

PALLID STURGEON RECOVERY - THE PAST AND THE FUTURE^{AFS}

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Pallid sturgeon and the topic of extinction is not a new concept. After all, that is what led biologists to come to the conclusion that the species desperately needed the protection of the Endangered Species Act and listed this unique species as endangered. Endangered is classified under the Endangered Species Act as any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The fact that we are again discussing the risk of extinction suggests that the existing data for pallid sturgeon supports that this species will “blink out” if actions are not continued to preserve, protect and restore habitats it needs to complete its life history. Recovery efforts are underway and will continue to insure that future generations can say they’ve seen a “dinosaur fish”. With a cooperative efforts of State, Federal, Tribal, and public involvement, the pallid sturgeon can be recovered and those efforts will also prevent other similar species from following the same path. Current efforts on stocking and restoring habitats that benefit pallid sturgeon recovery will likely prevent the extinction of the pallid sturgeon in some of the best remaining habitat available in Montana and North Dakota.