



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

P.O. Box 1306

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

In Reply Refer To:
R2/NWRS-SUPV/031479

JUN 04 2007

Mr. Duane L. Shroufe
Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department
2221 West Greenway Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85023-4399

Dear Mr. ^{Duane}Shroufe:

Enclosed are two fully executed, signed originals of the Investigative Report and Recommendations on the Kofa Bighorn Sheep Herd. We sincerely appreciate the hard work and cooperation of your staff in the completion of this comprehensive strategy for restoration of desert bighorn sheep on Kofa National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). I was impressed with the thoroughness and expediency in which our respective organizations came together to complete the report. It is an excellent example of how Federal and State wildlife agencies should work together, and I would hope that we can use this as a model for future cooperation on issues of mutual interest.

As agreed to by Mr. Paul Cornes, Refuge Manager, and Mr. Larry Voyles, Regional Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department), Region 4, in a meeting on May 25, 2007, the report will be available to the public as part of a larger outreach strategy currently under development. It is anticipated the report would be made available once a joint news release is finalized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Department. Mr. Cornes and our External Affairs office will be working with Mr. Voyles and Mr. Gary Hovatter, Public Information Officer, Region 4, to complete this news release as soon as possible. Targeted briefings are also planned to coincide with the release of the report with various non-governmental organizations with particular interest in the issue. Given that this is a joint report, we fully support the strategy of releasing the report, and any information on its implementation in a coordinated fashion.

Again, thank you and your staff for the hard work and cooperation to complete the enclosed plan. We look forward to its implementation, and expect that we will remain in close communication on this issue as it goes forward. Ultimately, I believe that through our joint efforts we can restore the Kofa desert bighorn sheep herd to levels that will support long-term management of the species.

Sincerely,



Regional Director

Enclosures