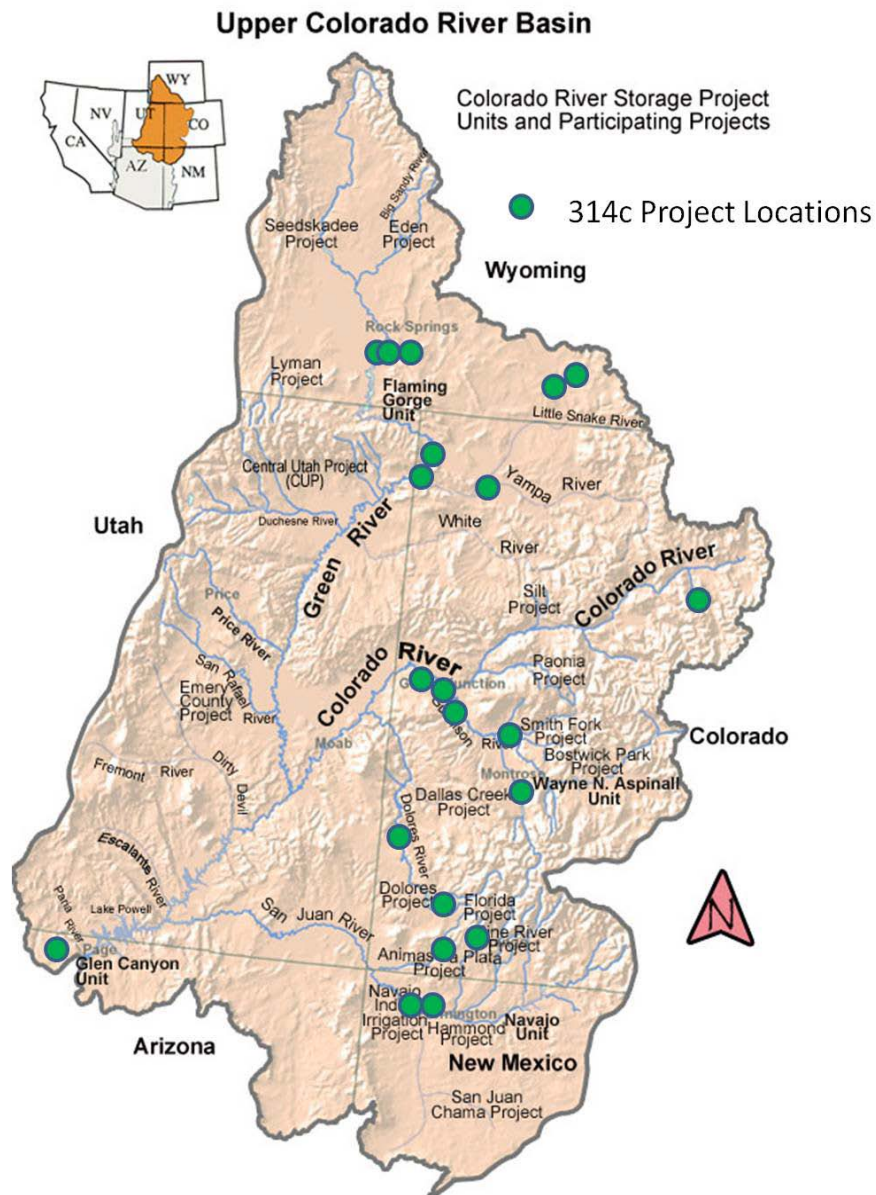


UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE MITIGATION PROGRAM

Fiscal Years 2004 - 2009



Prepared by:
Central Utah Project Completion Act Office
Provo, Utah

A program funded by Section 314(c) of the Central Utah
Project Completion Act – P.L. 102-575



DECEMBER 2010

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents accomplishments of the Upper Colorado River Basin Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Program (Program) authorized by Section 314(c) of the Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA) (P.L. 102-575) for Federal Fiscal Years 2004 through 2009. This is the third Program report; earlier reports, dated May 2002, and December 2005, have summarized the first 10 years of the Program activities (1994 – 2003) and are available upon request at the address below or at the Program website www.cupcao.gov.

The purpose of the Program is to benefit fish and wildlife resources adversely affected by the construction and operation of Federal water resource developments authorized by the Colorado River Storage Project Act of 1956 (P.L. 84-485). This report documents progress toward achieving fish and wildlife habitat improvements in accordance with the goals and criteria established by CUPCA.

Pursuant to Section 314(c) of CUPCA, the Program receives 3% of funds appropriated to the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Commission), a Federal Commission also created by CUPCA to implement the mitigation obligations of the Central Utah Project in Utah.

For the period under review, the Program expended \$927,310 to complete 22 projects in four states of the upper Colorado River basin. Federal and local agencies, universities, Indian tribes, and private groups have been funded for projects that comply with Program criteria established by the enabling legislation.

A summary of expenditures by state indicates that Colorado (14 projects) received 45.5 percent of Program funds; Arizona (1 project) received 8.7 percent; Wyoming (5 projects) received 39.5 percent, and New Mexico (2 projects) received 6.2 percent of Program funding for the reporting period. No applications were received from Nevada. Utah is not eligible to receive funding under the Program.

Funding expended by environmental resource category was: Wetland/Riparian 33 percent; Non-game Wildlife/Endangered Species 11 percent; Aquatics 24 percent; Migratory Birds/Waterfowl 32 percent.

Program information, including applications, evaluation criteria, and additional copies of this report, is available by contacting:

Program Director
Central Utah Project Completion Act Office
302 East 1860 South
Provo, Utah 84606
(801) 379-1237

Or visit the Central Utah Project Completion Office website at www.cupcao.gov.

Program information can also be found in the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance (www.cfda.gov, Catalogue Code 15.535).

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS – 2004 THROUGH 2009

- Total Program appropriations were \$908,000 during the reporting period. This represented a substantial reduction in appropriations, compared to prior years, due to reduced appropriations to the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission starting in 2006. See Table 1.
- Total Program expenditures for the reporting period were \$927,310 (rounded). Expenditures exceeded appropriations due to the carry-over of unexpended funds from prior years.
- Through 2009, \$3,929,500 has been appropriated for Program activities, of which \$3,927,177 or 99.9 percent, has been expended. See Table 1.
- Fewer projects were completed (22 projects) over a longer reporting period (6 years) than previously. Again, this reflects reduced appropriations to the Program during this reporting period. See Appendix C for details on projects completed in this report period.
- Program focus continued on riparian habitat restoration and enhancement projects with very successful projects at Orchard Mesa near Grand Junction, Colorado, and on Navajo Nation lands near Fruitland, New Mexico. The Program participated in its first two grazing allotment buyout projects in Wyoming. These grants assisted in the retirement of existing grazing leases that benefited a wide range of fish and wildlife habitat values over a large area, typically on National Forest System lands.
- In 2009, the Program received an additional appropriation under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5; the “Stimulus Bill”). These funds were obligated entirely to complete the remediation of design problems that hampered effective operation of the Killdeer Wetlands in Green River, Wyoming, an important waterfowl/wetland enhancement and public recreation feature.
- The Program continued its support for projects combating non-native invasive species, particularly the tamarisk (*Tamarisk ramocissima*) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) (plants). Control of invasive species is an emerging priority concern for many western state resource agencies. The development of a “Best Practices Manual” to assist land managers in revegetation of riparian areas after removal of invasive tamarisk represents an important Program accomplishment. Reestablishment of native vegetation is likely to help prevent the reinvasion of non-native species, particularly tamarisk.

INTRODUCTION

This report provides details on the funding and accomplishments of the Upper Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Program (Program) for the period 2004 – 2009.

The Program was authorized by Congress in 1992 as Section 314(c) of the Central Utah Project Completion Act, Public Law 102-575 (CUPCA). Under this program, a portion of funds allocated for completion of the Central Utah Project is directed to fish and wildlife mitigation/enhancement projects in the other upper Colorado River basin states **outside of Utah**.¹ The intent of the Program is to offset the adverse environmental effects of construction and operation of Federal Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP)² facilities, particularly in the areas of fish and wildlife habitat conservation and public recreation. The Program supplements historic mitigation efforts that have been implemented by the Bureau of Reclamation to address unforeseen circumstances and otherwise benefit wildlife habitat and associated public benefits in the Upper Colorado River basin.

The Central Utah Project Completion Act Office (CUPCAO) of the Department of the Interior, Provo, Utah, operates the Program and administers all funds. The CUPCAO solicits project proposals in September of each year from state and federal agencies, local wildlife improvement organizations, and the public at large. With the assistance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Salt Lake City, Utah, Field Office), proposals are ranked in accordance with the program criteria established by CUPCA (see below) and award decisions are announced in December. The Fish and Wildlife Service reviews and advises on mitigation proposals from the perspective of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661 *et seq.*). As needed, selected proposals are coordinated with other offices of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and others to ensure consistency with Federal water project mitigation objectives. Administrative files on all projects are maintained in the CUPCAO.

Continual efforts are made to expand the target audience of possible grant recipients. The Program is highlighted on the CUPCAO website at www.cupcao.gov and is in the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance (www.cfda.gov) at program code 15.535.

¹ Per Section 314c of CUPCA, Utah, an upper Colorado River basin state, is excluded from the Program. The Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, a Federal Commission created by Title III of CUPCA, receives separate funding for environmental mitigation measures necessary to offset environmental impacts of the Central Utah Project and other Federal reclamation projects in Utah.

² The Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) was authorized by the Act of April 11, 1956 (70 Stat. 105, Ch. 203; 43 USC 620 *et seq.*; P.L. 84-485). The CRSP consists of four main storage reservoirs on the Colorado River and its tributaries upstream from Lee's Ferry, Arizona, plus a number of "participating projects" constructed at various locations in the Upper Colorado River Basin. The purpose of CRSP is comprehensive development of the water resources of the Upper Colorado River Basin for irrigation, river regulation, hydropower generation, and flood control. The Central Utah Project is the largest participating project in the CRSP.

PROGRAM PURPOSES AND PROJECT CRITERIA

Section 314 of CUPCA established the standards used to evaluate and select proposals for funding. Consistent with CUPCA, the Department has focused the Program on those ecosystems in the upper Colorado River basin that have substantial potential for producing fish, wildlife and recreation benefits.

Program Eligibility

All Federal, state and local government agencies, as well as private groups and individuals are eligible to receive funding under the Program. Typically, recipients have been Federal or state natural resource agencies (state fish and game agencies), and private non-profit groups such as The Nature Conservancy. Criteria for evaluating proposals and ranking applications for funding have been further developed by CUPCAO consistent with the legislative guidance for the Program. These criteria are provided in all program announcements and request for proposals. These criteria may be revised from time to time by CUPCAO. See Appendix D for the current criteria.

Public lands and waters receive priority consideration for Program expenditures. However, opportunities to implement projects with private entities or Indian tribes willing to offer public benefits, such as public access for recreation and education, are also considered.

Projects and associated funding are approved by the CUPCA Program Director following evaluation and recommendations by staff. CUPCAO monitors progress on all projects, tracks funds and performs all administrative functions of the Program with the assistance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Financial Management Division, Upper Colorado Region, Bureau of Reclamation.

Mitigation Objectives

Program funds are expended in a manner that will result in the greatest positive impact for fish and wildlife and their habitats, as well as improve public access to, and use and enjoyment of these resources. Generally, the Program has continued its priorities on restoration and enhancement of riparian and aquatic (wetland) habitats and dependent fish and wildlife species during 2004 - 2009. Riparian areas offer important habitats for both resident and migratory species of wildlife. The

Legislative Criteria at Sections 314(d) and (e) of CUPCA

- (1) restore damaged natural ecosystems on public lands and waterways affected by the Federal Reclamation program;*
- (2) acquire, from willing sellers only, other lands and properties, including water rights, or appropriate interests therein, with restorable damaged natural ecosystems, and restore such ecosystems;*
- (3) provide jobs and sustainable economic development in a manner that carries out the other purposes of this subsection;*
- (4) provide expanded recreational opportunities; and*
- (5) support and encourage research, training, and education in methods and technologies of ecosystem restoration.*

In implementing the program, priority is accorded to proposals that will:

- (1) reconstitute natural biological diversity that has been diminished;*
- (2) assist the recovery of species populations, communities, and ecosystems that are unable to survive on-site without intervention;*
- (3) allow reintroduction and reoccupation by native flora and fauna;*
- (4) control or eliminate exotic flora and fauna that are damaging natural ecosystems;*
- (5) restore natural habitat for the recruitment and survival of fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife;*
- (6) provide additional conservation values to state and local government lands;*
- (7) add to structural and compositional values of existing ecological preserves or enhance the viability, defensibility, and manageability of ecological preserves; and*
- (8) restore natural hydrological effects including sediment and erosion control, drainage, percolation, and other water quality improvement capacity.*

construction and operation of many CRSP projects has inundated and fragmented riparian communities (including wetlands). As a result, associated wildlife species and habitats have declined in distribution, abundance and vigor.

A continued focus of the Program has been the control of invasive or exotic (i.e., non-native) fish, wildlife or plant species. The invasion of non-native species has harmed native plants, wildlife and ecosystems as well as commercial, agricultural, or recreational activities dependent on these ecosystems. Humans have assisted with this invasion, sometimes intentionally. Many Federal Endangered and Threatened Species have been listed as a result of harmful interactions with non-native competitors and predators.

Program attention to invasive species has been focused on control of the tamarisk (*Tamarisk ramocissima*) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) plants, both deliberately introduced from Asia in the late 19th century. Both were widely planted in the western USA as windbreaks, for erosion control, and as desirable ornamentals. Tamarisk now covers over 1.6 million acres in all 17 western states where it displaces native vegetation and degrades otherwise valuable wildlife habitats, particularly in riparian areas. Where natural hydrology has already been modified (such as downstream of CRSP dams and reservoirs), tamarisk and Russian olive have succeeded in altering entire riparian ecosystems over many river miles and thousands of acres. These impacts were undoubtedly unforeseen at the time of project planning and construction.

Western land managers are seeking funds and technical support to begin campaigns to suppress, if not eradicate, tamarisk and Russian olive. The Program has supported several new projects that utilize working partnerships with local entities to implement on-the-ground projects while making the most efficient use of limited funds. The Program favors projects that address the primary factors that support the establishment and maintenance of tamarisk/Russian olive, and offer some hope to prevent reinvasion. Projects that physically remove tamarisk standing crop (including root stock), restore natural hydrology, replant native riparian species, and provide monitoring and remedial action are more likely to succeed, at least on a local scale. The most successful tamarisk control projects have all been characterized by these elements.

Conversely, herbicide applications for tamarisk/Russian olive control are expensive, often kill surrounding native plants, and generally are not effective over the long term, when used alone. Moreover, they often pose health risks to humans. The Program has not supported projects that propose herbicides for tamarisk control without addressing other existing physical/biological processes that support tamarisk invasion.

FUNDING

Under CUPCA, the Department of the Interior was authorized \$4.35 million (1992 dollars) over the life of the Program. The remaining ceiling amounts are increased by an index amount to maintain purchasing power. See below. When this ceiling amount has been expended the Program will end, absent further Congressional action to extend its authority.

The Program receives 3 percent of Federal funds appropriated to the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Commission), an independent Federal Commission created by CUPCA (Title III) to plan, fund and implement mitigation and conservation projects associated with the Central Utah Project, and other Federal reclamation projects in Utah. Appropriations were first made available for

the Program in 1994. Because Program funding is proportional to Commission appropriations, actual funding will depend on the amount that Congress appropriates to the Commission on an annual basis. Since 2006, Mitigation Commission appropriations, and hence Program funds, have been markedly reduced.

All expenditures directly support mitigation and conservation projects. The CUPCAO takes no Program funds for administrative operations or overhead. Program operating costs are covered by other appropriations received by the CUPCAO.

All appropriations are available until expended. Thus unspent funds carry over into subsequent fiscal years and continue to be available to recipients or may be de-obligated from completed projects and made available to new recipients. This improves the effectiveness of the Program by eliminating pressures to expend funds by arbitrary deadlines. Such pressures can encourage wasteful spending on low priority actions.

**Table 1
Program Appropriations and Expenditures 2004 - 2009**

Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Expenditures* (Rounded)	Cumulative Expenditures (Rounded)
2004	\$ 239,000	\$ 282,630	
2005	313,000	227,180	\$ 502,810
2006	14,000	79,900	582,710
2007	24,000	20,000	602,710
2008	24,000	12,000	614,710
2009	294,000	306,000	927,310
Sub-total	\$ 908,000	\$ 927,310	
1994–2003**	\$ 3,021,500		\$ 2,999,867
Totals	\$ 3,929,500		\$ 3,927,177

*Expenditures which exceed appropriations include unexpended funds from prior years

**From December 2005 report.

Through 2009, \$3,929,500 has been appropriated for Program activities, of which \$3,927,177 or 99.9 percent has been expended.

Each year, funds remaining under the authorization ceiling are adjusted (i.e., increased) for inflation in accordance with a cost index specified in CUPCA.³ This helps to preserve the buying power of the original authorization and effectively extends the life of the Program. Based on the funds that remain authorized under Title III, (which reflect the index adjustments since 1992) the Program expects to receive approximately \$2.261 million in additional funds before operations will end.⁴

³ CUPCA Sec. 201(a)1 - Bureau of Reclamation Construction Cost Index—Composite, October index

⁴ Title III Ceiling Table, Oct. 1, 2010. Prepared by CUPCA Office, Provo, Utah

Applications from potential Program recipients typically exceed available funding each year. All applications are prioritized in accordance with legislative criteria (see above) and attempts are made to allocate all funds available each fiscal year.

For information purposes, Table 2 displays the funds status for 2010 and will be updated as projects initiated in those years are completed and final expenditure data become available.

**Table 2
Program Expenditures for Projects Still in Progress**

Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Expenditure	Cumulative Appropriations*	Cumulative Expenditures*	Percent
2010	\$37,000	\$22,000	\$3,966,500	3,949,177	99.5

* All years (1994 – 2010)

An overall accounting of funds for all years (1994 – 2010) shows total CUPCA Title III appropriations of \$121,168,090, with appropriations available under Section 314c totaling \$3,966,500.⁴

Cost-Sharing

While recipient cost-sharing is not a requirement, the Program attempts to maximize available funds by giving priority to cost-share partnerships. Cost-sharing improves program performance by increasing the “investment” of recipients in the success of a project. Cost-sharing can be a contribution of funds, in-kind staff time, project materials, or equipment. Generally, it is expected that project sponsors will assume the responsibility to operate and maintain projects after construction to insure continuing benefits.

The level of cost sharing by recipients was particularly noteworthy during this reporting period. The Program estimates it has benefited from \$1.39 million in additional cost-share contributions from project sponsors, nearly doubling Program benefits. This estimate is conservative and probably does not reflect the full value of recipient contributions to planning and implementation of projects. See Appendix A.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Twenty-two (22) mitigation/enhancement projects were completed during 2004 -2009. See Appendix C for a complete description of projects.

A total of \$908,000 was appropriated to the Program during 2004 – 2009, 6 years of Program operations. This compares to \$1.497 million of appropriations for 5 years (1999 – 2003) and \$1.524 million of appropriations for the first 4 years of operations (1994 – 1998)⁵. Total expenditures (2004 - 2009) were \$927,310 or 102 percent of appropriations for the report period. See Table 1. (Total expenditures include carry over funds remaining from prior fiscal years. See **Funding** discussion above.)

⁵ See Program reports for FY 1994-1998 (May 2002) and FY 1999-2003 (December 2005).

Table 3 shows the number of projects and expenditures by state in the Upper Colorado River basin eligible to receive funds under the Program.

Table 3
Completed Projects and Expenditures by State
2004 - 2009

State	Number of Projects	Expenditures*	Percent
Colorado	14	\$ 422,650	45.5
Wyoming	5	367,000	39.5
New Mexico	2	57,660	6.3
Arizona	1	80,000	8.7
Totals	22	\$ 927,310	100

* Rounded

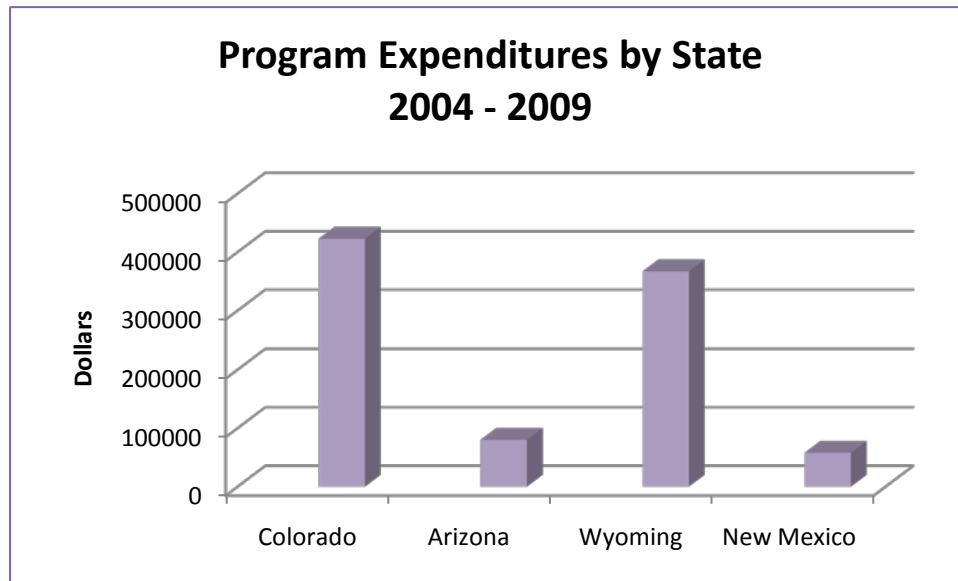


Figure I. Expenditures by State 2004-2009

While more projects were located in Colorado (Table 3), total funding was about evenly divided between Colorado and Wyoming (Figure 1). This was due to a single large project in Wyoming, the Killdeer Wetlands remediation completed in 2009 under American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. (See Table 3 and Figure 1). It is also noteworthy that Colorado, among the upper Colorado River basin states, has the largest number of CRSPA projects and, arguably, the greatest need for remedial fish and wildlife mitigation. Nevertheless, the Program intends a more aggressive marketing effort in the other upper basin states in the years ahead.

Projects

To address mitigation objectives, the Program has funded projects in four broad categories: aquatics, wetlands and riparian habitat, migratory birds/waterfowl, and non-game including endangered species conservation. Table 4 and Figure 2 depict the distribution of expenditures among these categories in the states.

Table 4
Project Expenditures Summary
2004 - 2009

Project Category	Wyoming	Colorado	Arizona	New Mexico	Totals	Percent
Aquatics	\$ 65,000	\$ 148,700			\$213,700	24
Wetlands/Riparian		251,850		\$ 57,660	309,510	33
Migratory Birds/Waterfowl	302,000				302,000	32
Non-Game/Endangered Species		22,100	\$ 80,000		102,100	11
Totals	\$367,000	\$422,650	\$80,000	\$57,660	\$927,310	

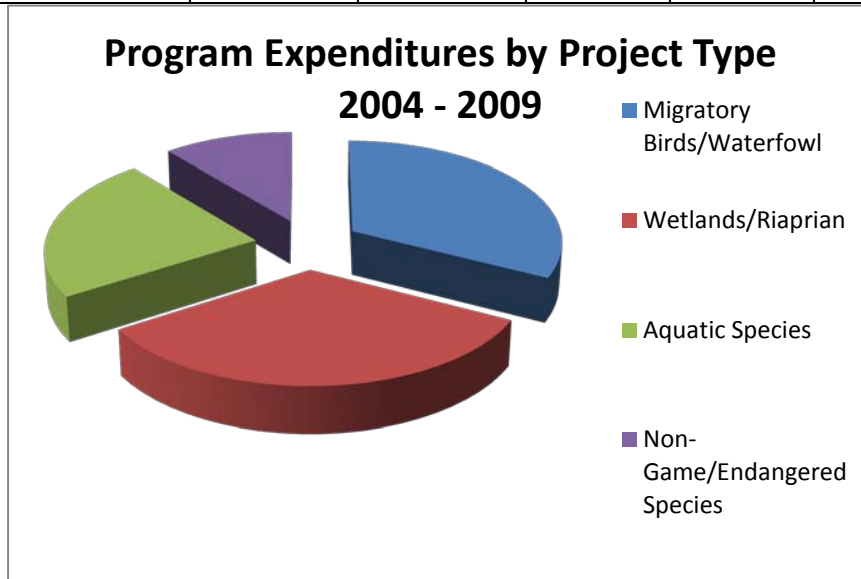


Figure 2. Expenditures by Project Category 2004 - 2009

The majority of the Program funds have been spent on wetlands and riparian habitat mitigation and waterfowl habitat enhancement (65 percent) during this reporting period. Solicitation materials have emphasized priority in these areas (Appendix D) because of disparate CRSP impacts on these fish and wildlife habitat types as documented by reports prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

The Program seeks to fund, primarily, projects yielding direct resource benefits to fish and wildlife and associated habitats. However, research proposals that address important fish and wildlife management

problems or that offer to improve knowledge of ecosystem restoration are also considered. To conserve funds, the Program has limited its research support to projects that can be categorized as “applied research” as opposed to “pure research.” Applied research projects explore or test principles that can be immediately implemented to benefit fish and wildlife populations and habitats.

Overall, the Program has completed 79 mitigation projects in the course of 16 years of operations. An additional six projects were cancelled after initiation primarily at the request of the recipient.

OUTREACH

Special outreach efforts to the upper Colorado River basin state fish and game agencies are a routine part of the Program advertisements. Some states have designated agency coordinators who interact regularly with the Program staff. These interagency communications ensure that state agency mitigation goals and objectives are effectively represented in the Program.

In addition to state agency contacts, efforts are made to ensure the widest possible distribution of the Program application materials. An extensive mailing list of potential recipients is maintained in an attempt to provide all interested parties with information about the Program and to distribute annual solicitation materials. Non-governmental organizations such as environmental and outdoor interest groups, land trusts, and fishing/hunting groups make up a substantial portion of the mail list. Appendix D includes the solicitation materials and Program Requirements used (typically) during the 2004 – 2009 reporting period.

The Program mailing list maintained by the CUPCAO and is revised continually. Prospective recipients are invited to contact the CUPCAO at the address indicated in the Executive Summary to request inclusion on the mailing list. The Program announcement and application materials are also available on the CUPCAO website at www.cupcao.gov. The Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance (www.cfda.gov) contains Program and application procedures and information at Code 15.535.

Appendix A

Summary Table of Completed Projects

Appendix A
Completed Projects 2004 - 2009

Project Name	Sponsor	Cost (Rounded)	Cost-Share (Est.)
2004			
Upper Curry, N. Fk. Gunnison River Riparian Restoration	PR	\$ 10,000	
Uncompaghre River Restoration II	Local	20,000	\$ 40,000
APS Wetlands Modifications	BOR	26,430	
San Miguel R. Tamarisk Removal II	PR	60,000	450,000
Achi-hanyo Ponds II	FWS	80,000	50,000
SWWF Sonogram Research	PR	22,100	
CRCT/Brook Trout Interactions Res.	CSU	63,700	
Sub-Total		\$ 282,230	\$ 540,000
2005			
Yampa R. Riparian Survey/Mapping	NPS	\$ 15,000	
Pine River Habitat Restoration	Tribe	85,000	
WY Grazing Allotment Buy-out	PR	50,000	
APS Wtlnds. Monitoring	PR	31,230	\$ 5,000
Animas River Aerial Survey	BOR	9,950	
Tamarisk Bio-Control Nurseries	PR	25,000	
Tamarisk Control - Fluvial Research	USU	11,000	
Sub-Total		\$ 227,180	\$ 5,000
2006			
Orchard Mesa Riparian Restoration	BOR	\$ 39,800	\$ 28,700
Handbook for Post -Tamarisk Riparian Revegetation	PR	40,100	
Sub-Total		\$ 79,900	\$ 28,700
2007			
Tamarisk Removal – Dinosaur N.M.	NPS	\$ 5,000	\$ 15,000
Triple Peak Grazing Buy-out	PR	15,000	
Sub-Total		\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000
2008			
Killdeer Wtlnds Re-design I	PR	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,000
Sub-Total		\$ 12,000	\$ 10,000
2009			
Killdeer Wtlnds. Re-design II	PR	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
Killdeer Wtlnds. Construction (ARRA)	PR	270,000	380,000
Truelson Conservation Easement	PR	16,000	400,000
Sub-Total		\$ 306,000	\$790,000
TOTAL		\$ 927,310	\$1,393,700

Acronyms

BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Local	Local Government (County, City)
NPS	National Park Service
PR	Private Entity
Tribe	Indian Tribe
USU	Utah State University
CSU	Colorado State University

Appendix B

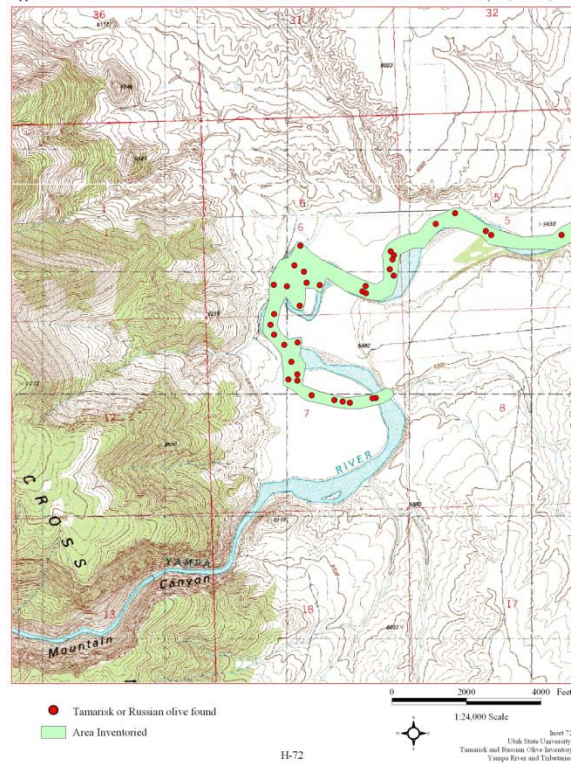
Selected Project Highlights

Appendix B Selected Project Highlights Fiscal Years 2004 – 2009

Yampa River Riparian Survey – Colorado



Appendix H. Distribution of Tamarisk and Russian olive in Inventoried Areas - Cross Mountain Canyon (Inset 72)





Using GPS (geographic positioning system) technology, field crews inventoried over 18,800 acres of public and private lands along the Yampa River for the presence of invasive tamarisk and Russian olive plant species. Maps prepared on USGS 7.5 minute scale delineate areas surveyed and significant concentrations of invasive species. Results indicate that these invasive species infested a total of 476 acres within the mapped area or 2% of the lands inventoried. Tamarisk comprised 57% of the total acres infested and Russian olive made up the remaining 43% of the infested area. These data are necessary to the planning and evaluation of successful weed control programs. Prioritization of areas to control is vital especially within limited agency budgets.

Pine River Habitat Restoration - Colorado



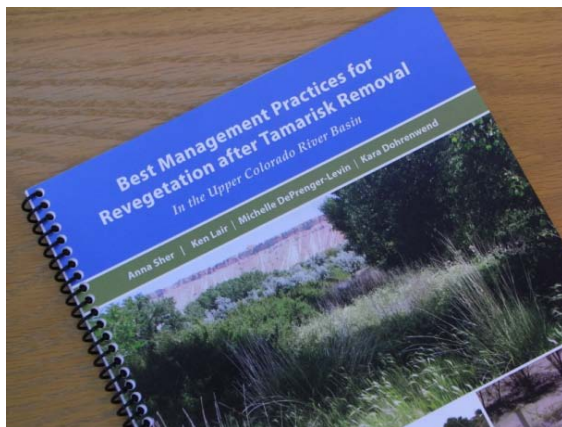
The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) completed aquatic habitat improvements on a 1-mile reach of the Pine River on tribal trust lands near Ignacio, Colorado. The project involved construction of 18 rock V-notch weirs and “barbs” in the river, bank stabilization, and debris removal. Aquatic habitats were enhanced by the work to improve public fishing opportunities.

Orchard Mesa Riparian Restoration – Colorado



Approximately 25 acres of invasive, non-native tamarisk were replaced by native riparian plant species at the Orchard Mesa Wildlife Area, on the Colorado River upstream from Grand Junction, Colorado. The photos show mainly replanted cottonwood trees. This work enhances the wildlife habitat value of the property as mitigation for impacts of Federal water resources developments in the Grand Valley area. The property is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation which will provide future protection, monitoring and management of the area.

Handbook for Post-tamarisk Re-vegetation – Upper Colorado River Basin



Denver University and the Denver Botanic Gardens prepared a “how-to” manual to assist landowners and land managers with post-tamarisk re-vegetation of native riparian habitats in the Upper Colorado River basin. Appendices and worksheets will help managers plan and assess the extent and costs of restoration efforts. Links to other sites on the internet expand the scope of the manual by leading readers to other useful information. Long-term success with tamarisk control is best supported by restoration of (desirable) competing ground cover. The Upper

Colorado River basin has unique challenges of soil types, water quality, hydrology, and competing vegetation. It is hoped that the manual will increase the number and success of projects implemented to eradicate non-native, invasive tamarisk in riparian environments in the upper river basin.

Killdeer Wetlands – Wyoming



Gary Wolfe, President of the Green River Greenbelt Task Force, stands on the diversion gate structure at the newly completed dam across the Green River in Green River, WY. Killdeer Wetlands was one of the first projects supported with Program funds in 1995. The project developed about 44 acres of open water wetlands by diverting Green River flows to benefit waterfowl along the Green River. The wetlands were to be integrated into a public greenbelt recreation concept with adjacent trails and open space. However, problems with the original design eventually prevented water deliveries to the wetlands, which rapidly deteriorated. A new feasibility plan indicated that a low-head dam across the Green River and a relocated and redesigned intake and delivery canal would improve wetland functions. With funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Stimulus Bill), construction was able to proceed on the dam across the Green River. The design also provides for fish passage through the center of the structure. The project delivers on the fish and wildlife habitat improvements promised and is now a valuable civic asset to the town of Green River, Wyoming.

Conservation Easement – Colorado



The Montezuma Land Conservancy secured a conservation easement on 80 acres of private land (Truelson family) along the Dolores River as part of their Mancos and Dolores River Riparian Project which seeks to conserve significant reaches of riparian, wetland, and associated upland habitat in southwestern Colorado. MLC matched Federal funds with Greater Outdoor Colorado state (lottery) funds and completed all realty work necessary to secure the easement. MLC will also monitor the easement for compliance. Such easements allow private owners to keep their property in times of rising land values and increasing demands for private development. These private lands are important links to conserving large blocks of contiguous riparian and aquatic habitat along Colorado's rivers.

Appendix C

Project Narratives

**Appendix C
Project Narratives
Fiscal Years 2004 - 2009**

2004 Completed Projects

**Upper Curry Riparian Restoration,
North Fork Gunnison River 04-FG-CU-PR020 Private \$10,000**

The North Fork River Improvement Association prepared designs and specifications for channel reconstruction and floodplain grading to enhance riparian habitat on the North Fork Gunnison River. Up to 2000 feet of channel alignment and rehabilitation of adjacent riparian areas is planned. In-stream habitat structures, silt fences, log debris and cottonwood plantings will be included. Fencing will manage livestock access to the area.

Uncompahgre River Restoration II 04-FC-CU-PR030 Town of Ridgway \$20,000

Supplemental funding has allowed the Town of Ridgway, CO to complete its plans for restoration, begun under a 2001 project (01-FCCU-CY010), of 27 acres of contiguous aquatic, riparian and floodplain areas providing habitat for riparian birds, including migratory waterfowl. Aquatic habitats in the Uncompahgre River are improved for trout species. The area also represents a civic improvement in the heart of the town for public use and enjoyment.

APS Wetlands Modifications USBR 04-AA-CU-BR010 \$26,430

BOR fabricated and installed a trash rack on the inlet end of one culvert and removed invasive tamarisk and Russian olive trees on this wetland restoration completed under Section 314c ca. 2002. These tasks corrected operational problems that became apparent since completion of original construction. Russian olive removal opened a large area of wetlands that should be quickly invaded by native willows.

San Miguel River Tamarisk Removal – Phase II TNC 03-FC-CU-PR010 \$45,000

Supplemental funding to The Nature Conservancy allowed them to complete their work with private and public landowners along the San Miguel River, Montrose County, Colorado, to remove invasive tamarisk. Management agreements with landowners allowed the removal and committed landowners to maintain their properties along the river free of tamarisk. The effort was an exercise in private partnerships for improved invasive weed species control.

Achi-hanyo Pond Operations II FWS 03-AA-CU-FW010 \$80,000

In partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operations were continued at the Achi-hanyo Ponds, Parker, AZ to rear endangered Colorado River fishes for release into the lower Colorado River basin. FWS provided personnel, supervision and operating costs while the Program provided a major portion of salary costs. This facility should remain in operation indefinitely with FWS assuming full costs of operations.

SWWF Sonogram Research PR \$22,100

An attempt to correlate sonograms of the songs of the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher (SWWF) with apparent sub-species strongly suggested that the SWWF in southeastern Colorado is the non-listed subspecies and not the endangered species.

Colorado River Cutthroat Trout/Brook Trout Interactions CSU \$63,700

In a final increment of research on the interactions of native cutthroat and introduced brook trout, significant competitive interactions were confirmed that suggest that brook trout can and do outcompete native trout for food, shelter, spawning habitat and the more favorable stream habitat. This research has significant management implications for fisheries managers in Colorado.

2005 Completed Projects

Yampa River Riparian Invasive Species Mapping NPS 05-AA-CU-NP010 \$15,000

Inventory and mapping of invasive tamarisk (*Tamarix spp.*) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) were completed along five major tributaries and selected main stem reaches of the Yampa River in Moffat and Routt Counties in northwest Colorado. Nearly 18,850 acres of riparian community were surveyed, inventoried and mapped. Data were compiled with 4,350 acres of additional mapping on the Yampa River downstream, within Dinosaur National Monument. A total of 476 acres was infested with tamarisk and Russian olive within the mapped areas, or 2.05% of the lands inventoried. Tamarisk was 57% of the total area infested; Russian olive 43%. Tamarisk was widespread along the Yampa River and its tributaries. Tributaries Little Snake River, Sand Wash, Sand Creek and Spring Creek were also heavily infested; other tributaries less so. Tributary infestations tended to be most abundant near their confluences with the Yampa and Little Snake Rivers suggesting that both the Yampa and Little Snake are sources for infestations found elsewhere in the watershed. Detailed maps were prepared showing overall distribution and relative abundance of the two species.

Recommendations include regularly scheduled rotation inventories of all managed lands along the Yampa River as part of routine management. Early detection and rapid responses will be most effective in control. For example, control of isolated new weed infestations at the heads of otherwise non-infested drainages could prevent rapid spread. Partnerships and shared funding will be necessary to address the full scope of the problem and mobilize sufficient resources. Priority reaches are identified. Based on the inventory, efforts will be made to identify significant sources and vectors of tamarisk and Russian olive spread in the watershed. Hopefully, information from this inventory will stimulate further public and private efforts in support of cost-effective and realistic control.

Pine River Fish Habitat Improvement SUIT 05-FC-CU-TR010 \$85,000

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) completed aquatic habitat improvements on a 1-mile reach of the Pine River on tribal trust lands near Ignacio, Colorado. The project involved construction of 18 rock weirs and “barbs” in the river. The structures were designed and constructed to focus river velocities that will maintain scour and provide pools at a range of expected river flows. Aquatic habitats improved and created by these measures include low flow, shallow pools that should improve fish habitat and public fishing opportunities. During construction, cobble was excavated and placed to form point bars. Over time, riparian vegetation should spread to these point bars increasing riparian wildlife habitats along the river. Stabilization of 75 feet of river bank to protect an existing walking trail and removal of junk debris (auto body) from the river was also included in the project. This project improves public use and enjoyment on this reach of the river which includes hiking, fishing and outdoor classroom activities.

WY Grazing Allotment Buy-Out 05-FG-CU-PR010 Trout Unlimited \$50,000

Livestock grazing was retired on the 67,500-acre Wyoming Range Allotment Complex (WRAC) by purchase of grazing rights formally permitted by the National Forest Service. The allotment has been grazed primarily by sheep since the late 1800’s. The area has substantial big game and other wildlife habitat values. Several of the watersheds within the WRAC are important to trout.

APS Wetlands Monitoring Private \$31,230

Three years of monitoring of effectiveness at this Navajo Nation wetland restoration revealed continued survival and growth of wetland vegetation (willow, cottonwood, emergent marsh wetland plants). Water quality on the site improved considerably resulting in improved quality of return flows to the San Juan River. No occurrence of selenium could be detected in return flow waters. Unfortunately, annual monitoring for Southwestern willow flycatcher on this naturalized site did not detect nesting or significant use. Water control structures continued to function and public use did not result in vandalism or waste disposal as heretofore on this property.

Animas River Aerial Survey 05-AA-CU-BR020 BOR \$9,550

Using high technology camera equipment and helicopter assets, the Bureau of Reclamation documented invasive species (primarily tamarisk and Russian olive) distributions along the Animas River from its confluence with the San Juan River to Hermosa Creek, approximately 80 miles. Data are to be shared with other stakeholders, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, State of Colorado, and City of Durango to plan revegetation strategies within the Animal River riparian zone.

05-FC-CU-PR020 Bio-Control Nurseries Tamarisk Coalition \$25,000

This project assisted with monitoring of tamarisk bio-control areas in natural settings in western Colorado. Release of the bio-control agent *Diorhabda elongata* a beetle native to the Middle East and Asia, has been approved by USDA and unconfined release sites were selected in Colorado. Monitoring of the effect of bio-control on other natural parameters are an important step in evaluating the overall impacts of bio-control. Impacts native plants and migratory bird populations were monitored at two research sites—Echo Park in Dinosaur National Monument, and Horsethief Canyon near Grand Junction, Colorado.

Tamarisk Control – Fluvial Research USU \$11,000

Mature tamarisk locations on fan-eddy complexes with respect to surface geology were mapped in Lore Canyon and the Yampa River in Dinosaur National Monument. An assessment of the fluvial (flowing water) processes that influence the establishment and maintenance of tamarisk might reveal flow management strategies for removal or suppression of this invasive species.

2006 Completed Projects

06-AA-CU-BR010 Orchard Mesa Riparian Restoration BOR \$39,800

Large portions of the 150-acre Orchard Mesa Wildlife Area, on the Colorado River upstream from Grand Junction, were infested with tamarisk and Russian olive. Invasive species have been aided, in part, by intensive river regulation provided by upstream Reclamation projects. The project focused on removal of invasive species and restoration of native riparian forest. Approximately 25 acres of tamarisk were removed with large shredding/mulching equipment and herbicides. An irrigation system was designed and installed to irrigate the new riparian forest. New cut stock and rooted stock of native riparian species were planted over large areas of the OMWA. Reclamation has provided for long term monitoring and management of the area.

Handbook for Post-Tamarisk Re-vegetation 06-FC-CU-PR010 Private \$40,100

Denver University and the Denver Botanical Gardens prepared a manual for post-tamarisk re-vegetation of riparian areas with native plant species in the Upper Colorado River basin. Long-term success with tamarisk control is best supported by restoration of (desirable) competing ground cover. However, guidance necessary to assist land managers in the Upper Colorado River basin with post-tamarisk re-vegetation was lacking. Post tamarisk soil and water conditions are often not conducive to successful re-vegetation by, particularly, native species. With assistance from practitioners experienced in re-vegetation in the Upper Colorado River basin, a user-friendly manual was prepared. The purpose of the manual is to increase the number of projects in the upper basin that are able to achieve long-term success in removal (and preventing subsequent reinvasion) of tamarisk in riparian environments.

2007 Completed Projects

Tamarisk Removal, Dinosaur Nat. Mon. NPS \$5,000

A final increment of Program funding was used to complete clean-out of invasive tamarisk from the river campgrounds in Lodore Canyon, Dinosaur National Monument. Volunteers worked with hand tools to dig up and remove large tamarisk trees which had encroached into the designated camping areas. Invasive tamarisk was rapidly reducing the amount of available camping and perpetuating the existence of this invasive species in the National Monument.

07-FG-CU-PR010 Triple Peak Grazing Allotment Buy-Out TU \$15,000

Grazing allotment permittees have, on a willing seller basis, waived grazing permits back to the US Forest Service on 58,670 acres in the Big Piney and Grey's River Ranger Districts, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Sublette and Lincoln Counties, Wyoming. These allotments have been put into a Forest Reserve (i.e., grass bank) status by the Forest Service with strict language/terms/conditions under which this portion of the allotment complex could again be grazed by livestock. The project ensures long-term sustainable health of vegetative communities improves protection to riparian habitats and facilitates watershed/wildlife habitat treatments. The allotment complex is important spring, summer and fall range for deer, elk and moose and a migration corridor for big game to winter range. The allotment also contains 99 miles of historical Colorado River cutthroat stream habitats. Protection of the watershed is important to long-term sustainability of this native conservation trout species.

2008 Completed Projects

08-FC-CU-PR010 Killdeer Wetlands Re-Design Greenbelt Task Force \$12,000

Continuing program support of Killdeer Wetlands in Green River, WY, additional funds have been allocated to correct the design deficiencies in the original plan. Killdeer Wetlands was one of the first projects supported with Program funds in 1995 (5-FC-CU-WG040) and successfully developed about 44 acres of open water wetlands benefitting waterfowl in western Wyoming adjacent to the Green River. The wetlands were integrated into a public greenbelt recreation concept in Green River with adjacent trails and open space in the Scott's Bottom Nature Area and historic Expedition Island. However, flaws in the original design combined with river elevation changes, and sedimentation eventually prevented water deliveries to the wetlands which rapidly deteriorated. Fish kills in the wetlands, high salt content, noxious odor and other problems all discouraged public use of the area. A new feasibility plan was commissioned by the Greenbelt Task Force that calls for construction of a dike across the Green River to increase diversions and a relocated and redesigned intake structure.

2009 Completed Projects

Killdeer Wetlands Re-Design II 09-FG-CU-GR010 Greenbelt Task Force \$20,000

The Killdeer Wetlands (5-FC-CU-WG040 (1995) in Green River, Wyoming, have not functioned as designed. A new feasibility study (08-FC-CU-PR010 (1998) and engineering design suggests that a new in-river dam and diversion structure will resolve flow and water supply problems that have impaired the functioning of the wetlands. This grant allowed the Green River Greenbelt Task to contract for surveying, final design and wetland planning services to move toward a solution on these issues.

**Killdeer Wetlands Reconstruction ARRA09-FC-CU-PR010
Greenbelt Task Force \$270,000**

With completion of all feasibility, design and environmental compliance, the Greenbelt Task Force entered into effective fund raising to cover the costs of about \$650,000 needed to correct the problems with the Killdeer wetlands operations. With assistance provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 (P.L. 111-5), via the 314c program, a low dam was constructed across the Green River in the town of Green River, WY, to lift flows and divert them into a new channel feeding the adjacent Killdeer Wetlands. Increased flows will maintain year-round water in the wetlands and improve water quality and waterfowl habitat conditions in the ponds.

**Truelson Conservation Easement 09-FG-CU-PR010
Montezuma Land Conservancy \$16,000**

A perpetual conservation easement was acquired on 80 acres along 0.38 miles of the Dolores River as part of Phase II of the Mancos and Dolores River Riparian Project. The easement adds to an existing 200 acre easement on adjacent property. The Mancos and Dolores River Riparian Project seeks to conserve significant reaches of riparian, wetland, and associated upland habitat in southwestern Colorado. In Phase I, 13 perpetual easements protected 2,644 acres and 11.78 miles of the Mancos and Dolores Rivers and tributaries. Phase II will add 665 acres along 2.25 miles by executing at least 3 new conservations. Together the goal is to protect 3,309 acres along 14 river miles in about 16 separate conservation easements. These private lands are important links in conserving riparian and aquatic habitats in the river valleys.

Appendix D

Ranking Criteria and Program Requirements



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Program Director
CUP Completion Act Office
302 East 1860 South
Provo, Utah 84606-7317

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CA-1300
ADM-13.00

NOV 16 2009

Subject: Upper Colorado River Basin Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Program – Central Utah
Project Completion Act - Section 314(c) Program

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a solicitation for proposals for Federal Fiscal Year 2010 funding under the subject program to provide remedial mitigation of fish, wildlife and recreation resources impacted by Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) activities.

The Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA), enacted in 1992, authorized the Upper Colorado River Basin Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Program (aka "Section 314(c) Program") to fund fish and wildlife mitigation, conservation, and recreation projects in states **outside of Utah** that address resources adversely affected by Federal water projects constructed under the CRSP. Three percent of funds appropriated under Title III of CUPCA are administered by this office to implement the Section 314(c) Program. The program is starting its seventeenth year of operation. To date, we have awarded more than \$3.65 million in grants for fish and wildlife restoration and enhancement projects.

Federal agencies, State agencies, local governments, private groups, and individuals are eligible to apply for grants under this program. We have prepared the attached criteria, based on limitations specified in Section 314(c) of CUPCA, to assist applicants in developing proposals. We will use these criteria to rank proposals for funding. Proposals meeting many of the criteria will receive priority consideration over those that meet fewer of the criteria. While not required, note the criteria give bonus consideration to proposals offering cost-sharing provisions.

These criteria give special emphasis to riparian restoration/enhancement projects. We wish to solicit projects that protect, restore or improve riparian systems, and the native aquatic and terrestrial species upon which they depend, because we believe riparian habitats have been disproportionately impacted by the CRSP.

Please be advised that, due to continued funding reductions, we will be severely limited in our ability to make awards in 2010. Proposals up to about \$20,000, with additional cost sharing, can be most realistically considered. Prior recipients, with successful projects still in progress, will likely receive priority for our limited funds.

To apply, prospective recipients must submit a brief (2-3 pages), but complete, narrative scope of work to this office describing the proposed mitigation/enhancement and how it complies with the criteria. **Please fill out and submit the attached SF-424 identifying all anticipated expenses with your narrative scope of work. Include in-kind services or dollar cost-sharing contributions as "non-federal" or "other" where requested.** The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number for this program is 15.535. Enter this number on the SF-424 where requested.

Research, training, demonstration and education projects may be considered separately for a portion of the available funding. Such projects will be evaluated according to their ability to directly contribute to the goals indicated by the ranking criteria and their applicability to direct habitat improvements.

We will select proposals for funding based on the attached criteria and our judgment as to the merits of the proposal in meeting the objectives of Section 314(c) of the CUPCA. Funding would be provided via a Grant or Cooperative Agreement that will reimburse recipients for expenses incurred.

All proposals must be received at the letterhead address by **Friday, December 11, 2009**. Proposals may be submitted by FAX to 801-379-1209 or by e-mail to "rswanson@usbr.gov". Please include a postal mailing address with all e-mail and FAX submittals to facilitate correspondence.

Please circulate this letter to individuals within your agency or program area that could benefit from the opportunities offered by this fish and wildlife conservation program.

If you have any questions regarding this program, or wish assistance in preparing your proposal, please call Mr. Ralph G. Swanson at 801-379-1254.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reed R. Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Reed" being particularly prominent.

Reed R. Murray
Program Director

Attachments

Section 314(c) Project Proposal Ranking Criteria

I. Eligibility Criteria: (Proposals must meet all these before ranking in II-VI.)

1. Project is outside of Utah;
2. Project is in the CRSP project area OR Project is outside the CRSP area but affected by development of, or water from, a CRSP project. See attached map. (Example: Big Thompson transbasin diversion to the Rio Grande drainage); and
3. Project mitigates adverse impacts on fish, wildlife, plants, or recreation opportunities resulting from a CRSP project(s) and provides direct resource benefits.

II. Stream and Riparian Resources

1. Protects existing habitat
2. Restores hydrology (flow regime and/or quantity)
3. Restores stream geomorphology/stream channel characteristics
4. Restores riparian vegetation/habitat
5. Restores floodplain wetlands/backwater areas/groundwater
6. Adds to values of existing ecological preserves or enhances manageability of such reserves.

III. Native Aquatic Species

1. Restores/protects/conserves species numbers, populations, distribution, or habitat needs
2. Reduces/removes predation or competition from non-natives
3. ~~Connects/restores migration corridors and/or removes/reduces barriers to migration~~

IV. Native Terrestrial Riparian-dependent Wildlife Species

1. Restores/protects/conserves species numbers, populations, distribution, or habitat needs
2. Reduces/removes predation or competition from non-natives

3. Connects/restores migration corridors and/or removes/reduces barriers to migration
-

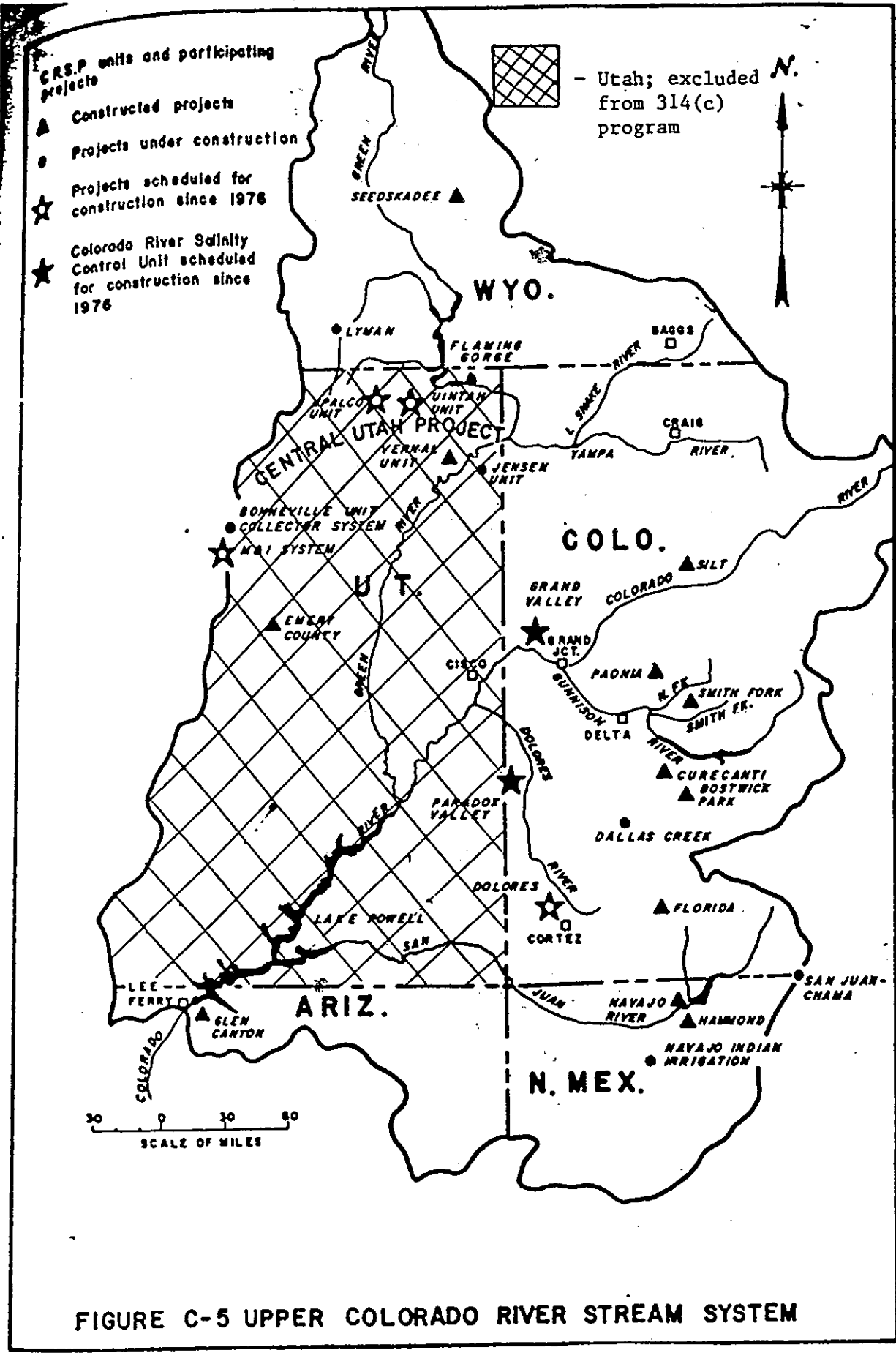
V. Endangered, Threatened Species or Species of Special Concern

1. Promotes recovery of Federally listed species (including implementing Recovery Plan or Conservation Agreement tasks)
2. Conserves/protects species of special concern (state listed/agency listed species of concern).

VI. Bonus Consideration

1. Cost sharing:

Lowest - no cost sharing
 - staff time contributed only
 - hard dollars contributed only
Highest - hard dollars plus staff time contributed



Upper Colorado River Basin Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Program Program Requirements

Purpose: The purpose of the Upper Colorado River Basin Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Program (the Program) is to offset the adverse effects of construction and operation of Federal water resource developments authorized by the Colorado River Storage Project Act of 1956 (CRSPA) (P.L. 84-485) and to otherwise benefit fish, wildlife and recreation resources in the Upper Colorado River basin.¹ The Program supplements the historic CRSPA mitigation and expands previous mitigation efforts to address inadequate mitigation results or unforeseen circumstances.

Authorization: The Program was authorized in Section 314(c) of the Central Utah Project Completion Act of 1992 (CUPCA) (P.L. 102-575).

Funding: The Program receives 3 percent of Federal funds appropriated to the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Commission), an independent Federal Commission also created by CUPCA. These funds are administered by the Department of the Interior to support fish and wildlife mitigation/enhancement projects in the other upper Colorado River basin states.² The CUPCA authorized \$4.35 million (1992 dollars) over the life of the Program. When this ceiling amount has been expended, the Program will end (absent further Congressional action). Because Program funding is proportional to Commission appropriations, actual funding will depend on the amount that Congress appropriates to the Commission annually. Typically, about \$300,000 has been available each year to the Program. Appropriated funds are available until expended. Thus, unexpended funds can be carried over into subsequent fiscal years and remain available to the Program.

Assistance may be awarded to projects that extend beyond one year. However, continued funding for multi-year projects will be contingent upon: 1) Congressional appropriation of funds to the Program, and 2) satisfactory progress under the award by recipients.

Program Criteria: The following criteria have been established for the Program by CUPCA at Sections 314(d) and (e). In order to receive assistance, project proposals must address one or more of the following:

- (1) restore damaged natural ecosystems on public lands and waterways affected by Federal Reclamation projects;

¹ The Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) was authorized by the Act of April 11, 1956 (70 Stat. 105, Ch. 203; 43 USC 620 et seq.; P.L. 84-485). The CRSP consists of four main storage reservoirs on the Colorado River and its tributaries upstream from Lee's Ferry, Arizona, plus a number of "participating projects" constructed on tributary waterways within the Upper Colorado River Basin. The purpose of CRSP is comprehensive development of the water resources of the Upper Colorado River Basin for irrigation, river regulation, hydropower generation, and flood control. The Central Utah Project is the largest "participating project" in the CRSP.

² Per Section 314c of CUPCA, Utah, an upper Colorado River basin state, is excluded from receiving funds under the Program.

- (2) acquire, from willing sellers only, other lands and properties, including water rights, or appropriate interests therein, with restorable damaged natural ecosystems, and restore such ecosystems;
- (3) provide jobs and sustainable economic development in a manner that carries out the other purposes of this subsection;
- (4) provide expanded recreational opportunities, and;
- (5) support and encourage research, training, and education in methods and technologies of ecosystem restoration;

In implementing the Program, priority is accorded to proposals that will:

- (1) reconstitute natural biological diversity that has been diminished;
- (2) assist the recovery of species populations, communities, and ecosystems that are unable to survive on-site without intervention;
- (3) allow reintroduction and reoccupation by native flora and fauna;
- (4) control or eliminate exotic flora and fauna that are damaging natural ecosystems;
- (5) restore natural habitat for the recruitment and survival of fish, waterfowl and other wildlife;
- (6) provide additional conservation values to state and local government lands;
- (7) add structural and compositional values of existing ecological preserves or enhance the viability, defensibility, and manageability of ecological preserves, and;
- (8) restore natural hydrological effects including sediment and erosion control, drainage, percolation, and other water quality improvement capacity.

Program Administration: The Central Utah Project Completion Act Office (CUPCAO) of the Department of the Interior, located in Provo, Utah, operates the Program and administers all funds. Each year (approximately September) CUPCAO solicits proposals to be funded under the Program. Proposals are ranked in accordance with the **Program Criteria**. The amount of available funding also limits the number of projects that can be supported. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviews and advises on mitigation proposals pursuant to their authorities under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661 *et seq.*). Administrative files on all projects are maintained by the CUPCAO.

On rare occasions, opportunities have arisen to address upper basin water project impacts by means of mitigation measures implemented in the lower Colorado River basin. Such projects must show a clear relevance to upper basin mitigation objectives and **Program Criteria**.

Program funds are expended in a manner that will result in the greatest positive impact for fish and wildlife and their habitats, as well as improve public access to, use and enjoyment of these resources. Generally, the Program has focused its priorities on restoration and enhancement wetlands, riparian (streamside) and aquatic habitats, and dependent fish and wildlife species. These are important habitats for both resident and migratory species of wildlife. The construction and operation of many CRSP projects have inundated and fragmented these native habitats. As a result, associated wildlife species and habitats have declined in distribution, abundance and vigor.

Program Eligibility: All Federal, state and local government agencies, non-governmental entities, institutions of higher learning and private individuals are eligible to receive funding under the Program. Public lands and waters receive priority consideration for Program expenditures. However, opportunities to implement projects with private entities willing to offer public benefits, such as public access for recreation and education, are also considered. **By legislative directive in CUPCA, funds may not be expended within the State of Utah. Therefore, Utah recipients are not eligible to participate in this Program.**

Cost-Sharing: The Program has no cost-sharing or matching requirement. However, bonus consideration is given those proposals offering cost-sharing partnerships. Cost-sharing can be a contribution of funds, in-kind staff time, project materials, equipment or other considerations. Generally, it is expected that project sponsors will assume the responsibility to operate and maintain projects after construction to insure continuing benefits.

Program Outreach and Solicitation of Proposals: Efforts are made to ensure the widest possible distribution of the Program application materials. CUPCAO maintains a mailing list of potential recipients in an attempt to provide all interested parties with Program materials. The CUPCAO solicits project proposals under the Program each year by means of a program announcement that outlines application procedures and establishes the deadline for submittals. Prospective recipients are invited to contact the CUPCAO to request Program materials or to be included on the mailing list.

Application Procedures: Prospective recipients submit Standard Form 424, Request for Federal Assistance and the appropriate accompanying forms, together with a brief (3-4 pages) narrative summary of their project proposal to the address herein. Narratives should fully describe the proposal, emphasizing how the proposal addresses one or more of the **Program Criteria**.

Post-Award Requirements: Funding is provided by means of grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Interagency Agreements. Funding agreements are prepared pursuant to applicable Administrative Rules (2 CFR 215 for colleges, universities, and non-profit organizations; or OMB Circular A-102 for state and local governments and Indian tribes). Typically, these agreements are administered in a manner that reimburses approved expenditures incurred by the recipient. Funds are disbursed by electronic funds transfer, however, alternative funding arrangements are available by negotiation with the CUPCAO. The administrative rules define required reporting (progress and financial), forms to be filed, etc.

Program Contacts: Additional Program information may be requested from, and applications submitted to, the Central Utah Project Completion Act Office, 302 East 1860 South, Provo, Utah 84606. Phone contact to 801/379-1237. E-mail inquiries may be addressed to rrmurray@usbr.gov. Technical assistance during the application process is available by contacting CUPCAO.