Goldeye *(Hiodon alosoides)* **Status: NSS2; NatureServe G5 S2**

Abundance: Uncommon

Introduction: The goldeye is similar in appearance to the mooneye except for its characteristic yellow eyes. Adults up to 16 inches are found but 10 inches is more typical. Goldeye are known to eat snails, cladocerans, insect larvae, earthworms, fish, mice and frogs. They tend to be surface feeders that feed mostly at twilight or after dark. Spawning occurs in late spring, and the eggs float in open water.

Habitat: In Wyoming, the goldeye can be found in the Powder, Little Powder and Little Missouri rivers and in Clear and Crazy Woman creeks. It prefers large rivers and their associated backwaters and marshes, or the shallow waters of large lakes and reservoirs. Its large eye allows the fish to live in very turbid waters. Young goldeye have never been found in Wyoming, it's thought that populations in the northeastern part of the state are maintained by the migration of adult fish seeking spawning grounds.

Problems: The goldeye is considered to be widespread, abundant, and secure across its range. In Wyoming the goldeye was once quite common in the North Platte, Big Horn, Little Missouri and Powder rivers. It is now found in the latter two. Habitat conditions are declining. Dewatering and habitat degradation are the most serious threats to the goldeye. Ironically changes in water and land management that would increase water clarity could result in greater predation and jeopardy to the goldeye. Conversely, water uses that can cause intermittency in tributary streams are a problem.

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.
- Investigate spawning habitats and early life history habitat requirements in their undisturbed range of the Powder River. It is unknown if water quality changes associated with coal bed methane development will affect spawning, incubation or survival of shovelnose sturgeon eggs or larvae.
- A better understanding of the basic biology, life history and ecology is needed.
- 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:

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