

2015 Outstanding Achievement Awards



At the 36th Annual Endangered Fish Recovery Program Researcher's Meeting in Moab, Utah (January 13-14, 2015), Mark McKinstry and David Speas from the Upper Colorado Regional Office's Environmental Resources Division (Adaptive Management Group) won Outstanding Achievement Awards for their accomplishments on behalf of the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Recovery Programs.

They were acknowledged for their tireless efforts to assure that recovery program conclusions and recommendations are scientifically sound, for the innovative solutions they bring to difficult program problems, and for their support in assuring program funding takes place each year.

Dave and Mark thank the multitudes of people that made it possible for them to conduct the work for the Recovery Program, including supervisors and management within Upper Colorado Regional Office for their support and encouragement; Regional Office support staff and their Environmental Resources Division Assistant Christine Hoopinger who assists them immensely with their acquisitions and



invoicing; the Power Office and regional Budget Group who help find money for the programs; the Acquisitions Management Division who makes financial awards and manages the grants, agreements and contracts with program partners; the Property Group that helps them with purchases and travel; the Information Resources people that keep the computers running and provide the latest software; the Resource Management Division for their cooperation in implementing program recommendations; and for Public Relations for their help in communicating program achievements to Reclamation personnel and the general public. Additionally, they would like to thank the Western Colorado Area Office, especially Brent Uilenberg and Robert Norman, which has contributed greatly to the success of the programs in the areas of capital program management, the construction of various facilities and for water operations.

Both Dave and Mark stated that the award letters should have all of the Upper Colorado Regions employee's names on them and they want to thank everyone that makes these programs a success year-after-year.

Photos below



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Juvenile Quagga Mussels Discovered at Deer Creek Reservoir



Routine water quality sampling has led to the detection of juvenile quagga mussels at Deer Creek Reservoir, located in north-central Utah. Quagga mussels are an invasive species that can be destructive to native habitat and to water related infrastructure. In response to this discovery, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has issued an order requiring all boaters to decontaminate their boats before they leave the reservoir.

Quagga mussels are a small (adults reach sizes up to 4 centimeters) freshwater bivalve mollusk. They were introduced into the Great Lakes Region of the United States in the 1980s. Since then they have steadily spread west. Quagga mussels have the ability to rapidly colonize in the waters they inhabit. This can lead to issues with clogged or encrusted water intake structures, pipes, and screens. The clogging or encrusting of these structures can lead to substantial increases in operation and maintenance costs.

Although this discovery is concerning to the agencies, there is currently little risk of the population expanding. Quagga mussels typically do not reproduce in water that is colder than 50 degrees Fahrenheit. The primary concern is mussels being transported to other bodies of water in or on boats, thus further spreading the invasive species to other areas. The order issued by Division of Wildlife Resources, requires boats to be decontaminated before leaving Deer Creek State Park. To accomplish this, the order stipulates that boaters will either clean, drain and dry their boats for a specific length of time, depending on the season, or have their boat professionally decontaminated (a free service) before leaving the State Park.



Beginning this spring, Reclamation, Division of Wildlife Resources and Utah State Parks will take action to learn whether adult quagga mussels are in the reservoir, and whether they have spread downstream of Deer Creek Reservoir. The middle Provo River, between Jordanelle and Deer Creek reservoirs, is less at risk because quagga mussels cannot move upstream on their own and would require on some other method to be transported upstream.

For more information on quagga mussels, and on boat decontamination, visit Utah Division of Wildlife Resources website at www.stdofthesea.com.

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My Days with the Water Quality Group at Flaming Gorge Reservoir



By Corine Morales
Regional Office

I had the opportunity to join Robert Radtke and Keri Stout to collect water samples at Flaming Gorge Reservoir. One day I was in the mailroom when Keri came by to mail out her cooler, I was curious to know what was inside it, so when I asked her, she replied, “just water samples.” I wanted to know more, so I told her I would love to see what she does to collect these samples. Well my opportunity came true; I had the chance to go out with them. On October 15 – 17, 2014, we were going to Flaming Gorge, Green River, and Fontenelle Dam. I asked what I needed to bring, and she told me to wear layers of clothing since it gets chilly in the mornings, but warms up later in the afternoon, and bring your food items since we’ll be on the boat all day. We would be staying at the guest house in Flaming Gorge and anyone who’s stayed up there knows there is no place to buy food.



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I checked the weather report for those days and it was supposed to be in the 70s, so I thought all I would need was a sweatshirt and light jacket. Wednesday morning came and we packed our items and headed out to Fontenelle Dam first. The drive was about 4 hours to get there so I took advantage of it and got to know Keri and Robert a little bit better. Finally we reach Fontenelle; I was excited because this was my first time visiting this reservoir, out in the middle of nowhere in Wyoming. This reservoir was HUGE! We detach the boat and we were off on our way to the first out of six stations.

There were several parts to sampling water. Sonde Unit YSI6600 and YSI650, measure the column of water. To sample for zebra mussels we use a Plankton Net, it is attach to a heavy weight so it can go down deep to pull up water. We had to do the plankton net five times before we had enough samples. We then measure different depths using the Betta Bottle. We also sample the upper part of the water. We fill three bottles and we had two filter bottles that they screen through. There is a device called Secchi that measure the cloudiness of the water.

While on the reservoir, the winds started to pick up, the waves were getting choppy, plus it was getting colder. While riding back to our vehicle the boat was cruzing over the waves and the water was splashing all around. It was very, very cold! I was thinking over and over again that I did not bring enough clothes and I'm going to freeze. After doing Fontenelle we headed to Flaming Gorge Reservoir, this drive was an hour long. We got to one of the ends of the reservoir and did two stations, it was about 5 p.m. now and it started to get colder. I was thinking to myself if it gets any colder life is going to be uncomfortable on the reservoir. We had completed two more stations and by now it was 7 p.m., and we still had to get to the guest house. It was getting dark and we have to drive, were there were a lot of deer and anatople running into the road, but we manage to get to the guest house by 9 p.m. This was a long first day. I ask Robert what time to be ready for tomorrow; he said 7 a.m., because he wanted to get on the reservoir early, since we'd be out there all day. Day 2 we had roughly 15 stations to collect from. We were out on the reservoir from 7 a.m. - 7p.m. After being on a boat for roughly 12 hours you have to remember there is no quick access to a restroom so I had to drink as little as possible to insure my bathroom visits were at a minim. The funny part was that I still felt like I needed to go every hour. Your mind starts playing tricks on you when over think stuff like that.

I definitely give the Water Quality Group a lot of due credit, their days are long, and you are on the reservoir early morning until dusk, plus the drive to the reservoir can be long. In addition, I'd like to thank Keri and Robert for letting me tag along and experience something I will never forget. So anyone who would love to go for a couple of days, just remember to bring A LOT of layers with you, because it may look nice and calm on the reservoir but in reality it is cold out there. Don't forget your thermal's and water gloves for protection of your hands.

Photos below



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Uintah Water Conservancy District Obtains Additional Acre-Feet of Central Utah Project Water from Bureau of Reclamation



Project supports future growth in the Vernal area, greatly increasing municipal and industrial water supply

On Thursday, January 22, 2015, the Uintah Water Conservancy District completed an advance payment for 3,000 acre-feet of water developed by the Bureau of Reclamation through the Central Utah Project. The acquisition will allow the District to deliver additional water to the communities of Vernal, Maeser, Naples and Jensen for municipal and industrial purposes. In celebration of the event, an advance ceremony took place in conjunction with the 2015 Uintah Basin Water Summit held in Vernal, Utah.

At the ceremony, the District presented a check to Reclamation as advance payment for an additional 3,000 acre-feet of Jensen Unit M&I water in the amount of \$14,117,250.

With the recent acquisition, the District more than doubled its M&I supply to a total volume of 5,000 acre-feet. This increase in water supply is in anticipation of future demand.

In the 1970s, a significant increase in population was anticipated in northeast Utah. The Jensen Unit of the Central Utah Project was designed to supply 18,000 acre-feet of M&I water to meet the anticipated increase in demand from Vernal and surrounding communities. Red Fleet Reservoir is the primary storage facility of the Jensen Unit. The reservoir was constructed to provide 4,600 acre-feet of irrigation water and 6,000 acre-feet of M&I water annually.

Each year, the Uintah Water Conservancy District currently receives 4,600 acre-feet of irrigation water, as well as 2,000 acre-feet of M&I water. The water is pumped from Red Fleet Reservoir by the Tyzack Pumping Plant and is treated at the Ashley Creek Water Treatment Plant before being delivered to the towns of Vernal, Maeser, Naples and Jensen for M&I purposes. In 2013, the District requested the ability to acquire an additional 3,000 acre-feet of M&I water. This additional water will allow the District to support future growth of the community and to take advantage of financial benefits associated with making an advance payment on the water.



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Holocaust Survivor Does the Unimaginable When She Meets the Grandson of the Man that Killed Her Family

In May of 1944, Eva Mozes Kor and her family arrived at their death sentence – Auschwitz. Seventy-one years later, Eva – who survived the nightmare – remains dedicated to practicing and preaching forgiveness; and she is doing so in a remarkable way.



According to *Elite Daily*, upon arrival at Auschwitz, Eva and her twin sister Miriam were immediately separated from the rest of their family and thrown into a group with other twin girls. While the rest of their family was murdered, the 10-year-old twins were forced to participate in unending and demeaning medical experiments performed by Josef Mengele, widely known for his horrible cruelty.

After winding up in the hospital as a result of one of Mengele's experiments, Eva made a decision: no matter what, she and her twin would survive the camp and be free once again.

The twins were freed from the camp in January 1945. In the years that ensued, they decided to try and find out what happened to the other twins that also survived. As reported by *VICE*, they were able to communicate with 122 surviving pairs of twins.

Eva and Miriam heard the stories of how the Holocaust affected the survivors' lives and they wanted to impart the message that there is always hope when there is despair. In 1984, they founded CANDLES (Children of Auschwitz Nazi Deadly Lab Experiments Survivors).



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After Miriam died in 1993, Eva continued her path of understanding and forgiveness. She wrote a letter where she forgave all of the Nazis.

She told *VICE*: “*I had the power to forgive. No one could give me the power, or take it away from me. I refused to be a victim, and now I am free.*”

Soon after, her journey took an unexpected turn. She was contacted by Rainer Höss, the grandson of the former SS commander of Auschwitz. As *Elite Daily* reports, Höss disowned his entire family after learning about the acts of his grandfather and has spoken out about the burden of his heritage.

Höss asked Eva to stand in as his adoptive grandmother, and in an act of utmost forgiveness, she accepted. This act is representative of the message she delivers at her lectures: “*Never give up on yourself, never judge people on their heritage, and always forgive your worst enemy, as it’s the only way you’ll be able to set your soul free.*”

The two now continue their path towards reconciliation together.

Eva’s strength and courage to make it out of Auschwitz and to forgive those who destroyed her family and subjected her to painful experimentation, is a remarkable act of healing. Additionally, Höss’ desire to right the wrongs of his heritage and embrace those that were adversely affected demonstrates one’s ability to overcome and stand up for what is right.

For the full story, check out *LiftBump* at <http://www.liftbump.com/2015/01/35090-holocaust-survivor-adopts-grandson-nazi-killed-family/>

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House Fires Caused by Storage of 9 Volt Batteries in Junk Drawers Rising



As most of you have recently heard in the news lately, unused batteries have been causing house fires. Check out these tips from EHS Safety News America on some preventive measures you can take in your home.

If you are storing loose 9 volt or AA or other batteries in a kitchen drawer or a “junk” drawer in your home, watch how you store them. Above all don’t store them loose and rolling around with other metal, glues and more of the lovely mix of things we keep in our junk drawers.

All you need to have happen is for a metal object like steel wool or a paper clip short out across the top of a 9 volt battery and ignite paper or other easily ignited materials and you’ll have a potential disaster in



your home. Itt doesn't take much to heat a metallic object or cause a spark in order to start a fire. **Please Do Not Do This At Home**

A 9 volt battery is a fire hazard because the positive and negative posts are on top, right next to one another. If this comes in contact with anything metal (aluminum foil, brillo, etc...) it will spark, and if there is a fuel for this spark you will have a fire (fire needs heat, fuel and oxygen to burn). To test this theory, put a 9 volt battery or a couple of AA batteries in your pocket with some loose change or your key chain full of keys, (use common sense) this will bring on a whole new meaning to the words, Hot Pants.

When you dispose of this type of battery (positive and negative on top) make sure it is safely wrapped in electrical tape or something to keep it separated from anything else that may come in contact with it. A small box or ziplock bag if kept in a junk drawer should suffice. I have seen in some stores now that the manufacturers are now packaging them with plastic caps. If you need to purchase a 9 volt battery try to find those that are packaged in this manner.

Try to be just as diligent with AA or AAA batteries. Keep their original packaging if stored in a "junk drawer". Don't let roll around freely with all the other wonderful miscellaneous we unknowingly toss in the drawer and don't think twice about Below are some additional tips in how to protect your kitchen fire!

Your "junk" drawers are often found in the kitchen where batteries, cords, and stuff is kept. Fires have often been linked drawers in houses where exposed 9-volt batteries came into with steel wool. THIS IS NOT A JOKE!!!!



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For more information on this topic and fire prevention, check out the link at <http://ehssafetynewsamerica.com/2011/09/01/house-fires-caused-by-storage-of-9-volt-aa-batteries-on-the-rise/>

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Sustainability and Environmental Management System Cleaning by Numbers

300 The Number of loads of laundry the average U.S. family washes each year.

In 1990, that number was 380. The reason it's down? High-capacity washers can handle more dirty load. And since today's machines are superefficient - 35 percent less water and energy compared with a ago - doing laundry costs around \$120 a year less did 10 years ago. (Source: Department of Energy; Star)



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4 Gallons of water used by the average dishwasher to clean on load of dishes.

Running the dishwasher actually saves water: It would take four times as much water - about 16 gallons - to clean the same load by hand. (Source: Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers)

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Thoughts from Brent Rhees – Vacancies and Gratitude



On September 3, 2014, Larry Walkoviak retired after seven years of service as the Upper Colorado (UC) Regional Director and a long fulfilling federal career. Finding a replacement with Larry's capabilities will be difficult but a competitive selection is underway with an advertisement for the Regional Director position that closed on November 10, 2014. Also on September 3, 2014, Deputy Regional Director Ann Gold retired after a distinguished federal career. With both of their retirements, it has left two vacancies in the Front Office, were we had to fill in with acting's. During that time, we have had an amazing amount of expertise step up in these positions to help out the UC Region.

During the first part of the vacancies, Jennifer Faler, Albuquerque Area Office's Deputy Area Manager, came in and acted solo as the Deputy Regional Director as I served as the Acting Regional Director. In November, I was able to go back to my position as the Deputy Regional Director and Jennifer McCloskey, Lower Colorado (LC) Regional Deputy Director, came in to act as the Regional Director and Barry Longwell, Four Corners Construction Office Manager, served as the Acting Deputy Regional Director.

Currently we have Dave Palumbo, LC Deputy Regional Director, serving as the Acting Regional Director, and Mary Halverson, UC's Finance Manager, serving as the Acting Deputy Regional Director. In February we'll have Reed Murray from the Central Utah Project Completion Act to serve as the Acting Regional Director and we'll be able to welcome our new Deputy Regional Director, Daniel Picard, on February 22nd.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to work with each of these individuals and experience each of their unique and countless leadership abilities. We have been able to learn from each of them as they bring different perspectives, questions, and insights to our regional issues. On behalf of the UC Region, I'd like to extend our gratitude for the support and willingness to step in; the support has been a tremendous relief.

Along with each of these individuals that I have mentioned, there are many others in the region that have stepped up and filled the void that was created by the retirements or reassignments. Thanks to each of you for demonstrating great leadership in your respective areas of responsibility.

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Oral History Spotlight



The UC Regional Library has a collection of 110 oral history interviews conducted by Historians, with various Reclamation employees throughout the years. The oral histories capture candid “in their own voice” memories of employees and their experiences working for Reclamation. The oral histories preserve information about Reclamation that would not normally appear in Reclamation’s official records. Contents of the oral histories range from the humorous to reflective of the situation at the time, and all are informative!

Oral History Interview Roland Robison

Mr. Robison came to the Bureau of Reclamation by a rather circuitous route. He joined Reclamation in 1989 as Regional Director for the Upper Colorado Region. Prior to that he had been in the Department of Interior for 20 years serving as Deputy Director, and Utah State Director of BLM and as an attorney in the Solicitor’s Office where he served both in the Regional Office of Salt Lake City and in the Washington Office. He was Associate Solicitor for Energy and Resources and in the 1970’s served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Water both which he worked very closely and had responsibilities that related to the Bureau of Reclamation. What follows are excerpts from Ms. Bauer’s oral history book:

Why Reclamation doesn’t have its own lawyers

“It used to be in the early days of the Bureau that the Bureau had its own lawyers but oh, ...it was decided to set up what amounted to an office of General Counsel in the Department of the Interior so that all of the lawyers representing all of the agencies would be in that office, the Solicitor’s Office. And they would then not be on the payroll of the individual agencies and thus not beholden to those agencies, that was the theory, so that the advice they could give would be more independent than might otherwise be the case, and it would also serve better the interests of the Secretary himself. So since that time, there have been no



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lawyers working as lawyers per se in the various agencies. It is the Office of the Solicitor that provides that counsel.”

Comments on proposals to move Reclamation out of Washington D.C.

“I don’t know exactly what everybody had in mind in connection with that. When the idea was first broached with, and while I was still in Washington with the BLM, I had some considerable problems with it because I just don’t see how you can take an agency of the Government that is high profile, and of considerable concern to the Congress, and which spends a lot of money and has a lot of influence, and take it out of Washington scene and have it remain a major player.”

“I expressed some doubt to some of my friends about the advisability of the move to the West because I think if an agency’s going to survive and thrive and be a player on the scene that’s got to be at the seat of the Government ... Washington D.C., where it can easily meet with the members of the Congress, where it can be a player within the Department of Interior. I’ve been around the Department long enough to know that there is competition among agencies in the Department. It’s important to have the ear of the Secretary. It’s important to have the Secretary know where you are and what you do and what you’re about. And I think when you remove yourself from the main stage, you suffer as a consequence. But I was not a party to any of those discussions and I don’t know all of the thinking that went on there.”

To read the full interview of Roland Robison [click here](#), and if you have any questions contact Chantel Bouchard, Regional Office Library Coordinator.

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Who’s New

Beth Reinhart

The desire to work for a land management agency and the career advancement potential with the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation is the reason I accepted this position in the Provo Area Office.

I love the outdoors, especially stream and rivers. I have been married for 16 years and we have one dog. My hobbies include being an avid angler and hunter. I also enjoy quilting, cooking and geocaching. My favorite books are any criminal mysteries, psychological thrillers and my favorite genre of movies/TV is comedies. In addition, Murphy Brown is someone I absolutely adore. I enjoy listening to adult alternative rock.

The one word to best describe me would be friendly and with that, I am looking forward to my career with Reclamation.

My favorite quote is, “It is better to seek forgiveness than ask permission” (Rear Admiral Grace Hopper)



Lisa Vance

Lisa Vance, Contract Specialist, will probably be called Vance since there are three Lisa's in the Acquisition Management Division in the Upper Colorado Regional Office. I started working for the Defense Contract Management Agency 4 years ago as a keystone, graduated from the program and decided to leave to join Reclamation because DCMA is moving to Hill AFB and I didn't want to add the extra hours to my daily commute. I enjoy quilting, knitting, and fishing in my spare time (about every weekend) and crafts of any kind and recently decided to take up guitar lessons. My husband and I will be celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary this year, in Kauai, HI, which is one of my most favorite places in the world. I have three children, two girls at the ages of 24 and 22, both graduating from college this year and a 17 year old son that loves Jiu jitsu and anything related to computers and video games. We have two dogs, Harley and Nugget.

In Transition

Jim Rottman is Retiring



Jim Rottman is retiring after nearly 33 years with Reclamation. A civil engineer in the Western Colorado Area Office (WCAO), Jim joined the Reclamation family in 1982. He came to us from the private sector where he made a living underground, working as a mining engineer.

One of his first assignments at Reclamation was the Dolores Project, where he assisted with construction of the shaft, tunnel, and various concrete structures associated with McPhee Dam. Over the years he



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dabbled in design work, contract administration, cost estimating, design data packages, planning, salinity projects, writing specifications, and performing inspections.

In 2003, he moved into the Facility Maintenance Group, where he was responsible for the Standing Operating Procedures, emergency management, and the Review of Operation and Maintenance program, amongst a plethora of other duties for the eight projects overseen by the WCAO-Durango office.

In his spare time, Jim is an avid cyclist (mountain and road), skier, astronomy admirer, gardener, volunteer with the Adaptive Sports Association, and all-around great guy. He was the winner of the 2013 Iron Horse Bicycle Classic Omnium. For you non-cyclists, that means the whole enchilada, in his class. He is also locally famous for his homemade pies.

Despite a population of nearly 18,000 people in Durango, you would be amused with the fact that you cannot go anywhere with Jim, without running into his friends and acquaintances. It seems as though every single person in the area knows him.

If you've had the pleasure of working alongside Jim, then you've been challenged by his intellect. If you've had the pleasure of supervising him, then you've become a better supervisor. And if you've had the pleasure of knowing him, you are a better person.

Jim Rottman will retire on Friday, January 2, 2015. Despite a great loss to Reclamation; his grandchild, his kids, his garden, and the great outdoors will have much to gain. He will be greatly missed.

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What Is the Media Saying About Reclamation This Week?

[December storms bring snowpack to near normal](#)

[New Mexico faces fifth straight year of drought](#)

[Durango councilors back Utes' water request](#)

[Overall, Colorado's snowpack is on target](#)

[Water woes: Duchesne County ready to assert its rights](#)

[Rio Grande now largest source of ABQ water](#)

[Just a memory](#)

[Bureau of Reclamation Releases Funding Opportunity for Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Feasibility Studies](#)

[One River's Outsize Impact and the Threat of Drought](#)

[33 Policies Obama should talk about in State of the Union 2015](#)

[Colorado's statewide snowpack numbers high so far](#)

[Study details impacts to Utah if Colorado River runs dry](#)



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[Nature wins as critters roam urban streets](#)

[Officials say future looks dry for Navajo Lake](#)

[\\$3.6 million hydroelectric incentive program](#)

[Uintah Water Conservancy District obtains additional acre-feet of Central Utah Project water from Reclamation](#)

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Utah's Colorado by Robert Stump

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Reclamation Trivia

Here's this week's set of questions:

1. Quagga mussels are a small (_____) freshwater bivalve mollusk. They were introduced into the _____ of the United States in the 1980s.
2. A 9 volt battery is a fire hazard because _____, right next to one another.
3. The acquisition will allow the District to deliver additional water to the communities of _____, _____, _____ and _____ for municipal and industrial purposes.



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Last week, We asked,

1. The U.S. Senate late Tuesday confirmed Estevan López, a former director of the [New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission](#), as the next commissioner of the federal Bureau of Reclamation.
2. Roland was an attorney heavily involved in the original implementation of the [National Environmental Policy Act](#) and other landmark legislation such as the [Clean Water Act](#) and the [Endangered Species Act](#).
3. Shellie Nall has facilitated many initiatives over the years, such as [“Freeze the Footprint”](#).

Last winner was – [N/A](#)

Please use this [link to send your answers](#). To be fair we will draw names from the winners and one person will receive a prize. We will reach into the prize bin for something suitable for the winner...as long as supplies last.

[Return to UC Today](#)



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