

December 20, 2002

Mr. Lee Andrews
Conservation Agreement Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Blvd., Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30345

Dear Mr. Andrews:

You will find enclosed a summary of the conservation actions conducted during 2002 for the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Robust Redhorse, *Moxostoma robustum*, Ocmulgee River, Georgia, as described in Agreement Number 1448-40181-01-K-005.

This report summarizes activities conducted during 2002 in fulfilling the first phase of the CCAA. Specific activities include stocking the project site (Conservation Action 1) and studying the movement of introduced juvenile robust redhorse (Conservation Action 2). Georgia Department of Natural Resources and Georgia Power have implemented the agreed upon conservation actions under this agreement.

Please contact me at 404-799-2112 if you have further questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,

Mike Nichols
Environmental Laboratory Manager
Georgia Power Company

MCN/mcn

December 20, 2002
CCAA 2002 progress report
1448-40181-01-12-005

XC:

With 2002 progress report and attachments

Jimmy Evans, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Sandy Tucker, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Greg Looney, Chairman Robust Redhorse Conservation Committee

Eileen Moorehead, Troutman Sanders

With 2002 progress report

John Biagi, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Mike Harris, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Chris Hobson, Georgia Power

Bob Boyer, Georgia Power

Jimmy Helms, Georgia Power

Wanda Greene, Georgia Power

2002 Progress Report: Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Robust Redhorse, *Moxostoma robustum*, Ocmulgee River, Georgia

Agreement Number 1448-40181-01-K-005

This report summarizes activities conducted during 2002 in fulfilling the first phase of the CCAA for the robust redhorse, *Moxostoma robustum*, in the Ocmulgee River, Georgia. Specific activities include stocking the project site (Conservation Action 1) and studying the movement of introduced juvenile robust redhorse (Conservation Action 2).

Conservation Action 1. Georgia DNR will stock the Project Site with approximately 4,000 hatchery-reared robust redhorse fingerlings each year for five years.

Georgia DNR released 3446 fingerlings into the Project Site from the 1997 through 2001 year classes between January 11, 2002 and February 12, 2002. Georgia DNR also released 3000 fingerlings into the Project Site from the 2002-year class on October 22, 2002. All reintroduced fish were PIT tagged.

Conservation Action 2. Georgia Power will fund two surveys, one in year 1 (2002) and one in year 3 (2004) on the movement of introduced juvenile robust redhorse.

Georgia Power funded two parallel studies of movement of introduced juvenile robust redhorse. The first used radiotelemetry and was funded for \$111,000 (actual billed amount during 2002 was \$72,374). See attached report "Habitat use and movement patterns of hatchery-reared juvenile robust redhorses released in the Ocmulgee River, Ga." by C. Jennings and D. Shepard. The percent of individual fish remaining above Juliette Dam during the period from March 19 to August 2002 was 67% (of 30 radiotelemetered individuals). The second study was a co-funded project using stationary acoustic tracking equipment and sonic tags. The Georgia Power funding was for \$17,440 (actual amount billed during 2002 was \$17,440). See attached report "Progress report of tracking robust redhorse (*Moxostoma robustum*) released on 19 March 2002 in the Ocmulgee River below Lloyd Shoals Dam" by C. A. Straight and B. J. Freeman. The acoustic tracking study conducted from March 19 through October 7 produced similar results, with 61% (of 28 telemetered individuals) remaining above Juliette, Georgia. Of the 58 telemetered fish used in the two studies, one mortality was reported for the study period. The telemetry studies are limited, however, by the mass of the transmitters required and were conducted with individuals weighing between 250 and 350 grams.

Mike Nichols
Environmental Laboratory Manager
Georgia Power Company