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# News Release



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## **U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service Recognizes A Recovery Champion In Nevada**

Jon Sjoberg, Nevada Department of Wildlife's Supervising Fisheries Biologist for the Southern Region was selected as one of sixteen recipients of the Service's National Recovery Champion award this year. The Recovery Champion award recognizes outstanding contributions of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees and other individuals and organizations towards efforts aimed at recovering threatened and endangered species in the United States.

"The Recovery Champion award not only recognizes the exceptional conservation accomplishments of the honorees, it also provides the public with a unique opportunity to learn about endangered species conservation," said U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dale H. Hall. "These Recovery Champions are extraordinary conservationists dedicated to protecting and restoring our nation's wildlife and ensuring that future generations of Americans enjoy the natural treasures we experience today."

Sjoberg was selected for his leadership of both site specific and landscape level efforts to conserve and recover unique spring dependent species throughout Nevada. "His contribution to the conservation and recovery of Nevada's desert fishes is an outstanding combination of science leadership, and resource conservation," said Bob Williams, Field Supervisor for the Service's Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office.

Sjoberg is recognized by the Service as one of Nevada's desert fish experts. A tireless advocate in the conservation of Nevada's native fish, he has accomplished a myriad of recovery actions. One example is the leadership role he played in recovery actions which have culminated in an increase in population of White River spinedace from 20 individuals in 1995 to over 2,500 individuals in 2006.

The 2006 Recovery Champion honorees' contributions to the conservation of our natural heritage benefit a broad range of endangered and threatened plants and animals. From manatees to mussels, Service employees and their partners have been working to recover our nation's most imperiled wildlife. Habitat protection, public awareness campaigns, and the development of cutting-edge technology to achieve captive breeding success are just a few examples of this year's Recovery Champion honorees' efforts.

Sjoberg has been the Nevada Department of Wildlife's Southern Region Supervising Biologist since 1991. He began his career with the agency in 1980 after working for U. S. Geological Survey Water Resources and the Bureau of Land Management. Sjoberg has Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Resources from the University of Nevada, Reno and is completing course work toward an MPA in Public Administration at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

For additional information please visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Recovery Champion website at: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/recovery/champions/index.html>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies. Visit the Service's website at <http://www.fws.gov>.