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 2011 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:**

   **Tasks:** In FY 2011 we:

   1) Moved our annual water year-in-review presentation and public meeting from May to July. In May we presented our basic data for the coming run-off season at the Colorado River District’s State of the River meeting in El Jebel.
   2) Met via the phone several times with the Pitkin County Emergency Management group regarding spring run-off.
   3) Held our annual operations meeting in July where we provided the forecast for what we anticipated in August. August is the primary fishing and tourism month for the Town of Basalt and the request to hold a late-summer meeting looking at August and early fall was requested by the Town.
   4) Hosted the Draft Environmental Assessment public meeting in El Jebel. The purpose of the meeting in October was to provide the draft EA for the 10825 acre-foot water users commitment to the public for review and comment. Public comment on the draft closed October 24, 2011.
5) Continued e-mail notifications to communicate frequent operational changes and continued to expand e-mail notification list.
6) Worked closely with local media, including Aspen Public Radio.
7) Established a Webpage dedicated to Ruedi Reservoir operations at http://www.usbr.gov/gp/eca0/ruedi.html.
8) Continued internet notifications on Ruedi Reservoir via public Web message boards including fishing sites, white water sites, and the Eagle County Internet Alert System.
9) 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 2011 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:**

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<td>Kara Lamb</td>
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