

Cienega Creek Natural Preserve Trip Report
06-01-06

On June 1st 2006 I joined Doug Duncan from the FWS, Don Carter from Pima County, and Abraham Karam from ASU for a walkthrough of the RR Horseshoe reach on Cienega Creek. The purpose of the trip was to document the extent of the three native fish species ((Gila Topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis*), longfin dace (*Agosia chrysogaster*), and Gila Chub (*Gila intermedia*)) within that reach of the preserve. We began at a large pool that holds Gila Topminnow and walked upstream approximately 1.5 miles. We walked back to our starting point and continued downstream until the end of perennial stream flow. A large headcut is acting as a barrier to upstream migration of topminnow and Gila chub. Flow is perennial in some isolated areas, but intermittent in many. Sampling gear was dip nets and snorkeling gear. Don snorked one of the large pools (“chub pool”) and verified the presence of Gila Topminnow and Longfin Dace. A Gila Chub was also spotted. Gila Topminnow are concentrated in shallow linear pools near the end of perennial flow upstream of the 3 bridges area. Abraham collected approximately 100 topminnow (10:1 female male ratio) to take back with him to ASU. The topminnow will be combined with a captive population for the purpose of increasing genetic diversity. A walkthrough of the whole preserve is being planned for October.

