



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2321 W. Royal Palm Road, Suite 103

Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4951

(602)640-2720 FAX (602)640-2730



In Reply Refer To:

AESO/SE

2-21-98-F-399

CL 990587

December 9, 1999

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

Dear Mr. McGee:

This letter is an amendment to the July 29, 1994, Biological Opinion on ongoing and long-term livestock grazing on the Coronado National Forest (2-21-98-F-399). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service received your letter dated October 7, 1999, requesting reinitiation of section 7 consultation, on October 8. Your letter contained ample information to determine the change in the proposed action and the possible effects on the endangered lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuena*) in the Galiuro Ecosystem Management Area. All information in the original biological opinion regarding the project description, effects of the action, incidental take, and others, remain in effect unless specified below.

You also asked for clarification on the Forest's drought policy. The drought policy that the Forest sent to the Service June 18, 1999, which is restated in the biological opinion at page 5, is sufficient. This serves as approval by the Service as required by the biological opinion.


Amendment to Biological Opinion

The first paragraph of the terms and conditions for the lesser long-nosed bat, of the original biological opinion is changed to:

To be exempt from the prohibitions of section 9 of the Act, the Coronado must comply with the following terms and conditions regarding the proposed action. These terms and conditions implement the reasonable and prudent measures described above. Terms and conditions are nondiscretionary. Terms and conditions apply to allotments under consultation in the Santa Rita, Huachuca, Galiuro, and Chiricahua EMA's that contain lesser long-nosed bat roosts, or provide foraging habitat within foraging range of significant roosts. If lesser long-nosed bats are found in other EMA's other than these, the following terms and conditions will also apply to them when the Forest notifies the service in writing.

This concludes the amendment to the biological opinion 2-21-98-F-399. The original Biological Opinion remains in effect, except the parts replaced by this amendment. 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 (520-740-2736).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Harlow" followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

David L. Harlow
Field Supervisor