

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 2011 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM  
PROJECT NUMBER: C-6 Easement

- I. Project Title: Easement & weeds mgmt.
- II. Principal Investigator(s):  
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- III. Project Summary:  
The easement program began in the late 1990s with the intent of acquiring flood easements on floodplains within the upper Colorado River system which would function as critical habitat for threatened and endangered fish species. Easements were acquired through the 2000s and were turned over to the National Wildlife Refuge System for management by Ouray National Wildlife Refuge. The Fish and Wildlife Service owns very little interest in many of these easements meaning we only want to see the floodplains flood and function as naturally as possible. This project requires annual inspections and partnerships with the landowners and their land. This requires annual funding of about \$40,000 to administer these lands. When and where possible the Refuge will try to enhance these properties through partnerships and additional project funds. Currently and in the past, these funds are used for administration and enforcement of the easements to ensure that the landowners are abiding to the easement language.
- IV. Study Schedule: Annual, ongoing
- V. Relationship to RIPRAP:  
-GREEN RIVER ACTION PLAN: MAINSTEM ACTIVITY II.  
RESTORE HABITAT  
II.A. Restore and manage flooded bottomland habitat.  
-COLORADO RIVER ACTION PLAN: MAINSTEM ACTIVITY II.  
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-COLORADO RIVER ACTION PLAN: GUNNISON RIVER ACTIVITY II.  
RESTORE HABITAT  
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- VI. Accomplishment of FY 2011 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:  
In FY 2011 the Refuge sent letters to landowners acknowledging a leadership change had

