Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

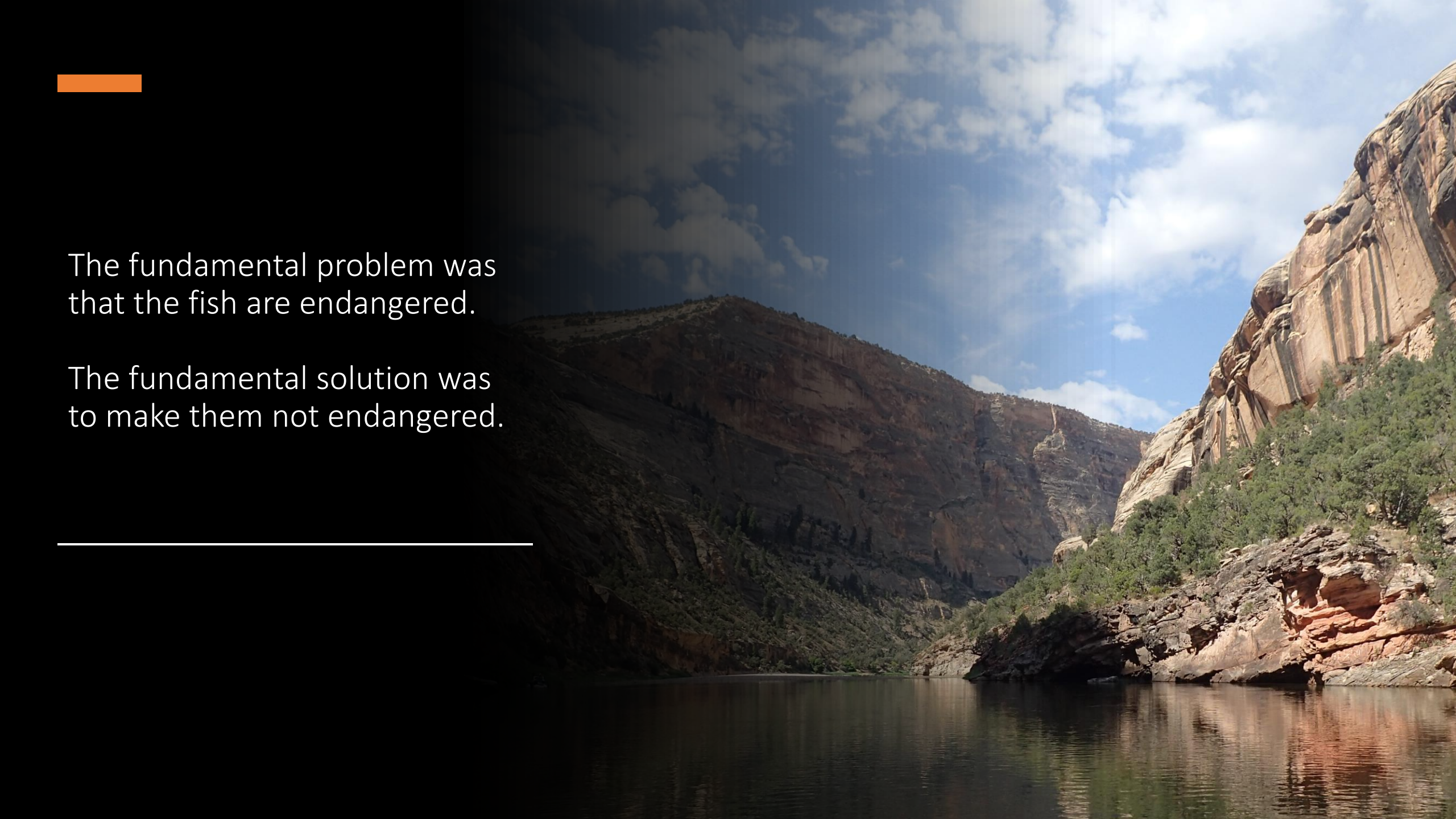
San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

"Irreconcilable differences are forming between parties in the Colorado River."

COLORADO
WATER CONGRESS
INFORM | CONVENE | TRAIN | ACT

The fundamental problem was that the fish are endangered.

The fundamental solution was to make them not endangered.



Program goal:

RECOVERY and delisting of the four listed fish species

Humpback chub
Bonytail
Colorado pikeminnow
Razorback sucker

Colorado pikeminnow
Razorback sucker


GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
EQUAL RIGHTS
LIVESTOCK
MINES
GRAIN
OIL
1869
1890


THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF UTAH
INDUSTRY
UTAH
1847
1896


DNR


UTAH WATER USERS ASSOCIATION


Western Area
Power Administration


WESTERN
RESOURCE
ADVOCATES


COLORADO
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INFORM | CONVENE | TRAIN | ACT


U.S.
FISH & WILDLIFE
SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR


NATIONAL
PARK
SERVICE


BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION


The Nature
Conservancy

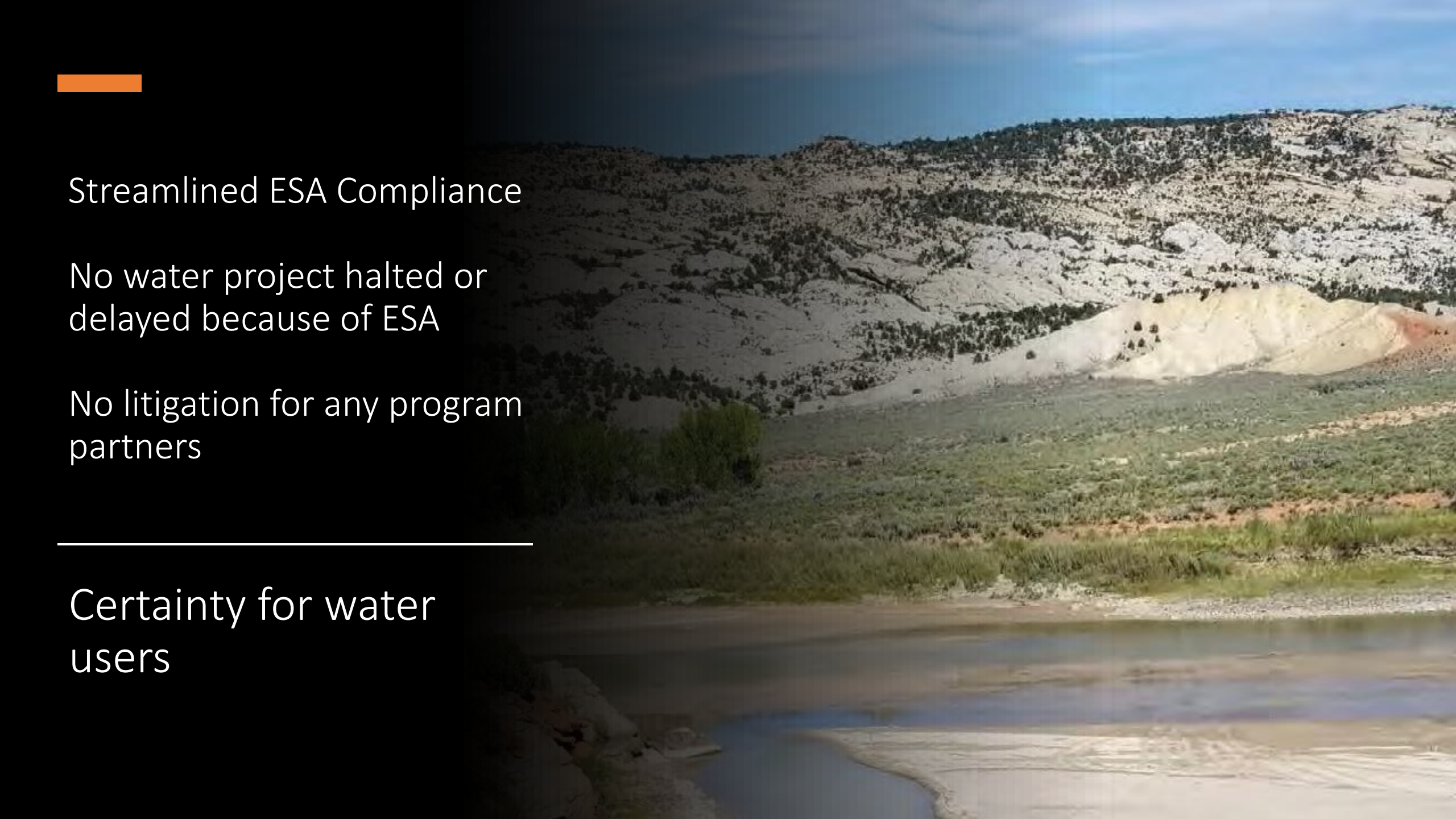

WYOMING WATER
ASSOCIATION

Streamlined ESA Compliance

No water project halted or delayed because of ESA

No litigation for any program partners

Certainty for water users



Humpback chub

Threatened

2021

Bonytail

Endangered

1980

Colorado pikeminnow

Endangered

1973

Razorback sucker

Endangered

1991

Proposed Threatened

Instream Flow Coordination

Instream flows are the foundation for all fish habitat and provide water for people, recreation and fishing. Program partners use scientifically based flow recommendations to drive management decisions to ensure endangered fish are protected as water is used to grow crops and supply homes and businesses with clean, reliable water.

Habitat protection

Each of the protected species has different habitat preferences that often change as the fish mature. Program partners work cooperatively to provide passage across diversion dams, access to warm, food-rich nursery habitat and to protect fish from entering canals where they could end up on a farmer's field instead of in the river.

Nonnative Fish Control

Nonnative fish have been introduced across the basin, for many years and for many reasons. Predation by nonnative fish species is a serious threat to endangered fishes and perhaps the most challenging to manage. Program partners are using a diverse range of solutions to address this threat, but novel solutions are needed.

Outreach

Public support is essential to recover the endangered fishes, now and in the future.

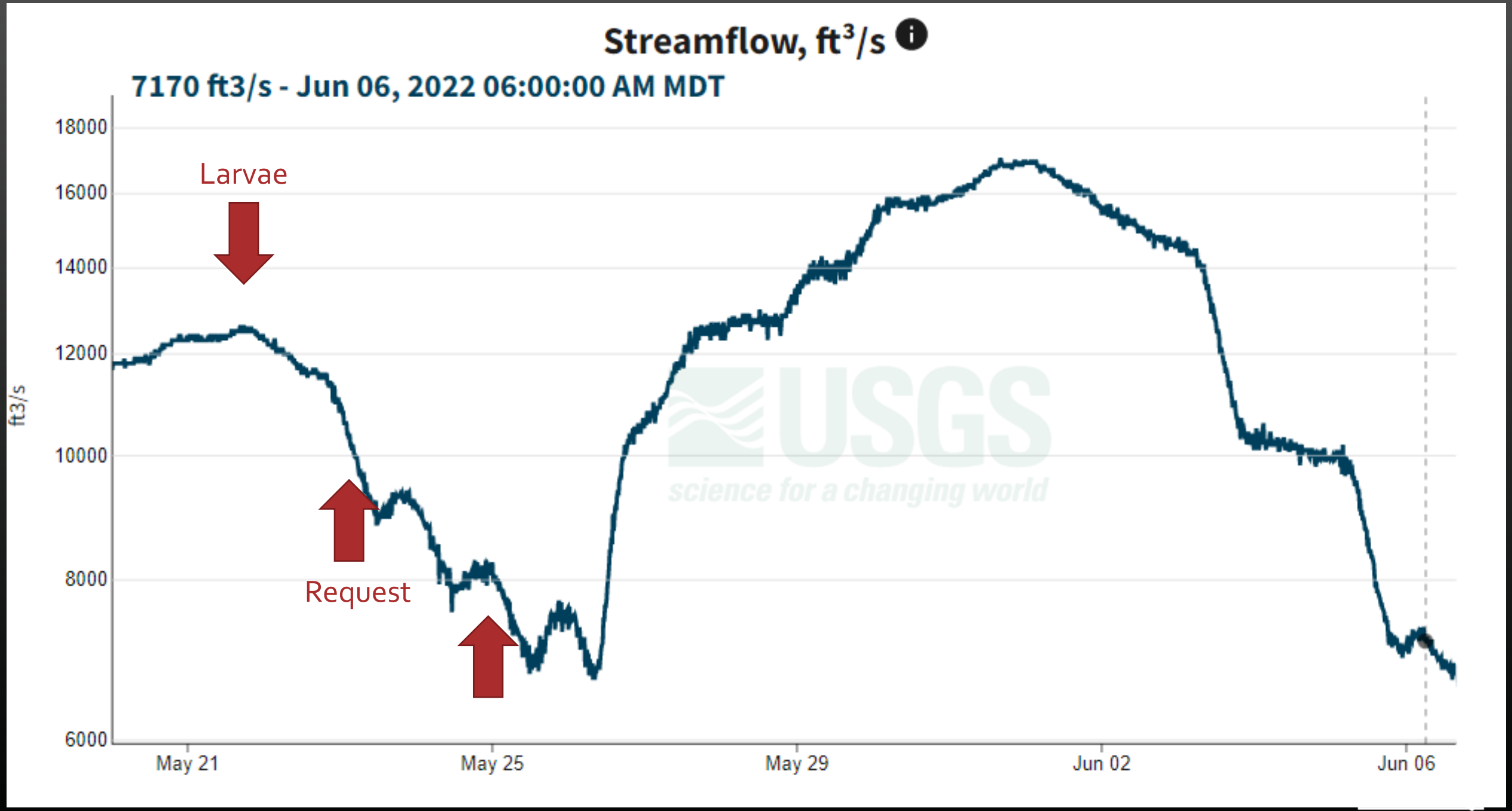
Program partners visit schools, attend community events, engage anglers and boaters along the rivers, present at professional meetings, and develop a variety of printed materials and educational items that inform people about the value of endangered fish in their communities.

Propagation

Hatchery-produced fish are stocked into rivers and streams when populations fall below self-sustainability. Program partners work together to maximize genetic diversity and continuously improve techniques so stocked fish are more likely to survive in the wild.

Research & Monitoring

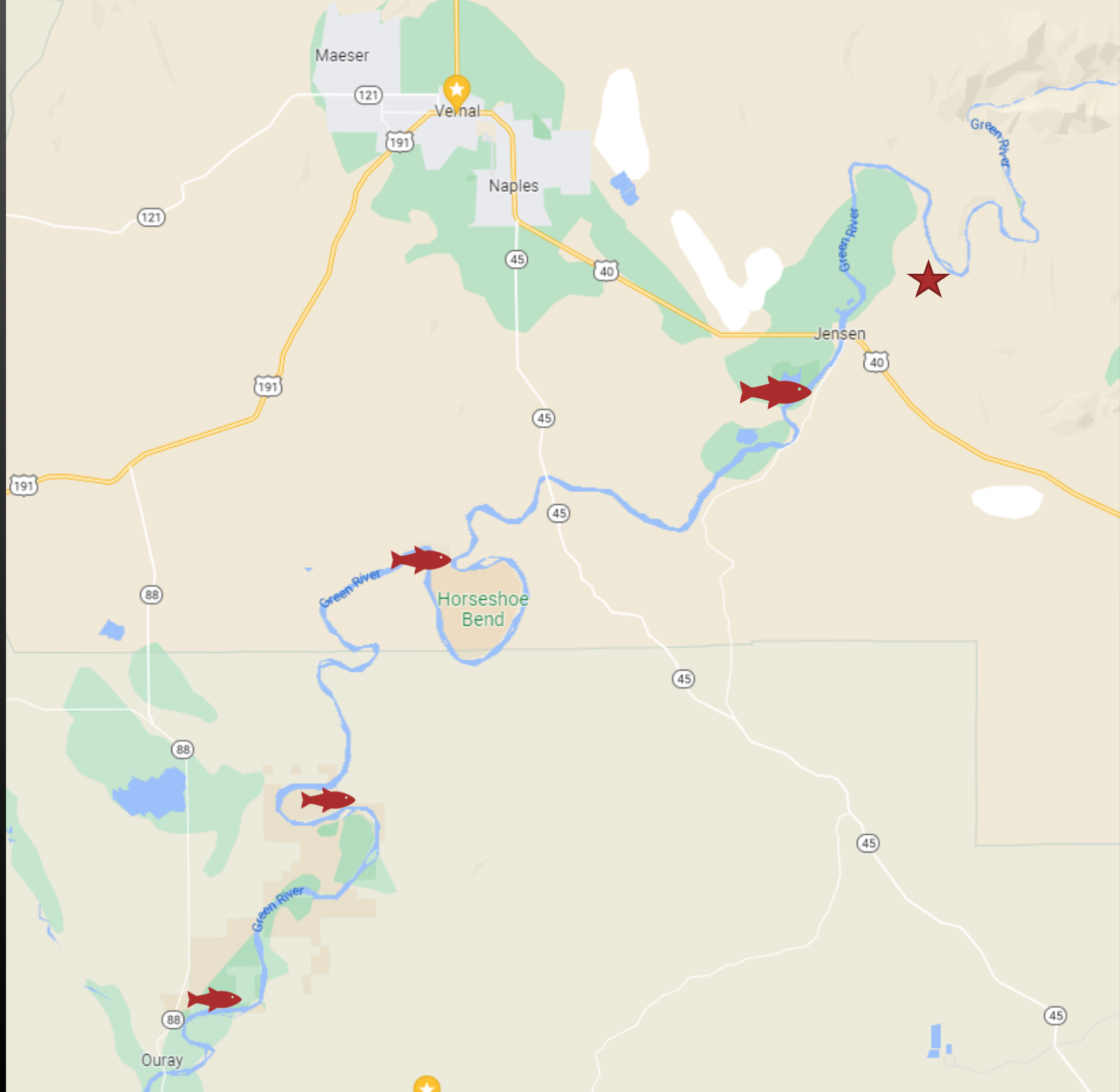
Research and monitoring produce information to evaluate progress to recovery and guide management efforts. Program partners provide the science to support decision making regarding recovery actions, to see what is working and what isn't, and make adaptive improvements.


Streamflow, ft³/s
7170 ft3/s - Jun 06, 2022 06:00:00 AM MDT
ft3/s
18000
16000
14000
12000
10000
8000
6000
Larvae
Request
May 21
May 25
May 29
Jun 02
Jun 06
USGS
science for a changing world

2022 Floodplains Connected

- Stewart Lake
- Stirrup
- Johnson Bottom
- Old Charley Wash

- All managed floodplains

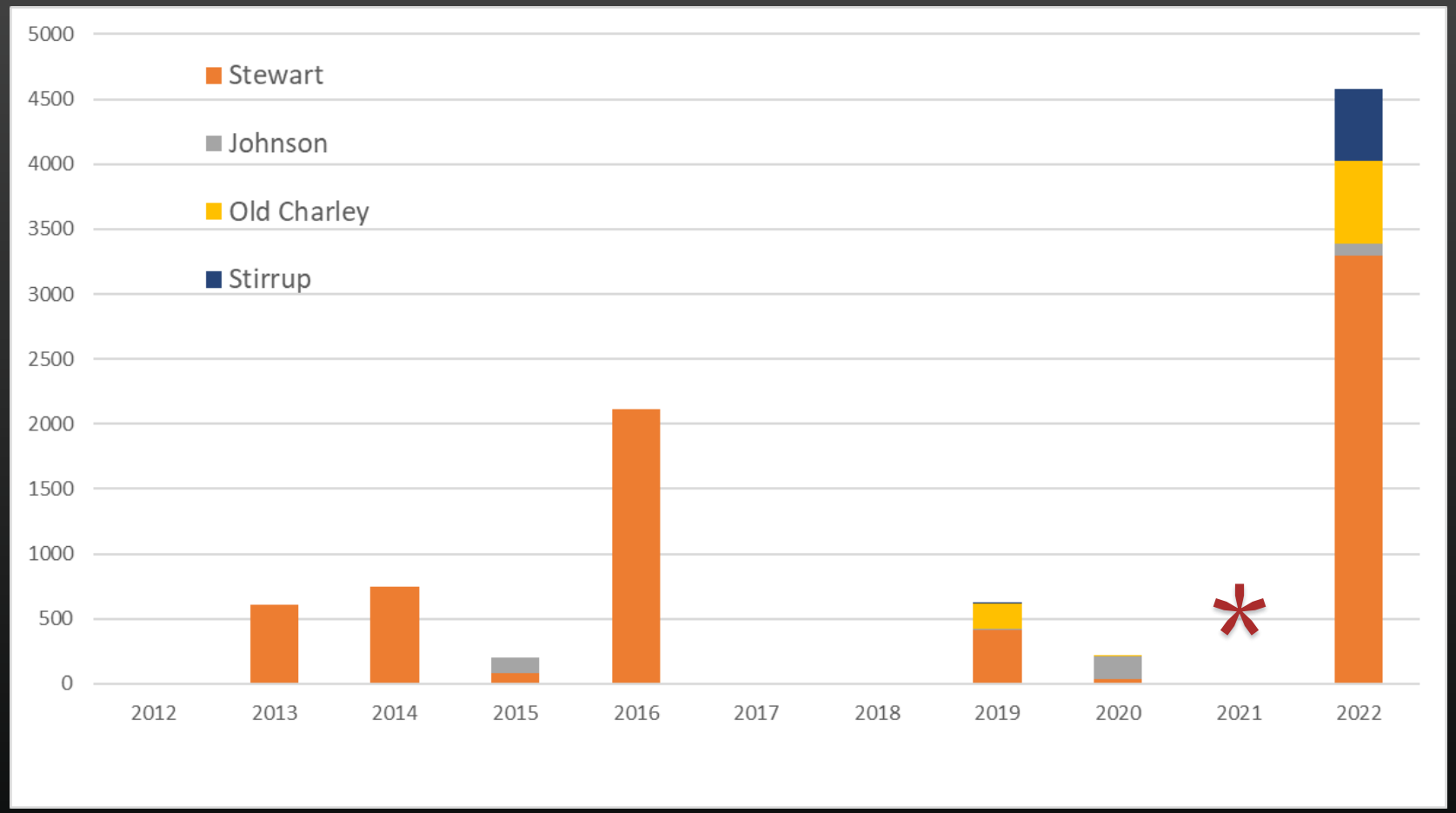


Managed wetlands

Screens to prevent invasion by nonnative fish

Gates to control timing and rate of inflow

Fish results



- Stewart: 3,294
- Stirrup: ~550
- Old Charley Wash: 637
- Johnson Bottom: 98
- 2022 Total: 4,579
- 2012-2021: 4,617


Photo: UDWR/Breen


Photo: UDWR/Breen


Photo: J. Mikula


Thank you!