



# FISHES OF NEVADA



State of Nevada

Department of Wildlife

STATE OF NEVADA  
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COVER PHOTOS: Lahontan cutthroat trout from *Gance Creek—Patrick Coffin.*  
Warm Springs pupfish— *Nevada Department of Wildlife.*

# NEVADA NATIVE FISH PROGRAM

The Nevada Department of Wildlife is required by statutory regulation and Commission policy to preserve, protect, manage, and restore wildlife within the state which contributes to the aesthetic, recreational, and economic values of the state. It is the policy of the Commission to maintain all species and enhance the status of the states wildlife resource for their intrinsic and ecological values as well as their direct benefit to man.

Nevada has many relict river systems and closed basins which have distinctive aquatic life. The sensitive nature of the desert ecosystem and scarcity of water have placed many aquatic species in Nevada in jeopardy of extinction. Isolated springs and disjunct stream sections are historic habitat for many species. Eleven fishes representing five genera are currently considered extinct.

Currently in Nevada there are 61 native fish species and subspecies including 11 classified as endangered, one as threatened, 20 as state sensitive, seven as game fish, and 16 as unprotected. An additional 27 introduced game fish and 20 nongame fish occur within the state at the current time. The introduced species have frequently been placed in a water with little regard to the potential impacts upon the native aquatic life within the system. These introduced species are generally better competitors than the native aquatic life species. The protected endemic fish species in Nevada have been detrimentally influenced by habitat changes, restricted native ranges, population declines from competition or predation, and decreases in available water habitat.

The present life history and status of many of these species and subspecies is unknown and little information exists on habitat conditions which would assure their survival. Management of the native fish species is required to perpetuate their existence. The State of Nevada through the Department of Wildlife is obligated to maintain these species for study in various scientific disciplines and enjoyment by the general public.

Nevada also has a broad amphibian, crustacean, and mollusk community which is inadequately understood. Many amphibians, crustaceans and mollusks have been indiscriminately introduced into state waters without concern for protection of native species.

All taxonomic nomenclature is taken from "A List of Common and Scientific Names of Fishes," American Fisheries Society Special Publication No. 12. Fourth Edition, 1980. "Fishes and Fisheries in Nevada," La Rivers, 1962 provided historic baseline information for this reference.

## STATE EXTINCT SPECIES

### Fishes known or suspected of being extinct in Nevada.

Humpback Chub  
Ash Meadows Killifish  
Pahrump Ranch Pahrump Killifish  
Raycraft Ranch Pahrump Killifish  
Lahontan Cutthroat Trout  
(Pyramid Lake race)  
Pyramid Lake Rainbow  
Tahoe Rainbow  
King Salmon\*  
Pahrnanagat Desert Sucker  
Pahrnanagat Spinedace  
Independence Valley Chub  
Grass Valley Speckled Dace

*Gila cypha*  
*Empetrichthys merriami*  
*Empetrichthys latos pahrump*  
*Empetrichthys latos concavus*

*Salmo clarki henshawi*  
*Salmo gairdneri smaragdus*  
*Salmo gairdneri regalis*  
*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*  
*Cat ostomus clarki intermedius*  
*Lepidomeda alt ivelisi*  
*Gila bicolor isolata*  
*Rhinichthys osculus religuus*

\*Historically present in Nevada, but now only present in other portions of its historic range outside Nevada.

# PROTECTED FISH SPECIES FOR NEVADA

## FEDERAL AND STATE ENDANGERED SPECIES

A species or subspecies is endangered if it is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

	Map Location
Cui-ui.....	<i>Chasmistes cujus</i> ..... 1
Moapa Dace.....	<i>Moapa coriacea</i> ..... 2
Pahrnagat Roundtail Chub.....	<i>Gila robusta jordani</i> ..... 3
Colorado Bonytail Chub.....	<i>Gila elegans</i> ..... 4
Pahrump Killifish.....	<i>Empetrichthys labs labs</i> ..... 5
Ash Meadows Pupfish.....	<i>Cyprinodon nevadensis mionectes</i> ..... 6
Devil's Hole Pupfish.....	<i>Cyprinodon diabolis</i> ..... 7
Warm Spring Pupfish.....	<i>Cyprinodon nevadensis pectoralis</i> ..... 8
Colorado Squawfish.....	<i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i> ..... 9
Woundfin.....	<i>Plagopterus argentissimus</i> ..... 10
Amargosa (Ash Meadows) Speckled Dace.....	<i>Rhinichthys osculus nevadensis</i> ..... 11

## STATE PROTECTED SPECIES

	Map Location
Desert (Soldier Meadows) Dace.....	<i>Eremichthys acros</i> ..... 12
Big Spring Spinedace.....	<i>Lepidomeda mollispinis pratensis</i> ..... 13
Virgin River Spinedace.....	<i>Lepidomeda mollispinis mollispinis</i> ..... 14
White River Spinedace.....	<i>Lepidomeda albivallis</i> ..... 15
Razorback Sucker.....	<i>Xyrauchen texanus</i> ..... 16
White River Desert Sucker.....	<i>Catostomus clarki intermedius</i> ..... 17
White River Springfish.....	<i>Crenichthys baileyi ssp</i> ..... 18
Railroad Valley Springfish.....	<i>Crenichthys nevadae</i> ..... 19

## FEDERAL THREATENED SPECIES

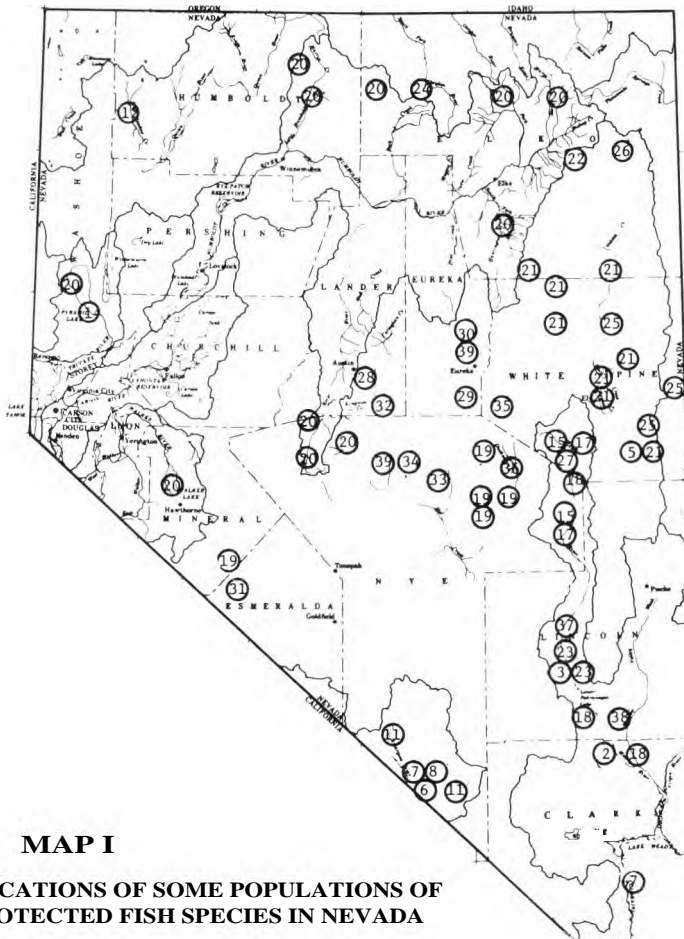
Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or in a significant portion of its range.

	Map Location
Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.....	<i>Salmo clarki henshawi</i> ..... 20

## STATE SENSITIVE SPECIES

The classification of a species of fish as sensitive is designed to bring attention to fish which may be classified more restrictively. As additional information is gathered these fish will be placed in an appropriate class.

	Map Location
Big Smoky Valley Tui Chub.....	<i>Gila bicolor ssp</i> ..... 28
Fish Creek Springs Tui Chub.....	<i>Gila bicolor euchila</i> ..... 29
Fish Lake Valley Tui Chub.....	<i>Gila bicolor ssp</i> ..... 31
Hot Creek Valley Tui Chub.....	<i>Gila bicolor ssp</i> ..... 33
Lahontan Tui Chub.....	<i>Gila bicolor obesus</i> (Diamond Valley-aberrant form)..... 30
Little Fish Lake Valley Tui Chub.....	<i>Gila bicolor ssp</i> ..... 34
Newark Valley Tui Chub.....	<i>Gila bicolor newarkensis</i> ..... 35
Railroad Valley Tui Chub.....	<i>Gila bicolor ssp</i> ..... 36
Roundtail Chub.....	<i>Gila robusta ssp</i> ..... 37
Big Smoky Valley Speckle Dace.....	<i>Rhinichthys osculus lariversi</i> ..... 32
Clover Valley Speckle Dace.....	<i>Rhinichthys osculus oligoporus</i> ..... 22
Independence Valley Speckle Dace.....	<i>Rhinichthys osculus lethoporus</i> ..... 26
Lahontan Speckle Dace.....	<i>Rhinichthys osculus robustus</i> ..... 39
Moapa Speckle Dace.....	<i>Rhinichthys osculus moapae</i> ..... 23
Relict Dace.....	<i>Relictus solitarius</i> ..... 21
White River Speckle Dace.....	<i>Rhinichthys osculus velifer</i> ..... 27
Desert Sucker (Meadow Valley).....	<i>Catostomus clarki ssp</i> ..... 38
Redband Trout.....	<i>Salmo sp</i> ..... 24
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout.....	<i>Salmo clarki utah</i> ..... 25



**MAP I**

**LOCATIONS OF SOME POPULATIONS OF PROTECTED FISH SPECIES IN NEVADA**

*(Numbers relate to facing page by species)*



Chino Creek Redband trout *Salmo sp.*  
(Photo by Coffin.)

## NEVADA GAME FISH SPECIES

### NATIVE GAME FISH SPECIES

Bull (Dolly Varden) Trout .....	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>
Lahontan Cutthroat Trout .....	<i>Salmo clarki henshawi</i>
Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout .....	<i>Salmo clarki lewisi</i>
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout .....	<i>Salmo clarki utah</i>
Redband Trout .....	<i>Salmo sp</i>
Rainbow Trout .....	<i>Salmo gairdneri ssp</i>
Mountain Whitefish .....	<i>Prosopium williamsoni</i>

### INTRODUCED GAME FISH SPECIES

Kokanee Salmon .....	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka kennerlyi</i>
Coho (Silver) Salmon .....	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>
Lake Trout ( <i>Mackinaw</i> ) .....	<i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>
Brook Trout .....	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>
Southcoast Rainbow Trout .....	<i>Salmo gairdneri irideus</i>
Kamloops Rainbow Trout .....	<i>Salmo gairdneri kamloops</i>
Golden Trout .....	<i>Salmo aquabonita aquabonita</i>
Brown Trout .....	<i>Salmo trutta</i>
Northern Pike .....	<i>Esox lucius</i>
Channel Catfish .....	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>
White Catfish .....	<i>Ictalurus cat us</i>
Brown Bullhead .....	<i>Ictalurus nebulosus</i>
Black Bullhead .....	<i>Ictalurus melas</i>
Yellow Perch .....	<i>Perca flavescens</i>
Walleye .....	<i>Stizostedion vitreum vitreum</i>
White Bass .....	<i>Morone chrysops</i>
Striped Bass .....	<i>Morone saxatilis</i>
Sacramento Perch .....	<i>Archoplites interruptus</i>
Largemouth Black Bass .....	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>
Spotted Bass (Alabama) .....	<i>Micropterus punctulatus</i>
Florida Bass .....	<i>Micropterus salmoides floridanus</i>
Smallmouth Black Bass .....	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>
Bluegill Sunfish .....	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>
Redear Sunfish .....	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>
Green Sunfish .....	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>
Black Crappie .....	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>
White Crappie .....	<i>Pomoxis annularis</i>



Pahump Killifish *Empetrichthys latos latos* at Corn Creek.  
(Photo by Padilla.)

# UNPROTECTED FISH SPECIES FOR NEVADA

## NATIVE UNPROTECTED SPECIES

	Location
Mountain Sucker, <i>Catostomus platyrhynchus</i> .....	Lahontan drainage
Biglip Sucker, <i>Catostomus macrocheilus</i> .....	Columbia R. drainage
Bridgelip Sucker, <i>Catostomus columbianus</i> .....	Columbia R. drainage
Utah Sucker, <i>Catostomus ardens</i> .....	Bonneville drainage
Flannelmouth Sucker, <i>Catostomus latipinnis</i> .....	Colorado R. drainage
Tahoe Sucker, <i>Catostomus tahoensis</i> .....	Lahontan drainage
Northern Squawfish, <i>Ptychocheilus oregonensis</i> .....	Columbia R. drainage
Chiselmouth, <i>Acrocheilus alutaceus</i> .....	Columbia R. drainage
Utah Chub, <i>Gila atraria</i> .....	Bonneville drainage
Lahontan Tui Chub, <i>Gila bicolor obesus</i> .....	Lahontan drainage
Lahontan Redside, <i>Richardsonius egregius</i> .....	Lahontan drainage
Redside Shiner, <i>Richardsonius balteatus</i> .....	Columbia R. drainage
Bonneville Redside Shiner, <i>Richardsonius balteatus hydrophlox</i> .....	Bonneville drainage
Snake River Speckle Dace, <i>Rhinichthys osculus carringtoni</i> .....	Columbia R. drainage
Lahontan Speckle Dace, <i>Rhinichthys osculus robustus</i> .....	Lahontan drainage
Mottled Sculpin, <i>Cottus bairdi</i> .....	Bonneville drainage
Paiute Sculpin, <i>Coitus beldingi</i> .....	Lahontan and Columbia R. drainages

## INTRODUCED UNPROTECTED SPECIES

Threadfin Shad, <i>Dorosoma petenense atchafalyae</i> .....	Lakes Mead and Mohave
Golden Shiner, <i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i> .....	Colorado R. drainage and Lake Tahoe
Plains Red Shiner, <i>Notropis lutrensis</i> .....	Colorado R. drainage
Common Carp, <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> .....	Statewide
Goldfish, <i>Carassius auratus</i> .....	Statewide
Sacramento Blackfish, <i>Orthodon microlepidotus</i> .....	Lahontan Reservoir
Fathead Minnow, <i>Pimephales promelas</i> .....	Lake Mead
Rainwater Killifish, <i>Lucania parva</i> .....	Blue Lakes, Elko County
Mosquitofish, <i>Gambusia affinis</i> .....	Western, Southern Nevada
Guppy, <i>Poecilia reticulata</i> .....	Southern warm springs
Molly, <i>Poecilia sp.</i> .....	Southern warm springs
Swordtail, <i>Xiphophorus helleri</i> .....	Southern warm springs
Moonfish (Platy), <i>Xiphophorus maculatus</i> .....	Southern warm springs
Grass Carp, <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> .....	Reno and Las Vegas
Convict Cichlid, <i>Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum</i> .....	Southern warm springs
Banded Cichlid, <i>Cichlasoma severum</i> .....	Southern warm springs
Spotted Tilapia, <i>Tilapia mariae</i> .....	Southern warm springs
Mozambique Tilapia, <i>Tilapia mossambica</i> .....	Southern warm springs
Redbelly Tilapia, <i>Tilapia zilli</i> .....	Southern warm springs



Ash Meadows pupfish *Cyprinodon nevadensis mionectes*.  
(Photo by NDOW.)



Hendries Creek Bonneville Cutthroat Trout *Salmo clarki utah*.  
(Photo by Lockard.)



Roundtail Chub *Gila robusta sp.*  
(Photo by Padilla.)



White River spinedace *Lepidomeda albivallis* from Condor Canyon.  
(Photo by Padilla.)