

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

PROJECT NUMBER: PIP 12J

I. Project Title: Interactive Map of the Colorado River Basin

II. Principal Investigator:

Debbie Felker
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225
303-969-7322, ext. 227
Fax: 303-969-7327
debbie_felker@fws.gov

III. Project Summary: The Recovery Program needs an interpretive map of the Colorado River Basin to provide target audiences with an Internet-based geographic context to the program and to graphically demonstrate to the various audiences specifically where and how recovery efforts affect water features and uses. A user-directed, interactive web-based map of the Colorado River Basin will enable the Recovery Program to provide customized information appropriate to specific audience needs. The maps will be available in both electronic and print formats and will be used at public meetings, on the Recovery Program web site, in Recovery Program publications, and to provide to print and broadcast news media. In addition, researchers would have access to the map to highlight specific projects they are involved with.

Recognizing a similar public education need for its own audiences, and that properly done such an interactive map could become a “draw” and increase the name recognition and visibility of its organization, the Public Affairs Committee of the Colorado River Water Users Association voted in 2001 to develop a web-based map of the Colorado River Basin. The Recovery Program has the opportunity to partner with this organization to cooperatively develop a base map that can subsequently be adapted by both organizations for various uses. This partnership would enable the Recovery Program to develop this map in a more cost-effective and timely manner than if it pursued such a project on its own.

Once the base map is completed, the Recovery Program would hire a contractor to customize the map for specific Recovery Program needs.

IV. Study Schedule:

Initial year: FY 2002
Final year: FY 2003

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

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

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2002 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

Tactic: Identify and prioritize the levels of customization needed for the various Recovery Program target audiences and purposes.

Status: This is one of the main agenda items for the February 2003 Information & Education Committee meeting. John Shields and Chris Treese will develop an outline for review and discussion. A recommendation will be forthcoming by April 30, 2003.

Tactic: Work with Colorado River Water Users Association to develop a GIS base map of the Colorado River Basin, its major tributaries and principle diversion structures and storage features.

Status: The Colorado River Water Users Association is cooperating with the Recovery Program to develop this map. The Southwest Data Center is under contract to develop the base maps and user interface and will host the site. Completion of a base map is anticipated by December 31, 2003.

Tactic: Hire contractor to customize the base map.

Status: The Recovery Program will pursue a contract with the Southwest Data Center to customize the map for Recovery Program use and to update it as needed in the future.

VII. Recommendations: The I&E Committee needs to make more of an effort to stay apprised of the status of this project. An annual budget of \$5,000 should be established for FY 2004 and 2005 to cover the cost of updating the completed site.

VIII. Project Status: Ongoing.

IX. FY 2002 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$20,000
- B. Funds Expended: \$20,000
- C. Difference: -0-
- D. Percent of the FY 2002 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 25%. The Colorado River Water Conservation District has received \$20,000 to support this project -- \$3,000 to help build the base map and the remaining \$17,000 to customize the map for the Recovery Program's use.
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: Not applicable.

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

XI. Signed:

Debbie Felker

Information & Education Coordinator

February 14, 2003

Date