

RESTORE THE 15-MILE REACH OF THE COLORADO RIVER



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REACH:

It is home to four endangered fish species that are the focus of the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program—the Colorado Pikeminnow, Humpback Chub, Bonytail, and Razorback Sucker.

People have been working to protect this stretch of the Colorado River for decades.

Thanks to the dedication of our partners, the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District and the Grand Valley Water Users Association, we have devised an innovative way to purchase water from upstream sources and deliver it for power generation at a renovated hydro-power plant which will okay the additional water for release to the 15-Mile Reach!

All partners and funders will be mentioned in all press, printed materials, and online mention of this exciting new project!

THE DETAILS OF THE PURCHASE:

- Colorado Water Trust will purchase up to **1000 acre-feet of water** from the Colorado River District for delivery to the 15-Mile Reach this April.
- Colorado River District will release water from storage in Ruedi Reservoir and/or Wolford Mountain Reservoir for delivery to the Grand Valley Power Plant.
- After being used for non-consumptive hydropower generation in the Grand Valley Power Plant, the water will be released to the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River where it will supplement flows at a rate between 50 and 100 cfs for 5 to 10 days.
- The rate and duration will be adjusted to best address what is known as the “April Hole.”
- **The April Hole** is a situation that occurs most years on the 15-Mile Reach when irrigation diversions from the Colorado River have begun, but early runoff has not reached levels sufficient to meet irrigation demand and the flow needs of endangered fish.
- The cost of the water is **\$188.50 per acre-foot**.
- We continue to work with partners to forecast additional water needs for July through October and may be able to use up to an additional 4000 acre-feet of water during that time.

Colorado Water Trust is looking for multi-year funding to support roughly \$188,500 to \$250,000 of water needed to purchase each year to restore the 15-Mile Reach. We are looking for partners willing to contribute at least \$25,000 each year for three years (2019, 2020, & 2021).