

I. Project Title: Fish and Wildlife Service Program Management

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III. Project Summary: The ongoing work of the Recovery Program Director's office is to ensure timely and effective planning, implementation, coordination, and administrative support of the Recovery Program by: 1) coordinating and implementing recovery activities; 2) conducting Program planning and evaluation; 3) managing the Recovery Program annual budget; 4) providing staff assistance to Program committees; and 5) directing and coordinating Service Recovery Program activities. These tasks were carried out by Recovery Program staff including the director, assistant director, coordinators for the major recovery elements, and clerical staff.

IV. Study Schedule: 1989-ongoing.

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan:

- VII.A.3 Update, refine, and prioritize recovery actions (RIPRAP) annually.
- VII.A.7 Monitor and assess Recovery Program accomplishments annually.
- VII.A.8 Develop biennial work plan to address priority needs.
- VII.B Actively participate in Recovery Program committees and secure funding for annual work plan and larger projects.
- VII.C Manage, direct, and coordinate Recovery Program activities.

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2003 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

A. Program Director & Staff

1. Directed and coordinated implementation of recovery efforts as described in the RIPRAP and the Annual Work Plan in the areas of: a) instream flow protection b) habitat restoration and nonnative fish management; c) propagation/genetics and research, monitoring, and data management; and d) information, education, and public involvement. Program coordinators are: Gerry Roehm for instream flow protection; Pat Nelson for habitat restoration and nonnative fish control; Tom Czaplá for propagation/genetics and research, monitoring, and data management; and Debbie Felker for information, education, and public involvement.

Significant Program accomplishments/activities included:

- A 10-year agreement among the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to annually deliver 10,825 acre-feet of water from Ruedi Reservoir for base-flow augmentation in the 15-Mile Reach.
- A strategic plan to prioritize and direct future habitat research and monitoring activities. Recommendations are being used to develop studies beginning in 2004
- Completion of the Coordinated Facilities Operations Study, initiated in 1999 to investigate and recommend alternatives to supply up to an additional 20,000 acre-feet of water to the 15-Mile Reach on the upper Colorado River.
- Completion of the draft Yampa River Management Plan. A final plan, environmental assessment and programmatic biological opinion are expected soon, then the Fish and Wildlife Service will enter a cooperative agreement with the Colorado River Water Conservation District and the States of Colorado and Wyoming to implement the plan.
- A floodplain habitat model was completed that will be a useful tool to identify razorback sucker habitat requirements and develop floodplain habitat management plans. Development of management plans for the Green River and upper Colorado River subbasins was begun.
- Increased efforts began to manage nonnative northern pike, smallmouth bass and channel catfish in reaches of the Yampa, Green, and upper Colorado rivers. Parallel to these efforts was the development and implementation of a strategic communication plan to gain public understanding and support for nonnative fish management actions.
- An integrated upper-basin stocking plan was completed for the endangered fishes in Colorado and Utah. Recaptures of stocked razorback sucker and bonytail and documentation of razorback sucker reproduction through collection of larvae in the Gunnison River demonstrate that stocking efforts are working.

2. Carried out Program planning and evaluation:

- a. Reviewed and updated the RIPRAP and document changes (including changes to the RIPRAP budget); submitted recommended RIPRAP revisions to the technical, Management, and Implementation committees for review. Printed and distributed RIPRAP still pending.
- b. Developed recommended FY 2004-2005 Work Plan.
- c. Requested, revised as needed, and distributed FY 2002 project accomplishment reports.
- d. Continued to implement peer review as needed.

3. Monitored the FY 2003 Recovery Program annual budget and modified as necessary.
 - a. Developed annual funding source/target tables (Program, Reclamation, and Service).
 - b. Developed and administered numerous cooperative agreements and contracts to implement activities such as: peer review, recovery goal development, stream gages, etc.
 - c. Monitored payment and expenditure of Section 7 funds in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation account.
 - d. Calculated FY 2004 annual agency contributions and depletion charge increases based on the 2002 CPI (1.6%).
 - e. Assisted with obtaining annual funding by organizing (and accompanying) Recovery Program trip to Washington, D.C. to brief key people in the Department of the Interior, the Office of Management and Budget, national environmental groups, Congressional delegations, and authorizing and appropriation committees. Prepared briefing book.
4. Provided staff assistance to the Implementation and Management committees:
 - a. Prepared and distributed agendas and related documents in coordination with committee chairs. Arranged meetings and conference calls.
 - b. Prepared and promptly distributed concise, accurate meeting summaries.
 - c. Maintained Recovery Program administrative record.
 - d. Provided staff assistance to committees as necessary.
 - e. Recovery Program committee and related activities publicized on the Program listserv and posted on Program participant web pages.
 - f. Attended Implementation, Management, and technical committee meetings. Took notes at Biology Committee meetings and promptly provided drafts meeting summaries to the Committee chair.
 - g. Maintained Recovery Program technical report library and database. Maintained library listing in Endnote bibliographic software and on the Program participant web pages.
 - h. Continued to maintain the electronic mailing list for Program participants.

- i. Maintained and improved web pages to serve information to Program participants.
5. Directed and coordinated Service activities related to the Recovery Program.
 - a. Administered funding for Service Recovery Program activities.
 - b. Conducted monthly Service conference call.
 - c. Coordinated with and provided staff support to Service management on Recovery Program activities and issues.

B. Fish and Wildlife Service

1. Provided technical expertise and recommendations to the Biology Committee as requested.
2. Participated in Biology Committee meetings.

VII. Recommendations: None

VIII. Project Status: Ongoing and on track.

IX. FY 2003 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$873,700 plus overhead
- B. Funds Expended: We are still determining the amount of any FY 2003 carry-over, but it appears to be ~\$300,000. Accordingly, FY 2004 budget request was reduced by \$113,000. Additional funds will be carried forward to FY 2005 to make up potential shortfalls associated with the President's proposed FY 2005 budget. Any and all unneeded funds will be made available for other approved Recovery Program projects.
- C. Difference: To be determined.
- D. Percent of FY 2003 work completed and projected costs to complete: All work completed.
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: None this year.

X. Status of Data Submission: Not applicable.

XI. Signed: *Robert Muth*, January 7, 2004

APPENDIX: See also:

- FY 2002 annual progress reports
- FY 2004-2005 Program Guidance.
- FY 2002-2003 and 2004-2005 Recovery Program Work Plans
- Implementation and Management committee meeting summaries

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