

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2012 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM
PROJECT NUMBER: 5

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



II. **Principal Investigators:**

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- III. **Abstract:** Wyoming's program management efforts are integral with those of other Program partners to ensure that timely and effective coordination, planning and implementation of Recovery Program actions occurs. Our participation on each committee and at each level of program conduct will continue as long as there is a Program. Progress towards accomplishing the Program's dual objectives of recovery of the endangered fish while water development continues in compliance with the ESA continues to incrementally occur. Wyoming's folks participated in all meetings and/or teleconferences and decision-making, actively made recommendations and met our reporting commitments. Our representatives actively sought to secure understanding, acceptance and support of the Program by Wyoming governmental agencies, the Congress and the Administration for capital construction and annual program funding from the State of Wyoming, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Next year will be the 25th year of program implementation – effective program management is more important than ever due to limited fiscal and personnel resources and high expectations that our Program will steadily progress to accomplish species' downlisting and recovery.
- IV. **Study Schedule:** 1989-ongoing. Fiscal year 2012 was the nineteenth (19th) year during which Wyoming received in-kind services credit for our program management efforts.¹
- 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 2012 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:** The Biology Committee's efforts are significant and have been extremely important in our innovative recovery program's successes over the past twenty-three years that the committee has existed. A considerable work load is undertaken and accomplished annually by this Committee. Pete Cavalli is an active and respected participant in all of the BC's efforts.

¹ 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.

John Shields served as a member of the Water Acquisition and Information and Education Committees and as Chairman of the Management Committee during Fiscal Year 2012. He led logistical efforts for the recovery programs' annual Congressional briefings trip to Washington, DC on March 13-20, 2012. This year's legislative efforts included working with the states' Congressional delegations and the House Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee's staff to get a bill enacted in the 112th Congress to extend the recovery programs' annual base funding authorization pursuant to Public Law 106-392 to use Upper Colorado River Basin Fund power revenues. Shields testified at the House Resources Committee hearing advocating passage of H.R. 6060 on July 10th.

Accomplishments: Due to the efforts of involved Wyoming personnel, the four objectives for Wyoming's program management involvement set forth in the applicable scope of work were reasonably 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 program's guidance, biennial budget, recovery action plan and work plan documents were developed, approved and implemented.

Discussion of Initial Findings, Highlights, Shortcomings and Noteworthy Activities: It is vitally important to accomplish our legislative initiatives whether completed in this Congress or the next. The fact that we are on track to initiate downlisting of two of the four species is a reason to be pleased with the progress that the programs are making.

- VII. **Recommendations:** All program participants need to remain focused on our ultimate objective of recovering the four endangered fish species. Progress is incremental, and staying on track is vitally important to the ultimate success of the Recovery Program. During the coming year, the program participants need to obtain a better mutual understanding of the process and procedural mechanics of how downlisting is going to proceed so that we are ready to proceed without delay when the opportunity presents itself.
- VIII. **Project Status:** Wyoming's Program Management is considered to be ongoing and on-track. Work and time requirements for report and document review, meetings' preparation and participation (whether in person attending meetings, workshops or the annual researchers' meeting, via conference calls or Web-Ex webinars) 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 2011 Budget:**
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| A. | Funds Provided: | \$44,806 - \$26,500 = \$18,306 |
| B. | Funds Expended: | <u>\$18,306</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 21, 2012
Management Committee Member and Principal Investigator for Wyoming
Program Management (Recovery Program Project No. 5)