



# News Release

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Arizona Ecological Services Field Office

[www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/)

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Town of Marana - Janine Spencer or Jennifer Christelman (520-382-2600)

## MARANA COMPLETES DRAFT MULTI-SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

The Town of Marana has prepared a draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and presented it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service together with an application for the incidental take of federally recognized threatened and endangered species. The Town and Service will be hosting three public meetings to receive comments on the draft plan and a draft Environmental Impact Statement on the issuance of an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act.

Marana is one of the fastest growing communities in Arizona. Town leaders – acknowledging the need to balance economic, environmental and human interests – implemented a community-wide conservation planning effort. The resulting draft HCP seeks to 1) identify lands to include in a conservation reserve for long-term species and natural communities protection, 2) identify mechanisms to conserve these lands, 3) provide for regional economic objectives such as orderly and efficient development, and 4) contribute to eastern Pima County regional conservation planning.

The draft plan addresses the needs of two species currently protected under the Endangered Species Act – the lesser long-nosed bat and southwestern willow flycatcher – and 11 species that may become listed under the Act, including the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, Tucson shovel-nosed snake and Sonoran desert tortoise.

The Act permits private individuals and municipalities to incidentally “take” protected species if they commit to measures to minimize and mitigate the effects of anticipated takings of species and their habitat. The Service’s acceptance of a finalized HCP and issuance of an incidental take permit would meet the Town’s responsibilities under the Act.

Public meetings to provide information and accept comments will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on:

- April 2 at the Marana Municipal Complex, 11555 W. Civic Center Dr., Marana, AZ 85653
- April 15 at the Wheeler Taft-Abbott Sr. Library, 7800 N. Schisler Dr, Tucson, AZ 86743, and
- April 16 at the Heritage Highlands Clubhouse Ballroom, 4949 W. Heritage Club Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85658

The draft HCP and supporting documents are available on the Internet at

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/HCPs.htm#marana> or by contacting the Service’s Tucson office at 201 N. Bonita Ave, Suite 141, Tucson, AZ 85745 (520-670-6144) or Janine Spencer, Town of Marana, 11555 W. Civic Center Dr., Marana, AZ 85653 (520-382-2600).

Written comments can be submitted at any of the public meetings, or prior to May 1, 2009 by hand or post to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tucson Suboffice, 201 N. Bonita Ave, Suite 141, Tucson, AZ 85745, by facsimile to 520-670-6155, or by email to [scott\\_richardson@fws.gov](mailto:scott_richardson@fws.gov).

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).