



Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium



Historically, the fish was found in 2,400 river miles of the Rio Grande and Pecos River. Today, it is restricted to 174 miles of the Rio Grande from Cochiti Reservoir to the headwaters of Elephant Butte Reservoir. It was listed as endangered in 1994.



Rio Grande silvery minnow
Hybognathus amarus

HISTORY

- Built by New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) to help the federal government comply with 2003 Biological Opinion, as well as to provide non-federal cost share to Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
- Two refugia designed by HDR/FishPro, with input and funding from NMISC:
 - Albuquerque Refugium operated by the BioPark
 - Los Lunas Refugium operated by NMISC

FUNCTIONS

- Spawn and propagate silvery minnow to stock existing population in the middle valley, as well as other stretches of Rio Grande
- House a refugial population in case of river disasters so species will not go extinct
- House an additional “insurance” captive population in case a disease affects other silvery minnow breeding and propagation facilities

FEATURES

- Consists of:
 - 700-ft² office
 - 2,000-ft² storage building
 - 1,500-ft² indoor hatchery
 - 0.5-acre outdoor refugium
- Indoor hatchery houses tanks, aquaria and three recirculating systems that filter and purify the water
- Outdoor refugium mimics Rio Grande and has all habitats critical for different life stages of silvery minnow:
 - 458-foot stream
 - 5 ponds
 - 2 islands
 - Shelves
 - Overbank areas
- Outdoor refugium also produces water conditions similar to Rio Grande, including the spring flood

COST

- \$1.7 million for design, engineering, and construction; general contractor: SmithCo
- Funding from NMISC and two grants from New Mexico Water Trust Board