

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2004 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 will be 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: FY 2005

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

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

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2004 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 will be placed near the Riverfront Trail signs, one will be placed at a nearby Audubon property where habitat restoration occurred for the Recovery Program in 2004, and three will be used 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 relocated this year and has asked the Recovery Program to help establish a freestanding aquarium with endangered fish from the Ouray National Fish Hatchery. The Recovery Program has offered to provide \$2,000 in FY 2005 toward purchase of an aquarium tank, filters, etc., and to provide razorback suckers and possibly bonytail. Dave Irving confirmed that staff is available to help set up the aquarium, train museum staff to take care of the fish and monitor the fishes' health. Dinosaur National Monument established a 150-gallon aquarium at its visitor center. Fish were provided by the Ouray National Fish Hatchery.

Interpretive signs at the Yampa State Park visitor center were replaced to correctly state that channel catfish are nonnative to the Yampa River.

Last year's proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation to establish a temporary, and later permanent, aquarium at the Carl Hayden Visitor Center at Glen Canyon Dam stalled due to some concerns expressed by the NPS and the Bureau. Placeholder funds in the amount of \$10,000 for this project in FY 2005 will likely be eliminated due to other Program expenses. At this time, this proposal will not be actively pursued.

The Grand Valley Audubon Society is working with the Recovery Program to develop and install an interpretive sign in FY 2005 at the site where a levee was breached this summer to improve habitat for endangered fish.

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 did not ask for additional funds from other organizations for interpretive signs/exhibits in FY 2004.

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

Status: Other than the projects mentioned above, the only additional project funded in FY 2004 was to help purchase aquariums and other equipment needed for the Colorado Division of Wildlife's program where schools raise endangered fish in the classroom.

VII. Recommendations: Continue to pursue the aquarium at the Field House Museum and interpretive signs at the Grand Valley Audubon site. Review previously planned new projects detailed in the scope of work based on the Program Director's guidance regarding funding availability.

VIII. Project Status: On-Track and Ongoing.

IX. FY 2004 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$20,000 (Carried over from FY 2003)
- B. Funds Expended: \$ -0-*
- C. Difference: \$20,000 (\$10,000 will be carried over into FY 2005; \$10,000 released to the Recovery Program budget)
- D. Percent of the FY 2004 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, 2004

Date

*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 (after the benches are received in FY 2005) for the Colorado Riverfront Trail project.