

HCP involving measures to minimize and mitigate the impacts of incidental take of federally listed and candidate species.

2. No Action by the Service—No issuance of an ITP by the Service; this would require SRP to do everything within its control to avoid any take of federally listed species associated with its operation of Horseshoe and Bartlett.

3. Other Section 10 Alternatives—Issuance of an ITP by the Service for an HCP involving the operation of Horseshoe and Bartlett under various combinations of storage capacity and operating goals, along with additional measures to minimize and mitigate the impacts of potential take of federally listed and candidate species. It is anticipated that the EIS will consider one or two alternatives of reservoir capacity and operation in addition to the Proposed Action and the No Action alternatives.

Additional Information: The Service anticipates that SRP will request a permit duration of 50 years. Implementation of the HCP will result in the establishment of measures that will provide for the conservation of covered species and their habitats in perpetuity. Research and monitoring, in combination with adaptive management, will be used to facilitate accomplishment of these measures.

The Service will conduct an environmental review that analyzes the proposed action, as well as a range of reasonable alternatives and the associated impact of each. The EIS will be the basis for the Service's evaluation of impacts to the species and to the environment, including the range of alternatives to be evaluated. The EIS is expected to provide biological descriptions of species and habitats as well as the effects of the proposed action on: vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, threatened or endangered species and species of concern, geology and soils, visual resources, air quality, water resources, flood control, water quality, archaeology, historic structures, traditional cultural properties, land use, recreation, water use, local economy, and environmental justice.

Comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties to ensure that a range of issues and alternatives related to the proposed action are identified. The review of this project will be conducted according to the requirements of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and other appropriate federal laws, regulations, policies, and guidance. Written comments received by the Service become part of the public record associated with this action.

Those comments, as well as the names and addresses of commenters, may be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act unless a commenter gives a privacy or other exemption justification.

Related Project Documentation: It is anticipated that the EIS process will make full use (including incorporation by reference, as appropriate, pursuant to NEPA) of documents prepared by other entities regarding the environmental and socioeconomic issues in the project area, copies of which will be available for public inspection, by appointment, at the office of Ms. Ruth Valencia, Senior Environmental Scientist, Salt River Project, PO Box 52025, PAB352, Phoenix, AZ 85072–2025 at (602) 236–2830.

After the environmental review is completed, the Service will publish a notice of availability and a request for comment on the draft EIS and SRP's permit application, which will include the draft HCP.

The draft EIS is expected to be completed by February 2004.

Bryan Arroyo,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Request for Information and Recommendations on Species Proposals, Resolutions, Decisions, and Agenda Items for Consideration at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; U.S. Approach for the Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for information.

SUMMARY: In order to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES or the Convention), the Parties to the Convention meet periodically to review which species in international trade should be regulated and other aspects of the implementation of CITES. We have been informed that the thirteenth regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP13) will be held October 3–14, 2004, in Bangkok, Thailand. Therefore, with this notice we are soliciting

recommendations for amending Appendices I and II of CITES at COP13. We are also soliciting recommendations for resolutions, decisions, and agenda items for discussion at COP13. We invite you to provide us with information and recommendations on animal and plant species that should be considered as candidates for U.S. proposals to amend CITES Appendices I and II. Such amendments may concern the addition of species to Appendix I or II, the transfer of species from one Appendix to another, or the removal of species from Appendix II. We also invite you to provide us with information and recommendations on possible resolutions, decisions, and agenda items for discussion at the upcoming meeting. Finally, with this notice we also describe the U.S. approach to preparations for COP13.

DATES: We will consider all information and comments received by August 18, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send correspondence pertaining to species proposals to the Division of Scientific Authority; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 North Fairfax Drive; Room 750; Arlington, Virginia 22203, or via E-mail to: scientificauthority@fws.gov. Comments and materials received pertaining to species proposals will be available for public inspection, by appointment, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Division of Scientific Authority.

Send correspondence pertaining to resolutions, decisions, and agenda items to the Division of Management Authority; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 North Fairfax Drive; Room 700; Arlington, Virginia 22203, or via E-mail at: cites@fws.gov. Comments and materials received pertaining to resolutions, decisions, and agenda items will be available for public inspection, by appointment, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Division of Management Authority.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information pertaining to species proposals: Robert R. Gabel, Chief, Division of Scientific Authority, phone 703–358–1708, fax 703–358–2276, E-mail: scientificauthority@fws.gov.

For information pertaining to resolutions, decisions, and agenda items: Peter O. Thomas, Chief, Division of Management Authority, phone 703–358–2095, fax 703–358–2298, E-mail: cites@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild