

# UPPER COLORADO RIVER ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAM

FY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

PROJECT: 1

## **Project Title**

Utah Program Management

## **Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number:**

R19AP00059 (UDWR)

## **Project/Grant Period:**

Start date: 10/01/2018

End date: 09/30/2023

Reporting period end date: 09/30/2020

Is this the final report? No

## **Principal Investigators:**

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## **Abstract:**

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program supports multiple projects undertaken by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (Division). The work was conducted within two Division Regions in Utah (Northeast, Southeast) as well as by the Aquatics Assistant Chief and staff in Salt Lake City. Additionally, the Division cooperates and coordinates with other agencies and researchers across state boundaries within the Colorado River Basin. Efficient coordination of field activities, reporting of research and monitoring results in a timely manner, and effective program administration, and budgeting requirements requires statewide participation and oversight. Program Management funds allow Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to develop, prioritize, direct, coordinate, monitor and annually evaluate Colorado River fishes work program activities, contracts, and budgets.

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### Study Schedule:

1986 – Ongoing

### Relationship to RIPRAP:

#### General Recovery Program Support Action Plan – Program Management

- VII. Provide Program planning and support (Program Management)
- VII.A. Determine actions required for recovery
- VII.A.3. Update, refine, and prioritize recovery actions (RIPRAP) annually
- VII.A.7 Monitor and assess Recovery Program accomplishments annually
- VII.A.8 Develop biennial work plan to address priority needs
- VII.B. Actively participate in Recovery Program committees and secure funding for annual work plan and larger projects
- VII.C. Manage, direct, and coordinate Recovery Program activities

### Accomplishment of FY 2021 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

#### Task 1. Statewide and Regional Program Management.

- Prepare for and attend Biology Committee meetings and conference calls. **Complete and ongoing.**
- Review and revise the Recovery Action Plan annually. **Complete and ongoing.**
- Serve on ad hoc work groups and technical committees. **Complete and ongoing.**
- Review proposed new scopes of work, revised ongoing scopes of work, and recommend revisions to the Annual Work Plan. **Complete and ongoing.**
- Review draft final Program technical reports, strategic plans and studies, and incorporate recommendations into Program guidance and implementation. **Complete and ongoing.**
- Attend annual Colorado River Researcher’s meeting. **Attended virtually in 2021.**
- Coordinate among Wildlife Resources, Water Resources, and Water Rights with assistance from the Utah Department of Natural Resources Recovery Programs office and staff. **Complete and ongoing.**
- Coordinate Utah issues/concerns in Recovery Program as necessary with Utah DNR Divisions, U.S. FWS, BOR, BLM, Utah Mitigation Commission, water user agencies and groups, environmental groups, and other interested parties. **Complete and ongoing.**
- Prepare scopes of work as required on various subjects, annual reports and all associated revisions. **Complete.**

#### **Additional Noteworthy Observations:**

- Construction of Red Fleet Reservoir fish escapement barrier was completed by the Bureau of Reclamation and their Force Account in 2021. The screen began full-time operation in 2021 and high-flow testing resulted in design and operational modifications which were also completed in 2021.
- Participated in post 2023 Program planning and coordinated with other UT committee representatives.
- Paul Badame’s role as “program biologist” for the annual Washington D.C. briefing trip was fulfilled virtually in 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

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- Supported the Utah/Colorado collaboration to develop, produce, share, and stock sterile triploid walleye for specific screened reservoirs in the Colorado River basin. Participated in collaborative meeting with UT, CO, and the PDO to establish attainable and reasonable sterility induction rates for walleye to be stocked in designated upper basin reservoirs which also have escapement prevention measures in place.
- Paul Badame participated as part of the technical advisory team supporting the writing of a new/updated Pikeminnow Recovery Plan.

### **Recommendations:**

We recommend that the Utah Program Management project continue to be funded solely by State funds and that USBR funding which was previously allocated to this project continue to be directed toward the implementation of other recovery actions.

### **Project Status:**

On track and ongoing

### **FY 2021 Budget Status**

Utah Funds Provided: \$169,914

USBR Funds Provided: -0-

Total Funds Provided: \$169,914

Total Funds Expended: \$169,914

Difference: -0-

Percent of the FY 2021 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 100%

Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: -0-

### **Status of Data Submission**

Data are formatted, have been QA/QC checked, and will be submitted to the USFWS by January 2022.

### **Signed:**

Paul Badame, Matt Breen, Katie Creighton

Principal Investigators

January 3, 2022