

## United States Department of the Interior

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
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AESO/SE  
000089RO Amd 1  
2-22-99-F-016 Amd 1  
2-21-00-F-443

December 8, 2000

Mr. Karl P. Siderits  
Forest Supervisor  
Tonto National Forest  
2324 East McDowell Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85006

Dear Mr. Siderits:

This letter is an amendment to the February 2, 1999, Biological Opinion on ongoing livestock grazing activities on allotments (000089RO), and the June 30, 1999, Biological Opinion on the U.S Forest Service's proposed reauthorization of livestock grazing on seven allotments in the Apache-Sitgreaves, Tonto, Coronado, and Gila National Forests (2-22-99-F-016). Your letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requesting amendment of these biological opinions, following section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, was dated May 11, 2000. Your letter contained ample information to determine the effects of the change in the terms and conditions in the biological opinions on the endangered lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuena*). All information in the original biological opinions regarding the project description, effects of the action, incidental take, and others, remain in effect unless specified below.

### Amendment to Biological Opinions

#### Biological Opinion 000089RO

Chrysofile allotment: Reasonable and prudent measure number 2 (page 91) is changed to:

Survey appropriate areas of the Forest to determine if lesser long-nosed bats are present.

The term and conditions (page 91-92) for reasonable and prudent number 2 are changed to:

1. Surveys following the protocol detailed in the lesser long-nosed bat statement of work must be done. Field work and a report must be completed by August 1, 2002. If lesser long-nosed bats are found, the Service must be notified immediately and section 7 consultation must be reinitiated (50 CFR §402.16).

Conservation recommendation number 1 (page 93) is changed to:

Join in cooperative efforts to survey for lesser long-nosed bats and their roosts, and protect and monitor these sites.

Conservation recommendation number 2 is deleted. Conservation recommendation number 3, now becomes number 2 (page 93).

Hicks/Pike Peak allotment: Reasonable and prudent measure number 2 (page 169) is changed to:

Survey appropriate areas of the Forest to determine if lesser long-nosed bats are present.

The term and conditions (page 170) for reasonable and prudent number 2 are changed to:

1. Surveys following the protocol detailed in the lesser long-nosed bat statement of work must be done. Field work and a report must be completed by August 1, 2002. If lesser long-nosed bats are found, the Service must be notified immediately and section 7 consultation must be reinitiated (50 CFR §402.16).

Conservation recommendation number 1 (page 171) is changed to:

Join in cooperative efforts to survey for lesser long-nosed bats and their roosts, and protect and monitor these sites.

Conservation recommendation number 2 is deleted. Conservation recommendation number 3, now becomes number 2 (page 171-172).

Radium allotment: Reasonable and prudent measure number 2 (page 36) is changed to:

Survey appropriate areas of the Forest to determine if lesser long-nosed bats are present.

The term and conditions (page 37) for reasonable and prudent number 2 are changed to:

2. Surveys following the protocol detailed in the lesser long-nosed bat statement of work must be done. Field work and a report must be completed by August 1, 2002. If lesser long-nosed bats are found, the Service must be notified immediately and section 7 consultation must be reinitiated (50 CFR §402.16).

This concludes the amendments to biological opinions 000089RO and 2-22-99-F-016. The original biological opinions remain in effect, except the parts replaced by these amendments. As provided in 50 CFR §402.16, reinitiation of formal consultation is required where discretionary Federal agency involvement or control over the action has been maintained (or is authorized by law) and if: (1) the amount or extent of incidental take is exceeded; (2) new information reveals effects of the agency action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in this opinion; (3) the agency action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in this opinion; or (4) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action. In instances where the amount or extent of incidental take is exceeded, any operations causing such take must cease pending reinitiation. If you have any questions or concerns about this consultation or the consultation process in general, please contact Doug Duncan (520) 670-4860 or Sherry Barrett (520) 670-4617.

Sincerely,

/s/ David L. Harlow  
Field Supervisor

cc: Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM (ARD-ES Cindy Schulz)  
Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM

Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ