

Region 2 Not of Concern List

Cave Physa (*Physella spelunca*) [Note: Move to "...Not of concern category]

Recommendation Rationale: **Not R2 Sensitive Species and Not of Concern**

This species is endemic to the type locality in Lower Kane Cave, near Kane, Wyoming, 12 miles east of Lovell. The location is within the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, administered by NPS. Habitat for this species is exclusively a limestone cave on submerged rocks in a fast moving warmwater stream in the dark zone, originating from a hot spring 1000 feet from the cave entrance at altitude 3000 feet (Beetle, 1989; Wu and Beetle, 1995). This habitat is extremely rare and the population may not survive. Abundance is extremely low, with five specimens in two lots collected. Per discussion with Jon Warder, Forest Biologist for the Bighorn NF, the location is near the elevation of and on the opposite side of the Bighorn River and some ten miles from the Forest. Therefore, he concluded that there was little likelihood of connection with cave systems on the Forest. There also is little potential for that habitat type to exist on the Forest. A Cave Inventory (Uhl, 1980) did not discover any similar (warm water) type caves on the Forest. For these reasons, we believe at this time that the species is "...not of concern" to FS. FS appears to have no conservation influence over the species. Should any information arise in the future which establishes the occurrence of the species on NFS lands or a realistic potential for such occurrence, its FS Regional management status will be re-evaluated.

Revised on January 29, 2003 by Gary Patton