

I. Project Title: Fish and Wildlife Service Program Management

II. Principal Investigator: Bob Muth, Program Director, P.O. Box 25486, DFC, Denver, CO 80225. Phone: 303/969-7322, ext. 223. FAX: 303/969-7327. E-Mail: robert_muth@fws.gov.

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 administrative 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 2006 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: George Smith 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.

Maintained tracking system of Program reports and due dates to ensure timely accomplishment of Program objectives.

Significant Program accomplishments/activities in 2006 included:

- Continued augmentation of late summer flows in 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River. Late summer flow augmentation began in early August, an average year flow target of 1,240 cfs was established 15-Mile Reach. A total of 55,477 af of water was released to support late-summer target flows. This total included 22,822 af from Green Mountain, 18,284 af from Ruedi, 4,871 af from Williams Fork and 9,580 af from Wolford Mountain reservoir. Flows were maintained above the 1,240 cfs target for much of the late summer.
- Coordinated reservoir operations (CROS) implementation plan was completed 2/28/06 in advance of 2006 runoff season. Snow pack in early 2006 was very good but fell off in March and April as dryer conditions set in. Snow pack conditions were monitored closely and the coordinated Reservoirs program was implemented in preparation of coordinated releases. Releases began in mid May and a total of 28,460 acre feet of water were released from upstream reservoirs. The releases added about 1,800 cfs to the peak and resulted a maximum peak of over 18,000 cfs.
- Substantial completion of Elkhead enlargement (November 2006). Delivery of test flows will begin in late summer 2007. Tower outlet screens, which will screen 540 cfs (average peak flows are approximately 1,000 cfs), are now in place. Beginning in 2007, Yampa River nonnative fish projects will determine if levels of escapement from Elkhead Reservoir warrant any additional control measures.
- An Obermeyer gate was installed at the GVIC fish passage in 2006 which will allow remote (and regular) operation of the passageway.
- Studies were conducted in the spring of 2005 and 2006 to quantify razorback sucker larval drift and entrainment into Green River floodplain nursery habitats over a range of flows. Data analyses are underway, but preliminary results indicate that beads (larval surrogates) were entrained at all targeted sites, including a site 54 miles downstream from the razorback spawning area. In addition, inflows to nursery habitats were measured and floodplain connectivity as a function of flow was evaluated.
- Review of nonnative fish control activities at the a December 2005 workshop, resulting in increased efforts in 2006 to remove northern pike and smallmouth bass in the Colorado, Green and Yampa rivers. Public meeting held in Craig, CO (included participation from partners and PI's).
- Razorback production and stocking targets fully met in 2006.
- Formal evaluation of data to determine stocking success continued; work to estimate razorback survival rates underway in 2007.
- Began integrating outreach efforts with San Juan River Program

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. Revised RIPRAP, finalized and posted on website in December 2006.
 - b. (FY 2006-2007 biennial work plan developed in FY 2005). Monitored FY 2006 Work Plan implementation and recommended modifications, as needed.
 - c. Requested, revised as needed, and posted FY 2005 project accomplishment reports to the web. Summarized and distributed FY 2005 report recommendations.
 - d. Continued to implement peer review as needed.
 - e. Provided updates of depletion consultations (through 9/30/05, 12/31/05, and 6/30/06)
3. Monitored the FY 2006 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 litigation assistance, stream gages, etc.
 - c. Monitored payment and expenditure of Section 7 funds in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation account.
 - d. Calculated FY 2007 annual agency contributions and depletion charge increases based on the 2005 CPI (3.4%).
 - 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. Began investigating web conferencing.
 - 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 listserver 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 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: 1) Increase use of Verizon WebEx web conferencing where applicable (e.g., routine committee business, increased collaboration among Program participants); 2) Re-vamp Program participants' website (planned for FY 07).

VIII.Project Status: Ongoing and on track.

IX.FY 2006 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$917,400 including \$438,600 carry-over.
- B. Funds Expended: \$853,693
- C. Difference: \$63,707 being de-obligated and returned to BOR, making these funds available for other approved Recovery Program projects.
- D. Percent of FY 2006 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, February 6, 2007.

APPENDIX: See also:

- FY 2005 annual progress reports: <http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/anr.htm>
- April 2006 RIPRAP: <http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/rip4-06.htm>
- FY 2006-2007 Recovery Program scopes of work: <http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/sow.htm>
- FY 2006 Depletion Charge and Annual Budget Adjustments:
<http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/depl.htm>
- Implementation and Management committee meeting summaries:
<http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/mee.htm>
- Quarterly summary of Section 7 consultations for water depletions in the upper Colorado River: <http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/sec7.htm>