UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

State of Utah
Fish Health Policy Board
May 28, 2025
2:00 – 3:30 PM
UDAF offices
Taylorsville, UT
Conference Room #2508

Teleconference link: https://meet.google.com/kzh-asaz-wvu
Join by phone: (US) +1 225-424-8023 PIN: 875 124 582#

This meeting will be conducted in person and via electronic means. Here is the available link to the public for live broadcast and on-demand viewing: https://tel.meet/kzh-asaz-wvu?pin=2881572709261

If you do not have access to the Internet, you can join via telephone calling: (US) +1 225-424-8023 and using meeting PIN: 875 124 582#

AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – WADE CAVENDER, CHAIR.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FHPB: [action Item]
    a. January 15, 2025 FHPB meeting (Handout)

4. GREEN SUCKER VARIANCE [action item]
    a. Robert Shields presenting on behalf of UDWR and AAHRC (Aquatic Animal Health Research Center).

5. MATHESON LAKE VARIANCE [action item]
    a. Randy Oplinger presenting on behalf of UDWR.

6. STEWART LAKE VARIANCE [action item]
    a. Randy Oplinger presenting on behalf of UDWR.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS [discussion item]
    a. No announcements at this time.

8. ADJOURN

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT, INDIVIDUALS NEEDING ACCOMODATIONS DURING THIS MEETING SHOULD CONTACT UDAF AT 801-982-2200. AT LEAST THREE WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS SHOULD CALL UTAH RELAY SERVICE AT 801-298-9484 OR 1-800-364-4128

AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – WADE CAVENDER, CHAIR.
    a. Wade Cavender (UDWR) – Chair
    b. Christie Swan – DWR
    c. Mike Cannon – DWR
    d. Dr. Chad Teal –
    e. Curtis Grow – UDAF
    f. Xavier Matheson
    g. Dr. Sabo
    h. Online
        i. Tylynn Griffen - private aquaculture
        ii. Justin Hart – DWR Regional Aquatic program manager (price)
        iii. Anna Marie Forest – DWR
    i. Quorum established
        i. Dr. Robert Martiez running late (arrived at 1406)
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
    a. none

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FHPB:

    a. June 19, 2024 FHPB meeting (Handout)

        1. Wade noted: the previous meetings notes were approved with minor amendments and thought that the amendments needed to be noted
        2. Xavier and Chad noted that those notes were clarified in the text
        3. Wade Agreed that there did not need to be accepted changed
        4. Mike approves, Chad seconds, all in favor, no discussion, approved

4. SAN JUAN VARIANCE AMENDMENT (action item)

    a. UDWR Southeast region office reporting: FHPB will discuss and vote on amendment. (UDWR Southeast Office) – Justin Hart presented

        1. As the water in Lake Powell has receded, a waterfall has developed and is quite a ways above and away from the lake
        2. A lot of native fish stack up (Colorado pike minnow and June Sucker) below the dam indicating their desire to move upstream.
        3. DWR would like to electro fish and bucket select species above the waterfall so they can continue their migration and spawning
        4. UDWR would like to add some additional native species to the proposal
            a. Bluehead and Flannelmouth suckers are naturally found below and above the waterfall, and UDWR would like to add these to the list of species to transport
        5. Wade: moving just a few hundred feet and was unanimously approved previously
        6. Chad makes a motion, Xavier seconds, all in favor, no opposed, no discussion
        7. Wade and Xavier discussed about protocol involving this amendment to the variance
            a. Will follow up with each other

8. Justin dismissed, but he is invited to stick around by Wade if he has the time

5. ETHICS TRAINING (action item)

a. Member presence and participation is required. (Curtis Grow, UDAF AG) (See PPT Presentation attached)

1. AGs that represent the boards are required to annually update them on this training
    a. Conflicts of interest
        i. Actual Conflicts of Interest
            1. Need to abstain from voting
            2. = If your decision could negatively or positively impact a business, organization you own or an immediate family member are effected more than the general public, or if you are unable to be independent for any other reason.
            3. If they are knowing or intentional there could be criminal repercussions or removal from the board
        ii. Perceived Conflict of Interest
            1. Require disclosure
            2. = The public might perceive it as a conflict of interest
            3. Ok to participate in voting if you feel you can still be impartial and objective
            4. You need to acknowledge this before the vote and make an independence and objectivity statement
        iii. Annually fill out the conflict-of-interest form
            1. Xavier will update these annually or disperse them to new members
        iv. Prohibited activities
            1. Improperly disclose information that is in a protected category
            2. Use the position to do something that will effect you or your family members economically , gain you privilege, or accept employment that will prevent you from being impartial.
                a. You can reach out to Xavier who can put you in contact with Curtis if you have the opportunity for a new job and are unsure if it will conflict with your participation on the board.
        v. Gifts and brides
            1. Something of economic or material value
            2. Exception:
                a. $50 or less that is occasional
                b. Public awards for public service
                c. Ordinary loans
            3. Penalties
                a. Knowing and intentionally violating = Criminal based on the value of the gift or bride
            4. Gov. Huntsman made an executive order to prevent all gifts or brides that may influence your performance
                a. Effectively removes the less than $50 exemption

        b. Applies to all government employees and includes board members.
        c. Exception is small value food (example: a reasonable plate of food for lunch), plaques or mementos, gifts from family members or close friends
        d. Small efforts of service or invited to participate in events
    5. Demand or offer donations
        a. Not applicable to this board
        b. Also prohibited for board members to participate int his activity.

b. Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA)
    i. OPMA – quorum needs to be present
    ii. Meeting must be called by an authorized person (example: chair)
    iii. When board members meet up to conduct official business or act
    iv. Includes if you are a tour or workshop or site visit
        1. These do not need to be recorded, by do need to have minutes documenting activities published on the public website
    v. GRAMA obtainable information Includes anything that happens via email, text, or speaking during a meeting if it pertains to the topics the board is discussion.
        1. This includes all personal and state owned devices
    vi. If enough members are together such that they make a quorum and topics that pertain to the board are discussed, that is considered a meeting and the OPMA applies
        1. The recommendation by Curits is not to do this
    vii. Public notice
        1. Must be posted at least 24 hours in advance and include the agenda, location, and time of the meeting such that any member of the public may attend if they so choose.
            a. Xavier does this
        2. If there is a regular annual meeting, that has to be noticed as well
        3. Note that you are going to take public comment
        4. There are also class A notices
            a. Ties into GRAMA rules
        5. Requirements
            a. Must be posted at the location the meeting is being held, in a newspaper of general circulation, posting on the public notice website (there is a toggle there you can choose which will distribute to applicable media), agenda with specificity, materials that must be disclosed, must be able to be shared with members and the public must be able to view, taking action means a vote and must be noticed head of time.

b. If something new comes up during the meeting you can discuss, but you must notice first and hold the vote at the next meeting,
c. All meetings must be open to the public

viii. Minutes must be included
1. How each member votes must be recorded
2. Who makes testimony
3. Board members can ask that particular comments are added into the minutes
4. Role call votes are person by person
a. Accord votes can be done at the opening and close at the end of the meeting, but the rest of the votes really should be role call votes
b. Electronic attendees should have their camera on when participating
5. There are various other rules on minutes and recording and decisions etc.

ix. Additional topics
1. Recordings may not be edited or altered
a. Do not say things that you don't want recorded
2. Messages that pertain to the meeting should be on record
3. Electronic meetings are allowed, but there are rules
4. In the case of electronic meetings, these still needs to be a physical location where the public can show up and participate.
a. Online access to the public also needs to be made available

x. This group does not do closed meetings
1. There are other requirements for these that will not be reviewed with this group since it does not apply

xi. If there is disruption
1. Public or board members can be asked to leave

xii. Violations
1. The board can be sued in court

c. Government records and access management act (GRAMA)
i. There are a long description of what government entities are defined as, but long story short, boards are considered a government entity
ii. The full definition of a record is available upon request from Curtis and in the presented handout.
1. Includes anything prepared by a government group
iii. Any business of the board on a device is subject to GRAMA and can be requested or subpoenaed
1. Keep these appropriate and direct to the meeting
2. Have had situations where spouses have commented on a meeting and these exchanges can be requested
iv. Things that are not a record

1. Personal note or communication prepared or received in a private capacity
2. Drafts prepared for your personal use
3. Daily calendars prepared by you

v. If it is something you don't want to see reported on the news, then don't write or say it
1. Personal devices are included

2. Questions:
   a. Wade: How do the new board members get this training
      i. Xavier will share this handout
      ii. Curtis could conduct this training again live if more than one or 2 new board members before the next training occurs.
   b. Send any questions or concerns to Xavier and he will forward them to Curtis
      i. Curtis will research if needed and get back to you on it
   c. Wade: Very helpful to have this information complied in one location

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS (discussion item)

a. Board Seat updates (Xavier Matheson)

(a) 1 One vacant seat still available: Seat # 13055
(a) Brian Anderson's former seat; Sports Fisherman.
1. Xavier: this person does NOT need have any other prerequisites other than having fish health knowledge. Anyone who knows enough about fish health would be welcome to apply.
2. Mike: Should he get the word out?
3. X: It is still open on the website and you should be able to submit the application, or that can be done directly by submitting the materials to Xavier. Dr. Martinez and Dr. Teal both applied in this manner. There is a 2 year requirement for tenure of service.

(b) Welcome Chad Teal and Dr. Robert Martinez.
(a) Dr. Rober Martinez
1. Veterinarian and owner of Aquatic Veterinary Consulting Services, a mobile fish health service.
   a. Travels to folks houses/businesses to take care of their individual fish, public and private aquarians
2. Works in the ER as well (Advanced Vet Consulting)
   a. hoping to go full time with the mobile practice
3. Incoming president of AAFV
4. 2026 sitting for the new fish specialty boards

(b) Dr. Chad Teal USU/USGS Utah
1. Extensive research in aquaculture.
2. Masters at U of Miami
3. PhD U of Arizona in fisheries management
4. Lots of captive population management and fish health management experience and projects

5. Use of prophylactic treatments and therapeutics.
6. Employed with USGS in Utah and in the watershed sciences classes of USU (spring Ichthyology class). Research heavy appointment

b. Annual Aquaculture Report (Xavier Matheson)

i Summary of the 2024 year in UDAF Aquaculture. No visual presentation, just a quick summary of how many active UDAF licenses we had in 2024; and the newly registered facilities.

(a) 0 reportable/ restricted pathogens
(b) 0 new aquaculture facility
    (a) 6 /12 registered facilities had their approval renewed
    (b) X working on the remaining to renew this year
(c) 2 "new" fee fishing ponds, but were previously register in the past and let their registration lapse
    (a) Road Creek Ranch (2 ponds)
    (b) 55 ponds renewed
(d) Pretty uneventful year,
(e) Discussion:
    (a) Wade: did we loose any private growers?
    (b) X: No, one grower that had to be fined for an illegal stocking, but they paid the fine and had a suspension, but did all corrective action and now back in business

c. APHIS Pathogen Update (Xavier Matheson)

i APHIS declared country freedom from Gyrodactylus salaris, Salmonid alphavirus, and EHNV.

ii. X: wants to make sure everyone knows this means only that all private aquaculture facilities have freedom from these pathogens, but they are still very much present in the wild. But private aquaculture is free, which is encouraging.

iii. Discussion:

(a) Christie: Do we know what facilities they are actually saying is free
(b) X: is waiting to hear back from APHIS on this, no link to the facilities that are included in this declaration on the announcement
(c) Wade: Is there a USDA contact that you have been associated with and discussing this with?
(d) X: no private contact, Tylynn do you know?
(e) Tylynn: Knew that there is a new Utah specific USDA APHIS person, but does not have a name and has not been in contact with them.
(f) X: Grant White said they finally have someone
(g) Tylynn: will reach out to Grant to get more information
(h) Wade: Just curious, really not that important, but have not heard back from them in some time. He was working with a previous person in that position on an aquatic health plan and other projects, but have not heard from them

(i) X: has been in contact with the regional office, and that Grant said they hired a Utah specific person just before the holiday
(j) Wade: any pathogen free is good, most others in this room deal do not have to deal with these pathogens luckily even in the wild fish

Open Discussion:

1) Wade: New members (Chad and Dr Martinez) have been collaborating with DWR before their appointment to the board. Please share these interactions for the benefit of all.
   a) Dr Martinez will be doing a project for his fish specialty boards. Will bring a retinal camera (from his ophthalmology colleague) to the hatchery to establish baseline parameters for fish (doing trout initially, because they have big eyes)
      a. There have been a few studies on trout eyes, but never retinal photographs
         i. (IOP and corneal studies)
      b. He will collect
         i. Intraocular pressures with a tonometer
         ii. Ocular Ultrasound
         iii. Retinal photos
         iv. Maybe other data, still coming up with the list of data to collect
      c. Will also work with Loveland Living Planet Aquarium to enroll other species
      d. End goal to study virgin river trout, but the camera does not have the correct attachment currently, so they are going to practice on the large eyed and readily available trout
      e. Wade is excited to have a vet that can help with private aquaculture
         i. He is excited to have vets that are available for those situations
   2. Dr. Teal
      a. Began collaborating around March of last year with UDWR
      b. DWR really need to help with training students to they can come out as trained professionals and also can use students can help with studies and data collection.
      c. Thiamine deficiency projects
         i. Using a masters student DWR tech
         ii. Green Suckers in the Weber River
            1. There have been reports across the country of thiamine /Vit B1 deficiency in various species of fish and suckers.
         iii. Will be sampling from that river and assessing thiamine levels
         iv. Fish in that watershed have a history of symptom of TDC (thiamine deficiency complex) and historically been treated with a thiamine, whoever, this was done without much depth of understanding.
         v. Study questions:
            1. What to do treatments do and establish LD50
            2. Look at macroinvertebrate thiamine levels
            3. What is the bioavailability in that stretch of the river
            4. Maybe collect muscle biopsies to assess thiamine levels
         vi. TDC is detected in the great lakes and now in the sucker species

vii. This condition may be an indicator of watershed management issues, or env. contamination
1. It is unclear what effects this condition and the causative thiamine levels will have on the ecosystems as a whole as well as the individual species.

d. Has a lab in Millville, UT
i. Culturing a few different species there
ii. Offered fish with big, weird eyes for Dr. Martinez to enroll in his study as long as the testing is not fatal.
iii. Research and the Logan hatchery right next to USU is really helpful and great to compare across the different hatcheries

e. Students
i. Introducing them to the aquatic health research center and DWR job opportunities
ii. Make fish biology teaching as applied as possible

3. Dr. Sabo
a. Sabo: Is in discussions with USU Vet School deans to include instruction in Bee medicine among other things, would the board like us to include fish medicine in these discussions?
b. Chad: USU and Loveland have a collaboration now, so there will be lots of cross pollination (Dr. Ari has been appointed as a professor as well)

4. Meeting Frequency
a. Usually meet quarterly, but in reality, they meet when there is an agenda item
b. Will not let it go beyond 6 months with the opportunity to meet sooner if needed.

5. ADJOURN
a. Motion by Xavier, Chad seconded.

Variance Proposal
Utah Fish Health Policy Board

Requestor Name & Company: Robert Shields, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Date: 05/12/2025

Address, Phone, Email, Fax: 1465 W. 200 N., Logan, UT 84321 (435) 553 - 0406 rshields@utah.gov

Description of variance proposal (short description of specifics for the proposal)

Beginning date: May 2025 Ending date: May 2026

Species, size, & numbers:

Green Sucker (Pantosteus virescens)
Fertilized eggs 5,000

Source (include UTM or HUC): Weber River between Echo Reservoir (E: 463421, N: 4534985) and Ogden (E: 405486, N: 4564388)

Destination (include UTM or HUC): ARC Aquaculture Laboratory, Logan UT (E: 427670, N: 4620889)

Description of proposed activity:

Aric McKinney (USU graduate student) will be conducting streamside egg fertilization from Green Sucker on the Weber River as part of his Masters research assessing thiamine deficiencies and the resulting effects on reproduction and recruitment in this species. Fertilized eggs are scheduled to be transported to the UDWR Aquaculture Research Laboratory where they will be treated with iodine to disinfect the egg surface to prevent fungal growth. Eggs will be incubated and hatched to collect data on the relationship between hatch rates/larval viability and thiamine concentrations in eggs or thiaminase availability in the ecosystem.

Disposal and decontamination (fish disposal and facility decontamination methods):

Juvenile Green Sucker will be retained for a feed study to assess the nutritional benefits of several manufactured feed products. If > 500 fish survive the initial rearing assessment and feed trial, then a subsample of these remaining fish will be inspected and tested for fish health certification. If fish meet all requirements they may be incorporated into the Logan Hatchery rearing program. If <500 survive then the remaining fish will be euthanized and buried with calcium oxide. All equipment and surfaces in the laboratory will be disinfected with T-San before any other work begins.

Reason (why this varies from R58-17. You may wish to contact UDAF (801 538 7029) if assistance with R58-17 is needed):

The Green Sucker population in the Weber River continues to decline due to poor reproductive success and poor survival of juvenile fish. Fish from the Weber River were inspected in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, which provided fish health approval to transfer fertilized Green Sucker eggs from the Weber River to the fish rearing program at Logan Hatchery. This effort was initiated to propagate Green Sucker in Utah's hatchery system to provide fish for future stocking and conservation efforts. Early rearing efforts identified a possible thiamine deficiency that is limiting early and rearing success and may be impacting fish survival in the Weber River. This variance request would provide approval to transfer fertilized eggs from wild Green Sucker to the the Aquatic Animal Health and Research Center aquaculture laboratory to assess both thiamine deficiency from wild stocks and various feeding treatments to mitigate for nutrient limitations. This request would ultimately provide approval to transfer eggs without sacrificing additional fish from a limited population to meet R58-17 requirements.

Scientific rationale (scientific reasons upon which the variance is based):

The Green Sucker population in the Weber River is declining rapidly. If is not feasible to continue removing numbers from this population.

Inspection history (inspection history for the source, destination, and species or enter "none" if not applicable):

Green Sucker from the Weber River were inspected in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. The inspections and subsequent health certifications were used to collect Green Sucker gametes (fertilized eggs) prior to transferr to the Logan Hatchery fish propagation program. Early rearing efforts identified a possible thiamine deficiency in the first resultant progeny that is likely associated with wild parent strains.

Benefit (how the variance would benefit you, the Utah aquaculture industry, the public, and/or public fishery resources):

We are attempting to identify the primary limitations of Green Sucker reproduction in the Weber River. The success of thiamine treatments on juvenile Green Sucker indicate a very high likelihood that the brood fish (wild Weber River fish) are severely thiamine deficient. Mitigation of a deficiency can only be undertaken when we have data in-hand to support our hypothesis.

Risk (potential harm the variance may cause to the Utah aquaculture industry or public fishery resources, etc.):

No potential risks have been identified

Funding (sources of funding that will be used, i.e., own financing, research, private, state, etc.):

This project is funded by UDWR and USU.

Names (contact information for companies or persons who have agreed to work with you or speak in favor of the variance):

Name: Chad Teal Company: Utah State University

Address: 5200 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322

Phone: 407-257-0127 Email: chad.teal@usu.edu

Name: Wade Cavender Company: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Address: 1465 W. 200 N., Logan, UT 84321

Phone: 435-720-2784 Email: wadecavender@utah.gov

Stipulations required by the Board:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Regulatory authority/contact: UDAF ☐ UDWR ☐

Comment:

Approval: Yes ○ No ○ Letter ○

Reset Form

Variance Proposal
Utah Fish Health Policy Board

Requestor Name & Company: Randy Oplinger Date: 05/12/25

Address, Phone, Email, Fax: 1585 North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Description of variance proposal (short description of specifics for the proposal)

Beginning date: 6/1/25 Ending date: 5/31/35

Species, size, & numbers:

1) Razorback Sucker, all sizes, all collected at trap (typically 0-3,500 annually)
2) Bonytail Chub, all sizes, all collected at trap (typically <1,000 annually), 3) Colorado Pikeminnow, all sizes, all collected at trap (typically <10 annually), 4) Humpback Chub, all sizes, all collected at trap (typically <5 annually)

Source (include UTM or HUC): Matheson Wetland 12S 623505 4271202

Destination (include UTM or HUC): Matheson Wetland 12S 623505 4271202

Description of proposed activity:

Matheson Wetland provides a backwater rearing habitat for endangered fishes. The wetland is filled every spring by opening gates, allowing water from the Colorado River to enter the lake. Endangered fishes are entrained during filling, grow during the summer, and the wetland is drained in the fall. Fish are collected in trap structures and are then translocated from the trap back into the Colorado River. This variance request covers the translocation of non-health certified fish. Fish are moved ~100 yards and remain in the same water source.

Disposal and decontamination (fish disposal and facility decontamination methods):

Non-native fishes are euthanized with an overdose of MS-222 and are discarded in a landfill.

Reason (why this varies from R58-17. You may wish to contact UDAF (801 538 7029) if assistance with R58-17 is needed):

We are requesting a variance because fish are translocated from the trap into the Colorado River. Translocated fish are not health certified because the DWR and partners are interested in conserving these federally listed fishes. In addition, fish are generally present in low enough densities that capture for health certification would be difficult. Matheson Wetland is filled using water from the Colorado River and fish are translocated in the fall back into the Colorado River. Therefore the water source does not change. Fish are moved ~100 yards from the Matheson Wetland trap back into the Colorado River.

Scientific rationale (scientific reasons upon which the variance is based):

Data shows that translocated fish survive well after. Data also shows that translocated fish are detected at known spawning sites later in life and are contributing to recovery of federally listed fishes.

Inspection history (inspection history for the source, destination, and species or enter "none" if not applicable):

None

Benefit (how the variance would benefit you, the Utah aquaculture industry, the public, and/or public fishery resources):

The Upper Colorado River Basin is home to four endangered fish species. Managed backwater areas like Matheson Wetland have been shown to be valuable nursery habitat for these species. Continued management of Matheson Wetland will contribute to the recovery of endangered Colorado River fishes.

Risk (potential harm the variance may cause to the Utah aquaculture industry or public fishery resources, etc.):

The anticipated risk is low because fish are being translocated into the same water sources where they originated.

Funding (sources of funding that will be used, i.e., own financing, research, private, state, etc.):

The Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery program provides funding for this effort.

Names (contact information for companies or persons who have agreed to work with you or speak in favor of the variance):

Name: Sam Brockdorff Company: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Address:

Phone: 435-259-3783 Email: spbrockdorff@utah.gov

Name: Julie Stahli Company: Fish and Wildlife Service

Address:

Phone: 720-697-4933 Email: julie_stahli@fws.gov

Stipulations required by the Board:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Regulatory authority/contact: UDAF ☐ UDWR ☐

Comment:

Approval: Yes ○ No ○ Letter ○

Reset Form

Variance Proposal
Utah Fish Health Policy Board

Requestor Name & Company: Randy Oplinger Date: 05/12/25

Address, Phone, Email, Fax: 1585 North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Description of variance proposal (short description of specifics for the proposal)

Beginning date: 6/1/25 Ending date: 5/31/35

Species, size, & numbers:

1) Razorback Sucker, all sizes, all collected at trap (typically 0-3,500 annually)
2) Bonytail Chub, all sizes, all collected at trap (typically <1,000 annually), 3) Colorado Pikeminnow, all sizes, all collected at trap (typically <10 annually), 4) Humpback Chub, all sizes, all collected at trap (typically <5 annually)

Source (include UTM or HUC): Stewart Lake, 12T 639013 4467440

Destination (include UTM or HUC): Stewart Lake, 12T 639013 4467440

Description of proposed activity:

Stewart Lake provides a backwater rearing habitat for endangered fishes. The lake is filled every spring by opening gates, allowing water from the Green River to enter the lake. Endangered fishes are entrained during filling, grow during the summer, and the lake is drained in the fall. Fish are collected in trap structures and are then translocated from the trap back into the Green River. This variance request covers the translocation of non-health certified fish. Fish are moved ~400 yards and remain in the same water source.

Disposal and decontamination (fish disposal and facility decontamination methods):

Non-native fishes are euthanized with an overdose of MS-222 and are discarded in a landfill.

Reason (why this varies from R58-17. You may wish to contact UDAF (801 538 7029) if assistance with R58-17 is needed):

We are requesting a variance because fish are translocated from the trap into the Green River. Translocated fish are not health certified because the DWR and partners are interested in conserving these federally listed fishes. In addition, fish are generally present in low enough densities that capture for health certification would be difficult. Stewart Lake is filled using water from the Green River and fish are translocated in the fall back into the Green River. Therefore the water source does not change. Fish are moved ~400 yards from the Stewart Lake trap back into the Green River.

Scientific rationale (scientific reasons upon which the variance is based):

Data shows that translocated fish survive well after. Data also shows that translocated fish are detected at known spawning sites later in life and are contributing to recovery of federally listed fishes.

Inspection history (inspection history for the source, destination, and species or enter "none" if not applicable):

None

Benefit (how the variance would benefit you, the Utah aquaculture industry, the public, and/or public fishery resources):

The Upper Colorado River Basin is home to four endangered fish species. Managed backwater areas like Stewart Lake have been shown to be valuable nursery habitat for these species. Continued management of Stewart Lake will contribute to the recovery of endangered Colorado River fishes.

Risk (potential harm the variance may cause to the Utah aquaculture industry or public fishery resources, etc.):

The anticipated risk is low because fish are being translocated into the same water sources where they originated.

Funding (sources of funding that will be used, i.e., own financing, research, private, state, etc.):

The Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery program provides funding for this effort.

Names (contact information for companies or persons who have agreed to work with you or speak in favor of the variance):

Name: Saidee Hyder Company: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Address:

Phone: 435-219-3709 Email: shyder@utah.gov

Name: Julie Stahli Company: Fish and Wildlife Service

Address:

Phone: 720-697-4933 Email: julie_stahli@fws.gov

Stipulations required by the Board:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Regulatory authority/contact: UDAF ☐ UDWR ☐

Comment:

Approval: Yes ○ No ○ Letter ○

Reset Form