

Trip Report

2010 Washington, D. C. Briefing Meetings

March 17 through March 23, 2010

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



**Upper Colorado River
Endangered Fish
Recovery Program**

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed are those of the author, are based on his notes and recollections, and hence shall not be construed or interpreted otherwise.



Summary and Purpose: The annual Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's Washington DC briefing trip was conducted from March 17th through March 23rd. Representatives of the non-federal participants and several U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees and a National Park Service employee¹ met with staff of the Congressional delegations for the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Congressional authorizing and appropriations committee staff (for the committees having jurisdiction over the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Fish and Wildlife Service [Service] and their budgets), Department of Interior, Reclamation and Service officials, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) budget examiner staff and several non-governmental organizations.

Following prior years' briefing trips; during each meeting our group provided a status report on the two endangered fish recovery programs and made the request of each of the Congressional Delegation office that the Representative or Senator sign onto joint delegation funding support letters addressed to the appropriations subcommittees supporting fiscal year 2011 Program funding included in the President's budget for Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;² and thanked the Congressional offices for their co-sponsorship of H.R. 2288 and S. 1453; to amend our annual base funding authorization period. The status of the legislation was discussed during these visits as appropriate based on who was attending and with whom we were meeting.

The trip objectives were accomplished. Joint delegation letters supporting recovery programs-specific funding in the President's recommended Fiscal Year 2011 budget were circulated with the assistance of staff members for Senator Bingaman and Representative DeGette. Seven of the eight Senators who represent the four participating States consented to sign the joint delegation funding support letters. A Wyoming Senator (Barrasso) signature was obtained for the first time since 1996! Conversely, Senator Enzi advised us personally that he had not signed onto the letters in the fourteen years that he has been a Wyoming Senator and he would not be signing onto either letter again this year (and we took that to indicate that he will still be keeping count and maintaining his record in forthcoming years). Six of the fourteen Members of the House of Representatives with Congressional Districts within Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming signed onto the House-side funding support letters. We were anticipating that we would have two other House Members sign based on indications during

¹ Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service employees (e.g., the Program Directors, the Biology Committee Chairwoman and the Assistant Director of the San Juan Program) 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 a sound biological capability for explanations and answers and thus adding credibility to our briefings.

² We asked each staff member to request that his or her boss affirm their support by signing onto joint-delegation fiscal year 2011 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.

our meeting with their staff members. While we were told of support for the Programs and their funding, none of the Republican House Members' offices were able to sign due to circumstances arising from passage of earmark spending moratorium resolutions by the House Republican Caucus and certain pronouncements by the House Republican leadership.

Discussion: As has been done for many years now, we distributed at each meeting our "Non-Federal Participants' Funding Requests" brochure (*See* Attachment 2). This year's edition of the brochure provided an overview of the two recovery programs, a map showing the location of the Colorado River Basin, a list of the Programs' participants and list of those who have submitted funding support letters in the past; along with a description of the funding included in the President's fiscal year 2011 budget and the projects and activities for which that funding will be used. This separate document is identified as and contains the "Non-Federal Participants' Funding Requests" so as to avoid any implications associated with the Hatch Act. As in past years, this funding brochure was developed by and paid for by the Upper Basin and San Juan water users. The brochure was well received and seemed to serve its intended purpose to allow a focused discussion of the recovery programs' funding requests and secondly, as a handout to introduce our programs to new staffers without overwhelming them with the wealth of information and details found in the twenty-page "Program Highlights" briefing booklet.

Krissy Wilson of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (and Utah's representative on the Biology Committee) had prepared a one-page summary (Attachment 3) of 2009 observed results and conducted activities associated with the two recovery programs within the State of Utah. This summary was provided as a handout during many of the meetings and Krissy was encouraged to provide a run-through of the information therein as a convenient way to provide representative information about the two programs' activities and observed results last year. We offered this information as representative of the programs' activities and results in 2009 and thus providing a short and concise excerpt of information found in the twenty-page Program Highlights document. This approach seemed to work quite well, sufficing in most instances as a very positive, representative, technical results update easily presented and comprehended that did not consume too much of the limited available time during the short briefing meetings.

Our seventh annual Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon was held in the "Congressional Meeting Room South" of the underground Capitol Visitors Center (CVC), located immediately east of the United States Capitol. We sincerely appreciate the generous financial contribution of our luncheon sponsors, the Upper Basin and San Juan water users, who underwrote the entire cost of the event. A total of twenty-five people participated in the luncheon; 14 were Congressional staffers (*see* Attachment 4). This event gives us the opportunity to "give back" something to those with whom we meet and of whom we request support and assistance with the joint funding support letters, provides goodwill benefits and facilitates the development of an ongoing personal relationship.

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Program Director Tom Chart presented an informative 20-minute briefing during the Luncheon. His PowerPoint presentation was both an overview of the two programs and a briefing concerning the short-term issues and long-term challenges facing the two recovery programs. It served to communicate to those attending that our programs are thorough, forward-looking and are addressing matters before they become issues and problems. The presentation was both well presented and received.

Copies (both electronic and printed) of the briefing booklet and its enclosures were widely distributed to those with whom we met – electronically in advance of the meetings and printed copies were handed out during each of the meetings. The briefing booklet (*2009-2010 Program Highlights*) will be

available for downloading on the UCREFRP's webpage before long. It has been extensively distributed via e-mail to the Programs' participants and interested parties. See <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/crrip/dc.htm> for prior year's briefing booklets and trip reports.

Trip Participants: A list of the dozen people who represented the two recovery programs during some or all of these 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 consisted of:

- Tom Pitts – Water Users Representative for the Upper Colorado and San Juan Programs
- Alexandra Davis, Colorado Department of Natural Resources (after Wednesday)
- Darin Bird – Utah Department of Natural Resources (many meetings)
- Krissy Wilson – Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Mike Roberts – Environmental Groups Representative, Upper Colorado Program, The Nature Conservancy of Utah (Wed. through Friday forenoon)
- Randy Kirkpatrick – San Juan Water Commission
- Catherine Condon, Counsel, Southern Ute Indian Tribe Representative
- Melissa Trammel, National Park Service and Biology Committee Chairman
- David Campbell – USFWS – San Juan River Recovery Program Coordinator
- Sharon Whitmore – USFWS – Assistant Director of the San Juan River Basin Recovery Program
- Tom Chart – USFWS – Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program Director
- Leslie James – Executive Director, Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (meeting with Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science and Reclamation directorate)
- Dave Mazour – Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (meeting with Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science and Reclamation directorate)
- Doug Kemper, Colorado Water Congress (many meetings)
- John Shields – Wyoming State Engineer's Office and Chairman, Management Committee

Meetings' Listing and Contacts: Attached to this trip report is a listing of those with whom we met during the March 4 through March 9th period (*see* Attachment 1). Brief comments concerning individual meetings are annotated on the tabulation noting necessary follow-up that should occur as well as certain general observations.

Follow-up: Routine follow-up after the briefing meetings occurred for several purposes, including: checking with the offices to see if the Member of Congress was willing to sign the joint delegation funding support letters, conveying that information (within a spreadsheet with contact information for the office staff members with whom we had met) to the offices that took the lead in circulating the letters (Jamie Long of Rep. Diana DeGette's office and Tanya Trujillo of Senator Bingaman's staff) and expressing thanks for meeting with our recovery programs' representatives. During the April 7th Management Committee meeting, the non-federal Committee members signed joint thank-you letters addressed to Representative DeGette and Senator Bingaman expressing their appreciation for their offices conducting the letter circulation and letter submittal process on our behalf. A joint thank-you letter was also sent to Senator John Barrasso for signing onto the joint delegation funding support letters. I had previously sent on a thank you note-card via e-mail to each of the staff members with whom we had met and a special note to Brian Clifford of Senator Barrasso's staff for his assistance in meeting a second time with me, with the result that he recommended to the Senator that he sign onto the two funding support letters – which did occur.

Representative McClintock's Legislative Director, Kristen Glenn, expressed the desire to receive additional information concerning the status of the individual populations of the four fish species, how the population numbers have changed over time, etc., -- generally looking for information that was in

the draft report to Congress that the recovery programs participants' submitted to the Washington offices of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service in December 2007. We discussed with her the status of the Report to Congress and the conversations and urgings that we had with OMB and with the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science and Reclamation directorate that transmittal of the required report to the House Resources Committee needs to happen soon. Fortunately, we can now report that the Report to Congress⁴ was transmitted to the Chairman and Ranking Members of the House Resources Committee and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee with Secretary Salazar's April 28th letter.

Submittal of information back to Kristin Glenn is a pending follow-up activity that was discussed at the April 7th Management Committee. Information development and review is now underway. I have asked the Program Director and Assistant Program Director to work with Tom Pitts and John Shields in developing an information package to send back to Ms. Glenn – with an e-mail message requesting of her if the submittal provides what she was looking to have provided as supplemental information to her. In addition, this same information should be shared with Brian Clifford of Senator Barrasso's office in follow-up to my March 23rd meeting with him. Clifford was very direct in stating his request that we provide him more detailed information as a follow-up to this year's meetings with him and, in addition, when we meet with him again next year. He stated his need to have specific information as to progress that is being made towards recovery of the endangered fishes, including population demographic data.

Conclusions and Recommendations: It remains vitally important for representatives of the two recovery programs to annually visit Congressional, Interior Department and non-governmental organizations' officials and their staff. These visits keep our Programs' needs and ongoing progress in their minds. There is no substitute communication means or superior manner to accomplish our trip objectives. Staff turnover occurs from year to year; face-to-face meetings continue to have no substitute; and further, we remain convinced (and have been told by personnel with whom we meet) that we would be overlooked if we did not make this effort each year. This "annual investment" remains absolutely essential 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.

Sending the briefing booklet in advance of the meetings is very important. For many of the meetings (and for more of them each year), sending on a request for meeting/concise meeting "backgrounder" via e-mail is essential – the request for a meeting will not be responded to unless a written meeting backgrounder is sent. A short and concise backgrounder that includes "what, who, why, when and where" is needed to get in to see these busy folks, shortens the meeting time we require to deliver our message, reduces confusion and is the proper approach and facilitates a professional and make our requests for support. As a result, we have short but productive meetings; little difficulty in getting the consent of those with whom we need to meet; and we manage to stay on our itinerary schedule.

Thanks are extended to all who scheduled briefing meetings, extended invitations and participated in the trip. Estimations of time requirements to complete the briefing meetings were essentially correct. A big **thank you** is extended to the Upper Basin and San Juan water users for again hosting the Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon and paying for the printing of the non-federal participants'

⁴ "Report to Congress: Utilization of Power Revenues for Annual Base Funding of the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs" dated February 2010, transmitted by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar by letter dated April 28, 2010.

Congressional funding request brochure. It is a collective effort requiring the timely and faithful execution of many discrete tasks that allows us to accomplish our annual briefing trip's objectives.

We can anticipate the schedule for development, approval and release of the President's FY 2012 budget is likely to be the following:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Internal meetings within Interior Department	Mid-April, 2010
Departmental Submittal	Mid-May
Initial Allocations	June
OMB submittal	August
Pass-backs from OMB	Late-November
Appeals process	Brief period thereafter
Final decisions locked down	December
Release of President's budget	Early February 2011

Appended Materials: Following this narrative are attached documents as described above, including the signed joint House delegation fund support letters and the joint Senate delegation funding support letters (Attachment 5).

Attachment 1 2010 Meetings Schedule



Date	Time	Meeting With	Affiliation	Comments and Follow-up
Wednesday March 17	9:45 a.m.	Luke Johnson Brian Smith Casey Snider	Senator Orrin Hatch Senator Robert Bennett	J.J. Brown was not able to attend. Darin Bird met separately with J.J. later during the trip. The Senator's staff is always very gracious to us. We noted our appreciation that Senator Bennett signs onto these letters even though he is a Member of the Appropriations Committee.
	10:30 a.m.	Tanya Trujillo Josh Johnson <small>Minority Staff Member</small>	Senator Jeff Bingaman and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Excellent meeting. Tanya asked if it would be possible to make use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding in order to make repairs and prevent future rockslides into the Farmers Mutual Ditch adjacent to the San Juan River.
	11:15 a.m.	Jeanette Lyman	Senator Tom Udall	Jeanette indicated that she saw no problems with Senator Udall signing onto the funding support letters.
	1:15 p.m.	Jason Albritton (Staff Member)	Senate Environment & Public Works Committee	Rebeckah Adcock of the Minority Staff was unable to attend. Jason stated that the Committee appreciates our Programs' approaches and successes.
	3:00 p.m.	Roger Cockrell	Senate Energy and Water Development Approps. Subcommittee	Roger predicted that there will be a continuing resolution into the 2011 fiscal year. This is almost certain given that 2010 is an election year. Tyler Owens was unable to attend but Darin Bird gave him a briefing booklet and visited with him about our Programs' status.
	3:45 p.m.	Sen. Mike Enzi Chris Tomassi Sen. John Barrasso Brian Clifford	Sen. Mike Enzi Sen. John Barrasso	Senator Enzi told us that he has not signed "your letters in the fourteen years that I have been back here and I will not be signing them again this year." Senator Enzi repeated several times that he and his office have never opposed the two recovery programs. Senator Barrasso did not say much, but it was apparent that Brian Clifford was uncomfortable. Shields subsequently met with Brian Clifford on 3/23 for about 70 minutes, worked through his questions and concerns; and ultimately Senator Barrasso signed the joint funding support letters.
	4:45 p.m.	Mike Hickey Matthew Siegel	Office of Mgmt & Budget	Mike and Matt were confused about what room the meeting was being held in and therefore the meeting started late. Emily Sharp was unable to join the meeting. Discussion about the status of the report to Congress indicated that OMB had completed its review of the draft report and sent comments back to the DOI in a timely manner.
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Thursday March 18	9:00 a.m.	Jamie Long	Rep. Diana DeGette	Jamie consented to check with his superiors about whether he could circulate the joint delegation funding support letters on our behalf (he did that for us). The meeting went well.
	10:00 a.m.	Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, Andrew Jones and Danny Maki.	Rep. Ben Ray Lujan	Rep. Lujan is a particularly gracious gentleman and we enjoy meeting with him. He advised us that he would be sharing information about the recovery programs with Rep. Dunes and others who represent the Central Valley in California. The Congressman stated he would be pleased to sign the funding support letters.
	10:30 a.m.	Jonathon Asher	Rep. Jared Polis	Jonathon indicated there would be no problem in getting Rep. Polis to again sign onto the joint delegation funding support letters.
	11:15 a.m.	Vivek R. Gopalan	Rep. Harry Teague	Randy and others attended this meeting and the remainder of our group went to meet with Rep. Markey.
	11:30 a.m.	Rep. Betsy Markey, Mackenzie Tepel and Dan Zell	Rep. Betsy Markey	We enjoyed this meeting. Alex Davis provided a good overview of the programs' importance. Rep. Markey stated she would sign the letters.

	2:00 p.m.	Rep. Mike Coffman and Charles Cogar-More	Rep. Mike Coffman	Rep. Coffman's office explicitly requested that no more than 6 people attend the meeting. It was reported to me that the Congressman said he would not sign the letters.
	2:45 p.m.	Camille Calimlim, Tyler Kruzich, and Kiel Weaver, Natalie Han Catherine Waring Tate Rosenbusch	House Natural Res. Water & Power Subcommittee House Natural Resources Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee Rep. John T. Salazar	Tate was unable to attend but we had sent the briefing booklet in advance and Tate said that he was willing to help with circulation of the funding support letters. Kiel had advised me in advance via telephone that he had a conflict and would be sitting in on the meeting on Tuesday with Kristen Glenn. Others were in attendance at this meeting beyond those listed herein.
	3:30 p.m.	Rick Axthelm Pete Obermueller	Rep. Cynthia Lummis	We were sad to learn from Rick that he was leaving Rep. Lummis' office to work for a private company as their Washington DC Office representative; but pleased to have the opportunity to meet Pete with whom we will be working in the future.
	4:15 p.m.	Sean Babington	Sen. Michael Bennet	Senator Bennett will sign the joint delegation funding support letters.
	5:00 p.m.	Cody Stewart Fred Ferguson Kristen Lingley	Rep. Rob Bishop Rep. Jason Chaffetz Rep. Jim Matheson	The Utah House delegation members are supportive of the endangered fish recovery programs.
	5:00 p.m.	Rep. Martin Heinrich and Maya Hermann	Rep. Martin Heinrich	Rep. Heinrich stated that he would sign the joint delegation funding support letters.
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Friday March 19	9:00 a.m.	Julie Falkner	House Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee	This meeting went well. Julie is a former staff member of the Washington office of the Nature Conservancy. Mike Roberts stated he would e-mail TNC's appropriations support document for the recovery programs to Julie.
	9:30 a.m.	Taunja Berquam USBR/COE Analyst Joe Levin Marie Vanderpoole	House Energy & Water Development Approps. Subcommittee	Received clarification as to what constitutes an earmark in response to directly posing questions to Taunja in advance of the meeting. We kept the meeting short.
	9:45 a.m.	Rep. Doug Lamborn & Mallori McClure	Rep. Doug Lamborn	I did not attend the meeting but was advised that Rep. Lamborn directly stated that he would be unable to sign the joint delegation funding support letters this letter.
	10:30 a.m.	Aaron Greco	Rep. Ed Perlmutter	We were advised that it should not be a problem for Rep. Perlmutter to sign the letters but when the circulation process occurred this office had not responded as required to Rep. DeGette's staff member and hence his signature does not appear on either letter this year. We will need to work on this for next year.
	11:45 – 1:15 p.m.	Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon	House and Senate Delegation and Committee staffers	The luncheon went very well. See Attachment 4 for a list of the luncheon's attendees.
	1:30 p.m.	Jimmy Hague	Sen. Mark Udall	Jimmy assured us that Senator Udall remains a vigorous supporter of the recovery programs and will sign the joint delegation funding support letters.
	3:00 p.m.	Scott Dalzell	Senate Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee	Mr. Dalzell remains very supportive of our efforts and it is always a pleasure to meet with him. He encouraged us to answer the question "what is in it for them" as we visit each office and request their support for recovery program appropriations.
	4:00 p.m.	Michael Bean Bryan Arroyo Gary Frazer Jeff Underwood Rick Sayers	Counsel to the Asst. Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks USFWS A/D-F&HC and DA/D-F&HC; A/D-E/S and E/S Div. Chief	We were quite pleased with how the meeting went and with Mr. Bean's complimentary statements about our programs' efforts. Discussion about the need to address mercury concentrations in fish tissue in the San Juan River Basin.
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Monday March 22	10:45 a.m.	Kristen Glenn Kiel Weaver Republican Staff Director	Rep. Tom McClintock Ranking Member, House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee	Kristen requested specific information about the program, which we understood to be the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of the fish when the programs were initiated and current status of the fish (are the programs working?) • Status of the fish with respect to recovery

				<p>goals established by the FWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of fish stocking in recovering the fish • Amounts expended by the Program and purposes of expenditures
	1:00 p.m.	Beth Johnson Sharon Kliwinski	National Park Service DAD for Natural Resources Stewardship and Science, DC Liaison for Water Res. Div.	Good meeting. Melissa Trammel took the lead in explaining the Programs' purposes, activities and accomplishments.
	1:45 p.m.	Mark Davis Denise Flanagan Karl Wirkus Patrick Joos Mary Josie Blanchard	Deputy Asst. Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget; Interior Budget Office personnel; and DOI Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance	This meeting included an in-depth discussion of the Programs' funding and authorization. We went a little long and were a few minutes late getting to our next meeting.
	2:30 p.m.	Anne Castle Deanna Archuleta Kira Finkler Bob Wolf Randy Chandler Wayne Pullen	Asst. Secretary for Water and Science; Deputy Asst. Secretary for W/S, Deputy Commissioners for External Affairs, Operations and Policy, Management and Budget; Chief for Congr. & Legislative Affairs	The meeting went very well and we were able to communicate key messages; including our request that the Administration support the Ruedi Reservoir cost reallocation legislation when it is introduced and heard. We were pleased with the compliments which the Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary provided in response to our status reports and updates.
	5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Reception for Colorado Congressional Delegation	Reception hosted by the Colorado Water Congress	This was an excellent and most enjoyable event allowing us to visit with many old friends and acquaintances. We also had the opportunity to visit with Rep. John Salazar and Congressional staffers with whom we had met earlier during our Washington briefings trip.
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Tuesday March 23	9:30 a.m.	Rick Sayers Marjorie Nelson	Meeting with USFWS Branch Chiefs	Chart, Campbell and Shields travelled out to the Arlington Square offices of the FWS and met with fifteen of the staff with the endangered species and recovery and delisting branches of the FWS. A detailed overview of the programs was provided. Those who were in attendance were very pleased to have the opportunity to learn more about these programs which they had heard about previously.
	Ad-hoc	Rebeckah Adcock Minority Staff Member	Senate Environment & Public Works Committee	Shields delivered a briefing booklet to Ms. Adcock's office since she was unable to attend the briefing with Jason Albritton.
	Ad-hoc	Darren Benjamin Minority Staff Member	House Interior, Enviro., and Related Agencies Approps. Subcommittee	Shields delivered a briefing booklet to Mr. Benjamin's office since he was unable to attend the briefing with Julie Falkner.
	Ad-hoc	Rob Blair Minority Staff Member	House Energy & Water Development Approps Subcommittee	Shields delivered a briefing booklet to Mr. Blair's office since he was unable to attend the briefing with Tounja Berquam.
	Ad-hoc	Sean Babington	Senator Michael Bennet	Shields stopped by Senator Bennet's office and visited briefly with Sean Babington; offering to provide any additional information and to make sure that Babington had received the e-mailed copies of prior years' circulated joint Senate delegation funding support letters he had requested.
	3:00 p.m.	Brian Clifford	Senator John Barrasso	Shields and Brian Clifford engaged in detailed discussion for about 70 minutes that allowed Brian's questions and concerns to be answered in detail. I was very grateful to have the opportunity to engage with Brian in this dialogue. He provided specific advice and requests regarding the information that should be included in future briefings that are provided to him and to other offices already having been previously briefing concerning the origins, purposes, activities and accomplishments of these two endangered fish recovery programs.

Attachment 2



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program



San Juan River Basin
Recovery Implementation Program

Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Basin Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Non-Federal Participants Fiscal Year 2011 Funding Requests

The goal of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program is to recover populations of endangered Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, humpback chub, and bonytail while water use and development to meet human needs continues.

- The recovery programs were established in 1988 and 1992, respectively under cooperative agreements as multi-state, multi-agency partnerships.
- Recovery goals approved in 2002 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guide management actions and identify the number and age of fish that comprise a specified number of self-sustaining wild populations. Recovery is based on reduction of threats and species' status improvement.
- The programs' adaptive management approach provides for continual evaluation and revision of management actions to improve program effectiveness.
- Funding is equitably provided by state and federal appropriations, Colorado River Storage Project power revenues, and water users.



Colorado Pikeminnow
Gunnison River



Razorback Sucker
San Juan River



Humpback Chub
Green River



Bonytail
Colorado River

Each program partner fully participates in developing and implementing management actions that will lead to delisting of the four endangered fishes shown above:

Upper Colorado Program Partners

- States of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming
- The Nature Conservancy
- Western Resource Advocates
- Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
- Colorado Water Congress
- Utah Water Users Association
- Wyoming Water Association
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Western Area Power Administration

San Juan Program Partners

- States of Colorado and New Mexico
- The Nature Conservancy
- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Navajo Nation
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- Water Development Interests
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management

Requested Fiscal Year 2011 Congressional Appropriations As Included in the President's Recommended Budget

The non-federal participants in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program **request the support of the Congress for the fiscal year 2011 funding included in the President's recommended budget** as follows:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

✔ **\$709,000** of "Recovery Program" funds to be allocated to the Upper Colorado Program (Resources Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element)

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

✔ **\$485,000** for the Ouray National Fish Hatchery (Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation Activity; National Fish Hatchery Operations Subactivity)

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

✔ **\$200,000** of "Recovery Program" funds to be allocated to the San Juan Program (Resources Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element)

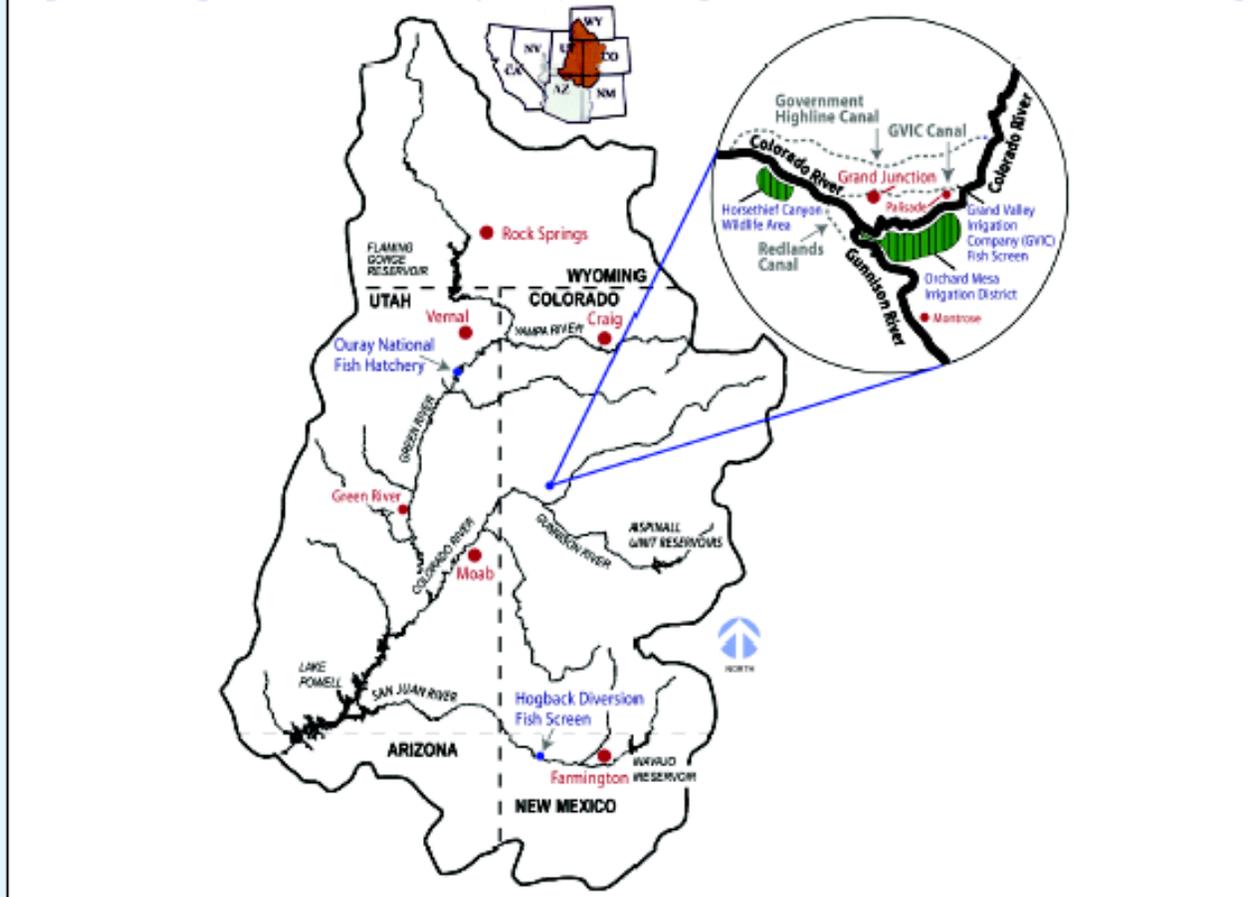
- **Program management and FWS participation:** Salaries and expenses of the San Juan Program Coordinator, Assistant Program Coordinator and other related FWS expenses in coordinating and completing Program actions will be paid with this requested funding.

Bureau of Reclamation

✔ **\$8,354,000** in "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" funds within the Upper Colorado Region budget (\$7,154,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$800,000 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). Specific capital projects listed below are located on the map on the next page.

- **\$5,654,000 for the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Canal Automation Project** near Palisade, CO, to initiate construction of an innovative canal automation system to conserve and redirect water for instream flows.
- **\$1,000,000 for fish rearing ponds at the Horsethief Canyon Wildlife Area** near Fruita, CO, to replace rearing ponds currently under lease from private landowners. Leases will be expiring soon; have been expensive, had variable productivity and harvest difficulties. Ponds being constructed incorporate features from other hatchery/fish rearing facilities proven effective in efficiently producing fish to support the stocking goals. The current design includes 20 membrane-lined (0.25 acre) ponds, can be totally drained, and feature harvest kettles.
- **\$700,000 to complete construction of a fish screen** in the Hogback Canal near Shiprock, NM.
- **\$400,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development activities to avoid jeopardy** within the Upper Colorado River, Pecos River, Rio Grande, and Bonneville River Basins.
- **\$300,000 to rehabilitate the Grand Valley Irrigation Company Fish Screen** near Grand Junction, CO.
- **\$200,000 for Upper Colorado Program Management** for contracting, budgeting, reporting, contract administration, tracking expenditures, and addressing issues and concerns associated with capital project construction.
- **\$100,000 for San Juan Program Management** for budgeting, contracting and contract administration, reporting, tracking expenditures, and transferring Capital Improvement Program funds to the appropriate entities.

Specific Capital and Hatchery Projects Targeted for Fiscal Year 2011 Funding



Funding Support Letters Demonstrate Congressional and Grass-roots Support

Joint delegation letters demonstrating strong bipartisan support by Members of Congress representing Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming have been submitted to the Congressional Appropriations Committees supporting the programs' funding each year. **Testimony supporting appropriations has been submitted to Congress in past years by:**

Participating States

- State of Colorado
- State of Utah
- State of Wyoming
- State of New Mexico

American Indian Tribes

- The Navajo Nation
- Southern Ute Tribe
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- Jicarilla Apache Nation

Cities, Water Users and Private Organizations

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

The recovery programs are implementing actions within **five program elements** to achieve recovery of the Colorado River endangered fish species:

1. Water resources are managed to provide instream flows for the endangered fishes in accordance with state water law, individual water rights, and interstate compacts.
2. Predatory or competitive nonnative fishes are managed through removal of fish and management of nonnative fish sources that connect to rivers.
3. Endangered fish habitat is restored and maintained through construction and operation of fish passages at irrigation diversion dams and fish screens in irrigation diversion canals and management of 2,700 acres of floodplain wetlands – providing access to historic habitat blocked in some instances for nearly 100 years.
4. Reestablishment of endangered fish populations through hatchery propagation and stocking demonstrates success as stocked Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker survive to sexual maturity and reproduce.
5. Research, monitoring, and data management provide data on the biology and abundance of the endangered fishes and track progress toward achieving the recovery goals.



Data management is crucial to maintaining the genetic diversity of hatchery-raised endangered fishes.



Above: Biologists use a hoop net to capture and monitor riverine fish populations. Below: Razorback sucker eggs are fertilized at the Ouray National Fish Hatchery to raise a new generation of endangered fish for stocking.



Hatchery-raised razorback sucker stocked in the Colorado, Green, and San Juan rivers are being recaptured in reproductive condition.



Endangered Species Act Compliance for the Basin's Water Projects 1988 - 2009

Recovery Program	Number of Consultations	Historic Depletions (Acre-feet/year)	New Depletions (Acre-feet/year)	Total Depletions (Acre-feet/year)
Upper Colorado Program	1,723	2,516,490	314,961	2,831,451
San Juan Program	311	---	---	879,999
TOTALS:	2,034	---	---	3,711,450

The programs' actions to recover the species provide ESA compliance for federal, tribal, state, local, and private water development and management activities. No lawsuits have been filed on ESA compliance for any water project since the two recovery programs were initiated.

Attachment 3



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREGORY S. BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

JAMES F. KARPOWITZ
Division Director

Krissy Wilson
Native Aquatic Species Program Coordinator
krissywilson@utah.gov 801-538-4756
Utah Division Wildlife Resources

Activities conducted as partner of Upper Colorado River and San Juan Recovery Programs

GREEN and COLORADO RIVERS

- Highest number of young Colorado pikeminnows since 1990's
- Highest number of other young native fishes since the 1990's
- Highest number of bonytail (post year stocking survival)

WHITE RIVER

- First ever young Colorado River pikeminnow documented
- Stable populations of other native fishes of concern (i.e., roundtail chub)

DUCHESNE RIVER

- Strong cooperative relationship with Ute Tribe
Project: floating weir to control nonnative species

SAN JUAN RIVER

- Stocked Colorado pikeminnow showing good survivability

WAHWEAP STATE HATCHERY

- Reared and stocked ~10,000 bonytail into the Green River

1594 West North Temple, Suite 2110, PO Box 146301, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301
telephone (801) 538-4700 • facsimile (801) 538-4709 • TTY (801) 538-7458 • www.wildlife.utah.gov



ATTACHMENT 4

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

Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon Attendees
Friday, March 19, 2010

1. Randy Kirkpatrick, San Juan Water Commission
2. Tom Pitts, Water Users Representative, Upper Colo. & San Juan Recovery Programs
3. Tom Chart, Program Director, Upper Colorado River End. Fish Recovery Program
4. David Campbell, Program Director, San Juan River Basin Recovery Program
5. Melissa Trammel, National Park Service
6. Krissy Wilson, Division of Wildlife Resources, State of Utah
7. Sharon Whitmore, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
8. Catherine Condon, Counsel, Southern Ute Indian Tribe
9. Mike Roberts, The Nature Conservancy
10. Alexandra Davis, Department of Natural Resources, State of Colorado
11. John Shields, Wyoming State Engineer's Office, State of Wyoming
12. Darin Bird, Utah Department of Natural Resources
13. Alan Saurcy, Colorado Storm Water Council
14. Pete Obermueller, Office of Representative Cynthia Lummis
15. Camille Calimlim, House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee
16. Gary Taylor, Legislative Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
17. Shanna Brown, Deputy Director, Western Governors' Association
18. Jamie Long, Office of Representative Diana DeGette
19. Jimmy Hague, Office of Senator Mark Udall
20. Mackenzie Tepel, Office of Congresswoman Betsy Markey
21. Jeanette Lyman, Office of Senator Tom Udall
22. Sean Babington, Office of Senator Michael Bennet
23. Cody Stewart, Office of Rep. Rob Bishop
24. Brian Clifford, Office of Senator John Barrasso
25. Daniel Zell, Office of Rep. Betsy Markey
26. Fred Ferguson, Office of Rep. Jason Chaffetz
27. Tyler Kruzich, House Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee
28. Kiel Weaver, Minority Staff Director, House Natural Res. Water and Power Subcomm.
29. Dave Wegner, Staff Director, House Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee
30. Shirley Pitts, Guest

ATTACHMENT 5
Joint Delegation Funding Support Letters

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Chairman
The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, 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 Frelinghuysen:

We are requesting your support for President's recommended budget for FY 2011 of \$8,354,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region within the budget line-item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program," per authorization provided by P.L. 106-392, as amended. The funding designation we seek is as follows: \$7,154,000 for construction and construction management activities for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program; \$800,000 for construction and construction management activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; and \$400,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development activities to avoid jeopardy.

These highly successful, cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests. The programs are recognized as being model collaborative conservation partnerships successfully working towards recovery of endangered species while needed water development is proceeding to support growing western communities in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Since 1988, these programs have provided ESA Section 7 compliance (without litigation) for more than 2,000 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting more than 37 million acre-feet of water per year.

The requested FY 2011 budget will allow the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program to complete a fish passage facility on the San Juan River. The funding for the Upper Colorado Recovery Program will be used in fiscal year 2011 to rehabilitate a fish screen, to construct propagation facilities, and to initiate construction of a water conservation and canal automation project to provide additional water supplies for the endangered fishes. The requested federal appropriation is critically important to these efforts moving forward. Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding exceeding 50% is embodied in both of these successful programs.

We gratefully thank you for the past support and assistance of your Subcommittee; it has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. The undersigned request fiscal year 2011 funding assistance to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,


Rep. Diana DeGette


Rep. Martin Heinrich

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Chairman
The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member
March 22, 2010
Page 2



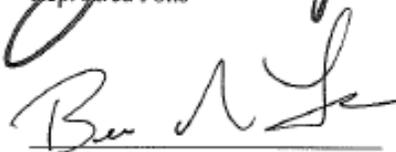
Rep. Betsy Markey



Rep. Jared Polis



Rep. Harry Teague



Rep. Ben Ray Luján

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2010

The Honorable James P. Moran, Chairman
The Honorable Michael K. Simpson, 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 Moran and Representative Simpson:

We write to request your support for fiscal year 2011 budget to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as requested in the President's recommended budget. The national-level FWS funding for "Recovery" and "National Fish Hatchery Operations" within the Resource Management Appropriation line-items are the sources of FWS funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. The President's recommended budget for FY 2011 includes vitally-needed FWS funding for these two recovery programs. They are recognized national model efforts for collaboratively working to recover endangered species while addressing water needs to support growing western communities' water needs. These programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies, and water, power and environmental interests which, since 1988, have provided ESA compliance (without litigation) for more than 2,000 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting more than 3.7 million acre-feet of water per year.

We seek the appropriation of \$709,000 of "Recovery" funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; within the \$85,611,000 item entitled "Recovery") for essential FWS participation in the Upper Colorado Recovery Program.

We also seek the appropriation of \$485,000 in operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation Activity; National Fish Hatchery Operations Subactivity); within the \$50,307,000 item entitled "National Fish Hatchery Operations" for ongoing fish hatchery operational activities integral to the Upper Colorado Recovery Program.

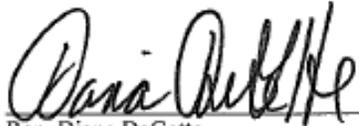
We support action by the Subcommittee which will allocate \$200,000 in "Recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program for fiscal year 2011 to meet FWS's expenses in managing the San Juan Program's diverse recovery actions.

Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding exceeding 50% is embodied in both of these programs. The past support and assistance of your Subcommittee has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. We gratefully thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2011 funding of "Recovery" and "National Fish Hatchery Operations" to help ensure FWS' continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

The Honorable James P. Moran, Chairman
The Honorable Michael K. Simpson, Ranking Member
March 22, 2010
Page 2

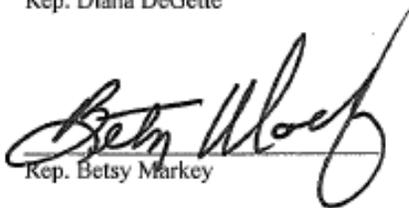
Sincerely,



Rep. Diana DeGette



Rep. Martin Heinrich



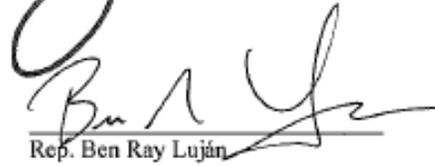
Rep. Betsy Markey



Rep. Jared Polis



Rep. Harry Teague



Rep. Ben Ray Luján

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 29, 2010

The Honorable Byron Dorgan, Chairman
The Honorable Robert F. Bennett, Ranking Member
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Senator Bennett:

We are requesting your support for an appropriation in the President's recommended budget for FY 2011 of \$8,354,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region within the budget line-item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program," per authorization provided by P.L. 106-392, as amended. The funding designation we seek is as follows: \$800,000 for construction and construction management activities for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program; \$7,154,000 for construction and construction management activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; and \$400,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development activities to avoid jeopardy.

These highly successful, cooperative programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies and water, power and environmental interests. The programs are recognized as being model collaborative conservation partnerships successfully working towards recovery of endangered species while needed water development is proceeding to support growing western communities in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Since 1988, these programs have provided ESA Section 7 compliance (without litigation) for more than 2,000 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting more than 3.7 million acre-feet of water per year.

The requested FY 2011 appropriation will allow the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program to complete a fish passage facility on the San Juan River. The funding for the Upper Colorado Recovery Program will be used in fiscal year 2011 to rehabilitate a fish screen, to construct propagation facilities, and to initiate construction of a water conservation and canal automation project to provide additional water supplies for the endangered fishes. The requested federal appropriation is critically important to these efforts moving forward. Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding exceeding 50% is embodied in both of these successful programs.

We gratefully thank you for the past support and assistance of your Subcommittee; it has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. The undersigned request fiscal year 2011 funding assistance to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bing
Mark Udall

John Barrasso

Tom Udall
Mark F. B.

Quinn Hatch

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 29, 2010

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

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Senator Alexander:

We write to request your support for fiscal year 2011 appropriations to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as requested in the President's recommended budget. The national-level FWS funding for "Recovery" and "National Fish Hatchery Operations" within the Resource Management Appropriation line-items are the sources of FWS funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. The President's recommended budget for FY 2011 includes vitally-needed FWS funding for these two recovery programs. They are recognized national model efforts for collaboratively working to recover endangered species while addressing water needs to support growing western communities' water needs. These programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies, and water, power and environmental interests which, since 1988, have provided ESA compliance (without litigation) for more than 2,000 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting more than 3.7 million acre-feet of water per year.

We seek the appropriation of \$709,000 of "Recovery" funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; within the \$85,611,000 item entitled "Recovery") for essential FWS participation in the Upper Colorado Recovery Program.

We seek the appropriation of \$485,000 in operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation Activity; National Fish Hatchery Operations Subactivity); within the \$50,307,000 item entitled "National Fish Hatchery Operations" for ongoing fish hatchery operational activities integral to the Upper Colorado Recovery Program.

We support action by the Subcommittee which will allocate \$200,000 in "Recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program for fiscal year 2011 to meet FWS's expenses in managing the San Juan Program's diverse recovery actions.

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Sincerely,

John Barrasso
John Barrasso

Steve Z. Bennett
Steve Z. Bennett

Tom Udell
Tom Udell

Mark F. B. A.
Mark F. B. A.

Quinn Hatch
Quinn Hatch

Mark Udell
Mark Udell