

Colorado River Fishery Project

Operation and Monitoring



San Juan River / USFWS

Background

The Colorado River Fishery Project (CRFP) was established in 1970 to conduct research and management activities for the benefit of four endangered fish species in the upper Colorado River basin.

These four species include:

- Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*)
- humpback chub (*Gila cypha*)
- bonytail (*Gila elegans*)
- razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*)



Colorado pikeminnow / USFWS



Humpback chub / USFWS



Razorback sucker / USFWS

In 1992, the Project was expanded to include spawning and rearing facilities with a geographic scope including the Colorado River and its tributaries and San Juan rivers of Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. Low-head dams were constructed early in the 20th century to provide irrigation water for farms along the Colorado, Green and Gunnison rivers. Although important to agriculture, these



Fish ladder at Redlands Diversion Dam near mouth of Gunnison River / USBR

dams blocked fish movement and eliminated many miles of habitat important to the survival of the four endangered fishes of the Colorado River basin. Working with its partners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has restored fish passage on the Colorado and lower Gunnison Rivers through the construction and operation of

several fish passage structures at some of these dams. Each summer during the major periods of migration, the Service monitors passage of these species upstream and downstream of the dam facilities.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6

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October 2010

