



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
POST OFFICE BOX 1306
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. 87103

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DEC 9 1985

Memorandum

To: Assistant Regional Director, AWR, Region 2 (RE)
From: ~~Acting~~ Regional Director, Region 2 (AFF)
Subject: Biological Opinion for Acquisition of Wildlife Habitat Along the San Pedro River, Cochise County, Arizona

This responds to your request of October 29, 1985, for formal intra-Service Section 7 consultation on the acquisition of 35,000 acres of wildlife habitat along the San Pedro River in Cochise County, Arizona.

Your proposal involves the withdrawal of Bureau of Land Management land along the San Pedro River to form a new national wildlife refuge. This proposal may affect the following species:

Ocelot (Felis pardalis)
Jaguarundi (Felis yagouroundi cacomitli)
Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus)
Gila topminnow (Poeciliopsis o. occidentalis)
Loach minnow (Tiaroga cobitis) (proposed)
Spikedace (Meda fulgida) (proposed)

The withdrawal is contingent upon the present landowner exchanging the subject lands for BLM lands elsewhere. The establishment of a national wildlife refuge on these lands would preserve them as natural wildlife habitat. Important riparian values would also be protected and a potential reintroduction site for native fish would be provided.

It is my biological opinion that this action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the ocelot, jaguarundi, peregrine falcon, and Gila topminnow, but will promote the conservation of these species. This action will also benefit the proposed loach minnow and spikedace.

Should this action, as now planned, be modified or altered, or should new information become available, please reinitiate consultation.

cc: Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona
Director, FWS, Washington, D.C. (OES)
Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, Phoenix, Arizona