



January 16, 2024

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee
350 North State, Suite 320 & 350
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee:

Subject: Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery Request For Appropriations

Dear Senators and Representatives,

The Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) would like to express support for the RFA asking for an increase to the Species Protection Account (Endangered Species Mitigation Fund - ESMF). The ESMF has been in place since 1997 and over the decades has provided funding to critical projects that have helped not only achieve downlisting/delisting of species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list but also prevented many species from becoming imperiled to the point where ESA listing was warranted.

ESMF allows the state to partner with essential agencies on conservation programs to prevent additional listings under ESA, thus maintaining state management authority and reducing federal regulatory burdens. This reduces much of the red-tape if a species was listed and facilitates faster responses to management actions in an ever-changing environment. ESMF has provided the state funding contribution to three endangered fish recovery programs that achieve ESA compliance for continued water use and development while making progress toward recovery.

We at the WCWCD have great experience with the benefits of the ESMF program as it funds our local Virgin River Program (Program) has twice helped us avoid a federal listing on the Virgin Spinedace, preventing an additional eighty miles of critical habitat from being designated in Washington County. The Program also works closely with WCWCD to protect, conserve, recover and enhance populations of endangered Woundfin, Virgin River Chub and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, allowing us to pursue our projects that benefit those who call southwestern Utah home.

Since its inception in 1997, the ESMF has been flat funded and this RFA only seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF once had for these projects/programs. The WCWCD is in support

of this RFA as it will provide resources to continue to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the entire State of Utah in the context of ongoing resource use and development thereby ensuring the quality of life for people in Utah. The Virgin River Program gets one third of their annual funding from the ESMF program, we commit over \$1.5M in water and other services toward this effort so we appreciate any additional efforts to help fund these critical programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zach Renstrom', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zach Renstrom
General Manager
Washington County Water Conservancy District



435 North Main Street
La Verkin, Utah 84745
(435) 635-2581 (435) 635-2104 Fax

Blair Gubler
Micah Gubler
Richard Hirschi
Darren Prince
Patricia Wise

Kyle Gubler
City Administrator

Kelly B. Wilson
Mayor

Council Members

January 16, 2024

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee
350 North State, Suite 320 & 350
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee:

Subject: Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery Request for Appropriations

Dear Senators and Representatives,

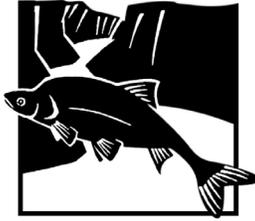
The City of La Verkin would like to express support for the RFA asking for an increase to the Species Protection Account (Endangered Species Mitigation Fund - ESMF). The ESMF has been in place since 1997 and, over the decades, has provided funding to critical projects that have helped not only achieve downlisting/delisting of species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list but also prevented many species from becoming imperiled to the point where ESA listing was warranted.

ESMF allows the state to partner with essential agencies on conservation programs to prevent additional listings under ESA, thus maintaining state management authority and reducing federal regulatory burdens. This reduces much of the red tape if a species is listed and facilitates faster responses to management actions in an ever-changing environment. ESMF has provided the state funding contribution to three endangered fish recovery programs that achieve ESA compliance for continued water use and development while progressing toward recovery.

Since its inception in 1997, the ESMF has been flat funded, and this RFA only seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF once had for these projects/programs. The City of La Verkin supports this RFA as it will provide resources to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the entire State of Utah in the context of ongoing resource use and development thereby ensuring the quality of life for people in Utah.

Sincerely,

Kelly B. Wilson
Mayor La Verkin City



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Anna Muñoz, Chairperson
Implementation Committee

Julie Stahli
Program Director

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – P.O. Box 25486 – Lakewood, Colorado 80225 – 720-697-4933

January 29, 2024

Russ Franklin
Central Utah Water Conservancy District
1426 East 750 North, Suite 400
Orem, Utah 84097-5474

Mr. Franklin,

This letter is in response to your request for information on use of funds provided from the Endangered Species Management Fund to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program). The Recovery Program greatly benefits from the Endangered Species Management Fund (ESMF). Funding provided through the State of Utah provides match to other state and federal funds, which allow us to implement recovery actions by the Recovery Program on an annual basis. In addition, annual funding makes it possible for the Recovery Program to operate hatcheries, operate and maintain wetlands that support recovery of endangered razorback sucker, evaluate the success of recovery actions, support adaptive management, monitor endangered fish populations, and implement studies on native fish which provide the food base for the endangered Colorado pikeminnow.

The Recovery Program is a partnership among ten entities seeking to recover four ESA listed fish species while water development and management continue in the upper basin in compliance with the ESA. The Recovery Program provides ESA compliance for over 2,200 projects upstream of Lake Powell in Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming, including the entirety of the Central Utah Project. As you know, the Central Utah Project is the most complex Bureau of Reclamation water resources development project in the State of Utah. The project currently diverts 101,900 acre-feet of water from the Colorado River basin to the Wasatch Front. The Recovery Program implements recovery actions for the fish that currently provide ESA compliance for 266 projects in Utah that deplete approximately 619,000 acre-feet per year. No lawsuits have been filed on ESA compliance provided by Recovery Program actions. Recovery actions in the entire Green River basin are assessed on an annual basis to ensure that sufficient recovery actions are occurring to continue that ESA compliance. This provides certainty to water users that depletions can continue in compliance with the ESA. Continuation of these activities to benefit the endangered fish is necessary to maintain ESA compliance and achieve the Program's goal of recovering the endangered fish. Design and construction of the Matheson Wetland in Moab, Utah was an ESMF project that provides annual

benefits to the Recovery Program. In 2023, Matheson produced over 50 wild razorback sucker juveniles, more than any other wetland that year. The wetland is part of an increasing number that support the entire life cycle of the razorback sucker which has led to a proposed downlisting for this species from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

If you need any more information from me about how incredibly important ESMF funds are to the Recovery Program and to other similar programs, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Stahli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Stahli, Program Director

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

cc: Tom Pitts, Upper Basin Water Users Representative



VICTOR IVERSON, COMMISSIONER | GIL ALMQUIST, COMMISSION CHAIR | ADAM SNOW, COMMISSIONER

January 16, 2024

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee
350 North State, Suite 320 & 350
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee:

Subject: Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery Request for Appropriations

Dear Senators, and Representatives,

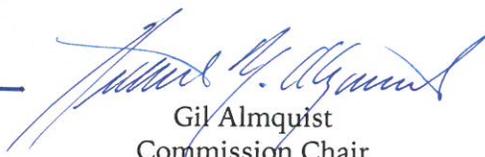
Washington County Commissioners would like to express support for the RFA asking for an increase to the Species Protection Account (Endangered Species Mitigation Fund - ESMF). The ESMF has been in place since 1997 and over the decades has provided funding to critical projects that have helped not only achieve downlisting/delisting of species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list but also prevented many species from becoming imperiled to the point where ESA listing was warranted.

ESMF allows the state to partner with essential agencies on conservation programs to prevent additional listings under ESA, thus maintaining state management authority and reducing federal regulatory burdens. This reduces much of the red-tape if a species was listed and facilitates faster responses to management actions in an ever changing environment. ESMF has provided the state funding contribution to three endangered fish recovery programs that achieve ESA compliance for continued water use and development while making progress toward recovery.

Since its inception in 1997, the ESMF has been flat funded and this RFA only seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF once had for these projects/programs. Washington County is in support of this RFA as it will provide resources to continue to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the entire State of Utah in the context of ongoing resource use and development thereby ensuring the quality of life for people in Utah.

Sincerely,


Victor Iverson
Commissioner


Gil Almquist
Commission Chair


Adam Snow
Commissioner



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
2369 W Orton Circle, #50
West Valley City, Utah 84119



In Reply Refer to:
FWS/R6/

January 29, 2024

Russ Franklin
Central Utah Water Conservancy District
1426 East 750 North, Suite 400
Orem, Utah 84097-5474

Mr. Franklin,

Thank you for your request regarding the importance of ESMF to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). Thanks to the efforts of many, the State of Utah is one of our most proactive state partners in managing imperiled wildlife species. We are currently partners with the State in multiple successful recovery programs, including the Virgin River Recovery Program, Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, June Sucker Recovery Program, San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, Utah Prairie Dog Recovery Implementation Program, Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Program, and Mojave Desert Tortoise Recovery Program. In many cases, they allow the State of Utah to maintain decision making power around natural resource management in a unique and valuable way.

All these programs receive funding on a regular basis from both the Service, the State of Utah (primarily through ESMF), and other state, federal, public, private, and non-profit partners. The collaborative nature of these programs allows faster and more effective species conservation than any one agency could do alone. They are shining examples of how the Service best implements its mission of working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Collaborative conservation efforts have also contributed to the down and delisting of wildlife and plant species under the Endangered Species Act (Act), resulting in millions of dollars of savings annually in Utah by reducing regulatory burdens and improving efficiency of environmental review, all while preserving Utah's unique ecosystems. Proactive conservation efforts between the State of Utah, Service, other state and federal agencies for non-listed species of concern have resulted in critical conservation actions to improve the status of species and informed decisions by the Service regarding species' status under the Act.

Funding for these programs has been relatively secure because of programs like ESMF and the strong commitments of all partners, even in the face of flat and declining budgets as the Service

has seen in recent years. As the number of species petitioned for listing continues to rise, our ability to dedicate perpetual funds to these essential programs becomes increasingly difficult.

We do not have the ability to dedicate additional funding in the absence of ESMF funds. These programs depend on the funding provided by agencies like the State of Utah.

If you have any additional questions about the importance of ESMF, please reach out.

Sincerely,

Rita Reisor, Acting Deputy Field Supervisor
signing for:

George Weekley
Acting Field Office Supervisor
Utah Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



January 16, 2024

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee
350 North State, Suite 320 & 350
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality
Appropriations Subcommittee:
Subject: Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery Request For Appropriations

Dear Senators, and Representatives,

The Washington County Flood Control Authority would like to express support for the RFA asking for an increase to the Species Protection Account (Endangered Species Mitigation Fund - ESMF). The ESMF has been in place since 1997 and over the decades has provided funding to critical projects that have helped not only achieve downlisting/delisting of species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list but also prevented many species from becoming imperiled to the point where ESA listing was warranted.

ESMF allows the state to partner with essential agencies on conservation programs to prevent additional listings under ESA, thus maintaining state management authority and reducing federal regulatory burdens. This reduces much of the red-tape if a species was listed and facilitates faster responses to management actions in an ever changing environment. ESMF has provided the state funding contribution to three endangered fish recovery programs that achieve ESA compliance for continued water use and development while making progress toward recovery.

Since its inception in 1997, the ESMF has been flat funded and this RFA only seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF once had for these projects/programs. The Washington County Flood Control Authority is in support of this RFA as it will provide resources to continue to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the entire State of Utah in the context of ongoing resource use and development thereby ensuring the quality of life for people in Utah.

Respectfully,

Rick Rosenberg, Project Manager
Washington County Flood Control Authority

Ivins City
85 N Main Street
Ivins, UT 84738
435-628-0606
www.ivins.com
An Equal Opportunity Employer



Mayor Chris Hart
City Council Members:
Lance Anderson
Sharon Barton
Sharon Gillespie
Mike Scott
Kevin Smith

City Manager Dale Coulam

January 17, 2024

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee
350 North State, Suite 320 & 350
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality
Appropriations Subcommittee:
Subject: Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery Request For Appropriations

Dear Senators, and Representatives,

Ivins City would like to express support for the RFA asking for an increase to the Species Protection Account (Endangered Species Mitigation Fund - ESMF). The ESMF has been in place since 1997 and over the decades has provided funding to critical projects that have helped not only achieve downlisting/delisting of species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list but also prevented many species from becoming imperiled to the point where ESA listing was warranted.

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Since its inception in 1997, the ESMF has been flat funded and this RFA only seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF once had for these projects/programs. Ivins City is in support of this RFA as it will provide resources to continue to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the entire State of Utah in the context of ongoing resource use and development thereby ensuring the quality of life for people in Utah.

Sincerely,

Mayor Chris Hart
Ivins City



118 Lion Blvd. PO Box 187 Springdale UT 84767 435-772-3434 fax 435-772-3952

January 17, 2024

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee
350 North State, Suite 320 & 350
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee:

Subject: Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery Request for Appropriations

Dear Senators, and Representatives,

The Town of Springdale, Utah, supports the Request for Appropriations asking for an increase to the Species Protection Account (Endangered Species Mitigation Fund - ESMF). The ESMF has been in place since 1997 and, over the decades, has provided funding to critical projects that have helped not only achieve downlisting/delisting of species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list but also prevented many species from becoming imperiled to the point where ESA listing was warranted.

ESMF allows the state to partner with essential agencies on conservation programs to prevent additional listings under ESA, thus maintaining state management authority and reducing federal regulatory burdens. This reduces much of the red tape if a species was listed and facilitates faster responses to management actions in an ever-changing environment. ESMF has provided the state funding contribution to three endangered fish recovery programs that achieve ESA compliance for continued water use and development while making progress toward recovery.

Since its inception in 1997, the ESMF has been flat funded and this Request only seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF once had for these projects/programs. The Town of Springdale is in support of this RFA as it will provide resources to continue to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the entire State of Utah in the context

of ongoing resource use and development, thereby ensuring the quality of life for people in Utah.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bruno

Barbara Bruno
Mayor, Town of Springdale
801-243-5861
bbruno@springdale.utah.gov



TOWN OF ROCKVILLE

PO Box 630206
Rockville, UT 84763
Phone/Fax - (435) 772-0992

Founded 1862
Incorporated June 30, 1987

January 22, 2024

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee
350 North State, Suite 320 & 350
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality
Appropriations Subcommittee

Subject: Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery Request For Appropriations

Dear Senators, and Representatives,

The Town of Rockville would like to express support for the RFA asking for an increase to the Species Protection Account (Endangered Species Mitigation Fund - ESMF). The ESMF has been in place since 1997 and over the decades has provided funding to critical projects that have helped not only achieve downlisting/delisting of species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list but also prevented many species from becoming imperiled to the point where ESA listing was warranted.

ESMF allows the state to partner with essential agencies on conservation programs to prevent additional listings under ESA, thus maintaining state management authority and reducing federal regulatory burdens. This reduces much of the red tape if a species was listed and facilitates faster responses to management actions in an ever-changing environment. ESMF has provided the state funding contribution to three endangered fish recovery programs that achieve ESA compliance for continued water use and development while making progress toward recovery.

Since its inception in 1997, the ESMF has been flat funded and this RFA only seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF once had for these projects/programs. The Rockville Town Council is in support of this RFA as it will provide resources to continue to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the entire State of Utah in the context of ongoing resource use and development thereby ensuring the quality of life for people in Utah.

Sincerely,

Pam Leach, Mayor
Town of Rockville

Mayor
Rick Rosenberg

City Manager
Brock Jacobson



City Council
Ben Shakespeare
Denny Drake
Leina Mathis
Wendell Gubler
Jarett Waite

January 16, 2024

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee
350 North State, Suite 320 & 350
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee:
Subject: Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery Request For Appropriations

Dear Senators, and Representatives,

Santa Clara City would like to express support for the RFA asking for an increase to the Species Protection Account (Endangered Species Mitigation Fund - ESMF). The ESMF has been in place since 1997 and over the decades has provided funding to critical projects that have helped not only achieve downlisting/delisting of species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list but also prevented many species from becoming imperiled to the point where ESA listing was warranted.

ESMF allows the state to partner with essential agencies on conservation programs to prevent additional listings under ESA, thus maintaining state management authority and reducing federal regulatory burdens. This reduces much of the red-tape if a species was listed and facilitates faster responses to management actions in an ever changing environment. ESMF has provided the state funding contribution to three endangered fish recovery programs that achieve ESA compliance for continued water use and development while making progress toward recovery.

Since its inception in 1997, the ESMF has been flat funded and this RFA only seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF once had for these projects/programs. Santa Clara City is in support of this RFA as it will provide resources to continue to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the entire State of Utah in the context of ongoing resource use and development thereby ensuring the quality of life for people in Utah.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Rosenberg", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Rick Rosenberg
City of Santa Clara

Cc: Brock Jacobson, Santa Clara City Manager

2603 Santa Clara Drive, Santa Clara, Utah 84765
Phone (435) 673-6712 Fax (435) 628-7338



118 Lion Blvd. PO Box 187 Springdale UT 84767 435-772-3434 fax 435-772-3952

January 17, 2024

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee
350 North State, Suite 320 & 350
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee:

Subject: Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery Request for Appropriations

Dear Senators, and Representatives,

The Town of Springdale, Utah, supports the Request for Appropriations asking for an increase to the Species Protection Account (Endangered Species Mitigation Fund - ESMF). The ESMF has been in place since 1997 and, over the decades, has provided funding to critical projects that have helped not only achieve downlisting/delisting of species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list but also prevented many species from becoming imperiled to the point where ESA listing was warranted.

ESMF allows the state to partner with essential agencies on conservation programs to prevent additional listings under ESA, thus maintaining state management authority and reducing federal regulatory burdens. This reduces much of the red tape if a species was listed and facilitates faster responses to management actions in an ever-changing environment. ESMF has provided the state funding contribution to three endangered fish recovery programs that achieve ESA compliance for continued water use and development while making progress toward recovery.

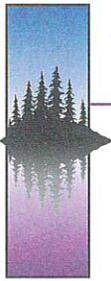
Since its inception in 1997, the ESMF has been flat funded and this Request only seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF once had for these projects/programs. The Town of Springdale is in support of this RFA as it will provide resources to continue to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the entire State of Utah in the context

of ongoing resource use and development, thereby ensuring the quality of life for people in Utah.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bruno

Barbara Bruno
Mayor, Town of Springdale
801-243-5861
bbruno@springdale.utah.gov



WEBER BASIN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

2837 EAST HIGHWAY 193 • LAYTON, UTAH • PHONE (801)771-1677 • SLC (801) 359-4494 • FAX (801) 544-0103

January 24, 2024

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations
Subcommittee
350 North State, Suite 320 & 350
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Scott W. Paxman, PE
General Manager/CEO

Board of Trustees:

Marlin K. Jensen
President
Weber County

Jared A. Andersen
Morgan County

Mark D. Anderson
Davis County

Kym O. Buttschardt
Weber County

Randy B. Elliott
Davis County

Scott K. Jenkins
Weber County

Angie Osguthorpe
Weber County

Christopher F. Robinson
Summit County

Paul C. Summers
Davis County

Attention: Members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental
Quality Appropriations Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery Request For Appropriations

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Weber Basin Water Conservancy District (“District”) is writing in support of the contributions the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund (“ESMF”) makes in working to achieve the State’s and local stakeholders’ goals in protecting our areas fish, wildlife, and plants. Since the creation of the ESMF in 1997, funding has been available to critical projects that have helped in the downlisting/delisting of species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Additional mitigation programs/efforts have been funded to help prevent many species from becoming imperiled to the point where ESA listing was warranted.

ESMF allows the state to partner with essential agencies on conservation programs to prevent additional listings under ESA, thus maintaining state management authority and reducing federal regulatory burdens. Recognizing the fluid environment in which federal regulatory measures operate, ensuring a strong local effort to ensure local control and efficient local assessment and program implementation is critical. ESMF has provided the state funding contribution to three endangered fish recovery programs that achieve ESA compliance for continued water use and development while making progress toward recovery.

The District understands that the ESMF has been flat funded since its inception in 1997 and supports this request for appropriations (RFA) which seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF intended to have for these projects/programs. Weber Basin Water Conservancy District is in support of this RFA as it will provide resources to continue to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the entire State of Utah in the context of ongoing resource use and development thereby ensuring the quality of life for people in Utah.

Sincerely,

Scott Paxman
General Manager

SP/dh



The Nature Conservancy in Utah
559 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84102

tel [801] 531-0999
fax [801] 359-0496
nature.org/utah

January 29, 2024

Honorable, Scott D. Sandall
Senate Chair
Natural Resources, Agriculture, &
Environmental Quality Appropriations
Subcommittee

Honorable, Stewart E. Barlow
House Chair
Natural Resources, Agriculture, &
Environmental Quality Appropriations
Subcommittee

Re: Support for Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery RFA

Dear Senator Sandall and Representative Barlow,

The Nature Conservancy in Utah would like to express support for Senator Winterton’s “Endangered Species Listing Prevention and Recovery” Request for Appropriation (RFA). This RFA is a one-time request for \$2 million to the Species Protection Account (Endangered Species Mitigation Fund – ESMF) housed within the Department of Natural Resources. Since ESMF was established in 1997, it has provided funding to critical projects that have implemented actions to delist 6 species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list and prevented 28 species from becoming imperiled to the point where ESA listing was warranted.

ESMF allows the state to partner with essential agencies on conservation programs to prevent additional listings under ESA, thus maintaining state management authority of species and reducing regulatory burdens. For example, ESMF has provided the state’s funding contribution to three endangered fish recovery programs (Virgin River, Colorado River, and Utah Lake) that achieve ESA compliance for continued water use and development while making progress toward recovery.

Competitive projects are evaluated by an advisory committee to ensure that they meet the funding intent of ESMF and align with continued resource use and development. I serve on the Advisory Committee for ESMF alongside representatives from the Utah Farm Bureau, Utah Petroleum Association, Utah Mining Association, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Since its inception over 25 years ago, funding for ESMF has not increased and this RFA only seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF once had for these projects/programs. We encourage you to support this RFA as it will provide resources to continue to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the entire State of Utah.

Sincerely,

Elaine York
West Desert Regional Director

cc: Elizabeth Kitchens, Kelley Hart, Megan Nelson



6905 S. 1300 E. #288, Cottonwood Heights, UT 84047-1817

FUELING UTAH'S GROWTH & PROSPERITY

January 17, 2024

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee
350 North State, Suite 320 & 350
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee:

Subject: Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery Request for Appropriations

Dear Senators and Representatives,

The Utah Petroleum Association would like to express support for the RFA asking for an increase to the Species Protection Account (Endangered Species Mitigation Fund - ESMF). The ESMF has been in place since 1997 and over the decades has provided funding to critical projects that have helped not only achieve downlisting/delisting of species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list but also prevented many species from becoming imperiled to the point where ESA listing was warranted.

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Since its inception in 1997, the ESMF has been flat funded and this RFA only seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF once had for these projects/programs. The Utah Petroleum Association is in support of this RFA as it will provide resources to continue to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the entire State of Utah in the context of ongoing resource use and development thereby ensuring the quality of life for people in Utah.

Sincerely,

Rikki Hrenko-Browning
President, UPA



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Color Country District Office-St George Field Office
345 E Riverside Dr
St George UT 84790

January 26, 2024

In Reply Refer To:
LLUTC03000

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee
350 North State, Suite 320 & 350
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee:

Subject: Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery Request For Appropriations

Dear Senators, and Representatives,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) St. George Field Office (SGFO) would like to express support for the RFA asking for an increase to the Species Protection Account (Endangered Species Mitigation Fund - ESMF). The ESMF has been in place since 1997 and over the decades has provided funding to critical projects that have helped not only achieve downlisting/delisting of species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list but also prevented many species from becoming imperiled to the point where ESA listing was warranted.

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Since its inception in 1997, the ESMF has been flat funded and this RFA only seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF once had for these projects/programs. The BLM SGFO is in support of this RFA as it will provide resources to continue to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the entire State of Utah in the context of ongoing resource use and development thereby ensuring the quality of life for people in Utah.

Sincerely,

Jason West
BLM SGFO Field Office Manager



January 30, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kress Staheli and I am the Mayor of Washington City, Utah. Washington City lies in the Southwest corner of the State in the heart of Washington County. Not only is Washington the fastest growing city in the county, it is also ranked the best small city in America to start a business. Our growth has been rapid and we are now approaching 40,000 residents. The Virgin River, which runs right through Washington City, is the lifeblood of our community. Without the Virgin River and its beneficial use, Washington City could not thrive. Therefore, I am writing in support of an RFA for an increase in Endangered Species Mitigation Funds.

The ESMF program is the state funding mechanism for the Virgin River Program. ESMF funding of the Virgin River Program has not received an increase since 2002. This is very challenging to our efforts to solve environmental issues here in Washington County. ESMF funds are used to keep species off of the Endangered Species Act list. Keeping species off the list protects Utah water users' water rights, helps keep management authority under state control, saves Utah a lot of money in the long run, and helps Utah comply with ESA regulations.

Over the past 20 years, Utah has been successful in preventing the ESA listing of 28 species. The average annual cost/year to recover ESA listed species has been estimated at over \$1,000,000/year. The ESA recovery savings through time for these 28 species totals more than \$240,000,000 and has given the State of Utah the ability to continue growing economically without ESA regulatory burdens for these 28 species.

As you can see, ESMF funding is crucial for the further growth and development of Washington City and our surrounding communities. Please appropriate the requested ESMF funding increase so that Utah remains a great place to live, work, and recreate.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kress Staheli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Kress Staheli



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ZION NATIONAL PARK

State Route 9
Springdale, Utah 84767



IN REPLY REFER TO:

January 17, 2024

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee
350 North State, Suite 320 & 350
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality
Appropriations Subcommittee

Subject: Endangered Species Mitigation Fund Augmentation RFA

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Zion National Park would like to express support for the RFA which seeks augmentation to the Species Protection Account, specifically the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund (ESMF). The ESMF has been in place since 1997 and over the decades has provided funding to critical projects, including the Virgin River Program in our area. The ESMF has helped not only achieve down-listing or delisting of species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list, but also prevented other species from becoming imperiled such that ESA listing might be warranted.

The ESMF allows the State to partner with other agencies on conservation programs to prevent additional listings under the ESA, thus maintaining State management authority, reducing regulatory burdens, and facilitates faster responses and management actions in an ever-changing environment. ESMF has provided the State funding contribution to three endangered fish recovery programs that achieve ESA compliance for continued water use and development, while making progress toward species recovery.

Over time, fund sources experience budget erosion from increasing costs of conducting business. This RFA only seeks to recover the buying power that ESMF once had for these projects and programs. Restoration of ESMF program support will provide necessary resources to maintain and restore the incredible diversity of native species across the State of Utah, provide for ongoing natural resource use and development, and thereby ensure the quality of life for citizens of Utah.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bradybaugh
Superintendent