

- I. Project Title: **Wyoming Program Management**
- II. Principal Investigator(s)
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- III. **Project Summary:** Wyoming's program management objectives and accomplishments during this reporting year included: 1) providing staff assistance and support to the Implementation, Management, Biology and Information and Education Committees and to the USFWS and our other partners in implementing the Recovery Program; 2) participating in the activities and deliberations of the Information and Education, Biology and Management committees; 3) coordinating with other Program participants to accomplish Program objectives and tasks; 4) working to secure public and Wyoming Legislative, Congressional and Administration support for federal appropriations for capital construction and annual program funding appropriations for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; 5) working to get legislation drafted, introduced and enacted by the United States Congress to increase the appropriations authorization ceiling for the Upper Colorado Recovery Program's capital construction program and extend the authorization period from 2008 to 2010 and 6) responding to information requests, proactively providing information and developing understanding and support for the Recovery Program by Wyoming officials, water users and members of the public.
- IV. **Study Schedule:** Fiscal year 2005 was the twelfth year that Wyoming received in-kind services credit for our program management activities. Pursuant to the Recovery Program's Cooperative Agreement (as extended through September 30, 2013), Wyoming will continue to request in-kind credit for our personnel's direct participation in program management, administration involvement and actions.
- V. **Relationship to RIPRAP:** Wyoming's Program Management activities directly fall under RIPRAP Item VII ("provide program planning and support [program management]") and its components under the "General Recovery Program Support Action Plan."

- VI. **Accomplishment of FY 2005 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:** During fiscal year 2005, Kevin Gelwicks of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department participated in all of the studies, discussions, deliberations, actions and activities of the Biology Committee. This included committee conference calls and meetings, special workshops and working groups and considerable document and study review and other requisite preparation in advance of committee activities.

John Shields performed necessary duties associated with being the Management Committee's Chairperson and served as a member of the Water Acquisition Committee and Information and Education Committee during Fiscal Year 2005. He participated in and in some aspects led efforts arranging non-federal Management Committee members' visits with Congressional delegation and committee staff and with Administration officials during the Committee's annual trip to Washington, DC to solicit funding support for the Upper Colorado Recovery Program and a special trip to develop legislative support and lay necessary groundwork for introduction and passage of legislation to increase the appropriations authorization ceiling and extend the authorization period for completion of the capital construction projects for the Upper Colorado Recovery Program.

Due to the efforts of these involved Wyoming personnel, the following accomplishments and activities occurred:

- 1) The State of Wyoming's policy and technical positions on Recovery Program activities were well coordinated with those of other Program participants and with Wyoming's Implementation Committee member, Wyoming's Governor and his staff, the Wyoming Congressional Delegation and their staff, affected state agencies, the Wyoming Water Association and the interested public at large in Wyoming about the Recovery Program.
- 2) The State of Wyoming was ably represented at meetings, during conference calls and other special activities and events of the Biology Committee, Management Committee, Information and Education Committee and other technical and ad-hoc group meetings.
- 3) Proposals, scopes-of-work, annual reports, project reports, planning documents, draft correspondence and administrative records prepared by Recovery Program staff and participants were reviewed, edited and commented on as appropriate and necessary.
- 4) The Recovery Program's guidance document, revised Recovery Program Recovery Action Plan and the annual Recovery Program budget and work plan were developed and subsequently approved by the Implementation Committee.
- 5) Communication and correspondence with federal agency and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation personnel was carried out as necessary to account for and

transfer funds for Recovery Program-sanctioned work – thus materially assisting the conduct of Program activities and initiatives.

- 7) Requests for information about the Recovery Program and its activities were frequently and amply met and information was provided to the involved states' Congressional delegation's staff, the members of the Wyoming Water Association, the public, other state agencies and other Program participants. Presentations were made on a periodic, ongoing basis to the members of the Green River Basin Advisory Group.
- 8) Meetings, briefings and necessary follow-up took place with the affected States' Congressional delegations, Congressional authorization and appropriations committee staff, Federal agency officials and staff in Washington, D.C. to develop support for Recovery Program funding line items included in the President's budget and for legislative action to increase the appropriations authorization ceiling as needed to complete the Upper Colorado Recovery Program's capital construction projects. A lead role was taken in accomplishing the circulation of the annual Congressional delegation joint letter to the appropriation subcommittee chairmen expressing our Congressional delegations' support for Recovery Program funding. Follow-up contacts were made thanking those with whom we met for their interest and support and providing additional information requested during those meetings. A summary report detailing the events and successes of the Washington briefing trip was prepared for the Implementation Committee and the Recovery Program's administrative record.
- 9) The Yampa River Management Plan's Cooperative Agreement was signed during this reporting year. Wyoming is very pleased by this positive outcome and feels that completion of the Yampa River Basin Programmatic Biological Opinion and adoption and beginning of the implementation of the Yampa River Basin Management Plan are important accomplishments that occurred during this reporting year.

Discussion of Initial Findings, Highlights and Noteworthy Activities: "Initial findings" is not a term applicable to reporting on Wyoming's program management activities. We are carrying out Wyoming's ongoing obligations and responsibilities under the Recovery Program.

Shortcomings: Despite our continuing efforts, we have been unable to obtain the express support of Wyoming's two United States Senators and their signatures on the joint-delegation funding support letters. We continue to seek their support and work with their staff, including their field representatives, to obtain that support.

VII. Recommendations: The following recommendations and comments are provided after reflection on our Program participation during fiscal year 2005:

1. The Recovery Program needs to continue to pay attention to the activities of the Glen

Canyon Adaptive Management Program, the Lower Colorado River Multi-species Habitat Conservation Program and other related programs to avoid being impacted by extraneous outside factors and to avoid “surprises.”

2. Wyoming recommends that that the Program continue with its successful, ongoing efforts to keep the Program in the public’s “mind’s eye” through frequent, effective news stories, news releases and current Program publications.

VIII. **Project Status:** Wyoming's Program Management is considered to be both ongoing and on-track. Management Committee efforts remain important given the delegation of matters (for both investigation and resolution by reaching mutual agreement on the course of action or policy that should be pursued) to the Management Committee by the Implementation Committee. Work and time requirements for meeting commitments to the Biology Committee’s tasks and functions have continued to increase since the last reporting period.

IX. **FY 2005 Budget:**

A.	Funds Provided:	\$14,500
B.	Funds Expended:	<u>\$14,500</u>
C.	Difference:	\$ 0
D.	Percent of the FY2005 Work Completed and Projected Costs to Complete:	Not applicable
E.	Program funds spent for publication charges:	None

X. **Status of Data Submission:** Not applicable, as no data have been submitted, nor do we anticipate submitting data, to the database manager.

XI. Signed: John W. Shields Dated: November 17, 2005
Management Committee Chairman
Management Committee Member representing the State of Wyoming
and Principal Investigator for Wyoming’s Program Management Scope of Work and Project

for John W. Shields and Kevin Gelwicks