

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2006 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):
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Jointly Submitted by: Larval Fish Laboratory, CSU, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife

- 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 six 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.

In 2006, a total of 520 Colorado pikeminnow => 450 mm TL were captured in the Green River Basin, excluding some portions of the Yampa River for which data is not yet available (Table 1-4). Sampling occurred from late-March to mid-June, and 903 hours of electrofishing were used to capture adult pikeminnow. The largest number of adult pikeminnow were captured in the Desolation-Gray Canyon reach (n = 145), followed by the lower Green (n = 133), middle Green (n = 123), White River (n = 104) and Yampa River (n = 15) reaches. The 520 adult Colorado pikeminnow captured is comparable to the number that were captured in essentially the same area in 2003 (n = 483), the last year of abundance estimation sampling for Colorado pikeminnow in the period 2000-2003 (Bestgen et al. 2005). In 2000-2003, most pikeminnow adults were captured in the middle Green or White River reaches. An encouraging sign is the number of smaller Colorado pikeminnow present in the lower Green River reach, where 369 pikeminnow 182-399 mm TL were captured, tagged, and released. That number may be greater than the total number of fish in that size class present in all years of sampling the lower Green River from 2001-2003.

As soon as all data are available and proofed, we will provide a preliminary abundance estimate for each reach and the Green River Basin as a whole.

VII. Recommendations:

Continue sampling in 2007.

VIII. Project Status:

Project completed.

IX. FY 2006 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$333,479
- B. Funds Expended: \$319,000
- C. Difference: \$14,479, some data verification and analysis remains to be accomplished.
- D. Percent of the FY 2006 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 90% complete, no additional funds needed to finish project.

- 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) by January 2007.

- XI. Signed: Kevin R. Bestgen 11-09-2006
Reporting Principal Investigator Date

Table 1. Sampling dates, effort, and Colorado pikeminnow captured for a portion of the Yampa River population of Colorado pikeminnow, 2006. Pikeminnow captures are for fish 450 mm TL or greater and include recaptures. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

	Dates	Days Sampled	River Miles Sampled	Total Effort (hours)			Number of Pikeminnow Captures ¹
				Trammel/ Electro- fishing	Fyke Nets	Electro- fishing	
Yampa River							
Trip 1	April 20 - 25	6	124 - 100 55 - 51	0.7	55	35	5
Trip 2	May 3 - 8	5	124 - 100 55 - 51	0.8	0	33	1
Trip 3	May 9 - 24	9	124 - 100 55 - 51	0	79	39	5
Trip 4	June 3 - 6	4	124 - 100 55 - 51	0	0	33	3
Trip 5	June 15 - 19	5	124 - 100 55 - 51	0	0	35	1
Totals		29		1.5	134	175	15

¹ Total Number of pikeminnow captured including recaptures.

Table 2. Sampling dates, effort, and Colorado pikeminnow captured for the White River population of Colorado pikeminnow, 2006. Pikeminnow captures are for fish 450 mm TL or greater and include recaptures. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

	Dates	Days Sampled	River Miles Sampled	Total Effort (hours)			Number of Pikeminnow Captures ¹
				Trammel/ Electro- fishing	Fyke Nets	Electro- fishing	
White River							
Trip 1	April 28 – May 5	8	104-0	0	0	50	37
Trip 2	May 9 – May 18	8	104-0	0	0	49	38
Trip 3	May 19 – June 2	8	104-0	0	0	47	29
Totals		24				146	104

¹ Total Number of pikeminnow captured including recaptures.

Table 3. Sampling dates, effort, and Colorado pikeminnow captured for the middle Green River population of Colorado pikeminnow, 2006. Pikeminnow captures are for fish 450 mm TL or greater and include recaptures. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

	Dates	Days Sampled	River Miles Sampled	Total Effort (hours)			Number of Pikeminnow Captures ¹
				Trammel/ Electro- fishing	Fyke Nets	Electro- fishing	
Middle							
Trip 1	April 17 – 27	9	334-246	0	0	60	55
Trip 2	May 2 – May 10	8	334-246	0	0	50	42
Trip 3	May 15 – June 14	7	334-246	0	0	42	26
Totals		24				152	123

¹ Total Number of pikeminnow captured including recaptures.

Table 4. Sampling dates, effort, and Colorado pikeminnow captured for the Desolation-Gray Canyon and lower Green River population of Colorado pikeminnow, 2006. Pikeminnow captures are for fish 450 mm TL or greater and include recaptures. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

	Dates	Days Sampled	River Miles Sampled	Total Effort (hours)			Number of Pikeminnow Captures ¹
				Trammel /Electro-fishing	Fyke Nets	Electro-fishing	
Deso-Grey							
Trip 1	March 27- April	8	246 -128	0	0	71	46
Trip 2	April 10 - April	8	246 - 128	0	0	62	43
Trip 3	April 19 – April	8	246 - 128	0	0	61	56
Total		24		0	0	194	145
Lower Green							
Trip 1	May 3 – May 10	8	120 - 0	0	0	76	60
Trip 2	May 24 – June 1	9	120 - 0	0	0	85	49
Trip 3	June 14 - June 21	8	120 - 0	0	0	75	24
Total		25		0	0	236	133

¹ Number of Colorado pikeminnow captured includes recaptures.