

I. Project Title: Wahweap Operation and Maintenance - Utah

II. Principal Investigators:

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III. Project Summary:

Wahweap State Fish Hatchery, located at Big Water, UT rears bonytail for stocking in the upper basin system for Utah and Colorado. Wahweap also maintains the Upper Basin's backup razorback sucker brood stock.

IV Study Schedule:

On going

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan

IV Manage genetic integrity and augment or restore populations

IV.A. Genetic management

IV.A.4. Secure and manage genetic stocks in refugia

IV.A.4.a Razorback sucker

IV.A.5 Develop basin wide bonytail restoration plan and implement as approved

IV.C Operate and maintain facilities

VI. Accomplishments of FY00:

Wahweap Hatchery stocked and transferred 114,466 bonytail in 2000. These fish were

as follows:

<u>Number, year class, and mean size of fish</u>	<u>Location of stocking or transfer</u>
10,025 (1999) 93.73mm 6.2g*	Green River, UT at Green River State Park
9,962 (1998) 187.4mm 51.6g*	Green River, UT at Green River State Park
15,037 (1999) 72.6mm 3.02g*	Colorado River, at Dewey Bridge (RM 94.6)
10,000 (1999) 114.0mm 12.2g**	Transferred to the state of Colorado
2,237 (2000) 97.0mm 6.15g***	Colorado River, at Dewey Bridge
19,000 (1999) 169.6mm 39.8g***	Colorado River, at Dewey Bridge
48,205 (2000) 87.34mm 5.5g ***	Green River, UT at Green River State Park

* Stocked on April 25, 2000

** Transferred on July 12, 2000

*** Stocked Oct 31 & Nov 1, 2000

All of the fish stocked from Wahweap, enumerated above, were coded wire tagged in 2000 as the new tagging method was adopted by the Program. The tagging operation was new to the hatchery and 24 days (6 in the spring and 18 in the fall) were needed to tag all of the fish. Numerous people assisted as a four person crew was used every day that tagging occurred. Tag retention was evaluated for some bonytail that were tagged in 1999 and held over the winter. Tag retention was 98% on the 100 fish checked. Initial tag retention following tagging normally ran 95% or better when spot checks were done.

Wahweap received 260,000 bonytail fry (300,000 fry requested) from Dexter National Fish Hatchery, in April of this year. These fish were raised in the ponds that were built in 1999 and utilized for the first time in 2000. The fry ponds were monitored weekly for fertilizing and zooplankton. Weekly growth was monitored by capturing fish using a combination of minnow traps, seining, and cast net. Growth rates were increased over past years by fertilizing the ponds for three additional weeks. This resulted in an additional 10-15 mm on all the fish from the 2000 year class. These fish were part of the fall stocking in 2000 and will continue to be stocked in 2001 in both Utah and Colorado following state stocking goals.

Wahweap provided fish for a display at the state fair in Salt Lake City, UT. Nine bonytail and four razorback suckers were on display for two weeks. It was estimated that over 200,000 people attended the fair. The fish were then stocked into the Green River at Green River, UT.

Fish remaining on the station in the fall of 2000:

1999 bonytail 14,000 (160mm)

2000 bonytail	167,000 (75mm)
Bonytail brood	585 fish (1996 and 1997 year classes)
Razorback brood	600 fish (9 family lots)

Fish losses during the year were all due to moving, tagging, and lethal sampling for fish health inspection. Total losses did not exceed 500 bonytail. When possible the dead fish were preserved in ethanol for possible genetic work.

VII. Recommendations:

Continue culturing bonytail at Wahweap to meet the stocking plans of Colorado and Utah. Maintain razorback backup brood stock. Supply either species as requested by the Biology Committee.

VIII. Project Status:

Ongoing fish culture.

IX. FY 00 Budget:

A. Funds budgeted:	\$114,000
B. Funds expended/obligated:	\$114,000
C. Difference:	\$ 0
D. Percent FY2000 work completed:	100%
E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges:	\$0.00

X. Status of data submission:

Pit tag data submitted to database manager by January 1, 2001.
Coded Wire Tag information on bonytail is being maintained at Wahweap at the present.

XI. Signed: Quentin A. Bradwisch December 5, 2000