

Stocking Private Ponds located within the San Juan River Basin

In order to reduce potential negative effects of non-native species on federally listed fish species, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), along with several other state, federal, and tribal agencies entered into the *San Juan River Basin Nonnative Fishes Stocking Procedures and Cooperative Agreement*. This document established a framework whereby nonnative fish stockings may occur without conflicting with ongoing recovery of federally endangered Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker in the San Juan River Basin. The framework provides guidance for stocking of nonnative fishes in the San Juan River Basin by governmental agencies, tribes, and private waters that is consistent with recovery efforts for endangered fish species (see the [San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program](#) website for more information on recovery of Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker in the San Juan River Basin).

Per 19.35.7 NMAC, all fish imported into New Mexico require approval and applications for private ponds and lakes located within the San Juan River Basin will be reviewed to ensure conditions are met before approval. The San Juan River Basin is defined as all waters including lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, and headwaters that drain into the San Juan River watershed. Pond and lake owners are encouraged to review the conditions below and make necessary alterations before submitting importation applications. Ponds and lakes may be inspected by a NMDGF biologist or conservation officer prior to approval. Ponds and lakes that do not meet these conditions will not be approved for stocking.

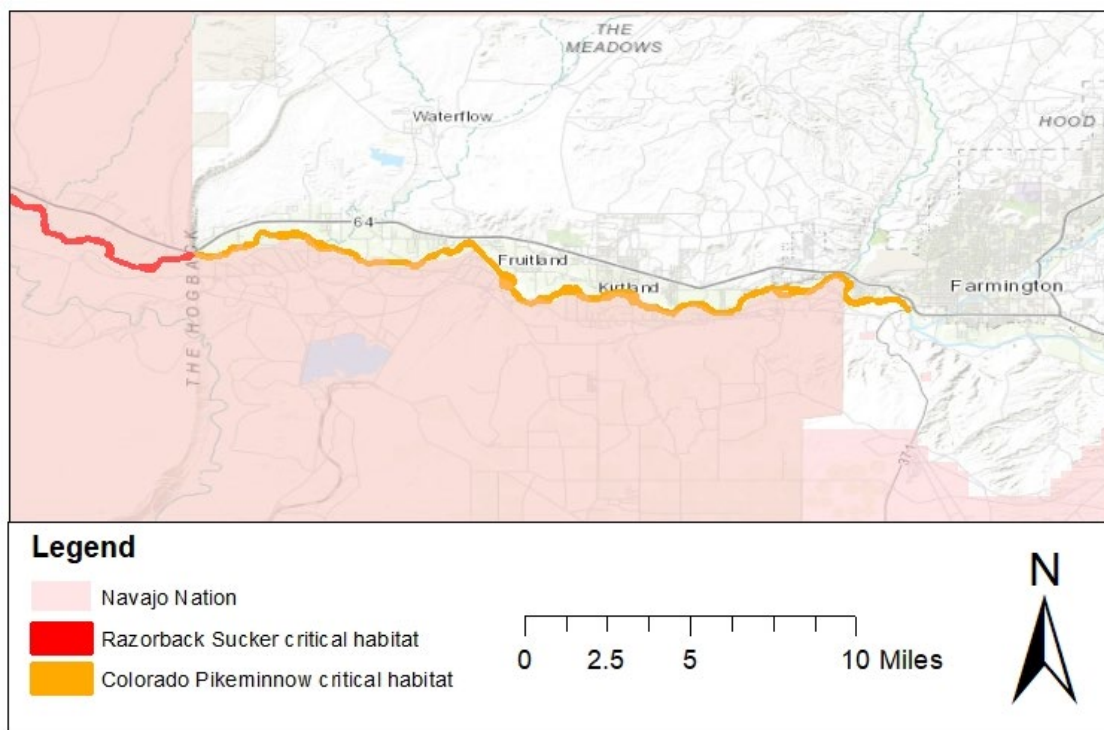


Figure 1. Razorback Sucker and Colorado Pikeminnow designated critical habitat along the San Juan River in San Juan County, NM.

Stocking Trout Species

River reaches (outside of critical habitat, Figure 1) and ponds/lakes can be stocked with trout species. Acceptable trout species for the San Juan River Basin include Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout.

Stocking Non-trout Species (Bass, Catfish, Sunfish, etc.)

Non-trout species may be stocked into any pond or lake provided that the waterbody is outside of the 100-year floodplain and its inflow or outflow does not have a direct (receives water from or discharges water directly into critical habitat reaches) or indirect (receives water from or discharges into another waterbody that flows into critical habitat reaches) connection to critical habitat river reaches.

If the pond or lake has a direct or indirect connection to critical habitat or is within the 100-year floodplain it may be stocked if the pond or lake is:

- a. Bermed to the 100-year flood elevation (see [FEMA's National Flood Hazard](#) map). Berms must be designed and constructed in accordance with recognized and accepted engineering practices. In addition, berms must be capable of withstanding the hydrodynamic and hydrostatic forces and the effects of buoyancy associated with a 100-year flood.
- b. All outlets, if present, must be screened. Outlet screens must have gap sizes which do not exceed ¼ inch.
- c. Both berms and outlet screens must be inspected and approved by a biologist from NMDGF before a stocking/importation permit is approved.

Acceptable non-trout species for the San Juan River Basin include Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Fathead Minnow, Green Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, and Triploid Grass Carp.