

SPIKEDACE
(Meda fulgida)

STATUS: Endangered with critical habitat ([77 FR 10810](#), February 23, 2012).

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: A small (3 in (7.6 cm) long), slim fish with silvery sides and a "spine" on the dorsal fin. Breeding males are a brassy golden color.

HABITAT: Found in moderate to large perennial streams, where it inhabits moderate to fast velocity waters over gravel and rubble substrates. Specific habitat consists of shear zones where rapid flow borders slower flow, areas of sheet flow at the upper ends of mid-channel sand/gravel bars, and eddies at downstream riffle edges. Recurrent flooding helps the spikedace maintain its competitive edge over invading exotic species. Typically occupied streams are found under 6,000 feet in elevation.

RANGE: Historical: Once common throughout much of the Gila River drainage above Phoenix, Arizona, including the Gila, Verde, Agua Fria, Salt, San Pedro, and San Francisco rivers.

Current: In Arizona, populations are found in Aravaipa Creek, and are believed to be present in the Verde River, and Eagle Creek within Graham, Pinal, Greenlee, and Yavapai counties. In New Mexico, the spikedace is found in the mainstem Gila River, as well as in the lower end of West, Middle, and East forks of the Gila River, and Mangas Creek within Hidalgo, Grant, and Catron counties.

Potential: Undiscovered populations may exist in unsampled Gila basin streams. In addition, populations were translocated in Hot Springs and Redfield canyons (Cochise and Graham counties), and in Fossil Creek (Gila County) in 2007; Bonita Creek (Graham County), and the San Francisco River (Catron County) in 2008. Insufficient time has elapsed to determine whether these restoration projects will be successful.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: Habitat destruction due to damming, channel alteration, riparian zone modification and destruction, channel downcutting, water diversion and groundwater pumping; and the introduction and spread of exotic predatory and competitive fish species.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, the State of Arizona, tribal, and private lands.

NOTES: A Recovery Plan was completed in September 1991. A copy of the recovery plan and other relevant documents are available online at

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Documents/RecoveryPlans/SpikedaceRP.pdf>. A new Recovery Team has been convened and we anticipate publication of a new recovery plan by 2015. Also, in 2007, we initiated a five-year status review and anticipate completion in 2012.