

I. Project title: Operation of Old Charley Wash to remove nonnative fishes and determine native fish use in floodplain wetlands of the middle Green River.

II Principal Investigator(s):

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I. Project Summary: Old Charley Wash is a wetland adjacent to the Green River on the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge. Since 1994, it served as a pilot site for testing hypotheses on floodplain habitat and razorback sucker restoration. Water inlet and outlet control structures, fish screens, and a harvest kettle were installed. In 1995 and 1996, thousands of kilograms of nonnative fish were captured and removed from the Green River system. In addition, 12 adult razorback sucker, 73 juvenile razorback sucker, and 13 juvenile Colorado pikeminnow were captured from the site. The original goal for FY01 was to use Old Charley Wash for trapping and removing nonnative fishes from the Green River and to return any native fishes, including Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker, to the river. Recently, the role of this scope of work was expanded to include both Leota and Johnson Bottom wetlands. In 2001 peak flows were low and did not connect the river to floodplains during razorback sucker larval dispersal. Low flow conditions limited access of both nonnative and native fish into wetlands and reduced the number of fish entering the wetland. Old Charley Wash and Johnson Bottom were drained in the October 2001. Old Charley Wash was drained completely and Johnson Bottom was drained to within few inches of depth that will ensure winter kill of any fish not collected in the kettles. As a consequence, nonnative fishes will be cleared out of both wetlands before bonytail and razorback sucker studies begin this spring.

IV. Study Schedule:

a: Initial year: FY98
b: Final year: 2002

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

Green River Action Plan: Mainstem

Activity	II. Restore Habitat
	II.A.1.a. Old Charley Wash
	II.A.1.a.(3) Monitor and evaluate success
Activity	III. Reduce impacts of nonnative fishes

VI. Accomplishment of FY 01 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and shortcomings: Flows in the Green River were below average during the spring 2001 runoff period and the river was connected to the study floodplains (via inlet structures) for only a short time. Due to management decisions by the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, two of the three impoundments to be monitored were drained in the fall (Leota 7 was not drained). The outlet structure at Old Charley Wash was secured with a screen and draining commenced in September 2001. Water elevation in the wetland was low and draining took only a few days. Johnson Bottom drain screens were installed and draining occurred between September and November of 2001. Speckled dace were the only native fish collected from either wetland and very few total fish were collected relative to previous years.

Table 1. Number and weight of fish collected from Old Charley Wash and Johnson Bottom in 2001.

Floodplain	Total # Fish	Total Fish wt (g)	Species	#	% Total Fish	Species wt (g)	% Total Fish wt
OCW	295 Adults	584,529	CP	286	97	583,742	99.9
			BB	9	3	787	0.1
OCW	620 Juv.	621	FH	439	70.8	257	41.3
			RS	62	10	37	6
			GS	46	7.4	29	4.67
			CP	70	11.3	298	48
Johnson B.	24,024 Juv.	31,398	GS	904	3.76	4,009	12.77
			RS	1209	5.03	993	3.17
			FH	21456	89.31	23,795	75.78
			SD	7	0.03	3	0.01
			CP	446	1.86	2,596	8.27
			BB	2	0.008	1	0.0035

Staff for the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge successfully scoured a drainage canal in Johnson bottom to allow effective draining in 2001.

VII. Recommendations: This study will continue as an evaluation of bonytail and razorback sucker larval stocking in riverine wetlands.

VIII. Project Status:

This project is being continued as part of a stocking evaluation effort for both bonytail and razorback sucker

IX. FY 01 Budget Status:

Service,

	<u>Vernal</u>	<u>Total</u>
A. Funds Provided:	66.7 K	66.7 K
B. Funds Expended:	66.7 K	66.7 K
C. Difference:	0	0
D. Percent of work completed:	N/A	
E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges:	\$1,045	

X. Status of Data Submission:

A comprehensive report of findings from 2001 has been issued to the wetland restoration coordinator. 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

 December 10, 2001
Date