



News Release

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SEEKS INPUT ON SONORAN DESERT CONSERVATION PLAN

In anticipation of receiving Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP) and a request for a permit to take threatened and endangered species, the Fish and Wildlife Service, together with the County's consultant, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and conduct a scoping meeting.

"We are conducting the scoping meeting to share the principle concerns we anticipate will result from our issuance of an Incidental Take Permit and to encourage Pima county residents to inform us of their concerns," said Steve Spangle, Arizona Ecological Services Field Supervisor.

The Service will work together with environmental consultant Paul Fromer to evaluate the impacts of, and the alternatives for, the possible issuance of an Incidental Take Permit to Pima County for the measured loss of federally listed species that may occur during implementation of its SDGP. The SDGP will serve as a Multi-Species Conservation Plan – a habitat conservation plan – to provide measures to minimize and mitigate the effects of the proposed taking on listed and sensitive species and their habitats.

The public scoping meeting will be held from 10 a.m. - noon on October 4 at Pima County Public Works, Room C in Basement, 201 North Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701. Written comments on conservation alternatives and issues to be addressed in the EIS can also be sent to Mr. Steven L. Spangle, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ, 85021 and should be submitted by October 27.

For information on the EIS, contact Ms. Sherry Barrett, Assistant Field Supervisor, Tucson Suboffice, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 110 S. Church, Suite 3450, Tucson, AZ 85701, at 520/670-4617. For information the Pima County MSCP, contact Mr. Paul Fromer, RECON, 1927 Fifth Avenue, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92101-2358 at 619/308-9333. Information on the purpose, membership, meeting schedules and documents associated with the Pima County MSCP are available on the Internet at <http://www.co.pima.az.us/cmo/sdcp/index.html>.