

# Gila County

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS	DESCRIPTION	COUNTY	ELEVATION	HABITAT	COMMENTS
Apache (Arizona) trout	<i>Oncorhynchus gilae apache</i>	Threatened	Yellowish to yellow-olive cutthroat-like trout with large dark spots on body. Dorsal, anal, and caudal fins edged with white. No red lateral band.	Apache, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Navajo	> 5,000 ft	Streams and rivers generally above 6,000 ft. elevation with adequate stream flow and shading; temperatures below 77 degrees F; and substrate composed of boulders, rocks, gravel and some sand and silt.	Presently restricted to drainages in the White Mountains. Hybridization with introduced trout has complicated efforts to maintain the genetic purity of some populations. Special regulations (4d Rule) allow Arizona to manage species as a spor fish.
Arizona hedgehog	<i>Echinocereus triglochidiatus var. arizonicus</i>	Endangered	Dark green cylindroid stem, 2.5-12 inches tall, 2-10 inches in diameter. Occurs singly or in clusters. Has 1-3 gray or pinkish central spines, the largest deflexed, and 5-11 radial spines. Flower are brilliant red along side of stem	Gila, Pinal	3,200-5,200 ft	Ecotone between interior chaparral and madrean evergreen woodland.	Open slopes, in narrow cracks between boulders, and in understory of shrubs. Additional genetic studies have determined that the species does not occur outside of the type locality.
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Threatened	Large, adults have white head and tail. Height 28-38 inches; wingspan 66-96 inches. Dark with varying degrees of mottled brown plumage. Feet bare of feathers.	Gila, Graham, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Pinal, Yavapai, Yuma	Varies	Large trees or cliffs near water (reservoirs, rivers, and streams) with abundant prey.	Some birds are nesting residents while a larger number winters along rivers and reservoirs. Once endangered (32 FR 4001, 03-11-1967; 43 FR 6233, 02-14-78) because of reproductive failures from pesticide poisoning and loss of habitat, this species was downlisted to threatened on August 11, 1995, and delisted August 8, 2007. Threatened status reinstated for Desert nesting bald eagles.
Chiricahua leopard frog	<i>Lithobates [Rana] chiricahuensis</i>	Threatened	Cream colored tubercles (spots) on a dark background on the rear of the thigh, dorsolateral folds that are interrupted and deflected medially, and a call given out of water distinguish this spotted frog from other leopard frogs.	Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Navajo, Pima, Santa Cruz, Yavapai	3,300-8,900 ft	Streams, rivers, backwaters, ponds, and stock tanks that are mostly free from introduced fish, crayfish, and bullfrogs.	Require permanent or nearly permanent water sources. Populations north of the Gila River may be a closely-related, but distinct, undescribed species. A special rule allows take of frogs due to operation and maintenance of livestock tanks on State and private lands.

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Colorado pikeminnow	<i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>	Endangered	Largest American minnow (up to 6 feet and 80 lbs) dusky-green, slender body with gold flecks on the dorsal surface. Head long and slender.	Gila, Yavapai	< 4,000 ft	Warm, swift, turbid mainstem rivers. Prefers eddies and pools.	Experimental non-essential population (treated as proposed threatened species). No critical habitat in Arizona.
Gila chub	<i>Gila intermedia</i>	Endangered	Deep compressed body, flat head. Dark olive-gray color above, silver sides. Endemic to Gila River Basin.	Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai	2,000-5,500 ft	Pools, springs, cienegas, and streams.	Found on multiple private lands, including the Nature Conservancy and the Audubon Society. Also occurs on Federal and state lands and in Sonora, Mexico. Critical habitat occurs in Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yavapai counties.
Gila topminnow	<i>Poeciliopsis occidentalis occidentalis</i>	Endangered	Small (2 inches), guppy-like, live bearing, lacks dark spots on its fins. Breeding males are jet black with yellow fins.	Cochise, Gila, Graham, Maricopa, Pima, Santa Cruz, Yavapai	< 4,500 ft	Small streams, springs, and cienegas vegetated shallows.	Species historically also occurred in backwaters of large rivers but is currently isolated to small streams and springs.
Lesser long-nosed bat	<i>Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuena</i>	Endangered	Elongated muzzle, small leaf nose, and long tongue. Yellowish brown or gray above and cinnamon brown below. Tail minute and appears to be lacking. Easily disturbed.	Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal, Maricopa, Santa Cruz, Yuma	1,600-11,500 ft	Desert scrub habitat with agave and columnar cacti present as food plants.	Day roosts in caves and abandoned tunnels. Forages at night on nectar, pollen and fruit of paniculate agaves and columnar cacti. This species is migratory and is present in Arizona usually from April to September and south of the border the remainder of the year.

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Loach minnow	<i>Tiaroga cobitis</i>	Threatened	Small (<3 inches) slender, elongated fish, olive colored with dirty white spots at the base of the dorsal and caudal fins. Breeding males vivid red on mouth and base of fins.	Apache, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pinal, Navajo, Gila	< 8,000 ft	Benthic species of small to large perennial streams with swift shallow water over cobble and gravel. Recurrent flooding and natural hydrograph important.	Presently found in Aravaipa Creek, Deer Creek, Turkey Creek, Blue River, Campbel Blue Creek, San Francisco River, Eagle Creek, North Fork of the East Fork Black River, and White River in Arizona, and Dry Blue Creek, Pace Creek, Frieborn Creek, the Tularosa River, West Fork Gila River, and the mainstem upper Gila River in New Mexico. Populations have been recently reintroduced in Hot Springs and Redfield canyons in Cochise and Graham counties; Fossil Creek in Gila County; and Bonita Creek in Graham County Arizona. Critical habitat (72 FR 13356-13422, March 21, 2007) found in Apache, Graham, Greenlee and Pinal counties, Arizona, as well as portions of the Blue River, San Francisco River, Tularosa River, Negrito Creek, Pace Creek, Dry Blue Creek, Frieborn Creek, Whitewater Creek, Gila River, and its West, Middle, and East Forks in Catron, Grant, and Hidalgo counties in New Mexico
Mexican gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus baileyi</i>	Endangered	Large dog-like carnivore. Head and feet are large in proportion to rest of body. Coat color varies with mix of brown, rust, black, gray, and white. Distinct white lip line around mouth. Adults weigh between 60-90 pounds.	Apache, Gila, Greenlee, Navajo	4,000-12,000 ft	Chaparral, woodland, and forested areas. May cross desert areas.	In March 1998, Mexican gray wolves were reintroduced as an experimental nonessential (10j) population under a program to re-establish the subspecies to a portion of its historical range. Wolves are released within the experimental boundary into a designated area known as the "Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area" (BRWRA) located in the Apache National Forest in Greenlee and Apache counties. Mexican gray wolves found outside of the experimental nonessential boundary are considered endangered. In 2002, the White Mountain Apache tribe (WMAT) became one of the lead agencies for the reintroduction and allowed wolves on their lands. This effectively expanded the experimental nonessential population into Navajo, Apache, and Gila counties on WMAT lands.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS	DESCRIPTION	COUNTY	ELEVATION	HABITAT	COMMENTS
Mexican spotted owl	<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	Threatened	Medium sized with dark eyes and no ear tufts. Brownish and heavily spotted with white or beige.	Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai	4,100-9,000 ft	Nests in canyons and dense forests with multi-layered foliage structure.	Generally nest in older forests of mixed conifer or ponderosa pine/gambel oak type in canyons, and use variety of habitats for foraging. Sites with cool microclimates appear to be of importance or are preferred. Critical habitat was finalized on August 31, 2004 (69 FR 53182) in Arizona in Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Maricopa, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yavapai counties.
Razorback sucker	<i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	Endangered	Large, up to 3 feet long and up to 6 lbs, high sharp-edged keel-like hump behind the head. Head flattened on top. Olive-brown above to yellowish below.	Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Pinal, Yavapai, Yuma	< 6,000 ft	Riverine and lacustrine areas, generally not in fast moving water and may use backwaters.	Big River fish also found in Horseshoe reservoir (Maricopa County). Critical habitat includes the 100-year floodplain of the river through the Grand Canyon from confluence with Paria River to Hoover Dam Hoover Dam to Davis Dam; Parker Dam to Imperial Dam. Also Gila River from Arizona/New Mexico border to Coolidge Dam; and Salt River from Hwy 60/SR77 Bridge to Roosevelt Dam; Verde River from FS boundary to Horseshoe Lake.
Southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Endangered	Small passerine (about 6 inches) grayish-green back and wings, whitish throat, light olive-gray breast and pale yellowish belly. Two wingbars visible. Eye-ring faint or absent.	Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai, Yuma	< 8,500 ft	Cottonwood/willow and tamarisk vegetation communities along rivers and streams.	Migratory riparian-obligate species that occupies breeding habitat from late April to September. Distribution within its range is restricted to riparian corridors. Difficult to distinguish from other members of the Empidonax complex by sight alone. Training seminar required for those conducting flycatcher surveys. Critical habitat was finalized on October 19, 2005 (50 CFR 60886). In Arizona there are critical habitat segments in Apache, Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Pinal, and Yavapai counties.

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Spikedace	<i>Meda fulgida</i>	Threatened	Small (<3 inches) slim fish with silvery sides and "spine" on dorsal fin. Breeding males are a brassy golden color.	Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Gila, Navajo, Pinal, Yavapai	< 6,000 ft	Medium to large perennial streams with moderate to swift velocity waters over cobble and gravel substrate. Recurrent flooding and natural hydrograph important to withstand invading exotic species.	Presently found in Aravaipa Creek, Eagle Creek, Verde River, and the Gila River from the San Pedro River to Ashurst-Hayden Dam in Arizona, and the Gila River and its East and West Forks in New Mexico. Populations have been recently reintroduced in Hot Springs and Redfield canyons in Cochise and Graham counties; Fossil Creek in Gila County; and Bonita Creek in Graham County Arizona. Critical habitat (72 FR 13356-13422, March 21, 2007) in Graham, Greenlee, Pinal, and Yavapai counties in Arizona, and in Catron Grant, and Hidalgo counties in New Mexico.
Yuma clapper rail	<i>Rallus longirostris yumanensis</i>	Endangered	Water bird with long legs and short tail. Long, slender decurved bill. Mottled brown or gray on its rump. Flanks and undersides are dark gray with narrow vertical stripes producing a barring effect.	Gila, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Pinal, Yuma	< 4,500 ft	Fresh water and brackish marshes.	Species is associated with dense emergent riparian vegetation. Requires wet substrate (mudflat, sandbar) with dense herbaceous or woody vegetation for nesting and foraging. Channelization and marsh destruction are primary sources of habitat loss.
Headwater chub	<i>Gila nigra</i>	Candidate	Streamlined, dark gray to brown fish, often with longitudinal stripes on the sides. Adults reach a maximum size of about 12 inches.	Yavapai, Gila, Graham	3,000-6,700 ft	Medium-sized streams in large, deep pools often associated with cover such as undercut banks or deep places created by trees or rocks.	Occurs in the East Verde River and tributaries, Fossil Creek, Wet Bottom Creek, Deadman Creek, Tonto Creek and tributaries, San Carlos River, Ash Creek, and the upper Gila River in New Mexico. Statewide Conservation Agreement with Arizona Game and Fish was signed on December 2003.
Northern Mexican Gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis eques megalops</i>	Candidate	Background color ranges from olive, olive-brown, to olive-gray. Body has three yellow or light colored stripes running down the length of the body, darker towards tail. Species distinguished from other native gartersnakes by the lateral stripes reaching the 3rd and 4th scale rows. Paired black spots extend along dorsolateral fields.	Apache, Coconino, Cochise, Gila, Graham, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Yavapai	130-8,500 ft	Cienegas, stock tanks, large-river riparian woodlands and forests, streamside gallery forests.	Core population areas in the U.S. include mid/upper Verde River drainage, mid/lower Tonto Creek, and the San Rafael Valley and surrounding area. Status on tribal lands unknown. Distributed south into Mexico along the Sierra Madre Occidental and Mexican Plateau. Strongly associated with the presence of a native prey base including leopard frogs and native fish.

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Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Candidate	Medium-sized bird with a slender, long-tailed profile, slightly down-curved bill that is blue-black with yellow on the lower half. Plumage is grayish-brown above and white below, with rufous primary flight feathers.	Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai, Yuma	< 6,500 ft	Large blocks of riparian woodlands (cottonwood, willow, or tamarisk galleries).	Neotropical migrant that winters primarily in South America and breeds primarily in the U.S. (but also in southern Canada and northern Mexico). As a migrant it is rarely detected; can occur outside of riparian areas. Cuckoos are found nesting statewide, mostly below 5,000 feet in central, western, and southeastern Arizona. Concern for cuckoos are primarily focused upon alterations to its nesting and foraging habitat. Nesting cuckoos are associated with relatively dense, wooded, streamside riparian habitat, with varying combinations of Fremont cottonwood, willow, velvet ash, Arizona walnut, mesquite, and tamarisk. Some cuckoos have also been detected nesting in velvet mesquite, netleaf hackberry, Arizona sycamore, Arizona alder, and some exotic neighborhood shade trees.
Arizona bugbane	<i>Cimicifuga arizonica</i>	Conservation Agreement	Herbaceous perennial plant in the buttercup family, grows 6-7 feet tall. Small, white petal-less flowers appear between July-August. Fruit is a follicle that splits open on one side as it dries.	Coconino, Gila	5,300-8,300 ft	Areas of deep shade and moist, loamy soils with high humus content, and high humidity; typically along the bottoms and lower slopes of steep narrow canyons.	Occurs within mixed conifer and high elevation riparian deciduous forests near perennial or intermittent streams or seeps. All known populations are found in the Coconino, Kaibab, and Tonto National Forests. A Conservation Agreement was signed in June 1999.
American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	Delisted	A crow-sized falcon with slate blue-gray on the back and wings, and white on the underside; a black head with vertical "bandit's mask" pattern over the eyes; long pointed wings; and a long wailing call made during breeding. Very adept flyers and hunters, reaching diving speeds of 200 mph.	Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai, Yuma	3,500-9,000 ft	Areas with rocky, steep cliffs, primarily near water, where prey (primarily shorebirds, songbirds, and waterfowl) concentrations are high. Nests are found on ledges of cliffs, and sometimes on man-made structures such as office towers and bridge abutments.	Species recovered with over 1,650 breeding birds in the US and Canada.

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Arizona agave	<i>Agave arizonica</i>	Delisted	Member of the agave family. Has rosettes of bright green leaves, 17-24cm long and 2-4cm wide, broadest in the middle. Flowers are small, pale yellow, and jar shaped.	Gila, Maricopa, Yavapai	3,600-5,800 ft	Occurs on open slopes in chaparral or juniper grasslands. Prefers shallow, cobbled, and gravelly soils on steep slopes.	Arizona agave is a hybrid produced by a crossing of two other common agave species ( <i>A. chrysantha</i> x <i>A. toumeyana</i> ssp. <i>toumeyana</i> ).