

I. Project Title: **Wyoming Program Management**

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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 Biology and Management 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 2003 was the tenth year that Wyoming received in-kind services credit for our program management activities. We anticipate receiving this credit throughout the duration of the Recovery Program.

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 2003 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings: During the course of Fiscal Year 2003, John Shields fully participated in discharging 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. He facilitated arrangements for the Management Committee's visits with Congressional delegation and committee staff and with Administration officials during the Committee's annual trip to Washington DC to solicit funding support for the Upper Colorado Recovery Program. Paul Dey of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and his successor, Kevin Gelwicks of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, ably represented Wyoming in completing the considerable work load that is accomplished annually by 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 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 and ad-hoc group meetings and public meetings concerning the Yampa River Basin Management Plan.
- 3) Reviewed, edited and commented on proposals, scopes-of-work, annual reports, project reports, planning documents, draft correspondence and administrative records prepared by Recovery Program staff and 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 and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation 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, making contacts and other activities associated with the Congressional enactment (December 2002) of the Program-supported federal capital construction authorization extension legislation, including making repeated contacts with staff of the Congressional committees. Worked with our Recovery Program partners to develop mutually acceptable draft report language provided to the responsible Congressional committee staff members.
- 10) Participated in ongoing activities and efforts associated with the Yampa River Management Plan that will lead to the development of the Yampa River Basin 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, of special importance and significance to the ongoing conduct of the Recovery Program was the signing of legislation into law by President Bush on December 19, 2002 extending the capital construction authorizations for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. Public Law 107-375 extends the authorization period for the Secretary of Interior to complete the capital construction projects (and to expend non-Federal funds) from 2005 to 2008 for the Upper Colorado River Program and from 2007 to 2008 for the San Juan River Program.

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. We continue to seek their support and work with their staff, including their field representatives, to obtain that support.

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

1. The Yampa River Management Plan's Cooperative Agreement needs to be completed by the end of calendar year 2003. We have commented on the need to expedite efforts associated with the Yampa River Programmatic Biological Opinion in these reports in prior years and again reemphasize this need.
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 providing "credit" or acknowledging and accordingly bookkeeping costs being incurred by a funding participant as expenditures that reduce the cost-share to be contributed in future years. We recommend that, to the greatest possible extent, we collectively avoid additional discussions of these matters in future years. To the best of our present day knowledge, there is no "cushion" between estimated costs and the amount that will ultimately need to be expended.

VIII. Project Status: Wyoming's Program Management is considered to be both ongoing and on-track. Management Committee efforts are important in that the Implementation Committee continues to delegate many matters to that committee for both investigation and resolution by reaching mutual agreement on the course of action or policy that should be pursued. Time requirements for carrying out Biology Committee tasks and functions have continued to increase.

IX. FY 2003 Budget:	A.	Funds Provided:	\$17,500
	B.	Funds Expended:	<u>\$17,500</u>
	C.	Difference:	\$ 0
	D.	Percent of the FY2003 Work Completed and Projected Costs to Complete:	Not applicable
	E.	Program funds spent for publication charges:	None

X. Status of Data Submission: Not applicable, as no data have been submitted, nor do we anticipate submitting data, to the database manager.

XI. Signed: John W. Shields Dated: November 19, 2003
Management Committee Member
and Principal Investigator for Wyoming's Program Management