

Yampa River

Between Hayden (River Mile 177) and Craig (River Mile 135) in Colorado

Who: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Vernal, Utah

What: Northern pike. On the first trip, northern pike will be marked with an external tag and released back into the river. On six subsequent trips, northern pike will be removed and relocated to the Yampa State Park Headquarters pond during high flows and to Loudy-Simpson pond as flows recede, to provide additional or continued angling opportunities for the public.

Smallmouth bass. On the first trip, smallmouth bass will be marked with an external tag and released back into the river. On six subsequent passes, smallmouth bass will be euthanized and made available to CDOW and/or Colorado State University researchers.

When: April through June, 2009

Why: See attached questions and answers.

Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Vernal, Utah
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Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, Denver, Colorado
Debbie Felker, 303-969-7322, ext. 227, debbie_felker@fws.gov
Tom Chart, 303-969-7322, ext. 226, tom_chart@fws.gov

Other Recovery Program studies/activities within this river section:

- None

Between Craig, Colorado (River Mile 134) and near Cross Mountain Canyon (River Mile 61) in Colorado

Who: Colorado Division of Wildlife, Grand Junction, Colorado

What: Northern pike. On the first trip, northern pike will be marked with an external tag and released back into the river. On subsequent trips (five minimum), northern pike will be removed and relocated to the Yampa State Park Headquarters pond during high flows and to Loudy-Simpson pond as flows recede, to provide additional or continued angling opportunities for the public.

Smallmouth bass. On the first pass, smallmouth bass will be marked with an external tag and released back into the river. On subsequent trips (five minimum), smallmouth bass greater than 10 inches in length will be stocked into Elkhead Reservoir or into the City of Craig Justice Center pond or other approved waters in Colorado. Smallmouth bass less than 10 inches in length will be euthanized.

When: April through July, 2009

Why: See attached questions and answers.

Contact: Colorado Division of Wildlife, Denver, Colorado
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Other Recovery Program studies/activities within this river section:

- Warmwater fish bioenergetics study to determine age, growth, and food habits
- Smallmouth bass experiment to evaluate removal effectiveness
- Native and endangered fish response evaluation

Within Little Yampa Canyon (River Mile 100 to 124) and within Lily Park (River Mile 51 to 56) in Colorado

Who: Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado

What: Smallmouth bass. On the first trip, smallmouth bass will be marked with an external tag and released back into the river. On nine subsequent trips, smallmouth bass greater than 10 inches in length will be removed and relocated to Elkhead Reservoir or to the City of Craig Justice Center pond or other approved waters within Colorado to provide additional or continued angling opportunities for the public. In late summer, crews will sample shoreline habitats with electric seines to remove young smallmouth bass from 12 miles of Little Yampa Canyon and in Lily Park. Smallmouth bass less than 10 inches in length will be euthanized.

Northern pike. On the first trip, northern pike will be marked with an external tag and released back into the river. On subsequent trips, northern pike will be removed and relocated to the Yampa State Park Headquarters pond during high flows and to Loudy-Simpson pond as flows recede, to provide additional or continued angling opportunities for the public.

White sucker and common carp. On smallmouth bass and northern pike removal trips, crews will determine if white sucker and common carp can also be effectively removed without compromising the primary objective of smallmouth bass and northern pike management. This experimental pilot effort will help the Recovery Program determine if white sucker and common carp removal should continue or expand in the future. All fish will be euthanized.

When: April through August, 2009

Why: See attached questions and answers.

Contact: Colorado Division of Wildlife, Denver, Colorado
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Other Recovery Program studies/activities within this river section:

- Warmwater fish bioenergetics study to determine age, growth, and food habits
- Northern pike removal and translocation
- Native and endangered fish response evaluation

Yampa Canyon Between Dinosaur National Monument (River Mile 46) and the Green River Confluence (RM 0) in Colorado

Who: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Vernal, Utah

What: Smallmouth bass. On the first trip, smallmouth bass will be marked with an external tag and released back into the river. On six subsequent trips, smallmouth bass will be removed and euthanized because of the remoteness of Yampa Canyon.

Channel catfish. On all seven trips, any channel catfish encountered that are greater than 15 inches in length will be removed and euthanized. Smaller channel catfish will be returned to the river.

Northern pike. Any northern pike captured will be removed and euthanized because of the remoteness of Yampa Canyon.

When: April through September, 2009

Why: See attached questions and answers.

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Other Recovery Program studies/activities within this river section:

- Sediment monitoring
- Larval Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker monitoring

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