

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Sturgeon chub (<i>Macrhybopsis gelida</i>)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A	The sturgeon chub occurs in Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming and Kansas. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
2 Distribution outside R2	B	Historically recorded in 14 states of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and their larger tributaries; currently or recently known from the Missouri, lower Yellowstone, Powder, and Platte rivers in Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wyoming; rare or absent in 23 of the 27 streams within the historic range. The Powder River in Wyoming and Montana currently supports the largest known reproducing population. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USFWS 2001a • www.natureserve.org
3 Dispersal Capability	B	Despite the loss of over 1,000 miles of suitable habitat in the Missouri River, viable, self-sustaining populations of sicklefin and sturgeon chubs occur where habitat conditions, flow patterns, and turbidity levels resemble conditions prior to the construction of the main stem dams. This indicates that the species is still capable of dispersal within river reaches. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USFWS 2001a
4 Abundance in R2	D	There are no known absolute numbers of sturgeon chub. Hundreds of thousands of sturgeon chub have been entrained by irrigation canal structures in the lower Yellowstone River system. The species is believed to be more common today. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USFWS 2001a
5 Population Trend in R2	B	The species has been removed from the candidate of species for listing under the Endangered Species Act due to recent survey work indicating that the species is far more abundant than previously thought. The species appears to have adapted somewhat to the system of dams on the Missouri River. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USFWS 2001a

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<p>6 Habitat Trend in R2</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>One-half of the habitat in the Missouri River has been lost due to the longstanding system of dams on the river and the channelization of much of the river. Many tributaries have experienced similar declines. Habitat trend is downward due to instream flow withdrawals, stock dams, and other manipulations that have altered most streams in the Great Plains.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USFWS 2001a
<p>7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>Tributary streams remain vulnerable due to continued riparian forest development and incremental water withdrawals.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>8 Life History and Demographics</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>Initial Evaluator(s): John Sidle</p>			<p>Date: 7/12/01</p>

National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY(L)¹ to occur:

<u>Colorado NF/NG</u>		<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>		<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>		<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>		<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	
Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely
		Cimmaron NG		Samuel R. McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF	
White River NF				Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG	K	Bighorn NF	
Routt NF				Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF				Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF	
San Juan NF								Thunder Basin NG	
Rio Grande NF									
Pike-San Isabel NF									
Comanche NG									

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¹ Likely is defined as more likely to occur than not occur on the National Forest or Grassland. This generally can be thought of as having a 50% chance or greater of appearing on NFS lands.

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