

I. Project Title: Floodplain Protection Issue Paper

II. Principal Investigator(s):

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III. Project Summary:

The project goal is to evaluate and recommend strategies for protecting floodplain habitats that are important to the survival and recovery of the endangered Colorado River fishes. To achieve this goal, the following objectives were outlined:

Phase I Identify what restoration and protection are needed by addressing: 1) the biological merits of restoring the floodplain with emphasis on endangered fish recovery; 2) priority geographic areas; and 3) integration of missing components into the Habitat Restoration Program, to fill identified gaps.

The Phase I report was approved as final in January 1998.

Phase II Identify how to conduct restoration and protection by addressing: 1) restoration/protection tools/approaches; 2) institutional options for floodplain restoration/protection; 3) cost/funding strategies; and 4) implementation steps and schedule.

The Phase II report is currently under development.

IV. Study Schedule:

Initial year: 1994
Final year: 2000

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan II.

-II.C. Develop an issue paper on the desirability and practicability of restoring and protecting certain portions of the floodplain for endangered fishes.

-II.C.1. Identify what restoration and protection are needed by addressing: 1) biological merits of restoring the floodplain with emphasis on endangered fish recovery; 2) priority geographic areas; and 3) integration of a broader floodplain restoration initiative into the current Recovery Program floodplain restoration program.

-II.C.2. Identify how to conduct restoration and protection by addressing: 1) restoration and protection tools/approaches; 2) institutional options for floodplain restoration; 3) costs/funding strategy; and 4) implementation steps and schedule.

-II.C.3. Identify viable options and develop specific restoration strategies for selected geographic areas.

VI. Accomplishment of FY 99 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

A contract was awarded to FLO Engineering to conduct Phase 2. A draft report is currently under development, and is expected to be submitted to the Recovery Program for review in January 2000.

VII. Recommendations:

None

VIII. Project Status:

Nearing completion.

IX. FY 99 Budget Status

A. Funds Provided: \$30K carryover

B. Funds Expended: ~\$25K

C. Difference: ~\$5K carryover

D. Percent of the FY 99 work completed, and projected costs to complete: ~90% complete. A draft Phase 2 report to the Recovery Program is expected in January 2000

E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: N/A

X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): N/A

XI. Signed: Pat Nelson 12/8/99
Principal Investigator Date

APPENDIX:

Nelson, P. 1998. Floodplain protection issue paper - Phase I. Colorado River Recovery Program Project No. 75 Final Report, U.S. Fish Wildl. Serv., Denver, CO. 14 pp. + app.