

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2008-2009 PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK for:
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT – RUEDI RESERVOIR**

Project No.: PIP 12I

Lead Agency: U.S Bureau of Reclamation, Eastern Colorado Area Office

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Date: June 11, 2007; Revised February 4, 2008

Category:

Source:

- Ongoing project
 Ongoing-revised project
 Requested new project
 Unsolicited proposal

Expected Funding

- Annual funds
 Capital funds
 Other (explain)
(See below under budget)

I. Title of Proposal: Ruedi Reservoir Agreement, including Public Involvement

II. 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. In the past, local businesses and residents of Basalt, CO, have expressed concern that when releases to the local Fryingpan River exceed 250 cfs, the Fryingpan's gold-medal fishery is adversely impacted. Basalt's economy is heavily based on the fishery reputation and resulting tourism. However, 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 (who owns and operates Ruedi) must periodically release flows greater than 250 cfs. To promote understanding of the Upper Colorado River Recovery Program, the Fry-Ark Project, and to help address stakeholder concerns, the ECAO maintains an open and continuous dialogue with local businesses and residents.

III. Study Schedule: 1995-present

- IV. Relationship to RIPRAP:** Colorado River Action Plan 1.A.5.a. Pursuant to Ruedi Biological Opinion, deliver 5,000 af annually and an additional 5,000 af, 4 out of 5 years (ongoing and protect by short-term agreement) 1.A.5.b.(1) Provide water annually pursuant to long-term lease

V. Strategies/Dates:

Specific:

- 1) Inform public of upcoming events related to Ruedi Reservoir's participation in the Recovery Program -- April/May 2008/2009 through September/October 2008/2009.
- 2) Schedule the Annual Ruedi Reservoir Operations and Coordinated Reservoirs Operations meeting -- May 2008/2009.
- 3) Schedule any additional public meetings as needed--preferably before the summer season each year.
- 4) Establish clear public process and environmental study for any new proposals affecting Ruedi Reservoir operations and releases -- at least 30 days prior to finalized reports.

Ongoing:

- 1) Identify public concerns and values regarding Ruedi releases and provide a mechanism to incorporate public perspectives and issues into the process of timing the releases;
- 2) Inform interested communities about the value of the Recovery Program and the reasons we conduct Ruedi releases in support of efforts to recover the endangered fish;
- 3) Build public support or tolerance for Ruedi Reservoir releases in the Upper Colorado River Basin; and
- 4) Provide information to, and collect input from, the public, news media, special interest groups, government and Congressional officials in a timely manner.

VI. Budget:

The Bureau of Reclamation funds this project as part of its Ruedi Operations Program.