

**BEAUTIFUL SHINER**  
*(Cyprinella formosa)*

**STATUS:** Threatened with critical habitat (49 FR 34490, August 31, 1984) .

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** This fish is a small (6.3 cm (2.5 in) long) shiny minnow and is similar to the common red shiner in appearance. Males are very colorful when exhibiting breeding color (yellow-orange or orange on caudal and lower fins, with a bluish body).

**HABITAT:** This species occurs mainly in small to medium streams with sand, gravel, and rock bottoms below 1,371 m (4,500 ft) elevation. It is also found in artificial ponds.

**RANGE: Historic:** The fish occurred in the Rios Yaqui, Casas Grandes, Santa Maria, and Santa Clara drainages in Sonora and Chihuahua, Mexico; the Rio Yaqui (San Bernardino Creek/Black Draw Creek) in Arizona; and the Mimbres River in New Mexico.

**Current:** Extirpated from the United States in 1968, but is still found in much of its historical range in Mexico. A refugium population was established at San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Arizona (Cochise County) in 1990.

**Potential:** The extent of the Mexican populations is poorly documented. Populations may be found in the Bustillos and Bavicora basins in Chihuahua, Mexico.

**REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY:** This shiner is threatened by habitat destruction and modification and impacts from non-native aquatic species.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** Sole reintroduced United States population is on San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge from stock collected in Mexico.

**NOTES:** A Recovery Plan was completed in March 1995 and is available online at <http://arizonaes.fws.gov/Documents/RecoveryPlans/YaquiFishes.pdf>. Critical habitat includes all aquatic habitats (except Leslie Creek) of San Bernardino NWR.

Dexter National Fish Hatchery in Dexter, New Mexico, is currently rearing beautiful shiners in anticipation of future reintroductions into the Mimbres River.

Listed as a Species of Special Concern by the State of Arizona.