

DEVILS RIVER MINNOW FACT SHEET
September 2005



Devils River minnow photo by Garold W. Sneegas, used with permission.

STATUS: Threatened (64 Federal Register 56596-56609, October 20, 1999) without critical habitat.

DESCRIPTION:

The Devils River minnow (*Dionda diaboli*) is a small fish, with adults reaching 25-55 mm (1.0-2.2 in.) standard length. The fish has a wedge-shaped caudal spot (near the tail), and a pronounced lateral stripe extending through the eye to the snout. On the sides, the lateral-line is marked with two parallel rows of "dashes." It has a narrow head and prominent dark markings on the scale pockets above the lateral line, producing a crosshatched appearance when viewed from above (Hubbs and Brown 1956).

HABITAT: The Devils River minnow is found in spring-fed streams of fast-flowing waters over gravel substrates, often associated with emergent aquatic vegetation (Garrett et. al 1992).

KNOWN PRESENCE: It is known to occur in three streams in Val Verde and Kinney counties, Texas, all tributaries to the Rio Grande: Devils River, San Felipe Creek and Pinto Creek. The current status of the species in Sycamore Creek, Texas, and in the Río Salado drainage in northern Mexico is not known. The species is believed to be extirpated from the upper (dried) and lower portions of the Devils River (now Amistad Reservoir in Val Verde County), Las Moras Creek (Kinney County), and from the Río San Carlos (Mexico).

THREATS AND/OR REASONS FOR DECLINE: The primary threats to the species include habitat loss and degradation (water quantity and quality) and impacts from non-native species. Devils River minnow depends on constant, clean, flowing spring waters. Spring flows are under significant threat of failure when groundwater levels decline, particularly in drought-prone areas like west Texas (Brune 1981). Threats to stream ecosystems from pollution and introduction of non-native species also put Devils River minnow at risk.

REFERENCES:

- Brune, G. 1981. Major and historical springs of Texas. Texas Water Development Board, Report 189. 94 pp.
- Garrett, G.P., R.J. Edwards, and A.H. Price. 1992. Distribution and status of the Devils River minnow, *Dionda diaboli*. The Southwestern Naturalist 37:259-267.
- Hubbs, C. and W.H. Brown. 1956. *Dionda diaboli* (Cyprinidae), a new minnow from Texas. The Southwestern Naturalist 1:69-77.