

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the impacts of, and the alternatives for, the possible issuance of an Incidental Take Permit, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act, to the Salt River Project (SRP).

SRP is developing the Horseshoe and Bartlett Habitat Conservation Plan, which they will submit as part of their application for an Incidental Take Permit. The Horseshoe and Bartlett Habitat Conservation Plan will provide measures to minimize and mitigate the effects of the proposed taking of listed and sensitive species and their habitats. The plan will specifically address a southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) population that now occupies habitat within the water storage space behind Horseshoe Dam.

This provides notice of our intent to prepare an EIS and hold a public scoping meeting related to the Horseshoe and Bartlett Habitat Conservation Plan. Written comments on alternatives and issues to be addressed in the EIS are requested by August 15, 2003, and should be sent to Mr. Steve Spangle, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 W. Royal Palm Rd., Ste 103, Phoenix, AZ 85021. For further information on the Horseshoe and Bartlett Habitat Conservation Plan, contact Ms. Ruth Valencia, Senior Environmental Scientist, Salt River Project, P.O. Box 52025, PAB352, Phoenix, AZ 85072-2025 at 602/236-2830.

Oral and written comments will also be accepted at a public scoping meeting to be held on July 15, 2003, 6-8 p.m. at SRP Building, 1521 Project Dr. (Galvin Pkwy. and Van Buren St.), Tempe, AZ.