

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2006 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM
PROJECT NUMBER: 4

I. Project Title: Colorado Program Management

II. Principal Investigator(s):

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III. Project Summary:

CDOW and CWCB provide program management support through administration of aquatic wildlife, water resource management and technical studies concerning Colorado as identified in the RIPRAP. This and the broader involvement in the implementation of the Recovery Program action plan occurs through participation and preparation of specific task materials for the Implementation, Management, Biology, and Water Acquisition Committees. Significant activities include the development of interagency agreements, scopes of work, and reports, as well as integration of program research results and other new information for effective planning, guidance, status reviews, and issue resolution within the Program.

Program management tasks performed by CDNR, CDOW and CWCB met all expectations for the most part. Colorado participation in key Recovery Program projects and issues was adequately coordinated with Program participants as necessary.

IV. Study Schedule:

Initial Year: 1988; Final Year: 2013

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan

VII. Provide Program planning and support (Program Management).

A. Determine actions required for recovery.

3. Update, refine, and prioritize recovery actions (RIPRAP) annually.

7. Monitor and assess Recovery Program accomplishments annually.

8. Develop biennial work plan to address priority needs.

B. Actively participate in Recovery Program committees and secure funding for annual work plan and larger projects.

C. Manage, direct, and coordinate Recovery Program activities.

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2006 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

1. Prepare for and attend all Management, Biology, and Water Acquisition Committee meetings and conference calls, and Implementation Committee meetings as necessary;
(Participated in all Water Acquisition, Management and Implementation Committee meetings and conference calls as required. Biology Committee attendance has been sporadic due to vacancy in Native Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Coordinator position within CDOW.)
2. Review and revise the Recovery Action Plan annually;
(Done)
3. Review proposed new scopes of work, revise ongoing scopes of work and recommend revisions to the Annual Work Plan;
(Done)
4. Review draft final Program technical reports, strategic plans, and studies, and incorporate recommendations into Program guidance and implementation;
(Done – see Program final reports list for the reports reviewed and acted upon in 2006.)
5. Coordinate documentation for transfer of funds to CDOW for RIP-sanctioned work (i.e. Section 6, BuRec contract, and state-match);
(Done, assisted in obtaining the required approvals and the preparation of the Interagency Agreements transferring dollars from the Species Conservation Trust Fund to CDOW, NFWF and CRWCD as appropriate)
6. Coordinate RIP-sanctioned field activities to conform with State scientific collection permit requirements;
(Done)
7. Attend annual Colorado River Research Review meeting;
(Done 1/18-19/2006)
8. Coordinate among CDOW, CWCB and Department of Natural Resources staff to identify issues, define positions, and solicit input on Recovery Program actions;
(Done)
9. Cooperate with and/or develop Memoranda of Understanding or Agreement as appropriate for provision of water for benefit of the endangered fish;
(Done - Coordinated Reservoir Operations, Orchard Mesa Check Settlement and Green Mountain Reservoir HUP operations, Elkhead Enlargement)
10. Coordinate as necessary with Attorney General's Office, Colorado DNR Divisions, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, water user groups, environmental groups and other interested parties;

(Done – including Yampa River Basin Partnership, CRWCD, State Parks, Colorado Fish Health Board, Wildlife Commission, Colorado Dept. of Transportation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)

11. Prepare scopes of work as required on various subjects, annual reports and all associated revisions;
(Done – 4, 70, 71, 98c, C-18/19, C-31, 12C, 118, 137, 29d, C-20)
12. Respond to various requests and correspondence from Recovery Program participants and other private entities regarding the endangered fish and instream flow appropriations in Colorado;
(Ongoing – Follow-up on CWCB’s withdrawal of 1995 15-Mile Reach ISF filings through participation on the Colorado River PBO, the Yampa River PBO and Elkhead Enlargement, numerous meetings with State of Colorado and other Recovery Program members, efforts by CDOW to develop new strategies for determination of ISF requirements for endangered fish (note: Rick Anderson’s riverine fish flow investigations were not endorsed by the UCRIP and Colorado still needs an alternative way to determine flows to protect endangered fish and their habitat), participation in annual Coordinated Reservoir Operations, and HUP Managing Entities efforts, review and evaluation of nonnative fish control efforts, criteria, and strategies)
13. Prepare and present endangered fish issues at Wildlife Commission and Water Conservation Board meetings and meetings of other groups as necessary;
(Done – Elkhead enlargement, instream barrier fish passageways, nonnative gamefish removal projects on Yampa and Colorado Rivers, accept water from the enlarged Elkhead Reservoir of augmentation of base flows in the Yampa River downstream of Craig, Co., make funding recommendations to CDNR from the CWCB and Wildlife Commission for program participation and assist CDNR in moving those funding requests through the State Legislature.)
14. Coordinate with other Recovery Program participants regarding various water issues, and review potential water rights for sale or lease; pursue acquisition of water and water rights where beneficial; and
(Done – participation in annual Coordinated Reservoir Operations, HUP Managing Entities effort. Also encouraged discussions between the UCRIP and the SJRIP and GCAMP.)
15. Assist as appropriate in the development and implementation of Programmatic Biological Opinions.
(Done –further discussions concerning a PBO for the Gunnison Basin)
16. Perform water accounting as required by RIPRAP and PBOs.
(Done).
17. Clerical work associated with all of the above.
(Done)

VII. Recommendations: *No recommendations for change at this time.*

VIII. Project Status: *Ongoing and on track.*

IX. FY 2006 Budget Status

A.	Funds Provided:	CDOW: \$75,000	CWCB: \$35,000
B.	Funds Expended:	CDOW: \$75,000	CWCB: \$35,000
C.	Difference:	CDOW: \$0	CWCB: \$0
D.	Percent of the FY 2006 work completed:	100%	
E.	Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges:	\$0	

IX. Status of Data Submission: *Not applicable*

XI. Signed: /s/ Thomas P. Nesler

Principal Investigator

Date