

Summary

Conservation Status

Distribution

Image

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**Comprehensive Report:** Record 2 of 2 selected.[<< Previous](#) | [Next >>](#)[See All Search Results](#) | [View Glossary](#)***Catostomus commersoni*** - (Lacepede, 1803)

White Sucker

Unique Identifier: AFCJC02060

Informal Taxonomy: Animals, Vertebrates - Fishes

- Bony Fishes - Suckers

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Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus
Animalia	Craniata	Actinopterygii	Cypriniformes	Catostomidae	Catostomus

**Genus Size:** D - Medium to large genus (21+ species)**Concept Reference:** Robins, C. R., et al. 1991. Common and scientific names of fishes from the United States and Canada. American Fisheries Society, Special Publishing 20. 183 pp.**Concept Reference Code:** B91ROB01NAUS**Name Used in Concept Reference:** *Catostomus commersoni***Taxonomic Comments:** See Smith (1992) for a study of the phylogeny and biogeography of the Catostomidae.

## Conservation Status

### NatureServe Status

**Global Status:** G5**Global Status Last Reviewed:** 18Sep1996**Global Status Last Changed:** 18Sep1996**Rounded Global Status:** G5**Nation:** United States**National Status:**

N5

**Nation:** Canada**National Status:**

N5

### U.S. & Canada State/Province Status

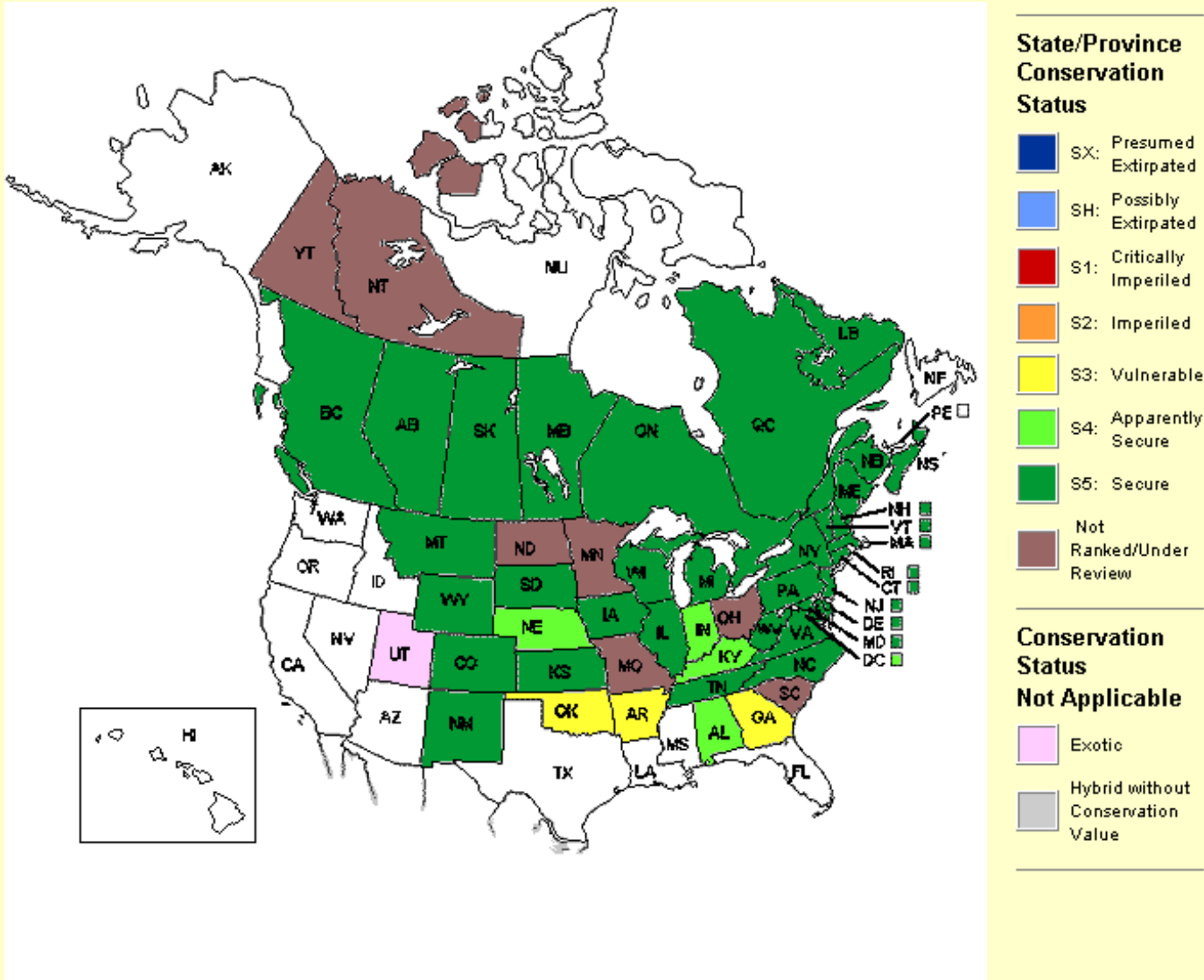
United States	Alabama (S4), Arkansas (S3?), Colorado (S5), Connecticut (S5), Delaware (S5), District of Columbia (S4), Georgia (S3S4), Illinois (S5), Indiana (S4), Iowa (S5), Kansas (S5), Kentucky (S4S5), Maine (S5), Maryland (S5), Massachusetts (S5), Michigan (S5), Minnesota (SNR), Missouri (SNR), Montana (S5), Navajo Nation (SNA), Nebraska (S4), New Hampshire (S5), New Jersey (S5), New Mexico (S5), New York (S5), North Carolina (S5), North Dakota (SNR), Ohio (SNR), Oklahoma (S3), Pennsylvania (S5), Rhode Island (S5), South Carolina (SNR), South Dakota (S5), Tennessee (S5), Utah (SNA), Vermont (S5), Virginia (S5), West Virginia (S5), Wisconsin (S5), Wyoming (S5)
Canada	Alberta (S5), British Columbia (S5), Labrador (S5), Manitoba (S5), New Brunswick (S5), Northwest Territories (SNR), Nova Scotia (S5), Ontario (S5), Quebec (S5), Saskatchewan (S5), Yukon Territory (SNR)

**Other Statuses**

**NatureServe Conservation Status Factors**

**Distribution**

**U.S. States and Canadian Provinces**



**Endemism:** occurs (regularly, as a native taxon) in multiple nations

**U.S. & Canada State/Province Distribution**

United States	AL, AR, CO, CT, DC, DE, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NN, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, VT, WI, WV, WY
Canada	AB, BC, LB, MB, NB, NS, NT, ON, QC, SK, YT

**Range Map**

No map available.

**Global Range Comments:** Atlantic, Arctic, Great Lakes, and Mississippi River basins from Labrador to the Mackenzie

River, south to the Tennessee River drainage, northern Alabama, and the Arkansas River drainage, New Mexico; south on the Atlantic Slope to the Santee River drainage, South Carolina; upper Rio Grande drainage, New Mexico; Skeena and Fraser river drainages (Pacific Slope), British Columbia; introduced in the Colorado River drainage, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah (Page and Burr 1991).

**U.S. Distribution by County (based on available natural heritage records) ? -**

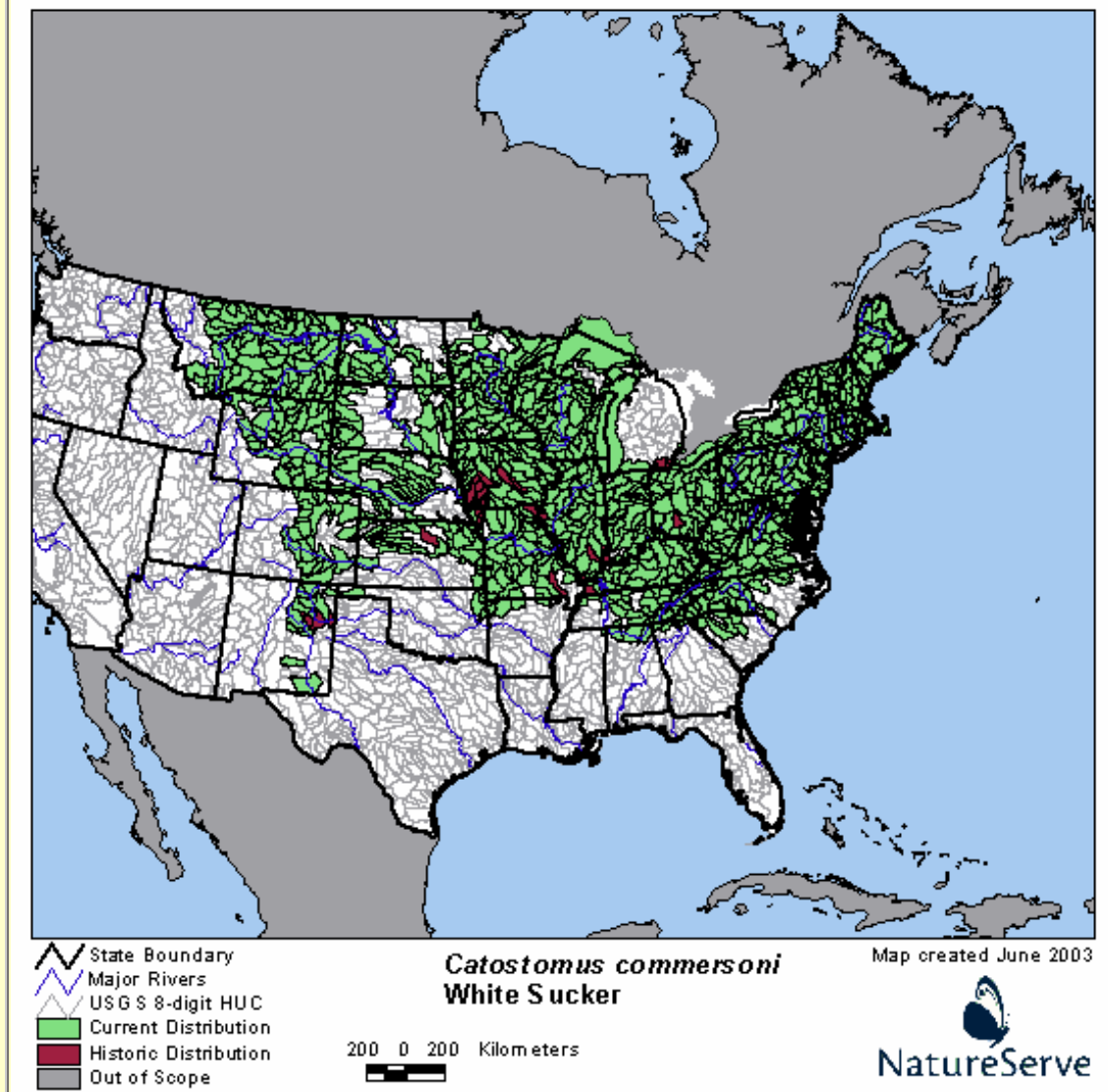
State	County Name (FIPS Code)
AL	Madison (01089)
NM	Bernalillo (35001), Catron (35003), Cibola (35006), Colfax (35007), Eddy (35015), Guadalupe (35019), Harding (35021), Lincoln (35027), Mora (35033), Rio Arriba (35039), San Juan (35045), San Miguel (35047), Sandoval (35043), Santa Fe (35049), Taos (35055), Union (35059), Valencia (35061)

**U.S. Distribution by Watershed (based on available natural heritage records) ? -**

Watershed Region ? -	Watershed Name (Watershed Code)
06	Wheeler Lake (06030002)
11	Canadian headwaters (11080001), Cimarron (11080002), Upper Canadian (11080003), Mora (11080004), Ute (11080007), Upper Beaver (11100101)
13	Conejos (13010005), Upper Rio Grande (13020101), Rio Chama (13020102), Rio Grande-Santa Fe (13020201), Jemez (13020202), Rio Grande-Albuquerque (13020203), Rio San Jose (13020207), Pecos headwaters (13060001), Pintada Arroyo (13060002), Rio Hondo (13060008), Upper Pecos-Black (13060011)
14	Upper San Juan (14080101), Animas (14080104), Middle San Juan (14080105)
15	San Francisco (15040004)

**U.S. Distribution by Watershed (based on multiple information sources) ? -**

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## Economic Attributes

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## Management Summary

**Management Requirements:** Often dominates a body of water, so fishery managers sometimes reduce the number of white suckers in lakes (Sublette et al. 1990).

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## Ecology & Life History

**General Description:** See Snyder and Muth (1990) for a guide to the identification of larvae and early juveniles.

**Reproduction Comments:** Spawns usually in spring (or early summer). Eggs hatch in 5-15 days, depending on temperature. Sexually mature in 3-8 years, depending on locality; males mature at younger age than do females (Becker 1983, Scott and Crossman 1973). Mature individuals may not spawn every year (Trippel and Harvey, 1989, Can. J. Zool. 67:2180-2188).

**Habitat Type:** Freshwater

**Non-Migrant:** N

**Locally Migrant:** Y

**Long Distance Migrant:** N

**Mobility and Migration Comments:** May migrate dozens of kilometers between spawning and nonspawning habitats (Becker 1983).

**Riverine Habitat(s):** BIG RIVER, CREEK, High gradient, Low gradient, MEDIUM RIVER, Moderate gradient, Pool, Riffle

**Lacustrine Habitat(s):** Deep water, Shallow water

**Special Habitat Factors:** Benthic

**Habitat Comments:** In a wide variety of lake and stream habitats. Adults may reside temporarily in spawning stream before returning to lake. Usually in small, clear, cool creeks and small to medium rivers (Page and Burr 1991). Spawns in swift water or rapids of lake tributaries or on lake shoals, beaches, or rivermouths (areas with wave action in lentic habitats); usually in water less than 30 cm deep. Eggs sink and usually stick to and become lodged in gravel.

**Adult Food Habits:** Herbivore, Invertivore

**Immature Food Habits:** Herbivore, Invertivore

**Food Comments:** Larvae feed near surface on protozoans, diatoms, small crustaceans, and bloodworms. Adults feed opportunistically on bottom organisms, both plant and animal (e.g., chironomid larvae, zooplankton, small crayfishes) (Becker 1983, Sublette et al. 1990).

**Adult Phenology:** Circadian

**Immature Phenology:** Circadian

**Phenology Comments:** Active day and night.

**Length:** 64 centimeters

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## Population/Occurrence Delineation

**Group Name:** LARGE SUCKERS

**Use Class:** Not applicable

**Subtype(s):** Spawning Area

**Minimum Criteria for an Occurrence:** Occurrences are based on evidence of historical presence, or current and likely recurring presence, at a given location. Such evidence minimally includes collection or reliable observation and documentation of one or more individuals (including eggs and larvae) in appropriate habitat.

**Mapping Guidance:** Occupied locations that are separated by a gap of 10 km or more of any aquatic habitat that is not known to be occupied represent different occurrences. However, it is important to evaluate migrations and seasonal changes in habitat to ensure that spawning areas and nonspawning areas for a single population are not artificially segregated as different occurrences simply because there have been no collections/observations in an intervening area that may exceed the separation distance. For example, individual blue suckers may move more than 160 km between spawning and nonspawning habitats; these widely separated locations are part of the same occurrence.

**Separation Barriers:** Dam lacking a suitable fishway; high waterfall; upland habitat.

**Separation Distance for Unsuitable Habitat:** 20 km

**Separation Distance for Suitable Habitat:** 20 km

**Separation Justification:** Data on dispersal and other movements generally are not available. In some species, individuals may migrate variable distances between spawning areas and nonspawning habitats.

Separation distances (in aquatic kilometers) for catostomids are arbitrary but reflect the presumption that movements and

appropriate separation distances generally should increase with fish size. Hence small, medium, and large catostomids, respectively, have increasingly large separation distances. Separation distance reflects the likely low probability that two occupied locations separated by less than several kilometers of aquatic habitat would represent truly independent populations over the long term.

Because of the difficulty in defining suitable versus unsuitable habitat, especially with respect to dispersal, and to simplify the delineation of occurrences, a single separation distance is used regardless of habitat quality.

Occupied locations that are separated by a gap of 20 km or more of any aquatic habitat that is not known to be occupied represent different occurrences. However, it is important to evaluate seasonal changes in habitat to ensure that an occupied habitat occurrence for a particular population does not artificially separate spawning areas and nonspawning areas as different occurrences simply because there have been no collections/observations in an intervening area that may exceed the separation distance.

**Date:** 22May2001

**Author:** Hammerson, G.

**Notes:** This Specs Group includes catostomids that typically are larger than 40 cm in adult standard length.

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## Population/Occurrence Viability

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## Authors/Contributors

**Element Ecology & Life History Edition Date:** 01Sep1994

**Element Ecology & Life History Author(s):** Hammerson, G.

Zoological data developed by NatureServe and its network of natural heritage programs (see [Local Programs](#)) and other contributors and cooperators (see [Sources](#)).

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**Note:** This report was printed on **May 18, 2005** .

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"Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Robert Ridgely, James Zook, The Nature Conservancy - Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International - CABS, World Wildlife Fund - US, and Environment Canada - WILDSPACE."

**Citation for Mammal Range Maps of North America:**

Patterson, B.D., G. Ceballos, W. Sechrest, M.F. Tognelli, T. Brooks, L. Luna, P. Ortega, I. Salazar, and B. E. Young. 2003. Digital Distribution Maps of the Mammals of the Western Hemisphere, version 1.0. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia, USA.

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<http://www.natureserve.org/library/birdDistributionmapsmetadatav1.pdf>.

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