

Why Save Natives?

The most important biological reason is that by preserving the integrity of our natural ecosystems we can maintain diversity and healthy ecologic function.

Additionally, each species presents un-explored medical applications but if we lose these species, we also lose the potential for making life-saving discoveries.

From a cultural standpoint, if we didn't preserve what is native and unique to our state by letting non-natives take over, we would lose what makes our state unique from others and our fisheries would look much like the rest of the nation.

Many believe that we have an ethical or moral obligation to preserve all species. In addition, we all have a legal responsibility under the Endangered Species Act to preserve and recover rare species so that future generations can enjoy the same biological wonders that we do today.

Why were the non-natives removed?

Not only were non-native green sunfish and small mouth bass out-competing the natives for food and space, they were also eating them! In some reaches of Fossil Creek, speckled dace were completely absent and there were no more young chub or suckers. Although there were some adult natives that were capable of spawning, the eggs and young were gobbled up by the non-natives. Without intervention, the few adult fish remaining would eventually have died and all of Fossil Creek would have been completely occupied by non-native fish!



Restoration of Native Fish in Fossil Creek

A Joint Effort Between:

**Forest Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
Arizona Game and Fish
Arizona Public Service
Volunteers**



Native Roundtail Chub

Fossil Native Fish Restoration

In the fall of 2004, nearly 100 people from around the state worked together to restore Fossil Creek to a native fishery. This work involved removing non-native fish that had invaded the stream so the few remaining native species would have a chance to survive. Native fish in Fossil Creek include headwater chub, roundtail chub, speckled dace, Sonora sucker, and Desert sucker.

New Fishing Regulations for Fossil Creek!

*In order to allow fish populations to recover after restoration of the creek, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has issued a new Commission Order that **closes** the entire Fossil Creek to fishing until December 31, 2008. See page 14 of the 2007 &-2008 fishing regulations.*



Native Sonora Sucker

Please Help Us Help the Natives

- Observe the temporary fishing closure
- Don't forget, it is illegal to:
 - dump your bait bucket in the water
 - move or release fish, tadpoles, or crayfish from or into Fossil Creek
- Report illegal stockings by calling the Operation Game Thief hotline @ 1-800-325-0700. Rewards up to \$1,000 are available.

