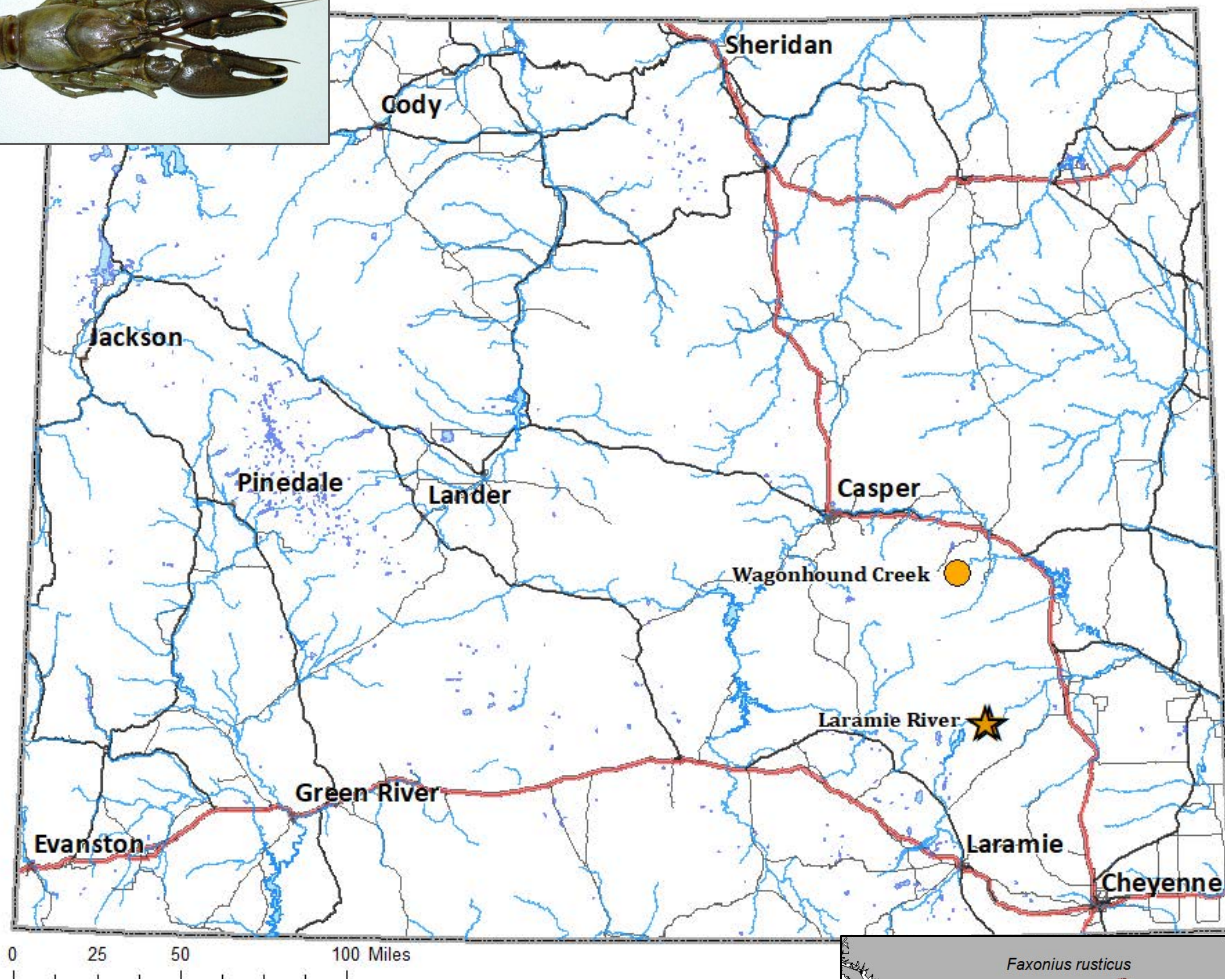
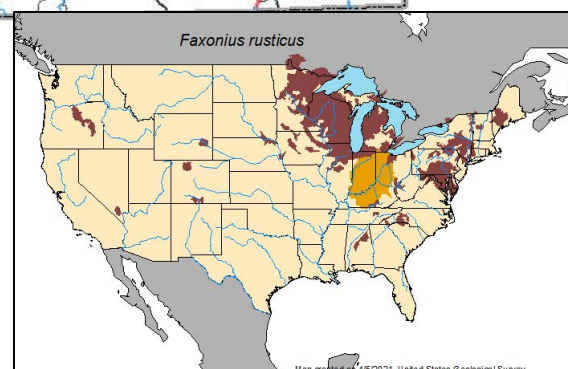


## Rusty Crayfish Wyoming Distribution



Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) are native to the Ohio, Tennessee, and Cumberland drainages in eastern United States. The species has been introduced into 27 other states, most likely by baitfish introductions. Rusty crayfish have the potential to outcompete native crayfish and established populations can destroy plant abundance and diversity. The first rusty crayfish in WY were found in 2006, the result of illegal stockings in the Wagonhound Creek drainage. After an investigation, a Colorado company was ordered to pay fines for the felony Lacey Act violation. Eradication efforts were conducted, however, rusty crayfish were detected again in 2012. A further eradication effort was made in 2013. Monitoring to determine the success of that attempt is ongoing. In 2020, new populations were found in the Laramie River downstream of Wheatland Reservoir #2 and in Bluegrass Creek, both a result of illegal stockings.



Rusty crayfish have been introduced into new areas by bait or accidental introductions. One female crayfish harboring sperm is capable of starting a new population. While the survivability of fertilized crayfish eggs separated from the female is low, they may be difficult to see and can be transported in standing water.

If you are using rusty crayfish infested waters please remember to:

- ✓ **CLEAN** all equipment and gear of plants, mud and debris. *Never move a plant or animal from one location to another.*
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from your gear and equipment. This includes all types of watercraft, waders, boots, clothing, buckets – anything that comes into contact with the water.
- ✓ **DRY** everything thoroughly. In Wyoming we recommend drying for 5 days in the summer, 18 days in the spring or fall, or 3 days at freezing temperatures.