

SONORA SUCKER

(*Catostomus insignis*)

STATUS: No Federal status.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: A medium-sized fish from the sucker (Catostomidae) family. Adults can reach 31.5 inches (80 centimeters) at maturity. The body is fusiform, or spindle-shaped, being rounded and broadest in the middle, and tapering toward each end. The mouth is on the underside of the head, with the lower lip enlarged. The back and sides are brown to yellowish brown, and the abdomen yellow. Scales on the sides are outlined in a slightly darker color, and each scale has a broadening of that outline, resulting in a spot. Upper sides contain longitudinal stripes formed by dark spots on the scales. Lower fins are yellowish or white.

HABITAT: Occurs between 950 to 6500 feet (300 and 2000 meters) in elevation in gravelly or rocky pools of creeks or rivers, tending to remain near cover in daylight, but moving to runs and deeper riffles at night.

RANGE: Historical: Widespread and abundant in the Gila and Bill Williams River basins.

Current: Similar to historical distribution. In Arizona the species is found in the Black River and its tributaries in Apache and Greenlee counties; Hot Springs Canyon in Cochise County; East Verde River and Fossil Creek in Gila and Yavapai counties; Bonita and Turkey creeks and Redfield Canyon in Graham County; Beaver, Strayhorse, Pigeon, Turkey, and Eagle creeks and the Blue and San Francisco rivers in Greenlee County; Sycamore and Tonto creeks and the Salt River in Maricopa County; Trout, Knight, and Burro creeks in Mohave County; the San Pedro and Gila rivers and Aravaipa Creek in Pinal County; the Santa Cruz and Babocomari rivers and Sonoita and Turkey creeks in Santa Cruz County; and the Verde River and its tributaries, Francis and Deadman creeks, and the Santa Maria River in Yavapai County. The species also occurs in New Mexico and Sonora, Mexico.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: The species is stable throughout most of its range. Introduction of nonnative aquatic species is considered a major factor in the decline of all native fish species in the Gila River Basin. Alteration of historical streamflow regimes, construction of reservoirs, and degradation of habitat quality due to a variety of land uses are also management concerns for this species.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Department of Defense, Tribal, State, and private lands.