

# UPPER COLORADO RIVER ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAM

FY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

PROJECT: C-21

## **Project Title**

Capital Projects Management

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

NA

## **Project/Grant Period:**

Start date: 10/01/2020

End date: 09/30/2021

Reporting period end date: 09/30/2021

Is this the final report? Yes No X

## **Principal Investigator:**

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## **Abstract:**

Manage and implement capital projects associated with the Upper Colorado River Recovery Program. Work includes preparation of preliminary cost estimates; developing and revising schedules and budgets; developing budget requests for appropriated funds; responding to agency, departmental, OMB and Congressional requests for supporting budget information; allocating costs between appropriated, power revenue and state funds; coordinating with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in the collection and expenditure of state funds; developing and managing contracts and agreements; trouble shooting operational problems and implementing corrective actions on completed capital projects; and, resolving issues/disputes associated with implementation of capital projects..

## **Study Schedule:**

Ongoing through authorization period through FY 2023

## **Relationship to RIPRAP:**

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan: VII. Provide Program Planning and Support (Program Management)

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

### Red Fleet Dam Fish Screen

Installation of fish escapement facilities at Red Fleet was completed in 2020. Testing of the Coanda screen at high releases resulted in exposing some design issues at higher releases. Modifications to resolve these issues were made in FY2021 and the screen is fully operational.

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### Starvation Reservoir

A Value Planning study team met in March/April and developed eight alternatives and six design considerations for the prevention of non-native fish escapement from Starvation Reservoir. A picket screen anchored to a concrete foundation was the preferred alternative. UDWR plans to pay for the picket screen and the Recovery Program will pay for the concrete foundation. Construction is expected in 2022.

### Ridgway Reservoir Fish Screen

A construction contract was awarded in December 2020. Construction began in September 2021 and is expected to be completed by December 2021. A contributed funds agreement with CWCB to provide \$1M in funding and an O&M contract were executed.

### Grand Valley Fish Screens/Passages

Provided miscellaneous technical assistance associated with the Grand Valley Project Fish Passage and Screen, Grand Valley Irrigation Company Fish Passage and Screen, Redlands Water and Power Company Fish Passage and Screen and Grand Valley Water Management facilities. Discussions with GVIC are ongoing to determine the best solution for a rehabilitated fish screen.

### Green River Canal Fish Screen/Passage

GRCC has provided the necessary O&M at the fish screen and the Tusher Diversion Dam fish passage. Cleaning of both the screen and passage have been challenging and Reclamation explored options to allow GRCC to perform the work easier and safer. It is expected that this equipment will be purchased in 2022 and paid for by the Recovery Program through the O&M contract.

### Habitat Development Projects

Habitat development projects continue to be identified. Construction began in the summer of 2021 for a facility at Stirrup Bottom along the Green River and is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

### Historic User Pool Coordination

Continued participation in the Green Mountain Reservoir Historic User Pool weekly meetings and Coordinated Reservoir Operation process to manage Colorado River flow regimes to benefit fish habitat.

### Budget Management

Prepared FY 2023 budget request and responses to FY 2021 and FY 2022 departmental, OMB and Congressional budget inquiries.

### Public Outreach/I&E Activities

Public involvement activities were provided in support of capital projects and Reclamation participation in I&E Committee activities was continued.

### **Additional noteworthy observations:**

Based on FY 2017 indexing, remaining unallocated Capital Project funds under current legislative authorization at the end of FY 2017 was approximately \$15.7 million. At the end of FY 2021, approximately \$7M remains available, but planned projects in FY 2022 and 2023 including: modification to the GVIC fish screen and a Catamount Reservoir fish escapement barrier, result in about \$1M over the cost ceiling. An amendment to the authorization would transfer \$5M from the San Juan RIP to this program and extend the program through FY 2024. This bill has still not passed as of the time of this report.

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### **Recommendations:**

Continue the planning process, specifically for the GVIC modification and the Catamount Reservoir fish escapement prevention facility. There are other minor projects and major repair and replacement requests that will also need to be funded, so increasing the cost ceiling is essential. Reauthorization of the program will be critical so that continued O&M can be funded for existing projects.

### **Project Status:**

Ongoing

### **FY 2021 Budget Status**

Funds Provided: \$100,000

Funds Expended: \$ 55,315

Difference: \$44,685

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

Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: \$0

### **Status of Data Submission**

(Where applicable): NA

### **Signed:**

Ryan Christianson

Principal Investigator

November 19, 2021