



News Release

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Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 11, 2014
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Public Input Sought on Draft Environmental Assessment for Habitat Improvement

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on a proposal to facilitate recovery of federally-listed threatened and endangered species in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico (proposed project area) using Service Cooperative Recovery Initiative Funding.

Through integral partnerships between the Service and numerous private landowners and other partners, various habitat restoration projects are proposed on private properties to facilitate the recovery of the Yaqui chub, Yaqui topminnow, beautiful shiner, Yaqui catfish, Chiricahua leopard frog, northern Mexican gartersnake, San Bernardino springsnail, and Huachuca water umbel through landscape-scale restoration of wetland habitat, upland habitat, existing core fish and wildlife areas, and wildlife corridors. Projects would occur only on lands that have property owner authorization and support. All proposed projects fall within the guidelines of existing species recovery plans, therefore, this EA is implementing management actions that have been identified as necessary for the recovery of species listed above. These actions will also benefit a wide variety of other plants, fish, wildlife, and invertebrates.

Through the 30-day comment period, which ends October 10, the Service is seeking public input on the draft EA. The document is posted on the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge's website located at http://fws.gov/refuge/san_bernardino. You may also contact the Refuge Manager at (520) 3645-2104 x101 to request that a paper copy be mailed to you.

Your written comments can be electronically mailed to: bill_radke@fws.gov, hard copy mailed to Refuge Manager, P. O. Box 3509, Douglas, AZ 85608; or delivered in person to refuge headquarters located at 7628 North Hwy 191, Douglas, AZ 85608. All comments must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 10, 2014.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Refuge Manager at (520) 3645-2104 x101.

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. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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