

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

**Animal Abstract**

**Element Code:** ARAAE01040

**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Kinosternon sonoriense sonoriense*

**COMMON NAME:** Sonora Mud Turtle

**SYNONYMS:**

**FAMILY:** Testudines:Kinosternidae

**AUTHOR, PUBLICATION:** Le Conte 1854:184

**TYPE LOCALITY:** "Tucson in Sonora" Arizona

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** Two subspecies in Arizona, *K. s. longifemorale* and *K. s. sonoriense*; *K. s. longifemorale* (Sonoyta Mud Turtle) restricted to Quitobaquito Spring, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

**DESCRIPTION:** Stebbins 1985: plate 17.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:**

**ILLUSTRATIONS:**

**TOTAL RANGE:** Lower Colorado and Gila rivers eastward throughout Gila drainage in Arizona and New Mexico. Drainages in Mexico between and including the Sonoyota and Yaqui Rivers. From near sea level to about 6700 feet.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Gila River drainage of central and southeast Arizona; Quitobaquito Spring, Pima County; Laguna Dam area, Yuma county; and Big Sandy-Burro River drainages.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**BIOLOGY:**

**REPRODUCTION:** Lays 2-9 eggs from May - September. Eggs buried in soil on land.

**FOOD HABITS:** Insects, crustaceans, snails, fish, frogs and some plant material.

**HABITAT:** Springs, creeks, ponds and waterholes of intermittent streams.

**ELEVATION:** Sea level to about 6,700 ft. (2,044 m).

**PLANT COMMUNITY:**

**POPULATION TRENDS:**

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None  
**STATE STATUS:** 1B (AGFD SWAP 2012)  
**OTHER STATUS:** Bureau of Land Management Sensitive  
(USDI, BLM AZ 2010)

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Distribution, habitat, population and life history studies.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:**

### **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

#### **REFERENCES:**

- Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2012. Arizona's State Wildlife Action Plan 2012-2022. Phoenix, AZ.
- Behler, J.L. and F.W. King. 1979. The Audubon Society field guide to North American reptiles and amphibians. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.
- Iverson, J.B. 1976.
- Iverson, J.B. 1981.
- Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. Second edition, revised. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.
- USDI, Bureau of Land Management Region 2. 2010. Arizona BLM Sensitive Species List.
- USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1997. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Review of Plant and Animal Taxa that are Candidates or Proposed for Listing as Endangered or Threatened, Annual Notice of Findings on Recycled Petitions, and Annual Description of Progress on Listing Actions; Notice of Review, Proposed Rule. Federal Register 62(182):49402.

USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1999. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Review of Plant and Animal Taxa that are Candidates or Proposed for Listing as Endangered or Threatened; Annual Notice of Findings on Recycled Petitions; Annual Description of Progress on Listing Actions; Proposed Rule. Federal Register 64(205):57538.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

Phil Rosen - University of Arizona, Tucson.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 1991-03-27( )  
1997-12-26 (SMS)  
1999-12-20(DJG)

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