

## Pilose crayfish - *Pacifastacus gambelii*

Abundance: Unknown

Status: NSS2 (Ab)

NatureServe: G4G5 S3

Population Status: Unknown

Limiting Factor: We do not have enough information to assess the limiting factors; however, the loss, degradation or alternation of habitat, chemical pollution, introduction of non-native species, and overexploitation are the main causes for decline in North American crayfish (Taylor et al. 2007).

Comment: NSSU to NSS2 (Ab)

### Introduction

The pilose crayfish (*Pacifastacus gambelii*) is a pigmented species with the margins of the rostrum converging (Hobbs 1972). This species is native to the western United States from California to Montana and Wyoming to Oregon (NatureServe 2009). The pilose crayfish is considered critically imperiled (Montana) to apparently secure (California and Idaho). Crayfish are generally considered omnivores feeding on plants, animals, and detritus (Smith 2001; Hobbs and Lodge 2010). The pilose crayfish probably mate in the spring and are nocturnal (NatureServe 2009). However, limited information about the life history of the pilose crayfish is known. In Wyoming, the pilose crayfish is native to the Snake and Bear River Drainages (Hubert 1988).

### Habitat

The pilose crayfish can be found in lentic and lotic habitats (NatureServe 2009). This species may not tolerate warm water habitats or fish populations.

### Problems

h Introduced crayfish and sport fish may displace or eliminate the pilose crayfish.

### Conservation Actions

h None.

### Monitoring/Research

None.

### Recent Developments

In 2009, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel completed new statewide collections of crayfish to expand upon and update the survey by Hubert (1988). The pilose crayfish was collected in the Snake River Drainage; however, *O. virilis* appears to have displaced the pilose crayfish in the Bear River drainage (Huber 2010). Larson et al. (in review) sequenced DNA from crayfish in the genus *Pacifastacus*, including individuals from two populations in Wyoming and found that *Pacifastacus gambelii* is a valid species.

### References

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Pilose Crayfish (*Pacifastacus gambelii*)



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.