

**Trip Report**  
**2007 Washington, D. C. Briefing Meetings**  
**March 21 through March 27, 2007**  
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 made during the course of the 2007 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 21st through March 27th, representatives of the non-federal participants in the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs<sup>1</sup> met with staff of the Congressional delegations for the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Congressional committee staff, Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) officials, and several non-governmental organizations in Washington, D.C. The meetings with Congressional committee staff were with the authorizing and appropriations committees having jurisdiction over the Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service and their budgets. This trip was conducted in the same manner as the non-federal participants have done for many years in a row; these briefing meetings being held to provide status reports to those with whom we met about the two endangered fish recovery programs and to seek support for Program funding included in the President's proposed fiscal year 2008 budget for Reclamation and Service funding for the Programs' capital construction projects as authorized by Public Law 106-392, as amended, and for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and funding for the San Juan Program Coordinator and his staff. In addition, discussions were held with staff members within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) about Fiscal Year 2009 funding needs of the two recovery programs. We sincerely believe our objectives for the trip were accomplished. During our meetings we addressed several matters:

1. Progress and accomplishments of the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program during the year that has passed since last year's visits in March 2006,
2. Expressing the support of the four participating states' Governors for Fiscal Year 2008 funding as included in the President's recommended Fiscal Year 2008 budget for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Upper Colorado Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.
3. At many of the meetings, as and when appropriate, we broached the subject of Fiscal Year 2009 funding and how the Recovery Programs will need a larger amount of Bureau of Reclamation funding (within the "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" line-item within the Upper Colorado Region portion of Reclamation's budget) next year to meet our funding commitments. The Upper Colorado Recovery Program's contract with the Colorado River Water Conservation District requires that we pay the District for our proportionate share of the construction cost of the Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement Project within two years after substantial completion of the construction project (which occurred in November 2006). The Recovery Program will need about \$6 million from the 2009 Reclamation appropriation for this purpose. We pointed out that the \$17 million of power users' non-federal cost-sharing has been contributed and that with the exception of \$274,000, all of the \$17 million being contributed by the States will have been put in by July of this year. We

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<sup>1</sup> Fish and Wildlife Service employees (e.g. the Program Directors and several FWS employees) 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. Having them with us is very important and greatly appreciated.

advised that Utah and Wyoming accelerated their states' contributions to work our way out of the shortfall that the FY 2007 USBR line-item funding amount created for the capital construction program.

The Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program line-item in the 2009 USBR Upper Colorado Region budget needs to be approximately \$7.6 million in order for us to meet our funding commitments and needs. The FY 2008 line-item amount is \$3.65 million; therefore a substantial increase (e.g., doubling) is needed in this line-item in next year's budget. We pitched the need and necessity to get this funding at our meetings with Interior, USBR and OMB officials. We discussed this matter with the Congressional delegation staffers and gave them a heads-up that we are strongly considering the circulation of a joint delegation funding letter in mid-June from our Congressional delegations to the Secretary of the Interior urging that Interior's budget request include the needed amount of at least \$7.6 million in fiscal year 2009 and that the Department go to bat for this amount of funding in its negotiations with the Office of Management and Budget to get that level of funding into the President's budget for fiscal year 2009. Most of the Congressional delegation staffers indicated their willingness to sign onto a mid-June letter addressed to the Secretary of the Interior to express that message.

At each meeting with Congressional Delegation staff members, our group representing the two recovery programs asked the staff member to request that his or her boss affirm their support by signing onto joint-delegation fiscal year 2008 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). 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 that request was our presentation to the staff member of copies of funding support letters submitted to each of the appropriations subcommittees by Governors Ritter, Huntsman, Richardson and Freudenthal. Having signed letters from each of the Governors is an important and useful enticement to support our requests to have Members of Congress sign on to the joint delegation letters.

We again prepared and distributed at each meeting our "Non-Federal Participants' Funding Requests" brochure. 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 and whom we anticipate will be submitting letters this year). This flyer keeps the funding "side" of our visits out of the briefing booklet and is used as a means to demonstrate the grass roots support that these recovery programs continue to enjoy. The funding brochure is provided by the Upper Basin and San Juan water users.

Support of 13 of 14 of the U.S. Representatives from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming was initially anticipated at the time we had conducted each of our briefings. Rep. Tom Udall is now on the Appropriations Committee and is uncomfortable with breaking the unwritten rule/protocol that Appropriation Committee members do not write to one another to support specific funding requests he will not be signing onto the letters. Due to changes in the House of Representatives ethics rules at the beginning of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, there is now a requirement that a certification form indicating that the Member of Congress or his/her spouse do not have a financial interest in the project or matter for which funding is being sought be attached to letters seeking or supporting Congressional appropriations. The rules relative to this certification requirement have slowed down the letter circulation process this year. In addition, a second complicating, slowing-down factor has been caused by changes in how Members of Congress "Member Requests" to the Appropriations Committee are accounted. The procedures distinguish between "project requests" and "programmatic requests." Members of Congress have to tally up how many dollars their appropriations requests total up to. The bottom line is that these ethical and appropriation accounting requirements make the simple task of signing onto joint delegation funding support letters more onerous for the Members of Congress and their staff than has been the case before.

We are hopeful that most of the four states' Congressional delegation Members will feel and decide that supporting our recovery programs' funding requests is worth the additional efforts – and that we will again get nearly all of them to sign. However, in the case of Rep. Bishop of Utah, his staffer indicated in an e-mail to us that:

The process for signing group letters has become far too cumbersome. We are supportive of your funding request but are going to decline signing the letter. We just got word that the appropriations committee is going to require each office that signs THIS LETTER to submit a request form as well as a certificate of disclosure. The new ethics process is far too vague for us to venture out on a programmatic letter like this, by attempting to certify neither Congressman Bishop nor his spouse has any financial interest in the project. I can't certify that with any amount of certainty.

Although we were disappointed to receive this e-mail, we are hoping that others among the CO, NM, UT and WY delegations will be willing to deal with the extra steps associated with signing this year's letters. As of April 17th, we have commitments from 8 of the 14 to sign onto the letters. Copies of the joint delegation funding support letters will be attached to this trip report when the letters have been circulated, signed and copies obtained. Our briefing group recognizes the need to address the certification situation earlier next year and, presuming the House does not revamp its procedures, to broach the need for certification when we meet with the staffers, have the information needed for the certification form in hand when we meet with them or before.

On the Senate side, four of the eight Senators (Bennett, Hatch, Bingaman and Salazar) 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 Committee on Appropriations; however, we were assured by their staffs of their ongoing support for our efforts, the funding as contained in the President's budget for the recovery programs and of their assistance as it might be needed within the Appropriations Committee's processes. Despite our continuing best efforts to persuade them to do so, Senators Thomas and Enzi declined to sign onto our funding support letters. There were no corresponding changes in either ethical or accounting procedures associated with joint delegation letters on the Senate side that are complicating the House side letter circulation process.

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 is being accomplished by Steve Plevniak of Congressman Diana DeGette's staff and Steve Black of Senator Ken Salazar's staff. Thanks to these people for their assistance.

The Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon, our fourth annual, was held in a much more dignified and appealing venue this year on Friday, March 23rd. We were very fortunate in learning about and having a reservation of Dining Room C made for us by Management Committee Member Dave Mazour on the Sixth Floor of the Madison Building of the Library of Congress. This event was hosted by the Upper Basin and San Juan water users and we greatly appreciate their generous financial contribution. The event was again attended by Congressional staff members from both the U.S. House and Senate delegation members. A total of eighteen people participated. Congressional staff (six) who attended this year's luncheon were the following: Matt Schriener (Intern for Rep. Cubin – representing Rick Axthelm); Justin Harding (Rep. Bishop); Johanna Polsenberg (Rep. T. Udall); Chris Tomassi (Senator Enzi); Mike Hill (Senator Thomas); and Tyler Owens (Senator Bennett). 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 good will benefits and facilitates the development of personal relationships with those with whom we meet.

Efforts to publicize the staff appreciation luncheon and to encourage attendance included mentioning and extending an invitation to attend the luncheon in the pre-meeting e-mail transmittals of the briefing materials; preparing a luncheon invitation and e-mailing it in a separate e-mail to each invitee and repeating the invitation to the luncheon during each of the meetings held with Congressional staffers. A reminder handout was provided at some meetings as well.

Dan Birch, Project Development Manager, Colorado River Water Conservation District, provided an informative, 25-minute briefing during the Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon about the Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement Project. Copies of his PowerPoint presentation were distributed to those who attended. An additional handout was prepared and provided to those who attended the luncheon. Entitled, “Our Success Story,” this handout boils down into a front and back side document what the Recovery Programs are doing, “principles for success” that are adhered to in both programs, note that the programs are relying upon the published recovery goals and provide a short recitation of their accomplishments that have led to what the handout refers to as “long-standing records of demonstrated success.” The

handout was also used for several impromptu conversations/sidebars with Kris Polly (Vice President for Legislative Affairs, National Water Resources Association), Bennett Raley (former Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science and Michael Bogert (Counselor to the Secretary of the Interior) during the National Water Resources Association Federal Water Management Conference at the Washington Court Hotel on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the handout was presented to Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne after he made remarks to the NWRA on the morning of March 28<sup>th</sup> – with an encouragement to him to cite our recovery programs when he speaks about collaborative environmental conservation efforts that are being made across the West (he mentioned the Platte River RIP [at some length] and MSCP in his remarks but failed to note our efforts). You had to have been there to appreciate how well this particular handout served its intended purpose and was just what was needed to hand to the Secretary (and given its length I'm sure he read it).

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 handed out during each of the meetings. In addition, the briefing booklet has been distributed among both programs' participants – and can be downloaded from the Upper Colorado Recovery Program's Web page (<http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/doc/dc/Highlights06-07.pdf>).

The letters of support submitted by Governors Ritter, Huntsman, Richardson and Freudenthal, are attached to this report. In addition, the Navajo Nation submitted letters of support this year and as copies were obtained a sample of one of their four letters is attached. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Southern Ute Indian Tribe also submitted letters.

An additional element of this year's trip, something not needed in prior years, was bolstering support for funding our environmental organization participation in the Upper Colorado Recovery Program. We specifically arranged to meet with two people who serve on the Selection Committee that will be making recommendations/decisions for funding grant applications under the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's "Bring Back the Natives" (BBTN) Program. We felt it was very worthwhile to meet with these two USFWS employees to make sure they understand the breadth and scope of the Upper Colorado Recovery Program, what the Program is accomplishing and how important the participation of the environmental organizations is to our Program. It provided other participants the opportunity to emphasize our support for the Western Resource Advocates (WRA) grant funding application with two of the people who will be making the decision. John Shields and Tom Pitts also spent considerable time during our meeting with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation management personnel discussing the importance the participants to the Upper Colorado Recovery Program place upon the environmental organization participation and lobbied them hard to assure the WRA application receives due consideration. Tom Pitts has prepared a summary of that meeting. A conference call was held on April 6<sup>th</sup> to advise WRA and our environmental group participants about that meeting with NFWF and to devise a strategy to obtain out-year funding to support environmental group participation on each of the Upper Colorado Recovery Program committees.

By way of summarizing the meetings, we received many compliments during the meetings that recognized the Program's past and continuing accomplishments and successes, the quality and thoroughness of the briefing materials and the presentations made, the approaches we are using and our continuing efforts we make to keep offices and staff members informed through these visits each year. Conversely, no one told us that we are going way overboard with what we are doing in terms of our printed materials, briefing meetings, circulation of joint delegation letters, etc. It was again confirmed to us during several of the meetings (especially the meetings with the Appropriations Subcommittees staff members) 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 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. The group representing the two recovery programs consisted of:

Darin Bird, Utah Department of Natural Resources (certain meetings)  
Tom Blickensderfer – Colorado Department of Natural Resource (Wednesday through Friday)  
Randy Kirkpatrick – San Juan Water Commission

Tom Pitts, Water Users Representative for the Upper Colorado and San Juan Programs  
 Tom Iseman, Environmental Groups Representative, Upper Colorado Program (Wed. through Friday)  
 Dan Birch, Project Development Manager, Colorado River Water Conservation District (Wed. through Friday)  
 Stanley Pollack, Water Rights Counsel, Navajo Nation Department of Justice (a majority of the meetings)  
 David Campbell – USFWS – San Juan River Recovery Program Coordinator  
 Robert Muth – USFWS – Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program Director  
 David Irving, – USFWS – Colorado River Fishery Project Office, Vernal  
 Brian Millsap USFWS State Supervisor, New Mexico Field Office  
 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 21 through March 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

By way of a reminder for next year, we can anticipate that the schedule for development, approval and release of the President’s FY 2009 budget is likely to be the following:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Internal meeting within Interior Department	Mid-April, 2007
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, 2008

**Follow-up Conducted:**

Follow-up with Steve Plevniak of Rep. Diana DeGette’s office and with Steve Black of Senator Ken Salazar’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 get back to Steve Plevniak with an indication of their office’s willingness to sign the joint delegation funding support letters. Thank you letters and notes have been sent to some of the folks with whom we met and others are in process.

An information request by Taunja Berguam of the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee for information concerning our Congressional authorizations for the recovery programs’ capital construction projects (e.g., Public Law 106-392, as amended) was addressed after our meeting with her on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Shields sent an e-mail over the following weekend with the legislative history of P.L. 106-392, as well as P.L. 107-375 and P.L. 109-183.

We agreed to send John Castellano and Hamilton Bolton, USFWS employees who serve on the Selection Committee for grant funding under the National Fish and Wildlife Service’s *Bring Back The Natives Program* an updated copy of our “Cross-links” document that describes how the activities of the recovery programs line up with the guidelines and requirements set forth in the August 2002 Recovery Goals for the four endangered fish species. Program Director Bob Muth, in concert with his staff and Dave Campbell of the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, will complete this task and send the document on to them.

**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. Based on our meetings with Congressional Committee staff and observations made during this trip, it remains very apparent that annually conducting these briefing meetings is essential. We would be simply forgotten and 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. As repeated in this report each year: the necessity to conduct these briefing trips has again been irrefutably demonstrated.

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.

During our meeting with personnel of the Department of the Interior's Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC), it was suggested (by Willie Taylor, Director of the OEPC) that we should consider nominating our recovery programs for the Department of Interior's Cooperative Conservation Program. The Upper Colorado Recovery Program's Management Committee and the San Juan Recovery Program's Coordination Committee should discuss any potential downsides/drawbacks during the next few months so that we can move to submit our application for this award when nominations are solicited in mid-September, 2007. More information about the awards, as well as descriptions of the accomplishments of past recipients can be found at: <http://www.doi.gov/partnerships/ccawards.html>. It appears that these are awarded within the "jurisdiction" of Interior agencies, e.g., Reclamation, FWS, etc. Information on the above-cited webpage indicates: *The Cooperative Conservation Award recognizes cooperative conservation achievements that involve collaborative activity among a diverse range of entities that may include Federal, State, local and tribal governments, private for profit and nonprofit institutions, other non-governmental entities, and individuals.*

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 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 layout and printing of the non-federal participants' Congressional funding request flyer. These are extremely important investments in accomplish our annual briefing trip's objectives.

We should set the dates for the 2008 briefing trip in November, so that we can then proceed to call and reserve the use of Dining Room A or C adjacent to the Montpelier Room on the Sixth Floor of the Madison Building of the Library of Congress. This is a first-rate, classy facility that is perfect for our Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon. It turns out that the Congressional Research Service (CRS) uses the facility very often for training provided for Congressional aides and personnel, so most everyone is very familiar with how to get to the room. It is very close to the House office buildings and is convenient to the Senate office buildings; accessible several ways for them to get to it, and the food and its price are excellent.

#### **Appended Materials:**

Following this page is a synopsis of our meetings in table form listing who we met (or had appointments to meet with) during the briefing trip. The "Comments" column highlights pertinent information from most of the meetings. Following the synopsis are attachments. As noted above, each of the four Governors wrote recovery programs' funding support letters to the House and Senate Energy and Water Development and Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees (four letters). One of each of the letters sent by the four Governors is attached. A copy of one of the four Navajo Nation letters is attached. Copies of the "Our Success Story" handout, the Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement Project handout and the Nonnative Fish Management handout that were used during the briefing meetings are also attached. Further, information about the National Fish Habitat Action Plan that was obtained from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and discussed at several meetings is also attached. 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.

## 2007 Briefings Meetings Itinerary – As Conducted

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting With</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Office Location</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Comments &amp; Synopsis of Briefing Discussions</b>
<b>Wednesday March 21</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Stan Sloss	<b>Rep. Mark Udall</b>	<b>CH-100</b>	225-2161	Short meeting with Stan – he advised that Rep. Udall continues to support our Programs because they work and that Rep. Udall will sign the joint delegation letters.
	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	Steve Plevniak William T. "Tate" Rosenbusch Michael Spira (LD)	<b>Rep. Diana DeGette Rep. John Salazar Rep. Ed Perlmutter</b>	<b>Met in Longworth Building Cafeteria</b>	225-4431 225-4761 225-2645	We asked Steve Plevniak of Rep. DeGette's staff to circulate the two joint delegation letters on the House side. Steve was pretty sure that she would consent but said he would have to check (we heard back she agreed). Spira asked questions about where our Programs are at with accomplishing our objectives.
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Joe Wollersheim Mac Zimmerman (LD) Melissa Carlson (LD)	<b>Rep. Marilyn Musgrave Rep. Tom Tancredo Rep. Doug Lamborn</b>	<b>Met in Longworth Building Cafeteria</b>	225-4676 225-7882 225-4422	Good meeting. Mac Zimmerman expressed on the spot that Rep. Tancredo will sign the joint delegation funding support letters. Carlson asked good questions and committed to seeking the support of Rep. Lamborn (he has agreed to sign the letters)
	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Tom Weimer Mark Davis Cyndi Rymer June Hayes	A/S Policy, M & B, Office of the Secretary (Asst. to A/S) DOI Budget Office – FWS Budget Officer DOI Budget Office – USBR Budget Officer	<b>Room 5512 Main Interior Building</b>	208-3186 208-1927	Mr. Weimer expressed the continuing support of the Administration for our recovery programs. Pam Haze (Director of the DOI Budget Office) was unable to attend but key DOI Budget Officer staff was involved in the briefing. We were pleased that Mr. Weimer had Mark Davis, his Assistant attend. Mr. Weimer clearly understood our FY2009 funding needs. We left the meeting encouraged.
	<b>1:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Mike Hickey</b> Tommy Williams (Adam Zerrenner attended in place of Williams)	Budget Examiners, Natural Resources Division and Energy, Science and Water Divisions <b>Office of Management and Budget</b>	<b>Room 9116 New Executive Office Building 725 17th Street, N.W.</b>	395-4806	Hickey had a conflict arise and sent Adam Zerrenner of the Natural Resources Division to attend in his place. Tommy Williams asked good questions about our efforts and characterized as "miscommunication" the events that led to the USBR budget request for the Price-Stubb fish passage being zeroed out of the FY2008 ESRIP budget line-item. He asked about the ability of the Recovery Programs to seek an extension of time to complete the capital construction program. We explained to him the contractual obligation to pay the Colorado River District.
	<b>2:45 p.m.</b>	<del>Scott Dalzell</del>  Calli Daly	<b>Senate Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee</b>	<b>SH-123</b>	228-0774 224-1010 (direct)	Dalzell did not make it to the meeting but Calli took a briefing packet for him. Calli used to live in Rangely, CO and has knowledge of the riverine environment. Even though this was the first time we had met with her she expressed considerable enthusiasm for our efforts.
	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>	Steve Black	<b>Sen. Ken Salazar</b>	<b>SH-702</b>	224-5852	Steve Black volunteered to initiate circulation of the joint delegation funding support letters this year before we had a chance to ask him. He had very good things to say about our Programs' efforts and stated the need to get similar efforts underway in the Platte River Basin. We invited Sen. Salazar to the Elkhead Reservoir dedication in July – Steve thought the Sen. will accept the invitation if possible.
	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Mike Connor Josh Johnson Nate Gentry <del>Zane Vaughn</del>	<b>Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee</b>	<b>SD-304</b>	224-4971 224-4971 224-6621	The meeting went quite well. Mike stated that Sen. Bingaman will sign the joint delegation funding support letters. Gentry indicated that while Sen. Domenici does not sign joint delegation funding support letters on account of being on the Approps. Comm., we can be sure our efforts have the Sen.'s support. Vaughn (of Sen. Domenici's office staff) did not make it to the meeting.

	<b>5:15 p.m.</b>	Tyler Owens JJ Brown	<b>Sen. Robert Bennett</b> <b>Sen. Orrin Hatch</b>	<b>SD-431</b>	224-5444 224-5251	Tyler indicated that Senator Bennett will sign the joint delegation letters. J.J. asked us some tough questions, particularly about stocked bonytail survival, which we answered forthrightly.
<b>Thursday March 22</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Justin Harding Derrick Ramos Rachel Dresen	<b>Rep. Ron Bishop</b> <b>Rep. Jim Matheson</b> <b>Rep. Chris Cannon</b>	Longworth Building Cafeteria – north end	225-0453 225-3011 225-7751	Rachel Dresen was unable to attend but Darin Bird sat down with her and briefed her later that morning. Justin Harding indicated on the spot that he saw no reason why Rep. Bishop would not sign the joint delegation funding support letters again this year.
	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	Rick Axthelm (LD)	<b>Rep. Barbara Cubin</b>	<b>LH-1114</b>	225-2311	We had an excellent meeting with Rick. He indicated that Rep. Cubin would sign the joint delegation letters again this year. We thanked him profusely for all of his assistance last year in achieving enactment of P.L. 109-183. Rick said Rep. Cubin routinely refers to our recovery programs as good examples of what can be accomplished through common-sense collaborative partnerships.
	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Robert Cushing	<b>Rep. Heather Wilson</b>	<b>CH-442</b>	225-6316	Meeting went fine. We left feeling that Rep. Wilson will sign the letters.
	<b>1:45 p.m.</b>	Lori Sonken (SD) <del>Dave Jansen &amp; Jean Flemma (Leg. Staff)</del>	<b>House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans</b>	Ford HOB 187	226-0200	Sonken stated that our Program is exemplary because it works, we do an excellent job of informing the Congress of our efforts and getting the funding into the Administration's budget – we should continue doing what we are doing because it works. Jansen and Flemma did not attend but Sonken took briefing packets for them.
	<b>2:45 pm.</b>	Ian Lyle	<b>Senator Wayne Allard</b>	<b>SD-521</b>	224-5941 4-6036 (d)	The meeting went great. While Senator Allard is on the Approps. Committee and does not sign joint delegation funding support letters, Ian stated the Sen.'s wholehearted support for our Programs' efforts. Ian indicated Sen. Allard would likely be willing to sign onto a joint delegation letter to the Secretary of the Interior expressing the need for sufficient FY2009 USBR funding to meet our Programs' commitments. We invited Sen. Allard to the Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement dedication to be held in July.
	<b>3:15 p.m.</b>	Frank Fannon (Minority Legislative Staff for ESA Programs)	<b>Senate Environment &amp; Public Works Subcommittee on Private Sector and Consumer Solutions to Global Warming and Wildlife Protection</b>	<b>SH-415</b>	224-6176 4-0516 (d)	Our group had a good discussion with Frank about the make-up and operation of the SENR Committee at this time. Frank is very interested in an on-the-ground tour of Upper Colorado Recovery Program facilities – and was interested in participating in electro-fishing during a nonnative fish management trip (subsequent follow-ups have occurred). He expressed support for the Program's efforts and partnership approaches.
	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Steve Lanich (SD) David Zacher Amelia Jenkins Kiel Weaver, Minority Staff	<b>House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power</b>	<b>LH-1522</b>	225-8331	A small group consisting of Pitts, Iseman, Irving and Shields participated in this briefing. Lanich did not have a room to meet with us in and was concerned that his office would be too small for the whole group. Lanich asked probing questions about the programs' stocking and non-native activities and specifically called upon Irving as being the professional on-the-ground biologist best qualified to answer the questions. Irving did a fine job in responding to Lanich's questions. Some of the discussion was fairly wide-ranging about other, non Program-related, in-basin activities. Steve asked questions about the Yampa Diversion Project (proposed by NCWCD) and whether it could be done without undoing all of the progress towards recovery. He had not yet heard about the Aaron Million project proposal.

	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	Johanna Polsenberg	<b>Rep. Tom Udall</b>	<b>LH-1410</b>	225-6190	Good, focused meeting. Polsenberg asked questions about Programs' funding, participation by non-governmental organizations, was pleased to hear that the San Juan Program will soon have a TNC representative (Patrick McCarthy) at the table participating in the now-vacant enviro. organizations' slot. Rep. Udall is on the Approps. Committee so he will not be signing the joint delegation letters but Johanna complimented our efforts and stated we could count on her boss's support in Approps. Committee deliberations.
<b>Friday March 23</b>	<b>9:15 a.m. (Confirmed)</b>	Roger Cockerell Subcomm. Staff	<b>Senate Energy and Water Development Approps. Subcommittee</b>	<b>SD-186</b>	224-8119 224-6621	The meeting went well. Cockerell wanted to make sure that there was enough funding in the FY2008 USBR budget to meet our Programs' needs. He was very complimentary about the progress our Programs are making and the reputations that they enjoy.
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Mike Hill Chris Tomassi	<b>Sen. Craig Thomas Sen. Mike Enzi</b>	<b>SD-307 SR-379A</b>	224-6441 4-0805 (d) 224-3424	Shields pressed both of these staff members for Senator Thomas and Enzi to again seek their boss's signatures on the letters. We do not anticipate that they will sign – however, we continue to enjoy a good relationship with both of these staff members. Both came to our Congressional Staff Appreciation luncheon.
	<b>11:45 - 1:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon</b>	<b>House and Senate Delegation and Committee staffers</b>	Dining Room C adj. to Montpellier Room, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor of the LOC Madison Building, 101 Independence Avenue, SE	202-707- 8301 Nancy Jones, Manager of Food Service, SODEXHO Services	A big thank-you is extended to the Colorado Water Congress for hosting this luncheon buffet. Dan Birch did a fine job with his PowerPoint presentation (copy of same available upon request) and copies of the presentation were handed out. A total of 18 people attended. Beyond our briefing group, those who attended were: Justin Harding (Rep. Bishop); Matt Schriener (Intern for Rep. Cubin); Johanna Polsenberg (Rep. T. Udall); Chris Tomassi (Sen. Enzi); Mike Hill (Sen. Thomas); Tyler Owens (Sen. Bennett). We should make a point to <b>reserve this room</b> for next year as soon as we set the trip dates, preferably in November. It is an awesome venue for what we want to accomplish.
	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>	Taunja Berquam, USBR/COE Head Analyst <del>Kevin Cook, Minority Staff Member</del>	<b>House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee</b>	<b>RH-2362</b>	225-3421	Ms. Berquam was well prepared for the meeting and asked relevant questions about what the 2008 USBR funding will be used for, what we had heard from DOI and OMB about the prospects for 2009 funding, etc. We discussed the P.L. 106-292 requirement for a Secretary of Interior report to the Congress by the end of 2008. In response to her questions about the authorization, Shields offered and did e-mail her the legislative authorizations / legislative history associated with our Recovery Programs. Ms. Berquam complimented our group for doing a very good job of putting our briefing materials together, working to get the needed funding in the Administration's budget, seeking and obtaining the support of our Congressional delegations; getting outside constituents to communicate to the Subcommittee – basically, we are doing what we can and should be doing.
	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	Tim Charters	<b>Rep. Steve Pearce</b>	<b>LH-1607</b>	225-2365	Short meeting in the hallway. Charters asked for copies of the joint delegation letters to be sent to him via e-mail by Steve Plevniak. Tim stated he did not anticipate any reasons why Rep. Pearce would not sign the joint delegation letters again this year.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Greg Knadle, Staff	<b>House Interior,</b>	<b>RH-B-308</b>	225-3081	We had a good meeting with Mr. Knadle. He was very

<b>March 26</b>	(confirmed)	Member  Debbie Weatherly, Minority Staff Member	<b>Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations. Subcommittee</b>	LH 1016	225-3481	complimentary to our Programs' successes and our efforts in keeping the Subcommittee informed about our efforts. Debbie Weatherly did not attend – Shields dropped a briefing packet off at her office on Tuesday, 3/27. Knadle indicated that it is important to arrange and hold these annual briefing meetings.
	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<del>Jeff Rosato</del> (Rachel Winnik attended in place of Rosato)	<b>Senate Environment &amp; Public Works Subcommittee</b> on Private Sector and Consumer Solutions to Global Warming and Wildlife Protection	<b>SD-456</b>	224-8832	Mr. Rosato had another commitment come up so he sent a young Majority Research Assistant to meet with us. We spent a considerable amount of the meeting time available explaining the tenets of the Programs, why the Programs are necessary and what we are accomplishing with them.
	<b>11:40 a.m. Union Station</b>	Christy Plumer	<b>The Nature Conservancy</b> Arlington, VA	Meet at America Restaurant in Union Station	703-841-7426	We had a good meeting with Christy and she will see what she can do about getting letters supporting USFWS and USBR funding for the recovery programs submitted by TNC. Christy provided a good description of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and other partnership efforts that the USFWS is collaborating with other organizations, including TNC, to get established. The meeting was certainly most worthwhile and the opportunity to discuss the status of the Recovery Programs and hear about these other programs was appreciated by Christy as well as by us.
	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Dr. Mamie Parker  Hannibal Bolton  John Castellano  Bryan Arroyo	Asst. Director, Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, <b>USFWS</b> Division Chief, Division of Fish and Wildlife Mgmt. and Habitat Restoration, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Branch of Fish and Wildlife Mgmt. Assistance	<b>Room 3239</b> Main Interior Building, 18 <sup>th</sup> and C Streets, NW	208-6394  703-358-1718  703-358-2461	This was the first opportunity that we had to meet with Mamie and brief her on these recovery programs. She is a very upbeat and encouraging person. She directed us to include information about the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in our briefing information next year and to help “push” it for the USFWS. Bolton and Castellano both sit on the Selection Committee for the National Fish and Wildlife Service's Bring Back the Natives Program and briefing them about the Programs – and putting them in the “big picture” context is the most useful thing we could do relative to bolstering the likelihood that the Western Resources Advocates grant funding application to NFWF will be funded. They provided their perspectives about what it is that NFWF is trying to do with its realignment of programs, etc. We committed to send to them the “Cross-links document” that had been developed to describe how our management actions directly line up with the Recovery Goals – as we believe this would provide additional documentation of our “on the ground” accomplishments for the endangered fish. Arroyo, who serves as the Deputy Assistant Director for Endangered Species Program and came out of the Albuquerque USFWS office was very complimentary about how these Programs are working.
	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	Willie Taylor Mary Josie Blanchard Vijai Rai Shawn Alam Loretta Sutton	Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, DOI Deputy Director	<b>Room 2278</b> Main Interior Building, 18 <sup>th</sup> and C Streets, NW	208-3891	Taylor recommended to our group that we apply for the Department of the Interior's Cooperative Conservation Award. He stated that the call for nominations would occur again in September. He is familiar with our Program through past meetings and stated that what we are doing is exactly the type of efforts that the DOI award was established to recognize.
	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>	Mark Limbaugh Robert Johnson Ryan Serote	A/S Water and Science Comm. of Reclamation Chief of Congressional and	<b>Room 7658</b> Main Interior Building, 18 <sup>th</sup>	513-0501	Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Mark Limbaugh and Commissioner of Reclamation Bob Johnson were very complimentary of our Programs and stated that they are high

		Jonne Hower Bob Quint Jason Alexander	Legislative Affairs UCR Liaison USBR Budget Officer	and C Streets, NW		priorities within the Department and within the Bureau of Reclamation. They said the right things to encourage us that they will make an honest attempt to get the 2009 funding into the President's budget. We pressed our case with them reasonably hard, bringing up our outstanding contractual obligation to pay the River District for the Elkhead Reservoir enlargement and that the Programs are providing ESA compliance for Reclamation facilities. I had several follow-on conversations with Limbaugh and Johnson during the NWRA conference on March 27 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> – and Bob Johnson made a special point of telling me that Reclamation knows how important the Recovery Programs are and that they will get the funding needed to finish the capital construction projects. I was quite encouraged by these statements he made.
	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	H. Dale Hall	<b>USFWS Director</b>	<b>Room 3239</b> Main Interior Building	208-4545 Roslyn Sellars	Commissioner of Reclamation Bob Johnson participated in the first 20 minutes of this meeting. This was a good meeting that lasted almost 45 minutes. Director Hall asked a number of questions and the two Program Directors were able to answer his questions in detail. Mr. Hall was very complimentary of what we have and are continuing to accomplish. After the meeting, I had the opportunity to briefly speak with Deputy Director Randall Luthi, congratulate him on taking his Deputy Director post and provide him with a copy of the briefing packet.
<b>Tuesday March 27</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Gary Taylor Shanna Brown	<b>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</b> Legislative Director <b>Western Governors Association</b> <b>National Governors Association</b>	Suite 725 Hall of States 444 North Capitol St, NW Suite 388	624-7890  624-5402  624-5372	This was a good meeting for us, as Gary and I had communicated previously and they had included language in the Federal Appropriations Recommendations document supporting our Recovery Programs. We took the opportunity to ask detailed questions about the National Fish Habitat Action Plan that we had been hearing about and Mr. Taylor provided some written information about this for us. Shanna Brown of the Western Governors Association arrived late but again expressed strong support for our collaborative conservation partnership programs. Malcolm Woolff, Director of the National Governors Association's Natural Resources Committee had been invited via telephone message and e-mail but was a "no-show." However the Program Highlights document was e-mailed to him.
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	David Gagner, Director, Gov. Relations and Ext. Affairs Tom Kelsch, Director, Cons. Programs	<b>National Fish and Wildlife Foundation</b>  Jeff Trandahl, Executive Director Mary Keelin, Executive Assistant	<b>1120 Connecticut Ave., NW., Suite 900</b>  <b>Make sure itinerary next year says 1120</b>	857-0166	Tom Pitts and John Shields met with Gagner and Kelsch for over an hour and 20 minutes. They were able to describe in detail what the NFWF is attempting to do with its reorganization of the Western Region, the refocusing of their General Matching Grants Program funding, direction coming from the NFWF Board, etc. As a result of this meeting, our assessment is that the WRA proposal will be funded when the decision is announced in May, 2007; but that it is important for WRA to begin seeking other sources of funding as the job of convincing the NFWF BBTN selection committee is going to get more and more cumbersome.

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ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
INVESTIGATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, TRADE  
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4329

April 27, 2007

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Visclosky:

We are requesting your support for an appropriation in the President's recommended budget for FY 2008 of \$3,650,000 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: \$2,935,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$315,000 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% 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 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 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 requested FY 2008 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 thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2008 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

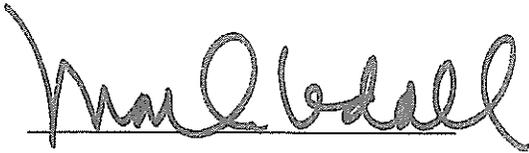
Sincerely,



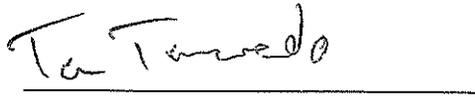
Diana DeGette  
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Barbara Cubin  
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Mark Udall  
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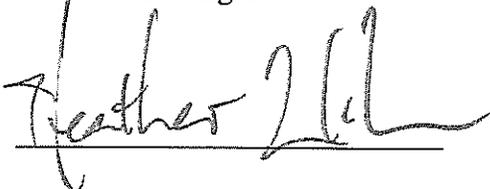
Tom Tancredo  
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John Salazar  
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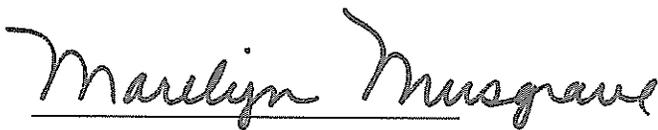
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ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
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AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515-4329

April 27, 2007

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks:

We are requesting your support for appropriations in fiscal year 2008 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 2008 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; \$697,000 within the \$68,067,000 item entitled "Recovery Program") to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for fiscal year 2008 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 FWS in fiscal years 2004, 2005 and 2006; and the funding that is available in 2007.
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; \$475,000 within the \$45,147,000 item entitled "National Fish Hatchery Operations") to support the ongoing operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah during fiscal year 2008.
3. Allocation of \$200,000 in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2008 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 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.

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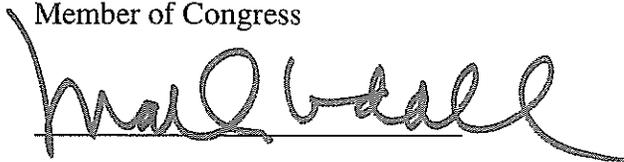
Sincerely,



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



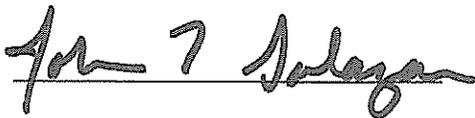
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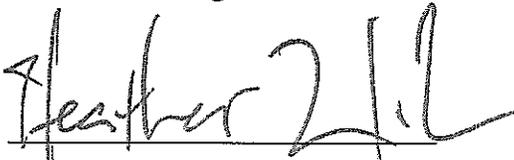
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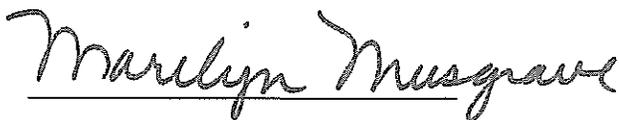
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Heather Wilson  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Musgrave  
Member of Congress

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 3, 2007

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 2008 of \$3,650,000 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: \$2,935,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$315,000 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.

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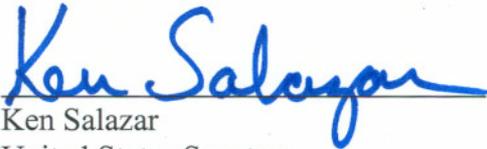
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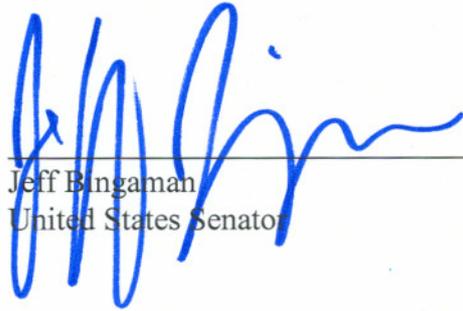
The Honorable Byron Dorgan, Chairman  
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Ranking Member  
May 3, 2007  
Page 2

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Sincerely,



Ken Salazar  
United States Senator



Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senator



Orrin Hatch  
United States Senator



Robert Bennett  
United States Senator

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 3, 2007

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairman  
The Honorable Larry Craig, 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 Craig:

We are requesting your support for appropriations in fiscal year 2008 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 2008 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.

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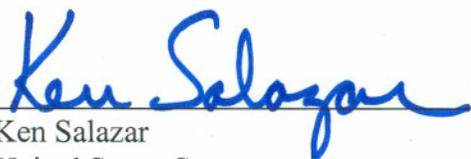
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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairman  
The Honorable Larry Craig, Ranking Member  
May 3, 2007  
Page 2

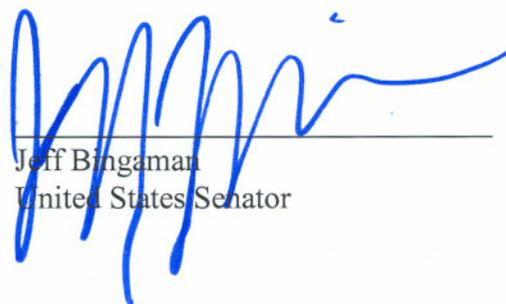
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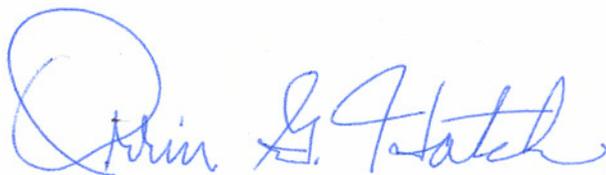
Sincerely,



Ken Salazar  
United States Senator



Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senator



Orrin Hatch  
United States Senator



Robert Bennett  
United States Senator

# STATE OF COLORADO

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**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

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Denver, Colorado 80203

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**Bill Ritter, Jr.**  
Governor

March 14, 2007

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-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Visclosky and Representative Hobson:

The State of Colorado is an active partner in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, both of which have been very successful in working toward recovery of four endangered fish species in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

I am writing to ask for your support this year for funding in the President's Budget which seeks to appropriate \$3,650,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation within the budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Upper Colorado Region. Specifically, I ask for your support for \$2,935,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$315,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program and \$400,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development activities to avoid jeopardy to the endangered fish.

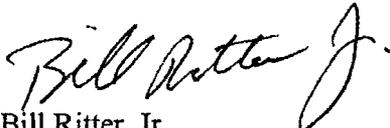
These requested appropriations for 2008 allow the two Programs to do the work of species recovery by providing access to expanded habitat through construction of fish passage structures and construction of fish screens to avoid entrainment of the endangered fish in water diversion projects. It will allow the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program to construct additional fish passage structures on the Colorado and the Green Rivers, thus opening up additional miles of habitat for the fish. The requested funding for the San Juan Program will allow continued construction of an in-canal fish screen on a diversion dam on the San Juan River.

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky  
The Honorable David L. Hobson  
Page 2

These Programs serve as a means for water users to comply with the Endangered Species Act on these basins without a host of individual consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The recovery programs provide Endangered Species Act compliance for more than 1,600 water projects depleting more than 3 million acre-feet of water per year, while adhering to state water law and interstate compacts.

On behalf of the citizens of Colorado, I ask for your support for these programs in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Ritter, Jr." in a cursive style.

Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

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



# State of New Mexico

## Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson  
Governor

March 5, 2007

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks, Chairman  
The Honorable Todd Tiahr, 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 Ranking Member Tiahr:

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

1. Allocation of \$200,000 in "recovery" funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; \$200,000 within the \$68,067,000 item entitled "General Program Activities") for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2008 to meet U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Region 2 expenses for managing and implementing the San Juan Program's diverse recovery activities.

2. Appropriation of \$697,000 in "recovery" funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; \$697,000 within the \$68,067,000 item entitled "Recovery Program") to the FWS for fiscal year 2008 to allow FWS Region 6 to continue its necessary participation in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. This is the same level of funding appropriated to the FWS in fiscal years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

3. Appropriation of \$475,000 in operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries Activity; National Fish Hatchery System Operations

Subactivity; \$475,000 within the \$45,147,000 item entitled "National Fish Hatchery Operations"), Hatchery Operations Project) to support the ongoing operation of the FWS Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah during fiscal year 2008.

These two programs rely upon substantial state and other non-federal cost-sharing that reflects strong commitment to these effective partnership efforts. They have the support of the Department of the Interior, who has pointed to them as national models of effective conservation partnerships. The requested FWS appropriations will be used in conjunction with other funding to continue vitally important recovery program activities.

The past 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 support and again seek your assistance to ensure adequate FWS funding for the upcoming federal fiscal year.

Sincerely,



Bill Richardson  
Governor

Cc: Representative Tom Udall  
Representative Heather Wilson  
Representative Steve Pearce  
Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr.  
Governor Bill Ritter  
Governor Dave Freudenthal

BR/jw



# STATE OF UTAH

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

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
GOVERNOR

GARY R. HERBERT  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 5, 2007

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Chair  
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:

As Governor of Utah, I am writing to request 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. These two successful ongoing cooperative partnership programs involve the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests. Utah and the other participating states request your support for an appropriation in the President's recommended budget for FY 2007 of \$4,594,000 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: \$3,104,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$1,090,000 for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program and \$400,000 for activities to avoid jeopardy.

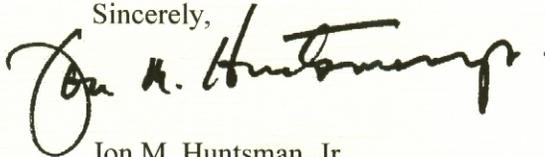
Since 1988, these programs have facilitated Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation (without litigation) for over 1,000 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting approximately 2.9 million acre-feet of water per year.

The requested FY 2007 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 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.

These activities are funded pursuant to Public Law 106-392, as amended, which authorized the federal government to provide 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 fish screens in canal systems and controlling non-native fish populations are key components of the programs' ongoing capital construction projects. Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding exceeding 50 percent for capital construction activities 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 2007 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

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

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
The Honorable Robert Bennett  
Governors Freudenthal, Ritter and Richardson

## Office of the Governor

March 2, 2007

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairman  
The Honorable Larry Craig, 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 Ranking Member Craig:

I am writing to request your support and assistance in insuring fiscal year 2008 funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. These ongoing cooperative partnership programs involve the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests. The programs have as their dual objectives recovery of the four Colorado River endangered fish species while water use continues and water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, state law, and interstate compacts. Wyoming respectfully requests support and action by the Subcommittee that will provide the following:

1. Appropriation of \$697,000 in "recovery" funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; \$697,000 within the \$68,067,000 item entitled "Recovery Program") to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for fiscal year 2008 to allow FWS to continue its absolutely essential participation in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. This is the same level of funding appropriated to the FWS in fiscal years 2004, 2005 and 2006; and the funding that is available in 2007.

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; \$475,000 within the \$45,147,000 item entitled "National Fish Hatchery Operations") to support the ongoing operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah during fiscal year 2008.

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairman  
The Honorable Larry Craig, Ranking Member  
March 2, 2007  
Page 2

3. Allocation of \$200,000 in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2008 to meet FWS's Region 2 expenses in managing the San Juan Program's diverse recovery actions.

As the Subcommittee members know, these two programs rely upon substantial state and other non-federal cost-sharing (reflecting strong commitment to these effective partnership efforts) and have the support of the Department of the Interior; who has pointed to them as national models of effective conservation partnerships. The requested FWS appropriations will be used in concert with other funding to continue vitally important recovery program activities. We in Wyoming thank the Subcommittee for your past assistance. We again seek your assistance to ensure adequate FWS funding for the upcoming federal fiscal year. Thank you.

Best regards,



Dave Freudenthal  
Governor

c: Senator Craig Thomas  
Senator Mike Enzi  
Governor Jon Huntsman  
Governor Bill Ritter  
Governor Bill Richardson



# THE NAVAJO NATION

P.O. Box 9000 • WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515 • (928) 871-6000

JOE SHIRLEY, JR.  
PRESIDENT

BEN SHELLEY  
VICE PRESIDENT

March 14, 2007

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

Re: Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program  
San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

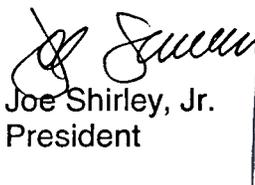
Dear Chairman Dorgan and Ranking Member Domenici:

I am requesting your support for an appropriation in the President's recommended budget for FY 2008 of \$3,650,000 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: \$2,935,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$315,000 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 to the endangered species.

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.

I appreciate the Subcommittee's past support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2008 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,  
THE NAVAJO NATION

  
Joe Shirley, Jr.  
President

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

## OUR SUCCESS STORY

*The Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Basin recovery programs demonstrate that endangered species conservation and water development and management can be compatible.* These grass-root programs are national models of cost-effective, collaborative efforts to recover endangered fish while meeting human needs. Their success is a direct result of the active commitment and participation of our program partners who represent state and federal agencies, American Indian Tribes, environmental groups, water and power interests. Congress, the participating states, power customers, and water users financially support the programs' on-the-ground activities directly benefiting the endangered fish and their habitat. Congress and the participating states' legislatures have authorized funding for capital construction projects and operation and maintenance.

**Principles of Success:** The programs' success is due to some basic principles:

- Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance is achieved.
- State water law, water rights and interstate water compacts are respected.
- Federal water and hydropower projects continue to operate per authorized purposes.
- States retain management of sportfish species.
- Costs are equitably distributed, based on mutual agreement of the parties.
- Decisions are made by consensus; no party dominates decision making.
- The programs' goal is to achieve full recovery (delisting) of the endangered fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin, not just to avoid jeopardy (offset impacts of water project depletion) under the ESA.
- Responsibilities to offset water project depletion impacts do not fall on individual water projects or their proponents. **The recovery programs serve as a vehicle for ESA compliance (reasonable and prudent alternatives) for water development and management activities by all parties, including the federal government.**

**Recovery Goals Guide Management Actions and Measure Success:** The recovery programs rely on recovery goals to develop and implement management actions as they work to recover the endangered humpback chub, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker. Approved by the U.S. and Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the goals are based on the best available science and provide reasonable assurances that recovery can be achieved and the species protected into the future. The goals identify site-specific management actions to minimize or remove threats and specify the numbers of fish that comprise self-sustaining populations.



*Humpback Chub*



*Bonytail*



*Razorback Sucker*



*Colorado Pikeminnow*

*Illustrations © Joseph R. Tomelleri*

**Long-Standing Records of Demonstrated Success:** The recovery programs continue to demonstrate tangible, on-the-ground success in providing river flows, restoring habitat, constructing and operating fish ladders and screens, producing and stocking endangered fish, and monitoring results. For example:

- Working with the recovery programs, the Bureau of Reclamation approved administrative actions in 2006 to change operations at Flaming Gorge and Navajo dams to help meet flow recommendations for the endangered fishes.
- Fish passages and screens are in place at major diversion dams and canals on the Gunnison and Colorado rivers in western Colorado. Construction of a fish passage at the Price-Stubb Diversion Dam on the Colorado River is slated to begin this spring and become operational in spring 2008. Once this last barrier to fish migration is removed, endangered fish will have access to an additional 50 miles of critical habitat that has been blocked for nearly 100 years.
- Fish access has been restored to an additional 36 miles of critical habitat on the San Juan River with the construction of fish passages at two major diversion dams and the removal of the Cudei Diversion Dam.
- Water users continue to voluntarily work with the recovery programs to coordinate reservoir releases, conserve water and make capital improvements to their facilities.
- The recovery programs provide ESA compliance for more than 1,600 water projects depleting more than 3 million acre-feet of water per year in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins. No lawsuits have been filed on ESA compliance for any of these projects.
- The Upper Colorado River Recovery Program reached an important milestone in 2006 with the completion of the Elkhead Dam and Reservoir Enlargement Project in northwest Colorado. The project provides 13,000 acre-feet of additional storage capacity to augment Yampa River flows and meet additional human water needs in the Yampa River Basin.
- Hatcheries raising endangered fish continue to meet production and stocking targets. Stocked razorback suckers are behaving as wild fish and larvae are surviving through the first year in the Green, Gunnison and San Juan rivers. Recaptures of stocked Colorado pikeminnows in the San Juan River indicate that stocked fish are surviving, with many fish approaching adulthood.
- Predation or competition by nonnative fish remains a serious threat to the endangered fishes. Both recovery programs are aggressively working with state wildlife agencies to reduce this threat through a variety of means, while continuing to provide sportfishing opportunities.
- Key floodplain and backwater habitats are being made accessible to all life stages of endangered fish by breaching or removing natural or man-made levees.

**Summary:** The recovery programs continue to benefit the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming through our partnership approach to conserve species, protect states' rights and meet federal responsibilities. These cooperative programs demonstrate that finding mutually-acceptable solutions among potentially opposing interests can, and does, work.

**Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish  
Recovery Program**  
303-969-7322, ext. 227  
<http://ColoradoRiverRecovery.fws.gov>

**San Juan River Basin Recovery  
Implementation Program**  
505-761-4745  
<http://southwest.fws.gov/sjrip>




# ELK HEAD

## RESERVOIR ENLARGEMENT

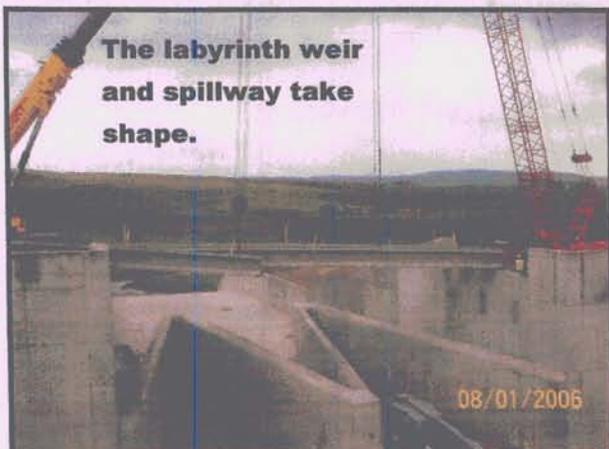
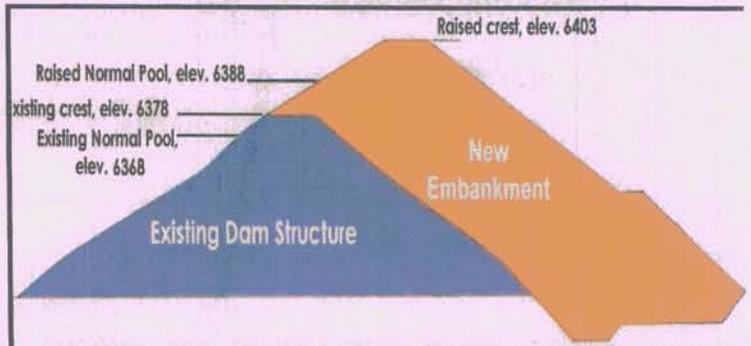
### New reservoir

- **Dam height:** Rises by 25 feet from 80 feet to 105 feet; Reservoir level to rise by 20 feet at fill.
- **Spillway capacity:** 28,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to meet safety standards for high runoff.
- **Active water storage increase:** Plus 11,750 acre-feet (AF) for a total of 25,450 AF. Original pool was 13,700 AF.
- **5,000 AF of the increase is allocated for endangered fishes in the Yampa River, funded by the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program.**
- **6,750 AF funded by the Colorado River Water Conservation District for future water needs in the Yampa River Basin; 2,000 AF of this pool is to be leased to the Recovery Program for 20 years as more water for fish flows.**
- **The endangered fishes:** Colorado pikeminnow, bonytail, razorback sucker, humpback chub. For more info: <http://coloradoriverrecovery.fws.gov/>

**Earth movers continue to build the height of the dam. It will reach 25 feet above the existing dam. At top left, the new embankment approached the old dam road height at the end of August 2006.**

### Original reservoir

- **Constructed in 1974 by the Colorado Division of Wildlife to hold 13,700 acre-feet (AF) of water. An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons and is enough to supply two average households for a year.**
- **8,310 AF allocated for cooling water for the Craig Coal Fired Power Plant.**
- **5,390 AF allocated as a recreation pool.**
- **Original dam height: 80 feet.**



**The labyrinth weir and spillway take shape.**

08/01/2006



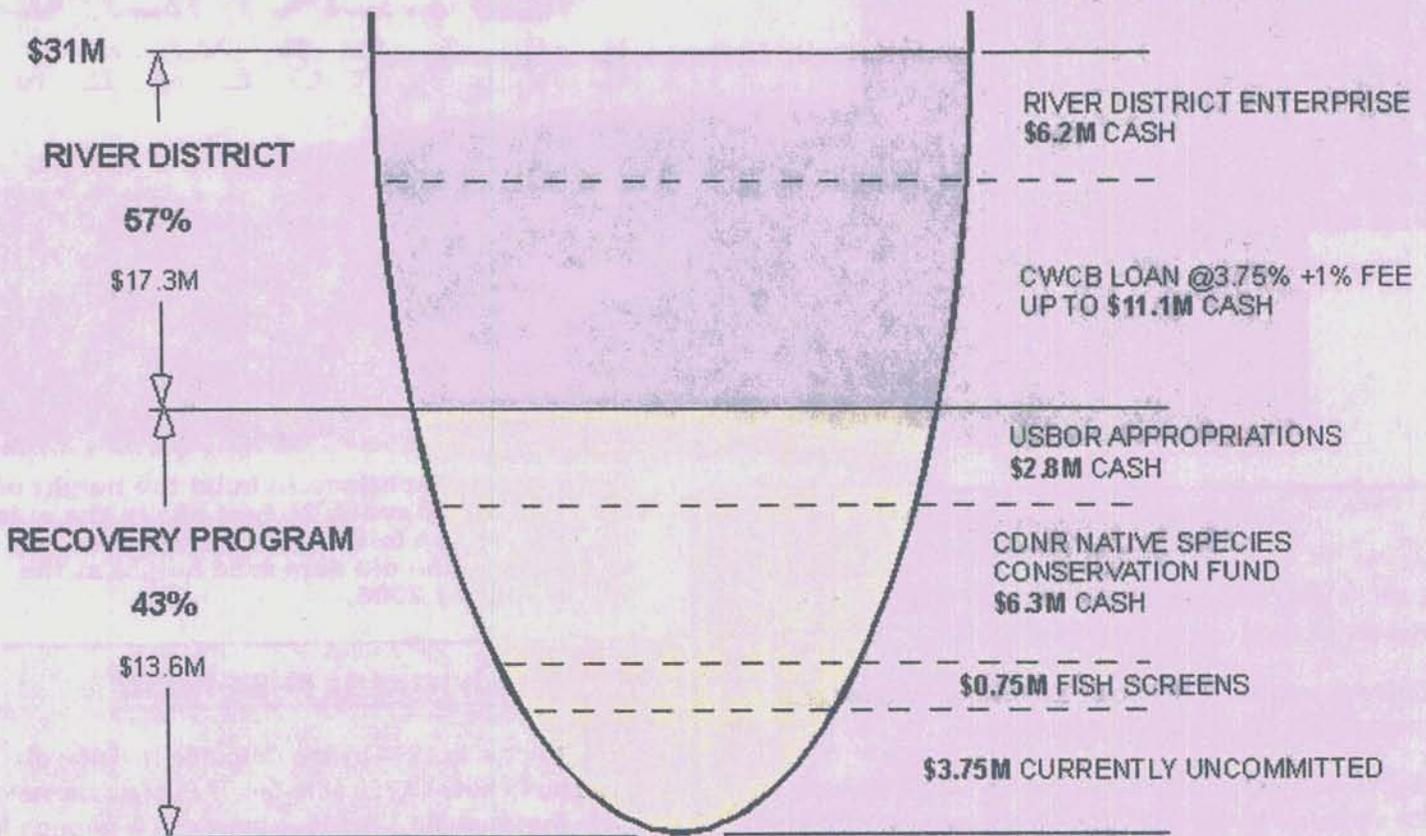
[www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org](http://www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org)

**For more information:** Project Manager **Ray Tenney**: (970) 945-8522, ext. 220; e-mail [rtenney@crwcd.org](mailto:rtenney@crwcd.org). **Jim Pokrandt**, CRWCD communications: (970) 945-8522, ext. 236; [jpokrandt@crwcd.org](mailto:jpokrandt@crwcd.org)

# ELKHEAD RESERVOIR ENLARGEMENT

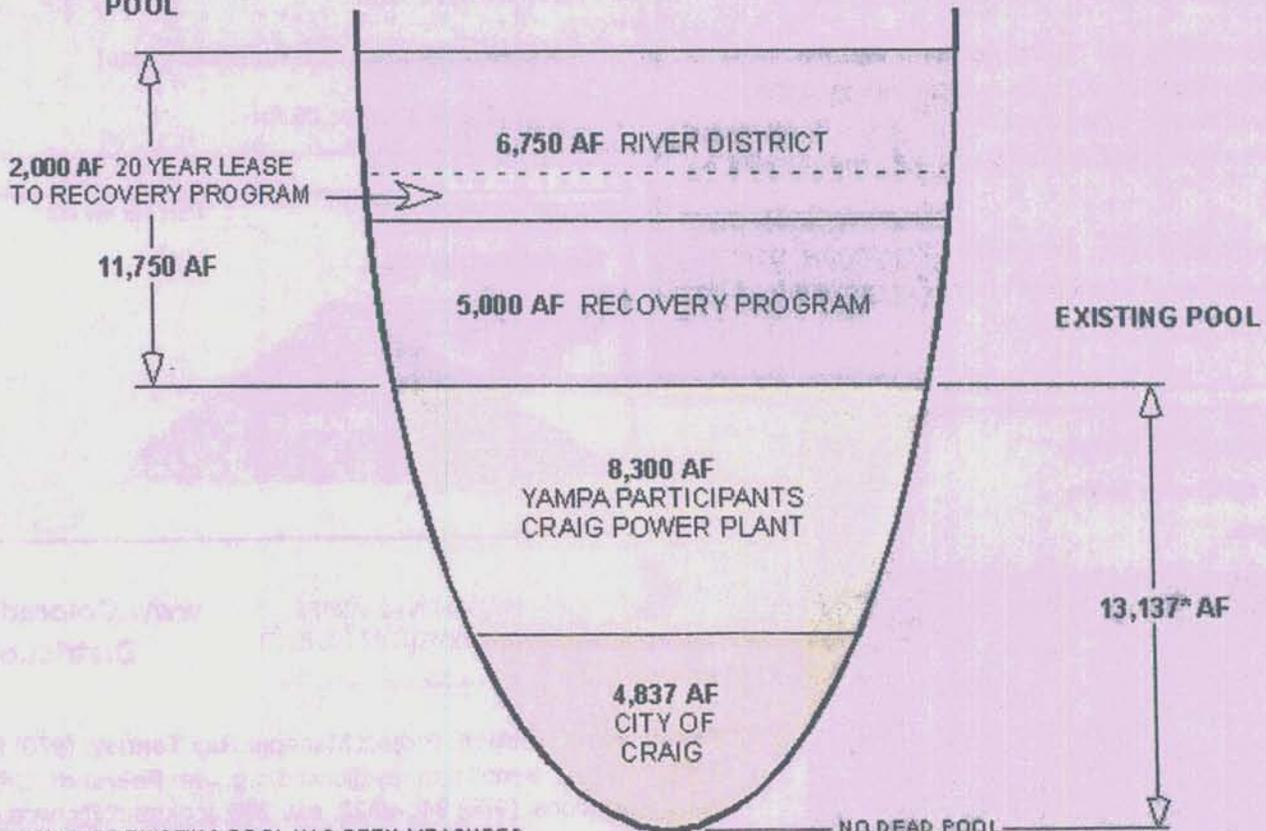
## PROJECT FUNDING

## PROJECT FINANCING



## ENLARGEMENT POOL

## WATER OWNERSHIP



\* TOTAL VOLUME OF EXISTING POOL HAS BEEN MEASURED AT DIFFERENT TIMES WITH DIFFERENT RESULTS

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

**Nonnative Fish Management**

**Issues:**

- Over 50 species of nonnative fish have been introduced into the Upper Colorado River Basin of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming during the last 100 years. These nonnative fishes have increased in abundance and now dominate the fish communities.
- By comparison, there are 14 native fish species in the Upper Colorado River Basin, and many of these have declined in abundance since the early 1900s.
- Nonnative fish compete for food and space in the river, and some species are known to prey upon endangered and other native fish.
- Recovery goals for the endangered fishes identify nonnative fish as a primary threat to the continued existence or reestablishment of self-sustaining endangered fish populations.
- Northern pike, smallmouth bass, and channel catfish are the nonnative fish species of greatest concern to the Upper Colorado River Recovery Program.
- The San Juan River Basin Recovery Program focuses management efforts on nonnative channel catfish and common carp.
- Both recovery programs are working to meet the challenge of managing nonnative fish populations to reduce their abundance in habitats occupied by endangered fish.
- The recovery programs recognize the dual responsibilities of State and Federal fish and wildlife agencies to conserve listed and other native species while providing for sportfishing opportunities.
- Concerted efforts to manage nonnative fish populations have been underway for about six years. During that relatively short period of time, progress has been made in many areas as detailed below.

**Managing Nonnative Fish Populations:**

The overall goal of nonnative fish management is to attain and maintain fish communities where populations of endangered and other native fish species can persist and thrive, and the recovery goals for the endangered fishes can be achieved. All actions involve research studies to identify the levels of management needed to achieve and sustain recovery. Actions include:

**Screening Reservoir Outlets and Berming Ponds:** These actions prevent nonnative fish from escaping from ponds and reservoirs and entering the river where they could pose a threat to endangered fishes. For example:

- A barrier net at Highline Lake in western Colorado prevents escapement of nonnative sportfish and allows the lake to be managed for sportfishing.
- Similarly, screens on outlets at the enlarged Elkhead Reservoir in northwest Colorado will prevent escapement of nonnative sportfish.

**Regulating Stocking and Changing Fishing Regulations:** The States regulate stocking of nonnative fishes to reduce their impact on endangered fishes. The States also changed bag and possession limits to increase harvest of the nonnative fish species of greatest concern.

**Identifying the Sources of Nonnative Fish:** Biologists are studying otoliths (fish ear bones) which reveal clues about where a fish lived during specific times of its life. This information will help determine the most cost-effective and efficient methods of preventing nonnative fish from gaining access to habitats occupied by the endangered fish.

**Actively Removing Nonnative Fish:** Intensive efforts are made each year to remove nonnative fish species of greatest concern. Wherever possible, removed fish are placed into ponds or reservoirs to provide sportfishing opportunities. Efforts show encouraging results:

- Removal efforts are underway in 565 miles of the Colorado, Green and Yampa rivers in Colorado and Utah and in 124 miles of the San Juan River.
- Since 2002, the abundance of nonnative northern pike in the Green River, Utah, has been reduced to a consistently low level.
- In the Green River, abundance of adult smallmouth bass declined 50 percent from 2004 to 2006.
- In sections of critical habitat in the Yampa River, Colorado, biologists reported a 60 to 68 percent within-year decrease in the abundance of northern pike in 2004 and 2005.
- The abundance of adult channel catfish in the San Juan River has been reduced. Today, the population is dominated by juvenile fish, thereby reducing the potential for channel catfish reproduction and predation on large, native fish.
- The nonnative common carp abundance in the San Juan River has been reduced to a level where, in 2006, collections of Colorado pikeminnows outnumbered common carp.

**Summary:**

- Management of nonnative fish populations is essential to achieve and maintain recovery of endangered fishes.
- Failure to effectively manage nonnative fish populations could nullify the positive effects of other recovery actions associated with habitat management and restoration and endangered fish stocking.
- Successful nonnative fish management requires the active commitment and participation of all recovery program partners.
- Although the recovery programs have made progress toward identifying and solving the nonnative fish problem, significant challenges remain.

**Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish  
Recovery Program**  
303-969-7322, ext. 226  
<http://ColoradoRiverRecovery.fws.gov>

**San Juan River Basin Recovery  
Implementation Program**  
505-761-4745  
<http://southwest.fws.gov/sjrip>



NATIONAL  
**FISH HABITAT**  
ACTION PLAN

The Voice of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Hall of the States  
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 725,  
Washington, DC 20001  
Tel: 202/624-7890 ♦ F: 202/624-7891

## Fact Sheet: National Fish Habitat Action Plan

*“More people working for more fish*

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan is a national investment strategy to make conservation dollars go farther. The Action Plan will leverage federal and privately raised funds to build regional partnerships aimed at fixing the nation’s biggest fisheries problems. This is the most comprehensive effort ever attempted to treat the causes of fish habitat decline, not just the symptoms.

### Why Now?

- Nearly half (40 percent) of our fish populations are in decline and half of our waters are impaired.
- Fish populations continue to decline.
- Current fragmented efforts are not reversing these trends.
- For the first time, more than 450 organizations are working together to conserve and protect aquatic habitat.

### Power of Partners

Locally and regionally focused, the National Fish Habitat Action Plan was built from the ground up by a nationwide network of grassroots partners.

### Putting Dollars Where They Matter Most

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan maximizes the return-on-investment by targeting much needed dollars to priority on-the-ground projects. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is taking the lead in raising philanthropic funds to support the Action Plan through their “More Fish” campaign. Funding is awarded based on habitat need, strength of local and regional partnerships, and the likelihood of success.

### Delivering Results

By 2010, the National Fish Habitat Action Plan will:

- Audit the condition of all fish habitats in the U.S.
- Prepare a comprehensive *Status of Fish Habitats in the United States* report.
- Identify 12 priority habitat areas and establish Fish Habitat Partnerships to target them.
- Fund regional partnerships.
- Combining the collective energy of state and federal agencies with local partners, is our best chance to achieve success.

For more information, visit [www.fishhabitat.org](http://www.fishhabitat.org).  
To donate, visit [www.morefish.org](http://www.morefish.org).



NATIONAL  
**FISH HABITAT**  
ACTION PLAN

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444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 725,  
Washington, DC 20001  
Tel: 202/624-7890 ♦ F: 202/624-7891

## Fact Sheet: National Fish Habitat Action Plan

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan is an unprecedented attempt to address an unseen crisis for fish nationwide: loss and degradation of their watery homes.

The plan was born in 2001 when a steering committee began to pursue the notion of developing a partnership effort for fish on the scale of what was done for waterfowl in the 1980s through the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The waterfowl plan has worked wonders during the past two decades to boost waterfowl populations by forming strong local and regional partnerships to protect key habitats.

The need for a nationally focused fisheries conservation effort was validated by fisheries experts attending a series of regional meetings held by the Council - they were nearly unanimous in their support for the plan. In 2004 the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which represents all state wildlife agencies, voted to lead the plan. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries are principal Federal partners.

In addition, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation ([www.morefish.org](http://www.morefish.org)) is mounting a "More Fish" campaign to raise funds to support the effort. A National Fish Habitat Action Plan ([www.fishhabitat.org](http://www.fishhabitat.org)) was approved by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for implementation on March 24, 2006 and was publicly launched on April 24, 2006. A number of partnerships, including the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, and the Western Trout Initiative have emerged as models of the kind of grassroots action envisioned in the action plan.

The plan has already been unbelievably successful in bringing together fisheries professionals and an unprecedented number of partners with a shared interest in protecting, restoring and enhancing our waterways and fisheries. The strength of this partnership – a unique blend of industry, government, tribal, academic, and conservation groups and individuals – is its diversity and its determination to focus national attention and resources on restoring fish habitats.

### **The National Fish Habitat Action Plan is:**

- Non-regulatory and voluntary; Locally and regionally based, and driven by grassroots partners;
- Focused and targeted toward fisheries protection, restoration and enhancement in key watersheds;
- Based on a consolidation of the best scientific expertise on fisheries and habitat management;
- Linked nationally, to facilitate comprehensive coordination and evaluation of progress; and
- Sustainable and accountable, recognizing the need for long-term investments and demonstrable results.

**The Plan will be implemented through the following four strategies:**

Together, these approaches will lead to actions that are strategically employed and results that can be measured against protection, restoration and enhancement goals.

- Support existing fish habitat partnerships and foster new efforts.
- Mobilize and focus national and local support for achieving fish habitat conservation goals.
- Measure and communicate the status and needs of aquatic habitats.
- Provide national leadership and coordination to conserve fish habitats.

# # #

**ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES**

The voice of fish and wildlife agencies

444 North Capitol Street, NW • Suite 725 • Washington, D.C. 20001

Phone: 202-624-7890 • Fax 202-624-7891 • E-mail: [info@fishwildlife.org](mailto:info@fishwildlife.org) • [www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org)