

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

**PROJECT NUMBER: PIP 12H**

**I. Project Title:** Interpretive Signs and Exhibits about the Endangered Fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin

**II. Principal Investigator:**

Debbie Felker  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center  
Denver, CO 80225  
303-969-7322, ext. 227  
Fax: 303-969-7327  
debbie\_felker@fws.gov

**III. Project Summary:** Interpretive signs and exhibits at museums and visitor centers are key tools used to educate the general public. Numerous opportunities exist for the Recovery Program to partner with public and private organizations to develop signs and exhibits that will explain the importance of recovering the endangered fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin and some of the actions taking place to accomplish this. Priority for placement of interpretive signs and exhibits is given to geographic locations where the majority of Recovery Program efforts are taking place, including Vernal, Utah; Grand Junction, Colorado; and Page, Arizona.

**IV. Study Schedule:**

Initial year: FY 2001  
Final year: Ongoing

**V. Relationship to RIPRAP:**

VI. INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR THE ENDANGERED FISHES AND THE RECOVERY PROGRAM.

**VI. Accomplishment of FY 2008 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:**

Tasks: Pursue the following new projects in targeted communities, seeking funding support from other organizations whenever appropriate:

- a. Price-Stubb Fish Passage, Grand Junction, Colorado. A fish passage at the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam on the Colorado River was completed and became operational in spring 2008. The location of Island Acres State Park a few miles above the dam presents an opportunity to develop interpretive signs that will provide visitors with

information about endangered fish and efforts to recover them. Both Bob Muth and Debbie Felker made initial contact with state parks who indicated a willingness to work with us. Debbie took pictures of existing interpretive signs on-site to help determine what additional messages are needed. This project will move forward in FY 09.

- b. Interpretive Signs at Elkhead Reservoir, Craig, Colorado. This project was moved to Project 152 – Elkhead Dam and Reservoir Operation and Maintenance and Interpretive Signs.
- c. Interpretive Signs at Visitor Center, Jensen, Utah. The Jensen Visitor Center has high visitation and is the eastern gateway to Dinosaur National Monument and Vernal, Utah. An interpretive message at this location could promote the local Stewart Brothers' human interest story as well as encourage visitation to the Ouray National Fish Hatchery. This project was deferred to FY 09.
- d. Unaweep Charolais Ranch (Butch Craig property), Whitewater, Colorado. The Bureau of Reclamation acquired this property along the Gunnison River in fee on behalf of the Recovery Program and transferred the property to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Recovery Program retains a perpetual easement for the endangered fishes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the site. Hikers and other recreationalists use a trail along the river. An interpretive sign placed near the razorback sucker nursery habitat would help raise awareness of recovery efforts. This project was also deferred to FY 09.
- e. Brown's Park and Ouray National Wildlife Refuges, Utah. The Recovery Program worked with visitor services of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to approve content of interpretive signs about endangered fish to place at fishing piers overlooking the Green River. The Brown's Park signs were installed in summer 2008. The Ouray NWR signs will be installed when weather permits in the spring of 2009.
- f. Interpretive exhibit maintenance: Funds are budgeted each year to help maintain exhibits that the Recovery Program helped establish. No funds were needed in FY 08.

**VII. Recommendations:** Continue to support the organizations that have established interpretive exhibits to ensure the exhibits are well maintained. In FY 2008 and beyond, continue to seek opportunities to partner with other organizations to establish interpretive exhibits.

**VIII. Project Status:** On-Track and Ongoing.

**IX. FY 2008 Budget Status**

- A. Funds Provided: \$24,000 (\$19,000 FY 07 carryover; \$5,000 new funds)
- B. Funds Expended: \$10,000 (Elkhead signs)
- C. Difference: \$14,000 (carried over to FY 09)
- D. Percent of the FY 2008 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 100%, none
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: Not applicable.

**X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): n/a**

**XI. Signed:**

Debbie Felker  
Information & Education Coordinator

February 5, 2008  
Date