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June 17, 2026

Attn: FWS-R2-ES-2024-N049
Daniel Fenner,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office
9014 East 21st Street
Tulsa, OK 74129

RE: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Initiation of 5-Year Status Reviews of 38 Species in the Southwest (NMERT 6142)

Dear Mr. Fenner,

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide information as part of the 5-year status review for 38 species in the Southwest, including Arkansas River Shiner *Notropis girardi*, as identified in the November 14th, 2024 Federal Register notice. We have provided comments and support in the past for previous 5-Year Reviews and the Recovery plan, and fully support providing information that will update the status of the species. Attached are federal aid final reports to assist the Service in review of the status for this species.

The Department has regularly monitored Arkansas River Shiner in the Canadian River twice a year since 2012 and has kept a long-term dataset showing trends in Arkansas River Shiner abundance. The information is included in the attached federal grant reports. The Department has also funded a genetic monitoring study that will help to track temporal changes in metrics such as genetic diversity and effective population size, and will supplement our demographic monitoring and provide greater insight into population trends, extinction risk, and adaptation. These reports are also attached.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding this 5-year review for Arkansas River Shiner. We look forward to continued partnership with the Service. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Nathan Thompson, Lower Pecos and Canadian Senior Native Fish Biologist, at 505-709-5195 or nathan.thompson@dgf.nm.gov.

Sincerely,

Kirk Patten
Chief, Fisheries Management Division