

Project Title

San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program Office

Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number:

R18PG00033

Reclamation Agreement Term

July. 1, 2018 – Sep. 30, 2022

Note: Recovery Program FY23 scopes of work are drafted in May 2022. They often are revised before final Program approval and may subsequently be revised again in response to changing Program needs. Program participants also recognize the need and allow for some flexibility in scopes of work to accommodate new information and changing hydrological conditions.

Lead Agency:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Principal Investigator:

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Category:

- Ongoing project
- Ongoing-revised project
- Requested new project
- Unsolicited proposal

Expected Funding Source:

- Annual funds
- Capital funds
- Other [explain]

Relationship to Long-Range Plan (LRP):

Identified below are the LRP elements supported by this scope of work that are the primary responsibility of the Program Office. However, the Program Office works across all elements to ensure timely and effective planning, implementation, coordination, and administrative support for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.

Element 5 – Program coordination and assessment of progress toward recovery

Goal 5.1 – Facilitate program planning, management and evaluate progress towards recovery

Action 5.1.1 Provide Ongoing Program Management.

Task 5.1.1.1 Coordinate and schedule CC, technical, and annual meetings

Task 5.1.1.2 Maintain a standardized process for peer review by qualified specialists in appropriate technical disciplines for significant Program science projects and reports.

Task 5.1.1.3 Coordinate with Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and other related programs and promote participation by Program partners.

Task 5.1.1.4 Identify prioritized projects to implement recovery and summarize accomplishment/deficiency in completed work.

Task 5.1.1.5 Maintain a Recovery Program website.

Action 5.1.2 Oversee and Conduct Endangered Species Act Compliance.

Task 5.1.2.1 Complete Biological Opinions (BOs) related to water development according to the Program's Section 7 Principles and ensure BOs are in compliance (take, Reasonable Prudent Measures [RMS], Reasonable Prudent Alternatives [RPA], conservation measures, reinitiation triggers).

Task 5.1.2.2 Conduct a biennial comprehensive review and assessment of Program progress towards recovery (i.e., Sufficient Progress Report).

Goal 5.2 — Facilitate Contract and Funding Management.

Action 5.2.1 Ensure appropriate and legal contract and funding practices.

Task 5.3.1.1 Administer annual base and capital funds in accordance with the annual work plan and provide accounting of annual and capital funds.

Element 6 – Information and Education

Goal 6.1 Increase Public Awareness and Support for the Endangered Fishes and the Recovery Program.

Action 6.1.1 Provide information to the public on the Recovery Program.

Task 6.1.1.1 Provide information to the public on the Program

Task 6.1.1.2 Develop Program brochure, exchange information and materials to incorporate into PowerPoint presentations, newsletters, Program highlights, and Program displays.

Study Background/Rationale and Hypothesis:

The San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (Program) is designed to simultaneously address endangered fish species recovery and development of water resources within the San Juan River Basin (Basin). The Program includes representatives from federal agencies, the states of Colorado and New Mexico, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Navajo Nation, conservation interests, and water development interests. Most of these entities have legally mandated responsibilities to the endangered fish and/or the water resources.

Legacy Region 2 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is responsible for directing and coordinating the Program. As stated in the Program's Program Document, the Service will hire a Program Coordinator who will be responsible for overall Program coordination and dissemination of information about Program activities. Long Range Plan Element 5, *Program Coordination and Assessment of Progress toward Recovery*, identifies the coordination goals, actions, and tasks that the Program Office shall undertake to administer the Program. In addition, the Program Office helps to facilitate LRP Element 6, *Information and Education* efforts within the Basin. Based on the specific expertise of the Program Office staff, the Program Office also aids in other tasks identified in the LRP under each recovery element. The Program Office is in the New Mexico Ecological Services Office (NMESFO) in Albuquerque, NM. Current Program staff¹ include:

¹ The Program Office includes an additional coordinator who is funded through the Four Corners Power Plant and

- Melissa Mata, Program Coordinator (melissa_mata@fws.gov)
- Eliza Gilbert, Assitant Program Coordinator (eliza_gilbert@fws.gov)
- Scott Durst, Science Coordination (scott_durst@fws.gov)
- Raphaela Ware, Program Biologist (raphaela_ware@fws.gov)
- James Sykes, Program Support Assitant (james_sykes@fws.gov)

Study Goals, Objectives, End Product(s):

Goal – Facilitate Program planning, management and evaluate progress towards recovery. To accomplish this goal, the Service will employ a Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator is responsible for overall coordination and dissemination of information about Program activities. Specific Program coordination responsibilities that are the responsibility of the Service and the additional Program Office staff are described in the July 23, 2018, Program Document. An overview of these responsibilities includes the following and are defined as objectives for the purpose of this annual work plan (AWP):

Objectives:

1. Coordinate and implement all activities of the Program with the Biology Committee, Coordination Committee, and any ad hoc committees.
2. Develop AWP consistent with Service-approved recovery plans and the Program’s LRP.
3. Manage the Program to implement recovery elements in a timely and effective manner.
4. Conduct Endangered Species Action (ESA) Section 7 consultations and ensure recovery actions identified in any biological opinions are implemented to benefit Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker.
5. Maintain the Program’s data, providing technical assistance as requested, and conduct analyses to inform science-based decision-making.
6. Coordinate with Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program on range-wide recovery issues.
7. Provide information to the public pertaining to the Program.

The Program Document recognized that some of the above responsibilities will be carried out in coordination with the Program’s committees. This is more specifically defined in the Program Document sections entitled, “Biology Committee,” “Long Range Plan Development and Annual Revision Process,” and “Annual Work Plan Development Process”.

End Products: See “Deliverables/Due Dates”

Navajo Mine Energy Project Mitigation Account. Travel for that position is included herein (nathan_franssen@fws.gov; 505-761-4722).

Study Area:

San Juan River Basin

Study Methods/Approach:

Not applicable

Task Description, Deliverables and Schedule:

1. Coordinate activities for both Biology and Coordination committees by providing notices, agendas, information packets, and draft and final summaries for committee meetings.
2. Updated the LRP with any changes in research, monitoring, or recovery elements and goals.
3. Ensure consistency between the LRP and Service-approved species recovery plans.
4. Prioritize projects based on the LRP and use this prioritization to prepare annual work plans, budgets, and progress reports.
5. Ensure the approved LRP and recovery plan activities are implemented.
6. Evaluate project accomplishments and shortcomings through an annual report to the Program.
7. Monitor implementation of Program actions, including those identified as in biological opinions as reasonable and prudent alternative or reasonable and prudent measures and report results to the Service on an annual basis.
8. Develop an annual integration report that assesses the preceding year's monitoring data, progress toward recovery, and adaptive management recommendations. These could include recommendations for new management direction, termination of projects, or other recommendations that could support progress towards recovery.
9. Coordinate and oversee development of revisions to the Program's flow recommendations.
10. Report to the Coordination Committee at each of its meetings the status of Program activities, the accomplishment of milestones or delays in meeting milestones, and any problems with maintaining Program work schedules along with recommendations for solving the problems.
11. Disseminate information to state, federal, and tribal agencies.
12. Ensure that appropriate collecting permits are provided to each principal investigator.
13. Advise Program participants of requests for initiation of consultation.
14. Maintain a list of interested parties as described in the committee meeting procedures provided in this document.
15. Manage and maintain the Program's data, central database, library, website, and list serves.
16. Coordinate activities among the Program, Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, and other pertinent groups like the Three Species Conservation Group, or any five-year-status review, species status assessment, or recovery plan teams for Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker.

17. Implement Coordination Committee recommendations to resolve problems or issues that may arise regarding accomplishing Program activities.
18. Provide materials and technical support to participants briefing members and committees of the U.S. Congress and state legislatures.
19. Review biological opinions for consistency with the Program's Section 7 Principles.
20. On a biennial basis, write a "Sufficient Progress" report assessing the Program's progress towards recovery, the Program's ability to provide ESA compliance for water development and management activities, and any corrective actions needed to ensure future ESA compliance, in accordance with the Program's Section 7 Principles.
21. Work with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and other Program participants to improve, maintain, and utilize the Program's hydrology model and implement other activities needed to ensure the success of the Program as assigned by the Service or by the Coordination Committee.

Deliverables, Due Dates, and Budget by Fiscal Year:

FY-2023

1. Host Biology Committee meeting to identify upcoming year's priorities – Oct/November
2. Prepare the Sufficient Progress report – December
3. Notification/update of Program rosters and email distribution list – December/January
4. Update LRP Appendix with end of year accomplishments for BC review – January
5. Host Coordination Committee meeting – January
6. Host Biology Committee meeting for preliminary project results – January/February
7. Preparing U.S. Congressional briefing document – January through March
8. Review draft annual reports from principal investigators – March
9. Distribute and review AWP for fiscal year 2024 23 Work: Draft - May, Final - September
10. Host annual meeting and Coordination and Biology committee meetings – May
11. Prepare and distribute meeting agendas: two weeks prior to meeting
12. Meeting summaries: within ten working days after meeting
13. Maintain website – year round

Budget Summary:

| FY Year | <i>NMESFO</i> | <i>USFWS Contribution</i> |
|---------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 2023 | \$356,457 | \$200,145 |
| Total | \$356,457 | \$200,145 |

Reviewers:

References: