

I. Refinement of the Colorado CRDSS Model to Better Reflect the Depletion Flows of the Little Snake River

II. Principal Investigator:

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III. Project Summary:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is in the process of developing flow recommendations for an 82-mile segment of the Yampa River and the Little Snake River below Dixon, Wyoming. The recommendations will be submitted to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) for review and implementation as appropriate.

Before the CWCB can file applications in Water Court, the physical and legal availability of the water must be evaluated. A refinement update to the CRDSS model would provide a tool that would enable the CWCB to evaluate the following:

- Impacts on the Little Snake River instream flow from different levels and patterns of future water development,
- Amounts, pattern and priority of the water right filings as well as implications of enforcement of the water right and administration of other water rights.

Refinements and updates to the CRDSS Model include the extension of the period of record to 1909 - 1998, modeling all uses within Colorado, including Wyoming's High Savery Dam and Reservoir Project. Wyoming was asked to verify operations and estimate aggregated depletions for Wyoming for use in the model.

IV. Study Schedule:

Refinement of the Yampa CRDSS model commenced in FY 2000 and continues with the progress of the Yampa River Management Plan and PBO. Wyoming has provided water use data to the CWCB and the two states are working together to refine the Yampa model to better reflect water use on the Little Snake River. This work will be completed early in FY 2002.

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

Green River Action Plan: Yampa and Little Snake Rivers (I.A.1.d; I.C.3)

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2001 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

Refinements to the CRDSS Yampa River Model were made throughout FY 2001 in conjunction with the Yampa River PBO process. These refinements included the addition of Wyoming water use data on the Little Snake River. Model results of various scenarios were provided to enhance decision-making in the Yampa River Management Plan and PBO processes.

VII. Recommendations:
No recommendations at this time.

VIII. Project Status:
Ongoing in conjunction with the Yampa PBO and Management Plan.

IX. FY 2001 Budget Status

A.	Funds Provided:	\$30,000	in-kind services, Colorado and Wyoming
B.	Funds Expended:	\$30,000	in-kind services, Colorado and Wyoming
C.	Difference:	\$ 0	

The \$30,000 of in-kind services was carried over from previous years' budgets.

D. % of FY 2001 work completed, projected costs to complete:
95% of the work is completed.
The remaining 5% should be completed in FY 2002 at little cost.

E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: \$0

X. Status of Data Submission:

Existing Phase IIIb CRDSS Yampa Model available online at cdss.state.co.us.

XI. Signature: Ray Alvarado

Date: Jan. 17, 2002