

FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

The Narrow-foot Diving Beetle



Photo: Kelly Miller

A DWINDLING DIVING BEETLE

The Narrow-foot Diving Beetle (*Hygrotus diversipes*) occurs in the Powder River and Wind River drainages in Wyoming at 11 known sites. This area is also ground zero for massive coalbed methane extraction, a practice that generates enormous amounts of contaminated water within the narrow range of this rare beetle. Another potential threat is water diversion. Without federal protection, we may lose this fragile beetle forever.

A TINY PREDATOR

Not much is known about the Narrow-foot Diving Beetle, but other diving beetles are predators in both their immature (larval) and adult life stages. They likely eat other insect larvae and crustaceans. There are often sedges and plant debris in and around pools where this species is found.

KNOW YOUR BEETLE

- Going on Looks: the Narrow-foot Diving Beetle measures about 0.2 inches in length and has an oval shape and a pale yellowish color.
- A 60s Throwback: this species was first discovered in 1964.
- A Rugged Individual: diving beetles are well known for their ability to use small, temporary water sources in otherwise dry habitats.
- Slipping Through the Cracks: the Fish & Wildlife Service once considered this beetle to be a candidate for federal protection, but it dropped off the radar screen in 1996.

CLIMATE CHAOS

Climate change may lead to extended droughts within this creature's habitat. Severe droughts that dry up even the meager water sources upon which the diving beetle depends are a threat to its survival.

