**I. Project Title**: Development of a channel catfish control program in the lower Yampa River.

**II Principal Investigator(s)**:

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**III. Project Summary**: This non-native control program focuses on the reduction of adult channel catfish from the lower Yampa River (rm 45-0) to minimize predation and competitive impacts on endangered humpback chub and other native fishes. Both electrofishing and angling were used to collect channel catfish from the lower Yampa River in Dinosaur National Monument Impacts of catfish removal on the remaining fish community are being monitored along five (one river mile) monitoring reaches all located within known humpback chub habitat. All fish collected from monitoring sites (during electroshock sampling) are weighed and measured and returned to the river alive except for channel catfish which were disposed of on the banks. The monitoring reaches fall within ten removal reaches (each four - five river miles). Once flows recede to below approximately 1,000 cfs, (July 30, 2001) channel catfish were collected by angling. In 2001, 4,970 channel catfish (average length =286mm) were removed from the study area during three electrofishing passes and two volunteer angling trips.

**IV. Study Schedule**:
a: Initial year: FY01
b: Final year: FY03

**V. Relationship to RIPRAP**: Green River Action Plan: Yampa and Little Snake Rivers III.B.3, Nonnative fish removal in Yampa Canyon.

**VI. Accomplishment of FY 01 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and shortcomings**:
From July to August, 2001, five sampling trips in the lower Yampa River (rm 45-0) were completed. Two planned volunteer angling trips were canceled due to non-navigatable low water levels in August and September. During the first three electrofishing trips 3,524 channel catfish (average length = 294mm) were taken from ten removal reaches. Chase boats trailed both electrofishing boats and collected the slower-to-surface catfish group; this technique increased our catfishing efficiency in certain removal reaches by 30-40%.

A total of 1,247 fish representing eleven species were collected from the five monitoring sites. The most abundant fishes were natives. The fishes collected in order of magnitude (numerically) were bluehead suckers, flannelmouth suckers, channel catfish, roundtail chub, common carp, Colorado pikeminnow, white sucker, northern pike, humpback chub, black bullhead, and brown trout. During the last two removal trips, Fish and Wildlife Service staff and volunteer anglers removed 1,446 channel catfish. The mean lengths of channel catfish captured by angling was 267 mm. Mean lengths of channel catfish seemed to increase with distance from the Yampa/Green River confluence. A total of 4,946 channel catfish (mean length=286mm) were removed from the study area this year.

**VII. Recommendations:** We recommend that removal efforts of channel catfish from the Yampa River in Dinosaur National Monument (DNM) be continued as prescribed in the SOW. We will continue close coordination and approval from DNM in our attempt to positively impact humpback chub populations in the canyon. . Preliminary data will be summarized and presented at the 2002 Colorado basin researchers meeting.

**VIII. Project Status:**

This project continues through 2003

**IX. FY 01 Budget Status:**

| | | Service, Vernal | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. | Funds Provided: | 103K | 103K |
| B. | Funds Expended: | 103K | 103K |
| C. | Difference: | 0 | 0 |
| D. | Percent of FY 01 work completed: N/A | | |
| E. | Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: $0.00 | | |

**X. Status of Data Submission:**

Data has not been submitted to the database manger. Findings of 2001 activities have been presented in a progress report. Data is being entered in dBASE files and will be submitted to the program data base manager upon completion of the study.

**XI. Signed:** Timothy Modde — Principal Investigator — November 30, 2001 — Date