

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2010 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM
PROJECT NUMBER: 5



Upper Colorado River
Endangered Fish
Recovery Program

I. Project Title: **Wyoming Program Management**

II. **Principal Investigators:**

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III. **Project Summary:** The ongoing program management work of the State of Wyoming is to fully engage and assist as a full partner in timely and effective planning, implementation and coordination of Recovery Program activities. Wyoming met our program management objectives during this reporting year, including: 1) participating in planning, deliberations and actions of the Implementation, Management, Biology, Water Acquisition, and Information& Education Committees; 2) preparing and completing Program-related requirements, including attendance/participation in all committee meetings or teleconferences, reviewing materials in advance of discussions, actively participating in making recommendations and other elements of Program decision-making and completing all required reporting commitments; 3) working to secure local, county, statewide and elected and appointed federal government officials' understanding, acceptance and support for the Recovery Program (and for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program in joint program venues); and 4) specifically working to obtain Wyoming governmental agencies', Wyoming Legislative, Congressional and the Obama Administration's support for capital construction funding and annual program funding contributions by the State of Wyoming, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

IV. **Study Schedule:** 1989-ongoing. Fiscal year 2010 was the seventeenth year that Wyoming received in-kind services credit for our program management activities. Pursuant to the Recovery Program's 2009 Extension of the Cooperative Agreement (which continues the Recovery Program through September 30, 2023), Wyoming will continue to request in-kind credit for our personnel's direct participation in program management and administration involvement and actions.

V. **Relationship to RIPRAP:** General Recovery Program Support Action Plan:

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

VII.A.7 – Monitor and assess Recovery Program accomplishments annually.

VII.A.8 – Develop biennial work plan to address priority needs.

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

VI. **Accomplishment of FY 2010 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:** Pete Cavalli ably represented Wyoming on the Biology Committee during fiscal year 2010. He actively participated in completing the considerable work load

accomplished annually by the Biology Committee. The Biology Committee's efforts are a large factor in the success that our innovative recovery program has enjoyed over the past twenty-one years of operations.

John Shields performed necessary duties associated with being the Management Committee's Chairman and as a member of the Water Acquisition and Information and Education Committees during Fiscal Year 2010. Shields led the logistical efforts for the recovery programs' annual Congressional briefings and funding support trip to Washington, DC. The programs' non-federal participants actively sought the support of the 14 House Members and 8 Senators who represent the four involved states in these programs; in addition, briefing meetings with authorizing and appropriations Congressional committee staff (for USBR and USFWS) and numerous briefings with Administration and agency officials in DC occurred during the March 17-23, 2010 trip.

This year's legislative and intergovernmental coordination efforts involved:

a) Working with the four states' Congressional delegations and the House Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee's staff on obtaining enactment of H.R. 2288. The bill was heard before the House Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee hearing on September 22, 2009 and was marked out of the Natural Resources Committee, with amendments in the nature of a substitute on December 16, 2009. H.R. 2288 was introduced to amend Public Law 106-392 to maintain annual base funding for the Bureau of Reclamation for the Upper Colorado River and San Juan fish recovery programs through fiscal year 2023. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives on May 18, 2010; the bill as passed would make the programs annual funding that is not either operation & maintenance or monitoring expenditures subject to appropriations, e.g., the source for that annual funding would no longer be Upper Colorado River Basin Fund power revenues.

b) Working with the four states' Congressional delegations as we sought co-sponsorship, consideration and enactment of S. 1453, (introduced July 14, 2009) that was the subject of a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee hearing on July 23, 2009. S.1453 was introduced to amend Public Law 106-392 to maintain annual base funding for the Bureau of Reclamation for the Upper Colorado River and San Juan fish recovery programs through fiscal year 2023. S.1453 was favorably considered and marked out of Committee on December 16, 2009 without amendment. We are awaiting inclusion of this bill into a public lands omnibus bill.

Accomplishments: Due to the efforts of involved Wyoming personnel, the four objectives for Wyoming's program management involvement set forth in the "Project Summary" section hereinabove were accomplished. Wyoming's policy and technical positions on Recovery Program activities were well coordinated; Wyoming was ably represented at each of the program's committee levels; and the guidance document, biennial budget, recovery action plan and work plan documents were developed, approved and implemented. Presentations were made on a periodic, ongoing basis to members of the Green River Basin Advisory Group.

Discussion of Initial Findings, Highlights and Noteworthy Activities: Senator Barrasso signed the joint delegation funding support letters for the first time.

Shortcomings: It appears clearer than ever that we have a “tough row to hoe” to obtain the explicit support of Senator Mike Enzi on our joint delegation funding support letters. He stated during our March meeting with him, directly to us: “I have not signed those letters during the fourteen years that I have been back here and I will not be signing them this year.” However, he was very clear in stating that he has not opposed the conduct of the recovery programs or opposed funding being provided for them.

VII. **Recommendations:** The non-federal Recovery Program participants need to continue to actively participate in the efforts to secure Congressional funding for the Recovery Program and our sister program, the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program through participation in the Washington DC briefing trip and in sending timely letters to the Congressional Appropriations subcommittees supporting appropriations for the Program. These efforts are vitally important to the continuation and success of the Recovery Program.

VIII. **Project Status:** Wyoming's Program Management is considered to be both ongoing and on-track. Management Committee efforts remain important given the degree of the Implementation Committee's express and inferred delegation to the Management Committee. Work and time requirements for report and document review, meeting (whether in person attending meetings, workshops or the annual researchers' meeting, via conference calls or Web-Ex webinars) preparation and participation commitments for accomplishing the Biology Committee's tasks and functions are significant, in particular for the Program's numerous nonnative fish management and control activities.

IX. **FY 2010 Budget:**

A.	Funds Provided:	\$44,300 - \$26,500 = \$17,800
B.	Funds Expended:	<u>\$17,800</u>
C.	Difference:	\$ 0
D.	Percent of the FY2010 Work Completed and Projected Costs to Complete:	<i>Not applicable.</i>
E.	Program funds spent for publication charges:	None

X. **Status of Data Submission:** Not applicable; no data was submitted.

XI. **Signed:** John W. Shields Dated: November 1, 2010
Management Committee Member and Principal Investigator for Wyoming
Program Management (Recovery Program Project No. 5)