

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2014 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM
PROJECT NUMBER: 29b

- I. Project Title: Operation and Maintenance of Ouray National Fish Hatchery Randlett
- II. Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number(s): “N/A”
- III. Principal Investigator(s): Karl Schnoor, Project Leader
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IV. Abstract: Ouray National Fish Hatchery (ONFH) Randlett, was established in May 1996 as a fish refuge and technology development facility to assist in the recovery of the four listed Colorado River fish: razorback sucker, Colorado pikeminnow, bonytail, and humpback chub. The ONFH Randlett has expanded the propagation program to include not only razorback sucker but also bonytail. The hatchery will continue to maintain humpback chubs collected from Desolation Canyon in 2009 as a refuge population and potentially as a source of future broodstock.

Stocking goal established by the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program) include the annual production and distribution of 6,000 razorback sucker averaging 350 mm and 10,000 bonytail averaging 250 mm into the middle and lower Green River in Utah. This is an ongoing project and the hatchery exceeded the stocking goals for 2014.

- V. Study Schedule: 1996 - Ongoing.
- VI. Relationship to RIPRAP:

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan

- IV. Manage genetic integrity and augment or restore populations.
- IV.A. Genetics management.
- IV.A.4 Secure and manage genetic stocks in refugia.
- IV.A.4.a. Razorback sucker
- IV.A.4.c Humpback chub
- IV.A.4.a.(1) Middle and Lower Green River.
- IV.C. Operate and maintain facilities.
- IV.C.1. Ouray National Fish Hatchery.

Green River Action Plan: Main Stem.

- IV.A. Augment or restore populations as needed.
- IV.A.1. Develop State stocking plan for the four endangered fishes in the Green River.
- V.A.1.c. Implement plan.

VII. Accomplishment of FY 2014 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings: Although, ONFH, Randlett experienced excessive bird predation on production fish this year as well as an unusual proliferation of fish parasites, the hatchery exceeded stocking requests. Randlett stocked 6,601 razorback suckers and 11,701 bonytail averaging 367.5 millimeters in total length (mm TL) and 280.4 mm TL respectively. Additionally the hatchery stocked 3,495 bonytail averaging 30.6 g/fish (less than 250 TL mm) into backwaters of the middle Green prior to peak run-off.

Razorback suckers were not spawned this year as fish remain on station from the State of Utah's request in 2013 for extra fish to be stocked into Stewart Lake. Due to complications the razorback suckers were not stocked into Stewart. As in the past 20,000 bonytail fry from Dexter, NM were shipped to Randlett during the first week of May.

VIII. Additional noteworthy observations: Bonytail stockings in the fall of 2014 were completed by 9/2/2014 and were stocked into receiving waters at temperatures of 18°C or higher. Two of the shallow wells which supply water to the hatchery were successfully replaced this year and the replacement wells are producing as projected.

IX. Recommendations: Recommendations for the ONFH include installation of two more replacement wells, replacement of current bird protection netting over the 0.1 hectare (ha) ponds and installation of bird netting over the six 0.2 ha ponds. Also the replacement of pond liners is in the "works" and should (hopefully) be installed within the next few years.

Ouray NFH recommends the continued stocking of bonytail into receiving waters of 18° C or higher and into back waters connected to the river when possible.

X. Project Status: On track and ongoing.

XI. FY 2014 Budget Status

A. Funds Provided: \$522,230

B. Funds Expended: \$522,230

C. Difference: \$0

D. Percent of the FY 2014 work completed, and projected costs to complete: Not funded by BOR however, the BOR does schedule \$ 6050.00 for well jetting each year at the hatchery and the crew jetted (clean) three wells this year. The BOR drilling crew also installed two new (replacement) wells at ONFH this year. The FWS provided \$70,000 and the BOR committed \$43,337.15 toward completion of the wells.

E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: \$0

XII. Status of Data Submission: PIT-tag data submitted November 2014

XIII. Signed: Karl David Schnoor 11/12/2014
Principal Investigator Date