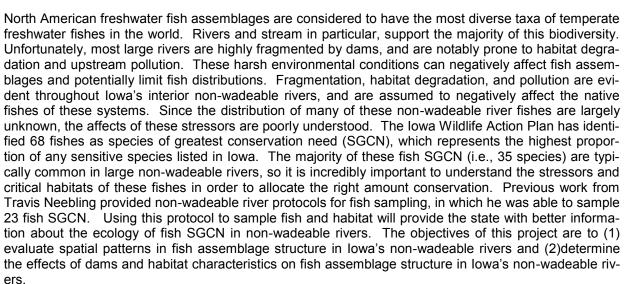
Rivers and Streams

For more information on this project, please contact:

Timothy Parks, Michael Quist, and Clay Pierce Department of Natural Resources Ecology & Management Iowa State University Ames, Iowa 50011

tparks@iastate.edu, mcquist@uidaho.edu, cpierce@iastate.edu

Fish Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Iowa's Non-Wadeable Rivers: Distribution, Relative Abundance, and Relations with Instream Habitat and Potential Movement Barriers



In the 2010 field season, 16,630 fish were sampled from 13 reaches of the Cedar River. The catch was composed of 70 species and one hybrid. Eighteen of the 70 species sampled were SGCN which included the western sand darter. The western sand darter is state threatened species that was sample once (i.e., single specimen, first sample in 50 years) by Travis Neebling in 2007. In 2010, 30 specimen of western sand darter were collected at 54% of our sampling reaches. The banded darter, slenderhead darter, shoal (speckled) chub, and northern logperch were the most abundant fish SGCN that occurred

in a high percentage of the reaches sampled. Specifically, the banded darter was the second most abundant fish of all fish sampled. The slenderhead darter was the most commonly sampled SGCN, occurring at 93% of all reaches sampled. Preliminary results and analysis revealed that fish assemblage composition varies spatially along the Cedar River, indicating that either specific habitats or movement barriers (i.e., dams) are influencing the distributions of fishes in the river. In 2011, sampling will continue on the lowa River, spatial analysis fish assemblage structure will extend to the Iowa River, and fish associations with instream habitat and dams will be assessed, for both rivers.



