Guest Editorial

FEDERAL WATER ISSUES

by John Keyes
Commissioner of Bureau of Reclamation

For more than 100 years the Bureau of Reclamation has grown and evolved along with the economic and social needs for water and power in the Western United States. As the water needs of the West have evolved, Reclamation has continuously worked to respond to and meet those needs and challenges. A growing, vital economy in the American West is important to this Nation. We will continue to work for the next 100 years to make sure that the "lifeblood" of Western water flows for generations to come.

As you can tell, I am proud of the work that we in Reclamation do. We have a top-drawer group of people and I believe we're doing a great job. But that doesn't mean that we can't get even better. We're in the process of taking a hard look at ourselves, our organization, and our operations. We're developing some options for how we will do things in the future, and that's the focus of my message - where we've been in the past few years, what we've accomplished, where we're headed, and how we are going to get there.

But first, I want to take a moment to remember a very special person. A few weeks ago Reclamation and the Colorado River lost a friend, Dennis Underwood. Dennis was a former Commissioner for Colorado Water Congress... Continued on page 8

Shell Oil’s New Technology

by James Thurman
Manager Government Affairs – Rocky Mountains / Mid West
Shell Oil Company

For more than 20 years, Shell has conducted laboratory and field research on a promising, In-situ (in-ground) Conversion Process (ICP) to recover oil and gas in an economically viable and environmentally responsible manner. This summer the Colorado Water Congress was able to visit Shell’s research site as part of the Legislative Water Committee Tour. Participants learned that Shell’s ICP technology involves drilling holes and inserting electric heaters to gradually heat the rock over a long period of time. This heating process causes the organic matter (kerogen) trapped in the shale to be released as oil and gas, with the heavy compounds partially converted into lighter end products, where they are then recovered at the surface. The process is more environmentally friendly and efficient than previous oil shale efforts that were based upon mining and retorting. ICP has the potential to recover more of the resource without mining, as it enables access to much deeper and thicker oil shale reserves.

Shell’s next research phase involves an environmental test, which seeks to protect groundwater using a frozen, underground barrier to isolate proposed production areas. The freeze wall, as it is known, involves drilling holes around a given area and installing a closed circuit system of pipes that are filled with a chilled fluid. Circulating the chilled liquid through the pipes cools the ground immediately surrounding the pipes until an underground ice barrier forms around the target area. Water is then pumped out of the isolated zone while ground water flows around the outside of the freeze wall. Freeze walls have long been used in the building of tunnels, building foundations... Continued on page 2

48TH ANNUAL CWC CONVENTION

JANUARY 26 & 27, 2006
DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HOTEL
& JOHN Q. HAMMONS CONVENTION CENTER
in the U.S., Shell believes all domestic fuel sources must be harnessed.

Anyone desiring additional information should direct their questions to:
MahoganyProject@Shell.com
or 1-866-222-8200.
STATUS REPORT:
Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

In January 2006, the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program completes 18 years of operation. The Program was initiated in 1988 to resolve potentially serious conflicts among water development and management activities and protection of endangered fish species under the federal Endangered Species Act. The recovery effort was originally proposed by the Colorado Water Congress Special Project on Threatened and Endangered Species (Pitts, 1985), as a means of resolving these conflicts. The Program has been successful. This article provides an update on several aspects of the Recovery Program:

- Congressional reauthorization of the Recovery Program
- Grand Valley water organizations’ critical role in recovery activities
- Yampa River Basin activities
- San Juan River Basin Endangered Fish Recovery Program
- ESA compliance for water projects
- Progress towards recovery

Congressional Reauthorization of the Recovery Program

Authorization for federal spending on the Recovery Program became law in October 2000. P.L. 106-392 authorized $80 million for construction of facilities needed to recover endangered species in both the Upper Colorado River basin and the San Juan River basins. Of the $80 million cash authorization, $17 million comes from Colorado River Storage Project power revenues and $17 million comes from the four upper basin states as non-federal cost sharing. Congress also recognized as non-federal contributions 1) an additional $20 million resulting from loss of power revenues caused by reoperation of federal hydroelectric projects to benefit the endangered fish, and 2) a $5 million contribution by the Colorado River Water Conservation District for providing water for endangered fish from Wolford Reservoir. The original authorization for the Upper Basin Program was $62 million and the authorization for the San Juan Program was $18 million.

The construction program includes water management activities (Elkhead Reservoir enlargement, Grand Valley Water Management Project, coordinated reservoir operations), hatchery and propagation facilities, fish passages, fish screens, habitat restoration, and non-native fish control.

The cost estimates for the Recovery Program funding authorization were developed in the late 1990s. Since that time, costs have increased beyond the original estimates due to 1) increased demand for steel and concrete, 2) higher energy costs, and 3) design considerations specific to Colorado River conditions. A total cost of $2.5 million over 20 years is projected. This program is authorized for the Upper Basin Program by $15 million. Congress was also asked to recognize additional non-federal cost sharing of $1 million from the power users as a result of additional losses in energy generation at hydroelectric projects, and a $3.9 million contribution by the Colorado River Water Conservation District. Initial contacts were made with non-federal organizations and committees, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Department of the Interior in February 2005. Legislation was introduced in both the House and Senate in mid-2005. Senator Allard was prime sponsor of the Senate version of the authorization request. Representative Barbara Cubin (Wyoming) was the prime sponsor for the House version of the bill. The request for increased authorization had substantial support from the congressional delegations from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Thirteen of the fourteen members of the House from the four states co-sponsored the House version of the bill. In the Senate, substantial support was provided by the senators from Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico. Bi-partisan congressional support results from the successful track record of the Program and the broad grassroots support for the Program among the states, environmental organizations, water organizations, and power users (see Table 1).

At the time this article was prepared, the Senate bill had cleared the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and was on its way to the Senate floor. The House version had passed the House Resources Committee and was on its way to the House floor. If both versions pass the Senate and House, the bill will be sent to the President for signature in late 2005. This will allow continued and uninterrupted construction of Recovery Program projects and completion of the construction phase in FY 2010.

Letters of Support for Congressional Reauthorization of the Upper Basin and San Juan Basin Endangered Fish Recovery Programs

Government

Governor Bill Owen, Colorado
Governor Bill Richardson, New Mexico
Governor Jon Huntsman Jr., Utah
Governor Dave Freudenthal, Wyoming

Statewide water organizations

Colorado Water Congress
Wyoming Water Development/Association

Power

Colorado River Energy Distributors Association

Environmental organizations

The Nature Conservancy
Western Resource Advocates

Colorado

denver Water
Tri-County Water Conservancy District
Grand Valley Water Users Association
Dolores Water Conservancy District
City of Grand Junction
Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District
Southwestern Water Conservation District
City of Aurora
Pueblo Board of Water Works
Municipal Subdistrict, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Colorado River Water Conservation District
Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Utah

Central Utah Water Conservancy District

New Mexico
San Juan Water Commission
Arizona Public Service
Public Service Company of New Mexico

Continued on page 4
Pitts: Status Report / Endangered Fish, cont.

The programmatic biological opinion identifies existing and future water depletions in the Yampa River and its tributaries, the Recovery Program actions necessary to offset the impacts of these depletions, and provides for recovery for the Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, and humpback chub in the Yampa River and lower Yampa. In addition, 2,000 acre-feet of storage will be leased by the Recovery Program for a period of 20 years from the River District. The River District portion of the Elkhead Reservoir enlargement is primarily intended for human use. The expanded reservoir will continue to provide recreational and sport fishing opportunities in the Yampa Basin. Elkhead construction was initiated in 2005 and is expected to be completed by December 2006.

The total cost of the expansion is estimated at $20.5 million, with the City of Grand Junction paying $17.75 million. The Recovery Program portions are funded by congressional appropriations and contributions by the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, as well as power revenues from the CRSP projects. The Elkhead project is a major contribution to recovery of the endangered fish. It also demonstrates that the partnership between the Recovery Program and water users can be mutually beneficial. The project exemplifies the commitment of the United States to operate within state water law and interstate compacts in protecting and recovering the endangered fish in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

Nonnative fish management: In the Yampa basin, management of nonnative fish populations is an important component of the program. Populations of northern pike, small mouth bass, and channel catfish have grown dramatically in the last several years. All three species prey upon some of the life stages of endangered fishes and other native species.

The Recovery Program is currently undertaking a variety of studies to determine appropriate levels of nonnative fish control. In the past, recovery of endangered fishes in the Yampa Basin, and throughout the Upper Basin. Activities underway to reduce the impacts of nonnative fishes include restrictions on stocking of nonnative fishes, emerging angling and bag possession limits for nonnative sport fish, and removing and translocating northern pike and small mouth bass.

Channel catfish and small mouth bass will be removed from the Yampa River in the critical habitat of the endangered fish. Nontake of northern pike and small mouth bass is restricted to ponds, creating an additional sport fishing opportunity. Elkhead Reservoir will be designed to control escapement of nonnative fishes, while providing a vibrant nonnative sport fishery for residents and tourists alike – an important component of the regional economy.

Nontake control activities in the Yampa Basin will continue to receive a high degree of emphasis by the Program over the next several years.

San Juan River Basin Endangered Fish Recovery Program

The San Juan River Basin includes portions of southwestern Colorado, northeastern New Mexico, and southeastern Utah. Two of the endangered fish covered by the Upper Basin Program and the Colorado pikeminnow and the razorback sucker – also inhabit the San Juan River. Water project operations, management, and depletions are subject to ESA compliance due to the impact on these fishes.

In 1992, the states of Colorado and New Mexico, water users, tribal interests (Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Southern Ute Tribe, and Jicarilla Apache Nation), and federal agencies (Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs) and several tribal projects. The Program allows the United States to meet its trust responsibilities to the tribes without conflict with the Endangered Species Act.

Funding for both programs is authorized by the same federal legislation – P.L. 106-392. This means that appropriations of the programs are linked. Support for appropriations by the congressional delegations of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming has been of great value to both programs.

Recently, efforts have been made to strengthen the relationship between the Upper Basin and San Juan programs in order to increase efficiency in use of resources, and to be mutually supportive in pursuing recovery goals for the endangered fish. Certain activities must occur in both the Upper Basin and San Juan in order to delist the two species. Additional coordination between the two programs will assure that recovery goals are met in a timely, efficient, and coordinated manner, and that the species can be delisted within reasonable time frames.

ESA Compliance for Water Projects

Activities conducted by the Recovery Program are considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as offsetting the impacts of water depletion and management projects in the Upper Colorado River Basin. These activities include construction and operation of facilities and

Continued from page 3

Redlands Water and Power Company: The Recovery Program’s first fish passage was built at the Redlands Water and Power Company diversion dam on the Gunnison River, approximately three miles upstream of the Colorado River. The purpose of this passage was to open up 50 miles of new habitat to endangered fish. A fish screen is being built at the Redlands water and hydropower diversion by the Recovery Program at a cost of $4.6 million. The screen will be operated and maintained by Gregg Strong and his staff at Redlands Water and Power Company.

City of Grand Junction: The City of Grand Junction provided land for development of flooded bottomland habitat near the confluence of the Colorado and Gunnison rivers. The City is placing signs on a river walk informing citizens of the endangered fish in the Colorado River, their habitat needs, and history.

Water organizations’ roles: Even though the construction, operation, and maintenance costs of these facilities are covered by the Recovery Program, these activities have placed additional burdens on the Grand Valley Irrigation Company, Grand Valley Water Users Association, and Redlands Water and Power Company, and City of Grand Junction. The start-up and shake down periods for these innovative facilities at times have been troublesome. Only with the cooperation and diligence of these organizations have these projects been able to operate successfully. Given that these facilities are critical to recovery of the endangered fish, and to providing ESA compliance for all projects in the Upper Basin, all the water users in the Upper Basin – and all Recovery Program participants – owe a debt of gratitude to the managers, staffs, and boards of these organizations.

Yampa River Basin Activities

A classic video of six distinguished members of the water legal community is now available for purchase. The six members are: Andy Williams, Dick Bratton, Robert F. Welborn, Jack Ross, John M. Sayres, and David Robbins for Sam Maynes.

A remarkable insights in Colorado water issues.

VHS video tapes of this panel six water experts is available as follows:

1) CWC members who attended the workshop may purchase the tapes for $80.00.
2) Other CWC members may purchase the tapes for $125.00.
3) Non-members may purchase the tapes for $200.00.

*These prices do not include appropriate tax and postage, handling.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2006
10:00 a.m. Colorado Water Conservation Board meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2006
8:00 a.m. Colorado Water Conservation Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. CWC Board of Directors’ Meeting

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006

THEME: “My support of reclamation can be best explained by saying it makes the desert bloom.” – Wayne N. Aspinall

7:30 a.m. Registration Opens
8:30 a.m. Five Concurrent Workshops – i.e., (1) To Be Announced; (2) Engineering & Management Developments; (3) CSU Workshop; (4) CSU Workshop, and, (5) Engineering & Management Developments.
10:15 a.m. Five Concurrent Workshops – i.e., (1) Engineering & Management Developments; (2) Engineering & Management Developments; (3) Water Education; (4) Water Conservation/Conservancy District Issues; and (5) “CWCB Statewide Water Supply Initiative - Status Update.
12:15 p.m. GENERAL SESSION LUNCHEON: “The Vision of Horace Greeley” – Honorable Hank Brown, President, University of Colorado Systems
2:15 p.m. GENERAL SESSION I Keynote: “The Business of Water and the 21st Century Land Grant University” – Dr. Larry E. Penley, President, Colorado State University
2:45 p.m. “Protecting the Nation’s Critical Infrastructures” – Sue Mencer, former Director, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3:15 p.m. “Municipal Water Needs – a Viewpoint from CML” – Sam Manet, Executive Director, Colorado Municipal League
3:45 p.m. “Building the Rural/Urban Water Partnership” – Frank Jaeger, District Manager, Parker Water and Sanitation District
4:15 p.m. Five Concurrent Workshops – i.e., (1) Engineering & Management Developments; (2) CWCB: Statewide Water Supply Initiative - Status Update; (3) Ground Water Issues; (4) Water Quality & Drinking Water Issues; and (5) To Be Announced.
6:00 p.m. RECEPTION – Music by “Reckless Abandon”
7:30 p.m. BANQUET – “Goodbye Dick”

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006
7:00 a.m. LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST – Speakers will be Senators

Joan Fitz-Gerald, Lewis H. Entz, Jack Taylor, Ken Gordon, and Jim Isgar and Representatives Alice Madden, Diane Hoppe, Kathleen Curry, Dorothy Butcher, and Al White. Ag Commissioner Don Ament will serve as moderator.

8:30 a.m. GENERAL SESSION II – A Dialogue on “House Bill 05-1177” This dialogue will be facilitated by Russell George, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and the session will be taped and recorded for future historical record.

The participants are: The participants are: Commissioner Don Ament; Hamlet J. (Chips) Barry, III; Peter D. Binney, P.E.; Mary Brown; Larry Clever; Dennis Coryell; Bob Ewegen; Mooey Hammond; Frank Jaeger; Melinda Kassen; Eric Kahn; Dan Luecke; Harold Miskel; Peter Nichols; John Porter; Mayor Doug Scott; W. R. “Wally” Stealey; Bill Trumpe; Carl Trick II; Robert C. Ward, Ph.D.; Ray Wright; and Ruth Wright.

12:15 p.m. THE WAYNE N. ASPINALL LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON – “Thoughts from Senator Ken Salazar on his first year in the U.S. Senate” – Ken Salazar, U.S. Senator of Colorado. The Invocation will be delivered by Supreme Court Justice Greg Hobbs. The Twenty-sixth Annual “Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year” award will be presented at this luncheon. In addition, several other awards will be made at the luncheon.

1:45 p.m. I:45 p.m. CWC Annual Business Meeting.
— Proposed 2006 Water Congress Policies
— CWC Board elections

2:15 p.m. CWC Board of Directors’ Meeting
2:00 p.m. Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority Meeting
2006 CWC CONVENTION ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

Holiday Inn – Denver International Airport Hotel & John Q. Hammons Convention Center
15500 East 40th Avenue, Denver, CO
January 26 & 27, 2006

NAME: __________________________
ORGANIZATION: __________________________
ADDRESS: __________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP: __________________________
E-MAIL ADDRESS: __________________________

REGISTRATION: INVOICE / STATEMENT
No pre-registration by FAX without payment. Rate before date as shown below is required for registration.

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MEALS - NOT INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION

- (3) Thursday Lunch, January 26, 2006, at $24.00 each
- (4) Thursday Banquet, January 26, 2006, at $35.00 each
- (4) Friday Breakfast, January 27, 2006 at $17.00 each
- (5) Friday Lunch, January 27, 2006 at $23.00 each

TOTAL Registration and Meals $_____

Registration and meal refunds will be made less a $60 handling fee only if the CWC staff is notified by no later than 12:00 Noon, Monday, January 2, 2006. There are no refunds authorized by the Board after the aforementioned time and date. Meal tickets — if available — must be purchased by not later than five hours before meal event. CWC accepts checks or cash only.

Return this upper form to:
Colorado Water Congress
1580 Logan Street, Suite 400
Denver, CO 80203
or fax to:
(303)837-1607
Or E-Mail: macravey@cowatercongress.org

DEADLINE FOR FINAL ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS JANUARY 14, 2006

DETACH AND MAIL THIS LOWER FORM DIRECTLY TO:

HOLIDAY INN DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PLEASE DO NOT SEND CURRENCY.

ATTENDING: COLORADO WATER CONGRESS
DATE: JANUARY 26-27, 2006
PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING: (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Name: __________________________
Organization: __________________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________________ State: __________________________ Zip: __________________________
Sharing room with: __________________________

PLEASE INCLUDE FIRST NIGHTS DEPOSIT OR USE YOUR CREDIT CARD TO GUARANTEE YOUR RESERVATION.

Card Number: __________________________ Expiration Date: __________________________
Name: __________________________ Signature: __________________________
(AS PRINTED ON CARD)

(REFUNDABLE IF RESERVATION IS CANCELLED BY 6:00 P.M. ON THE DAY OF ARRIVAL.)

PLEASE CHECK PREFERRED RATE AND ROOM TYPE BELOW:

ACCOMMODATION
SINGLE: (one person) $79.00
DOUBLE: (two persons) $79.00

NON-SMOKING
SMOKING

HOTEL TELEPHONE: (303)371-9494. RATES DO NOT INCLUDE SALES TAX.

ARRIVAL DATE: __________________________ (CHECK IN TIME: 4:00 P.M.)
DEPARTURE DATE: __________________________ (CHECK OUT TIME: 11:00 A.M.)

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 5th TO ENSURE RATE AND AVAILABILITY.

Colorado Water Rights
Keyes: Federal Water Issues, cont.

Continued from page 1

The Bureau of Reclamation and left a legacy of change within the bureau and the West. As Commissioner, Dennis led Reclamation into the modern age of water conservation, away from the role as a civil works organization towards the current role as water managers. He was a good Commissioner, a hard worker, and a friend to us all. I will miss Dennis Underwood forever.

Since I was appointed Commissioner in 2001, my main priority has been Reclamation's core mission of delivering water and generating power. I've interested in establishing a framework that will enable Reclamation to succeed not just in the next few years, but many years into the future. I want to explain some of the challenges that lie ahead, some of the bigger picture events that affect our work, and our plans to deal with these so that we can continue to work toward achieving our mission.

Hurricanes Rita and Katrina

At Reclamation we are focused on our core mission, but that doesn't mean we ignore extraordinary situations like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Reclamation's Emergency Coordination Center in Denver has been working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide engineering expertise in cleaning up oil spills, in debris removal, and in recovery efforts.

In addition, we sent our Emergency Unit for Water Purification, one of only two in the world, to provide water to the Biloxi Regional Medical Center. This unit can purify contaminated and salty waters to a quality better than EPA drinking water standards. At its peak production, it was putting out 260 gallons per minute, or about an acre-foot a day.

We are very proud of the approximately 105 Reclamation employees currently deployed, the Reclamation employees who have returned, and other Federal employees and responders. They all deserve a huge commendation for their work. Some of these folks are people who themselves were suffering the effects of the storms — their homes destroyed, families to care for; yet they were there, helping others to get through such a trying time in our Nation.

In the repair of levees, we are working on removal of debris, and we managed temporary housing in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Reclamation is assisting in management of temporary roofing — the "blue roofs." These blue roofs are very effective, and people frequently leave these on for long periods of time, even after making other structural repairs.

At the end of last month, the Reclamation Emergency Coordination Center in Denver had been working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide engineering expertise in cleaning up oil spills, in debris removal, and in recovery efforts.

Some of the accomplishments include 25 projects that involved and included activities such as levee repairs. These recent movements within our organization are testament to that goal and will help us continue on toward our mission.

As many of you know, we are working with the National Academy of Sciences on a review of our organization and functions, to see whether we are set up to be as effective as we can be or whether some changes are in order. This is an important undertaking, and one I fully support.

NAS is planning to produce a final report in the near future and we are looking forward to seeing the results of the study.

We continue to face the challenges from nature that we always do. We don't know where we are with the current drought even though we have had some good precipitation during the past three months. We are fortunate to have in place the system of dams and reservoirs that have been keeping us out of crisis during this drought. We are benefiting from the careful preparation of those in the past and we need to follow our example and prepare carefully for the challenges that we know will come. The current drought has taught us a lot, and we don't want to leave this drought without having solid plans in place for the next drought.

Secretary Norton has made it one of her major priorities to see through to completion by the end of 2007 the development of shortage criteria for the Colorado River Basin. We have come through a period when reservoirs were pulled down very low. Under Secretary Norton's direction, we've also had some tremendous successes in the past several years on Colorado River issues such as the Quantification Settlement Agreement, the Lower Colorado Multi-Species Conservation Plan, and the surplus guidelines. These are extremely important advances in the management of this system and I applaud her leadership. We are on the right track with managing the Colorado River. Times have been tough, but if we continue to work cooperatively, we will get through this period and be prepared for other rough times when they come.

Water 2025

While drought is a major challenge, it is not the only cause of water shortages in the West. That's what makes the Water 2025 program so important. Water 2025 is a comprehensive strategy and a philosophy for water management, promoting conservation, efficiency, markets, and research into new technologies. This program helps us to focus our response to water challenges in the present and over the next quarter-century. But the benefits go beyond stretching our water supplies in the West. For example, the water purification unit we developed in New Mexico to desalinate water was providing water to the Biloxi Medical Center in the aftermath of Katrina.

Along with the Water 2025 program, we are in the third year of our Water Challenge Grant program, and I have been out for most of the groundbreaking events. Water 2025 is Secretary Norton's initiative and embodies her principle of the 4Cs — Conservation through cooperation, communication, and consultation. The program provides us with key strategies to only and efficiently deliver water in the West, and the Challenge Grant program is one important way to reach our objectives of getting more done by cooperating with local partners.

Over the past two years, we have awarded 62 grants representing $40 million in water system and management improvements. We are providing seed money — $14 million in Federal dollars, with the non-federal investment being three times that amount. Some of the accomplishments include 25 projects that collectively will convert 77 miles of dirt canals to pipeline; 28 projects that will install water measurement devices and automate water delivery systems; and 5 projects that include water marketing plans. In Fiscal Year 2005, we also added the Challenge Grant program for States, which has provided $1 million in cost-shares to six states.

Meeting Our Future Challenges

At the end of last month, the Reclamation Leadership Team spent a day and a half discussing how we are going to meet our future challenges. As a compass, we used our overarching vision as set out in the Reclamation Strategic Plan — how we ensure that we efficiently and effectively deliver water, generate power, and plan for the future.

As we work towards our priorities, we have come to find that one thing of which there is no shortage is water challenges. To satisfy the multiple demands and interests that we have today — whether they are agricultural, environmental, municipal or industrial — we must look to the innovation and hard work that created the system that has worked so well. We are coming up with some great innovations to satisfy multiple interests. A good example is the rock weir structures that we use — they integrate mammalian structures with the natural environment and also enable deliveries that respect water rights.

The people who work at Reclamation have always been dedicated to getting the job done. We'll do whatever it takes. That is the reason we are looking at our organization, seeing how we can get better. We recognize the good work of our partners and know that what we do together has a lot more power than what either of us can do alone. We appreciate the strong working relationship with all of the water groups in the West, and I'm looking forward to what we'll continue to accomplish together in the years to come.

Colorado Water Rights

1580 Logan Street, Suite 400
Denver, CO 80203