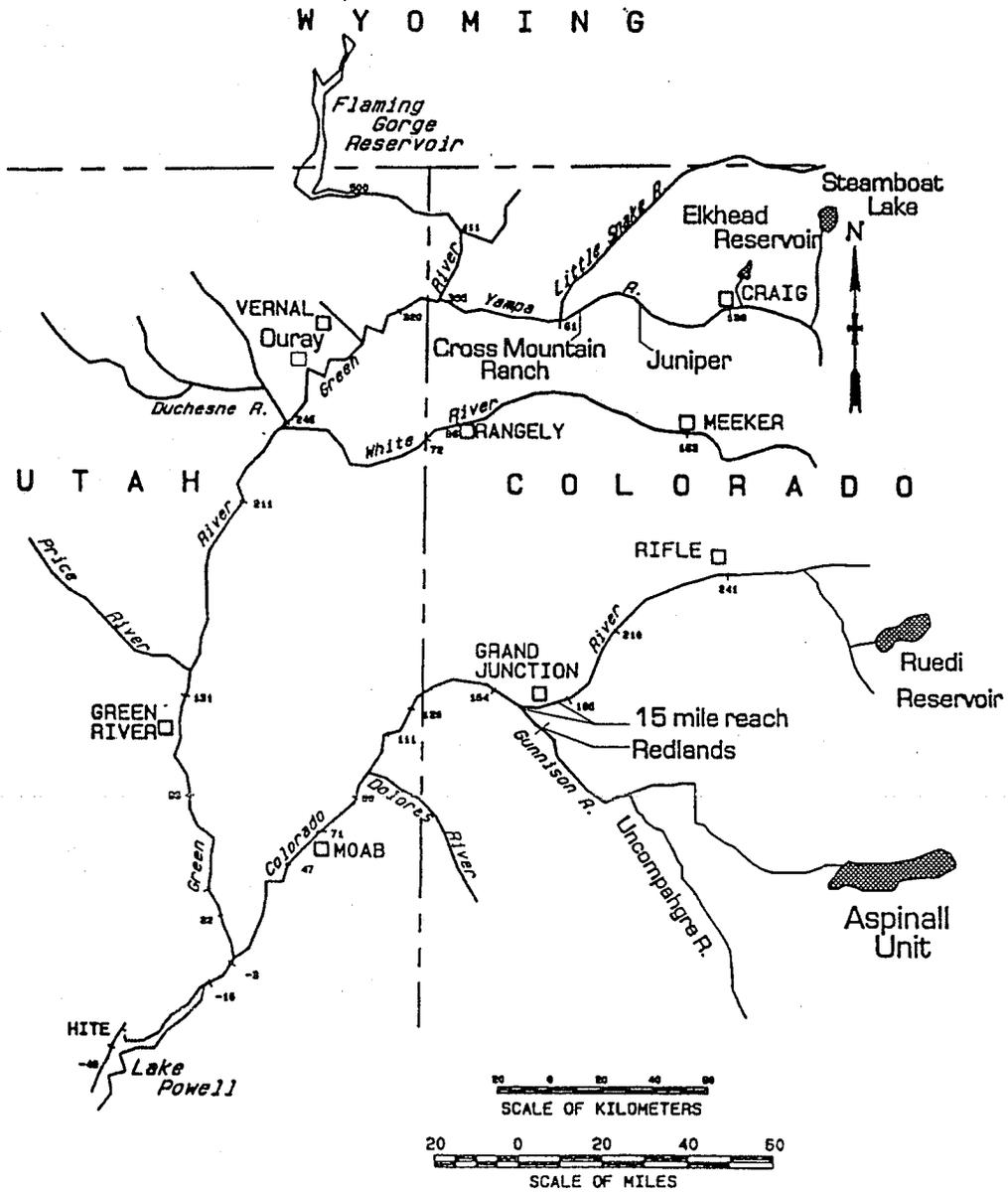


1998 WASHINGTON, D.C., BRIEFING

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

Geographic scope

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



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

March 25 - April 1, 1998

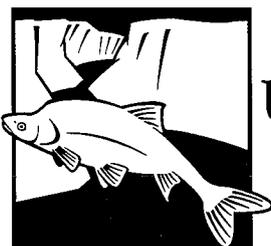
1998 Washington, D.C., briefing packet

Table of contents

Requested FY 1999 Congressional action items (Summarized version)	Page 1
Requested FY 1999 Congressional action items (Detailed version)	Page 2
Fish population status and recovery goals	Page 5
Recovery Program overview and Recovery Program elements	Page 6
Recovery Program accomplishments	Page 7
Upcoming activities	Page 11
Long-term funding legislation	Page 12

Appendices:

Recovery Program expenditures	Appendix 1
Water project consultations under the Endangered Species Act	Appendix 2
Letters of support	Appendix 3
List of Washington, D.C., trip participants	Appendix 4



UPPER COLORADO RIVER
ENDANGERED FISH
RECOVERY PROGRAM

Summary of requested FY 1999 Congressional action items

Recovery Program participants are making the following requests from Congress for FY 1999:

Fish and Wildlife Service budget

1. Support Fish and Wildlife Service funding for the Recovery Program.
(\$636,000 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 of the Ouray National Fish Hatchery.
(\$308,000 in "Fish Hatchery Operation.")

Bureau of Reclamation budget

4. Support Bureau of Reclamation funds for the Recovery Program.
(\$8.687 million requested in funds for "Endangered Species Recovery Program and Activities for the Upper Colorado Region.")

Details are provided on the following pages. With the exception of item No. 2 above, these funding recommendations are included in the President's proposed budget for FY 1999.

Requested FY 1999 Congressional action items

Fish and Wildlife Service budget

1. **Support Fish and Wildlife Service funding for the Recovery Program. (\$636,000 requested in "Recovery" funds.)**

Recovery Program participants request Congressional support for \$636,000 of Endangered Species Recovery funds for the Service to participate in the Recovery Program in FY 1999. 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.

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

Razorback sucker stocking: Funding is used to stock razorback suckers in the 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 1999, the region-wide Section 6 funding total is expected to be reduced to \$429,000. 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 of the Ouray National Fish Hatchery.**

(\$308,000 in "Fish Hatchery Operation and Maintenance.")

Recovery Program participants request Congressional support for \$308,000 for operating the Service's National Fish Hatchery in Ouray, Utah. 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.**

(\$8.687 million requested in funds for "Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities for the Upper Colorado Region.")

Recovery Program participants request Congressional support for \$8.687 million for FY 1999 in "Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities for the Upper Colorado Region." This amount is included in the Administration's proposed fiscal year 1999 budget for Reclamation. It supports the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Recovery Program) at \$7.628 million, the San Juan River Recovery Program for \$459,000, and Activities to Avoid Jeopardy at \$600,000.

The \$7.628 million 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 Price-Stubb Diversion Dam and at the Grand Valley Project. These activities will benefit Colorado squawfish and razorback sucker by giving them access to more of their historic habitat.

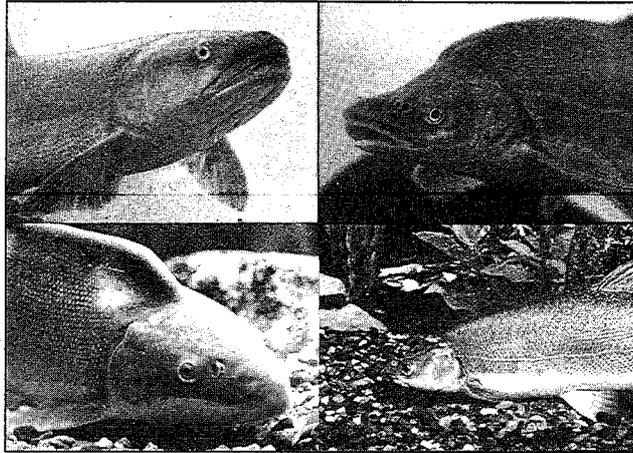
Water acquisition: Water acquisition initiatives by Reclamation include:

- 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.

Floodplain restoration: Funding is needed in FY 1999 to continue land acquisition, levee removal and other floodplain restoration activities at high priority sites. Restoring these floodplains is thought to be especially important for endangered razorback suckers and will benefit a variety of wetland-dependent wildlife.

Endangered fish hatchery construction: Existing hatcheries and native fish production facilities fall short of meeting anticipated needs. Additional hatchery and research facilities and better production 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 1999 for excavating or locating several acres of "grow-out ponds" to raise razorback suckers and other endangered fish for further stocking in the Green, Colorado and Gunnison rivers.

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 are increasing. 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. Under the Recovery Program's interim management objectives, minimum population goals for Colorado squawfish are to have 5,477 fish in the upper Colorado River basin.

Humpback chub: In the Green and Yampa rivers, humpback chub populations are very small, but appear stable. A population in the Colorado River near the Utah-Colorado state line is relatively large and appears healthy and stable. Primary recovery areas in the upper basin include: Black Rocks/Westwater Canyon of the Colorado River near the Colorado-Utah state line; the Yampa and Green rivers in Dinosaur National Monument; Gray and Desolation canyons in the Green River; and Cataract Canyon in the Colorado River. The minimum population goal for the humpback is 4,796 fish.

Razorback sucker: Biologists recently discovered a spawning population of razorback suckers in the lower Green River. But most razorbacks captured in recent years in the Green, Colorado and Yampa rivers are thought to be more than 20 years old, with very few young surviving to adulthood. The minimum population goal for razorback suckers is 5,316.

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 minimum population goal for bonytail is 4,118.

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 represents a 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
- The Nature Conservancy
- Environmental Defense Fund
- 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 floodplain habitats and constructing fish passageways around dams and other barriers.
- **Native fish propagation and genetic management**, 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.

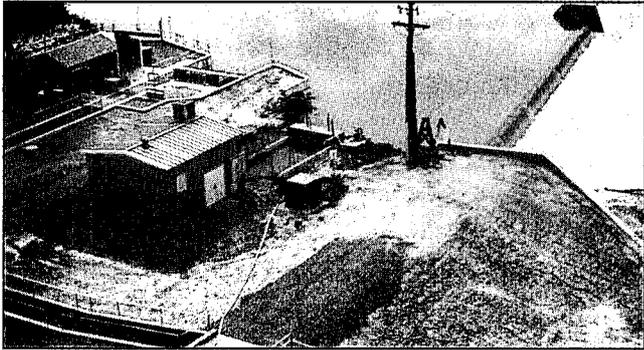
Recovery Program accomplishments

Habitat management:

- The Colorado Water Conservation Board has filed for year-round in-stream “base” flow and recovery flow rights for the Colorado River through the Grand Valley. Two in-stream flow water rights for endangered fish were decreed for the Colorado River in September 1997. One protects 581 cubic feet per second between July and September in the Grand Valley. The other protects 300 cubic feet per second of unclaimed irrigation return flows for the downstream end of the Grand Valley.
- A study on ways to coordinate the operations of several reservoirs in Colorado has been completed, and participants successfully conducted coordinated releases in spring 1997. These releases provided additional flows of 1,000 cubic feet per second for five days during spring runoff. High flows during this time are crucial for endangered fish.
- 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.
- 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 September 1997, a total of 2,000 acre-feet of water was released from Steamboat Lake to assist in endangered fish research.
- 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.
- 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 water depletion projects in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

As a result, city governments, developers, farmers and oil companies have been allowed to complete some 400 water projects, providing more than 670,000 acre-feet of water for local economic development.

Habitat development:



The Redlands fish ladder has allowed 19 squawfish and nearly 20,000 other native fish to migrate to historic spawning sites in the Gunnison River.

- A 350-foot-long fish ladder was completed at Redlands Diversion Dam on the Gunnison River in 1996, providing the fish a pathway around the 12-foot dam and giving them access to 50 miles of their historical habitat. The ladder has been in operation for two seasons.
- A fish passageway was completed in January 1998 at the Grand Valley Irrigation Company Diversion Dam on the Colorado River. Fish now can move freely over this structure, gaining access to more of their historic range.

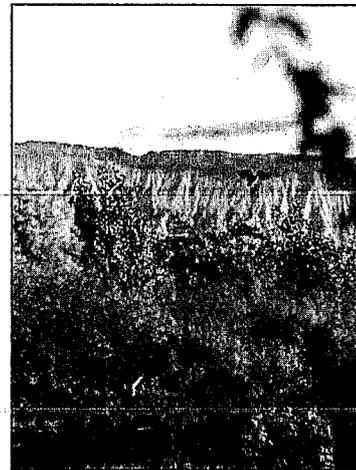
- Floodplain habitat has been improved to benefit endangered fish at five sites on Bureau of Land Management Land on the Green River and at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, for a total of 354 acres of habitat. Levees have been breached at these sites, allowing the river to spill onto the floodplain during high flows. Young endangered fish grow significantly faster in these areas, which have warmer water and abundant food.
- 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.

Native fish propagation:

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

Ouray National Fish Hatchery (Utah): This 36-pond facility raises razorback suckers for stocking in the Green River basin and for research, education, brood stock development.

Wahweap Endangered Fish Facility (Utah): This site uses 11 ponds to raise bonytail to prevent extinction in the wild and for stocking into the Green, Colorado and Gunnison rivers.



This riverside property in the Grand Valley was purchased for endangered fish habitat. It also supports birds, mammals and other species of wildlife.

Razorback suckers also are maintained as a “back-up” supply and for stocking into the Green, Colorado, Gunnison and San Juan rivers.



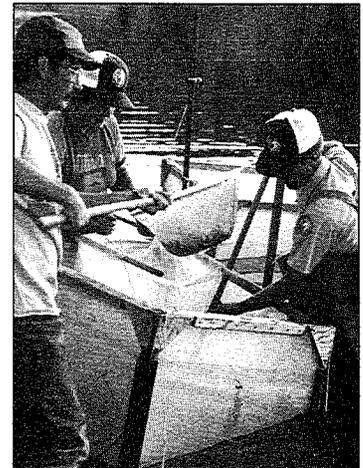
Endangered fish are now being raised in five hatcheries in Utah and Colorado.

Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area (near Fruita, Colo.): The six ponds at this location are used to raise razorback suckers for future stocking, primarily in the upper Colorado River and to hold some Colorado squawfish, bonytail and humpback chubs.

24 Road Hatchery (Grand Junction, Colo.): At this facility, 36 tanks are used to hold razorback sucker eggs and raise newly hatched offspring from different parent fish and to recreate genetic diversity similar to that of wild populations. When the fish are about 6 months old, they are implanted with identification tags and transferred to Clymer’s Pond.

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. Then, most will be stocked in the Gunnison and Colorado rivers.

- The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources stocked about 2,000 bonytails in the Colorado River in 1995, 1996 and 1997. Bonytails are nearly extinct in the upper Colorado River basin.
- In 1997, the Fish and Wildlife Service stocked more than 3,400 razorback suckers in the Gunnison River and about 1,600 of the fish into the San Juan River. The Service also stocked about 2,000 razorback suckers in the Green and Gunnison rivers in 1995 and 1996.



Bonytail and razorback suckers are being stocked every year in the upper Colorado River basin.

Research, monitoring and data management:

- In 1996, biologists discovered young-of-the-year razorback suckers near the confluence of the Green and San Rafael rivers in Utah, suggesting that a new or previously unidentified population of this fish may exist in the lower Green River.
- 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 efforts to track endangered, native and non-native fish populations. Such data is crucial to determining how fish populations are changing over time.

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

- Federal and state wildlife agencies in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming have finalized an agreement on stocking of non-native sport fish. The agreement specifies when certain species of non-native fish can be stocked without harming endangered fish, when non-native fish species can be routinely stocked, when stocking is prohibited, and when case-by-case reviews are required.
- The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources removed a total of 16,611 channel catfish from the Green River near the inflow of the Duchesne River in 1997. Channel catfish and other exotic fish often prey on the eggs and young of endangered fish and can out-compete them for food and space.
- Recovery Program participants have coordinated public involvement activities on key program actions, including Colorado in-stream flow acquisition, proposed construction of fish passageways, coordinated reservoir operations, water releases from Ruedi Reservoir, non-native fish stocking procedures, floodplain land acquisition, Yampa River water management and Grand Valley water management.
- The Recovery Program has developed and distributed to the public a wide range of informational products such as a newsletter, annual report, brochure, portable and permanent exhibits, fishing license holders, slide show, video and status updates.
- The Recovery Program has established a Web site, which can be found at <www.r6.fws.gov/coloradoriver>.

Upcoming activities

- The Recovery Program plans to acquire easements from willing landowners to restore select riverside wetland areas as habitat for young endangered fish. This strictly voluntary project could involve acquisition of up to 5,750 acres along the Green River; 3,500 acres on the Colorado River; and 750 along the Gunnison.
- Plans call for stocking about 5,000 bonytail and 1,000 to 2,000 razorback suckers in both 1998 and 1999.
- The Colorado Division of Wildlife has worked with anglers and a variety of other stakeholders to develop a management plan for native and non-native aquatic species in the Yampa River basin. The plan will be implemented in 1999 to conserve native fish and amphibians, control non-native fish, and promote sport-fishing opportunities.
- Non-native fish that prey upon and compete with endangered fish will be removed from the Green River this year and from the Green, Colorado and Gunnison rivers in 1999.
- The Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service will begin construction on fish passageways at the Price-Stubbs Diversion Dam on the Colorado River upstream of Palisade and at the Grand Valley Project Diversion Dam beginning in 1999.
- As fish passage is restored at the Grand Valley Project Diversion Dam, Colorado squawfish will be relocated to upstream of Palisade.
- The Bureau of Reclamation will work with the Grand Valley Water User's Association to improve efficiency of the Government Highline Canal. The objective is to conserve water that could then be returned to the river, providing needed flows for endangered fish.

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

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

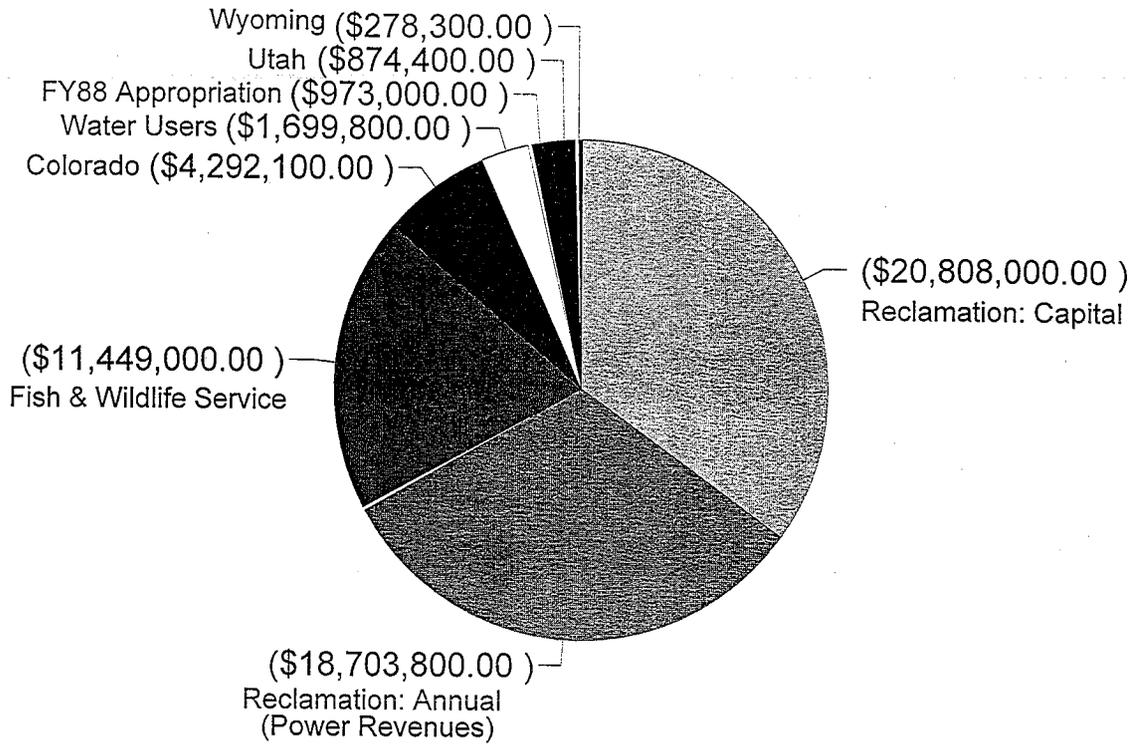
In 1996, a bill was drafted to provide specific authorization for the upper Colorado River basin and San Juan River recovery programs through the year 2003 and 2007, respectively. Since that time several program participants have been involved in discussions to resolve issues on how Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations will be conducted and to identify funding sources and funding mechanisms, cost ceilings for the program, and cost-sharing by program participants. Major issues on the funding authorization have recently been resolved among the program participants. It is anticipated that the bill will be presented to Congress in the spring 1998.

Appendix 1

Total Recovery Program expenditures (dollars)

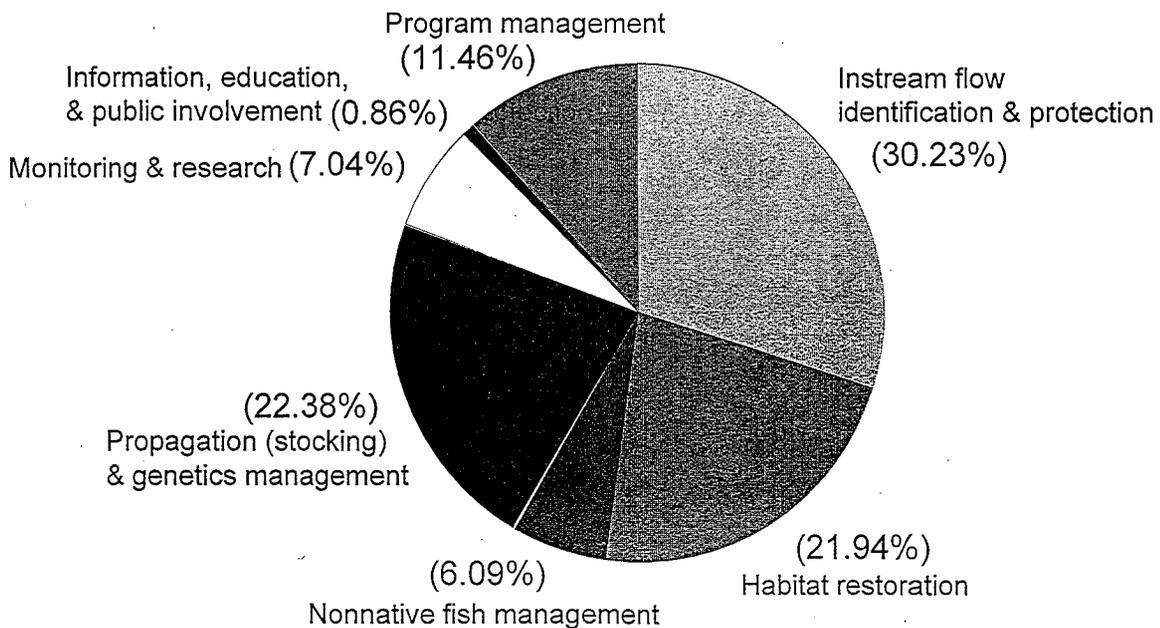
Total = \$59,078,400

(FY 1989-1998)



Recovery Program expenditures by category (percentages)

(FY 1998 only)



Appendix 2

**Water project consultations completed by the Fish and Wildlife Service
under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act**

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

(1/1988 thru 3/5/1998)

State	Number of Consultations	HISTORIC DEPLETIONS		NEW DEPLETIONS		TOTALS	
		Acre-feet	Depletion Fees	Acre-feet	Depletion Fees	Acre-feet	Depletion Fees
Colorado	140	30,044.40	\$30,930	56,162.18	\$305,783	86,206.58	\$336,713
Utah	25	510,717.74	\$196	59,550.75	\$357,905	570,268.49	\$358,101
Wyoming	28	3,316.00	\$720	5,310.09	\$40,478	8,626.09	\$41,198
Regional (1)	3	0.00	\$0	6,000	\$0	6,000.00	\$0
TOTALS	196	544,078.14	\$31,846	127,023.02	\$704,167	671,101.16	\$736,013

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

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

(1/1988 thru 3/5/1998)

River	Number of Consultations	HISTORIC DEPLETIONS		NEW DEPLETIONS		TOTALS	
		Acre-feet	Depletion Charges *	Acre-feet	Depletion Charges *	Acre-feet	Depletion Charges
Colorado	93	27,022.62	\$12,286	43,504.59	\$266,648	70,527.21	\$278,934
White	6	200.00	\$2,082	609.00	\$4,849	809.00	\$6,931
Yampa	13	1,045.00	\$6,546	1,443.94	\$15,908	2,488.94	\$22,454
Green	46	3,318.74	\$743	38,735.46	\$387,283	42,054.20	\$388,026
Eagle	2	0.00	\$0	603.39	\$7,669	603.39	\$7,669
Gunnison	16	522.18	\$0	7,204.84	\$3,336	7,727.02	\$3,336
Uncompahgre	2	130.30	\$0	1.96	\$24	132.26	\$24
Dolores	11	1,139.30	\$10,189	2,764.84	\$6,985	3,904.14	\$17,174
Duchesne	2	510,700.00	\$0	25,300.00	\$0	536,000.00	\$0
Little Snake	1	0	\$0	125.00	\$1,676	125.00	\$1,676
Price	1	0	\$0	730	\$9,789	730.00	\$9,789
Regional	3	0	\$0	6,000.00	\$0	6,000.00	\$0
TOTALS	196	544,078.14	\$31,846	127,023.02	\$704,167	671,101.16	\$736,013

*Pre FY 1990 - \$10/AF, FY 1990 - \$10.41/AF, FY 1991 - \$10.91/AF, FY 1992 - \$11.50/AF, FY 1993 - \$11.98/AF, FY 1994 - \$12.34/AF, FY 1995 - \$12.71/AF, FY 1996 - \$13.04/AF, FY 1997 - \$13.41, FY 1998 - \$13.81/AF, FY 1999 - \$14.13/AF

Prepared by Hall, Pitts & Associates Consulting Engineers Based on "Consultations for Water Depletions", Rec. Program

Appendix 3

Letters of support

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 19, 1997

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

Dear Senator Domenici:

We are writing to support the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin. We believe that an appropriation of \$7.162 million in fiscal year 1998 to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is necessary for this program; however, this request is still about \$300,000 less than the FY 1997 appropriation. This amount is included in the Administration's proposed FY 1998 budget for Reclamation under an item labeled "Upper Colorado Region - Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program."

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 all support the Recovery Program. The objective of the Recovery Program is to cooperatively recover four endangered fish species while water development proceeds according to the Endangered Species Act.

The Recovery Program began specific studies and actions in FY 1994 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, Gunnison, and Yampa Rivers (including enlargement of the existing Elkhead Reservoir), and the repair or modification of existing projects. Activities also included several fish habitat restoration projects, including restoration of flooded bottomlands and wetlands in Utah and Colorado, development of facilities for propagation and genetics management, and completion of the Redlands Fish Passage near Grand Junction. These necessary activities will continue with the FY 1998 funds we are requesting.

Congress appropriated \$1 million in FY 1988 to the Bureau of Reclamation to secure water for the endangered fish. Of this amount, \$655,400 was used through FY 1996, and an additional

July 8, 1997

Page 2

\$322,500 will be used in FY 1997. The remaining \$22,100 will be carried over to FY 1998 to acquire water and water rights for the endangered fish.

We recognize and support your efforts to achieve a balanced budget. Within this constraint, 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,

Craig Hatch

Robert F. Bennett

Wayne Alford

Bartholomew Campbell

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 8, 1997

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

Dear Senator Gorton:

We are writing to express our support for funding of the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin ("Recovery Program"). The Recovery Program helps four endangered fish species in the Upper Colorado Basin while continuing water development. This funding will ensure that federal cost sharing funds are provided to the Recovery Program. We support the following requests:

1. Continued support by the Subcommittee for the appropriation of \$667,000 of resource management funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This amount reflects an inflation adjustment over the FY 1997 appropriation of \$624,000.
2. That the Subcommittee's FY 1998 appropriation designate \$200,000 of Section 6 funds to be allocated to the Recovery Program before the FWS formula for allocating funds among its Regions is applied. The Endangered Species Act Section 6 budget for all 73 listed species in FWS Region 6 is expected to be \$470,000 for FY 1998. Without this special allocation, the FWS will be unable to provide adequate resources to other endangered species in Region 6. Continued funding for the Recovery Program is possible without affecting other high priority recovery efforts in Region 6. In fiscal years 1992, 1993, and 1994, the Subcommittee earmarked \$200,000 according to this method for the Recovery Program.
3. That, in FY 1998, the Subcommittee support the continued base funding at the level observed in fiscal year 1997 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 recognize and support your efforts to achieve a balanced budget. Within that constraint, we seek the support of the

July 8, 1997
Page 2

Subcommittee again this year to ensure recovery of the endangered fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin. We are thankful for your previous support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hatch

Robert F. Bennett

Wayne Allard

Barth Stansbury

Similar letters sent to:

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

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 1997

The Honorable Joseph M. McDade, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6020

Dear Chairman McDade:

We are writing to request your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 1998 of \$7.162 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"). This amount is included in the Administration's proposed fiscal year 1998 budget for Reclamation under an item labeled "Upper Colorado Region - Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program."

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

Beginning in fiscal year 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies and actions in preparation for the construction activities necessary to recover the endangered fish. These activities included restoration of fish passage to historical habitat, instream flow protection on the Colorado River (mainstem), Gunnison River, and Yampa River (including enlargement of the existing Elkhead Reservoir), and reoperation or modification of existing projects. Activities included several fish habitat restoration projects, including restoration of flooded bottomlands and wetlands in Utah and Colorado, development of facilities for propagation and genetics management, and completion of the Redlands Fish Passage near Grand Junction. The fiscal year 1998 funds we are requesting will enable those 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 1996, \$655,400 from the previous appropriation was used, and \$322,500 will be used in fiscal year 1997. In fiscal year 1998, the Program will use the remaining \$22,100 to acquire water and water rights for the endangered fish.

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

Sincerely,



Scott McInnis
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Dan Schaefer
Member of Congress



Bob Schaffer
Member of Congress



Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress



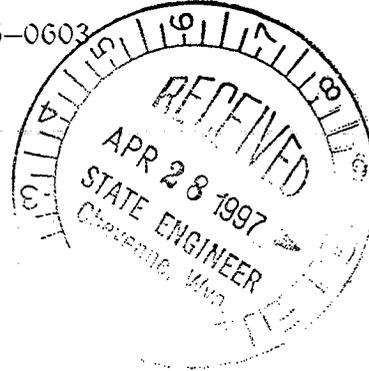
Merrill Cook
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0603

April 9, 1997



DISTRICT OFFICES:

134 WEST B STREET
PUEBLO, CO 81003
(719) 543-8200
FAX: (719) 543-8204

327 NORTH 7TH STREET
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81501
(970) 245-7107
FAX: (970) 245-2194

1060 MAIN AVENUE
102
DURANGO, CO 81301
(970) 259-2754
FAX: (970) 259-2762

528 PINE STREET
SUITE 111
GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO 81601
(970) 928-0637
FAX: (970) 928-0630

The Honorable Ralph Regula, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Interior
B308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6023

Dear Chairman Regula:

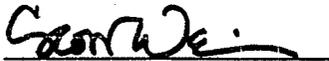
We are writing to request your support and assistance in insuring continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin ("Recovery Program"). This multi-state, multi-agency Recovery Program is being implemented in the Upper Colorado River 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. We support the following requests:

1. That the Subcommittee support the appropriation of \$667,000 of resource management funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the same amount requested in previous years.
2. That language be included in the Subcommittee's fiscal year 1998 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 \$470,000 in fiscal year 1998. 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 Region 6. Our requested language will insure continued funding for the Recovery Program, but not at the expense of other high priority recovery efforts in Region 6. In fiscal years 1992, 1993, and 1994, the Subcommittee earmarked \$200,000 pursuant to Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act for the Recovery Program.
3. That the Subcommittee support the continued base funding in fiscal year 1998 at the fiscal year 1997 level 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-agency program, we need the help of the Subcommittee again this year to ensure that the FWS is given adequate funds and direction on how to allocate its funds for recovery of the endangered fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin. We are thankful for your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Scott McInnis
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Dan Schaefer
Member of Congress



Bob Schaffer
Member of Congress



Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress



Merrill Cook
Member of Congress



STATE OF WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JIM GERINGER
GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

March 18, 1997

The Honorable Craig Thomas
United States Senator
United States Senate
SH-302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-5002

The Honorable Mike Enzi
United States Senator
United States Senate
SH-116 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
1998 Funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for
Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin
(Recovery Program)

Dear Senators Thomas and Enzi and Representative Cubin:

Each year since its initiation in 1988, the Recovery Program has sought your support for continued federal 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. Those two agencies annually have been receiving appropriations supporting the Recovery Program since its initiation in 1988. As I did last year relative to Fiscal Year 1997 funding, I have transmitted letters at this time supporting Fiscal Year 1998 funding for the Recovery Program because I believe that its continued success is important. As a short review of the Program's

Senators Craig Thomas and Mike Enzi and Representative Cubin
March 18, 1997
Page 2

history and progress keenly shows, the effort is cumbersome, difficult, fraught with frustration for all of the participants and expensive. That review also shows that progress towards recovering the four endangered fish species is slowly but definitely being made. Importantly, the Program 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. To date water development has been able to proceed without litigation over ESA administration in the 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.

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. During the week of April 7th, 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 1998 funding. A direct indication of your support, through placing your signature on joint-delegation letters to the appropriations subcommittees for Recovery Program-related line items included in the President's Fiscal Year 1998 recommended budget would be most helpful. The joint delegation letters that will be presented to you next week will express the same message of funding support contained in the letters I have enclosed to you. While your assistance in securing funding for this cooperative program would be greatly appreciated, I will continue to work with you during this Congress 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
Governor

*We appreciate
your strong
support!*

JG:gwf:js
Enclosures



STATE OF WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JIM GERINGER
GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

March 18, 1997

The Honorable Pete Domenici, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Energy and Water Development
132 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Domenici:

I am writing on behalf of the State of Wyoming, one of three States participating in the multi-agency Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin ongoing since 1988, to request your support for an appropriation in Fiscal Year 1998 of \$7.162 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"). The President's Fiscal Year 1998 Budget recommends this amount of funding for the Bureau of Reclamation within a budget item labeled "Upper Colorado Region - Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program."

The Recovery Program is a cooperative program among the States of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Western Area Power Administration. Our Recovery Program, now in its eighth year of operation, has as its objective of recovering, and thus removing from the Federal Endangered Species Act's endangered species listing four endangered fish species while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 1994, the Recovery Program initiated specific studies and action in preparation for constructing facilities and other activities that are believed to be essential to accomplishing recovery of 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, and the enlargement, reoperation or modification of existing projects. Activities were also initiated on several fish

The Honorable Peter Domenici
March 18, 1997
Page 2

habitat restoration projects, including the restoration of flooded bottomlands and wetlands in Utah and Colorado. Construction of the Redlands Fish Passage near Grand Junction was completed in May 1996. The funding contained in the President's recommended Fiscal Year 1998 budget for this Program will enable these construction activities to continue and to be successfully implemented in future years.

In Fiscal Year 1988, Congress appropriated \$1,000,000 to Reclamation for the purpose of securing water for the endangered fishes. \$322,500 of that appropriation is being used in Fiscal Year 1997 and in Fiscal Year 1998 the Program will use the remaining \$22,100 to acquire water and water rights for the endangered fish.

The State of Wyoming would very much appreciate your support of this important multi-state, multi-agency program as we continue the most challenging tasks of advancing efforts to recover the four endangered fish species while moving forward with developing our water resources in a manner that complies with the Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration of this funding request.

With best regards, I am

Thanks, Pete!

Sincerely,

Jim
Jim Geringer
Governor

JG:gwf:js

cc: Senator Craig Thomas
Senator Mike Enzi
Representative Barbara Cubin

Similar letters sent to:

Sen. Joseph McDade, House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

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

Rep. Ralph Regula, House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Interior.

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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



April 9, 1997

Roy Romo
Governor

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

Dear Chairman Gorton:

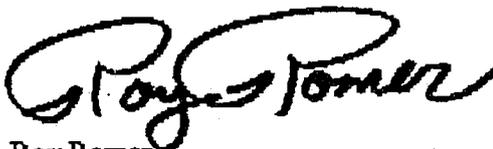
I am writing to request your support and assistance in ensuring continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Recovery Program). This multi-state, multi-agency Recovery Program is being implemented in the Upper Colorado River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

1. That the subcommittee support the appropriation of \$667,000 of resource management funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. This is the same amount requested in previous years.
2. That language be included in the subcommittee's fiscal year 1998 appropriations legislation indicating 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 \$470,000 in fiscal year 1998. 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 Region 6. Our requested language will ensure continued funding for the Recovery Program, but not at the expense of other high priority recovery efforts in Region 6. In fiscal years 1992, 1993, and 1994, the subcommittee earmarked \$200,000 pursuant to Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act for the Recovery Program.
3. That the Subcommittee support the continued base funding in fiscal year 1998 at the fiscal year 1997 level for the FWS (Fisheries Activity, Hatchery O&M Subactivity) to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah.

Page Two

To provide for the continued success of this multi-agency program, Colorado and the states in the Recovery Program need your help again this year to ensure that the 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. I am thankful for your past support and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Roy Romer
Governor

Similar letters sent to:

Sen. Pete Domenici, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

Sen. Joseph McDade, House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

Rep. Ralph Regula, House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Interior.



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

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT
GOVERNOR

OLENE S. WALKER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

April 7, 1997

The Honorable Ralph Regula, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Interior
B308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6023

Dear Chairman Regula:

I am writing to request your support and assistance in insuring continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in 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 in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 while allowing water development to proceed. I ask for your support for the appropriation of funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Recovery Program. A detailed explanation of the funding request will be forthcoming from the Department of Natural Resources.

To provide for the continued success of this multi-agency program the help of the Subcommittee is needed again this year to ensure that the 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.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

TS/mab

cc: The Honorable Merrill Cook
The Honorable Chris Cannon
The Honorable Jim Hansen

Similar letters sent to:

Sen. Pete Domenici, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.
Sen. Joseph McDade, House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.
Sen. Slade Gorton, Subcommittee on Interior, Senate Committee on Appropriations.



International Headquarters
1815 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209

TEL 703 841-5300
FAX 703 841-1283
WEB <http://www.tnc.org>

April 14, 1997

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

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

Dear Chairman Regula:

The Nature Conservancy is an international non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection of biological diversity. For more than 45 years, we have pursued this mission with on-the-ground habitat conservation that is based on the best available science, that takes a non-confrontational, market oriented approach, and that builds partnerships with people and agencies across the political spectrum. The Conservancy has over 900,000 individual members and over 1,380 corporate sponsors.

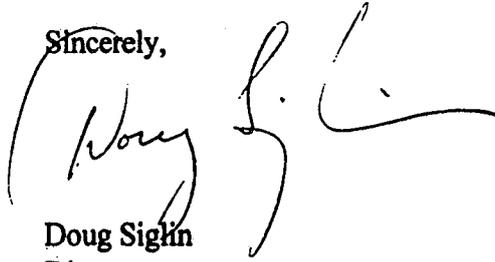
I am writing on behalf of The Nature Conservancy to respectfully request an appropriation in Fiscal Year 1998 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for annual funding of the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin ("Recovery Program"). The Recovery Program is a cooperative effort among the states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the USFWS and the Western Area Power Administration. Now in its ninth year of operation, the program has the objective of recovering four federally endangered fish species while water development moves forward in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

The Conservancy joins the other partners in the Recovery Program in making the following FY98 request to your Subcommittee:

1. An appropriation of \$667,000 of resource management funds to the USFWS for the Upper Colorado Fish Recovery Program;
2. An appropriation which will make possible no less than \$200,000 for the Recovery Program under Section 6 of the ESA. In fiscal years 1992, 1993, and 1994, the Subcommittee earmarked \$200,000 in Section 6 funds for the Recovery Program and this level has been maintained throughout the past three years; and
3. Continued base funding in FY98 at the FY97 level for the USFWS to operate the endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Utah (Fisheries Activity, Hatchery O&M Subactivity).

The Nature Conservancy joins the other partners in the Recovery Program in requesting the FY98 funds for USFWS that will enable vital recovery actions to continue. This federal funding is crucial to the ongoing and future implementation of the program. With your support, we believe that the Recovery Program can continue to serve as a model of successful cooperation between states, federal agencies, water users, and the environmental community in the recovery of endangered species. We very much appreciate the Subcommittee's past support of the Recovery Program and your consideration of this FY98 request.

Sincerely,



Doug Siglin
Director

Government and Community Relations

*Thanks for coming to
our breakfast with part of
the Ohio delegation
last Thursday*

Similar letters sent to:

Sen. Slade Gorton, Subcommittee on Interior, Senate Committee on Appropriations.
Sen. Pete Domenici, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.
Sen. Harry Reid, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.
Sen. Joseph McDade, House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.
Rep. Vic Fazio, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, House Committee on Appropriations.
Sen. Robert Byrd, Subcommittee on Interior, Committee on Appropriations.
Rep. Sidney Yates, Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations.



**ENVIRONMENTAL
DEFENSE FUND**

1967 **30** 1997
YEARS

April 29, 1997

Rocky Mountain Office
1405 Arapahoe Ave.
Boulder, CO 80302
(303) 440-4901
Fax: 303-440-8052
www.edf.org

The Honorable Joseph M. McDade, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
House Committee on Appropriations
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairman McDade:

I am writing on behalf of the Environmental Defense Fund to respectfully request an appropriation in Fiscal Year 1998 of \$7.162 million to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Recovery Program). This amount is included in the Administration's proposed FY98 budget for Reclamation under an item labeled "Upper Colorado Region - Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program."

The Environmental Defense Fund is a national nonprofit organization, representing over 300,000 members. EDF links science, economics, and law to create innovative, economically viable solutions to today's environmental problems. The historical objective of EDF's Rocky Mountain water program is the protection of riverine and aquatic ecosystems in the Intermountain West. EDF has a long standing interest with the Recovery Program, working since the Program's inception toward the recovery of four federally endangered fish in the Colorado River.

The Recovery Program is a cooperative effort among the states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the USFWS, and the Western Area Power Administration. EDF joins these interests in the Recovery Program to request this appropriation for FY98 from the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

The appropriation we are requesting to the Bureau of Reclamation is vital to the ongoing and future implementation of the Recover Program. The Environmental Defense Fund is hopeful that this request for funding in FY98 will be considered and granted.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Luecke
Regional Director

National Headquarters

257 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010
(212) 505-2100

1875 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 387-3500

5655 College Ave.
Oakland, CA 94618
(510) 658-8008

128 East Hargett St.
Raleigh, NC 27601
(919) 821-7793

44 East Avenue
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 478-5161

Project Office

6 Faneuil Hall Marketplace
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 723-2996

Similar letters sent to:

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

Rep. Ralph Regula, House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Interior.

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

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

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

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

Sen. Pete Domenici, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

Appendix 4

Washington, D.C., trip participants

Kathleen Clarke
Utah Department of Natural Resources
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Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801) 538-7200
nrwres.kclarke@state.ut.us

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Colo. River Energy Distributors Assoc.
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sjwc@cyberport.com

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Upper Colorado River Recovery Program
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Robert Wigington
Western Water Attorney
The Nature Conservancy
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rwigington@tnc.org

Tom Pitts
Upper Basin Water Users
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(970) 667-8690
tompitts@hallpitts.com