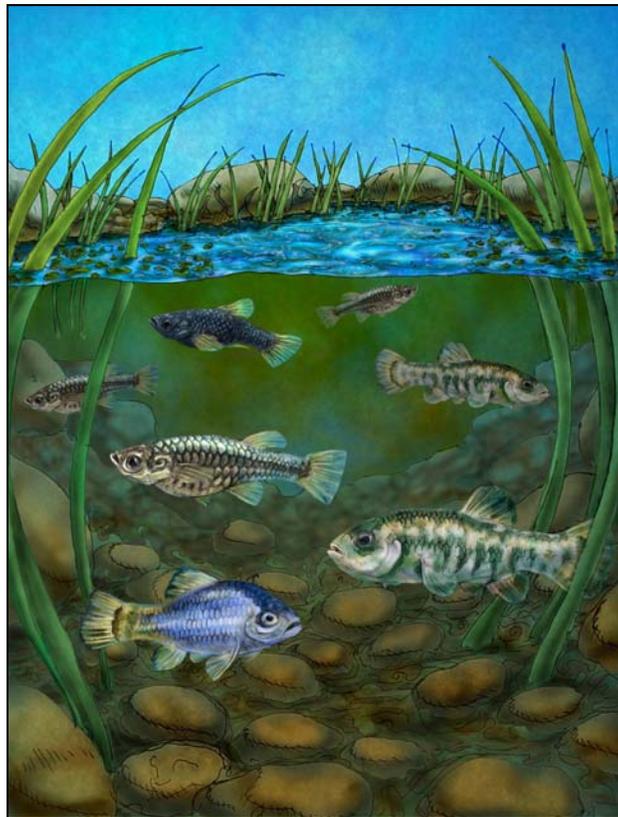


# **GILA TOPMINNOW AND DESERT PUFFISH MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON BLM LANDS IN ARIZONA – OCTOBER 2005 THROUGH OCTOBER 2006**

Ross J. Timmons, Wildlife Specialist

Nongame Branch, Wildlife Management Division  
Arizona Game and Fish Department



Technical Report # 255  
Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program  
Branch Chief: Eric S. Gardner  
Arizona Game and Fish Department  
2221 West Greenway Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85023-4399

February 2007

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Timmons, RJ. 2007. Gila topminnow and desert pupfish monitoring and management activities on BLM Lands in Arizona – October 2005 through October 2006. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program Technical Report 255. Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the following agencies for their assistance and continued willingness to assist in the recovery of these species: US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, US Bureau of Land Management, US Bureau of Reclamation, National Parks Service, US Army Fort Huachuca, Arizona State Land Department, and Arizona State Parks Department. The following have assisted with management efforts for Gila topminnow and desert pupfish on BLM lands from October 2005 through December 2006 (in alphabetical order): Tom Archdeacon, Heidi Blasius, Nicole Brown, Cori Carveth, Kyle Cooper, Doug Duncan, Dean Foster, Jake Fousek, Mark Haberstick, Mike Holleran, Tim Hughes, Jeff Humphrey, Cristen Jester, Matt Kileen, Glen Knowles, Kelli McCune, Ted McRae, Jeff Simms, Karen Simms, Jeff Sorensen, Amanda Spencer, Dave Smith, Pam Sponholtz, Tim Tibbitts, Bonnie Tighe, Jay Vacca, Dave Weedman, Kirk Young, and Lori Young.

#### COVER ILLUSTRATION

Marco Mazzoni

#### PROJECT FUNDING

Funding for this project was provided by: the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Heritage Fund; voluntary contributions to Arizona's Nongame Wildlife Checkoff; hunting and fishing license revenues; ESA Section 6, State Wildlife Grants, and primarily US Bureau of Land Management (Assistance Agreement No. AAA050001, Task Order AAF050020).

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Methods.....	1
Results and Discussion .....	2
Status of Natural Populations on BLM Lands in Arizona .....	2
Gila Topminnow .....	2
Desert Pupfish.....	3
Sonoyta Pupfish .....	3
Status of Reestablished Populations on BLM Lands in Arizona .....	3
Gila Topminnow .....	3
Desert Pupfish.....	3
Sonoyta Pupfish .....	3
Localities Identified and Evaluated for Future Reestablishment.....	3
Management Options .....	6
Future Reestablishment and Management.....	6
Literature Cited .....	8

## TABLES

Table 1. Definitions for species abbreviations.....	2
Table 2. Locations evaluated for Gila topminnow or desert pupfish reestablishment on BLM lands in Arizona .....	4

## APPENDIXES

Appendix A. Summary of attempts to reestablish populations of Gila topminnow and desert pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona .....	10
Appendix B. Results of monitoring of natural populations of Gila topminnow from October 2005 through October 2006 on BLM lands in Arizona .....	33
Appendix C. Results of monitoring of reestablished populations of Gila topminnow and desert pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona during October 2005 through October 2006.....	34

# GILA TOPMINNOW AND DESERT PUPFISH MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON BLM LANDS IN ARIZONA – OCTOBER 2005 THROUGH OCTOBER 2006

Ross J. Timmons

## INTRODUCTION

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) manages Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis*) and desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*) as a project funded by AGFD, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and other agencies. In October 2005, the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and AGFD extended a Task Order where BLM provided funds to AGFD to monitor and manage topminnow and pupfish populations on BLM lands through October 2006.

This report provides background on management of these species, information collected from October 2005 through October 2006, and a summary of the status of populations of both species. We included information from October 2006 because of stockings that occurred in October 2005 and the need for follow-up monitoring. Background information about the species and AGFD's management history of Gila topminnow and desert pupfish is summarized in Weedman and Young (1997) and Voeltz and Bettaso (2003).

## METHODS

Abbreviations for species are used throughout this report. They comprise the first 2 letters of the genus and first 2 letters of the specific epithet (Table 1).

Gila topminnow and desert pupfish populations were monitored on BLM lands in Arizona between October 2005 and October 2006, normally between the months of April and November. Sampling during these times was intended to maximize the probability of detecting topminnows at localities with few individuals present in complex habitats. All sampling was done by qualified biologists using dipnets, seines, minnow traps, or backpack electrofishers, as determined appropriate for the habitat being sampled. Mesh size for all seines and dipnets was 1/8-in (3.2-mm). Basic water quality parameters were recorded at all sites, including dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and conductivity. General notes were taken on habitat condition, riparian condition, impacts to fish or habitat, and potential threats to the fish population. Voucher specimens of fishes were collected wherever appropriate, positively identified, and accessioned into the Arizona State University (ASU) Vertebrate Museum. Digital photographs were taken at all sites during each monitoring event and, wherever possible, replicated earlier photographs. These photos are maintained by AGFD, and representative reprints were supplied to USFWS Arizona Ecological Services Field Office.

Table 1. Definitions for species abbreviations.		
Abbreviation	Scientific Name	Common Name
AGCH	<i>Agosia chrysogaster</i>	longfin dace
CYCA	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	common carp
CYLU	<i>Cyprinella lutrensis</i>	red shiner
CYER	<i>Cyprinodon eremus</i>	Sonoyta pupfish
CYMA	<i>Cyprinodon macularius</i>	desert pupfish
GAAF	<i>Gambusia affinis</i>	mosquitofish
GIIN	<i>Gila intermedia</i>	Gila chub
LECY	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>	green sunfish
POOC	<i>Poeciliopsis occidentalis</i>	Gila topminnow
PORE	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	guppy

Potential reestablishment sites on BLM lands were visited and evaluated to determine suitability for topminnow or pupfish reestablishment. In addition, several sites were identified by BLM for future habitat assessments. These surveys took place during 2006 collaboratively between AGFD and BLM. Data collected included identification of all fish species present, general description of the site, qualitative estimate of vulnerability to flooding, estimated size of available habitat, evidence of human activities, qualitative description of the condition of the aquatic and riparian communities, potential threats to topminnows or pupfish, recommended management actions to improve the site, and other information as appropriate to determine suitability for reestablishment of *Gila topminnow* or desert pupfish.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An overview of the *Gila topminnow* and desert pupfish reestablishment and monitoring project on BLM lands from October 2005 through October 2006 is presented below. Appendix A identifies all *Gila topminnow* and desert pupfish populations reestablished on BLM lands and summarizes the management and survey history at each site.

### STATUS OF NATURAL POPULATIONS ON BLM LANDS IN ARIZONA

*Gila Topminnow*. Of the 13 natural populations of *Gila topminnow* in Arizona, one is located on BLM land: Cienega Creek. Cienega Creek contains around 13-km of topminnow habitat, making it the largest remaining natural topminnow habitat in Arizona (Weedman 1999). Topminnows co-

exist with longfin dace and Gila chub, with no nonnative fishes present (see Appendix B for summary of monitoring results).

Desert Pupfish. No natural populations of desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*) remain in Arizona (USFWS 1993).

Sonoyta Pupfish. No natural populations of Sonoyta pupfish (*Cyprinodon eremus*) remain on BLM lands in Arizona (USFWS), and Quitobaquito Spring on National Park Service land contains the only natural population of Sonoyta pupfish in Arizona.

#### STATUS OF REESTABLISHED POPULATIONS ON BLM LANDS IN ARIZONA

Gila Topminnow. A total of 25 sites on BLM land in Arizona have been stocked with Gila topminnow (Voeltz 2006; AGFD files). Six extant and 2 failed reestablished localities were monitored from October 2005 to October 2006 on BLM lands in Arizona (see Appendices B and C for summary of results). Of the 7 extant sites (1 natural, 6 reestablished) known to support Gila topminnow on BLM lands in Arizona, the Yerba Mansa site, is outside of historic range.

Desert Pupfish. A total of 12 sites on BLM land in Arizona have been stocked with desert pupfish (Voeltz 2006; AGFD files). One confirmed extant reestablished locality on BLM land was monitored from October 2005 to October 2006. Three additional sites were stocked and monitored between October 13, 2005, and March 31, 2006, however the status of these stockings remains undetermined at this time (see Appendix C for summary of results).

Sonoyta Pupfish. A population of pupfish at a tinaja near Ajo, Arizona was reported by Organ Pipe National Monument staff to AGFD, BLM, and USFWS on April 22, 2005. Follow-up surveys confirmed the presence of pupfish. Since their species or origin was unknown, we collected 45 fish (all adults) on April 29, 2005, and housed them in 2 captive locations in Phoenix. On June 2, 2005, we returned and collected 50 additional fish, mostly juveniles. This likely indicated a successful spawn between the April and June visits. Twenty specimens were sent to Oklahoma State University for genetic analysis. The results indicated the specimens closely resembled Sonoyta pupfish, albeit with significantly reduced allele diversity indicating that they probably resulted from a small founder population (T. Echelle, pers. comm. 2005). By June 23, 2005, the site was dry. Locals familiar with the site do not believe that this site consistently holds water; therefore it is unlikely to contribute to pupfish recovery.

#### LOCALITIES IDENTIFIED AND EVALUATED FOR FUTURE REESTABLISHMENT

Federal and state agencies have identified several new localities that potentially could support Gila topminnow or desert pupfish. A list of sites evaluated during this project with recommendations and comments is provided in Table 2. BLM identified several sites that were

evaluated by BLM or jointly by AGFD and BLM in 2005 and 2006. Where appropriate, coordination to stock topminnow and pupfish at sites identified as suitable is continuing.

<b>Table 2. Locations evaluated during the project for Gila topminnow or desert pupfish reestablishment on BLM lands in Arizona.</b>			
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Management Agency</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date evaluated, recommendations, and comments</b>
Ben Spring	BLM, Tucson Office	T20S R21E Sec 4	2005. Suitable. Large bedrock plunge pool may need periodic augmentation. NEPA process currently underway. Stock CYMA when compliance is complete.
Buckhorn Spring #2	BLM, Phoenix Office	T8N R2W Sec 28	Dec 20, 2004. Section 7 consultation and NEPA are underway. The area has been fenced to protect the riparian area. Stock POOC and CYMA when compliance is complete..
Don Levy Artesian #2	BLM, Tucson Office	T18S R21E Sec 21	2005. Aug 18, 2006. Currently unsuitable. Shallow habitat needs pond development. Deepen pond, stock with POOC and CYMA when NEPA and Section 7 complete..
Don Levy Artesian #3	BLM, Tucson Office	T18S R21E Sec 21, 28	2005. Aug. 18, 2006. Currently unsuitable. Shallow habitat needs pond development. Deepen pond, stock with POOC and CYMA when NEPA and Section 7 complete.
Don Levy Artesian #4	BLM, Tucson Office	T18S R21E Sec 21, 28	2005. Aug. 18, 2006. Currently unsuitable. Shallow habitat needs pond development. Deepen pond, stock with POOC and CYMA when NEPA and Section 7 complete.
Frog Spring	BLM, Tucson Office	T19S R21E Sec 20	2005. Suitable; but in actively eroding arroyo. NEPA process currently underway.
Horse Thief Spring	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R21E Sec 36	2005. Suitable. Semi-stable erosive arroyo. NEPA process currently underway.
Howard Well	BLM, Safford Office	T11S R29E Sec 35, 36	Aug 21, 2006. Suitable. Pond area renovated in 2006. NEPA process currently underway. Stock CYMA when NEPA compliance and Section 7 consultation complete. Monitor water flow, fence and encroachment of aquatic vegetation.
Kolbe Artesian	BLM, Tucson Office	T23S R22E Sec 22	Aug 21, 2006. Currently unsuitable. Shallow habitat needs pond development. Develop aquatic habitats, stock with POOC and CYMA when NEPA and Section 7 complete.
Lewis Seeps and Spring B	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 30	2005. Unsuitable; open water needs to be developed. Removed from consideration.
Lewis Seeps and Spring C	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 30	2005. Unsuitable; open water needs to be developed. Removed from consideration.
Lewis Seeps and Spring D	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 30	2005. Unsuitable; open water needs to be developed. Removed from consideration.
Lewis Seeps and Spring D(2)	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 30	2005. Unsuitable; open water needs to be developed. Removed from consideration.

<b>Table 2. Locations evaluated during the project for Gila topminnow or desert pupfish reestablishment on BLM lands in Arizona.</b>			
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Management Agency</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date evaluated, recommendations, and comments</b>
Lewis Seeps and Spring G(1)	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 29	2005. Unsuitable; open water needs to be developed. Removed from consideration.
Lewis Seeps and Spring G(2)	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 29	2005. Unsuitable; open water needs to be developed. Removed from consideration.
Lewis Seeps and Spring G(3)	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 29	2005. Unsuitable; open water needs to be developed. Removed from consideration.
Lewis Seeps and Spring H	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 29	2005. Unsuitable; open water needs to be developed. Removed from consideration.
Lewis Seeps and Spring J (Katie Spring)	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 29	2005. Unsuitable; open water needs to be developed. Removed from consideration.
Lewis Seeps and Springs K(1)	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 29	2005. Unsuitable; open water needs to be developed. Removed from consideration.
Lewis Seeps and Springs K(2)	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 29	2005. Unsuitable; open water needs to be developed. Removed from consideration.
Lewis Seeps and Spring South	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 29	2005. Reevaluate. Small habitat in wash bottom previously considered suitable. According to BLM personnel, likely subject to drying. Reevaluate prior to summer rains.
Lewis Spring North (aka Government Draw)	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 29, 30	2005. Reevaluate. Previously considered unsuitable, spring is on steep slope. Conversations with BLM personnel suggest a reevaluation of site is appropriate.
Little Joe Spring	BLM, Tucson Office	T18S R21E Sec 29	Aug 18, 2006. NEPA process currently underway. Identify non-native species in adjacent St. David Cienega. Install fence to exclude cattle and protect frog fence.
Little Nogales Spring	BLM, Tucson Office	T18S R18E Sec 11	2005. High CO <sub>2</sub> at source; evaluate water quality farther downstream
McDowell-Craig Pond	BLM, Tucson Office	T23S R22E Sec 22	June, 2005. Dry. Viable well could be used to fill pond.
Meusel Spring	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R22E Sec 31	2005. Unsuitable. Narrow, deeply incised arroyo.
Moson Spring	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R21E Sec 13	June, 2005. Dry.
Murray Spring	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R21E Sec 26	2005. Suitable. Large stable stream reach.
Nogales Spring	BLM, Tucson Office	T18S R18E Sec 11	2005. Suitability questionable due to high CO <sub>2</sub> at source; evaluate water quality further downstream
Oak Grove Canyon	TNC, Aravaipa Preserve & BLM, Safford Office	T7S R18E Sec 13	Jan 17, 2002. Stock POOC and CYMA. Paperwork is complete for stocking. Recommend using fish recently stocked into 3 springs near this site.
Posey Well	BLM, Safford Office	T12S R29E Sec 1	Aug 21, 2006. Suitable. Small pool excavated in 2006 at head of a former wetland. Stock POOC. Monitor water flow and fence.
Post Canyon	BLM, Tucson Office	T21S R18E Sec 28	2005. Site is a slot canyon with limited water. Renovate to remove non-natives. Initiate NEPA and Section 7 processes. Stock POOC and CYMA.

Table 2. Locations evaluated during the project for Gila topminnow or desert pupfish reestablishment on BLM lands in Arizona.			
Site Name	Management Agency	Location	Date evaluated, recommendations, and comments
Road Canyon Tank	BLM, Tucson Office	T19S R17E Sec 36	2005. On State Land leased to BLM. Ponds used regularly by Pronghorn. Both ponds may need to be deepened. Explore renovation and stocking of POOC and CYMA.
Tule Creek	BLM, Phoenix Field Office	T8N R1E Sec 28	Feb 17, 2005. Stock CYMA. Tule Creek has supported a large population of POOC since their restocking in 1981. NEPA and Section consultation underway. Stock CYMA.
Virgus Canyon at Sycamore Canyon Confluence	BLM, Safford Office	T7S R18E Sec 10	Jan 17, 2002. Stock POOC and CYMA. Paperwork is complete for stocking. Recommend using fish recently stocked into three springs near this site.
Whitehouse Well	BLM, Tucson Office	T23S R22E Sec 16	Aug 18, 2006. Currently unsuitable. Planning is underway for pond development and future stocking.

### MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Recovery of Gila topminnow and desert pupfish in Arizona is a continually evolving process through which we are attempting to reduce threats, stabilize, and reestablish populations of 2 of Arizona’s endangered fishes.

#### FUTURE REESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT

As identified in the draft revised Gila Topminnow Recovery Plan (USFWS *in prep.*) and the Desert Pupfish Recovery Plan (USFWS 1993), progress toward recovery and downlisting will include: protecting natural populations and their habitats through whatever means are available (State or Federal ownership, conservation agreements, etc.); reestablishing populations into historic range to meet each of the respective Recovery Plan requirements; and developing and implementing plans to monitor populations and their habitats. Recovery of Gila topminnow and desert pupfish can only succeed through reestablishing populations in the wild.

AGFD proposes to pursue reestablishment and management activities on BLM lands at suitable sites identified in Table 2, and other yet-to-be identified suitable sites. AGFD will work with BLM to complete all NEPA and ESA compliance procedures prior to restocking. These collaborative efforts will identify known current and future land use practices and actions, and evaluate those uses for their effects on reestablished fishes and other listed species. Following consultation with USFWS, Gila topminnow and/or desert pupfish may be reestablished at these sites. This approach should allow BLM to implement any and all practices identified during

Section 7 consultation without the need for reconsultation. Depending on specific circumstances and in order to improve efficiency, collaborative efforts and Section 7 consultations may be performed on a site-by-site basis, watershed basis, allotment basis, or management-unit basis, as well as any other basis that proves manageable and beneficial to the process.

To allow for unanticipated disappearance of one or more populations, more sites must be stocked than are required by the respective Recovery Plans. Additional reestablishment sites should continue to be identified, developed where necessary, and stocked in the event that recovery efforts at sites deemed suitable in Table 2 do not all succeed.

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Appendix A. Summary of attempts to reestablish populations of Gila topminnow and desert pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona (information primarily from Weedman and Young [1997]; Voeltz and Bettaso [2003]; and AGFD files).

CONTENTS OF APPENDIX

**Reestablished Localities that Continue to Support Gila Topminnow or Desert Pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona** ..... 11

Cold Springs Site #85 ..... 11

Empire Gulch Site #339..... 13

Larry Creek tributary Site #307 ..... 14

Lousy Canyon Site #306..... 14

Parsons Grove Spring Site #382 ..... 16

Tule Creek Site #75 ..... 17

Yerba Mansa Site #44..... 18

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona**..... 20

Aravaipa Creek Site #177 ..... 20

Big Spring Site #84..... 20

Cow Creek Site #72 ..... 21

Darby Wash Tinaja Site #399..... 22

Green Tanks (Rattlesnake Spring) Site #81 ..... 23

Howard Well Site #83..... 23

Humbug Creek Site #95..... 25

Little Nogales Spring Site #125..... 26

Martin Well Site #132..... 26

Mescal Warm Spring Site #82 ..... 27

Mesquite Spring Site #129..... 28

Nogales Spring Site #124..... 29

Pupfish Spring Site #120 ..... 29

Tule Creek (Unnamed Spring 1E) Site #74 ..... 30

Tule Creek Seep (2E) Site #73..... 30

Watson Wash Site #134..... 31

**Reestablished Localities that Continue to Support Gila Topminnow or Desert Pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona**

**Cold Springs Site #85 (Category 2)**

Graham County, Bureau of Land Management, Safford Field Office, T5S R24E S17 NE4

STOCKED: Jul 22 1985 with 500 Gila topminnows from Dexter originally from Monkey Spring.

Apr 21 1990 with 200 desert pupfish, 50 from Flowing Wells Jr. High School and 150 from Dexter, both originally from Santa Clara Slough.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Fish</b>
Mar 31, 1986	Parker	unknown	POOC
Aug 22, 1986	Parker	unknown	POOC
Sept 05, 1986	Bamman	unknown	POOC
Jul 23, 1987	Simons	unknown	POOC
Oct 22, 1987	Parker	unknown	POOC
Sept 09, 1988	Bamman	unknown	POOC
Jul 04, 1989	Bagley	dipnet	POOC
Oct 23, 1989	S. Stefferud	unknown	POOC
Aug 07, 1990	S. Stefferud	unknown	POOC, CYMA
Feb 10, 1991	Brown	dipnet	POOC
Feb 12, 1993	Robles	visual	POOC, CYMA
May 14, 1993	Robles	visual	POOC, CYMA
Jul 13, 1993	Weedman	dipnet	POOC, CYMA
Aug 05, 1993	Robles	visual	POOC, CYMA
Nov 18, 1993	Robles	visual	POOC, CYMA
May 15, 1996	Zalaznik, Voeltz	dipnet	POOC, CYMA
Jun 17, 1998	Timmons	dipnet, seine	POOC, CYMA, CYLU
Oct 07, 1998	Timmons, Weedman	dipnet	POOC, CYMA, CYLU
Jun 17, 1999	Weedman, Robles	seine	POOC, CYMA
Jul 13, 2000	Jontz, R. Billingsley	dipnet	POOC, CYMA

**Reestablished Localities that Continue to Support Gila Topminnow or Desert Pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona (continued)**

**Cold Springs Site #85 (continued)**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Fish</b>
Mar 21, 2001	Blasius	visual	POOC, CYMA
Apr 29, 2002	Blasius	visual	POOC, CYMA
Apr 02, 2003	Voeltz, Bettaso	dipnet	POOC, CMYA
Apr 16, 2004	Billingsley	visual	POOC, CYMA
Mar 11, 2005	Blasius	dipnet	POOC, CYMA
May 16, 2005	Blasius	dipnet	POOC, CYMA
May 18, 2006	Blasius	dipnet, minnow trap	POOC, CYMA

Cold Springs consists of 2 spring-fed pools, an upper and a lower pool, each approximately 15-ft (4.6-m) in diameter. The upper pond was constructed in 1983 and the lower pond in 1985. Topminnows were originally stocked only in the upper pool, which appeared to provide more reliable and suitable habitat. By 1989, topminnows were present in both pools. Pupfish were then stocked into both pools in 1990. In 1998, red shiners were collected (their origin was unknown). Mechanical removal via seines and electroshocking in autumn 1998 appears to have eliminated the red shiners, as they have not been observed since. Bullfrogs and mud turtles have also been recorded at the site. During 2003, the lower pool was completely shaded by salt cedar, contained only topminnow, and appeared less productive than the upper pool. By 2004, the lower pool was fishless and nearly dry. Bureau of Land Management personnel removed salt cedar and mesquite that bordered both ponds during 2005. Aquatic vegetation and sediment was also removed from the upper pond. Sampling in 2006 verified the presence of both topminnow and pupfish in the upper pond, with only topminnow found in the lower pond.

**Reestablished Localities that Continue to Support Gila Topminnow or Desert Pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona (continued)**

**Empire Gulch Site #339 (Category 1)**

Pima County, Bureau of Land Management, Tucson Field Office, Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, T19S R17E S17 NE4

STOCKED: Oct 27 2001 with 689 Gila topminnows from Cienega Creek; augmented with 70 topminnows from Cienega Creek on May 19 2003, and with 475 topminnows from Cienega Creek on Oct 20 2003. Augmented with 52 topminnow from Cienega Creek on Apr 11 2006.

Dates	Surveyor	Methods	Fish
Oct 27, 2001	Davidson, Voeltz, Simms	stocking	AGCH, POOC
Feb 15, 2002	Davidson, Voeltz, Duncan	dipnet	AGCH, POOC
Jul 10, 2002	Voeltz	dipnet	AGCH, POOC
May 19, 2003	Voeltz, Duncan	dipnet/stocking	AGCH, POOC
Oct 20, 2003	Voeltz, Duncan, Simms, et al.	dipnet/stocking	AGCH, POOC
May 17, 2004	Voeltz	dipnet	AGCH
Sept 02, 2004	Simms, Rosen	seine/dipnet	AGCH, POOC (n=1)
Nov 08, 2004	Simms	seine	AGCH, POOC (n=6)
May 18, 2005	Voeltz, Foster, Duncan, Kileen	dipnet	AGCH
Apr 11, 2006	Voeltz, Tighe, Simms, Simms	stocked, visual	POOC (n=52), AGCH

Empire Gulch, tributary to Cienega Creek, was stocked with Gila topminnow and longfin dace during the dedication of BLM's Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. Empire Gulch flows for approximately 3600-ft (1100-m) from the spring source before going subsurface. The surface flow originates at the base of a 10-ft (3-m) deep head cut that is held by roots from mature cottonwoods found upstream. The habitat consists mainly of shallow marshland, with some small pools and some flowing runs. In 2002, duckweed covered nearly 100% of all surface water. Flooding during the summer of 2003 removed much of the duckweed and improved the habitat by scouring some of the thicker vegetation and creating open pool habitat. In May of 2004, thick mats of duckweed and watercress made sampling the pools difficult, although when vegetation was removed, careful observation failed to detect topminnows. During surveys conducted by BLM and University of Arizona personnel in September 2004, only one topminnow was collected. In 2005, no topminnows were collected. It is possible that prevalence of watercress and duckweed, and abundance of predaceous insects may negatively impact the topminnow population in Empire Gulch. An additional 52 topminnow from Cienega Creek were stocked in Empire Gulch on Apr 11 2006.

**Reestablished Localities that Continue to Support Gila Topminnow or Desert Pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona (continued)**

**Larry Creek tributary Site #307 (Category 1)**

Yavapai County, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office, T9N R3E S9 NW4  
 STOCKED: Oct 26 2005 with 600 Gila topminnow from Coal Mine Spring. Mar 31 2006 with 200 desert pupfish from The Nature Conservancy’s San Pedro Preserve (El Doctor Marsh lineage).

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Fish</b>
Oct 26, 2005	Hervatin, Cooper, Sponholtz, Smith	stocking, visual	POOC(n ~600), GIIN
Dec 08, 2005	Voeltz, Hervatin, Goforth, Fulmer	dipnet, visual	POOC, GIIN
Mar 31, 2006	Spencer, Young, Young	stocking, visual	CYMA(n=200), GIIN, POOC
Oct 05, 2006	Knowles, Timmons, Vacca	dipnet, visual	POOC, GIIN, CYMA

An unnamed tributary to Larry Creek is a spring-fed perennial stream that flows through a steep, narrow, boulder-strewn gorge. The habitat is located on the BLM-administered Agua Fria National Monument. Gila chub were stocked into the stream in 1995. In 2005, Gila topminnows from Coal Mine Spring were stocked into several pools. The stream also contains an abundance of lowland leopard frogs. Two hundred desert pupfish were stocked into the system on Mar 31 2006. Gila topminnow and Gila chub were also observed at the time of stocking. Monitoring of the system was conducted on Oct 05 2006. Gila topminnow and Gila chub were common throughout the reach sampled; few desert pupfish were observed in the upper reach of the system, and attempts to capture fish for positive identification were unsuccessful. Juvenile and adult leopard frogs were common.

**Lousy Canyon Site #306 (Category 1)**

Yavapai County, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office, T9N R3E S5 NW4  
 STOCKED: Sept 9 2000 with 650 Gila topminnows from Coal Mine Spring. Oct 10 2001 with 71 desert pupfish from the Cibola and Imperial National Wildlife Refuges (originally from El Doctor Marsh, Sonora, Mexico). Mar 31 2006 with 200 desert pupfish from The Nature Conservancy’s San Pedro Preserve (El Doctor Marsh lineage).

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Fish</b>
Sept 12, 2000	Bettaso, L. Young, K. Young, Weedman, Davidson, Duncan	stocking	POOC
Oct 18, 2000	Davidson, Weedman	dipnet, visual	None

**Reestablished Localities that Continue to Support Gila Topminnow or Desert Pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona (continued)**

**Lousy Canyon Site #306 (continued)**

Jan 03, 2001	Davidson, Voeltz, Sorensen	dipnet, seine	POOC, GIIN
Mar 27, 2001	Davidson, Weedman, Sorensen	visual	POOC, GIIN
Oct 17, 2001	K. Young, L. Young, Bettaso	stocking	POOC, CYMA
Nov 26, 2001	Davidson, Voeltz, Duncan	dipnet, visual	POOC, CYMA
Apr 10, 2002	Voeltz, Dockens	dipnet, visual	POOC, CYMA
Oct 22, 2002	Voeltz, Lutz, L. Young	dipnet, visual	POOC, CYMA
Apr 29, 2003	Lutz, Sorensen, Hughes	dipnet	POOC, CYMA, GIIN
Apr 12, 2004	Voeltz, Billingsley, Burger	dipnet	POOC, CYMA, GIIN
Mar 24, 2005	Voeltz, Jester	dipnet	POOC
Oct 17, 2005	Voeltz, Sorensen, Simms, L. Young	dipnet	POOC, GIIN
Mar 31, 2006	Brown, Carveth, Fousek, Humphrey, Vacca, Voeltz	stocking, visual	CYMA, POOC
May 15, 2006	Hennigar, Spencer, Sorensen, Tighe, Vacca, Voeltz	visual	CYMA, POOC, GIIN
Oct 05, 2006	Knowles, Timmons, Vacca	dipnet, visual	POOC

Lousy Canyon is a spring-fed perennial stream that flows through a steep, narrow boulder-strewn gorge with several waterfalls. The habitat is located on the BLM-administered Agua Fria National Monument. Gila chub were stocked into the stream in 1995 below the large ~30-ft (9-m) waterfall. Gila topminnow from Coal Mine Spring were stocked above the waterfall in 2000 and have subsequently become established throughout the creek. Desert pupfish from Cibola and Imperial National Wildlife Refuges (originally from El Doctor Marsh, Mexico) were stocked in 2001. Pupfish were not observed during the 2 surveys in 2005. It is possible that extreme flooding in January 2005 may have eliminated the population. Two hundred desert pupfish were stocked on Mar 31 2006. Gila topminnow, lowland leopard frogs and Sonora mud turtles were also observed at the time of the stocking. Monitoring of the system was conducted on May 15 2006. Gila topminnow were common throughout the upper reach. Desert pupfish were observed in the spring pool and the pool below the upper waterfall, and Gila chub were common below the large waterfall. Monitoring of the system was again conducted on Oct 05 2006. Gila topminnow were common throughout the upper spring pool, but no desert pupfish were observed or

**Reestablished Localities that Continue to Support Gila Topminnow or Desert Pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona (continued)**

captured; one Sonora mud turtle was observed in the pool below the upper waterfall. Monitoring and augmentation of pupfish and topminnow should continue in Lousy Canyon to ensure their reestablishment and maintain genetic integrity of both species.

**Parsons Grove Spring Site #382 (Category 2)**

Pinal County, Bureau of Land Management, Safford Field Office; The Nature Conservancy, Aravaipa Canyon Preserve, T7S R18E S4C

STOCKED: Oct 13, 2005 with 50 Gila topminnows from Bylas Spring. Oct 13, 2005 with 50 desert pupfish from TNC San Pedro Preserve.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Fish</b>
Oct 13, 2005	Voeltz, Blasius, McRae	stocking	POOC, CYMA
Nov 01, 2005	Haberstich, Blasius	visual	None
Apr 26, 2006	Blasius, Haberstich, Holloran	dipnet, seine	POOC (n=1)

Parsons Grove is a small spring located along the south rim of the Aravaipa Creek watershed. The site will continue to be monitoring by AGFD, BLM, and TNC personnel. Monitoring of the site took place on Apr 26 2006, and only one topminnow was captured. Invertebrate predators were abundant in the system, and it is presumed they are having a negative impact on the Gila topminnow. Augmentation of both Gila topminnow and desert pupfish should occur during upcoming years. Gila topminnow should be of the Bylas Creek lineage, and desert pupfish from the El Doctor Marsh lineage.

**Reestablished Localities that Continue to Support Gila Topminnow or Desert Pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona (continued)**

**Tule Creek Site #75 (Category 1)**

Yavapai County, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office, T8N R1E S28 NW4 SW4  
 STOCKED: Sept 30 1981 with 1000 Gila topminnows from BTA.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Fish</b>
Aug 17, 1982	Brooks	unknown	POOC
Jun 01, 1983	Kepner	unknown	POOC
Jun 06, 1985	Brooks	unknown	POOC
Aug 28, 1986	Simons	unknown	POOC
Mar 06, 1987	Simons	unknown	POOC
1988-1997	BLM, AGFD, USFWS biologists	varied	POOC
May 15, 1998	Timmons	dipnet	POOC
May 18, 1999	Weedman, Duncan, Watson	dipnet	POOC
May 30, 2000	Weedman, L. Young	dipnet	POOC
Apr 18, 2001	Davidson, Voeltz, L. Young	dipnet	POOC
Oct 11, 2002	Voeltz, Lutz	dipnet	POOC
May 07, 2003	L. Young, T. Hughes	dipnet	POOC
Oct 22, 2003	Voeltz, Hurst	dipnet	POOC
Jan 09, 2004	Billingsley	dipnet	None
Feb 17, 2005	Voeltz, Bettaso	dipnet	POOC
Nov 01, 2005	Hughes	dipnet	POOC

Tule Creek was originally stocked with Gila topminnow in 1968 (Minckley and Brooks 1985). They persisted until eliminated by flooding in 1978 (Collins and others 1981). Gila topminnow has persisted since restocking in 1981. In 1991 an enclosure fence was constructed around a portion of the creek to control grazing. The enclosure resulted in an immediate increase in emergent vegetation. Later in 1991 a pipeline was constructed to deliver water outside the enclosure for cattle use. In 1992 a fish barrier was also constructed on lower Tule Creek about 0.25 mi (0.4-km) upstream from the high water elevation of Lake Pleasant, which increased in size as a result of the New Waddell Dam. Surveys in June 1992 reported Gila topminnow and longfin dace distributed throughout Tule Creek and several tributaries from the enclosure

**Reestablished Localities that Continue to Support Gila Topminnow or Desert Pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona (continued)**

downstream to the barrier. Immediately below the barrier green sunfish were collected. It appears that the timely construction of the barrier will protect Tule Creek from nonnative fishes invading from the Agua Fria River and Lake Pleasant. Tule Creek was again hit by a major flood event in January 1993 that scoured and removed the vegetation within the enclosure (D. Langhorst pers. comm. *in* Weedman and Young [1997]). Langhorst estimated the flow was 50-ft (15-m) wide and up to 8-ft (2.4-m) deep and reported that Gila topminnow were much reduced from previous visits, only about 100 could be found. Later in 1993 topminnows were distributed throughout the enclosure and appeared to successfully rebound from this flood. The area within the enclosure continues to support thick growths of aquatic and emergent vegetation and topminnows continue to be abundant. Pupfish and Gila chub should also be stocked into Tule Creek. The 2004 survey was conducted downstream of the enclosure to determine if topminnow were established in that reach of stream. There was suitable habitat, but no fish were present. Gila topminnow remained abundant in the main pool through 2005 and 2006, but heavy emergent vegetation covers most of the remaining habitat, making additional open water scarce. Desert pupfish should be stocked in Tule Creek during 2007, with supplemental stockings to occur in following years.

**Yerba Mansa Site #44 (Not Categorized)**

La Paz County, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office, T11N R11W S21 NW4

STOCKED: Dec 20 1984 with 250 Gila topminnows and May 29 1985 with 600 Gila topminnows, both from Tule Creek, which originated from BTA. Also stocked Aug 9 1988 with 250 Gila topminnows from Dexter originally from Sharp Spring and 250 desert pupfish from Dexter originally from Santa Clara Slough.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Fish</b>
Dec 20, 1984	Brooks, Fredlake	stocking	POOC
May 29, 1985	Jacobson	stocking	POOC
Aug 10, 1985	Brooks	unknown	POOC
Aug 09, 1988	Kepner	stocking	CYMA
Sept 22, 1988	Hughes	unknown	POOC
Jan 03, 1989	Bagley, Hughes	unknown	POOC
Jun 27, 1989	Bagley, Jakubos	snorkel & dipnet	POOC
Apr 19, 1990	Jakubos	visual	POOC
Sept 04, 1990	S. Stefferud, Jakubos	dipnet	CYMA, POOC

**Reestablished Localities that Continue to Support Gila Topminnow or Desert Pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona (continued)**

**Yerba Mansa Site #44 (continued)**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Fish</b>
Jan 27, 1991	Brown	dipnet	POOC
Apr 24, 1992	L. Young, Langhorst	dipnet	POOC
May 26, 1992	Weedman	dipnet	POOC
Nov 21, 1992	L. Young	visual	POOC
Feb 24, 1993	L. Young	visual	POOC
May08, 1996	Weedman, Zalaznik	dipnet	POOC
May 13, 1998	Timmons	dipnet	POOC
May 27, 1999	Weedman, Timmons	dipnet	POOC
Jul 11, 2000	Allen, R. Billingsley	dipnet	POOC
Jul 25, 2001	Davidson	dipnet	POOC
Oct 10, 2002	Voeltz, Lutz	dipnet	POOC
Oct 28, 2003	Voeltz	dipnet	POOC
Mar 22, 2005	Voeltz	dipnet	None

Yerba Mansa Spring is located in the Bill Williams River drainage upstream of Alamo Lake. It lies outside of historic range for the Gila topminnow. Habitat consists of a large man-made, spring-fed pond with extensive cattail growth around it. The thick vegetation makes sampling difficult, but topminnows continue to persist. Desert pupfish were reported as extirpated (USFWS 1993). In 2005, the *Typha* was so thick that it was not possible to sample the habitat. Topminnows are presumably still present in the center where there is open water; a follow-up survey is needed to confirm. This population does not contribute as a Level-2 Gila topminnow population, because it is outside of historic range. Yerba Mansa was not monitored during October 2005 to October 2006. Monitoring of this population should continue.

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona**

**Aravaipa Creek Site #177 (Category 1)**

Graham and Pinal Counties, Bureau of Land Management and Private  
 T7S R20E; Tributary to the San Pedro River

STOCKED: Gila topminnow were stocked 3 times; in 1967 at a marsh near the creek in Pinal County and directly into the creek in Graham County both from Monkey Spring, and in 1977 at the upper Klondyke area of Aravaipa Creek from BTA.

According to Minckley (1969), the fish stocked during 1967 in Pinal County were reproducing and established by 1968, and those stocked in Graham County, near Klondyke, were reproducing and possibly established. According to Minckley and Brooks (1985) all 3 introductions failed and Gila topminnow were extirpated from Aravaipa Creek. Monthly monitoring was conducted by AGFD, TNC, and BLM biologists and ASU students from August 1992 through April of 1994 (Bettaso and others 1995). Surveys were conducted at 9 stations located throughout the perennial portions of Aravaipa Creek and involved extensive seining and electroshocking efforts along 650-ft (200-m) at each station and included all habitats. Also, in October 1993 an exhaustive seining effort by biologists and student volunteers was conducted to search for red shiners. No topminnows were collected during any of these efforts. This stream continues to support 7 other native fish species. Most of the perennial stream is protected as wilderness area by the BLM or is in private ownership by The Nature Conservancy. Three springs along the south rim of Aravaipa Canyon were stocked in 2005. Additional attempts at reestablishment in the mainstem should be pursued.

**Big Spring Site #84 (Category 2)**

Graham County, Bureau of Land Management, Safford District, T6S R25E S5 NE4 SE4

STOCKED: Jul 22 1985 with 500 Gila topminnows from Dexter originating from Monkey Spring.

Dates	Surveyor	Methods	Vouchers	Fish
Sept 26, 1986	Simons	unknown	ASU 10700	POOC
Jul 23, 1987	Simons, Bagley	unknown	No	POOC
Jul 03, 1989	Bagley	seine	No	POOC
Oct 23, 1989	S. Stefferud	unknown	No	POOC
Jan 07, 1991	Brown	seine, dipnet	No	POOC
Jul 13, 1993	Weedman, J. Young	dipnet	No	None
Jul 19, 1994	J. Young, S. Johnson	dipnet, visual	No	None
May 15, 1996	Zalaznik, Voeltz	dipnet	No	None

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona (continued)**

The spring drainage is a very narrow steep-walled gully that occasionally floods. At the time of stocking, habitat consisted of a short reach of spring-fed stream flow in which a 5-ft (1.5-m) dam had been re-constructed in 1984. A small pool was present above the dam and a plunge pool had formed below the dam. Brown and Abarca (1992) reported that severe flooding in August 1990 removed most topminnows from the pool above the dam. Only one topminnow was collected in January 1991. The pool above the dam had silted in, and the only significant pool habitat was in the plunge pool below the dam. The pool above the dam was dredged in spring 1991 to remove accumulated sediment. Topminnows were present in May (BLM data) and August 1991 (M. Sredl pers. comm. *in* Weedman and Young [1997]). In May 1996, the only suitable topminnow habitat was the plunge pool below the dam. The drainage above the dam upstream to the caliche ledge and downstream from the dam for only a few tens of meters consisted of very shallow, muddy pools and trickles. Recent drought conditions eliminated all but one small pool. This site needs to be reevaluated.

**Cow Creek Site #72 (Category 1)**

Yavapai County, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office and Private, T7N R1E S6  
 STOCKED: September 1981 with an unknown number of Gila topminnow from Tule Creek originating from Monkey, Cocio, and Bylas springs.

Dates	Surveyor	Methods	Fish
Aug 21, 1985	Stringer, Brooks	unknown	POOC, AGCH
Aug 28, 1986	Simons	unknown	POOC, AGCH
Jun 25, 1989	Bagley	dipnet	POOC, AGCH, LECY
Apr 29, 1991	Brown	seine	AGCH
Aug 22, 1991	Brown	dipnet, seine	POOC, AGCH, LECY
May 27, 1992	Weedman	seine	None
Jun 23, 1992	Langhorst	unknown	POOC (above dam)
Mar 25, 1993; May 05, 1993; Jul 16, 1993; Jul 28, 1993	(BLM Endangered Species Annual Report 1993)	unknown	No POOC, but likely other species that were unreported
Jul 28, 1993	Weedman	dipnet	AGCH
Jun 03, 1997	Weedman	seine, dipnet	AGCH, LECY

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona (continued)**

Cow Creek consists of many miles of stream that has reaches of interrupted perennial water. Topminnows were found downstream in Humbug Creek as a result of dispersal from Cow Creek. Topminnows persisted in Cow Creek possibly until severe flooding in January 1993. The 1993 surveys included all areas formerly occupied by topminnow. The presence of topminnows above the dam on 1992 Jun 23 invalidates the previous negative survey result; therefore, this population was resampled in 1997. In 1997, 2.5 miles (4-km) of Cow Creek was sampled. The habitat contained several areas of isolated water that appeared perennial and supported fish. Longfin dace were very abundant in isolated reaches from an old dam near the Crown King Road downstream about one mile (1.6-km). At this point a boulder-formed waterfall creates a fish barrier. Below that, green sunfish were very abundant and longfin dace were less abundant than above. This site needs to be reevaluated.

**Darby Wash Tinaja Site #399 (Category 4)**

Pima County, BLM, Phoenix Field Office, T12S R6W S33 NE4

STOCKED: Discovered 2005 Apr 22. Likely the result of an unauthorized stocking.

Dates	Surveyor	Methods	Fish
Apr 17, 2005	Tibbitts	visual	CYER
Apr 29, 2005	Voeltz, Duncan, Hughes	seine	CYER
May 05, 2005	Hughes	visual	CYER
May 18, 2005	Tibbitts	visual	CYER
May 26, 2005	Jester	visual	CYER
June 02, 2005	Voeltz, Hervatin, Jester	seine	CYER
June 23, 2005	Hughes	visual	None (dry)

Organ Pipe National Monument staff reported an observance of pupfish in a tinaja near Ajo, Arizona during April of 2005. This habitat is restricted to one small (5-m x 3-m) pool that does not appear to be perennial. Follow-up surveys confirmed the presence of pupfish. Since their species or origin was unknown, we collected 45 fish (all adults) on 2005 Apr 29 and housed them in 2 captive locations in Phoenix. On June 2, 2005, we returned and collected 50 additional fish, mostly juveniles. This likely indicated a successful spawn between the April and June visits. 20 specimens were sent to Oklahoma State University for genetic analysis. The results indicated the specimens closely resembled Sonoyta pupfish, albeit with significantly reduced allele diversity indicating that they probably resulted from a small founder population. By June 23, 2005, the site was dry. Locals familiar with the site do not believe that this site consistently holds water; therefore it is unlikely to contribute to pupfish recovery.

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona (continued)**

**Green Tanks (Rattlesnake Spring) Site #81 (Category 1)**

Gila County, BLM, Safford Field Office and Arizona State Land Department, T3S R15E S7 NE4  
 STOCKED: 1985 Jul 22 with 500 Gila topminnows from Dexter originating from Monkey Spring.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Vouchers</b>	<b>Fish</b>
1986	Bamman	unknown	No	"small fish" reported
Mar 18, 1987	Simons	unknown	ASU 11411	POOC
1988	Escobedo	visual	No	None
Dec 05, 1988	Bagley, Escobedo	visual	No	None
Aug 12, 1993	Weedman, Paradzick	dipnet, visual	No	None
Jul 18, 1994	J. Young, Johnson	dipnet, visual	No	None

This site consists of 2 pools located below a large dirt stock tank with a high dirt dam. Monitoring conducted in 1986 indicated only "small fish" were present. Topminnows were abundant in 1987. Surveyors in 1988 concluded that the stock tank and both lower pools dried in summer 1987. Discussions were initiated in 1988 with the local rancher to pipe water from Sheep Spring. It is unknown why the project was discontinued. In December 1988, the pools were very shallow. Abundant water and apparently suitable topminnow habitat was observed in 1993 and 1994. Desiccation of the pools is believed to have eliminated topminnow. This site needs to be reevaluated.

**Howard Well Site #83 (Category 2)**

Graham County, Bureau of Land Management, San Simon Resource Area, T11S R29E S36 NW4  
 STOCKED: 1983 Dec 28 with 150 desert pupfish from BTA originating from Santa Clara Slough, and 1985 Jul 22 with 500 Gila topminnows from Dexter originating from Monkey Springs.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Vouchers</b>	<b>Fish</b>
Feb 17, 1984	Brooks, Kepner	water quality testing	No	No report
Jul 24, 1987	Simons, Bagley	dipnet	No	CYMA
Aug, 1987	unknown	unknown	No	CYMA
Jan 06, 1988	Kepner (reported by Gacey, Simons)	unknown	No	POOC

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona (continued)**

**Howard Well Site #83 (continued)**

1988	Gacey	unknown	No	CYMA
Jul 03, 1989	Bagley, Gacey	seine	No	CYMA
Nov, 1990	Brown	dipnet or seine	No	CYMA
Nov, 1990	Dunham	unknown	ASU (no #)	CYMA
Feb 08, 1991	Brown	dipnet	No	CYMA
Aug 07, 1991	Gacey, J. Simms	water quality testing	No	CYMA
Mar 13, 1992	Weedman, J. Simms, S. Stefferud	unknown	No	None collected
Jul 14, 1993	Weedman	dipnet	No	None
Dec, 1994	J. Simms	unknown	No	unknown
May 15, 1996	Zalaznik, Voeltz	visual	No	None
2006	Blasius	Renovated	No	None

The 1984 survey was conducted to evaluate the habitat for potential topminnow stocking, and to monitor introduced desert pupfish. In 1987, desert pupfish were scarce. Low water or desiccation was the probable reason for failure around 1992. The well was almost completely overgrown with tules, and almost no water was present. Water flow was restored in late 1987. Monitoring efforts in 1988 remain questionable. J. Gacey (BLM biologist, Safford) told Simons a field crew reported topminnows abundant and pupfish absent. Simons suggested mosquitofish may have invaded Howard Well from nearby, heavily infested Martin Well, and the field crew may have misidentified the topminnows (Simons memo, 1988 Jan 7). However, no subsequent topminnow or mosquitofish collections were made. The field crew most likely went to Martin Well, which is located in the vicinity of Howard Well. In 1988, BLM dredged Howard Well to reduce cattail growth (J. Gacey pers. comm. *in* Weedman and Young [1997]). Pupfish were abundant during 1989, and more than 20 bullfrogs were observed. Vegetation was thick and a constant maintenance concern. In 1990, moderate numbers of pupfish were reported. In 1991, small pupfish were present in low numbers, but concentrated at the southern end of the well in an area with no bullfrogs. During 1992, AGFD, BLM, and USFWS met at Howard Well to discuss habitat management and sample for pupfish. The well was overgrown with cattails, very shallow, and bullfrogs were abundant. Jeff Simms (BLM Tucson) reported that in December 1994 artesian flow was diminishing. All ponds fed by artesian wells in that area were having the same problem, possibly due to water table depletion by deep agricultural wells near Bowie. In 1996, leopard frogs (probably misidentified bullfrogs) were abundant and the water was very shallow.

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona (continued)**

Howard Well has a documented history of cattail growth problems associated with low water levels. Illegal stocking of nonnative fishes in the area presents a serious and continuing problem. Howard Well was again renovated in 2006 and is currently suitable to be stocked with desert pupfish.. The pond area was dredged and all cattail and sedges removed. The pond bottom was sealed with bentonite and habitat complexity increased with the addition of boulder structures. Plans are underway to stock Howard Well with pupfish in 2007. Maintenance of Howard Well may include periodic removal of aquatic vegetation. Water flow into Howard Well must also be monitored.

**Humbug Creek Site #95 (Category 4)**

Yavapai County, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix District, T7N R1E S6, 7, 8, & 17

STOCKED: The site became populated by Gila topminnow after 1982 when they dispersed from Cow Creek, which was stocked with Gila topminnow from BTA.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Vouchers</b>	<b>Fish</b>
Mar 06, 1987	Simons, Schwalbe	unknown	No	POOC, GAAF, LECY
Jun 25, 1989	Bagley, Clark	seine	No	POOC, AGCH, LECY, CYLU
Mar 18, 1991	Brown, Williams	seine, dipnet	No	LECY
Apr 30, 1991	Brown	unknown	ASU 12831-33	AGCH, CYCA, LECY, GAAF, CYLU
Aug 22, 1991	Brown, Williams	dipnet	No	LECY
May 27, 1992	Weedman, J. Young	seine	No	AGCH, LECY
Jul 28, 1993	Weedman, Paradzick	dipnet	No	AGCH, LECY

Humbug Creek is deeply incised in places with good riparian cover present in others. Substrates were mostly bedrock and cobble with sand, gravel, and silts in pool habitats. Water is perennial for an unknown distance before reaching Lake Pleasant. Some perennial water must be present throughout the year in either Cow or Humbug creeks to maintain longfin dace. Only one green sunfish was found in March 1991, and only small sunfish was taken in August 1991. BLM, Phoenix Resource Area, Endangered Species Subpermit Report for 1993 reported "extreme flooding" occurred in the area in January 1993. Presence of exotic fish and conflicting land ownership and uses may reduce this sites potential for reintroduction of Gila topminnow or desert pupfish. This site needs to be reevaluated.

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona (continued)**

**Little Nogales Spring Site #125 (Category 3)**

Pima County, BLM, Tucson Field Office, T18S R18E S11

STOCKED: 1988 Aug 19 with 172 Gila topminnows from Cienega Creek, near Sanford Canyon.

Dates	Surveyor	Methods	Fish
Sept 12, 1989	Bagley	dipnet	POOC
Apr 01, 1991	Brown	dipnet	None
Jun 18, 1992	Weedman, J. Young, S. Stefferud	dipnet	None
Jul 21, 1994	J. Young, Johnson	dipnet	None
2005	Simms, Foster	dipnet	None

The spring is a tributary to Wakefield Canyon that then drains into Cienega Creek. The drainage is steep, fairly narrow, and overgrown with vegetation. Surface water is present at least 650-ft (200-m) below the source, and a 10-ft (3-m) drop is present about 330-ft (100-m) below the source. Some travertine formations were present. A waterfall prohibits fish movement above the stocking site. The aquatic habitat is mostly swift, shallow riffles with few pools present. In 1989, surface water flowed for at least 3/4 mile (1.2-km) below the windmill, but only 30 adult topminnows were collected. The spring should be restocked with topminnows from Cienega Creek. The NEPA process is currently underway for the reintroduction of Gila topminnow into lower portions of Little Nogales Spring due to high CO<sub>2</sub> levels in waters of the upper system.

**Martin Well Site #132 (Category 4)**

Graham County, BLM, Safford Field Office, T11S R29E S36 NW4 SW4

STOCKED: Topminnows were discovered in 1989, their origin is unknown.

Dates	Surveyor	Methods	Vouchers	Fish
Sept 26, 1986	Simons	unknown	ASU 10694	GAAF
Jul 03, 1989	Bagley	seine	Yes	POOC, GAAF, LECY
Feb 08, 1991	Brown	seine	ASU 12835 & 12834	GAAF, LECY
Jul 14, 1993	Weedman, Paradzick	dipnet	ASU 14217	GAAF, LECY
Jul 19, 1994	J. Young, Johnson	dipnet	No	GAAF

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona (continued)**

Martin Well is a large pond fed by an artesian well. There is no apparent natural outflow from the pond, but the well feeds several cattle drinkers. Aquatic vegetation and cattails were dense. The ASU Museum of Fishes catalog contains mosquitofish specimens collected on 1986 Sept 29 by Simons. However, neither Simons field notes, nor AGFD files contain any further information. One topminnow was found when preserved fish were identified in a lab in 1989. It is unknown where the topminnow came from, but it is likely that some individuals were illegally moved from Howard Well, 1/2 mile (800-m) to the north, before 1989. About 500 mosquitofish and no topminnow were identified in 1991. In 1993, 112 mosquitofish were preserved along with one green sunfish. In 1994, 153 mosquitofish were identified. In 1993, the pond was reported as being 160-ft by 100-ft (50-m by 30-m), and in 1994 as 130-ft by 80-ft (40-m by 25-m) with noted cattail removal. In 1990, Al Bamman (pers. comm. *in* Weedman and Young [1997]) indicated that illegal nonnative fish stockings into the pond were a constant concern. Martin Well became a topminnow site based on the discovery of one specimen. This site needs to be reevaluated.

**Mescal Warm Spring Site #82 (Category 2)**

Gila County, Bureau of Land Management, Tucson District, T3S R17E S20 NW4 SW4  
 STOCKED: 1985 Jul 22 with 500 Gila topminnows from Dexter National Fish Hatchery originally from Monkey Spring.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Fish</b>
1987	Simons	unknown	POOC
Jul 08, 1989	Bagley	dipnet	POOC
May 22, 1991	Brown	dipnet	POOC
Feb, 1992	BLM Biologists	unknown	None
Aug, 1992	BLM Biologists	unknown	None
Jul 18, 1994	J. Young	dipnet/visual	POOC
Sept 05, 1996	Weedman	dipnet	POOC (n=1)
Jun 28, 2001	Davidson	dipnet	None
Apr 28, 2003	Voeltz, Brouder	dipnet	None

Mescal Warm Spring is located on a small mesa located above Mescal Creek near the Gila River. The spring surfaces near 2 large cottonwoods inside a cattle enclosure and flows through thick grass and riparian vegetation before going subsurface near the edge of the mesa where it drops into Mescal Creek. Sampling is very difficult in the thick brush, the water is very shallow, less than 4 inches (10-cm) deep and no pools were found. Topminnows were either very rare or too

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona (continued)**

difficult to sample because few were captured in 1994, only one was collected in 1996, and none were captured in 2001 or 2003. There is a perennial stream east of the mesa that, although rather steep, could provide better habitat. It has several plunge pools and small travertine dams present and also flows into Mescal Creek, which should also be evaluated for reestablishment. Digging of small pools may provide additional habitat for topminnow.

**Mesquite Spring Site #129 (Never Categorized)**

Pinal County, Bureau of Land Management, Tucson Field Office, T3S R11E S21 SE4 SW4  
 STOCKED: 1983 Dec 28 with 200 desert pupfish from BTA originally from Santa Clara Slough.  
 Failed and attempted restocking on 1991 Oct 10 with 100 pupfish from BTA.

Dates	Surveyor	Methods	Fish
Oct, 1984	BLM Phoenix Field Office biologist	unknown	CYMA
Jul 02, 1989	Bagley	seine	None
Aug, 1991	Pool dredged and exclosure fencing repaired and replaced		
1992	BLM	unknown	None
Jul 12, 1993	Weedman	dipnet	None
Nov 24, 1993	BLM	unknown	None
Jul 05, 1994	Weedman	dipnet	None

Cause of the failure of this site between 1984 and 1989 is unknown. In 1991 the pond was dredged, vegetation removed and exclosure fencing removed. Following this work, desert pupfish were again stocked. Two hundred pupfish were transported to the spring but when the first 100 were stocked they immediately began exhibiting stress. The other 100 were returned to the arboretum pond. Low oxygen levels were believed responsible for loss of all 100 pupfish stocked. This site needs to be reevaluated.

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona (continued)**

**Nogales Spring Site #124 (Category 3)**

Pima County, BLM, Tucson Field Office, T18S R18E S11

STOCKED: 1988 Aug 19 with 258 Gila topminnows from Cienega Creek.

Dates	Surveyor	Methods	Fish
Sept 12, 1989	Bagley	dipnet	POOC
Apr 01, 1991	Brown	dipnet	None
Jun 18, 1992	Weedman, J. Young, S. Stefferud	dipnet	None
Jul 21, 1994	J. Young, Johnson	dipnet	None
2005	Simms, Foster	dipnet	None

The spring drains into Wakefield Canyon and then into Cienega Creek. The watershed above the spring is relatively small. The drainage is steep, narrow, and completely overgrown, primarily with thick acacia-mesquite. The substrate is mostly bedrock and stream flow is swift and shallow. Dense vegetation precludes intensive downstream surveying, thus surface water flows for an unknown distance downstream. Topminnows were stocked into the pools below 2 different travertine falls below the springhead. A small dense population was present in 1989 at the 13-ft by 10-ft by 2-ft (4-m by 3-m by 0.6-m) and 10-ft by 10-ft by 16-in (3-m by 3-m by 0.4-m) stocking sites. Topminnows may have been eliminated by flooding or temperature extremes. Construction of pools should be investigated and topminnows from Cienega Creek restocked.

**Pupfish Spring (aka Garfias Wash) Site #120 (Never Categorized)**

Yavapai County, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix District, T7N R1W S18 NE4 NE4

STOCKED: 1977 Nov 2 with 15 desert pupfish from BTA originating from Santa Clara Slough

This site was also known as Garfias Wash and is located northwest of Lake Pleasant. Minutes from the September 1979 desert pupfish working group meeting indicate that flooding eliminated pupfish. A survey was conducted on 1997 May 28 and included about 3-mi (5-km) of dry wash and narrow bedrock canyons with isolated pools and little surface flow. No fish were collected and the wash appeared to be very flood prone and unsuitable for either topminnows or pupfish. On a visit to the site on 2005 January 20, BLM personnel found no fish present and considered the site unsuitable for either desert pupfish or Gila topminnow. Will be resurveyed again and evaluated for extirpation under the established criteria.

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona (continued)**

**Tule Creek (Unnamed Spring 1E) Site #74 (Category 3)**

Yavapai County, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Resource Area, T8N R1E S28 SW4  
 STOCKED: 1982 with Gila topminnow from Tule Creek (Site #75) that came from BTA.

Dates	Surveyor	Methods	Vouchers	Fish
Jun 06, 1985	Brooks, Stringer	unknown	No	POOC
Aug 28, 1986	Simons	unknown	ASU 10665	POOC
Mar 06, 1987	Simons	unknown	No	POOC
Jun 24, 1989	Bagley	dipnet	No	None
Apr 30, 1991	Brown	dipnet	No	None
Jul 28, 1993	Weedman	dipnet	No	None
May 15, 1998	Timmons	dipnet, visual	No	None
Feb 17, 2004	Voeltz, Bettaso	Visual	No	None

In 1985-1987, topminnows were found in a small 3-ft by 3-ft (1-m by 1-m) pool in a small drainage to Tule Creek. Additional water upstream does not have topminnow. In 1998, perennial habitat was limited and cattle impacts were heavy. In 2004, there was very limited surface flow; this site should not be pursued as a reestablishment site at this time. According to BLM personnel, this site is subject to drying during periods of drought.

**Tule Creek Seep (2E) Site #73 (Category 3)**

Yavapai County, Bureau of Land Management and Private, T8N R1E S28 SW4 SE4  
 STOCKED: 1982 with unknown number of Gila topminnow from Tule Creek originally from BTA.

Dates	Surveyor	Methods	Fish
Jun 06, 1985	Brooks, Stringer	unknown	POOC
Aug 28, 1986	Simons	dipnet	None (almost dry)
Mar 06, 1987	Simons	dipnet	None (almost dry)
Jun 24, 1989	Bagley, Clark	visual	None (dry)
Apr 30, 1991	Brown	dipnet	None

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona (continued)**

**Tule Creek Seep (2E) Site #73 (continued)**

Jul 28, 1993	Weedman	dipnet	None
May 15, 1998	Timmons	dipnet	None
Feb 17, 2004	Voeltz, Bettaso	visual	None (dry)

In 1985, topminnows occupied 2 pools in Tule Creek Seep (2E). Heavy cattle use was observed. In 1993, the grazing seepage area was muddy with no pools present. This site does not maintain sufficient water to support fish in dry years (Brown and Abarca 1992; Voeltz and Bettaso 2003), and should not be pursued as a reestablishment site at this time. According to BLM personnel, this site is subject to drying during periods of drought.

**Watson Wash Site #134 (Category 4)**

Graham County, Bureau of Land Management, Safford Field Office, T6S R25E S23 NW4

STOCKED: Gila topminnow were discovered here on 1989 Jul 6 as a result of an undocumented stocking although their origin is likely from BTA (Hedrick and others 2001). In addition, Jim Brooks (pers. comm. *in* Hedrick and others [2001]) thought that BLM personnel stocked Watson Wash in the late 1980s using fish from BTA.

Dates	Surveyor	Methods	Fish
Jul 06, 1989	Bagley	seine	POOC, CYLU, PORE
Aug 08, 1990	Abarca, S. Stefferud	unknown	POOC plus others
Jan 07, 1991	Brown	dipnet	POOC, CYLU, PORE
Jul 13, 1993	Weedman	dipnet	POOC, PORE
Jul 19, 1994	J. Young	dipnet	POOC, PORE
1995	J. Simms	unknown	POOC, PORE
Sept 04, 1996	Weedman	dipnet	POOC, PORE
Jul 31, 1997	AGFD interns	dipnet	POOC, PORE
Jun 17, 1998	Timmons	dipnet	POOC, PORE
Oct 28, 1998	Weedman, Duncan, Simms	dipnet, seine	POOC, CYLU, GAAF, PORE
Jul 17, 1999	Weedman, Robles	dipnet, seine	GAAF, PORE

**Failed Sites on BLM Lands in Arizona (continued)**

**Watson Wash Site #134 (continued)**

Jul 13, 2000	Jontz, R. Billingsley	dipnet	GAAF, PORE
Apr 02, 2003	Voeltz, Bettaso	dipnet, seine	GAAF, PORE
Apr 16, 2004	Billingsley	dipnet	GAAF, PORE
May 18, 23, 25, 2006	Blasius	Dipnet, minnow traps	GAAF, PORE

Watson Wash is a thermal artesian well with surface flow for several hundred meters before drying. The well was drilled illegally in the 1950s. Guppies were first found in 1984 but topminnows were not detected until 1989, as were red shiners. Their origins were unknown. This well was the focus of intensive recreational use. In 1993 a masonry tub was illegally constructed for recreational use. Between 1999 and 2003 only guppies and mosquitofish were collected. Extensive sampling of available habitat was conducted by BLM personnel on 18, 23, and 25 May, 2006. No topminnow were detected. Two nonnative fishes, mosquitofish and common guppy were present, as well as the nonnative bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*). BLM considered a variety of management options for the Watson Wash area, including capping the well and drying the habitat. The well at Watson wash was capped under an Emergency Closure ruling by BLM on 25 May, 2006. Currently, water seepage from the capped well-head provides limited water for resident wildlife, but not in sufficient quantity to support any fish.

Appendix B. Results of monitoring of natural populations of Gila topminnow from October 2005 through October 2006 on BLM lands in Arizona

Site # and Site Name	Date Sampled	Fish species present	Comments on sampling effort, abundance, and habitat conditions
#5 Cienega Creek	Apr 11, 2006	AGCH, POOC, GIIN	POOC common at Pump Canyon, but difficult to collect due to aquatic vegetation; 52 collected for stocking into Empire Gulch. POOC,AGCH and GIIN observed at falls.

Appendix C. Results of monitoring of reestablished populations of Gila topminnow and desert pupfish on BLM lands in Arizona during October 2005 through October 2006.

Site #, Site Name, Category, and Species Stocked (Origin)	Date Sampled	Fish species present	Comments on sampling effort, abundance, and habitat conditions
Cold Springs (#85), Category 2, POOC (Monkey Spring) and CYMA (Santa Clara Slough)	May 18, 2006	POOC, CYMA	Both spp. common; collected using minnow traps and dipnets.
Darby Wash Tinaja (#399), Category 4, CYER (unknown)	(See comments)	None (dry)	This site was an unauthorized, illegal stocking of <i>C. eremus</i> that failed between June 2 and June 23 2005 due to dessicaiton. It was not visited during 2006.
Empire Gulch (#339), Category 2, POOC (Cienega Creek)	Apr 11, 2006	POOC	Stocked 52 topminnow collected from Cienega Creek @ Pump Canyon
Larry Creek tributary (#307), Category 1, POOC (Coal Mine Spring)	Oct 26, 2005	POOC, GIIN	Stocked 600 Gila topminnows from Coal Mine Spring
	Dec 08, 2005	POOC, GIIN	Gila topminnows present in many pools
	Mar 31, 2006	CYMA	Stocked 200 desert pupfish from TNC San Pedro River Preserve
	Oct 05, 2006	CYMA, POOC, GIIN	4 CYMA observed in uppermost pool, POOC and GIIN common throughout reach sampled
Lousy Canyon (#306), Category 1, POOC (Coal Mine Spring) and CYMA (Imperial and Cibola NWR, TNC San Pedro River Preserve)	Mar 24, 2005	POOC	Topminnow numbers reduced; pupfish appear to be absent, possibly due to extreme winter floods; did not hike below falls to look for GIIN
	Oct 17, 2005	POOC, GIIN	Topminnow abundant; GIIN common below falls
	Mar 31, 2006	CYMA	Stocked 200 desert pupfish from TNC San Pedro River Preserve
	May 15, 2006	CYMA	Topminnow common throughout upper reach, with Gila chub common below waterfalls. Pupfish present in spring pool and pool below 1 <sup>st</sup> waterfall.

Appendix C (continued).

Site #, Site Name, Category, and Species Stocked (Origin)	Date Sampled	Fish species present	Comments on sampling effort, abundance, and habitat conditions
Lousy Canyon (#306), Category 1, POOC (Coal Mine Spring) and CYMA (Imperial and Cibola NWR, TNC San Pedro River Preserve) (cont.)	Oct 05, 2006	POOC	Topminnow common throughout spring pool and reach above and below 1 <sup>st</sup> falls in pool; no pupfish seen or sampled
Parsons Grove Spring (#382), Category 2, POOC (Bylas Spring) and CYMA (TNC San Pedro Preserve)	Oct 13, 2005	POOC, CYMA	Stocked 50 Gila topminnows from Bylas Spring and 50 desert pupfish from TNC's San Pedro Preserve
	Nov 01, 2005	None	Visual survey, cold weather; not surprising that no fish observed
	Apr 26, 2006	POOC	Only 1 topminnow sampled, no pupfish. Predaceous invertebrates abundant
Tule Creek (#75), Category 1, POOC (BTA)	Nov 01, 2005	POOC	Gila topminnow abundant in main pool, but not observed elsewhere due to heavy cattail growth.
Yerba Mansa (#44), Not categorized, POOC (BTA, Sharp Spring) and CYMA (Santa Clara Slough)			Do not believe site was sampled during October 2005- October 2006. During March 2005, <i>Typha</i> covered 100% of shoreline, which prevented sampling at the time. Need to resurvey open water at central area of pond.