

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 2012 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM  
PROJECT NUMBER: C-11

I. Project Title: Grand Valley Water Management

II. Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number(s): NA

Project/Grant Period: Start date (Mo/Day/Yr):  
End date: (Mo/Day/Yr):  
Reporting period end date:  
Is this the final report? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

III. Principal Investigator(s): Brent R. Uilenberg  
2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106  
Grand Junction, CO 81506  
970-248-0641  
FAX 970-248-0601  
builenberg@usbr.gov

IV. Abstract: The 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River, extending from the confluence of the Gunnison River upstream to the Grand Valley Irrigation Company Diversion Dam near Palisade, CO, is considered to be important habitat critical to recovery of the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker. This reach of the river is severely depleted by both east and west slope water diversions. The project consists of seven new canal check structures and rehabilitation of eight existing canal check structures in the Government Highline Canal; the Palisade return flow pipeline; Highline Lake pumping plant; and, integrated SCADA system. The overall purpose of the project is to reduce river diversions by the Grand Valley Project and increase flows in the 15-Mile Reach.

V. Study Schedule: Project planning and design was initiated in 1992 utilizing Reclamation's General Investigation funding. Construction of the Palisade return flow pipeline, check structures and Highline Lake pumping plant were completed in 2000, 2001 and 2005 respectively. Installation and programming of the SCADA system was essentially completed in September 2006. Completed components of the overall system have been successfully phased into operation resulting in significant water savings since 2002.

VI. Relationship to RIPRAP: Colorado River Action Plan: Mainstem I.A.5.1. Grand Valley Water Management Project

VII. Accomplishment of FY 2012 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings: Minor technical support in the operation of the canal automation system was provided in FY 2012. The Grand Valley Water Users Association retained the

services of a contractor to maintain the canal automation system. Based on Colorado State Engineer, Division 5 diversion records, significant water savings were achieved in 2012. No Green Mountain Reservoir surplus water declaration was made as storage conditions failed to meet the surplus declaration criteria; however, operation of these facilities were instrumental in managing water supplies to address human and instream flow needs. Although drought conditions in WY 2012 were similar to those in 2002 instream flows were maintained in the range of 400 cfs as compared to 100 cfs in WY 2002. See attached spreadsheet for summary of project accomplishments.

VIII. Recommendations: Continued technical support may be required in FY 2013 to trouble shoot problems; however, this project is ready to be transferred to the Grand Valley Water Users Association with minimal further involvement by Reclamation.

IX. Project Status: Ongoing

X. FY 2012 Budget Status

A. Funds Provided: \$0

B. Funds Expended:

C. Difference:

D. Percent of the FY 2012 work completed, and projected costs to complete: NA

E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: None

XI. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): NA

XII. Signed: Brent R. Uilenberg November 14, 2012  
Principal Investigator Date

APPENDIX: See attached spreadsheet quantifying project benefits.