



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



MAR 12 2009

Ms. Elaine York
The Nature Conservancy
559 South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Dear Ms. York:

Congratulations on your selection as a 2008 Recovery Champion. It is my great pleasure to acknowledge your work on behalf of endangered and threatened plant species including the dwarf-bear poppy, Holmgren milk-vetch, Shivwits milk-vetch, and Siler pincushion cactus.

I applaud your success in promoting awareness of plant conservation needs and engaging partners in initiatives such as acquisition of the White Dome Nature Preserve to ensure long-term biodiversity. The energy and perseverance you applied to data-collection, surveys, recovery planning, research, land acquisition, fencing, and funding made this project possible.

In Washington County, Utah, your leadership in the public planning process has emphasized the need to protect sensitive areas. This work has resulted in a partnership aimed towards identifying, creating, and maintaining three preserves through Utah's School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, a consortium of government agencies, and The Nature Conservancy. This partnership focuses attention on the necessity for planning to protect natural resources and scenic beauty.

Your accomplishments extend beyond individual species, habitats, and ecosystems and inspire others to promote recovery, now and into the future. My best wishes for your continuing success as a Recovery Champion!

Sincerely,

Acting DIRECTOR