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February 17, 2025

Attn: Sarah Yates  
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
2105 Osuna Road NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Re: Species Status Assessment for Pecos Springsnail, NMERT- 4219

Dear Ms. Yates,

The Department appreciates the opportunity to submit information for a comprehensive review of the status of Pecos springsnail *Pyrgulopsis pecosensis*. We fully support the development of a Species Status Assessment and other planning documents. Since the early 1990s, the Department has conducted monitoring and research on this species and this work has yielded most of the current information available. We have served on SSA technical teams for numerous other aquatic species in New Mexico and request inclusion in the analysis and interpretation of data we are submitting as well as participation in the development of the SSA for Pecos springsnail.

The Department has periodically monitored Pecos springsnail at Blue Spring since the late 1990s. The Department also recently surveyed Castle Spring, the type locality for Pecos springsnail, and determined that the habitat will likely not support a viable population of Pecos springsnail at this time and translocation to Castle Spring is not recommended until habitat restoration can occur. The Department has summarized all monitoring data for Pecos springsnail per reporting obligations for Section 6 funding from the USFWS. We have included the reports as part of our response to your information request. The raw data for the Castle Spring survey is included, but the report is in progress and will be provided to the USFWS as soon as it is completed.

Additionally, the Department recently contracted Miami University of Ohio (Miami) to complete a demographic and genetic monitoring project. The data and reports from Miami contain information on the current distribution, trends in abundance, life history, and genetic status of Pecos springsnail at Blue Spring, the only extant location for the species. These reports as well as summarized monitoring data are included in the Department's Section 6 final reports to the USFWS, attached here.

We look forward to continued partnership with the Service in development of the SSA and conservation measures for this species. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Nathan Thompson, Aquatic biologist at (505) 709-5195 or [nathan.thompson@dgf.nm.gov](mailto:nathan.thompson@dgf.nm.gov).

Sincerely,

Kirk Patten  
Chief, Fisheries Management Division