

## **Sheepnose** ***Plethobasus cyphus***

**Habitat Preference:** Medium to large rivers in gravel or mixed sand and gravel

### **Threats:**

- Dredging is particularly detrimental in that it kills individuals currently using the area and creates an inhospitable environment that limits recolonization.
- Alterations to the natural flow of rivers due to the construction of dams.
- Channelization
- Water pollution
  - Industrial discharge
  - Residential discharge
  - Siltation
  - Herbicide runoff
  - Fertilizer runoff
- Removal of trees and other stream bank growth.
- Siltation
- Invasion of non-native species, especially zebra mussels.



Photograph Courtesy: US Fish and Wildlife Service

### **Habitat Improvement Guidelines**

- Limit new construction of dam structures and remove existing dam structures when feasible.
- Create fish passageways over existing dams.
- Implement proper upland management such as contour farming and other soil erosion control methods.
  - Create buffers along water bodies to filter chemicals and sediment out of runoff before it reaches waterways.
  - Limit grazing, cows and pigs can destabilize banks and directly crush mussels.
  - Establish large shade trees such as oaks and cottonwoods along stream corridors.
- Limit dredging to previously disturbed areas or to areas of unsuitable habitat.
- Cease channelization.
- Install riffles or other fish habitat components.