

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2002 ANNUAL REPORT**

**PROJECT NUMBER: PIP 12F
(CAP 18/19)**

I. **Project Title:** Removal and control of nonnative fishes in Colorado and Gunnison River floodplain source ponds.

II. **Principal Investigator:**
Vacant
Colorado Division of Wildlife – Western Slope

III. **Project Summary:** This project's overall goal is to reduce the proliferation of nonnative fish species in floodplain habitats and minimize chronic escapement of nonnative fishes from perennial ponds. The public involvement plan's goals are to:

- Identify public concerns and values and provide a mechanism to incorporate public perspectives and issues into the process of reclaiming ponds.
- Inform interested communities about the reasons pond reclamation is taking place in support of efforts to recover the endangered fishes.
- Build public support for pond reclamation and provide information to, and collect input from, the public, news media, special interest groups, government and Congressional officials in a timely manner.

IV. **Study Schedule:**

Initial year: FY 2002

Final year: FY 2003 (If funding is approved for CAP 18/19)

V. **Relationship to RIPRAP:**

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

VI. **Accomplishment of FY 2002 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:**

Despite the absence of an information and education specialist to take the lead on I&E efforts, Nonnative Fish Biologist Anita Martinez and other CDOW staff accomplished the following:

Tactic: Prepare and distribute Listening Log. Mail Recovery Program newsletter, *Swimming Upstream*, to Listening Log participants (approximately 500 landowners).

Status: The eighth Listening Log was prepared and distributed this year. The Recovery Program newsletter was mailed to Listening Log participants.

Tactic: Prepare news releases and television spots on an ongoing basis to highlight progress.

Status: Two television spots aired about efforts to recover endangered fish – April 26 and June 7. Newspaper notices were placed in the *Daily Sentinel* and the *Montrose Daily Press* (NNFS permits).

Tactic: Prepare articles for Colorado Outdoors Magazine and the Recovery Program newsletter focusing on pond reclamation efforts.

Status: This did not occur, however, at the request of participants at the Recovery Program's nonnative fish control workshop, a "hot spot" report was prepared for the Biology Committee. This report identified areas where there are concentrations of nonnative fish in the Colorado River and its tributaries in the Grand Valley. CDOW met with the Grand Junction Drainage District and the Town of Palisade to discuss potential nonnative fish control efforts in these "hot spot" areas.

Tactic: Disseminate and/or present information about the Recovery Program.

Status: A total of nine presentations were made to: CDOW Area 8 (stocking permits; lake licenses; NNFS regulation); the Division of Water Resources and Dam Safety Engineers; the Recovery Program's Annual Researchers Meeting in Moab; CDOW DWM trainees (NNFC activities and rotenone use); the Recovery Program's NNFC Workshop; and CSU students. In addition, three updates were made to CDOW's West Region staff. A report, "The Lower Colorado River Riparian and Wetland Strategy" was edited to consider threatened and endangered fish.

Tactic: Educate local students about the endangered fish.

Status: CDOW took several opportunities to educate students. They took elementary school students to the fish ladder and the Grand Valley Endangered Fish Facility, conducted sampling demonstrations for "at risk" teenagers and for students from Durango High School, Mesa State College and Taylor Elementary School (3rd and 5th graders).

VII. **Recommendations:** Hire an information and education specialist for CDOW for the western slope. Continue the listening log and mailing the Recovery Program newsletter to landowners on this list. Continue to pursue news media opportunities and to educate students and teachers about the endangered and nonnative fishes.

VIII. **Project Status:** Ongoing (pending approval of CAP 18/19 scope of work for FY 2003)

IX. FY 2002 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$10,000 (shown under CAP 18/19)
- B. Funds Expended: \$10,000 (shown under CAP 18/19)
- C. Difference: -0-
- D. Percent of the FY 2002 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

January 6, 2003
Date