

Informational Notice

Online Processing of Requests for Official Endangered Species Act Species List

For Consultation and Conservation Partners of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Arizona Ecological Services Office

Dear Consultation and Conservation Partners:

As of March 2014, the Arizona Ecological Services Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will no longer be maintaining the County Species List, and is directing your agency, agents, and designated non-Federal representatives to an automated Environmental Conservation Online System-Information, Planning and Conservation (ECOS-IPaC) system (System) accessed via the internet. The purpose of this System is to identify species designated via the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) as candidates, proposed, threatened, or endangered; and habitats proposed and designated as critical habitat, which *may* occur in the action areas that you will define.

The output provided by the System is intended, in part, to fulfill the requirements under section 7(c) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). The lists pertaining to species and habitats designated via the Act are to be used in the development of biological assessments/evaluations that you will prepare for future proposed projects. Use the link <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>, to input your project's polygon, upload a shapefile (if your project is over a large area but with segments), or to select the county in which your project occurs to view and request a species list. If your team decides to input your project's polygon, please bear in mind that the species generated in your list are delineated in grids that cover a minimum of 49 square miles. Please check each species' information page found at http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Docs_Species.htm or <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Documents/MiscDocs/AZSpeciesReference.pdf> for a quick reference, to determine if suitable habitat for the species on your list occurs for the species on your list in your project area.

A generated 'Official List' can be renewed through the following steps:

1. Re-entering the shapefile used or requesting the shapefile be sent back to you (IPaC saves the shapefiles used when an Official List is requested);
2. Proceed through the steps;
3. Save the Preliminary Species List as a PDF. Please do not click 'Request Official List';
4. Send this PDF to the incomingazcorr@fws.gov address with the subject line and text requesting a renewed list. Please provide the file number that was given with the original Official Species List in the email too;

The Service is currently working on automating the renewal process, but until this is available we recommend that you use IPaC and these renewal steps as necessary.

The Service asks that you aid us in sharing this notice with your affected staff, agents, clients, or non-Federal representatives. Your assistance with dissemination of this notice is appreciated. If you have questions or comments regarding the use and operation of the automated ECOS-IPaC System, please contact the ECOS-IPaC help desk at 970-226-9468, 8am - 4pm Mountain Time, M-F or via email at <http://ecos.fws.gov/ecos/helpDeskPublicForm.do>. If you have questions or comments regarding the content of the Preliminary or Official Lists supplied to you by the System, please contact Brenda Smith at 928/556-2157 for projects in Northern Arizona, our general Phoenix number 602/242-0210 for central Arizona, or Jean Calhoun at 520/670-6150 (x223) for projects in southern Arizona.

Activities that involve streams and/or wetlands are regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). We recommend that you contact the Corps to determine their interest in proposed projects in these areas. For activities within a National Wildlife Refuge, we recommend that you contact refuge staff for specific information about refuge resources. If your action is on Indian land or has implications for off-reservation tribal interests, we encourage you to contact the tribe(s) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to discuss potential tribal concerns, and to invite any affected tribe and BIA to participate in the section 7 consultation. In keeping with our tribal trust responsibility, we will notify tribes that may be affected by proposed actions when section 7 consultation is initiated. For more information, please contact our tribal coordinator, John Nystedt at (928) 556-2160 or John_Nystedt@fws.gov. We also recommend that you coordinate your project with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and utilize their Environmental Review On-Line Tool that can be accessed at <http://www.azgfd.gov/hgis/>.

Thank you.