



File Code: 1300

Date: June 30, 2003

Mr. Dennis Parker, Attorney  
Representing Mr. Eddie Johnson  
Attorney at Law  
Post Office Box 1100  
Patagonia, AZ 85624

Dear Mr. Parker:

We received your petition postmarked March 25, 2003 requesting correction of information disseminated by the Forest Service regarding the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Your petition was submitted under the United States Department of Agriculture's Information Quality Guidelines. This petition was filed on behalf of Mr. Eddie Johnson, Johnson Ranch Partnership.

You requested "the correction of data and information contained in the "Guidance Criteria for Determining the Effects of On-Going Grazing and Issuing Term Grazing Permits on Selected Threatened and Endangered Species, and Species Proposed for Listing and Proposed and Designated Critical Habitat" to comply with the USDA Information Quality Guidelines. This guidance was developed by our Southwest Regional Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants staff and dated April 15, 2002. In summary your petition states: "The information here challenged should be corrected to reflect the current state of knowledge regarding livestock presence in potential flycatcher habitat and cowbird parasitism as a threat to willow flycatchers."

The Forest Service has determined your petition, which resulted from the District Ranger's, February 27, 2003, letter to Mr. Eddie Johnson, will be considered as part of the public comment process. The Forest Service is currently considering all responses and will address your petition in the Environmental Assessment expected by the end of July, 2003. The USDA Information Quality Guidelines, request for correction, state that when there has been a public comment process: "If the request for correction of information reaches the USDA agency during the comment period for that action, the agency's response will normally be incorporated in the next document it issues concerning the matter." The thorough consideration provided by the public comment process serves the purpose of the Information Quality Guidelines. This process also has the advantage of placing our response in the context of other comments in a venue that is familiar and accessible to the public.



After the Ranger's final decision and all related administrative processes are completed you may submit a request for reconsideration, if you are dissatisfied with this decision. Details on how to file a request for reconsideration can be found on the USDA website: [http://www.ocio.usda.gov/irm/qi\\_guide/index/html](http://www.ocio.usda.gov/irm/qi_guide/index/html). The request for reconsideration should reference this letter and follow the "Procedures for Requesting Reconsideration of USDA's Decision." Please submit written material to support your case for reconsideration, and a copy of the information originally submitted to support the request for correction, and a copy of this response. Requests for Reconsideration filed after the 45-day deadline may be denied as untimely. All requests for reconsideration must be submitted by overnight delivery service, letter, fax, or email to:

USDA Forest Service  
Data Quality Team Leader ORMS Staff  
Mail Stop 1150 1S Yates Building  
14<sup>th</sup> & Independence Avenue SW  
Washington D.C. 20250-1150

Phone 202 205 2938  
FAX 202 260 6539  
Email [gcontreras@fs.fed.us](mailto:gcontreras@fs.fed.us)

If you should have additional questions please contact Glen Contreras, Data Quality Team Leader at (202) 205-2938, [gcontreras@fs.fed.us](mailto:gcontreras@fs.fed.us). We appreciate your continued interest in Forest Service activities.

Sincerely,

/s/ Pamela Gardiner (for):  
FREDERICK NORBURY  
Director, Ecosystem Management Coordination

cc: Regional Forester R3, Data Quality Team Leader