

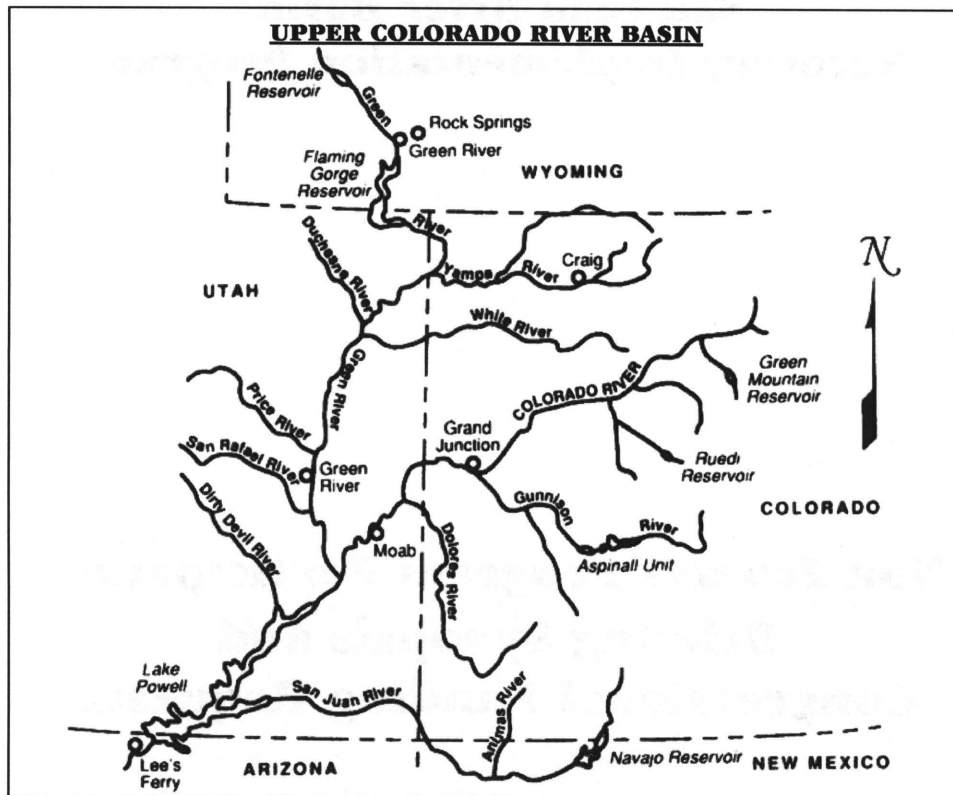
**Upper Colorado River
Endangered Fish Recovery Program**
and
**San Juan River Basin
Recovery Implementation Program**

**Non-Federal Program Participants'
Briefing Synopsis and
Congressional Funding Requests**

Fiscal Year 2006

Briefing Synopsis and Congressional Funding Requests For Fiscal Year 2006

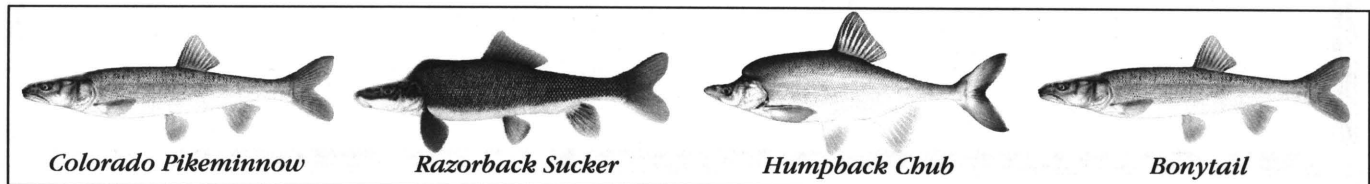
Prepared by Non-Federal Participants in the **Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program** *and* **San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program**



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 Partners: Colorado River Energy Distributors Association • Colorado Water Congress • 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 • Western Resource Advocates • Wyoming Water Association

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program Partners: Jicarilla Apache Nation • Navajo Nation • Southern Ute Indian 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



Requested FY 2006 Congressional Appropriations

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 fiscal year 2006 funding as follows:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Budget

- ❖ An increase in the “Resources Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element” budget of **\$691,000** allocated to “Colorado River fish recovery;”
- ❖ Support of the President’s budget for “Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity” funds as it includes **\$437,000** for the Ouray National Fish Hatchery, a key propagation facility for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program;
- ❖ An increase in the “Resources Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element” budget of **\$211,000** allocated to “San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.”

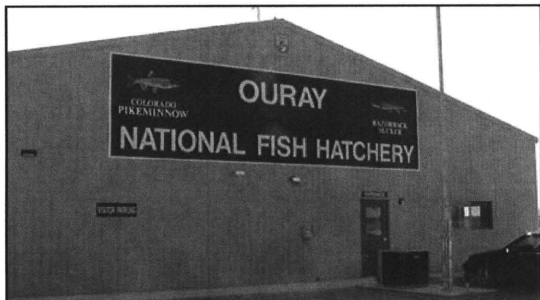
Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Region 6 “Recovery” Funds (\$691,000) for:

- ❖ **Program management:** Salaries, expenses and activities of the Program Director and Program staff.
- ❖ **Monitoring achievement of recovery goals:** This activity supports Service participation in estimating the abundance of fish populations, evaluating stocking, monitoring fish and habitat response to recovery actions and thus tracking Program progress towards accomplishing the recovery goals’ downlisting and delisting criteria.
- ❖ **Data Management:** Computerized compilation of all fishery data facilitates resource management and analysis. Funding allows the Service to maintain the database and inventory of all tagged fish required for determining when the recovery goals are met.

“Fisheries Activity; Hatchery O&M Subactivity” (\$437,000) for:

- ❖ **Ouray National Fish Hatchery:** Operation and maintenance of this innovative Program hatchery is critical to meeting Program stocking objectives.

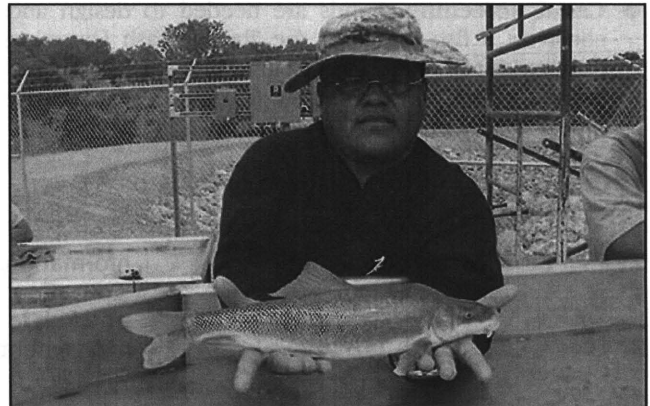


Ouray National Fish Hatchery, Vernal, Utah.

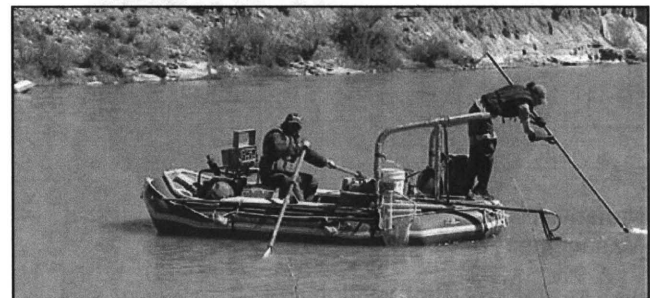
San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

Region 2 “Recovery” Funds (\$211,000) for:

- ❖ **Program management:** Salaries and expenses of the Program Coordinator and Assistant and Fish and Wildlife Service expenses in accomplishing and coordinating Program actions.



Albert Lapahie of the Navajo Nation holds a razorback sucker that used the fish passage structure installed in 2003 at the Public Service Company of New Mexico Weir.



Population monitoring of Colorado pikeminnow on the San Juan River requires long hours of back-breaking work.

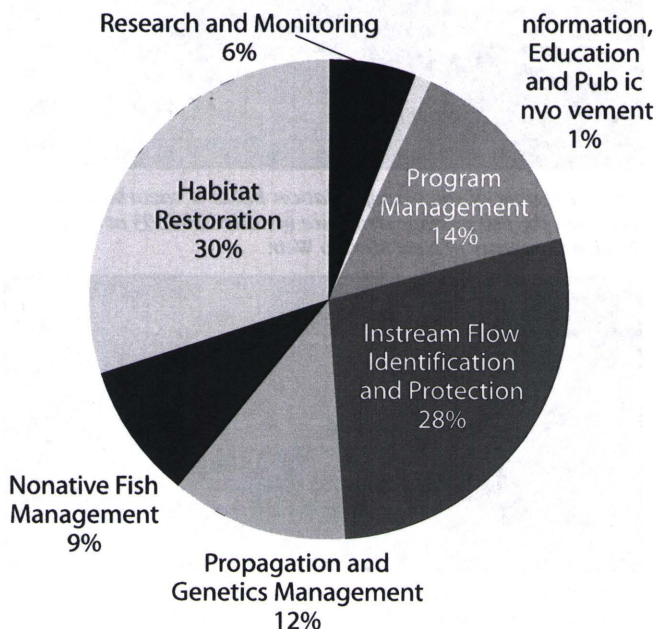
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Budget

- ❖ **\$2,529,000** in “Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program” for the Upper Colorado Region (**\$1,401,000** for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; **\$572,000** for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program; and **\$556,000** for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development).

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (\$1,401,000) for:

- ❖ **Fish Passage:** Requested funds will be directed to restoring fish passage at the Grand Valley Project and Price-Stubbs diversion dams on the Colorado River. Upon opening this additional 50 miles of historically occupied habitat, razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow will expand their populations to achieve recovery goals.
- ❖ **Yampa River Management Plan:** The Recovery Program is a funding partner in enlarging Elkhead Reservoir in northwest Colorado. Additional storage will allow late-summer reservoir releases needed for recovery of the endangered fish.
- ❖ **Floodplain restoration:** Funding is required to continue levee removal and to conduct associated floodplain restoration activities at high-priority sites. Restoring floodplains is critical to razorback sucker recovery and benefits other wetland-dependent wildlife.
- ❖ **Canal screening:** Funds are needed to design and construct a fish screen at the Tusher Wash Diversion Dam on the Green River in Utah to prevent endangered fish from being trapped in the irrigation canal and the power plant turbines.

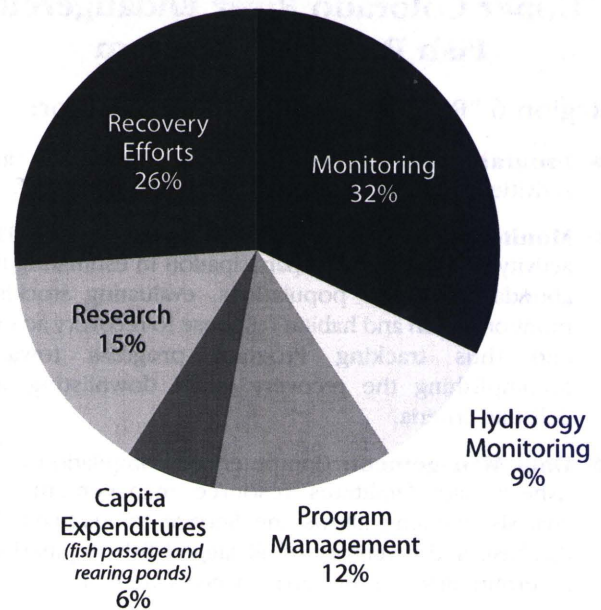
Projected FY 2006 Total Expenditures Upper Colorado River Program



San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (\$572,000) for:

- ❖ **Fish Passage:** Funds will be used to design and construct a fish screen in the Hogback Irrigation Project Canal.
- ❖ **Floodplain restoration:** Funds will be used for additional floodplain restoration for razorback sucker.

Projected FY 2006 Total Expenditures San Juan River Basin Program



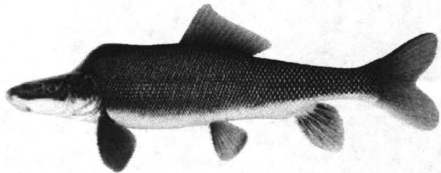
Endangered Fish Recovery Programs — An Ongoing Success Story

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program are making continuing progress towards recovery of the Colorado River endangered fish species. The Programs' partnership approach is directly benefiting the people of the States of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming – while conserving species, protecting states' rights and meeting state and federal responsibilities. The Recovery Programs' cooperative nature demonstrates that finding workable solutions for potentially conflicting interests can, and does, work.

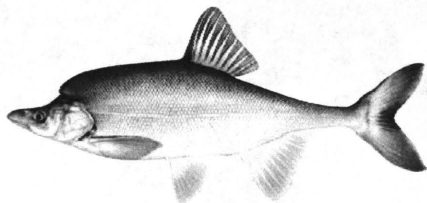
The Programs demonstrate that endangered species conservation and water development and management can be compatible. These grass-root programs are national models of cost-effective, collaborative efforts to recover endangered species while meeting human needs. Their success is due to the long-term commitment and proactive approach of the Programs' partners – state and federal agencies, environmental groups, and water and power interests. Congress, the participating states, power and water users all support and fund the programs. **Congress enacted Public Law 106-392 in 2000 and Public Law 107-375 in 2002 authorizing the Programs' federal funding.**



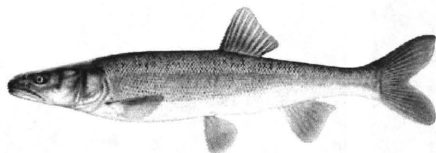
Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist Rick Smaniotta shows a 16.8-pound Colorado pikeminnow that used the Redlands Dam fish passage in 2002 near Grand Junction, CO. This passage facility opened 50 miles of Gunnison River habitat blocked by the dam's construction in the early 1900s.



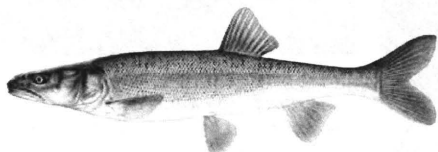
Razorback Sucker



Humpback Chub



Colorado Pikeminnow



Bonytail

Briefing Synopsis and Congressional Funding Request

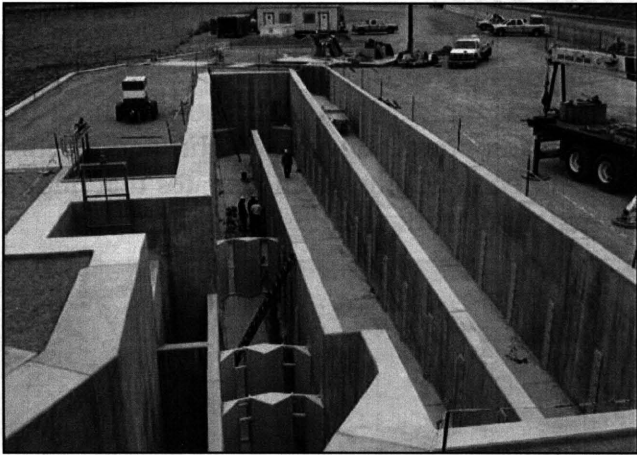
Endangered Fish Status

Five self-sustaining populations of humpback chub occur in canyon-bound river reaches of the upper basin. About 3,000 adults occur in the Black Rocks and Westwater Canyon populations near the Colorado-Utah border. Self-sustaining populations of Colorado Pikeminnow exist in the Green and Colorado Rivers of the upper basin. Razorback Suckers have been raised and stocked in the Upper Colorado and San Juan river basins. **Stocked fish are spawning and the young are surviving.** Young fish are being captured in the Gunnison and San Juan Rivers. Stocking efforts for bonytail continue to reestablish two self-sustaining populations in the upper basin. **Stocked bonytail are now found in locations throughout the Upper Basin.**

Recovery Goals

Recovery goals for the endangered fishes identify site-specific management actions to minimize or remove threats and specify the numbers of fish that comprise self-sustaining populations. Published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2002, the goals fully comply with the Endangered Species Act and were developed with collaborative input from public, private, and tribal stakeholders and scientists. The recovery goals provide the measure of when the Programs have accomplished their goal of recovery of the endangered fish.

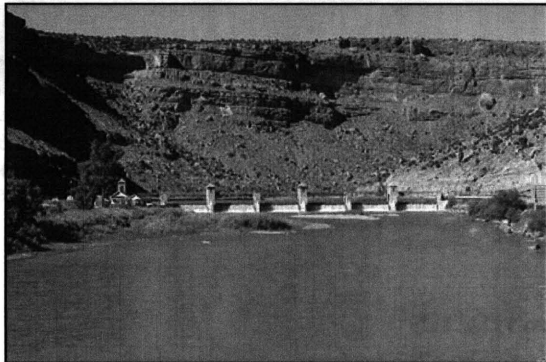
On-The-Ground Accomplishments



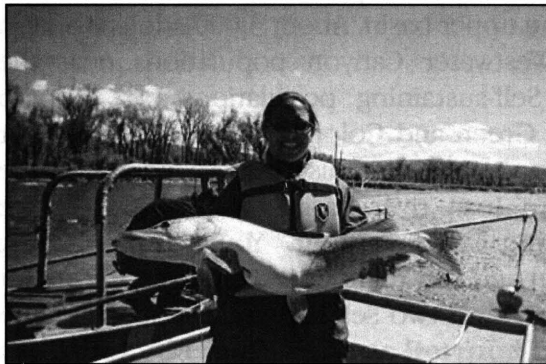
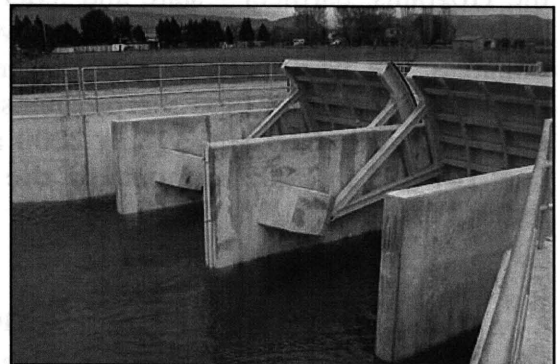
A fish passage (above) was completed at the Grand Valley Project Diversion Dam (below) on the Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado.

The Recovery Programs continue to demonstrate tangible, on-the-ground success in providing river flows, restoring habitat, constructing fish ladders and screens, producing and stocking endangered fish, managing nonnative fish species, and monitoring progress towards recovery.

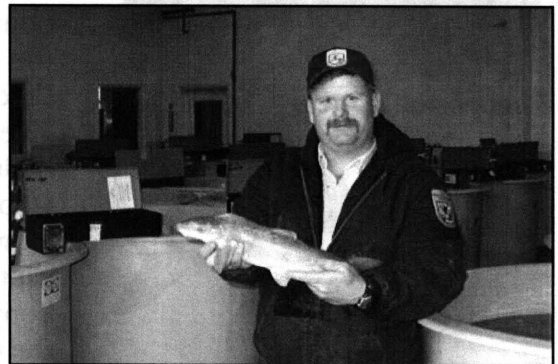
Since 1988, the Fish and Wildlife Service has consulted on 803 water projects depleting about 1,729,000 acre-feet per year in the Upper Colorado River Basin. These projects rely upon the Recovery Program as a reasonable and prudent alternative under the Endangered Species Act. No lawsuits have been filed on ESA compliance in the Upper Basin.



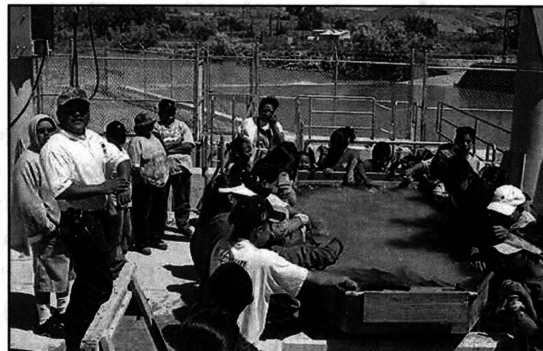
Grand Valley project canal check structures and automated water management controls have allowed water users to make more efficient use of limited water resources by reducing river diversions – saving water to improve riverine habitat for endangered fish. →



Four hatcheries in Colorado and Utah produce endangered fish to meet state stocking plans coordinated through the Upper Colorado River Recovery Program. →



The Upper Colorado Recovery Program's nonnative fish management efforts cover 480 river miles in the States of Colorado and Utah. Biologists removed northern pike and smallmouth bass to reduce competition and predation upon the native fish community. This is the largest known project of its kind. Shown above is a large Colorado pikeminnow captured during river sampling.



Local students learn to identify native and nonnative San Juan River fishes as biologists sort them at the Public Service Company of New Mexico Weir fish passage trap.



Biologists are stocking bonytail, razorback suckers and Colorado pikeminnow in the Green, Colorado and San Juan rivers to meet stocking plans.

Consistent Financial Support from States, Tribes, Federal Agencies and Private Organizations

Since their inception, both Recovery Programs have earned and retained the financial commitment and continual funding support of State, Tribal, Federal agencies and private organizations. The following tables present total agency funding contributions since the Programs were initiated:

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program Total Contributions: \$150,262,900 (FY 1989-2005)

Funding Source	Total
State of Colorado	\$11,058,700
State of Utah	\$4,125,600
State of Wyoming	\$1,398,500
FY 88 Appropriations	\$973,000
Power Resources	\$55,171,600*
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (capital)	\$54,160,700**
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation capital cost of Ruedi Reservoir fish water releases (beginning in FY 03)	\$2,205,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$18,986,300

*Includes capital appropriations beginning FY 2001.

**Includes Reclamation capital appropriation of \$10,979,700 under ESA authorization prior to FY 1999. Fiscal Years 1999-2004 appropriations pursuant to Public Law 106-392 total \$29,614,000.

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program Total Contributions: \$24,361,655 (FY 1992-2005) (Not including in-kind contributions)

Funding Source	Total
State of Colorado	\$362,000
State of New Mexico	\$919,000
Jicarilla Apache Tribe	\$19,000
Power Resources	\$9,438,100
Southern Ute Indian Tribe	\$116,655
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs	\$6,461,000
U.S. Bureau of Land Management	\$350,000
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	\$7,479,900
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$1,592,000

Collaborative Approach: The Recovery Programs' collaborative approach is a key aspect of the success they are achieving in meeting their dual goals of recovering the endangered Colorado River fishes while water development proceeds in accordance with federal and state laws. The Programs credit their success to their partners.

"The programs [San Juan River Basin and Upper Colorado River] are engaged in the hard, day to day work of recovering endangered species. They provide Endangered Species Act compliance for more than 800 water projects. The Upper Colorado program has become a national model for recovering endangered species while addressing the demand for water development to support growing western communities" (excerpted).

Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior – January 28, 2005
Address at the 47th Annual Colorado Water Congress Convention
Denver, Colorado



The Stewart brothers enjoyed fishing for Colorado pikeminnow in the 1930s. The Recovery Programs are working to ensure that endangered fish species remain an important part of the West's heritage.

Letters of Support

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and The San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program / Fiscal Year 2006

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs have a broad range of supporters. Joint delegation letters demonstrating the support of Members of Congress representing Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming for FY 2005 appropriations were submitted to the Congressional Committees on Appropriations for these programs. The following organizations and individuals also sent letters of support for FY 2005 appropriations. It is anticipated that each will also support the FY 2006 appropriations.

Letters of support for FY 2005 appropriations were sent to Congress by:

- ❖ **State of Colorado**
Bill Owens, Governor
- ❖ **State of Utah**
Michael O. Leavitt, Governor
- ❖ **State of Wyoming**
Dave Freudenthal, Governor
- ❖ **State of New Mexico**
Bill Richardson, Governor
- ❖ **Arizona Public Service**
Farmington, New Mexico
David L. Saliba, Plant Manager
- ❖ **Central Utah Water Conservancy District**
Orem, Utah
Gene Shawcroft, Assistant General Manager
- ❖ **City of Aurora, Colorado**
Peter D. Binney, Director of Utilities
- ❖ **Colorado River Water Conservation District**
Glenwood Springs, Colorado
R. Eric Kuhn, General Manager
- ❖ **Colorado Springs Utilities**
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Phillip H. Tollefson, Chief Executive Officer
- ❖ **Colorado Water Congress**
Denver, Colorado
Resolution of the Board of Directors (2006)
- ❖ **Denver Board of Water Commissioners**
Denver, Colorado
H. J. Barry, Manager
- ❖ **Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District**
Loveland, Colorado
Eric W. Wilkinson, General Manager
- ❖ **Public Service Company of New Mexico**
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Patrick J. Goodman, Vice President,
Power Production
- ❖ **San Juan Water Commission**
Farmington, New Mexico
Randy Kirkpatrick, Executive Director
- ❖ **Ute Water Conservancy District**
Grand Junction, Colorado
Larry W. Clever, General Manager
- ❖ **Water Interests Steering Committee,
San Juan River Basin Recovery
Implementation Program**
Farmington, New Mexico
Randy Kirkpatrick, Chair
- ❖ **Wyoming Water Association**
Cheyenne, Wyoming
John W. Shields, Executive Secretary