



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240



APR 30 2013

Magnus McCaffery, Ph.D.  
Turner Endangered Species Fund  
1123 Research Drive  
Bozeman, Montana 59718

Dear Dr. McCaffery:

Congratulations to the New Mexico Chiricahua Leopard Frog Conservation Working Group as Recovery Champions for the emergency actions that you undertook, changing the trajectory of the species in the state from trending towards extinction—projected within a decade—to recovery.

By 2008, disease and non-native predators had eliminated almost two-thirds of the populations of the Chiricahua leopard frog in New Mexico, and many that survived consisted of very few frogs. With only a limited budget and a small group of people, your team combined an eagerness to do what needed to be done with creative options, including back yard frog tanks and a “ranarium.” This approach rescued four populations, established a new wild population on private land, augmented two others, and reintroduced the species at three locations.

Your team has secured the remaining genetic lineages of the Chiricahua leopard frog, created refugia populations of all populations, and started a multi-faceted program of captive-breeding and head-starting that involves federal and state agencies, the academic community, private partners, and non-governmental organizations as stakeholders. Your success is a tribute to the enthusiasm of individual members who have devoted their resources and their time to conservation. Your team’s initiatives have changed conversations from stopping losses to advancing recovery.

Please convey our gratitude to Dr. Carter Kruse, Hanne Small, and Steve Dobrott for increasing our knowledge of this species and providing inspiration through their accomplishments.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR