



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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In Reply Refer To:
AESO/SE

June 15, 2000

DSW REGIONAL OFFICE
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Mr. John Holt
Environmental Manager
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, Arizona 85005-6457

Dear Mr. Holt:

This responds to your letter of June 9, 2000, concerning designation of a Fish and Wildlife Service lead office for the upcoming consultation on the Blythe Power Project in Riverside County, California. The Arizona Ecological Services Office and the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office have responsibilities for areas that may be affected by the proposed action; however, the bulk of the effects are likely to occur in California. For that reason, we suggest that your primary contact with the Service be through Carlsbad and they contact us as needed for our input. For your convenience, we have enclosed a copy of our La Paz County species list for your use in determining effects to the Colorado River, should your project require that analysis.

If there are any questions, please contact Tom Gatz (x240) or Lesley Fitzpatrick (x236).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of David L. Harlow

David L. Harlow
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, Carlsbad, CA

Blythe powerplant-CFWO:LAF:kh

LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTY:

LA PAZ

08/26/1999

1) LISTED

TOTAL= 8

NAME: BONYTAIL CHUB

GILA ELEGANS

STATUS: ENDANGERED

CRITICAL HAB Yes RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 45 FR 27710, 04-23-1980;

DESCRIPTION: LARGE (12-14 UP TO 24 INCHES) MINNOW CHARACTERIZED BY SMALL
HEAD LARGE FINS SLIGHTLY HUMPED BACK AND LONG THIN CAUDAL
PEDUNCLE.

59 FR 13374, 03-21-1994

ELEVATION

RANGE: <4000 FT.

COUNTIES: MOHAVE, LA PAZ

HABITAT: WARM SWIFT TURBID MAINSTEM RIVERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN, RESERVOIRS IN LOWER BASIN

ENDEMIC TO COLORADO RIVER BASIN. RAREST OF COLORADO RIVER FISH. POPULATION AUGMENTATION IS
ONGOING IN LAKE MOHAVE AND LAKE HAVASU.

NAME: DESERT PUFFISH

CYPRINODON MACULARIUS

STATUS: ENDANGERED

CRITICAL HAB Yes RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 51 FR 10842, 03-31-1986

DESCRIPTION: SMALL (2 INCHES) SMOOTHLY ROUNDED BODY SHAPE WITH NARROW
VERTICAL BARS ON THE SIDES. BREEDING MALES BLUE ON HEAD AND
SIDES WITH YELLOW ON TAIL. FEMALES & JUVENILES TAN TO OLIVE
COLORED BACK AND SILVERY SIDES.

ELEVATION

RANGE: <5000 FT.

COUNTIES: LA PAZ, PIMA, GRAHAM, MARICOPA, PINAL, YAVAPAI, SANTA CRUZ

HABITAT: SHALLOW SPRINGS, SMALL STREAMS, AND MARSHES. TOLERATES SALINE & WARM WATER

CRITICAL HABITAT INCLUDES QUITOBAQUITO SPRING, PIMA COUNTY, PORTIONS OF SAN FELIPE CREEK, CARRIZO
WASH, AND FISH CREEK WASH, IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. TWO SUBSPECIES ARE RECOGNIZED: DESERT
PUFFISH (*C. m. macularis*) AND QUITOBAQUITO PUFFISH (*C. m. eremus*).

NAME: GILA TOPMINNOW

POECILIOPSIS OCCIDENTALIS OCCIDENTALIS

STATUS: ENDANGERED

CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 32 FR 4001, 03-11-1967

DESCRIPTION: SMALL (2 INCHES), GUPPY-LIKE, LIVE BEARING, LACKS DARK SPOTS ON
ITS FINS. BREEDING MALES ARE JET BLACK WITH YELLOW FINS.

ELEVATION

RANGE: <4500 FT.

COUNTIES: GILA, PINAL, GRAHAM, YAVAPAI, SANTA CRUZ, PIMA, MARICOPA, LA PAZ

HABITAT: SMALL STREAMS, SPRINGS, AND CIENEGAS VEGETATED SHALLOWS

SPECIES HISTORICALLY OCCURRED IN BACKWATERS OF LARGE RIVERS BUT IS CURRENTLY ISOLATED TO SMALL
STREAMS AND SPRINGS

LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTY:

LA PAZ

08/26/1999

NAME: RAZORBACK SUCKER

XYRAUCHEN TEXANUS

STATUS: ENDANGERED CRITICAL HAB Yes RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 55 FR 21154, 05-22-1990; 59 FR 13374, 03-21-1994

DESCRIPTION: LARGE (UP TO 3 FEET AND UP TO 16 POUNDS) LONG, HIGH SHARP-EDGED KEEL-LIKE HUMP BEHIND THE HEAD. HEAD FLATTENED ON TOP. OLIVE-BROWN ABOVE TO YELLOWISH BELOW.

ELEVATION RANGE: <8000 FT.

COUNTIES: GREENLEE, MOHAVE, PINAL, YAVAPAI, YUMA, LA PAZ, MARICOPA (REFUGIA), GILA, COCONINO, GRAHAM

HABITAT: RIVERINE & LACUSTRINE AREAS, GENERALLY NOT IN FAST MOVING WATER AND MAY USE BACKWATERS

SPECIES IS ALSO FOUND IN HORSESHOE RESERVOIR (MARICOPA COUNTY). CRITICAL HABITAT INCLUDES THE 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN OF THE RIVER THROUGH GRAND CANYON FROM CONFLUENCE WITH PARIÁ RIVER TO HOOVER DAM; HOOVER DAM TO DAVIS DAM; PARKER DAM TO IMPERIAL DAM. ALSO GILA RIVER FROM AZ/NM BORDER TO COOLIDGE DAM; AND SALT RIVER FROM HWY 60/SR 77 BRIDGE TO ROOSEVELT DAM; VERDE RIVER FROM FS BOUNDARY TO HORSESHOE LAKE.

NAME: BALD EAGLE

HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS

STATUS: THREATENED CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 60 FR 35999, 07-12-95

DESCRIPTION: LARGE, ADULTS HAVE WHITE HEAD AND TAIL. HEIGHT 28 - 38"; WINGSPAN 66 - 96". 1-4 YRS DARK WITH VARYING DEGREES OF MOTTLED BROWN PLUMAGE. FEET BARE OF FEATHERS.

ELEVATION RANGE: VARIES FT.

COUNTIES: YUMA, LA PAZ, MOHAVE, YAVAPAI, MARICOPA, PINAL, COCONINO, NAVAJO, APACHE, SANTA CRUZ, PIMA, GILA, GRAHAM, COCHISE

HABITAT: LARGE TREES OR CLIFFS NEAR WATER (RESERVOIRS, RIVERS AND STREAMS) WITH ABUNDANT PREY

SOME BIRDS ARE NESTING RESIDENTS WHILE A LARGER NUMBER WINTERS ALONG RIVERS AND RESERVOIRS. AN ESTIMATED 200 TO 300 BIRDS WINTER IN ARIZONA. ONCE ENDANGERED (32 FR 4001, 03-11-1967; 43 FR 8233, 02-14-78) BECAUSE OF REPRODUCTIVE FAILURES FROM PESTICIDE POISONING AND LOSS OF HABITAT, THIS SPECIES WAS DOWN LISTED TO THREATENED ON AUGUST 11, 1995. ILLEGAL SHOOTING, DISTURBANCE, LOSS OF HABITAT CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM. SPECIES HAS BEEN PROPOSED FOR DELISTING (84 FR 36454) BUT STILL RECEIVES FULL PROTECTION UNDER ESA.

NAME: BROWN PELICAN

PELECANUS OCCIDENTALIS

STATUS: ENDANGERED CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 35 FR 16047, 10-13-70; 35 FR 16047, 10-13-70

DESCRIPTION: LARGE DARK GRAY-BROWN WATER BIRD WITH A POUCH UNDERNEATH LONG BILL AND WEBBED FEET. ADULTS HAVE A WHITE HEAD AND NECK, BROWNISH BLACK BREAST, AND SILVER GRAY UPPER PARTS.

ELEVATION RANGE: VARIES FT.

COUNTIES: LA PAZ YUMA

HABITAT: COASTAL LAND AND ISLANDS

SUBSPECIES IS FOUND ON PACIFIC COAST AND IS ENDANGERED DUE TO PESTICIDES. IT IS AN UNCOMMON TRANSIENT IN ARIZONA ON LOWER COLORADO RIVER. INDIVIDUALS WANDER UP FROM MEXICO IN SUMMER AND FALL. NO BREEDING RECORDS IN ARIZONA.

LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTY:

LA PAZ

08/26/1999

NAME: SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER *EMPIDONAX TRAILLII EXTIMUS*

STATUS: ENDANGERED CRITICAL HAB Yes RECOVERY PLAN: No CFR: 60 FR 10694, 02-27-95

DESCRIPTION: SMALL PASSERINE (ABOUT 6") GRAYISH-GREEN BACK AND WINGS,
WHITISH THROAT, LIGHT OLIVE-GRAY BREAST AND PALE YELLOWISH
BELLY. TWO WINGBARS VISIBLE. EYE-RING FAINT OR ABSENT.ELEVATION
RANGE: <8500 FT.COUNTIES: YAVAPAI, GILA, MARICOPA, MOHAVE, COCONINO, NAVAJO, APACHE, PINAL, LA PAZ, GREENLEE, GRAHAM,
YUMA, PIMA, COCHISE, SANTA CRUZ

HABITAT: COTTONWOOD/WILLOW & TAMARISK VEGETATION COMMUNITIES ALONG RIVERS & STREAMS

MIGRATORY RIPARIAN OBLIGATE SPECIES THAT OCCUPIES BREEDING HABITAT FROM LATE APRIL TO SEPTEMBER. DISTRIBUTION WITHIN ITS RANGE IS RESTRICTED TO RIPARIAN CORRIDORS. DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EMPIDONAX COMPLEX BY SIGHT ALONE. TRAINING SEMINAR REQUIRED FOR THOSE CONDUCTING FLYCATCHER SURVEYS. CRITICAL HABITAT ON PORTIONS OF THE 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN ON SAN PEDRO AND VERDE RIVERS; WET BEAVER AND WEST CLEAR CREEKS, INCLUDING TAVASCI MARSH AND ISTER FLAT; THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER, AND THE WEST, EAST, AND SOUTH FORKS OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER, REFERENCE 60 CFR 62 FR 39129, 7/22/97

NAME: YUMA CLAPPER RAIL

RALLUS LONGIROSTRIS YUMANENSIS

STATUS: ENDANGERED CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 32 FR 4001, 03-11-67; 48

DESCRIPTION: WATER BIRD WITH LONG LEGS AND SHORT TAIL. LONG SLENDER
DECURVED BILL. MOTTLED BROWN ON GRAY ON ITS RUMP. FLANKS
AND UNDERSIDES ARE DARK GRAY WITH NARROW VERTICAL STRIPES
PRODUCING A BARRING EFFECT.ELEVATION
RANGE: <4500 FT.

COUNTIES: YUMA, LA PAZ, MARICOPA, PINAL, MOHAVE

HABITAT: FRESH WATER AND BRACKISH MARSHES

SPECIES IS ASSOCIATED WITH DENSE EMERGENT RIPARIAN VEGETATION. REQUIRES WET SUBSTRATE (MUDFLAT, SANDBAR) WITH DENSE HERBACEOUS OR WOODY VEGETATION FOR NESTING AND FORAGING. CHANNELIZATION AND MARSH DEVELOPMENT ARE PRIMARY SOURCES OF HABITAT LOSS.