



# United States Department of the Interior



## Fish and Wildlife Service Arizona Ecological Services Office

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In Reply Refer to:

AESO/SE  
22410-2005-F-0492-R005

May 2, 2018

Mr. W.R. Sellars  
Commanding Officer  
Marine Corps Air Station Yuma  
Box 99100  
Yuma, Arizona 85369-9100

RE: Compatibility Determination for the Updated Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for the Barry M. Goldwater Range, Arizona

Dear Mr. W.R. Sellars:

Thank you for your request for a compatibility determination and concurrence letter on the 2018 Update of the Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR) Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). Your April 17, 2018 request was received by us on April 18, 2018.

You requested that we evaluate whether the proposed updated 2018 INRMP is compatible with the analysis of effects found within the existing 2005 biological opinion related to BMGR's 2007 INRMP (Consultation # 02-21-05-F-0492). In addition, you requested that we adopt our January 7, 2013 conference report for acuña cactus (*Echinomastus erectocentrus* var. *acunensis*) as a concurrence letter. This letter documents our review of the 2018 update (or 5-year review) to the 2012 INRMP, in compliance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

A complete description of the proposed action is included in your April 17, 2018 letter, and February 2018 Draft Update of the Barry M. Goldwater Range Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan. The 2018 INRMP establishes overarching goals for managing the natural resources of, and public access within, the 1.7 million acre BMGR, located in Yuma and Maricopa counties in southwestern Arizona. It identifies agency management responsibilities, 17 categories of management elements to address five broad management goals, plus project schedules and funding requirements. The 2018 update (or 5-year review) of the 2012 INRMP addresses the continuing applicability, operation, and effect of the management goals and elements.

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## CONCLUSION

### Sonoran pronghorn

Regarding Sonoran pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana sonoriensis*), you determined that the August 26, 2005 biological opinion should remain in effect for the species because the updated INRMP is a continuation of the activities described in the 2005 biological opinion and the 2018 INRMP, and no changes have been made to the action that would cause an effect to Sonoran pronghorn not already considered in the 2005 opinion.

We concur with your determination that the August 26, 2005 biological opinion for Sonoran pronghorn remain compatible with the anticipated effects of the updated, 2012 BMGR INRMP, and should remain in effect for the reasons you provided.

### Acuña cactus

Regarding acuña cactus, you requested that we adopt our conference report as a concurrence letter because 1) the cactus was listed as endangered subsequent to the issuance of our January 7, 2013 conference report, and 2) the 2018 INRMP is a continuation of the activities described in the 2012 INRMP update and no changes have been made to the action that would cause an effect to acuña cactus not already considered in our 2013 conference report<sup>1</sup>.

We concur with your request and adopt our January 7, 2013 conference report 2013 for acuña cactus as a concurrence letter for the reasons you provided.

### Lesser long-nosed bat

Regarding lesser long-nosed bats (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuena*), the species was recovered and removed from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (i.e., delisted) effective May 18, 2018; therefore, our June 10, 2005 concurrence for this species is no longer in effect because the protections of the ESA no longer apply to this species. We are appreciative of the ongoing conservation actions in the 2018 INRMP that apply to bats in general and to the lesser long-nosed bat specifically. We look forward to ongoing coordination with you related to future conservation actions for the lesser long-nosed bat on BMGR.

In keeping with our trust responsibilities to American Indian Tribes, by copy of this letter we are notifying Tribes that may be affected by this proposed action and encourage you to invite the Bureau of Indian Affairs to participate in the review of your proposed action. We also encourage you to coordinate the review of this project with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. See the Cultural Affiliations maps @ [AESO Tribal Coordination documents](#)

Thank you for your continued coordination and dedication to the conservation of endangered species. No further section 7 consultation is required for this project at this time. Should project

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<sup>1</sup> Regarding critical habitat for acuña cactus, which was designated on August 18, 2016, lands within BMGR were exempted from critical habitat designation under section 4(a)(3)(B)(i) of the Act.

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plans change, or if information on the distribution or abundance of listed species or critical habitat becomes available, this determination may need to be reconsidered. Please refer to the consultation number, 22410-2005-F-0492-R001 in future correspondence concerning this project.

If you require further assistance or you have any questions, please contact Erin Fernandez (520) 670-6150 (x 238) of our Tucson Suboffice or Scott Richardson (x 242).

Sincerely,



Field Supervisor

cc (electronic):

Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Phoenix  
Assistant Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Tucson  
Assistant Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Tucson  
(Attn: Erin Fernandez, Scott Richardson, Julie Crawford)  
Sid Slone, Refuge Manager, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Ajo, AZ  
Randy English, Conservation Manager, Marine Corp Air Station, Yuma, AZ  
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Charles Buchanan, Director, 56th Fighter Wing Range Management Office, Luke Air Force Base, AZ  
Aaron Alvidrez, Wildlife Biologist, 56 Range Management Office, Luke Air Force Base, AZ  
Rijk Morawe, Chief of Resources Management, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Ajo, AZ

Honorable Chairman Edward D. Manuel, Tohono O'odham Nation, Sells, AZ  
Acting Chief, Habitat Branch, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ  
Raul Vega, Regional Supervisor, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Tucson, AZ  
Pat Barber, Regional Supervisor, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Yuma, AZ