

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

Project No.: PIP12I

I. Project Title: Ruedi Reservoir Releases Public Involvement Plan

II. Principal Investigator(s):

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III. Project Summary: Since 1990, Reclamation has released water from Ruedi Reservoir to benefit endangered fish species in the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River. Local businesses and residents of Basalt, Colorado, have expressed concern regarding possible impacts to the Fryingpan River's gold-medal fishery from the release amounts and adjustment frequency. Basalt's economy is heavily based on the fishery reputation and resulting tourism. Consequently, in managing Ruedi to meet multi-purpose needs of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project of which Ruedi is a part, Reclamation's Eastern Colorado Area Office must periodically release flows greater than 250 cfs and adjust flows for downstream customers calling for their water. The ECAO maintains an open and continuous dialogue with local businesses and residents on these issues.

IV. Study Schedule: 1995-present

V. Relationship to RIPRAP: Action Plan item 1.A.4c(1)(b)

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

Tasks: In FY 2008 we:

- 1) Conducted our annual water year-in-review presentation at our annual public meeting in May: what happened at Ruedi last year (2007) compared to what was anticipated for this year (2008). We did not run Coordinated Reservoir Operations in 2007, but knew we would be running the program this year. As a result, there were numerous questions about possible high releases and a long discussion on reservoir fill dates and philosophy. We staffed our meeting with representatives from Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife to answer questions. The meeting was also held locally, in Basalt. Approximately 25 people attended.
- 2) Continued e-mail notifications to better communicate frequent operational changes and continued to expand e-mail notification list.
- 5) Continued internet notifications on Ruedi Reservoir via message boards interested in Ruedi and the Eagle County Internet Alert System, message board, and e-mail notification program.

We continue to work with the Roaring Fork Conservancy as a cooperating partner in the areas of public outreach, education, and natural resource studies based on the concerns of Basalt and surrounding areas. This year, a tour of Ruedi Dam and the power plant was conducted in October. We attended and presented the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project and Ruedi operations, in brief.

Also, Reclamation once again participated in the Colorado River Water Conservation District's "State of the River" meetings on both the Colorado and the Roaring Fork Rivers.

VII. Recommendations: To continue building outreach and public communications programs in support of our operations and the Recovery Program.

VIII. Project Status: On track and ongoing.

IX. FY 2008 Budget Status: The Ruedi Public Involvement Plan does not receive Recovery Program funds. It is supported through operations of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project under the Eastern Colorado Area Office of the Great Plains Region of Reclamation.

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

XI. Signed:

Kara Lamb

01/15/09

Kara Lamb
Public Involvement Specialist

Date