

- I. Project Title: **Wyoming Program Management**
- II. Principal Investigator(s) John W. Shields, Interstate Streams Engineer
Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Herschler Building, 4th East, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0370
Phone: (307) 777-6151; Fax: (307) 777-5451
E-Mail Address: jshiel@state.wy.us

Paul Dey, Instream Flow Biologist
Fish Division
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
5400 Bishop Boulevard
Cheyenne, Wyoming
Phone: (307) 777-4559; Fax: (307) 777-4610
E-Mail Address: pdey@state.wy.us
- III. Project Summary: Wyoming's program management objectives and accomplishments during this reporting year included: 1) providing staff assistance and support to the Implementation, Management and Biology Committees and to the USFWS and our other partners in implementing the Recovery Program; 2) participating in the activities and deliberations of the technical committees; 3) coordinating with other Program participants to accomplish Program objectives and tasks; 4) working to secure Wyoming Legislative, Congressional and Administration support for Program appropriations and support for the federal capital construction authorization extension legislation; and 4) responding to information requests and proactively providing information and developing understanding and support for the Recovery Implementation Program by Wyoming officials, citizens and water users.
- IV. Study Schedule: Wyoming continues to receive credit for our program participation and management actions carried out for the Recovery Program, hence this project will continue throughout the term of the Recovery Program's Cooperative Agreement. Fiscal Year 2002 was the ninth year that Wyoming received in-kind services credit for our program management activities.
- V. Relationship to RIPRAP: Wyoming's Program Management activities address RIPRAP Item VII ("provide program planning and support [program management]") and its components under the "General Recovery Program Support Action Plan."
- VI. Accomplishment of FY 2002 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings: During the course of Fiscal Year 2002, John Shields fully participated in the activities of and carrying out the responsibilities of the Management Committee. Shields performed necessary duties associated with being the Management Committee's chairperson. He also participated as a member of the Water Acquisition Committee and Information and Education Committee. Paul Dey of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department ably represented Wyoming on the Biology Committee. Due to the efforts of involved Wyoming personnel, the following accomplishments and activities occurred:
 - 1) Coordinated the State of Wyoming's participation in and positions on Recovery Program activities. Advised and when necessary represented Wyoming's

Implementation Committee member, Wyoming's Governor and staff, the Wyoming Congressional Delegation and their staff, affected state agencies and the public about the Program.

- 2) Represented the State of Wyoming at Biology Committee, technical committee, subcommittee and ad-hoc group meetings.
- 3) Reviewed, edited and commented on proposals, scopes-of-work, annual reports, project reports, planning documents and administrative records prepared by Recovery Program participants as appropriate and necessary.
- 4) Participated in review of the Program Guidance document and the development of the annual Recovery Program budget and work plan subsequently approved by the Implementation Committee.
- 5) Participated in updating the Recovery Implementation Program Recovery Action Plan (RIPRAP) which was subsequently approved by the Implementation Committee.
- 6) Communicated with federal agency personnel and assisted in preparing documents involved in transferring funds for Recovery Program-sanctioned work and generally assisted in carrying out Program activities and initiatives.
- 7) Responded to requests for information concerning the Recovery Program by the Wyoming Congressional delegation, the public, other state agencies and other Program participants. Made presentations on an ongoing basis to the Green River Basin Advisory Group.
- 8) Assisted in making arrangements for and participated in the annual briefing of the affected States' Congressional delegations, Congressional authorization and appropriations committee staff, Federal agency officials and staff in Washington, D.C. to develop support for Recovery Program funding line-items included in the President's budget. Assisted with the circulation of the annual Congressional delegation joint letter to the appropriation subcommittee chairmen expressing our Congressional delegations' support for Recovery Program funding. Assisted in follow-up contacts thanking those with whom we met for their interest and support and providing additional information requested during those meetings. Prepared the summary report of the Washington briefing trip.
- 9) Participated in meetings and activities associated with putting the federal capital construction authorization extension legislation into final form. Made repeated contacts with staff of the Wyoming Congressional delegation to gain their support and co-sponsorship of the legislation.
- 10) Participated in the activities, conference calls and meetings of the Yampa River PBO Working Group, including development of the Yampa River Management Plan that will lead to the development of the Yampa River Basin Programmatic Biological Opinion. Assisted with making modeling assumptions and clarifying the location and extent of Wyoming's current consumptive use and our foreseeable water project depletions through 2045 in Wyoming's portion of the Yampa River Basin for purposes of

conducting analyses that will support the issuance of the programmatic biological opinion.

Discussion of Initial Findings, Highlights and Noteworthy Activities: "Initial findings" can not appropriately be made relative to Wyoming's program management activities, other than to state that we are carrying out our obligations and responsibilities for the ongoing conduct of the Recovery Program. During this fiscal year, two activities were of special importance and significance to the ongoing conduct of the Recovery Program. On December 6, 2001, the Cooperative Agreement for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program was extended at a signing ceremony in the Colorado State Capitol Building. Signing the extension of the Cooperative Agreement to continue the Program's conduct through September 30, 2013 on behalf of parties to the Recovery Program were Governors Geringer and Owens, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and Western Area Power Administration Administrator Mike HacsKaylo. The Management Committee and particularly the States' representatives thereon were quite involved with the development of the Governor's comments, review and editing of the press releases, and, in addition, Wyoming contributed significantly to the development of the program handout that was distributed to attendees at the signing ceremony.

Another extremely noteworthy Program activity during the past reporting year was the development of final recovery goals for the humpback chub, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, and razorback sucker were approved by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Ralph Morgenweck on August 1, 2002, and the notice of their availability was published in the Federal Register on August 28 (67 FR 55270-55271). The draft recovery goals provide objective, measurable recovery criteria required to consider removing the humpback chub, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow (formerly Colorado squawfish), and razorback sucker from Endangered Species Act protection. The goals identify site-specific management actions necessary to minimize or remove threats; establish objective, measurable criteria that consider demographic and genetic needs for self-sustaining, viable populations; and provide recovery time estimates. This was a critically important task that is now completed, and Wyoming commends all involved with completing the publication of the goals.

Shortcomings: Despite our continuing efforts, we have been unable to obtain the express support of Wyoming's two United States Senators and their signatures on the joint-delegation funding support letters.

VII. Recommendations: The following recommendations and comments are provided after reflection on our Program participation during fiscal year 2002:

1. The Yampa River Programmatic Biological Opinion needs to be completed during the present fiscal year.
2. Wyoming looks forward to better reporting from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation during the present and upcoming fiscal years relative to the expenditure of Wyoming's capital construction cost-sharing funds that have been contributed through transmittal to the Foundation.
3. During the past year, there were again, on several occasions, additional discussions about

