

July 2, 2019

Representative Joe Neguse, 2nd District of Colorado
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Representative Diana DeGette, 1st District of Colorado
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Representative Scott Tipton, 3rd District of Colorado
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Representative Ken Buck, 4th District of Colorado
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Representative Doug Lamborn, 5th District of Colorado
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Representative Jason Crow, 6th District of Colorado
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Representative Ed Perlmutter, 7th District of Colorado
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Washington, DC 20515
john.mcinerney@mail.house.gov

RE: Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (H.R. 3237)

Dear Members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation,

This letter comes to you on behalf of a consortium of independent chapters of The National Audubon Society, which includes all ten Colorado chapters and a statewide council. Together we serve a broad suite of Colorado communities and residents who care about the future of our birds and wildlife. We are writing you collectively because we wanted to thank Representative Neguse for sponsoring H.R. 3237 and for Representatives DeGette, Tipton, Buck, Lamborn, Crow, and Perlmutter co-sponsoring.

We are supportive of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program. In 1997, when Colorado Governor Roy Romer joined his peers in Wyoming and Nebraska, as well as the Secretary of Interior to sign the "[Cooperative Agreement for Platte River Research and Other Efforts Relating to Endangered Species Habitat along the Central Platte River, Nebraska](#)", they understood this approach would prevent years of courtroom battles over limited water supplies and individual river species.

We recognize that the Program requires an extension to continue. **Therefore, we are proud that the Colorado delegation has not only taken a leadership role in the U.S. House of Representatives but come together, regardless of political affiliation, to show unanimous Colorado support for the continuation of this project.** These are some of the highlights of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, and form the cornerstone of our support for this multi-state cooperative agreement:

- Works to accommodate the habitat needs of three threatened and endangered bird species (Interior Least Tern, Piping Plover and the Whooping Crane) by increasing stream flows in the central Platte River during relevant time periods. This habitat is created and maintained through a dynamic river system that begins with water from Colorado and Wyoming.
- Also enhances, restores and protects habitat, and does so in a manner to accommodate new water-related activities.
- Respects private landowners and operates with the required underlying principles that land be acquired only from willing participants. Additionally, the PRRIP avoids increasing tax burdens to local citizens by paying taxes or their equivalent on Platte River Recovery Implementation Program lands.
- Takes an adaptive management approach to habitat creation and maintenance and continually evaluates options to ensure actions and decisions are based on sound science.
- And this Program is important to ensuring habitat is maintained for these highly imperiled birds, while creating a framework that allows irrigation and recreations projects to continue.

Together, we thank you for your service to our state and ask that you continue stand up for the conservation ethic that Coloradans value.

Respectfully,

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July 2, 2019

Senator Michael Bennet
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Washington, D.C. 20510
scheduler@bennet.senate.gov

Senator Cory Gardner
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
cory_gardner@gardner.senate.gov

RE: Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (S. 990)

Dear Senators Bennet and Gardner,

This letter comes to you on behalf of a consortium of independent chapters of The National Audubon Society, which includes all ten Colorado chapters and a statewide council. Together we serve a broad suite of Colorado communities and residents who care about the future of our birds and wildlife. We are writing you collectively because we wanted to thank you for co-sponsoring Senate Bill 990, which was introduced by Wyoming's Senator Barrasso.

We are supportive of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP). In 1997, when Colorado Governor Roy Romer joined his peers in Wyoming and Nebraska, as well as the Secretary of Interior to sign the "[Cooperative Agreement for Platte River Research and Other Efforts Relating to Endangered Species Habitat along the Central Platte River, Nebraska](#)", they understood this approach would prevent years of courtroom battles over limited water supplies and individual river species. We recognize that the Program requires an extension to continue. **Therefore, we are proud that the entire Colorado delegation has engaged in support of extending the good work made possible by the PRRIP, including both in the U.S. House of Representatives (via H.R. 3237) and in the U.S. Senate.** These are some of the highlights of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, and form the cornerstone of our support for this multi-state cooperative agreement:

- Works to accommodate the habitat needs of three threatened and endangered bird species (Interior Least Tern, Piping Plover and the Whooping Crane) by increasing stream flows in the central Platte River during relevant time periods. This habitat is created and maintained through a dynamic river system that begins with water from Colorado and Wyoming.
- Also enhances, restores and protects habitat, and does so in a manner to accommodate new water-related activities.
- Respects private landowners and operates with the required underlying principles that land be acquired only from willing participants. Additionally, the PRRIP avoids increasing tax burdens to local citizens by paying taxes or their equivalent on Platte River Recovery Implementation Program lands.
- Takes an adaptive management approach to habitat creation and maintenance and continually evaluates options to ensure actions and decisions are based on sound science.
- And this Program is important to ensuring habitat is maintained for these highly imperiled birds, while creating a framework that allows irrigation and recreations projects to continue.

Together, we thank you for your service to our state and ask that you continue stand up for the conservation ethic that Coloradans value.

Respectfully,

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July 8, 2019

Senator John Barrasso

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Senator Mike Enzi

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Washington, DC 20510

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Representative Liz Cheney

416 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

michael.defilippis@mail.house.gov

RE: Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (S. 990 and H.R. 3237)

Dear Members of the Wyoming Congressional Delegation,

We are a consortium of independent chapters of The National Audubon Society, with all five of our chapters serving a broad suite of Wyoming communities and residents who care about the future of our birds and wildlife. We are writing you collectively because we wanted to thank Senator Barrasso for introducing Senate Bill 990, and for Senator Enzi for co-sponsoring this bill. In addition, we wanted to thank Representative Cheney for recently becoming a co-sponsor to the sister bill, H.R. 3237, which Representative Neguse introduced in the House of Representative.

We are supportive of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP). In 1997, when Wyoming Governor Jim Geringer joined his peers in Nebraska and Colorado, as well as the Secretary of Interior to sign the "[Cooperative Agreement for Platte River Research and Other Efforts Relating to Endangered Species Habitat along the Central Platte River, Nebraska](#)", they understood this approach would prevent years of courtroom battles over limited water supplies and individual river species. We recognize that the Program requires an extension to continue. **Therefore, we are proud that the Wyoming delegation has not only taken a leadership role in the U.S. Senate but come together to show unanimous Wyoming support for the continuation of this project.** These are some of the highlights of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, and form the cornerstone of our support for this multi-state cooperative agreement:

- Works to accommodate the habitat needs of three threatened and endangered bird species (Interior Least Tern, Piping Plover and the Whooping Crane) by increasing stream flows in the central Platte River during relevant time periods. This habitat is created and maintained through a dynamic river system that begins with water from Colorado and Wyoming.
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- Respects private landowners and operates with the required underlying principles that land be acquired only from willing participants. Additionally, the PRRIP avoids increasing tax burdens to local citizens by paying taxes or their equivalent on Platte River Recovery Implementation Program lands.
- Takes an adaptive management approach to habitat creation and maintenance and continually evaluates options to ensure actions and decisions are based on sound science.
- And this Program is important to ensuring habitat is maintained for these highly imperiled birds, while creating a framework that allows irrigation and recreations projects to continue.

Together, we thank you for your service to our state and ask that you continue stand up for the stewardship ethic that Wyomingites value.

Respectfully,

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