A. Population Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>River</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado squawfish</td>
<td>Increasing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humpback chub</td>
<td>Stable?/Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Razorback sucker</td>
<td>Critical--Few adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonytail chub</td>
<td>Critical--Very rare</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Program Management

Goal: Ensure effective implementation and coordination of the Recovery Program

Status:
- All parties actively participating in various technical and Management Committees. However, the Colorado Division of Wildlife has expressed dissatisfaction with the Program and is reducing its involvement.
- Colorado River Energy Distributors Association accepted an invitation to become a nonvoting committee member.
- National Park Service declined an invitation to become a nonvoting member.
- Committee reorganization has been in place for over a year and the results have generally been positive. However, concerns persist about technical committee and subcommittee membership and operating guidelines. The Management Committee is evaluating.
- FY 93 Work Plan has been developed; full funding ($3.0M) is expected.
- For FY 93, Congress earmarked $200,000 of Section 6, ESA funding for the State's participation in the Recovery Program.
- Significant funding ($100 million) will be needed to implement major recovery projects. BuRec is pursuing funding for FY 95+.
C. Habitat Management (Instream Flows)

Goal: To protect sufficient instream flows to support self-sustaining populations of the fishes

Status: 10,000 AF being provided from Ruedi Reservoir (long-term).
- An additional 10,000 AF is being released on a year-to-year basis.
- Short-term agreement completed to provide 2,400 AF of water from Steamboat Reservoirs (Yampa River). A long-term agreement is being negotiated.
- Flaming Gorge Reservoir being re-operated to benefit the fish pursuant to the draft biological opinion.
- Aspinall Unit (Gunnison River) being re-operated to provide research flows.
- The Colorado Water Conservation Board moving forward with appropriating a 581 cfs instream flow right in the 15-Mile Reach (July-September).
- A proposal is being evaluated to acquire the Juniper-Cross Mountain water rights on the Yampa River for instream flows. Elements of the proposal include:
  - enlargement of Elkhead Reservoir.
  - rebuilding several Yampa River diversions.
  - reserving adequate water rights for future enlargement of Stagecoach Reservoir.
  - converting the Juniper/Cross Mountain decrees to instream flows for the endangered fish.
- An independent senior scientist will complete a review of the Service's instream flow recommendations and methodologies by May 1993.
- A review of legal, policy, and institutional issues related to instream flow acquisition and protection in Colorado has been completed. A strategy for providing instream flow protection that address uncertainties about the Compact and the Service's flow recommendations is being finalized.

D. Habitat Development and Maintenance

Goal: To provide or enhance habitat for the rare fishes through habitat development or management measures such as:
- fish passageways
- backwater habitat development

Status: Actively pursuing restoring fish passage to the Gunnison River and upper mainstem Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado.
- Restoring access to flooded bottomlands on the Green River (demonstration project)
o Initiative to inventory flooded bottomlands throughout the basin planned for FY 93/94; acquisition, restoration and management may begin as soon as FY 94.
o Evaluating a proposal to rehabilitate several diversion structures on the Yampa River to reduce annual maintenance and provide for fish and boat passage.

E. Stocking Native Fishes

Goal: A. Produce a sufficient supply of hatchery reared fish to support research and recovery activities.
B. Conserve the genetic diversity present in the wild.

Status: o Genetic surveys underway; analysis to be completed in FY 94.
o Refuge/brood stock populations being established.
o Colorado completing hatchery feasibility study.
o The Service's hatchery/research facility at Ouray, Utah, being expanded.
o Refuge ponds developed at Horsethief State Wildlife Area, Grand Junction, Colorado.
o Comprehensive plan being developed to identify hatchery facility needs.
o In response to the loss of fish at Dexter National Fish Hatchery, the Service and the States are evaluating the operation of existing facilities, including procedures and protocols.
o Imprinting and chemoreception study being conducted.
o Habitat suitability assessment being conducted in unoccupied reaches of the Colorado River.
o Service's draft policy on stocking of native fishes has been withdrawn--meeting planned with the States to resolve differences.

F. Research, Monitoring, and Data Management

Goal: Collect critical information on the life history and habitat needs of the endangered fishes to support recovery efforts.

Status: o Determine habitat/flow needs of the fish
o Clarify confusion in the taxonomy of *Gila* (chubs)
o Long-term monitoring programs for:
  - fish populations
  - flow
  - habitat
  - channel change
o Interagency data management program
* Biology Committee developing "interim recovery objectives" for the fish.
o Integrated research efforts to refine/validate flow recommendations related to Flaming Gorge and Aspinall
o Impacts of sampling on fish being evaluated.
G. Nonnative Fishes and Sportfishing

Goal: Minimize the impacts of nonnative fishes and incidental take associated with sport fishing on the endangered fishes.

Status:  
- Altering flow regimes to provide unfavorable conditions for nonnatives.  
- Information and education efforts directed at anglers.  
- Disagreement with the States over impacts of nonnatives and procedures for addressing nonnative fish stocking.  
- Service's draft policy on stocking of non native fishes has been withdrawn--meeting planned with the States to resolve differences.

H. Information and Education

Goal: To promote public understanding, appreciation, and support for efforts to recover the endangered fish.

Status:  
- Biannual newsletter  
- Information about the fish and Recovery Program  
  - Brochure and poster  
  - Signs and fishing regulations  
  - Slide/tape show  
  - Video  
- Public attitude survey  
* Media relations and press releases

I. Section 7 Consultation

Goal: To allow water development to proceed in the Upper Colorado River Basin in compliance with the ESA.

Status:  
*"No jeopardy" biological opinions have been issued on 65 projects since the inception of the program in 1988, with a potential to deplete about 165,000 AF of water.
* Partial agreement has been reached on "sufficient progress," including development of a list of "recovery milestones" and agreement on several principles on how Section 7 consultations will be conducted. Remaining issues are being addressed by the Management Committee.
* The Service and BuRec are addressing comments received on the draft biological opinion on the operation of Flaming Gorge Dam.
- Technical studies were initiated in 1992 to address reoperation of the Aspinall Unit. A biological opinion is scheduled for 1998.

J. Other Items
The Service is pursuing designation of critical habitat for all four of the endangered fishes.

- A separate San Juan River Recovery Program is being developed by the Service's Region 2.

- The flannelmouth sucker and roundtail chub are now candidate species for listing under the ESA.