

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2010 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:

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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 2010 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

Tactic: Denver Zoo – The Denver Zoo asked the Recovery Program to partner with it and the Colorado Division of Wildlife to establish a classroom aquarium project with a front- range school(s) modeled after CDOW’s program in western Colorado. The zoo’s project would be somewhat different in that the zoo would like to display the endangered fish raised in the classroom in a zoo exhibit. CDOW and the Recovery Program worked with zoo staff with a goal of launching the program in 2010. The Recovery Program provided a letter of support offering to provide a one-time contribution of \$5,000 toward the project, as well as to assist with obtaining the proper permit to display endangered

species, providing outreach materials to the classroom(s) and hatchery-raised fish and food.

Status: The Denver Zoo was unable to secure the needed funding through grants and other sponsorships to support this project. The Recovery Program's I & E Committee agreed to redirect the \$5,000 committed to the zoo project to replace old, faded interpretive signs about endangered fish in state parks in western Colorado. This will be pursued in 2011.

Tactic: Dinosaur National Monument Aquarium Exhibit – An aquarium exhibit at the monument's visitor center was removed for renovation. The visitor center is expected to reopen in 2011. In anticipation of the reopening, \$2,500 was approved to reestablish the aquarium exhibit.

Status: Dinosaur National Monument Superintendent Mary Risser told the Recovery Program that the new visitor center does not have space to reestablish the aquarium exhibit. The visitor center is producing an interpretive panel with content about the endangered fish. The aquarium and stand that were used in the old visitor center were taken to Uintah High School in Vernal where U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff worked with the school to establish and maintain an aquarium with razorback sucker. The I & E Committee approved transferring the \$2,000 designated for this project to support an interpretive exhibit for the visually impaired at a Grand Valley Audubon Society site in Grand Junction, Colo. This project is slated for completion in 2011.

Tactic: Interpretive exhibit maintenance: Funds are budgeted each year to help maintain exhibits that the Recovery Program helped establish.

Status: No funds were needed in FY 10.

Tactic: The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources worked with the Recovery Program to establish an interpretive exhibit with endangered fish at the Living Planet Aquarium in Sandy, Utah.

Status: The Recovery Program provided feedback on the design and content of an interpretive sign. UDWR provided endangered fish to display. The Aquarium plans to relocate to larger space in the future. At that time, additional interpretive opportunities may be available. No Recovery Program funds were expended for this project.

Tactic: Raise awareness about the Recovery Program through interpretive signs placed at Elkhead Reservoir in northwest Colorado.

Status: This project has been ongoing for a few years. The Colorado River District oversaw design and production of the signs which were installed July 16, 2010. The Recovery Program provided partial funding in a previous fiscal year.

- VII. Recommendations:** Continue to support the organizations that have established interpretive exhibits to ensure the exhibits are well maintained. In FY 2011 and beyond, continue to seek opportunities to partner with other organizations to establish interpretive exhibits.

VIII. Project Status: On-Track and Ongoing.

IX. FY 2010 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$19,000 (\$9,000 FY 09 carryover; \$10,000 new funds)
- A. Funds Expended: \$ -0-
- B. Difference: \$19,000 (carried over to FY 11)
- C. Percent of the FY 2010 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 0;
\$19,000
- 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

January 14, 2011
Date