

2018 SUMMARY: Sufficient Progress Reports for Endangered Fish of Colorado River

COLORADO PIKEMINNOW

Colorado River: Adult Colorado pikeminnow abundance in the sub-basin increased from 1992 – 2005, but has declined since 2005. Although populations have declined over the past 10-20 years, this species still supports itself through wild reproduction and natural recruitment to sexual maturity.

Green River: Adult pikeminnow abundance in the Green River sub-basin increased from 1991 to 2000 but has declined since 2000. Although populations have declined over the past 10-20 years, this species still supports itself through wild reproduction and natural recruitment to sexual maturity.

HUMPBACK CHUB

Upper Colorado and Green Rivers: Humpback chub exist in four populations. The fifth population in Dinosaur National Monument is now considered extirpated; humpback chubs have not been collected in this location for over a decade, and strategies to reintroduce HBC to DNM are in development. The Black Rocks and Westwater Canyon populations, which comprise an upper Basin core population, indicate stability since 2007. However, in 2017 researchers reported an increasing number of juvenile humpback chub. The Cataract Canyon population appears stable at low densities. In the Green River, adult abundance estimates in Desolation Canyon indicate stability since 1985, but captures of recruits have been low in recent years. The 5-year review has provided an opportunity to downlist HBC from endangered status.

RAZORBACK SUCKER

Colorado, Green and San Juan Rivers: Hatchery-produced stocked fish form the foundation for reestablishing naturally self-sustaining populations of RBS. To achieve naturally self-sustaining populations, adults must reproduce and their young must recruit to the adult life stage in numbers sufficient to meet the demographic criteria identified in the current version of the recovery goals. Because of their longevity, hatchery produced adult razorbacks will contribute toward recovery. Stocked razorbacks are surviving in the wild, expanding their range into previously unoccupied areas, and annually reproducing in both the Green and Colorado River sub-basins; wild juvenile razorback sucker (ages 0, 1, and 2) are starting to be captured in small numbers.

BONYTAIL CHUB

Upper Colorado and Green Rivers: Recaptures of stocked bonytail are rare, especially recaptures that demonstrate long-term survival of stocked individuals. However, increasing numbers of bonytail have been detected by the stationary passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tag reading antennas and traditional sampling methods throughout the upper Colorado River basin. The first reproduction by stocked bonytail was confirmed in floodplain habitats in the Green River in 2015, 2016 and 2017 (Bestgen, 2017).