

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 2002 ANNUAL REPORT**

**PROJECT NUMBER: PIP 12G**

- I. Project Title:** Endangered Fish of the Upper Colorado River – Then and Now: An Advanced Project WILD Workshop
- II. Principal Investigator:**  
Diana Vos, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, P.O. Box 146301, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301; 801-538-4719, dianavos@utah.gov
- III. Project Summary:** An Advanced Project WILD Workshop was held June 18-21, 2002, for Utah educators to increase their understanding of, and support for, the recovery of endangered Colorado River fishes. The workshop was a joint effort of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service.
- IV. Study Schedule:** Funds were provided in FY 2001 for the workshop that occurred in FY 2002.
- V. Relationship to RIPRAP:**

**VI. INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR THE ENDANGERED FISHES AND THE RECOVERY PROGRAM.**

**Accomplishment of FY 2002 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:** Nineteen educators attended the workshop. They came from many parts of Utah, including the Salt Lake City area down to Nebo and across to the Vernal area (locals to the Green River ecosystem). The educators teach a variety of students ranging from grades one through 12. The first morning was spent giving the participants an overview of the Green River region's geologic and natural history, relative to the threatened and endangered fish species upon which the workshop focused. Adaptations which have allowed these species to survive over geologic time were discussed as well. Speakers included, David Whitman, Chief of Interpretation for Dinosaur National Monument and Kevin Christopherson, Endangered Fish Biologist for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

While the focus of the workshop was the endangered fish, next on the agenda was getting out and experiencing the Green River ecosystem itself. First stop was the dinosaur quarry where participants could see the bones and other fossilized evidence of an ancient ecosystem preserved in the rocks of the Morrison Formation. From the quarry, they traveled across Diamond Mountain where they could get a birds-eye view of the Green River and the country it meanders through. Also from this site, the participants could get a feel for the mountain building process and how when a wedge of Precambrian rock was thrust up through the middle of the Uinta Mountains it pulled the other formations with it.

The next morning participants were given a guided tour of the Flaming Gorge Dam. One of the main goals of the workshop was to present the realities of the world the fish now live in. Most of the western states are extremely dry, getting only 8 to 12 inches of rain per year. As a result, water is a big concern for everyone. Warren Blanchard, BOR, introduced the group to the human values, concerns and solutions surrounding water. From comments made after the discussions, most of the participants left with a much greater appreciation of the complexity of western water issues.

During the afternoon, the educators experienced part of the blue-ribbon recreational values created by damming the Green as rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout could be seen swimming under the boats. The float was also a working trip and participants scooped up invertebrates, minnows and other critters, took water temperatures and looked at the visibility and water chemistry of the Green River immediately below the dam. Discussions centered around the life histories of the trout, economic values, and the changes the dam has made to the environment.

The next day participants examined the Green River below Jensen. This area represents habitat that is still relatively similar to that in which the endangered fish of the Green River ecosystem evolved and survived over time. To learn some the basics of the fish recovery endeavor, the group was split up into five stations where they gathered up invertebrates, tested water quality and tried their hands at catching fish with electroshocking gear and various types of nets.

On the final day, the group visited the Ouray National Fish Hatchery. Here they saw how modern technology is trying to duplicate and improve on the historic breeding grounds of the Green River for the razorback sucker.

The majority of the comments received from the participants after the workshop were positive. Many reflected on how they learned a great deal about the endangered fish, the complexity of the issue and the many conflicting interests that influence their recovery. Twelve of the educators took the workshop for credit and submitted reports on how they plan to incorporate what they learned into lessons to be done with their students. For those who are interested, copies of the comments and the lesson plans can be obtained upon request from the principal investigator.

**VI. Recommendations:** It would be beneficial to host a similar training in the future to reach additional educators.

**VIII. Project Status:** Completed.

**IX. FY 2002 Budget Status**

- A. Funds Provided: \$2,600 (provided in FY 2001)
- B. Funds Expended: \$2,600
- C. Difference: -0-
- D. Percent of the FY 2002 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 100%, none
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: Not applicable.

**X.** Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): n/a

**XI.** Signed:

Diana Vos  
Wildlife Resources Education Specialist

January 6, 2003  
Date