

UPPER COLORADO RIVER ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAM

FY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

PROJECT: 05

Project Title

State of Wyoming Program Management

Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number:

Not Applicable

Project/Grant Period:

Not Applicable

Principal Investigators:

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Abstract:

The Wyoming Water Development Office, the Wyoming State Engineer's Office, and the Wyoming Game & Fish Department provide support to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Program) through participation in program committees and related activities. This has also included the annual congressional briefing trip to Washington, D.C. in most years.

Study Schedule:

1989-ongoing. Fiscal year 2022 was the thirty-fourth (34th) year of Wyoming's participation in the program.

Relationship to RIPRAP:

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan:

VII.A.3 – Update, refine and prioritize recovery actions (RIPRAP) annually.

VII.A.7 – Monitor and assess Recovery Program accomplishments annually.

VII.A.8 – Develop biennial work plan to address priority needs.

VII.B – Actively participate in Recovery Program committees and secure funding for annual work plan and larger projects.

Accomplishment of FY2022 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

The Biology Committee's (BC) efforts are significant and have been extremely important in our innovative recovery program's successes since the committee's inception. A considerable work load is undertaken and accomplished annually by this Committee. Pete Cavalli is an active participant in all the BC's efforts.

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Mike Robertson was Wyoming's representative to the Management Committee through the end of FY2022. Jeff Cowley served as the representative for Wyoming on the Implementation Committee. Collectively, these representatives participated in all committee activities through the year.

Noteworthy Activities: Pete Cavalli served as Chairman of the Biology Committee in 2022. A primary focus for all of the committees again this year was the Post-2023 program discussions.

Additional noteworthy observations:

Knowing that the program has a major deadline in 2023 when the major elements of the program expire, much recent discussion has focused on the program post-2023. We have been working on developing a program with sufficient detail that can continue to be supported by all program partners. Downlisting of humpback chub and ongoing efforts by the USFWS to downlist razorback sucker are both signs of significant progress, and bring much needed political support.

Participation by each Program participant in all aspects of the Recovery Program remains one of the most critical elements of maintaining the trusting and productive working relationships that have been established over the past thirty-four years. Wyoming continues to support the program with significant participation in all committees and by providing annual funding for several USGS stream gages that are critical to the program.

Recommendations:

All program participants need to remain focused on our ultimate objective of recovering the four endangered fish species. Progress is incremental, and staying on track is vitally important to the ultimate success of the Recovery Program. Funding issues have required a significant time commitment to resolve in recent years. This issue has also impacted our critical post-2023 planning process. Program participants need to stay focused on the benefits of the program. Details of post-2023 program elements and other agreements that will be required to be entered into between the USFWS and the participating stakeholders need to be finalized.

Project Status:

Wyoming's Program Management is considered to be ongoing and on-track. Work and time requirements for report and document review, meeting preparation and participation (whether in person attending meetings, workshops or the annual researchers' meeting, via conference calls or webinars) to accomplish the committee's tasks and functions are significant.

FY2022 Budget Status

Funds Provided: \$30,939.00 – USGS Joint Funding Agreement
 \$23,158.85 – Program Management
 \$54,097.85 – Total Provided

Funds Expended: \$39,611

Status of Data Submission

Not applicable; no data was submitted.

Signed: Pete Cavalli for Mike Robertson

Wyoming Program Management (Recovery Program Project No. 5)

Dated: December 7, 2022