

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2003 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:

Debbie Felker
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225
303-969-7322, ext. 227
Fax: 303-969-7327
debbie_felker@fws.gov

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 will be 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: FY 2005

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

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

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2003 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

Tactic: Continue to work with organizations on projects initiated in FY 2001 (Grand Valley: Audubon Society Visitor Center, Legacy Committee, Riverfront Trail Master Interpretive Plan, Western Colorado Math & Science Center, Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW); Yampa River Valley: The Carpenter Ranch, the Hayden Kiosk Group, CDOW; Vernal: Ouray NWR/Hatchery). These partnerships will result in interpretive signs, displays and live aquarium exhibits that address the endangered fish.

Status: Interpretive Designs of Durango, Colorado, is the vendor selected to design and fabricate six interpretive signs to be placed along the Colorado Riverfront Trail. A first draft of the layout was reviewed and comments provided for modification. The Recovery Program drafted a Memorandum of Agreement between the Program and the City of Grand Junction for maintenance and replacement of the signs. Signs should be completed and installed in Spring 2004.

Interpretive signs were completed and installed for an outdoor kiosk at the Ouray National Fish Hatchery entrance.

A new interpretive sign was produced and installed at the Montrose Pavilion which features a 150-gallon aquarium with endangered fishes.

Tactic: Pursue new projects with other organizations (Vernal: Field House Museum, Dinosaur National Monument; Moab; Page/Lake Powell; Flaming Gorge; Gunnison and Yampa River Basins)

Status: The Field House Museum is relocating and it is still unknown whether or not an exhibit with endangered fish can be included at the new location. The Recovery Program helped Dinosaur National Monument obtain a permit to display endangered fish and helped fund the purchase of an aquarium at the Quarry Visitor Center. Fish were provided by the Ouray National Fish Hatchery. The Recovery Program's freestanding exhibit was set up at the Lake Powell Visitor Center from May through September.

Tactic: Request funding assistance from other organizations such as: FWS Refuge Division, National Park Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and private corporations.

Status: The Recovery Program sent a proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service to set up a small aquarium at the visitor center that would feature endangered fish. The proposal further suggested that a permanent aquarium be included when the visitor center is remodeled in 7 to 10 years.

Tactic: Develop, fund, and place interpretive signs and exhibits.

Status: Other than the projects mentioned above, the only additional project funded in FY 2003 was to help purchase aquariums and other equipment needed for the Colorado Division of Wildlife's program where schools raise endangered fish in the classroom.

VII. Recommendations: None.

VIII. Project Status: On-Track and Ongoing.

IX. FY 2003 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$30,000
- B. Funds Expended: \$10,000
- C. Difference: \$20,000 (Carried over into FY 2004)
- D. Percent of the FY 2003 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 20, 2004

Date