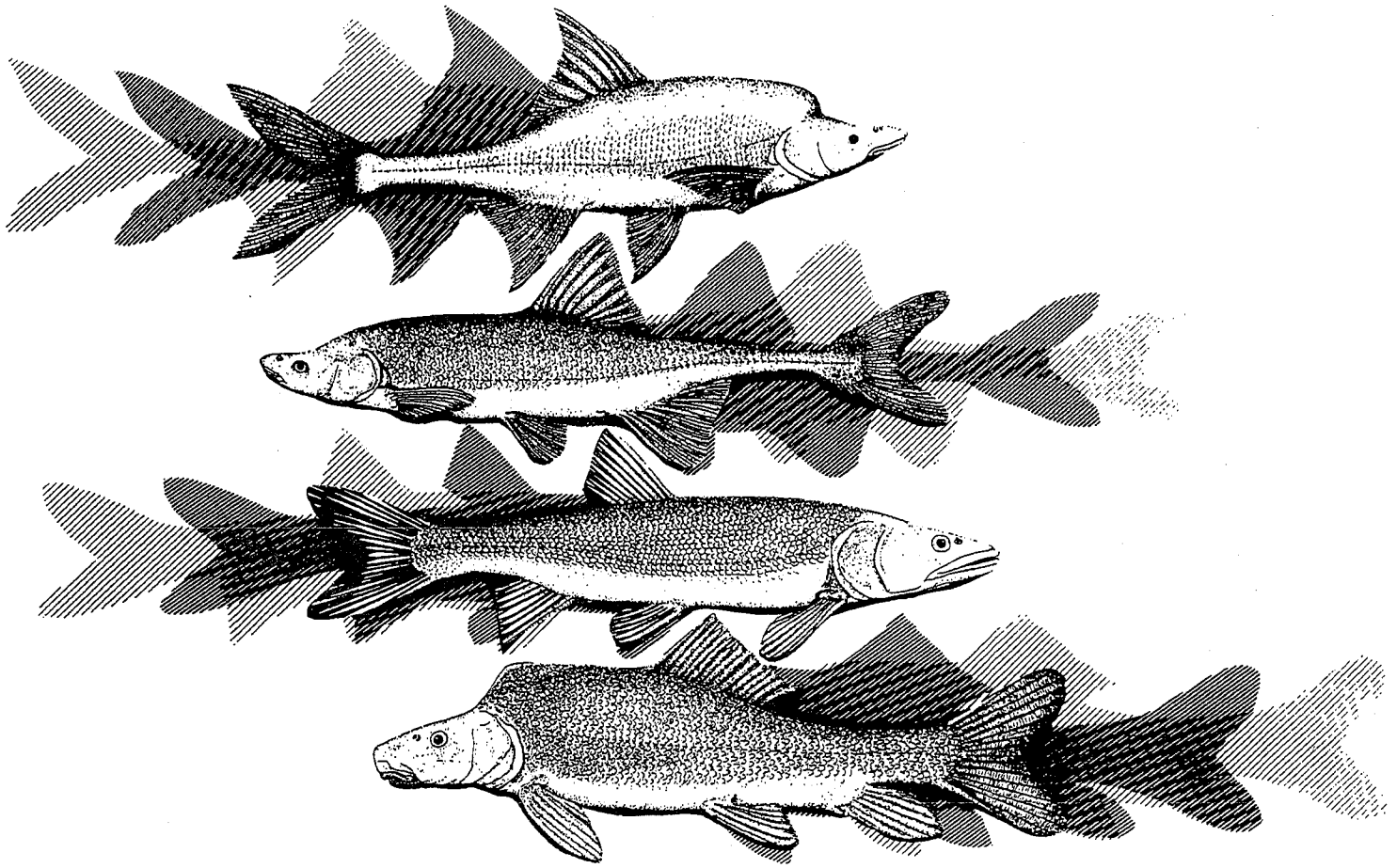
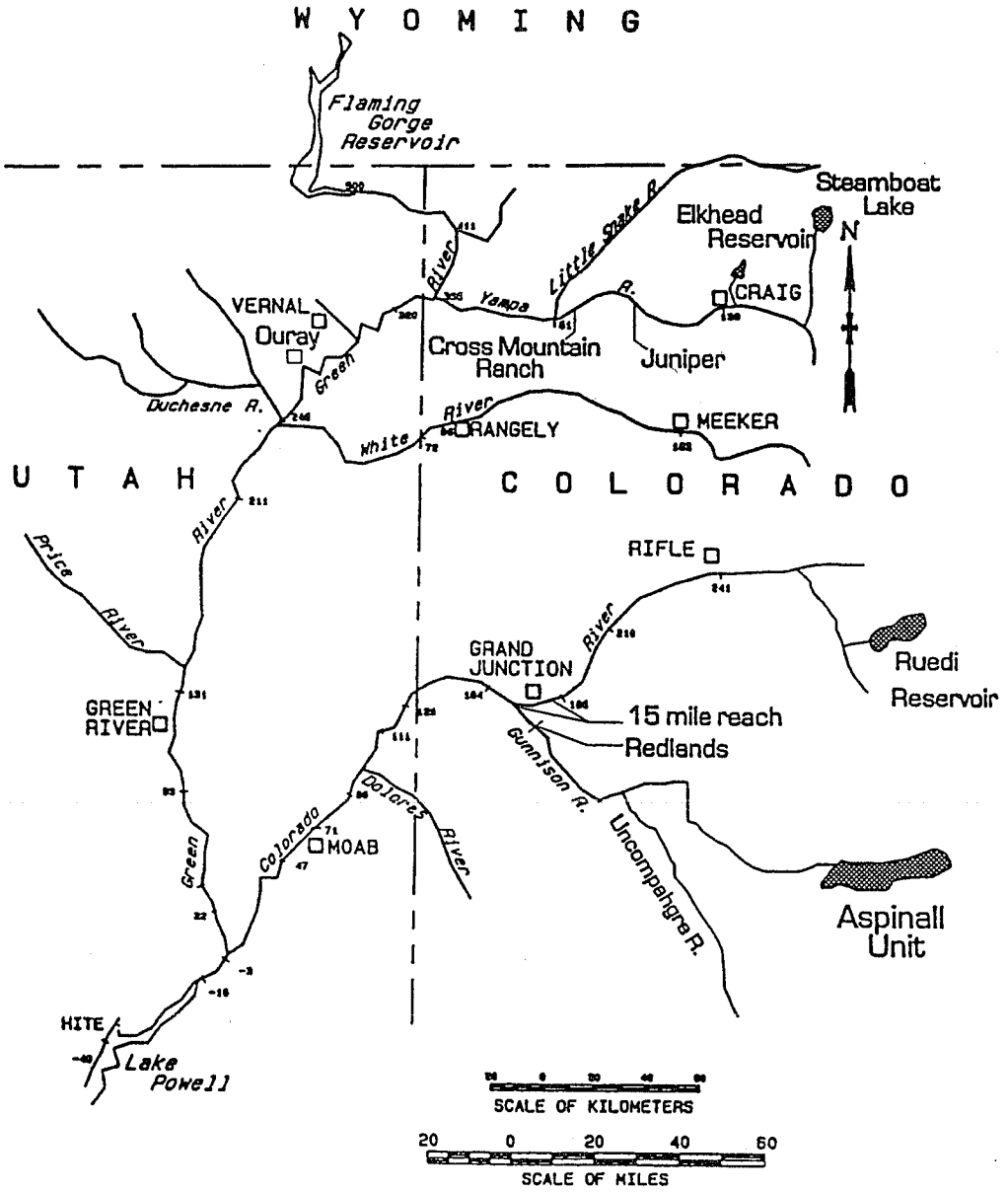


1999 WASHINGTON, D.C., BRIEFING

RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM FOR ENDANGERED FISH SPECIES IN THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

Geographic scope

The Recovery Program covers the upper Colorado River and its tributaries in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

1999 Washington, D.C., briefing book

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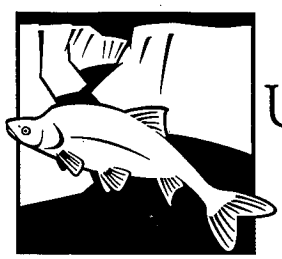


UPPER COLORADO RIVER
ENDANGERED FISH
RECOVERY PROGRAM

<www.r6.fws.gov/coloradoriver

Summary of requested FY 2000 Congressional action items

Participants in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program would like to make the following requests of Congress for FY 2000:

Fish and Wildlife Service budget

1. **Support Fish and Wildlife Service funding for the Recovery Program. ($624,000 requested in "Recovery" funds.)**

2. **Earmark Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 funds. ($200,000 requested for "Grants to States.")**

3. **Support Fish and Wildlife Service funds for Ouray National Fish Hatchery operations. ($297,700 in "Fish Hatchery Operation.")**

Bureau of Reclamation budget

4. **Support Bureau of Reclamation funds for the Recovery Program. ($9.34 million requested in funds for "Endangered Species Recovery Program and Activities for the Upper Colorado Region.")**

Details of these requests are provided on the following pages. With the exception of item No. 2 above, these funding recommendations are included in the President's proposed budget for FY 2000.

Requested FY 2000 Congressional action items

Fish and Wildlife Service budget

1. Support Fish and Wildlife Service funding for the Recovery Program. ($624,000 requested in "Recovery" funds.)

Recovery Program participants request Congressional support for $624,000 of Endangered Species Recovery funds for the Service to participate in the Recovery Program in FY 2000. Projects to be funded are:

- **Fish and Wildlife Service program management:** Funding covers Program Director's office staff salaries and expenses.

- **Interagency standardized monitoring program:** This activity supports Service participation in monitoring fish populations and their responses to recovery actions.

- **Data management:** The Service maintains all fish data collected in the Recovery Program in computerized form to facilitate analyses. This includes maintaining the overall database, summarizing data, and providing an annual listing of all tagged fish.

- **Basin-wide channel monitoring:** This involves monitoring the physical conditions of the rivers in the upper Colorado River basin and endangered fish habitat to support flow recommendations, flooded bottomlands restoration, and other recovery activities.

- **Razorback sucker stocking:** Funding is used to stock razorback suckers in the Colorado and Gunnison rivers and to conduct follow-up evaluations.

2. Earmark Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 funds. ($200,000 requested for "Grants to States.")

Recovery Program participants request that $200,000 of Endangered Species Act section 6 funds be earmarked for the Recovery Program ***before*** the Fish and Wildlife Service's allocation formula is applied to the section 6 funds nationwide. (Congress earmarked these funds for the Recovery Program in FY 1992 through 1994.) Language would need to be included in the Interior appropriations bill specifying the requested earmark.

The allocation formula determines the amount of Section 6 funding to be given for the eight states in Region 6, based in Denver. In FY 2000, the region-wide section 6 funding total is expected to be approximately $429,000. Unless $200,000 is dedicated to the Recovery Program before the allocation formula is applied, the Service's ability to fund other high-priority recovery efforts for the more than 70 endangered species in Region 6 will suffer greatly. Projects to be funded with the $200,000 in Grants to States are:

- **Interagency standardized monitoring program:** Funding will cover participation by the States of Colorado and Utah in large-scale monitoring of endangered fish populations and their response to recovery activities.

- **Non-native fish control:** This involves removing non-native fish such as red shiners, fathead minnows, green sunfish, bluegill, largemouth bass, and black crappie from key areas on the Colorado, Gunnison, and Green rivers to benefit young endangered fish.

- **Bonytail stocking:** Funding would support stocking of bonytail in the Colorado River near Moab, Utah, and monitoring the fish to determine stocking success.

3. Support Fish and Wildlife Service funds for operation of the Ouray National Fish Hatchery. ($297,700 in "Fish Hatchery Operation.")

The Recovery Program requests Congressional support for $297,700 to operate the Service's National Fish Hatchery in Ouray, Utah. Funding will enable the hatchery to continue raising and holding endangered fish for stocking, research, and "refugia" purposes.

Bureau of Reclamation budget

4. Support Bureau of Reclamation funds for the Recovery Program. ($9.34 million requested in funds for "Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities for the Upper Colorado Region.")

Recovery Program participants request Congressional support for $9.34 million for FY 2000 in "Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities for the Upper Colorado Region." This amount is included in the Administration's proposed FY 2000 budget for Reclamation. It would provide the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program) with $7.228 million, the San Juan River Recovery Program with $1.577 million, and Activities to Avoid Jeopardy with $535,000. The $7.228 million would be used for water acquisition and capital construction projects including:

- **Fish passage:** Reclamation funds would go for building fish ladders on the Colorado River at the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam and at the Grand Valley Project. These activities will benefit razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow (formerly called Colorado squawfish) by giving them access to more of their historic habitat.

- **Water acquisition:** Reclamation initiatives include:

  Modification and automation of canals to more efficiently operate irrigation projects near Grand Junction, Colo., and dedicating the "saved" water to endangered fish.

  Using water stored in several smaller Reclamation reservoirs to enhance late-summer flows in the Colorado River.

  Coordinating Federal and private reservoir operations in the Colorado River headwaters to enhance spring peak flows downstream.

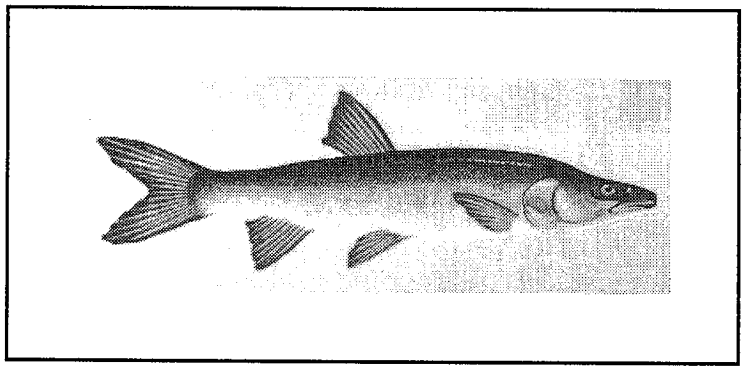
  Developing a plan to protect flows for endangered fish and meet human needs for water in the Yampa River Basin.

- **Floodplain restoration:** Funding is needed in FY 2000 to continue land acquisition, levee removal, and other floodplain restoration activities at high priority sites. Restoring these floodplains is thought to be especially important for endangered razorback suckers and will benefit a variety of wetland-dependent wildlife.

- **Endangered fish grow-out ponds:** Existing hatcheries and native fish production facilities fall short of meeting anticipated needs. Funding is needed in FY 2000 for excavating or locating several acres of grow-out ponds to raise razorback suckers and other endangered fish for further stocking in the Green, Colorado, and Gunnison rivers.

- **Diversion canal screening:** Funding is needed in FY 2000 to construct a screen at the Grand Valley Irrigation Company Diversion canal to prevent endangered fish from being drawn out of the river and into the canals. (The habitat above the diversion is used by adult endangered fish.)

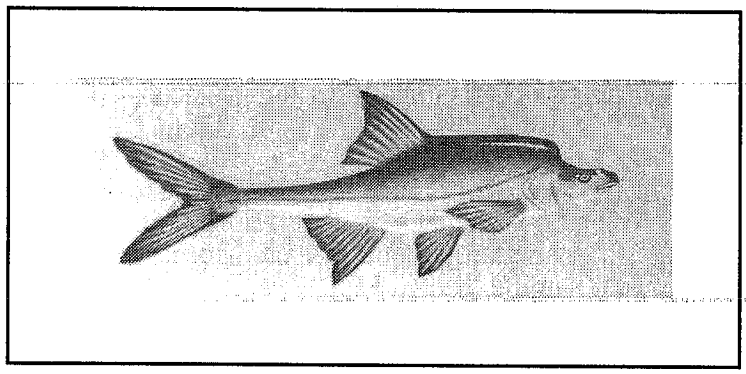
Endangered fish population status and recovery goals



The largest minnow in North America and one of the largest in the world, the Colorado pikeminnow can live 50 or more years. Historically, this fish grew to lengths of nearly 6 feet and weights of up to 100 pounds.

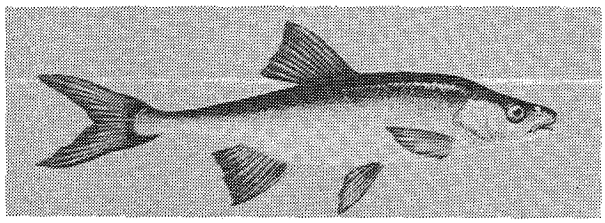
Colorado pikeminnow (formerly called the Colorado squawfish, but renamed in 1998 by the American Fisheries Society): In the Green and Colorado river basins, Colorado pikeminnow populations are increasing, in part because of changes made by Recovery Program participants in the operation of Flaming Gorge Dam and coordinating spring-time flows in the Colorado River. The largest numbers of Colorado pikeminnow are in the Green River. In fact, biologists now are finding more adult pikeminnow in the Green than at any other time since monitoring began in the early 1980s. In the Colorado River, the number of pikeminnow has doubled just since 1991. Elsewhere, Colorado pikeminnow populations are relatively small, but stable.

Small numbers of larval pikeminnow were captured in 1995 in the Gunnison River upstream of the Redlands Diversion Dam and in the Colorado River's Grand Valley. Completion of the Redlands Fish Ladder has enabled 42 Colorado pikeminnow to migrate upstream to Gunnison River habitat, which should further boost their recovery potential. Recovery management objectives call for about 5,500 fish in each of two stretches of the Green River and one stretch of the Colorado River. Because pikeminnow populations appear stable within the State of Colorado, the Colorado Division of Wildlife has down-listed this species from "State-endangered" to "State-threatened."



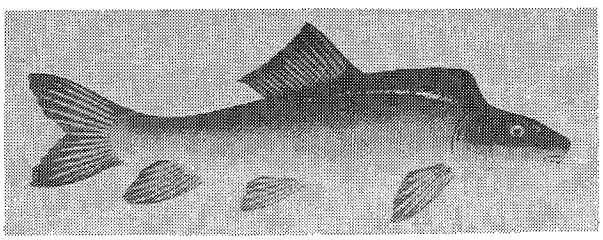
The pronounced hump behind its head gives the humpback chub a striking, unusual appearance. This fish can grow to nearly 20 inches and may survive more than 30 years in the wild.

Humpback chub: In the Green and Yampa rivers, humpback chub populations are very small, but appear stable. A population in the Colorado River near the Utah-Colorado state line is relatively large and appears healthy and stable. Primary recovery areas in the upper basin include: Black Rocks/Westwater Canyon of the Colorado River near the Colorado-Utah state line; the Yampa and Green rivers in Dinosaur National Monument; Gray and Desolation canyons in the Green River; and Cataract Canyon in the Colorado River. Management objectives for the humpback have been set at about 4,800 fish in five different areas of the Yampa, Green, and Colorado rivers.



Bonytail can grow to 24 inches or more, have been known to live nearly 50 years. No reproducing populations are known in the wild.

Bonytail: The bonytail is the rarest of the four endangered Colorado River fish species. Until recent stockings, most biologists considered bonytail nearly extinct upstream of Lake Powell. Captive populations of bonytail now are being maintained at the Wahweap Hatchery in Utah and at Dexter National Fish Hatchery in New Mexico. Since 1996, about 10,000 bonytails have been stocked in the Colorado River. Another 3,000 of these extremely rare fish have been released in the Green, and a total of 40,000 more will be stocked in the Green and Colorado rivers in 1999. To increase their survival in the wild, most bonytails are grown to 8 to 12 inches before being stocked. The management objective for the bonytail is about 4,100 fish in the Green River.



Razorback suckers have been known to live 40 years or more. According to university researchers, this species evolved more than 4 million years ago. One of the largest suckers in North America, the razorback sucker can grow to up to 18 pounds and lengths exceeding 3 feet.

Razorback sucker: Biologists believe this fish species continues to decline in the wild. Most razorbacks captured in recent years in the Green, Colorado and Yampa rivers are thought to be more than 20 years old, with very few young surviving to adulthood. Because of its scarcity in the wild, the razorback sucker has been given highest priority for hatchery raising and stocking. State-of-the-art hatchery facilities have been built in both Colorado and Utah. As a result, the Recovery Program has stocked more than 7,500 razorbacks in the upper basin and plans to stock 10,000 more in 1999. Also, biologists recently discovered a spawning population of razorback suckers in the lower Green River. Management objectives for razorback suckers in the upper basin call for 5,300 fish in two stretches of the Green River and one in the Colorado River.

SUMMARY

Endangered fish status, objectives, highlights

Fish species	Status	Management objectives	Recovery highlights
Colorado pikeminnow	Since 1991, pikeminnow numbers have doubled in the Colorado River. In the Green/Yampa basin, they are at their highest since the early 1980s. Within Colorado, down-listed from State-endangered to State-threatened.	Approximately 5,500 self-sustaining fish in three different stretches of river.	Construction of the Redlands Fish Ladder opened up 57 miles of historic river habitat for endangered fish. Completion of two more passageways will yield another 55 miles — tripling the available habitat for adult Colorado pikeminnow and razorbacks in the upper basin.
Humpback chub	Stable in most areas. The population at Blackrocks, near the Colorado-Utah state line, is estimated at 3,500 fish.	Approximately 4,800 self-sustaining fish in five different stretches of river.	In recent years, researchers have counted greater numbers of humpbacks in two stretches of river.
Bonytail	Before stocking began, this fish was nearly extinct in the upper basin.	Approximately 4,100 self-sustaining fish in the Green River.	More than 13,000 bonytails have been raised and stocked since 1996. Another 40,000 bonytail will be stocked in 1999.
Razorback sucker	Declining in some areas. Population estimate for the Green River is 500 adult fish.	Approximately 5,300 self-sustaining fish in three different stretches of river.	More than 7,500 razorbacks have been raised and stocked to date. Another 10,000 razorbacks will be stocked in 1999.

Note: Over the past several years, the Recovery Program has mounted an extensive effort to establish state-of-the-art hatcheries that raise endangered fish and protect them from extinction. These facilities have made it possible to stock the numbers of fish cited in the table above. Many hatchery-raised stocked fish will not survive in the wild, underscoring the need to continue making habitat improvements — such as building fish passageways, improving stream flows, and restoring wetland habitat — initiated by the Recovery Program. Biologists believe these habitat improvements are essential to the success of stocking efforts and to recovery of endangered Colorado River basin fish.

Recovery Program overview

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program is an interagency partnership aimed at recovering the endangered Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, bonytail and razorback sucker while allowing for continued and future water development. The program was initiated in 1988, when a cooperative agreement was signed by the Governors of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming; the Secretary of the Interior; and the Administrator of Western Area Power Administration.

Program participants are the following diverse public and private interests:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Western Area Power Administration
- State of Colorado
- State of Utah
- State of Wyoming
- Colorado Water Congress
- Utah Water Users Association
- Wyoming Water Development Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Colorado River Energy Distributors Assoc.

Recovery Program elements

The Recovery Program includes the following five elements as essential to recovery of the endangered Colorado River basin fish.

- **Habitat management** includes identifying and acquiring in-stream flows, changing operations of Federal dams, and operating other reservoirs in a coordinated manner to benefit endangered fish.

- **Habitat development** includes restoring floodplain/wetland habitats and constructing fish passageways around dams and other barriers in the river.

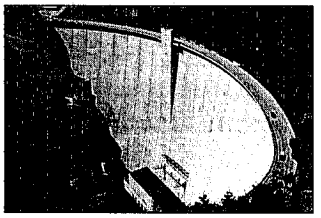
- **Native fish propagation and genetic management** involves establishing facilities for holding adult broodstock to prevent extinction of these rare fish and maintain their genetic resources; developing grow-out ponds; conducting research to improve survival of endangered fish raised in captivity and stocked in the wild; and supporting appropriate stocking and reintroduction efforts.

- **Non-native species and sport-fishing** entails managing detrimental non-native fish species in habitat considered "critical" to endangered fish. This also involves educating and distributing information to anglers to reduce accidental taking of endangered fish.

- **Research, monitoring and data management** is aimed at gaining a better understanding of what these fish need to survive, grow, and reproduce in the wild. It includes compiling data on the numbers, sizes, and locations of endangered fish captured during research studies; monitoring endangered fish population trends; and making recommendations on river flows.

Recovery Program accomplishments

Habitat management



The number of endangered Colorado pikeminnow in the Green River is higher now than at any time since the early 1980s. Biologists believe pikeminnows are increasing as a result of changes in the operation of Flaming Gorge Dam.

- The Colorado Water Conservation Board filed for two endangered fish in-stream flow water rights that have since been decreed for the Colorado River. One protects 581 cubic feet of water per second between July and September in the Grand Valley. The other protects 300 cubic feet per second of unclaimed irrigation return flows for the downstream end of the Grand Valley. This area is prime habitat for Colorado pikeminnow.

- Program participants coordinated operations of several reservoirs in Colorado during spring 1997 and 1998 to provide water for endangered fish. The 1998 releases supplied additional flows of 2,500 cubic feet per second for one week during spring runoff. High flows during this time are crucial for endangered fish spawning.

- Bureau of Reclamation officials have altered the timing of releases from Flaming Gorge and Blue Mesa/Aspinall Unit, and Navajo dams, providing researchers with valuable data that will be used to determine future operations of the dams. Researchers now have completed studies to provide information for further modification of the operation of these dams. Synthesis reports will be completed in 1999 and will be used to develop final biological opinions on dam operations.

- The Utah State Engineer has enacted a water rights policy protecting Green River flows from Flaming Gorge Dam downstream to the Duchesne River for endangered fish. Measured at Jensen, Utah, flows for the fish are to be maintained at 1,100 to 1,800 cubic feet per second in summer and 1,100 to 2,400 cubic feet per second in fall. New water-right requests will be considered in this stretch, but only after these flows have been maintained for endangered fish.

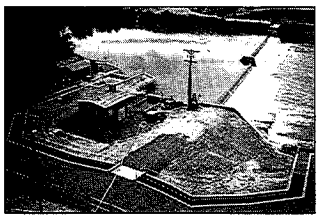
- A multi-party agreement involving the Grand Valley Irrigation Company, Grand Valley Power Plant, Orchard Mesa Irrigation District, Grand Valley Water Users Association, and Bureau of Reclamation has made up to 30,000 acre-feet of water available to endangered fish each year.

- Colorado State Parks, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have developed an agreement to release up to 3,300 acre-feet of water annually from Steamboat Lake to benefit endangered fish. In September 1998, a total of 2,000 acre-feet of this water was released to assist in endangered fish research.

- Since 1988, the Service has used Recovery Program accomplishments as the basis for issuing favorable section 7 biological opinions on water depletion projects in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. As a result, more than 500 water projects owned by city governments, developers, farmers, oil and gas companies, and others have been constructed or allowed to continue without significant operational changes. These projects have provided 585,000 acre-feet of water for local economic development, of which 462,000 acre-feet are pre-Recovery Program depletions and 123,000 are new depletions.

- The Service continued to waive charges for water projects that deplete fewer than 100 acre-feet of water per year. This arrangement has simplified the section 7 consultation process for many water projects in the upper basin.

Habitat development



The Redlands Fish Ladder has allowed 42 Colorado pikeminnow and more than 26,000 other native fish species to migrate around the 12-foot dam and reach known spawning habitat upstream in the Gunnison River.

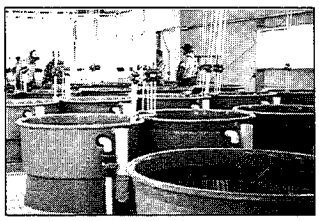
- A 350-foot-long fish ladder was completed at Redlands Diversion Dam on the Gunnison River in 1996, giving endangered fish a pathway to migrate around the 12-foot dam and reach 57 miles of their historical habitat. After only three seasons, 42 endangered Colorado pikeminnow and more than 26,000 other native fish have successfully used this structure.

- A fish passageway was completed in January 1998 at the Grand Valley Irrigation Company Diversion Dam on the Colorado River. Fish now can move freely over this structure, gaining access to more of their historical range. Colorado pikeminnow have been known to migrate 200 or more miles to spawn.

- Floodplain/wetland habitat has been improved to benefit endangered fish at five Bureau of Land Management sites on the Green River, three sites at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, and two sites on the Colorado River near Grand Junction. These 10 sites provide a total of 1,500 acres of new habitat. Levees have been breached at these sites, allowing the river to spill onto the floodplain during high flows. Young endangered fish grow significantly faster in these areas, which have warmer water and abundant food. These rich wetland areas also provide many other benefits, such as controlling flooding, filtering water impurities, and supporting hundreds of species of birds, mammals, amphibians, and other wildlife.

- Recovery Program funds have been used to pay for easements and fees on eight properties along the Green and Colorado rivers for a total of 580 acres of protected habitat. These properties offer a rich variety of floodplain/wetland habitat types important to endangered fish.

Native fish propagation and stocking



The Ouray National Fish Hatchery is one of five facilities established by the Recovery Program to raise endangered fish. These hatcheries and ponds have raised thousands of the two rarest species — razorback suckers and bonytails — that will be stocked into the wild this year.

The following hatchery facilities have been established in Utah and Colorado:

- Ouray National Fish Hatchery (Utah): This 36-pond facility was established as a refuge for razorback suckers from the Green River basin. The fish held at this hatchery are intended for broodstock development, stocking, research, and education.

- Wahweap Endangered Fish Facility (Utah): This site currently provides 11 ponds to raise bonytail to prevent extinction in the wild and for stocking into the Green, Colorado, and Gunnison rivers. In summer 1999, another 14 ponds are to be excavated, for a total of 25. Razorback suckers also are maintained here as a "back-up" supply and for stocking into the Green, Colorado, Gunnison, and San Juan rivers.

- Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area (Colorado): The six ponds at this location are used to raise razorback suckers for future stocking, primarily in the upper Colorado River, and to hold smaller numbers of Colorado pikeminnow, bonytail, and humpback chubs.

- 24 Road Hatchery (Colorado): This facility houses 36 tanks that are used to hatch razorback sucker eggs, raise newly hatched offspring from different parent fish, and maintain genetic diversity similar to that of wild populations. When the fish are about 6 months old, they are implanted with identification tags and transferred to Clymer's Pond or other grow-out ponds.

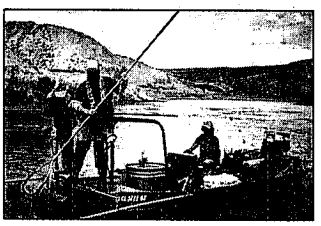
- Clymer's Pond (Colorado): This five-acre pond is used to raise razorback suckers from age 6 months, when they are about 4 inches long, to 1 year, when they have grown to around 8 inches. At this size, most of these fish are stocked in the Gunnison and Colorado rivers.

Other propagation activities:

- The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has stocked more than 10,000 bonytail in the Colorado River and 3,000 of these fish in the Green River. Before these stockings, bonytail were nearly extinct in the upper Colorado River basin.

- In 1998, the Fish and Wildlife Service stocked more than 600 razorback suckers in the Gunnison River and about 500 in the Green River and adjacent wetlands. To date, the total number of razorbacks stocked exceeds 5,000.

Research, monitoring and data management



Through research and monitoring, biologists have discovered that the number of Colorado pikeminnow has doubled in the Colorado River since 1991. They credit the increases to changes in operation of Flaming Gorge Dam.

- In 1996, biologists discovered young-of-the-year razorback suckers near the confluence of the Green and San Rafael rivers in Utah, suggesting that a new or previously unidentified population of this species exists in the lower Green River. In 1997 and 1998, researchers found both larvae and adult fish in this area.

- In 1995, biologists discovered that Colorado pikeminnow were spawning in the Colorado River's Grand Valley, the first documented spawning there since 1982. Scientists also found the first-ever evidence of pikeminnow spawning in the upper Gunnison River.

- Federal and state biologists completed a comprehensive report summarizing the first seven years of efforts to track endangered, native, and non-native fish populations. Such data is essential to determine how fish populations are changing over time. Data collected in 1998 indicate an increase in the population of Colorado pikeminnow.

Non-native species, sport-fishing and public information/involvement

(Clockwise from top left) Red shiner, channel catfish, fathead minnow, and northern pike are among the 40-plus species of non-native fish in the upper Colorado River basin. In some areas, non-native fish account for 95 percent of the 'biomass,' or total weight, of the fish in the river.

- Federal and state wildlife agencies in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming have finalized an agreement on stocking of non-native sport fish. The agreement specifies when non-native fish can be stocked without harming endangered fish, when case-by-case reviews are required, and when stocking is prohibited altogether. In 1998, the Colorado Division of Wildlife incorporated this agreement into its State stocking regulations.

- The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Service have removed at least 17,000 non-native channel catfish and more than 50,000 non-native minnows from rivers in the upper Colorado River basin. The agencies plan to continue these removal efforts and to expand them to include other non-native fish species. (Non-native fish such as channel catfish and various species of sunfish and certain minnows, prey on the eggs and young of endangered fish and can out-compete them for food and space.)

- Recovery Program participants have coordinated public involvement activities for key program actions, including Colorado in-stream flow acquisition, construction of fish passageways, coordinated reservoir operations, water releases from Ruedi Reservoir, development and implementation of non-native fish stocking procedures, acquisition and restoration of wetland habitat, Yampa River water management, and Grand Valley water management.

- The Recovery Program has developed and distributed to the public a wide range of information products such as a newsletter, annual report, brochure, portable and permanent exhibits, fishing license holders, slide show, video, and status reports.

- The Recovery Program has established a Web site at: <www.r6.fws.gov/coloradoriver>.

Upcoming activities

- The Recovery Program plans to acquire easements from willing landowners to restore select riverside wetland areas as habitat for young endangered fish. This strictly voluntary project cold involve acquisition of up to 5,750 acres along the Green River; 3,500 acres on the Colorado River; and 750 along the Gunnison.

- Plans call for stocking about 40,000 bonytail and 10,000 razorback suckers in 1999.

- The Colorado Division of Wildlife has worked with anglers and a variety of other stakeholders to develop a management plan for native and non-native fish and other aquatic species in the Yampa River basin. The plan will be implemented in 1999 to conserve native fish and amphibians, control non-native fish, and promote sport-fishing opportunities.

- Non-native fish that prey upon and compete with endangered fish will continue to be removed from the Green, Yampa, Colorado, and Gunnison rivers.

- The Colorado Division of Wildlife and other program participants are working to prevent non-native fish from escaping from ponds and reservoirs into the river channel. To accomplish this, screens are being placed on the outlets of some ponds. In other ponds, non-native fish are being removed and in their place, other fish species that pose no threat to native and endangered fish are being stocked.

- The Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service will begin construction on fish passageways in several areas: at the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam on the Colorado River upstream of Palisade in late 1999, at the Grand Valley Project Diversion Dam in 2000, and at the Hartland Diversion Dam on the Gunnison River upstream of Delta beginning in 2000.

- The Bureau of Reclamation will work with the Grand Valley Water User's Association to improve efficiency of the Government Highline Canal. The objective is to conserve water that could then be returned to the river, providing needed flows for endangered fish.

Long-term funding legislation for the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River recovery programs

The success of the Recovery Program depends on obtaining sufficient funds to implement recovery activities identified in the Recovery Action Plan. The Federal portion of the remaining capital costs for implementing the Upper Colorado and San Juan River recovery programs is estimated at $46 million, plus $17 million from the states and another $17 million from power users. The funding is needed to complete a variety of capital projects, which include building fish ladders, acquiring water, constructing hatchery facilities, and acquiring and restoring floodplain habitats used by endangered fish.

In October 1994, the Recovery Program's Implementation Committee formed an ad hoc committee to develop a long-term funding strategy for the Recovery Program. The San Juan River Recovery Program also was invited to participate in the discussions because of both programs' linkage to the Colorado River Storage Project revenues, a funding source for these programs. Participants in the discussions have included the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming; water, power, and environmental groups; several Indian tribes; the Fish and Wildlife Service; Bureau of Reclamation; Western Area Power Administration; and Bureau of Indian Affairs. In addition, staff from the House Resources Committee and the Utah and Colorado Congressional delegations have been involved in several of the committee's meetings.

In 1996, a bill was drafted to provide specific authorization for the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River recovery programs through the years 2003 and 2007, respectively. Since that time several program participants have been involved in discussions to resolve issues on how Endangered Species Act section 7 consultations will be conducted and to identify funding sources and funding mechanisms, cost ceilings for the program, and cost-sharing by program participants. Major issues on the funding authorization recently have been resolved among participants. The bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate (S. 1749) on March 12, 1998, and in the House of Representatives (H.R. 3669) on April 1, 1998, but was not enacted into law. It is expected to be re-introduced to Congress in spring 1999.

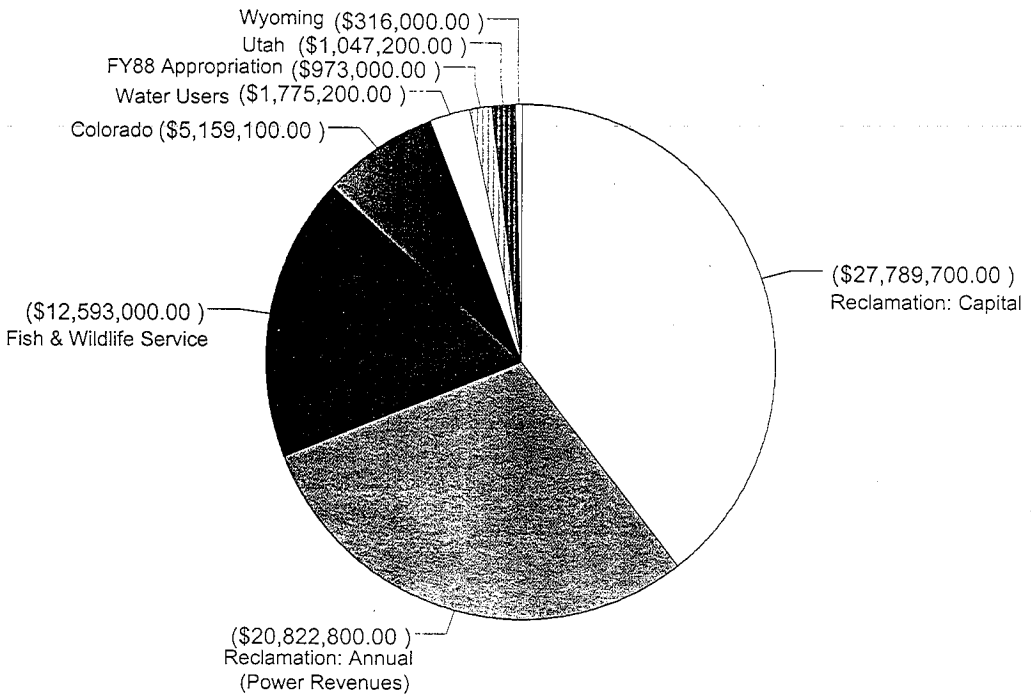
Photo courtesy of Colorado Historical Society

At the turn of the century, anglers prized the Colorado pikeminnow, which was common throughout the Colorado River basin.

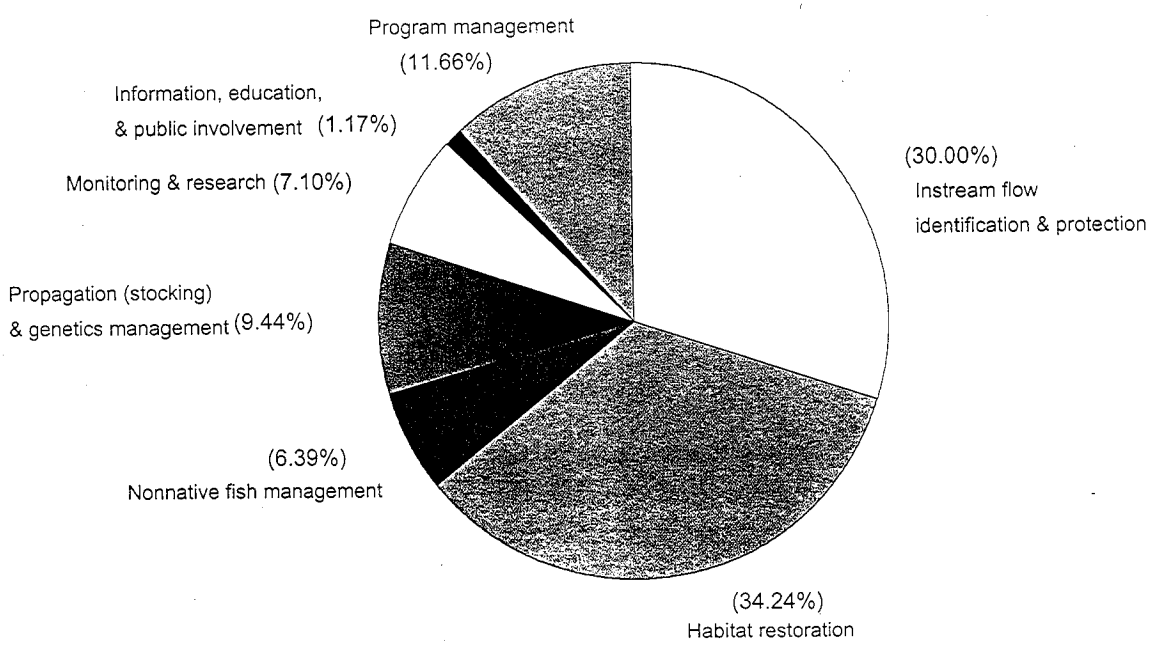
Expenditures

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Total expenditures = $70,476,000
(FY 1989 - 1999)



Percentage expenditures by category
(FY 1999 only)



Summary of Section 7 Consultations, Depletions, and Charges After Initiation of the Recovery Implementation Program for States in Upper Colorado River Basin

(1/1988 thru 12/31/1998)

		HISTORIC DEPLETIONS		NEW DEPLETIONS		TOTALS	
State	Number of Consultations	Acre-feet	Depletion Fees	Acre-feet	Depletion Fees	Acre-feet	Depletion Fees
Colorado	147	37,021.04	$30,930	52,599.18	$277,928	89,620.22	$308,858
Utah	26	421,717.74	$196	59,226.95	$360,036	480,944.69	$360,232
Wyoming	28	3,316.00	$720	5,310.09	$40,478	8,626.09	$41,198
Regional (1)	3	0.00	$0	6,000	$0	6,000.00	$0
TOTALS	204	462,054.78	$31,846	123,136.22	$678,443	585,191.00	$710,289

(1) Consultations on depletions of less than 100 acre-feet; depletion charges waived by USFWS.

Summary of Section 7 Consultations, Depletions, and Charges After Initiation of the Recovery Implementation Program for Rivers in Upper Colorado River Basin

(1/1988 thru 12/31/1998)

		HISTORIC DEPLETIONS		NEW DEPLETIONS		TOTALS	
River	Number of Consultations	Acre-feet	Depletion Charges *	Acre-feet	Depletion Charges *	Acre-feet	Depletion Charges
Colorado	100	32,571.26	$12,286	40,895.89	$240,924	73,467.15	$253,210
White	6	200.00	$2,082	609.00	$4,849	809.00	$6,931
Yampa	14	1,673.00	$6,546	1,443.94	$15,908	3,116.94	$22,454
Green	46	3,318.74	$743	38,257.36	$387,283	41,576.10	$388,026
Eagle	2	0.00	$0	603.39	$7,669	603.39	$7,669
Gunnison	16	1,322.18	$0	6,404.84	$3,336	7,727.02	$3,336
Uncompahgre	2	130.30	$0	1.96	$24	132.26	$24
Dolores	11	1,139.30	$10,189	2,764.84	$6,985	3,904.14	$17,174
Duchesne	2	421,700.00	$0	25,300.00	$0	447,000.00	$0
Little Snake	1	0	$0	125.00	$1,676	125.00	$1,676
Price	1	0	$0	730	$9,789	730.00	$9,789
Regional	3	0	$0	6,000.00	$0	6,000.00	$0
TOTALS	204	462,054.78	$31,846	123,136.22	$678,443	585,191.00	$710,289

*Pre FY 1990 - $10/AF, FY 1990 - $10.41/AF, FY 1991 - $10.91/AF, FY1992 - $11.50/AF, FY 1993 - $11.98/AF, FY 1994 - $12.34/AF, FY 1995 - $12.71/AF, FY 1996 - $13.04/AF, FY 1997 - $13.41, FY 1998 - $13.81/AF, FY 1999 - $14.13/AF

Prepared by Water Consult. Source: "Consultations for Water Depletions Through 12/31/98", Upper Basin Recovery Program

Letters of support

Appendix 3

United States Senate

March 30, 1998

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Domenici:

We are writing to request your support for an appropriation in Fiscal Year 1999 of $8,687,000 for the "Upper Colorado Region - Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities," within the Bureau of Reclamation. The bulk of that amount, a sum of $7,628,000, is designated for expenditure on construction activities associated with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Recovery Program).

The Recovery Program is a mutually supported program involving the states of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Western Area Power Administration. This Recovery Program, now in its tenth year of operation, has the objective of cooperatively recovering four endangered fish while water development continues in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies and actions in preparation for the construction activities necessary to recover the endangered fish. These activities included restoration of fish passage to historical habitat, instream flow protection on the Colorado River (mainstem), Gunnison River, and Yampa River (including enlargement of the existing Elkhead Reservoir), and reoperation or modification of existing projects. Also included were several fish habitat restoration projects, including restoration of flooded bottomlands and wetlands in Utah and Colorado, and development of facilities for propagation and genetics management. The Fiscal Year 1999 funds we are requesting will enable these vital activities to continue and to be successfully implemented in subsequent fiscal years.

In Fiscal Year 1988, Congress appropriated $1 million to Reclamation for securing water for the endangered fish. These funds have been used to advance that purpose. In Fiscal Year

1998, the Program will use the last remaining funds from the FY 88 appropriation to acquire water and water rights for the endangered fish.

We would very much appreciate your support of this important multi-state, multi-agency program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Orrin Hatch

Robert F. Bennett

Similar letter sent to:

Sen. Harry Reid, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Committee on Appropriations.

Similar letter sent by:

Sen. Wayne Allard (Colorado) to Sen. Pete Domenici, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Committee on Appropriations.

United States Senate

March 30, 1998

The Honorable Slade Gorton
Subcommittee on Interior
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gorton:

We are writing to request your support and assistance in ensuring continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species of the Upper Colorado River Basin ("Recovery Program"). This multi-state, multi-agency Recovery Program is being implemented in the Upper Colorado River Basin with the objective of recovering four endangered fish species while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. We support the following requests for FY 99:

1. $636,000 of resource management funds for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the amount requested in the President's FY 99 budget proposal and is approximately the same amount requested in previous years.

2. $200,000 of Section 6 funds to be allocated to the Recovery Program before the FWS formula for allocating funds among its Regions is applied. The Endangered Species Act Section 6 budget for all 73 listed species in FWS Region 6 is expected to be $429,000 in Fiscal Year 1999. Dedicating $200,000, or nearly one-half of the Region's entire Section 6 budget, to four endangered Colorado River fish will adversely and significantly impact state recovery programs for the other listed species in FWS Region 6. Our requested language will ensure continued funding for the Recovery Program, but not at the expense of other high priority recovery efforts in Region 6. In Fiscal Years 1992, 1993, and 1994, the Subcommittee earmarked $200,000 pursuant to Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act for the Recovery Program.

3. Language prohibiting the FWS from charging more than 3 percent overhead on funds transferred from the Bureau of Reclamation for the Upper Colorado River Recovery Implementation Program. A prohibition on FWS charging

overhead fees on transferred funds included in last year's Interior Appropriations bill that was passed by the Senate but dropped by the Conference Committee. These overhead fees reduce the amount of funds available for recovery activities and impact the Program's ability to accomplish recovery of the endangered fish species.

4. Continued base funding in Fiscal Year 1999 of $308,000 for the FWS (Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Sub-activity) to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah as requested in the President's budget proposal.

To provide for the continued success of this important, proactive program, we need the help of the Subcommittee again this year to ensure that FWS is given adequate funds and direction on how to allocate its funds for recovery of the endangered fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Orrin Hatch

Robert F. Bennett

Similar letter sent to:

Sen. Robert Byrd, Subcommittee on Interior, Committee on Appropriations.

Similar letter sent by:

Sen. Wayne Allard (Colorado) to Sen. Slade Gorton, Subcommittee on Interior, Committee on Appropriations.

SCOTT McINNIS
3D DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–0603

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FAX: (970) 928–0630

March 27, 1998

The Honorable Joseph McDade
Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Energy and Water Development
2362B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McDade:

We are writing to request your support for an appropriation in Fiscal Year 1999 of $8,687,000 included in the Administration's proposed FY 1999 budget for the Bureau of Reclamation within an item labeled "Upper Colorado Region - Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities." The bulk of that amount, a sum of $7,628,000, is designated for expenditure on construction activities associated with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Recovery Program).

The Recovery Program is a mutually supported program involving the states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Western Area Power Administration. This Recovery Program, now in its tenth year of operation, has the objective of cooperatively recovering four endangered fish while water development continues in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies and actions in preparation for the construction activities necessary to recover the endangered fish. These activities included restoration of fish passage to historical habitat, instream flow protection on the Colorado River (mainstem), Gunnison River, and Yampa River (including enlargement of the existing Elkhead Reservoir), and re-operation or modification of existing projects. Activities included several fish habitat restoration projects, including restoration of flooded bottom lands and wetlands in Utah and Colorado, and development of facilities for propagation and genetics management. The Fiscal Year 1999 funds we are requesting will enable these vital activities to continue and to be successfully implemented in subsequent fiscal years.

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In Fiscal Year 1988, Congress appropriated $1 million to Reclamation for securing water for the endangered fish. These funds have been used to advance that purpose. In Fiscal Year 1998, the Program will use the last remaining funds from the FY 88 appropriation to acquire water and water rights for the endangered fish.

We would very much appreciate your support of this important multi-state, multi-agency program, and look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott McInnis
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Dan Schaefer
Member of Congress

Bob Schaffer
Member of Congress

Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress

Merrill Cook
Member of Congress

SM:kl

SCOTT McINNIS
3D DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–0603

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FAX: (970) 928–0630

March 27, 1998

Congressman Ralph Regula
Chair, Subcommittee on Interior
B308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Regula:

We are writing to request your support and assistance in insuring continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species of the Upper Colorado River Basin ("Recovery Program"). This multi-state, multi-agency Recovery Program is being implemented in the Upper Colorado River Basin with the objective of recovering four endangered fish species while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This Fiscal Year 1999 funding will ensure that federal cost sharing funds are provided to the Recovery Program. We support the following requests:

1. That the Subcommittee support the appropriation of $636,000 of resource management funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the amount requested in the President's FY 99 budget proposal and is approximately the same amount requested in previous years.

2. That language be included in the Subcommittee's Fiscal Year 1999 appropriations legislation to indicate that $200,000 of Section 6 funds should be allocated to the Recovery Program before the FWS formula for allocating funds among its Regions is applied. The ESA Section 6 budget for all 73 listed species in FWS Region 6 is expected to be $429,000 in Fiscal Year 1999. Dedicating $200,000, or nearly one-half of the Region's entire Section 6 budget, to four endangered Colorado River fish will adversely and significantly impact state recovery programs for the other listed species in FWS Region 6. Our requested language will insure continued funding for the Recovery Program, but not at the expense of other high priority recovery efforts in Region 6. In Fiscal Years 1992, 1993, and 1994, the Subcommittee earmarked $200,000 pursuant to Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act for the Recovery Program.

3. That language be included in the Subcommittee's Fiscal Year 1999 appropriations legislation prohibiting the FWS from charging more than 3 percent overhead on moneys transferred from the Bureau of Reclamation for the Upper Colorado River

Recovery Implementation Program. A prohibition on FWS charging overhead fees on transferred funds included in the Fiscal Year 1998 Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill passed by the Senate was dropped out by the Conference Committee. These overhead fees reduce the amount of funds available for recovery activities and impact the Program's ability to accomplish recovery of the endangered fish species.

4. That the Subcommittee support the continued base funding in Fiscal Year 1999 of $308,000 for the FWS (Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Sub-activity) to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah as requested in the Presidents budget proposal.

To provide for the continued success of this important, proactive program, we need the help of the Subcommittee again this year to ensure that FWS is given adequate funds and direction on how to allocate its funds for recovery of the endangered fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin. We are thankful for your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Scott McInnis
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Dan Schaefer
Member of Congress

Bob Schaffer
Member of Congress

Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress

Merrill Cook
Member of Congress

SM:kl

STATE OF WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JIM GERINGER
GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

March 3, 1998

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
SD-127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: State of Wyoming's Support for Fiscal Year 1999 Bureau of Reclamation Budget Line Item for "Upper Colorado Region - Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities"

Dear Chairman Domenici:

I am writing on behalf of the State of Wyoming to request your support for an appropriation in Fiscal Year 1999 of $8,687,000 included in the Administration's proposed FY 1999 budget for the Bureau of Reclamation under an item labeled "Upper Colorado Region - Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities." The bulk of that amount, a sum of $7,628,000, is designated in the President's Budget for expenditure on construction activities associated with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Recovery Program).

The State of Wyoming; along with the States of Colorado and Utah, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Western Area Power Administration have been actively conducting and jointly managing the Recovery Program since its initiation in 1988. Now in its tenth year, the Program has as its objectives recovering (accomplishing de-listing from the ESA's endangered species listing) four endangered fish species native to the waters of the Upper Colorado River Basin while water use and development continues in full compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The Recovery Program is a cooperative partnership that provides, we believe, the best opportunity to recover the endangered fish species and is providing regulatory certainty for water use and

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continuing development in the Upper Colorado River Basin portion of the three participating States.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies and actions in preparation for the construction projects and programs necessary to recover the endangered fish. These activities included restoration of fish passage to historical habitat, providing instream flow and habitat flow maintenance and protection (in full compliance with the involved States' water laws) and changing reservoir release patterns or other modification of existing projects. Other efforts include fish habitat restoration projects, (flooded bottomlands and wetlands in Utah and Colorado that provide habitat for young fish) and development of facilities for propagation and genetics management. The Fiscal Year 1999 USBR budget line item that this letter is supporting will enable these vital activities to continue and to be successfully completed in subsequent fiscal years.

The State of Wyoming greatly appreciates the Subcommittee's support of the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin in past years. We respectfully request your continuing funding support for this vitally important multi-state, multi-agency program. With the funding support of all participating states and the Federal Government, this Program is succeeding in meeting the most challenging tasks of accomplishing conservation and recovery of the four endangered fish species while allowing water use and development to occur in the Upper Colorado River Basin in full compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration of this funding request and for including this letter in the hearing record.

Best regards,

Jim Geringer
Governor

JG:GWF:js

cc: Senator Craig Thomas
Senator Michael Enzi
Representative Barbara Cubin

Similar letters sent to:

Rep. Joseph M. McDade, Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, House Appropriations Committee.

Rep. Vic Fazio, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, House Appropriations Committee.

STATE OF WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JIM GERINGER
GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

March 3, 1998

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: State of Wyoming's Support for Fiscal Year 1999 Appropriations to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin

Dear Chairman Regula:

I am writing on behalf of the State of Wyoming to request your support and assistance in insuring continued Federal funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species of the Upper Colorado River Basin (Recovery Program). The Recovery Program is a cooperative partnership that is providing, we believe, the best opportunity to recover four endangered fish species native to the waters of the Upper Colorado River Basin and regulatory certainty for water use and continuing development in the Upper Colorado River Basin portion of the three participating States. The States of Wyoming, Colorado and Utah, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Western Area Power Administration have been actively conducting and jointly managing the Recovery Program since its initiation in 1988.

Wyoming joins with the other partners in the Program in making three requests of your Subcommittee for the purpose of ensuring that vitally important federal cost-sharing funds are provided to the Recovery Program:

1. That the Subcommittee support the appropriation of $636,000 of resource management funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the amount requested in the President's FY 99 budget proposal and is approximately the same amount requested in previous years.

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2. That language be included in the Subcommittee's FY 1999 appropriations legislation to indicate that $200,000 of Section 6 funds will be allocated to the Recovery Program before the FWS formula for allocating funds among its Regions is applied. The ESA Section 6 budget supports activities for 73 listed species in the USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region. Dedicating $200,000 (over 1/3 of the Region's entire Section 6 budget) to recovery activities for the four endangered Colorado River fish will adversely and significantly impact state recovery programs for the other listed species in this USFWS Region. The requested language will insure that continued funding for the Recovery Program is not provided at the expense of other high-priority efforts in USFWS' Mountain-Prairie Region. Wyoming wishes to note that in Fiscal Years 1992, 1993 and 1994 the Subcommittee earmarked $200,000 pursuant to Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act for the Recovery Program.

3. That the Subcommittee support continued base funding in Fiscal Year 1999 of $308,000 for the FWS (Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Sub-activity) to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah as requested in the President's budget proposal.

The Recovery Program is a vitally important program in the three affected States. The Program has many challenging tasks, nonetheless, we believe it is meeting its dual objectives of recovering the four native fish species while allowing water development to proceed in full compliance with the ESA. We need and request the help of the Subcommittee again this year to ensure that FWS is given adequate funds and funding allocation directions for endangered fish recovery activities in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Thank you for your consideration of this funding request and for including this letter in the hearing record.

Best regards,

Jim Geringer
Governor

JG:GWF:js

cc: Senators Craig Thomas
Senator Michael Enzi
Representative Barbara Cubin

Similar letters sent to:

Sen. Slade Gorton, Chairman,
Subcommittee on Interior,
Senate Appropriations Committee.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd,
Subcommittee on Interior,
Senate Appropriations Committee.

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792
Phone (303) 866-2471

Roy Romer
Governor

March 9, 1998

The Honorable Slade Gorton
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
On Interior and Related Agencies
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 131
Washington, D.C. 20510-6033

Dear Chairman Gorton:

I am writing to request your support and assistance to ensure there is continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species of the Upper Colorado River Basin ("Recovery Program"). This multi-state, multi-agency program is being implemented in the Upper Colorado River Basin. The program's objective is to recover four endangered fish species while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. I specifically support the following requests:

1. The appropriation of $636,000 of resource management funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the program. This amount, similar to previous requests, is in the President's fiscal year 1999 budget.

2. That language be included in the fiscal year 1999 appropriations bill indicating that $200,000 of Section 6 funds shall be allocated to the Recovery Program before the FWS applies its formula for allocating funds among its Regions. The ESA Section 6 budget for all 73 listed species in FWS Region 6 is expected to be $429,000. Our requested language will ensure continued funding for the program, but not at the expense of other high priority species recovery efforts in Region 6. The subcommittee has included the requested language in previous years.

3. That the subcommittee support $308,000 in base funding for the FWS to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah. The President also requested this funding.

The FWS must have adequate funds and direction on how to allocate its funds to provide for the continued success of this program. I appreciate your past support and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Roy Romer
Governor

Similar letters sent to:

Rep. Ralph Regula, Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies.

Sen. Robert Byrd, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies.

Rep. Sidney Yates, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies.

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792
Phone (303) 866-2471

March 9, 1998

Roy Romer
Governor

The Honorable Joseph M. McDade
Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee
On Energy and Water Development
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2362
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McDade:

I am writing to request your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 1999 of $8.687 million to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ("Reclamation") for Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities for the Upper Colorado Region.

This amount is included in the administration's proposed fiscal year 1999 budget for Reclamation. The money will be used to fund the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin, which would receive $7.628 million; the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program, which would receive $459,000; and for Activities Designed to Avoid Jeopardy, which would receive $600,000.

The Recovery Program is made up of participants from the states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Western Area Power Administration. The objective of this Recovery Program, now in its 10th year of operation, is to cooperatively recover four endangered fish while allowing water development to move forward in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

The Recovery Program has already initiated specific studies and actions to prepare for capital construction projects necessary to recover the endangered fish. These activities included building fish passages to historical habitat, securing water and water rights, instream flow protection on the Colorado, Gunnison, and Yampa rivers, and the re-operation and modification of existing water projects. Program participants also have worked to restore fish habitat in Utah and Colorado, and to develop propagation and genetics management facilities. The fiscal year 1999 funds we are requesting will enable these vital activities to continue and to be successfully implemented in subsequent fiscal years.

Sincerely,

Roy Romer
Governor

Similar letters sent to:

Sen. Pete Domenici, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

Sen. Harry Reid, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

Rep. Vic Fazio, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1594 West North Temple, Suite 3710
Box 145610
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5610
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801-538-7315 (Fax)
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Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director

March 4, 1998

The Honorable Peter Domenici, Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
132 Dirksen Senate Office
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Domenici:

I am requesting your support for an appropriation of $8.687 million to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for activities associated with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin. This amount is included in the Administration's proposed fiscal year 1999 budget for the Bureau of Reclamation under the label Upper Colorado Region - Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities. It supports the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin ($7.628 million), the San Juan River Recovery Program ($459K) and Activities to Avoid Jeopardy ($600K).

The Recovery Program is a mutually supported program involving the states of Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Western Area Power Administration. This Recovery Program has the objective of cooperatively recovering four endangered fish while water development moves forward in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The state of Utah has been associated with this effort since 1984, and has been a participant in this program since formal initiation in 1988. Due to the transcending nature of the Endangered Species Act, Utah believes timely implementation of mutually-agreed upon actions associated with the Recovery Program is also essential to continued efficient water management and use.

By fiscal year 1994, the Recovery Program had developed scientific and technical information sufficient to define a number of construction activities essential to recovery of the endangered fish. These activities include restoration of fish passages to historical habitat, instream flow protection on the Colorado River (mainstem), Gunnison River, Yampa River (including enlargement of the existing Elkhead Reservoir), Duchesne River

and reoperation or modification of existing water storage projects. Other activities are several fish habitat restoration projects in Utah and Colorado, and design and construction of facilities for fish propagation and genetics management. The fiscal year 1999 funds requested will be directed towards implementing these specific projects, as well as initiating pre-construction work on projects approved by the Recovery Program participants.

[In fiscal year 1988, Congress appropriated $1 million to the Bureau of Reclamation for securing water for the endangered fish. These funds have been used to advance that purpose. In fiscal year 1998, the Program will use the last remaining funds from the FY 88 appropriations to acquire water and water rights for the endangered fish.]

We would very much appreciate your support of this important multi-state, multi-agency program, and look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stewart

Ted Stewart
Executive Director

BS/gm

Similar letter sent to:

Rep. Joseph M. McDade, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director

March 4, 1998

The Honorable Ralph Regula, Chair
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
B 308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

Dear Chairman Regula:

I am requesting your support for continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species of the Upper Colorado River Basin. The Recovery Program is a mutually-supported effort involving the states of Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Western Area Power Administration. This Program has objectives of cooperatively recovering four endangered fish while allowing water development to move forward in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Due to the transcending nature of the ESA, timely implementation of actions associated with the Recovery Program is essential to continued efficient water management and use. To preserve comity and for economic as well as ecological reasons, the state of Utah was a major player in the creation of the Recovery Program, and has been an active participant since the Program was formally initiated in 1988.

The state of Utah supports the following requests:

1. That the Subcommittee support the appropriation of $636,000 of resource management funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the amount requested in the President's FY 1999 budget proposal and is approximately the same amount requested in previous years.

2. That language be included in the Subcommittee's fiscal year 1999 appropriations legislation to indicate that $200,000 of Section 6 funds should be allocated to the Recovery Program before the FWS formula for allocating funds among its regions is applied. The ESA Section 6 budget for all 73 listed species in FWS Region 6 is expected to be $429,000 in

fiscal year 1999. Dedicating $200,000, or over one-third of the region's entire Section 6 budget, to four endangered Colorado River fish will adversely and significantly impact state recovery programs for the other listed species in FWS Region 6. Our requested language will ensure continued funding for the Recovery Program, but not at the expense of other high priority recovery efforts in Region 6. In fiscal year 1992, 1993 and 1994, the Subcommittee earmarked $200,000 pursuant to Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act for the Recovery Program.

3. That the Subcommittee support the continued base funding in fiscal year 1999 of $308,000 for the FWS (Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity) to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah as requested in the President's budget proposal.

To provide for the continued success of this multi-state, multi-agency program, we need the help of the Subcommittee again this year to ensure that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is given adequate funds and direction on how to allocate its funds for recovery of the endangered fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin. We appreciate your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Ted Stewart
Executive Director

BS/gm

Similar letter sent to:

Sen. Slade Gorton, Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Nature Conservancy®
Saving the Last Great Places

International Headquarters
1815 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2003

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April 7, 1998

Honorable Peter Domenici, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Energy and Water Development
132 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Recovery Program for Endangered Fish in the Upper Colorado River Basin

Dear Chairman Domenici:

The Nature Conservancy is an international non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection of biological diversity. For more than 45 years, we have pursued this mission with on-the-ground habitat conservation that is based on the best available science, takes a non-confrontational, market-oriented approach, and builds partnerships with people and agencies across the political spectrum. The Conservancy has over 900,000 individual members and over 1,850 corporate sponsors.

I am writing on behalf of the Conservancy to request a Fiscal Year 1999 appropriation of $8.687 million to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ("Reclamation") for Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities for the Upper Colorado River Region. **This requested appropriation is included in the Administration's proposed budget.** It will provide $7.628 million in funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (outside the San Juan River); $.459 million for the San Juan River Recovery Program; and $.600 million for other Activities to Avoid Jeopardy (to endangered species) in this region. The Nature Conservancy joins the other partners in the Recovery Program for the Upper Colorado River Basin outside the San Juan River ("Recovery Program") in supporting this FY99 appropriation.

The Recovery Program is a cooperative venture among the states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Western Area Power Administration. Now in its tenth year of operation, this program has the objective of recovering four endangered fish species while water development moves forward in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies in preparation for the following on-the-ground actions to recover these endangered fishes: 1) restoration of fish passage to historical habitat (construction of the Redlands Fish Passage near Grand Junction Colorado was completed in May 1996); 2) instream flow protection on the Green River, Colorado River (mainstem), Gunnison River, and Yampa River; 3) modification of existing water projects; 4) restoration of flooded river bottomlands in Utah and Colorado; and 5)

development of facilities for artificial propagation and genetics management of the endangered fishes. Most of these of recovery actions were made possible by appropriations to Reclamation.

Federal funding is a crucial contribution to the Recovery Program. With your support, we believe that this Recovery Program can serve as a model of successful cooperation between states, federal agencies, water users, and the environmental community in the recovery of endangered species. We very much appreciate the Subcommittee's past support of the Recovery Program and your consideration of this FY99 request.

Sincerely,

Maggie Coon

Maggie Coon
Director
Government and Community Relations

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Saving the Last Great Places

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April 7, 1998

The Honorable Slade Gorton, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior and Related Agencies
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Recovery Program for Endangered Fish in the Upper Colorado River Basin

Dear Chairman Gorton:

The Nature Conservancy is an international non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection of biological diversity. For more than 45 years, we have pursued this mission with on-the-ground habitat conservation that is based on the best available science, takes a non-confrontational, market-oriented approach, and builds partnerships with people and agencies across the political spectrum. The Conservancy has over 900,000 individual members and over 1,850 corporate sponsors.

I am writing on behalf of the Conservancy to request appropriations in Fiscal Year 1999 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for its share of the annual funding of the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin ("Recovery Program"). The Recovery Program is a cooperative venture among the states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the USFWS and the Western Area Power Administration. Now in its tenth year of operation, the program has the objective of recovering four endangered fish species in the Upper Colorado River Basin while water development there moves forward in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Conservancy joins the other partners in the Recovery Program in making the following FY99 request to your Subcommittee. **All of these requested appropriations are included in the Administration's proposed budget.**

1. An appropriation of $636,000 of resource management funds to the USFWS for the Recovery Program;

2. An appropriation that will provide the USFWS with no less than $200,000 in funds under Section 6 of the ESA for the Recovery Program. In fiscal years 1992, 1993, and 1994, the Subcommittee earmarked $200,000 in Section 6 funds for the Recovery Program and this level of funding has been maintained throughout the past the four years;

3. Continued base funding at the Fiscal Year 1998 level of $308,000 for the USFWS to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah (Fisheries Activity, Hatchery O&M Subactivity).

We also join our partners in asking that language be included in the Subcommittee's legislation limiting the overhead charge to no more than 3 percent on funds transferred from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to the USFWS for the Recovery Program.

Federal funding is a crucial contribution to the Recovery Program. With your support, we believe that this program can serve as a model of successful cooperation between states, federal agencies, water users, and the environmental community in the recovery of endangered species. We very much appreciate the Subcommittee's past support of the Recovery Program and your consideration of this FY99 request.

Sincerely,

Maggie Coon

Maggie Coon
Director
Government and Community Relations

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