

## Common Shiner - *Luxilus cornutus*

Abundance: Rare

Status: NSS4 (Bc)

NatureServe: G5 S3S4

Population Status: Vulnerable due to limited distribution within Wyoming. Comparison of distribution surveys suggests a declining distribution.

Limiting Factor: Habitat: moderate. Habitat is vulnerable and increases in habitat loss are likely.

Comment: Changed from NSS3 in 2005 due solely to changes in the matrix.

### Introduction

Common shiner distribution extends across the eastern U.S. and Canada. In the U.S. they stretch from North Dakota eastward to Maine, south to Virginia, west to Wyoming. Populations in northern Colorado and Wyoming make up the southwestern edge of their distribution. In Wyoming, they are native to the North and South Platte drainages.

Common shiners most commonly feed in the open water, consuming aquatic and terrestrial insects and some fish (Pflieger 1997). Spawning usually occurs in slow riffles with gravel substrate when water temperature rises above 65 °F (Baxter and Stone 1995; Weitzel 2002). Males can excavate nests, but will commonly use the nests of creek chub or hornyhead chub. Males will aggressively defend the nest, thus providing benefit to any species of egg found in the nesting area. In Wyoming they were commonly found in association with creek chub and hornyhead chub (Moan et al. 2010).

### Habitat

Common shiners are considered habitat generalists, but are said to prefer cool, clear streams with gravel substrates, little vegetation, and flowing water. They reside near pool – riffle complexes and become more dependent on pools as water levels decrease. In Wyoming they were found in a variety of habitats, usually at sites with clear water and gravel substrates present (Moan et al. 2010).

### Problems

- h Altered flow regimes, habitat fragmentation, and impacts to aquatic and riparian habitat associated with agricultural practices.
- h Increased siltation and aquatic vegetation.

### Conservation Actions

- h None

### Monitoring/Research

None

### Recent Developments

Detailed fish and habitat surveys were conducted in tributaries to the North Platte River between 2005 and 2009 to establish a baseline for future trend analysis in the North Platte drainage (Gerrity 2009, Moan et al. 2010). In 2005 and 2007, the Casper Region Fish Management crew conducted non-game fish surveys in the lower sections of the mainstem North Platte River (WGFD 2005, WGFD 2007). Common shiners are currently found throughout most of their historic distribution in the drainage.

### References

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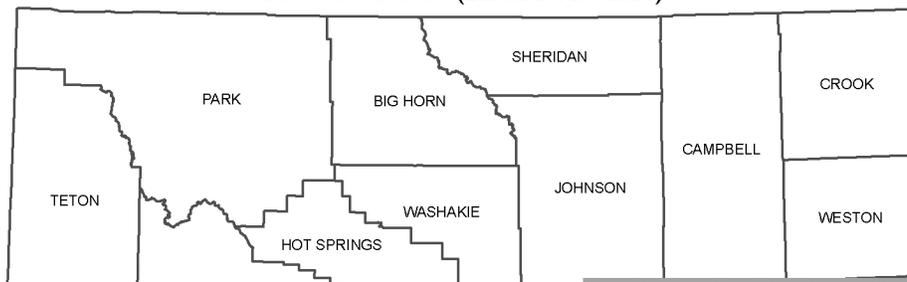
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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Note that brown indicates the current known range of the species.