

- I. Project Title: Colorado Program Management
- II. Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number(s): N/A
- III. Principal Investigators:

Jojo La
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Rm 718
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-3441 x3233
Fax: (303) 866-4474
jojo.la@state.co.us

Harry Crockett
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
317 West Prospect St.
Fort Collins, CO 80526
(970) 472-4339
Fax: (970) 472-4458/4457
harry.crockett@state.co.us

- IV. Abstract:

The Colorado Department of Natural Resources (CDNR), Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) and Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) provide program management support through administration of aquatic wildlife, water resource management, and technical studies concerning Colorado as identified in the Recovery Implementation Program Recovery Action Plan (RIPRAP). This, as well as broader involvement in the implementation of the Recovery Program action plan occurs through participation and preparation of specific task materials for the Implementation, Management, Biology, and Water Acquisition Committees. Significant activities include the development of interagency agreements, scopes of work, and reports, as well as integration of program research results and other new information for effective planning, guidance, status reviews, and issue resolution within the Program.

Program management tasks performed by CDNR, CPW and CWCB met expectations. Colorado's participation in key Recovery Program projects and issues was adequately coordinated with Program participants as necessary. These programmatic oversight and administrative activities will continue until recovery and delisting of the fish species is achieved and the federal recovery program and process are disbanded in favor of coordinated conservation programs administered by the affected state wildlife agencies.

- V. Study Schedule:

Initial Year: 1988
Final Year: 2023

VI. 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

VII. Accomplishment of FY 2018 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

Tasks (status indicated in bold text):

- Prepare for, and attend Implementation, Management, Biology, Water Acquisition, and Information and Education Committee meetings and conference calls as necessary. **Complete and Ongoing.**
- Review and revise the Recovery Action Plan annually. **Complete and Ongoing.**
- Review proposed new scopes of work, revise ongoing scopes of work, and recommend revisions to the Annual Work Plan. **Complete and Ongoing.**
- Review draft final Program technical reports, strategic plans, studies, and incorporate recommendations into Program guidance and implementation. **Complete and Ongoing.**
- Coordinate documentation for transfer of funds to CPW for RIP-sanctioned work (i.e. Bureau of Reclamation contract and state-match). **Ongoing.**
- Coordinate RIP-sanctioned field activities to conform to State scientific collection permit requirements. **Complete and Ongoing.**
- Attend annual Colorado River Research Review meeting. **Complete.**
- Coordinate among CPW, CWCB, and CDNR staff to identify issues, define positions, and solicit input on Recovery Program actions. **Complete and Ongoing.**
- Cooperate with and/or develop Memoranda of Understanding or Agreement as appropriate for provision of water for benefit of the endangered fish. **Not Applicable in 2018.**
- Coordinate Colorado issues/concerns in Recovery Program as necessary with Attorney General's Office, Colorado DNR Divisions, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, water user groups, environmental groups and other interested parties. **Complete and Ongoing.**
- Prepare scopes of work and annual reports, including all associated revisions, as required on various subjects. **Complete.**
- Respond to various requests and correspondences from Recovery Program participants and other entities regarding the endangered fish and instream flow appropriations in Colorado. **Complete and Ongoing.**

- Prepare and present program and endangered fish issues at Wildlife Commission and Water Conservation Board meetings and meetings or conference calls of other groups as necessary. **Complete.**
- Coordinate with other Recovery Program participants regarding various water issues, and review potential water rights for sale or lease; pursue acquisition of water and water rights where beneficial. **Complete.**
- Assist, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of Programmatic Biological Opinions. **Complete and Ongoing.**
- Perform water accounting as required by RIPRAP and PBOs. **Complete and Ongoing.**

Major Accomplishments and Deliverables of FY 2018:

- Managed the lease of 6,000 acre-feet of water from Ruedi Reservoir from the Ute Water Conservancy District for instream flow use and to preserve and improve the natural environment of the four endangered fish in the 15-Mile Reach. This was a \$43,200 contribution to the Program to support recovery actions.
- Participated in flow coordination efforts in the Colorado and Yampa River basins, including participated on weekly phone calls on the Green Mountain Reservoir Historic Users Pool and the Yampa River.
- Continued non-native fish management efforts including leading and hosting the non-native fish management workgroup and continued to organize and staff the annual Elkhead and Ridgway fishing tournaments.
- Supported the reauthorization and funding of the program including assisted in securing funding in 2019.
- Participated in post-2023 Program planning.
- Continued participation in the development of a White River Programmatic Biological Opinion including participating on the White River Planning Team, developing flow recommendations, funding the modeling efforts, and developing and funding of a White River Management Plan Request for Proposals.
- Participated in the annual Washington D.C. briefing trip that was conducted from March 20 through March 22, 2018.
- Completed Program and task annual reports.

VIII. Additional noteworthy observations: N/A

IX. Recommendations: Program participants must continue to support the recovery and the delisting of the four endangered fish. We recommend continued support of Program Management, including support for reauthorization and funding of the Program through FY 2023. Continued focus on post-2023 planning should be a priority of the Program and its participants.

X. Project Status: On track and ongoing.

