



L4
10/10

In Reply Refer To
R2/ES-SE

JUL 22 1994

MEMORANDUM

To: Refuge Manager, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Ajo, Arizona
(Attention: Laura A. Thompson-Olais)

From: Recovery Coordinator, Ecological Services, Region 2 *G. Divine*

Subject: Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Plan

Regional Office review of the Sonoran pronghorn revised recovery plan has been completed. Suggested changes are noted on the draft plan. In addition, four suggestions are offered. They are:

1. Since it has been a while since you looked at the draft, have another look at the narrative outline to confirm that elements contained therein (if completed successfully) will lead to downlisting the species.
2. Delete the word "outline." Only the narrative is now required. The word "outline" just adds bulk.
3. Prepare implementation schedule. See page I-16 of Policy and Guidelines Handbook (May 1990, green book) for an example.
4. Review attached notice for publication in the Federal Register and memorandum transmitting notice. Most of the notice is boiler plate, but paragraphs dealing specifically with the Sonoran program should be reviewed and modified as deemed appropriate.

If you have comments or minor modifications to the notice, call me and they will be incorporated. If I have missed the mark and your comments are lengthy, you may want to e-mail them to me. Once you have considered my revisions and concur with or modify the notice to be published in the Federal Register, we will be ready to proceed with public review of the draft recovery plan.

Expect 7-10 days from date of mailing to the Federal Register before the notice is published. Therefore, within 10 days from your concurrence with the documents, you could start getting requests for copies of the draft plan. Call me if you have questions.

Attachment

Mailed
by G. Divine
7/22/94

07/21/94 (Thu)/3:19pm/kadm/draft
07/22/94 (Fri)/9:05am/kadm/final
A:\JULY\GEO\PRONMEM.LTR

In Reply Refer To:
R2/ES-SE

Director
The Office of the Federal Register
National Archives and Records Administration
Washington, D.C. 20208

Dear Sir or Madam:

The enclosed notice for the Sonoran pronghorn is for publication in the Federal Register; please publish the notice as soon as possible. If there are any questions or problems regarding the notice, contact George Divine, (505) 766-3972. Please call Laura A. Thompson-Olais at (602) 387-6483, prior to publication with the publication date as soon as it is scheduled. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Regional Director

Enclosures

cc: (w/cy enclosures)
Director, FWS, Washington, D.C. (AES/TE)
Refuge Manager, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Ajo, Arizona
Refuge Operations-AZ/NM (RF1), RW, Region 2
Recovery Coordinator, ES-SE, Region 2

Billing Code 4310-55

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of availability of a Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the
Sonoran Pronghorn for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior

ACTION: Notice of document availability and public comment period

SUMMARY: The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft revised recovery plan for the Sonoran pronghorn (Antilocapra americana sonoriensis) which the Service listed as an endangered species on March 11, 1967 (32 FR 4001). This animal's population is estimated to be less than 800 animals; less than 300 in the United States and no more than 500 in the State of Sonora, Mexico. Distribution is limited primarily to Sonoran desert habitats. Factors that limit population growth are not well understood. However, loss of habitat due to drying of extended reaches of the Gila and Sonoyta Rivers, competition from domestic livestock, and human encroachment are believed to be limiting factors. Illegal hunting and predation on fawns may also limit growth of some populations. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before (60 days from publication in the Federal Register) to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Refuge Manager, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge 1611 North Second Avenue, Ajo, Arizona 85321. Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Refuge Manager at the above address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura A. Thompson-Olais, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist, telephone (602) 387-6483 or at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened plant or animal to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe site specific management actions considered necessary for conservation and survival of the species, establish objective, measurable criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988

requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

Sonoran pronghorn habitat in the United States consists of broad alluvial valleys separated by blocked-faulted mountains. Creosote and white bursage is the dominate vegetation in these valleys. Sonoran pronghorn are found in the creosote-bursage plant association throughout the years but utilize areas containing palo verde-mixed cacti plant associations during spring and summer months. The requirement of water for drinking has not been verified. In Mexico, Sonoran pronghorn are found in areas where permant water is not available and there is no evidence of them traveling long distances to obtain water. The recovery plan has been revised to include research results obtained since the original recovery plan was completed in 1982 and to reflect recovery objectives that reflect current information known about the species.

The sonoran pronghorn recovery plan has been reviewed by the appropriate Service staff in Region 2. The plan will be finalized and approved following incorporation of comments and materials received during this comment period.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to the approval of the plan.

Authority

The Authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533 (f).

Dated: _____

Regional Director