

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2006-2007 SCOPE OF WORK for:
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT – INTERPRETIVE SIGNS AND EXHIBITS**

Project No.: PIP 12H

Lead Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Program Director’s Office)

Submitted By: Debbie Felker, CRRP
P.O. Box 25486, DFC, Lakewood, CO 80225
303-969-7322, ext. 227; debbie_felker@fws.gov

Date: June 21, 2005 (revised March 27, 2006; April 13, 2005)

Category:

- Ongoing project
- Ongoing-revised project
- Requested new project
- Unsolicited proposal

Expected Funding

Source:

- Annual funds
- Capital funds
- Other (explain)

I. Title of Proposal: Interpretive Signs and Exhibits About the Endangered Fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin

II. Background:

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 Moab, Jensen, and Vernal in Utah; Grand Junction, Craig, Steamboat Springs, Montrose and Gunnison in Colorado; and Page, Arizona.

III. Strategies/Dates:

1. Pursue the following new projects in targeted communities, seeking funding support from other organizations whenever appropriate:

FY 2006:

- a. Colorado River State Park, Fruita, Colorado. The visitor center for this park is located next to the dinosaur museum in Fruita along the Colorado River. In FY 2005, the park contacted the Recovery Program to inquire about establishing an aquarium with endangered fish to exhibit. This would be an ideal location as it hosts both local and out-of-town visitors. The Recovery Program is working with the park to establish an aquarium with accompanying interpretive messages.
Responsibility: Debbie Felker
Completion Date: January 2006
- b. Angler Notification Signs – Colorado, Gunnison, and White Rivers in Colorado. Signs targeting anglers need to be installed along certain river stretches identified by Colorado Division of Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management personnel as locations where anglers are more likely to catch endangered fish.
Responsibility: Debbie Felker
Completion Date: June 2006
- c. Taylor Draw Dam at Kenney Reservoir, Rangely, Colorado. This section of the White River contains numerous large Colorado pikeminnow, which congregate at the base of the dam. Two existing information signs that address the endangered fishes are outdated and in disrepair. One is located below the dam where anglers are highly likely to catch a Colorado pikeminnow while fishing for other species such as catfish. The other sign, located near the boat ramp at the lake, says that Colorado squawfish are being stocked into the lake as part of efforts to recover the fish. That practice no longer occurs. The Recovery Program's I & E Committee has discussed replacement of these signs in the past, but tabled pursuing this project due to other priorities. Because biologists are finding more Colorado pikeminnow below the dam, it is important to have updated signs in place as soon as possible so that anglers can clearly identify the endangered fish and return them to the river alive. It is recommended that all of the current signs be removed and that smaller signs be posted along the White River to alert anglers that they might catch a Colorado pikeminnow and that it is endangered and should be returned to the river (see item "b" above). This will need to be coordinated with the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District which manages the dam and reservoir and with the Colorado Division of Wildlife.
Responsibility: Debbie Felker
Completion Date: July 2006

Strategies/Dates FY 2006 (continued):

- d. Audubon Property, Grand Junction, Colorado. The Recovery Program restored floodplain wetlands for endangered fish nursery habitat at the Audubon's Lucy Ferril Ela Wildlife Sanctuary along the Colorado River in 2004. In 2005, a custom-designed park bench featuring a silhouette of a Colorado pikeminnow was installed overlooking this area. The Recovery Program agreed to provide an interpretive sign at this site to explain the purpose of the floodplain wetland and will adapt content and illustrations from interpretive signs installed along the Colorado Riverfront Trail in FY 2005. This sign will use the remaining funds held by the Intermountain Natural History Association as part of the Colorado Riverfront Trail Interpretive Project.
Responsibility: Debbie Felker
Completion Date: September 2006

- e. Page, Arizona. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' Wahweap Fish Hatchery is raising bonytail near the city of Page and Lake Powell. The Recovery Program is working with the National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) to establish an interpretive exhibit about the endangered fish at the Carl Hayden Visitor Center at Glen Canyon Dam. The exhibit would include an aquarium to display endangered fish and include interpretive signs with information about recovery of these fishes in the entire Colorado River Basin. This project is to be co-funded by NPS and the Bureau.
Responsibility: Debbie Felker/I&E Committee
Completion Date: August 2006

- f. Dinosaur National Monument, Jensen, Utah. The Recovery Program purchased the aquarium and accompanying supplies to establish an interpretive exhibit in the Quarry Visitor Center at Dinosaur National Monument. Monument staff maintain the aquarium, including the daily care of the endangered fish on display. The Recovery Program has agreed to pay for minor equipment costs needed to maintain this exhibit.
Responsibility: Debbie Felker/Mike Weinstein (Interpreter, Dinosaur NM)
Completion Date: September 2006

FY 2007:

- a. Interpretive Signs at Elkhead Reservoir, Craig, Colorado. The Recovery Program is funding 5,000 acre-feet of a 12,000 acre-foot enlargement of Elkhead Reservoir in northwest Colorado to make water available to augment late-summer flows in the Yampa River. The Colorado River Water Conservation District will fund the remaining 7,000 acre-feet which will help meet future human demands in the Yampa River Basin. The construction is slated for completion in 2007. As part of this project, Colorado State Parks will improve park facilities including restrooms, camping and picnic sites and boat launching ramps. This expansion provides an excellent opportunity for the Recovery Program to tell its story through interpretive exhibits. This would be a cooperative project with the River District and Colorado State Parks and needs to be explored further to determine the exact type and location of interpretive signs to be produced and installed.
Responsibility: Debbie Felker/I&E Committee
Completion Date: September 2007

- b. Interpretive Signs at Visitor Center, Jensen, Utah. The Jensen Visitor Center has high visitation and is the eastern gateway to Dinosaur National Monument and Vernal, Utah. An interpretive message at this location will promote the local Stewart Brothers' human interest story as well as encourage visitation to the Ouray National Fish Hatchery and Dinosaur National Monument Quarry Aquarium. Contact needs to be made with the visitor center to request placing an exhibit at the visitor center.
Responsibility: Debbie Felker/I&E Committee
Completion Date: September 2007

- c. Unaweep Charolais Ranch (Butch Craig property), Whitewater, Colorado. The Bureau of Reclamation acquired this property along the Gunnison River in fee on behalf of the Recovery Program and is in the process of transferring the property to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Recovery Program will retain a perpetual easement for the endangered fishes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will manage the site. A trail along the river is used by hikers and other recreationalists. An interpretive sign placed near the razorback sucker nursery habitat would help raise awareness of recovery efforts. This project will be coordinated with BLM and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
Responsibility: Debbie Felker
Completion Date: September 2007

Strategies/Dates FY 2007 (continued):

- d. Delta, Colorado. As recovery activities expand into the Gunnison River Basin, interpretive exhibits/signs are needed to raise awareness of the endangered fishes and efforts to recover them. This community along the Gunnison River is located at the confluence of the Uncompaghre and Gunnison rivers and could be an ideal site to reach targeted audiences. Evaluation of this site is still necessary to determine appropriate locations and the types of exhibits/signs that would be most effective. Requested funds are for design, fabrication and installation of the interpretive exhibits. Salary and travel expenses related to site evaluation are included in the Program Director's budget.
Responsibility: Debbie Felker/I&E Committee
Completion Date: September 2007
- e. Dinosaur National Monument, Jensen, Utah. The Recovery Program purchased the aquarium and accompanying supplies to establish an interpretive exhibit in the Quarry Visitor Center at Dinosaur National Monument. Monument staff maintain the aquarium, including the daily care of the endangered fish on display. The Recovery Program has agreed to pay for minor equipment costs needed to maintain this exhibit. In addition, the monument will install a park bench with a custom-shaped Colorado pikeminnow back (provided by the Recovery Program) within the monument. A small interpretive sign is needed to place beside the bench to carry through the message of endangered fish recovery. This sign should match others within the monument.
Responsibility: Debbie Felker/Mike Weinstein (Interpreter, Dinosaur NM)
Completion Date: September 2007

IV. Budget:

FY 2006

Project A: Aquarium at Colorado River State Park **\$ 1,200**

150-gallon acrylic aquarium, stand, filters, lights, plants, rocks, and other supplies

Project B: Angler Notification Signs **\$ 825**

12 x 18-inches, aluminum material, qty: 30

Project C: Interpretive signs for Taylor Draw Dam **-0-**

Use some of the signs from Project B to post along the White River, including below Taylor Draw Dam.

Project D: Interpretive sign for Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary **\$ 2,500***

Design/layout and fabricate four-color interpretive sign (36" W X 24" H, exterior grade with UV resistant ink; 1 sign @ \$2,000)
Sign base (24" H X 36" W, low-profile, 30 degree angle; two legs centered, black; 1 @ \$500 each = \$500)
Installation to be provided by Audubon Society

Project E: Aquarium at Carl Hayden Visitor Center **\$ 5,000**
(Bureau of Reclamation)

200-gallon acrylic aquarium, stand, filters, lights, plants, rocks, and other supplies (\$3,000 – purchased by the Bureau of Reclamation)
Design and fabricate four-color, interpretive panels (4' X 3', Stain-resistant material for interior use; 2 @ \$2,500 each = \$5,000)

F. Dinosaur National Monument Aquarium Supplies **\$ 700**

Filters, pumps, gravel, chemicals, and other supplies needed to maintain the aquarium.

TOTAL FY 2006: \$7,725 (-\$2K FWS carried over from FY 05 12L): \$5K goes to BOR; \$725 to FWS.

** Funds are being held by the Intermountain Natural History Association and are not included in the FY 2006 requested budget. This is the final sign to be installed as part of the Colorado Riverfront Trail Interpretive Project.*

FY 2007

Project A: Interpretive Signs at Elkhead Reservoir **\$10,000**

Design and fabricate four, four-color interpretive signs (36" W X 24" H, exterior grade with UV resistant ink; 4 signs @ \$2,000 = \$8,000)
Sign bases (24" H X 36" W, low-profile, 30 degree angle; two legs centered, black; 4 @ \$500 each = \$2,000)
This budget does not include labor for installation. It is hoped that CO State Parks has staff available to install the bases and signs.

Project B: Interpretive Signs at Visitor Center in Jensen, Utah **\$ 1,500**

Design and fabricate one, black and white interpretive sign and one, four-color interpretive sign. (24" wide x 18" h, interior grade; 1 sign @ \$500 and 1 sign @ \$800 = \$1,300); Installation: \$200

Project C: Interpretive Sign at Unaweep Charolais Ranch **\$ 2,500**

Design/layout and fabricate one, four-color interpretive sign (36" W X 24" H, exterior grade with UV resistant ink; 1 sign @ \$2,000)
Sign base (24" H X 36" W, low-profile, 30 degree angle; two legs centered, black; 1 @ \$500 each = \$500)
This budget does not include labor for installation. It is hoped that BLM has staff available to install the base and sign.

Project D: Interpretive Signs in Delta, Colorado **\$ 5,000**

Design and fabricate two, four-color interpretive signs (36" W X 24" H, exterior grade with UV resistant ink; 2 signs @ \$1,500 = \$3,000)
Sign bases (24" H X 36" W, low-profile, 30 degree angle; two legs centered, black; 2 @ \$500 each = \$1,000); Installation: \$500

Project E: Dinosaur National Monument **\$ 2,200**

Filters, pumps, gravel, chemicals, and other supplies needed to maintain the aquarium. (\$700)
Design and fabricate one interpretive sign to be a size and material that will match other signs within the monument. (\$1,500)

TOTAL FY 2007: \$20,000