

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 2008 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: Tom Chart for instream flow protection (with Jana Mohrman of the Service's Water Resources office coordinating hydrology-related issues), floodplain restoration, and nonnative fish management; Tom Czapla for propagation/genetics, research, monitoring, and data

management, and fish passages and screens; and Debbie Felker for information, education, and public involvement.

Assisted in developing November 2008 Colorado River Science Symposium (Scottsdale, AZ).

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

Significant Program accomplishments/activities in 2008 included:

- Augmentation of late summer flows in the Yampa River for the second year using releases from Elkhead Reservoir. Release of all 5,000 af of our 5,000 af pool from August 22 to October 10, flows were kept above 200 cfs, with an average of 293 cfs.
- Continued augmentation of flows in the Colorado River. A minimal spring release (Coordinated Reservoir Operations) of ~6,900 cfs was made (larger releases were not possible due to flooding concerns). Late summer flow augmentation for the 15-Mile Reach began in mid-August, with a flow target of 1,240 – 1,650 cfs. A total of 114,255 ac-ft was added to baseflow; this total included 73,024 af from Green Mountain (including Grand Valley Water Management), 20,423 af from Ruedi, 10,377 af from Williams Fork, and 10,431 af from Wolford Mountain Reservoir.
- Digital aerial photography secured at or near peak flows on Colorado, Gunnison, Yampa and Green rivers and also at base flows on Green, Gunnison, and Colorado rivers.
- Review of nonnative fish control activities at the December 2007 workshop; approval of Yampa River Nonnative Fish Management Strategy; continued removal of northern pike and smallmouth bass in the Colorado, Green and Yampa rivers; completion of most nonnative fish synthesis reports (#125 in final review, #98a still pending); Nonnative Fish Subcommittee convened; review/revision of nonnative fish stocking procedures near completion; and volunteer demonstration project to control nonnative cyprinids in Green River backwaters conducted.
- Razorback sucker and bonytail production and stocking targets exceeded.
- Continued recovery goals revision.
- Completed draft report to Congress due from the Secretary of the Interior in 2008. (Report was reviewed by all Program participants, submitted to Interior and reviewed by the Solicitor & OMB, but has not been transmitted to Congress).

2. Conducted 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.
 - b. Modified 2008-2009 biennial work plan as needed and posted revised scopes of work to web.
 - c. Requested, revised as needed, and posted FY 2007 project accomplishment reports to the web. Summarized and distributed FY 2007 report recommendations.
 - d. Continued to implement peer review as needed.
 - e. Provided updates of depletion consultations.
3. Monitored the FY 2008 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 revision, stream gages, etc.
 - c. Monitored payment and expenditure of Section 7 funds in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation account.
 - d. Calculated FY 2009 annual agency contributions and depletion charge increases based on the 2007 CPI.
 - 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. Participated in Cooperative Conservation Award ceremony and workshop in Washington, D.C.
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. Continued using web conferencing where applicable.

- 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 web pages to serve information to Program participants. Began major overhaul of website (to be rolled out in early FY 2009).
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) Continue use of web conferencing where applicable (with participants remembering to use their phone's mute buttons except when speaking to minimize background noise; 2) Consider how portions of draft report to Congress might be finalized in another form; 3) work with CWCB to provide Program library via web (underway); 4)

Consider moving Upper Basin Annual Researchers Meeting to a biennial schedule alternating with Colorado River Science Symposium if Symposium is held biennially.

VIII. Project Status: Ongoing and on track.

IX. FY 2008 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$1,063,743 plus \$47,817 overhead.
- B. Funds Expended: \$876,404 plus \$59,730.66 overhead.
- C. Difference: \$187,339 carried over to FY 09 (and returned to the Recovery Program, along with additional funds carried over by related projects, e.g., I&E (12, 12H, 12L) and hydrology support (19)).
- D. Percent of FY 2008 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, November 14, 2008.

APPENDIX: See also:

- FY 2007 annual progress reports: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/anr.htm>
- April 2007 RIPRAP: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/rip4-07.htm>
- FY 2008-2009 Recovery Program scopes of work: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/sow.htm>
- FY 2009 Depletion Charge and Annual Budget Adjustments: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/depl.htm>
- Implementation and Management committee meeting summaries: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/mee.htm>
- Quarterly summary of Section 7 consultations for water depletions in the upper Colorado River: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/sec7.htm>