



United States Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Arizona Ecological Services Field Office  
2321 W. Royal Palm Road, Suite 103  
Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4951  
(602) 640-2720 Fax (602) 640-2730



In Reply Refer To:

AESO/SE  
2-21-96-F-114

November 12, 1998

Mr. John McGee  
Forest Supervisor  
Coronado National Forest  
300 West Congress  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Dear Mr. McGee:

This letter acknowledges your November 5, 1998, letter requesting a second amendment to the March 3, 1997, Biological Opinion issued for the Maverick Prescribed Burn. All goals, objectives, planned actions, and the planning area are described within the original opinion, and the terms and conditions of the March 3, 1997, Biological Opinion still apply with one exception to the Project Description. The first exception is described as revision #1 to the project description and is found in the March 5, 1998, letter amending the original opinion. This exception (Amendment #2) will cover a revised date by which all ignitions within the burn unit will be implemented in order to complete the project.

As referenced in your November 5, 1998, letter, the implementation of the seventh ignition within the primary burn unit was, again, not accomplished by June 1998, as a result of wildland fire conditions throughout the region. The following amendment serves to revise the date by which the Maverick Burn Project will be completely implemented as found within the "PROJECT DESCRIPTION" of the original Maverick Biological Opinion and the first Amendment issued on March 5, 1998.

#### **BIOLOGICAL OPINION AMENDMENT**

This amendment does not change the findings for any species discussed in the March 3, 1997, Biological Opinion.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The goals, objectives, actions, and the description of the project apply as stated in the March 3, 1997, Biological Opinion issued to cover the Maverick Prescribed Burn as described in the March 5, 1998, Amendment and this following revision (Amendment #2).

2. The March 3, 1997, Biological Opinion planned for project completion by June 1998. Since the wildland fire or "risk" conditions did not allow for the last ignition to be completed as planned, the new amended description for the Maverick Prescribed Burn includes the implementation of ignition # 7 by June of 1999. Specific methods for accomplishing this final ignition include; aerial techniques and the use of manual drip torches and fuses. The exact date for implementation has not been established at this point but will depend upon burning condition parameters and other fire management activity prior to June 1999. It is anticipated that the securing of the ignition perimeter will be conducted prior to implementation of the rest of the interior ignition. Securing the perimeter will be accomplished by burning out the fuels adjacent to the road with drip torches and fuses. This "blacklining" will be done during conditions that facilitate control of the fire behavior, i.e., burning will occur during the cooler conditions of fall/winter/spring and/or at night. The Maverick Spring area will have priority for cooler fire behavior during blacklining. The affected area (i.e. ignition #7) as shown on the map provided in the original opinion and your December 7, 1997, letter, involves approximately 2000 acres of unburned area within the original primary planning area between Bunk Robinson Peak, Maverick Spring and the CaNocito Ranch Headquarters.

#### **EFFECTS OF THE ACTION**

This amendment does not change the effects of the Maverick Prescribed Burn on any species discussed in the March 3, 1997, Biological Opinion.

#### **INCIDENTAL TAKE**

This amendment does not change the amount or effect of incidental take expected from the Maverick Prescribed Burn as stated in the March 3, 1997, Biological Opinion. The Service determined that this level of anticipated take is not likely to result in jeopardy to the species.

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

This amendment does not change the reasonable and prudent measures listed in the March 3, 1997, Biological Opinion.

#### **SUMMARY**

The provisions in the Summary of the March 3, 1997, Biological Opinion for re-initiation of consultation under certain circumstances apply to this amendment.

For further reference regarding the Maverick Biological Opinion and the previous Letter of Amendment regarding the implementation of ignition #7 to complete the Maverick Prescribed Burn, please contact our Arizona Ecological Services Field Office in Phoenix, Arizona as these documents are on file under (#2-21-96-F-114).

If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Tricia Roller at (520-670-4859) or Angie Brooks at (602-640-2720).

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Gatz  
Acting Field Supervisor

cc: Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM (Attn: Steve Chambers)

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