

I. Project Title: Floodplain habitat restoration (construction) for the Recovery Program.

II. Principal Investigator(s): Pat Nelson
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III. Project Summary:

The purpose of the project is to configure floodplain habitats to assist in recovery of the endangered fishes of the upper Colorado River Basin. In 2003, construction was completed at Unaweep Charolais Ranch (Butch Craig's) on the Gunnison River near Whitewater, Colorado. Post-construction evaluation is scheduled to occur during 2004.

IV. Study Schedule:

Initial Year: 1996
Final Year: TBD

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

Green River Action Plan: Mainstem

- II. Restore Habitat
- II.A. Restore and manage flooded bottomland habitats.
- II.A.3. Implement levee-removal strategy at high-priority sites.
- II.A.3.b. Construction.

Colorado River Action Plan: Mainstem

- II. Restore Habitat
- II.A. Restore and manage flooded bottomland habitats.
- II.A.4. Implement levee-removal strategy at high-priority sites.
- II.A.4.b. Construction.

Colorado River Action Plan: Gunnison River

- II. Restore Habitat
- II.A. Restore and manage flooded bottomland habitats.
- II.A.2. Implement levee-removal strategy at high-priority sites.
- II.A.2.b. Construction.

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

Shortcomings:

Butch Craig's was acquired by the Recovery Program in 2001. The site is adjacent to the Gunnison River (RM 12) just downstream from the Highway 141 bridge near Whitewater, Colorado. The 98.7-acre parcel includes a 52-acre gravel pit pond that was configured in 2003 to serve as a nursery habitat for razorback sucker. The levee separating the pond from the river was breached at both the upstream and downstream end to entrain drifting larvae. The site was designed to connect with the river when Gunnison flows exceed 4,160 cfs (1.11-year recurrence interval). Post-construction evaluation is planned for 2004.

VII. Recommendations: None

VIII. Project Status: Ongoing through 2005.

IX. FY 2003 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$186.8K
- B. Funds Expended: \$130.4K
- C. Difference: \$ 56.4K
- D. Percent of the FY 2003 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 100
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: NA

X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): Not applicable

XI. Signed: /s/ Pat Nelson March 10, 2004
Principal Investigator Date