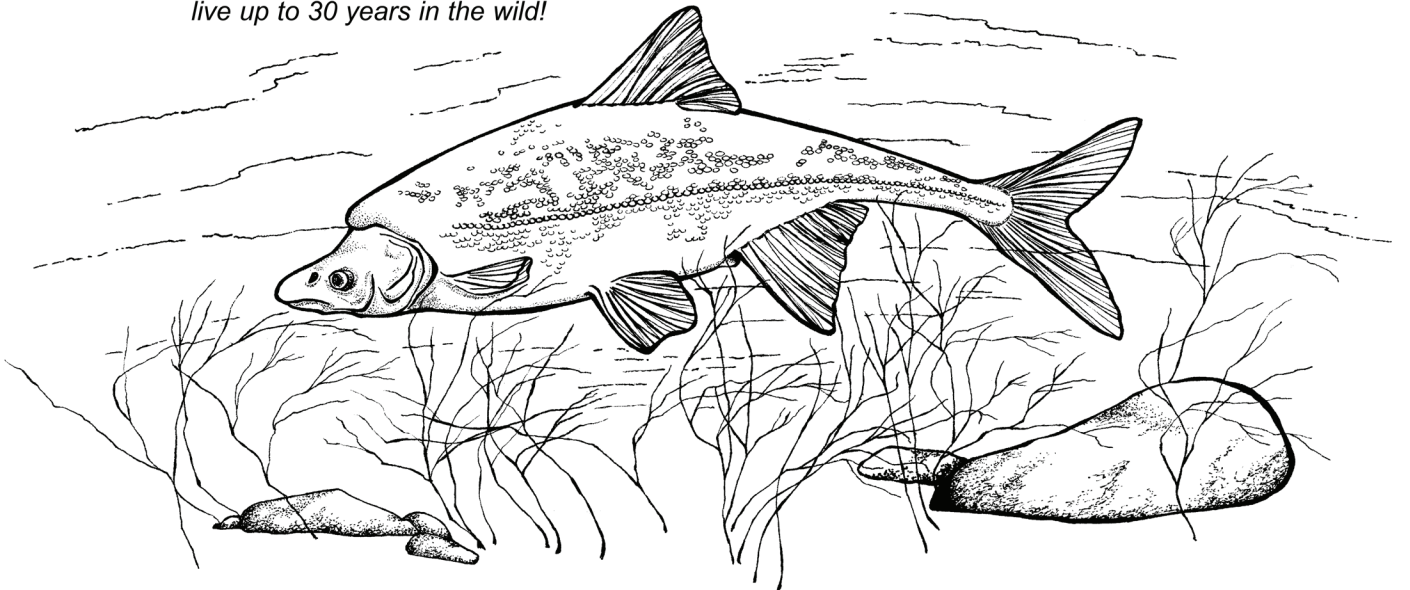


Something's Fishy Around Here...



When someone mentions the words "endangered species," most people tend to think of a bald eagle or a blue whale. There is another endangered animal, although not as well known, that needs our attention. This animal is the humpback chub.

The humpback chub is a fish that lives in the fast moving waters of the Colorado River. It gets its name from a hump on its back. The hump helps the fish stabilize itself in the rushing, rapid water. The humpback chub grows to be 18 inches long, and can live up to 30 years in the wild!



Within the last 40 years, the population of the humpback chub has fallen from 100,000 to just 3,000. They are now an endangered species because of the creation of dams and the introduction of invasive fish (non-native fish) in the Colorado River. Dams disrupt the river's natural cycle of flooding, and can cool down the river's temperature. Invasive fish have been thriving in the cold river conditions created by dams, but humpback chubs need warm water and variation in stream flow in order to breed. The invasive species only make matters worse because they

eat both the humpback chub and the food that the humpback chub eats.

Plans are underway to help the humpback chub by improving conditions in the Colorado River. If dams can be built that allow warm water through, the humpback chub may once again be able to breed. Although the humpback chub may not be one of the most well known species, it's an important animal that needs our help.

