SPECIES: Scientific [common]	*Pantosteus virescens* [Green Sucker] Recent taxonomic revisions to the Mountain Sucker clade have been adopted by the American Fisheries Society (Page et al. 2023) and by NatureServe (2025). Bluehead Sucker (formerly *Catostomus discobolus*) has recently been split into two species based on morphological and genetic evaluations: Bluehead Sucker (*Pantosteus discobolus*) and the newly recognized Green Sucker (*Pantosteus virescens*) (Page et al. 2023, Suchomel et al. 2024). **In this evaluation, the name *Catostomus discobolus* is used to reference data and information collected prior to taxonomic revisions and may encompass both *Pantosteus discobolus* and *Pantosteus virescens*.**
Forest:	Bridger-Teton National Forest
Forest Reviewer:	Patrick M. Barry, Masako Wright
Date of Review:	4/9/2025, 7/7/2025
Forest concurrence (or recommendation if new) for inclusion of species on list of potential SCC: (Enter Yes or No)	No

FOREST REVIEW RESULTS:

1. The Forest concurs or recommends the species for inclusion on the list of potential SCC:
   Yes__ No X

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. Known Occurrences, Years, and Frequency within the Planning Area in WYNDD 2019 and 2025.

Year Observed	Number of Individuals	Location of Observations (USFS District, Town, River, Road Intersection, HUC etc.)	Source of Information
1997	Unknown	Jackson Ranger District; Teton County, Bridger-Teton NF, just N of Camp Davis, along Willow Creek a tributary to Hoback River.	WYNDD 2019

1997	Unknown	Jackson Ranger District; Lincoln County, near border with Teton County along the Snake river.	WYNDD 2019
2003	2	Jackson Ranger District; Teton County Bridger-Teton NF, Gros Ventre River.	WYNDD 2025

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___ Unknown __

If no, provide explanation and stop assessment

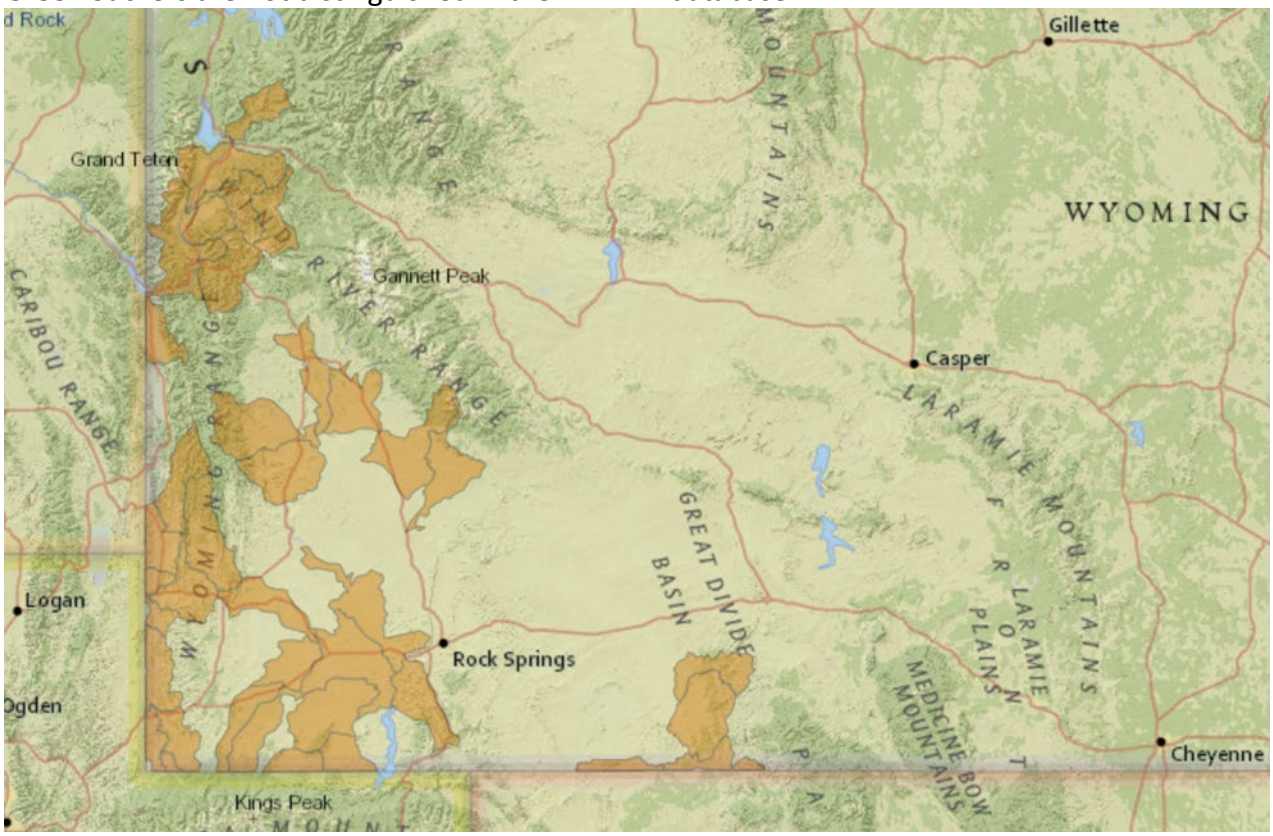
c. For species with known occurrences on the Forest predating 1990, does the weight of evidence suggest the species still occurs in the plan area?

Yes _ No___

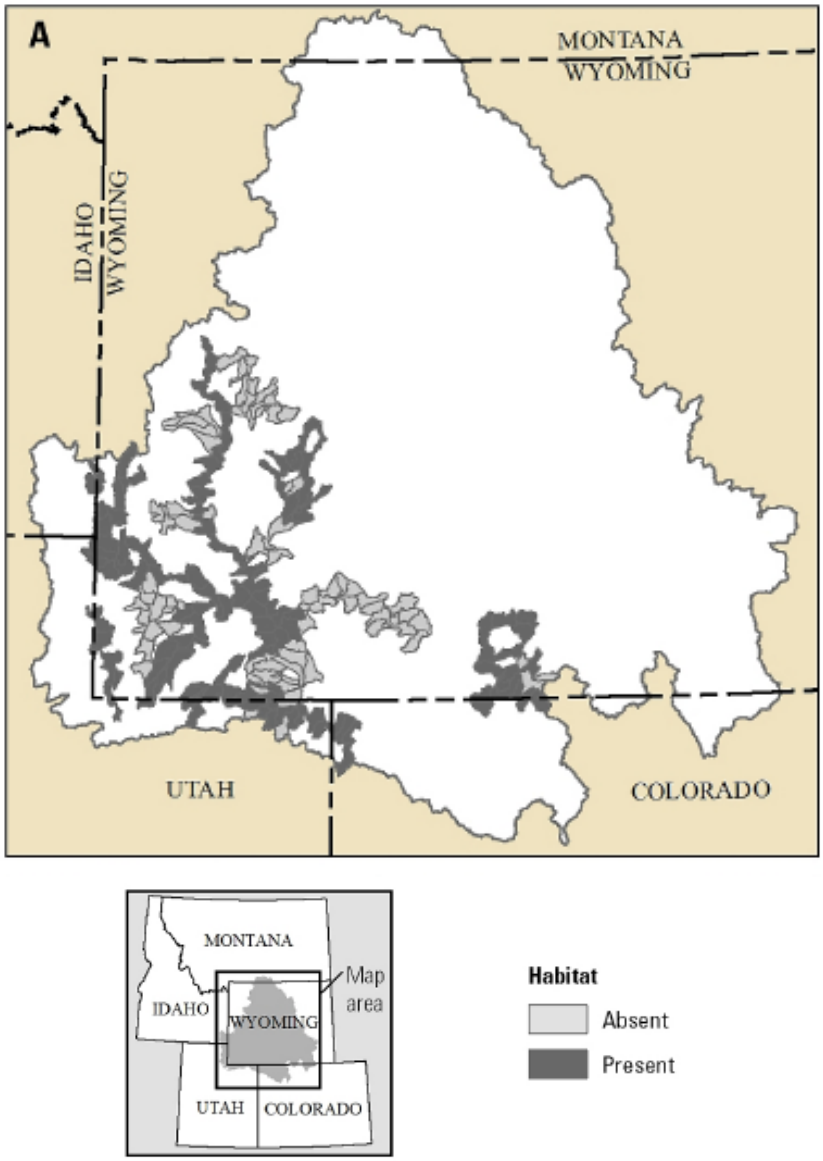
Provide explanation for determination
N/A-There are known occurrences on the Forest since 1990.

If determination is no, stop assessment

d. **Map 1**. Range of *Catostomus discobolus* in Wyoming (WYNDD 2025). Ranges for Bluehead and Green Suckers are not distinguished in the WYNDD database.



Map 2. Baseline distribution of *Catostomus discobolus* derived from occurrence in sixth-level watershed, in the Wyoming Basin Rapid Ecoregional Assessment project area (~51,604.87 mi^2 in portions of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and Montana) (Walters et al. 2017).



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	**GNR-Unranked — Global rank not yet assessed**
NatureServe State Status	**SNR- Unranked** — National or subnational conservation status not yet assessed. The State Wildlife Action Plan is in the process of being updated to reflect the taxonomic revisions for Bluehead and Green Suckers, and the Green Sucker will likely be classified similarly to *Catostomus discobolus* when the plan is revised (Suchomel et al. 2024).
WGFD	**SGCN, NSS1 (Aa), Tier #I (*Catostomus discobolus*)** *Population Status: Imperiled - Greatly restricted in numbers and distribution and extirpation is possible.* *Limiting Factors: Extreme - Limiting factors are severe and continue to increase in severity* *Tier I: High priority* *[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.]* (WGFD, 2017 - Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need)
WYNDD	**Species of Concern** *Species vulnerable to extirpation at the global or state level due to:* *a. their rarity (e.g., restricted distribution, small population size, low population density)* *b. inherent vulnerability (e.g., specialized habitat requirements, restrictive life history)* *c. threats (e.g., significant loss of habitat, sensitivity to disturbances)* (Wyoming Natural Diversity Database - Species of Concern)
USDA Forest Service	**Region 2: Sensitive Species**

	Those plant and animal species identified by a Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by *a. Significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density.* *b. Significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.* (FSM 2670.5 – Threatened, Endangered & Sensitive Species)
USDOI FWS	Not listed
USDOI BLM	**Sensitive (WY)** *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:* *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* *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.* *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* (BLM Wyoming Sensitive Species Policy and List; March 31, 2010)
IUCN	**Least concern** 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. (IUCN 2024)

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

Criteria	Rationale
Distribution on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	The Green Sucker, *Pantosteus virescens*, is distributed throughout Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. The BTNF supports populations of Green Sucker in the Snake River and Bear River drainages (Suchomel et al. 2024, Unmack et al. 2014). There have been numerous observations of Green Sucker in the plan area, including the Snake River, Hoback River, and Gros Ventre River. Both the Snake River and the Gros Ventre have populations of the species that utilize habitats on the BTNF year-round. Many other streams within the BTNF are utilized seasonally by Green Sucker (WGFD 2025).
Abundance on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	The Wyoming State Wildlife Action Plan reports *Catostomus discobolus* as extremely rare, warranting status as a species of greatest conservation need (**Table 2**; WGFD 2017). Green Suckers (*Pantosteus virescens*) are relatively common in Snake River, Ditch Creek, Buffalo Fork River, and Blackrock Creek and are rare in other drainages in the Plan Area (WGFD 2025).
Population Trend on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	Ages of *Catostomus discobolus* in the Snake River ranged from 4 to 24 years (determined via pectoral fin ray cross section), indicating that reproduction is occurring (WGFD 2012). Population trends of Green Sucker are uncertain since the species has only recently been recognized.
Habitat Trend on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	*Catostomus discobolus* inhabits the mainstem and tributaries of large rivers. Large adults are associated with deep pools, undercut banks, moderate to fast current velocities, and rocky substrates (WGFD 2017). Aquatic conservation priority areas in the Snake/Salt River Basin include the mainstem Snake and Salt River corridors, spring streams tributary to these rivers, the lower reaches of Pacific Creek, and Snake and Salt River tributaries that sustain *Catostomus discobolus*. These represent priority areas for conservation activities during the term of the State Wildlife Action Plan (WGFD 2017). Several activities have reduced habitat quality on the Snake/Salt River Basin. Land ownership on the Snake/Salt River Basin is predominantly public with only 8% privately owned. However, the developed areas in the Salt River severely fragment the watershed and limit fish movement, mainly through stream dewatering. Residential development throughout the Snake River, Flat Creek and Salt River valleys are directly influencing groundwater levels, water quality, and important spring streams. Additionally, flow regimes, instream habitat, and riparian function in the basin have been altered from the combined effects of Jackson Lake Dam and the levee system (WDGF 2017). In response to this negative habitat trend, various habitat management projects have been completed to improve aquatic habitat in the Snake/Salt Basin. These include several efforts to improve the structure and function of stream segments and watershed features that benefit aquatic SGCN and removing fish passage obstacles. Of note,

Criteria	Rationale
	the removal of a barrier on Spread Creek, a tributary to the Snake River, improved access to over 45 miles of stream for *Catostomus discobolus* (WGFD 2017). Additionally, the Range-wide 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 (UDNR 2006).
Threats to the Species and its Habitat on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	Hybridization with native and nonnative sucker species poses the risk to Sucker populations in Wyoming. A White Sucker was found in the Snake River in 2009 (verified in 2010) (WGFD 2010); however, no issues of hybridization have been reported in Green Sucker. Introduction of non-native species (i.e., *Catostomus* sp., creek chub *Semotilus atromaculatus*, redside shiner *Richardsonius balteatus*, burbot *Lota lota*, brown trout *Salmo trutta*, and lake trout *Salvelinus namaycush* also threatens the species by increasing predation on and competition with bluehead suckers (Ptacek et al. 2005; WGFD 2017). Other primary threats to Green Suckers are habitat degradation, fragmentation, and changes in flow regimes due to water diversions, passage barriers (e.g., diversion dams and reservoirs), channelization, and development of riparian zones that reduces the natural function of the stream ecosystem (Ptacek et al. 2005).
Date: Aug 30, 2019 Reviewer: L. Chipman	

Summary and Recommendations

Recent taxonomic revisions to the Mountain Sucker clade have been adopted by the American Fisheries Society (Page et al. 2023) and by NatureServe (2025). Bluehead Sucker (formerly *Catostomus discobolus*) has recently been split into two species based on morphological and genetic evaluations: Bluehead Sucker (*Pantosteus discobolus*) and the newly recognized Green Sucker (*Pantosteus virescens*) (Clancy 2024, Page et al. 2023, Suchomel et al. 2024). National or subnational conservation status not yet assessed. The BTNF supports populations of Green Sucker in the Snake River and Bear River drainages (Suchomel et al. 2024). There have been numerous observations of Green Sucker in the plan area, including in the Snake River, Hoback River, and Gros Ventre River. Both the Snake River and the Gros Ventre have populations of the species that utilize habitats on the BTNF year-round. Many other streams within the BTNF are utilized seasonally by Green Sucker. Population trends of Green Sucker are uncertain since the species has only recently been recognized.

Hybridization with native and nonnative sucker species poses the risk to this species, but potentially genetically isolated populations are widely distributed, maintaining a high degree of genetic and phenotypic variation across the plan area. In addition, habitat for the species is likely stable or improving (WGFD 2017). Therefore, it is recommended that Green Sucker is not a Species of Conservation Concern for the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Summary and Recommendation Provided by: P.M. Barry (January 22, 2020) and revised by Masako Wright (June 17, 2025).

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