I. **Project Title:** Ruedi Reservoir Releases Public Involvement Plan

II. **Principal Investigator(s):**  
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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 2010 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:**

**Tasks:** In FY 2010 we:

1) Conducted our annual water year-in-review presentation and public meeting in May: what happened at Ruedi last year (2009) and what was anticipated for this year (2010). We also announced it was unlikely we would run Coordinated Reservoir Operations in 2010 as we originally did not anticipate the reservoir would fill. Because the prior spring in 2009 had a CROS operation, and because public debate continued throughout ‘09 regarding the 10825 issue for the water users, we provided a summation of a meeting in the fall when the Town of Basalt asked us to come provide a presentation on the PBO. One of the results of the fall meeting was that we agreed to add a second meeting in July to notify the Basalt area of our anticipated operations for August, the heaviest fishing month of the year and the month the Recovery Program typically takes its most water. Approximately 20 people attended the May meeting.
2) Participated in the Colorado River District’s annual State of the River meetings, except for the Roaring Fork meeting. We provided the River District our presentation and they shared that on our behalf.

3) Hosted a second public meeting in late July to present Ruedi Reservoir release information and anticipated operations under the Recovery Program for the month of August and the fall season. Approximately 8 people attended the meeting.

4) Continued e-mail notifications to communicate frequent operational changes and continued to expand e-mail notification list.

5) Worked closely with local media and repaired relationship with the Aspen Times.

6) Continued internet notifications on Ruedi Reservoir via public Web message boards including fishing sites, white water sites, and the Eagle County Internet Alert System.

7) Continued 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. Participated again in the annual tour of Ruedi Dam and the FERC power plant the last week of September. We presented the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project and Ruedi operations, in brief.

VII. Recommendations: To continue building outreach and public communications programs in support of our operations and the Recovery Program.

VIII. Project Status: On track and ongoing.

IX. FY 2010 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  12/03/10
Kara Lamb  Date
Public Involvement Specialist