

**INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**Conference Call Summary**  
October 10, 2002

Participants: Chris Treese, Jone Wright, Justyn Hock, Debbie Felker, David Whitman, Sharon Rose, Bob Muth, Angela Kantola, John Marshall, John Shields, Mark Hadley, Betsy Blakeslee, Peter Roessmann, Kara Lamb, Pat Nelson, Bob Muth

> Action items.

1. I&E Update - Debbie Felker reviewed key I&E activities (some of this information also is in the Program Director's Update posted to the listserver by Angela Kantola yesterday).

Aquariums - The first four fish placed in the aquarium at the Montrose Pavilion came from the endangered fish exhibit at the Colorado State Fair. Unfortunately they developed a condition called ick and died. This may have been a result of stress to the fish from the transfer. A local biologist in Montrose is now helping us get the aquarium up and running, with assistance from CDOW in Grand Junction and 24 Road Hatchery staff. Two razorback sucker should be in place by the end of October. Bonytail will be added later if the razorback sucker do well. The Carpenter Ranch aquarium is in place with a mural behind it. It contains young razorback sucker that local school children are helping care for. The Program video script will be reviewed by Angela Kantola and Bob Muth and then will go out to the I&E Committee for review. The Committee agreed to a two-week turnaround to keep production on schedule for completion by January 2003. The newsletter is being typeset and it should be out in late October or early November. The Program will exhibit at the annual Colorado River Water User's meeting in Las Vegas in December (with a small aquarium containing bonytail). Text for the riverfront trail signs in Grand Junction is close to completion. Debbie hopes to have signs in place by this summer. The Colorado Department of Transportation has proposed building a new highway near the site where signs would be installed. The City of Grand Junction recommends we go ahead with installing our signs because it will be 7 years or more before the highway might interfere with where they are placed.

2. Interactive Map - Chris reported that they did get the FY 2002 funds (\$20K) from Reclamation to the River District for the interactive web-based map. The next step for the Recovery Program is to identify the kinds of information we want to show. We still need to identify the kind of information we already have in digital format. >The Program Director's office will identify what information they have digitally available. >John Shields and Chris Treese will make an outline of information they believe we need to include. This topic will be on the agenda for discussion at the February meeting.

3. Communications/Public Involvement Plan for Nonnative Fish Management - Debbie presented the final draft plan for discussion. Mark Hadley gave an update on what Utah plans to do as part of this plan. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources will assemble a team to make the public aware of the work planned and will make sure the public has the opportunity to provide comments. The team will include representatives from both sportfish and endangered species to ensure that all involved with aquatic management reach consensus on messages. Debbie said the Program sent a request to Colorado Division of Wildlife district and area wildlife managers in the Colorado and Yampa River basins asking for their input on the strategic plan and their participation in similar teams. Debbie reviewed the strategies and timelines. Yampa River work will start in mid-March; Colorado River work in late June or early July. Utah's work will also start in the spring. Debbie would like to know what kinds of I&E materials the field biologists would like to have since they are the ones who will communicate directly most often with the public. The Biology Committee will discuss in December how the fish will be handled.

Debbie presented draft key messages re: the nonnative fish removal project. Committee members made several suggestions: The message that addresses what will happen to the fish that are removed should clearly explain what each state is doing and why. Bob Muth said we should involve the National Park Service since they may have some different requirements re: what to do with the fish that are removed from river reaches within park boundaries. The reference to "Aquatic management plan" may not have much meaning for the general public and should be explained in simpler terms. The Program's overall goals should be added as a key message (e.g., recovering fish while allowing water development to continue, number of projects which have received favorable biological opinions, etc.). The Committee discussed that the message about sportfishing is that the Recovery Program recognizes the State's responsibilities to provide sportfishing opportunities and the Program is working with the States to minimize impacts to sportfisheries. Key messages 4, 7, and 3 might be rolled together into one statement. Message #6 should follow message #3. In the Q&A's, we might want to note that the nonnative fish removal also may help trout fisheries in the basin. We also need to make a tie to recovery goals in the key messages (nonnative fish removal is part of what we need to do to get the endangered fish delisted). Debbie will develop both general and area-specific Q&A's. All of these materials should also be made available online. The Committee discussed terminology used to describe nonnative fish and agreed that maybe it's better to use an example, or perhaps see how the outdoor writers at the Denver Post and the Rocky Mountain News have described the fish. >Debbie will re-draft the key messages and Q&A's.

4. Committee Reports - Angela Kantola reviewed the FY 2004-2005 work plan schedule. Angela also reported on the briefing she and Matt Kales of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gave for Congressman McInnis' staff at the Redlands fish ladder in August.

5. New Bureau of Reclamation Representative - Debbie Felker announced that this was officially Jone Wright's last I&E Committee meeting. She is retiring effective January 3, 2003. The Committee thanked Jone for all of her many contributions and welcomed her replacement, Justyn Hock.
6. Schedule Next Meeting - The Committee set the next meeting for February 13 in Denver near DIA from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
7. Adjourn 10:30 a.m.