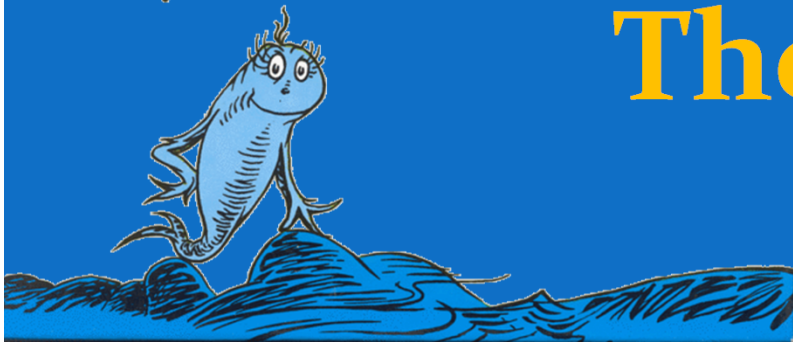


"Unless someone like you cares
a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get
better. It's not."



— Dr. Seuss, from
The Lorax



The 'PURPOSE' Of Recovery?

My Biological Bias

Endangered Species Act

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be *conserved*, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species,....

Everyone Seems to have a different 'Concept' of RECOVERY.

ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved,

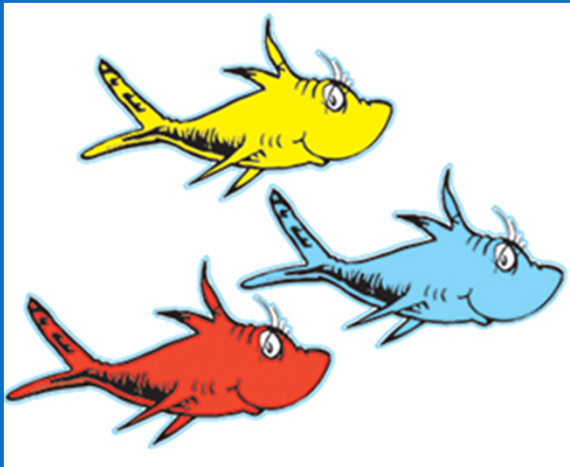
The River Ecosystem included the Entire floodplain.

The channel was one component; isolated oxbows were another. RBS and BT did not depend solely on the river channel. They also depended on *isolated oxbows*. *We can't restore the river but we can build and manage oxbow habitats.*

Second part of that:

...to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species,...

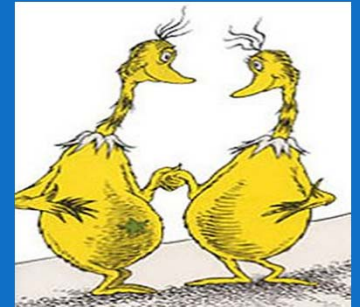
*One Definition of Conservation is:
“Natural Preservation.”*



Shouldn't conservation include:
Survival, Natural Recruitment,
Natural Sustainability,
and Natural Selection?

Successes and Failures: MSCP & RIP are Political Marvels!

- Have prevented RBS & BT extinction,
- FWS is preventing LEGAL TRAIN WRECKS,
- MWD & Districts are removing water,
- WAPA is making power,
- FWS & USBR got more work & \$\$\$\$,
- States keep their fisheries,
- Environmental groups secured funding,
- NO Environmental GUARANTEES!





Failure?

Only to a small minority.

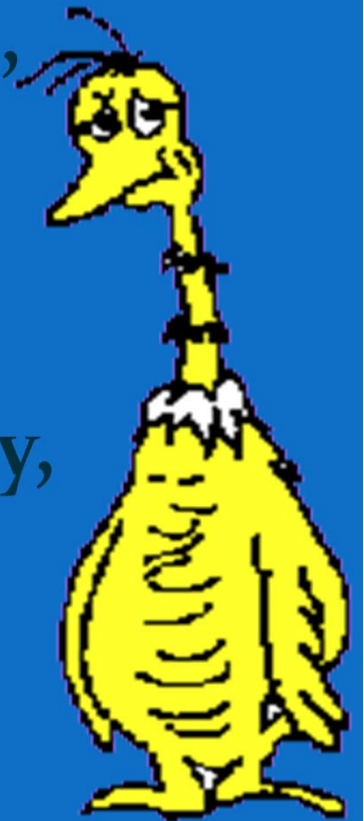
For Native Fish it's a Nightmare!

- Recovery comes 2nd to Social-Economical Needs,
Ecosystem Recovery “with” Water Development?
- Failure to DOWN LIST,
- Failed the RBS & BT biologically, Populations & Natural recruitment,
- Failed to come to terms with predation, Biologically or Politically
- Lack of effective Conservation measures,
- Lack of accountability!



What is Hindering Recovery - Conservation?

- 3 Evils: Denial + Conformity + \$\$\$\$\$\$
- INEFFECTIVE Federal Leadership (4),
- POOR Resource Stewardship (F&S),
- No Penalty for Failure,
- PREDATION!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Unrealistic Expectations,
- Politics (Personal, Intra-Interagency,
 - Clients don't complain!
- The Process is the PRODUCT!
 - Effort INSURES the Status-Quo!



Graded Examples



- **Upper Basin Recovery** **F**
- 23 yrs into a 15 year program,
- Wild BT & RBS are gone,
- Mitigation features ineffective,
- Failed to Implement Conservation,
 - Ignored the ‘oxbow’ component,
- Chose “ALL” or “NOTHING”.



Graded Examples

- **Main Stem Stocking** **F--***
- **Decades of DENIAL and it continues!**
- **Predation is ineffectively addressed in UB and ignored in the LB,**
- **Domestication* issues are ignored,**
- **No Stocking Survival Criteria!**
- **“Perfecting FAILURE!”**

Graded Examples



- **“Management”** **D+**
- Desert pupfish success!
- Devil Hole Catastrophe times 2,
- Cibola, 5 years to renovate??
- State opposed NFM at 3 Fingers Lake w/o comparable sportfish benefits,
- Davis Cove changed back to grow-out?
- “Mohave” genetic stock squandered!



Graded Examples

- **Imperial Ponds** **F+**
- Good workshop & innovative design!
- No Construction oversight FWS??
- Construction costs trumped Biological criteria (\$\$/acre!)
- MSCP Mitigation DOESN'T have to work!!
- Problem addressed by more research and engineering studies! (keep busy!)

Graded Examples



- **San Juan RIP & Grand Canyon Project B & B**
- **Unified Agency Support!!**
- **Native Fish Management Reaches!**
- **NFM at the detriment of sport fish!**
With concerted effort!
- **Native Fish response is encouraging,**
- **Will they sustain effort?**



What Can We Do?

- **STOP** the **DENIAL** about predation,
- Focus funding to Minckley's Plan,
- **COMMIT TO MANAGEMENT,**
- **Stop Sacrificial Stocking!**
 - Put production back in the wild,
- **Secure Mohave Brood Stock!**
- **More Resource Agency oversight!**
- **Take OWNERSHIP** of these **FISH**
 - States have plan "B"!

“It’s Easy to Say you care a whole awful lot, But if these fish disappear, it’s Your Agency’s Fault. Is it not?”



**--- Gordon (Lorax) Mueller
Inn Keeper & City Councilman
Bennington, NE**