

UPPER COLORADO RIVER ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAM

FY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

PROJECT: C-21

Project Title

Capital Projects Management

Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number:

NA

Project/Grant Period:

Start date: 10/01/2019

End date: 09/30/2020

Reporting period end date: 09/30/2020

Is this the final report? No

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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 2020 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

OMID Canal Automation/Re-regulating Reservoir

The OMID regulating reservoir was completed in 2017 and has been utilized since the 2018 irrigation season, resulting in significant water savings. The Orchard Mesa Irrigation District installed the remaining automatization components on the re-regulating reservoir which should result in more efficient water use and more water in the 15-mile reach.

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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. Modifications to resolve these issues is being discussed among the participating parties. The screen functions as designed at normal release rates. A redesign is required for Starvation Reservoir, delaying construction until at least 2021.

Ridgway Reservoir Fish Screen

To prevent escapement of problematic nonnative fish from Ridgway Reservoir, Tri-County Water Conservancy District operated the reservoir in a manner to avoid spills with operational support from Reclamation. A value engineering study was conducted in September 2018 to determine that a rigid screen surrounding the glory hole spillway was the best solution. Award of a construction project is expected in late 2020 for construction in the fall of 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 solutions to improve operations of the fish screen and passage.

Green River Canal Fish Screen/Passage

Provided support to the Green River Canal Company to set up their accounts required to receive federal funding for reimbursement of their O&M activities (see report C-28 for more details). This is still not complete, although GRCC has provided the necessary O&M at the fish screen for it to function as designed. The fish passage needs to be cleared of debris.

Habitat Development Projects

Habitat development projects continue to be identified and a design was completed for a facility at Stirrup Bottom along the Green River. Construction of this facility is anticipated in 2021.

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 2022 budget request and responses to FY 2020 and FY 2021 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 2020, approximately \$5M remains available. The allocation must cover anticipated but unapproved projects including: modification to the GVIC fish screen and a Catamount Reservoir fish escapement barrier.

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Recommendations:

Need to finalize prioritization of capital projects prior to authorization expiring in 2023. Appropriations may be difficult to obtain at the higher levels and design/construction capacity may be limited, so planning activities need to begin soon to determine what capital projects can be constructed under the current authorization by FY 2023.

Project Status:

Ongoing

FY 2020 Budget Status

Funds Provided: \$100,000

Funds Expended: \$41,151

Difference: \$58,849

Percent of the FY 2020 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 16, 2020