

WOUNDFIN
(*Plagopterus argentissimus*)

STATUS: Endangered (35 FR 16047, October 13, 1970) with critical habitat (65 FR 4140, January 26, 2000).

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: Small (10 cm (4 in) long), silver minnow with fairly large fins and a sharp dorsal fin spine.

HABITAT: Inhabits shallow, warm, turbid, fast-flowing water. Tolerates high salinities and relatively warm water temperatures. Found in habitats below 1,372 m (4,500 ft) in elevation.

RANGE: Historical: Occurred in the Lower Colorado River Basin below the Grand Canyon; the Virgin River in Utah, Arizona, and Nevada; and the lower and middle Gila River drainages in Arizona.

Current: The species has been extirpated from almost all of its historical range except the mainstream Virgin River, from Pah Tempe Springs to Lake Mead in northwestern Arizona (Mohave County).

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: Habitat destruction and the introduction of exotic fishes.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Bureau of Land Management, the States of Utah and Arizona, and private.

NOTES: A Recovery Plan was completed in July 1979, revised in March 1985, and incorporated into the Virgin River Fishes Recovery Plan in April 1995.

In Arizona, critical habitat encompasses approximately 50.6 km (31.6 mi) of the mainstem Virgin River and its 100-year floodplain in Mohave County, Arizona.

Experimental-nonessential designation in portions of the Verde, Gila, San Francisco, and Hassayampa rivers and Tonto Creek (50 FR 30193, July 24, 1985).

Limited introduction attempts into designated experimental-nonessential habitat have been made. No self-sustaining populations documented from the releases.

Currently being reared at Dexter National Fish Hatchery in Dexter, New Mexico.

Listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need by the State of Arizona.