

## COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

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Meeting Date: January 10, 2025

Agenda Number: 9

Presenter: Kirk Patten

Corroborator: N/A

Agenda Title: Aquatic Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) Initiatives

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### 1. Summary of Agenda Item

The Department is engaged in several conservation initiatives for aquatic Species of Greatest Conservation Need in partnership with Federal, State, and Local governments and Non-Governmental Organizations. The Department will provide overviews of long-standing initiatives for the benefit of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, Rio Grande Chub, Rio Grande Sucker, and Pecos Pupfish.

### 2. Background Information

Chapter 17 of New Mexico Statutes provides the Department with authority to manage protected species as well as conduct investigations and conservation efforts for various species found in New Mexico. At different times in the past, the Department identified needs to evaluate species status, plan and implement joint conservation efforts, and evaluate effectiveness of conservation efforts. While formal Recovery Teams are utilized for Federally protected species, signing of Conservation Agreements and the formation of Conservation Teams has been an effective model for coordinating conservation efforts for native species such as Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, Rio Grande Chub, Rio Grande Sucker, and Pecos Pupfish. The status of these species has either stabilized or improved as a result of conservation efforts by the Department and Conservation Team signatories.

### 3. Strategic Plan References and Possible Impacts of Agenda Item

Activities conducted by the Fisheries Management Division advance the Conservation Services Program Objectives 10 of the Department's Strategic Plan: FY 2019 – FY 2023. Attain measurable progress toward the restoration of wildlife identified as being at risk or depletion or extinction.

### 4. Considerations Regarding Duplications and/or Conflicts with Existing Rules or Statutes

None

### 5. Description and Summary of Public Involvement Process and Results

No public involvement was specifically conducted for this Agenda item. The Department routinely engages with interest groups at Conservation Team meetings.

### 6. Suggested Motion

This Agenda item is for information purposes only.