

Littlefield, Arizona. Their occurrence has generally been associated with tributary inflows. This area is not considered to be historic habitat because this reach does not have the same habitat components found in reaches supporting self-sustaining populations. A detailed description of the status and distribution for this species is presented in the Conservation Strategy.

V. PROBLEMS FACING THE SPECIES

The FWS assessed real and/or potential problems facing the species based on five criteria as required by Section 4(a)(1) of the ESA. Within each of these criteria, several factors which may have contributed to the elimination or degradation of Virgin spinedace habitat and its populations were identified (59 FR 25875 dated May 18, 1994). The threats identified and described by the FWS (59 FR 25875) do not necessarily reflect the views of all signatories to this agreement. The Conservation Strategy provides a detailed review of problems and threats to the species that signatories to this agreement will address with management actions.

VI. CONSERVATION ACTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED

In order to meet the objectives of this agreement, seven conservation actions will be implemented. These actions, as defined and detailed in the Strategy, include: establish existing conditions as a baseline; re-establish population maintenance flows; enhance and maintain habitat; selectively control non-indigenous fish; maintain genetic viability; monitor populations and habitat; and develop a mitigation plan and protocol for future activities. In addition, four general administrative actions, as outlined below, will be implemented: coordinate conservation activities; implement the conservation schedule; fund conservation actions; and assess conservation progress.

Coordinating Conservation Activities

* Administration of the conservation agreement will be conducted by the Virgin Spinedace Conservation Team (VSCT). The team will consist of a designated representative from each signatory to this Agreement and may include technical and legal advisors and other members as deemed necessary by the signatories.

* Since the majority of the areas of concern covered by this Agreement are located in Utah, and since the State of Utah presently has primary jurisdiction over Virgin spinedace within the State, the designated team leader will be the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources