

UPPER COLORADO RIVER ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAM

FY 2022-23 SCOPE OF WORK

PROJECT: 4

Project Title

Colorado Program Management

Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number:

R17AP00301

Reclamation Agreement Term

Oct. 1, 2017 – Sep. 30, 2022

Lead Agencies:

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Principal Investigator:

Jojo La, Endangered Species Policy Specialist
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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 RIPRAP:

Define relationship to [RIPRAP](#).

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan

VII. Provide Program planning and support (Program Management)

A. Determine actions required for recovery

- 3. Update, refine, and prioritize recovery actions (RIPRAP) annually.
- 7. Monitor and assess Recovery Program accomplishments annually.
- 8. Develop biennial work plan to address priority needs.

B. Actively participate in Recovery Program committees and secure funding for annual work plan and larger projects (e.g., water acquisition, capital construction, and long-term operation and maintenance) in accordance with the recovery actions and milestones.

C. Manage, direct, and coordinate Recovery Program activities.

- 1. Review Information and Education program (Management Committee).

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Study Background/Rationale and Hypotheses:

Not applicable.

This scope of work describes the in-kind services portion of Colorado's annual funding contribution to the Recovery Program. The expenditures incurred in completing these activities, in combination with Colorado's "cash" contribution, sum to Colorado's annual Program contribution amount. Colorado's annual funding contribution for fiscal year 2022-2023 will be \$118,710. For estimation purposes, we assume the applicable increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) composite applying to computation of the fiscal year 2023-2024 annual contribution is projected to be \$120,964.

Study Goals, Objectives, End Product(s):

The Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) provide program management support through administration of aquatic wildlife and water resource management and technical studies concerning Colorado as identified in the RIPRAP. This and the broader involvement in the implementation of the Recovery Program action plan occurs through participation and preparation of specific task materials for Implementation, Management, Biology, Water Acquisition, and Information and Education Committees. Significant activities include the development of interagency agreements, scopes of work, and reports, as well as integration of program research results and other information for effective planning, guidance, status reviews, and issue resolution within the Program. Program management for the CWCB includes oversight of water management-related technical studies and activities sponsored and/or conducted by the CWCB. Program management for CPW includes oversight of all biologically-related projects as they relate to progress toward recovery goals for Colorado specifically and the Recovery Program overall. These agencies provide in-kind services and additional funding of specific projects for the State of Colorado's contribution and participation in the Recovery Program. End products for Program Management include effective administration of all necessary Recovery Program activities for the State of Colorado.

Study Area:

The Upper Colorado River basin in Colorado, including the Yampa, White, Gunnison, and Dolores River basins and its tributaries (excluding the San Juan River basin).

Study Methods/Approach:

See task descriptions below.

Task Description, Deliverables and Schedule:

Tasks: Program Coordinators will perform all technical and administrative work associated with the following Program support activities and additional activities by agreement:

- a. Prepare for, and attend Management, Biology, Water Acquisition, Information and Education, and Implementation Committee meetings and conference calls;
- b. Review and revise the Recovery Action Plan annually;
- c. Review proposed new scopes of work, revise ongoing scopes of work, and recommend revisions to the Annual Work Plan;
- d. Review draft final Program technical reports, strategic plans and studies, and incorporate recommendations into Program guidance and implementation;
- e. Coordinate documentation for transfer of funds to CPW for RIPRAP-sanctioned work;

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- f. Coordinate RIPRAP-sanctioned field activities to conform with State scientific collection permit requirements;
- g. Attend annual Colorado River Research Review meeting;
- h. Coordinate among Department of Natural Resources, CWCB, CPW staff to identify issues, define positions, solicit input on Recovery Program actions;
- i. Cooperate with and/or develop Memoranda of Understanding or Agreements as appropriate for provision of water for benefit of the endangered fish;
- j. Coordinate Colorado issues/concerns in Recovery Program as necessary with Attorney General’s Office, Colorado Department of Natural Resources Divisions, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, water user groups, environmental groups, and other interested parties;
- k. Prepare scopes of work as required on various subjects, annual reports and all associated revisions;
- l. Respond to various requests and correspondences from Recovery Program participants and other private entities regarding the endangered fish and instream flow appropriations in Colorado;
- m. Prepare and present endangered fish issues at Wildlife Commission and Water Conservation Board meetings and at other stakeholder meetings as necessary;
- n. Coordinate with other Recovery Program participants regarding various water issues, and review potential water rights for lease or purchase; pursue acquisition of water and water rights where beneficial;
- o. Assist as appropriate in the development and implementation of Programmatic Biological Opinions;
- p. Perform water accounting as required by RIPRAP and Programmatic Biological Opinions;
- q. Support the planning process for the Recovery Program after the year 2023 through chairing the Funding Committee and preparation and review of support documents.

Budget Summary:

FY Year	CWCB/DNR	CPW	State of Colorado Total
2022	\$60,027*	\$58,683*	\$118,710
2023	\$61,171**	\$59,793**	\$120,964
2024***	\$62,337**	\$60,925**	\$123,262
2025***	\$63,526**	\$62,079**	\$125,605
2026***	\$64,737**	\$63,209**	\$127,946
Total	\$311,798	\$304,689	\$616,487

* A 3% consumer price index increase occurred for all Department of Natural Resources salaries in FY22

**A 2% consumer price index increase was assumed each year starting in FY2023

***Funding for FY 2024 through 2026 is subject to congressional authorization, funding, the cooperative agreement, and ongoing post-2023 discussions.

Reviewers:

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References:

Recovery Implementation Program Section 7 Consultation, Sufficient Progress, and Historic Projects Agreement October 15, 1993 (Revised March 8, 2000) and Recovery Implementation Program Recovery Action Plan (RIPRAP), Revised June 12, 2020.