

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY-2008 SCOPE OF WORK**

Project No.: 153

Lead Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Submitted by:

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Category:

- Ongoing project
- Ongoing-revised project
- Requested new project
- Unsolicited proposal

Expected Funding Source:

- Annual funds
- Capital funds
- Other- Carryover funds

I. Title of Proposal: Smallmouth Bass Removal and Further Evaluation of the Ichthyofauna in Cross Mountain Canyon

II. Relationship to RIPRAP:

Green River Action Plan:

V.A. Measure and document population and habitat parameters to determine status and biological response to recovery actions.

III.A.2.c. Evaluate the effectiveness (e.g., nonnative and native fish response) and develop and implement an integrated, viable active control program.

III. Background/Rational:

Little information exists on the fish composition in Cross Mountain Canyon. Researchers are sampling, and have previously sampled, all areas upstream and downstream of the canyon. A broad query (Upper Colorado River Basin Researchers and Desert Fishes Council listservers) returned little knowledge of the fishes in the canyon. The only known sampling occurred in 1980 with dipnets and seines solely for the collection of chubs (Haynes and Muth 1985). Anecdotal information exists from angling reports of numerous native and non native fishes being present. Cross Mountain Canyon has also been proposed as a potential location of humpback chub (Finney 2006).

IV. Goals and Objectives:

The goal of this study is to define the composition, distribution and length frequency of the fishes of Cross Mountain Canyon and measure the potential for reduction in the abundance of smallmouth bass in the reach through both mechanical and potentially chemical means.

V. Study Area:

Cross Mountain Canyon (Yampa River Miles 57.6-60.6)

VI. Approach:

Sampling crews will carry angling gear, a small seine and a trammel net. The canyon will be divided into three one-mile subreaches and data will be taken in these reaches to determine if spatial disparities exist. We will complete three sampling trips through the canyon. All endangered fish will be handled following standard Recovery Program procedures. All other native fish will be measured, weighed and released. All smallmouth bass will be removed. All other introduced fish over 150mm will be tagged with a T-bar tag and released.

VII. Task Description:

Task 1. July/August 2008 sample Cross Mountain Canyon.

Task 2. Analyze data and prepare annual report.

Task 3. Contact the Bureau of Land Management to explore the possibility of chemical treatment in the canyon.

VIII. FY-2007 budget summary:

Task 1.

Preparatory Labor

Permanent Technician (GS-8 step 5)	1: 8 hour day	\$224
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Field Labor

Biologist (GS-11 step 4)	6: 10 hour days	\$2251
Permanent Technician (GS-8 step 5)	6: 10 hour days	\$1854
4 Seasonal Technicians (GS-5 step 1)	6: 10 hour days	\$4956

Travel		\$464
Per Diem		\$1728
Tags, Supplies and Maintenance		\$1500
Task 2.		
Biologist (GS 11 step 4)	3: 8 hour days	\$846
Task 3.		
Biologist (GS 11 step 4)	3: 8 hour days	\$846
Total Budget:		\$14669

References:

Finney, S. T. 2006. Adult and Juvenile Humpback Chub Monitoring for the Yampa River Population, 2003-2004. Final Report to the Upper Colorado River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, Project No. 133, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Vernal, Utah.

Haynes, C. M. and R. T. Muth. 1985. Lordosis in Gila, Yampa River, Colorado. Pages 83-86 in E. P. Pister, editor. Proceedings of the Desert Fishes Council. Volumes XIII-XV - A (Thirteenth - Fifteenth Annual Symposia). Desert Fishes Council, Bishop, California.