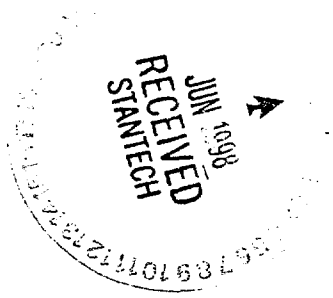


Appendix B
ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE AND COMMENTS



June 26, 1998



Robert Larkin
Stantech Consulting, Inc.
7776 Point Parkway W., Ste 290
Phoenix, AZ 85044

Re: St. Johns Industrial Air Park Airport Master Plan

Dear Mr. Larkin:

Thank you for submitting documentation on the above referenced project. I have reviewed the material pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 and have the following comments:

1. The documentation lists several potential major alterations to the airport facility. Unfortunately, you did not provide us with any information with which to determine whether there are any historic or archaeological properties that might be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at this facility. Without this information I cannot comment further on potential impacts on historic or prehistoric properties.

2. Please note that under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act it is the responsibility of the federal agency involved, or their agent, to determine what cultural resources are in the area of potential effect of the proposed project and to evaluate the potential effects. This office then provides comments based on the information provided. I look forward to seeing additional information on this undertaking.

If you have any questions or requests, please call me at (602) 542-7159.

Sincerely,

William S. Collins
Historian
State Historic Preservation Office

Jane Dee Hull
Governor

STATE PARKS
BOARD MEMBERS

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Ruth U. Patterson
St. Johns

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Commissioner

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1300 West Washington
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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
2-21-98-I-322
CCN 980929

June 26, 1998

Mr. Robert Larkin, Manager
Environmental Planning and Archaeology
Stantech Consulting Inc.
7776 Pointe Parkway West, Suite 290
Phoenix, Arizona 85044

RE: St. Johns Industrial Air Park, Airport Master Plan

Dear Mr. Larkin:

This letter responds to your June 19, 1998, request for an inventory of threatened or endangered species, or those that are proposed to be listed as such under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), which may potentially occur in your project area (Apache County). The enclosed list may include candidate species as well. We hope the enclosed county list of species will be helpful. In future communications regarding this project, please refer to consultation number 2-21-98-I-322.

The enclosed list of the endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species includes all those potentially occurring anywhere in the county, or counties, where your project occurs. Please note that your project area may not necessarily include all or any of these species. The information provided includes general descriptions, habitat requirements, and other information for each species on the list. Also on the enclosed list is the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) citation for each listed or proposed species. Additional information can be found in the CFR and is available at most public libraries. This information should assist you in determining which species may or may not occur within your project area. Site-specific surveys could also be helpful and may be needed to verify the presence or absence of a species or its habitat as required for the evaluation of proposed project-related impacts.

Endangered and threatened species are protected by Federal law and must be considered prior to project development. If the action agency determines that listed species or critical habitat may be adversely affected by a federally funded, permitted, or authorized activity, the action agency must request formal consultation with the Service. If the action agency determines that the planned action may jeopardize a proposed species or destroy or adversely modify proposed critical habitat, the action agency must enter into a section 7 conference with the Service. Candidate species are those which are being considered for addition to the list of threatened or

endangered species. Candidate species are those for which there is sufficient information to support a proposal for listing. Although candidate species have no legal protection under the Act, we recommend that they be considered in the planning process in the event that they become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion.

If any proposed action occurs in or near areas with trees and shrubs growing along watercourses, known as riparian habitat, the Service recommends the protection of these areas. Riparian areas are critical to biological community diversity and provide linear corridors important to migratory species. In addition, if the project will result in the deposition of dredged or fill materials into waterways or excavation in waterways, we recommend you contact the Army Corps of Engineers which regulates these activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The State of Arizona protects some plant and animal species not protected by Federal law. We recommend you contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona Department of Agriculture for State-listed or sensitive species in your project area.

The Service appreciates your efforts to identify and avoid impacts to listed and sensitive species in your project area. If we may be of further assistance, please contact our office.

Sincerely,



Tom Gatz
Acting Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ

4/9/98

LISTED TOTAL= 11

NAME: NAVAJO SEDGE

CAREX SPECUICOLA

STATUS: THREATENED

CRITICAL HAB Yes RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 50 CFR 19373, 5-8-85

DESCRIPTION: PERENNIAL FORB WITH TRIANGULAR STEMS, ELONGATED RHIZOMES.
FLOWER: WHITE JUNE AND JULY

ELEVATION

RANGE: 5700-6000 FT.

COUNTIES: COCONINO, NAVAJO, APACHE

HABITAT: SILTY SOILS AT SHADY SEEPS AND SPRINGS

DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT IS ON THE NAVAJO NATION NEAR INSCRIPTION HOUSE RUINS. FOUND AT SEEP SPRINGS ON VERTICAL CLIFFS OF PINK-RED NAVAJO SANDSTONE.

NAME: BLACK-FOOTED FERRET

MUSTELA NIGRIPES

STATUS: ENDANGERED

CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 32 FR 4001, 03-11-67

DESCRIPTION: WEASEL-LIKE, YELLOW BUFF COLORATION WITH BLACK FEET, TAIL TIP,
AND EYE MASK. IT HAS A BLUNT LIGHT COLORED NOSE AND IS 15-18
INCHES LONG AND TAIL LENGTH IS 5-6 INCHES.

ELEVATION

RANGE: <10,500 FT.

COUNTIES: COCONINO, APACHE, NAVAJO

HABITAT: GRASSLAND PLAINS GENERALLY FOUND IN ASSOCIATION WITH PRAIRIE DOGS

UNSURVEYED PRARIE DOG TOWNS MAY BE OCCUPIED BY FERRETS OR MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR FUTURE REINTRODUCTION EFFORTS. THE SERVICE DEVELOPED GUIDELINES FOR SURVEYING PRAIRIE DOG TOWNS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. NO POPULATIONS OF THIS SPECIES CURRENTLY KNOWN TO EXIST IN ARIZONA.

NAME: MEXICAN GRAY WOLF

CANIS LUPUS BAILEYI

STATUS: ENDANGERED

CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 32 FR 4001, 03-11-67; 43
FR 1912, 03-09-78

DESCRIPTION: LARGE DOG-LIKE CARNIVORE WITH VARYING COLOR, BUT USUALLY A
SHADE OF GRAY. DISTINCT WHITE LIP LINE AROUND MOUTH. WEIGH 60-
90 POUNDS.

ELEVATION

RANGE: 4,000-12,000FT.

COUNTIES: APACHE, COCHISE, GREENLEE, PIMA, SANTA CRUZ

HABITAT: CHAPPARAL, WOODLAND, AND FORESTED AREAS. MAY CROSS DESERT AREAS.

HISTORIC RANGE IS CONSIDERED TO BE LARGER THAN THE COUNTIES LISTED ABOVE. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE STATE (COCHISE, PIMA, SANTA CRUZ) CONTINUE TO BE RECEIVED. INDIVIDUALS MAY STILL PERSIST IN MEXICO. EXPERIMENTAL NONESSENTIAL POPULATION INTRODUCED IN THE BLUE PRIMITIVE AREA OF GREENLEE AND APACHE COUNTIES.

LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTY:

APACHE

4/9/98

NAME: APACHE (ARIZONA) TROUT

ONCORHYNCHUS APACHE

STATUS: THREATENED

CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 40 FR 29864, 07-19-1975

DESCRIPTION: THIS YELLOWISH OR YELLOW-OLIVE CUTTHROAT-LIKE TROUT HAS LARGE DARK SPOTS ON BODY. ITS DORSAL, ANAL, AND CAUDAL FINS EDGED WITH WHITE. IT HAS NO RED LATERAL BAND.

ELEVATION RANGE: >5000 FT.

COUNTIES: APACHE, GREENLEE, GILA, GRAHAM, NAVAJO

HABITAT: PRESENTLY RESTRICTED TO COLD MOUNTAIN STREAMS WITH MANY LOW GRADIENT MEADOW REACHES

OCCUPIES STREAM HABITATS WITH SUBSTRATES OF BOULDERS, ROCKS, AND GRAVEL WITH SOME SAND OR SILT THROUGH MIXED CONIFER AND SPRUCE-FIR FORESTS, AND MONTANE MEADOWS AND GRASSLANDS IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS. ALSO MANAGED AS A SPORT FISH UNDER SPECIAL REGULATIONS.

NAME: LITTLE COLORADO SPINEDACE

LEPIDOMEDA VITTATA

STATUS: THREATENED

CRITICAL HAB Yes RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 52 FR 35054

DESCRIPTION: SMALL (<4 INCHES LONG) SILVERY MINNOW WHICH IS DARKER ON THE BACK THAN THE BELLY

ELEVATION RANGE: 4000-8000 FT.

COUNTIES: COCONINO, APACHE, NAVAJO

HABITAT: MODERATE TO SMALL STREAMS IN POOLS AND RIFFLES WITH WATER FLOWING OVER GRAVEL AND SILT

CRITICAL HABITAT INCLUDES EIGHTEEN MILES OF EAST CLEAR CREEK, EIGHT MILES OF CHEVELON CREEK, AND FIVE MILES OF NUTRIOSO CREEK

NAME: LOACH MINNOW

TIAROGA COBITIS

STATUS: THREATENED

CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 51 FR 39468, 10-28-1986; 59 FR 10898, 03-08-1994

DESCRIPTION: SMALL (<3 INCHES LONG) SLENDER, ELONGATED FISH, OLIVE COLORED WITH DIRTY WHITE SPOTS AT THE BASE OF THE DORSAL AND CAUDAL FINS. BREEDING MALES VIVID RED ON MOUTH AND BASE OF FINS

ELEVATION RANGE: <7000 FT.

COUNTIES: PINAL, GRAHAM, GREENLEE, GILA, APACHE, NAVAJO, (AZ); GRANT, CATRON, (NM)

HABITAT: BENTHIC SPECIES OF SMALL TO LARGE PERENNIAL STREAMS WITH SWIFT SHALLOW WATER OVER COBBLE & GRAVEL

PRESENTLY FOUND IN ARAVAIPA CREEK, BLUE RIVER, CAMPBELL BLUE CREEK, SAN FRANCISCO RIVER, DRY BLUE CREEK, TULAROSA RIVER, EAST-WEST-AND MIDDLE FORKS OF THE GILA RIVER, AND THE MAINSTEM UPPER GILA RIVER. CRITICAL HABITAT WAS REMOVED IN MARCH 1998.

LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTY:

APACHE

4/9/98

NAME: AMERICAN PEREGRINE FALCON

FALCO PEREGRINUS ANATUM

STATUS: ENDANGERED

CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 35 FR 16047, 10-13-70; 35

DESCRIPTION: A RECLUSIVE, CROW-SIZED FALCON SLATY BLUE ABOVE WHITISH
BELOW WITH FINE DARK BARRING. THE HEAD IS BLACK AND APPEARS
TO BE MASKED OR HELMETED. WINGS LONG AND POINTED. LOUD
WAILING CALLS ARE GIVEN DURING BREEDING PERIOD.

ELEVATION
RANGE: 3500-9000 FT.

COUNTIES: MOHAVE COCONINO NAVAJO APACHE SANTA CRUZ MARICOPA COCHISE YAVAPAI GILA PINAL PIMA
GREENLEE GRAHAM

HABITAT: CLIFFS AND STEEP TERRAIN USUALLY NEAR WATER OR WOODLANDS WITH ABUNDANT PREY

THIS IS A WIDE-RANGING MIGRATORY BIRD THAT USES A VARIETY OF HABITATS. BREEDING BIRDS ARE YEAR-
ROUND RESIDENTS. OTHER BIRDS WINTER AND MIGRATE THROUGH ARIZONA. SPECIES IS ENDANGERED FROM
REPRODUCTIVE FAILURE FROM PESTICIDES.

NAME: BALD EAGLE

HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS

STATUS: THREATENED

CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 60 FR 35999, 07-12-95

DESCRIPTION: LARGE, ADULTS HAVE WHITE HEAD AND TAIL. HEIGHT 28 - 38";
WINGSPAN 66 - 96". 1-4 YRS DARK WITH VARYING DEGREES OF
MOTTLED BROWN PLUMAGE. FEET BARE OF FEATHERS.

ELEVATION
RANGE: VARIES FT.

COUNTIES: YUMA, LA PAZ, MOHAVE, YAVAPAI, MARICOPA, PINAL, COCONINO, NAVAJO, APACHE, SANTA CRUZ, PIMA,
GILA, GRAHAM

HABITAT: LARGE TREES OR CLIFFS NEAR WATER (RESERVOIRS, RIVERS AND STREAMS) WITH ABUNDANT PREY

SOME BIRDS ARE NESTING RESIDENTS WHILE A LARGER NUMBER WINTERS ALONG RIVERS AND RESERVOIRS.
AN ESTIMATED 200 TO 300 BIRDS WINTER IN ARIZONA. ONCE ENDANGERED (32 FR 4001, 03-11-1967; 43 FR 6233, 02-
14-78) BECAUSE OF REPRODUCTIVE FAILURES FROM PESTICIDE POISONING AND LOSS OF HABITAT, THIS
SPECIES WAS DOWN LISTED TO THREATENED ON AUGUST 11, 1995. ILLEGAL SHOOTING, DISTURBANCE, LOSS OF
HABITAT CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM.

NAME: CALIFORNIA CONDOR

GYMNOPS CALIFORNIANUS

STATUS: EXPERIMENTAL/NONESENTIAL CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 32 FR 4001; 03-11-67

DESCRIPTION: VERY LARGE VULTURE (47 IN., WINGSPAN TO 9 1/2 FT, WEIGHT TO 22
LBS); ADULT PLUMAGE BLACKISH, IMMATURE MORE BROWNISH; ADULT
WING LININGS WHITE, IMMATURE MOTTLED; HEAD & UPPER PARTS OF
NECK BARE; YELLOW-ORANGE IN ADULTS, GRAYISH IN IMMATURE.

ELEVATION
RANGE: VARIES FT.

COUNTIES: MOHAVE, COCONINO, NAVAJO, APACHE

HABITAT: HIGH DESERT CANYONLANDS AND PLATEAUS

LAST WILD CONDOR REPORTED IN ARIZONA IN 1924. RECOVERY PROGRAM HAS REINTRODUCED CONDORS TO
NORTHERN ARIZONA, WITH THE FIRST RELEASE (6 BIRDS) IN DECEMBER 1996. RELEASE SITE LOCATED AT THE
VERMILLION CLIFFS (COCONINO CO.), WITH AN EXPERIMENTAL/NONESENTIAL AREA DESIGNATED FOR MOST OF
NORTHERN ARIZONA AND SOUTHERN UTAH.

4/9/98

NAME: MEXICAN SPOTTED OWL

STRIX OCCIDENTALIS LUCIDA

STATUS: THREATENED

CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 56 FR 14678, 04-11-91

DESCRIPTION: MEDIUM SIZED WITH DARK EYES AND NO EAR TUFTS. BROWNISH AND HEAVILY SPOTTED WITH WHITE OR BEIGE.

ELEVATION

RANGE: 4100-9000 FT.

COUNTIES: MOHAVE, COCONINO, NAVAJO, APACHE, YAVAPAI, GRAHAM, GREENLEE, COCHISE, SANTA CRUZ, PIMA, PINAL, GILA, MARICOPA

HABITAT: NESTS IN CANYONS AND DENSE FORESTS WITH MULTI-LAYERED FOLIAGE STRUCTURE

GENERALLY NESTS IN OLDER FORESTS OF MIXED CONIFER OR PONDEROSA PINE/GAMBEL OAK TYPE, IN CANYONS, AND USE VARIETY OF HABITATS FOR FORAGING. SITES WITH COOL MICROCLIMATES APPEAR TO BE OF IMPORTANCE OR ARE PREFERRED.

NAME: SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER

EMPIDONAX TRAILLII EXTIMUS

STATUS: ENDANGERED

CRITICAL HAB Yes RECOVERY PLAN: No CFR: 60 FR 10694, 02-27-95

DESCRIPTION: SMALL PASSERINE (ABOUT 6") GRAYISH-GREEN BACK AND WINGS, WHITISH THROAT, LIGHT OLIVE-GRAY BREAST AND PALE YELLOWISH BELLY. TWO WINGBARS VISIBLE. EYE-RING FAINT OR ABSENT.

ELEVATION

RANGE: <8500 FT.

COUNTIES: YAVAPAI, GILA, MARICOPA, MOHAVE, COCONINO, NAVAJO, APACHE, PINAL, LA PAZ, GREENLEE, GRAHAM, YUMA, PIMA, COCHISE, SANTA CRUZ

HABITAT: COTTONWOOD/WILLOW & TAMARISK VEGETATION COMMUNITIES ALONG RIVERS & STREAMS

MIGRATORY RIPARIAN OBLIGATE SPECIES THAT OCCUPIES BREEDING HABITAT FROM LATE APRIL TO SEPTEMBER. DISTRIBUTION WITHIN ITS RANGE IS RESTRICTED TO RIPARIAN CORRIDORS. DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EMPIDONAX COMPLEX BY SIGHT ALONE. TRAINING SEMINAR REQUIRED FOR THOSE CONDUCTING FLYCATCHER SURVEYS. CRITICAL HABITAT ON PORTIONS OF THE 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN ON SAN PEDRO AND VERDE RIVERS; WET BEAVER AND WEST CLEAR CREEKS, INCLUDING TAVASCI MARSH AND ISTER FLAT; THE COLORADO RIVER, THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER, AND THE WEST, EAST, AND SOUTH FORKS OF THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER, REFERENCE 60 CFR:62 FR 39129, 7/22/97.

4/9/98

PROPOSED TOTAL= 1

NAME: BLUMER'S DOCK (CHIRICAHUA)

RUMEX ORTHONEURUS

STATUS: PROPOSED

CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: No CFR:

DESCRIPTION: LARGE LONG-LIVED PERENNIAL PLANT IN THE BUCKWHEAT FAMILY

THAT CAN REACH 1.2-2.0 METERS. LARGE BROAD, OVAL SEMI-

SUCCULENT LEAVES ARE BRIGHT GREEN. CONSPICUOUS SECONDARY

VEINS AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE MIDVEIN

ELEVATION

RANGE: 6500-9000 FT.

COUNTIES: APACHE, COCHISE, GILA, GRAHAM, NAVAJO

HABITAT: MID TO HIGH ELEVATION SPRINGS, STREAMS, & WETLANDS WITH MOIST ORGANIC SOILS OR SHADED CANYONS

SPECIES FOUND IN CHIRICAHUA, PINALENO, HUACHUCA, SIERRA ANCHA, AND WHITE MOUNTAINS. SPECIES ALSO FOUND IN WESTERN AND NORTHERN NEW MEXICO.

LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTY:

APACHE

4/9/98

CANDIDATE TOTAL= 1

RECEIVED
STATE TECH
JUN 19 1998

NAME: CHIRICAHUA LEOPARD FROG

RANA CHIRICAHUENSIS

STATUS: CANDIDATE

CRITICAL HAB No RECOVERY PLAN: No CFR:

DESCRIPTION: CREAM COLORED TUBERCULES (spots) ON A DARK BACKGROUND ON
THE REAR OF THE THIGH, DORSOLATERAL FOLDS THAT ARE
INTERRUPTED AND DEFLECTED MEDIALY, AND A CALL GIVEN OUT OF
WATER DISTINGUISH THIS SPOTTED FROG FROM OTHER LEOPRD

ELEVATION

RANGE: 3000-8300 FT.

COUNTIES: SANTA CRUZ, APACHE, GILA, PIMA, COCHISE, GREENLEE, GRAHAM, YAVAPAI, COCONINO, NAVAJO

HABITAT: STREAMS, RIVERS, BACKWATERS, PONDS, AND STOCK TANKS THAT ARE FREE FROM INTRODUCED FISH
AND BULLFROGS

REQUIRE PERMANENT OR NEARLY PERMANENT WATER SOURCES. POPULATIONS NORTH OF THE GILA RIVER ARE
THOUGHT TO BE CLOSELY-RELATED, BUT DISTINCT, UNDESCRIBED SPECIES.



Governor
Jane Dee Hull

Commissioners:
Chairman, Michael M. Golightly, Flagstaff
Herb Guenther, Tacna
M. Jean Hassell, Scottsdale
Dennis D. Manning, Alpine

GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

2221 West Greenway Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85024-3399 (602) 942-3000
HC 66 Box 57201, Pinetop, Arizona 85939 (602) 367-4281

Director
Duane L. Shroufe

Deputy Director
Thomas W. Spalding

July 7, 1998

RECEIVED
JUL 10 1998
ARIZONA

Robert Larkin
Manager, Environmental Planning and Archaeology
Stantech Consulting Inc.
7776 Pointe Parkway W. Suite 290
Phoenix, AZ 85044

Re: St. Johns Industrial Air Park Airport Master Plan

Dear Mr. Larkin:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) has received your letter dated 19 June, 1998 regarding the St. Johns Industrial Air Park Air Port Master Plan. While we appreciate the initial contact made by your firm, we feel that there was insufficient detail included in the packet for our Department to provide an adequate review of the project. According to the letter, the NEPA process will be initiated for proposed improvements to the airport. The Department would like to be placed on the mailing list for this project so that we may participate fully in the NEPA process, and provide adequate review of possible impacts to wildlife in the area.

The Department's Heritage Data Management System has been accessed and current records show that the special status species listed below have been documented as occurring in the project vicinity.

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Little Colorado spinedace	<i>Lepidomeda vittata</i>	LT, WC, S
Little Colorado sucker	<i>Catostomus</i> sp.	WC

STATUS DEFINITIONS

LT - Listed Threatened. Species identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as being in imminent jeopardy of becoming Endangered.

WC - Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona. Species whose

Mr. Robert Larkin
July 7, 1998
2

occurrence in Arizona is or may be in jeopardy, or with known or perceived threats or population declines, as described by the Department's listing of **Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona** (WSCA, in prep.). Species included in WSCA are currently the same as those in **Threatened Native Wildlife in Arizona** (1988).

S - Sensitive. Species classified as "**sensitive**" by the Regional Forester when occurring on lands managed by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service.

We look forward to working closely with your firm throughout the NEPA process planning for this project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Sharen Adams, Habitat Program Manager, at our Pinetop Office at (520) 367-4281.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Remington
Pinetop Region Supervisor

cc: John Kennedy, Project Evaluation coordinator
Sharen Adams, Habitat Program Manager
Sam Lawry, Field Supervisor
Winford Hooe, Wildlife Manager