

Southwest Biological Science Center Weekly Highlights

April 12, 2006

Status of Humpback Chub of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon: Lewis G. Coggins, Jr. is senior author of two important publications released this spring on his efforts to develop a robust model for evaluating fish populations, specifically the humpback chub of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. The publications document how the Age-Structured Mark Recapture model performs well when evaluating sparse fisheries data, primarily the humpback chub data available through 2002, which show a declining trend. Coggins, et al. have incorporated more recent humpback chub data through 2005 and find that the chub population appears to be stabilizing. (Matthew Andersen, Flagstaff, AZ, 928-556-7379)

USGS Co-sponsors Southwest Desert Conference: May 2-5, the USGS is co-sponsoring the "Sixth Conference on Research and Resource Management in the Southwestern Deserts: Borders, Boundaries, and Time Scales," in Tucson, Arizona. USGS scientists will join scientists from all federal land management agencies, state and local agencies, and NGOs in sharing information on southwestern desert resources and their management. This conference will focus on the human aspects of current US - Mexico border activities and how those activities have a myriad of impacts on natural resources of the deserts, both in the US and in Mexico. (Bill Halvorson, Tucson, AZ, 520-621-1174)

Restoration Rapid Assessment Tool: USGS, Southwest Biological Science Center ecologist Kathryn Thomas and Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center ecologist Diane Larson will meet with National Park Service representatives to work on the Restoration Rapid Assessment Tool (RRATS) at Golden Gate National Recreation Area April 12-14. RRATS is an automated decision support tool to aid Park resource managers in making and prioritizing restoration decisions. The tool is being developed by a USGS, NPS, and University of Minnesota team with the provisional version to be ready in early 2007. (Kathryn Thomas, 520 670-5534)