

UPDATE
January 1993

A. Population Status: No Change

B. Program Management

Goal: Ensure effective implementation and coordination of the Recovery Program

Status: oFY 93 Work Plan has been fully funded and is being implemented on schedule;

*Service funding for FY 94 is in jeopardy.

*funding for O&M and capital projects needed in FY 94+.

C. Habitat Management (Instream Flows)

Goal: To protect sufficient instream flows to support self-sustaining populations of the fishes

Status: o10,000 AF being provided from Ruedi Reservoir (long-term).
An 4-5 year agreement is being pursued for an additional 10,000 AF.

- o A long- term agreement is being negotiated to provide 2,000 - 3,000 acre feet of water from Steamboat Lake (Yampa River).
- o Flaming Gorge Reservoir being re-operated to benefit the fish pursuant to the final biological opinion which was issued in October 1992.
- o Aspinall Unit (Gunnison River) being re-operated to provide research flows.
- o The Colorado Water Conservation Board has applied to water court for a 581 cfs instream flow right in the 15-Mile Reach (July-September).
- o A proposal is being evaluated to acquire the Juniper-Cross Mountain water rights on the Yampa River for instream flows. Elements of the proposal include:
 - enlargement of Elkhead Reservoir.
 - rebuilding several Yampa River diversions.
 - reserving adequate water rights for future enlargement of Stagecoach Reservoir.
 - converting the Juniper/Cross Mountain decrees to instream flows for the endangered fish.

- o An independent senior scientist will complete a review of the Service's instream flow recommendations and methodologies by July 1993.

D. Habitat Development and Maintenance

Goal: To provide or enhance habitat for the rare fishes through habitat development or management measures such as:

- o fish passageways
- o backwater habitat development

Status: o Actively pursuing restoring fish passage to the Gunnison River and upper mainstem Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado. NEPA and preliminary design of the fish passageway at Redlands Dam (Gunnison River) has been initiated.

- o an inventory flooded bottomlands throughout the basin planned for FY 93/94; BuRec evaluating opportunities for acquisition, restoration and management in FY 94.
- o Evaluating the rehabilitation several diversion structures on the Yampa River to reduce annual maintenance and provide for fish and boat passage.

E. Stocking Native Fishes

Goal: A. Produce a sufficient supply of hatchery reared fish to support research and recovery activities.

B. Conserve the genetic diversity present in the wild.

Status: o Genetic surveys underway; analysis to be completed in FY 94.

- o Refuge/brood stock populations being established.
- o Colorado completing hatchery feasibility study.
- o The Service's hatchery/research facility at Ouray, Utah, being expanded.
- o Refuge ponds at Horsethief State Wildlife Area, Grand Junction, Colorado have been developed and are on line.

* Comprehensive plan being developed to identify hatchery facility needs.

F. Nonnative Fishes and Sportfishing

Goal: Minimize the impacts of nonnative fishes and incidental take associated with sport fishing on the endangered fishes.

Status: o draft policy on stocking of non native fishes is being developed in cooperation with the States

G. Information and Education

Goal: To promote public understanding, appreciation, and support for efforts to recover the endangered fish.

Status: o news release policy being finalized.
o lead for I&E program being transferred from Colorado Division of Wildlife to FWS.

H. Section 7 Consultation

Goal: To allow water development to proceed in the Upper Colorado River Basin in compliance with the ESA.

Status: * "No jeopardy" biological opinions have been issued on projects since the inception of the program in 1988, with a potential to deplete about ,000 AF of water.
* agreement on "sufficient progress" and historic projects has been drafted.
* The biological opinion on the operation of Flaming Gorge Dam has been finalized.

I. Other Items

*The Service is pursuing designation of critical habitat for all four of the endangered fishes.

oA separate San Juan River Recovery Program is being developed by the Service's Region 2.