

# USACE Natural Resource Management Fish



## Smalleye, Pecos Bluntnose, Sharpnose Shiner, & Santa Ana Sucker

**Smalleye Shiner (*Notropis buccula*):** This minnow ranges from 1.4-1.7 inches in length. Typically the base color is olive-green above, white below, and silver on the sides. May appear dotted dorsally. (USFWS)

**Status:** Endangered, listed 2014

**NatureServe:** Imperiled



**Pecos Bluntnose Shiner (*Notropis simus pecosensis*):** This is a moderately sized shiner with a robust body and blunt, rounded snout. Dorsal coloration ranges from gray to green-brown. Ventrally white. (USFWS)

**Status:** Threatened, listed 1987

**NatureServe:** Imperiled Subspecies



**Sharpnose Shiner (*Notropis oxyrhynchus*):** Grows to be 1.2-2.0 inches in length. Generally olive above, silver-white below, and silver on the sides with a faint mid-lateral stripe. (USFWS)

**Status:** Endangered, listed 2014

**NatureServe:** Vulnerable



**Santa Ana Sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*):** The mouth is oriented downwards. Usually less than 6.3 inches in length. Dark grey dorsally with irregular blotches and silvery-white ventrally. (USFWS)

**Status:** Threatened, listed 2000

**NatureServe:** Critically Imperiled



**Order:** Cypriniformes are an order of fish which have a number of small bones that connect the swim bladder to the hearing apparatus in the skull. Most species of this order are freshwater fish. This order includes minnows and suckers such as carp. (ITIS.gov, Introduction to the Practice of Fishery Science, 1996)

*Photos Left to Right:* Smalleye Shiner (TX PWD), Sharpnose Shiner (Chad Thomas, Texas State University) & Santa Ana Sucker (USFWS)

### Management and Protection:

- The smalleye shiner historically occurred only in the Brazos River basin. The species is now restricted to the upper Brazos River and its major tributaries which is more than a 50% range reduction. (USFWS)
- The sharpnose shiner historically occurred in the Brazos River, Red River, and Colorado River basins within Texas. The species is now restricted to the upper Brazos River and its major tributaries which is more than a 70% range reduction.
- Throughout much of their historical range, the decline of the sharpnose and smalleye shiners is attributed primarily to habitat loss and modification due to fragmentation and decreased river flow resulting from major water impoundments, drought, and groundwater withdrawals.
- The Pecos bluntnose shiner is restricted to the Pecos River of New Mexico. Little is known of this shiner's decline, but it appears that the decline is the result of modification of the shiner's habitat. (USFWS)
  - The primary threat to the Santa Ana sucker includes past and continuing habitat loss stemming from hydrological modifications. Additionally, impassable barriers or areas of unsuitable habitat limit gene flow, thereby increasing the vulnerability of small populations. (USFWS)



**USACE ROLE:** According to the Engineering Research and Development Center's Threatened and Endangered Species Team Cost Estimates, the USACE has spent nearly \$12 million on efforts related to these fish species. These funds have been predominantly expended on efforts related to the Santa Ana sucker. These costs have been incurred by multiple business lines including Environmental Stewardship, Flood Risk Management, Navigation, Regulatory, and more. Expense types include Coordination and Determination, Site Visits and Inspections, Research, and others.



**Pecos Bluntnose Shiner = \$53,090 (2005)**



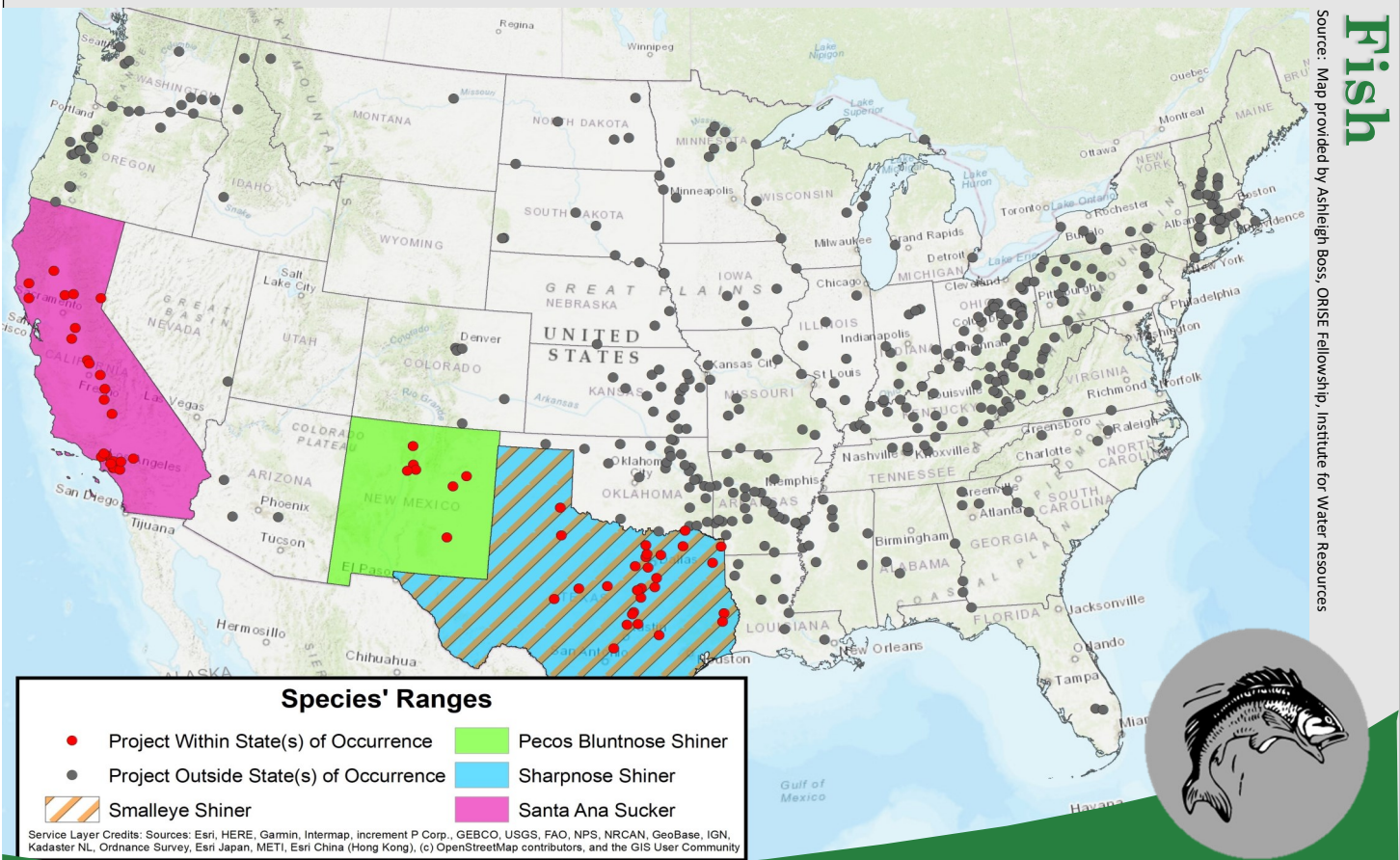
**Santa Ana Sucker = \$11,775,588 (2005)**



*Photo: Pictured is Prado Dam which is noted to have common occurrences of the Santa Ana Sucker.*

**WHAT IS USACE DOING:** Each of these fish has a small range and limited distribution. Thus there is limited overlap with USACE projects. In the 2020 Natural Resource Management (NRM) Assessment, both the smalleye and the sharpnose shiner were listed by a single project in Southwestern Division's Fort Worth District. The smalleye shiner was listed as rarely occurring at Stillhouse Hollow Dam and Lakes project while the sharpnose shiner was listed by Whitney Lake as occasionally occurring at the project. The Pecos Bluntnose Shiner was also listed at a single project in the 2020 fiscal year. This shiner was listed by the Two Rivers Dam Project of Albuquerque District as having the potential to occur in project waters. In the 2020 NRM Assessment, the Santa Ana sucker was listed by three projects within South Pacific Division's Los Angeles District. Haines Canyon Debris Basin and Hansen Dam both listed the sucker as having the potential to occur while Prado Dam was noted that the Santa Ana sucker was common.

*This fact sheet has been prepared as an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This online publication is produced to provide its readers information about best management practices related to special status species. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Mention of specific vendors does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or any element thereof.*



**Fish**



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community