

I. Project Title: Fish and Wildlife Service Program Management

II. Principal Investigator: Bob Muth, Program Director, P.O. Box 25486, DFC, Denver, CO 80225. Phone: 303/969-7322, ext. 223. FAX: 303/969-7327. E-Mail: robert\_muth@fws.gov.

III. Project Summary: The ongoing work of the Recovery Program Director's office is to ensure timely and effective planning, implementation, coordination, and administrative support of the Recovery Program by: 1) coordinating and implementing recovery activities; 2) conducting Program planning and evaluation; 3) managing the Recovery Program annual budget; 4) providing staff assistance to Program committees; and 5) directing and coordinating Service Recovery Program activities. These tasks were carried out by Recovery Program staff including the director, assistant director, coordinators for the major recovery elements, and clerical staff.

IV. Study Schedule: 1989-ongoing.

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan:

- VII.A.3 Update, refine, and prioritize recovery actions (RIPRAP) annually.
- VII.A.7 Monitor and assess Recovery Program accomplishments annually.
- VII.A.8 Develop biennial work plan to address priority needs.
- VII.B Actively participate in Recovery Program committees and secure funding for annual work plan and larger projects.
- VII.C Manage, direct, and coordinate Recovery Program activities.

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2004 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

A. Program Director & Staff

1. Directed and coordinated implementation of recovery efforts as described in the RIPRAP and the Annual Work Plan in the areas of: a) instream flow protection b) habitat restoration and nonnative fish management; c) propagation/genetics and research, monitoring, and data management; and d) information, education, and public involvement. Program coordinators are: Gerry Roehm for instream flow protection; Pat Nelson for habitat restoration and nonnative fish control; Tom Czapla for propagation/genetics and research, monitoring, and data management; and Debbie Felker for information, education, and public involvement.

Significant Program accomplishments/activities included:

- Review of preliminary data on population point estimates for Colorado pikeminnow and humpback chub at the August 2004 population monitoring workshop.
- Review of nonnative fish control activities at the a December 2003 workshop, resulting in increased effort, placing emphasis on the Yampa River, shifting from treatment/control approach to depletion analysis, and shifting emphasis from channel catfish to smallmouth bass.
- Completion of the final Yampa River Management Plan and draft programmatic biological opinion.
- Construction of fish passage at the Grand Valley Project Diversion Dam.
- Obtaining an easement on 455 acres of floodplain habitat on Thunder Ranch near Jensen, Utah, in December 2003. Restoration of a 330-acre wetland on this property will provide important nursery habitat in a key location for young razorback sucker and is expected to greatly contribute toward recovery of the species. Installation of manifolds and pipelines to divert selenium-laden waters to the river and breaching of levees was completed in July 2004.
- Habitat restoration was completed at the Audubon property near Grand Junction, Colorado, in August 2004. The site was designed as a razorback sucker nursery habitat for the 18-Mile Reach of the Colorado River.

2. Carried out Program planning and evaluation:

- a. Reviewed and updated the RIPRAP and document changes (including changes to the RIPRAP budget); submitted recommended RIPRAP revisions to the technical, Management, and Implementation committees for review. Posted revised RIPRAP on website.
- Monitored FY 2004-2005 Work Plan implementation and recommended modifications, as needed.
- c. Requested, revised as needed, and posted FY 2003 project accomplishment reports to the web.
- d. Continued to implement peer review as needed.

3. Monitored the FY 2004 Recovery Program annual budget and modified as necessary.

- a. Developed annual funding source/target tables (Program, Reclamation, and Service).
- b. Developed and administered numerous cooperative agreements and contracts to implement activities such as: peer review, recovery goal litigation assistance, stream gages, etc.

- c. Monitored payment and expenditure of Section 7 funds in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation account.
  - d. Calculated FY 2005 annual agency contributions and depletion charge increases based on the 2003 CPI (2.3%).
  - e. Assisted with obtaining annual funding by organizing (and accompanying) Recovery Program trip to Washington, D.C. to brief key people in the Department of the Interior, the Office of Management and Budget, national environmental groups, Congressional delegations, and authorizing and appropriation committees. Prepared briefing book.
4. Provided staff assistance to the Implementation and Management committees:
- a. Prepared and distributed agendas and related documents in coordination with committee chairs. Arranged meetings and conference calls.
  - b. Prepared and promptly distributed concise, accurate meeting summaries.
  - c. Maintained Recovery Program administrative record.
  - d. Provided staff assistance to committees as necessary.
  - e. Recovery Program committee and related activities publicized on the Program listserv and posted on Program participant web pages.
  - f. Attended Implementation, Management, and technical committee meetings. Took notes at Biology Committee meetings and promptly provided drafts meeting summaries to the Committee chair.
  - g. Maintained Recovery Program technical report library and database. Maintained library listing in Endnote bibliographic software and on the Program participant web pages.
  - h. Continued to maintain the electronic mailing list for Program participants.
  - i. Maintained and improved web pages to serve information to Program participants.
5. Directed and coordinated Service activities related to the Recovery Program.
- a. Administered funding for Service Recovery Program activities.
  - b. Conducted monthly Service conference call.
  - c. Coordinated with and provided staff support to Service management on Recovery Program activities and issues.

B. Fish and Wildlife Service

1. Provided technical expertise and recommendations to the Biology Committee as requested.
2. Participated in Biology Committee meetings.

VII. Recommendations: None

VIII. Project Status: Ongoing and on track.

IX. FY 2004 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$820,300 plus overhead in FY 04, plus \$113,000 carried over from FY 2003.
- B. Funds Expended: We are still determining the amount of any FY 2004 carry-over, but it appears to be sufficient to cover PIT-tag and reader purchases in FY 05. Our FY 2005 budget request was reduced accordingly. Any and all unneeded funds will be made available for other approved Recovery Program projects.
- C. Difference: To be determined.
- D. Percent of FY 2004 work completed and projected costs to complete: All work completed.
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: None this year.

X. Status of Data Submission: Not applicable.

XI. Signed: *Robert Muth*, January 28, 2005

APPENDIX: See also:

- FY 2003 annual progress reports: <http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/anr.htm>
- March 8, 2004 RIPRAP: <http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/rip8-04.htm>
- FY 2004-2005 Recovery Program scopes of work: <http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/sow.htm>
- FY 2005 Depletion Charge and Annual Budget Adjustments:  
<http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/doc/cpitbl.pdf>
- Implementation and Management committee meeting summaries:  
<http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/mee.htm>

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