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For more information, contact:

Karin Stangl, Planning and Communication Director
Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission
(505) 827-6139

Leeanne Clark, Public Relations Specialist
Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission
(505) 765-2057

Interstate Stream Commission Hires New Refugium Manager for Los Lunas Facility

(LOS LUNAS, New Mexico) -- The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission has hired a refugium manager for the new hatchery under development for the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow in Los Lunas.

Douglas Tave is charged with assisting in the current design and planning process of the hatchery. The hatchery is a unique naturalized design that will try to mimic the flows of the Rio Grande. The 400-foot long "river" will have several small ponds connecting to it. Once construction is complete, Tave will be supervising the testing phase and regulating water level to create flooded areas, where the fish can spawn in a realistic natural setting.

"Tave's previous research experience with fish genetics and reproduction will be a great asset," said State Engineer John D'Antonio. "His knowledge will help us create an environment that should help increase the population of the endangered Rio Grande Silvery Minnow."

Tave received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in biology from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He earned a Master of Science degree in aquaculture from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. in aquaculture from Auburn University.

Tave has worked as an aquaculturalist since 1975 in various places, including the Peace Corps, Auburn University, University of Minnesota and the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff. He has also authored and edited several books and articles about fish genetics. He was also the founding editor of the *Journal of Applied Aquaculture*.

The nine-member Interstate Stream Commission is charged with duties, which include protecting New Mexico's right to water under eight interstate stream compacts, ensuring the state complies with each of those compacts, as well as water planning.

(MORE)

The Office of the State Engineer is charged with administering the state's water resources. The State Engineer has power over the supervision, measurement, appropriation, and distribution of all surface and groundwater in New Mexico, including streams and rivers that cross state boundaries. The State Engineer is also Secretary of the Interstate Stream Commission and oversees its staff.

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