

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**Animal Abstract**

**Element Code:** AFCJC02250

**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Catostomus* sp. 3

**COMMON NAME:** Little Colorado Sucker, Little Colorado River Sucker

**SYNONYMS:** *Catostomus latipinnis*

**FAMILY:** Catostomidae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Minckley, 1971, Keys to native and introduced fishes of Arizona. J. Arizona Acad. Sci., 6:183-188.

**TYPE LOCALITY:**

**TYPE SPECIMEN:**

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:**

**DESCRIPTION:** Up to 50.0 cm (19.7 in.) total length and more than 1.0 kg (2.2 lbs.). Body fusiform, chubby and sharply bicolored, with dark gray to blue-black above and white to yellow below in both adults and young (Minckley 1973). Scales large with dorsal scales sharply outlined. Head relatively large, with a long snout and moderately enlarged lower lip. Fleshy lobes on lower lips not produced. Interradial membranes of fins typically dark. Lateral line scales 73 to 97, although usually fewer than 90. Dorsal fin-rays 11 or 12 (Minckley 1973).

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** Similar to flannelmouth sucker, *C. latipinnis*, though caudal peduncle is thicker and deeper, lower lip is smaller, and distal margin of dorsal fin is slightly falcate to square (Page and Burr 1991).

**ILLUSTRATIONS:**

B&W photo (Minckley 1973:158)

Color photo (Rinne and Minckley 1991:21)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Endemic to the upper portion of the Little Colorado River and many of its north flowing tributaries (Coconino, Navajo and Apache Counties). Also introduced into the Salt River.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** See "TOTAL RANGE."

## **SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**BIOLOGY:** Isolated in range from the remainder of the Colorado River system by a series of falls (Minckley 1973).

**REPRODUCTION:** Spawning occurs in early- to mid-spring. Young occupy slow moving riffles (Minckley 1973).

**FOOD HABITS:** "Foods consist of detrital material, algae and some higher vegetation, and a substantial proportion of aquatic invertebrates. Feeding occurs late in the evening and early in mornings with large adults moving to riffle areas and stirring large areas of gravel and sand with their activities" (Minckley 1973).

**HABITAT:** In creeks, small to medium rivers, and impoundments. Predominantly found in pools with abundant cover. Also found in riffles.

**ELEVATION:** 670 to 2160 m (2,200 to 7,100 ft.). Based on records in the Heritage Data Management System (HDMS), elevation ranges from 4,900 to 7,350 ft (1495 - 2242 m) (AGFD, unpublished data accessed 2001).

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Riparian vegetation includes: *Alnus* (alder), *Salix* (willow), *Quercus* (oak), *Juniperus* (juniper), *Tamarix* (salt cedar) and mixed conifer species.

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Reductions in historic numbers and distribution are thought to have occurred as a result of habitat loss. Loss of habitat has occurred due to reduction in stream flows (leading in some instances to complete dewatering of the channel), water diversions, dam construction, channel and watershed erosion, and interactions with non-native fish species. A continuing downward trend is expected as these factors continue to impact this species.

## **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** CCA (USDI, FWS 2006)  
[None USDI, FWS 1996]  
[C2 USDI, FWS July 1994 \*]

**STATE STATUS:** 1A (AGFD SWAP 2012)  
[WSC, AGFD, WSCA in prep]  
[Candidate AGFD, TNW 1988]

**OTHER STATUS:** Bureau of Land Management Sensitive  
(USDI, BLM AZ 2010)  
[None - USDI, BLM AZ 2005]  
[Bureau of Land Management Sensitive  
USDI, BLM AZ 2000, 2008]

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** Maintenance of instream water flows. Consideration of deleterious impacts from non-native fish species interaction.

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:** In 2006 a Statewide Conservation Agreement was completed and signed by nine natural resource management entities in 2007: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Hualapai Tribe, Salt River Project, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Land Department, Arizona Department of Water Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Forest Service (AGFD 2006).

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** An effort is needed to fully describe and name the species. Studies are needed to further determine its life history.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** BIA - Hopi Reservation; BLM - Safford Field Office; USFS - Apache-Sitgreaves and Coconino National Forests; State Land Department; AGFD Chevelon Creek Wildlife Area and Wenima Riparian Corridor; Private.

## **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **REFERENCES:**

- Arizona Game and Fish Department. 1988. Threatened Native Wildlife in Arizona. p. 8.
- Arizona Game and Fish Department. In prep. Wildlife of special concern in Arizona. Arizona Game and Fish Department Publication. Phoenix, Arizona. 32 pp.
- Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2006. Arizona Statewide Conservation Agreement for Roundtail Chub (*Gila robusta*), Headwater Chub (*Gila nigra*), Flannelmouth Sucker (*Catostomus latipinnis*), Little Colorado Rover Sucker (*Catostomus* spp.), Bluehead Sucker (*Catostomus discobolus*) and Zuni Bluehead Sucker (*Catostomus discobolus yarrowi*). Phoenix, AZ.
- Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2012. Arizona's State Wildlife Action Plan 2012-2022. Phoenix, AZ.
- Minckley, W.L 1973. Fishes of Arizona. Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix. pp.158-159.
- Page, L.M. and B.M. Burr. 1991. A field guide to freshwater fishes: North America, north of Mexico. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. p. 172.
- Rinne, J.L. and W.L. Minckley. 1991. Native fishes of arid lands: a dwindling resource of the desert southwest. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, General Technical Report RM-206. Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Fort Collins, Colorado. pp. 19-21.
- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1999. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.
- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 2007. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.
- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 2013. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.

USDI, Bureau of Land Management. 2000. Arizona BLM Sensitive Species List. Instruction Memorandum No. AZ-2000-018.

USDI, Bureau of Land Management. 2005. Arizona BLM Sensitive Species List.

USDI, Bureau of Land Management Region 2. 2008. Arizona BLM Sensitive Species List.

USDI, Bureau of Land Management Region 2. 2010. Arizona BLM Sensitive Species List.

USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service, State Office. 1994. September 1994 memo from Sam Spiller reporting Current Federal Status of Animal Species in Arizona. p. 5.

USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1996. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Review of Plant and Animal Taxa that are Candidates for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species. Federal Register 61(40):7596-7613.

USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 2006.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:****ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 1994-09-06 (DBD)  
1994-09-12 (MHH)  
1997-03-05 (SMS)  
2001-10-10 (SMS)

To the user of this abstract: you may use this entire abstract or any part of it. We do request, however, that if you make use of this abstract in plans, reports, publications, etc. that you credit the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Please use the following citation:

Arizona Game and Fish Department. 20XX (= **year of last revision as indicated at end of abstract**). X...X (= **taxon of animal or plant**). Unpublished abstract compiled and edited by the Heritage Data Management System, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ. X pp.

**\*Listed C2 in July 1994 per Sam Spiller, FWS State Supervisor (September 1994 memo), but not listed in the November 1994 Notice of Review.**

**USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1994. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Animal Candidate Review for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species; Proposed Rule. Federal Register 59(219):58996.**