

Project Title

Remote Biologist for San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number:
R17PG00083

Reclamation Agreement Term
October 1, 2017 – September 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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And
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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 LRP:

The Remote Biologist will support goals and tasks outlined in the 2022 SJRRIP Long Range Plan. The goals and tasks identified in the Long-Range Plan performed by the remote biologist are outlined in the Task Description, Deliverables and Schedule section of this scope of work.

Study Background/Rationale and Hypotheses:

The San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's (SJRIP) mission is to recover the Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker while allowing water development and management activities to continue in the San Juan River Basin. In pursuit of this mission, the SJRIP funds projects under six major program elements: management and augmentation of populations and protection of genetic integrity; protection, management, and augmentation of habitat; management and control of nonnative aquatic species; monitoring and evaluation of fish and habitat in support of recovery actions; program coordination and assessment of progress toward recovery; and information and education. Principal investigators representing various federal and state agencies, tribal governments, and non-governmental organizations are contracted to perform tasks associated with the SJRIP's mission. Most of these entities reside outside of the basin and, as a consequence, extensive travel costs are incurred to complete this work.

Beginning in 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NMFWCO) filled a remote biologist position that was stationed in Farmington, New Mexico. This position focused primarily on endangered fish monitoring, nonnative fish control, and rare fish augmentation. Additionally, assistance was provided to the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife (NNDFW) with daily operations at a selective fish passage near Fruitland, New Mexico, and with daily operation/maintenance at the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) Razorback Sucker grow-out ponds. Due to the proximity of the duty station to the Four Corners Area, the remote biologist was available to assist other SJRIP partners by collecting data from remote PIT tag arrays, shuttling support vehicles and providing reconnaissance prior to the initiation of sampling trips. In addition, the remote biologist provided urgent assistance to all SJRIP partners in cases of emergency (i.e. equipment issues/loss, injury, flood damage to Phase 3 Wetlands project, Gold King mine spill, etc.). We filled this position at New Mexico FWCO in FY 2022.

Study Goals, Objectives, End Product(s):

The following scope of work outlines the expected duties of the remote biologist for FY 2023. Proposed activities are similar to those described in the FY 2022 remote biologist scope of work. The SOW's that the remote biologist will support include newly funded SOWs and pilot SOWs. The remote biologist will have responsibilities on scopes of work outlined in the Task Description, Deliverables and Schedule section. We consider some SOWs full time and others part time duties for the remote biologist. full-time duties for the project. Scope of work (b) was funded for FY 2021, was not completed in FY 2021, and at the time we are submitting this SOW, we are unsure when the work will be completed in 2022. We are including this scope in the remote biologists SOW for funding in FY 2023 in case the project is not completed in FY 2022. Scopes of Work (e) and (f) will be part time in that they will require support by the biologist but are not full-time work.

The remote biologist will support scopes of work shown below, each scope of work that the remote biologist will work on has the study goals, objectives and end products contained therein. Please refer to that SOW for the details. The remote biologist will support other projects that are not listed below, these projects are captured in "other program activities". The remote biologist can be assigned duties within

the SJRIP by the SJRIP Program Office, with coordination with the remote biologist's other duties. The deliverable for this project will come from each funded SOW or SJRIP activity that the remote biologist supports.

Study Area:

San Juan River Basin in New Mexico, Colorado and Utah, the PNM Wier/Fish Passage Structure, Fruitland, NM and the Navajo Nation NAPI Razor Back Sucker rearing ponds, San Juan County, New Mexico.

Study Methods/Approach:

Scope of Work (a) Razorback Sucker Age at Maturity (SOW). The remote biologist will work on field work/preparation or vehicle shuttling for this project.

Scope of Work (b) Secondary channel habitat maintenance project (SOW 42). The remote biologist will provide field support for this project.

Scope of Work (c) Native fish demographic monitoring and research. USFWS Grand Junction Fish and Wildlife Conservation (GJFWCO), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), and NMFWCO (SOW 19-b). The remote biologist will work all demographic trips, if other personnel are available then the remote biologist can be freed to do other work.

Scope of Work (d) NAPI rearing ponds operation and maintenance. The remote biologist will assist NNDFW with daily operation/maintenance at NAPI rearing ponds and provide support with operation and maintenance of permanent and portable PIT antennas throughout the San Juan Basin (SOW 11).

Scope of Work (e, and f) Augmentation. The remote biologist will assist as needed with coordinating annual endangered fish stocking events with other SJRIP participants at the Horsethief ponds, and at Southwest Native ARRC rearing (SOW 8, 9 and 10).

Scope of Work (g). Waterfall trap and translocation. The remote biologist will assist with on full week of field work. SOW

Scope of Work (pilot) Colorado Pikeminnow egg and larvae stocking. The remote biologist will assist with two full weeks of this SOW.

Task Description, Deliverables and Schedule:

LRP Action	Activity	Timeline	Duration
Action 4.4.1	Razorback Sucker Age at Maturity	February to June 2023	30 days
Action 2.3.1	Waterfall Translocation	March to April 2023	10 Days
Action 1.1.2	Colorado Pikeminnow egg and larvae stocking (pilot)	May to June 2023	10 Days
Action 3.1.1	Channel Catfish telemetry (new)	Summer 2023	30 Days
Action 1.1.2	NAPI pond assistance/Augmentation Endangered Fish	October 2023/year round	30 days
Action 2.1.1	Secondary channel habitat maintenance**	April 2023 to August 2023	15 days
Task 1.2.2.2	PIT antenna deployment and maintenance	Year-round	10 days
NA	SJRIP meetings	November 2022, May 2023, February 2023, one workshop annually	9 days
NA	Other program activities	Year-round	13 days
Total			157* days
	Training	Seasonally	10 days
	Holiday	Seasonally	11 days
	Sick leave	Seasonally	13 days
	Paid time off	Seasonally	20 days

***provided only as an estimate of number of total days dedicated to each task.**

Budget Summary:

FY Year	<i>NMFWCO</i>
2023	\$109,750
Total	\$109,750

Reviewers:

References: