

## U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE - SPOTLIGHT SPECIES ACTION PLAN

**Common Name:** Borax Lake chub

**Scientific Name:** *Gila boraxobius*

**Lead Region:** Region 1

**Lead Field Office:** Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office

### **Species Information:**

Status: Endangered

Recovery Priority Number or Listing Priority Number: 2

Recovery Plan or Candidate Assessment Form: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1987. Recovery Plan for the Borax Lake chub (*Gila boraxobius*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. 61 pages.

Most Recent 5-year Review: None.

Other: Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; endangered status and critical habitat for Borax Lake chub (*Gila boraxobius*); final rule. Federal Register: 47(193) 43957-43963.

Threats: The perched nature of the lake in which the Borax Lake chub is found makes it extremely susceptible to human disturbance. In 1980, a modification of the perimeter of the lake diverted water from the lake and lowered its level by approximately one foot. The lower lake level adversely affects the chub by decreasing habitat and increasing water temperature. A second major threat to the Borax Lake chub is geothermal development, which involves water diversion that causes loss of habitat and exposes the chub to higher water temperatures.

**Target:** Maintain the current status of the species, and within 5 years reduce the threat of habitat degradation by improving management at the only existing occupied site.

**Measure:** Work with partners to eliminate vehicle access to the immediate area around Borax Lake.

### **Actions (in order of priority):**

1. Long-term monitoring of the chub population and its habitat: Borax Lake chub are believed to be short-lived; many individuals live only one year. Because their population fluctuates in a uni-modal fashion, it is important to monitor the population on an annual basis.
  - a. Implement annual surveys to monitor population trends.
2. Manage recreational impacts: implement action items from the cooperative management agreement.

- a. Eliminate vehicle access to the immediate area around Borax Lake. Provide a parking area outside the buffer zone around Borax Lake and provide site interpretive signs at parking area.

*Estimated cost of the actions:*

Action	Implementing party	Description	Cost, FY2010 to FY2014
1.a.	ODFW <sup>1</sup>	Implement annual surveys to monitor population trends.	\$19,800*- year 1; \$20,000*- years 2-5.
2.a.	BLM <sup>2</sup> , TNC <sup>3</sup>	Eliminate vehicle access to the immediate area around Borax Lake. Provide a parking area outside the buffer zone around Borax Lake and provide site interpretive signs at the parking area.	6 bio days- year 1

<sup>1</sup> Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Land Management

<sup>3</sup> The Nature Conservancy

\* Not yet funded.