

Trip Report

2003 Washington, D. C. Briefing Meetings

March 12 through March 18, 2003

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

And

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program



Upper Colorado River
Endangered Fish
Recovery Program

Prepared by John Shields, Chairman, Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program Management Committee

CAVEAT: This trip report has been prepared based on notes, recollections and observations made during the course of the 2003 visits. Any opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not constitute an Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program position or those of any of the programs participants.

SYNOPSIS AND PURPOSE: During the period March 11th through March 18th, representatives of the non-federal participants in the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs¹ met with Members of Congress and their staffs to brief them on the status of the two endangered fish recovery programs and to seek their support for Program funding included in the President's proposed fiscal year 2003 budget. The group met with staff of the Congressional delegations for the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, and with Congressional committee staff for the authorizing and appropriations committees having jurisdiction over the Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, briefing meetings were held with select Administration officials and several nongovernmental entities. During each of the meetings those representing the two recovery programs addressed three matters:

1. Status of the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, the programs' accomplishments with special emphasis on accomplishments during the year that has passed since last year's visits in March 2002, including *Federal Register* publication of the notice of availability of the recovery goals for the four species of endangered fish.
2. Fiscal Year 2004 funding needs and inclusion of Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program funding line-items in the budgets for the USFWS and the Bureau of Reclamation in the President's Fiscal Year 2004.
3. Our progress in implementing the provisions of Public Law 106-392, authorizing cost sharing for the remaining capital construction projects for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program and providing a stabilized source of annual "base" funding, and to report on the status of the States' cost-sharing being contributed pursuant to this law. We also noted the enactment of Public Law 107-375, extending the authorization periods for the capital construction program, and thanked those who had assisted in accomplishing its enactment during the waning days of the 107th Congress.

At each meeting, our group recognized the importance of past funding support from the Congress as being a key element of the progress that these two programs are making and explained the continuing need for funding and the uses and benefits being obtained with Program funding. Joint-delegation letters addressed to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies (expressing support and urging the appropriation of specific Bureau of Reclamation and USFWS funding amounts included in the President's FY 2004 recommended budget for these two recovery programs) were circulated among the four States' Congressional and Senate delegation members. Copies of funding support letters submitted to the appropriations subcommittees by Governors Owens, Leavitt, Richardson and Freudenthal were provided at each meeting.

We are particularly pleased to note that this is the first year in which we have presented letters from all four of the participating States' Governors at these meetings. It is particularly important to making our case asking Members of Congress to sign on to the joint delegation letters that we have letters from each of the Governors. In addition, letters of support have now been submitted by a number of water user organizations and municipalities and the submittal of those

¹ Program participants represented at most of the briefing meetings were the four involved States of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico, water users and environmental groups. Representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation participated in the briefings for the purpose of answering technical questions concerning the fishes' life history, habitat needs, the provisions of the species' recovery goals, Program accomplishments and anticipated activities.

letters with a commitment to provide same to the Congressional delegation members' offices was made by the water users' representative.

As measured by having nearly all of the signatures of the House Members of Congress and a plurality of the Senators' signatures (two of the Senators do not, as a matter of policy, sign funding support letters on account of their membership on the Appropriations Committee) from the four involved states on the joint delegation letters, we have again amply demonstrated the support of our Congressional delegations for fiscal year 2004 funding for these two recovery programs. Eleven of the fourteen House members signed the circulated letters of support for Program funding (Rep. DeGette (CO – 1st Dist.), for reasons not yet clear to this author, chose to send her own letters that read identical to those circulated; Rep. Hefley was again unwilling to sign on and newly elected Rep. Beauprez (CO – 7th Dist.) declined to sign the letters. In the Senate, four of the eight Senators signed letters which our Committee had drafted expressing funding support. We received a number of compliments for our efforts – including the Program's successes, the quality of the briefing materials and the presentations made, the approaches we are using and our repeated visits to these offices each year.

The attendance at the Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon held at Tortilla Coast Restaurant on Friday, March 14th more than met our expectations (we had 26 people including those in our briefing group in attendance and the room capacity is 30) and the luncheon was a great success. We believe that we garnered much good will and were able to provide a most interesting and informative presentation. A thank you is extended to George Smith, Regional Hydrologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for doing a very good job with the his presentation and the PowerPoint presentation file which he spoke from.

This year's briefing booklet used for these visits can be downloaded from the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program's Web page (<http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/doc/dc/Highlights02-03.pdf>). The letters of support submitted by Governors Owen, Leavitt, Richardson and Freudenthal are attached to this report, along with the executed joint delegation funding support letters signed by the members of the Congressional delegations of the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

The objectives of the trip were accomplished. A list of those who participated in the meetings/briefings is provided below. Not all participants were in Washington, D.C. during the entire period of the trip nor did all participate in each meeting, nonetheless the roster provides a listing of all who participated in one or more meetings.

TRIP PARTICIPANTS:

The group representing the two recovery programs consisted of:

- John Shields – Wyoming State Engineer's Office and Chairman, Management Committee
- Darin Bird, Utah Department of Natural Resources
- Robert King – Utah Division of Water Resources
- Tom Blickensderfer – Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Randy Kirkpatrick – San Juan Water Commission
- Jim Dunlap – New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and San Juan Water Commission
- Tom Pitts – Upper Colorado River Basin and San Juan River Basin Water Users' Representative
- Tom Iseman – The Nature Conservancy
- Dan Luecke – Land and Water Fund of the Rockies
- Dan Birch, Colorado River Water Conservation District
- Robert Muth – USFWS – Upper Colorado Recovery Program Director
- Shirley Mondy – USFWS – San Juan River Basin Program Coordinator
- Matt Kales - USFWS
- George Smith - USFWS

SYNOPSIS OF MEETINGS AND CONTACTS:

The following provides a chronological listing of each meeting held and of additional contacts made. The following notes specific requests, points of discussion or other information worthy of note for future reference, including necessary follow-up that should and will occur.

Wednesday, March 12:

- 8:30 a.m. Trip participants held a pre-briefings meeting in the Board Room meeting room at the Capitol Hill Suites Hotel.
- 9:30 a.m. Met with Melissa Simpson, Environment Legis. Assistant Melissa Simpson for Rep. Scott McInnis in 320 Cannon House Office Building.
- 10:15 a.m. Met with Legislative Director Dennis Ellis for Representative Barbara Cubin in 1114 Longworth House Office Building. We also provided a copy of our briefing booklet and materials to Chief of Staff Tom Wiblemo.
- 10:50 a.m. Met with Environment Legis. Assistant Susie Gorden for Representative Diana DeGette in 1530 Longworth House Office Building.
- 11:30 a.m. Met with Senior Legislative Aide and Scheduler Krista Brinkley for Rep. Marilyn Musgrave in 1208 Longworth House Office Building.
- 1:15 p.m. Met with Environment Legis. Assistant Mac Zimmerman for Rep. Tom Tancredo in 1130 Longworth House Office Building.
- 2:30 p.m. Met with Environment Legis. Director/Environment Legis. Assistant Stan Sloss for Representative Mark Udall in 115 Cannon House Office Building.
- 3:15 p.m. Met with Rep. Tom Udall and his Environment Legis. Assistant Mark Welliver in 1414 Longworth House Office Building.
- 3:50 p.m. Held a joint meeting in 118 Cannon House Office Building with Legis. Director Josh Tzucker for Representative Jim Matheson, Environment Legis. Assistant Cody Stewart for Representative Chris Cannon and Environment Legis. Assistant Justin Harding for Representative Rob Bishop.
- 4:25 p.m. Met with Legis. Director Matt Meagher for Rep. Steven Pearce in 1408 Longworth House Office Building.
- 4:50 p.m. Met with Environment Legis. Assistant Danielle DeVere for Rep. Bob Beauprez in 511 Cannon House Office Building.
- 5:10 p.m. Met with Legis. Director Larry Hojo for Representative Joel Hefley in 2372 Rayburn House Office Building.

Thursday, March 13:

- 9:00 a.m. Met with Legislative Research Assistant Catharine Ackerson for Senator Robert Bennett and Environment Legis. Assistant J.J. Brown and Legislative Fellow Rem Hawes for Senator Orrin Hatch in 431 Dirksen Senate Office Building. On Monday, March 17th, King and Shields provided a copy of the briefing booklet and funding letters of support to Fitz Hugh Elder, who has been assigned duties with the Senate Agriculture, FDA and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.
- 9:45 a.m. Met with Environment Legis. Assistant Cory Gardner for Senator Wayne Allard in 525 Dirksen Office Building.
- 11:00 a.m. Met with Appropriations Legis. Assistant Joaquin Sanchez for Senator Pete Domenici, Shelly Vaughn Randall, Majority Staff Member, Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Tammy Perrin, Majority Prof. Staff Member, Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee in 328 Hart Senate Office Building. Tammy Perrin provided a copy of our briefing booklet and funding support letters to Roger Cockrell, Minority Staff Member for the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee whose office is in 156 Dirksen Senate Office Building.
- 11:40 a.m. Met with Mike Connor and Patty Beneke, Minority Staff Members, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in 312 Dirksen Senate Office Building.
- 1:00 p.m. Held a joint meeting with Environment Legis. Assistant David Schwietert for Senator Craig Thomas and Legis. Assistant Thomas Terry for Senator Mike Enzi in 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Dallas Scholes of Senator Enzi's staff was unable to join us as his wife had a baby the prior day.

- 1:30 p.m. Met with Sharla Moffett Beall, Majority Staff Member, Jo-Ellen Darcy, Minority Staff Member of the Fisheries, Wildlife and Water Subcommittee of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and Genevieve E. Erny, Professional Staff Member for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building.
- 2:15 p.m. Met with Leif Fønnesbeck, Majority Staff Member of the Senate Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee in Room 132 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Brooke Livingston, Minority Staff Member for the Subcommittee was ill that day and was unable to attend the meeting.
- 2:50 p.m. Met with David Kilian, Minority Prof. Staff Member, House Energy & Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee and Peder Maarbjerg Legislative Assistant for Rep. Peter Visclosky, Ranking Minority Member of the House Energy & Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee in 1016 Longworth House Office Building.
- 3:30 p.m. Met with Bob Schmidt, Majority Prof. Staff Member (2362B Rayburn House Office Building, 225-3421, [bob.schmidt@appro.house.gov]) of the House Energy & Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee.
- 4:10 p.m. Held joint meeting with staff members of the House Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power and Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans in 1324 Longworth House Office Building. Those in attendance were the following:
 Josh Johnson, Staff Director, Water and Power Subcommittee
 Kiel Weaver, Staff Member, Water and Power Subcommittee
 Luke Johnson, Staff Member, Water and Power Subcommittee
 Craig _____, Staff Member on Loan from the USBR, Water and Power Subcommittee
 Steve Lanich, Minority Prof. Staff Member for the Water and Power Subcommittee
 Lori Sonken, Minority Staff Member for the full Resources Committee
 David S. Whaley, Staff Member, Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee
 Bonnie B. Bruce, Staff Member, Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee
 Catherine Ware, Minority Staff Member, Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee

Friday, March 14:

- 11:00 a.m. Met with Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science Tom Wiemer and Commissioner of Reclamation John Keys in Room 7429 (Water and Science Conference Room) of the Main Interior Building. Others in attendance included:
- 12 – 1:30 p.m. Luncheon event. Location: Tortilla Coast Restaurant, 400 First Street, S.E., 1 block south of the Capitol South Metro Station.
- 3:00 p.m. Met with Carolyn Harney of the Western Governors Association in Suite 388 at the Hall of States, 400 North Capitol Street N.W. Carolyn introduced us to the Washington Office Director Kevin Moran at the conclusion of the meeting. Shields made arrangements with Ms. Harney for her to provide a copy of our briefing booklet to Gary Taylor of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies whose office is in the same building.

Monday, March 17:

- 10:00 a.m. Met with Enviro. Legis. Assistant Matthew Lavere for Representative Heather Wilson in 318 Cannon House Office Building.
- 11:00 a.m. Met with representatives of the Endangered Species Coalition at Suite 1400 at 1101 14th Street, NW. Those attending and their affiliation and contact information were as follows:
 Ed Lytwak, Endangered Species Coalition; 202-772-3231; elytwak@stopextinction.org
 Beth Lowell, Endangered Species Coalition; 202-772-3230; blowell@stopextinction.org
 Shannon Ryan, U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG); 202-546-9707; sryan@pirg.org
 Susan Holmes, Earthjustice; 202-667-4500; sholmes@earthjustice.org
 Corry Westbrook, National Wildlife Federation; 202-797-6840; westbrook@nwf.org
- 1:00 p.m. Met with Jani Revier, Enviro. Legis. Assistant for Rep. C.L. “Butch” Otter, Vice Chairman of the Western Caucus in 1711 Longworth House Office Building.

- 3:00 p.m. Met with Loretta Beaumont, Prof. Majority Staff, and Mike Stephens, Prof. Minority Staff of the House Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee in B-308 Rayburn House Office Building.
- 4:00 p.m. Met with USFWS Director Steve Williams, David P. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and Special Assistant to the USFWS Director Clint Riley in Room 3239 of the Main Interior Building.

Tuesday, March 18:

- 9:30 a.m. Met with Executive Director John Berry, Chief Operating Officer David Brunner and Conservation Science Officer Greg Watson of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation at Suite 900, 1120 Connecticut Ave., N.W.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

We once again confirmed it is vitally important to annually visit Congressional Committee staff and our Congressional delegation members and/or their staffs in order to keep the Programs' needs and ongoing progress in mind. Staff turnover occurs from year to year (in the Senate, a change in leadership since last year as well) and face-to-face meetings continue to have no substitute. The participation of each of the non-federal participants in these briefings is quite important. We will check with CREDA's representatives prior to setting the dates for next year's trip in order to facilitate their participation in next year's meetings. Having a weekend during the middle of the trip works best for several reasons, including the opportunity to go at it again "fresh" on Monday morning, to allow for rescheduling of meetings (which occurs at least once each year), and to allow for unexpected contingencies.

Sending the briefing materials via e-mail (briefing book as an Acrobat file and backgrounder as a Word file) in advance of meetings is useful and should be continued as it shortens the time required to explain our Programs' objectives and operation. This makes for better meetings with more informed staff members and helps our group stay on the established trip itinerary schedule. Additional emphasis on getting top-level Administration officials to the "Interior" meeting is warranted but pragmatically difficult; we will need to work more closely with the liaison offices to again provide a written meeting "backgrounder" to each invitee in advance of the meeting date.

We continue to see great usefulness in the Dear Colleague letters as a way to "get the word out" to each office on the Hill. On the Senate side, Senator Allard's Dear Colleague letter went out to each of the U.S. Senate and the appropriate Committee offices. On the House side, the circulation was limited to those offices with which we had scheduled a meeting. The attendance at the Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon more than met our expectations (we had 26 people including those in our briefing group in attendance and the room capacity is 30) and the luncheon was a success. We believe that we garnered much good will and were able to provide a most interesting and informative presentation. A thank you is extended to George Smith, Regional Hydrologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for doing a very good job with his presentation and the PowerPoint presentation file which he spoke from. By way of an additional recommendation, we should confirm the reservation for the luncheon by no less than 3 weeks out from the trip so that invitations can be sent further in advance of our briefing meetings.

We are most appreciative of the efforts of those staff members who take on the task of circulating our joint delegation letters for us each year. The process on the House side, working with Melissa Simpson, went very smoothly.

APPENDIX MATERIALS:

Dear Colleague Letters signed by Representative Scott McInnis and Senator Wayne Allard extending invitations to attend the Thursday March 14 Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon which included a short presentation and roundtable discussion describing the drought's effects on water supply conditions and explaining how the Upper Colorado and San Juan Recovery Programs' participants cooperatively are working among themselves and with other water users to best meet the needs of people and endangered fish species.

One of the two letters signed by Rep. Diane DeGette supporting funding for the Recovery Programs. This letter reads identical to the letter circulated and signed by 11 of the 14 House members who represent the four states.

The four letters signed by the four participating states' Governors supporting funding for the Recovery Programs, with one of each of the letters sent by each Governor provided as an attachment.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2003

The Honorable David Hobson, Chairman
The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Ranking Minority Member
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hobson and Representative Visclosky:

We are writing to request your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 2004 of \$6,915,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado River Region. Of that amount, the sum of \$5,479,000 should be designated for expenditure on construction activities associated with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Upper Basin Program), and \$851,000 should be designated for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (San Juan Program).

These cooperative programs involving the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests are ongoing in the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Basins and have as their objective recovering endangered fish species while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, state water law and interstate river compacts.

Reclamation initiatives that will move forward with the provision of this funding and substantial non-federal cost sharing being contributed will include construction of fish passage at the Grand Valley Project and Price-Stubb diversion dams on the Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado, providing access to an additional 50 miles of historic habitat upstream of these dams. Floodplain restoration activities, including levee removal and obtaining conservation easements will continue at high-priority sites and is especially important

for the survival of the razorback sucker species. The requested FY 2004 appropriation will allow screening of existing diversion canals, including those of the Redlands Water and Power Company and Grand Valley Project. Screens are needed to prevent endangered fish from being drawn out of the river and into the canals and power plant intakes at these facilities. The requested funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program will be used to design a fish passage at the Arizona Public Service weir and initiate floodplain restoration for razorback sucker in that Basin.

Substantial non-federal cost sharing funds are provided by the four states, power users, and water users in support of these recovery programs. Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the Federal Government to provide up to \$46 Million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. The four participating states are contributing \$17 Million and \$17 Million is being contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. Additional hatchery facilities to produce endangered fish for stocking, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens to prevent fish entrapment and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the capital construction efforts. These facts demonstrate the strong commitment and effective partnerships that are present in both of these successful programs.

The undersigned continue to believe that this Subcommittee's assistance in the past has similarly been a major factor in the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs in progressing towards recovery of the endangered fish in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin while necessary water use and development activities are occurring. The help of the Subcommittee is needed again this year to ensure that Reclamation is provided with adequate funding for these vitally important programs. We are thankful for your past support and look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

S. W. [Signature]

[Signature]

Mark Lodge

[Signature]

[Signature]

Tan Tando

Barbara Rubin

[Signature]

Stam Pearce

J. Math

Marilyn Musgrave

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2003

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor, Chairman
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks, Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
B 308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

Dear Chairman Taylor and Representative Dicks:

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 (Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program) and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. These cooperative programs involving the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests are ongoing in the Upper Colorado River Basin and have as their objective recovering four species of endangered fish while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, state water law and interstate river compacts. We respectfully request support and action by the Subcommittee that will provide the following:

1. The continued allocation of \$700,000 in "recovery" funds appropriated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for fiscal year 2004 to allow FWS's Region 6 to meet its funding commitment to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. This is the same amount appropriated in fiscal years 2002 and 2003 for this program. Funding will be used for FWS' program and data management costs, estimating the abundance of fish populations, evaluating stocking and monitoring fish and habitat response to recovery actions.
2. The allocation of \$444,000 in appropriated base operation and maintenance funds ("Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity") to support the current operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah for fiscal year 2004.

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3. The allocation of \$165,000 in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2004 to meet FWS's Region 2 expenses associated with program management and implementing the San Juan Program's actions.

The enactment of Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the Federal Government to provide up to \$46 Million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. Additional hatchery facilities to produce endangered fish for stocking, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens to prevent fish entrapment and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the capital construction efforts. The four participating states are contributing \$17 Million and \$17 Million is being contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. Subsection 3(c) of P.L. 106-392 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to accept up to \$17 Million of contributed funds from Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, and to expend such contributed funds as if appropriated for that purpose. These facts demonstrate the strong commitment and effective partnerships that are present in both of these successful programs.

The undersigned continue to believe that this Subcommittee's assistance in the past has similarly been a major factor in the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs in progressing towards recovery of the endangered fish in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin while necessary water use and development activities are occurring. The help of the Subcommittee is needed again this year to ensure that the FWS is provided with adequate funding for these vitally important programs. We request that report language be included in the Subcommittee's report directing the FWS to expend the funds as requested above.

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

Sincerely,

S. W. [Signature]

[Signature]

Mark Udall

[Signature]

Bob Boy

Ter Tendo

Barbara Cukin

Don Udall

Steve Pauer

J. Math

Marilyn Musgrave

1ST DISTRICT, COLORADO
 1530 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515
 202-225-4431
 FAX 202-225-6857

DISTRICT OFFICE
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 DENVER, CO 80218
 303-844-4968
 FAX 303-844-4996

E-mail: acgette@mail.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515-0601

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
 SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
 SUBCOMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE INTERNET
 SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, TRADE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

March 27, 2003

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor, Chairman
 The Honorable Norman D. Dicks, Ranking Minority Member
 Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
 House Appropriations Committee
 United States House of Representatives
 B 308 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

Dear Chairman Taylor and Representative Dicks:

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 (Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program) and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. These cooperative programs involving the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests are ongoing in the Upper Colorado River Basin and have as their objective recovering four species of endangered fish while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, state water law and interstate river compacts. I respectfully request support and action by the Subcommittee that will provide the following:

1. The continued allocation of \$700,000 in "recovery" funds appropriated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for fiscal year 2004 to allow FWS's Region 6 to meet its funding commitment to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. This is the same amount appropriated in fiscal years 2002 and 2003 for this program. Funding will be used for FWS' program and data management costs, estimating the abundance of fish populations, evaluating stocking and monitoring fish and habitat response to recovery actions.
2. The allocation of \$444,000 in appropriated base operation and maintenance funds ("Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity") to support the current operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah for fiscal year 2004.

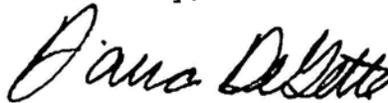
3. The allocation of \$165,000 in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2004 to meet FWS's Region 2 expenses associated with program management and implementing the San Juan Program's actions.

The enactment of Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the Federal Government to provide up to \$46 Million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. Additional hatchery facilities to produce endangered fish for stocking, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens to prevent fish entrapment and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the capital construction efforts. The four participating states are contributing \$17 Million and \$17 Million is being contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. Subsection 3(c) of P.L 106-392 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to accept up to \$17 Million of contributed funds from Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, and to expend such contributed funds as if appropriated for that purpose. These facts demonstrate the strong commitment and effective partnerships that are present in both of these successful programs.

I continue to believe that this Subcommittee's assistance in the past has similarly been a major factor in the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs in progressing towards recovery of the endangered fish in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin while necessary water use and development activities are occurring. The help of the Subcommittee is needed again this year to ensure that the FWS is provided with adequate funding for these vitally important programs. I request that report language be included in the Subcommittee's report directing the FWS to expend the funds as requested above.

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

Sincerely,



Diana L. DeGette
Member of Congress

SCOTT McINNIS
3RD DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FORESTS AND FOREST HEALTH

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0603

*Sharing the Shortages: Severe Drought Responses In 2002
Demonstrate Cooperative Nature of Endangered Species Recovery Program*

Friday, March 14, 2003; Noon, from 12-1:00 p.m.
Rio Room, Tortilla Coast Restaurant, 400 First Street, S.E.

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
220 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0603
(202) 225-4781
FAX: (202) 226-0322

DISTRICT OFFICES:

134 WEST B STREET
PUERCO, CO 81000
(719) 542-8200
FAX: (719) 643-0296

225 NORTH 5TH STREET
SUITE 702
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81601
(970) 242-7107
FAX: (970) 245-3184

100 ROCK POINT DRIVE
SUITE A
DURANGO, CO 81301
(970) 259-2754
FAX: (970) 259-2762

526 PINE STREET
SUITE 111
GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO 81601
(970) 828-0637
FAX: (970) 828-0630

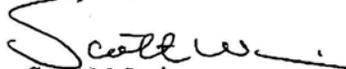
Dear Colleague:

You will soon receive an invitation for you or a staff member to attend a luncheon briefing and roundtable discussion on water management for both human and endangered species' needs during severe drought conditions. Participants in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Upper Colorado Recovery Program) and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program are jointly conducting the briefing. The Upper Colorado Recovery Program is a cooperative partnership created in 1988 to recover four species of endangered fish (humpback chub, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, and razorback sucker) in the Upper Colorado River Basin while water development proceeds in compliance with state law and the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The San Juan Program was initiated in 1992 with parallel objectives and participation and is similarly wrestling with water for people and endangered species issues in that portion of the Colorado River Basin.

This luncheon event will include a short presentation and roundtable discussion describing the ongoing drought's effects on water supply conditions and explaining how the Upper Colorado and San Juan Recovery Programs' participants cooperatively are working among themselves and with other water users to best meet the needs of people and endangered fish species. The year 2002 intensified the ongoing severe drought in the Colorado River Basin and clearly demonstrated and reaffirmed the cooperative nature of the Recovery Programs. Water and power interests and local, state and federal agencies proactively and effectively worked together to share shortages and stretch the limited water supply in a balanced and responsible manner. As current precipitation patterns indicate another year of severe drought is very likely to occur in the Upper Colorado River Basin in 2003, the Programs' partners recognize that continued cooperation must occur.

I hope you or a member of your staff can attend this informative luncheon briefing. Should other commitments not permit attending the entire briefing, please feel welcome to participate as you can. The Tortilla Coast Restaurant, located at 400 First Street S.E. and one block south of the Capitol South Metro Station, is a convenient distance from Capitol Hill. We ask you to R.S.V.P. by calling Kathy Wall of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (303) 969-7322, extension 225 no later than March 11th to facilitate the participants' planning for this event.

Sincerely,


Scott McInnis
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

WAYNE ALLARD
COLORADO

DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, SUITE 525
PHONE: (202) 224-5941
FAX: (202) 224-6471

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0606

March 7, 2003

CONGRESSIONAL WESTERN CAUCUS LUNCH BRIEFING AND ROUNDTABLE:

*Sharing the Shortages: Severe Drought Responses In 2002
Demonstrate Cooperative Nature of Endangered Species Recovery Program*

Friday, March 14, 2003; Noon, from 12-1:00 p.m.
Rio Room, Tortilla Coast Restaurant, 400 First Street, S.E.

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to invite you or a staff member to attend a luncheon briefing and roundtable discussion on water management for both human and endangered species' needs during severe drought conditions. Participants in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Upper Colorado Recovery Program) and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program are jointly conducting the briefing. The Upper Colorado Recovery Program is a cooperative partnership created in 1988 to recover four species of endangered fish (humpback chub, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, and razorback sucker) in the Upper Colorado River Basin while water development proceeds in compliance with state law and the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The San Juan Program was initiated in 1992 with parallel objectives and participation and is similarly wrestling with water for people and endangered species issues in that portion of the Colorado River Basin.

This luncheon event will include a short presentation and roundtable discussion describing the ongoing drought's effects on water supply conditions and explaining how the Upper Colorado and San Juan Recovery Programs' participants cooperatively are working among themselves and with other water users to best meet the needs of people and endangered fish species. The year 2002 intensified the ongoing severe drought in the Colorado River Basin and clearly demonstrated and reaffirmed the cooperative nature of the Recovery Programs. Water and power interests and local, state and federal agencies proactively and effectively worked together to share shortages and stretch the limited water supply in a balanced and responsible manner. As current precipitation patterns indicate another year of severe drought is very likely to occur in the Upper Colorado River Basin in 2003, the Programs' partners recognize that continued cooperation must occur.

As a result of the Programs' cooperative efforts, important and encouraging signs of species' recovery for both the humpback chub and Colorado pikeminnow are being observed. Parties directly involved with this Program will share their experiences and views on this long-term approach to accomplishing species recovery and developing additional needed water resources.

I hope you or a member of your staff can attend this informative luncheon briefing. Should other commitments not permit attending the entire briefing, please feel welcome to participate as you can. The Tortilla Coast Restaurant, located at 400 First Street S.E. and one block south of the Capitol South Metro Station, is a convenient distance from Capitol Hill. We ask you to R.S.V.P. by calling Kathy Wall of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (303) 969-7322, extension 225 no later than March 12th to facilitate the participants' planning for this event.

Sincerely,



Wayne Allard
United States Senator

7340 EAST CALEY
SUITE 215
ENGLEWOOD, CO 80111
PHONE: 303-220-7414
FAX: 303-220-8178

3400 16TH STREET
SUITE 30
GREELEY, CO 80634
PHONE: 970-351-7582
FAX: 970-351-7585

228 NORTH CASCADE AVENUE
SUITE 106
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80903
PHONE: 719-634-6071
FAX: 719-636-2590

411 THATCHER BUILDING
5TH AND MAIN STREET
PUEBLO, CO 81003
PHONE: 719-545-9761
FAX: 719-545-3832

215 FEDERAL BUILDING
400 ROOD AVENUE
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81501
PHONE: 970-245-9553
FAX: 970-245-9523



Office of the Governor

February 12, 2003

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Chairman
The Honorable Harry Reid, Ranking Minority Member
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
129 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Domenici and Senator Reid:

I write to request your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 2004 of \$6,915,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado River Region. The President's recommended budget for FY 2004 includes this line-item amount. I respectfully request the designation of \$5,479,000 for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$851,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program \$535,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development and \$50,000 for Water and Energy Management and Development.

These ongoing, highly successful, cooperative programs involving the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests have as their objective recovering endangered fish species while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. They reflect the proper approach to providing endangered species conservation and recovery within the framework of the existing federal Endangered Species Act, while concurrently resolving critical conflicts between endangered species recovery and the development and use of Compact-apportioned water resources in the Upper Colorado River Basin region of the Intermountain West.

The requested FY 2004 appropriation will allow construction of fish passage at the Grand Valley Project and Price-Stubbs diversion dams on the Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado, providing access to an additional 50 miles of historic habitat upstream of these dams. Floodplain restoration activities, including levee removal and obtaining conservation easements will continue at high-priority sites and is especially important for the survival of the razorback sucker species. Screening of existing diversion canals, including those of the Redlands Water and Power Company and Grand Valley Project, will be accomplished with the requested funding. Screens are needed to prevent endangered fish from being drawn out of the river and into the canals and power plant intakes at these facilities. The requested funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program will

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Chairman
The Honorable Harry Reid, Ranking Minority Member
February 12, 2003
Page 2

be used to design a fish passage at the Arizona Public Service weir and initiate floodplain restoration for razorback sucker in that Basin.

Substantial non-federal cost sharing funds are provided by the four states, power users, and water users in support of these recovery programs. Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the Federal Government to provide up to \$46 Million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. The four participating states are contributing \$17 Million and \$17 Million is being contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. Additional hatchery facilities to produce endangered fish for stocking, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens to prevent fish entrapment and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the capital construction efforts. These facts demonstrate the strong commitment and effective partnerships that are present in both of these successful programs.

The past support and assistance of your Subcommittee has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. On behalf of the citizens of Wyoming, I gratefully thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance relative to fiscal year 2004 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Best Regards,



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

DF:PTT:jws

cc: Senator Craig Thomas
Senator Mike Enzi
Governor Mike Leavitt
Governor Bill Owens
Governor Bill Richardson

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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



Bill Owens
Governor

March 6, 2003

The Honorable Conrad Burns, Chairman
The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Request for support for funding for Fiscal Year 2004; Upper Colorado and San Juan Endangered Fish Recovery Programs

Dear Chairman Burns and Senator Byrd:

On behalf of the citizens of Colorado, I am writing to ask for your support for continued funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.

The Fiscal Year 2004 request is divided into three components: \$ 700,000 for recovery funds to Region 6 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow the Service to continue its funding commitment to the Upper Colorado Recovery Program, \$444,000 to support the current operation of the Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah (designated "Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity") and \$165,000 in recovery funds for the San Juan Recovery Program in Region 2 of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

These programs are recognized as a model for endangered species recovery in conformance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. They involve a cooperative effort between the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, and federal agencies, water and power users, and environmental groups.

Since 1988, the Endangered Fish Recovery Programs in the Upper Colorado River and San Juan Basins have proved to be the means to resolve endangered species conflicts, promote species recovery, and allow ongoing development and use of Compact-apportioned water resources throughout the West. Last year all interests successfully negotiated program recovery goals, published in final form in the Federal Register in August, 2002. These recovery goals provide a clear, succinct roadmap to Program participants and other interested parties for recovery, downlisting and delisting of the endangered fish species under the Endangered Species Act.

The four states and water and power users contribute non-federal, cost-sharing funds to support these recovery programs. All parties assisted the 106th Congress in passing Public Law 106-392, which recognized the non-federal participation in this recovery effort and received strong bi-partisan support.

I would like to acknowledge the past support your Committee has shown these programs, and once again request your support for the ongoing work of these programs in ultimately accomplishing the recovery of these species.

Sincerely,

Bill Owens



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

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT
GOVERNOR

OLENE S. WALKER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 28, 2003

The Honorable David Hobson, Chair
The Honorable Peter J. Viscloskey, Ranking Minority Member
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hobson and Representative Viscloskey:

I am writing to request your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 2004 of \$6,915,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado River Region. The President's recommended budget for FY 2004 includes this line-item amount. I respectfully request the designation of \$5,479,000 for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$851,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, \$535,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development and \$50,000 for Water and Energy Management and Development.

These ongoing, highly successful, cooperative programs involving the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests have as their objective recovering endangered fish species while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. With the continuing drought in Utah and the rest of the west, these programs allow water users to maintain existing water uses and develop new water resources while protecting the environment. They reflect the proper approach to providing endangered species conservation and recovery within the framework of the existing federal Endangered Species Act, while concurrently resolving critical conflicts between endangered species recovery and the development and use of Compact-apportioned water resources in the Upper Colorado River Basin region of the Intermountain West.

The requested FY 2004 appropriation will allow construction of fish passages on the Colorado River providing access to an additional historic habitat. Floodplain restoration activities, including levee removal and obtaining conservation easements will continue at high-priority sites and is especially important for the survival of the razorback sucker species.

Page 2

The Honorable David Hobson, Chair

The Honorable Peter J. Viscloskey, Ranking Minority Member

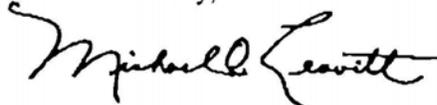
February 28, 2003

Screening of existing diversion canals, including those of the Redlands Water and Power Company and Grand Valley Project, will be accomplished with the requested funding. Screens are needed to prevent endangered fish from being drawn out of the river and into the canals and power plant intakes at these facilities. The requested funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program will be used to design a fish passage at the Arizona Public Service weir and initiate floodplain restoration for razorback sucker in that Basin.

Substantial non-federal cost sharing funds are provided by the four states, power users and water users in support of these recovery programs. Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the federal government to provide up to \$46 million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. The four participating states are contributing \$17 million and \$17 million is being contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. Additional hatchery facilities to produce endangered fish for stocking, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens to prevent fish entrapment and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the capital construction efforts. These facts demonstrate the strong commitment and effective partnerships that are present in both of these successful programs.

The past support and assistance of your Subcommittee has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. On behalf of the citizens of Utah, I gratefully thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance relative to fiscal year 2004 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,



Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

MOL/RLM/rk

cc: Representative Chris Cannon
Representative Jim Matheson
Representative Rob Bishop
Governor Dave Freudenthal
Governor Bill Owens
Governor Bill Richardson



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

February 13, 2003

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor, Chairman
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks, Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

Dear Chairman Taylor and Representative Dicks:

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 (Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program) and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. These cooperative programs involving the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests are ongoing in the Upper Colorado River Basin and have as their objective recovering four species of endangered fish while water use and development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), state law and interstate compacts. This funding will ensure that federal cost sharing funds are provided to both the Upper Colorado River and the San Juan River recovery programs. I respectfully request your support and action by your Subcommittee that will provide the following:

1. The continued allocation of \$700,000 in "recovery" funds appropriated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for Fiscal Year 2004 to meet its funding commitment to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. This is the same amount that was appropriated in Fiscal Year 2003 for this program. Funding will be used for FWS' program management costs, population estimation and monitoring and data management activities associated with this multi-element program.
2. The allocation of \$444,000 in appropriated base operation and maintenance funds ("Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity") to support the current operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah for Fiscal Year 2004. Funding will enable continuing hatchery operation production of endangered fish for stocking, research, and refugia (adult fish for spawning and maintaining genetic stocks) for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program.
3. The allocation of \$165,000 in "recovery" funds appropriated to the FWS to meet its funding commitment to the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program for needed research and monitoring and program management activities in Fiscal Year 2004.

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
February 13, 2003
Page 2

During the 106th Congress, Public Law 106-392 was enacted which authorizes the Federal Government to provide up to \$46 million of cost sharing for the implementation of capital construction projects for the two recovery programs. Capital construction for these programs remains to be completed for additional hatchery facilities to produce endangered fish for stocking, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and/or supplying instream habitat flows, installing screens to prevent fish entrapment in canals, and removing and/or relocating nonnative fishes. The four participating states will contribute up to \$17 million and \$17 million will be contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. Subsection 3(c) of the law authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to accept up to \$17 million of contributed funds from Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, and to expend such contributed funds as if appropriated for that purpose. Each of the four participating states has appropriated non-federal cost sharing funding. These facts demonstrate the strong commitment and effective partnerships that are present in both of these ongoing programs.

I believe that this Subcommittee's assistance in the past has similarly been a major factor in the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs in progressing towards recovery of the endangered fish in the Upper Colorado River and the San Juan River Basins while necessary water use and development activities are occurring. The help of the Subcommittee is needed again this year to ensure that the FWS is provided with adequate funding for these vitally important programs. The San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program provides ESA compliance for existing water projects in New Mexico and Colorado, as well as ESA compliance for completion of new water developments, including the Animas-La Plata Project and the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project.

I would very much appreciate your continued support of these cooperative programs.

Sincerely,



Bill Richardson
Governor

JW:jrb

C. The Honorable Tom Udall
 The Honorable Heather Wilson
 The Honorable Steven Pearce
 Governor Bill Owens
 Governor Mike Leavitt
 Governor Dave Freudenthal
 Mr. John R. D'Antonio, State Engineer