

ATTACHMENT A

CONSERVATION STRATEGY Virgin spinedace

Lepidomeda mollispinis mollispinis

PURPOSE

The purpose of the present document is to describe specific procedures and strategies required for conservation of Virgin spinedace. The general conservation approach focuses on two main objectives. The first objective is to eliminate threats where possible, and reduce threats to the greatest extent possible that cannot be eliminated entirely. The second is to enhance and/or stabilize instream flows in specific reaches of occupied and unoccupied habitat. Though the primary focus of this strategy is conservation and enhancement of the Virgin spinedace, it could also reduce or eliminate threats and improve habitat for many other species, which could preclude their need for federal listing pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (ESA).

Definitions

For the purposes of the Agreement and Strategy, the following terms are defined as:

Occupied Habitat - Occupied habitat consists of stream reaches containing self-sustaining Virgin spinedace populations.

Historic Habitat - Historic habitat consists of stream reaches that have been shown, can be shown, and/or can logically be deduced as historically being occupied by Virgin spinedace. This area is approximately 226 km (141 mi). The exact extent of historic habitat is unknown. Historically, spinedace habitat probably fluctuated with changing environmental conditions.

Population Maintenance Flows - Population maintenance flows are flows of sufficient magnitude to maintain self-sustaining Virgin spinedace populations during low-flow periods. These flows are dependent on flow events of sufficient magnitude, timing, and duration to maintain channel characteristics and provide environmental cues.

Self-Sustaining Population - Self-sustaining populations are those with sufficient numbers, age class structure, and natural reproductive success to provide for their long-term survival.

Non-indigenous - An organism that is not native, or occurs naturally in a specific area or environment.