



# News Release

Arizona Ecological Services Field Office - 2321 W. Royal Palm Rd. Ste. 103 - Phoenix, AZ 85021

**For Release:** April 28, 2003

**Contacts:** Jeff Humphrey (602) 242-0210  
Elizabeth Slown (505) 248-6909

## **FISH AND WILDLIFE EXTENDS PYGMY-OWL COMMENT PERIODS**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reopening the comment period on the proposal to designate 1.2 million acres of critical habitat for the endangered cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl in southern Arizona. Written comments, including those on the draft economic analysis of the proposed designation, are being accepted through June 27.

Additionally, the comment period for the draft cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl recovery plan will be reopened Wednesday, April 30 through June 30. The draft recovery plan identifies information needs and prescribes activities that can recover the pygmy-owl population in Arizona's Pima, northwestern Cochise, and southern Pinal and Maricopa counties.

The critical habitat proposal, the draft economic analysis, maps, draft recovery plan and other pygmy-owl information are available on the Internet at <http://arizonaes.fws.gov> or by contacting the Field Office Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 W. Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona, 85021-4951 or by calling (602) 242-0210. Written comments may be sent by mail to the Field Office Supervisor, by facsimile at (602) 242-2513. Email critical habitat and economics comments to [cfpo\\_habitat@fws.gov](mailto:cfpo_habitat@fws.gov) and recovery plan comments can be emailed to [cfpo\\_recovery@fws.gov](mailto:cfpo_recovery@fws.gov). Comments previously submitted need not be resubmitted.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Previously issued and more extensive news releases and Q&As, the full documents, maps, photographs of the pygmy-owl and other pygmy-owl information, are available on the Internet at <http://arizonaes.fws.gov>.