



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

NEVADA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE
4600 Kietzke Lane, Building C-125
Reno, Nevada 89502-5093



January 13, 1993
File No. 1-5-93-SP-90
1-5-93-SP-95

Ms. Brenda S. Reuter
International Technology Corporation
4330 South Valley View, Suite 114
Las Vegas, Nevada 89103

Dear Ms. Reuter:

Subject: Species List for the Proposed Central Nevada and Shoal Test Areas in Nevada

As requested by your letter dated December 23, 1992, we have enclosed a list of threatened species that may be present in the subject project areas (Attachment A). To the best of our knowledge, no endangered or proposed species occur within these areas. This list fulfills the requirement of the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to provide a species list pursuant to section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Please reference the species list file number shown on Attachment A in all subsequent correspondence. Attachment B provides a discussion of the responsibilities Federal agencies have under section 7(c) of the Act and the conditions under which a biological assessment must be prepared by the lead Federal agency or its designated non-Federal representative. A list of published references dealing with the distribution, life history, and habitat requirements of the listed species is also enclosed (Attachment C). This information may be helpful in preparing the biological assessment for this project, if one is required.

If the lead Federal agency determines that a listed species may be affected by the proposed projects, they should initiate consultation pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.14. Informal consultation may be utilized prior to a written request for formal consultation to exchange information and resolve conflicts with respect to a listed species. If a biological assessment is required, and it is not initiated within 90 days of your receipt of this letter, the Federal agency should informally verify the accuracy of this list with our office. If, through informal consultation or development of a biological assessment, or both, the Federal agency determines that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the listed species, and the Service concurs in writing, then the consultation process is terminated and formal consultation is not required.

Also, for your consideration, we have included a list of candidate species that may be present in the project areas (Attachment A). These species are currently being reviewed by the Service and are under consideration for protection listing as endangered or threatened. Candidate species have no protection under the Act, but are included for your consideration as it is possible that one or more of these candidates could be proposed and listed before the subject projects areas completed. Should the biological assessment reveal that candidate species may be adversely affected, you may wish to contact our office for technical assistance. One of the potential benefits from such technical assistance is that, by exploring alternatives early in the planning process, it may be possible to avoid conflicts that could otherwise develop, should a candidate species become listed before the projects are completed.

SAL-000-05

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Please contact Robin Hamlin at (702) 784-5227 if you have any questions regarding the enclosed list or your responsibilities under the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Harlow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David L. Harlow
Field Supervisor

Enclosures

ATTACHMENT A

CANDIDATE SPECIES THAT MAY OCCUR IN THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED

Shoal Test Area Southeast of Fallon, Nevada

File Number: 1-5-93-SP-90

Candidate Species

Mammals

2 pygmy rabbit Brachylagus idahoensis
2 spotted bat Euderma maculatum

Birds

2 ferruginous hawk Buteo regalis
2 western snowy plover Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus
2 black tern Chlidonias niger
2 western least bittern Ixobrychus exilis hesperis
2 loggerhead shrike Lanius ludovicianus
2 mountain quail Oreortyx pictus
2 white-faced ibis Plegadis chihi

Invertebrates

2 Hardy's aegialian scarab beetle Aegialia hardyi

Plants

2 Nevada oryctes Oryctes nevadensis

(2)--Category 2: Taxa for which existing information indicates may warrant listing, but for which substantial biological information to support a proposed rule is lacking.

ATTACHMENT A
(continued)

LISTED THREATENED AND
CANDIDATE SPECIES THAT MAY OCCUR IN THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED
Central Nevada Test Area Northeast of Tonopah, Nevada

File Number: 1-5-93-SP-95

Listed Species

Fishes

T Railroad Valley springfish Crenichthys nevadae

(T)--Threatened

Candidate Species

Mammals

2 pygmy rabbit Brachylagus idahoensis
2 spotted bat Euderma maculatum

Birds

2 northern goshawk Accipiter gentilis
2 ferruginous hawk Buteo regalis
2 black tern Chlidonias niger
2 western least bittern Ixobrychus exilis hesperis
2 loggerhead shrike Lanius ludovicianus
2 white-faced ibis Plegadis chihi

Fishes

2 Fish Lake Valley tui chub Gila bicolor ssp.

Plants

2 Eastwood's milkweed Asclepias eastwoodiana
2 sanicle biscuitroot Cymopterus ripleyi var. saniculoides
2 Jone's globe-mallow Sphaeralcea caespitosa

(2)--Category 2: Taxa for which existing information indicates may warrant listing, but for which substantial biological information to support a proposed rule is lacking.

ATTACHMENT B

FEDERAL AGENCIES' RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER SECTIONS 7 (a) and (c) OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

SECTION 7 (a): Consultation/Conference

Requires:

- 1) Federal agencies to utilize their authorities to carry out programs to conserve *endangered and threatened species*;
- 2) Consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) when a Federal action may affect a listed endangered or threatened species to insure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by a Federal agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The process is initiated by the Federal agency after determining the action may affect a listed species or critical habitat;
- 3) Conference with the Service when a Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a proposed species or result in destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat.

SECTION 7 (c): Biological Assessment - Major Construction Activity 1/

Requires Federal agencies or their designees to prepare a Biological Assessment (BA) for major construction activities. The BA analyzes the effects of the action on listed and proposed species. The process begins with a Federal agency requesting from the Service a list of proposed and listed threatened and endangered species. The BA should be completed within 180 days after its initiation (or within such a time period as is mutually agreeable). If the BA is not initiated within 90 days of receipt of the list, the accuracy of the species list should be informally verified with the Service. No irreversible commitment of resources is to be made during the BA process which would foreclose reasonable and prudent alternative to protect endangered species. Planning, design, and administrative actions may proceed; however, no construction may begin.

We recommend the following for inclusion in the BA:

1. An onsite inspection of the area affected by the proposal which may include a detailed survey of the area to determine if the species or suitable habitat are present.
2. A review of literature and scientific data to determine species distribution, habitat needs, and other biological requirements.
3. Interviews with experts, including those within the Service, State conservation departments, universities, and others who may have data not yet published in scientific literature.
4. An analysis of the effects of the proposal on the species in terms of individuals and populations, including consideration of cumulative effects of the proposal on the species and its habitat.
5. An analysis of alternative actions considered.

6. Documentation of study results, including a discussion of study methods used, any problems encountered, and other relevant information.
7. Conclusion as to whether or not a listed or proposed species will be affected.

Upon completion, the BA should be forwarded to our office with a request for consultation, if required.

1/ A construction project (or other major undertaking having similar physical impacts) is a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as referred to in NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4332 (2) C).

ATTACHMENT C

RAILROAD VALLEY SPRINGFISH, CRENICHTHYS NEVADAE

- Deacon, J.E. and J.E. Williams
1984. Annotated list of the fishes of Nevada. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 97(1):103-118.
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1985. Status of Crenichthys nevadae in portions of Railroad Valley, Nevada. Report to Nevada Dept. of Wildlife, Reno. Endemic Fishes Research Center, Dept. Biological Sciences, Univ. Nevada, Las Vegas. 10 pp.

Platts, W.S.

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ATTACHMENT C
(continued)

RAILROAD VALLEY SPRINGFISH (cont.)

-3-

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1986a. Status of Crenichthys nevadae at Big and Little Warm Springs, Duckwater
Indian Reservation. Field trip report. Nevada Dept. Wildlife, Las Vegas.
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1986b. Status of springfish at Lockes Ranch, Railroad Valley. Field trip report.
Nevada Dept. Wildlife, Las Vegas. 5 pp.
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maintenance. Field trip report. Nevada Dept. Wildlife, Las Vegas. 3 pp.