

I. Project Title: Nonnative fish removal in the Duchesne River

II. Principal Investigator(s):

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III. Project Summary:

The focus of this project is to improve survival of endangered fish in the Duchesne and Green rivers by removing smallmouth bass, channel catfish, and northern pike in the Duchesne River from the Myton Diversion, rm 41 to the Green River confluence. These predatory fishes threaten a significant portion of the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker habitat in the middle Green River. This effort compliments other nonnative fish management projects designed to reduce negative impacts to endangered fishes. All bass, catfish and male northern pike collected in various sections of the study area are transferred to the Ute Indian Tribe to provide and enhance tribal sport fishing.

To evaluate efficiency, the river was stratified into two removal reaches and two control reaches. Fish caught in the control reaches are marked and returned to the river alive, and fish caught in removal reaches are made available to the Ute Tribe. Length and weight measurements were taken from all fish removed from the river.

Low flows during 2003 prevented use of boat electrofishing. Instead, four areas were waded and sampled with barge and backpack shocking units.

IV. Study Schedule:

a: Initial year: FY03
b: Final year: FY05

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

Green River Action Plan: Duchesne River:

- III. Reduce negative impacts of nonnative fishes.
- III.A.3. Implement and evaluate the effects of viable measures to control negative interactions from nonnative fishes.
- III.A.3.c. Remove nonnative fish (smallmouth bass, channel catfish and northern pike).

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2003 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

Because the Duchesne River was accessible by boat for only three days in 2003, sampling methods included electrofishing sections of river that provided habitats deep enough to contain fish and could be accessed by land. Four locations were sampled, the confluence, rmi 7.3 -7.6, rmi 13.1-14.9 and rmi 14.6-16.5. These areas were selected to maximize the potential to collect fish that had become isolated during low water conditions. These areas were waded and sampled with barge and backpack shocking units. We collected and removed 46 smallmouth bass, 24 channel catfish, and 4 black crappie. Members of the Ute Tribe assisted with each sampling trip and transported daily catches to Elders' Pond. Length and weight data were used to determine size structure of channel catfish and smallmouth bass. No northern pike were collected.

VII. Recommendations:

We recommend that removal efforts of channel catfish, smallmouth bass and northern pike from the Duchesne River be continued according to the current SOW.

VIII. Project Status: On track and ongoing.

IX. FY 2003 Budget Status:

	<u>Total</u>
A. Funds Provided:	25,900
B. Funds Expended:	25,900
C. Difference:	0
D. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges:	\$0

X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): Data has not been submitted to the database manager. Data is being entered in dBASE files and will be submitted to the program data base manager upon completion of the study.

XI. Signed: Mark H Fuller 13 November 2003
Principal Investigator Date