

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

Project No.: PIP12I

I. Project Title: Ruedi Reservoir Releases Public Involvement Plan

II. Principal Investigator(s):

Kara Lamb Public Involvement Specialist
(970) 962-4326 klamb@usbr.gov
Bureau of Reclamation Eastern Colorado Area Office
11056 W. County Rd. 18E, Loveland, CO 80537

III. Project Summary: Since 1990, Reclamation has released water from Ruedi Reservoir to benefit endangered fish species in the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River. Local businesses and residents of Basalt, Colorado, have expressed concern regarding possible impacts to the Fryingpan River's gold-medal fishery from the release amounts and adjustment frequency. Basalt's economy is heavily based on the fishery reputation and resulting tourism. Consequently, in managing Ruedi to meet multi-purpose needs of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (of which Ruedi is a part), Reclamation's Eastern Colorado Area Office must periodically release flows greater than 250 cubic-feet-per-second and adjust flows for downstream customers calling for their water. The ECAO maintains an open and continuous dialogue with local businesses and residents on these issues.

IV. Study Schedule: 1995-present

V. Relationship to RIPRAP: Action Plan item 1.A.4c(1)(b)

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2009 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

Tasks: In FY 2009 we:

- 1) Conducted our annual water year-in-review presentation at our annual public meeting in May: what happened at Ruedi last year (2008) and what was anticipated for this year (2009). We also announced it was likely we would run Coordinated Reservoir Operations in 2009, similarly to how we had run it the year before in 2008. As a result, there were numerous questions about possible high releases and a long discussion on reservoir fill dates and philosophy. We staffed our meeting with representatives from Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife to answer questions. The meeting was held locally, in Basalt. Approximately 25 people attended.
- 2) Continued e-mail notifications to better communicate frequent operational changes and continued to expand e-mail notification list.
- 3) Continued internet notifications on Ruedi Reservoir via public Web message boards including fishing sites, whitewater sites and the Eagle County Internet Alert System.
- 4) We continue to work with the Roaring Fork Conservancy as a cooperating partner in the areas of public outreach, education and natural resource studies based on the concerns

of Basalt and surrounding areas. This year, a tour of Ruedi Dam and the FERC power plant was conducted the last week of September. We attended and presented the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project and Ruedi operations, in brief.

Also, Reclamation once again participated in the Colorado River Water Conservation District's "State of the River" meetings on both the Colorado and the Roaring Fork Rivers.

VII. Recommendations: Continue to build outreach and public communications programs in support of Reclamation operations and the Recovery Program.

VIII. Project Status: On track and ongoing.

IX. FY 2009 Budget Status: The Ruedi Public Involvement Plan does not receive Recovery Program funds. It is supported through operations of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project under the Eastern Colorado Area Office of the Great Plains Region of Reclamation.

X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): n/a

XI. Signed:

Kara Lamb

11/16/09

Kara Lamb
Public Involvement Specialist

Date