

UPPER COLORADO RIVER ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAM

FY 2023 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: 09/30/2023

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 the Utah

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Division of Wildlife Resources to develop, prioritize, direct, coordinate, monitor and annually evaluate Colorado River fishes work program activities, contracts, and budgets.

Study Schedule:

1986 – Ongoing

Relationship to RIPRAP:

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan – Program Management

VII. Provide Program planning and support (Program Management)

Accomplishment of FY 2023 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion 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 2023.**
- 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:

- Continued engineering and design on a permanent fish screen that will be installed at Starvation Reservoir. Funding was obtained to construct the concrete pad that the screen will ultimately sit upon.
- Continued research on refining the production of triploid walleye for stocking into screened reservoirs that have connectivity to the Colorado River Basin.

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

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FY 2023 Budget Status

Utah Funds Provided: \$173,482

USBR Funds Provided: -0-

Total Funds Provided: \$173,482

Total Funds Expended: \$173,482

Difference: -0-

Percent of the FY 2023 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 2024.

Signed:

Randy Oplinger, Katie Creighton, and Mike Partlow

Principal Investigators

October 11, 2023