

SPECIES: Scientific [common]	<i>Catostomus latipinnis</i> [Flannelmouth Sucker]
Forest:	Bridger-Teton National Forest
Forest Reviewer:	Patrick M. Barry, Masako Wright
Date of Review:	1/22/2020, 6/24/2025
Forest concurrence (or recommendation if new) for inclusion of species on list of potential SCC: (Enter Yes or No)	YES

FOREST REVIEW RESULTS:

1. The Forest concurs or recommends the species for inclusion on the list of potential SCC:
Yes X No ___
2. Rationale for not concurring is based on (check all that apply):
Species is not native to the plan area _____
Species is not known to occur in the plan area _____
Species persistence in the plan area is not of substantial concern _____

FOREST REVIEW INFORMATION:

1. Is the Species Native to the Plan Area? Yes X No ___

If no, provide explanation and stop assessment.
2. Is the Species Known to Occur within the Planning Area? Yes X No ___

If no, stop assessment.

Table 1. Number of Individuals by Waterbody and Year Within the Planning Area (WGFD 2025).

Year	Burnt Lake	East Fork River	Green River (Below New Fork River)	Green River (New Fork to Wrn B)	Halfmoon Lake	Halfmoon Lake Little	Meadow Lake	Willow Lake	Total
2000					15	9			24
2001						1			1
2002			1						1
2003	153			1	5	15			174
2004	56								56
2005	134					451		60	645
2006	36				145	15			196
2007	8	3	10		8	20			49
2008	27							18	45
2009	2		7		4	3			16
2010					4	1			5
2011	6				9				15

Year	Burnt Lake	East Fork River	Green River (Below New Fork River)	Green River (New Fork to Wrn B)	Halfmoon Lake	Halfmoon Lake Little	Meadow Lake	Willow Lake	Total
2012							11	8	19
2013					4				4
2019					1				1
2020	7								7
2021	2								2
2024					4				4

a. Are all Species Occurrences Only Accidental or Transient?

Yes ___ No X

If yes, document source for determination and stop assessment.

b. For species with known occurrences on the Forest since 1990, based on the number of observations and/or year of last observation, can the species be presumed to be established or becoming established in the plan area?

Yes X No ___

If no, provide explanation and stop assessment

c. For species with known occurrences on the Forest predating 1990, does the weight of evidence suggest the species still occurs in the plan area?

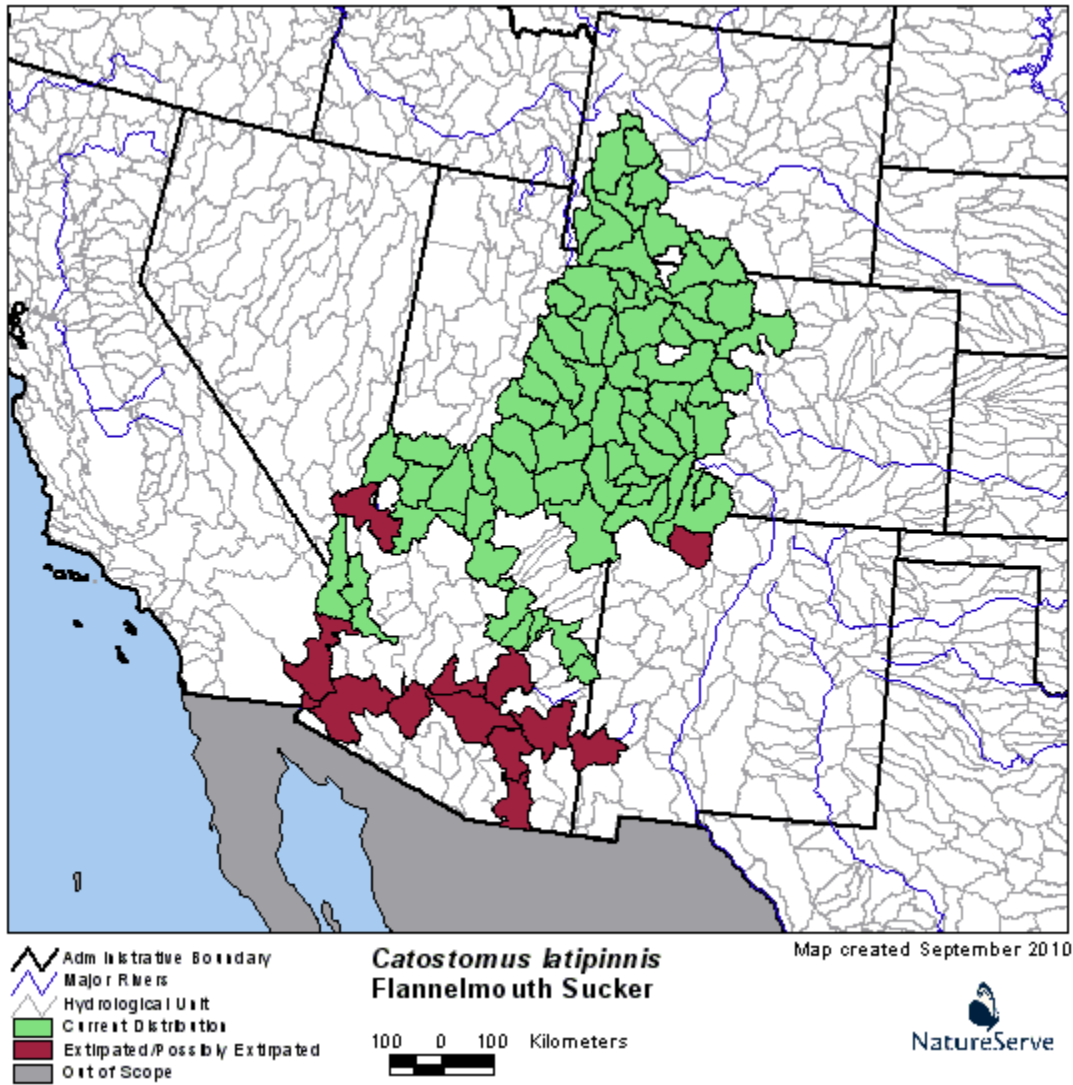
Yes ___ No ___

Provide explanation for determination

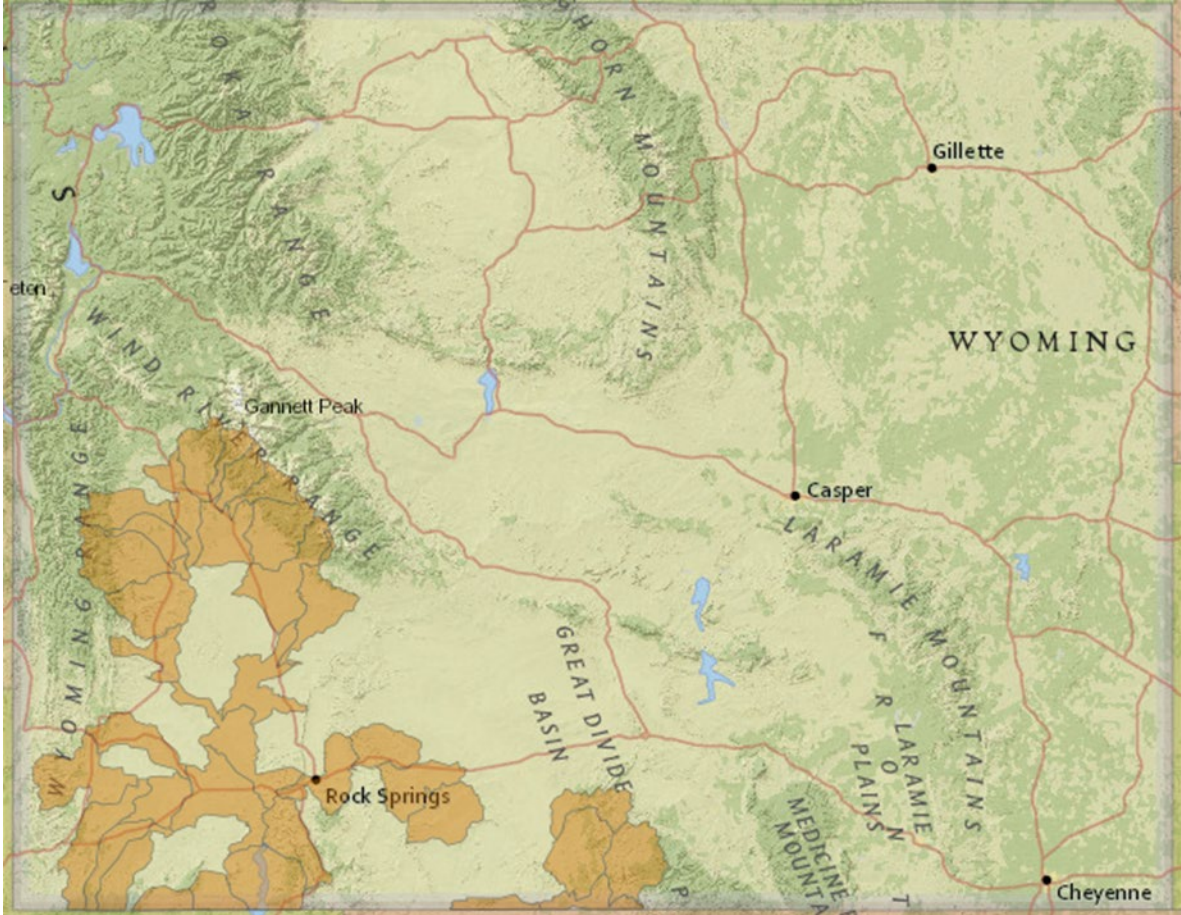
N/A – There are known occurrences on the Forest since 1990.

If determination is no, stop assessment

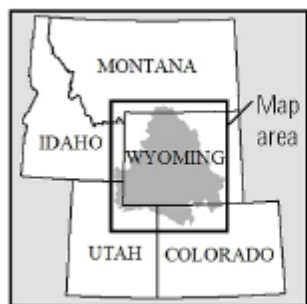
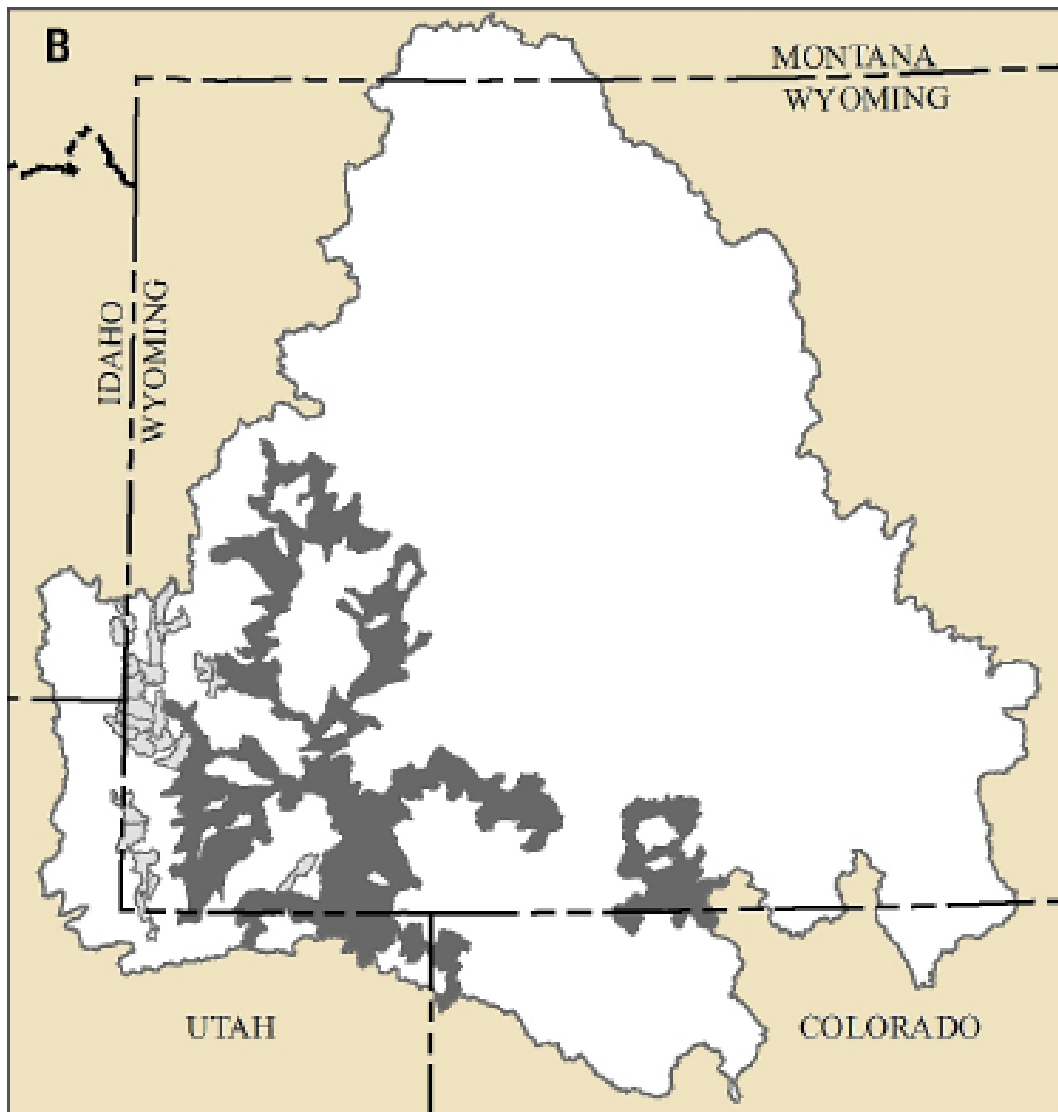
- d. **Map 1.** Range of Flannelmouth Sucker (*Catostomus latipinnis*) in western United States (NatureServe 2010).



Map 2. Range of Flannelmouth Sucker (*Catostomus latipinnis*) (WYNDD 2025).



Map 3, Baseline distribution of Flannelmouth Sucker derived from occurrence in sixth-level watershed, in the Wyoming Basin Rapid Ecoregional Assessment project area (~51,604.87 mi² in portions of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and Montana) (Walters et al. 2017).



Habitat
Absent
Present

3. Is There Substantial Concern for the Species' Capability to persist Over the Long-term in the Plan Area Based on Best Available Scientific Information?

Table 2. Status summary based on existing conservation assessments

Entity	Status/Rank (include definition)
NatureServe Global Status	<p>G3G4—Vulnerable – Apparently Secure</p> <p><i>At moderate risk of extinction due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors. – Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.</i></p>
NatureServe State Status	<p>S3—Vulnerable</p> <p><i>At moderate risk of extirpation in the jurisdiction due to a fairly restricted range, relatively few populations or occurrences, recent and widespread declines, threats, or other factors.</i></p>
WGFD	<p>SGCN, NSS1 (Aa), Tier #I</p> <p><u>Population Status:</u> <i>Imperiled - Population size or distribution is restricted or declining and extirpation is possible.</i></p> <p><u>Limiting Factors:</u> <i>Extreme - Limiting factors are severe and continue to increase in severity</i></p> <p><u>Tier I:</u> <i>High priority</i></p> <p><i>[The WGFD's Species of Greater Conservation Need (SGCN) designation process is based upon its Native Species Status (NSS) classification system that compares population and limiting factor variables using a 16 cell matrix. As a species moves from a placement closest to the upper left corner of the matrix (Aa/NSS1) toward the lower right corner (Dd/NSS7) the species' population status in Wyoming is considered more secure. Numerical scores were assigned to each of these variables and summed to provide a total score (i.e. NSS3). SGCN were placed into one of three tiers based on their total score: Tier I – highest priority, Tier II – moderate priority, and Tier III – lowest priority.]</i></p> <p>(WGFD, 2017 - Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need)</p>
WYNDD	<p>Species of Concern</p> <p><i>Species vulnerable to extirpation at the global or state level due to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. their rarity (e.g., restricted distribution, small population size, low population density)</i> <i>b. inherent vulnerability (e.g., specialized habitat requirements, restrictive life history)</i>

	<p><i>c. threats (e.g., significant loss of habitat, sensitivity to disturbances)</i></p> <p>(Wyoming Natural Diversity Database - Species of Concern)</p>
USDA Forest Service	<p>Region 2: Sensitive Species</p> <p><i>Those plant and animal species identified by a Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density.</i> <i>b. Significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.</i> <p>(FSM 2670.5 – Threatened, Endangered & Sensitive Species)</p>
USDOI FWS	Not Listed
USDOI BLM	<p>Sensitive (WY)</p> <p><i>1. Sensitive species must be native species found on BLM-administrated lands for which BLM has the capability to significantly affect the conservation status of the species through management, and either:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. There is information that a species has recently undergone, is undergoing, or is predicted to undergo a downward trend such that the viability of the species or a distinct population segment of the species is at risk across all or a significant portion of the species range, or</i> <i>b. The species depends on ecological refugia or specialized or unique habitats on BLM-administrated lands, and there is evidence that such areas are threatened with alteration such that the continued viability of the species in that area would be at risk.</i> <p><i>2. All federally designated candidate species, proposed species, and delisted species in the 5 years following their delisting shall be conserved as Bureau sensitive species</i></p> <p>(BLM Wyoming Sensitive Species Policy and List; March 31, 2010)</p>
IUCN	<p>Least Concern</p> <p>A taxon is Least Concern when it has been evaluated against the Red List criteria and does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, or Near Threatened.</p> <p>(IUCN 2024)</p>

Table 3. Status summary based on best available scientific information.

Criteria	Rationale
Distribution on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	Flannelmouth Suckers were once widespread throughout the Colorado River Basin; however, they currently occupy approximately 45% of their historic range in the Colorado River Basin and 50% in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Bezzarides and Bestgen 2002). Flannelmouth Suckers are now limited to the Upper Green River drainage in Wyoming. This species occurs in the Green River watershed on Pinedale Ranger District (WGFD 2025).
Abundance on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	Flannelmouth Suckers are thought to have been common to all parts of the Colorado River basin. Their relative abundance in the Green River tributaries is not well known, but they are now considered rare in Wyoming (UDNR 2006; WGFD 2017). Their numbers are greatly reduced, and extirpation from the state is possible (WGFD 2017).
Population Trend on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	Populations in the Green River drainage have declined since the 1960's due to impoundment in the mainstem Green River in Wyoming (Flaming Gorge, Fontenelle Reservoir) (UDNR 2006). Population trends on the BTNF, which are part of this drainage, have likely declined as well and probably continue to decline (NatureServe 2025).
Habitat Trend on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	<p>Flannelmouth Suckers primarily inhabit large rivers and are more common in lower drainages, but they also may be found in smaller streams and lakes and reservoirs. Their probability of occurrence is greatest in wide stream reaches with large pools, and within a given reach they tend to occur in the larger, deeper pools (Bower et al. 2008).</p> <p>The native fish community of the Green River basin in Wyoming may be the most imperiled in the state. Three of the twelve species and subspecies historically found in the basin have been extirpated. Aquatic habitat in the basin has largely been degraded by the introduction of invasive species, water development, and altered flow regimes (WGFD 2017).</p> <p>Priority subdrainages for the conservation of Wyoming's Three Species, including Flannelmouth Sucker include: Muddy Creek (tributary to the Little Snake River), Big Sandy River, Little Sandy Creek, Upper Bitter Creek, Henrys Fork and select Finger Lakes near Pinedale (WGFD 2017). Habitat restoration activities in these systems, such as nonnative removal, will help to improve conditions for native species (Walters et al. 2017; WGFD 2017).</p> <p>Additionally, the Rangewide Conservation Agreement for Roundtail Chub, Bluehead Sucker, and Flannelmouth Sucker may help to protect and enhance habitat to ensure the persistence of these species throughout their ranges (UDWR 2006).</p>

Criteria	Rationale
<p>Threats to the Species and its Habitat on the Bridger-Teton National Forest</p>	<p>The main threat to Flannelmouth Suckers in the Green River drainage in Wyoming is declining genetic purity due to introgression with nonnative Sucker species (WGFD 2017). Flannelmouth Suckers are hybridizing, as are the introduced white Sucker and the longnose and Utah Suckers, and at least some of the hybrid offspring are fertile. Both native and nonnative Suckers prefer similar habitats (large, low-gradient streams), and they do not segregate while spawning; consequently, hybridization is a common occurrence. Although there are still some genetically pure Flannelmouth Suckers in the Green River drainage, only one population, in Upper Bitter Creek, is isolated from nonnative Suckers. Many introduced fish species, such as brown trout and burbot, increase predation on and/or competition with Flannelmouth Suckers (Walters et al. 2017).</p> <p>Water development and reservoir construction also threaten this species by cutting off migratory corridors, degrading habitat, and promoting the spread of nonnative species. Drought likely exacerbates these effects (WGFD 2017). Changes in the hydrologic regimes and decreasing streamflow and water levels in stream habitats due to climate change is also a concern (Walters et al. 2017).</p>
<p>Date: 8/30/2019 Reviewer: L. Chipman</p>	

Summary and Recommendations

The Flannelmouth Sucker, *Catostomus latipinnis*, is distributed throughout Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona, and small parts of California and New Mexico. Although once common throughout the Colorado River Basin, they currently inhabit approximately 45% of their historic range in the Colorado River Basin and 50% in the Upper Colorado River Basin. They occupy wide streams with large pools and tend to be found in the deepest pools. Their habitat within the Bridger Teton National Forest is only found in the Upper Green River and Green River Lakes. The only known genetically pure and isolated population of this species is in Upper Bitter Creek. Threats to the species included altered flow regimes, dam construction, water diversions, drought, declining genetic purity by hybridization with non-native Suckers, trophic alteration by non-native Lake Trout, Brown Trout, and Kokanee. On the Bridger Teton, continued and/or increasing threats are hybridization with non-native Suckers, and trophic competition from Lake Trout, Brown Trout, and Kokanee. Based on its low abundance, limited distribution, inability to recolonize from other populations, hybridization concerns, fragmentation from altered flow regimes, and increasing trophic competition on the Bridger Teton National Forest, their capability to persist over the long term is unlikely and therefore recommended as a Species of Conservation Concern.

Summary and Recommendation Provided by: P.M. Barry (January 22, 2020), Edited by Masako Wright (June 24, 2025).

References

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WYNDD (Wyoming Natural Diversity Database). 2025. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database; Data Explorer. Laramie, WY: University of Wyoming.