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Interstate Stream Commission's Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium Enters Phase III

(LOS LUNAS, New Mexico) — The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission announced today that 10,000 baby Rio Grande silvery minnow, called fry, were stocked into their unique, award-winning outdoor facility at the Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium.

This is one of the state's contributions, funded primarily through the Water Trust Board, toward meeting Endangered Species Act goals.

The fish will continue to grow during the summer and fall seasons. Growth and health during this large-scale culture trial will be studied.

When harvested, the fish will be counted, weighed, and stocked into the Rio Grande to help recover the species.

The fish were acquired from Dexter National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center of Dexter, NM. These fish will be grown as Phase III of the start-up fish culture activities that are required under the Interstate Stream Commission's US Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened and Endangered Species Permit.

"This is a significant milestone in the process to become certified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and for the facility to be fully operational," said Refugium Manager Douglas Tave."

For more information, please contact Julie Maas, at (505) 383-4095.

(Photos are available)

The nine-member Interstate Stream Commission is charged with separate duties including protecting New Mexico's right to water under eight interstate stream compacts, ensuring the state complies with each of those compacts as well as investigating, conserving and protecting the waters of the State, in addition to water planning.

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