

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY-2002/2003 PROPOSED SCOPE-OF-WORK for:**

Project No.: 22k

Lead Agency: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
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Category:

- Ongoing project
 Ongoing-revised project
 Requested new project
 Unsolicited proposal

Expected Funding Source:

- Annual funds
 Capital funds
 Other (explain)

I. Title of Proposal: **Population estimate of humpback chub in Desolation/Gray Canyon, Green River, Utah**

II. Relationship to RIPRAP:

Green River Action Plan: Mainstem

- V. Monitor populations and habitat and conduct research to support recovery actions (Research, Monitoring, and Data Management)
- V.B. Population Estimate for humpback chub
- V.B.1. Desolation/Gray canyons

III. Study Background/Rationale and Hypotheses:

The RIP is currently involved in setting recovery goals for the endangered humpback chub. Recovery goals will be based in part on maintaining populations of humpback chub in several locations, among which is the Desolation/Gray canyon population on the Green River. Setting, maintaining, and monitoring a population necessitates obtaining accurate population estimates. Trend monitoring (ISMP) has been conducted annually since 1991. A five year study on humpback chub reproduction and habitat use 1992-1996 was recently completed (Chart and Lentsch, 1999) as part of the Flaming Gorge studies. However, catch rates were variable and recapture rates low, so a good population estimate could not be produced. An estimate using those data was made by Ron Ryel and Rich Valdez (draft recovery goals). However, three years have elapsed since those data were collected, therefore a new estimate is now required according to the RIP monitoring schedule.

A three year population estimate of humpback chub in Westwater Canyon will be completed in FY2000. Similar methods will be used in Desolation Canyon. A population estimate for Cataract Canyon will be conducted in subsequent years. Population estimates for all three populations will be repeated every 5 years, from the initial year of the estimate.

IV. Goals, Objectives, End Product:

Goal: to estimate the population size of humpback chub in Desolation/ Gray Canyon with confidence intervals of less than 20%.

Objectives:

- 1) to obtain a population estimate of late juvenile/adult humpback chub in Desolation/Gray Canyon
- 2) to determine if a relationship exists between ISMP catch rates and population size.

V. Study area:

Desolation/Gray Canyons on the Green River, Utah. Specifically, four long term trend sites in Desolation/Gray Canyon (RM 184.4, 174, 160, and 145) will be sampled. Additional sites may be added in later years (previously sampled as wildcard sites' [RM 182, 166.5, and 148.8]).

VI. Study Methods/Approach:

Study methods will be similar to those used in the previous population estimate (Chart and Lentsch 1999) and in the Westwater Canyon population estimate (in progress). Before sampling begins, we will discuss and refine the sampling design and population estimate with biometricians Ron Ryel, (Ryel and Associates) and Ken Burnham (CSU). We feel a more rigorous sampling design than that used in the previous study (Chart and Lentsch 1999) will be required to produce an estimate with confidence levels less than 20%.

Three sampling trips will be made in early July to late August, targeting flows of less than 8000 cfs to maximize catch. Each of the four trend sites will be sampled for one night. Catch rates of chubs are much lower than those seen in Westwater or Blackrocks, so more than one night may be necessary, although additional sampling tends to produce limited catch rate increases. Trammel nets and electrofishing will be used to collect chubs. Each site will be electrofished before nets are set. Six to eight nets will be set in the evening beginning at approximately 1630 hrs and checked every 1.5 to 2 hours to approximately 2230 hrs. Chubs will be held in live cages overnight. Nets will be set again before sunrise and checked through mid-morning. Suitable portions of the river in between sites will also be electrofished. All chubs will be scanned for a pittag, pitted if needed, measured (mm) and weighed (g-electronic balance), and released.

VII. Task Description and Schedule (FY-2002):

Complete 3 sampling trips (including monitoring trip) in Desolation Canyon from July-August for a humpback chub population estimate. Data will be entered on the computer and transferred to USFWS by January 15, 2003. A short annual progress report summarizing these data will be completed before the winter Colorado River researchers meeting. A final report will be completed in June, 2004.

VIII. FY2002 Work

Deliverables/Due Dates - See above

FY 2002 Budget:

		<u>UDWR</u>	<u>SWCA</u>
Labor	3 Biologists 111 days	\$ 28.5K	\$ 13.6K
	7 Technicians 300 days	34.6K	
	Project Leader 10 days	<u>2.6K</u>	
		\$ 65.7K	<u>\$ 13.6K</u>
Travel	Mileage	\$ 4.9K	\$ 0.7K
	Food	3.6K	
	Gas (boats)	<u>2.2K</u>	
		\$ 10.7K	<u>\$ 0.7K</u>
Equipment		\$ 6.0K	0.0K
Other		<u>\$ 2.4K</u>	<u>0.0K</u>
Total		\$ 84.8K	\$ 14.3K

FY 2003 Budget:

		<u>UDWR</u>	<u>SWCA</u>
Labor	3 Biologists 111 days	\$ 30.0K	\$ 14.3K
	7 Technicians 300 days	36.3K	
	Project Leader 10 days	<u>2.8K</u>	
		\$ 68.0K	<u>\$ 14.3K</u>
Travel	Mileage	\$ 5.0K	\$ 1.0K
	Food	3.8K	
	Gas (boats)	<u>2.4K</u>	
		\$ 11.2K	<u>\$ 1.0K</u>
Equipment		\$ 7.0K	0.0K
Other		<u>\$ 2.5K</u>	<u>0.0K</u>
Total		\$ 88.7K	\$ 15.3K

IX. Budget Summary

FY-2002	\$ 99.0K
FY-2003	\$104.0K
FY-2004	<u>\$ 12.0K</u>
Total	\$215.1K

X. Reviewers

XI. References

Chart, T.E. and L. Lentsch. 1999. Reproduction and recruitment of *Gila* spp. and Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) in the middle Green River 1992-1996. Report C in Flaming Gorge Studies: Reproduction and Recruitment of *Gila* spp. and Colorado pikeminnow in the middle Green River. Final Report. Recovery Implementation Program Project #39.