



United States Department of the Interior



Fish and Wildlife Service
Arizona Ecological Services Office
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4951
Telephone: (602) 242-0210 Fax: (602) 242-2513

In Reply Refer to:
AESO/SE
02EAAZ00-2012-F-0282

February 7, 2013

Memorandum

To: Field Office Manager, Safford Field Office, Gila District, Bureau of Land Management, Safford, Arizona

From: Field Supervisor

Subject: DRAFT Biological Opinion on the Aravaipa Ecosystem Management Plan, EA #AZ-0410-2006-040

BO
was
not
included
in our
cc

Enclosed for your review and comment is our DRAFT biological opinion (BO) regarding effects of the Aravaipa Ecosystem Management Plan project, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544), as amended (Act). The proposed action may affect the loach minnow (*Tiaroga cobitis*) and critical habitat, spikedace (*Meda fulgida*) and critical habitat, Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis occidentalis*), desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*), and Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*).

The draft BO also includes our concurrence with your determinations that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*, flycatcher), ocelot (*Leopardus (=Felis) pardalis*), and lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuena*).

Please let us know of any errors or omissions in the project description, any factual errors in other portions of the document, and any concerns that you believe should be addressed. We encourage you to coordinate the review of this document with the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

We appreciate your cooperation throughout this consultation. Please contact Mark Crites (520) 670-6150 (x229) or Scott Richardson (x242) of my staff for further assistance. Please refer to the consultation number 02EAAZ00-2012-F-0282 in future correspondence concerning this project.

/s/ Scott Richardson for
Steven L. Spangle

Attachment

cc(hard copy):

Field Supervisor, Fish & Wildlife Service, Phoenix, AZ (2 copies)
Jean Calhoun, Assistant Field Supervisor, Fish & Wildlife Service, Tucson, AZ
Ray Suazo, State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix, AZ

cc(electronic copy):

Acting Chief, Habitat Branch, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ
Raul Vega, Regional Supervisor, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Tucson, AZ

W:\Mark Crites\AravEMPlanBO_draftMemo_201302xx.docx