
Bonneville Whitefish

Prosopium silonotus

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 whitefish is 1 of 3 members of the genus *Prosopium* that are endemic to Bear Lake.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This species is endemic to Bear Lake.

POPULATION TREND

The Bonneville whitefish is monitored through gill-net catch rates from standardized netting. The population appears stable.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

The species is typically found at depths of 12–30 m (40–100 ft). Spawning occurs from mid-February to early March over rocky areas along the shoreline (Sigler and Sigler 1987). The species is omnivorous and consumes plankton and invertebrates found on the lake bottom. Individuals >30 cm (>12 in) are piscivorous and consume other whitefish, Bear Lake sculpin, and other small fish.

ISSUES

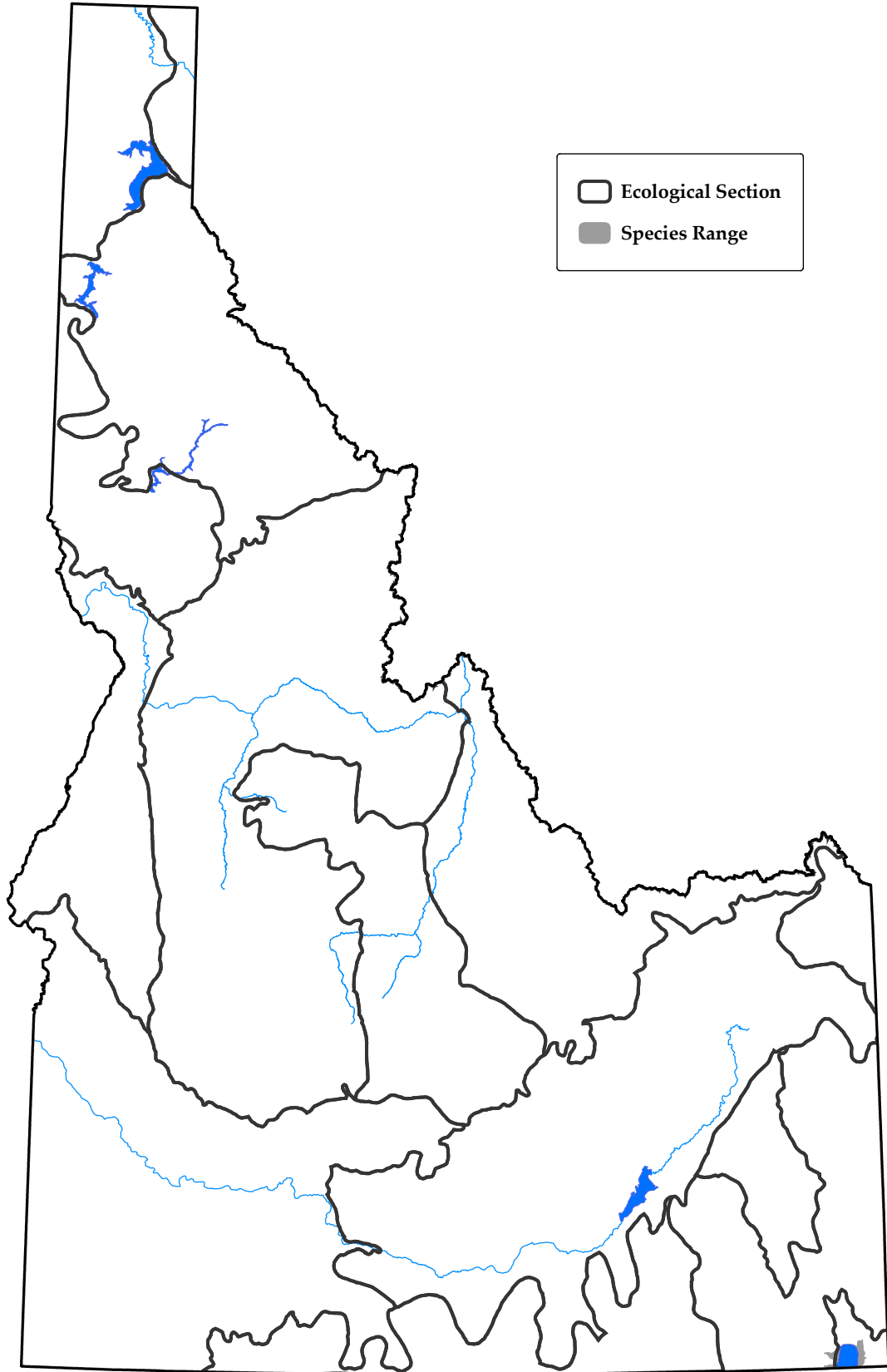
A lowering of lake levels due to drought and water management could limit spawning and rearing habitat. Increasing human development around the lake could lead to lowering of water quality due to waste water discharges. Legal and illegal introductions of piscivorous fish could affect populations by increasing predation rate.

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 Whitefish

Prosopium spilonotus



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.

