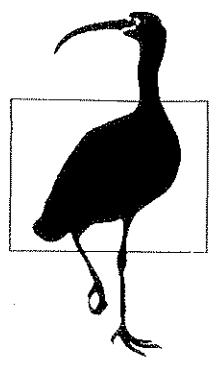


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1995



# FACT SHEET

## NBS STATE PARTNERSHIP

### NEW MEXICO, TEXAS, OKLAHOMA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL SERVICE

#### PROJECT TITLE

Distribution Of Freshwater Mussels of the Canadian River Drainage (New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma)

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This partnership between the National Biological Service and the States of New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma will inventory freshwater mussels in the Canadian River drainage from the headwaters rising at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, New Mexico and extending downstream throughout the middle reaches of the Canadian River. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico Heritage Program and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, with technical assistance and museum support from the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory and the University of Arts and Sciences of Oklahoma, will conduct field surveys in New Mexico and Texas. Resulting information will be presented in Geographic Information System (GIS) formats on the participants' respective databases as well as through the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII)—an NBS initiative designed to facilitate electronic access to biological data.

#### PARTNERS

This partnership combines the data and expertise of many organizations to produce a comprehensive and conclusive survey. Partners include the:

- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
- New Mexico Natural Heritage Program

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
  - University of Sciences and Arts of Oklahoma—Chickasaw
  - Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory
  - National Biological Service
- NBS will provide \$35,000 to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (\$15,000 of which will be provided to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) in addition to providing technical support for database development and networking through the NBII.

#### SCHEDULE

Mussel surveys will be conducted through September 1995. The GIS locations of field data will be reported with the submission of a progress report in December 1995. A final report will be submitted by September 30, 1996.

#### PRODUCTS

- The following will be produced—
- A report summarizing survey results*, including population status (distribution and abundance), identification of existing and potential threats, and management recommendations for the Canadian River drainage.
  - Inventory localities* will be documented on GIS databases. A photographic record (35 mm slides) documenting extant habitat conditions will be established.
  - Field collection material* will be deposited into regional museum collections.

*Data will be made available* for database systems of the state and federal resource agencies and State Natural Heritage Programs (New Mexico and Oklahoma) charged with stewardship of the Canadian River.

*Factual data will be published* in peer-reviewed professional journals as appropriate, in order to complement current state and federal efforts to determine the conservation status and distribution of freshwater mussels of the Canadian River drainage.

#### PROJECT GUIDANCE

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is the lead agency and is coordinating implementation. A formal partnership is being developed with NBS Information and Technology Services to establish metadata standards, data communications, and NBII compatibility. Descriptive metadata will be made available and accessible to users of the NBII Directory and clearinghouse for dissemination of actual data to the NBII. This mussel survey coincides with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries Division 1995 inventory to assess the status of the Arkansas River shiner and native fish of the Canadian River. Field crews will coordinate to allow for more extensive surveying.

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BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM  
PROJECT

This research will contribute to each participant's freshwater mussel inventory program; thereby facilitating status assessment of mussel populations native to the Canadian River. This data will support State and federal management strategies to prevent the establishment of zebra mussels throughout the Canadian River system. This project represents a collaborative effort between State and federal agencies whose focus is to generate and disseminate accurate biological information for public and private land managers and policy makers for objective management decisions.

PARTNERSHIP CONTACTS

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