

- I. Project Title: Reclamation Program Management
- II. Principal Investigator(s):

Dave Speas
Bureau of Reclamation Upper Colorado Regional Office
Environmental Resources Division
125 South State Street, Room 6107
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1102
dspeas@usbr.gov
Phone: 801-524-3863
FAX: 801-524-5499

- III. Project Summary: The purpose of this project is to provide Reclamation participation in Recovery Program biology and management committees and to manage cooperative agreements with program cooperators to implement the annual work plan. In FY 2014, Reclamation was able to meet both of these objectives, but funding for several cooperative agreements was severely delayed due to fallout from an internal audit in FY 2012 and reorganization of the Acquisitions Management Division (AMD).
- 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. Accomplishments during FY 2014: 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 and chaired the Biology Committee for much of FY 2014. Reclamation also lent support during RIPRAP revisions, completion of final reports, and other issue papers pursuant to Task 1. We issued a request for proposals for database development and chaired a technical evaluation panel which selected a recipient to develop the database in July 2014. We completed a technical report on

entrainment of endangered fish in Maybell Canal (Yampa River, CO), presented these results at the January Researcher's Meeting, and improved PIT facilities at the Green River Canal (Utah) by adding an additional PIT array and maintaining the existing one. We coordinated with Recovery Program biologists to collect, organize and interpret temperature data from the 2014 peak- and base-flow period in the Green and Yampa rivers for compliance with the 2005 biological opinion on Flaming Gorge Dam operations. We participated in implementation of the Larval Trigger Study Plan, which experimentally modifies operations of Flaming Gorge Dam to increase benefits to razorback sucker. 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, which involved close coordination with researchers from UDWR and USFWS to implement the Larval Trigger Study Plan. We prepared and presented materials to cover this information at the Flaming Gorge Working Group meetings held in Vernal, UT during April. We helped facilitate an electrofishing workshop for Program participants during August which resulted in an evaluation of the Program's electrofishing Standard Operating Procedure. We assisted the UDWR field crew with their humpback chub sampling in Desolation/Gray canyons in September and deployed experimental submersible PIT antennas during that sampling trip. This experiment resulted in contact of 21 fish which were not captured by conventional sampling gear. We funded and assisted USFWS and UDWR crews during sampling the Colorado River inflow arm of Lake Powell for endangered fish, which occurred in April-June 2014. The latter study was not part of Project 2 or the 2014 Program work plan but the Program had previously identified it as a pending information need. Finally, we provided technical reviews of most Recovery Program technical documents and projects pursuant to federal requirements for cooperative agreement monitoring and as chair/representative on the Recovery Program Biology Committee.

Task 2: Administer funding for Recovery Program projects.

Task 2 Accomplishments, Discussion, and Shortcomings: The Recovery Program FY14 work plan required us to create or modify several funding agreements between cooperators and Reclamation pursuant to Task 2. 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, preparation of determination and findings documents, 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. We also obligated additional funds to help support USFWS program management and for use in sampling Lake Powell for endangered fish.

As was the case in 2012 and 2013, funding for a significant number of agreements was severely delayed due to fallout from an internal audit of our AMD, which subsequently led to a reorganization of the division in 2014. We are working diligently to avoid such delays in future years and organized a meeting between Recovery Program PDO staff and the AMD during October 2014 to resolve these issues as they affect USFWS. Results from this meeting are promising.

VII. Recommendations: Continue this project at current staffing levels.

VIII. Project Status: Ongoing

IX. FY 2014 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$187,037
- B. Funds Expended as of September 30, 2014: \$187,037 (est.)
- C. Difference: \$0
- D. Percent of the FY 2013 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

Nov 17, 2014