

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD INTRODUCES ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY BILL FOR THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER SAYS BILL WILL ALLOW BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO PROVIDE MONEY FOR ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS ON COLORADO

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today introduced legislation that would allow the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost sharing for the endangered fish recovery implementation program on the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Basins. The bill has the support of environmental groups, water users, power users and the States of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico.

“This legislation is meant to be a pro-active piece of legislation. It is the product of years of meetings between water districts, power users and environmental groups,” Allard said. “The goal is to ensure a long-term recovery program for endangered fish currently in the river and allow greater flexibility for Colorado to develop their full allotment of the Colorado River.”

Allard’s bill would authorize a total of \$100 million for capital construction, operations and maintenance to implement a program to provide fish ladders, hatchery facilities, removal of non-native species and habitat restoration. The cost sharing program would authorize \$46 million of federal funding from the Bureau of Reclamation and the remaining \$54 million would be generated from state contributions and from power revenues.

“The success of the Recovery Program depends on the federal government to provide sufficient funds to implement the program,” Allard said. “Without the federal government’s commitment to help fund the program within an established time line, future development of water will be in jeopardy.”

U.S. Senators Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO), Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Robert Bennett (R-UT) have all signed on as original co-sponsors. The legislation is similar to H.R. 2348, which has been introduced by Utah Representative Jim Hansen and co-sponsored by five members of Colorado’s congressional delegation.