Regional Director (Attn: Randy Peterson and Dennis Kubly)
Bureau of Reclamation
Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program
125 South State Street, Room 6107
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1102

Dear Sir:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to review and revise the 2002 recovery goals for four endangered fishes of the Colorado River Basin; i.e., Colorado pikeminnow (Ptychocheilus lucius), humpback chub (Gila cypha), razorback sucker (Xyrauchen texanus), and bonytail (G. elegans). These recovery goals were developed as an amendment and supplement to the recovery plan for each species to focus on requirements of Section 4(f)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which requires that the Secretary of the Interior incorporate into each plan site-specific management actions; objective, measurable criteria; and estimates of the time and cost to carry out those measures needed to achieve the plan’s goals and to achieve intermediate steps toward those goals. The Service intends to use these recovery goals as guidance when considering down listing and/or delisting each of the species.

Review and revision of these recovery goals will be part of the review of listed species as required by Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), “The Secretary shall ... conduct, at least once every five years, a review of all species...”. Region 6 (Mountain-Prairie) of the Service has the lead for recovery of these four endangered fish species; Region 2 (Southwest) and the California and Nevada Operations Office will provide assistance and support to Region 6 to accomplish this review and revision of the recovery goals.

The purpose of this letter is for the Service to standardize its request for new and substantial data and information that may warrant revision of any of the four recovery goals documents. This request is being made of each of the seven Colorado River Basin states (Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California), as well as key partners and stakeholders in other Federal agencies, Native American Tribes, and nongovernmental organizations that are involved in the various recovery or conservation programs for these species throughout the basin.

Any data or information forwarded to the Service for consideration of recovery goals revisions should be new (since 2002) and substantial. Examples include changes in species threats, genetics information that may affect genetic effective population size or minimum viable
genetics information that may affect genetic effective population size or minimum viable population size, information on population sizes and monitoring, etc. Final reports and peer-reviewed literature are preferred to ensure scientific defensibility in our revision process. All data and information submitted must be provided in hard or electronic copy and well documented as to authorship, date of publication, name of the document, and source. In addition, information regarding the time and costs to conduct the various management actions identified in the recovery goals is requested. New data and information through this request will be accepted by the Service through May 31, 2007.

Guidance for data and information requested is based on the ESA, the implementing regulations, and Service policy. Section 4(a)(1) and Section 4(c)(2)(B) of the ESA describe the five listing factors and their role in determinations (i.e., listing or delisting). The ESA’s implementing regulations (50 CFR § 402.02) clarify conditions for recovery, and the Service’s 2003 Draft Endangered and Threatened Species Recovery Handbook provides details on development of recovery plans. Interested parties should also review the 2002 recovery goals documents to determine the appropriateness of new data and information (hardcopies can be provided upon request or downloaded from the web at http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/crrp/rg.htm). Identification of new threats or substantial changes to existing threats should be consistent with Chapter 4.0 of the recovery goals document, which describes threats under each of the five listing factors. Changes or revisions to site-specific management actions and/or objective, measurable criteria should be identified as in Chapter 5.0 of the recovery goals.

Thank you in advance for assisting the Service with identifying and obtaining information on the four endangered fish species and your contributions to the recovery of these species.

Please direct inquiries and information to:

Sam Spiller  
Lower Colorado River Coordinator  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
8102 N. 23rd Avenue, Suite C  
Phoenix, Arizona 85021  
Phone: 602-841-5329  
Fax: 602-242-2513  
E-mail: sam_spiller@fws.gov

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Gorman  
Assistant Regional Director  
Ecological Services
cc: Assistant Regional Director-Fisheries and RC-NWRS, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM
Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Phoenix, AZ
Project Leader, Arizona Fishery Resources Office, Whiteriver, AZ
Lower Colorado River Coordination Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Phoenix, AZ