

## WESTERN NATIVE FISHES DATABASE: AN UPDATE ON THE PROJECT

Leanne Roulson and Jeanne Knox, Garcia and Associates, 7550 Shedhorn Drive,  
Bozeman, MT 59718, lhroulson@garciaandassociates.com

Jim Tilmant, jim\_tilmant@nps.gov

Lynn Starnes, L.Starnes@Comcast.Net

The Western Native Fishes Database is a project developed by the Native Species Committee of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society (WDAFS). The goal of the project is to compile accurate information on approximately 300 fish species native to western North America including the Canadian Provinces of British Columbia and Yukon; the Sonoran, Chihuahuan, and Baja California Norte States of Mexico; and the United States that include, or are west of, the continental divide; and Hawaii. Garcia and Associates (GANDA) completed the database design in the summer of 2004, and the data entry for the United States in 2005. The database was distributed for its initial review in early 2006. The database can be queried by species, region, or HUC. The WDAFS envisions the database being used to track regional status of native fishes and to assist agencies and biologists in developing management plans that extend beyond political boundaries. The purpose of this presentation is to show the progress made on the database, describe the data gathering and review processes, and solicit input on how to tailor the final product. We will also present representative data on declining fish populations.