



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

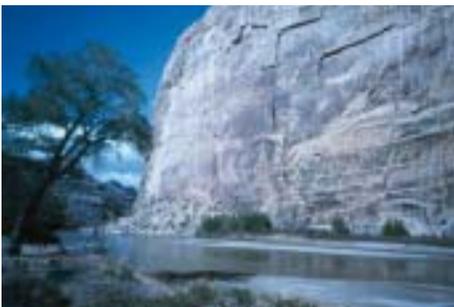
# Colorado River Fishery Project - Vernal, UT

## *Restoring America's Fisheries & Wildlife*

*The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.*

### Who Are We?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance (FWMA) program is comprised of 64 field stations nationwide. There are 9 Mountain-Prairie Region FWMA offices, located in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah & Wyoming.



*FWMA assists in restoring endangered fishes in the Colorado River*

The FWMA program fills a vital role in restoring and maintaining the health of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources. FWMA functions like a general practitioner in the medical field: FWMA biologists monitor the health of fish and wildlife resources, diagnose ailments, prescribe remedies, refer specific problems to specialists, and coordinate diverse efforts to restore and maintain health. The program helps avoid listing actions under the *Endangered Species Act (ESA)* – or, in other words, it helps to keep the patient out of the intensive care unit.



*FWMA staff assessing stream habitat and quality.*

In the Mountain Prairie Region, FWMA helps conserve more than 20 million acres of habitat for fish and wildlife on Tribal lands, National Wildlife Refuge System lands and other Federal lands. Thirteen ESA listed species, and 24 recreationally valued fish and wildlife species benefit.

### FWMA Activities:

In the Mountain-Prairie Region, FWMA activities focus on:

- Native Fish & Wildlife Conservation
- Native American Tribal Assistance
- Federal Lands Management
- Fish Passage
- Interjurisdictional Fisheries
- Aquatic Nuisance Species

FWMA works closely with other Service programs, International, Federal, State, Tribal, and private entities to complement habitat restoration and other resource management strategies for maintaining healthy ecosystems that support healthy fish and wildlife populations.

*The American people benefit from healthier ecosystems and resulting increases in fishing and other recreational opportunities.*

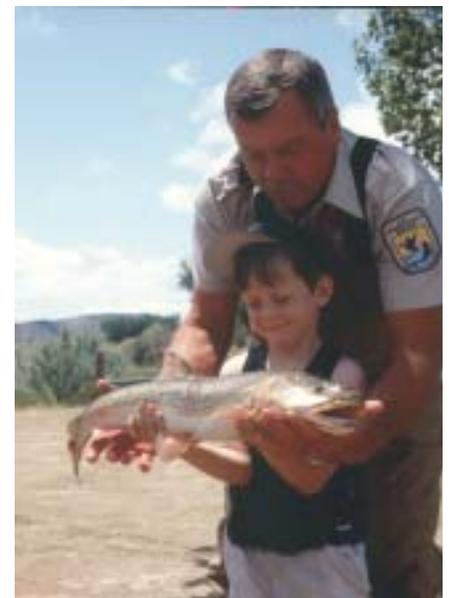
### Colorado River Fishery Project

The Colorado River Fishery Project (CRFP) was originally established in 1979 to conduct research and management activities benefiting endangered fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Our mission is to develop and implement techniques that are used to recover four endangered fishes: the Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, bonytail, and razorback sucker, all native to the Upper Colorado River Basin.

### How We Help

#### Native Fish & Wildlife Conservation

*Conserving imperiled fish and aquatic species and wildlife, (i.e. those in serious decline or listed under the ESA), by planning, coordinating, implementing, and evaluating activities such as habitat restoration and captive propagation.*



*Colorado pikeminnow*

The CRFP assesses impacts of water development projects on endemic fish species of the Upper Colorado River system including the middle Green, White, Duchesne, and Yampa Rivers. Species specifically impacted include the endangered Colorado pikeminnow, bonytail, humpback chub, and razorback sucker. Project activities include Basin-wide monitoring programs for the endangered fishes and their habitats, management-oriented research activities, instream flow assessments and recommendations, database management and data analyses, and experimental population augmentation and restoration programs.



*Razorback sucker*

### **Partnerships Make it Happen**

The CRFP works closely with a number of partners including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Western Area Power Administration; National Park Service; the States of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming; Environmental Defense Fund; National Audubon Society; Colorado Wildlife Federation; Wyoming Wildlife Federation; Colorado Water Congress; Utah Water Users Association; Wyoming Water Development Association; and the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association. In addition, many local civic groups and volunteer citizens are actively involved with the operations, education, and outreach programs at Vernal.

These many dedicated partners and volunteers keep the Utah CRFP operating to bring about the recovery of endangered species and healthy aquatic ecosystems for you, your family, and future generations.