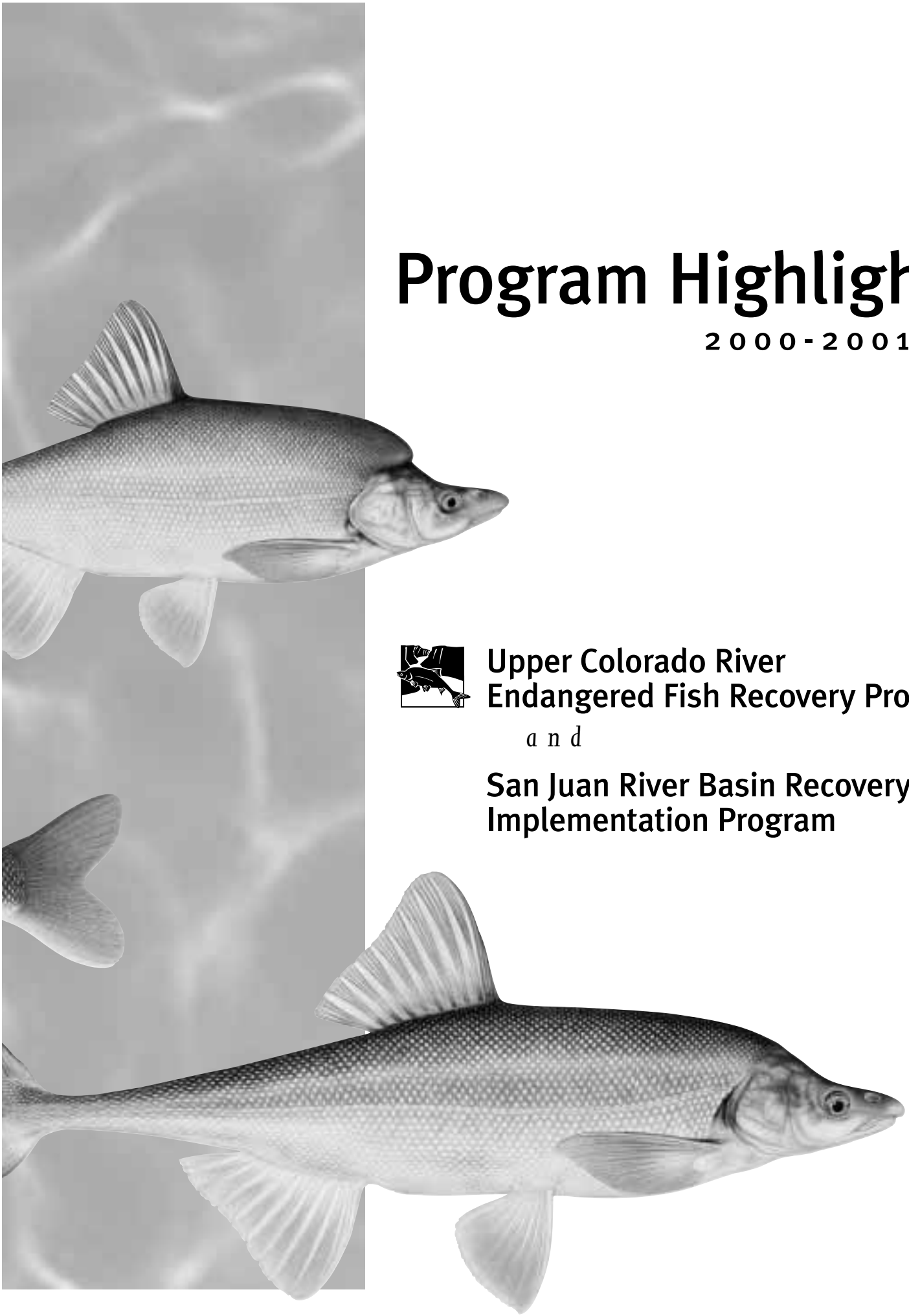


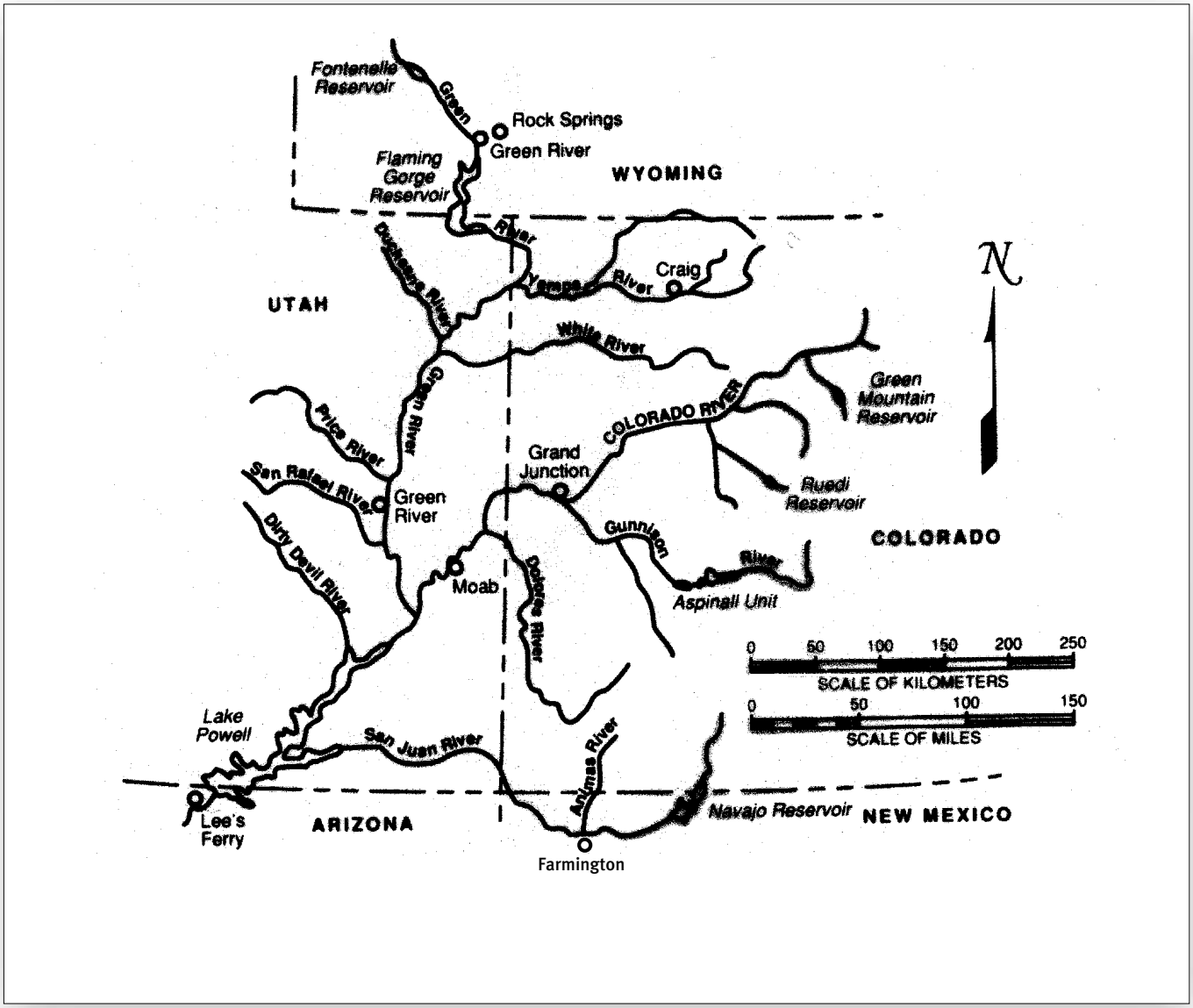
Program Highlights

2000-2001

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

and

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program



Geographic Scope

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program covers the Colorado River and its tributaries in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.

The San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program covers the San Juan River and its tributaries in Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico.

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

Program Highlights
2000–2001

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Requested FY 2002
Congressional Action Items

Participants in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program are requesting the following of Congress for FY 2002.

Fish and Wildlife Service Funding

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

- $706,000 requested in Region 6's "recovery" funds
- $400,000 requested for operation and maintenance of Ouray National Fish Hatchery

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

- $126,000 requested in Region 2's "recovery" funds

Bureau of Reclamation Funding

- $6.950 million in "Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities" for the Upper Colorado Region. ($5.135 million for Upper Colorado River; $1.815 million for San Juan River Basin)

Details of these requests follow.

Fish and Wildlife Service Budget

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

1. **Support Fish and Wildlife Service funds for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program ($706,000 requested in "recovery" funds)**

   Projects to be funded are:

   - **Fish and Wildlife Service program management:** Funding covers salaries and expenses of Program Director and staff.

   - **Population estimation and monitoring program:** This activity supports Service participation in estimating the abundance of fish populations, evaluating stocking, and monitoring fish and habitat response to recovery actions.

   - **Data management:** The Service maintains all fish data collected in the Recovery Program in computerized form to facilitate analysis. This includes maintaining the overall database, summarizing data, and providing an annual listing of all tagged fish.

2. **Support Fish and Wildlife Service funds for operation of the Ouray National Fish Hatchery ($400,000 requested for fish hatchery operation and annual maintenance)**

   The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program requests Congressional support to operate the Service's National Fish Hatchery in Ouray, Utah. Funds will enable the hatchery to continue to raise and hold endangered fish for stocking, research,and refugia (adult fish for spawning and maintaining gene pool.)

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

3. **Support Fish and Wildlife Service funding for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program ($126,000 requested in "recovery" funds)**

   Projects to be funded are:

   - **Fish and Wildlife Service program management:** Funds support partial salary for the Program Coordinator and Assistant, printing costs for reports, and brochures and some research and monitoring.

Bureau of Reclamation Budget

1. **Support Bureau of Reclamation funds for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs.**

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Program participants request Congressional support for $6.950 million for FY 2002 in "Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities for the Upper Colorado Region." This amount would provide the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program with $5.135 million, the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program with $1.815 million, and Activities to Avoid Jeopardy with $535,000.The $5.135 million, supported by Upper Basin Program participants, would be used for water acquisition and capital construction projects including:

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program Activities

- **Fish passage:** Funds will be used to restore fish passage on the Colorado River at the Grand Valley Project and the Price-Stubb Diversion dams. These activities will benefit razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow by providing access to historic habitat, and will support expanded populations to achieve recovery goals.
- **Water acquisition:** Funds will be used to complete modification and automation of canals to more efficiently operate irrigation projects near Grand Junction, Colorado, and dedicate the "saved" water to endangered fish consistent with State water law.
- **Nonnati ve fish control:** Funds are needed to modify at least 20 ponds/year to prevent nonnative fish from escaping into the river where they may harm endangered fish. Funds also are needed to design and install a fish barrier on Elkhead Reservoir to prevent nonnative fish from escaping into the Yampa River.
- **Floodplain restoration:** Funds are needed to continue land acquisition, levee removal, and other floodplain restoration activities at high priority sites. Restoring these floodplains is especially important for razorback sucker and will benefit a variety of wetland-dependent wildlife.
- **Endangered fish gro wout ponds:** Existing hatcheries and native fish production facilities fall short of meeting stocking needs. Funds are needed to excavate or locate at least 100 acres of growout ponds to raise razorback sucker and other endangered fish for further stocking into the Green, Colorado, and Gunnison rivers.
- **Diversion canal screening:** Funds are needed to construct a screen at the Grand Valley Irrigation Company Diversion Canal to prevent endangered fish from being drawn out of the river and into the canals. The habitat above the diversion is used by adult endangered fish. Funds are also needed to construct a screen at the Tusher Wash Diversion Canal on the Green River in Utah to prevent fish from being trapped in irrigation canals and the power plant intakes.

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program Activities

- In FY 2001 fish passage will be provided at the Hogback Diversion and rearing ponds for razorback sucker will be constructed. Capital expenditures for FY 2002 will be the construction of fish passage at the Public Service Company of New Mexico weir and removal of the Cudei Diversion Dam and replacement with a siphon. In addition, the feasibility of fish passage at the Arizona Public Service weir will be investigated and additional rearing ponds for razorback sucker will be constructed.

Endangered Fish
Status and Recovery Highlights

Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Recovery Programs

Colorado Pikeminnow

Status

- Since 1991, the abundance estimates for adult Colorado pikeminnow in the Colorado River have tripled. The current population estimate is 650 adults. Recent estimates in the Green River System place the number of adults at about 3,500.
- The State of Colorado downlisted the Colorado pikeminnow from "State-endangered" to "State-threatened" in 1998.
- In the San Juan River, the Colorado pikeminnow population appears to be less than 100.

Recovery Highlights

- Construction of the Redlands Fish Ladder on the Gunnison River opened 57 miles of historic habitat. The completion of two passageways on the upper Colorado River will provide another 55 miles of habitat not available since these diversion dams have been in place. Combined, these passageways will triple the available habitat for adult Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker in the upper Colorado River.
- Greater numbers of young Colorado pikeminnow survived than expected when stocked into the San Juan River. It appears some will become part of the reproducing adult population.

Razorback Sucker

Status

- The population continues to decline in some areas of the Upper Colorado River Basin. Because of its scarcity, this species has been given highest priority for hatchery raising and stocking.
- The Green River contains fewer than 500 wild adults. These fish represent a spawning population.
- No wild razorback sucker have been found recently in the San Juan River.

Recovery Highlights

- More than 45,000 razorback sucker have been raised and stocked in the Upper Colorado River Basin to date. Another 20,000 will be stocked in 2001.
- Between 1994 and 2000, 6,107 razorback sucker were stocked in the San Juan River. Young razorback sucker found in the river indicate that formerly stocked razorback sucker are surviving and spawning.

Hatchery Programs

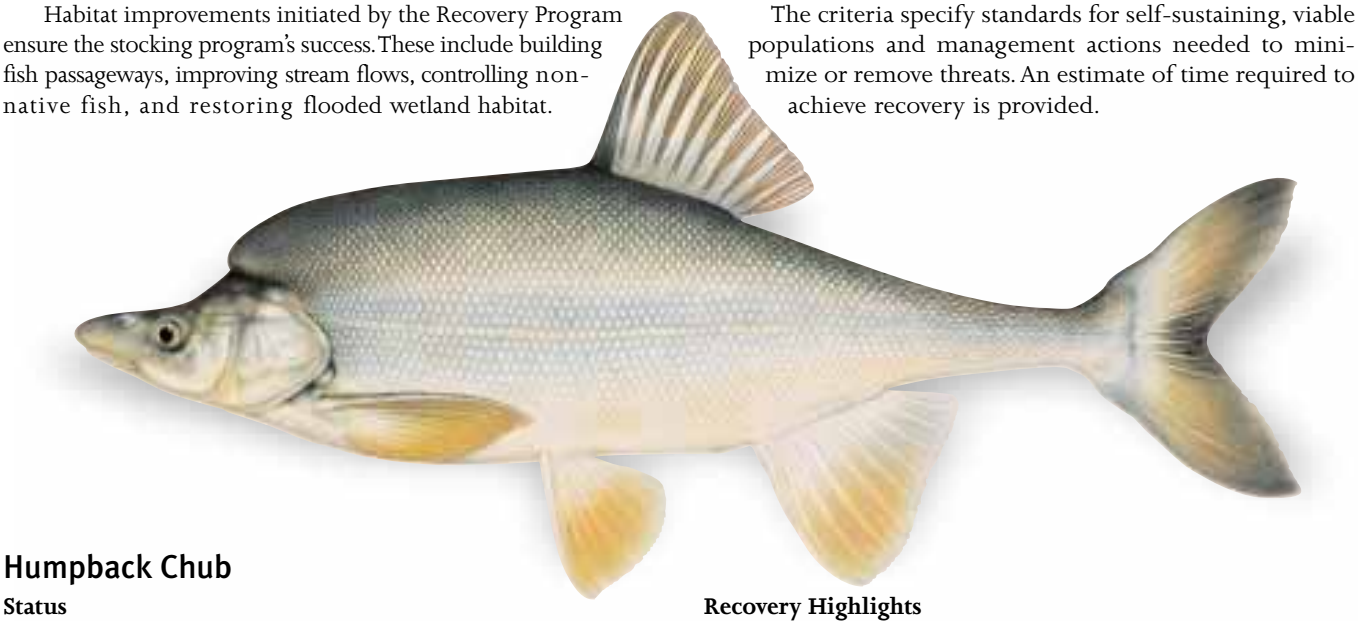
During the past several years, the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program has established state-of-the-art hatcheries that raise endangered fish and protect genetic diversity. These facilities are helping the Program meet approved stocking plans. In the future, the Program plans to stock 2,040,000 razorback sucker, 755,800 bonytail, and 21,600 Colorado pikeminnow.

Habitat improvements initiated by the Recovery Program ensure the stocking program's success. These include building fish passageways, improving stream flows, controlling non-native fish, and restoring flooded wetland habitat.

Recovery Goals

Draft recovery goals for the four endangered fish species will be available for public comment in Spring 2001. The recovery goals supplement and amend existing recovery plans. The goals contain measurable, objective criteria that, when met, would result in proposals to remove the fish from the Federal list of threatened or endangered species.

The criteria specify standards for self-sustaining, viable populations and management actions needed to minimize or remove threats. An estimate of time required to achieve recovery is provided.



Humpback Chub

Status

- Populations appear healthy and stable in most areas of the Upper Colorado River Basin. The population at Black Rocks and Westwater Canyon, near the Colorado-Utah border, is estimated at 6,500.
- The State of Colorado downlisted the humpback chub from "State-endangered" to "State-threatened" in 1998.

Recovery Highlights

- The Recovery Program is currently developing population estimates for the entire Upper Colorado River Basin.

Bonytail

Status

- This is the rarest of the four endangered Colorado River fish species. Before stocking began, bonytail had virtually disappeared in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

Recovery Highlights

- More than 93,000 bonytail have been raised and stocked in the Colorado River since 1996. Of those, 10,000 were reintroduced into State of Colorado waters for the first time in July 2000. Another 33,000 bonytail have been released in the Green River. Additional stocking is planned for 2001.

Illustrations © Joseph R. Tomelleri

Program Overview

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program is an interagency partnership created to recover the endangered Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, humpback chub, and bonytail while allowing for continued and future water development. The Recovery Program was initiated in 1988 when a cooperative agreement was signed by the Governors of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming; the Secretary of the Interior; and the Administrator of Western Area Power Administration.

Program Partners

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

Program Elements

- **Habitat management** includes identifying and acquiring instream flows, changing operations of Federal dams, and operating other reservoirs in a coordinated manner to benefit endangered fish.
- **Habitat development** includes restoring floodplain/wetland habitats, constructing fish passageways around dams and other barriers in the river, and installing fish screens to prevent endangered fish from becoming trapped in diversion canals.
- **Native fish propagation and genetic management** involves establishing facilities to hold adult broodstock to prevent extinction of these rare fish and maintain their genetic resources; developing growout ponds; conducting research to improve survival of endangered fish raised in captivity and stocked in the wild; and supporting appropriate stocking and reintroduction efforts.
- **Nonnative species and sportfishing** entails managing detrimental nonnative fish species in habitat considered "critical" to endangered fish. This also involves educating and distributing information to anglers to reduce accidental capture of endangered fish.
- **Research, monitoring and data management** provides information about what these fish need to survive, grow, and reproduce in the wild. Efforts include compiling data on the numbers, sizes, and locations of endangered fish; monitoring endangered fish population trends; and making river flow recommendations.

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

The San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program was established in 1991 to protect and recover Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker in the San Juan River Basin while water development proceeds in compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws, including fulfillment of Federal trust responsibilities to several Indian tribes. It is anticipated that actions taken under this Program to recover the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker will provide benefits to other native fishes in the basin and prevent them from becoming endangered in the future.

Program Partners

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

Program Elements

- Protection of genetic integrity and management and augmentation of populations involves completion of genetics management and augmentation plans, establishing refugia with stock taken from the wild, and augmenting wild populations of endangered fish species.
- Protection, management, and augmentation of habitat involves identifying important reaches of the San Juan River for different life stages of the endangered fish by mapping current conditions, determining relationships between flow and habitat, and determining flow needs as identified in the Flow Recommendations Report. In addition, augmentation of habitat includes the removal of barriers to fish passage.
- Water quality protection and enhancement involves monitoring existing water quality conditions, evaluating historic information, identifying types and sources of contamination, and investigating changes in water chemistry.
- Interactions between native and nonnative fish species involves determining the distribution and abundance of nonnative species, identifying and characterizing habitats used by the nonnative fish, discontinuing stocking of nonnative species in areas where endangered fish occur, and control of nonnatives through removal efforts.
- Monitoring and data management is needed to evaluate status and trends of endangered fish species as well as other native and nonnative species and to define the overall success of the Recovery Program.

Highlights of
Recovery Program Accomplishments

Habitat Management

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

- Since 1988, the Service has consulted on more than 600 water projects depleting 1,665,000 acre-feet per year in the Upper Basin using the Recovery Program as a reasonable and prudent alternative. The Service simplified the section 7 consultation process, and waives charges for water projects that deplete less than 100 acre-feet of water per year.
- Modifications to the Government Highline Canal will improve efficiency and reduce diversions by more than 28,000 acre-feet per year on average. The "saved" water will remain in the river and be legally protected for the fish.
- Since 1998, public and private cooperation has resulted in managed releases of 30,000 acre-feet of surplus water from Green Mountain Reservoir and coordinated releases from Ruedi and Wolford Mountain Reservoirs. This effort helps meet the Service's flow recommendations for the endangered fishes.
- Recovery Program participants coordinated operations of several reservoirs in Colorado during spring 1997–2000 to provide additional flows in the Colorado River of about 2,500 cubic feet per second for 1 week during spring runoff.
- The Bureau of Reclamation is preparing an environmental impact statement for operations at Flaming Gorge Dam. The EIS is slated for completion in 2001.
- The management plan for the Yampa River Basin is nearing completion.A programmatic biological opinion (PBO) is slated for completion in 2001. Planning has begun for a PBO for the Gunnison River Basin.This PBO is slated for completion in 2002.
- The City and County of Denver signed a recovery agreement in 2000, formalizing a commitment to provide water from several Colorado reservoirs to benefit the endangered fish. The agreement provides assurances to water user organizations that planned water depletions won't jeopardize the fish.

Cooperative efforts of public and private organizations results in coordinated releases of water from reservoirs such as Wolford Mountain near Kremmling, Colorado.

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

- A seven-year research program was completed in 1999. Most of the final reports were published in 2000.
- Flow recommendations for the San Juan River were approved in 1999 and the Bureau of Reclamation has altered the timing and magnitude of releases from Navajo Dam to meet these flow recommendations. An environmental impact statement is slated for completion in 2002.
- The long-range plan is currently being revised to incorporate Program actions that need to occur from 2001 through 2007.
- The Program Evaluation Report was completed by the Biology Committee in 2000. This report summarizes the knowledge gained from research efforts to date.

Habitat Development

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

- A 350-foot-long fish ladder, completed at Redlands Diversion Dam on the Gunnison River in 1996, has allowed passage of 51 endangered Colorado pikeminnow and more than 40,000 other native fish.
- A fish passage was completed in January 1998 at the Grand Valley Irrigation Company Diversion Dam on the Colorado River.
- Floodplain/wetland habitat has been improved to benefit endangered fish at five Bureau of Land Management sites on the Green River; three sites at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge near Vernal, Utah; and two sites on the Colorado River near Grand Junction.
- The Recovery Program has acquired 1,200 acres of floodplain/wetland habitat along the Green, Colorado, and Gunnison rivers.

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

- Flow regimes to restore native fish habitat have been implemented.
- Construction of fish passage at the Hogback Diversion will be completed in 2001. Construction of a fish passage structure at the Public Service Company of New Mexico weir will begin in the fall of 2001.

Floodplain/wetland habitat has been improved at many sites, including the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge near Vernal, Utah.

Native Fish Propagation and Stocking

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

The Recovery Program operates three hatchery facilities in Colorado and Utah:

- Ouray National Fish Hatchery (Utah): Although the hatchery is not yet fully operational, it raised 28,000 razorback sucker in 2000. Some of those fish will be raised at the hatchery to produce future young for stocking. Others will be stocked in the Green River. The hatchery is expected to become fully operational in 2001.
- Wahweap Endangered Fish Facility (Utah): This site raised 114,466 bonytail in 2000. The fish were stocked in the Colorado and Green Rivers.
- 24 Road Hatchery (Colorado): An expansion completed in July 2000 more than doubled the facility's capacity to raise endangered fish. The new space will enable the hatchery to produce enough Colorado pikeminnow to meet the needs identified in the Program's stocking plan. The hatchery also can increase the number of razorback sucker raised.
- The Ouray and 24 Road hatcheries use off-site, private and public ponds to expand their ability to raise greater numbers of fish. The Grand Valley has approximately 25 acres of ponds used to grow fish to larger sizes before stocking into the river. In 2000, eight new ponds totaling 22 surface acres were constructed near DeBeque, Colorado. In the Vernal area, 7.5 acres of ponds were leased and additional ponds are being modified to raise fish on the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge.

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

- Native fish propagation and stocking has focused on stocking razorback sucker in growout ponds and about 6,000 in the San Juan River. Approximately 800,000 larval Colorado pikeminnow have been stocked in the San Juan River.

Nonnative Species, Sportfishing and Public Information/Involvement

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

- Federal and State wildlife agencies in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming finalized a Nonnative Fish Stocking Procedures agreement in 1996 on stocking of nonnative sport fish. As of 1998, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife had incorporated this agreement into their State stocking requirements.
- To date, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and the Service have removed more than 20,500 nonnative channel catfish,21,700 nonnative sunfish and bass,and 319,500 nonnative minnows from rivers in the Upper Colorado River Basin.
- In 2000, 350 northern pike were translocated from the Yampa River to Rio Blanco Reservoir in northwest Colorado.
- Chemical reclamation of ponds adjacent to the Colorado and Gunnison rivers to reduce sources contributing nonnative fishes to riverine habitats started in 1998. To date, 118 ponds have been surveyed, and 24 have been chemically reclaimed.This project continues in 2001 and 2002.
- A fish barrier net installed in 1999 in Highline Lake Reservoir near Grand Junction, Colorado, has significantly reduced escapement of nonnative sport fishes from the reservoir and into reaches of critical habitat in the Colorado River.
- Recovery Program participants have coordinated public involvement activities for key Recovery Program actions, including Colorado instream flow acquisition, construction of fish passageways, coordinated reservoir operations, water releases from Ruedi Reservoir, development and implementation of nonnative fish stocking procedures, acquisition and restoration of wetland habitat, Yampa River and Grand Valley water management.
- The Recovery Program produces a wide range of educational materials, including a newsletter, brochure, video, and portable and permanent interpretive exhibits.
- The Recovery Program maintains a Web site at www.r6.fws.gov/coloradoriver.

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

- In the San Juan River system, nonnative fish can be an impediment to the survival of native fish. Some species, such as channel catfish,are being directly controlled while control of other species, such as the red shiner, is being attempted through restoration of the natural flow regime and restoration of river habitat. Resources are also focused on the removal of striped bass as they enter the river from Lake Powell.
- The Program is working with the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico to transplant nonnative fish from the river to local lakes.
- Full participation of the public in the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program is invited through open public meetings. The San Juan River Program also maintains a Web site at http://southwest.fws.gov/sjrip.

A fish barrier net in Colorado's Highline Lake Reservoir has improved sportfishing opportunities while reducing nonnative fish encounters in the Colorado River

Biologists use electrofishing equipment to sample endangered fish populations in the San Juan River downstream of Bluff, Utah.

Research, Monitoring, and Data Management

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

- The final Green River flow and temperature recommendations were completed and approved by the Recovery Program in April 2000. Follow-up studies are underway to refine those recommendations.
- Draft flow recommendations for the Gunnison River were completed in 2000 and are going through the Program's review process.
- Research will begin in 2001 to study the feasibility of releasing warmer water at the Aspinall Unit Dam to improve fish habitat in the Gunnison River.
- A population estimate for Colorado pikeminnow on the Colorado River was initiated in 1991-1994. At that time the Colorado pikeminnow population was estimated at about 450 adults. The 1998-2000 estimates were around 650, indicating an increase.
- The Recovery Program is developing population estimates for all endangered fish species throughout the Upper Basin.

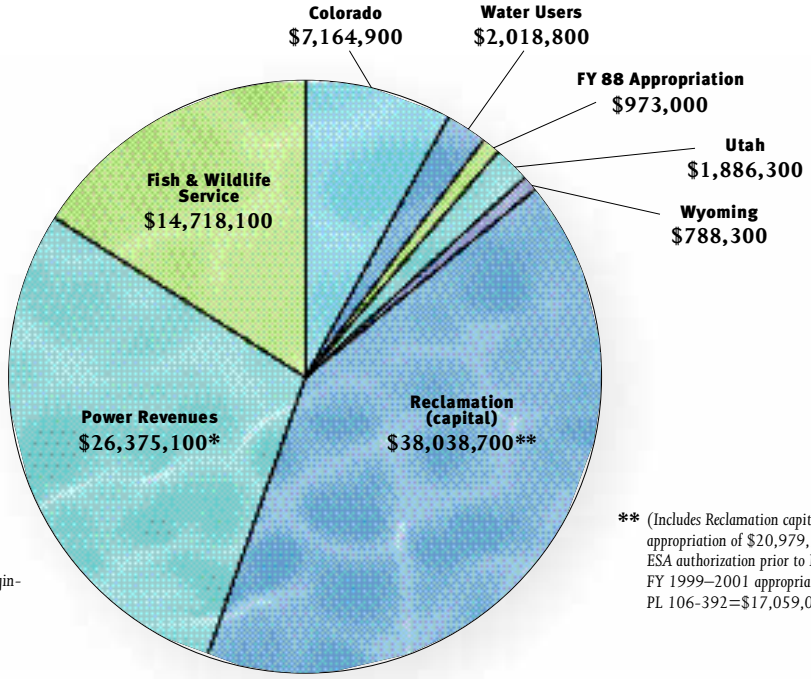
San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

- Research addresses young fish identification, habitat mapping, effects of flow regimes on nonnative fish, evaluation of stocked razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow, and the importance of secondary channels. The young, juvenile, and adult fish communities,the study of contaminants and fish health are also being monitored.Monitoring also includes channel morphology and aspects of the river water. A large data management aspect is the GIS-based integrated database.

Expenditures

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

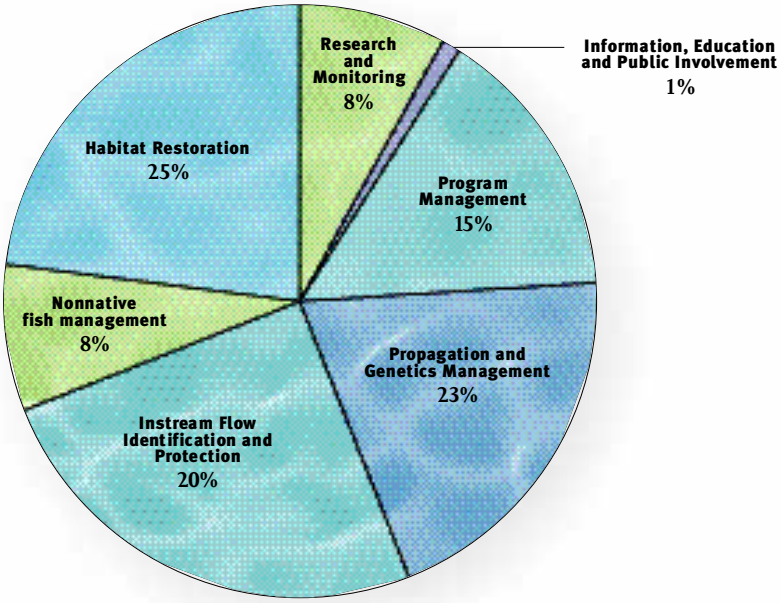
Total Expenditures = $91,963,200 (FYs 1989–2001)



* (Includes capital appropriations beginning FY 2001.)

** (Includes Reclamation capital appropriation of $20,979,700 under ESA authorization prior to FY 1999. FY 1999–2001 appropriation under PL 106-392=$17,059,000.)

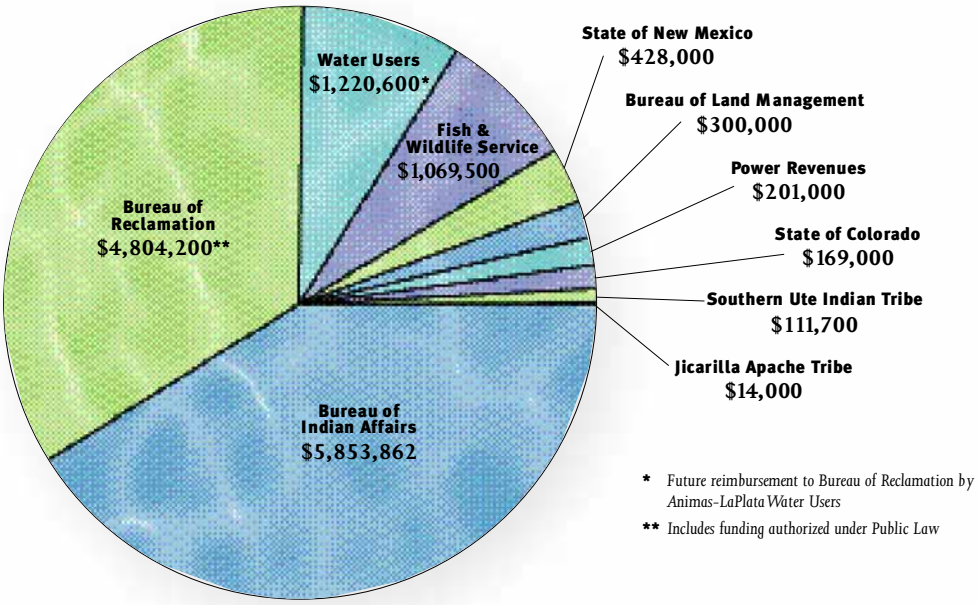
Percentage Expenditures by Category (FY 2001 only)



Expenditures

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

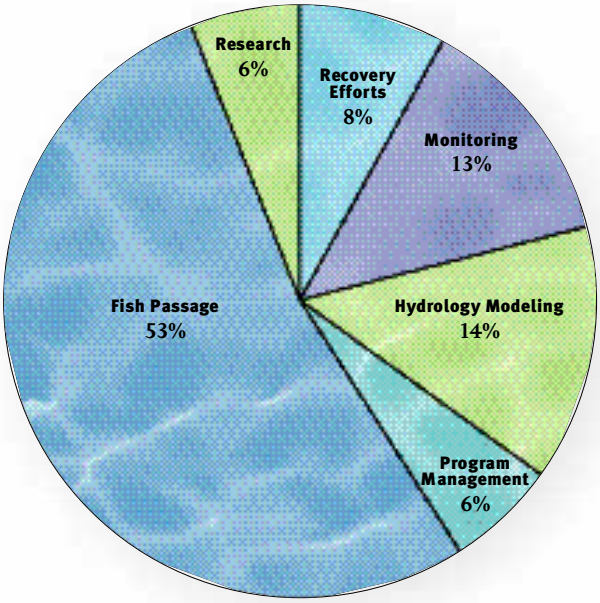
Total Expenditures = $14,171,862 (FYs 1992–2001)
(Not including in-kind contributions)



* Future reimbursement to Bureau of Reclamation by Animas-LaPlata Water Users

** Includes funding authorized under Public Law

Percentage Expenditures by Category (FY 2001 only)



Long-term Funding Legislation

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

The success of both Recovery Programs depends on obtaining sufficient funds to implement recovery actions such as those identified in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Action Plan. To meet these funding needs, Public Law 106-392 was signed on October 30, 2000,authorizing the U.S.Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to provide cost-sharing for capital construction projects for the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Recovery Programs. Capital construction is not to exceed $100 million: $82 million through 2005 for the Upper Colorado River Recovery Program and $18 million through 2007 for the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program.

Capital construction for these programs includes building hatchery facilities to produce endangered fish for stocking, restoring floodplain habitat and fish passage, regulating and/or supplying instream habitat flows, installing screens to prevent fish entrapment in canals, and removing and/or relocating nonnative fishes.

PL 106-392 authorizes up to $46 million of Congressional appropriations to the USBR toward the cost of completing capital projects for the two recovery programs. These funds are declared to be a non-reimbursable Federal expenditure.

Established Cost-sharing of Capital Construction for the Upper Colorado and San Juan Recovery Programs

Upper Colorado Recovery Program	$ 82 million
San Juan Recovery Program	$ 18 million
Total	$ 100 million

Sources of Revenue (Cost-sharing)

Federal		Non-Federal	
Congress:	$46 million	Power Revs:	$ 17 million
		States:	$ 17 million
		Water & Power:	$ 20 million
Total	$46 million	Total	$ 54 million

State Funding

The four participating states and power revenues each will contribute $17 million, and the Act recognizes the contribution of $20 million in expenditures that have been incurred for replacement power purchases due to modified operation of the CRSP hydropower facilities and the capital cost of water released from Wolford Mountain Reservoir in Colorado to benefit the endangered fish.

Cost-sharing by the Four Participating States

		Upper Colorado River Rec. Program	San Juan Rec. Program
Colorado	$ 9.146 M	$ 8.065 M	$ 1.081 M
Utah	3.422 M	3.422	0.000 M
New Mexico	2.744 M	0.000 M	2.744 M
Wyoming	1.688 M	1.688 M	0.000 M
	Total $ 17.000 M	Total $ 13.175 M	Total $ 3.825 M

Power Revenues

The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), is authorized to use up to $17 million of power revenues for capital projects. These revenues are treated as a non-Federal contribution, but are reimbursable costs assigned to power for repayment under Section 5 of the CRSP Act. PL 106-392 requires that the power revenue and State funding match on a rolling two-year basis. Power revenue funding may come from a loan provided to WAPA from the Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund.

Base Program Funding Stabilized

PL 106-392 also provides up to $6 million per year (adjusted annually for inflation) of CRSP hydropower revenues for base (non-capital) funding for the two recovery programs. Through 2011, annual "base" funding of up to $4 million may be provided for the Upper Colorado Program and up to $2 million may be provided for the San Juan Program.After 2011, power revenues may only be used to operate and maintain the capital projects and for monitoring, unless Congress authorizes additional funding.

Water Project Consultations

Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act

Table 1

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
Summary of Section 7 Consultations

(1/1998 through 12/31/2000)

		Historic Depletions	New Depletions	Totals	
State	Number of Consultations	Acre-feet/yr	Acre-feet/yr	Acre-feet/yr	Depletion Fees[4]
Colorado [1]	182	1,016,831.44	134,275.82	1,151,107.26	$ 440,844
Utah	28	421,867.74	65,793.95	487,661.69	454,866
Wyoming	31	3,715.83	16,487.68	20,203.51	162,711
Regional [2,3]	3	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0
Totals	244	1,442,415.01	222,557.45	1,664,972.46	$ 1,058,420

[1] Includes the 15-Mile Reach Programmatic Biological Opinion, 12/20/99, on 1 million AF/yr of historic depletions (through September 30, 1995) and up to 120,000 AF/yr of new depletions (through September 30,1995) in the Colorado River above the confluence with the Gunnison River. Thus far, the 15-Mile Reach PBO has covered 106 actual projects.

[2] Depletion charges waived by USFWS for consultations on depletions of less than 100 AF/yr.

[3] Represent blanket consultations for depletions under 100AF/yr, up to 6,000 AF/yr total.These three consultations have covered 375 actual projects depleting 5,427 AF (4,008 AF in Colorado, 841 AF in Utah,and 578 AF in Wyoming).

[4] Pre-FY 1990:$10/AF; FY 2001:$14.75/AF.

Table 2

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program
Summary of Section 7 Consultations

	Historic Depletions	New Depletions	Totals
State	Acre-feet/yr	Acre-feet/yr	Acre-feet/yr
New Mexico [1,3]	590,863.00	3,000.00	593,863.00
Colorado [2,3]	184,714.00	57,100.00	241,814.00
Utah [3]	9,140.00	0.00	9,140.00
Totals	784,717.00	60,100.00	844,817.00

[1] New depletion includes minor depletions (less than 100 AF),estimated at 3,000 AF.
[2] New depletion associated with Animas-La Plata Project.
[3] Source:2000 Animas-La Plata Project Biological Opinion.

Letters of Support

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs have a broad range of supporters. The following organizations sent letters of support for FY 2001 appropriations. It is anticipated that these organizations also will support the FY 2002 appropriations.

Letters of support for FY 2001 appropriations were sent to Cong ress by:

- State of Colorado
  Bill Owens, Governor
- State of Utah
  Michael O. Leavitt, Governor
- State of Wyoming
  Jim Geringer, Governor
- Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District, Durango, Colorado
  Richard K. Griswold, President, Board of Directors
- Board of Water Works of Pueblo, Colorado
  Alan C. Hamel, Executive Director
- Central Utah Water Conservancy District
  Don A. Christiansen, General Manager
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources
  Greg E. Walcher, Executive Director
- Colorado River Water Conservation District, Glenwood Springs, Colorado
  Eric Kuhn, Secretary-Engineer
- Colorado Springs Utilities
  Leah D. Ash, Director, Water Resources Department
- Colorado Water Congress
  Frank E. "Sam" Maynes, Chairman, CWC Federal Affairs Committee
- Denver Board of Water Commissioners
  H.J. Barry, III, Manager
- Wyoming State Engineer
  Gordon W. "Jeff" Fassett
- New Mexico State Engineer
  Thomas C. Turney
- Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Loveland, Colorado
  Eric W. Wilkinson, General Manager
- Public Service Company of New Mexico
  Patrick J. Goodman, Vice President, Power Production

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2000

The Honorable Ralph Regula, Chairman
The Honorable Norm Dicks, Ranking Minority Member
Interior Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
B308 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

Dear Chairman Regula and Ranking Minority Member Dicks:

We are writing to request your support and assistance in ensuring continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species of the Upper Colorado River Basin and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. This multi-state, multi-agency Recovery Program is being implemented in the Upper Colorado River Basin with the objective of recovering four endangered fish species while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This funding will ensure that federal cost sharing funds are provided to the recovery programs. We respectfully request your support for the following:

1. That the Subcommittee support the appropriation of $706,000 in recovery funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Upper Basin Recovery Program. This is the amount requested in the Administration's FY 2001 budget proposal and is approximately the same amount requested in previous years.

2. That the Subcommittee support the continued base funding in fiscal year 2001 of $322,000 to operate and $5,000 to maintain (Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity) FWS' endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah as requested in the Administration's budget proposal.

3. That the Subcommittee support the appropriation of $106,000 requested in the Administration's budget for the San Juan Recovery Program.

It is our continued belief that the Subcommittee's assistance in the past has been a major part of the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. The help of the Subcommittee is needed again this year to ensure that the FWS is given adequate funds for recovery of the endangered fish in the Upper Colorado River Basin and San Juan River Basin. We are thankful for your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Scott McInnis
James Hansen
Chris Cannon
Barbara Cubin
Tom Tancredo
Mark Udall
Merrill Cook
Bob Schaffer
Diana DeGette

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2000

The Honorable Ron Packard, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
2362B Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Packard:

We are writing to request your support for an appropriation in Fiscal Year 2001 of $6,861,000 included in the Administration's proposed budget for the Bureau of Reclamation within an item labeled "Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities for the Upper Colorado River Region." Of that amount, the sum of $4,887,000, is designated for expenditure on construction activities associated with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Upper Basin Program), and $1,394,000 is designated for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (San Juan Program).

The Upper Basin Program is a mutually supported program involving the states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Western Area Power Administration. This Recovery Program, now in its eleventh year of operation, has the objective of cooperatively recovering four endangered fish while water development moves forward in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Beginning in fiscal year 1994, the Upper Basin Program initiated specific studies and actions in preparation for the construction activities necessary to recover the endangered fish. The fiscal year 2001 funds will enable these vital activities to continue and to be successfully completed in subsequent fiscal years.

The San Juan Program is a mutually supported program involving the states of Colorado and New Mexico, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribes, Southern Ute Tribe, Jicarrilla Apache Tribe, water development interests, Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Program provides Endangered Species Act compliance for new depletions and for 600,000 acre-feet of existing depletions in Colorado and New Mexico, including the Animas-La Plata Project, and the San Juan-Chama Project that provides water to tribes, municipalities, industries, and agriculture in the Rio Grande basin. In addition, the Program provided the ESA compliance for a 121,000 AF/yr depletion to complete Navajo Indian Irrigation Project.

In FY 2001, the San Juan Program will continue substantial recovery activities that include habitat restoration, artificial propagation, and development of passage structures in the San Juan River to expand the available habitat. The FY 2001 funds will enable continuation of these vital activities which will be successfully completed in subsequent fiscal years.

We would very much appreciate your support of these important multi-state, multi-agency programs.

Sincerely,

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2000

The Honorable Slade Gorton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
SD-131
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Gorton:

We are writing to request your support and assistance in insuring continued funding for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species of the Upper Colorado River Basin and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. This multi-state, multi-agency Recovery Program is being implemented in the Upper Colorado River Basin with the objective of recovering four endangered fish species while water development proceeds in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This funding will ensure that federal cost sharing funds are provided to the recovery programs. We request your support for the following:

1. That the Subcommittee support the appropriation of $706,000 in recovery funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to meet its funding commitment to the Upper Basin Recovery Program. This is the amount requested in the Administration's FY 2001 budget proposal and is approximately the same amount requested in previous years.

2. That the Subcommittee support the continued base funding in fiscal year 2001of $322,000 to operate and $5,000 to maintain (Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity) FWS' endangered fish propagation facilities at the Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah as requested in the Administration's budget proposal.

3. That the Subcommittee support the appropriation of $106,000 requested in the Administration's budget for the San Juan Recovery Program.

To provide for the continued success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs, we need the help of the Subcommittee again this year to ensure that FWS is given

adequate funds for recovery of the endangered fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin and San Juan River Basin. We are thankful for your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Wayne Allard
United States Senator – Colo.

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator – Utah

Robert Bennett
United States Senator – Utah

Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator – N.M.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2000

The Honorable Peter Domenici, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
132 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Domenici:

We are writing to request your support for an appropriation in Fiscal Year 2001 of $6,861,000 included in the Administration's proposed budget for the Bureau of Reclamation within an item labeled "Endangered Species Recovery Programs and Activities for the Upper Colorado River Region." Of that amount, the sum of $4,887,000, is designated for expenditure on construction activities associated with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Upper Basin Program), and $1,394,000 is designated for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (San Juan Program).

The Upper Basin Program is a mutually supported program involving the states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, environmental organizations, power users, water development interests, Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Western Area Power Administration. This Recovery Program, now in its eleventh year of operation, has the objective of cooperatively recovering four endangered fish while water development moves forward in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Beginning in fiscal year 1994, the Upper Basin Program initiated specific studies and actions in preparation for the construction activities necessary to recover the endangered fish. The fiscal year 2001 funds will enable these vital activities to continue and to be successfully completed in subsequent fiscal years.

The San Juan Program is a mutually supported program involving the states of Colorado and New Mexico, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribes, Southern Ute Tribe, Jicarrilla Apache Tribe, water development interests, Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Program provides Endangered Species Act compliance for new depletions and for 600,000 acre-feet of existing depletions in Colorado and New Mexico, including the Animas-La Plata Project, and the San Juan-Chama Project that provides water to tribes, municipalities, industries, and agriculture in the Rio Grande basin. In addition, the Program provided the ESA compliance for a 121,000 AF/yr depletion to complete Navajo Indian Irrigation Project.

In FY 2001, the San Juan Program will continue substantial recovery activities that include habitat restoration, artificial propagation, and development of passage structures in the San Juan River to expand the available habitat. The FY 2001 funds will enable continuation of these vital activities which will be successfully completed in subsequent fiscal years.

We would very much appreciate your support of these important multi-state, multi-agency programs.

Sincerely,

Wayne Allard
United States Senator – Colo.

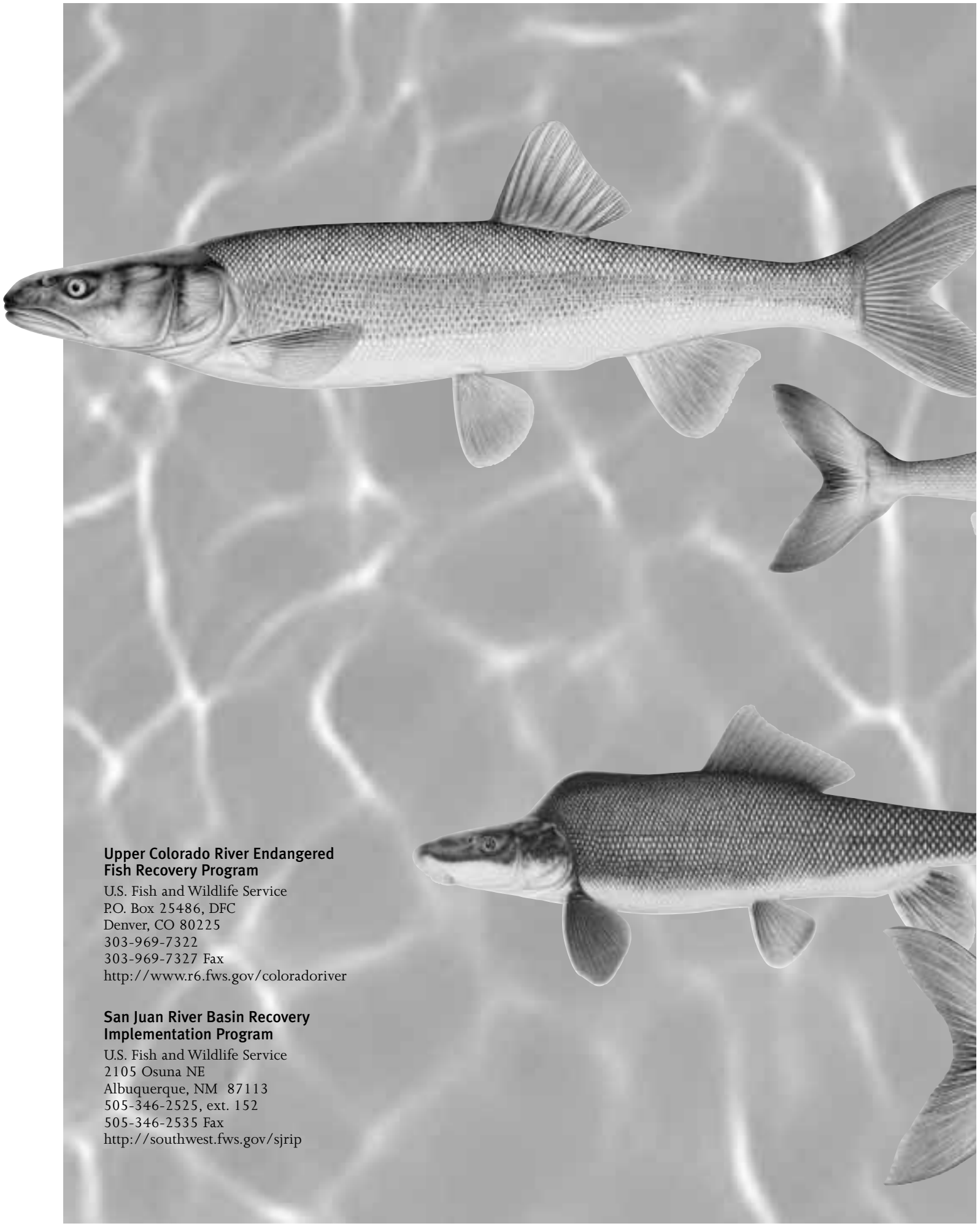
Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator – Utah

Robert Bennett
United States Senator – Utah

Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator – N.M.

Preserving the West's Heritage

The Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Basin Recovery Programs are national models of cost-effective, public and private partnerships working to recover endangered species while allowing water development to continue in accordance with state law and interstate compacts. The Programs' efforts will help ensure that the Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, humpback chub and bonytail remain an important part of the West's heritage.



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http://www.r6.fws.gov/coloradoriver

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505-346-2525, ext. 152
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Recovery Program Participants

Washington, D.C. Visit
March 15–20, 2001

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Chair, Management Committee
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