

- I. Project Title: **Wyoming Program Management**
- II. Principal Investigator(s)
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- III. **Project Summary:** Wyoming's program management objectives and accomplishments during this reporting year included: 1) providing staff assistance and support to the Implementation, Management, Biology and Information and Education Committees and to the USFWS and our other partners in implementing the Recovery Program; 2) participating in the activities and deliberations of the Information and Education, Biology and Management committees; 3) coordinating with other Program participants to accomplish Program objectives and tasks; 4) working to secure public and Wyoming Legislative, Congressional and Administration support for federal appropriations for capital construction and annual program funding contributions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; and 4) responding to information requests, proactively providing information and developing understanding and support for the Recovery Implementation Program by Wyoming officials, water users and members of the public.
- IV. **Study Schedule:** Fiscal year 2004 was the eleventh year that Wyoming received in-kind services credit for our program management activities. Wyoming anticipates continuing to receive this credit for our participation and program management actions, hence this project will continue throughout the term of the Recovery Program's Cooperative Agreement, as extended through September 30, 2013.
- V. **Relationship to RIPRAP:** Wyoming's Program Management activities address RIPRAP Item VII ("provide program planning and support [program management]") and its components under the "General Recovery Program Support Action Plan."
- VI. **Accomplishment of FY 2004 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:** During the course of fiscal year 2004, Kevin Gelwicks of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department ably represented Wyoming in completing the considerable work load that is accomplished annually by the Biology Committee. This

includes committee conference calls and meetings, special workshops and working groups and much document and study review and other requisite preparation in advance of committee activities.

John Shields performed necessary duties associated with being the Management Committee's Chairperson and served as a member of the Water Acquisition Committee and Information and Education Committee during Fiscal Year 2004. He led the efforts arranging Management Committee members' visits with Congressional delegation and committee staff and with Administration officials during the Committee's annual trip to Washington, DC to solicit funding support for the Upper Colorado Recovery Program.

Due to the efforts of involved Wyoming personnel, the following accomplishments and activities occurred:

- 1) The State of Wyoming's policy and technical positions on Recovery Program activities were well coordinated with those of other Program participants and with Wyoming's Implementation Committee member, the Wyoming's Governor and his staff, the Wyoming Congressional Delegation and their staff, affected state agencies, the Wyoming Water Association and the public about the Recovery Program.
- 2) The State of Wyoming was ably represented at meetings, during conference calls and other special activities and events of the Biology Committee, Management Committee, Information and Education Committee and other technical and ad-hoc group meetings, as well as at public meetings concerning the Yampa River Basin Management Plan.
- 3) Proposals, scopes-of-work, annual reports, project reports, planning documents, draft correspondence and administrative records prepared by Recovery Program staff and participants were reviewed, edited and commented on as appropriate and necessary.
- 4) The Recovery Program's Guidance document and the annual Recovery Program budget and work plan were developed and subsequently approved by the Implementation Committee.
- 5) The Recovery Implementation Program Recovery Action Plan (RIPRAP) was appropriately updated and subsequently approved by the Implementation Committee.
- 6) Communication and correspondence with federal agency and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation personnel was carried out as necessary to transfer funds for Recovery Program-sanctioned work – thus materially assisting the conduct of Program activities and initiatives.

- 7) Requests for information about the Recovery Program and its activities were amply met and information was provided to the involved states' Congressional delegation's staff, the members of the Wyoming Water Association, the public, other state agencies and other Program participants. Presentations were made on a periodic, ongoing basis to the members of the Green River Basin Advisory Group.
- 8) Meetings, briefings and necessary follow-up took place with the affected States' Congressional delegations, Congressional authorization and appropriations committee staff, Federal agency officials and staff in Washington, D.C. to develop support for Recovery Program funding line items included in the President's budget. A lead role was taken in accomplishing the circulation of the annual Congressional delegation joint letter to the appropriation subcommittee chairmen expressing our Congressional delegations' support for Recovery Program funding. Follow-up contacts were made thanking those with whom we met for their interest and support and providing additional information requested during those meetings. A summary report detailing the events and successes of the Washington briefing trip was prepared for the Implementation Committee and the administrative record.
- 9) Participation in public meetings and Management Committee discussions associated with the Yampa River Management Plan that will lead to the development of the Yampa River Basin Programmatic Biological Opinion.

Discussion of Initial Findings, Highlights and Noteworthy Activities: "Initial findings" is not a term applicable to reporting on Wyoming's program management activities. We are carrying out Wyoming's ongoing obligations and responsibilities under the Recovery Program.

Shortcomings: Despite our continuing efforts, we have been unable to obtain the express support of Wyoming's two United States Senators and their signatures on the joint-delegation funding support letters. We continue to seek their support and work with their staff, including their field representatives, to obtain that support.

VII. Recommendations: The following recommendations and comments are provided after reflection on our Program participation during fiscal year 2004:

1. Another year has slipped by without completion of the Yampa River Management Plan's Cooperative Agreement. We must see this milestone event completed in the current fiscal year.
2. The Program's working relationship with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has improved and we feel we now have a good handle on the expenditure of Wyoming's capital construction cost-sharing funds contributed through transmittal to the Foundation.

3. During the past year, discussions again occurred about providing “credit,” or acknowledging and accordingly bookkeeping costs being incurred by a funding participant as expenditures that should reduce the cost-share to be contributed in future years. We recommend that, to the greatest possible extent, we collectively avoid additional discussions of these matters in future years. There is no “cushion” between estimated Program capital construction costs and the available authorized amount that will ultimately need to be expended – and, in fact, the Program will likely have to deal with a shortfall in the future.

VIII. **Project Status:** Wyoming's Program Management is considered to be both ongoing and on-track. Management Committee efforts remain important given the delegation of matters (for both investigation and resolution by reaching mutual agreement on the course of action or policy that should be pursued) to the Management Committee by the Implementation Committee. Work and time requirements for meeting commitments to the Biology Committee’s tasks and functions have continued to increase since the last reporting period.

IX. **FY 2004 Budget:**

A.	Funds Provided:	\$14,500
B.	Funds Expended:	<u>\$14,500</u>
C.	Difference:	\$ 0
D.	Percent of the FY2004 Work Completed and Projected Costs to Complete:	Not applicable
E.	Program funds spent for publication charges:	None

X. **Status of Data Submission:** Not applicable, as no data have been submitted, nor do we anticipate submitting data, to the database manager.

XI. Signed: John W. Shields Dated: November 10, 2004
Management Committee Member
and Principal Investigator for Wyoming’s Program Management