

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY-1999 ANNUAL REPORT**

**RECOVERY PROGRAM
PROJECT NUMBER: PIP-1**

I. Project Title: Public Involvement for Colorado's Instream Flow Protection

I. Principal Investigator:

Lead Agency: Colorado Water Conservation Board

Submitted by: Peter Evans/Kathy Kanda

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I. Project Summary:

The purpose of the Public Involvement Project is to keep the public informed of Recovery Program activities, as well as to comply with RIPRAP scheduling, related to Colorado Water Conservation Board's responsibilities for instream flow protection. The withdrawal of the 1995 instream flow filings on the Colorado and Yampa rivers resulted in changes to the 1999 RIPRAP (with the acknowledgement of Recovery Program members and Committees). Thus, planned public involvement activities were adjusted to respond to these changes. Completion of the 15 Mile Reach PBO will likely assist in redefining tasks for Colorado's instream flow filings and related public involvement activities.

Additionally, during the course of the year, the Facilities Management Options for Colorado River Division #5 (a.k.a. Coordinated Facilities Study) assumed prominence as a critical strategy for enhancing spring peak flows. Thus, Public Involvement Project activities were developed and implemented to support this project.

I. Study Schedule:

Public involvement support for Colorado's streamflow protection activities has been ongoing since 1989 and is anticipated to continue through the life of the project.

I. Relationship to RIPRAP:

Colorado River Mainstem, I.A.2.a(1), I.A.2.a(4), I.A.2.b(1), I.A.2.b.(4), I.A.3.c(2)(a)ii)c, as well as remaining litigation-dependent items.

Yampa River, I.B.4 as well as remaining litigation-dependent items.

Also, Colorado River Mainstem, I.A.3.c.(3)(c), Coordinated Reservoir Operations

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

The following tasks were completed in FY 99:

- News releases were issued before and after the Colorado Water Conservation Board meetings at which withdrawal of the 1995 instream flow applications was discussed and acted upon.
- Articles explaining the decision to withdraw 1995 instream flow applications were published in Department of Natural Resources newsletters, which are distributed statewide to a variety of key interest groups.
- Technical assistance in planning public meetings and developing communications materials was provided to the contractors who are producing the Coordinated Facilities Operations study.
- News releases were issued to publicize the Coordinated Facilities Operations study public meetings conducted in Glenwood Springs and Denver.

I. Recommendations:

The State of Colorado recommends the in-kind services provided by DNR and its divisions continue through the life of the Recovery Program. Staff also recommends, pursuant to the recommendations in the basin-wide public involvement planning conducted by the Recovery Program I&E Coordinator in conjunction with the I&E Committee, that a plan and related products be developed to describe to affected publics Colorado and Gunnison river water administration as it relates to flow protection.

I. Project Status:

See items VI. and VII. above.

I. FY 99 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$12,500 (in-kind)
- B. Funds Expended: \$ 2,100 (in-kind)
- C. Difference: \$10,400
- D. % of FY 99 work completed, projected costs to complete: This project should be considered ongoing; thus, specific percentages are difficult to define.
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: No publication charges to the Recovery Program were made.

I. Status of Data Submission:

Not applicable.

Signed by: Kathy Kanda December 23, 1999