

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2012 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM
PROJECT NUMBER: 161b

I. Project Title: Population abundance and dynamics of introduced northern pike, Yampa River, Colorado

II. Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number(s): R11AP40060

Project/Grant Period: Start date (Mo/Day/Yr): 8 August 2011
End date: (Mo/Day/Yr): 30 Sept. 2016
Reporting period end date: 30 Sept. 2012
Is this the final report? Yes _____ No X

III. Principal Investigator(s):

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IV. Abstract: Research to better understand abundance and population dynamics of northern pike in the Upper Colorado River Basin needed for managers to proceed with effective control strategies. Our basic approach will be to conduct comprehensive abundance estimates at appropriate geographic scales, which when coupled with movement data, should allow for a more comprehensive understanding of abundance dynamics of pike populations in the Yampa River. This understanding will allow managers to assess the role of the buffer removal area in the vicinity of Hayden, Colorado, on pike populations in downstream critical habitat and will also aid assessment of immigration from sources upstream of there, and explore more effective means to achieve recovery of native fishes. Influence of important environmental factors on northern pike abundance dynamics, such as stream flow levels and subsequent reproductive effort, will allow simultaneous assessment of trajectories of pike populations under different levels of removal effort. This information should increase the ability of managers to understand effectiveness of removal programs and formulate a comprehensive control strategy that will effectively reduce populations of northern pike and enhance prospects for recovery of native fish populations.

V. Study Schedule: Initial Year 2011
Final year 2013

VI. Relationship to RIPRAP: Green River Action Plan: Yampa and Little Snake Rivers
III.A.1. Implement Yampa Basin aquatic wildlife management plan to develop nonnative fish control programs in reaches of the Yampa River

