

Common Shiner (*Luxilus cornutus*)

Status: NSS3; NatureServe G5 S3S4

Abundance: Common

Introduction: The common shiner is a silvery, deep bodied minnow with a terminal mouth. No barbel is present. The adult size is 3 to 5 inches and the maximum length is 7 inches. The common shiner spawns in early summer when water temperatures reach about 65 degrees F. The fish makes a shallow nest in the gravel to lay its eggs in, or it may use the nest of creek chubs or hornyhead chubs. Adults and juveniles feed on aquatic and terrestrial insects along with lesser quantities of fish, small crustaceans and plant material.

Habitat: The common shiner can be found in clear streams with gravel bottoms but may also occur in small lakes. Adults are generalists and can be found in a variety of habitats but they often occur in clear tributaries to mainstem rivers. These streams may be reduced to isolated pools by mid-summer. In Wyoming, it occurs in tributaries of the North and South Platte rivers.

Problems:

It is considered to be widespread, abundant, and globally secure, but it is of special concern in Nebraska and Wyoming and is threatened in Colorado. In Wyoming the population trend of the common shiner is believed to be declining on subdrainage, stream, and site scales. Reasons for these declines have yet to be specifically identified.

Conservation Actions:

- A better understanding of the habitat and flow requirements of this species is needed to assess the impacts of water and land use activities.
- Monitoring protocols and sites should be identified and routinely sampled.
- Surveys are needed to provide baseline data and monitor distribution and population trends. These data may be used to identify specific threats and identify management needs and priorities.

References and Additional Reading:

Baxter, G.T., and M.D. Stone. 1995. Fishes of Wyoming. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne. 290pp.

Forbes, S.A., and R.E. Richardson. 1920. The fishes of Illinois. Nat. Hist. Surv. Ill., 3:1-358.

Raney, E.C. 1940. The breeding habits of the common shiner, *Notropis cornutus* (Mitchill). Zoologica 25:1-14.

Weitzel, D. L., 2002. Conservation and Status Assessment for the Common Shiner (*Luxilus cornutus*), Bigmouth Shiner (*Notropis dorsalis*), Central Stoneroller (*Campostoma anomalum*) and Red Shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*): Common native minnows of the Platte and Niobrara River drainages, Wyoming.

Common Shiner Distribution

