

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2005 ANNUAL REPORT**

PROJECT NUMBER: PIP 12H

I. Project Title: Interpretive Signs and Exhibits about the Endangered Fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin.

II. Principal Investigator:

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III. Project Summary: Interpretive signs and exhibits at museums and visitor centers are key tools used to educate the general public. Numerous opportunities exist for the Recovery Program to partner with public and private organizations to develop signs and exhibits that will explain the importance of recovering the endangered fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin and some of the actions taking place to accomplish this. Priority for placement of interpretive signs and exhibits is given to geographic locations where the majority of Recovery Program efforts are taking place, including Vernal, Utah; Grand Junction, Colorado; and Page, Arizona.

IV. Study Schedule:

Initial year: FY 2001
Final year: Ongoing

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

VI. INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR THE ENDANGERED FISHES AND THE RECOVERY PROGRAM.

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2005 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

Tactic: Continue to work with organizations on projects initiated in FY 2001 (Grand Valley: Audubon Society Visitor Center, Legacy Committee, Riverfront Trail Master Interpretive Plan, Western Colorado Math & Science Center, Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW); Yampa River Valley: The Carpenter Ranch, the Hayden Kiosk Group, CDOW; Vernal: Ouray NWR/Hatchery). These partnerships will result in interpretive signs, displays and live aquarium exhibits that address the endangered fish.

Status: Six interpretive signs were fabricated and installed along the Colorado Riverfront Trail in Grand Junction, Colorado, in September 2004. This was a positive project that involved the cooperation of the City of Grand Junction, the Legacy Committee, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Six custom-shaped benches were ordered. Two were installed near the Riverfront Trail signs; one was placed at a nearby Audubon property where habitat restoration occurred for the Recovery Program in 2004; one was given to Dinosaur National Monument to install at a campground along the Green River; and two others will be installed at locations still to be determined in Vernal, Utah.

Tactic: Pursue new projects with other organizations (Vernal: Field House Museum, Dinosaur National Monument; Moab; Page/Lake Powell; Flaming Gorge; Gunnison and Yampa River Basins)

Status: The Field House Museum in Vernal has asked the Recovery Program to help establish an aquarium with endangered fish from the Ouray National Fish Hatchery. The Recovery Program offered to provide \$2,500 in FY 2005 toward purchase of an aquarium tank, filters, etc., however, the museum had not completed its fundraising and this project did not occur. It is hoped that this will happen during FY 2006. Dinosaur National Monument continues to have an aquarium featuring razorback suckers at its Quarry Visitor Center and will install a custom-shaped Colorado pikeminnow bench in FY 2006 as mentioned above.

The Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service accepted the Recovery Program's proposal to establish an aquarium at the Carl Hayden Visitor Center at Glen Canyon Dam that will feature endangered fish and include interpretive messages about these fishes and efforts to recover them in the Colorado River Basin. The project is slated for completion in FY 2006.

The Grand Valley Audubon Society is working with the Recovery Program to develop and install an interpretive sign in FY 2006 at the site where a levee was breached to improve habitat for endangered fish.

The Recovery Program worked with the Ute Indian Tribe to help the tribe obtain a permit to display endangered fish in an aquarium at tribal headquarters. The aquarium will be set up in FY 2006 and fish will be provided by the Ouray National Fish Hatchery.

Tactic: Request funding assistance from other organizations such as: FWS Refuge Division, National Park Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and private corporations.

Status: The Recovery Program asked for financial support from the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service to establish an aquarium and develop interpretive materials at the visitor center at Glen Canyon Dam. This will be addressed further in FY 06.

Tactic: Develop, fund, and place interpretive signs and exhibits.

Status: Other than the projects mentioned above, two additional projects were funded in FY 2005. The Recovery Program did a 50/50 cost-share with the Colorado Division of Wildlife to purchase aquariums and other equipment needed for the CDOW's program where schools raise endangered fish in the classroom. In addition, the Recovery Program funded replacing an interpretive exhibit at Yampa State Park about native and nonnative fishes of the Yampa River.

VII. Recommendations: Continue to seek opportunities to partner with other organizations to establish interpretive exhibits.

VIII. Project Status: On-Track and Ongoing.

IX. FY 2005 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$10,000 (Carried over from FY 2004)
- B. Funds Expended: \$ 4,000
- C. Difference: \$ 6,000 (Will be carried over into FY 2006)
- D. Percent of the FY 2005 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 100%, none
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: Not applicable.

X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): n/a

XI. Signed:

Debbie Felker
Information & Education Coordinator

December 9, 2005
Date

Note: Funds from a previous fiscal year were held by the Intermountain Natural History Association in Vernal, Utah, on behalf of the Recovery Program. These funds were used to pay for the interpretive signs and benches.