



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

CITATION

COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION AWARD

SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

In recognition of multi-stakeholder collaboration by the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program in managing water resources for recovery of the Colorado pikeminnow and the razorback sucker while proceeding with needed water development activities.

The purpose of the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program is to protect and recover endangered fishes in the San Juan River Basin while enabling water development to proceed in compliance with Federal and State laws. Endangered species include the Colorado pikeminnow, *Ptychocheilus lucius*, and the razorback sucker, *Xyrauchen texanus*. The Program was modeled after the highly touted Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and has met with initial success. As with the Upper Colorado Program, the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program is benefited by broad stakeholder participation, including tribes, water developers, environmental organizations, States, and Federal agencies. Projects undertaken by the Program have produced promising results. A fish passage project at the Public Service Company of New Mexico weir on the San Juan River has allowed razorback suckers, Colorado pikeminnows, and other native fish to move upstream since 2003. Removal of two non-native species, adult channel catfish and common carp, has measurably reduced their abundance. Colorado pikeminnow now outnumber common carp in removal areas. Biologists continue to expand removal efforts into middle river reaches to manage channel catfish. Actions taken under this Program to recover the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker also provide benefits to other native fishes in the Basin. For its many collaborative undertakings demonstrating that endangered species conservation and water development and management can be compatible, the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program is granted the Cooperative Conservation Award of the Department of the Interior.



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