

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Nevada Fish & Wildlife Office
1340 Financial Blvd #234
Reno, NV 89502
775-861-6300
Fax – 861-6301
<http://nevada.fws.gov>

News Release



For Immediate Release
Date: November 21, 2006

Contact: Jeannie Stafford
(775) 861-6300

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Seeks Public Comments

Nye County, Nevada... The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, today announced, they will be accepting public comments through December 21, 2006, on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the Service will be preparing to evaluate a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Southern Nye County, Nevada. Public Scoping Meetings to gather comments on the proposed EIS will be held Monday, December 4, 2006, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, at the Bob Ruud Community Center, 150 North Highway 160, Pahrump, Nevada, and Tuesday, December 5, 2006, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, at the Beatty Community Center, 100 A Avenue South, Beatty, Nevada.

The HCP will identify measures to minimize and mitigate incidental take of threatened or endangered species protected by the Endangered Species Act within Nye County's proposed planning area. The planning area consists of approximately 131,890 acres of private land and 850,900 acres of federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Nye County intends to include federally-listed threatened and endangered species, including the desert tortoise, *Gopherus agassizii*, in the HCP, as well as unlisted species.

The Service is asking the public to identify important issues and alternatives related to the proposed actions. The Service requests that comments be specific. In particular, the Service is requesting information regarding (1) potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of implementation of the proposed action; (2) other possible alternatives that meet the purpose and need; (3) potential adaptive management and/or monitoring provisions; (4) existing environmental conditions in the area; (5) other plans or projects that might be relevant to this proposed project; and (6) potential minimization and mitigation efforts.

Written comments should be submitted to Robert D. Williams, Field Supervisor, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1340 Financial Blvd., Suite 234, Reno, Nevada, 89502, or faxed to (775) 861-6301. More information on the proposed action can be found at the following web site www.fws.gov/nevada, or by calling Jeri Krueger (702) 515-5230.

-More-

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

-End-