

## Why were the non-natives removed?

Not only were non-native green sunfish and small mouth bass out-competing the natives for food and space, they were also eating them! In some reaches of Fossil Creek, speckled dace were completely absent and there were no more young chub or suckers. Although there were some adult natives that were capable of spawning, the eggs and young were gobbled up by the non-natives. Without intervention, the few adult fish remaining would eventually have died and all of Fossil Creek would have been completely occupied by non-native fish!



## Why Save Natives?

The most important biological reason is that by preserving the integrity of our natural ecosystems we can maintain diversity and healthy ecologic function. Additionally, each species presents un-explored medical applications but if we lose these species, we also lose the potential for making life-saving discoveries. From a cultural standpoint, if we didn't preserve what is native and unique to our state by letting non-natives take over, we would lose what makes our state unique from others and our fisheries would look much like the rest of the nation. Many believe that we have an ethical or moral obligation to preserve all species. In addition, we all have a legal responsibility under the Endangered Species Act to preserve and recover rare species so that future generations can enjoy the same biological wonders that we do today.



# *Restoration of Native Fish in Fossil Creek*

**A Joint Effort Between:**

**Forest Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Arizona Game and Fish  
Arizona Public Service  
Volunteers**



Native Roundtail Chub

# Fossil Native Fish Restoration

In the fall of 2004, nearly 100 people from around the state worked together to restore 9.5 miles of Fossil Creek to a native fishery. This work involved removing non-native fish that had invaded the stream so the few remaining native species would have a chance to survive. Native fish in Fossil Creek include speckled dace, longfin dace, spikedace, loachminnow, Gila topminnow, Sonora sucker, desert sucker, razorback sucker, headwater chub, and roundtail chub.



Native Sonora Sucker

## *New Fishing Regulations for Fossil Creek!*

*Arizona Game and Fish Department has opened a portion of Fossil Creek to seasonal chub fishing. Anglers can fish from the waterfall downstream to the downstream-most powerline crossing below Sally May wash from the first weekend in October through April 30 with the following restrictions: catch and release, artificial fly and lure only, single barbless hooks, and no live bait.*

### **Please Help Us Help the Natives**

Observe the current fishing regulations - Don't forget, it is illegal to:

- ♦ dump your bait bucket in the water
- ♦ move or release fish, tadpoles, or crayfish from or into Fossil Creek

Report illegal stockings by calling the Operation Game Thief hotline at 800-325-0700. Rewards up to \$1,000 are available.