Trip Report
2005 Washington, D. C. Briefing Meetings
March 9 through March 15, 2005

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

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

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

Disclaimer: This trip report has been prepared based on notes and recollections made during the course of the 2005 briefing meetings and conversations. 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 and Purpose: From March 9th through March 15th, representatives of the non-federal participants in the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs[1] met with staff of the Congressional delegations for the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, and with Congressional committee staff for the authorizing and appropriations committees having jurisdiction over the Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service to brief them on the status of the two endangered fish recovery programs and to seek their support for Program funding included in the President's proposed fiscal year 2006 budget and, in the case of FWS "Recovery" funding, to seek the appropriation of funds for fiscal year 2006 at the level provided by the Congress in the FY 2005 Interior and Related Agencies Act for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and funding for the San Juan Program Coordinator and his staff. In addition, briefing meetings were held with select Administration officials and several nongovernmental entities. During each of the meetings those representing the two recovery programs addressed four matters:

1. Status of the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, the programs' accomplishments with special emphasis on accomplishments during the year that has passed since last year's visits in March 2004,
2. Fiscal Year 2006 funding needs of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.
3. Our efforts to get U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding into the FWS portion of the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2007 – and our request that our Congressional delegations sign onto a letter addressed to Secretary of the Interior Norton asking that FWS funding for the FWS annual contributions for the two recovery programs be included in the Department's request and be identified as a high priority.
4. Follow-on discussion from the February 2005 briefings and requests for Congressional assistance to accomplish amendment of the provisions of Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, to extend the appropriations authorization by $15 million and period of time to complete the capital construction projects by two years for the two recovery programs.

At each meeting with Congressional Delegation staff members, our group representing the two recovery programs made an identical request – we asked the staff member to request that his or her boss affirm their support by signing onto joint-delegation letters addressed to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies (expressing support and urging the appropriation of specific Bureau of Reclamation and USFWS funding amounts for these two recovery programs).

Our group acknowledged the great importance of past funding support from the Congress as being a key element of the progress that these two programs are making and explained the continuing need for funding and the uses and

1 Program participants represented at most of the briefing meetings were the four involved States of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico, water users and environmental groups. Fish and Wildlife Service employees (e.g. the Program Directors) participated in some 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.

benefits being obtained with Program funding. We requested the six individual letters be circulated among the four States' Congressional and Senate delegation members. A key tool in making that request was our presentation to the staff member of copies of funding support letters submitted to each of the appropriations subcommittees by Governors Owens, Huntsman, and Freudenthal. In the case of New Mexico, we had funding support letters signed by State Engineer D'Antonio as Governor Richardson was not available within the time frame required to obtain the letters for use during these briefing meetings (representative copies of those letters are attached). It is particularly important asking Members of Congress to sign on to the joint delegation letters that we have letters from each of the Governors. In addition, a listing of the letters of support that have submitted by municipalities and water user organizations was distributed at each of the meetings to demonstrate the grass roots support that these recovery programs continue to enjoy.

Support of 13 of 14 of the U.S. Representatives from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming (Rep. Hefley again declined) has again been obtained as evidenced by their signatures on the joint House delegation letters. On the Senate side, we anticipate that four of the eight Senators (Bennett, Hatch, Bingaman and Salazar) will sign the two funding support letters. Senator Domenici and Senator Allard will, we think, abide by the standing policy of not signing appropriation support letters as they are on the Appropriations Committee but we were assured of their assistance and support. Unfortunately, Senators Thomas and Enzi have again taken the position that they do not wish to sign onto these funding support letters.

We received a number of compliments during the meetings for our efforts – including the Program's successes, the quality of the briefing materials and the presentations made, the approaches we are using and our visits to these offices each year. In particular, we noted that none of the Congressional Delegation offices "blinked" when we asked them to sign onto the letters addressed to the Senate and House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee even though the letters request $691,000 of USFWS "recovery" funding for USFWS employee salaries and office and activities expenses for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and $211,000 for the San Juan Recovery Implementation Program's program management that is not in the President's FY2006 budget.

We are most appreciative of the efforts of those staff members who take on the task of circulating our joint delegation letters for us each year. The letter circulation process, being accomplished by Mac Zimmerman of Congress Tom Tancredo's staff and Mike Connor of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff (with Senator Bingaman) was accomplished on the House side before the Easter recess and will be occurring right after the recess on the Senate side. Thanks to both of these people for their assistance.

The Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon, our third annual, was held at Tortilla Coast Restaurant on Friday, March 11th. This event was hosted by the Upper Colorado and San Juan water users and we greatly appreciate their generous financial contribution. The event was quite successful. A thank you is extended to Upper Colorado Recovery Program Director Bob Muth for doing a super job with both the PowerPoint presentation and his spoken remarks concerning the capital construction programs being implemented by both programs. Thanks also to Brent Uilenberg for providing photographs and materials used by Bob Muth in his presentation. This event gives us the opportunity to "give back" something when we are making our annual request to our Congressional delegations; provides additional good will, and facilitates the development of relationships with those with whom we meet.

Copies of the briefing booklet and its enclosures have been widely distributed among Program participants – and is available for downloading from the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program's Web page (http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/doc/dc/Highlights04-05.pdf). The draft joint delegation funding support letters which we asked be signed by the members of the Congressional delegations of the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, along with the letters of support submitted by Governors Owen, Leavitt, Richardson and Freudenthal are attached to this report.

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

Trip Participants:

The group representing the two recovery programs consisted of:

Darin Bird, Utah Department of Natural Resources
Tom Nesler – Colorado Division of Wildlife
Randy Kirkpatrick – San Juan Water Commission
Tom Pitts – Upper Colorado River Basin and San Juan River Basin Water Users' Representative
Tom Iseman – The Nature Conservancy
Dan Luecke – Western Resource Advocates
David Campbell – USFWS – San Juan River Recovery Program 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 report is a table providing a chronological listing of each meeting held. The comments reference specific requests, points of discussion or other information worthy of note, including necessary follow-up that should and will occur.

In addition to the information contained in the table, the meeting with Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett and FWS Deputy Director Marshall Jones on Friday, March 11th was important in resolving the FWS no-funding problem. The following Monday, March 14th, our group held a follow-up meeting with Marshall Jones, Beth Stevens and Ben Tuggle concerning our need to get the USFWS funding for the recovery programs in the USFWS budget and also included a discussion of the indirect cost recovery rate on funds transferred from the USBR to the USFWS Region 2. Stevens indicated that the USFWS has been directed by the Appropriations Committees to accomplish cost recovery. The Washington Office and Region 2 have the matter under discussion. Stevens indicated that she will follow up with Region 2 to see what the status is. The final approval for overhead waivers is with the USFWS Director.

Relative to the meeting on the preceding Friday with Lynn Scarlett, Jones indicated that the request for inclusion of USFWS funding for the USFWS participation in the two recovery programs will certainly be considered and that the USFWS continues to be operating in a very challenging atmosphere. He confirmed that the deletion of the DOI request for recovery program funding by OMB had been appealed this year after OMB had shaved it on account of it being a Congressional line/earmark, and that it had been appealed last year as well. In response to our question about what else we can do to get this funding back into the FWS "recovery" "base" for FY 2007, Jones responded that we are hitting all of the right bases. The schedule for development, approval and release of the President's FY 2007 budget was discussed and laid out to be the following:

Event	**Date**
Internal meeting within Interior Department	Mid-April, 2005
Department 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, 2006

Jones concluded the meeting by noting that the non-federal participants have been very fair and the USFWS and Department of the Interior also want to be fair.

Follow-up Conducted:

On April 28th, a "cross links" document was submitted to FWS Budget Analyst Mike Hickey at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The document was requested by Hickey during our meeting with him. It provides an overview of cross-links among management actions to minimize or remove threats to the listed species identified in the 2002 recovery goals documents and current principal recovery actions of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (UCRRP) and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (SJRRIP). The purpose of the document is to address the question of how well are your programs accomplishing what the recovery plans establish should be accomplished.

A thank-you letter was sent by the Chairman of the Management Committee to USFWS Deputy Director Marshall Jones for our meeting with him. The letter reiterated the requests that we made relative to inclusion of USFWS recovery funding for the recovery programs in the President's budget for fiscal year 2007. Additional thank-you notes and e-mail messages were transmitted to the Congressional offices who circulated the joint delegation letters on our behalf.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Our group representing the two recovery programs again confirmed the vital importance of annually visiting Congressional Committee and Congressional delegation members and/or their staffs to keep the Programs' needs and ongoing progress in mind. Staff turnover occurs from year to year. Face-to-face meetings continue to have no substitute. The participation of each of the non-federal participants in these briefings is quite important (we really need to have CREDA participate next year).

Meeting with Policy, Management and Budget Division and Budget Office personnel is very important. Ensuring funding in future fiscal years will require meeting with PMB folks each year to ensure that we remain "in sight and in mind." We submitted questions for appropriations subcommittee hearings where Administration officials responsible for requesting appropriations for our Program will be testifying this year and should continue to be mindful of these opportunities in the future.

We asked – and got - the great majority of our Congressional delegation members to sign onto joint delegation letters addressed to the Secretary of the Interior reminding the Secretary of her funding commitments to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan Recovery Program. Having this third letter circulated at the same time as the appropriation support letters were being circulated made logistical and timing sense – it is little additional work and this is the right time of the year to bring political pressure to bear as the fiscal year 2007 budget formulation process proceeds within the Department of the Interior.

Sending the briefing materials via e-mail (briefing book and non-federal participants' synopsis and Congressional funding request flier as Acrobat files) in advance of meetings is useful and will be continued. This is a meaningful courtesy for the very busy people with whom we meet and shortens the time required to explain our Programs' objectives and operations – making for better meetings with more informed staff members, and helps our group stay on the established trip itinerary schedule.

Relative to scheduling of the briefing meetings, thanks to all that made this work so well this year. Our estimations of time requirements to complete the briefing meetings were about right (and being lucky helps too). Ideally, we would be able to set more consecutive meetings (in a row) within the Main Interior Building, we will continue to try to get this aspect to work out better but we have to be realistic about expectations.

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 layout and printing of the non-federal participants' synopsis and Congressional funding request flier. These are extremely important investments in making these trips work for us. Folks seem to like both the food and the atmosphere at the Tortilla Coast and we will look to doing another event of this kind next year.

More attention should be devoted during the coming year to actually update our briefing document in the ways it makes sense to do so. Of course, this is much easier to write about than it is to actually do, but the Management Committee and the Information and Education Committee should continue to work on further refinements that reformat, simplify and, redirect our briefing document. This effort should get underway no later than early summer so that we are not pressed for time when we need to be getting it off to the printer.

The necessity to conduct these briefing trips has again been irrefutably demonstrated.

Appended Materials:

The joint House delegation and Senate delegation letters, as circulated in response to our group's request, will be attached when the copies are received.

One of each of the letters sent by the three Governors and the New Mexico State Engineer are attached. Each Governor and the New Mexico State Engineer wrote the House and Senate Energy and Water Development and Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees (four letters).

2005 Briefings Trip Meetings

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

March 9 through March 15, 2005

Date	Time	Meeting With	Affiliation	Office Location	Phone Number	Fax Number	E-Mail Address	Comments
Wednesday, March 9	8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Briefings' Pre-meeting	Briefing Trip Participants	Breakfast Area of Capitol Hill Suites	543-6000	547-0883	Web: www.capitolhillsuites.com	
	9:00 a.m.	Kiel Weaver Steve Lanich Lori Sonkin	House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee	LH-1522	225-2761 226-2311	225-5929	kiel.weaver@mail.house.gov steve.lanich@mail.house.gov lori.sonkin@mail.house.gov	Good meeting – we thanked Steve for Rep. Rahall's support in getting the FWS funding restored in FY2005 and for highlighting this had been dropped out of the FY2006 budget.
		Tom Weimer Bill Rinne Karen Pearce Deborah Lawler	Asst. Secretary W/S; Bureau of Reclamation Deputy Commissioner for Operations; Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs; UCR Liaison Officer	Room 6649, Main Interior Building, 18th and C Streets, NW	Contact & Scheduler: Marilyn Collier 513-0501 (513-0309 fax)		tweimer@ios.doi.gov wrinne@usbr.gov kpearce@usbr.gov dlawler@usbr.gov mbrown@usbr.gov Note: Limbaugh's Asst.:513-0615	Excellent meeting – Mr. Weimer asked excellent questions about funding needs and project status. He confirmed that meeting with AS for PMB is key to resolving budget issue with FWS funding.
	1:30 p.m.	Mike Hickey	Budget Examiners, Natural Resources Division Office of Management and Budget	Room 8222, New Executive Office Building 725 17th Street, N.W.	395-6822 395-4806, extension 9		Michael_hickey@omb.eop.gov	Janet Irwin, the Branch Chief, had been invited but was ill. Group felt that Hickey was trying to be helpful.
	4:00 p.m.	John Baughman	International Association of Fish and Wildlife Association	Suite 725 Hall of States 444 North Capitol St, NW	624-7890	624-7891	Baughman@iafwa.org	Gary Taylor was ill and unable to attend – had a good meeting with John
	5:00 p.m.	Joel Harris	Senior Policy Advisor, Governor Owens' Washington Office	444 North Capitol St, NW, Suite 349	624-7865	624-5886	joel.harris@state.co.us	Good meeting.
Thursday March 10th	8:00 a.m.	Loretta Beaumont Michael Stephens	House Interior and Related Agencies Approps. Subcommittee	RH-B-308	225-3081 225-3481	225-9069	Loretta.Beaumont@mail.house.gov Michael.stephens@mail.house.gov	Had in-depth discussion of how to resolve FWS funding issue and steps that can be taken to get FWS funding back into the "Recovery" base. Indicated we would likely be okay with getting the FWS funding this year but need to get the problem resolved in light of ever-smaller allocations to the Subcommittee.
	9:00 a.m.	Mac Zimmerman	Rep. Tom Tancredo	LH-1130	225-7882	226-4623	Mac.Zimmerman@mail.house.gov	Agreed to circulate the FY2006 appropriations letters and letter to Secretary Norton in re: FY2007

		(LD)						funding
	9:30 a.m.	Jacob Leis	Rep. Mar. Musgrave	LH-1507	225-4676	225-5870	Jacob.leis@mail.house.gov	Rep. Musgrave will likely sign the letters
	10:00 a.m.	Steve Plevniak	Rep. Diana DeGette	LH-1527	225-4431	225-5657	Steve.plevniak@mail.house.gov	Rep. DeGette will likely sign the letters
	10:45 a.m.	Johanna Polsenberg (Senior LA)	Rep. Tom Udall	LH-1414	225-6190	225-1331	Johanna.Polsenberg@mail.house.gov	Rep. Udall will likely sign the letters. Johanna would like us to wait until after the Easter recess to circulate the letter to Sec. Norton
	11:30 a.m.	Toby Stevens	Rep. John Salazar	LH-1531	225-4761	226-6996	Toby.stevens@mail.house.gov Laura.marguez@mail.house.gov	Met with Stevens but was advised that Brian Ross will soon be assuming his duties. Shared information with Laura Marquez via e-mail. Rep. Salazar will sign the letters.
	1:00 p.m.	Rick Axthelm (LD)	Rep. Barbara Cubin	LH-1114	225-2311	225-3057	Rick.Axthelm@mail.house.gov	Rep. Cubin will sign the letters; Axthelm provided helpful hints about revising the wording of the joint delegation letters to avoid problems or misunderstandings – we made revisions to the letters complying with his recommendations.
	1:50 p.m.	Matt Meagher (LD)	Rep. Steve Pearce	LH-1607	225-2365	225-4975	Matt.meagher@mail.house.gov	Our group split up – Kirkpatrick and Campbell met with Meagher and they quickly determined that Rep. Pearce will sign the letters.
	2:30 p.m.	Stan Sloss	Rep. Mark Udall	CH-240	225-2161	226-7840	Stan.sloss@mail.house.gov	Rep. Udall will sign the letters.
	2:50 p.m.	Colin Hunter Megan Debranski Kelhart (LC)	Rep. Heather Wilson	CH-318	225-6316	225-4975	Colin.hunter@mail.house.gov	Rep. Wilson will sign the letters.
	3:20 p.m.	Bruce "Fez" Miller	Rep. Bob Beauprez	CH-504	225-2645	225-5278	Bruce.miller@mail.house.gov	Rep. Beauprez will sign the letters.
	4:00 p.m.	John Blazey Staff Clerk	House Energy and Water Development Approps. Subcommittee	RH-2362	225-3421	225-1566	John.blazey@mail.house.gov	First time meeting with Blazey (he replaced Dennis Kern). He had some tough questions and considerable discussion about amending our appropriations authorization request.
Joint Meeting	4:45 p.m.	Justin Harding Amy Boyle Cody Stewart	Rep. Ron Bishop Rep. Jim Matheson Rep. Chris Cannon AND Western Caucus	CH-124 CH-410 ***CH-118*** Met in Longworth HOB Cafeteria	225-0453 225-3011 225-7751 226-5793 or 226-0733	225-5857 225-5638 225-5629	Justin.harding@mail.house.gov Amy.boyle@mail.house.gov Codyb.stewart@mail.house.gov	Good meeting – we have met with these folks previously – Darin Bird made point that one of Governor Huntsman's first briefings as Governor was about the Recovery Program. These members will sign the letters.
Friday March 11th	9:30 a.m.	Roger Cockerell	Senate Energy and Water Development Approps. Subcommittee	SD-127	224-7260	224-6835	Roger_cockrell@appro.senate.gov	Good meeting.

	10:30 a.m.	Lynn Scarlett Willie Taylor Marshall Jones John Trezise	Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget; Director, Office of Envir. Policy; Deputy Director, FWS; Director, Office of Budget, DOI	5112 MIB	Barbara Cederborg 208-4203		Lynn_scarlett@ios.doi.gov Barbara_cederborg@ios.doi.gov john_trezise@ios.doi.gov Abigail_D_Miller@ios.doi.gov	The meeting went very, very well and we are convinced that the Deputy Secretary of the Interior understands the problem and we believe we heard her ask Marshall Jones to solve it. She concurred that it is proper and appropriate for the FWS to be spending FWS funding for FWS salary for FWS functions. DOI Budget Director Trezise was quite helpful in stating the way to solve the problem is for the funding to be put into the FWS recovery base budget. Heard someone say that we hit a home run.
Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon	11:30 – 1:30 p.m.	As many of the staffers as we can get there	House and Senate Delegation and Committee staffers	Tortilla Coast Restaurant, Rio Room (Downstairs) 400 First Street, SE (just down the hill from the Capitol South Metro station	546-6768		Becky Bender, Catering Manager bbender@tortillacoast.com	Small group in attendance but it went quite well. Muth did a great job with his PowerPoint and we were very pleased. Muth said he felt rushed given the amount of available time for the presentation but the remainder of our group thought he was masterful.
Personal meeting with Senator Domenici	1:30 PM	Tera Shaw Nate Gentry	Senator Domenici	SH-328	224-6621		Tera_shaw@domenici.senate.gov Nate_Gentry@energy.senate.gov	Meeting attended by Randy Kirkpatrick and Tom Pitts – discussion about Rio Grande River Basin issues and the institutional aspects of the program that is underway in that basin.
	2:30 p.m.	Christy Plumer Mary Anne Dolbeare Jon Tolman Steve _____	Fisheries, Wildlife and Water Subcommittee Senate Enviro. & Public Works	SD-415	224-6176 224-1049 direct line for Christy	224-5167	christy_plumer@epw.senate.gov mary_anne_dolbeare@epw.senate.gov	Good meeting with folks who had not been briefed about the programs previously. Tolman asked lots of questions.
	3:15 p.m.	Tera Shaw Nate Gentry	Senator Pete Domenici Senator and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee	SH-328	224-4971	228-0900 224-6163	Tera _shaw@domenici.senate.gov Nate_Gentry@energy.senate.gov	Senator Domenici will sign the FY2007 funding request letter to Secretary Norton.
	3:40 p.m.	Mike Connor	Democratic Counsel, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee	SD-312	224-5479		Michael_connor@energy.senate.gov	
	4:15 p.m.	Chris Tomassi	Sen. Mike Enzi	SR-379A	224-3424	228-0359	Chris_tomassi@enzi.senate.gov	Good briefing. Pitts lost the bet. We may be pleasantly surprised this year relative to getting signature on at least one of the letters.
	4:45 p.m.	Mike Hill	Sen. Craig Thomas	SD-307	224-6441	224-1724	Michael_hill@thomas.senate.gov	Last briefing after three hard

								days, occurring late on a Friday afternoon. It is always good to visit with Mike.
Monday March 14th	9:00 a.m.	Luke Johnson	Sen. Bob Bennett	SD-431	224-5444	228-1168	Luke_Johnson@bennett.senate.gov	Senator Bennett will likely sign onto the letters even though he is on the Senate Appropriations Committee.
	9:30 a.m.	Leif Fonnesbeck	Senate Interior and Related Agencies Approps. Subcommittee	SD-132	224-7233	228-4532	Leif_fonnesbeck@appro.senate.gov	Leif continues to be both helpful as well as very supportive of our efforts. It is a pleasure to meet with him.
	10:00 a.m.	Kellie Donnelly	Water and Power Subcommittee	SH-312	224-4971	228-0541	Kellie_Donnelly@energy.senate.gov	Short meeting on account of Kellie's schedule but it went very well.
	10:30 am	Ian Lyle Debbie Ruyle	Sen. Wayne Allard	SD-521	224-5941	224-6471	Ian_lyle@allard.senate.gov Debbie_ruyle@allard.senate.gov	Ian confirmed that Senator Allard has consented to be the lead sponsor for the UCREFRP capital construction appropriation authorization extension legislation. Ian also expressed a willingness to call over to OMB to assist with getting the FWS recovery funding into the President's budget.
	10:45 a.m.	Jacob Johnson	Sen. Orrin Hatch	SH-104	224-5251	224-6331	Jacob_johnson@hatch.senate.gov	Sen. Hatch will sign the letters. J.J. Brown briefly said hello to our group in between other meetings.
	11:15 a.m.	Steve Black Elisa Montoya-Approps LA	Sen. Ken Salazar	SH-702	224-5852	228-4609	Steve.black@salazar.senate.gov Elisa_montoya@salazar.senate.gov	Steve joined the meeting after a bit. Very impressed with Montoya's quick grasp of the Program and her expression of the Senator's support and assistance. Will sign the letters
	1:30 p.m.	David Whaley Bonnie Bruce Gene Kim	Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee, House Resources Committee	188 Ford House Office Building	226-0200	225-1542	David.whaley@mail.house.gov Bonnie.bruce@mail.house.gov	Good meeting. We expressed our appreciation for the Subcommittee's support as that has translated into statements and letters by Ranking Member Rahall.
	2:45 p.m.	Marshall Jones Beth Stevens Ben Tuggle	Deputy Director; Acting Assistant Director for ES; Special Asst. to the Director; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Room3239 Main Interior Building	208-4646 Roslyn Sellars, Exec. Asst to the Deputy Dir.		Marshal_jones@fws.gov Elizabeth_stevens@fws.gov Benjamin_tuggle@fws.gov Roslyn_sellars@fws.gov	This was a follow-up to the March 11th meeting with Deputy Secretary nominee Lynn Scarlett that had been attended by Marshall Jones. We obtained a schedule from Jones as to FY2007 budget development and they tried to be helpful.
	3:30 p.m.	Sharon Kilwinski, Gary Johnston, Mike Snyder	Acting Deputy Associate Director for Natural Resources; Acting Deputy Director of NPS; Washington Liaison for Biological	Room 3004 Main Interior Building	208-6843 Sharon: 513-7181		Sharon_kilwinski@nps.gov	Good meeting. Nice to meet some additional NPS personnel. Mike Snyder is the Deputy Regional Director of the Intermountain Region of NPS and hence it was appropriate for him to get this briefing about NPS participation in UCREFRP that is

			Resources Management Division; National Park Service					being implemented in the Intermountain Region.
Tuesday March 15th	9:00 a.m.	Shanna Brown Susan Shipman	Western Governors Association and Western States Water Council, Shipman is with the NGA's Center for Best Practices	444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 388	624-5402 Shipman: 624-5354		skbrown@westgov.org shipman@nga.org	Oops, we did not make it to this rescheduled appointment, so Shields provided a 5 minute briefing during a telephone conversation with Shanna on 3/15
	10:00 a.m.	Jerry Clark Sarah Ellgen	Director of Funding Source Administration; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	1130 Connecticut Ave., NW., Suite 900	857-0166		jclark@nfwf.org	Briefing meeting conflicted with the North American Wildlife Conference being held in Arlington so we did not get to see John Berry or Peter Bower but had a great meeting nonetheless.
	11:00 a.m.	Liz Birnbaum Chad Smith	American Rivers	1025 Vermont Ave, NW, Suite 720	347-9224			The Endangered Species Coalition has evidently ceased to be and the decision was made to brief American Rivers on the Program. As Birnbaum came to AR from the House Resources Committee she was familiar with the Program. Smith works on Missouri River issues and I know he appreciated the briefing and briefing documents.

DAVE FREUDENTHAL
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF WYOMING

STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

February 25, 2005

The Honorable Conrad Burns, Chairman
The Honorable Byron Dorgan, 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 Burns and Ranking Member Dorgan:

I am writing to request your support and assistance in insuring continued funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. These ongoing cooperative programs have the dual objectives of recovering four species of endangered fish while water use continues and water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, state law, and interstate compacts. Partners in the two programs are the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests. Wyoming respectfully requests support and action by the Subcommittee that will provide the following:

1. An increase of $691,000 in the fiscal year 2006 Recovery Element budget (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element) allocated to "Colorado River fish recovery project" to allow U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Region 6 to meet its funding commitment to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. This is the level of funding appropriated in fiscal years 2003, 2004 and 2005 for this program. These funds are needed for FWS direct participation in managing and implementing the Upper Colorado Program's actions, monitoring achievement of recovery goals, managing data associated with fish population abundance and sampling, evaluating stocking, and monitoring fish and habitat response to recovery actions.

2. The appropriation of $437,000 in operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries Activity; Hatchery Operations & Maintenance Subactivity, Hatchery Operations Project) to support the ongoing operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah during fiscal year 2006.

3. The allocation of $211,000 in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2006 to meet FWS Region 2 expenses associated with program management and implementing the San Juan Program's actions.

The enactment of Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the Federal Government to provide up to $46 Million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. Raising and stocking of the endangered fish produced at program hatchery facilities, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows,

TTY: 777-7860 PHONE: (307) 777-7434 FAX: (307) 632-3909

installing diversion canal screens and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the programs' ongoing capital construction projects. Subsection 3(c) of P.L 106-392 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to accept up to $17 Million of contributed funds from Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, and to expend such contributed funds as if appropriated for these projects; and provides for an additional $17 Million to be contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. This substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding demonstrates the strong commitment and effective partnerships embodied in both of these successful programs. The requested federal appropriations are critically important to these efforts moving forward.

The above FWS line item appropriations requests are supported by the State of Wyoming and each of the participating States engaged in these Programs. The support of your Subcommittee in past years is greatly appreciated - and has been a major factor in the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs as they have progressed forward towards delisting the endangered fish species in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins while necessary water use and development activities are occurring. We in Wyoming again request the Subcommittee's assistance to ensure that the FWS is provided with adequate funding for these vitally important programs.

Best regards,

Dave Freudenthal
Governor

DF:ptt:jws

Senator Craig Thomas
Senator Mike Enzi
Governor Bill Owens
Governor Bill Richardson
Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr.

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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

Bill Owens
Governor

March 4, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Domenici and Senator Reid:

On behalf of the State of Colorado, I am writing to request your support for the Bureau of Reclamation budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado Region. This item is for $2,529,000 in the fiscal year 2006 budget and is allocated accordingly: $1,401,000 for construction projects for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; $572,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Recovery Program; and $556,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development.

The Upper Colorado and San Juan programs promote the recovery of four endangered fish in the Upper Colorado River Basin while providing the Endangered Species Act compliance for continued water diversion and development for over 800 water projects on the two rivers, all without a single lawsuit since the two Programs were instituted in 1988 and 1992 respectively. The State of Colorado has partnered with its sister states of Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico, as well as Indian tribes, federal agencies, water and power suppliers and environmental interests to make this program work.

The requested appropriation will allow the Upper Colorado Recovery Program to construct fish passage structures on the Green and Colorado Rivers which will expand habitat for the endangered fish above diversion dams already in place. The San Juan Program will use these requested dollars toward providing in stream flows in cooperation with the State of New Mexico, as well as applying dollars to fish ladders, flooded bottom land restoration, propagation facilities, fish stocking and non-native and sport fish management.

The partnership under which these Programs operate is structured through their authorizing legislation, Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375. While authorizing the Federal Government to provide up to $46 million in cost share funds for capital construction projects, the Law also requires $17 million in cost share funds from the states and $17 million to be

contributed from revenues from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power.

I appreciate your continued support of these species recovery programs.

Sincerely,

Bill Owens.

Bill Owens

cc: Senator Wayne Allard
Senator Ken Salazar
Governor Dave Freudenthal
Governor Bill Richardson
Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr.

STATE OF UTAH

JON M HUNTSMAN, JR
GOVERNOR

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

GARY R. HERBERT
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 7, 2005

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

I write to request your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 2006 of $2,529,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado Region. The President's recommended budget for FY 2006 includes this line-item amount. The funding designation we seek is as follows: $1,401,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; $572,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program and $556,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development.

These highly successful, cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the states of Utah, Colorado, New Mexico 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 in the Upper Colorado River Basin region of the Intermountain West. Since 1988, these programs have facilitated ESA Section 7 consultation (without litigation) for over 800 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting approximately 2.5 million acre-feet of water per year.

The requested FY 2006 appropriation will allow the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Program to proceed with construction of additional fish passage structures on the Green and Colorado rivers to provide access to historic habitat upstream of existing diversion dams. The requested funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program will be used for contracts for construction and cooperative agreements with the State of New Mexico to provide and protect instream flows, fish ladders, flooded bottom land restoration, propagation facilities, stocking efforts, nonnative and sportfish management activities.

The enactment of Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the federal government to provide up to $46 million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. Raising and stocking of the endangered fish produced at program hatchery facilities, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the programs' ongoing capital construction projects. Subsection 3(c) of P.L. 106-392 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to accept up to $17 million of contributed funds from Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico, to expend such contributed funds as if appropriated for these projects; and provides for an additional $17 million to be contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. This substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding demonstrates the strong commitment and effective partnerships embodied in both of these successful programs. 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. On behalf of the citizens of Utah, I thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2006 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

Jon Huntsman, Jr.
Governor

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER
SANTA FE

John R. D'Antonio, Jr., P.E.
State Engineer

P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505)827-6091

March 3, 2005

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

I write to request your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 2006 of $2,529,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado Region. The President's recommended budget for FY 2006 includes this line-item amount. The funding designation we seek is as follows: $1,401,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; $572,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program and $556,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development.

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 in the Upper Colorado River Basin region of the Intermountain West. Since 1988, these programs have facilitated ESA Section 7 consultation (without litigation) for over 800 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting approximately 2.5 million acre-feet of water per year.

The requested FY 2006 appropriation will allow the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Program to proceed with construction of additional fish passage structures on the Green and Colorado Rivers to provide access to historic habitat upstream of existing diversion dams. The requested funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program will be used for contracts for construction to provide fish ladders, flooded bottom land restoration,

endangered fish propagation facilities, stocking efforts, and nonnative fish management activities.

The enactment of Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the Federal Government to provide up to $46 Million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. Raising and stocking of the endangered fish produced at program hatchery facilities, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the programs' ongoing capital construction projects. Subsection 3(c) of P.L. 106-392 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to accept up to $17 Million of contributed funds from Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, to expend such contributed funds as if appropriated for these projects; and provides for an additional $17 Million to be contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. This substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding demonstrates the strong commitment and effective partnerships embodied in both of these successful programs. 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. On behalf of the citizens of New Mexico, I thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2006 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

John R. D'Antonio, Jr., P.E.
State Engineer

JRD'A:jcg:pat

copy: Representative Tom Udall
Representative Heather Wilson
Representative Stevan Pearce
Governor Bill Richardson

jrb\colorado\hobson-visclosky1.f05

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2005

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor, Chairman
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks, 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. 20515-6023

Dear Chairman Taylor and Representative Dicks:

We are requesting your support and assistance in insuring continued funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program in fiscal year 2006. These ongoing cooperative programs' objectives are recovering four species of endangered fish while water use continues and water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, state law, and interstate compacts. The partners in the two programs are the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests. We respectfully request support and action by the Subcommittee that will provide the following:

1. $691,000 in the Recovery Element budget (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element) allocated to "Colorado River fish recovery project." This is the level of funding appropriated in fiscal years 2003, 2004 and 2005 for the salaries and expenses of the FWS Program Director and staff. This will allow FWS Region 6 to meet its funding commitment to the Program. These FWS personnel will manage and implement Program actions, monitor achievement of recovery goals, maintain data associated with fish population abundance and sampling, evaluate stocking, and monitor fish and habitat responses to recovery actions.

2. $437,000 in operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries Activity; Hatchery Operations & Maintenance Subactivity, Hatchery Operations Project) to support the ongoing operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah.

3. $211,000 in the Recovery Element budget (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element) allocated to the "San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program." These funds are needed to support the FWS Recovery Program Coordinator and staff responsible for program management and support of all Recovery Program activities.

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program hatchery facilities, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the programs' ongoing capital construction projects. Subsection 3(c) of P.L. 106-392 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to accept up to $17 Million of contributed funds from Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, to expend such contributed funds as if appropriated for these projects; and provides for an additional $17 Million to be contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. This substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding demonstrates the strong commitment and effective partnerships embodied in both of these successful programs. 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 while necessary water use and development activities are occurring. We thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2006 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

Stevan Pearce

Diana DeGette

John T. Salazar

Mark Udall

Bob Beauprez

Wayne Allard

Barbara Cubin

Rob Bishop

Heather Wilson

Tom Tancredo

Marilyn Musgrave

Tom Udall

Jim Matheson

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2005

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

We are requesting your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 2006 of $2,529,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado Region. The President's recommended budget for FY 2006 includes this line-item amount. The funding designation we seek is as follows: $1,401,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; $572,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program and $556,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development.

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 in the Upper Colorado River Basin region of the Intermountain West. Since 1988, these programs have facilitated ESA Section 7 consultation (without litigation) for over 800 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting approximately 2.5 million acre-feet of water per year.

The requested FY 2006 appropriation will allow the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Program to proceed with construction of additional fish passage structures on the Green and Colorado Rivers to provide access to historic habitat upstream of existing diversion dams. The requested funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program will be used for contracts for construction and cooperative agreements with the State of New Mexico to provide and protect instream flows, fish ladders, flooded bottom land restoration, propagation facilities, stocking efforts, nonnative and sportfish management activities.

The enactment of Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the Federal Government to provide up to $46 Million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. Raising and stocking of the endangered fish produced at

The enactment of Public Law 106-392 authorized federal and nonfederal cost-sharing for these two programs. The annual funds requested above for program management activities and facilities operation and maintenance will be matched by more than $6.7 million in other contributions in fiscal year 2006. This substantial annual funding from the states and power revenues demonstrates the strong commitment and effective partnerships embodied in both of these successful programs.

The support of your Subcommittee in past years is greatly appreciated - and has been a major factor in the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs as they have progressed towards delisting the endangered fish species in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins while necessary water use and development activities are occurring. We again request the Subcommittee's assistance to ensure that the FWS is provided with adequate funding for these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

Stevan Pearce

Diana DeGette

John T. Salazar

Mark Udall

Bob Beauprez

Barbara Cubin

Heather Wilson

Tom Tancredo

Marilyn Musgrave

Tom Udall

Jim Matheson

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Domenici and Senator Reid:

We are requesting your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 2006 of $2,529,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado Region. The President's recommended budget for FY 2006 includes this amount. Consistent with the President's request, the funding we seek will be used as follows: $1,401,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; $572,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program and $556,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development.

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 in the Upper Colorado River Basin region of the Intermountain West. Since 1988, these programs have facilitated ESA Section 7 consultation (without litigation) for over 800 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting approximately 2.5 million acre-feet of water per year.

The requested FY 2006 appropriation will allow the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Program to proceed with construction of additional fish passage structures on the Green and Colorado Rivers to provide access to historic habitat upstream of existing diversion dams. The requested funding for the San Juan River Recovery Program will be used for contracts for construction and cooperative agreements with the State of New Mexico to provide and protect instream flows, fish ladders, flooded bottom land restoration, propagation facilities, stocking efforts, nonnative and sportfish management activities.

The enactment of Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, authorized the Federal Government to provide up to $46 Million of cost sharing for these two ongoing recovery programs' remaining capital construction projects. Raising and stocking of the endangered fish produced at program hatchery facilities, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and supplying instream habitat flows, installing diversion canal screens and controlling nonnative fish populations are key components of the programs' ongoing capital construction projects. Subsection 3(c) of P.L. 106-392 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to accept up to $17 Million of contributed funds from Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, to expend such contributed funds as if appropriated for these projects; and provides for an additional $17 Million to be contributed from revenues derived from the sale of Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) hydroelectric power. This substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding demonstrates the strong commitment and effective partnerships embodied in both of these successful programs. 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 thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2006 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2005

The Honorable Conrad Burns, Chairman
The Honorable Byron Dorgan, 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 Burns and Ranking Member Dorgan:

We are requesting your support and assistance in ensuring continued funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program in fiscal year 2006. The objective of these ongoing cooperative programs is recovering four species of endangered fish while water use and water development continue and proceed in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, state law, and interstate compacts. The partners in the two programs are the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies, and water, power and environmental interests. We respectfully request support and action by the Subcommittee that will provide the following:

1. $691,000 in the FWS Recovery Element budget (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element) allocated to "Colorado River fish recovery project." This is the level of funding appropriated in fiscal years 2003, 2004 and 2005 for the salaries and expenses of the FWS Program Director and staff. This will allow FWS Region 6 to meet its funding commitment to the Program. These FWS personnel manage and implement Program actions, monitor achievement of recovery goals, maintain data associated with fish population abundance and sampling, evaluate stocking, and monitor fish and habitat responses to recovery actions.

2. $437,000 in FWS operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries Activity; Hatchery Operations & Maintenance Subactivity, Hatchery Operations Project) to support the ongoing operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah.

3. $211,000 in the FWS Recovery Element budget (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element) allocated to the "San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program." These funds are needed to support the FWS Recovery Program Coordinator and staff responsible for program management and support of all Recovery Program activities.

The enactment of Public Law 106-392 authorized federal and nonfederal cost-sharing for these two programs. The annual funds requested above for program management activities and facilities operation and maintenance will be matched by more than $6.7 million in other nonfederal contributions in fiscal year 2006. This substantial annual funding from the states and power revenues demonstrates the strong commitment and effective partnerships embodied in both of these successful programs.

The support of your Subcommittee in past years is greatly appreciated - and has been a major factor in the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs as they have progressed towards delisting the endangered fish species in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins. We again request the Subcommittee's assistance to ensure that the FWS is provided with adequate funding for these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2005

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary of the Interior
Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior
Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: FY 2007 and Subsequent Years' Funding for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Endangered Fish Recovery Programs

Dear Secretary Norton:

We are writing to request that the Department of the Interior include funding in the FY 2007 budget, and in subsequent fiscal years, for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to participate in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish and San Juan River Basin Recovery Programs. The President's fiscal year 2005 budget for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) "zeroed out" $691,000 in FWS "recovery" funds (Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; Colorado Fish Project) for "Colorado River fish recovery." The undersigned submitted a joint letter to the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee supporting restoration of the Upper Colorado Recovery Program's funds in fiscal year 2005 funds and full funding for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. Congress restored the funding to ensure that FWS' Region 6 could meet its funding commitment to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. We also transmitted a letter to you dated June 23, 2004 requesting that the committed-to levels of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding would be included in the President's fiscal year 2006 and subsequent years' budgets consistent with the Cooperative Agreements implementing these programs.

We write to you once again because the President's fiscal year 2006 budget again "zeroed out" the $691,000 in FWS "recovery" funds (Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; Colorado Fish Project) for "Colorado River fish recovery." Region 2 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not provide funds for USFWS participation in the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program in fiscal year 2005 nor are the funds in the President's fiscal year 2006 budget. We will seek to restore this essential funding during the fiscal year 2006 appropriations process.

We strongly urge the Department of the Interior to provide funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to participate in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish and San Juan River Basin Recovery Programs in FY 2007 and subsequent fiscal years for salaries, expenses and activities of USFWS program directors and program staff to accomplish recovery activities associated with these two innovative and successful federal-state-private partnerships.

These highly successful, cooperative programs are partnerships among the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, federal agencies and tribal, water, power and environmental interests. The programs have been ongoing in the Upper Colorado River Basin since 1988 and in the San Juan Basin since 1992. The programs' objectives are recovery of endangered fish species while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, state law, and interstate compacts. The Department of the Interior routinely heralds these innovative state-federal-private partnerships as "national models" for resolving endangered species and resource development conflicts. Their long track record of progressing towards recovery while providing Endangered Species Act compliance for federal, as well as state, tribal, and private water projects – without controversy or litigation – is exemplary. We look forward to working with you on this and other issues important to our western states in the future.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

Wayne Allard