

I. Project Title: **Wahweap Operation and Maintenance - 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 2003 RIPRAP:

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan (page 23)

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

IV.A.4.a. Razorback sucker

IV.A.4.b. Bonytail

IV.C. Operate and maintain facilities (page 24)

IV.C.3. Wahweap

Green River Action Plan: Mainstem (page 27)

IV.A.1. Develop state stocking plan for the four endangered fishes in the Green River

IV.A.1.c. Implement plan

Colorado River Action Plan: Mainstem (page 35)

IV.A.6. Develop State stocking plan for the four endangered fishes in the Colorado River in Utah

IV.A.6.c. Implement plan

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

Wahweap Hatchery stocked 23,247 bonytail* in 2003. These fish were as follows:

- 400 untagged bonytail were given to FWS Flagstaff for tagging studies
- 10,000 bonytail CWT were given to FWS Vernal for bottom land stocking
- 3,501 pit tagged bonytail stocked in Green River at Rainbow Park Boat Ramp
- 3,043 pit tagged bonytail stocked in Green River at Green River State Park
- 3,303 pit tagged bonytail stocked at Cisco boat ramp on the Colorado River
- 3,000 CWT bonytail stocked at Cisco boat ramp on the Colorado

*Fish ranged from 130-200mm. 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 2003. 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 (9,847 fish) were pit tagged according to the Plan.

Wahweap received and reared 10,000 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 destroyed 30,000 bonytail chub in 2003 because they were wild spawned and exact parentage wasn't known. These fish were 20-100mm 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 2003:

Species	Year class	Number	Size	# Ponds
Bonytail	2001	30,000	140mm+	3
Bonytail	2002	20,000	120mm+	4
Bonytail	2003	10,000	70mm+	2
Bonytail	Brood	600	250+mm	2
Razorback	Brood	947	Adult	2

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

VII. Recommendations:

Continue rearing bonytail at Wahweap to meet the stocking needs of Utah. Maintain razorback backup brood stock. Supply either species as requested by the Biology Committee. Pit tag 9,000 bonytail and stock in the fall.

VIII. Project Status:

On going fish culture.

IX. FY 2003 Budget Status

A.	Funds Provided:	\$205,100
B.	Funds Expended:	\$205,100
C.	Difference:	\$ 0
D.	Percent of the FY 2003 work completed:	100%
E.	Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges:	\$ 0

X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): PIT tag data submitted to database manager by January 1, 2004

XI. Signed: Quentin A. Bradwisch 1/4/04
Principal Investigator Date