

I. Project Title: Land acquisition for the Recovery Program

II. Principal Investigator(s): Pat Nelson
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III. Project Summary:

The purpose of the project is to acquire perpetual easements in support of habitat restoration/protection to assist in recovery of the endangered fishes of the upper Colorado River Basin. In 2003, easements were acquired on the Thunder Ranch, Ela Sanctuary, and Ron Tipping properties. No additional easements will be purchased unless it is determined by the Recovery Program that more habitat is needed to achieve and sustain endangered fish recovery.

IV. Study Schedule:

Initial Year: 1996
Final Year: 2003

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

Green River Action Plan: Mainstem

- II. Restore Habitat
- II.A.2. Acquire interest in high-priority flooded bottomland habitats.
- II.A.2.d. Negotiate acquisition and acquire.

Colorado River Action Plan: Mainstem

- III. Restore Habitat
- II.A.5. Acquire interest in high-priority flooded bottomland habitats.
- II.A.5.d. Negotiate acquisition and acquire.

Colorado River Action Plan: Gunnison River

- II. Restore Habitat
- II.A.3. Acquire interest in high-priority flooded bottomland habitats.
- II.A.3.d. Negotiate acquisition and acquire.

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2003 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>Green River</u>		
Thunder Ranch	455.10	\$700.00K
<u>Colorado River</u>		
Tipping	23.40	\$191.70K
<u>Audubon</u>	<u>25.67</u>	<u>\$ 40.00K</u>
Total	540.17	\$931.70K

In addition to the easements purchased during 2003, negotiations are underway and will continue in 2004 to ensure that the "Hot-Spot Complex" on the Colorado River can be configured to benefit endangered fish. For example, Pick-up Pond is part of the complex, and Mesa County has agreed to donate a perpetual easement to the Recovery Program. Also, Colorado State Parks owns some parcels within the complex, and agreement must be reached with them for use of their parcels.

VII. Recommendations: None

VIII. Project Status: Complete in terms of easement purchases.

IX. FY 2003 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$931.7K
- B. Funds Expended: \$931.7K
- C. Difference: 0
- D. Percent of the FY 2003 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 100
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: NA

X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): Not applicable

XI. Signed: /s/ Pat Nelson March 10, 2004
Principal Investigator Date