



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Tom Pitts  
Water Consult  
1410 North Garfield Avenue  
Loveland, Colorado 80538

Dear Mr. Pitts,

On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), I congratulate you on your selection as a 2023 Recovery Champion for your decades of leadership in recovery of the four listed Colorado River fishes (Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, razorback sucker, and bonytail). Early in your career, you were instrumental in the development of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. Your vision created some of the most enduring and productive recovery partnerships, bringing together federal and state agencies, Tribes, water and power users, and environmental groups to serve a common goal. For more than 30 years, these recovery programs have made progress towards species' recovery while supporting water development in western states.

Through the years, your representation of the water user community's interests has been balanced and true to the dual goals of the recovery programs. You have served on the technical and governance committees for each recovery program and are considered by all as a guiding force in the success of these long-standing collaborative partnerships.

The recovery programs would not exist today without your guiding vision, practical implementation, and relentless dedication to service. As a result, the programs have implemented effective recovery actions such as managing wetlands to support wild recruitment of razorback sucker, reestablishing Colorado pikeminnow in the San Juan River, and removing invasive nonnative species from over 900 miles of river annually. You should take pride in your role in providing instream flows, reconnecting habitat, stocking endangered fishes, and monitoring wild populations.

I applaud you for all that you have accomplished on behalf of the Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, razorback sucker, and bonytail, and I join the rest of the Service in extending our best wishes for your continuing success.

Sincerely,

Martha Williams  
Director