

Project Highlight – SD State Wildlife Grant

Project Type Inventory

Title Comprehensive aquatics survey of the Minnesota River tributaries

In a nutshell This unique aquatic ecosystem in northeastern South Dakota was sampled for fish, mussels, and aquatic invertebrates to identify species composition, with an emphasis on identifying sites with rare aquatic species.

Relevant Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- Creek Heelsplitter (*Lasmigona compressa*)
- Blackside Darter (*Percina maculata*)
- Northern Redbelly Dace (*Chrosomus eos*)
- Central Mudminnow (*Umbra limi*)
- Carmine Shiner (*Notropis percobromus*)

Relevant Habitats streams draining to the Minnesota River watershed

Purpose

- provide up-to-date survey information on the relative abundance of fish, unionid mussel, and aquatic insect species, especially those monitored by the SD Natural Heritage Program, necessary to determine population trends and state heritage ranks

Timeframe 2005 - 2007

Location Minnesota River drainage, northeastern South Dakota

Summary or Important Findings

- 17 streams draining to the Minnesota River were surveyed for fish, mussels, and aquatic insect communities
- results include sampling site values for habitat, mussels, fish, and macroinvertebrates for each study site

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More Information

Burgess, A. and J. Shearer. 2008. A comprehensive aquatics survey of Minnesota River tributaries. SD Game, Fish and Parks.