

I. Project Title: **Wyoming Program Management**

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III. **Project Summary:** Wyoming met our program management objectives during this reporting year through many discrete and ongoing individual and collaborative activities, including: 1) participating in the deliberations and actions of the Implementation, Management, Biology, Water Acquisition, Information & Education and Ad-hoc Legislative Committees; 2) coordinating with all of the other Program participants to accomplish Program work assignments; 3) working to secure public, water user and local, county, statewide and federal government officials' understanding, acceptance and support for the Recovery Program (and for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program as well in certain venues and situations) and its (and their) myriad activities; 4) working to secure and provide Wyoming agency, Wyoming Legislature, Congressional and Administration financial support for capital construction and annual program funding contributions by the State of Wyoming, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; and 5) coordinating with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to put Wyoming's capital construction funding contributions into the Recovery Program funding "pipeline" and monitoring the expenditure of those funds.

IV. **Study Schedule:** Fiscal year 2008 was the fifteenth year that Wyoming received in-kind services credit for our program management activities. Pursuant to the Recovery Program's Cooperative Agreement (which currently continues the Recovery Program through September 30, 2013), Wyoming will continue to request in-kind credit for our personnel's direct participation in program management and administration involvement and actions.

V. **Relationship to RIPRAP:** Wyoming's Program Management activities address, in the main, RIPRAP Item VII ("provide program planning and support [program management]") and its components and subparts under the "General Recovery Program Support Action Plan," as well as other individual, specific and discrete RIPRAP elements that need not, but could be, individually noted in this annual report.

- VI. **Accomplishment of FY 2008 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:** Kevin Gelwicks and Pete Cavalli, who succeeded Kevin on the Biology Committee effective July 1, 2008; both Wyoming Game and Fish Department employees, ably represented Wyoming on the Biology Committee during fiscal year 2008. These gentlemen actively participated in completing the considerable work load accomplished annually by the Biology Committee. We take this opportunity to thank Kevin for his faithful service to the Biology Committee, including a term as Chairman of that body. The Biology Committee's efforts are certainly a large part of and significant factor in the success that our innovative recovery program has enjoyed over the past twenty years of operations.

John Shields performed necessary duties associated with being the Management Committee's Chairperson and as a member of the Water Acquisition and Information and Education Committees during Fiscal Year 2008. During this reporting year he was appointed to and has acted as the acting chairman of the Ad-hoc Legislative Committee of the Non-Federal Participants of the Upper Colorado Recovery Program (that has San Juan Recovery Program participation as well) that was created during the Management Committee's August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting – that has met both in person and via conference call to address “larger” (e.g., those beyond just annual base funding for the Upper Colorado and San Juan Recovery Program) Upper Colorado Basin Fund revenue utilization issues under discussion by the non-federal participants during this fiscal year.

Shields again performed much of the arrangements and coordination legwork for the non-federal Management Committee members' visits during the annual trip to Washington, DC to solicit funding support for the Upper Colorado Recovery Program and San Juan Recovery Program. We have actively sought the support of all 14 House Members, and all 8 Senators, who represent the four states involved with the two recovery programs. The trip requires briefing meetings with each of the Congressional delegation staff, authorizing and appropriations committee staff (for USBR and USFWS) and numerous briefings with Administration officials and several relevant non-governmental organizations.

This year's legislative and intergovernmental coordination efforts were significantly more involved than usual on account of:

- a) The necessity to get a significant “bump” in the Upper Colorado Region of the Bureau of Reclamation's “Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program” line item to allow the Program to repay its share of the construction costs associated with the recent enlargement of Elkhead Reservoir. This was a significant effort and we “pulled on every rope and lever” we could find and think of to get the necessary increase in funding into the President's FY 2009 budget.
- b) Developing the specific wording of the report to Congress required by Section 3(d)(2) of Public Law 106-392 and its recommendations and accompanying appendices (which include letters of support for the draft report and its recommendations from the four participating states' governors, three participating Indian tribes and the water and power users). Significant resources

have been expended trying to get the report to Congress through the Interior Department agencies and its review and clearance wound up by the Office of Management and Budget.

- c) Developing a consensus among our non-federal recovery program participants (building on the consensus on the recommendations included in the Secretary of the Interior's draft report to Congress) and working with San Juan Recovery Program participants on legislative wording to accomplish both capital funding and annual base funding amendments to our P.L. 106-392 authorizations, as previously amended – and in developing explanatory backgrounder and justification briefing materials for these legislative initiatives.
- d) Working with Congressional delegations as we sought co-sponsorship of the Senate bill as introduced, developed and solicited favorable testimony for the Senate bill (S. 3189) during its hearing on July 8, 2008, working to get the House version of the bill introduced and lining up cosponsors.
- e) And, last but certainly not least, development of the nomination materials and follow-up that resulted in our two Recovery Programs having the high and distinct honor of being recipients of the Department of Interior's Cooperative Conservation Award in 2008. This award was personally presented to Recovery Programs' representatives on April 21, 2008 in Washington, DC. The representatives participated in a DOI CCA workshop on the two days following the award ceremony that focused on our experience and insight gained over our twenty years of program implementation in accomplishing on the ground conservation measures in a complex organization involving federal and non-federal participants. THIS WAS A WONDERFUL HONOR AND TRIBUTE TO ALL OF OUR PROGRAM'S PARTICIPANTS.

Accomplishments: Due to the efforts of 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, the Governor's Endangered Species Policy Coordinator, the Wyoming Congressional Delegation and their staff, affected state agencies, members of the Wyoming Water Association and the public about the Recovery Program.
- 2) The State of Wyoming was ably represented during meetings and 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 and the biennial Recovery Program budget and work plan were developed and implemented; and the Recovery Implementation Program Recovery Action Plan (RIPRAP) was appropriately updated and approved by the Program's participants.

- 5) Communication and correspondence with federal agency and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation personnel was carried out as necessary to transfer funds for Recovery Program-sanctioned work – thus materially assisting the conduct of Program activities and initiatives.
- 6) Requests for information about the Recovery Program and its activities were amply met and information was provided to the involved states' Congressional delegation's staff, members of the Wyoming Water Association, the public, other state agencies and other Program participants. Presentations were made on a periodic, ongoing basis to members of the Green River Basin Advisory Group.
- 7) 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. 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 administrative record.

Discussion of Initial Findings, Highlights and Noteworthy Activities: The term “Initial findings” does not seem to be applicable in regards to Wyoming's program management activities. Highlights and noteworthy activities have been described above.

Shortcomings: As stated in prior reports, Wyoming's recovery program committee participants have been unable to deliver the express support of Wyoming's two United States Senators and their signatures on the joint-delegation funding support letters – but we are getting much closer! Senator Barrasso provided unequivocal, on the record support for S. 3189 during his remarks and personal participation at the July 8, 2008 Senate Energy and Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee hearing.

The Secretary of the Interior's report to Congress concerning the use of Upper Colorado Basin Fund power revenues for annual base funding of the recovery programs, and to include a recommendation regarding the need for continued annual base funding from power revenues beyond fiscal year 2011 that may be required to achieve the goals of these recovery programs, is significantly overdue. As of the end of the reporting period, the report had been over at the Office of Management and Budget for three months and efforts to inquire about when the review of the report and “clearance” would be completed had been rebuffed.

- VII. **Recommendations:** The non-federal Recovery Program participants need to continue to actively participate in the efforts to secure Congressional funding for the Recovery Program and our sister program, the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program through participation in the Washington DC briefing trip and in sending timely letters to the

Congressional Appropriations subcommittees supporting appropriations for the Program. These efforts are vitally important to the continuation and success of the Recovery Program.

VIII. **Project Status:** Wyoming's Program Management is considered to be both ongoing and on-track. Management Committee efforts remain important given the degree of the Implementation Committee's express and inferred delegation (for both investigation and resolution by reaching mutual agreement on the course of action or policy that should be pursued) to the Management Committee. Work and time requirements for report and document review, meeting (whether in person, via conference call or more recently for the Web Ex conferencing meetings) preparation and participation commitments for accomplishing the Biology Committee's tasks and functions continue to be significant, particularly with respect to the Program's numerous nonnative fish management and control activities.

IX. **FY 2008 Budget:**

A.	Funds Provided:	\$16,500
B.	Funds Expended:	<u>\$16,500</u>
C.	Difference:	\$ 0
D.	Percent of the FY2008 Work Completed and Projected Costs to Complete:	<i>Not applicable.</i>
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  
Management Committee Member  
and Principal Investigator for  
Wyoming Program Management  
(Recovery Program Project No. 5)

Dated: November 14, 2008