 1: Work with Recovery Program participants to coordinate work plans.

Task 1 Accomplishments, Discussion, and Shortcomings: Reclamation was able to participate in Biology and Management committee-related functions related to review and approval of work plans, RIPRAP revisions, final reports, and other issue papers pursuant to Task 1. We provided assistance on the Non-native Fish Subcommittee (including input on a draft strategic plan) and implementation of the Green River flow and temperature recommendations. We coordinated with Recovery Program biologists to collect, organize and interpret temperature data from the 2010 base-flow period in the Green and Yampa rivers. We participated in the Flaming Gorge Technical working group and functioned as a liaison between the Recovery Program and Reclamation managers in implementing the 2006 ROD. The latter task included presentations at the July Biology Committee and August 2011 Management Committee meetings on implementation of the Green River Flow Recommendations, which led to development of a study plan to evaluate use of larval fish presence in

implementation of spring peak flows (in progress). We worked with personnel from Utah State University and Colorado State University to install and operate a passive PIT detection system in the Maybell Canal near Maybell, CO as part of compliance with the 2005 Programmatic Biological Opinion on the Yampa River Management Plan. We presented the details of this project proposal as well as other Reclamation-funded passive PIT projects found elsewhere in the Colorado River Basin at the 2011 Recovery Program Researchers Meeting in Moab, UT. We assisted FWS field crews with smallmouth bass removal efforts in Yampa Canyon on the Yampa River, CO. We established a contract with Biomark, Inc. to procure PIT tags and PIT related equipment for the Recovery Program over the next five years. The terms of this contract represent a 42-46% reduction on PIT tag costs to the Recovery Program over previous years. Finally, we provided technical reviews of most Recovery Program technical documents and projects pursuant to federal requirements for cooperative agreement monitoring and as representatives on the Recovery Program Biology committee.

Task 2: Administer funding for Recovery Program projects.

Task 2 Accomplishments, Discussion, and Shortcomings: The Recovery Program FY11 work plan required us to create or modify approximately 60 funding agreements between cooperators and Reclamation pursuant to Task 2. Due to the spending rules of the FY11 continuing resolution(s) in effect from October 2010 through April 2011, we had to provide funding for projects incrementally according to a daily “burn-rate” percentage of the total previous year’s budget. In effect, the more time passed, the more money was available to obligate to projects, but only a finite percentage of the FY10 budget was available at any given point. We made funds available on an “as needed” basis according to remaining balances of each individual project. This approach unfortunately caused funding for some projects to arrive late in the fiscal year, although obligations to all Recovery Program projects were made by the end of the fiscal year.

Each agreement required multi-faceted administrative maintenance, including requests for Federal assistance for Recovery Program-approved projects, communication with Recovery Program Director’s office on funding issues, review and approval of project budgets, requests for obligations to cover funding agreements, agreement or contract awards, maintenance of agreement and contract filing systems (including agreement instruments, invoices, and accruals), tracking of budgets, review and approval of invoices, performance of periodic site visits to monitor project performance, filing of advanced procurement reports, tracking project performance and status of deliverables, filing recipient performance reports, answering agreement inquiries from auditors, and other related tasks. To assist in this administration of Recovery Program financial assistance agreements, in FY11 we hired an administrative assistant within the Reclamation UC Region Environmental Resources Office. This hiring comes at no addition to the FY11 budget. We feel this individual’s efforts have increased the level of accountability and quality of service substantially and hope that our participants agree.

Lastly, we worked to identify funds for use in 2012 to support Recovery Program nonnative fish, information and education and program management projects, tasks for which authority to use power revenues for funding expired at the end of FY11.

VII. Recommendations: Continue this project at FY 2011 funding and staffing levels.

VIII. Project Status: Ongoing

IX. FY 2011 Budget Status

A. Funds Provided: \$187,037

B. Funds Expended as of September 30, 2011: \$187,037

C. Difference: \$0

D. Percent of the FY 2011 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 100%.

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

X. Status of Data Submission (where applicable): Not Applicable

Signed: /s/ Dave Speas  
Principal Investigator

November 19, 2011