Crayfish Sampling on the Whaley Tract

Special Use Permit Number NMRC2005-36

Final Report to:

Becky Rosamond
U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
North Mississippi Refuges Complex
P.O. Box 1070
Grenada, MS 38902

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Submitted by:

Susan B. Adams, Ph.D.

USDA Forest Service
Southern Research Station
Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research
1000 Front St.
Oxford, MS 38655

sadams01@fs.fed.us

On 29 March 2005, we sampled crayfish from one stream on the Whaley tract, a unit of the Tallahatchie Wildlife Refuge, in search of unusual *Orconectes* sp. similar to one we had found in nearby Potts Creek. We found no *Orconectes* in our sampling on the Whaley tract, and after considerable sampling effort in Potts Creek, have concluded that the one unusual specimen we found there was a deformed *Orconectes chickasawae* rather than a new species.

On the Whaley tract, we sampled an unnamed tributary of Potts Creek downstream of Mills Road (Marshall County, MS, Latitude N 34° 35' 18.3", Longitude W 89° 20'35.6"). We used a Smith-Root POW backpack electrofisher set at I5- 500V for 800 seconds. We found numerous *Procambarus hayi* and juvenile *Cambarus striatus*, as well as one possibly-mature *C. striatus*. The *C. striatus* were of two color morphs, one with two converging dark stripes on thorax and tail and the other lacking stripes. We have found both color morphs in other locations, as well, and are currently attempting to rear some individuals to maturity to ascertain if one is a new species.

Because we found no *Orconectes* in the stream, we have concluded our sampling at the site. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to sample on FWS land and look forward to working on FWS refuge lands in the future.