



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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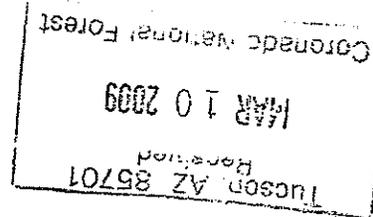


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 PR #57

March 4, 2009

Reference: Renovation of Redrock Canyon Watershed.

Jeanine Derby
 Forest Supervisor
 Coronado National Forest
 Supervisor's Office
 300 W. Congress
 Tucson, Arizona 85701



Dear Ms. Derby:

As I'm sure you are aware, there has been much discussion surrounding the recently proposed construction of a fish barrier and chemical renovation to remove undesirable fish species in the Redrock Canyon watershed near Patagonia, Arizona on the Coronado National Forest for the protection of Gila topminnows. Through negotiations between the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the construction of a fish barrier in Redrock Canyon has been dropped in favor of another location in the mainstem of Sonoita Creek just upstream of Patagonia Lake. However, the Arizona Game and fish Department remains committed to the protection of Gila topminnow populations within the Redrock Canyon watershed and would like to move forward with the chemical renovation of this drainage to remove non native fish species for the protection of the Gila topminnow.

Don Mitchell, Regional Fish Program Manager, has continued to work closely with the grazing permittee's and private landowners associated with this project and has scheduled a meeting with them on March 23, 2009 to discuss the Game and Fish Department's desire to move forward with the chemical renovation portion of the project. It is with coordination and open discussions that we hope to alleviate problems and concerns that arose previously with this project surrounding the use of chemicals to successfully complete the renovation of the watershed.

It is with this letter that I request the Forest Service's support and cooperation in the Department's efforts to complete this project for the protection of Gila topminnow populations in the Redrock Canyon watershed. If you have questions or wish to discuss this project further please feel free to contact me at (520) 388-4440, or you can feel free to contact or have your staff contact Don Mitchell at (520) 388-4451 and we will be happy to discuss this project in more detail with you. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leonard L. Ordway". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Leonard L. Ordway
Regional Supervisor, Region V

LLO:dm

Cc: Gary Hovatter, Deputy Director
Mike Senn, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management
Kirk Young, Fish Branch Chief
Eric Gardner, Nongame Branch Chief
Don Mitchell