EXPERIMENTAL RELEASE OF COLORADO PIKEMINNOW BACK INTO WESTERN GRAND CANYON

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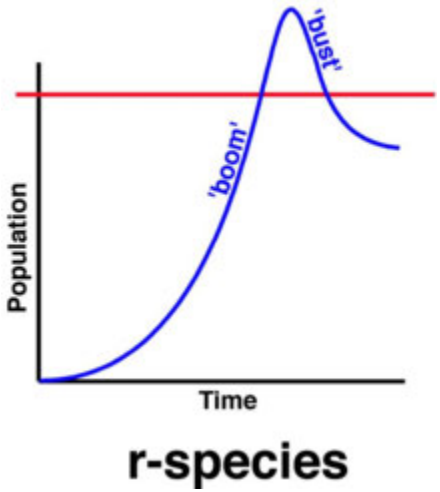
Outline

- Why this makes sense
- Specifics of what is proposed
- How FWS will ensure no additional regulatory burdens are placed on partners/stakeholders
- Permitting
- How other agencies/public can participate

Why



r-species

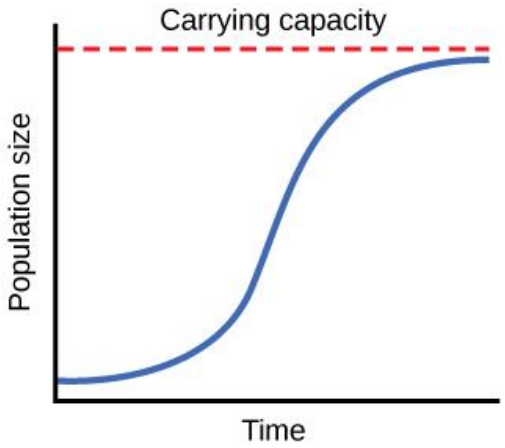
Most fish have **R-selected reproductive strategy**

- High reproductive rates
- many small offspring
- minimal parental care
- Typically overshoots Carrying Capacity <u>when environmental conditions are good</u>

Result is a very unstable population

Not ideal when trying to manage listed species

Disease/Parasites and Introduced Predators – will take advantage of this situation!



Co-evolved predators create stable populations

Proposed Experiment

- 60 Adult Colorado Pikeminnow (400 + mm)
- All Female
- All Sonic Tagged (3 year tags)
- Release Location - Spencer Creek (RMI 246)
- Soft Release (held on site for 10 days)
- Target date Oct, 2025

Purpose – Evaluate if Colorado Pikeminnow can persist and survive in Western Grand Canyon

(Phased Approach)

60 female fish with sonic tags

GRAND CANYON CONSERVANCY

Very Experimental

We expect low survival!

(5% at 1 year)

Permitting

- Fish and Wildlife Permits

✓Park Service Permits (IRMA System)

  ✓ Fish Monitoring

  ✓ SUR Network

- Hualapai Science Permit

  – Meeting at Peach Springs Oct 24

- Hualapai River permit
- AZ Game and Fish Stocking Permit

  ✓Disease Certification 3/25

No Regulatory Burden on Stakeholders/Partners

- Biological Opinion – *In Review*
  - FWS accepting responsibility for the take of all fish
  - Conservation efforts for RZ and Humpback chub will benefit the pikeminnow

Example – Colorado pikeminnow at LCR

BO - anticipating how to address concerns

How can you Participate?

- Early Oct, 2025

  Display trailer with live fish at Pierce Ferry

  Short Outreach/Education Presentation

- Media /Photo Opportunities

- Boat fish upriver in afternoon – stock into netted backwater

(No capacity to haul extra people upstream)


Questions?