



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES  
3616 W. Thomas, Suite 6  
Phoenix, Arizona 85019

2-21-88-F-127

August 28, 1990

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Manager, Arizona Strip District, Bureau of Land Management, St. George, Utah (Attention: Dennis Curtis)

FROM: Field Supervisor

SUBJECT: Amendment to Biological Opinion for the Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan (Number 2-21-88-F-127)

This amendment to the subject Biological Opinion is in response to your memorandum dated July 11, 1990, regarding the Terms and Conditions for Reasonable and Prudent Measure Number 1. This Reasonable and Prudent Measure states:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) shall compensate for the long-term loss and fragmentation of tortoise habitat through acquisition of private lands which would be subsequently managed for the benefit of desert tortoises.

The Terms and Conditions for the above Reasonable and Prudent Measure in the subject Biological Opinion are hereby amended as follows:

Terms and Conditions

To implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure Number 1 contained in Biological Opinion Number 2-21-88-F-127, the BLM shall compensate for loss of desert tortoise habitat through acquisition or restoration of other desert tortoise habitat. Type, location, and magnitude of the compensation will be determined through a separate Section 7 consultation upon receipt of the Recreation and Public Purpose Act permit (R&PP) proposal for the land sale/exchange.

We agree with your memorandum that assessment of the impacts from disposal of 210 acres of desert tortoise habitat would be facilitated by receipt of more specific information on the action. Information should include, at a minimum, a description of the proposed action, a description of the affected environment, analysis of the effects of the action, cumulative effects, and conclusions on how the action will affect the desert tortoise.

As you are aware, the desert tortoise Management Oversight Group will discuss standards for mitigation/compensation for incidental take of tortoises and their habitat at the October 3, 1990, meeting. Delaying determination of compensation for this land disposal will allow the Fish and Wildlife Service and the BLM to reach an agreement on fair and adequate compensation throughout the range of the desert tortoise.

As required by 50 CFR 402.16, reinitiation of formal consultation for the Arizona Strip Resource Management plan is required if: 1) the amount or extent of incidental take is reached, 2) new information reveals effects of the agency action that may impact 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 a 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.

Should you require further assistance, please contact Sherry Barrett or Sam Spiller (Telephone:602/379-4720).



Sam F. Spiller

cc: Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, Nevada  
Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura, California  
Office Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Laguna Niguel, California  
State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix, Arizona  
Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona  
Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
(FWE/HC)  
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC (EHC)