

Flathead Chub - *Hybopsis gracilis*

Abundance: Rare

Status: NSS4 (Bc)

NatureServe: G5 S5

Population Status: Some populations are vulnerable where they occur in low abundance and habitats have been severely altered. Other populations are stable and secure.

Limiting Factor: Habitat: Impoundments in major drainages have reduced population size and distribution through reduced turbidity, altered temperature regimes, and flow regulation.

Comment: NSS Ranks are reviewed and revised with each SWAP revision. No changes were made for this species in this revision.

Introduction

Flathead chub are native to turbid rivers of the Great Plains from the Northwest Territories in Canada south to Oklahoma and New Mexico (Baxter and Stone 1995). However, their abundance within the Missouri River basin has declined as a result of water development, dam construction, and flow regime changes (Pflieger 1997). Although omnivorous, their diet consists primarily of adult terrestrial insects (Olund and Cross 1961). Streamlined bodies, large fins and sensory organs including barbels enable flathead chubs to efficiently feed in the swift currents of turbid rivers (Moore 1950). Spawning occurs from July through September, coinciding with receding water levels, maximum temperatures, low turbidities, and stable sand substrates (Olund and Cross 1961).

Habitat

Flathead chub occupy the main channels of sandy, turbid streams (Olund and Cross 1961). These fish select for small substrates, deep water, and woody debris (Bear 2009). Their habitat requirements most closely resemble those of sandshiners *Notropis stramineus* and adult members of the genus *Hybognathus* (Senecal 2009).

Problems

h The species' Wyoming distribution is declining in heavily altered drainages where turbidity and flow have been significantly reduced.

Conservation Actions

h Continue efforts to reduce land and water uses which exacerbate stream channel drying.

Monitoring/Research

Continue to identify and record observations while conducting fisheries management sampling.

Recent Developments

Flathead chub populations are stable and common throughout the Bighorn Basin (Bear 2009).

While generally stable throughout Southeastern Wyoming (Bear and Barrineau 2007; Moan et al. 2010) and much of Northeastern Wyoming (Barrineau et al. 2007; Peterson et al. 2009; McGree et al. 2010), populations of flathead chub may be in decline in the Cheyenne River drainage (McGree et al. 2010).

Completed construction of the Kendrick Diversion dam bypass channel on Clear Creek, a tributary to the Powder River, to allow fish passage for spawning migrations. A project to determine which species are utilizing the bypass channel was initiated in 2011. Flathead chub have been documented using the bypass channel every year from 2011 - 2015.

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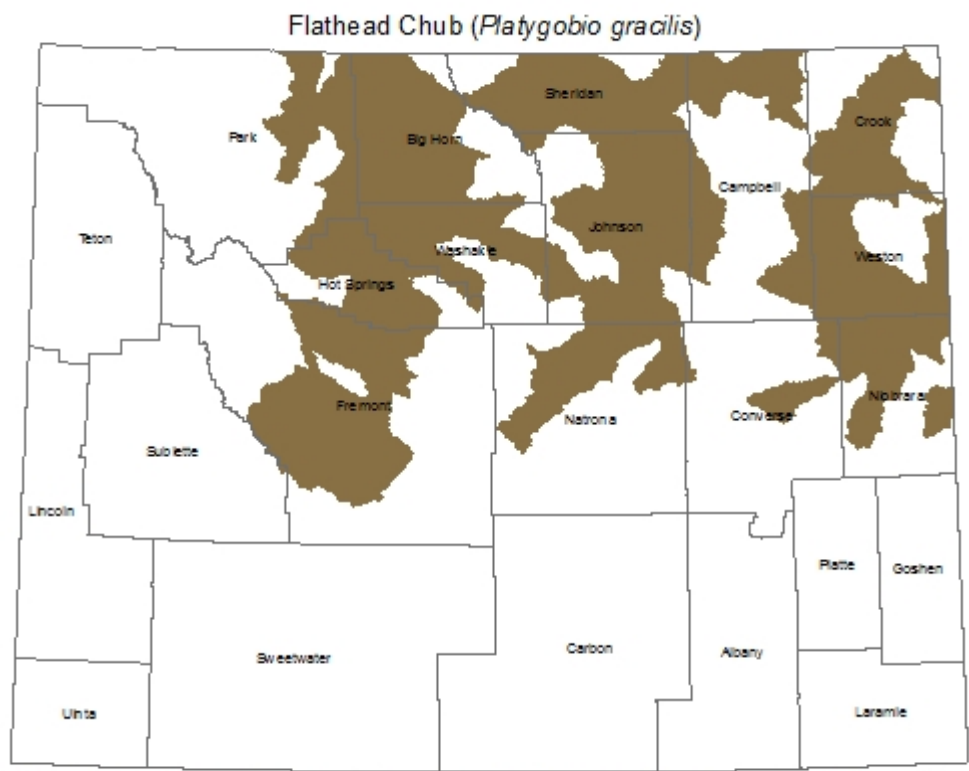
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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: February 2016. Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Note that brown indicates the current known range of the species.