

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM  
PROJECT NUMBER: CAP-27

I. Project Title: Ruedi Reservoir Water Lease

II. Principal Investigator: George Smith  
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III. Project Summary:

The Recovery Program's lease of water from Ruedi Reservoir will help stabilize and maintain late summer flows in the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River to provide habitat for Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker. The water will be released by the Bureau of Reclamation at the request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or its designee and will be protected to and through the reach by the Colorado water right system administered by the District 5 State Engineers Office. The goal of the effort is to provide a reliable source of late summer water for the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River to maintain the Service's recommended flows and to operate the GVIC fish ladder.

IV. Study Schedule: Initial Year - 2003, Final Year 2012.

V. Relationship to RIPRAP: Colorado River Action Plan I.  
Provide and protect instream flows.

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

Negotiators from Reclamation, CWCB and Service completed the lease of water from Ruedi Reservoir for delivery to the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River. The lease for up to 10,825 acre-feet of water measured at the Ruedi Power Plant was signed on June 24, 2003. The Bureau will pay the capital costs of the water (\$735,000 per year plus interest). The Recovery Program will pay the annual operating and maintenance costs associated with providing the water -- currently about \$62,000 per year. The Service will include Reclamation capital cost contribution in the Recovery Programs annual budget and included the contribution in the Recovery Program Highlights report. All of the lease water available was used in 2003 to maintain flow targets in the 15-Mile Reach

VII. Recommendations: None

VIII. Project Status: Ongoing and on-track.

IX. FY 2003 Budget Status:

A. Funds provided:	\$ 62,000
B. Funds expended:	<u>\$ 62,000</u>
C. Difference:	\$ 0

X. Status of Data Submission: Colorado Division of Water Resources has provided an accounting sheet which is available on the Recovery Program web page. The Service will provide Reclamation and the CWCB with copies of the Program Directors Update report which describes the status of the 4 endangered fish along with other routinely produce annual reports which describe the status of the fish.

XI. Signed: George Smith  
Principal Investigator

November 16, 2003  
Date