

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 99 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM
PROJECT NUMBER: CAP-6-WW

I. Project Title:

Walter Walker State Wildlife Area (WWSWA). Evaluation of contaminant impacts on razorback suckers utilizing restored flooded bottomlands in the Upper Colorado River.

II. Principal Investigators:

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III. Project Summary:

The purpose of this project, and a concurrent one at Adobe Creek-Phase I, is to determine if water quality (i.e., problems with selenium and other inorganic contaminants) at restored sites will be conducive to supporting razorback sucker during their various life stages. The objectives are: (1) to determine if concentrations of selenium and other inorganic contaminants that are bioaccumulated by razorback sucker adults placed in restored backwater habitat have an adverse affect on reproductive success, (2) to determine survival, growth and bioaccumulation of selenium in razorback sucker larvae that are placed into restored backwater habitats, and (3) (Remediation Phase) to determine the flows necessary to reduce elevated concentrations of selenium to acceptable concentrations in water and food organisms and still maintain habitat that is attractive to and suitable for endangered fish.

IV. Study Schedule:

Initial Year: 1994

Final Year: 1999 (Remediation Phase)

- V. Relationship to RIPRAP:
Colorado River Action Plan: Mainstem
- II.A. To restore and manage flooded bottomland habitat.
 - II.A.2. Adobe Creek
 - II.A.3. Walter Walker
 - II.A.3.e. Monitor and evaluate success; modify as needed.
 - II.C. Support actions to reduce or eliminate contaminant impacts of heavy metals and selenium in the Grand Valley.
- VI. Accomplishment of FY 99 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:
Reports are overdue. The '95-96 reproduction study report has been reviewed in-house by USGS. Outside Peer Reviewers have not been chosen.
- VII. Recommendations: To reduce the rate of sedimentation into the channel area, we recommend closing the inlet valve during high flow periods. River water will continue to back in from the lower end of the channel area and allow access by the endangered fish. The inlet valve will be opened during periods when the river is not carrying heavy silt loads.
- VIII. Project Status:
Reports are overdue. The draft '95-96 report is expected to be sent out for Peer Review in late December '99 or early January '00.
- IX. FY 99 Budget:
- A. Funds Provided: \$46,000.
 - B. Funds Expended: \$46,000.
 - C. Difference: \$ 0
 - D. Percent of the FY 99 work completed: Unknown
 - E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: \$ 0
- X. Status of Data Submission (where applicable): Not applicable.
- XI. Signed: Kathy Holley 12-8-99
Project Manager Date