

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 2004 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.

The Recovery Program’s Information and Education Committee has already identified and prioritized the levels of customization needed for the various Recovery Program target audiences and purposes. Once the base map is completed, the Recovery Program will hire a contractor to customize the map for specific Recovery Program needs.

**IV. Study Schedule:**

Initial year: FY 2002  
Final year: Duration of Recovery Program.

**V. Relationship to RIPRAP:**

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

**VI. Accomplishment of FY 2004 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:**

Tactic: Continue to work with the River District, SW Data Center and the Colorado River Water Users Association to finalize development of a computerized, generic base map of the Colorado River Basin, its major tributaries and diversion structures.

Status: The work product produced by the SW Data Center proved unworkable and the River District had to start over with a new plan to develop the base map. Kevin Reynolds of the Bureau of Reclamation in Salt Lake City is in the process of producing a number of map products to be used on the website. There will be a map of the entire Colorado River Basin, and maps of both upper and lower basins and individual states. These static images will eventually have an overlay with interactive features. The expected completion date of the static, base maps is February 2005. The completion date for the overlays is still to be determined.

Tactic: Hire contractor to customize the base map.

Status: The Recovery Program initially planned to 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. Since SW Data Center is no longer a viable option, the Information & Education Committee needs to revisit this issue and make a decision regarding how to proceed. This will be an agenda topic at its February 15, 2005, meeting.

**VII. Recommendations:** This project has become much more difficult than anticipated and will be reviewed at the February 15, 2005, Information and Education Committee meeting. Peter Roessmann from the River District will provide a project status update at that meeting and lead the discussion to reevaluate where we are and what needs to be done next to achieve the goals detailed in this scope of work. Based on the outcome of that discussion, this scope of work may need revision for FY 2005.

**VIII. Project Status:** Ongoing

**IX. FY 2004 Budget Status**

- A. Funds Provided: \$5,000 (carried forward from FY 2003)
- B. Funds Expended: \$ -0-
- C. Difference: \$5,000 (carry forward to FY 2005)
- D. Percent of the FY 2004 work completed, and projected costs to complete: (*Last year's figure: 50%*). 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. Angela Kantola is still waiting for an invoice to approve to pay the \$3,000.
- 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

December 30, 2004  
Date