

Information & Education Committee Conference Call
March 13, 2007 (1:30-2:40 p.m.)

Participants: John Shields, Kara Lamb, Jim Pokrandt, Leslie James, Debbie Felker, and Angela Kantola.

1. Welcome/Introductions. Debbie Felker reminded the Committee that the Program will pay tuition for up to three people to participate in the Bleiker public involvement training each year. See www.consentbuilding.com.
2. Review of draft documents
 - a. RIPRAP assessment – John Shields suggested we also note the *Program Highlights* document (under VI.E.); Angela Kantola and Debbie Felker agreed. John noted we didn't mention the presentations to the Colorado Wildlife Commission; Debbie will add that to VI.C.
 - b. RIPRAP revisions – No changes. John noted that we actively send letters to the editor, etc., when needed, to make sure facts are accurately represented. Debbie said Mark Hadley suggested it would be nice to conduct a public attitude survey again. Debbie noted the Committee discussed this previously, but concluded the cost (\$50K) was higher than warranted by potential results. Angela said that the first public attitude survey was a useful baseline conducted prior to the Program's intensive on-the-ground I&E efforts, but that she sees those efforts are more valuable than public attitude surveys. John suggested that if the Platte River Program were to survey, we might cooperate. Also, the universities have market research centers that may have asked questions about ESA administration. Kara Lamb said that maybe we can ask the universities how we can best reach the public. Leslie James suggested that we provide an evaluation form at public meetings and related venues. >Kara will prepare a draft response card to this effect to be reviewed at the upcoming I & E Committee meeting. Jim Pokrandt said he is willing to hand these out at the state of the river meetings this spring.
 - c. 2008-2009 Program guidance – No changes. Debbie noted that the San Juan Program is now cost-sharing I & E efforts with our Program. Jim supported website revision, noting he thinks this is very important since it is such a prevalent way for people to get information. Angela said Ellen Szczesny is attending training on the Service's new web software and will be able to devote more time to the website after that. With regard to interpretive exhibits, Debbie said that she will lead a discussion at the next I & E Committee meeting about the current status of exhibits and ask the Committee to discuss what else may be needed. Jim asked about interpretive signs for Elkhead (like the nice ones at Wolford) and Debbie said she has that in the budget for FY 2007. Jim said State Parks hasn't decided where everything will be located yet, so it may be best to wait on this. Jim and Kara mentioned that there is a draft EA out on the River District's contract for 5,000 acre-feet of water from Ruedi Reservoir. Kara

suggested the Committee put together a timeline on the 2012 agreement, PBO requirements, etc. Angela suggested working with George Smith to do that. Kara said she thinks it will help to lay the groundwork for the various NEPA processes on these in 3 to 5 years. The Committee will discuss this further at its next meeting. John said the Colorado River Water Users Association has an interactive web based map, but it falls short of what the Committee had in mind. Debbie said we're going to focus on updating our public website first and then pursue adding the interactive map.

3. Price-Stubb Fish Passage – Debbie said that the Bureau of Reclamation's press release on Price-Stubb is going out today.
4. Next meeting – Debbie will poll the committee regarding a meeting in Denver from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Denver (Lakewood, National Park Service) on April 19. The Biology Committee meets next on April 23-24 at the Western Area Power Administration building in Lakewood, beginning at 1 p.m – 4 p.m on the 23rd, and 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the 24th. If possible, the Program would like some I & E Committee members to participate to discuss nonnative fish outreach for an hour or two during that timeframe. I & E members will be provided with more details once the Biology Committee agenda is finalized.