

ROUNDTAIL CHUB
(*GILA ROBUSTA*)

Navajo/Federal Statuses: NESL G2 / not listed under the ESA.

Distribution: Native to large streams and intermediate-sized rivers of the Colorado River System from WY to AZ and NM. On the Navajo Nation it has been extirpated from the Colorado River (Grand Canyon), but is extant in the San Juan and Mancos Rivers. Rarely encountered in recent surveys; they have been found from Shiprock to near Lake Powell with most between Shiprock and Aneth (RM 107-140).

Habitat: Adults inhabit the most permanent water in cool to warm water mid-elevation streams, typically using pools and eddies, adjacent to rapids and boulders. They are often found near cover (e.g. rocks, plant roots) and in pools behind irrigation diversions. Juveniles prefer the margins of flowing water and backwater areas. Spawning occurs over gravel bottoms in runs and pools with ≥ 25 cm water depth.

Similar Species: Other *Gila* species; see The Nature Conservancy, 1990.

Phenology:

- e.APR-1.MAY: spawning
- e.MAY-1.JUN: young first appear and reach length of 12-28 mm
- e.JUL-1.MAR: growth, dispersal of young; non-breeding season

Survey Method: Evaluations may be based on the presence of habitat. Electrofishing or seine surveys may be required if the proposed action may result in take or significant habitat alterations.

Avoidance: No disturbance year-round within 60 m of top of stream bank, and prevent changes to water chemistry or quantity within, or upstream of occupied habitat.

References:

- Holden, P.B. and W. Masslich. 1997. San Juan River recovery implementation program, summary report 1991-1996, PRN-576-2. BIO/WEST, Inc., Logan, UT.
- Minckley, W.L. 1973. Fishes of Arizona. Arizona Game and Fish Department, Sims Printing Co., Inc. Phoenix, AZ. (description p.100)
- The Nature Conservancy. 1990. Element Stewardship Abstract for *Gila robusta* The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA.