



Rare and native fishes of the upper Colorado River basin

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Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program



Takeaways:

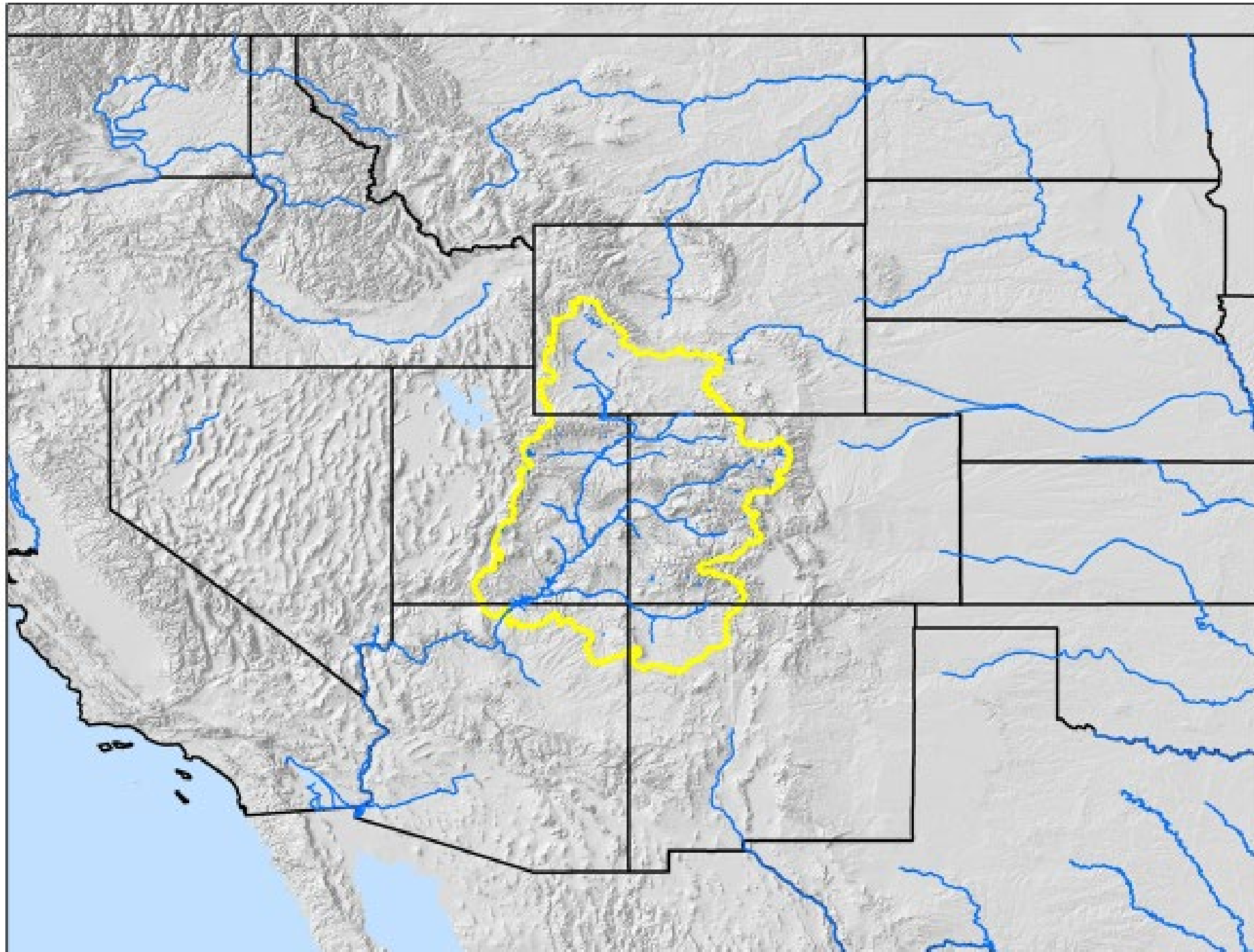
Native fish are unique

Threats to native fish

What we're doing

Native fish are rad!





Colorado River native fishes

- Adapted to environment with drastic variability
- Spawning cues often associated with temperature or flow
- Turbid, flash flooding
- Long distance migrations





Colorado pikeminnow
Ptychocheilus lucius



Humpback chub
Gila cypha



Razorback sucker
Xyrauchen texanus



Bonytail
Gila elegans



Humpback chub

Threatened

2021



Bonytail

Endangered

1980



Colorado pikeminnow

Endangered

1973



Razorback sucker

Endangered

1991

Proposed Threatened



“Three Species”



CSU-LFL



CSU-LFL



Important habitats

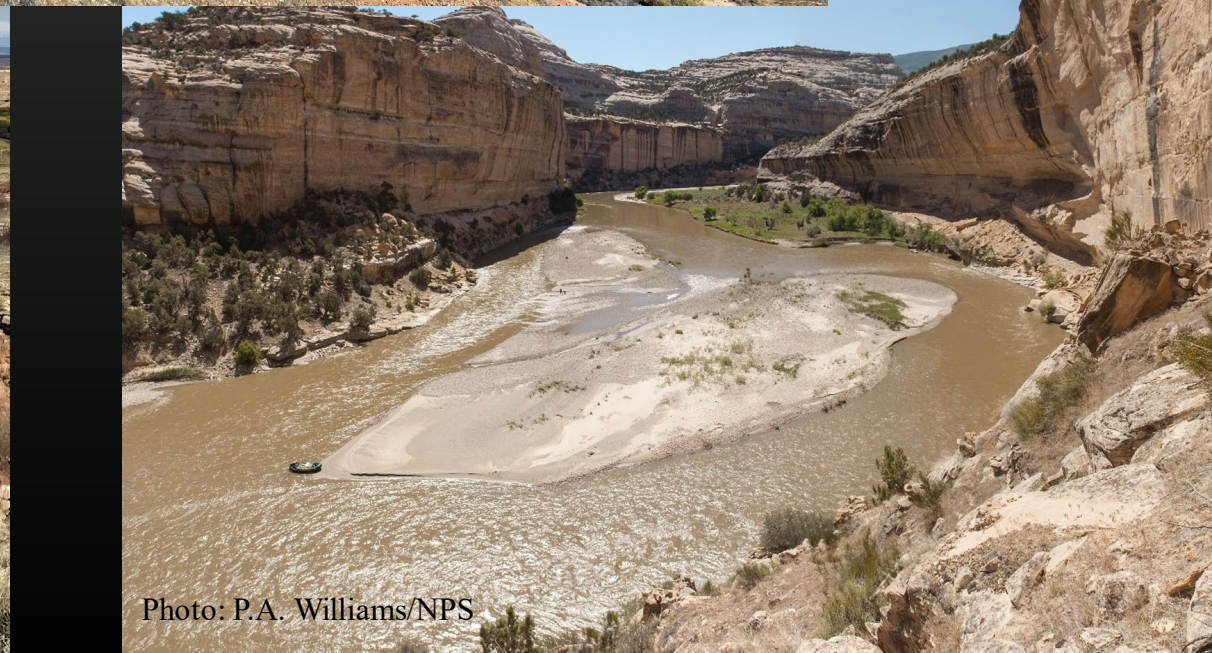


Photo: P.A. Williams/NPS

Threats



Water Use & Depletions



Nonnative Fish

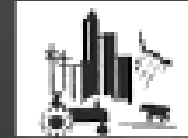
Photo: M. Breen, UDWR



Barriers & Entrainment



Large Dams & Reservoirs



UTAH WATER USERS ASSOCIATION



COLORADO
WATER CONGRESS
INFORM | CONVENE | TRAIN | ACT



Recovery Program



Western Area
Power Administration



Managing
Flows



Habitat
Development



Research
and
Monitoring



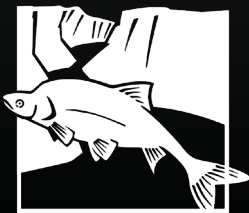
Outreach



Stocking



Nonnative
Fish
Control



Habitat

Passages

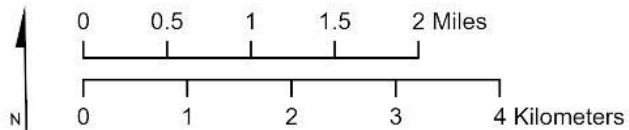
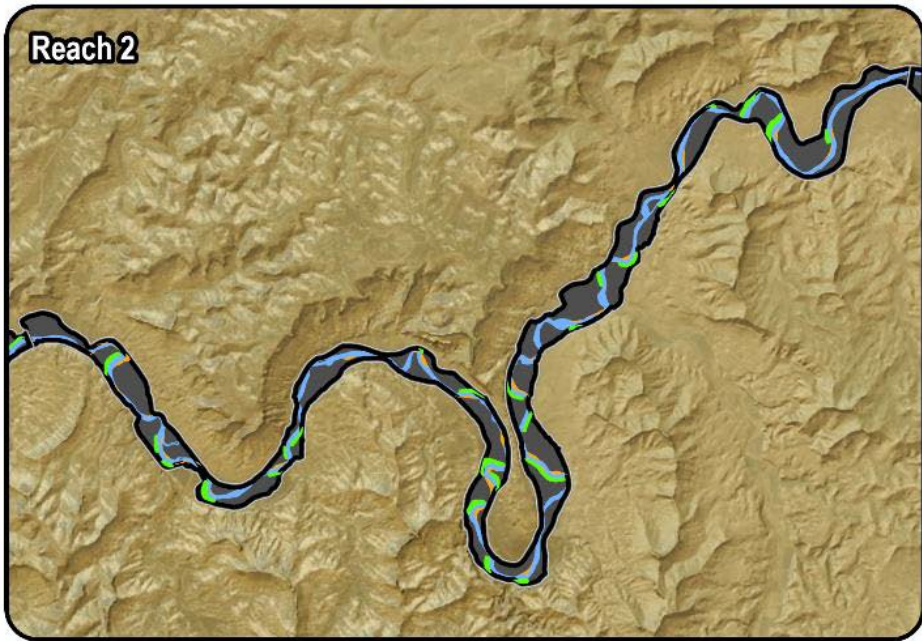
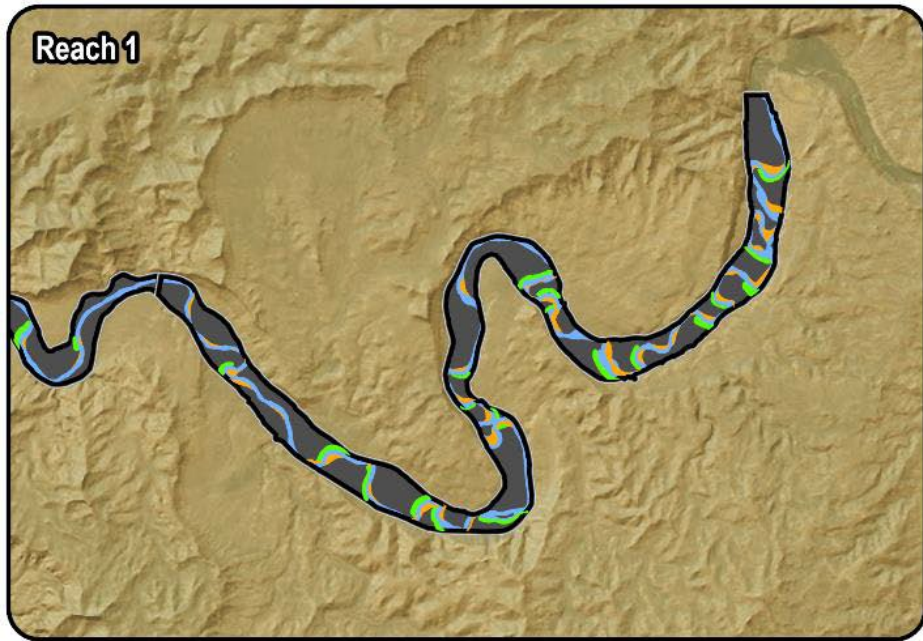
Wetlands

Canal Screens



Grand Valley Audubon site





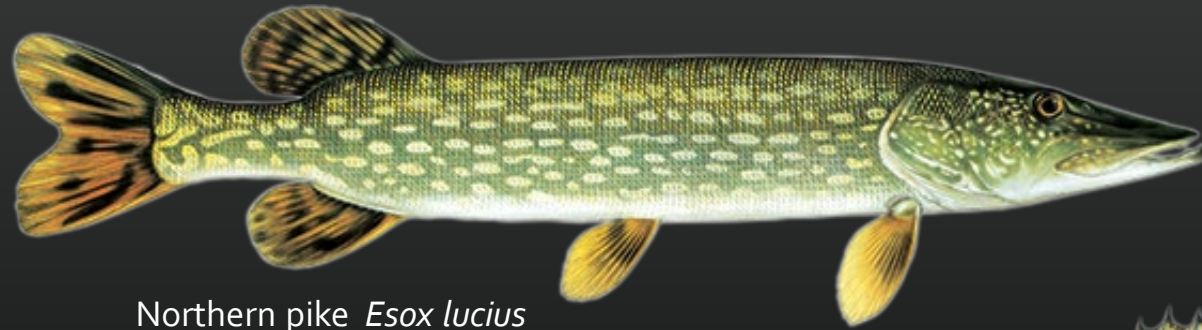
-  Bar Features
-  Biological Linkage Areas
-  Active Channel

Maps from Pennock et al. 2022



Three Focal Nonnative Invasive Predators

These fish escaped from reservoir sources and established populations in river habitats.



Northern pike *Esox lucius*



Smallmouth bass *Micropterus dolomieu*



Walleye *Sander vitreus*

Two-tiered Strategy

Rivers: native fish recovery areas

- Remove smallmouth bass, northern pike, and walleye in 600+ river miles

Reservoirs: compatible angling

- 6 of 7 Reservoirs are screened
 - Highline Lake
 - Rifle Gap
 - Elkead Reservoir
- 1 in design phase: Lake Catamount



Northern pike



Elkhead Spillway Net





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