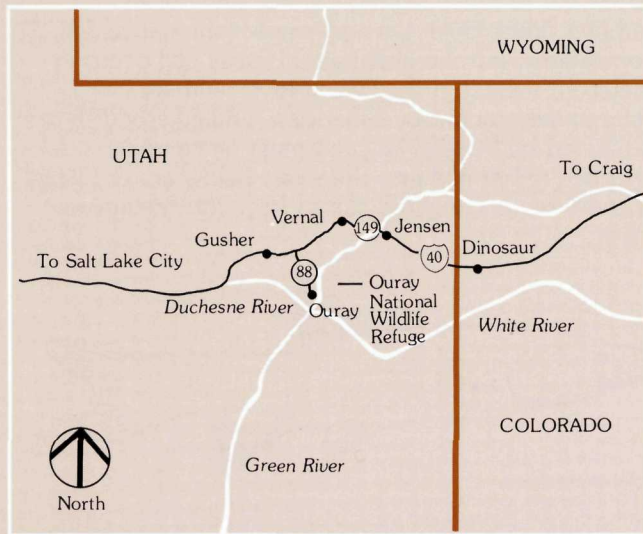


A Refuge For People

Visitors are welcome to enjoy the wildlife and scenic beauty of Ouray. Refuge roads are open to the public except for limited closures during the hunting season. Hunters should consult the refuge manager for current regulations. Utah regulations apply to all anglers and hunters. For further information, write: Refuge Manager, Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, 266 W. 100 N., #2, Vernal, Utah, 84078. Tel. 801-789-0351.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeks to afford persons with disabilities full accessibility or reasonable accommodation. Contact Refuge Headquarters for information or to address accessibility problems. For the hearing impaired, use your State Relay System for the Deaf.



Ouray National Wildlife Refuge is one of a system of over 400 refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and dedicated to the preservation and conservation of wildlife. The financial base for this system was established in 1934 through the passage of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act. Funds collected from "Duck Stamp" sales have been used to purchase refuge lands that provide habitats necessary to sustain a variety of wildlife for both hunters and nonhunters to enjoy.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior

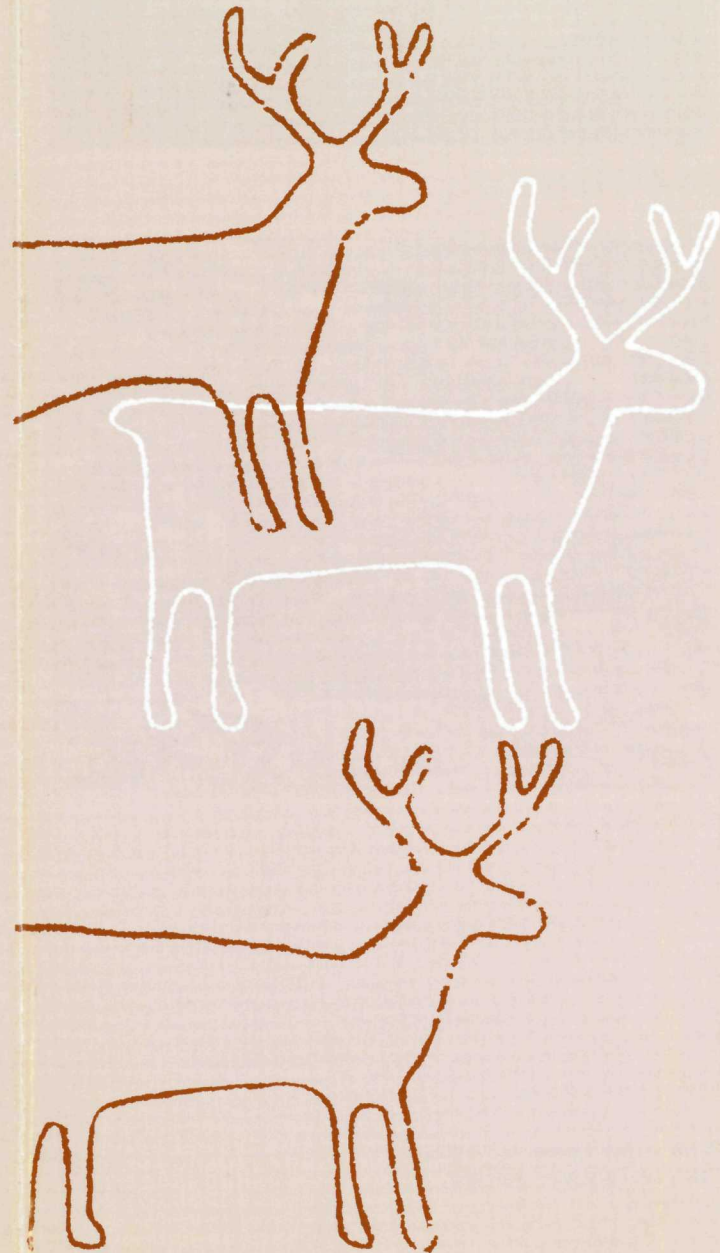


Aug. 1998

RF6-65570-1

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OURAY National Wildlife Refuge



Water Birds in the Desert

The desert of northeastern Utah is a harsh place for ducks, geese, and other water birds. Less than 7 inches of precipitation fall per year, hardly enough to maintain marshes, lakes, and streams. But the Green River brings water down from the mountains of Wyoming and thousands of waterfowl flock to the Green River.

In 1960, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began purchasing land for Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, using funds derived from the sale of Duck Stamps to hunters. The refuge includes 12-miles of the Green River and encompasses 11,987.00 acres of land, of which 3,500 acres is leased, mostly from the Uintah and Ouray Indian River Reservation which adjoins the refuge on the south.

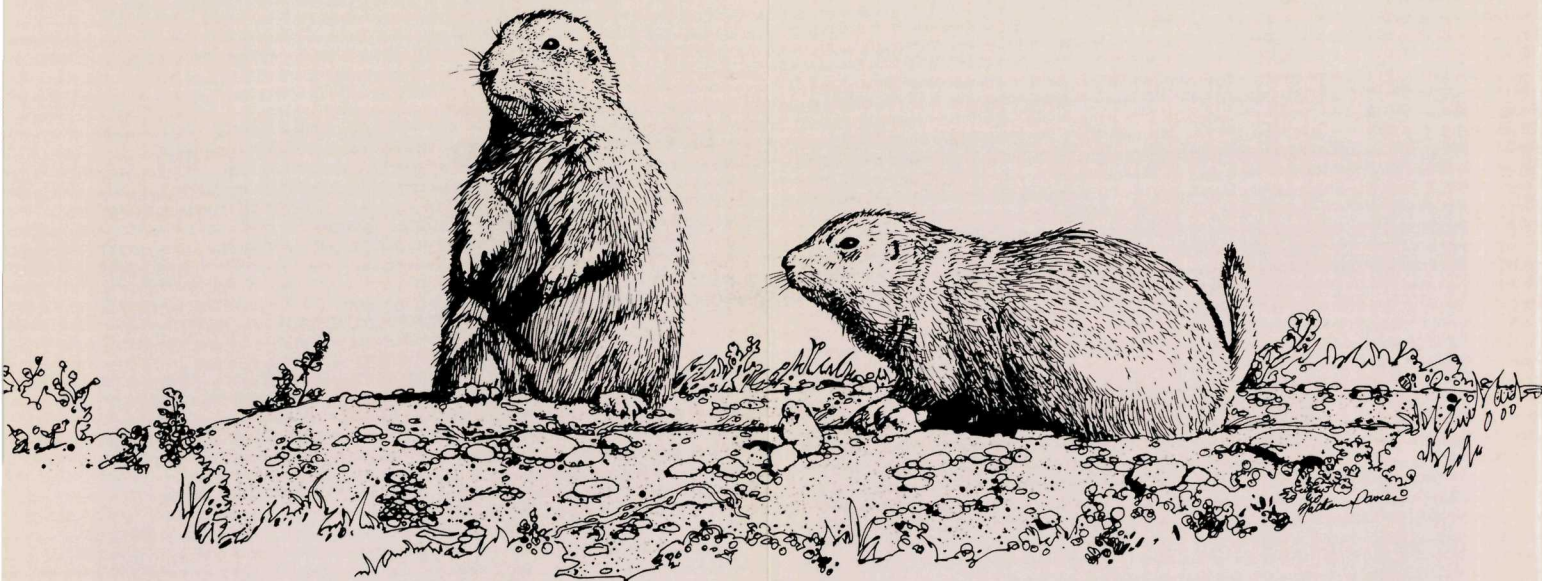


Scenic view of Ouray Refuge. U.S.F.W.S. Photo.

Habitat For All

Ouray Refuge offers food and shelter for a variety of wild birds and animals. The river is used by catfish, suckers, beaver, muskrats, and waterfowl. Adjacent stands of cottonwoods, willows, squawbrush and salt cedars provide cover for cottontails, raccoons, mule deer, bobcats, and porcupines. Raptors, including bald and golden eagles, great-horned owls and several species of hawks also use this habitat.

Greasewood, rabbitbrush, and cacti compete for the limited water of the higher, drier sites. Prairie dogs, jackrabbits and coyotes are typical upland residents. In May and June, the desert is sprinkled with colors from an astonishing variety of wildflowers.



Prairie dogs.

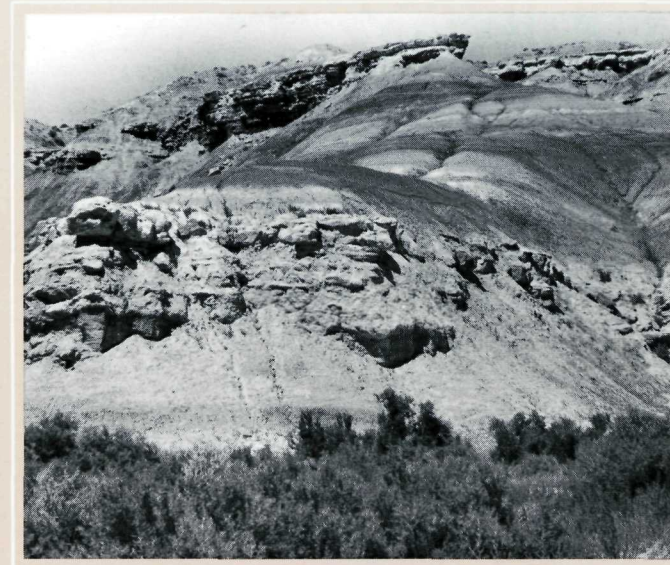
A secondary objective is to provide food for migrating waterfowl, sandhill cranes, and other birds, including the whooping crane. Marshes help meet both objectives and

Managing A Scarce Resource

Water is a scarce resource in the desert and refuge managers tend it carefully. The five large floodplains on Ouray Refuge may flood naturally in late May. This creates a pond and spurs the growth of semi-aquatic plants which provide food and cover for waterfowl. Dikes and canals distribute natural flooding and create marshes. Gravity flows are used when possible, but some pumping is required.

The primary objective of the refuge is to provide food and cover for 14 species of nesting ducks including mallards, pintails, and teal, as well as Canada geese.

agricultural crops are planted to provide additional food. Nearly 200 species of birds use Ouray Refuge and nearly half are associated with water.



Bluffs of the Leota Hill.



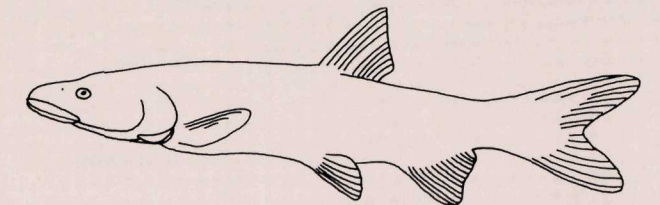
Brooding Night Hawk.

Photos by Herb Troester. U.S.F.W.S.
Front cover Petroglyph - style deer

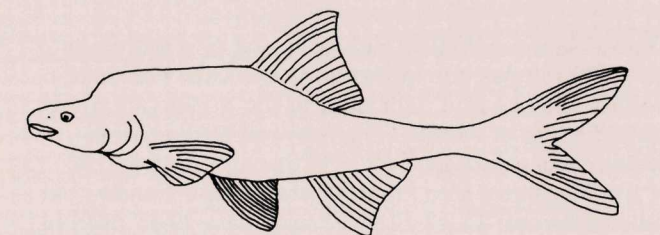
Species in Peril

The threat of extinction looms over hundreds of plants and animals. At least eight imperiled animals find refuge on Ouray — whooping cranes, peregrine falcons, ospreys, bald eagles, Colorado squawfish, humpback chubs, bonytail chubs, and razorback suckers. Five threatened or endangered plants occur on the refuge.

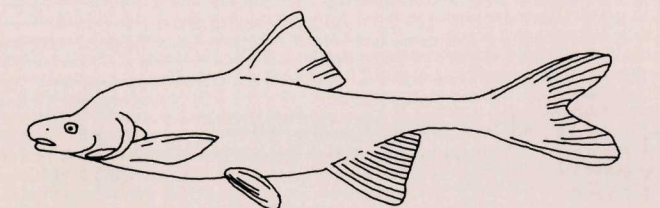
The Colorado squawfish, humpback chub, and bonytail chub have become endangered because of changes to their habitat. What was once a natural, free flowing stream has been heavily impacted by man. The river has been reduced in flow by various withdrawals and damming. The dams have reduced floods but produce higher, clearer, and colder summer flows. Such changes impact the native fish populations, but the endangered fishes still occur in preferred habitat in the Green River and are occasionally caught by fishermen. Endangered fish are protected by Federal law and must be carefully returned unharmed into the river. Below are drawings of the three endangered fish to help you recognize them.



Colorado Squawfish



Humpback Chub



Bonytail Chub