



**Rio Grande Sucker
(Catostomus plebeius)**



Photo Source: Colorado Division of Wildlife



03-0314-11



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Rio Grande Sucker (*Catostomus plebeius*)

Federal status: Not listed
Colorado status: Endangered

This small fish normally reaches 2.5 to 3.5 inches in length. The few known Colorado specimens are less than 5.6 inches long. This sucker has a large head and a broad snout that slightly overhangs its mouth. Adults are dusky to dark or greenish brown dorsally, fading to yellow or white on the belly. Breeding males are dark above with red lateral stripe and white bellies.

Habitat: This species is found in areas near rapidly flowing water. Backwaters or banks adjacent to fast waters provide holding areas during the day. These suckers move to swifter water at night. In Colorado, the fish is restricted to the San Luis Valley and the Rio Grande Basin in Hot Creek and McIntyre Springs.



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