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Engineering Design Award Won for Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and HDR Engineering Inc, are pleased to jointly announce the receipt of an award from *Southwest Contractor* for the engineering design of the Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium.

Southwest Contractor, a leading construction industry publication serving the Southwest since 1938, announced the winners of its Best of 2008 Awards for New Mexico. The annual competition, now in its 11th year, recognizes construction and design excellence in separate award ceremonies for Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico.

Over 650 entries were received in the tri-state region, with 175 representing New Mexico projects.

The design for the Interstate Stream Commission's facility was submitted for the competition by HDR Engineering Inc.

"Being selected by *Southwest Contractor* for this unique facility acknowledges the collaboration between the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and HDR's biologists and engineers," said Kenneth P. Ferjancic, HDR Engineering, Inc.'s Vice President and Director of Fisheries. "This design for an endangered fish sets the bar for restoration programs across the country."

"We are honored and delighted that this innovative project has been recognized by such a well-respected publication and resource as the *Southwest Contractor*," said Interstate

Stream Commission project manager Grace Haggerty. "Our two organizations worked very closely together on all phases of the project and the State of New Mexico is excited to begin working at this state-of-the-art facility that should not only provide better information on the fish, but may very well change the way other species of endangered fish are raised for reintroduction purposes."

In addition to being profiled in the December 2008 *Southwest Contractor* publication and website, the project's design and construction team will be honored along with other award recipients at an awards ceremony held in December. Local winners will move on to the McGraw-Hill Construction's first annual National Best of 2008.

Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium is a unique outdoor fish culture facility that mimics the Rio Grande and the various habitats that are needed for the recovery of the Rio Grande silvery minnow. It will provide a place for the fish to spawn and grow in an environment that closely resembles its natural habitat. This facility will meet one of the requirements of the 2003 Biological Opinion.

The facility constructed by Smithco Construction, Inc. of Caballo, New Mexico, was completed in June and has been undergoing a rigorous shakedown for the past five months. Fish should be stocked in the refugium later this year.

For more information, please contact Grace Haggerty, at (505) 765-2053.

The Interstate Stream Commission is charged with iprotecting 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.

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