

UPPER COLORADO RIVER ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAM

FY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

PROJECT: C-28

Project Title

Green River Canal Fish Screen and Tusher Diversion Dam Fish Passage

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? Yes No X

Principal Investigator:

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Abstract:

The Green River Canal begins on the west side of the Tusher Wash Diversion Dam, located on the Green River above Green River, Utah and diverts water for the Green River Canal Company & Thayn Hydropower. Entrainment of native fish has been documented in the Green River Canal under multiple studies prior to construction of the fish screen. The fish screen facilities were constructed during the 2018-19 non-irrigation season and consist of a concrete weir wall and inclined overflow screen in the canal with appropriate fish/debris return facilities. The Tusher Diversion Dam fish passage was constructed in 2016 and allows fish access to upstream habitat. An O&M contract was executed with the Green River Canal Company (GRCC) in 2018, in which GRCC accepts O&M responsibility for the fish passage and screen.

Study Schedule:

2016-Ongoing

Relationship to RIPRAP:

Green River Action Plan: Mainstem

II.B.2 Screen at Tusher Wash diversion to prevent endangered fish entrainment.

II.B.2.d. Operate and maintain

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

Green River Canal Fish Screen

The construction of the fish screen facility was completed prior to the 2019 irrigation season and has now been operational for 2 years. In 2020, only one bonytail tag was detected on the PIT antennas

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beyond the screens. No detections were made in 2019, suggesting the screen has been extremely effective in preventing entrainment in the canal. Occasionally, algae has accumulated on the screens requiring frequent cleaning, but has not impaired water delivery.

Tusher Diversion Dam Fish Passage

The Tusher Diversion fish passage has been clogged with debris for much of the time since it was installed in 2016. It is suspected the blockage is impairing the ability of endangered species, especially pikeminnow from accessing upstream habitat.

Recommendations:

The Recovery Program needs to continue to work with the GRCC to successfully implement the recent O&M contract as it relates to the fish passage and fish screen. Reclamation has been in contact with the GRCC to assist them in setting up their account to receive federal funding to reimburse them for O&M activities. The fish passage needs to be cleared as soon as possible.

Project Status:

The facilities will continue to operate as designed with GRCC providing the necessary O&M as indicated in their statement of work and pursuant to the O&M contract.

FY 2020 Budget Status

Funds Provided: \$30,000

Funds Expended: \$0

Difference: \$30,000

Percent of the FY 2020 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 0%

Status of Data Submission

NA

Signed:

Ryan Christianson

Principal Investigator

November 9, 2020