United States Department of the Interior

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In Reply Refer To:

AESO/SE
2-21-92-F-350
2-21-92-F-478
2-21-9~~8~~-F-114 96
2-21-98-F-287
2-21-00-F-237

August 10, 2000

Mr. John McGee, Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
300 West Congress Street
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Dear Mr. McGee:

This document responds to your March 10, 2000, request for amendments to the following biological opinions: Arizona Trail, Maverick prescribed fire, Lone Mountain prescribed burn, and Mt. Lemmon highway reconstruction phases 5 and 6. Your letter requested that these biological opinions (BO) have one reporting date and clarify some of the reporting requirements. This amendment to the biological opinions is based on information provided in your March 10, 2000, letter, communications with Forest personnel, and the original biological opinions. A complete administrative record of these consultations is on file at this office.

The listed species and proposed action in the original biological opinions remain the same. Those four biological opinions are incorporated here by reference. No reasonable and prudent measures or terms and conditions will be changed except for those which pertain to reporting requirements.

The Forest also requested the livestock grazing BO be amended (2-21-98-F-399). Discussions between our staffs regarding the livestock grazing BO lead us to conclude that the BO should undergo reinitiation of consultation separately because the requested change involves more than just the reporting requirements of the BO. According to your March 10, 2000, letter, monitoring will be conducted less than annually on grazing allotments. The implicit assumption made during our analysis of the biological assessment for livestock grazing on the Coronado was that monitoring would be done annually on all allotments. This is explicitly demonstrated in many of the terms and conditions in the grazing BO, where specific types of monitoring are mandated to occur.

Therefore, if the Forest does not plan on monitoring the grazing allotments covered in the grazing BO annually, or follow the specific terms and conditions for monitoring, reinitiation of consultation is necessary. We should work together before reinitiation of consultation to identify

alternatives to monitoring and to the terms and conditions which specify monitoring. This effort should insure that there is no additional take of listed species, that effects to listed species are minimized, and that the proposed action occurs as intended.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BIOLOGICAL OPINIONS

ARIZONA TRAIL (92-21-92-F-350)

Term and condition 3.2 (page 19) is amended by adding the following to the end of the section: "Reports will be due on March 31, annually."

MT. LEMMON HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION PHASES 5 AND 6 (2-21-92-F-478)

The Highway BO also requires reporting monitoring and survey results, changes to protected activity centers, and observations of owls in the project area during construction. These items must be included in the report.

Term and condition 3.D (page 22) is amended by striking "(by December 31 of each year)" and replacing it with "(by March 31 annually)".

MAVERICK PRESCRIBED FIRE (2-21-96-F-114)

Term and condition 7b of the Maverick Prescribed Burn Biological Opinion is amended by striking "October 31" and replacing it with "March 31" (page 33).

LONE MOUNTAIN PRESCRIBED BURN (2-21-98-F-287)

Term and condition 5 of the Lone Mountain Prescribed Burn Biological Opinion is amended by striking "January 31" and replacing it with "March 31" (page 39).

Conclusion

Future requests for consultation on other projects should include, as part of the proposed action, that the date for any required reports be March 31. Please refer to the appropriate consultation number in future correspondence regarding these projects. Any questions or comments should be directed to Doug Duncan (520/670-4860) or Sherry Barrett (520/670-4617) of my staff.

Sincerely,

David L. Harlow
Field Supervisor

cc: Regional Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM (ARD:ES)
Field Supervisor, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, Albuquerque, NM

Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ

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2-21-92-F-478
2-21-95-F-114
2-21-98-F-287
2-21-00-F-237

BIOLOGICAL OPINION SUMMARY
AMENDMENTS TO FOUR BIOLOGICAL OPINIONS FOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON THE CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Date of opinion: August 10, 2000

Project: ARIZONA TRAIL (92-21-92-F-350)
MAVERICK BURN (2-21-96-F-114)
LONE MOUNTAIN BURN (2-21-98-F-287)
MT. LEMMON HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION PHASES 5 AND 6 (2-21-92-F-478)

Location: Coronado National Forest, Arizona

Listed species affected: Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*, Huachuca water umbel (*Lilaeopsis schaffneriana* ssp. *recurva*), Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis o. occidentalis*), lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curosoae yerbabuenae*), New Mexico ridge-nosed rattlesnake (*Crotalus willardi obscurus*)

Biological opinion: No Jeopardy

Incidental take statement:

Anticipated take: *Exceeding this level may require reinitiation of formal consultation.* No changes to original BO's.

Reasonable and prudent measures: *Implementation of these measures through the terms and conditions is mandatory.*
No changes to original BO's.

Terms and conditions: *Terms and conditions implement reasonable and prudent measures and are mandatory requirements.*
Terms and conditions changed so the Forest submits reports on March, 31.

Conservation recommendations: *Implementation of conservation recommendations is discretionary.* None.