



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
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December 11, 2007

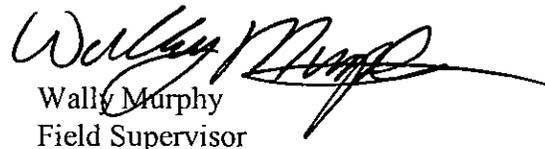
Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is the Federal Register notice announcing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's availability of the draft environmental assessment and draft economic analysis and reopening the comment period on our March 27, 2007, proposed rule to designate critical habitat for the Pecos sunflower (*Helianthus paradoxus*) (sunflower) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. As part of the proposed designation, we conducted an analysis of the economic impacts of designating critical habitat. We also conducted a National Environmental Policy Act analysis for this proposed critical habitat designation. These documents can be downloaded from our website (<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/NewMexico/>). If you prefer a hard copy or a compact disk of the documents please call or write us.

We proposed five units as critical habitat in the original proposal, encompassing approximately 1,579.3 acres (ac) (639.1 hectares (ha)). We now revise our original March 27, 2007, proposed rule (72 FR 14328) to add areas to one of the units and clarify the boundaries of another unit. As a result of these additions and revisions, the proposed critical habitat now encompasses 5,745.5 ac (3,733.4 ha).

We are soliciting comments on all of the lands proposed for critical habitat designation. Written comments are encouraged and should be received on or before January 10, 2008. Comments must be received by the closing date. Comments previously submitted on the March 27, 2007 proposed rule need not be resubmitted because we will fully consider them in the development of a final designation. Comments should be submitted to the New Mexico Field Supervisor at the address listed above.

Sincerely,


Wally Murphy
Field Supervisor

Enclosure