
Bonneville Cisco

Prosopium gemmifer

Actinopterygii — Salmoniformes — Salmonidae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Critically imperiled (G1)
Statewide: Critically imperiled (S1)
ESA: No status
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
BLM: Rangewide/Globally imperiled (Type 2)
IDFG: Game fish

BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Endemic to Bear Lake.

TAXONOMY

The Bonneville cisco is 1 of 3 members of the genus *Prosopium* that are sympatric in Bear Lake.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This species is endemic to Bear Lake. Attempts to introduce this fish into other waters in the West have been unsuccessful (Sigler and Sigler 1987). The population has been estimated to comprise approximately 9 million individuals.

POPULATION TREND

The population has been monitored >20 years and appears stable (Nielson and Tolentino 2002).

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

The Bonneville cisco is typically found in schools in the pelagic zone. Schools are near or below the thermocline when the lake is thermally stratified during the spring to fall months. At night, individuals break from their schools and are widely scattered throughout the lake. Spawning occurs from mid-January to early February over rocky areas along the shoreline, weedbeds, and deeper, rocky shoals. The species feeds almost exclusively on zooplankton.

ISSUES

The lowering of lake levels from drought and water management may reduce spawning and rearing habitat. Water quality may be altered by increased development adjacent to the lake. Introductions of non-native fish may affect populations.

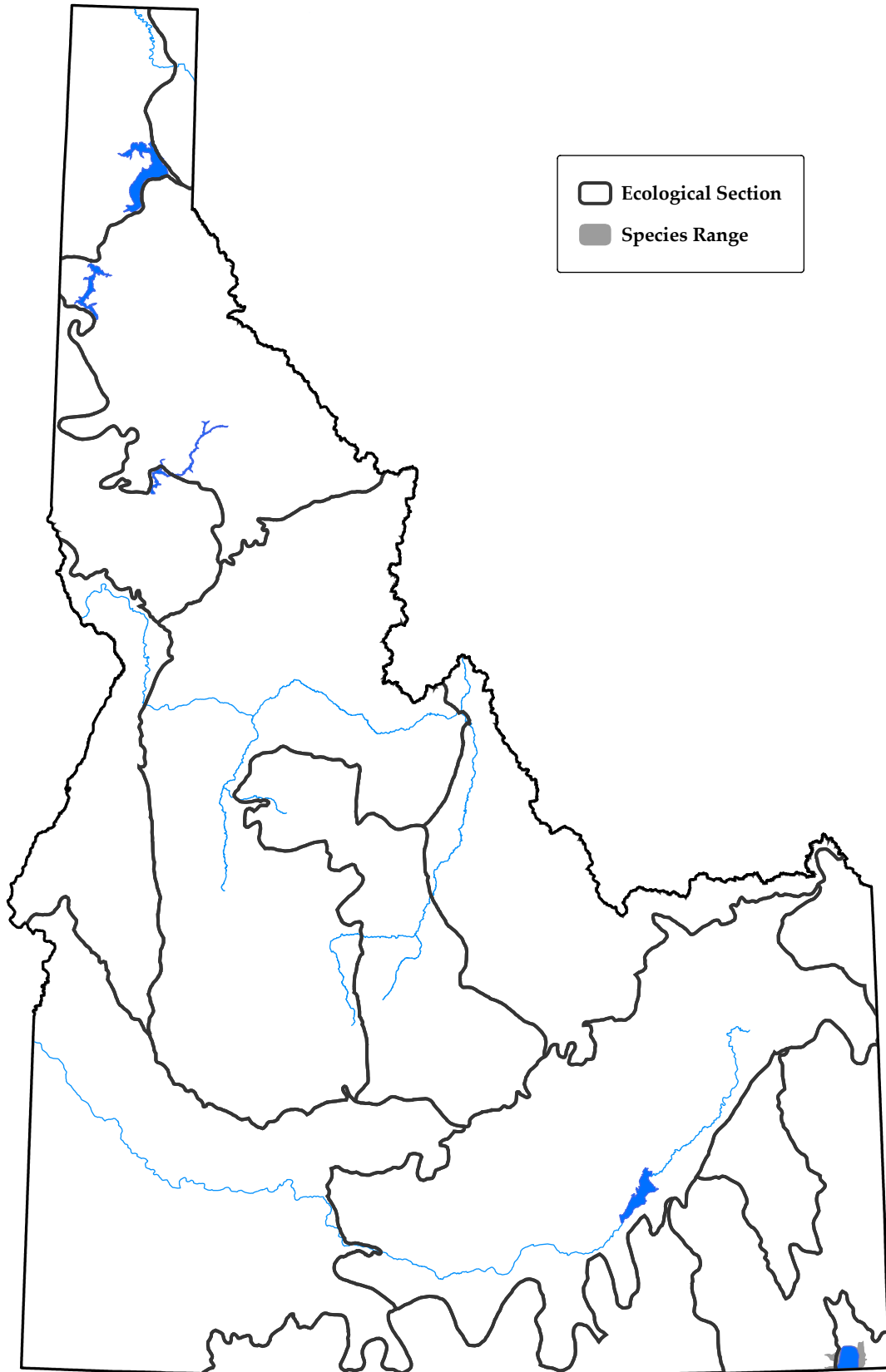
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Continue programs that (1) monitor the population status and trend; (2) evaluate the relationship between water quality and level and fish populations; (3) stock sterile

triploid lake trout; and (4) removal of illegally introduced non–native fish (e.g., walleye) in conjunction with adjacent states.

Bonneville Cisco

Prosopium gemmifer



10 August 2005
Fish information is from Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System, Idaho Department of Fish and Game and displayed at the 6th code hydrologic unit.

