

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 2007 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 2007 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:**

Tasks: Pursue the following new projects in targeted communities, seeking funding support from other organizations whenever appropriate:

- a. Colorado River State Park, Fruita, Colorado. In FY 06, an interpretive exhibit with aquarium was established in this park's visitor center located along the Colorado River near Fruita, Colorado. Unfortunately, maintenance of the aquarium was more than the park staff could handle and, in FY 07, they asked that this exhibit be

- removed. With help from the Colorado Division of Wildlife, interpretive signs and fish were relocated to a shared CDOW/U.S. Forest Service visitor center in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. CDOW is storing the aquarium from the state park at its office in Grand Junction for future use.
- b. Interpretive Signs at Elkhead Reservoir, Craig, Colorado. The Recovery Program funded 5,000 acre-feet of a 12,000 acre-foot enlargement of Elkhead Dam and Reservoir in northwest Colorado to make water available to augment late-summer flows in the Yampa River. Construction was completed during FY 07. As part of this project, Colorado State Parks will improve park facilities including restrooms, camping and picnic sites and boat launching ramps. This expansion provides an excellent opportunity for the Recovery Program to tell its story through interpretive exhibits. The Colorado River Water Conservation District and Elkhead/Yampa River State Park have agreed to explore this further to determine the exact type and location of interpretive signs to be produced and installed. This project is now planned for completion in FY 08/09.
  - c. Interpretive Signs at Visitor Center, Jensen, Utah. The Jensen Visitor Center has high visitation and is the eastern gateway to Dinosaur National Monument and Vernal, Utah. An interpretive message at this location could promote the local Stewart Brothers' human interest story as well as encourage visitation to the Ouray National Fish Hatchery. This project was deferred to FY 08.
  - d. Unaweep Charolais Ranch (Butch Craig property), Whitewater, Colorado. The Bureau of Reclamation acquired this property along the Gunnison River in fee on behalf of the Recovery Program and is in the process of transferring the property to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Recovery Program will retain a perpetual easement for the endangered fishes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will manage the site. A trail along the river is used by hikers and other recreationalists. An interpretive sign placed near the razorback sucker nursery habitat would help raise awareness of recovery efforts. This project was also deferred to FY 08.
  - e. Delta, Colorado. When planning occurred for FY 07, it was thought that this community along the Gunnison River could be an ideal site for interpretive signs. Since then, it was determined that other projects were of higher priority and this project was tabled indefinitely.
  - f. Dinosaur National Monument, Jensen, Utah. The Recovery Program had budgeted funds to support an interpretive exhibit with aquarium in the Quarry Visitor Center at Dinosaur National Monument. The visitor center was closed for needed repairs and the aquarium put in storage indefinitely. This project has also been deferred until the visitor center reopens.

- g. Brown's Park and Ouray National Wildlife Refuges, Utah. The Recovery Program worked with visitor services of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to approve content of interpretive signs about endangered fish that will be installed in FY 08 at accessible fishing piers overlooking the Green River.

**VII. Recommendations:** Continue to support the organizations that have established interpretive exhibits to ensure the exhibits are well maintained. In FY 2008 and beyond, continue to seek opportunities to partner with other organizations to establish interpretive exhibits.

**VIII. Project Status:** On-Track and Ongoing.

**IX. FY 2007 Budget Status**

- A. Funds Provided: \$20,000
- B. Funds Expended: -0-
- C. Difference: \$20,000 (carried over to FY 08)
- D. Percent of the FY 2007 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

February 5, 2008  
Date