

I. Project Title: **Operation and Maintenance of Wahweap State Fish Hatchery, Utah**

II. Principal Investigator(s):

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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.A.4. Secure and manage the following presumptive genetic stocks in refugia

IV.A.4.a.(2) Upper Colorado River

IV.A.4.b. Bonytail

IV.B. Conduct annual fish propagation activities

IV.C. Operate and maintain facilities

IV.C.3. Wahweap

Green River Action Plan: Mainstem

IV.A.1. Develop State stocking plan for the four endangered fish in the Green River

IV.A.1.c. Implement plan

Colorado River Action Plan: Mainstem

- IV.A.2.c.(2) Implement bonytail State stocking plan
- IV.A.3. Develop State stocking plan for the four endangered fish in the Colorado River in Utah
- Colorado River Action Plan: Gunnison River
- IV.A.3.c. Implement Colorado pikeminnow State stocking plan
- IV.A.3.b. Implement razorback sucker State stocking plan

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2002 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

Wahweap Hatchery stocked 33,700 bonytail\* in 2002. These fish were as follows:

- 14,700 CWT bonytail stocked in Green River at Dinosaur
- 3,000 pit tagged bonytail stocked in Green River at Dinosaur
- 4,000 CWT bonytail stocked in Green River at Green River State Park
- 4,000 pit tagged bonytail stocked in Green River at Green River State Park
- 8,000 pit tagged bonytail stocked at Cisco boat ramp on the Colorado River
- 13 bonytail and 6 razorback suckers pit tagged stocked in Green River near Jensen, UT

\*Fish ranged from 120-155mm. All two year old fish spawned to some extent in the hatchery ponds this year.

All of the fish stocked from Wahweap, enumerated above, were tagged in 2002. The fish that were coded wire tagged were excess fish that were being held on station until the Biology Committee gave the ok to stock the excess fish in the river. The fish that were stocked for the Utah Stocking plan (15,000 fish) were pit tagged according to the Plan.

Wahweap received and reared 30,000 bonytail fry from Dexter National Fish Hatchery. Weekly growth of fish was monitored by capturing fish from the ponds using a combination of minnow traps, seining, and cast net. Growth rates were increased over past years by fertilizing the ponds.

Wahweap again provided endangered Colorado River fishes for display at the Utah State Fair in Salt Lake City. Bonytail, 13, and six razorback sucker were on display for two weeks. After the state fair ended the fish were stocked into the Green River near Jensen, UT. Two Bonytail were additionally transferred to Colorado for display at the Colorado State Fair.

Wahweap destroyed 30,000 bonytail chub in 2002 because they were wild spawned and exact parentage wasn't known. These fish were all over 100mm and in very good shape when they were destroyed. This was done according to the excess fish policy and BC knowledge.

Colorado River fish remaining on the station in the fall of 2002:

Species	Year class	Number	Size	# Ponds
Bonytail	2000	25,000	120mm+	2
Bonytail	2001	55,000	120mm+	3
Bonytail	2002	30,000	70mm+	3
Bonytail	Brood	600	250+mm	2
Razorback	Brood	947	Adult	2
Bonytail	Flooded Bottom Land	9,000	125mm+	1

Fish losses during the year were due to moving, tagging, and lethal sampling for fish health inspection.

VII. Recommendations:

Continue rearing bonytail at Wahweap to meet the integrated stocking plan. Maintain razorback backup brood stock. Supply either species as requested by the Biology Committee. Pit tag 11,000 bonytail and stock in the fall.

VIII. Project Status: On going and on track.

IX. FY 2002 Budget Status

A.	Funds Provided:	\$178,377
B.	Funds Expended:	\$178,377
C.	Difference:	\$ 0
D.	Percent of the FY 2002 work completed:	100%
E.	Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges:	\$ 0

X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): Coded Wire Tag information on bonytail is being maintained at Wahweap. PIT tag data submitted to database manager by January 1, 2003.

XI. Signed: A. Wayne Gustaveson November 27,2002  
Principal Investigator Date

