

## Green River Basin Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

# March 2020 Monthly Report



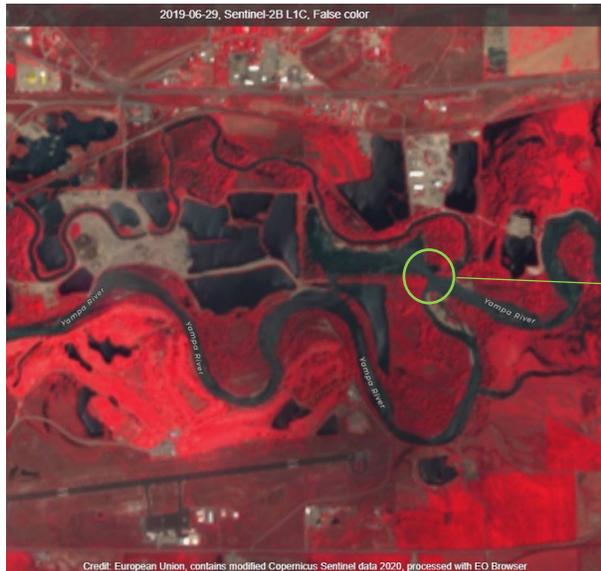
Staff	
Project Leader	Vacant
Administrative Officer	Mindy White
Fish Biologist	Chris Smith
Fish Biologist	Vacant
Fisheries Technician	Dave Beers

March has never been an active month for fieldwork at the Green River Basin FWCO since water temperature in the Green, White, and Yampa Rivers rarely climb above the single digits this time of year and the fish we study are relatively inactive.

However, prior to the nation's recognition of the threats posed by COVID 19, we lent our 8" irrigation pump to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Vernal Native Aquatics Program. Since then, UDWRV has been slowly but surely filling the Stewart Lake wetland in a valiant effort to keep cattails at bay. This should improve the Green River Basin's most productive Razorback Sucker nursery habitat.

While March might not be field season in our office, it is hiring season. Barring COVID 19 impacts beyond June 8<sup>th</sup>, we are planning on bringing on four new seasonal employees this year in addition to our two returning Small Craft Operators, not to mention a new Fish Biologist.

## Good news, HOT OFF THE PRESS:



29 June 2019



Late March 2020

Last year our field crew rounded a bend on the Yampa River near Craig, Colorado while performing Smallmouth Bass control efforts in late June. Much to their surprise, the river was going the wrong way. During peak runoff, the Yampa River breached its bank, and as flows dropped, abandoned its channel. The river's new path coursed through two gravel pits until returning to the natural channel after about one mile. Realizing that this new configuration likely created prime Northern Pike and Smallmouth Bass spawning habitat that could set back our efforts to control these invasive species, we contacted our Recovery Program partners. Fortunately our concerns were voiced to and understood by the gravel company operating the pits, which completed backfilling the bank avulsion at the end of March.