

Humpback Chub Recovery Team Update

Presented by Dan Leavitt,
USFWS Liaison to Lower
Basin

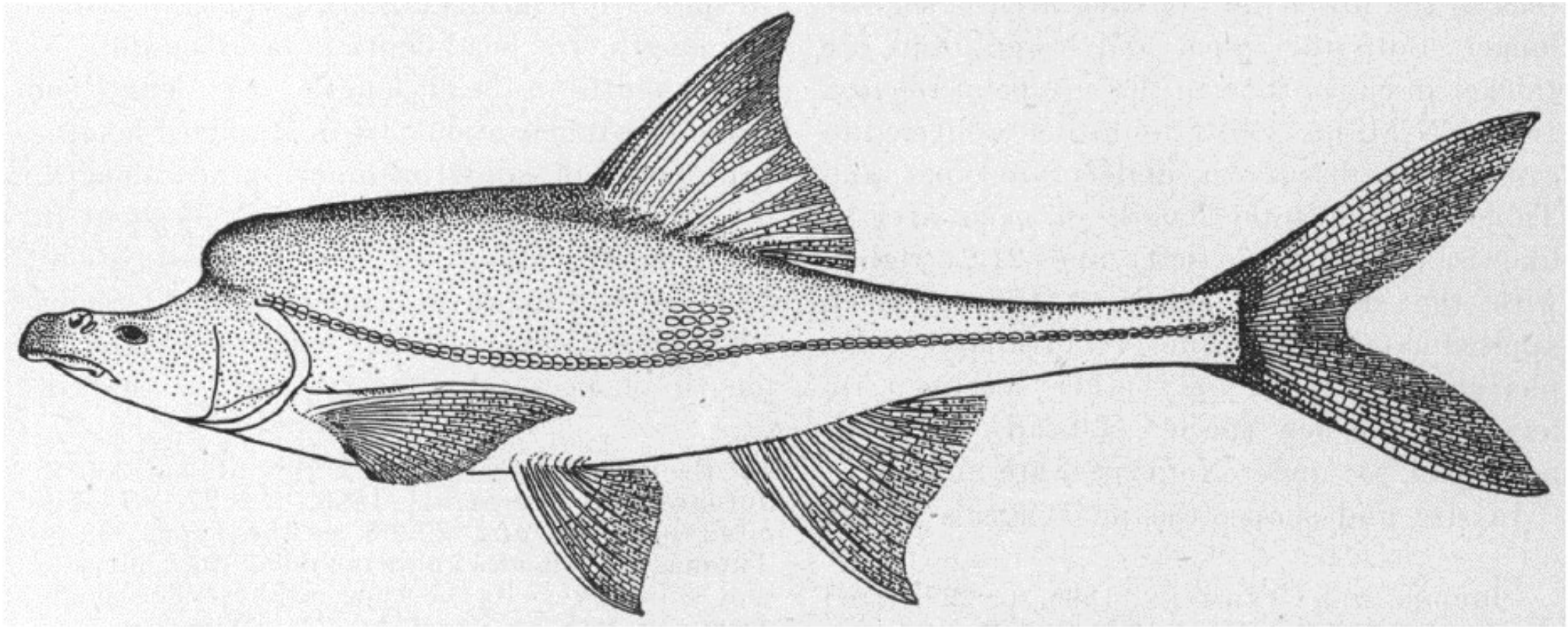









FIG. 1.—*Gila cypha*, n. sp.: Holotype (U.S.N.M. no. 131839), 305 mm in standard length.
Drawn by Mrs. A. M. Awl.

Humpback Chub Recovery Team Update

-  Background
-  Recovery Planning and Implementation
-  Species Status Assessment
 -  Changes to Policy
 -  Changes in Demographic Conditions
 -  Changes in Habitat Conditions
-  Recovery Vision

Background

FWS convened a formal Recovery Team in January 2023

Comprised of Management Agency Representatives and Species Experts from Across the Colorado River Basin



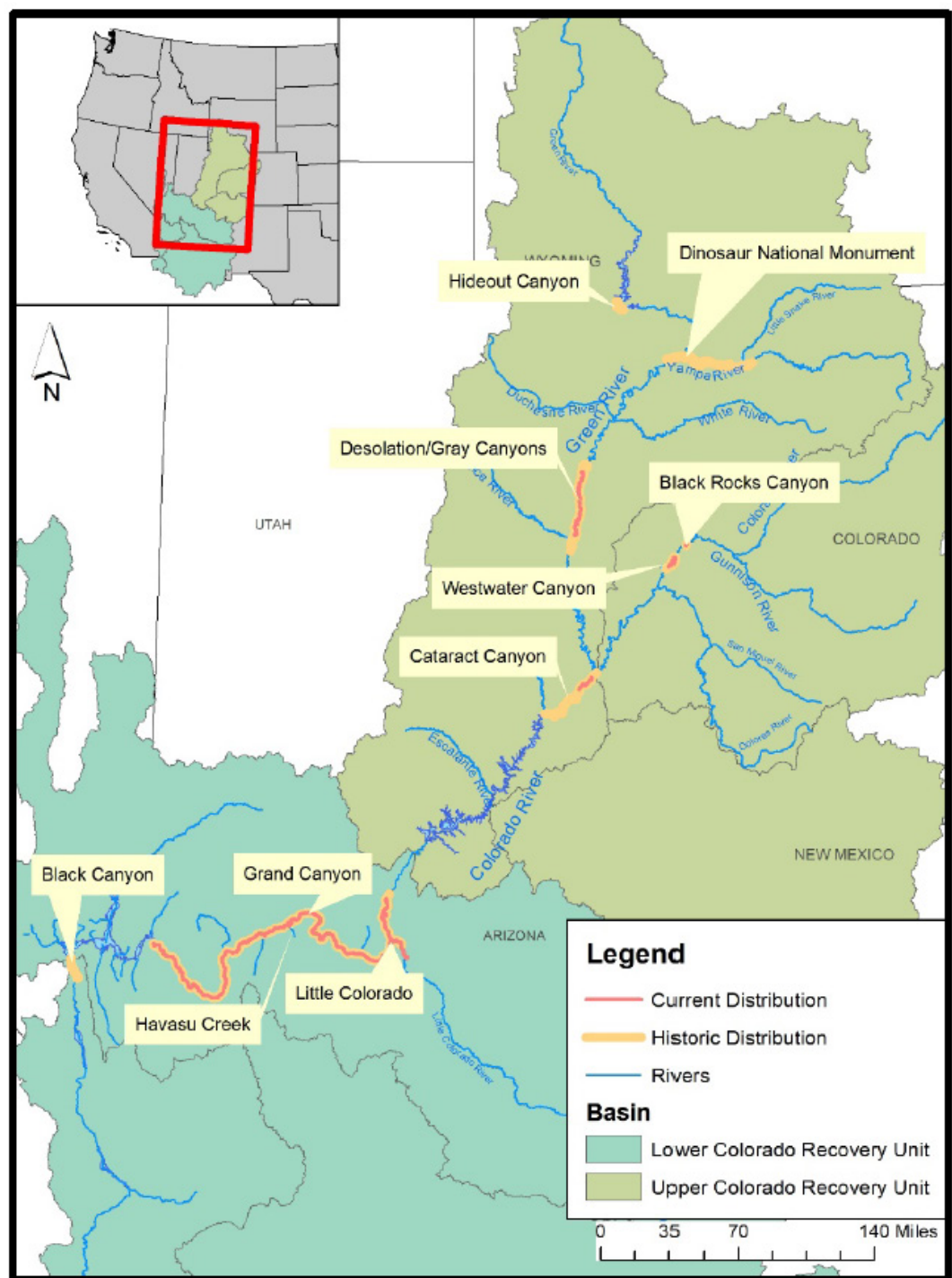
Initial Tasking

Revise the Species Status Assessment

Revise the Recovery Plan

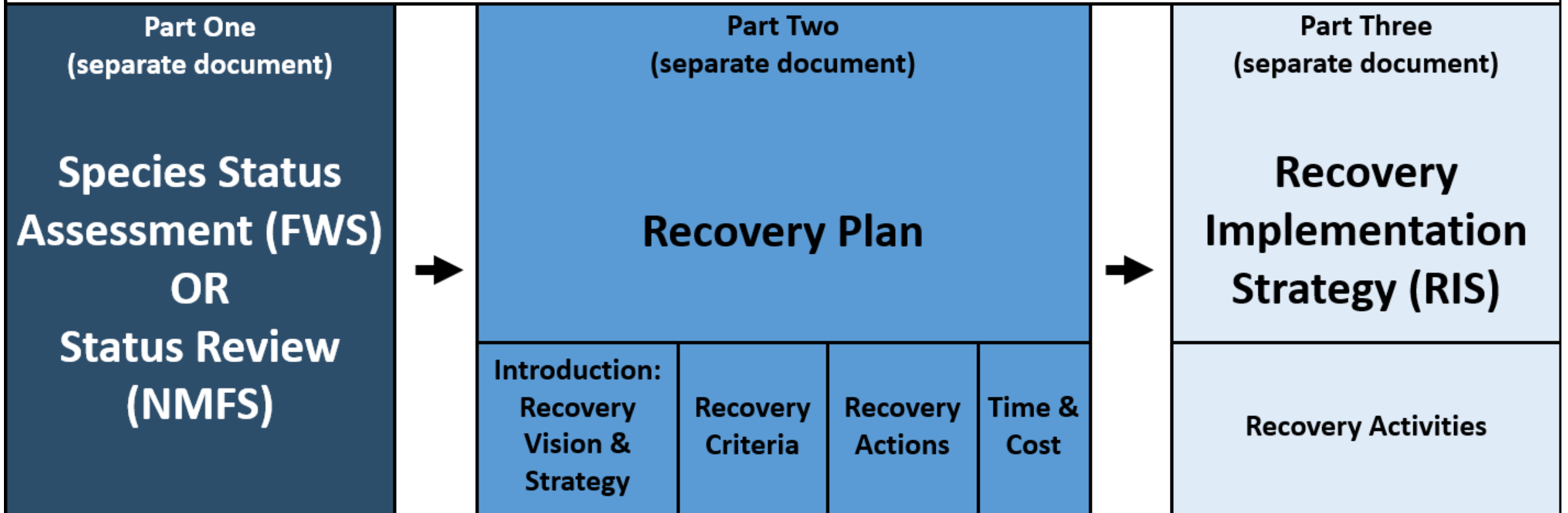
Create Recovery Implementation Strategy

Background



Recovery Planning and Implementation

3-Part Framework



**Species Status Assessment
for the
Humpback Chub (*Gila cypha*)**



Fish Illustration © Joseph R. Tomelleri

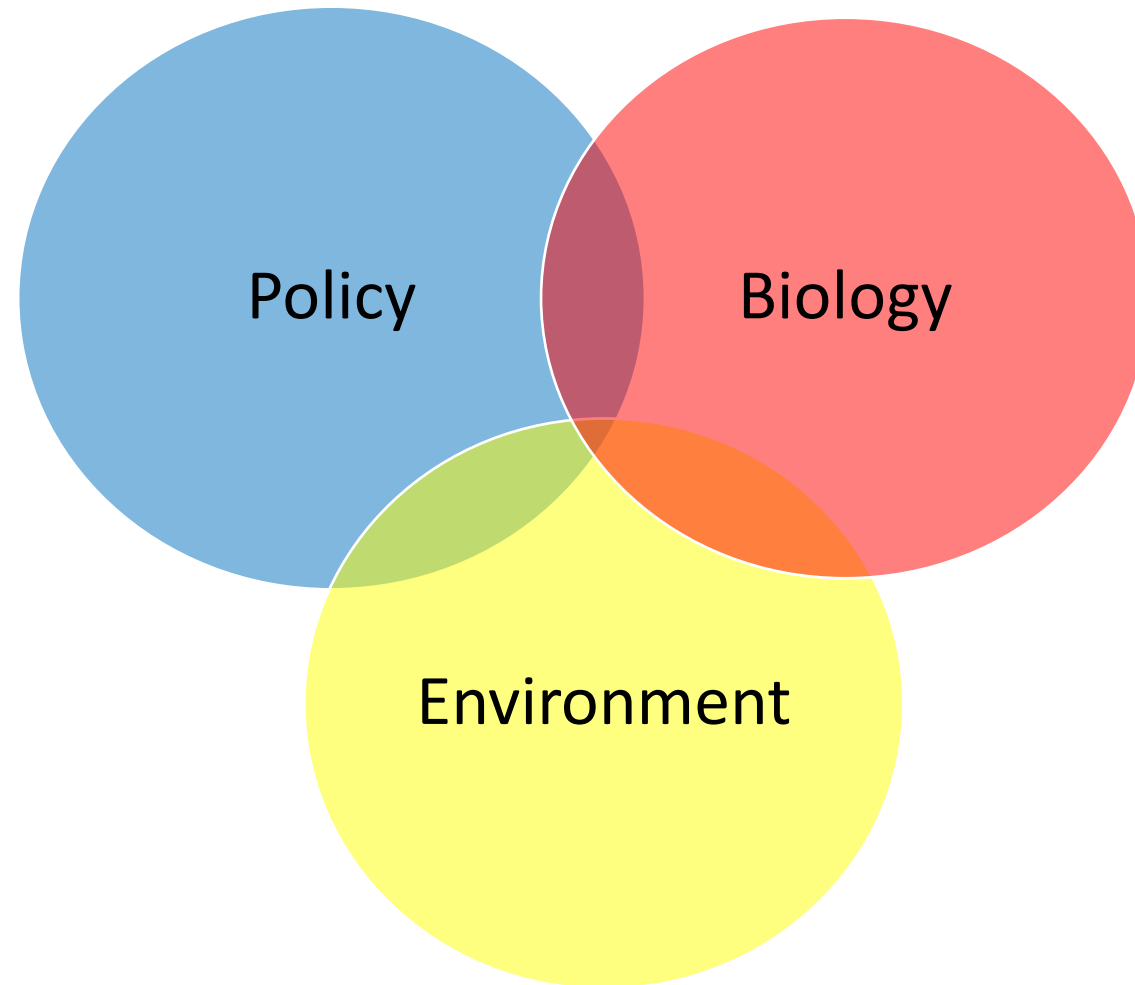
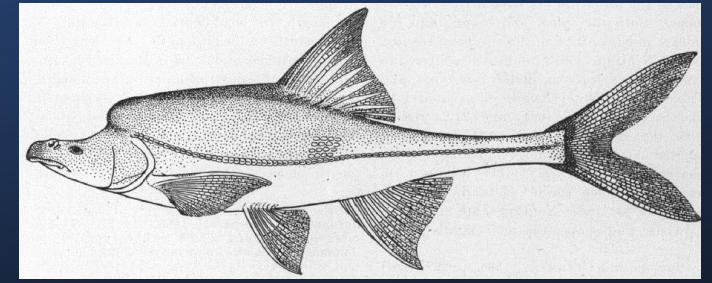


U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region (6)
Denver, CO

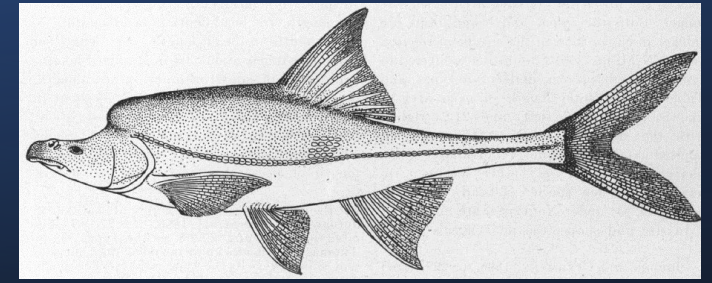
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Species Status
Assessment

What has changed since 2018



What has changed since 2018



57588 Federal Register / Vol. 86, No. 198 / Monday, October 18, 2021 / Rules and Regulations

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

[Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2018-0081;
FF09E22000 FXES11130900000 212]

RIN 1018-BD47

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of the Humpback Chub From Endangered to Threatened With a Section 4(d) Rule

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are reclassifying the humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) from endangered to threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), due to substantial improvements in the species' overall status since its original listing as endangered in 1974. This action is based on a thorough review of the best available scientific and commercial information available, which indicates that the humpback chub no longer meets the definition of an endangered species under the Act. The humpback chub will remain protected as a threatened species under the Act. We are also finalizing a rule under section 4(d) of the Act that provides for the conservation of the humpback chub.

DATES: This rule is effective November 17, 2021.

species, we may reclassify the species or remove it from the Federal Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants due to recovery. A species is an "endangered species" for purposes of the Act if it is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and is a "threatened species" if it is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. We are reclassifying the humpback chub from endangered to threatened (*i.e.*, "downlisting") because we have determined that the species is no longer in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Downlisting a species can only be completed by issuing a rule.

What this document does. This rule reclassifies the humpback chub from endangered to threatened (*i.e.*, to "downlists" the species), with a rule issued under section 4(d) of the Act, based on the species' current status, which has been improved through implementation of conservation actions.

The basis for our action. Under the Act, we can determine that a species is an endangered or threatened species based on any one or more of the following five factors or the cumulative effects thereof: (A) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; (B) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; (C) disease or predation; (D) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or (E) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence. Based on an assessment of the

restoration, monitoring, research, stocking, and refuge maintenance.

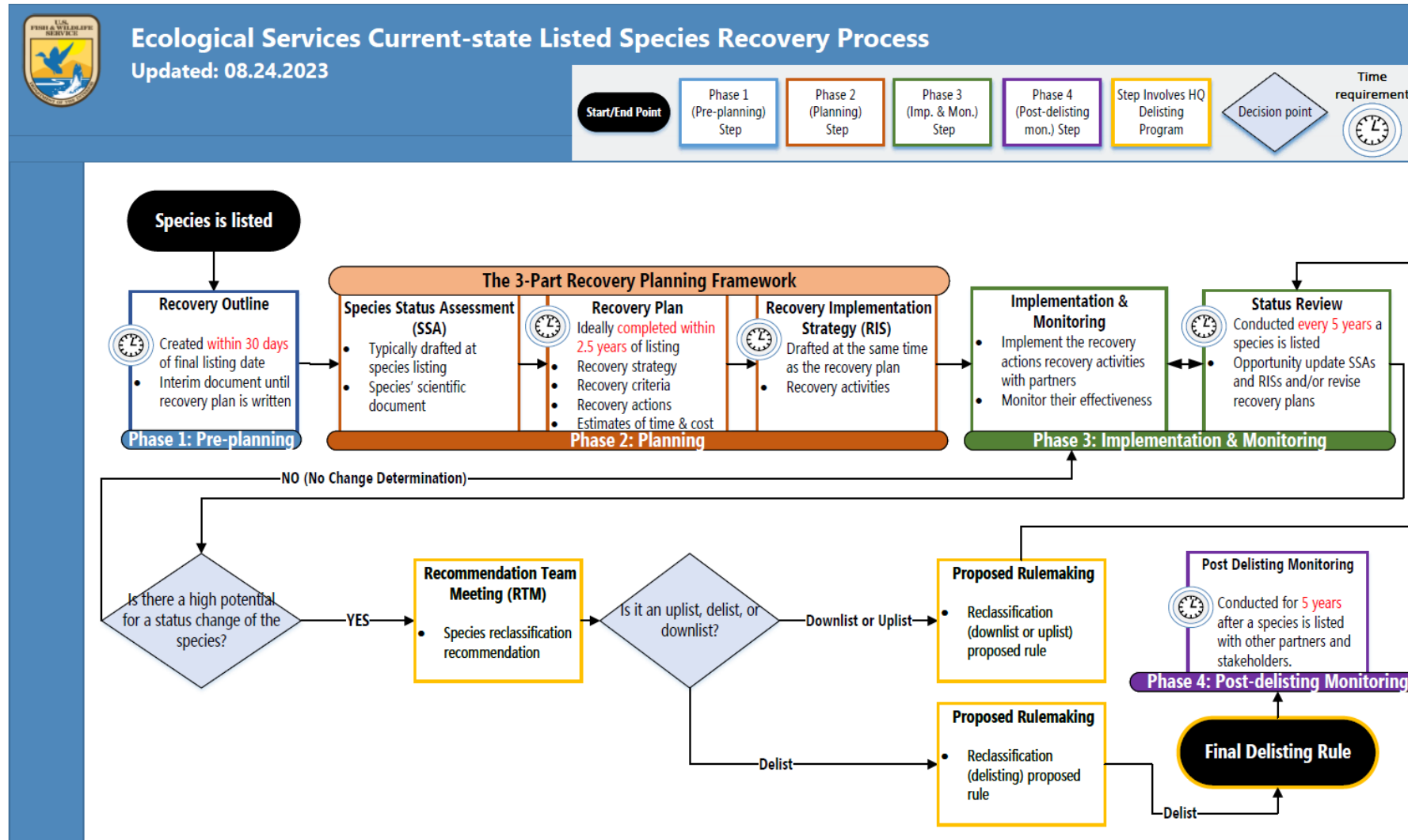
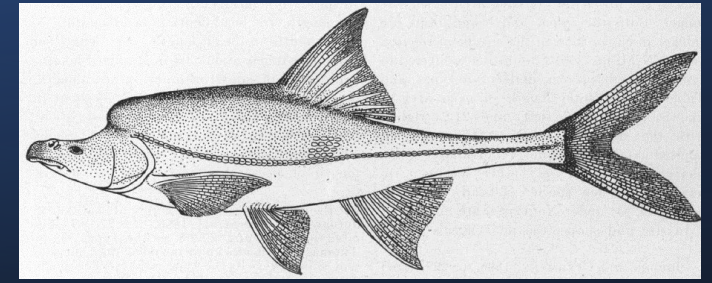
Previous Federal Actions

On March 11, 1967, the Secretary of the Interior published a final rule (32 FR 4001) listing the humpback chub as an endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 926; 16 U.S.C. 668aa(c)). Subsequently, the humpback chub retained classification as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. 668aa) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and on January 4, 1974, the species was included in a final rule (39 FR 1158) establishing a list of endangered native wildlife at 50 CFR part 17. On March 21, 1994, we designated critical habitat for humpback chub along 610 kilometers (km) (379 miles (mi)) of the Colorado River basin (59 FR 13374).

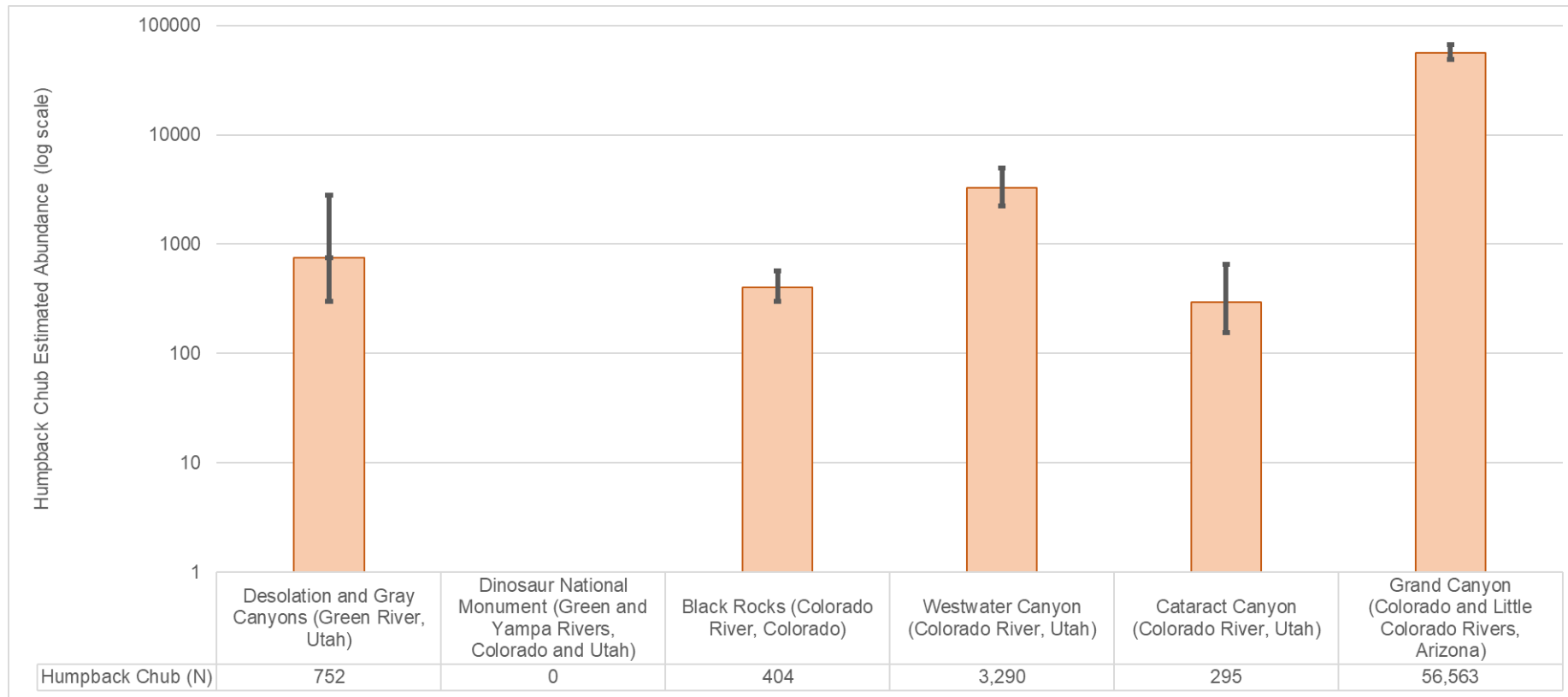
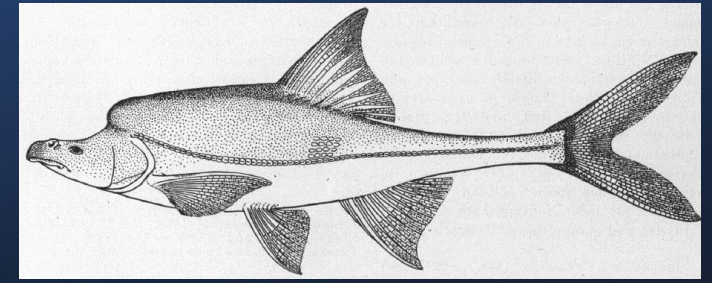
We issued the first recovery plan for the humpback chub on August 22, 1979. We revised the recovery plan on September 19, 1990, and we further amended and supplemented the 1990 revised plan with new recovery goals on August 1, 2002. The recovery criteria presented in the 2002 recovery plan remain reasonable measures to gauge progress towards recovery and a valuable reference as we refine our vision of recovery for the humpback chub, and work to update the recovery plan.

On January 22, 2020, we proposed to downlist the humpback chub from "endangered" to "threatened" (85 FR

What has changed since 2018

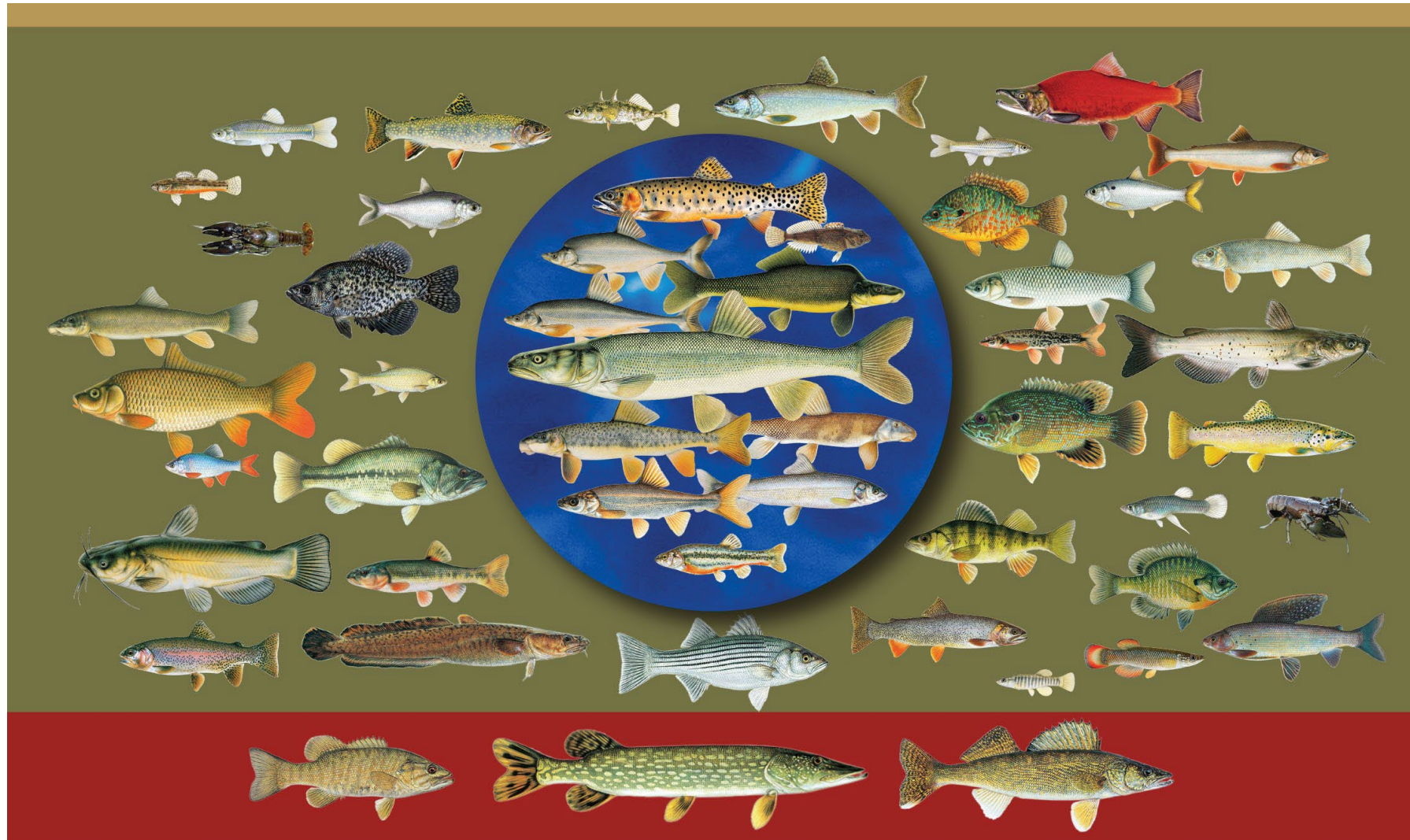
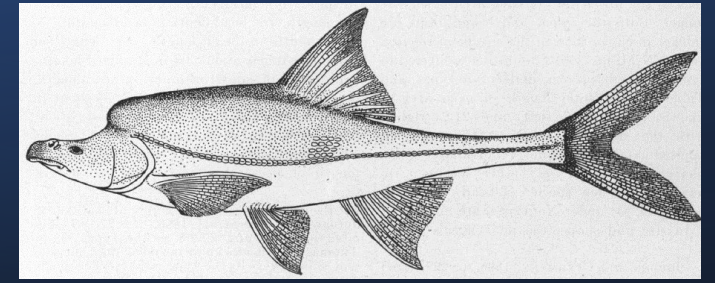


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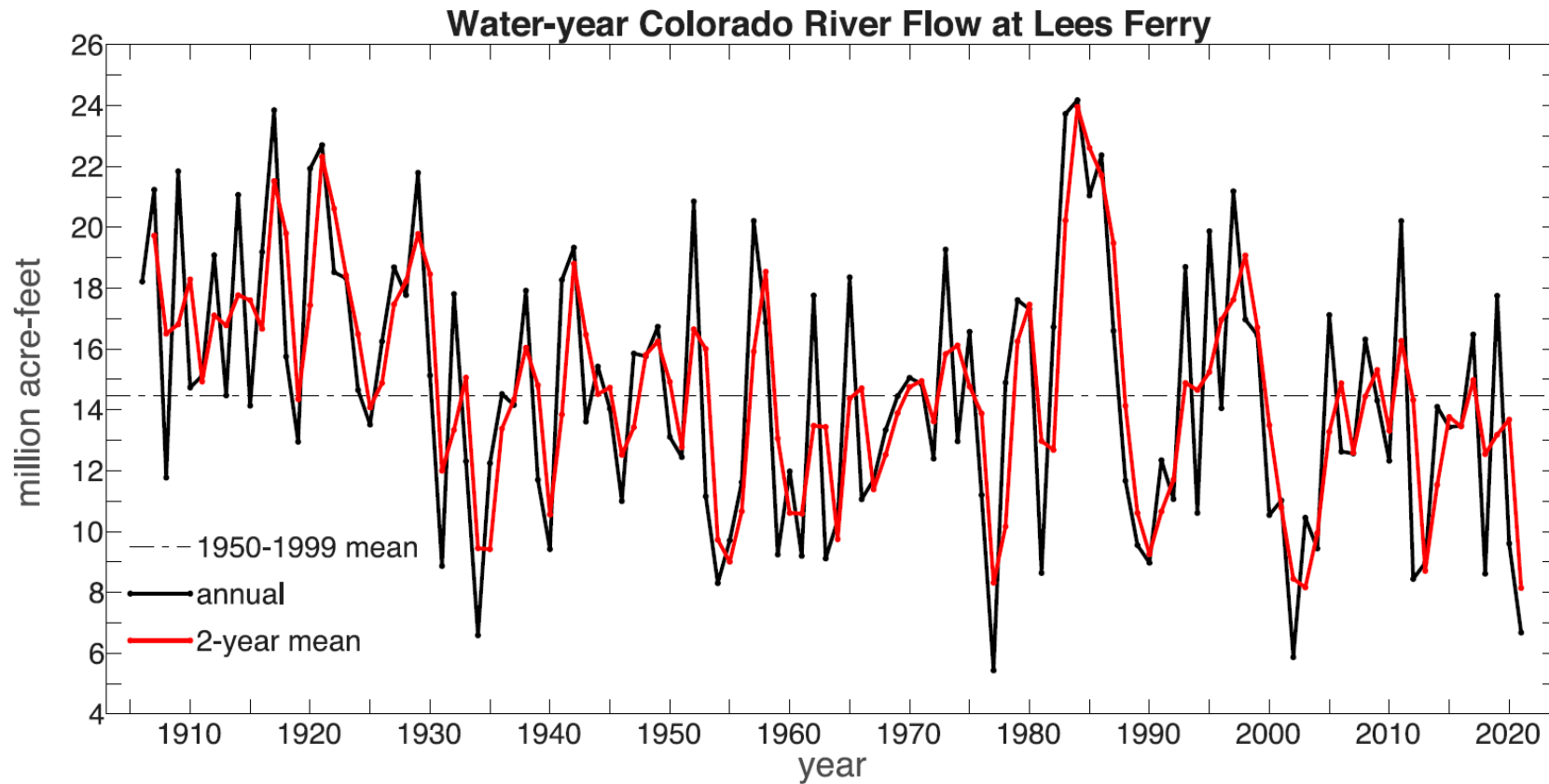
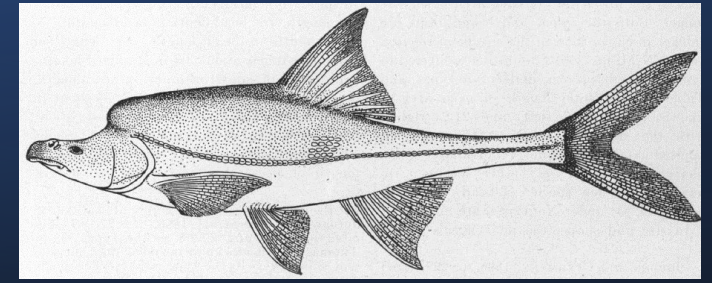


Data: (Badame 2008; Francis et al. 2016; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2018; Hines et al. 2020; Caldwell 2021; Van Haverbeke et al. 2022, 2023)

What has changed since 2018



What has changed since 2018



Extended Data Fig. 2 | River flow from the upper basin of the Colorado River. Water-year naturalized flow of the Colorado River at Lees Ferry. Data come from <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/NaturalFlow/provisional.html> as of January 27, 2022.

What has changed since 2018

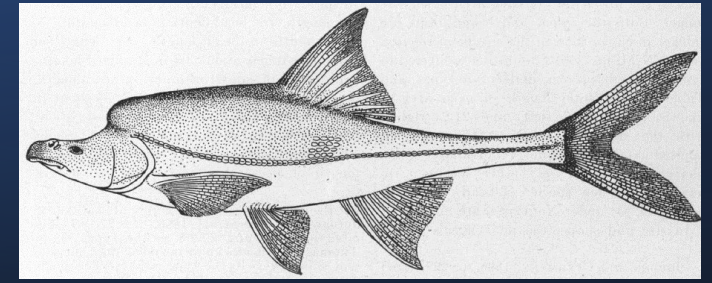
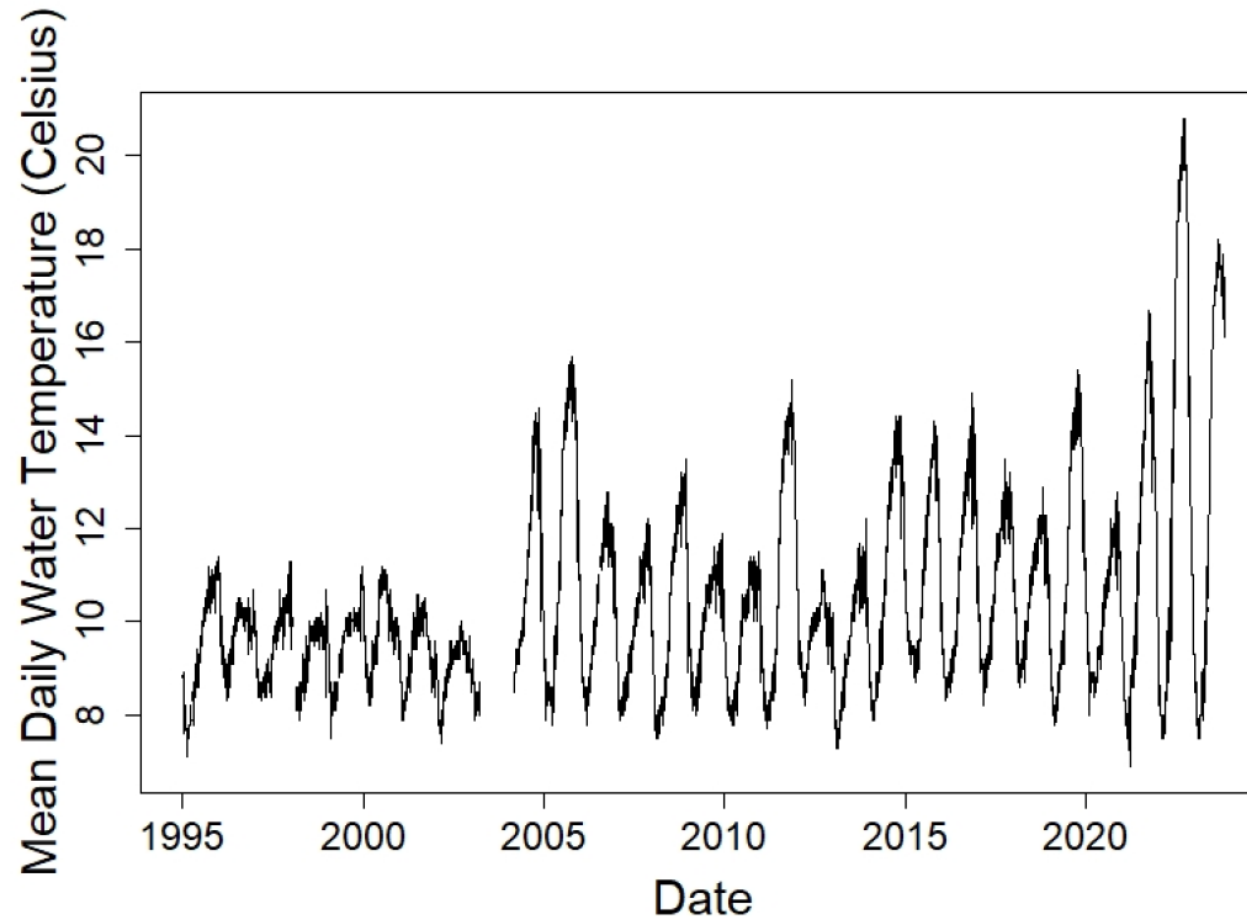


Figure 3-34
Water Temperatures of the Colorado River at Lees Ferry as Measured at USGS Gage
#09380000, 1995 to Present



Recovery Vision: The Definition of “Recovered”

A brief, qualitative description of what recovery looks like for the species when the species and its populations are fully sustainable (and the species can be delisted), stated in terms of the **resiliency**, **redundancy**, and **representation** and relevant threats.

Thank you

Links: [SSAs](#) , [RPI Framework](#) , [Recovery Program](#)

