

## Recovery Planning and Implementation Overview

The Service has revised its approach to recovery planning and implementation. **Recovery plans** are one piece of a three-part framework; informed by the **Species Status Assessment** and implemented via the **Recovery Implementation Strategy**. [USFWS Recovery Planning And Implementation Overview](#).

A **Species Status Assessment** (SSA) is a scientific evaluation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to assess a species' viability, or the likelihood of its ability to sustain populations in the wild. This rigorous, repeatable, and focused scientific process is primarily used as a basis for ESA decisions to inform, for example, listing, delisting, and recovery planning. The SSA starts by documenting the species' life history, including its biology, ecological interactions, and habitat and other resource requirements. The assessment analyzes the species' current status, including its population sizes, distribution, and the factors that may be affecting it. Finally, SSAs project the future status of the species under various scenarios, including potential threats, conservation actions, and changes in the environment. SSAs are guided by the "3 Rs" of conservation biology: **Resiliency** (the ability of populations to withstand random events), **Redundancy** (the ability of the species, throughout its range, to cope with catastrophic events), and **Representation** (the diversity of genetic and ecological variation across the species' range).

**Recovery plans** are streamlined to contain a concise introduction, including a vision of what the species' recovered state looks like (described in terms of the 3Rs), identification of threats that need to be ameliorated, and a recovery strategy of how to get there. Recovery plans then include the 3 components required under the ESA: recovery criteria, recovery actions, and estimates of time and cost to recovery. Recovery criteria describe the biological state of recovery, the ameliorated or mitigated state of the threats that facilitate achievement of the biological criteria, and the long-term persistence of these conditions. Recovery plans delineate recovery actions, or those actions necessary to bring the species from its current state to the state described by the recovery criteria. In this approach, recovery actions are focused at an over-arching, "visionary" level, and on-the-ground activities to implement the actions are detailed in a separate Recovery Implementation Strategy (RIS).

The **Recovery Implementation Strategy** (RIS), is a short-term, more flexible operational document focused on how, when, and with whom the recovery actions will be implemented; that is, the on-the-ground projects that will be done to carry out the recovery actions. Including the activities and how they are implemented in this separate "stepped-down" document allows us to adapt to changing circumstances and thus have a more flexible recovery strategy.

A **Five-Year Review** uses the best available scientific and commercial data on a species to determine whether its classification status under the ESA has potentially changed since the time of its listing or its last status review. A five-year review refers to and utilizes an SSA if one has been completed for the species. Upon completion of a five-year review, the USFWS can make four possible recommendations: (1) Reclassify the species from threatened to endangered (uplist); (2) Reclassify the species from endangered to threatened (downlist); (3) Remove the species from the List (delist); or (4) Maintain the species' current classification. **A five-year review does not automatically change a species' protections or status; it only presents recommendations from the USFWS Region to Headquarters and the Department of the Interior.** Any change to a species' ESA status requires a separate proposed rulemaking, published in the *Federal Register*, which is open to public comment. Notice of initiation of a five-year review is published in the *Federal Register* and requests any relevant information we should consider, particularly any information that has become available since the original listing determination or most recent status review.

[USFWS Five-year-Reviews Overview](#)

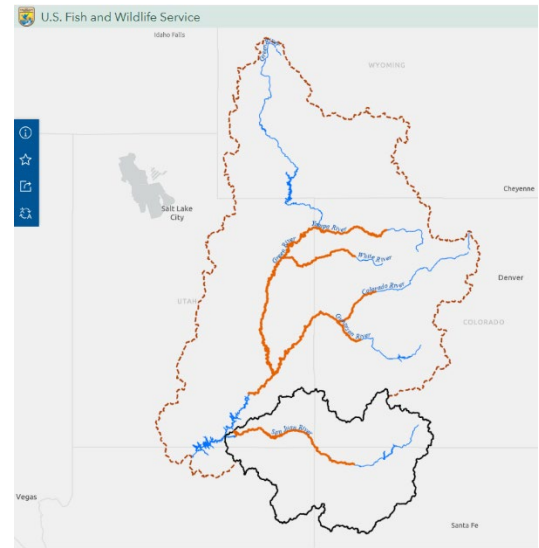
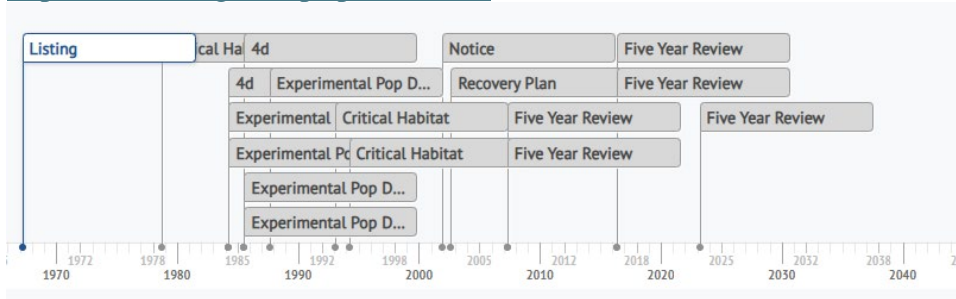
**5-Year Review Workplan:** [USFWS National-five-year-review-workplan-fiscal-years-2022-2025.pdf](#)

**Flier on delisting a species:** [USFWS ESA-Section4-Delisting Flier](#)

# Colorado Pikeminnow

## General Information:

<https://www.fws.gov/species/colorado-pikeminnow-ptychocheilus-lucius>  
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3531>



**ESA Status:** Endangered; March 11, 1967

<https://www.fws.gov/species-publication-action/endangered-species-list-1967-65>

**Critical Habitat:** 59FR 13374; March 21, 1994 [Critical Habitat Designation](#)

**Critical Habitat Map:** [FWS GIS Critical Habitat Map](#)

**SSA:** May 1, 2025 (No planned updates at this time)

<https://iris.fws.gov/APPS/ServCat/DownloadFile/273728>

**Recovery Plan:** September 13, 2023 (No planned updates at this time)

[https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery\\_plan/20230804\\_FinalRP\\_Colorado%20pikeminnow\\_v4\\_AMMsigned.pdf](https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/20230804_FinalRP_Colorado%20pikeminnow_v4_AMMsigned.pdf)

**Recovery Implementation Strategy:** June 2023

[https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery\\_plan/20230522-RIS-CPM-final\\_v3.pdf](https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/20230522-RIS-CPM-final_v3.pdf)

**Recovery Team:** Disbanded after 2023 recovery plan was drafted

**5-Year Review:** May 28, 2025 (No planned updates at this time)

[https://ecosphere-documents-production-public.s3.amazonaws.com/sams/public\\_docs/species\\_nonpublish/23706.pdf](https://ecosphere-documents-production-public.s3.amazonaws.com/sams/public_docs/species_nonpublish/23706.pdf)

## Recovery Criteria for Colorado Pikeminnow

- Demographic Criteria**
1. Population stability— Each of the 3 subbasins demonstrate stable or increasing over a consecutive 15-year period.
  2. Population size—thresholds met over a consecutive 10-year period for all 3 subbasin populations.
  3. Recruitment—Wild recruitment to maturity equals or exceeds adult mortality (10-15 years) in all 3 subbasins.
  4. Reproductive success—Mean density of wild age-0 fish meets thresholds over 10-year period for all 3 subbasins.
  5. Regulatory mechanisms or conservation plans are in place that include **stakeholder commitments to management actions** that support Colorado pikeminnow populations beyond delisting in the Colorado, Green, and San Juan subbasins. Stakeholders should commit, at a minimum, to **managing nonnative fishes, operating fish passages, and maintaining a genetic refuge.**
  6. Flow management plans are in place that include **stakeholder commitments to provide flows that support current populations** of Colorado pikeminnow beyond delisting in the Colorado, Green, and San Juan basins. Commitments should include legally **protecting flows in Colorado pikeminnow designated critical habitat** in accordance with tribal, state, and federal laws. Commitments should also include meeting flow recommendations in the Colorado, Green, Gunnison, San Juan, White, and Yampa rivers and revising those recommendations when appropriate.
- Threat Based Criteria**

Demographic  
Criteria Goals



Population	Adult Abundance over a consecutive 10-year period	
	Recovery Criteria 2: Downlisting	Recovery Criteria 2: Delisting
Green River Subbasin	≥ 2,600 adults	≥ 3,100 adults
Upper Colorado River Subbasin	≥ 500 adults	≥ 760 adults
San Juan River Subbasin	≥ 250 adults	≥ 250 adults

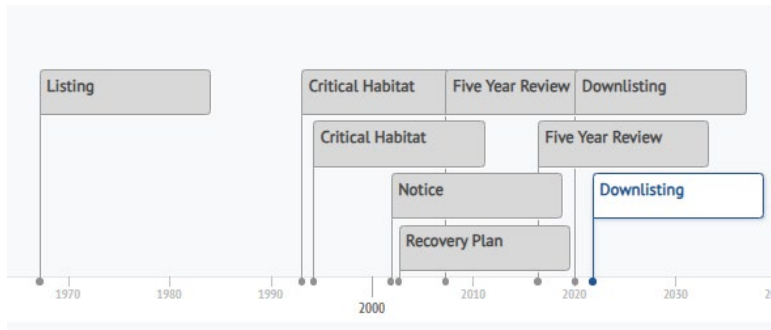
River Subbasin	Downlisting and Delisting Criteria
Green River subbasin	≥5 age-0 per 100m <sup>2</sup> habitat
Upper Colorado River subbasin	≥3.3 age-0 per 100m <sup>2</sup> habitat
San Juan River subbasin	≥1.4 age-0 per 100m <sup>2</sup> habitat

# Humpback Chub

## General Information:

<https://www.fws.gov/species/humpback-chub-gila-cypha>

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3930>



## ESA Status: Threatened

Listed Endangered: March 11, 1967, 32 FR 4001

[https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/federal\\_register\\_document/FR-1967-03-11.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/federal_register_document/FR-1967-03-11.pdf)

Downlisted to Threatened: October 18, 2021, 86 FR 57588 57610

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-10-18/pdf/2021-20964.pdf>

## Critical Habitat:

### Critical Habitat Map:

<https://www.fws.gov/media/map-humpback-chub-occupied-range-and-critical-habitat>

SSA: March 26, 2018 - **Update Anticipated December 2025**

<https://iris.fws.gov/APPS/ServCat/DownloadFile/196747>

Recovery Plan: September 19, 1990 - **Update Anticipated 2025/2026**

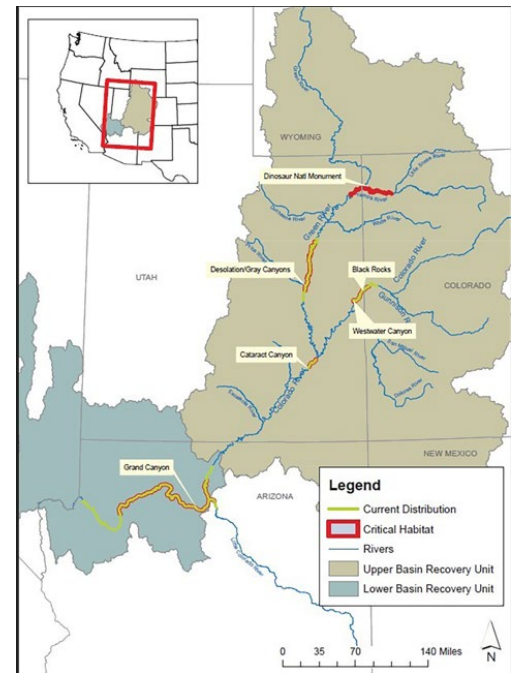
[https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery\\_plan/900919c.pdf](https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/900919c.pdf)

Recovery Implementation Strategy: **Anticipated 2025/2026**

**Recovery Team:** Active “The recovery team’s official appointment will end when the Service’s Regional Director approves the draft recovery plan.”

**5-Year Review:** October 18, 2021 - **Update Anticipated 2026**

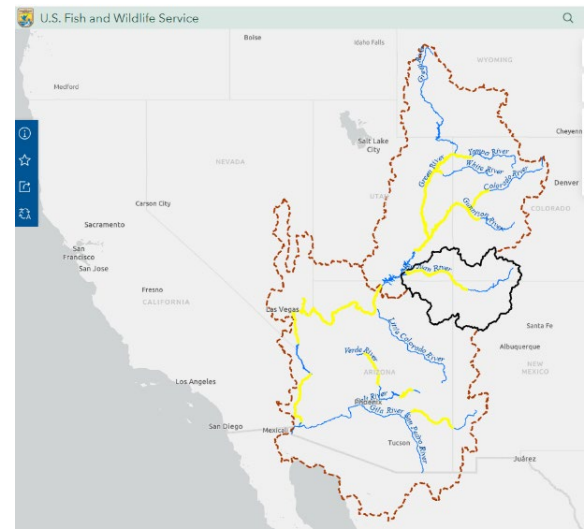
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# **Razorback Sucker**

## **General Information:**

<https://www.fws.gov/species/razorback-sucker-xyrauchen-texanus>  
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/530>



**ESA Status:** Endangered, October 23, 1991, 56 FR 54957 54967

[https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/federal\\_register\\_document/FR-1991-10-23.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/federal_register_document/FR-1991-10-23.pdf)

**Proposed Downlisting:** July 7, 2021; 86 FR 35708

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/07/07/2021-14335/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-reclassification-of-the-razorback-sucker-from>

**Final Rule Under Review in HQ; Anticipate publication 2025/2026\*\***

**Critical Habitat:** March 21, 1994 59 FR 13374

[https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/federal\\_register\\_document/FR-1994-03-21.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/federal_register_document/FR-1994-03-21.pdf)

## **Critical Habitat Map:**

<https://gis-fws.opendata.arcgis.com/maps/75b2deabfedd4b65a7788a1a80823a88/explore>

**SSA:** Recently Completed – Will be released if/when downlisting is finalized

August 1, 2018: <https://iris.fws.gov/APPS/ServCat/DownloadFile/166375>

**Recovery Plan (Recovery Goals):** August 1, 2002

[https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery\\_plan/RazorbackSucker\\_2002\\_Plan.pdf](https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/RazorbackSucker_2002_Plan.pdf)

**5-Year Review:** September 25, 2018

[https://ecosphere-documents-production-public.s3.amazonaws.com/sams/public\\_docs/species\\_nonpublish/2605.pdf](https://ecosphere-documents-production-public.s3.amazonaws.com/sams/public_docs/species_nonpublish/2605.pdf)

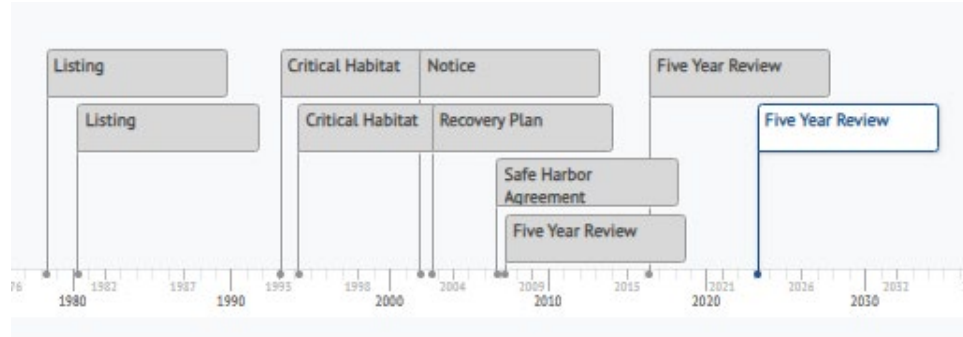
**\*\*Once a Final Rule is approved the “clock” will start for updates to the 5-Year Review and SSA**

## **Bonytail**

### **General Information and Range Map:**

<https://www.fws.gov/species/bonytail-gila-elegans>

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1377>



**ESA Status:** Endangered, October 23, 1991, 56 FR 54957 54967

[https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/federal\\_register\\_document/FR-1991-10-23.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/federal_register_document/FR-1991-10-23.pdf)

**Critical Habitat:** March 21, 1994 59 FR 13374

[https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/federal\\_register\\_document/FR-1994-03-21.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/federal_register_document/FR-1994-03-21.pdf)

**SSA:** An SSA has not been completed for Bonytail. The species remains very rare in mainstem rivers after stocking, resulting in little/no data for an SSA.

**Recovery Plan (Recovery Goals):** August 1, 2002 (No planned updates at this time)

[https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery\\_plan/060727a.pdf](https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/060727a.pdf)

**5-Year Review:** May 15, 2024 (No planned updates at this time)

[https://ecosphere-documents-production-public.s3.amazonaws.com/sams/public\\_docs/species\\_nonpublish/13179.pdf](https://ecosphere-documents-production-public.s3.amazonaws.com/sams/public_docs/species_nonpublish/13179.pdf)