

**March 8 through March 14, 2006 Trip Report
2006 Washington, D. C. Briefing Meetings
Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
and
San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program**



Prepared by John W. 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 2006 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 8th through March 14th, representatives of the non-federal participants in the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs¹ met with staff of the Congressional delegations for the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, and with Congressional committee staff for the authorizing and appropriations committees having jurisdiction over the Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service and their budgets. The objectives were to brief them on the status of the two endangered fish recovery programs and to seek their support for Program funding included in the President's proposed fiscal year 2007 budget for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and funding for the San Juan Program Coordinator and his staff. In addition, briefing meetings were held with select Administration officials and several nongovernmental entities.

During each of the meetings those representing the two recovery programs addressed four matters:

1. 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 2005,
2. Expressing the support of the four participating states' Governors and many other parties for Fiscal Year 2007 funding as included in the President's recommended Fiscal Year 2007 budget for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.
3. Express our thanks to the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the inclusion of \$697,000 of funding (reflecting a portion of the FWS annual funding commitment to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program) in the USFWS "recovery" budget within the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2007.
4. Follow-on discussion from the February 2005 and March 2005 briefings and our work in getting Congressional assistance to accomplish amendment of the provisions of Public Law 106-392, as amended by P.L. 107-375, to extend the appropriations authorization by \$15 million for the Upper Basin Program and period of time to complete the capital construction projects by two years for the two recovery programs – e.g., enactment of H.R. 3153 and S. 1578.

In summary, our objectives for the trip were accomplished. At each meeting with Congressional Delegation staff members, our group representing the two recovery programs made an identical request – we asked the staff member to request that his or her boss affirm their support by signing onto joint-delegation letters addressed to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and the Subcommittee on Interior and Related

¹ Program participants represented at most of the briefing meetings were the four involved States of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico and the water users. Although the Upper Colorado Recovery Program environmental groups' Management Committee member intended to participate in the briefing trip other commitments and weather conditions prevented his traveling to Washington to participate in the meetings. Fish and Wildlife Service employees (e.g. the Program Directors) participated in some of the briefings for the sole purpose of answering technical questions concerning the fishes' life history, habitat needs, the species' recovery goals, Program accomplishments and anticipated activities.

Agencies (expressing support and urging the appropriation of specific Bureau of Reclamation and USFWS funding amounts for these two recovery programs).

At each meeting with Congressional delegation and Congressional committee staff, our group acknowledged the great importance of past funding support from the Congress as being a key element of the progress that these two programs are making and explained the continuing need for funding and the uses and benefits being obtained with Program funding. We requested the two individual letters (two to House appropriations subcommittees and two to Senate appropriations subcommittees) be circulated among the four States' Congressional and Senate delegation members. A key tool in making that request was our presentation to the staff member of copies of funding support letters submitted to each of the appropriations subcommittees by Governors Owens, Huntsman, Richardson and Freudenthal. It is again emphasized that having the letters from each of the Governors is particularly important and useful when we ask Members of Congress to sign on to the joint delegation letters. In addition, a listing of the letters of support that we anticipate will be submitted by municipalities and water user organizations was distributed at each of the meetings to demonstrate the grass roots support that these recovery programs continue to enjoy.

Support of 13 of 14 of the U.S. Representatives from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming was again obtained as evidenced by their signatures on the two joint House delegation letters (attached to this trip report). Rep. Hefley was not asked to sign nor did we meet with his staff based on prior interactions and his declining to sign the letters in the past. On the Senate side, we understand that four of the eight Senators (Bennett, Hatch, Bingaman and Salazar) signed the two funding support letters (awaiting copies). Senator Domenici and Senator Allard will abide by the standing policy of not signing appropriation support letters as they are members of the Committee on Appropriations but we were assured of their assistance and support. Unfortunately, we understand that Senators Thomas and Enzi declined signing the funding support letters.

Attached to this trip report is a tabulation of those with whom we met during the March 8th through March 14th period during which the briefing meetings occurred. Comments concerning the individual meeting are annotated on the tabulation. 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.

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, accomplished by Rachel Dresnan of Congressman Chris Cannon's staff and that is being carried out by Jacob Johnson of Senator Orrin Hatch's staff. Thanks to both of these people for their assistance.

The Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon, our third annual, was held at Tortilla Coast Restaurant on Friday, March 10th. This event was hosted by the Upper Colorado 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 nice touch was having the new free-standing banner concerning the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program in the luncheon area and it both looked good and provided an "information and education" aspect to the luncheon. This event gives us the opportunity to "give back" to those with whom we meet, to acknowledge their important assistance, provides goodwill benefits and facilitates the development of personal relationships with those with whom we meet.

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 was distributed among both programs' participants – and can be downloaded from the Recovery Program's Web page (<http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/doc/dc/Highlights05-06.pdf>). The joint delegation funding support letters signed by the members of the House Congressional delegations of the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, along with the letters of support submitted by Governors Owen, Leavitt, Richardson and Freudenthal, are attached to this report. Signed Senate letters will be distributed when available.

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
- Tom Blickensderfer – Colorado Department of Natural Resource
- Tom Pitts – Upper Basin and San Juan Basin Water Users
- Randy Kirkpatrick – San Juan Water Commission
- David Campbell – USFWS – San Juan River Recovery Program Coordinator
- Robert Muth – USFWS – Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program Director
- George Smith – USFWS – Division of Water Resources
- John Shields – Wyoming State Engineer’s Office and Chairman, Management Committee

Synopsis of Meetings and Contacts:

As noted above, attached to this report is a summary table detailing each meeting conducted during the briefing trip. The comments section of the table documents summarizes information worthy of note, including 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 2008 budget is likely to be the following:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Internal meeting within Interior Department	Mid-April, 2006
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, 2007

Follow-up Conducted:

On March 21st, Shields sent an e-mail with attachments to Michael Correia, Staff Member of the House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee responding to Mr. Correia’s request for input/advice to the Subcommittee about input, advice and recommendations that our successful, ongoing programs could provide to the Subcommittee regarding the basis for our programs' ongoing success, that in turn might be considered and factored in to the conduct of other efforts that will, in some ways, be "patterning" upon our programs' organization, conduct and implementation (including the proposed Platte River Recovery Program – whose proponents have approached the Subcommittee with an authorization bill). We advised that we had been asked this question before and would send on information addressing our views successful approaches for conducting these efforts. A follow-up e-mail communication was sent by Management Committee Chairman John Shields to Mr. Correia on March 21st. A copy of that e-mail, absent the attachments (as they are summarized in the e-mail) is appended to this trip report.

Follow-up with Rachel Dresen of Rep. Chris Cannon’s office and with Jacob Johnson of Senator Orrin Hatch’s office occurred in order to complete the letters circulation effort.

The Water Users Representative has sent a letter to Representative Cubin thanking her for her leadership role in passage of H.R. 3153 in the House on March 8th as S.1578, the corresponding Senate bill. The letter noted her support ensured passage by the House of this legislation, which was signed into law by the President on March 20th (Public Law 109-183). The letter further noted neither of these programs would be possible without the support of our congressional delegations and that Representative Cubin’s continuing support of authorizing legislation and annual appropriations is much appreciated by all of the participants in the programs. It commended Rick Axthelm for excellent communications, coordination with other delegations and key committee staff, and general support throughout the legislative process, and

followed-up on a joint letters sent by the Management Committee on November 22, 2005 to Representative Cubin and Senator Allard thanking them for their leadership in introducing H.R. 3153 and S. 1578. Tom Pitts also sent similar letters to the other twelve members of the House delegations who cosponsored the authorizing legislation. In late 2006, following passage of the authorizing legislation by the Senate, he had sent letters to the members of the Senate who cosponsored or supported the authorizing legislation.

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, in-hall conversations with Congressional Committee staff and observations made during this trip, it is very apparent that we would not have been successful in getting the recovery programs' federal appropriations authorization increase and extension legislation (S. 1578) enacted into law if we did not conduct these annual briefings, had not stayed in contact annually with, provided ongoing briefings about and established personal relationships and rapport with the Congressional delegation and authorizing committee staff members with whom we meet. Our legislative efforts would not have borne fruit without having made the annual investment we make to impart knowledge, familiarity and to share our programs' track record and widespread grassroots support. 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.

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 each of the briefing meetings were essentially correct. Due to the fortunate lack of issues to confront deal with (e.g., the FWS funding was in the President's budget and S. 1578 was enacted by the House on their consent calendar on the first day of our briefing meetings), we had the luxury to talk some about other things and go into depth in answering inquiries while still staying on schedule with our meetings.

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 flier. These are extremely important investments in accomplish our annual briefing trip's objectives.

Appended Materials:

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

Each of the four Governors wrote 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.

Attached is the e-mail sent to Michael Correia of the House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee responding to his request for input and advice to the Subcommittee regarding the basis for our programs' ongoing success.

2006 Briefings Meetings Itinerary

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program
March 8 through March 14, 2006 --- As Conducted

Date	Meeting With	Affiliation	Office Location	Phone Number	E-Mail Address	Comments
Wednesday March 8	Justin Harding Derrick Ramos Rachel Dresen	Rep. Ron Bishop Rep. Jim Matheson Rep. Chris Cannon	Meet in Longworth Cafeteria - CH- 124, CH-410 and CH-118	225-0453 225-3011 225-7751	Justin.harding@mail.house.gov Derrick.Ramos@mail.house.gov Rachel.Dresen@mail.house.gov	Bishop signed the joint delegation letters. Darin and Robert met separately with Derrick – Matheson signed the letters Rachel agreed to circulate the letters among the House delegation members and the task was completed on March 17 th with 13 of 14 House members signing on (“no” was Rep. Hefley)
	Rick Axthelm (LD)	Rep. Barbara Cubin	LH-1114	225-2311	Rick.Axthelm@mail.house.gov	Cubin signed the letters and Rick provided House Gallery passes so we could watch the House of Representatives enact S.1587 (previously passed by the Senate on 12/16) on the suspension calendar at 10:30 a.m. on 3/8 – thus sending the bill to the President for signature into law.
	Mac Zimmerman (LD)	Rep. Tom Tancredo	LH-1130	225-7882	Mac.Zimmerman@mail.house.gov	Tancredo signed the joint delegation letters.
	Joe Wollersheim	Rep. Marilyn Musgrave	LH-1507	225-4676	Joseph.wollersheim@mail.house.gov	Rep. Musgrave signed the joint delegation letters.
	Steve Plevniak	Rep. Diana DeGette	LH-1527	225-4431	Steve.plevniak@mail.house.gov	Rep. DeGette signed the joint delegation letters.
	Matt Meagher (LD)	Rep. Steve Pearce	LH-1607	225-2365	Matt.meagher@mail.house.gov	Group talked very briefly directly with Rep. Pearce and had a good meeting with Meagher. Pearce signed the joint delegation letters.
	Johanna Polsenberg	Rep. Tom Udall	LH-1414	225-6190	Johanna.Polsenberg@mail.house.gov	Group had a very satisfactory meeting with Ms. Polsenberg and Udall signed the joint delegation letters.
	Shane Schulz	Rep. John Salazar	LH-1531	225-4761	Shane.schulz@mail.house.gov	Salazar signed the joint delegation letters.
	Stan Sloss	Rep. Mark Udall	CH-240	225-2161	Stan.sloss@mail.house.gov	Met briefly with Stan Sloss, left satisfied and Rep. Udall signed the joint letters.
	Bruce “Fez” Miller	Rep. Bob Beauprez	CH-504	225-2645	Bruce.miller@mail.house.gov	Rep. Beauprez signed the joint delegation letters.
Thursday March 9th	Loretta Beaumont	House Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations. Subcommittee	RH-B-308	225-3081	Loretta.Beaumont@mail.house.gov	Shields spoke briefly with Loretta on the telephone about two weeks before the trip and provided her the “short version” of our programs’ status and the current funding position – so did not meet with Ms. Beaumont due to her hearings and meetings schedule but did visit with Gina _____ who works for Loretta when we dropped the briefing booklet by her office.

	Taunja Berquam, USBR/COE Head Analyst	House Energy and Water Development Appropriations. Subcommittee	RH-2362	225-3421	Taunja.Berquam@mail.house.gov	First time meeting with Ms. Berquam and we believe that we provided her with a satisfactory understanding of the programs' merits and the progress being made – along with indications of the support of the four states' governors and the anticipated support for the joint delegation funding support letters.
	Colin Hunter	Rep. Heather Wilson	CH-318	225-6316	Colin.hunter@mail.house.gov	Rep. Wilson signed the joint delegation funding support letters.
	Mike Connor	Democratic Counsel, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Sen. Jeff Bingaman	SD-370	224-5479	Michael_connor@energy.senate.gov	We had a good meeting with Mike and he indicated that Sen. Bingaman would sign the joint delegation funding support letters.
	Steve Black	Sen. Ken Salazar	SH-702	224-5852	Steve.Black@salazar.senate.gov	Senator Salazar will sign the joint delegation funding support letters.
	Jacob Johnson Luke Johnson and J.J. Brown	Sen. Orrin Hatch Sen. Bob Bennett	SH-104	224-5251 224-5444	Jacob_johnson@hatch.senate.gov Luke_Johnson@bennett.senate.gov	We had a good but short meeting with J.J. and Jacob and later asked Jacob, and he agreed, to circulate the joint delegation funding support letters on the Senate side.
	Ian Lyle	Sen. Wayne Allard	SD-521	224-5941 224-6036 (direct)	ian_lyle@allard.senate.gov	Our group thanked Ian for his considerable assistance and for Senator Allard's leadership in being the lead sponsor of S. 1578. Senator Allard is on the Appropriations Committee and does not sign joint delegation funding support letters addressed to the Appropriations Subcommittee, but Ian indicated that Senator Allard would support the USBR and USFWS funding items in the President's recommended FY2007 budget for the recovery programs.
Friday March 10th	Roger Cockerell Nate Gentry Tara Shaw	Senate Energy and Water Development Approps. Subcommittee; Senate Energy and Natural Resources Water & Power Subcommittee; Senator Pete Domenici	SD-133	224-7260 224-6621	Roger_cockrell@appro.senate.gov	Good meeting with Roger, who continues to be an enthusiastic supporter of our programs. Gentry and Shaw had intended to attend but other commitments arose that prevented their attendance.
	Mike Hill Chris Tomassi	Sen. Craig Thomas Sen. Mike Enzi	Meeting in SD- 307 SR-379A	224-6441 224-0805 (direct) 224-3424	Michael_hill@thomas.senate.gov Chris_tomassi@enzi.senate.gov	Good meeting but did not receive commitment that Senators Thomas or Enzi would sign the joint delegation funding delegation letters.
	Darren Benjamin	Senate Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations. Subcommittee	SD-132	224-7233 224-7257 (direct)	Darren_benjamin@appro.senate.gov	Group split up with part attending briefing with Stephens and remainder visiting for first time with Darren. Meeting went well.
	Michael Stephens	House Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, Minority Staff Member	LHOB-1016	225-3481	Michael.stephens@mail.house.gov	Went okay but did not get in a full briefing with Mike as he had another commitment. Stephens asked questions relative to assuring that performance
Congressional Staff Appreciation		House and Senate Delegation and Committee staffers	Tortilla Coast Restaurant, Mayan Room	546-6768	Becky Bender, Catering Manager bbender@tortillacoast.com	Congressional staff attended the appreciation luncheon. Although held in a smaller, upstairs, semi-open room the venue worked fine. Having the

Luncheon			(Upstairs), 400 First Street, SE			SJRBRIP free-standing banner set up for the luncheon added a nice touch. First heard about Sec. Norton's resignation letter during the lunch from Delegation staff members.
	John Baughman Gary Taylor Shanna Brown Kevin Moran Patty Doerr	International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Western Governors Association National Governors Association	Suite 725 Hall of States 444 North Capitol St, NW Suite 388	624-7890 624-5402 624-5372	Baughman@iafwa.org gtaylor@iafwa.org skbrown@westgov.org kmoran@westgov.org pdoerr@nga.org	Very good meeting. IAFWA is most supportive of our efforts. Thanked IAFWA for again including language in their annual budget recommendations report to Congressional committees supporting UCREFRP and SJRBRIP (as they have done now for three years). Patty Doer of NGA was unable to attend.
	Bob Quint Paul McCarthy Deborah Lawler Louis Mauney	Deputy Commissioner Bureau of Reclamation		513-0501	mbrown@usbr.gov wrinne@usbr.gov	We had not met with McCarthy or Mauney previously so this was good opportunity to give them an in-depth understanding of recovery programs. Found USBR officials present to be both complimentary and supportive of programs' efforts. Expressed our considerable appreciation of the fine efforts of the USBR's Western Colorado Projects Office (Uilenberg and Norman). Discussed FG EIS ROD and need for USBR to include UCREFRP in the annual FG operational decision-making relative to compliance with flow and temperature recommendations.
Monday March 13th	Mark Limbaugh Tom Weimer John Trezise Pamela Haze Deborah Lawler And several others to whom we were not introduced	Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget Director and Asst Director, Office of Budget, DOI USBR Commissioner	5112 MIB	Brenda Barnes 208-5004 Marilyn Collier (Key's' EA) 513-0501	Brenda_barnes@ios.doi.gov Tom_Weimert@ios.doi.gov Barbara_cederborg@ios.doi.gov john_trezise@ios.doi.gov Abigail_D_Miller@ios.doi.gov kkeys@usbr.gov	Good meeting!
	H. Dale Hall Matt Hogan Renne Lohofener	USFWS Director Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks Asst. Director for Endangered Speciesr	Room 3239 Main Interior Building	208-4545 Roslyn Sellars, Exec. Asst to the Deputy Dir.	Roslyn_sellars@fws.gov Patricia_kennedy@fws.gov, Exec. Asst. to the Director	We feel this was a most satisfactory meeting and found Director Hall to be very supportive and perceptive about our programs. Pointed out to him that we had included excerpts of his confirmation hearing statements in our briefing booklet speaking to the importance of inclusive participatory conservation partnerships and power-sharing which we know he was pleased to hear. Expressed our thanks for inclusion of USFWS funding in the Administration's proposed 2007 budget thereby solving "problem" encountered in two prior years with the need to ask Delegations to support funding restoration in I&RA Approps. Act. Found Dale to be very supportive of states' interests and recognize need for partnership efforts.
	Michael Correia Steve Lanich	House Resources Water and Power	LH-1522	225-2761 226-2311	Michael.correia@mail.house.gov steve.lanich@mail.house.gov	This was a very satisfactory meeting. Group sincerely thanked the W&P Subcommittee for their assistance in working with the House leadership in getting S. 1578 passed on March 8 th – and in expeditiously

	Dave Whaley Bonnie Bruce Peter Evans Kris Polly	Subcommittee House Resources Fisheries and Oceans Subcommittee Executive Director, Interstate Council on Water Policy National Water Resources Association	FH-188 1025 Vermont Ave, NW, Suite 720	226-0200 226-2311 (703) 524- 1544	David.whaley@mail.house.gov Bonnie.bruce@mail.house.gov nwra@nwra.org	hearing and marking HR 3153 out of Resources Committee. Michael requested input from our group as to bases for programs' successes that could be passed on by the Committee staff to other recovery program efforts, including the Platte River Recovery Program proponents (copy of Shields' response to Correia is attached to this report). Gave Whaley a copy of the Valdez/Muth article about Colorado River native fish. Peter Evans (former CO Mgmt. Comm. Member attended and spoke to the merits and successes of our recovery programs (which we appreciated). Kris Polly (NWRA) was invited but did not attend (briefing booklet provided to him via e-mail in advance).
Monday March 13th	Jerry Clark Jody Olson	Director of Funding Source Administration; Director of Federal Relations CEO (replaced John Berry) National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	1130 Connecticut Ave., NW., Suite 900	857-0166	jclark@nfwf.org jody.olson@nfwf.org	Discussion of how Rebecca Kramer is doing a good job of reporting to the Upper Colorado Recovery Program. It was noted that NFWF can accept appropriated funds which may be avenue for San Juan recovery program to improve fiscal performance in the future.
	Christy Plumer Mary Anne Dolbeare	Fisheries, Wildlife and Water Subcommittee Senate EPW Comm.	SH-415	224-6176 224-1049 (direct)	christy_plumer@epw.senate.gov mary_anne_dolbeare@epw.senate.gov	Reschedule of prior week meeting required on account of EPW Committee work on ESA bill language. Good meeting that built on prior year's discussions with Christy and Mary Anne.
Tuesday March 14th	Mike Hickey Eric Hansen	Budget Examiners, Natural Resources Division Office of Mgmt. and Budget	Room 8116, New Executive Office Building 725 17 th Street, N.W.	395-4806	Michael_hickey@omb.eop.gov	Good meeting during which discussion of the previously submitted "Crosswalk" document describing how the RIPRAP's items coincide with the recovery goals and recovery plans for the four endangered fish species.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2006

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

Dear Chairman Taylor and Representative Dicks:

We are requesting your support for appropriations in fiscal year 2007 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 2007 includes FWS funding for these programs. 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 (Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; \$697,000 within the \$5,631,000 item entitled "General Program Activities") to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for fiscal year 2007 to allow FWS 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 and 2006.
2. Appropriation of \$437,000 in operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries Activity; Hatchery Operations & Maintenance Subactivity, Hatchery Operations Project) to support the ongoing operation of the FWS' Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah during fiscal year 2007, the same level appropriated in previous fiscal years.
3. Allocation of \$211,000 in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2007 to meet FWS' Region 2 expenses managing and implementing 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 1,000 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting approximately 2.9 million acre-feet of water per year.

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 2007 funding to ensure FWS' continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,



Tom Tance

Tom Udall

Al T. Halpern

Steven Pearce

Mark Udall

Marilyn Musgrave

Barbara Lubin

Jin Matheson

Diana Riffe

Pat O'Shea

Heather Zilson

Bob Byrnes

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2006

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

Dear Chairman Hobson and Ranking Member Visclosky:

We are requesting your support for an appropriation in fiscal year 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 President's recommended budget for FY 2007 includes this line-item amount. 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 activities to avoid jeopardy. These funds are authorized by P.L. 106-392, as amended.

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

These highly successful, cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests. The programs' objectives are to recover endangered fish species while water use and development proceeds in compliance with the 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 1,000 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. 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 2007 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

Tom Toncic

Tom Toncic

Tom Udall

John T. Salinger

Steven Pearce

Mark Udall

Marilyn Musgrave

Barbara Cubin

Jim Matheson

Diana Mitchell

Richard Shelby

Heather Z Wilson

Bob Byrd

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Bill Owens
Governor

February 28, 2006

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

Dear Chairman Hobson and Ranking Member Visclosky:

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

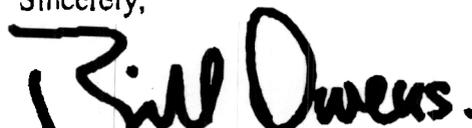
I am writing to ask your support this year for funding in the President's Budget which seeks to appropriate \$4,594,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation for the benefit of the two programs, designated in a budget line item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" for the Bureau's Upper Colorado Region. Specifically, I ask for your support for \$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 for \$400,000 for activities dedicated to avoiding jeopardy for the four fish. These expenditures are authorized under by Public Law 106-392, which implemented a cost-share arrangement between the federal government; the states of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico; and water and power providers.

These requested appropriations for 2007 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 avoid entrainment of the endangered fish in water diversion projects. Of particular interest in Colorado is the construction of the Elkhead Reservoir enlargement in Northwestern Colorado, wherein the Upper Colorado Program will ultimately secure up to 7000 acre-feet of water to augment the Yampa River to provide habitat enhancement in low-flow months of the year.

These Programs are extraordinary in their accomplishments: both Programs serve as the means of Endangered Species Act compliance for over 1000 projects representing over 2.9 million acre-feet of water depletions annually, and both operate under a set of recovery goals to provide all parties a clear roadmap as to the management requirements for recovery and delisting of these species.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Owens." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Owens
Governor

cc: Representative Diana DeGette
Representative Mark Udall
Representative John Salazar
Representative Marilyn Musgrave
Representative Joel Hefley
Representative Tom Tancredo
Representative Bob Beauprez
Governors Huntsman, Freudenthal and Richardson



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

February 27, 2006

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

Dear Chairman Taylor and Ranking Member Dicks:

I am writing this letter to request your support and assistance in insuring continued funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. These ongoing cooperative partnership programs involve the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests; and 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. I respectfully request your support and action by the Subcommittee to provide for the following:

1. Allocation of \$211,000 in "recovery" funds (Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; \$211,000 within the \$5,631,000 item entitled "General Program Activities") for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2007 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 (Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; \$697,000 within the \$5,631,000 item entitled "General Program Activities") to the FWS for fiscal year 2007 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 and 2006.

3. Appropriation of \$437,000 in operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries Activity; Hatchery Operations & Maintenance Subactivity, Hatchery Operations Project) to support the ongoing operation of the FWS Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah during fiscal year 2007.

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
February 27, 2006
Page 2

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 conjunction with other funding to continue vitally important recovery program activities. We in New Mexico thank the Subcommittee for your past assistance and again seek the Subcommittee's assistance again this year to ensure adequate FWS funding for the upcoming federal fiscal year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Bill Richardson
Governor

copy: Representative Tom Udall
Representative Heather Wilson
Representative Steve Pearce
Governors Richardson, Huntsman, Owens and Freudenthal

JG:jb



STATE OF UTAH

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

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
GOVERNOR

GARY R. HERBERT
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 17, 2006

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

Dear Chairman Domenici and Senator Reid:

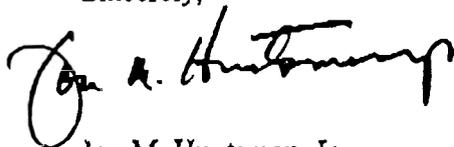
As Governor of Utah, I am writing to request your support and assistance to ensure continued funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. These two successful ongoing cooperative partnership programs involve the states 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 ESA Section 7 consultation (without litigation) for more than 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 flood plain 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 move these efforts forward. The past support and assistance of your subcommittee has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. On behalf of the citizens of Utah, I thank you for your support and request the subcommittee's assistance for FY 2007 funding to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,



Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor

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



Office of the Governor

February 24, 2006

The Honorable Conrad Burns, Chairman
The Honorable Byron Dorgan, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
132 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Burns and Ranking Member Dorgan:

I am writing to request your support and assistance in 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 Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes and federal agencies, as well as water, power and environmental interests. The dual objectives of these programs are the recovery of the four Colorado River endangered fish species while continuing water use and development 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 (Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; \$697,000 within the \$5,631,000 item entitled "General Program Activities") to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for fiscal year 2007 to allow FWS 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 and 2006.
2. Appropriation of \$437,000 in operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries Activity; Hatchery Operations & Maintenance Subactivity, Hatchery Operations Project) to support the ongoing operation of the FWS's Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah during fiscal year 2007.
3. Allocation of \$211,000 in "recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to the FWS for fiscal year 2007 to meet FWS's Region 2 expenses managing and implementing the San Juan Program's diverse recovery actions.

The Honorable Conrad Burns, Chairman
The Honorable Byron Dorgan, Ranking Member
February 24, 2006
Page 2

As the Subcommittee members know, these two programs rely upon substantial state and other non-federal cost-sharing (which reflects strong commitment to these effective partnership efforts) and have the support of the Department of the Interior. DOI points to these programs as national models of effective conservation partnering. The requested FWS appropriations will be used in concert with other funding to continue vitally important recovery program activities. Wyoming thanks the Subcommittee for its past assistance. We seek that assistance again this year to ensure adequate FWS funding for the upcoming federal fiscal year. Thank you.

Best regards,



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

cc: Senator Craig Thomas
Senator Mike Enzi
Governors Huntsman, Owens and Richardson

E-MAIL SENT TO HOUSE RESOURCES WATER AND POWER SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF MEMBER MICHAEL CORREIA BY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN SHIELDS (WITHOUT ATTACHMENTS) ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2006:

Michael J. Correia
Legislative Staff
Subcommittee on Water and Power
Committee on Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1522 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Follow-up to our March 13th meeting concerning the Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your time and interest in meeting with our group representing the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to hear of the programs' accomplishments during the past year and to briefly discuss the programs' funding included in the President's recommended fiscal year 2007 budget. Allow me to again express, on behalf of all of the participants in the two recovery programs, our sincere gratitude for the expeditious, diligent and successful efforts of the Water and Power Subcommittee and its staff members in accomplishing enactment of S. 1578, authorizing an additional \$15.0 million in federal funds for construction projects in the Upper Colorado River Recovery Program, recognizing the contribution of an additional \$11 million in non-federal cost-sharing and extending the construction period for both the Upper Basin and San Juan programs until 2010. Enactment of this important legislation into law would not have happened without the efforts of the Subcommittee and for its work we are very grateful.

During our meeting, brief discussion occurred about the upcoming introduction of legislation to authorize other recovery programs, including the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and you asked of our group what input and advice we could provide to the Subcommittee regarding the basis for our programs' ongoing success, that in turn might be considered and factored in to the conduct of other efforts that will, in some ways, be "patterning" upon our programs' organization, conduct and implementation. We advised that we had been asked this question before and would send on information to you that addresses successful approaches for conducting these efforts. The attached documents are our initial offering to respond to your request. We would be pleased to continue a dialogue with you and other Subcommittee staff concerning this matter and will look to hear from you if other information would be desired or could be helpful to you.

The first attachment is a summary of a roundtable discussion that our group representing the two recovery programs held during a Congressional staff luncheon and briefing in 2002 in response to being asked the sort of questions you asked of us repeatedly during our 2001 briefing visits on Capitol Hill - including dialogue with staff members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources' Water and Power Subcommittee. The points made during that roundtable discussion (embedded in the text of this e-mail below for convenient reference) can perhaps be encapsulated by saying two things:

first, recovery programs ultimately depend upon strong, working and effective interpersonal relationships (because collaborative partnerships are at their core "people programs") and,

secondly, that if program participants take care of the important little things then the big things stand a better chance of falling into place. As the saying goes, the devil is in the details. It's the little things that people tend to overlook, not worry about or not think of that get them into trouble. A lot of times it's those little things where you think, "I'll deal with that tomorrow." That's OK, but make sure you *do* deal with it tomorrow. Don't let it go. It's like the old adage, if you take care of your pennies, your dollars will take care of themselves. **If you take care of the little things**, you probably reduce your risks for big problems.

A 16th point that should have been made, that we do recognize as being very important and that several in our group specifically mentioned during our March 13th meeting with you - and that must always be borne in mind - is that the funding needs and requests, conduct and approaches for recovery programs have to work for and within Congress, too, or they cannot work anywhere else or for anyone else. That is to say that federal appropriations, on account of the requisite participation by federal agencies in these multi-state, multi-agency efforts, are an important ingredient for success and

those appropriations will not be obtained without the support of Congressional delegations and committee members and their staff.

As you will note in the attached document, during the recovery programs' March 14, 2002 roundtable discussion, the following points relative to reasons for our success were made:

1. We understand the challenges associated with competing interests and have been able to listen to all sides; we have tried hard to figure out how to give everyone what they need; and all have recognized that they can't have everything that they want to have – accordingly, approaching all program challenges with a cooperative and compromising attitude is vitally important.
2. Sound science builds trust.
3. Respect others' values while not necessarily sharing them.
4. The right answer is the one we reach together and THE issue is how do we move forward.
5. We have incorporated the truism that we must “land when we have to land” and that delay only damages our process - and damages our own credibility with other program participants and the outside world that is observing our program's actions.
6. We have avoided litigation.
7. We have taken a critter-friendly approach that assures that the money is put into measures on the ground.
8. We understand the concept that we all must remember to “don't take it personally.”
9. Our program reflects a comprehensive and robust approach that draws upon the synergy that our joint collaboration produces.
10. The federal and non-federal money has been there and we are committed to making sure that we obtain the needed financial resources in the future to complete the job.
11. The program has been blessed with reasonably good leadership and there has been willingness, particularly on the part of the USFWS, to take risks in order to achieve benefits and get things done.
12. The peer review in this Program is as good as any we have seen.
13. We have recognized and dealt with the fact that if you fail to plan you are planning to fail.
14. We have recognized that it is easy to tear things down and darn hard to build them up.
15. We have recognized that information sharing is critical.

The second document that is attached was prepared at the request of, and sent to, former Assistant Secretary of the Interior Bennett Raley in 2004 for his distribution during visits with members of the media as he was briefing them on Colorado River matters. That document sets forth "principles for success" that are precepts - givens - that were bottom line principles that had to be and were agreed upon at the time the Upper Colorado recovery program was negotiated and must and will continue to be respected. Those principles (embedded below for convenient reference) include the following:

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.**

The third document was prepared in response to a question asked during the SENR Subcommittee hearing on S. 1578 last fall - and makes the point that ultimately success can only be said to be had if species status improvement is occurring.

Finally, I wish to caveat the above by saying that our programs can and are being improved as time goes by. Since 1988 we have learned many lessons, made mistakes and suffered from errors and misjudgements, too. We have made course corrections and still have our share of shortcomings, holes, incompletions, etc. - but the programs are working and accomplishing their dual objectives; however, lest this e-mail leave an impression otherwise I add this note.

I sincerely hope that this e-mail message, along with the attached files, provides the sort of input you were seeking and is responsive to your questions of our group about practical mechanisms for achieving success with these sorts of collaborative conservation partnership efforts. There have been a variety of papers of various kinds, status updates and presentations made concerning the Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs that could be provided if they would have any utility - but in my judgement the above gleans out the germane points that we can offer at this time. Thanks again for meeting with our group and for the Subcommittee's continuing interest, support and assistance to the Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs.

With best regards,

John W. Shields
Chairman, Management Committee
Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
on behalf of the non-federal participants to the Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs
and
Interstate Streams Engineer
Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Herschler Building, 4th East, Cheyenne, WY 82002
jshiel@seo.wyo.gov; <http://seo.state.wy.us>
307-777-6151; 307-631-0898 (c); 307-777-5451 (f)