

- I. Project Title: Fish and Wildlife Service Program Management
- II. Principal Investigator(s): Tom Chart, Program Director, P.O. Box 25486, DFC, Denver, CO 80225. Phone: 303/969-7322, ext. 226. FAX: 303/969-7327. E-Mail: tom_chart@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. Bob Muth departed as Program Director in early July and was replaced by Tom Chart.
- 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 2009 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:
 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: Vacant (vice-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 (work is underway to hire a nonnative fish coordinator, however); Tom Czapl for propagation/genetics, research, monitoring, and data management, and fish passages and screens; and Debbie Felker for information, education, and public involvement.

Participated in 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 2009 included:

- Augmentation of late summer flows in the Yampa River for the third year using releases from Elkhead Reservoir. Release of all 5,000 af of our 5,000 af pool from August 13 to September 30, flows were kept above 110 cfs, with an average of 199 cfs.
- Continued augmentation of Colorado River flows. The largest spring release (Coordinated Reservoir Operations) to date of ~42,900 af was made this year. Late summer flow augmentation for the 15-Mile Reach began in mid-August, with a flow target of 1,275 – 1,630 cfs. Draft reports indicate that a total of 106,022 ac-ft was added to baseflow: including 67,897 af from Green Mountain (including Grand Valley Water Management); 20,822 af from Ruedi; 5,411 af from Williams Fork; and 8,747 af from Wolford Mountain Reservoir. Also, the Recovery Program gave tentative approval of construction of Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Water Efficiency Improvement Project (OMID) to help meet 15-Mile Reach flow recommendations.
- Review of nonnative fish control activities at the December 2008 workshop; revision of the Nonnative Fish Stocking Procedures; continued removal of northern pike and smallmouth bass in the Colorado, Green and Yampa rivers.
- Razorback sucker and bonytail production targets met. (However, razorback sucker produced at the Grand Valley hatchery which were intended for stocking in the lower Green River in Utah were instead stocked in the Colorado and Gunnison rivers in Colorado, due to permit issues.)
- Continued recovery goals revision and began 5-year status reviews.
- Program's Cooperative Agreement extended through 2023.
- New Program Director (Tom Chart) hired two months following Bob Muth's departure.

2. Conducted Program planning and evaluation:

- a. Reviewed and updated the RIPRAP and documented changes; submitted recommended RIPRAP revisions to the technical, Management, and Implementation committees for review; published final revised RIPRAP (with progress information included) to web.
- b. Modified 2008-2009 biennial work plan as needed and posted revised scopes of work to web. Drafted FY 2010-2011 biennial work plan (approved by Implementation Committee in September 2009).

- c. Requested, revised as needed, and posted FY 2008 project accomplishment reports to the web. Summarized and distributed FY 2008 report recommendations.
 - d. Continued to implement peer review as needed.
 - e. Provided updates of depletion consultations.
 - f. 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 was not transmitted to Congress).
3. Monitored the FY 2009 Recovery Program annual budget and modified as necessary.
- a. Developed annual funding 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 2010 annual agency contributions and depletion charge increases based on the 2008 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.
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. Took notes at Biology Committee meetings and promptly provided drafts meeting summaries to the Committee chair.
 - c. Maintained Recovery Program administrative record (primarily on web).
 - 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.
 - g. Maintained Recovery Program technical report library and database. Provided library documents for serving on CWCB LaserFische website (see annual report 3&4a).
 - h. Continued to maintain the electronic mailing list for Program participants.
 - i. Overhauled web pages to serve information to Program participants. New site is heavily used by Program participants now, but formal launch delayed until informational pages updated.
5. Directed and coordinated Service activities related to the Recovery Program.
- a. Recovery goal revision and species' status reviews underway.
 - b. Administered funding for Service Recovery Program activities.
 - c. Conducted monthly Service conference call.
 - d. 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. (Dave Irving, FWS, chaired the Biology Committee in 2009.)

VII. Recommendations: No new recommendations, but as noted last year: 1) Continue use of web conferencing where applicable; 2) 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 2009 Budget Status

- A. FY 09 Funds Provided: \$919,444 plus \$32,015 overhead.
- B. Funds Expended: \$847,157

- C. Difference: \$60,265 carried over to FY 10 (will be returned to the Recovery Program, along with previous-year carry over and funds carried over by related projects, e.g., I&E [12, 12H, 12L] and hydrology support [19]).
 - D. Percent of the FY 2009 work completed, and projected costs to complete: All work completed.
 - E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: None.
- X. Status of Data Submission: Not applicable
- XI. Signed: Tom Chart 11/30/09
Principal Investigator Date

APPENDIX: See also:

- [FY 2008 annual progress reports](#)
- [2009 RIPRAP](#)
- [Recovery Program scopes of work](#)
- [FY 2010 Depletion Charge and Annual Budget Adjustments](#)
- [Implementation](#) and [Management](#) committee meeting summaries
- [Summary of Section 7 consultations](#) for water depletions in the upper Colorado River
- [Annual sufficient progress memos](#)