

Trip Report

2008 Washington, D. C. Briefing Meetings March 5 through March 11, 2008



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

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

Disclaimer: This trip report has been prepared based on notes and recollections of the 2008 briefing meetings and events. Opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not constitute those of the programs' participants or of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program or the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.

Synopsis: The annual Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs' Washington DC briefing trip was conducted from March 5th through March 11th. Representatives of the non-federal participants and certain U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees¹ met with staff of the Congressional delegations for the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Congressional authorizing and appropriations committee staff for the committees having jurisdiction over the Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service and their budgets, Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) officials, and several non-governmental organizations. In addition, discussions were held with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) staff about our Programs' status in light of a Congressional continuing resolution, in lieu of an Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, during a portion of Fiscal Year 2009; and about the Fiscal Year 2010 funding needs of the two recovery programs.

Believing that our past briefing trips have been largely successful and building upon our experience gained over many years, our group of representatives followed the format of prior years' meetings. Specifically, these briefing meetings provided attendees with a status report about the two endangered fish recovery programs and sought support for Program funding included in the President's proposed fiscal year 2009 budget for Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We also discussed with them the impending delivery to the Congress of the Secretary of the Interior's report entitled *Utilization of Power Revenues for Annual Base Funding of the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs*, as required by Public Law 106-392, as amended, and the fact that implementing that report's recommendations will require minor amendments to the statutory authorization language². While the recovery programs' participants worked very hard to have the Secretary's report to Congress through the approvals and surnaming process and had hoped that this Secretary's report would have been transmitted to the appropriate Congressional

1 Fish and Wildlife Service employees (e.g. the Program Directors and FWS employees from Albuquerque and Grand Junction) participated in most of the briefings for the sole purpose of answering technical questions concerning the fishes' life history, habitat needs, the species' recovery goals, Program accomplishments and anticipated activities. Their participation is recognized as being vital to answering key questions, assuring that answers given have a sound biological basis and get the facts straight and add credibility to our briefings.

2 P.L. 106-392, authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost-sharing funds for the recovery programs with the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming and with power customers for capital construction projects, and authorizes up to \$6 million per year (adjusted annually for inflation) of Colorado River Storage Project power revenues for annual base (non-capital) funding: up to \$4 million for the Upper Colorado Recovery Program and up to \$2 million for the San Juan Recovery Program. Annual base funding provides for operation and maintenance of capital projects, implementation of recovery actions other than capital projects, monitoring and research to evaluate the need for or effectiveness of recovery actions, and program management to carry out the recovery programs. The Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to submit a report to the appropriate Congressional Committees by the end of fiscal year 2008 on the utilization of power revenues for annual base funding of the recovery programs and to make a recommendation regarding the need for continued annual base funding from power revenues beyond fiscal year 2011 that may be required to achieve the goals of these recovery programs. Unless reauthorized by Congress, the use of power revenues for annual base funding of recovery program actions, other than operation and maintenance of capital projects and monitoring, will cease after fiscal year 2011.

Committees prior to the March 5th through 11th briefing trip, the report has not yet “cleared” the Secretary of the Interior’s office. Legislative language to accomplish the desired annual funding authorization and extension has been developed and is currently under review by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Western Area Power Administration and the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association.

In addition, an unanticipated need for capital expenditures occurred in 2007 when unstable rock formations adjacent to designated critical habitat for the endangered razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow in the San Juan River caused a major landslide near Kirkland, New Mexico (West of Farmington). A second slide occurred in August, 2007 in the same area. This was the 11th slide in that area in the past 5 years, according to Randy Kirkpatrick of the San Juan Water Commission. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the unstable cliffs are a threat to critical habitat in the San Juan River. The estimated cost of stabilizing the rock formation is \$7 million. Senator Pete Domenici’s office proposed that the authorities provided in P.L. 106-392 be expanded to add authorized funding to protect critical habitat. Certain San Juan Recovery Program participants have engaged in dialogue with Senator Domenici about this matter. Further, representatives of both the Upper Colorado and San Juan Recovery Programs recognize that by 2010, these two programs will have constructed approximately \$100 million in facilities (fish passages, fish screens, flooded bottomlands habitat, hatcheries, and a reservoir that augments flows for endangered fish). Most of these facilities are on, or adjacent to, major rivers in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River basins. These complex facilities will require rehabilitation, repair or replacement. Many of the facilities are susceptible to damage by floods and debris associated with the major rivers on which they are located (Green, Colorado, Gunnison and San Juan). Additional authority is needed to complete the Tusher Wash fish screen on the Green River, and additional time is needed to complete capital projects in the San Juan basin.

Authorization for capital construction expires on September 30, 2010. There is no funding authority for Reclamation to repair, rehabilitate or replace these facilities after that date or to complete the Tusher Wash fish screen and San Juan basin projects. Existing funding authority will have been expended. Accordingly, the two recovery programs, working in concert with Senator Bingaman and Senator Domenici’s staff have proposed amendments to P.L. 106-392 to provide an additional \$20 million in authorization for repairs, rehabilitation and replacement of these facilities through 2023. The proposal is clear in stating that additional appropriations will only be requested as needed. A handout was provided during the briefing meetings (attached).

Specifically, the proposed 2008 amendments would achieve the following:

- Authorize an additional \$12 million in federal expenditures for capital projects for the San Juan Program for the purposes of a) protecting critical habitat of endangered fish species and related infrastructure from rock slides in the area west of Farmington (\$7 million), and b) repair, rehabilitation and replacement of constructed capital facilities (fish passages, fish screens, habitat, hatcheries) as needed through 2023 (\$5 million).
- Authorize an additional \$15 million in federal expenditures for capital projects for the Upper Colorado Program for the purposes of a) constructing a fish screen on Tusher Wash in critical habitat on the Green River, Utah in light of significantly increased construction material costs, and b) for repairs, rehabilitation and replacement of constructed capital facilities (fish screens, fish passages, habitat, hatcheries) as needed through 2023.
- Recognize additional non-federal cost sharing of \$56 million through 2023.

Recognizing that the Secretary’s report to Congress concerning the continued use of Upper Colorado Basin Fund revenues for these recovery programs’ annual base funding purposes has not yet reached Congress, and that amending annual funding authority and capital funding authority should be done in one bill, the briefing group advised those with whom we met that a single piece of legislation will be advanced during coming weeks (the end of this month or by mid-April) for their consideration. Our group requested, via staff, that Representatives John Salazar and Tom Udall be the lead sponsors of this legislation since their House Districts include the geographic area of the two recovery programs. Senators Bingaman and Senator Domenici have been asked to introduce the companion bill in the United States Senate. Strategically, we were advised by staff of the

Senate Energy and Natural Resources' Water and Power Subcommittee that it may be best to focus on getting this legislation through the House of Representatives first, due to a "legislative log-jam" in the SENR Committee created by the junior Senator from Oklahoma that is preventing legislation from that Committee coming to the Senate floor.

The trip objectives were accomplished. During the briefing meetings the Programs' representatives pointed out that the increase of almost \$3 million in the Fiscal Year 2009 funding contained within the "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" line-item of Upper Colorado Region portion of Reclamation's budget being is required to repay the Colorado River Water Conservation District for the remainder of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program's proportionate share of the construction cost of the Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement Project. Some \$6 million of the \$7,612,000 in that budget line-item is needed for meeting this contractual repayment purpose. We noted the \$17 million of power users' non-federal cost-sharing has been contributed and all of the \$17 million has been contributed by the four participating states. We advised that Utah and Wyoming accelerated their states' contributions to work our way out of the shortfall that the FY 2008 USBR line-item funding amount created for the Upper Basin Recovery Program's capital construction projects. We graciously thanked all Interior, USBR and OMB officials with whom we met for getting the additional \$3 million into the President's 2009 recommended budget for Reclamation.

At each meeting with Congressional Delegation staff members, we asked each staff member to request that his or her boss affirm their support by signing onto joint-delegation fiscal year 2009 funding support 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 for these two recovery programs (attached to this report). The letter circulation process this year is being accomplished by Eric Wortman of Congressman John Salazar's staff and Tyler Owens of Senator Robert Bennett's staff. Thanks to these people for their assistance.

The letter to the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee was revised while our group was in Washington, DC, based on our desire to avoid becoming in the "requesting an earmark" debate that is prevalent again this year, after direct consultation with the Subcommittee. As we met with the Congressional delegation and Congressional committee staffers, we acknowledged the great 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.

A key tool in making our "please sign these two joint delegation funding support letters" request is having funding support letters submitted to each of the two appropriations subcommittees by Governors Ritter, Huntsman, Richardson and Freudenthal. Letters from the Governors of New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming were put into the pocket of the briefing booklet; letters from Governor Ritter were obtained subsequent to the trip (and Governor Ritter's 2007 funding support letters were used in the briefing packet during the trip). Letters submitted by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe were also included in this year's briefing packets. Examples of each are attached.

We distributed at each meeting our "Non-Federal Participants' Funding Requests" brochure (attached). The brochure details the USBR and USFWS funding included in the President's fiscal year 2008 budget, the proposed use of the funds by the programs, and a listing of the entities, municipalities and water user organizations who submitted letters of support last year. The brochure allows us to quickly communicate the funding amounts that we are seeking of the Congress; and importantly, along with the Governors' funding support letters mentioned above, demonstrates the grass roots support that these recovery programs continue to enjoy. The funding brochure is developed by and paid for by the Upper Basin and San Juan water users.

After completing our briefing meetings, we anticipate the support of 13 of the 14 U.S. Representatives from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Rep. Tom Udall is on the Appropriations Committee and observes the protocol that Appropriation Committee members do not write to one another to support specific funding requests. On the Senate side, we believe that at least four of the eight Senators (Bennett, Hatch, Bingaman and Salazar) and maybe five (Senator Barrasso) will sign the two funding support letters. Senator Domenici and Senator Allard will abide by the standing policy of not signing appropriation support letters as they are members

of the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations; however, we were assured of their ongoing support for our efforts, for the President's budget funding and of their assistance as it might be needed within the Appropriations Committee's processes. We anticipate Senator Enzi will not sign delegation letters supporting appropriations for the programs.

Our fifth annual Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon was again held in the dignified venue of Dining Room C on the Sixth Floor of the Madison Building of the Library of Congress. We greatly appreciate the generous financial contribution of our hosts, the Upper Basin and San Juan water users. A total of twenty-four people participated, of which seven were Congressional staffers and four were invited guests. This event gives us the opportunity to "give back" something to those with whom we meet and of whom we request that they seek approval to sign the joint funding support letters. The luncheon provides goodwill benefits and facilitates the development of personal relationships with those with whom we meet.

Sufficient efforts were made to publicize and encourage attendance at the staff appreciation luncheon. The luncheon invitation e-mailed to each invitee is attached. Jana Mohrman, Regional Hydrologist, Mountain-Prairie Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provided an informative, 20-minute briefing during the Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon entitled *Sharing the River: Managing Water Resources to Benefit Endangered Fish*. The presentation was well presented and very well received.

Copies (both electronic and printed) of the briefing booklet and its enclosures were widely distributed to those with whom we met – electronically in advance of the meetings and printed copies were handed out during each of the meetings. The briefing booklet has been distributed to both recovery programs' participants. The booklet can be downloaded from the UCREFRP's webpage (<http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/doc/dc.htm>).

Many compliments were paid to our group by staffs of the Congressional delegations, subcommittee staffs, and staffs of Reclamation, the Service, and Department of the Interior in recognition of our Programs' past and continuing accomplishments and successes; on the quality and thoroughness of the briefings and our materials; the approaches we are using and our continuing efforts keeping offices informed through these visits each year. The meeting with DOI officials on Friday, March 7th was particularly gratifying. A list of the many attendees at that meeting in the Secretary of the Interior's Conference Room is attached. We again conclude that we need to continue to do what we are doing in order to maximize the likelihood that the funding requested in the President's budget for these programs actually gets appropriated and included in the spending bills.

Trip Participants:

A list of those representing the two recovery programs 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. The group consisted of:

- Darin Bird – Utah Department of Natural Resources (certain meetings)
- Dennis Strong – Utah Division of Water Resources (Utah delegation meetings)
- Robert King – Utah Division of Water Resources
- Tom Blickensderfer – Colorado Department of Natural Resource (Wednesday through Friday)
- Randy Kirkpatrick – San Juan Water Commission
- Tom Iseman – Environmental Groups Representative, Upper Colorado Program (Wed. through Friday)
- Tom Pitts – Water Users Representative for the Upper Colorado and San Juan Programs
- Bruce Whitehead – Southwestern Water Conservation District (Thursday and Friday)
- Dan Birch – Colorado River Water Conservation District (Monday & Tuesday)
- Cathy Condon – representative for Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- Jana Mohrman – USFWS – Lakewood, CO (Staff Appreciation Luncheon Presenter)
- Jim Brooks – USFWS – Albuquerque, NM
- Al Pfister – USFWS – Grand Junction, CO
- David Campbell – USFWS – San Juan River Recovery Program Coordinator
- Sharon Whitmore – USFWS – San Juan River Recovery Program Assistant Coordinator
- Robert Muth – USFWS – Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program Director
- John Shields – Wyoming State Engineer's Office and Chairman, Management Committee

Synopsis of Meetings and Contacts: Attached to this trip report is a tabulation of those with whom we met during the March 5 through March 11 period during which the briefing meetings occurred. Comments concerning the individual meeting are annotated on the tabulation which summarize important notes and necessary follow-up that should or has occurred. At each meeting, as and when appropriate, we noted that the two recovery programs will be honored as recipients, one of twenty-one such awardees, of the Department of the Interior's Cooperative Conservation Award at an Awards Ceremony in the Main Interior Building Auditorium on April 21st – and have been invited to participate in a two-day workshop on April 22-23rd to share insights and network with the other recipients on best management practices for collaboration and partnering to achieve conservation outcomes (copy of Deputy Secretary of the Interior's announcement memorandum and list of recipients attached).

Follow-up Conducted: Follow-up with Eric Wortman of Rep. John Salazar's office and with Tyler Owens of Senator Robert Bennett's office has occurred in order to complete the letters circulation effort. Each of the House Congressional delegation staffers with whom we met have been contacted, via telephone and e-mail to encourage them to sign the joint delegation funding support letters. Thank you notes have been sent to some of the folks with whom we met and others are in process. In addition, follow up with Reclamation and the Service is being conducted to assure that the report by the Secretary of the Interior is forwarded to Congress as soon as possible.

Conclusions and Recommendations: This trip confirmed the vital importance of annually visiting Congress to secure appropriations by reminding both Congress and the Administration of the Programs' needs and ongoing successes. Staff turnover occurs from year to year. Next year will provide more challenges in that regard due to retirements of Senator Domenici, Senator Allard and Rep. Cubin. The entire New Mexico House delegation will change, as all three representatives are running for the vacated Senate seat. All of these members have supported appropriations for the two programs. We will also have a new Administration to deal with. Face-to-face meetings continue to have no substitute. We would be overlooked if we did not make the effort each year. This annual investment to remind Congress, Interior Department officials and other key non-governmental organizations about what we are doing and why it is important in our states remains absolutely essential.

Sending the briefing booklet and a concise meeting "backgrounder" via e-mail in advance of meetings will be continued. This approach is needed for the busy folks with whom we meet, shortens the meeting time required, makes for better meetings and helps our group stay on the itinerary schedule.

Thanks are extended to all who scheduled briefing meetings, extended invitations and participated in the trip. Estimations of time requirements to complete the briefing meetings were essentially correct. A big **thank you** is extended to the Upper Basin and San Juan water users for again hosting the Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon and paying for the printing of the non-federal participants' Congressional funding request and *Proposed 2008 Amendments Regarding Authorization of Construction of Capital Projects to Public Law 106-392* brochures. These are extremely important tools to accomplish our annual briefing trip's objectives.

We will set the dates for the 2009 briefing trip in November. We can anticipate that the schedule for development, approval and release of the President's FY 2010 budget is likely to be the following:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Internal meetings within Interior Department	Mid-April, 2008
Departmental Submittal	Mid-May
Initial Allocations	June
OMB submittal	August
Pass-backs from OMB	Late-November
Appeals process	Brief period thereafter
Final decisions locked down	December
Release of President's budget	Early February 2009

Appended Materials: Following this narrative are letters and documents attached as described above. The joint House delegation fund support letters and the joint Senate delegation funding support letters, as circulated in response to our group's request, will be attached when the signed copies are received.

2008 Briefings Meetings Schedule

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
& San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program



Date	Time	Meeting With	Affiliation	Comments
Wednesday March 5	9:30 a.m.	Justin Harding (LD) Rachel Dresen (LA) Brad Mollet (LA)	Rep. Ron Bishop Rep. Chris Cannon Rep. Jim Matheson	Darin Bird and Robert King took the lead. UT Division of Water Resources Director Dennis Strong attended as well.
	10:00 a.m.	Eric Wortman (LD)	Rep. John Salazar	Wortman had previously agreed to circulate the joint delegation letters. We thanked him very much and assured him we'd take the leg-work out of the letter circulation process.
	10:45 a.m.	Rick Axthelm (LD)	Rep. Barbara Cubin	Great meeting.
	11:15 a.m.	Nate Bowen (LA)	Rep. Marilyn Musgrave	Went well. Requested to resend approps. form
	11:45 a.m.	Andrew Good (LA)	Rep. Tom Tancredo	Went fine.
	2:00 p.m.	Jeanette Lyman (LA)	Rep. Tom Udall	Meeting conducted by Kirkpatrick and Pitts.
	2:15 p.m.	Tim Charters (LD)	Rep. Steve Pearce	Concluded Rep. Pearce will sign the letters
	2:45 p.m.	Craig Rushing(LD)	Rep. Doug Lamborn	Expressed confidence that Rep. Lamborn will sign the letters – but needed to check w/ boss.
	4:15 p.m.	Michael Spira (LD)	Rep. Ed Perlmutter	Raised appropriate questions about FWS letter constituting a request for an "earmark." That letter was subsequently revised.
4:50 p.m.	Stan Sloss (LD) and Adam Jones	Rep. Mark Udall	It is always a pleasure to meet with Stan. No doubt that Rep. Udall will sign the letters.	
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Thursday March 6	9:30 a.m.	Steve Plevniak (LA)	Rep. Diana DeGette	Thanked Steve for his efforts in circulating letters for us last year. Certain of Rep. DeGette's support on the letters.
	10:30 a.m.	Ian Lyle (LA)	Senator Wayne Allard	Fine meeting. Sen. Allard on Approps. Comm. – won't sign letters but very interested in being authority amendment bill sponsor. Requested resubmittal of Approps. form
	11:00 a.m.	Scott Dalzell and Rachelle Schroeder (Min. Staff)	Senate Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee	Said we are in good shape. Rachelle requested assistance in developing questions for R.M. Allard to ask of Secretary Kempthorne
	11:45 a.m.	Chris Tomassi	Sen. Mike Enzi	Shields tried hard – convincing the Senator's LA is not the same thing as convincing the Senator
	1:15 pm.	Tracey Ross (LA)	Senator Ken Salazar	On board. Thinks we will see a C.R.
	2:00 p.m.	Maryanne Dunlap, Jeff Rosato	Senate Environment & Public Works Subcommittee on Private Sector and Consumer Solutions to Global Warming and Wildlife Protection	We enjoyed a good meeting with these staff members. They provided us with their insights about what is likely to happen relative to a C.R. in lieu of adopted budget bills.
	2:30 p.m.	Brian Clifford (LA) and Sen. John Barrasso at 2:45 pm	Sen. John Barrasso	Found Sen. Barrasso to be very open-minded and energetic. He stated he will visit w/ Sen. Allard about this at the gym. Made appeal to break the chain of WY Senators declining to sign
	3:00 p.m.	Phil Woods J.J. Brown	Sen. Robert Bennett Sen. Orrin Hatch	Tyler Owens was ill, so Phil Woods sat in and we advised we'd minimize the leg-work in the letter circulation process. Enjoyed some light-hearted banter with J.J. Requested to resubmit the approps. form
	4:00 p.m.	Emily Knight (Clerk) David Zacher, Rebecca Kimitch; Kiel Weaver (Min. Staff)	House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power	Fisheries and Oceans Sbcm. staff were invited but did not attend. Kiel Weaver asked helpful questions to advise that we should prepare for more "Pay –Go" debate as bill moves
	5:00 p.m.	Philip Grossweiler	Rep. Heather Wilson	This was a difficult meeting in terms of getting the points across.
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Friday March 7	10:30 a.m.	Taunja Berquam, USB/COE Head Analyst	House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee	Clarifications provided in re need for Member certifications (not needed) and what constitutes an earmark request with this Sbcm. Berquam is as good a staffer and as direct as any person one will ever meet. Berquam will provide briefing booklet to Kevin Cook, Minority Staff Member

	11:00 a.m.	Greg Knadle, Professional Staff Member	House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee	We ran the language of our proposed joint delegation funding support letter past Greg and he ran it past Clerk Mike Stephens. Accordingly we made revisions to the letter and retransmitted it to each House Members' staffer. This was an excellent meeting.
	11:45 – 1:15 p.m.	Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon	House and Senate Delegation and Committee staffers	202-707-2595 Bookings Office Public Programs Library of Congress 1st Floor of Madison Bldg. Coordinates all of events in the Montpelier Room and Dining Rooms A, B & C.
	2:00 p.m.	Mike Connor Josh Johnson Tack Richardson	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Sen. Warner's Environment LA	There will be a C.R. Talked legislative strategy. Johnson is interested in more information concerning the DOI CCA workshop – will send agenda, etc. to him
	2:45 p.m.	Roger Cockerell Subcommittee Staff Member	Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee	Roger believes there will be a continuing resolution – Congress will not pass an Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act until mid November and maybe not until into February. Unlike 2007, there will not be a CR for the entire fiscal year.
	4:00 p.m.	James E. Cason Jason Alberts Pam Haze Jim Mosher Bryan Arroyo Gary Frazer Lesli Gray Karl Wirkus Jonne Hower Mary Foley ... remainder of attendees identified on sign-in sheet attached to report	Dept. of the Interior Office of the Secretary Deputy A/S-W&S Acting A/S-PMB DOI Budget Office Director Deputy A/S for FWP Asst. USFWS Director for Endangered Species; Asst. USFWS Director for Fisheries & Habitat Conservation A/C for Operations Regional Liaison Officer National Park Service Washington Office Acting Director and Deputy Director of Natural Resources Stewardship Office	Muth and Campbell took the lead at this meeting. Muth thought this was the best meeting that we have had at Interior. Assoc. Deputy Secretary Cason was very professional and many compliments were received. Cason paid particular compliments to Pam Haze. Follow-up concerning the Secretary's report to Congress in re: annual funding recommendations and the need to extend the authority to use power revenues for operation and maintenance, and relative to the Cooperative Conservation Award ceremony and award recipients workshop has occurred and is continuing.
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Monday March 10	10:00 a.m.	Mike Hickey Charlie Stern Matthew Siegel	Office of Mgmt & Budget Budget Examiners, Natural Resources Division and Energy, Science and Water Division	This meeting lasted over an hour and was very useful. Sent Matt Siegel a copy of the luncheon presentation concerning acquisition and use of water by the Programs. We gained ground.
	11:30 a.m.	David Gagner, and Tom Kelsch	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Director of Gov. Relations & Ext. Affairs; Director of Conservation Program	Excellent meeting and worthwhile. We thanked the NFWF for their funding assistance, for the good work of Rebecca Kramer and for providing grant funding to the Upper Basin's environmental participants last year.
	1:30 p.m.	Gary Taylor Matt Hogan Shanna Brown	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies – Legislative and Executive Directors Western Governors Association	Went well, as usual. AFWA is again including our funding requests for USBR and USFWS 2009 appropriations in the Association's funding recommendations report.
	2:00 p.m.	Michele Nellenbach Beth Strobridge	National Governors Association Natural Resource Committee Staff Director	Good meeting. This was the first time in four years or so that we the opportunity to visit with NGA staff.
	3:30 p.m.	Debbie Weatherly, Minority Staff Member	House Interior, Environment & Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee	Ms. Weatherly was extremely complimentary to our efforts and our continuing ability to work together, stating it would be great if "it could be bottled." She stated we do the best job of any group that comes to see her.
	4:30 p.m.	Ellen Cohen	Environment LA for Senator Joe Lieberman (Chair, EPW Private Sector ... Wildlife Protection Subcommittee)	Helpful meeting and glad we had the opportunity to provide our Programs' information to the ESA authorizing subcommittee Chairman's staffer. Interested in CCA workshop information.
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Tuesday March 11		Jean Flemma (SD); Dave Jansen, Leg. Staff	House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans	Shields delivered briefing booklets to the Republican Staff Office of the House Resources Committee across the hall for Jean and Dave as their door was locked (they were attending a hearing)
		Chrissy Poe, LA	Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers	Shields delivered a briefing book for Chrissy Poe to Rep. McMorris Rodgers' office and left a short message to be delivered to Ms. Poe.
	1:30 p.m.	Jeanette Lyman	Rep. Tom Udall	Randy Kirkpatrick and Tom Pitts conducted this meeting to discuss the proposed legislation to amend our authorities. Kirkpatrick stated he is confident that Rep. Udall will be our lead sponsor for the bill.

House E&W Appropriations Subcommittee

Draft Joint Delegation Letter re: 2009 Bureau of Reclamation Appropriation

(DATE)

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Chairman
The Honorable David L. Hobson, Ranking 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 Visclosky and Ranking Member Hobson:

We are requesting your support for an appropriation in the President's recommended budget for FY 2009 of \$7,612,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region within the budget line-item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program," per authorization provided by P.L. 106-392, as amended. The funding designation we seek is as follows: \$6,430,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$782,000 for construction activities for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program; and \$400,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development activities to avoid jeopardy.

These highly successful, cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests. The programs' objectives are to recover endangered fish species while water use and development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). These recovery programs are recognized as being model collaborative conservation partnerships successfully working towards recovery of endangered species while needed water development is proceeding to support growing western communities. Since 1988, these programs have provided ESA Section 7 compliance (without litigation) for over 1,600 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting more than 3 million acre-feet of water per year.

Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding exceeding 50% is embodied in both of these successful programs. The requested FY 2009 appropriation will allow the Upper Colorado River Recovery Program to complete fish passage structures on the Colorado River to provide access to historic habitat upstream of existing diversion dams, and to meet construction financing obligations associated with the completed Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement Project that is providing low flow augmentation water on the Yampa River. The funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program will be used for construction of a fish screen and fish passages in critical habitat on the San Juan River. The requested federal appropriation is critically important to these efforts moving forward.

The past support and assistance of your Subcommittee has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. We gratefully thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2009 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

[Signatures of House Delegation Members Who Represent
the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming Willing to Sign the Above]

Revised 03-10-08

House I, E & RA Appropriations Subcommittee

Draft Joint Delegation Funding Support Letter re: 2009 USFWS Appropriation

(DATE)

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

Dear Chairman Dicks and Representative Tiaht:

We write to request your support for appropriations in fiscal year 2009 to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of funds requested by the President for 'Recovery' in the amount of \$68,417,000 and \$43,507,000 for 'National Fish Hatchery Operations.' These national level programs are the sources of FWS funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. The President's recommended budget for FY 2009 includes FWS funding for these programs.

These highly successful, cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies, and water, power and environmental interests. The programs' objectives are to recover endangered fish species while water use and development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. These recovery programs have become national models for collaboratively working to recover endangered species while addressing water needs to support growing western communities. Since 1988, these programs have provided ESA compliance (without litigation) for over 1,600 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting more than 3 million acre-feet of water per year.

Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding exceeding 50% is embodied in both of these programs. The past support and assistance of your Subcommittee has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. We gratefully thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2009 funding of 'Recovery' and 'National Fish Hatchery Operations' to help ensure FWS' continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

[Signatures of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming House Delegation Members Willing to Sign the Above]

Senate E&W Appropriations Subcommittee
Draft Joint Delegation Letter re 2009 Bureau of Reclamation Appropriation

(DATE)

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

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Senator Domenici:

We are requesting your support for an appropriation in the President's recommended budget for FY 2009 of \$7,612,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region within the budget line-item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program," per authorization provided by P.L. 106-392, as amended. The funding designation we seek is as follows: \$6,430,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$782,000 for construction activities for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program; and \$400,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development activities to avoid jeopardy.

These highly successful, cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests. The programs' objectives are to recover endangered fish species while water use and development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). These recovery programs are recognized as being model collaborative conservation partnerships successfully working towards recovery of endangered species while needed water development is proceeding to support growing western communities. Since 1988, these programs have provided ESA Section 7 compliance (without litigation) for over 1,600 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting more than 3 million acre-feet of water per year.

Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding exceeding 50% is embodied in both of these successful programs. The requested FY 2009 appropriation will allow the Upper Colorado River Recovery Program to complete fish passage structures on the Colorado River to provide access to historic habitat upstream of existing diversion dams, and to meet construction financing obligations associated with the completed Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement Project that is providing low flow augmentation water on the Yampa River. The funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program will be used for construction of a fish screen and fish passages in critical habitat on the San Juan River. The requested federal appropriation is critically important to these efforts moving forward.

The past support and assistance of your Subcommittee has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. We gratefully thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2009 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

[Signatures of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming Senate Delegation Members Willing to Sign the Above]

Senate I, E & RA Appropriations Subcommittee
Draft Joint Delegation Funding Support Letter re: 2009 USFWS Appropriation

(DATE)

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairman
The Honorable Wayne Allard, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
132 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Senator Allard:

We write to request your support for appropriations in fiscal year 2009 to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. The President's recommended budget for FY 2009 includes FWS funding for these programs at the levels we are requesting. We request support and action by the Subcommittee that will provide the following, as authorized by P.L. 106-392, as amended.

1. Appropriation of \$697,000 in "recovery" funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; within the \$68,417,000 item entitled "Recovery") to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for fiscal year 2009 to allow FWS to continue its essential participation in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. This is the same level of funding appropriated to the Recovery Program for this purpose in fiscal years 2004 through 2008.
2. Appropriation of \$475,000 in operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation Activity; National Fish Hatchery System Operations Subactivity; within the \$43,507,000 item entitled "National Fish Hatchery Operations") to support the ongoing operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah during fiscal year 2009.
3. Allocation of \$200,000 in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2009 to meet FWS's Region 2 expenses in managing the San Juan Program's diverse recovery actions.

These highly successful, cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies, and water, power and environmental interests. The programs' objectives are to recover endangered fish species while water use and development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. These recovery programs have become national models for collaboratively working to recover endangered species while addressing water needs to support growing western communities. Since 1988, these programs have provided ESA compliance (without litigation) for over 1,600 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting more than 3 million acre-feet of water per year.

Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding exceeding 50% is embodied in both of these programs. The past support and assistance of your Subcommittee has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. We gratefully thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2009 funding to ensure FWS' continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

[Signatures of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming Senate Delegation Members Willing to Sign the Above]



Office of the Governor

February 19, 2008

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Chairman
The Honorable David L. Hobson, Ranking 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 Visclosky and Ranking Member Hobson:

I am requesting your support for an appropriation in the President's recommended budget for FY 2009 of \$7,612,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado Region. The funding designation I seek is as follows: \$6,430,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$782,000 for construction activities for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program; and \$400,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development activities to avoid jeopardy. This funding is authorized by P.L. 106-392, as amended.

Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding exceeding 50% is embodied in both of these successful programs. These highly successful, cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests.

The programs' objectives are to recover endangered fish species while water use and development proceeds in compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act. The Department of the Interior continues to recognize these programs as national models demonstrating that collaboratively partnerships can successfully work to recover endangered species while addressing water needs to support growing western communities in a manner that fully respects state water law and interstate river compacts. Since 1988, these programs have provided ESA Section 7 compliance (without litigation) for over 1,600 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting more than 3 million acre-feet of water per year.

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Chairman
The Honorable David L. Hobson, Ranking Member
February 19, 2008
Page 2

The requested FY 2009 appropriation will allow the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Program to proceed with construction of additional fish passage structures on the Colorado River to provide access to historic habitat upstream of existing diversion dams, a fish screen on a major diversion on the Green River to avoid entrainment of endangered fish, and construction financing of the Elkhead Project to provide low flow augmentation water on the Yampa River. The requested funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program will be used for construction of a fish screen and fish passage in critical habitat on the San Juan River. The requested federal appropriations are critically important to these efforts moving forward.

The past support and assistance of your Subcommittee has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. We in Wyoming thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2009 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Best regards,



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

DF:RL:

c: Representative Barbara Cubin
Governor Bill Ritter
Governor Jon Huntsman
Governor Bill Richardson

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203
(303) 866 - 2471
(303) 866 - 2003 fax



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

March 13, 2008

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

Dear Chairman Dicks and Representative Tiahrt:

The State of Colorado is an active participant in Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, both of which are recognized throughout the country as models for endangered species conservation and recovery. These Programs have developed collaborative solutions to pursue endangered species recovery while allowing water development to continue in our arid Rocky Mountain States.

I am requesting your support for appropriations in fiscal year 2009 to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for both of these Programs. The President's recommended budget for FY 2009 includes FWS funding for these programs at the levels I am requesting. I request support and action by the Subcommittee that will provide the following, as authorized by P.L. 106-392, as amended.

1. Appropriation of \$697,000 in "recovery" funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; within the \$68,417,000 item entitled "Recovery") to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for fiscal year 2009 to allow FWS to continue its essential participation in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. This is the same level of funding appropriated to the Recovery Program for this purpose in fiscal years 2004 through 2008.
2. Appropriation of \$475,000 in operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation Activity; National Fish Hatchery System Operations Subactivity; within the \$43,507,000 item entitled "National Fish Hatchery Operations") to support the ongoing operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah during fiscal year 2009.

March 13, 2008

3. Allocation of \$200,000 in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2009 to meet FWS's Region 2 expenses in managing the San Juan Program's diverse recovery actions.

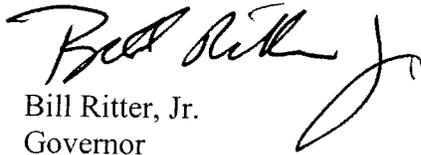
Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding exceeding 50% is embodied in both of these programs.

These highly successful, cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies, and water, power and environmental interests. The Programs' objectives are to recover endangered fish species while water use and development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. These recovery programs have become national models for collaboratively working to recover endangered species while addressing water needs to support growing western communities. Since 1988, these programs have provided ESA compliance for over 1,600 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting more than 3 million acre-feet of water per year.

The Upper Colorado and San Juan Programs bring a diverse group of people and interests together to resolve potential conflicts over endangered species recovery and water development. The endangered fish species are returning, and water development is proceeding in accordance with state law and interstate compacts.

The past support and assistance of your Subcommittee has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. I thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2009 funding to ensure FWS' continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

cc: Representatives Diana DeGette, Mark Udall, John Salazar, Ed Perlmutter,
Marilyn Musgrave, Doug Lamborn, and Tom Tancredo

Governors Richardson, Freudenthal, and Huntsman



STATE OF UTAH

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

GARY R. HERBERT
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 19, 2008

The Honorable Byron Dorgan, Chair
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Ranking Member
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Senator Domenici:

As Governor of Utah, I respectfully request your support for an appropriation in the President's recommended budget for FY 2009 of \$7,612,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program," pursuant to the authorization provided by Public Law 106-392, as amended. The funding designation I seek is as follows: \$6,430,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$782,000 for construction activities for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program; and \$400,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development activities to avoid jeopardy.

Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding exceeding 50 percent is embodied in both of these successful programs. These highly successful, cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the states of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests.

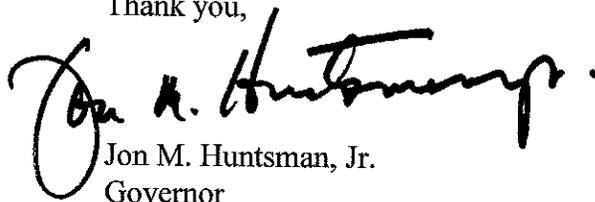
These recovery programs are recognized as being model collaborative conservation partnerships successfully working towards recovery of endangered species in compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) while water development proceeds to support growing western communities in a manner that fully respects state water law and interstate river compacts. Since 1988, these programs have provided ESA Section 7 compliance (without litigation) for over 1,600 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting more than three million acre-feet of water per year.

The Honorable Byron Dorgan, Chairman
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Ranking Member
February 15, 2008
Page 2

The requested FY 2009 appropriation will allow the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Program to proceed with construction of additional fish passage structures on the Colorado River to provide access to historic habitat upstream of existing diversion dams, a fish screen on a major diversion on the Green River to avoid entrainment of endangered fish, and to meet construction financing obligations associated with the completed Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement Project that is providing low flow augmentation water on the Yampa River. The requested funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program will be used for construction of a fish screen and fish passage in critical habitat on the San Juan River. The requested federal appropriation is critically important to moving these efforts forward.

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 appreciate your past support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2009 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important multi-state, multi-agency cooperative conservation programs.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor

cc: The Honorable Orrin Hatch
The Honorable Robert Bennett
The Honorable Bill Ritter
The Honorable Dave Freudenthal
The Honorable Bill Richardson



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

March 3, 2008

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairman
The Honorable Wayne Allard, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
132 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Senator Allard:

I am requesting your support for appropriations in fiscal year 2009 to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. The President's recommended budget for FY 2009 includes FWS funding for these programs at the levels I am requesting. The State of New Mexico requests support and action by the Subcommittee that will provide the following:

1. Allocation of \$200,000 in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2009 to meet FWS's Region 2 expenses in managing the San Juan Program's diverse recovery actions.
2. Appropriation of \$697,000 in "recovery" funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; within the \$68,417,000 item entitled "Recovery") to the FWS for fiscal year 2009 to allow FWS to continue its essential participation in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. This is the same level of funding appropriated to the Recovery Program for this purpose in fiscal years 2004 through 2008.
3. Appropriation of \$475,000 in operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation Activity; National Fish Hatchery System Operations

Subactivity; within the \$43,507,000 item entitled "National Fish Hatchery Operations") to support the ongoing operation of the FWS Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah during fiscal year 2009.

These highly successful cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies, and water, power and environmental interests. The programs continue to meet their objectives of working to recover endangered fish species while water use and development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The Department of the Interior has recognized the Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs as national models for collaboratively working to recover endangered species while addressing water needs to support growing western communities. These programs have provided ESA compliance (without litigation) since 1988 for over 1,600 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting more than 3 million acre-feet of water per year. Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding exceeding 50% is embodied in both of these programs as authorized by P.L. 106-392, as amended.

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 New Mexico, I thank the Subcommittee for your past assistance and again seek the Subcommittee's assistance this year to ensure adequate FWS funding for the upcoming federal fiscal year.

Sincerely,



Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico

BR/zw

cc: Senator Pete Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Governors Huntsman, Ritter and Freudenthal



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

February 21, 2008

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Chairman
The Honorable David L. Hobson, Ranking 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 Visclosky and Ranking Member Hobson:

On behalf of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, I am requesting your support for an appropriation in the President's recommended budget for FY 2009 of \$7,612,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado Region. The funding designation we seek is as follows: \$6,430,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$782,000 for construction activities for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program; and \$400,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development activities to avoid jeopardy. This funding is authorized by P.L. 106-392, as amended.

These highly successful, cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, the Navajo Nation, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests. The programs' objectives are to recover endangered fish species while water use and development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

The Tribe appreciates the Subcommittee's past support and requests the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2009 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

Clement J. Frost
Clement J. Frost, Chairman



See attached list for members of Congress

The Nature Conservancy requests \$7.7 million for an Endangered Species Recovery Implementation program to recover endangered species and restore and protect habitat in the Upper Colorado River Basin.



Naturalist workshop participants enjoying the beauty of the Yampa River.
© Jan Ajen

AT A GLANCE:

Project authority P.L. 106-392, as amended, Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Endangered Fish Recovery Programs

Description Aquatic and Floodplain habitat restoration for recovery of endangered species in the Upper Colorado River Basin

Project area Over 1,400 river miles of critical habitat in the 244,000 square mile Colorado River Basin

Funding history

FY 2004 - \$6,915,000
FY 2005 - \$5,234,000
FY 2006 - \$2,529,000
FY 2007 - \$4,593,000
FY 2008 - \$3,650,000

Estimated total cost Approximately \$126 million

President's FY2009 budget request \$7,612,000

Energy and Water request \$7.7 million for FY 2009

Project Scope

There are four endangered fish that occur only in the Colorado River and its major tributaries. The fish are imperiled for several reasons, including declines in river flows, the loss and fragmentation of habitat, and competition and predation from non-native species. Given continued population growth, associated demand for water and uncertainty about drought and climate, these threats will mount in the future, making recovery efforts even more urgent.

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (Programs) take a balanced approach to restore four endangered fish species – the pikeminnow, humpback chub, razorback sucker, and bonytail - while allowing water use to continue in the arid West. These programs implement a range of basin-wide strategies, including improved management of federal dams, river and floodplain habitat improvement, active stocking of endangered fish, and management of non-native fish species. The Nature Conservancy (the Conservancy) is a longstanding member of the Management Committee of the Upper Colorado Program and a recent addition to the Coordination Committee of the San Juan Program.

Project Status

The Colorado River Recovery Program recently partnered with the Colorado River Water Conservation District and other state and local agencies on a critical project at Elkhead Dam and Reservoir on a tributary of the Yampa River in Northwest Colorado. The \$31 million project added 13,000 acre-feet of capacity, almost doubling the size of the existing Elkhead Reservoir, and brought the dam up to modern safety standards. 5,000 acre-feet of the new water storage is dedicated to augmenting flows for endangered species and was paid for with program funds.

A handful of major capital projects remain to be done, including the completion of repayment for the Elkhead Reservoir project, the completion of a fish passage at the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam on the Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado in March 2008, the construction of fish screens at the Hogback Diversion Dam on the San Juan River in 2009, and the Tusher Wash Diversion Dam on the Green River in 2010. Fish passages are being considered at the Arizona Public Service company weir and the Fruitland Diversion Dam on the San Juan River, which will provide endangered fish access to 180 miles of critical habitat.

Full funding of the FY 2009 request will allow the Colorado River Program to complete its payment on the Elkhead Reservoir project and take full ownership of the project water that is dedicated to augmenting fish flows. While the Elkhead project was completed and initial water releases took place in the summer 2007, the generous terms of the contract with the Colorado River Water Conservation District, who completed the project, allowed the Program until late 2008 to repay the River District for construction. The consequences of not making full and timely payment could be severe, including the loss of all or part of the Program's augmentation water. FY2009 funding will also allow the construction of the fish screen at the Hogback Diversion Dam.

Enhancing Federal Lands or Investments

The Upper Colorado River Basin includes the major federal facilities of the Colorado River Storage Act, contains more than 30 million acre-feet of storage managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, and is a critical source of water for several tribes. In addition, the Upper Colorado River and its tributaries are the centerpiece of several prized national parks and monuments, including Canyonlands, Dinosaur, Arches, and the Colorado National Monuments. These recovery programs provide Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance for water use by the Bureau of Reclamation, municipal water utilities, and agriculture, as well as compliance for the fulfillment of federal trust responsibilities to American Indian tribes.

Biodiversity Significance

The big rivers of the Colorado River Basin are the only place in the world where these four endangered fish occur, and these recovery programs are the only chance to prevent them from going extinct. By improving big river habitat, flows, and floodplains, the Programs strengthen the health and resilience of the entire Colorado River system and its aquatic and riparian ecosystems and reduce the likelihood of future species listings. These recovery programs work at an unprecedented scale to recover species and restore the Colorado River.

Local and State Supporters

These Programs have earned accolades for their management approach, their proven track record of accomplishments, and their partners' long-term commitments of staff, time, and money. The governors of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico, the vast majority of their congressional delegations, three consecutive secretaries of the interior, several tribal nations, water and power users, and conservation groups (including the Conservancy) all support these recovery programs.

Cost Share Information

The recovery programs have maintained a significant cost share from the states and power users. Of the \$126 million in capital construction costs over the life of these programs, non-federal partners have provided \$65 million for a 52% cost share. Federal funds have comprised roughly \$61 million.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist with Colorado pikeminnow at Redlands fish ladder, Gunnison River, CO
Photo: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The Nature Conservancy Worldwide Office

Jason Albritton
Senior Policy Advisor
703/841-4105
jalbritton@tnc.org

Noah Van Gilder
Program Assistant
703/841-4516
nvangilder@tnc.org

The Nature Conservancy in Colorado

Heidi Sherk
Director of External Affairs, Colorado
720/974-7020
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The Nature Conservancy Rocky Mountain Region

Michael Powelson
Senior Policy Advisor
415/777-0487
mpowelson@tnc.org

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

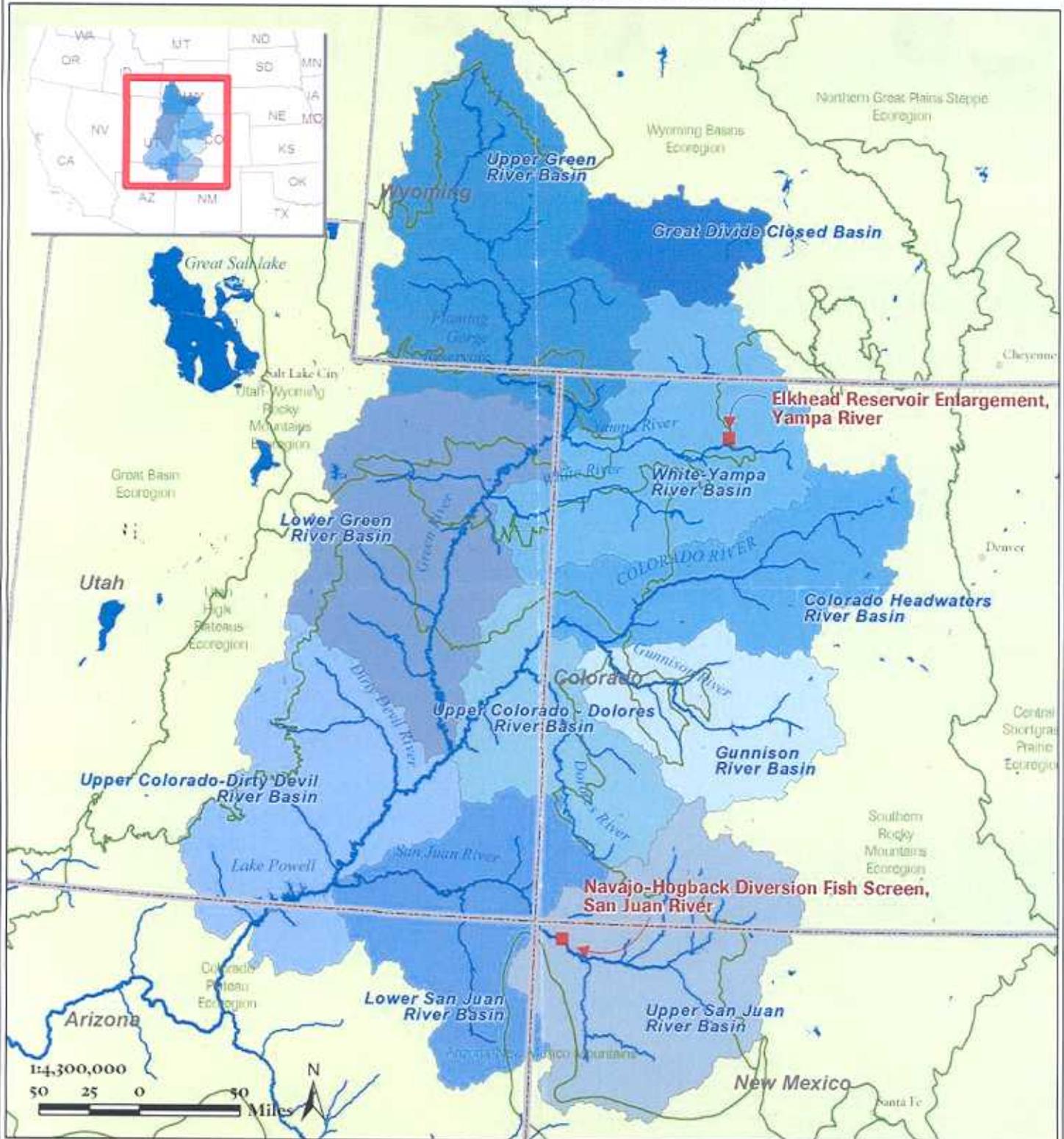
Larry Walkoviak
Regional Director, Upper Colorado
Regional Office
801/524-3600

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Bob Muth, PhD
Director
303/969-7322 ext 268
Robert_muth@fws.gov

Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program for the Upper Colorado Region, CO, WY, UT, NM

FY2009 Energy and Water Project

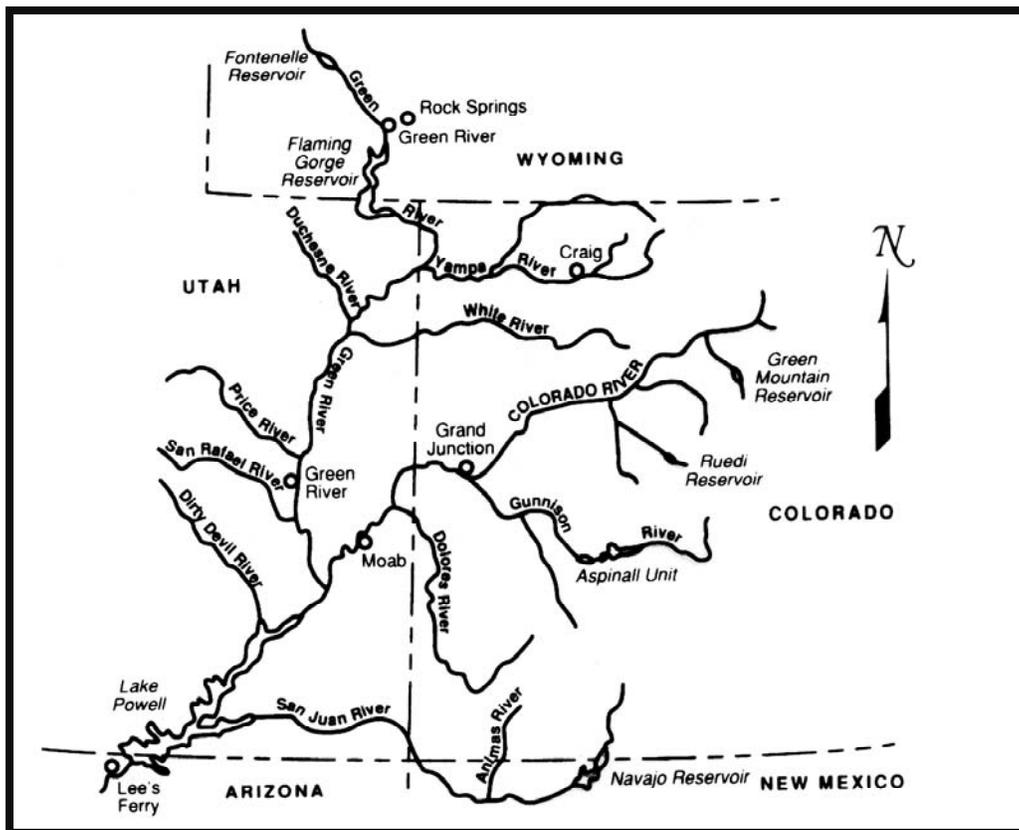


- FY2009 Energy and Water Projects
- TNC Ecoregions
- Lakes and Reservoirs
- State boundaries
- Upper Colorado River System
- Upper Colorado River Basins**
- Colorado Headwaters
- Great Divide Closed basin
- Gunnison
- Lower Green
- Lower San Juan
- Upper Colorado - Dirty Devil
- Upper Colorado - Dolores
- Upper Green
- Upper San Juan
- White - Yampa

Map 11, 2009
Map created by:
The Nature Conservancy
Date: 10/20/09
Scale: 1:4,300,000
Data Source:
USGS National Hydrography Dataset
Map Projection:
North Carolina State Plane
UTM Zone 12N
Datum: NAD83
Units: Meter

**Upper Colorado River
Endangered Fish Recovery Program
and
San Juan River Basin
Recovery Implementation Program
Non-Federal Program Participants'
Congressional Funding Requests**

Fiscal Year 2009



The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program is working to recover the endangered Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, bonytail and razorback sucker fish species in the Green River and Colorado River Basins in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program is progressing towards recovery of the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker fish species in the San Juan River Basin in Colorado, Utah and New Mexico.

Requested Fiscal Year 2009 Congressional Appropriations

The non-federal participants in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program request the support of the Congress for fiscal year 2009 funding as follows:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Budget

- ☑ Support of the President's budget for **\$697,000** to be allocated to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program within the "Recovery Program" line-item for \$68,067,000 as contained in the "Resources Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element;"
- ☑ Support of the President's budget for "Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation Activity; National Fish Hatchery Operations Subactivity" funding as it contains **\$475,000** for the Ouray National Fish Hatchery, a key propagation facility for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; and
- ☑ Support an allocation of **\$200,000** in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program within the "Resources Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element" budget.

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Region 6 "Recovery" Funds (\$697,000) for:

- **Program management:** Funds for salaries, expenses and recovery activities of the Program Director and Program staff for the critically-important day-to-day program administration and management essential for the continuing success of this ongoing multi-agency, multi-element, large river basin species collaborative conservation partnership.
- **Monitoring achievement of recovery goals:** FWS employees' estimations of the abundance of fish populations, stocking evaluations and monitoring of fish and habitat response to Program actions establish the progress that is being made towards accomplishing the recovery goals' downlisting and delisting criteria.
- **Data Management:** FWS personnel in the FWS CRFP Offices maintain the Program's essential computerized inventory database systems - providing resources management and analysis tools used to assess species' response to program activities. Species response is the basis for determining when the recovery goals are met.

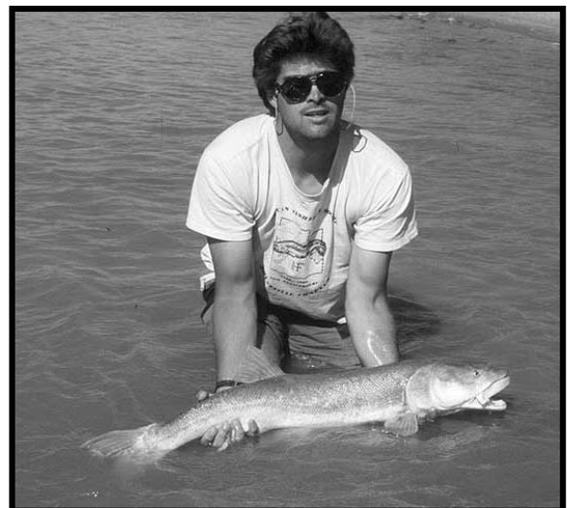
"Fisheries Activity; National Fish Hatchery Operations Subactivity" (\$475,000) for:

- **Ouray National Fish Hatchery:** Meeting the ongoing operation, maintenance and upkeep expenses associated with this innovative Program hatchery is essential to meeting the Upper Colorado Program's stocking objectives.

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

Region 2 "Recovery" Funds (\$200,000) for:

- **Program management:** Salaries and expenses of the San Juan Program Coordinator, Assistant Program Coordinator and other related FWS expenses in coordinating and completing Program actions will be paid with this requested funding.
- **FWS participation:** FWS participation in Hydrology, Biology and Coordination Committee planning and decision-making, report preparation and review is necessary to maintaining the San Juan Recovery Program partnership.



Colorado pikeminnow are thriving in the San Juan River.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Budget

☑ **\$7,612,000** in “Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program” within the Upper Colorado Region budget (**\$6,430,000** for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; **\$782,000** for construction activities for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program; and **\$400,000** for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development activities to avoid jeopardy).

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (\$6,430,000) for:

- **Water acquisition:** Complete construction financing of the Recovery Program’s share of the construction costs for the enlargement of Elkhead Reservoir completed in November 2006. The enlargement provides 5,000 acre-feet of water for the endangered fish through storage releases into Elkhead Creek and hence into the Yampa River in northwestern Colorado.



After Elkhead Reservoir filled in 2007, up to 5,000 acre-feet of permanent storage and 2,000 acre-feet of leased storage water is now available each year to augment Yampa River flows for the endangered fish.

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (\$782,000) for:

- **Restoration of Fish Passage/Screen:**
 - **San Juan River Basin Hogback Fish Screen:** Continue construction of fish screen in the Hogback Canal, which diverts water from the San Juan River near Shiprock, New Mexico.
 - **San Juan River Basin Fruitland Fish Passage:** Begin planning and design of passage structure on the Fruitland Canal Company diversion dam.
 - **San Juan River Basin Arizona Public Service Fish Passage:** Begin planning, design and construction of the fish passage on the Arizona Public Service diversion dam
- **Program Management (both programs):** Continue preparation of Capital Improvement Program annual budgets, transferring Capital Improvement Program funds to appropriate entities, contract administration, tracking expenditures and resolving issues associated with capital project construction and operation.

Recent Reclamation Funding in the President’s Recommended Budget for *Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program* Line-item

Fiscal Year	Total Funding
2005	\$5,234,000
2006	\$2,529,000
2007	\$4,594,000
2008	\$3,650,000
2009	\$7,612,000

Recovery Programs’ Capital Construction Projects: Necessary for Recovery of the Endangered Fish and Facilitating ESA Compliance for Water Use & Development

The recovery programs continue to demonstrate tangible, on-the-ground success in providing river flows, restoring habitat, constructing fish ladders and screens, producing and stocking endangered fish, managing nonnative fish species, and monitoring progress towards recovery. Since 1988, the Fish and Wildlife Service has consulted on over 1,600 water projects depleting more than 3 million acre-feet per year in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins. These projects rely upon the recovery programs as reasonable and prudent alternatives under the Endangered Species Act. No lawsuits have been filed concerning the Endangered Species Act compliance being provided by these cooperative conservation partnership programs.

Letters of Support

Supporting Appropriations for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program And the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program in Fiscal Year 2008

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs have a broad range of supporters. Joint delegation letters demonstrating strong bipartisan support by Members of Congress representing Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming were submitted to the Congressional Appropriations Committees supporting the programs' FY2008 funding. The following organizations and individuals also sent letters of support for FY 2008 appropriations. **It is anticipated each will submit letters supporting these FY 2009 appropriation requests.**

Letters of support for FY 2008 appropriations were submitted to Congress by:

Participating States

- **State of Colorado**
Bill Owens, Governor
- **State of Utah**
Jon Huntsman, Jr., Governor
- **State of Wyoming**
Dave Freudenthal, Governor
- **State of New Mexico**
Bill Richardson, Governor

Indian Tribal Participants

- **The Navajo Nation**
- **Southern Ute Tribe**



When a fish passage structure is completed at the long-unused Price-Stubbs Diversion Dam upstream of Palisade, CO, an additional 52 miles of habitat blocked since 1911 will be available for the endangered Colorado River fish. The Colorado River will be diverted into the bypass channel (foreground) during the construction process.

Water Users

- **Arizona Public Service**
- **BHP Billiton**
- **Central Utah Water Conservancy District**
- **City of Aurora, Colorado**
- **City of Colorado Springs, Colorado**
- **Colorado River Water Conservation District**
- **Colorado Water Congress**
- **Denver Water**
- **Grand Valley Water Users Association**
- **Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District**
- **Pueblo Board of Water Works**
- **Public Service Company of New Mexico**
- **San Juan Water Commission**
- **Southwestern Water Conservancy District**
- **Tri-County Water Conservancy District**
- **Uncompahgre Valley Water Conservancy District**
- **Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District**
- **Wyoming Water Association**

Proposed 2008 Amendments Regarding Authorization of Construction of Capital Projects To Public Law 106-392

An Act to Authorize the Bureau of Reclamation To Provide Cost Sharing for the Endangered Fish Recovery Implementation Programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins

March 2008

SUMMARY: P.L.106-392 authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost sharing for capital construction and annual operations to the endangered fish recovery programs in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River basins. The law recognizes significant specific cost sharing contributions by other program participants, including the States of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico, power customers and water users. The proposed 2008 amendments address current and foreseeable capital construction needs not presently authorized for the two programs. Current authority for construction has been largely expended and ceases after FY 2010.

Additional authority will allow Reclamation to replace, repair and rehabilitate, as needed, approximately \$100 million in capital facilities (fish passages, fish screens, flooded bottomlands habitat and hatcheries, and a reservoir) constructed by the programs. These facilities, located on or adjacent to major rivers in the Upper Colorado River basin, are subject to damage from flooding and debris. Additional Upper Colorado Program authority is also needed to complete the Tusher Wash fish screen on the Green River and additional time is needed to complete construction projects in the San Juan basin. In addition to these needs, unstable rock formations adjacent to designated critical habitat for the endangered fish caused two major landslides near Farmington, New Mexico. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the unstable cliffs are a threat to critical habitat in the San Juan River. Authority is needed to eliminate this threat.

The proposed amendments would authorize an additional \$12 million in federal expenditures for the San Juan Recovery Program, an additional \$15 million in federal expenditures for the Upper Colorado River Program, and recognize additional non-federal contributions of \$56 million.

Proposed 2008 Amendments Regarding Additional Authorization of Construction of Capital Projects To Public Law 106-392

UPPER COLORADO AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN RECOVERY PROGRAMS:

These two programs recover four federally listed endangered fish species in the Upper Colorado River basin while water development and management activities proceed in compliance with state laws, interstate compacts, and the federal Endangered Species Act. Activities of the programs provide Endangered Species Act compliance for more than 1,600 water projects depleting approximately three million acre-feet per year in the Upper Colorado River basin. No lawsuits have been filed as a result of ESA compliance. Both programs have substantial grass roots support among participants, including the four Upper Basin states, American Indian tribes, water users, power customers and environmental organizations. Four federal agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, and Western Area Power Administration) participate in the programs. The Upper Basin and San Juan recovery programs have operated since 1988 and 1992 respectively.

P.L. 106-392: P.L.106-392 was signed into law on October 30, 2000. The law authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost sharing of capital construction and annual operations for the endangered fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River basins. The law recognizes significant and specific cost sharing contributions to the recovery programs by the States of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico, power customers, and water users for these purposes. Capital projects include fish passages, fish screens, hatcheries, flood plain and instream habitat, and a reservoir to provide flow augmentation.

P.L. 106-392 has been amended twice. P.L.107-375 extended the period for capital construction to 2008 for both programs. P.L.109-183 extended the period for construction of capital projects for both programs through FY 2010, authorized an additional \$15 million in capital expenditures for the Upper Colorado River Recovery Program, and recognized an additional \$11 million in non-federal cost share contributions.

NEED FOR 2008 AMENDMENTS: By 2010, these two programs will have constructed approximately \$100 million in facilities (fish passages, fish screens, flooded bottomlands habitat, hatcheries, and a reservoir that augments flows for endangered fish). These facilities are on, or adjacent to, major rivers in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River basins. These complex facilities will require rehabilitation, repair or replacement. Many of the facilities are susceptible to damage by floods and debris associated with the major rivers on which they are located (Green, Colorado, Gunnison and San Juan). Additional authority is needed to complete the Tusher Wash fish screen on the Green River, and additional time is needed to complete capital projects in the San Juan basin.

Authorization for capital construction expires on September 30, 2010. There is no funding authority for Reclamation to repair, rehabilitate or replace these facilities after that date or to complete the Tusher Wash fish screen and San Juan basin projects. Existing funding authority will have been expended. The proposed amendments would provide an additional \$20 million in authorization for repairs, rehabilitation and replacement of these facilities through 2023. Appropriations will only be requested as needed.

One such unanticipated need for capital expenditures occurred in 2007. Unstable rock formations adjacent to designated critical habitat for the endangered razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow in the San Juan River caused a major landslide near Farmington, New Mexico. A second slide occurred in August, 2007 in the same area. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the unstable cliffs are a threat to critical habitat in the San Juan River. The estimated cost of stabilizing the rock formation is \$7 million. Presently, authority for this type of activity does not exist in P.L. 106-392. The proposed amendments would add authorized funding to protect critical habitat.

Specifically, the proposed 2008 amendments would achieve the following:

- Authorize an additional \$12 million in federal expenditures for capital projects for the San Juan Program for the purposes of a) protecting critical habitat of endangered fish species and related infrastructure from rock slides in the area west of Farmington (\$7 million), and b) repair, rehabilitation and replacement of constructed capital facilities (fish passages, fish screens, habitat, hatcheries) as needed through 2023 (\$5 million).
- Authorize an additional \$15 million in federal expenditures for capital projects for the Upper Colorado Program for the purposes of a) constructing a fish screen on Tusher Wash in critical habitat on the Green River, Utah in light of significantly increased construction material costs, and b) for repairs, rehabilitation and replacement of constructed capital facilities (fish screens, fish passages, habitat, hatcheries) as needed through 2023.
- Recognize additional non-federal cost sharing of \$56 million through 2023.

IMPACT ON COST SHARING: The proposed amendments would increase the total capital projects authorizations from \$126 million to \$209 million. However, authorization for federal appropriations would only increase from \$61 million to \$88 million through 2023, an increase of \$27 million over the 13 fiscal year period. The remaining \$56 million is provided by non-federal contributions recognized by Congress in P.L. 106-392. This additional non-federal contribution from power replacement costs due to reoperation of Flaming Gorge Dam to benefit the endangered fish is conservatively estimated at \$56 million above the current estimate of \$22.1 million. Non-federal cost sharing also includes \$8.9 million from water users previously recognized by Congress.

A comparison of cost sharing under the proposed 2008 amendments with the present law is provided below.

Table 1 – Currently Authorized Capital Projects Authorization And Proposed Funding Authorization to Accomplish Needed 2008 Amendments

<i>Item</i>	<i>Currently Authorized (millions \$)</i>	<i>Proposed (millions \$)</i>
Capital Expenditure Completion Deadline	2010	2023
<u>Total Capital Projects Authorization</u>	\$126	\$209
Federal share	(48%) \$61	(42%) \$88
Non-federal share	(52%) \$65	(58%) \$121
<u>Funding Sources</u>		
Federal appropriations	\$61	\$88
Non-federal Cost Share		
○ Power revenues	\$17	\$17
○ Upper Basin States	\$17	\$17
○ Recognized non-federal water and power contributions	\$31	\$87
	\$126	\$209
<u>Funding Distribution</u>		
▪ San Juan Program capital projects	\$18	\$30
▪ Upper Colorado Program capital projects	\$77	\$92
▪ Recognized non-federal water and power contributions	\$31	\$87
	\$126	\$209

PROPOSED SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO P.L. 106-392, AS AMENDED: The specific amendments proposed to P.L. 106-392 are listed below:

- Sec. XXX. Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins.- Public Law 106-392 is amended by:
- (a) inserting in Sec. 2(5) after "and replacement", "rehabilitation and repair";
 - (b) inserting in Sec. 2(6) after "instream flows,", " those for protection of critical habitat through stabilization of adjacent stream banks and adjacent impacted infrastructure, those for preventing entrainment of fish in water diversions,";
 - (c) replace in Sec. 3(a)(1) "\$61,000,000" with "\$88,000,000";
 - (d) replace in Sec. 3(a)(2) "\$2010" with "2023";
 - (e) replace in Sec. 3(a)(3) "2010" with "2023";
 - (f) replace in Sec. 3(b) "\$126,000,000" with "\$209,000,000";
 - (g) replace in Sec. 3(b)(1) "\$108,000,000" with "\$179,000,000" and "2010" with "2023";
 - (h) replace in Sec. 3(b)(2) "\$18,000,000" with "\$30,000,000" and "2010" with "2023"; and
 - (i) replace in Sec. 3(c)(4) "\$31,000,000" with "\$87,000,000".

Luncheon Invitation

Featuring a Short Technical Presentation Concerning
Cooperative Conservation Efforts on
**Sharing the River: Managing
Water Resources to Benefit
Endangered Fishes**

Please join us for our annual
Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon!

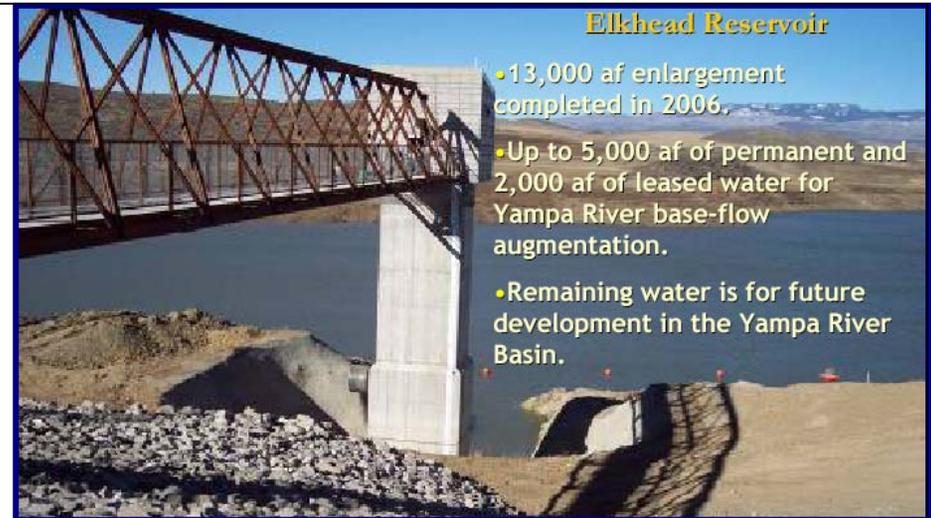
Friday, March 7th at Noon
Dining Room C (Adjacent to the Montpelier Room)
6th Floor of the Madison Building
of the Library of Congress

Self-serve buffet – with entrees, sides, salad bar, dessert and beverages.

**Hosted by the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
& the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program**

If you can't attend, feel free to pass along this invitation to a colleague on your staff or within your office. Luncheon is sponsored by the Colorado Water Congress & San Juan Water Commission.
Neither entity employs or retains lobbyists.

 **Upper Colorado River
Endangered Fish
Recovery Program**



Elkhead Reservoir

- 13,000 af of enlargement completed in 2006.
- Up to 5,000 af of permanent and 2,000 af of leased water for Yampa River base-flow augmentation.
- Remaining water is for future development in the Yampa River Basin.

Elkhead Reservoir's 13,000 acre-foot enlargement was officially dedicated in July 2007 at a ceremony attended by over 200 local, county, state and federal officials and citizens. This innovative collaboration among the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, the Colorado River Water Conservation District and the City of Craig provides water for the endangered fish and water to meet future in-basin municipal and industrial water needs.



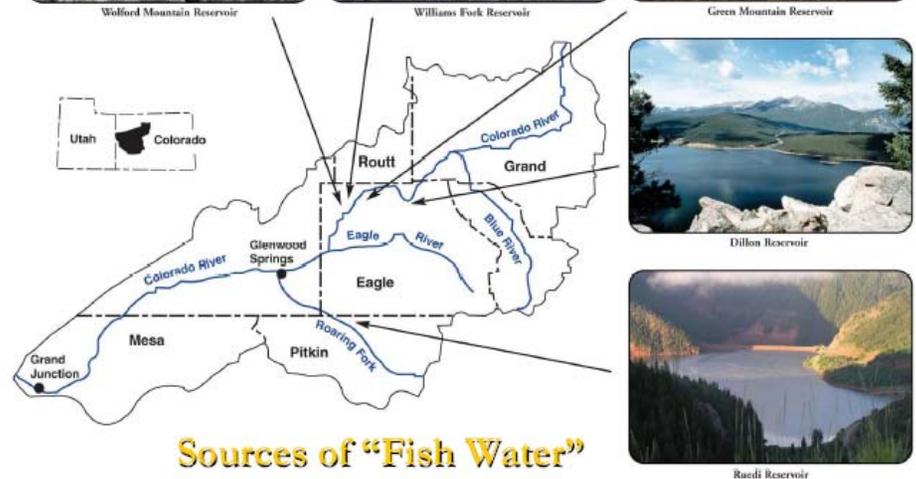
Wolford Mountain Reservoir



Williams Fork Reservoir



Green Mountain Reservoir



Dillon Reservoir



Ruedi Reservoir

**Sources of "Fish Water"
for the 15-Mile Reach**



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

FEB 19 2008

Memorandum

To: Assistant Secretaries, Heads of Bureaus

From: Deputy Secretary *P. L. S.*

Subject: Cooperative Conservation Awards Ceremony, April 21, 2008;
Workshop, April 22–23, 2008

I am pleased to announce that the Secretary's Cooperative Conservation Awards Ceremony is confirmed for 3 p.m., Monday, April 21, 2008, in the Main Interior Auditorium. A reception will follow in the South Penthouse. Please plan to attend and participate in honoring your award-winning Bureau employees and partners. A list of the 21 award finalists, representing more than 500 individuals and groups, is attached.

A workshop featuring presentations by the Cooperative Conservation Award winners will be April 22–23, at the American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. Presenters will share their experiences and best practices for collaboration and partnering to achieve conservation outcomes.

Please work with your regional and field staffs to ensure your award finalists are properly represented at the Cooperative Conservation Awards Ceremony and Workshop. Guidance will be provided for workshop presentations, and Bureau leadership will be asked to participate in introducing the panelists and facilitating discussions.

The Office of Conservation, Partnerships and Management Policy is coordinating a team to organize the awards ceremony and workshop. Please contact Olivia Barton Ferriter, <Olivia.Ferriter@ios.doi.gov>, 202 208-4881 or Beth Duff, <Beth_Duff@ios.doi.gov>, 202 208-5904 with any questions.

The Cooperative Conservation awards, first presented by the Secretary in 2004, recognize cooperative conservation achievements that have involved collaborative activity among a diverse range of entities including Federal, State, local and tribal governments, private for profit and nonprofit institutions, other nongovernmental entities, and individuals. Please join us April 21 to honor our award finalists.

Attachment

Cooperative Conservation Award Finalists

2/14/08

Ceremony, April 21, 2008

Workshop, April 22-23, 2008

Award Finalists	Geographic Area	Nom. Org.	Asst. Sec.	Org. Awards	Indiv. Awards
Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee	Arizona	BIA	ASIA	23	0
East Bay Protection Working Group	Texas	FWS	FWP	6	11
Matanuska-Susitna Salmon Habitat Conservation Partnership	Alaska	FWS	FWP	33	7
Northern Forest Woodcock Initiative	New England, New York	FWS	FWP	32	0
Penobscot River Restoration Trust	Maine	FWS	FWP	11	17
Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program	Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming	FWS	FWP	19	23
Benedict, Mark A.	NCTC/ Florida	NPS	FWP	0	1
Great Northern Environmental Stewardship Area (GNESA)	Montana	NPS	FWP	13	19
Hooper Bay, Alaska, Subsistence ATV Trail Project Partnership	Alaska	NPS	FWP	4	6
Mount Rainier Recovery Initiative of the Student Conservation Association	Washington	NPS	FWP	6	11
Togia, Tavita	American Samoa	NPS	FWP	0	1
Alabama Hills Stewardship Group	California	BLM	LMM	9	0
Animas River Watershed	Colorado	BLM	LMM	35	78
Jupiter Inlet Working Group	Florida	BLM	LMM	7	0
Milsap Mill Tailings Restoration Partnership	Colorado	BLM	LMM	4	7
Restore New Mexico Partnership	New Mexico	BLM	LMM	9	31
Willamette River Water Trail Partnership	Oregon	BLM	LMM	49	2
Univ AK Coastal Marine Institute/MMS Environmental Studies Program	Alaska	MMS	LMM	2	9
Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program	Arizona	Reclam	W&S	1	4
Sparta Aquifer Recovery	Arkansas, Louisiana	USGS	W&S	10	2
Upper San Pedro Partnership	Arizona	USGS	W&S	21	44
Total				294	273

**Meeting with Department of the Interior Directorate
And U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director
With Upper Colorado & San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program Representatives
At 4:00 p.m. on March 9, 2008 in the Secretary's Conference Room, No. 5160
At the Main Interior Building in Washington, D.C.**

Mary Foley	Associate Director, Natural Resources, National Park Service, Washington, DC
Sharon Whitmore	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Tom Iseman	The Nature Conservancy – Colorado Office, Boulder, Colorado
Jason Albritton	The Nature Conservancy – Worldwide Office, Washington, D.C.
Catherine Condon	Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Boulder, Colorado
Allan Pfister	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species, Grand Junction, CO
Randy Kirkpatrick	San Juan Water Commission, Farmington, New Mexico
Jana Mohrman	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6 Water Resources, Lakewood, CO
Robert Muth	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Program Director, Upper Colorado River Recovery Program, Lakewood, CO
David Campbell	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Program Director, San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Jim Brooks	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Bryan Arroyo	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
Barbara Schuelke	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D.C.
Karl Wirkus	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D.C.
Jason Alberts	Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
Bruce Muller	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D.C.
Karl Wunderlich	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D.C.
Jonne Hower	Upper Colorado Region Liaison, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, DC
Tom Blickensderfer	Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Denver, Colorado
Gary Frazer	Assistant Director for Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
Lesli Gray	Chief, Congressional Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
James Mosher	Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
Jim Cason	Associate Deputy Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
Robert King	Chief, Interstate Streams Division, Division of Water Resources, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Salt Lake City, Utah
Darin Bird	Deputy Director, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Salt Lake City, Utah
John Shields	Chairman, Management Committee, Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and Interstate Streams Engineer, Wyoming State Engineer's Office, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Tom Pitts	Water Users Representative, Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, Loveland, Colorado
Pam Haze	Director, Department of the Interior Budget Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC