

PART IV

**ARIZONA WILLOW
CONSERVATION STRATEGIES BY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

A. Forest Service Policy Letter



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Dixie
National
Forest

File Code: 2670
Route To: 1950

Date: December 19, 1994

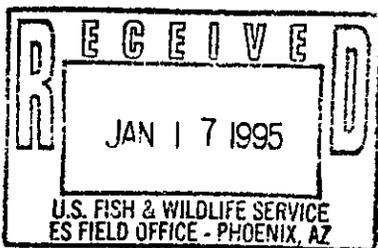
Subject: Policy re: Arizona Willow Conservation

To: Forest Supervisors: Apache-Sitgreaves, Dixie, and
Fishlake National Forests

In our September 6, 1994 meeting in Denver, Colorado, we made a joint decision with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to develop a Conservation Agreement and Strategy for the management of Arizona willow. This letter outlines our policy to provide for the immediate implementation of consistent standards for the management of Arizona willow habitat on National Forest System lands. This policy implements the intent of our National Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Policy (FSM 2670) and the Endangered Species Act by providing for the long-term conservation of Arizona willow and its ecosystem.

Our Joint Regional Policy:

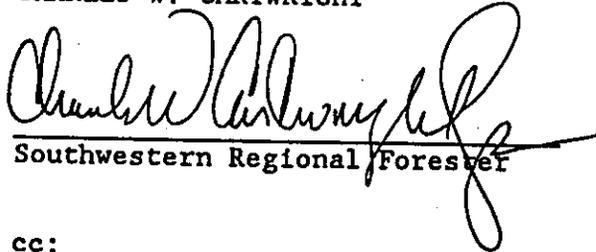
1. Reduce adverse effects to Arizona willow and its habitat. Forest Supervisors will fully implement existing Forest Plan Standards and Guides. During National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses for all activities implementing Forest Plans, our policy is to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate adverse effects to Arizona willow.
2. Establish special resource protection and management guidelines for Arizona willow habitat through Conservation Agreements, Strategies, and Assessments done in full cooperation with FWS.
3. Pursue opportunities to improve internal and external awareness about conservation of the Arizona willow ecosystem. Informing the public is essential to the success of this conservation effort.
4. Fully involve FWS and appropriate State agencies as cooperators or partners throughout the NEPA process for all projects likely to affect Arizona willow or its habitat.



December 19, 1994

The Forest Service representatives on the Arizona willow interagency team are designated as our technical representatives to monitor and review the implementation of this policy. The primary responsibility for the development, implementation, and success of the Arizona Willow Conservation Agreement and Strategy rests with you as line officers.

CHARLES W. CARTWRIGHT



Southwestern Regional Forester

DALE N. BOSWORTH



Intermountain Regional Forester

cc:

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