

- 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. Pat Martinez was hired in FY 2010 as nonnative fish coordinator (replacing Tom Chart, who became Program Director) in 2009.
- 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.5e Conduct species status review and update recovery goals at least every 5 years.  
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 2010 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), and floodplain restoration/management; Pat Martinez for 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.

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

Significant Program accomplishments/activities in 2010 included:

- Augmentation of late summer flows in the Yampa River for the fourth year using releases from [Elkhead Reservoir](#). Release of all 5,000 af of the Program's 5,000 af pool from in September with flows dropping to the minimum baseflow target of 94 cfs only one day in late September. Program did not request release of an additional 500 af purchased prior to runoff from the discretionary 2,000 af pool. This water will be carried forward into 2011 operations.
- Operation of Flaming Gorge Dam under the [Biological Opinion](#) and [ROD](#) is going well. Reclamation's efforts to meet spring flow targets and recommended base flow temperatures in Reach 1 and at the confluence with the Yampa River is commended. In 2010, the request for spring peak flows was 15,000 cfs for 5 consecutive days. Despite the dry year, Reclamation's flow management resulted in, flows exceeding 15,000 cfs for 18 days, which was very good for floodplain habitats. Base flows were usually above the 2,100 cfs request, with an average of 2,292 cfs through October.
- Continued augmentation of Colorado River flows. Coordinated reservoir operations (CROS) didn't appear possible early in the season, but flows came off quickly and peaked at 23,600 cfs (25,400 cfs is the new flood stage), and CROS releases totaled ~33,690 af. As flows decreased throughout the season, baseflow targets were dropped from 1240 cfs to 1100 cfs and then to 1,000 cfs; with flows averaging 1,030 cfs from August 18 to October 31. Water users again operated as if Shoshone were making its call, which helped get closer to meeting target flows.
- Installation of passive PIT-monitoring antennas at the Price-Stubbs passage.
- Review of nonnative fish control activities at the December 2009 workshop; continued removal of northern pike and smallmouth bass in the Colorado, Green and Yampa rivers (including adjusted/intensified sampling schedules to increase smallmouth bass removal and disrupt spawning in light of strong 2007 cohort reaching sexual maturity in 2010).
- Continued good hatchery production and numbers of stocked bonytail and razorback sucker. Renovations on Grand Valley hatchery building completed; design for additional growout ponds for Grand Valley (at Horse Thief Canyon State Wildlife Area) completed.
- Results from the [most recent Green River Colorado pikeminnow population estimate \(2006-2008\)](#) show an increasing trend (researchers caution that Colorado pikeminnow populations can be expected to fluctuate, however). The [2003-2005 estimate of the Colorado pikeminnow population in the Colorado River](#) also showed an increase over the [previous estimate](#).
- Species status reviews drafted.

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 2010-2011 biennial work plan as needed and posted revised [scopes of work](#) to web.
  - c. Requested, revised as needed, and posted FY 2009 [project accomplishment reports](#) to the web. Summarized and distributed FY 2009 report recommendations.
  - d. Continued to implement peer review as needed.
  - e. Provided updates of [depletion consultations](#).
  - f. Completed final [report to Congress](#) (February 10), required under [P.L. 106-392](#). Worked with non-Federal Program partners to provide supplemental information in response to questions from Representative Tom McClintock.
3. Monitored the FY 2010 Recovery Program annual budget and modified as necessary.
- a. Developed annual funding tables (Program, Reclamation, and Service).
  - b. Developed and administered various cooperative agreements and contracts.
  - c. Monitored payment and expenditure of Section 7 funds in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation account.
  - d. Calculated [FY 2011 annual agency contributions and depletion charge increases](#) based on the 2009 CPI.
  - e. Assisted with obtaining annual funding by 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 [Program Highlights 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. Coordinated presentations at [Annual Researchers' Meeting](#).
  - 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 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](#).
  - h. Continued to maintain the electronic mailing list for Program participants.
  - i. Continued to revise and maintain [Program website](#). This new site is heavily used by Program participants now.
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.
  - e. Provided annual Recovery Data Call information.

#### B. Fish and Wildlife Service

- 1. Provided technical expertise and recommendations to the Biology Committee as requested.
- 2. Participated in Biology Committee meetings.
- 3. Completed [Gunnison River PBO](#) (December 4, 2009); began working with Program partners to draft Aspinall Study Plan.

VII. Recommendations: 1) Continue use of webinars where applicable, especially in light of requests to reduce Federal travel expenses; 2) Revise process for developing [sufficient](#)

[progress memo](#) (and modify format) per discussion at November 9, 2010, Management Committee meeting; 3) consider fully staffing the Program Director's Office by hiring an additional coordinator to cover instream flow and habitat restoration; 4) condense FY 12-13 Program Guidance into spreadsheet-only format with anticipated budgets; 5) update 1994 Program *Organization, Mission and Staffing Plan* and add Program Procedures; 6) maintain strong communication with [Southern Rockies LCC](#).

VIII. Project Status: Ongoing and on track.

IX. FY 2010 Budget Status

A. FY 10 Funds Provided:

- \$1,103,101 project funds
- + \$161,589 FY 10 Program funds to preserve for FY 11
- + \$68,357 overhead
- + \$265,000 FY 09 carry-over

B. Funds Expended: \$839,595 (one coordinator position vacant all year and one coordinator position vacant 8 months)

C. Difference:

- \$426,589 carried over from FY 09 (\$265,000) and FY 10 (\$161,589) and returned to the Recovery Program to cover FY 11 budget shortfalls.
- Additional carry-over in this project (#3) and projects #12, #12H, #12L and #19 being identified and applied to Recovery Program's FY 11 list of contingency projects.

D. Percent of the FY 2010 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 11/18/10  
Principal Investigator Date