

Muleshoe file
copy



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

2221 WEST GREENWAY ROAD, PHOENIX, AZ 85023-4399
(602) 942-3000 • AZGFD.GOV

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May 12, 2005

Mr. William T. Civish, Field Office Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Safford Field Office
711 14th Avenue
Safford, AZ 85546

Re: Muleshoe Ecosystem Native Fish Cooperative Project

Dear Mr. Civish:

I received your letter dated, April 14, 2005, regarding the verbal communication your office had with permittees and private land owners pertaining to the proposed reestablishment of desert pupfish, Gila topminnow, loach minnow, and spikedace, and augmentation of Gila chub, longfin dace, speckled dace, Sonora sucker, desert sucker, and lowland leopard frog into multiple springs and streams within the Muleshoe Ecosystem. I appreciate your efforts to ease concerns raised by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) regarding these coordination efforts, both within our agencies and in the public arena.

We understand that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and/or The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has affirmed that all pertinent permittees and private landowners have been contacted within the affected area, and that no opposition was encountered during these contacts. While this project tiers to BLM and TNC resource management plans, the implementation of the project is a Department responsibility based on statutory authorities for management of fish and wildlife. Additionally, the Department will be contributing significant funds and person-hours to implement. Because of the sensitive nature of native fish reintroductions, and the Department's role in the project, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet prior to implementation of the project to discuss some unresolved issues regarding this project. Specifically, we would like to discuss the names of landowners or permittees contacted, which lands they own or operate in relation to the project area, and any specific comments made by the landowner or permittee pertaining to the project.

The Department supports the conservation of native fishes, and this proposed project. We also are interested in the long-term success of native fish conservation efforts, by ensuring that internal and external communication and coordination has occurred regarding the project and our actions. Throughout any planning process, the Department appreciates the opportunity for up-front coordination to ensure that management interests and expertise are considered during the entire planning process. The Department would appreciate any assistance your staff can provide

Mr. William T. Civish
May 5, 2005
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in regards to our request. Please contact Don Mitchell at (520) 388-4451 to schedule a meeting to discuss this project in more detail or in regards to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce D. Taubert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B".

Bruce D. Taubert, Assistant Director
Wildlife Management Division

BDT:rd

cc: Gerry Perry, Regional Supervisor, Region V
Don Mitchell, Fisheries Program Manager, Region V
Bob Broscheid, Habitat Branch Chief
Eric Gardner, Nongame Branch Chief
Rob Bettaso, Fisheries Biologist, Research Branch
Chris Cantrell, Fisheries Biologist, Nongame Branch