

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**Disclosure Form**  
**As required by and provided for in House Rule XI, clause 2(g) and**  
**the Rules of the Committee on Natural Resources**

Legislative hearing on H.R. 6060, “*Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2012.*”

For Individuals:

1. Name:
2. Address:
3. Email Address:
4. Phone Number:

\* \* \* \* \*

For Witnesses Representing Organizations:

1. Name: **John W. Shields**
2. Name of Organization(s) You are Representing at the Hearing:  
**Wyoming State Engineer’s Office**
3. Business Address:  
**Herschler Building, 4<sup>th</sup> East, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0370**
4. Business Email Address:  
[Information redacted for privacy]
5. Business Phone Number:  
**Phone:** [Information redacted for privacy]  
**Cell phone:** [Information redacted for privacy]

Name/Organization John W. Shields/Wyoming State Engineer's Office  
Title/Date of Hearing H.R. 6060: Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Act of 2012 / July 10, 2012

a. Any training or educational certificates, diplomas or degrees or other educational experiences relevant to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing.

**1. Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering, May 1981, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.**

**2. Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering, May 1983, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Thesis Title: "Operating Parameters of Forage Harvester Gathering Systems."**

**3. Certified Mediator, Certification by the Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resource Mediation Board in August 2003 and subsequent refresher courses.**

**4. Competent Toastmaster and Competent Leader designation earned through past membership in Toastmasters International.**

**5. Participant in three-day (May, 2002) and two-day (February 2003) management training courses in consent-building strategies (Systematic Development of Informed Consent) taught by the Institute for Participatory Management and Planning (IPMP).**

**6. Recipient (of an individual award as well as the collective award as a direct participant in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program) of the Department of the Interior's Cooperative Conservation Award (CCA), April 2008, presented to me in person by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne in Washington, D.C., in recognition of outstanding conservation achievements attained through collaboration and partnership with others. As a CCA recipient, I participated in and made a presentation during the April 22-23, 2008 DOI-sponsored Cooperative Conservation Workshop including all CCA winners held in Washington, D.C.**

b. Any professional licenses, certifications, or affiliations held that are relevant to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing.

**1. Served as the State of Wyoming's representative on the Biology Committee for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program for eight years from the Program's inception until September 1996.**

**2. Have served as the State of Wyoming's representative on the Management Committee for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program for twenty-five years since the Program's inception until present. I have also served on the Program's Information and Education Committee since its inception, and on various ad-hoc committees and teams that have functioned on specific tasks and assignments since 1987 (during the latter part of the negotiation and pre-initiation phase of the Recovery Program).**

**3. Have served as the Chairman of the Management Committee for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program since 1999. The Chairman of the Management Committee serves as a non-voting member of the Implementation Committee.**

**4. I serve as a staff-level technical representative and staff engineer to the Wyoming State Engineer. In this capacity, I represent the Wyoming State Engineer's Office as an Engineering Advisor to the Upper Colorado River Commission (since 1984) and have served for a number of years as the Chairman of the Commission's Engineering Committee.**

**5. I am a member of the Colorado River Water Users Association and have served as the Chairman of the Association's Resolutions Committee for approximately ten years.**

**6. I serve as Wyoming's representative on other committees and work groups, including the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Work Group, the Colorado River Management (AOP) Work Group, and the Project Team for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation/seven Colorado River Basin States ongoing and jointly-funded Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study.**

c. Any employment, occupation, ownership in a firm or business, or work-related experiences that relate to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing.

**I have been involved with the effort to develop, initiate and implement the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program since early 1987 directly and was indirectly involved with it prior thereto. I am a strong proponent of collaborative conservation partnerships that recognize the need for a shared common vision and an appropriate checks and balances and equitable, shared decision-making.**

**As the co-owner and minority share-holder in Phantasm Graphics LLC, (my wife, Janelle M. Shields, is the President and Creative Director and I am the Vice President) I have experience in developing public messaging and drafting, reviewing and revising text for marketing materials and products. Our company has been in business since September 2011.**

d. Any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) from the *Department of the Interior (and /or other agencies invited)* that you have received in the current year and previous four years, including the source and the amount of each grant or contract.

**None.**

e. A list of all lawsuits or petitions filed by you against the federal government in the current year and the previous four years, giving the name of the lawsuit or petition, the subject matter of the lawsuit or petition, and the federal statutes under which the lawsuits or petitions were filed.

**None.**

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f. Any other information you wish to convey that might aid the Members of the Committee to better understand the context of your testimony.

**The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program were recipients of the Department of the Interior's Cooperative Conservation Award in April, 2008. These grass-roots, cooperative conservation partnerships have been recognized as national model efforts making significant progress towards recovering the four endangered Colorado River fish species while meeting growing water use needs in compliance with the ESA, interstate river compacts and state water law.**

**Numerous other species recovery programs in the western United States have been initiated using approaches embodied within these two ongoing programs. The long-term commitment and proactive approach of the involved state and federal agencies, Indian tribes, environmental groups, and water and power interests and their proven track record of on-the-ground habitat conservation successes have led Congress, the participating states, and power and water users to financially support the ongoing conduct of these innovative programs over the past twenty years. Public Law 106-392 in 2000 and Public Law 107-375 in 2002 authorized federal funding and authorized the Secretary to expend non-federal funding for these programs. Public Law 109-183 increased the appropriations authorization and extended the authorization period through 2010.**

**Principles of Success: These programs owe a portion of their successes to their operating principles:**

- **Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance is achieved.**
  - **These programs are providing ESA compliance for every Reclamation project in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River basins (Central Utah Project, Flaming Gorge, Aspinall, Colorado Big Thompson, Frying Pan-Ark, San Juan Chama Project, Navajo, etc.), and for Indian water projects including the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, Animas-La Plata project, Navajo-Gallup Pipeline; and hundreds of non-federal projects.**
  - **Responsibilities to offset water project depletion impacts don't fall on individual water projects or their proponents.**
- **State water law, water rights and interstate water compacts are respected.**
- **Federal water and hydropower projects continue to operate pursuant to authorized purposes.**
- **States retain management of sportfish species.**
- **Decisions are made by consensus; no party dominates decision making.**

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- **The programs' goal is to achieve full recovery (delisting) of the endangered fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin, not just avoid ESA jeopardy (e.g., offset impacts of depletions).**

In addition, for witnesses representing organizations:

g. Any offices, elected positions, or representational capacity held in the organization(s) on whose behalf you are testifying.

**I was designated as Interstate Streams Engineer for the Wyoming State Engineer's Office when I began my service to the Wyoming State Engineer's Office in January 1984.**

h. Any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) from the *Department of the Interior (and /or other agencies invited)* that were received in the current year and previous four years by the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the source and amount of each grant or contract for each of the organization(s).

**1. Water 2025 Grant to Wyoming State Engineer's Office, 2007, \$225,405.**

**2. Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Basinwide Program grant managed by the Wyoming State Engineer's Office, pursuant to Cooperative Agreement No. 05-FG-40-24452006, \$1,688,000 – all monies passed through to the Eden Valley Irrigation and Drainage District for lateral ditch conversion to pipeline so as to reduced seepage and hence salt loading to the Big Sandy River.**

i. A list of all lawsuits or petitions filed by the organization(s) you represent at the hearing against the federal government in the current year and the previous four years, giving the name of the lawsuit or petition, the subject matter of the lawsuit or petition, and the federal statutes under which the lawsuits or petitions were filed for each of the organization(s).

**None.**

j. A list of any countries from which the organization(s) you represent at the hearing have received foreign donations and the total amount of donations received from each country, for the current year and the previous four years, by each organization.

**None.**

k. For tax-exempt organizations and non-profit organizations, copies of the three most recent public IRS Form 990s (including Form 990-PF, Form 990-N, and Form 990-EZ) for each of the organization(s) you represent at the hearing (not including any contributor names and addresses or any information withheld from public inspection by the Secretary of the Treasury under 26 U.S.C. 6104)).

**Not applicable.**