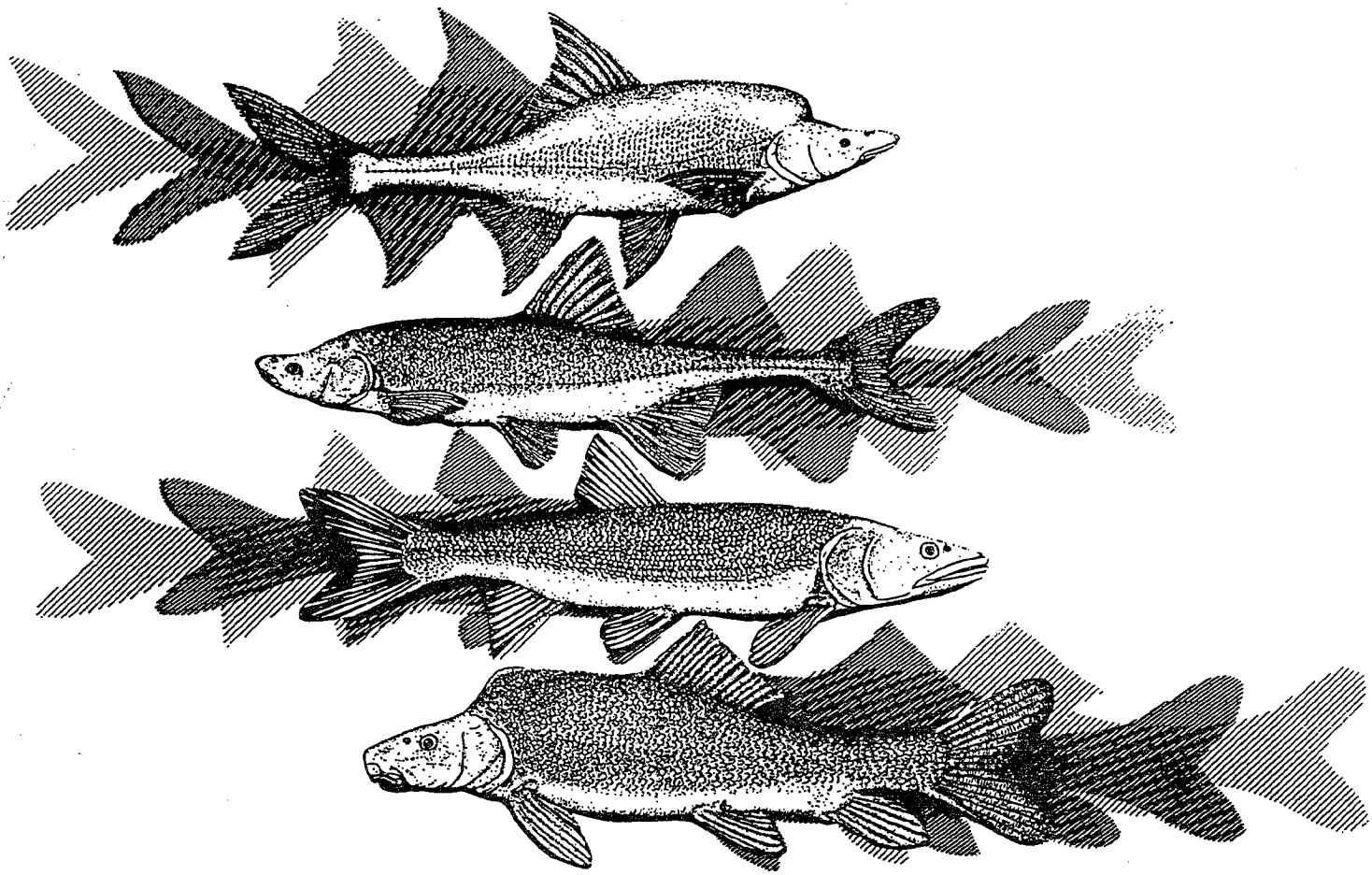
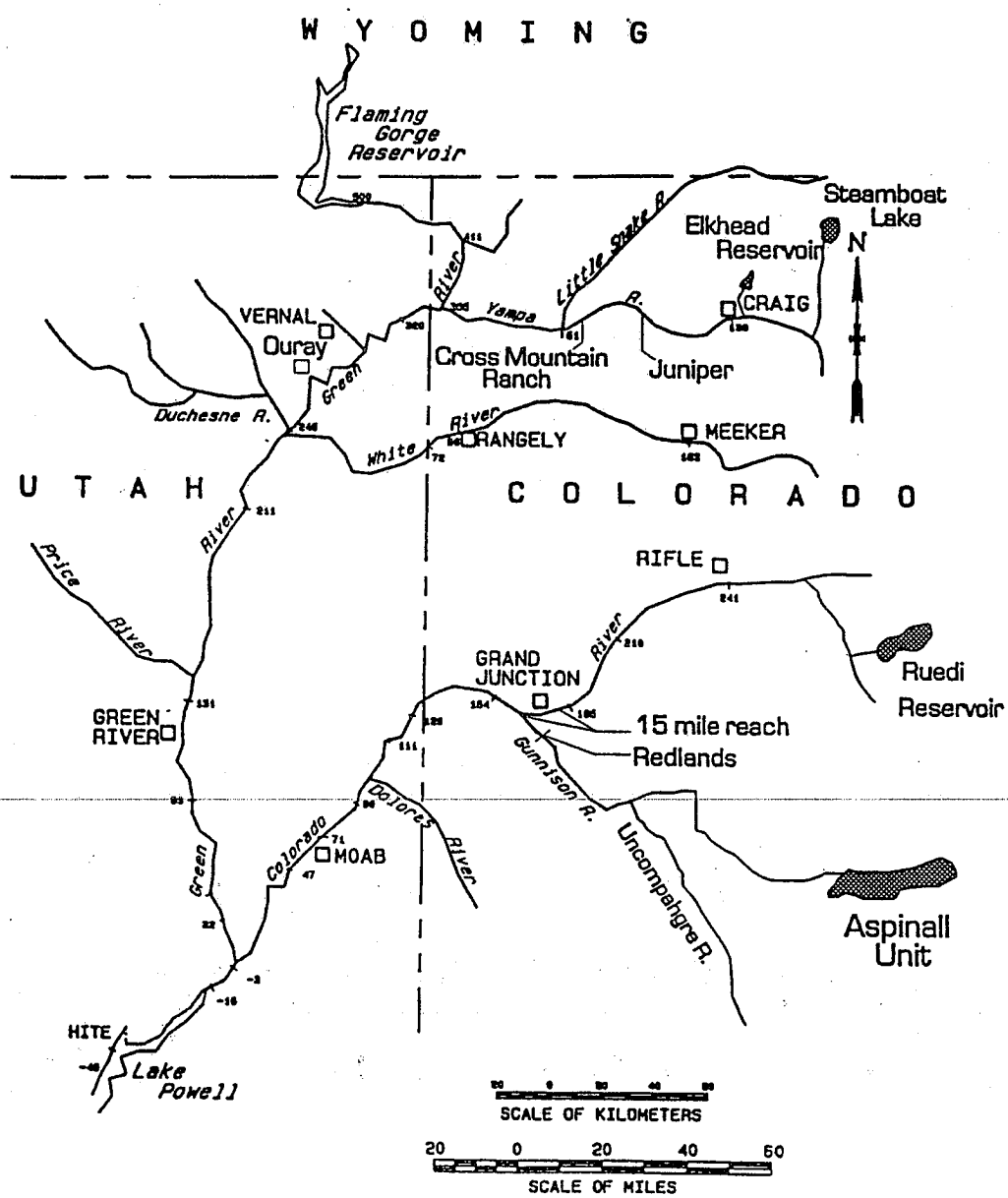


1997 WASHINGTON, D.C., BRIEFING

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.



Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin

April 7 - April 11, 1997

1997 Washington, D.C., briefing packet

Contents:

Requested FY 1998 Congressional action items (Summarized version)	Page 1
Requested FY 1998 Congressional action items (Detailed version)	Page 2
Recovery Program accomplishments	Page 4
Upcoming events	Page 8
Fish population status and recovery goals	Page 9
Recovery Program overview	Page 10
Recovery Program elements	Page 11
Long-term funding legislation	Page 12

Appendices:

Recovery Program expenditures	Appendix 1
Letters of support	Appendix 2
List of Washington, D.C., trip participants	Appendix 3

RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR THE ENDANGERED FISHES OF THE UPPER COLORADO

Requested FY 1998 Congressional action items
(Summarized version)

Recovery Program participants would like to make the following requests from Congress (details on each item are provided on following pages):

Fish and Wildlife Service budget

1. Support Fish and Wildlife Service funding for the Recovery Program.
   ($667,000 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 operation and maintenance of the Ouray National Fish Hatchery.
   (FY 1997 funding level requested in "Fish Hatchery Operation and Maintenance.")

Bureau of Reclamation budget

4. Support Bureau of Reclamation funds for the Recovery Program.
   ($7.162 million requested in funds for "Construction Program, Upper Colorado Region - Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program.")

Requested FY 1998 Congressional action items
(Detailed version)

Fish and Wildlife Service budget

1. **Support Fish and Wildlife Service funding for the Recovery Program. ($667,000 requested in "Recovery" funds.)**
Recovery Program participants request Congressional support for $667,000 of Endangered Species Recovery funds for the Service to participate in the Recovery Program in FY 1998. 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 supports Service participation in monitoring fish populations and their responses to recovery activities.
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.
Basinwide 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 Green, Colorado, and Gunnison rivers and 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 1998, the region-wide Section 6 funding total is expected to be reduced to $470,000. Unless the $200,000 is dedicated before the allocation formula is applied, the Service's ability to fund other high priority recovery efforts for the Region's 73 other endangered species will suffer greatly. Projects to be funded with the $200,000 in Grants to States would be:
Interagency standardized monitoring program: Funding will cover participation in this effort by the States of Colorado and Utah.
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.
Duchesne River studies: This entails collecting data on fish habitat, distribution and

abundance aimed at refining interim flow recommendations for the Duchesne River.

3. **Support Fish and Wildlife Service funds for operation and maintenance of the Ouray National Fish Hatchery.**
(FY 1997 funding level in "Fish Hatchery Operation and Maintenance.")
Recovery Program participants request Congressional support for operating the Service's National Fish Hatchery in Ouray, Utah, at the same amount funded in fiscal year 1997. The funding will enable this facility to continue raising and holding captive endangered fish for stocking, research and "refuge" purposes.

Bureau of Reclamation budget

4. **Support Bureau of Reclamation funds for the Recovery Program.**
($7.162 million requested in funds for "Construction Program, Upper Colorado Region - Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program.")
Recovery Program participants request Congressional support for $7.162 million in Bureau of Reclamation Construction Program funds for FY 1998. Funds would be used for water acquisition and capital construction projects including:
Fish passage: Reclamation funds would go for building a fish ladder on the Colorado River at the Grand Valley Irrigation Company diversion. Once the success of this fish ladder and one at the Redlands Diversion Dam has been established, additional passageways likely will be built. These activities will benefit Colorado squawfish and razorback sucker by giving them access to more than 100 miles of historic habitat and by allowing unrestricted movement within their current range.
Water acquisition: Water acquisition initiatives by Reclamation include:
— Modification and automation of canal systems 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 in the Colorado.
— Reviewing alternatives for protecting flows for endangered fish *and* meeting human needs for water in the Yampa River Basin.
Flood plain restoration: Funding is needed in FY 1998 to continue land acquisition, levee removal and other flood plain restoration activities at high priority sites. Restoring these flood plains is thought to be especially important for endangered razorback suckers and will benefit a variety of wetland-dependent wildlife.
Endangered fish hatchery construction: Existing hatcheries fall short of meeting anticipated needs. Additional hatchery and research facilities are required to prevent endangered fish from becoming extinct, maintain unique genetic resources and produce fish for appropriate stocking, reintroduction efforts and research. Funding is needed in fiscal year 1998 for continued construction at the Ouray hatchery and for excavating several "grow-out ponds" to raise razorback suckers for increased stocking in the Green, Colorado and Gunnison rivers.

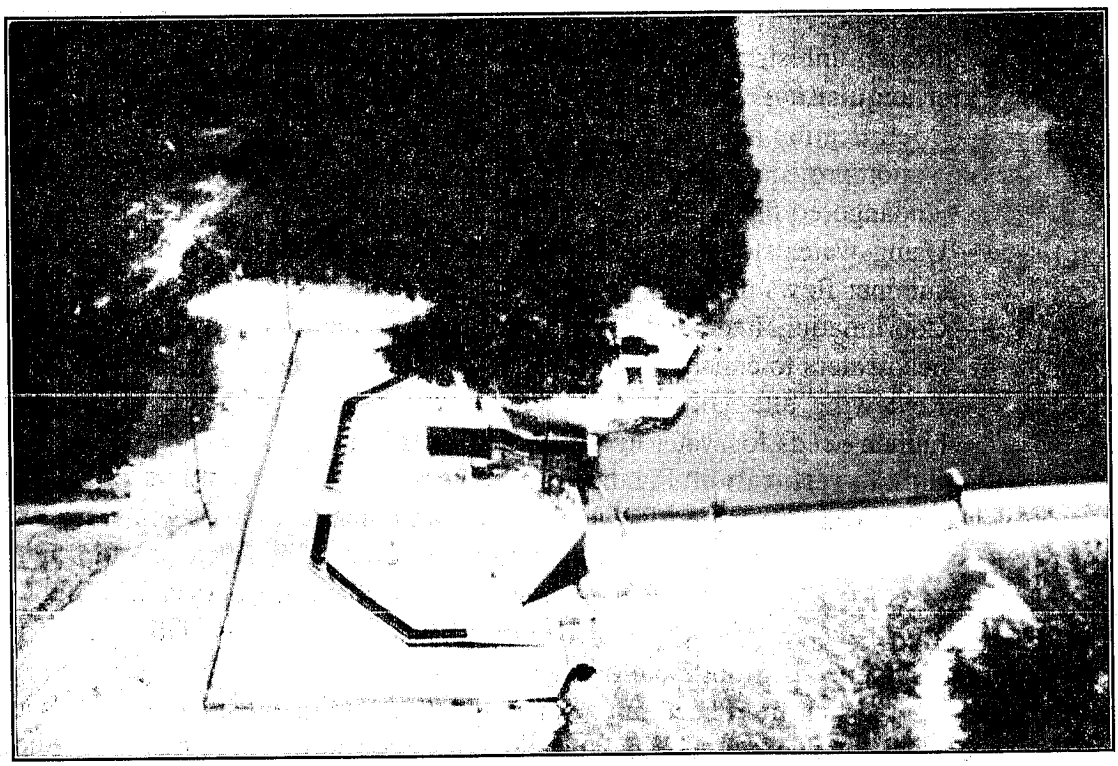
Recovery Program accomplishments

Below are just a few of the Recovery Program's accomplishments to date:

- Researchers have made a 132-acre wetland on the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah available to endangered fish. The wetland is downstream of the primary known spawning area for razorback suckers in the upper Colorado River basin. Inlet and outlet mechanisms have been installed to control water levels and prevent large non-native fish from entering. Biologists have found young razorback suckers in the wetland, indicating that this type of habitat can help the fish survive beyond the critical stage in the wild.

- Recovery Program funds were used to purchase a 153-acre parcel of land on the Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colo. The property is considered extremely valuable for endangered fish, providing a diverse array of habitat types including riffles, backwaters, pools and side channels.

- A 350-foot-long fish ladder was built at Redlands Diversion Dam, providing the fish a pathway around the 12-foot dam and giving them access to 50 miles of their historical habitat. (The ladder is on the Gunnison River two miles upstream of the Colorado River confluence.)



The Redlands Fish Ladder, on the Gunnison River in southwestern Colorado, has opened up 50 miles of historical habitat to endangered fish. The U-shaped channel wraps around the dam. Fish enter at the bottom (lower left in photo) and swim up the ladder to a 'holding area' at the top, where biologists release the native fish upstream.

- Bureau of Reclamation officials have altered the timing of releases from Flaming Gorge and Blue Mesa dams, providing researchers with valuable data that will be used to determine future operations of the dams. The amount of water affected by these changes totals 2.5 million acre-feet each year.

- 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. The water will boost flows in the Colorado River between Palisade, Colo., and the Gunnison River confluence. During late summer, this stretch of river has been known to go nearly dry. In addition, the Bureau of Reclamation has made 31,650 acre-feet of water available for release from Ruedi Reservoir to increase flows in this same part of the Colorado River.

- Colorado State Parks, the Colorado Water Conservation Board and 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 dry years, Yampa River flows have dropped to as little as 20 cubic feet per second in the fall. During such years, the Steamboat Lake releases will provide additional water needed by endangered fish and other fish species in the Yampa River basin.

- The Colorado Water Conservation Board has filed for year-round in-stream flow rights for the Colorado River through the Grand Valley. The state also filed for 300 cubic feet per second of unclaimed irrigation return flows in this same stretch of river and has filed for year-round endangered fish flow rights in the Yampa River.

- The Utah State Engineer has set a water rights policy protecting flows in the Green River 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.

- Federal and state wildlife agencies in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming have finalized an agreement on stocking of non-native sport fish. The agreement specifies the circumstances under which certain species of non-native fish can be stocked without harming endangered fish, specifying when non-native fish species can be routinely stocked, when stocking is prohibited and when case-by-case reviews are required. The procedures allow widespread stocking of trout and stocking of a variety of warmwater fish species in seven Western Slope reservoirs totaling more than 10,000 surface acres. As part of the stocking agreement, the Fish and Wildlife Service has committed to providing 40,000 catchable-size trout each year for stocking in public ponds in areas where stocking warmwater fish is prohibited.

- Up to 2,000 razorback suckers were stocked into the Green and Gunnison rivers in 1995 and 1996. Also, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources initiated stocking of bonytail in 1996, when 2,000 of this extremely rare fish were released in the Colorado River. (Plans call for continued stocking of both of these two fish species at increasing numbers each year.)

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

- Federal and state biologists completed a comprehensive report summarizing the first seven years of the Interagency Standardized Monitoring Program that tracks endangered fish populations. Among the findings are that non-native fish compose 75 to 99 percent of all fish collected; the most common being fathead minnows, red shiners and sand shiners. Monitoring efforts also have found that young-of-the-year (newborn) Colorado squawfish are more abundant in the Green River than in the Colorado, which may mean that the changes made in operations of Flaming Gorge Dam have boosted survival and growth of these fish downstream.

- Biologists completed an inventory of flood plain habitats for 870 miles of the Colorado, Green, Gunnison, Yampa and White rivers last year. This inventory has been used to identify sites that could be restored to provide additional habitat for endangered fish.

- In May 1996, biologists discovered young-of-the-year razorback suckers near the confluence of the Green and San Rafael rivers in Utah. Researchers had never before found young razorbacks there so early in the year, suggesting that a new or previously unidentified population of this fish may exist in the lower Green River.

- The Service extended an internal section 7 consultation that waives payment of the charge for projects that deplete less than 100 acre-feet of water per year. This has simplified the section 7 consultation process for many water projects in the upper basin.

- Since 1988, the Service has used Recovery Program accomplishments as a basis for issuing favorable biological opinions on more than 300 water projects in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. As a result, city governments, developers, farmers and oil companies have been allowed to complete some 300 water projects, providing more than 200,000 acre-feet of water for local economic development.

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

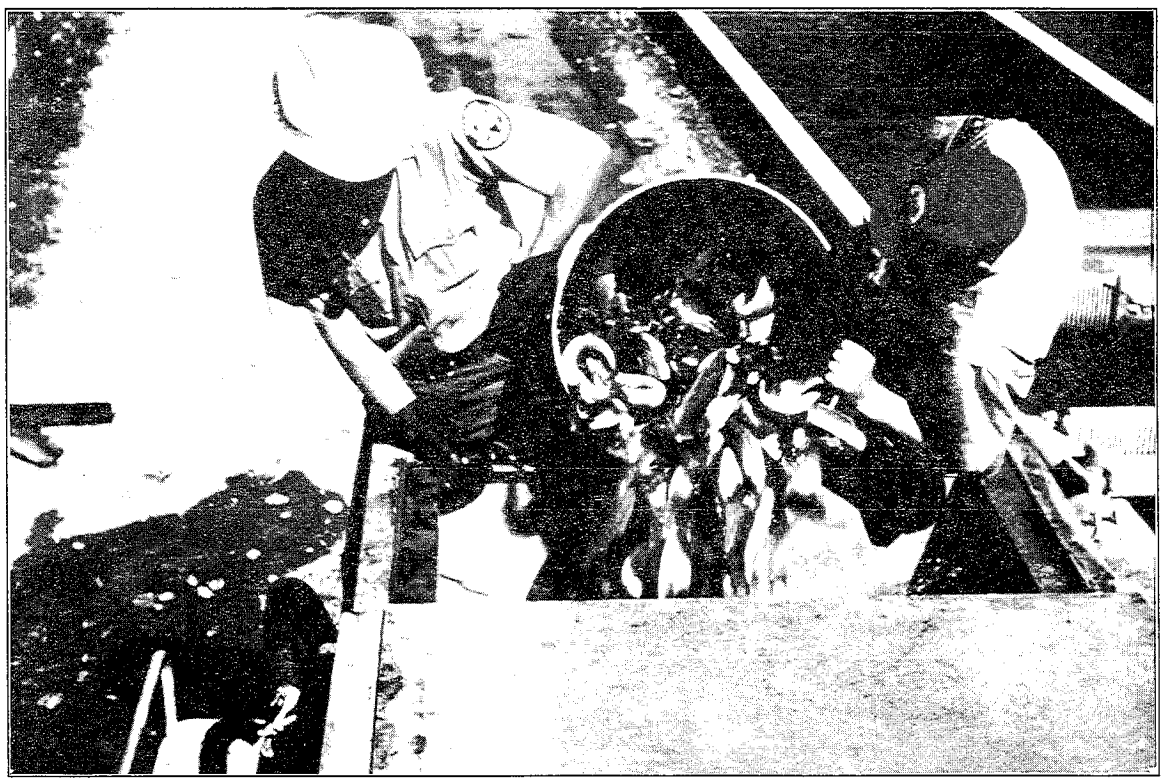
  Ouray National Fish Hatchery: The 26 ponds at the Ouray hatchery serve as a "refuge" for Green River populations of all four endangered fish species, with emphasis on razorback suckers. The purpose of holding these fish is to prevent them from going extinct if there were an oil or chemical spill in the river. Razorbacks raised at the facility also are used for research, education, brood stock development and for stocking in the Green River basin.

  Wahweap Endangered Fish Facility:
  A total of five ponds at the Wahweap facility are used to raise bonytail to prevent extinction in the wild and for stocking into the Green, Colorado and Gunnison rivers. Razorback suckers also are maintained as a "back-up" supply and for stocking into the Green, Colorado, Gunnison and San Juan rivers.

Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area (near Fruita, Colo.): The six ponds at this location are used to raise Colorado squawfish and razorback sucker for future stocking, primarily in the upper Colorado River. The site also is used to hold humpback chubs in refuge ponds, preventing them from going extinct if a large die-off or accident were to occur in the river.

24 Road Hatchery (in Grand Junction, Colo.): A total of 36 tanks are used to hold razorback sucker eggs and raise newly hatched offspring from different parent fish, keeping them separate from other family lots of fish. By maintaining the fish in separate lots, biologists can be sure that the fish they eventually stock will not "swamp" the genetic diversity that exists in wild populations. When the fish are about 6 months old, they are implanted with electronic tags and transferred to Clymer's Pond (see below).

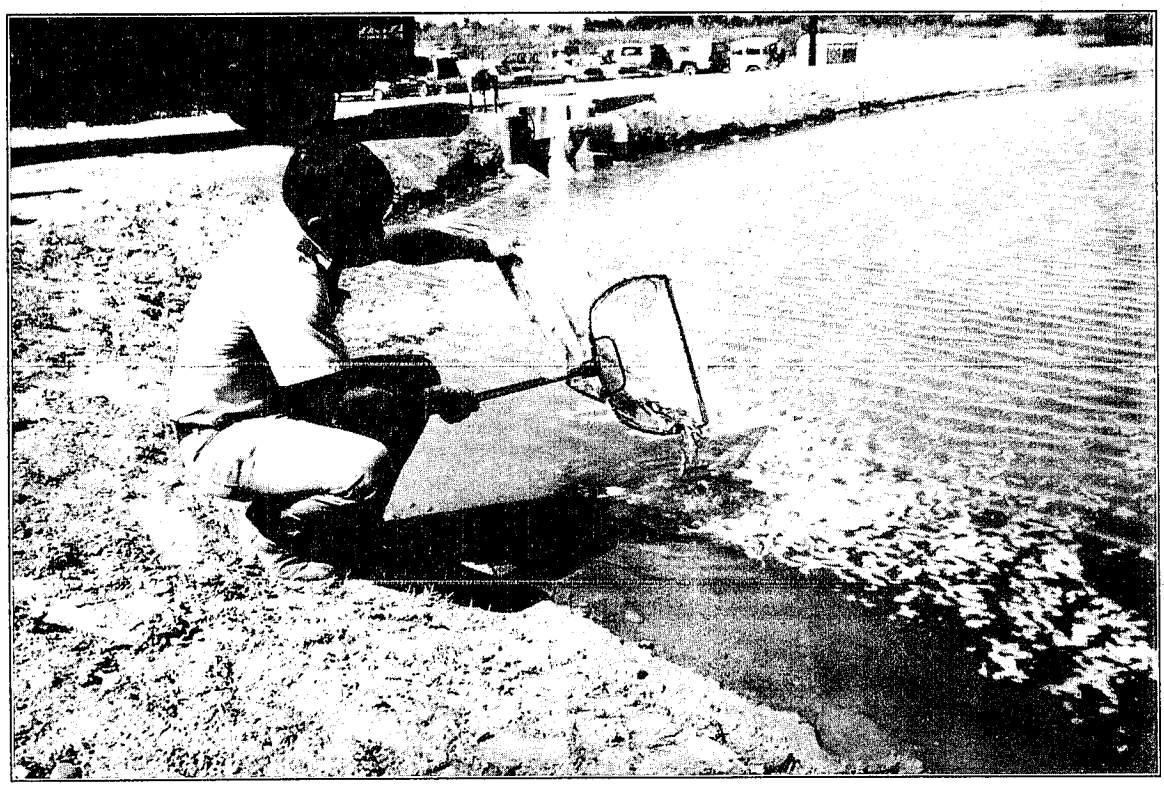
Clymer's Pond (Grand Junction, Colo.): This five-acre pond is used to raise razorback suckers from age 6 months, when they are about 4 inches long, to 1 year, when they are around 8 inches long. At that size, they are implanted with electronic identification tags, and most will be stocked in the Gunnison and Colorado rivers.



The recently approved non-native fish stocking procedures allow widespread stocking of trout. A variety of warmwater fish species also can be stocked in select waters.

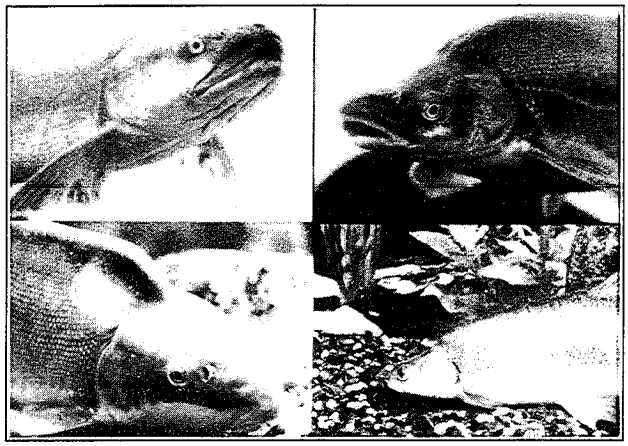
Upcoming events

- The revised biological opinion on the operation of Flaming Gorge Dam, on the Green River in northeastern Utah, is due in December 1997.
- A draft biological opinion is due in March 1988 on the operation of Blue Mesa, Morrow Point and Crystal dams (the "Aspinall Unit") on the Gunnison River in southwestern Colorado.
- On the Green River near Vernal, Utah, and in the Colorado River's Grand Valley, the Recovery Program will continue to work cooperatively with landowners to restore select riverside wetland areas as habitat for young endangered fish. For property considered highly valuable for endangered fish, the Recovery Program hopes to pay "willing sellers" a fee in exchange for allowing periodic flooding of the property. Similar actions are planned on the Gunnison River in 1998.
- At the Wahweap hatchery, six more endangered fish ponds will be completed this spring.
- Stocking of bonytail was initiated in 1996. Plans call for stocking another 2,000 of these extremely rare fish in 1997. Also, biologists will continue stocking up to 2,000 razorback suckers each fall in Utah's Green River and in the Gunnison River in southwestern Colorado.
- Non-native fish that prey upon and compete with endangered fish are being removed from the Green River this year and from the Green, Colorado and Gunnison rivers in 1998.



Endangered fish are now being raised in five different facilities in Colorado and Utah. Here, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee releases hatchery-raised Colorado squawfish into ponds on the Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area in western Colorado.

Fish population status and recovery goals



Endangered Colorado River fish (clockwise from top left): Colorado squawfish, humpback chub, bonytail, razorback sucker.

Colorado squawfish

The largest numbers of Colorado squawfish in the Colorado River Basin are in the Green River, where their numbers may be rising. Populations in the Colorado and Yampa rivers are small but appear stable. Elsewhere, Colorado squawfish populations are small, although several recent discoveries have been made: A handful of larval squawfish were captured in 1995 for the first time in the Gunnison River upstream of the Redlands Diversion Dam and in the Colorado River's Grand Valley in 1995. A small number of young squawfish were discovered about 30 miles up the Price River in Utah in 1996. Recovery goals for this fish species are to establish naturally self-sustaining populations in the Green River and Colorado River sub-basins.

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. Recovery goals are to establish five self-sustaining wild populations and protect their habitat. 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.

Razorback sucker

Biologists recently discovered a spawning population of razorback suckers in the lower Green River. However, most razorbacks captured in recent years in the Green, Colorado and Yampa rivers are thought to be more than 20 years old, with very little known "recruitment" of young fish into the adult population, meaning few young are surviving to adulthood. Razorback populations are considered critical. The first priority for the razorback is to prevent their extinction in the wild.

Bonytail

The bonytail is the rarest of the four endangered fish. Captive populations of bonytail are being maintained at Horsethief State Wildlife Area in Colorado and at the Wahweap Hatchery in Utah. About 2,000 of the bonytails from Wahweap were stocked in the Colorado River last fall. The primary recovery goal for the bonytail is to prevent extinction in the wild.

Recovery Program overview

The Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin is a 15-year, interagency partnership aimed at recovering endangered Colorado squawfish, humpback chub, bonytail and razorback sucker while providing for future water development. The program was launched in 1988, when the Governors of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming; the Secretary of the Interior; and the Administrator of Western Area Power Administration signed a cooperative agreement initiating the program and committing each participant to implementing the program's elements.

The program has brought together the following diverse group of 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
- National Audubon Society
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Colorado Wildlife Federation
- Wyoming Wildlife Federation
- Colorado River Energy Distributors Association

Recovery Program elements

- **Habitat management**, which includes identifying and acquiring in-stream flows and changing operations of Federal dams to benefit endangered fish.

- **Habitat development**, which includes restoring flood plain habitats and constructing fish passageways around dams and other barriers.

- **Native fish propagation**, which involves establishing methods and facilities for holding adult broodstock, which will prevent extinction and maintain 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**, which entails managing detrimental non-native fish species in critical habitat of endangered fish. This element also involves distributing information to anglers to reduce accidental taking of endangered fish.

- **Research, monitoring and data management**, which is aimed at gaining a better understanding of what the fish need to survive, grow and reproduce in the wild. It includes maintaining 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.

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

The success of the Recovery Program will depend to a large extent on obtaining sufficient funds to implement recovery activities identified the Recovery Action Plan. The cost for implementing the Recovery Program is estimated at $60 to $112 million through the year 2003. About two-thirds of the funding will be needed to implement a variety of capital projects such as building fish ladders, acquiring water and water rights, acquiring and restoring flood plain habitats used by endangered fish, and constructing additional hatchery facilities.

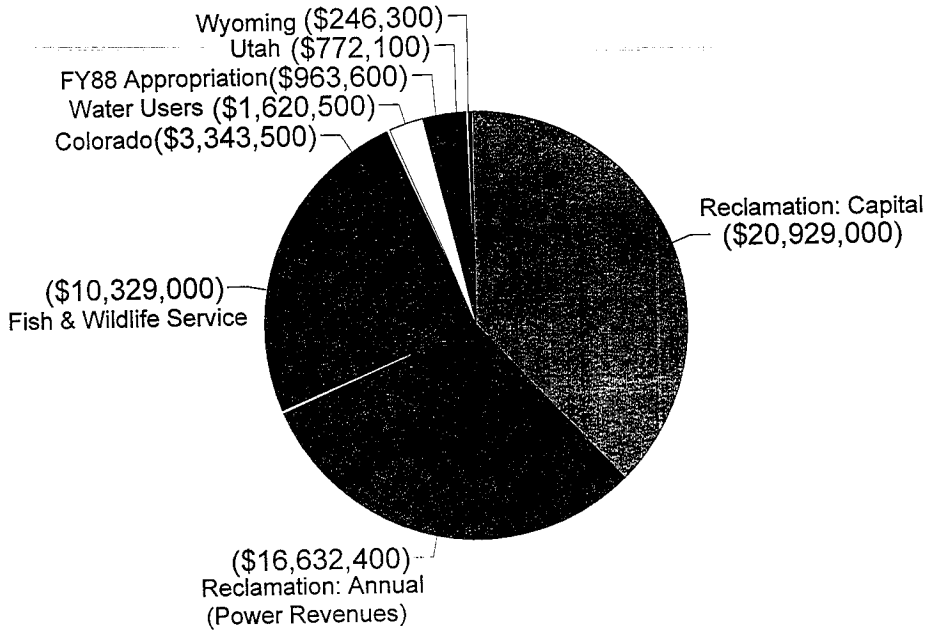
In October 1994, the Recovery Program's Implementation Committee formed an ad hoc committee to develop a long-term funding strategy for the Recovery Program. The San Juan River Recovery Program was also invited to participate in the discussions because of its critical linkage to the Colorado River Storage Project. Participants in the discussions have included the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming; water, power and environmental groups; several Indian tribes; and 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 basin and San Juan River recovery programs and provide for a mechanism to fund the programs through the year 2003 and 2007, respectively. Since that time several program participants have been involved in discussions to resolve issues on how Section 7, Endangered Species Act consultations will be conducted on new and existing water projects in the upper basin. Negotiations are slated to resume in April 1997. Major issues being addressed include potential funding sources and funding mechanisms, cost ceilings for the program, and cost-sharing by program participants. It is anticipated that the bill will be presented to Congress in the summer or fall of 1997.

Total Recovery Program expenditures to date (dollars)

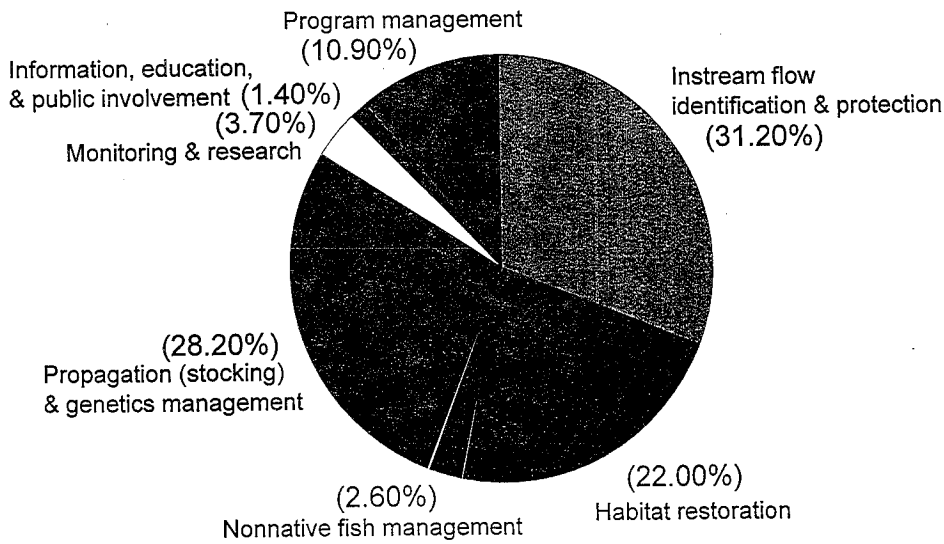
Total = $54,836,400

(FY 1989-1997)



Recovery Program expenditures by category (percentages)

(FY 1997 only)



Letters of support

ROBERT F. BENNETT
UTAH

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC
SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4403
(202) 224-5444

STATE OFFICES:

- WALLACE BENNETT FEDERAL BUILDING
  125 SOUTH STATE, SUITE 4225
  SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84138-1188
  (801) 524-5933
- FEDERAL BUILDING
  324 25TH STREET, SUITE 7410
  OGDEN, UT 84401-2310
  (801) 625-5678
- OLD COURTHOUSE BUILDING
  51 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 310
  PROVO, UT 84601-4424
  (801) 379-2525
- FEDERAL BUILDING
  196 EAST TABERNACLE, SUITE 42
  ST. GEORGE, UT 84770-3474
  (801) 628-5514
- FEDERAL BUILDING
  82 NORTH 100 EAST, SUITE 200
  CEDAR CITY, UT 84720-2868
  (801) 865-7335

May 8, 1996

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

Dear Chairman Gorton:

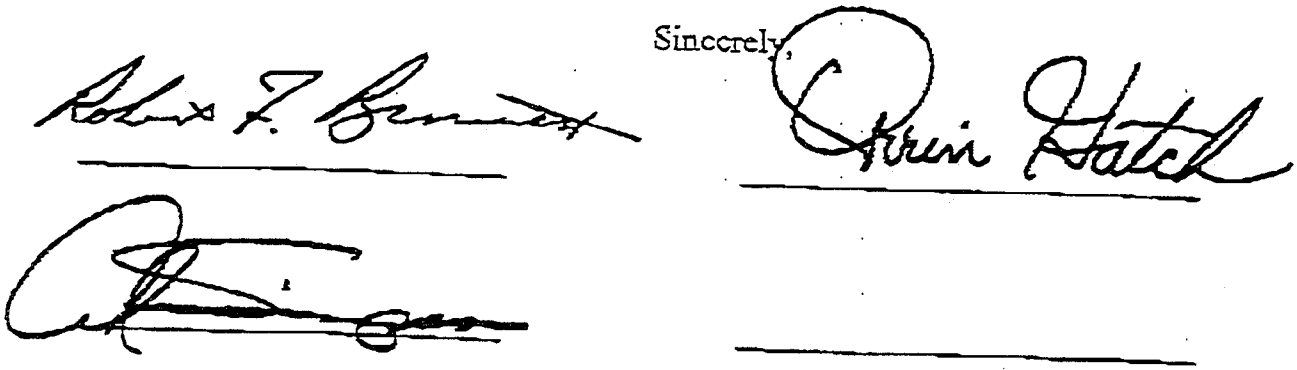
We are writing to request your support for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fishes Recovery Implementation Program. The program will cover the three states of Colorado, Wyoming and Utah. The allocation will facilitate the recovery program for four endangered fish species in the upper Colorado: the Razorback Sucker, Bonytail Chub, Humpback Chub, and Colorado Squawfish.

We request that the Subcommittee support the FWS request of **$624,000** of recovery funds to help meet its commitment to the recovery program. This is the same amount that has been requested in previous years. We also request that **$200,000** of Section 6 funds be set aside before the FWS formula for allocating funds is applied. We recognize that the ESA Section 6 budget for all 73 listed species in Region 6 is expected to be just over $500,000 for FY96. Dedicating $200,000, or over one-third of the Region's budget to the Colorado fish recovery program would significantly impact state recovery programs for other species. For this reason, we request that language be included to designate funding for the Recovery Program before the FWS formula is applied.

Finally, we request the Subcommittee appropriate **$250,000** for hatcheries operation and maintenance funding in the base FY97 budget for the FWS Fisheries Activity, Hatchery O&M subactivity to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah.

We appreciate the difficult choices the subcommittee has had to make in an effort to control Federal spending, and we appreciate your support for these programs in the past. We look forward to working closely with you in the coming weeks as the FY97 appropriations process begins in earnest.

Sincerely,



1801-30-18

ROBERT F. BENNETT
UTAH

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC
SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4403
(202) 224-5444

STATE OFFICES:

- WALLACE BENNETT FEDERAL BUILDING
  125 SOUTH STATE, SUITE 4225
  SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84138-1188
  (801) 524-5933
- FEDERAL BUILDING
  324 25TH STREET, SUITE 1410
  OGDEN, UT 84401-2310
  (801) 625-5678
- OLD COURT HOUSE BUILDING
  51 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 310
  PROVO, UT 84601-4424
  (801) 379-2626
- FEDERAL BUILDING
  196 EAST TABERNACLE, SUITE 24
  ST. GEORGE, UT 84770-3474
  (801) 628-5514
- FEDERAL BUILDING
  82 NORTH 100 EAST, SUITE 200
  CEDAR CITY, UT 84720-2668
  (801) 865-1336

May 8, 1996

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

Dear Chairman Domenici,

We request your support of an appropriation in FY97 of $7.468 million to the Bureau of Reclamation for programs associated with the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fishes Recover Implementation Program. This program is the combined effort of the states of Colorado, Wyoming and Utah, the Department of the Interior, the Western Area Power Administration, and environmental and water user organizations. This program focuses on recovery of the four endangered fish species in the Colorado: the humpback chub, razorback sucker, Colorado squawfish, and the bonytail chub, and still allows the states to continue development of Compact-apportioned waters. This funding is critical to the success of this unique cooperative effort.

These requested funds will enable the preparation and construction activities begun in 1994 to continue. These activities are crucial to the implementation of the Recovery Program for these four fish. Congress has already appropriated $1 million to this project to secure water rights. Of this $1 million, $522,100 has been used, $133,300 will be used in FY96, and the remaining $344,800 will be used through FY97.

The $7.468 million request is included in the FY97 Administration budget for Reclamation under Construction-Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program-Upper Colorado-Upper Colorado Region-Various Studies. We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Bennett

Orrin Hatch

SCOTT McINNIS
3D DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0603

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
715 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–0603
(202) 225–4761
FAX: (202) 226–0622

DISTRICT OFFICES:
134 WEST B STREET
PUEBLO, CO 81003
(719) 543–9200
FAX: (719) 543–9204

327 NORTH 7TH STREET
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81501
(303) 246–7107
FAX: (303) 245–7181

1080 MAIN AVENUE
102
DURANGO, CO 81301
(303) 259–2754
FAX: (303) 259–2752

516 PINE STREET
SUITE 111
GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO 81601
(303) 928–0637
FAX: (303) 928–0850

March 27, 1996

The Honorable Ralph Regula, Chairman
House Appropriation Subcommittee on
Interior and Related Agencies
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 (the "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. Our requests will insure that federal cost sharing funds are provided to the Recovery Program. We have three requests:

1. That the Subcommittee support the $624,000 of recovery funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the same amount requested in previous years.

2. That language be included in the Subcommittee's FY 1997 appropriations legislation to indicate that $200,000 of Section 6 funds should be allocated to the Recovery Program <u>before</u> 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 $503,000 in FY 1996. 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 insure the Recovery Program will continue to be funded but not at the expense of other high priority recovery efforts in Region 6. In FY 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 $250,000 of hatcheries operation and maintenance funding in the base FY 1997 budget for the FWS (Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O& M Subactivity) to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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 FWS is given adequate funds and direction on how to allocates 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,

Congressman Scott McInnis

Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder

Congressman Dan Schaefer

Congressman Wayne Allard

Congressman Bill Orton

Congresswoman Enid Waldholtz

Congresswoman BarBara Cubin

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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

Roy Romer
Governor

March 15, 1996

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

Dear Chairman Gorton:

I am 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 funding will ensure that federal cost sharing funds are provided to the Recovery Program. Colorado supports the following requests:

1. That the Subcommittee support the $624,000 of recovery funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the same amount requested in previous years.

2. That language be included in the Subcommittee's fiscal year 1997 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 $503,000 in fiscal year 1996. 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 insure the Recovery Program continued funding, 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 $250,000 of hatcheries operation and maintenance funding in the base fiscal year 1997 budget for the FWS (Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity) to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah.

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 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,

Roy Romer

Roy Romer
Governor

STATE OF COLORADO

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

Roy Romer
Governor

March 15, 1996

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

Dear Chairman Domenici:

I am writing to request your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 1997 of $7.9 million to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for activities associated with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin ("Recovery Program"). I expect this amount will be included in the Administration's proposed fiscal year 1997 budget for Reclamation under an item labeled "Construction-Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program-Upper Colorado-Upper Colorado Region-Various Studies."

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 eighth year of operation, has the objective of cooperatively recovering the four endangered fish while water development moves forward in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Beginning in fiscal year 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies and action 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. Activities also were initiated on several fish habitat restoration projects, including restoration of flooded bottomlands and wetlands in Utah and Colorado. With 1996 funds, the Redlands Fish Passage near Grand Junction was completed. The fiscal year 1997 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. Through fiscal year 1995, $522,100 from the previous appropriation was used, and $133,300 will be used in fiscal year 1996. In fiscal year 1997, we will continue to use the remaining $344,800 to acquire water and water rights for the endangered fish.

I 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,

Roy Romer

Roy Romer
Governor

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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

Roy Romer
Governor

March 15, 1996

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman
House Appropriation Subcommittee on
Interior and Related Agencies
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Regula:

I am writing to request your support for continued funding of 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 funding will ensure that federal cost sharing funds are provided to the Recovery Program. Colorado supports the following requests:

1. That the Subcommittee support the $624,000 of recovery funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the same amount requested in previous years.

2. That language be included in the Subcommittee's fiscal year 1997 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 $503,000 in fiscal year 1996. 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 insure the Recovery Program continued funding, 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 $250,000 of hatcheries operation and maintenance funding in the base fiscal year 1997 budget for the FWS (Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity) to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah.

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 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,

Roy Romer

Roy Romer
Governor

STATE OF COLORADO

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

Roy Romer
Governor

March 14, 1996

The Honorable John Myers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Myers:

I am writing to request your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 1997 of $7.9 million to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for activities associated with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin ("Recovery Program"). I expect this amount will be included in the Administration's proposed fiscal year 1997 budget for Reclamation under an item labeled "Construction-Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program-Upper Colorado-Upper Colorado Region-Various Studies."

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 eighth year of operation, has the objective of cooperatively recovering the four endangered fish while water development moves forward in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Beginning in fiscal year 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies and action 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. Activities also were initiated on several fish habitat restoration projects, including restoration of flooded bottomlands and wetlands in Utah and Colorado. With 1996 funds, the Redlands Fish Passage near Grand Junction was completed. The fiscal year 1997 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. Through fiscal year 1995, $522,100 from the previous appropriation was used, and $133,300 will be used in fiscal year 1996. In fiscal year 1997, we will continue to use the remaining $344,800 to acquire water and water rights for the endangered fish.

I 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,

Roy Romer
Governor

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT
GOVERNOR

STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY
84114-0601

OLENE S. WALKER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 30, 1996

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

Dear Chairman Gorton:

On behalf of the State of Utah, I request your support for continuation of funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species of the Upper Colorado River Basin (Recovery Program). This Recovery Program is a cooperative effort, initiated in 1988 jointly by the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, the Department of the Interior, the Western Area Power Administration, and environmental and water using organizations. The objective of the Program is recovery of the four endangered fish species, while allowing the states to continue development of Compact-apportioned waters in full compliance with provisions of the Endangered Species Act. This federal portion of the Recovery Program funding is critical to the success of this unique federal/state/private cooperative effort.

Utah supports the requests as described in the attachment, most of which we understand are included in the FY97 Administration budget request.

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 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 are thankful for your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

March, 1996

FY97 Appropriation Requests Related to Upper Colorado Recovery Implementation Program for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1. That the Subcommittee support the $624,000 of recovery funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the same amount requested in previous years.

2. That language be included in the Subcommittee's fiscal year 1997 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 $503,000 in fiscal year 1996. 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 insure the Recovery Program continued funding, 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 $250,000 of hatcheries operation and maintenance funding in the base fiscal year 1997 budget for the FWS (Fisheries Activity, Hatchery O&M Subactivity) to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah.

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT
GOVERNOR

STATE OF UTAH

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY
84114-0601

OLENE S. WALKER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 30, 1996

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

Dear Chairman Domenici:

On behalf of the State of Utah, I request your support for an appropriation in FY97 of $7.468 million to the Bureau of Reclamation for appropriations associated with the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fishes Recovery Implementation Program. This Program is a cooperative effort initiated in 1988 jointly by the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, the Department of the Interior, the Western Area Power Administration, and environmental and water using organizations. The objective of the Program is recovery of the four endangered fish species, while allowing the states to continue development of Compact-apportioned waters in full compliance with provisions of the Endangered Species Act. This funding is critical to the success of this unique federal/state/private cooperative effort.

Beginning in fiscal year 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies and action in preparation for the construction activities necessary to recover the endangered fish. The fiscal year 1997 funds we are requesting will enable these 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. Through fiscal year 1995, $522,100 from the previous appropriation was used, and $133,300 will be used in fiscal year 1996. In fiscal year 1997, we will continue to use the remaining $344,800 to acquire water and water rights for the endangered fish.

It is our understanding that the $7.468 million request is included in the FY97 Administration budget for Reclamation under an item labeled "Construction-Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program-Upper Colorado-Upper Colorado Region-Various Studies." Timely implementation of the Recovery Program is extremely important to the efficient management and development of Utah's water resources, and we will appreciate any assistance you can give to keep this effort moving.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT
GOVERNOR

STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY
84114-0601

OLENE S. WALKER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 30, 1996

The Honorable Ralph Regula, Chairman
House Appropriation Subcommittee on
Interior and Related Agencies
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Regula:

On behalf of the State of Utah, I request your support for continuation of funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species of the Upper Colorado River Basin (Recovery Program). This Recovery Program is a cooperative effort, initiated in 1988 jointly by the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, the Department of the Interior, the Western Area Power Administration, and environmental and water using organizations. The objective of the Program is recovery of the four endangered fish species, while allowing the states to continue development of Compact-apportioned waters in full compliance with provisions of the Endangered Species Act. This federal portion of the Recovery Program funding is critical to the success of this unique federal/state/private cooperative effort.

Utah supports the requests as described in the attachment, most of which we understand are included in the FY97 Administration budget request.

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 are thankful for your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT
GOVERNOR

STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY
84114-0601

OLENE S. WALKER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 30, 1996

The Honorable John Meyers, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Myers:

On behalf of the State of Utah, I request your support for an appropriation in FY97 of $7.468 million to the Bureau of Reclamation for appropriations associated with the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fishes Recovery Implementation Program. This Program is a cooperative effort initiated in 1988 jointly by the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, the Department of the Interior, the Western Area Power Administration, and environmental and water using organizations. The objective of the Program is recovery of the four endangered fish species, while allowing the states to continue development of Compact-apportioned waters in full compliance with provisions of the Endangered Species Act. This funding is critical to the success of this unique federal/state/private cooperative effort.

Beginning in fiscal year 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies and action in preparation for the construction activities necessary to recover the endangered fish. The fiscal year 1997 funds we are requesting will enable these 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. Through fiscal year 1995, $522,100 from the previous appropriation was used, and $133,300 will be used in fiscal year 1996. In fiscal year 1997, we will continue to use the remaining $344,800 to acquire water and water rights for the endangered fish.

It is our understanding that the $7.468 million request is included in the FY97 Administration budget for Reclamation under an item labeled "Construction-Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program-Upper Colorado-Upper Colorado Region-Various Studies." Timely implementation of the Recovery Program is extremely important to the efficient management and development of Utah's water resources, and we will appreciate any assistance you can give to keep this effort moving.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

STATE OF WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JIM GERINGER
GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

March 13, 1996

The Honorable Alan K. Simpson
United States Senator
United States Senate
SD-105 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-5002

The Honorable Craig Thomas
United States Senator
United States Senate
SH-302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-5003

The Honorable Barbara Cubin
United States Representative
House of Representatives
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-5001

Re: Joint-Delegation Letters Expressing Support for Fiscal Year 1997 Funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Recovery Program)

Dear Senators Simpson and Thomas and Representative Cubin:

Each year since its initiation in 1988, the Recovery Program has sought your support for continued funding of the Program. This three-state, multi-agency program is working to recover, and remove from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing, four species of fish that inhabit the waters of the Upper Colorado River Basin while water development and use proceeds in compliance with state water law, interstate compacts and the ESA.

Enclosed with this letter are copies of letters that I have sent to the Chairmen of the United States Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees having jurisdiction over the budgets of the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which are the two agencies which annually have been receiving appropriations supporting the Recovery Program. I have transmitted these letters supporting Fiscal Year 1997 funding for the Recovery Program because I believe that these efforts are important. While the effort is cumbersome, difficult, fraught with frustration for all of the participants and very expensive, the Program is making progress towards recovering the four endangered

INTERNET GOVERNOR@WYDSPROD.STATE.WY.US • TELEPHONE (307) 777-7434 • FAX (307) 632-3909

fish species and it is providing the reasonable and prudent alternative under ESA Section 7 consultations for existing and new water development projects in Wyoming.

The Program's dual objectives of accomplishing what the present ESA requires be done (recovery) while accommodating the continuing need to make use of additional water resources in the Basin represent the best approach yet devised to resolving the conflict between protecting endangered species and the development of Compact-apportioned water resources. Thus far water development has been able to proceed without litigation over ESA enforcement in this Basin. The endangered fishes and the citizens of the State of Wyoming who rely upon the water resources of the Green and Little Snake River Basins are benefitting from our participation in the Program. I have enclosed a tabulation of those Wyoming water projects whose Section 7 consultations have been able to rely upon the Recovery Program since its initiation in January 1988. This tabulation includes both new development projects as well as existing projects that came under Section 7 consultation review because of a Federal decision, due to rehabilitation, permit renewal, etc.

The Recovery Program's participants, including Wyoming, believe joint-delegation letters are an effective means of demonstrating the support of the three States' Congressional delegation members for the Program's funding requests. On March 19th and 20th, representatives of each of the participating agencies in the Recovery Program will be meeting with members of your staffs, and those of the Colorado and Utah delegations, to brief them on the current status of the Recovery Program, what has been accomplished since last year's briefings, and to seek support for Fiscal Year 1997 funding through obtaining your signatures on joint-delegation letters to the appropriations subcommittees for Recovery Program-related line items that the Program anticipates will be in the Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service budgets when the President releases his budget on March 18th. The joint delegation letters that will be presented to you next week convey the same message contained in the letters I have enclosed to you. Your support for Fiscal Year 1997 funding for this Program, through placing your signature on those letters when they are presented, would be most helpful and greatly appreciated. As always, I will continue to work with you to see that future changes are made to the ESA to reduce the burden placed on water users.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Jim Geringer

Jim Geringer
Governor

JG:gwf

Enclosures

The Nature Conservancy

International Headquarters
1815 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209

TEL 703 841-5300
FAX 703 841-1283

May 16, 1996

The Honorable John T. Myers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Myers:

The Nature Conservancy is an international non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection of biological diversity through the protection of biologically significant habitat. For more than 45 years we have focused on on-the-ground conservation using the best available science; a non-confrontational, market-based approach; and partnerships with people and groups across the political spectrum. More than 800,000 individuals and over 1,200 corporate sponsors are currently Conservancy members.

I am writing to ask your support for the Administration's request for an appropriation of $7.9 million to the Bureau of Reclamation's construction account to support the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

The Recovery Implementation Program is a unique, consensus-driven program in which the state governments of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, water users in the basin, environmental interests (including us) and hydropower users all participate. Until recently, the program's expenses were largely for scientific investigation and planning, with the federal share being paid for out of power revenues. Now, the program's studies and planning have resulted in agreement among the parties for significant capital expenditures. These expenditures will allow the Bureau and its partners in the program to actually implement the recovery of the Colorado squawfish, humpback chub, bonytail sucker and razorback sucker -- the native big fish of the Colorado River system.

Thank you for your past support of appropriations to the recovery program. The funds provided by your subcommittee have been essential to the progress made so far -- and have made it possible for the recovery program to serve as a single. basin-wide "reasonable and prudent alternative" which has enabled hundreds of water diversions to proceed without litigation. With your continued support, we are very hopeful that this program can continue to serve as a model of successful cooperation between states, federal agencies, resource users and the environmental community in balancing water development and environmental interests.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Russell Shay
Senior Policy Advisor

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER USERS

c/o 535 N. Garfield Avenue
Loveland, Colorado 80537
Phone: 970-667-8690
Fax: 970-667-8692

July 2, 1996

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

Dear Chairman Gorton:

We are joining members of the Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah Congressional delegations, the Governors of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, and others in requesting your support and assistance in insuring continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species of the Upper Colorado River Basin (the "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. Our requests will insure that federal cost sharing funds are provided to the Recovery Program. We have three requests:

1. That the Subcommittee support the $624,000 of recovery funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the same amount requested in previous years.

2. That language be included in the Subcommittee's FY 1997 report 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:

   > " A total of $200,000 of Section 6 funds should be allocated to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program before USFWS applies its funding formula for allocating Section 6 funds among its regions."

   The ESA Section 6 budget for all 73 listed species in FWS Region 6 is expected to be $503,000 in FY 1996. 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 insure the Recovery Program will continue to be funded but not at the expense of other high priority recovery efforts in Region 6. In FY 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 $250,000 of hatcheries operation and maintenance funding in the base FY 1997 budget for the FWS (Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O& M Subactivity) to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah.

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 FWS is given adequate funds and direction on how to allocates its funds for recovery of the endangered fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin. We are grateful for your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Southeastern Water Conservation District

Denver Water Department

Ute Water Conservancy

Colorado River Water Conservation District

City of Aurora

cc: Colorado Congressional Delegation

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER USERS

c/o 535 N. Garfield Avenue
Loveland, Colorado 80537
Phone: 970-667-8690
Fax: 970-667-8692

July 2, 1996

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

Dear Chairman Domenici:

We are joining members of the Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah Congrssional delegations, the Governors of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, and others in requesting your support for an appropriation in FY 1997 of $7.468 million to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for activities associated with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin ("the Recovery Program"). This amount is included in the Administration's proposed FY 1997 budget for Reclamation under an item labeled "Construction-Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program-Upper Colorado-Upper Colorado Region-Various studies."

Beginning in FY 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies and action in preparation for the construction activities necessary to recover the endangered fishes. These activities included restoration of fish passage to historical habitat, instream flow protection on the Colorado River (mainstem), Gunnison River, and Yampa River (including the enlargement of the existing Elkhead Reservoir), and the reoperation or modification of existing projects. Activities were also initiated on several fish habitat restoration projects, including the restoration of flooded bottomlands and wetlands in Utah and Colorado. The Redlands Fish Passage near Grand Junction was completed in FY 96 with these lands. The FY 1997 funds we are requesting will enable these vital activities to continue and to be successfully implemented in subsequent fiscal years.

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 eighth year of operation, has the objective of cooperatively recovering the four endangered fishes while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, state water law and interstate compacts .

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,

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Southeastern Water Conservation District

Denver Water Department

Ute Water Conservancy

Colorado River Water Conservation District

City of Aurora

cc: Colorado Congressional Delegation

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER USERS

c/o 535 N. Garfield Avenue
Loveland, CO 80537
Phone: 970-667-8690
Fax: 970-667-8692

July 2, 1996

The Honorable Ralph Regula, Chairman
House Appropriation Subcommittee on
Interior and Related Agencies
B308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Regula:

We are joining members of the Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah Congressional delegations, the Governors of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, and others in requesting your support and assistance in insuring continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species of the Upper Colorado River Basin (the "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. Our requests will insure that federal cost sharing funds are provided to the Recovery Program. We have three requests:

1. That the Subcommittee support the $624,000 of recovery funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the same amount requested in previous years.

2. That language be included in the Subcommittee's FY 1997 report to indicate that $200,000 of Section 6 funds should be allocated to the Recovery Program <u>before</u> the FWS formula for allocating funds among its Regions is applied:

   > "A total of $200,000 of Section 6 funds should be allocated to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program before USFWS applies its funding formula for allocating Section 6 funds among its regions."

   The ESA Section 6 budget for all 73 listed species in FWS Region 6 is expected to be $503,000 in FY 1996. 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 insure the Recovery Program will continue to be funded but not at the expense of other high priority recovery efforts in Region 6. In FY 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 $250,000 of hatcheries operation and maintenance funding in the base FY 1997 budget for the FWS (Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O& M Subactivity) to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah.

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 FWS is given adequate funds and direction on how to allocates its funds for recovery of the endangered fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin. We are grateful for your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Southeastern Water Conservation District

Denver Water Department

Ute Water Conservancy

Colorado River Water Conservation District

City of Aurora

cc: Colorado Congressional Delegation

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER USERS

c/o 535 N. Garfield Avenue
Loveland, Colorado 80537
Phone: 970-667-8690
Fax: 970-667-8692

July 2, 1996

The Honorable John Myers, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Myers:

We are joining members of the Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah Congressional delegations, the Governors of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming to request your support for an appropriation in FY 1997 of $7.468 million to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for activities associated with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin ("the Recovery Program"). This amount is included in the Administration's proposed FY 1997 budget for Reclamation under an item labeled "Construction-Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program-Upper Colorado-Upper Colorado Region-Various studies."

Beginning in FY 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies and action in preparation for the construction activities necessary to recover the endangered fishes. These activities included restoration of fish passage to historical habitat, instream flow protection on the Colorado River (mainstem), Gunnison River, and Yampa River (including the enlargement of the existing Elkhead Reservoir), and the reoperation or modification of existing projects. Activities were also initiated on several fish habitat restoration projects, including the restoration of flooded bottomlands and wetlands in Utah and Colorado. The Redlands Fish Passage near Grand Junction was completed in FY 96 with these lands. The FY 1997 funds we are requesting will enable these vital activities to continue and to be successfully implemented in subsequent fiscal years.

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 eighth year of operation, has the objective of cooperatively recovering the four endangered fishes while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, state water law and interstate compacts .

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,

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Southeastern Water Conservation District

Denver Water Department

Ute Water Conservancy

Colorado River Water Conservation District

City of Aurora

cc: Colorado Congressional Delegation

Rio Blanco Oil Shale Company, Inc.

13188 County Road 24
Rifle, CO 81650
(970) 878-4052
Fax (970) 878-4053
A DIVISION OF AMOCO CORPORATION

Howard W. Earnest
Manager

July 3, 1996

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

Dear Chairman Gorton:

As one of the Upper Colorado River Basin Water Users, Rio Blanco Oil Shale Company joins members of the Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah Congressional delegations, the Governors of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, and others in requesting your support and assistance in insuring continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species of the Upper Colorado River Basin (the "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. Our request will insure that federal cost sharing funds are provided to the Recovery Program. We have three requests:

1. That the Subcommittee support the $624,000 of recovery funds to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the same amount requested in previous years.

2. That language be included in the Subcommittee's FY 1997 report to indicate that $200,000 of Section 6 funds should be allocated to the Recovery Program <u>before</u> the FWS formula for allocating funds among its Regions is applied:

   > "A total of $200,000 of Section 6 funds should be allocated to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program before USFWS applies its funding formula for allocating Section 6 funds among its regions"

   The ESA Section 6 budget for all 73 listed species in FWS region 6 is expected to be $503,000 in FY 1996. 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 insure the Recovery Program will continue to be funded but not at the expense of other high priority recovery efforts in Region 6. In FY 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 $250,000 of hatcheries operation and maintenance funding in the base FY 1997 budget for the FWS (Fisheries Activity, Hatchery O&M Subactivity) to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah.

To provide for continued success of this multi-state, multi-agency 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 grateful for your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Rio Blanco Oil Shale Company

xc: Senator Hank Brown
Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Representative Scott McInnis

Rio Blanco Oil Shale Company, Inc.

13188 County Road 24
Rifle, CO 81650
(970) 878-4052
Fax (970) 878-4053

A DIVISION OF AMOCO CORPORATION

Howard W. Earnest
Manager

July 3, 1996

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

Dear Chairman Domenici:

As one of the Upper Colorado River Basin Water Users, Rio Blanco oil Shale Company joins members of the Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah Congressional delegations, the Governors of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, and others in requesting your support for an appropriation in FY 1997 of $7.468 million to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for activities associated with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin ("the Recovery Program). This amount is included in the Administration's proposed FY 1997 budget for Reclamation under an item labeled "Construction-Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program-Upper Colorado-Upper Colorado Region-Various studies."

Beginning in FY 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies and action in preparation for the construction activities necessary to recover the endangered fishes. These activities included restoration of fish passage to historical habitat, instream flow protection on the Colorado River (mainstem), Gunnison River, and Yampa River (including the enlargement of the existing Elkhead Reservoir), and the reoperation or modification of existing projects. Activities were also initiated on several fish habitat restoration projects, including the restoration of flooded bottomlands and wetlands in Utah and Colorado. The Redlands Fish Passage near Grand Junction was completed in FY 96 with these lands. The FY 1997 funds we are requesting will enable these vital activities to continue and to be successfully implemented in subsequent fiscal years.

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 eighth year of

operation, has the objective of cooperatively recovering the four endangered fishes while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. state water law and interstate compacts.

We would very much appreciated 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

Rio Blanco Oil Shale Company

xc: Senator Hank Brown
Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Representative Scott McInnis

Rio Blanco Oil Shale Company, Inc.

13188 County Road 24
Rifle, CO 81650
(970) 878-4052
Fax (970) 878-4053
A DIVISION OF AMOCO CORPORATION

Howard W. Earnest
Manager

July 3, 1996

The Honorable Ralph Regula, Chairman
House Appropriation Subcommittee on
Interior and Related Agencies
B308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Regula:

As one of the Upper Colorado River Basin Water Users, Rio Blanco Oil Shale Company joins members of the Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah Congressional delegations, the Governors of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, and others in requesting your support and assistance in insuring continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species of the Upper Colorado River Basin (the "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. Our request will insure that federal cost sharing funds are provided to the Recovery Program. We have three requests:

1. That the Subcommittee support the $624,000 of recovery funds to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the same amount requested in previous years.

2. That language be included in the Subcommittee's FY 1997 report 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:

   "A total of $200,000 of Section 6 funds should be allocated to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program before USFWS applies its funding formula for allocating Section 6 funds among its regions"

   The ESA Section 6 budget for all 73 listed species in FWS region 6 is expected to be $503,000 in FY 1996. 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 insure the Recovery Program will continue to be funded but not at the expense of other high priority recovery efforts in Region 6. In FY 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 $250,000 of hatcheries operation and maintenance funding in the base FY 1997 budget for the FWS (Fisheries Activity, Hatchery O&M Subactivity) to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah.

To provide for continued success of this multi-state, multi-agency 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 grateful for your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Rio Blanco Oil Shale Company

xc: Senator Hank Brown
Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Representative Scott McInnis

Rio Blanco Oil Shale Company, Inc.

13188 County Road 24
Rifle, CO 81650
(970) 878-4052
Fax (970) 878-4053
A DIVISION OF AMOCO CORPORATION

Howard W. Earnest
Manager

July 3, 1996

The Honorable John Myers, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Myers:

As one of the Upper Colorado River Basin Water Users, Rio Blanco oil Shale Company joins members of the Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah Congressional delegations, the Governors of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, and others in requesting your support for an appropriation in FY 1997 of $7.468 million to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for activities associated with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin ("the Recovery Program). This amount is included in the Administration's proposed FY 1997 budget for Reclamation under an item labeled "Construction-Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program-Upper Colorado-Upper Colorado Region-Various studies."

Beginning in FY 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies and action in preparation for the construction activities necessary to recover the endangered fishes. These activities included restoration of fish passage to historical habitat, instream flow protection on the Colorado River (mainstem), Gunnison River, and Yampa River (including the enlargement of the existing Elkhead Reservoir), and the reoperation or modification of existing projects. Activities were also initiated on several fish habitat restoration projects, including the restoration of flooded bottomlands and wetlands in Utah and Colorado. The Redlands Fish Passage near Grand Junction was completed in FY 96 with these lands. The FY 1997 funds we are requesting will enable these vital activities to continue and to be successfully implemented in subsequent fiscal years.

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 eighth year of

operation, has the objective of cooperatively recovering the four endangered fishes while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. state water law and interstate compacts.

We would very much appreciated 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

Rio Blanco Oil Shale Company

xc: Senator Hank Brown
Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Representative Scott McInnis

Washington, D.C., trip participants

Milo Barney
Central Utah Project Liaison
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Water Resources
355 West 1300 South
Orem, UT 84058
(801) 226-7138
nrwres.mbarney@state.ut.us

Peter Evans
Deputy Director
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-3441
peter.evans@state.co.us

Joe Hunter
Executive Director
Colo. River Energy Distributors Assoc.
201 S. Main St., Suite 900
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
(801) 350-9090

Angela Kantola
Acting Director
Upper Colorado River Recovery Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 25486, DFC
Denver, CO 80225
(303) 236-2985, ext. 221
angela_kantola@fws.gov

Henry Maddux
In-stream Flow Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
764 Horizon Drive, South Annex A
Grand Junction, CO 81506
(970)245-9319
henry_maddux@fws.gov

Dan McAuliffe
Assistant Director
Colo. Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-3311
dan.mcauliffe@state.co.us

Tom Pitts
Upper Basin Water Users
Hall, Pitts & Associates
535 North Garfield Ave.
Loveland, CO 80537-5538
(970) 667-8690
tompitts@hallpitts.com

Terry Sexson
Congressional Liaison
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, CO 80228
(303) 236-7917, ext. 429
terry_sexson@fws.gov

John Shields
Interstate Streams Engineer
Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Herschler Building, 4th East
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0370
(307) 777-6151
jshiel@missc.state.wy.us

Robert Wigington
Western Water Attorney
The Nature Conservancy
2060 Broadway, Suite 230
Boulder, CO 80302
(303) 444-1060
rwigington@tnc.org