

- I. Project Title: Elkhead Creek Transit Loss Study downstream from Elkhead Reservoir
- II. Principal Investigator(s):  
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- III. Project Summary: Through the enlargement of Elkhead Reservoir, the CWCB acquired 5,000 acre-feet of storage in Elkhead Reservoir to be use on behalf of the Upper Colorado Recovery Implementation Program (UCRIP) to support the maintenance of base flow through critical habitat reaches for endangered fish (93 cfs at the USGS streamflow-gaging station, Yampa R. near Maybell, CO - 09251000). To ensure that the reservoir releases are adequate to meet the downstream needs and are delivered at the proper time, water managers need to know the traveltime and transit loss for the reservoir releases. Results from releases made in August 2007 provided traveltime information along Elkhead Creek, however, transit losses were not determined. Qualitative interpretation of the streamflow data suggests that transit loss within Elkhead Creek may be higher than estimates for surrounding areas. Quantitative characterization of transit loss on Elkhead Creek, under conditions typical of those in place when supplemental streamflow requests occur during late summer and fall, would provide water and UCRIP managers with the information needed to properly manage reservoir releases made to improve critical habitat for endangered fish. Field investigations will occur in late summer 2009. Preliminary reconnaissance occurred in late summer 2008.
- IV. Study Schedule: 2008-2010
- V. Relationship to RIPRAP: General Recovery Support Action Plan I.A1&3  
Green River Action Plan: 1.A.1. Identify fish habitat and flow needs
- VI. Accomplishment of FY 2008 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings: A second gage was established on Elk Creek to establish a correlation for the new gage to old. Preliminary reconnaissance occurred in late summer 2008. The majority of the funding will be provided during 2009 when field investigations will occur and during 2010 when the interpretive report will be written.
- VII. Recommendations: Recommend project continuing as proposed.
- VIII. Project Status: On track and ongoing. The field investigations will occur in late summer

2009 and the interpretive report will be written in late 2009 and 2010.

IX. FY 2008 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$5,000.
- B. Funds Expended: \$5,000
- C. Difference: \$0
- D. Percent of the FY 2008 work completed, and projected costs to complete:
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges:

X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): No data submitted at this time

XI. Signed: Barbara C. Ruddy                      Date: 7 November 2008  
Principal Investigator