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January 23, 2025

Elizabeth Bainbridge
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
US Fish & Wildlife Service
2105 Osuna Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

NMERT# 4126

RE: Species Status Assessment, Recovery Plan, and 5-year Review for Zuni Bluehead Sucker

Dear Ms. Bainbridge:

The Department appreciates the opportunity to submit information for the development of a Species Status Assessment (SSA), recovery plan, and 5-year review for Zuni Bluehead Sucker *Catostomus discobolus yarrowi*. Since the completion of the previous 5-year review in 2020, the Department has collaborated with the New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NMFWCO) on annual Zuni Bluehead Sucker population monitoring surveys. The resulting data and reports from these efforts are collected and reported by NMFWCO. Currently, the Department does not have any new information to provide.

The Department fully supports the development of an SSA and recovery plan for Zuni Bluehead Sucker and requests involvement in these efforts. We have participated on SSA and recovery teams for many other fish species across the state and believe we can provide valuable input for Zuni Bluehead Sucker. With many decades of experience in the management, monitoring, and research of this species within New Mexico, we are confident in our ability to serve as a valuable resource to the team developing these recovery documents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information and data for the development of a SSA, recovery plan, and 5-year status review for Zuni Bluehead Sucker. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Service for conservation of this species. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Adam Barkalow, San Juan Basin Native Fish Biologist at (505) 500-6192 or adam.barkalow@dgf.nm.gov.

Sincerely,

Kirk A. Patten
Chief, Fisheries Management Division