

Gila chub
(*Gila intermedia*)

STATUS: Endangered with critical habitat (70 FR 66664, November 2, 2005).

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: The Gila chub is a small-finned, deep-bodied, chubby (chunky) member of the minnow family (Cyprinidae) that ranges from dark olive green to silvery with a lighter belly. Adult males average about 150 millimeters (6 inches) in total length; females can exceed 200 millimeters (8 inches). Gila chub feed primarily on aquatic insects and algae.

HABITAT: Gila chub commonly inhabit pools in smaller streams, cienegas, and artificial impoundments ranging in elevation from 609 to 1,676 m (2,000 to 5,500 ft). Common riparian plants associated with these populations include willow (*Salix* spp.), tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.), cottonwoods (*Populus* spp.), seep-willow (*Baccharis glutinosa*), and ash (*Fraxinus* spp.). Typical aquatic vegetation includes watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*), horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), and speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*). Gila chub are highly secretive, preferring quiet deeper waters, especially pools, or remaining near cover including terrestrial vegetation, boulders, and fallen logs. Adults are often found in deep pools and eddies below areas with swift currents. Young-of-the-year inhabit shallow water among plants or debris, while older juveniles use higher velocity stream areas.

RANGE: Historical: Gila chub likely occurred in suitable habitat throughout the entire Gila River basin, with the possible exception of the Salt River drainage above Roosevelt Lake.

Current: Gila chub have been recorded from approximately 43 rivers, streams, and spring-fed tributaries throughout the Gila River basin in northern Sonora, Mexico, central and southeastern Arizona, and western New Mexico. However, since 2000, only 29 of these populations remain occupied, and all of these are all small, isolated, and threatened. These 29 populations occur in tributaries of the Agua Fria, Babocomari, Gila, San Francisco, San Pedro, Santa Cruz, and upper Verde rivers in Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yavapai counties, Arizona, and in Grant County, New Mexico.

REASON FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: Approximately 85-90 percent of the Gila chub's habitat has been degraded or destroyed, and much of it is unrecoverable. Today, much of the remaining Gila chub habitat is still extensively grazed, current mining operations still operate in its watersheds, increased recreation use adds to habitat alteration, and the introduction of nonnatives adds to habitat degradation.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Fifty-nine percent of the land supporting all of the extant populations occurs on Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands. Other ownership includes Arizona State Land Department, the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, Tribal lands, and multiple private landowners. Critical habitat consists of 160.3 miles (258.1 kilometers) in 24 rivers and creeks within the Gila River Basin. Critical habitat includes portions of the Agua Fria, Babocomari, Gila, San Francisco, San Pedro, Santa Cruz, and upper Verde rivers in Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yavapai counties, Arizona, and in Grant County, New Mexico.

Notes: States recognize the Gila chub as a species of special concern in Arizona, and as an endangered species in New Mexico.