

Sellers, Suzanne

From: Jason Farnsworth [farnsworthj@headwaterscorp.com]
Sent: Friday, December 03, 2010 5:59 PM
To: Rich Walters; Chad Smith; frank.albrecht@nebraska.gov; Beorn Courtney; Justin Brei; bemerrill@usbr.gov; David Baasch; fchavez@whoopingcrane.org; greg_wingfield@fws.gov; doug.hallum@nebraska.gov; jeff_runge@fws.gov; jennifer.schellpeper@nebraska.gov; jjjenni@nppd.com; jlawson@usbr.gov; Jerry Kenny; Kevin.Urie@denverwater.org; komiller@tpnrd.org; lbesso@state.wy.us; Mark@cpnrd.org; martha_tacha@fws.gov; Matt_Rabbe@fws.gov; mdrain@cnppid.com; mike.fritz@nebraska.gov; mpeyton@cnppid.com; Steve Smith; Sellers, Suzanne; Kowalski, Ted; Tim Tunnell
Cc: John T. Heaston
Subject: RE: Caddisfly research proposal
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Rich,

I will provide brief answers as I am the one responsible for putting this bus in gear.

1) Are the PRCF's evenly distributed along the 0.5 miles of habitat at the McCormick Tract? I was of the understanding that the "low density" was only found at the far west end (approximately 100 meters or less) of the property. If this is true would the study be biased to whatever management treatment was selected to occur at that location?

Only the west end was monitored. There was a population identified immediately and the survey stopped there. The assumption is that the population extends along the slough. That will need to be verified soon.

2) How mobile are the PRCF's? Would they actually be able to select habitats? Do they travel within the slough with water movement?

They are not that mobile. However, this won't be set up as a habitat selection study. It will be an evaluation of the impacts of management actions on an extant population... IE, we are seeing what happens to the PRCF that are already there when we modify their habitat.

3) With only one site will the results be meaningful? I think there is a need to replicate any habitat selection study across a larger landscape. Is there any other possible locations to replicate this study within the other known 24 locations? Can we "create" shade structures in other locations to add replications?

Other sites would likely be included but I didn't want UNK to over-promise in their brief proposal. The Program is currently acquiring a tract with an extant PRCF population in very similar habitat. There are also other sites that could function as quasi-control areas.

4) Is the sampling method the best way to get at presence/absence and densities? I know very little about aquatic sampling and would like to hear from others that are experts in this field.

Lindsay covered this at her thesis defense and I think the other methods were not utilized because they are more destructive to the population (IE, more larval mortality). We could certainly evaluate other methods.

5) Should other Universities be asked to submit a proposal?

We could but his is on a pretty short fuse and there aren't many other folks with PRCF experience... they would probably all want to

team with UNK.

Maybe some of these have been answered as I am not up to speed on the latest information regarding the PRCF but wanted to ask them to other TAC members.

Thanks Rich, we appreciate the good questions. FYI, if the TAC/GC were to give approval to move to the next step, the Program would be involved in developing the full study design and could be as involved in implementation as anyone wanted to be. I just asked them for the brief proposal in order to have a discussion aid.