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February 12, 2025

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

NMERT# 4194

RE: Species Status Assessment for Rio Grande Shiner

Dear Mr. Dean,

The Department appreciates the opportunity to submit information for the development of a Species Status Assessment (SSA) for Rio Grande Shiner *Notropis jemezianus*. The Department has participated in multiple survey efforts for this species, primarily while assisting the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) with annual monitoring of Pecos Bluntnose Shiner *Notropis simus pecosensis*. The associated data and reports from these efforts are collected and managed by the Service and the Department does not have any additional information to provide at this time.

The Department fully supports the development of an SSA for Rio Grande Shiner and requests involvement in these efforts. Since 1986, the Service and the Department have cooperatively monitored the Pecos River fish assemblage, and this collaboration has yielded most of the information we currently have on the species' status. We have served on SSA technical teams for several other fish species in New Mexico and believe we can provide valuable input in the development of an SSA for Rio Grande Shiner.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the Service on the conservation of this species. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Joanna Hatt, Rio Grande/Pecos Native Fish Biologist at (505) 500-5001 or [joanna.hatt@dgf.nm.gov](mailto:joanna.hatt@dgf.nm.gov).

Sincerely,

Kirk A. Patten  
Chief, Fisheries Management Division