

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

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- III. **Project Summary:** In FY 2018, Reclamation provided representation to the Recovery Program's biology, management, and implementation committees and managed financial assistance agreements and contracts (including interagency agreements) with program cooperators to implement the annual work plan.
- 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 2018: 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: In FY18, Reclamation participated in Biology and Management committee-related functions related to review and approval of work plans. We hosted several of these meetings at our Western Colorado Area Office in Grand Junction. Reclamation also participated in RIPRAP revisions, review and completion of final reports, and other issue papers pursuant to Task 1. We provided technical reviews of most Recovery Program technical documents and projects pursuant to federal requirements for cooperative agreement monitoring.

We participated in implementation of the Larval Trigger Study Plan (LTSP), which experimentally modifies operations of Flaming Gorge Dam to increase benefits to razorback sucker. We participated in the GREAT (Green River Evaluation and

Assessment Team) to evaluate efficacy of the Green River Flow Recommendations under the 2006 ROD. On June 28-29, also, we met with the Recovery Program's director and scientific support personnel from Colorado State University at the Reclamation Upper Colorado Regional Office in Salt Lake City to discuss the recommendations from the GREAT as they may affect Reclamation's future operations of Flaming Gorge Dam, including environmental compliance issues, stakeholder issues and the role of the new flows in endangered fish recovery.

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 LTSP. We attended the Flaming Gorge Working Group (FGWG) meetings held in Vernal, UT during April, July and August 2018. The July FGWG meeting was devoted entirely to an open discussion of concerns with Flaming Gorge Dam/Green River stakeholders which revolved largely around planning and implementation of spring peak flows. We coordinated with Recovery Program participants to collect, organize and interpret temperature data from the 2017 peak-and base-flow period in the Green and Yampa rivers for compliance with the 2005 biological opinion on Flaming Gorge Dam operations.

In March 2018 we organized a meeting with collaborating agencies and the Reclamation Provo Area Office (PAO) Force Account design team on the results of a bathymetric survey of the Stirrup Wetland. At that meeting we discussed preliminary design plans for modification of the Stirrup for endangered fish recovery, especially in conjunction with implementation of LTSP. We continued internal coordination with the PAO to produce revised Stirrup profiles for further consideration in fall of 2018 and continued to move the project forward by scheduling additional meetings during that time period.

We participated in the development and finalization of the razorback sucker Species Status Assessment (SSA) along with representatives of other agencies working in both the upper and lower Colorado River basins. This was an accelerated schedule which included a series of webinars, document review and synthesis, and a face-to-face meeting in Mesquite, NV in May 2018. The SSA was completed on schedule and used by US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in development of their 5-year assessment for razorback sucker.

We worked with Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) on continued refinement of a web-based database (Species Tagging, Research and Monitoring System, STReaMS; streamsystem.org) which serves both the Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs. The STReaMS database is fully functional at this time but will likely receive minor updates and refinements as time goes on. We coordinated procurement and distribution of PIT tags, PIT antennas and supplies for use by program personnel in all field offices, including establishment of a DOI-wide PIT contract with Biomark, Inc., toward the end of FY18. This contract is accessible to all DOI agencies and should streamline the equipment and supply process

significantly as individual USFWS offices can order materials directly without coordination through Reclamation.

We assisted USFWS – CRFP field crews with their Colorado pikeminnow sampling activities on the White River (April 2018). Using non-Program funds and in conjunction with Utah State University (USU), we installed three PIT antenna systems in the Price River, including replacement of the confluence and Woodside sites and a new one near Wellington, UT. We also continued analysis on the utility of automated PIT data in recovery monitoring through USU.

We gave a presentation on usage of the Dolores River by endangered fish at the annual Recovery Program Researcher’s Meeting (Jan 2018) and completed a report on Reclamation’s efforts to provide flows for native fish in the Dolores River from 2012-2017.

Task 2: Administer funding for Recovery Program projects.

Task 2 Accomplishments, Discussion, and Shortcomings: The Recovery Program FY18 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 project monitoring reports, filing recipient performance reports, answering agreement inquiries from auditors, and other related tasks.

In FY18 we established a new five-year grant for Colorado Parks and Wildlife in their supportive roles in nonnative fish management for endangered fish recovery. We also established a new five-year interagency agreement with the USFWS/Recovery Program for activities administered from the Recovery Program Director’s Office in Lakewood, CO. We worked with Utah Division of Wildlife and Colorado State University to prepare their scopes of work and budgets for new grants to begin in 2019 for Recovery Program activities. A new budget template was recommended for use by Reclamation’s Acquisitions Management Division, and we worked with CSU to populate those tables. It is our hope that this template will be adopted by the Recovery Program in FY19 and years to follow as it appears to greatly streamline budget evaluations.

Due to additional DOI procurement reviews conducted by Reclamation’s acquisitions staff during 2018, modifications to add funding to some agreements were severely

delayed. Reclamation is currently working internally to develop a timelier process in FY19 and beyond. New internal and external review protocols will make this a challenge. As of October 2018 all materials for funding requests in FY19 have been prepared and will be submitted soon, and our hope is that revised budget templates distributed to our funding recipients will help speed up the review process.

Reclamation's labor expenditures on this project were greater than anticipated in FY18. Reclamation is aware of and working actively to address this issue and is working internally to estimate its future labor/funding requirements, particularly in light of increased acquisitions review requirements and potential shifts in future funding sources.

Finally, the Recovery Program PDO staff recently requested that Reclamation shift its funding for their Information/Education (I/E) representative. This position had formerly been supported through capital projects administrative funds. Thus, a minor addition of annual funds (TBD) for participation in the Recovery Program I/E committee may be necessary in FY19.

VII. Recommendations:

- Continue this project in FY19 using staffing levels proposed in the FY18-19 scope of work as guidance, but reevaluate and revise Reclamation's labor and funding requirements for providing program management support to the Recovery Program in future years.
- Provide Reclamation's Acquisitions Division's budget template to Program partners for use in FY20 & FY21 Scopes of Work. Using consistent tables between SOW and agreement/grants will streamline budget actions.

VIII. Project Status: Ongoing

IX. FY 2018 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$229,684
- B. Funds Expended as of September 30, 2018: \$284,697
- C. Difference: (\$55,013)
- D. Percent of the FY 2018 work completed: 100%.
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: \$0

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

Signed: /s/ Dave Speas  
Fish Biologist, Principal Investigator

Nov 30 2018