

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 2011 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM  
PROJECT NUMBER: 128

- I. Project Title: Abundance Estimates for Colorado pikeminnow in the Green River Basin, Utah and Colorado
- II. Principal Investigator(s):  
Lead Agencies: Larval Fish Laboratory, CSU

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completion of tasks. We also developed spreadsheets for data entry that should streamline that process somewhat. We also had two conference calls with team members and field crews to discuss issues and problems, which was particularly useful since a new field crew (led by D. Osmundson) was sampling the White River this field season. This also provided an opportunity for each group to report on progress in completing preparations for field sampling. The Larval Fish Laboratory will be responsible for routine coordination of the study.

We completed a minimum of three sampling passes through the five Green River Basin reaches listed below to capture sub-adult and adult Colorado pikeminnow:

- a) Green River between the confluence of the White River upstream to the lower end of Whirlpool Canyon (i.e., upper Rainbow Park, but not Split Mtn. Canyon).
- b) White River between the confluence of the Green River upstream to Taylor Draw Dam,
- c) Yampa River between Deerlodge Park and Craig, excluding Cross Mountain Canyon,
- d) Green River from the White River confluence downstream to near Green River, Utah, and,
- e) Green River from downstream of Green River, Utah, to the confluence with the Colorado River.

The LFL and CDOW attempted up to eight sampling passes in portions of the Yampa River, in part associated with bass and northern pike removal projects, in order to obtain a more precise and accurate Colorado pikeminnow abundance estimate. Specific responsibilities and reaches are outlined below (Table 1).

One significant challenge that was overcome in spring 2011 was permits to sample the lower White River. This process should be streamlined in 2012.

We will update this report with tables detailing sampling effort and numbers of Colorado pikeminnow captured and recaptured once data are fully checked and available. This task has been delayed because of preparations of non-native fish removal data for the upcoming workshop in early December.

VII. Recommendations: Continue with sampling in 2012.

VIII. Project Status: On track.

IX. FY 2011 Budget Status

A. Funds Provided: 391,165

B. Funds Expended: 360,213

C. Difference: 30,952

D. Work completed, 90%, LFL needs to proof data sheets and prepare data for analysis.

E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: None

X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): PIT Tag data files will be submitted by individual agencies (USFWS, UDWR) in January 2012.

XI. Signed: Kevin R. Bestgen 14 Nov. 2011  
Reporting Principal Investigator Date

## Literature Cited

Bestgen, K. R., J. A. Hawkins, G. C. White, K. Chrisopherson, M. Hudson, M. Fuller, D. C. Kitcheyan, R. Brunson, P. Badame, G. B. Haines, J. Jackson, C. D. Walford, T. A. Sorensen, and T. B. Williams. 2005. Population status of Colorado pikeminnow in the Green River Basin, Utah and Colorado. Larval Fish Laboratory Contribution 140. 112 pp.

Bestgen, K. R., J. A. Hawkins, G. C. White, C. D. Walford, P. Badame, and L. Monroe. 2010. Population status of Colorado pikeminnow in the Green River Basin, Utah and Colorado, 2006-2008. Final report to the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, CO. Larval Fish Laboratory Contribution 161.

Table 1-- Reaches in the Green, Yampa, and White river and reaches that will be sampled for the Colorado pikeminnow abundance estimate, 2011. Green River river miles are those portrayed in river guides and are not actual river miles from the confluence of the Colorado River.

River	Reach	Location Bounds	River Miles	Total Miles	Agency
Green	Lodore Canyon	Cottonwood Creek - Yampa River confluence	364 - 345	19	None
Green	Whirlpool Canyon	Yampa River - lower end of Whirlpool Canyon	345 - 334	11	None
Green	Rainbow & Island Parks	lower end of Whirlpool Canyon - Rainbow Park boat launch	334 - 326	8	UDWR-Monroe
Green	Split Mountain Canyon	Rainbow Park boat launch - Split Mountain boat launch	326 - 319	7	None
Green	Dinosaur Quarry	Split Mountain boat launch - Jensen Bridge	319 - 302	17	UDWR-Monroe
Green	Lower Jensen	Jensen Bridge - Baeser Bend, including Ashley Creek	302 - 272	30	UDWR-Monroe
Green	Ouray NWR	Baeser Bend - White River confluence	272 - 246	26	UDWR-Monroe
Lower-Green	Desolation Canyon	White River confluence - Tusher Wash	246 - 128	118	FWS-Jones
Lower-Green	Tusher Wash Diversion	Tusher Wash (Diversion) – Green R. State Park	128-120		None-Diversion dangerous-reach not sampled
Lower-Green	Labyrinth Canyon	Green R. State Park--Mineral Bottom	120 - 52	76	UDWR-Badame
Lower-Green	Stillwater Canyon	Mineral Bottom - Colorado River confluence	57 - 0	57	UDWR-Badame
Duchesne	Lower Duchesne	Randlett - Green Confluence	10 - 0	10	UDWR
Yampa	South Beach	South Beach - Roundbottom	135–124	11	CDOW-Wright
Yampa	Roundbottom	Roundbottom-Government Bridge	124–100	24	CSU-Hawkins
Yampa	Little Yampa Canyon	Government Bridge- Juniper Springs (Maybell Diversion Dam)	100 - 91	9	CDOW-Wright

Yampa	Juniper Canyon	Maybell Diversion Dam- lower Juniper Canyon	91-89	2	None-Dangerous Diversion
Yampa	Maybell	Lower Juniper Canyon - upper Cross Mountain	89 - 56	33	CDOW-Wright
Yampa	Cross Mountain	Upper - lower Cross Mountain Canyon	56 - 55	1	None-Class V rapids
Yampa	Lily Park	lower Cross Mountain - Deerlodge Park	55 - 45	10	CSU-Hawkins
Yampa	Yampa Canyon	Deerlodge Park - Green River	45-0	45	None
Little Snake	Lower Little Snake	County Road 10 Bridge - Yampa Confluence	9 - 0	9	None
White	Colorado, Rangely	Taylor Draw Dam - State Line	104 - 72	32	FWS-Osmundson
White	Utah	State Line - Mt. Fuel Bridge	72 - 21	51	FWS-Osmundson
White	Lower White River	Mt. Fuel Bridge - Green River confluence	21 - 0	21	FWS-Osmundson