

# Appendix

## A. Coordination

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YAO-7210  
ENV-6.00

**FEB 23 2009**

Interested Parties (See Enclosed List)

Subject: Hunters Hole Restoration Project (Project) - Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)  
Notice of Availability

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to issue a license to the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area (YCNHA) for the restoration of the Hunters Hole site. The license would grant the YCNHA access to Reclamation withdrawn lands for implementing the Project and long-term management and maintenance of the site. Reclamation is the lead federal agency pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Bureau of Land Management, Yuma Field Office is a cooperating agency for the preparation of this document.

The Project would consist of restoring water flow and creating riparian, marsh, and open water habitats within the Hunters Hole area in a manner that will sustain wildlife values while providing for border security needs. The proposed Project is located in Yuma County along the Colorado River's Limitrophe Division, approximately two miles south of Gadsden, Arizona.

Pursuant to the NEPA and Reclamation guidelines, a draft EA was prepared and is available for a 30-day review. The deadline for receipt of comments is 30-days from the date of this letter. In addition, this EA has been posted on Reclamation's Yuma Area Office web page at <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/yuma/>. Comments may be mailed to Mr. Julian DeSantiago at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Area Office, 7301 Calle Agua Salada, Yuma, Arizona 85364. If you have any questions regarding the Project, please contact Mr. DeSantiago at 928-343-8259, or [jdesantiago@lc.usbr.gov](mailto:jdesantiago@lc.usbr.gov).

Sincerely,

**Sean Torpey**

Sean Torpey  
Environmental Planning and Compliance  
Group Manager

Enclosure

Identical Letters Sent To:

Ms. Karen Reichhardt  
Bureau of Land Management  
Yuma Field Office  
2555 East Gila Ridge Rd.  
Yuma, AZ 85365  
(w/encl)

Mr. Troy Smith  
Acting Habitat Manger  
Arizona Game and Fish Department  
9140 East 28 Street  
Yuma, AZ 85365  
(w/encl)

Ms. Leslie Fitzpatrick  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103  
Phoenix, AZ 85021  
(w/encl)

Ms Marjorie Blaine  
Arizona Section Regulatory Branch  
Department of the Army  
Corps of Engineers  
5202 East Comanche  
Tucson, AZ 85707  
(w/encl)

Ms. Anna Morales  
U.S. International Boundary and Water  
Commission  
1940 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Suite A  
Yuma, AZ 85364  
(w/encl)

Mr. Shannon Kranz  
U.S. Border Patrol  
1035 South Avenue A  
Yuma, AZ 85365  
(w/encl)

Mrs. Bridget Nash-Chrabascz  
Quechan Indian Tribes  
P.O. Box 1899  
Yuma, AZ 85366-0213  
(w/encl)

Ms. Jill McCormick  
Cocopah Indian Tribe  
County 15 and Avenue D  
Somerton, AZ 85350  
(w/encl)

Mr. Charles Flynn  
Executive Director  
Yuma Crossing National Area Corporation  
180 West First Street, Suite E  
Yuma, AZ 85364-1407  
(w/encl)

Mr. Tom Davis  
Yuma County Water Users' Association  
P.O. Box 5775  
Yuma, AZ 85366  
(w/encl)

Mr. Roger Patterson  
Yuma County  
2351 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Yuma, AZ 85364  
(w/encl)

Mr. Ralph Ogden  
Yuma County Sheriff's Office  
141 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Yuma, AZ 85364  
(w/encl)

Mr. Cary Meister  
Yuma Aududon Society  
P.O. Box 6395  
Yuma, AZ 85364  
(w/encl)

Mr. Fred Phillips  
Fred Phillips Consulting LLC  
9730 Rosewood Drive  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004  
(w/encl)

bc: Regional Director, Boulder City, NV  
Attn: LC-2632 (Kolvet) and LC-8400 (Murphy) (w/encl to ea)

Daily  
7001  
7210 (DeSantiago) (w/o encl)

WBR:JDeSantiago:nm:2/9/09:928-343-8242:Control No.  
Dir:7000\DeSantiago\7210-01.001 (09)



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Yuma Field Office  
 2555 East Gila Ridge Road  
 Yuma, AZ 85365  
 www.blm.gov/az/

In Reply Refer To:  
 6740 (AZ-320)

June 17, 2008

OFFICIAL TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA		
RECEIVED JUN 19 2008		
ACTION CODE 7200		
REPLY DATE 7-17-08		
DATE ACTION TAKEN		
DATE	INITIALS	CODE
6/24	JS	7200
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		1300
Classification		
Protect		
Control No. 08041695		
5870		

Memorandum

To: Jim Cherry, Area Manager, Yuma Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation

From: James T. Shoaff  
 Field Manager *[Signature]* 6/17/08

Subject: Hunters Hole Riparian and Wetland Restoration Project

This is to inform you that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Yuma Field Office (YFO) has agreed to become a Cooperating Agency with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in the riparian and wetland restoration of the Hunters Hole area hereafter called the Hunters Hole project. Reclamation has offered to be the lead agency pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in the process of preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate potential impacts associated with the Hunters Hole project. The Hunters Hole area is located within BLM public land that is withdrawn by Reclamation for Colorado River operations according to 613 DM 1.1 and a supplementary Memorandum of Understanding which clarifies roles and responsibilities for each agency. YFO's role as cooperating agency for the EA would pertain to the administration of wildlife and recreation activities including law enforcement.

According to 516 DM 2.5(G), a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BLM and Reclamation must be signed prior to the completion of the EA. The MOU must identify the responsibilities of the lead and cooperating agencies; identify agency contacts; and specify any special resource needs, data requirements, and issues that need to be addressed in the EA. When the EA is completed to the satisfaction of both agencies, BLM will issue a separate decision and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA must establish a purpose and need for the Hunters Hole project in compliance with each agency's authority and jurisdiction.

Benefits of becoming a cooperating agency include:

- Sharing and disclosing relevant information early in the analytical process.
- Applying available technical expertise and staff support.
- Avoiding duplication with other Federal, State, Tribal and local procedures.
- Establishing a mechanism for addressing intergovernmental issues.
- Fostering intra- and intergovernmental trust through, for example, establishment of partnerships at the community level.

CROSS REFERENCE ENVU-600 Environmental Assessment 3886

- Building a common understanding and appreciation for various governmental roles in the NEPA process, as well as helping to ensure successful completion and adoption of environmental documents.

If you have additional questions please contact Karen Reichhardt at 928-317-3245. We look forward to partnering with you.



THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
**GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT**

2221 WEST GREENWAY ROAD  
PHOENIX, AZ 85023-4399  
(602) 942-3000 • AZGFD.GOV

REGION IV, 9140 E. 28TH ST., YUMA, AZ 85365

**GOVERNOR**  
JANET NAPOLITANO  
**COMMISSIONERS**  
CHAIRMAN, MICHAEL M. GOLIGHTLY, FLAGSTAFF  
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ROBERT R. WOODHOUSE, ROLL  
**DIRECTOR**  
DUANE L. SHROUFE  
**DEPUTY DIRECTOR**  
STEVE K. FERRELL



June 21, 2007

Mr. Fred Phillips  
Fred Phillips Consulting, LLC  
401 S Leroux St  
Flagstaff AZ 86001

Re: Draft Hunter's Hole Concept Plan

Dear Mr. Phillips:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) has reviewed your Draft Hunter's Hole Concept Plan (June 2007) for enhancing wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, public safety, and border security in the Hunter's Hole area of the Colorado River. The following comments are provided for your consideration.

The Department supports this concept plan and your effort to enhance aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats at Hunter's Hole while also considering current safety and security issues associated with the International Boundary. As you know, we prepared a restoration plan for Hunter's Hole in 2002 under contract to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. That plan focused on restoring aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats and related recreational opportunities that have all degraded over time. Since then safety and security issues associated with the International Boundary have become significant. Your concept plan incorporates many design features from our 2002 plan, which should enhance wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities in the area. Your plan also incorporates design features that should facilitate law enforcement activities to improve public safety and border security in the area.

The Department notes, and appreciates, that you have involved us in the development of this plan from the beginning. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this draft plan. We look forward to working with you as this project progresses.

Sincerely,

Russell K. Engel  
Habitat Program Manager  
Region IV, Yuma

cc: Larry Voyles, Regional Supervisor, Region IV  
Josh Avey, Chief, Habitat Branch





September 28, 2007

Michael Chertoff, Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

We are writing on behalf of the community of Yuma, Arizona, to ask that you include the "Hunter's Hole Pilot Project" in your planning for improved border security for the 23 mile section along the lower Colorado River between the Northern International Boundary and Southern International Border, called the "Limitrophe".

It is our goal that this 23 mile stretch of the Colorado River be restored as an environmental and recreational asset while also improving border security. Today, the area between the US and Mexican levees is a "no-man's land". It does not have to be that way. Hunter's Hole is a good place to start. We are enclosing a copy of the concept plan which has received widespread support from law enforcement and environmentalists. A recent Arizona Daily Star article is also attached. Even more promising is the interest shown from Mexicans at the local, state, and federal level to undertaken companion projects in Mexico.

We ask that you hold off on additional fencing at Hunter's Hole and the Limitrophe. The fencing will make restoration of Hunter's Hole that much more difficult, since "out of sight" quickly becomes "out of mind". Instead, we would like to work with you to fund the Hunter's Hole project. We have already received grant funding from one federal agency and a major private foundation—and are seeking additional federal funding.

We urge you and your staff to visit Yuma and meet with all the stakeholders in this project. The broad consensus we have achieved for Hunter's Hole is rare and should be the foundation for the renewal of this stretch of the Lower Colorado River.

Sincerely,

Sherry Cordova  
Chairwoman  
Cocopah Indian Tribe

Hon. Larry Nelson  
Mayor  
City of Yuma

Ralph Ogden  
Sheriff  
Yuma County



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

July 19, 2007

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
UNITED STATES SECTION

Mr. Fred Phillips  
Fred Phillips Consulting LLC  
9730 Rosewood Drive  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

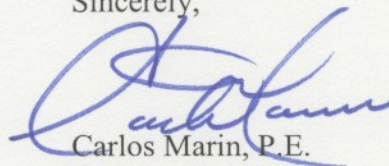
Dear Mr. Phillips:

Thank you for the opportunity to review Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area's concept plan for the demonstration wetlands project in the Hunter's Hole area of the limitrophe reach of the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona, submitted to IBWC under cover letter dated June 15, 2007. Our understanding is that this project will provide an innovative alternative to constructing a border security fence, and will allow law enforcement agencies to control illegal entry into the U.S. while allowing the restoration of riparian and wetland areas.

The proposed works are in the floodplain of the Colorado River and may have impacts to Mexico under the stipulations of the 1970 Boundary Treaty, and will therefore require a hydraulic modeling study to determine whether the works proposed are considered an obstruction to flood flows. Nonetheless, as the project is similar to those conservation and restoration plans being considered by the Fourth Working Group of the Colorado River Delta under IBWC Minute 306, I have directed my staff to propose inclusion of this project in the list of proposed projects for the Delta, currently under consideration by the Minute 306 binational working group. One consideration for the IBWC is possible delineation and use of the 1973 International Boundary alignment as a conveyance channel to supply water to the proposed wetlands. I have informally provided your proposal to the Mexican Section of the IBWC and requested their comments. As you are also aware, the approval of your project is also contingent of approval by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

I look forward to working with you on this project. If you require more information, please contact our Environmental Management Division Engineer, Carlos Peña, at 915-832-4740 or at [carlospena@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:carlospena@ibwc.state.gov).

Sincerely,



Carlos Marin, P.E.  
Commissioner



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Yuma Field Office  
2555 East Gila Ridge Road  
Yuma, AZ 85365-2240

In reply refer to:

6740 (AZ-320)

June 4, 2007

Dear Mr. Phillips:

The Yuma Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management is writing to express our support for the Hunters Hole Demonstration project to meet environmental and border security concerns along the Limitrophe reach of the lower Colorado River. This project will provide an innovative approach to our current border challenges along with restoring critical wildlife habitat and potentially provide recreation opportunities. The Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area and you have provided critical leadership in the coordination and collaboration among numerous stakeholders and recognize that communication will remain the key to successfully implementing this project.

We have reviewed the draft design and believe that it addresses both environmental and safety concerns in an effective manner. We look forward to the continued input and development of the concept, design and implementation. As the federal land agency responsible for the management of the natural resources we support completion of the pilot project as a first step of implementing a comprehensive approach which will conserve natural resources and strengthen security along the border. The Limitrophe is an extremely valuable wildlife habitat, especially as a flyway for international migratory songbirds. Escalated crime levels in the area have left the Limitrophe's natural resources at risk.

Thank-you for the time and energy you have devoted to developing solutions which address these complex problems.

Sincerely,



Michael Truden  
Acting Field Manager



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Yuma Area Office  
7301 Calle Agua Salada  
Yuma, Arizona 85364



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
YAO-7200  
ENV-1.10

JUN 26 2007

Mr. Fred Phillips  
9730 North Rosewood Drive  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Subject: Support for Hunter's Hole Pilot Project

Dear Mr. Phillips:

I am writing to express my support for the Hunter's Hole Concept plan and to express my best wishes for the success of the proposed pilot project. The goal of the pilot project is to meet both border security and environmental concerns. Through the innovative design of this restoration project and extensive consultation, I am confident that this vision can become a reality. I am particularly pleased that there has been such strong collaboration among all of the stakeholders. This is a project that the local community really supports, and it is aligned with my office's intent to support local restoration efforts.

We look forward to the completion of the design and the strengthening of this partnership. We support implementation of the pilot project as a first step of initiating a comprehensive approach which will conserve natural resources and strengthen security along the border. Please continue to consult with Ed Virden of my office. You can reach him at 928-343-8268.

Sincerely,

Jim Cherry, Manager  
Yuma Area Office



**City of YUMA**

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL**

City of Yuma  
Mayor and Council Office  
One City Plaza  
Post Office Box 13014  
Yuma, Arizona 85366-3014

(928) 373-5002  
FAX (928) 373-5004  
TTY (928) 373-5149

**MAYOR**

Lawrence K. Nelson

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Gerald (Gerry) D. Giss  
Ross J. Hieb  
Scott D. Johnson  
Paul B. Johnson  
Alan (Al) L. Krieger  
Ema Lea Shoop

June 26, 2007

Mr. Fred Phillips  
Fred Phillips Consulting  
401 South Leroux Street  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**RE: Hunter's Hole**

Dear Mr. Phillips:

On behalf of the City of Yuma, Arizona I highly value the ability to support the concepts of the Hunter's Hole demonstration project. This proposal offers a new, innovative alternative to the staggering costs associated with Homeland Security. Adoption of this approach along riparian segments of the United States/Mexican border could lead to savings of millions of dollars while enhancing security and preserving precious habitat.

Following the successes in wetlands restoration developed by the Yuma National Heritage Area project, the Hunter's Hole plan along the Colorado River re-establishes the native flora in a wetlands habitat all the while adding technological border security advances to this natural area and providing for higher visibility of illegal incursions into the United States. Employing a "moat" concept, the Hunter's Hole plan offers a unique opportunity to enhance the natural environment while saving water through a return to the native species. Through controlled conservation methods, vision corridors can be established in the natural areas allowing for the Border Patrol to do its job easier while saving the costs of a major border fence.

I strongly urge your close scrutiny of this project which will be a welcome approach to border security.

Sincerely,

Lawrence K. Nelson  
Mayor  
City of Yuma



**ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE**

finding the ways that work

May 14, 2007

Mr. Charles Flynn  
Executive Director  
Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area  
180 West First Street  
Yuma, Arizona 85364

RE: Hunter's Hole Demonstration Project

Dear Mr. Flynn:

Please accept this letter confirming Environmental Defense's strong support for the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area's current efforts to develop and implement a restoration demonstration project at the site along the lower Colorado River known as Hunter's Hole.

Like you, we believe that restoration at this important site can produce multiple benefits, including removal of invasive tamarisk; creating a valuable area of native habitat; addressing border security issues; reconnecting Yuma to the river; providing an economic development asset; and demonstrating techniques for how the entire lower binational reach of the Colorado, from the northern to southern international boundary, might be restored in the near future.

If there is anything further we can do to support this project or your efforts to obtain funding for the demonstration project, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Kelly  
Co-Director, Land, Water and Wildlife Program

Cc: Jennifer Pitt

July 22, 2007

Fred Phillips  
Fred Phillips Consulting  
401 South Leroux Street  
Flagstaff, Az. 86001

Re: Hunter's Hole Project Support

Dear Mr. Phillips:

I am writing to express my support for the improvements proposed in the "Hunter's Hole Concept Plan", dated June 2007. Mexico and the United States share not only a border, but also the Colorado River. It is a river in distress that we need to work together to improve.

The plan is an important step because it addresses both public safety and environmental concerns. The plan will improve Border Patrol's operational control of the border. It will also re-connect our communities with a restored river, creating backwaters accessible for recreation and fishing, while also restoring native habitat that attracts diverse wildlife. I am hopeful that "Hunter's Hole" will serve a model for what the entire 23-mile stretch of the "Limitrophe" can once again become.

As a major private landowner in this area, however, I believe that certain actions need to take place by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) before I will consent to integration of my private property into the plan:

- I have previously proposed to BLM a land exchange in which I would provide the deeded, undeveloped land that is in the river bottom and inside the levee (which from your maps is adjacent to the Hunter's Hole and within your channel watercourse) in exchange for an orphan strip of land between the levee and the MODE. This property is approximately 16 acres, covered under BLM lease AZA 023093 in Section 35-10S-25W.
- I also want deed to property in Section 35-10S-25W, known as the Barkley River, which is in dispute with BLM. Presently, I am claiming the property as accretion.
- The benefit of the exchange is that my land could be contributed to the project, while I will keep the current BLM land in productive agricultural use.

I think this is a "win/win" exchange that will benefit both parties. I would appreciate if you could share my concerns with the appropriate authorities.

Sincerely,





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FEDERATION®

www.nwf.org®

## NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®

*People and Nature: Our Future Is in the Balance*

Rocky Mountain Natural Resource Center

May 7, 2007

Mr. Fred Phillips  
9730 Rosewood Drive  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Dear Mr. Phillips:

On behalf of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), I'm writing to express my support for the concept of "Security Channels" along the Limitrophe, with a Pilot Project at Hunters Hole along the Lower Colorado River.

As you are aware, NWF has worked with the Cocopah Indian Tribe for the last five years to restore and protect the Limitrophe on the 12 miles of tribal lands in this section of the Colorado River as well as partnered with state and federal agencies, non-governmental and local organizations, and other partners to achieve the same goals on public and private lands in the rest of 23-mile Limitrophe between Morelos Dam and the Southern International Boundary. We have found that these entities share a number of goals, including conducting riparian restoration to protect the environmental and cultural values of the Limitrophe and improve border security.

The Hunters Hole Pilot Project strives to meet those same objectives and is a significant example of how stakeholders can work together to achieve those objectives. I look forward to the completion of the restoration design and the strengthening of this partnership. I support implementation of the pilot project as a first step of implementing a comprehensive approach that will conserve natural resources in the Limitrophe and strengthen security along the border. Moreover, I support efforts to expand the scope of this type of riparian restoration so that as much of the Limitrophe as possible can continue to provide habitat for wildlife.

Sincerely,

Garrit Voggeser  
Senior Manager, Tribal Lands Conservation Program





**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

OBP YUM 50/2.2-C  
OBP YUM 10/2.2-C

August 2, 2007

Mr. Fred Phillips  
Fred Phillips Consulting LLC  
9730 Rosewood Dr.  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Dear Mr. Phillips:

I am pleased to support the Hunter's Hole Pilot Project and your conceptual efforts to construct security areas along the Lower Colorado Limitrophe.

The United States Border Patrol is very concerned about border security and officer safety in this area due to thick non-native plant species that has provided concealment to illegal entrants and bandits who prey on them. We strongly believe that this project will provide community members with a safe place to recreate and law enforcement a safer environment to conduct its enforcement duties.

We will continue to support the strong collaboration between federal, tribal, municipal, county, and non-governmental organizations in your restoration efforts. We are also good stewards of the land and share your environmental concerns. We strive for this while conserving our natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Javier Tarin". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Javier Tarin  
Acting Chief Patrol Agent



# Yuma County Sheriff's Office

▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼  
Ralph E. Ogden  
Sheriff

▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼  
Major Leon Wilmot  
Chief Deputy

▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼  
Matthew Catron  
Administration Bureau

▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼  
Capt. Eben Bratcher  
Patrol Division

▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼  
Michael McGregor  
Jail Administrator

19 June 2007

Mr. Fred Phillips  
Fred Phillips Consulting LLC  
9730 Rosewood Drive  
Flagstaff AZ 86004

Reference: Colorado River Limitrophe  
Letter in Support of Hunter's Hole

Dear Mr. Phillips:

I am pleased to support the Pilot Project at Hunter's Hole and your conceptual efforts to construct "Security Channels" along the Limitrophe.

Law enforcement is very concerned about border security and officer safety but we also share your environmental concerns in the design of this restoration project. As you can tell from our ongoing Limitrophe Stakeholders meetings, there is a strong collaboration by federal, county, municipal, Tribal and non-governmental organizations to do the right thing in the Lower Colorado and still achieve the protection of our nation's borders.

I would ask that you please keep this office in the loop as the design continues. This is an opportunity for us to continue to strengthen the partnerships mentioned above - and supporting the implementation of the pilot project is the first step. As you know, implementing a comprehensive approach will achieve both our goals - to conserve natural resources and to strengthen security along the border.

I am available should you need additional information.

Yours for border safety,

  
RALPH E. OGDEN, SHERIFF

▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼  
141 S. Third Avenue  
Yuma, Arizona  
85364-2255

Phone (928) 783-4427  
Fax (928) 539-7837

"Dedicated to Service"



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arizona Ecological Services Field Office
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4951

Telephone: (602) 242-0210 Fax: (602) 242-2513

ENV 30 - Hunters Hole

In Reply Refer to:

AESO/SE
22410-2009-I-0069

December 10, 2008

Memorandum

To: Director, Resource Management Office, Yuma Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation,
Yuma, Arizona (YAO-7210, ENV-7.00)

From: Field Supervisor

Subject: Land Use Access for Hunters Hole Restoration Project, Colorado River, Yuma
County, Arizona

Official U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service stamp with fields for RECEIVED, ACTION CODE, REPLY DATE, DATE ACTION TAKEN, and a table with columns for DATE, INITIALS, and CODE. Includes handwritten date 'DEC 2008' and initials 'JD'.

This responds to your November 12, 2008, request for Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) concurrence with your proposed species list for the environmental analysis to issue a license to the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area for the implementation of the Hunter's Hole Restoration Project in Yuma County, Arizona.

Your memorandum included the following species as potentially being present in the Hunters Hole area. Using information in our files, we reviewed your list:

- 1. Bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus): delisted, protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, may be found as wintering birds in the project area.
2. Brown pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis): endangered, may be found as transients in the vicinity of the project area.
3. Razorback sucker (Xyrauchen texanus): endangered, no critical habitat in project area, not known in recent years to be below Imperial Dam but could be present.
4. Sonoran pronghorn (Antilocapra americana sonoriensis): endangered but not likely to be found in the project area. Further analysis not needed.
5. Southwestern willow flycatcher (Empidonax traillii extimus): endangered, no critical habitat in project area, known to be present in the project area during migration and breeding periods.

6. Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*): candidate, known to be present in the project area during migration and breeding periods.
7. Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*): endangered, known to be present year-round in the vicinity of the project area.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our concurrence on the species list for this proposed action. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Lesley Fitzpatrick at (602) 242-0210 (x236) or me (x244).

*Lesley Fitzpatrick*

106 Steven L. Spangle

cc (electronic):

Assistant Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Tucson, AZ (Attn: Erin Fernandez)

W:\Lesley Fitzpatrick\09-62 Hunters Hole USBR.docx:egg

ENV 3.0

In reply refer to: **SHPO-2008-1484**  
Determination of eligibility  
No historic properties affected



October 9, 2008

Sean Torpey  
Environmental Planning and Compliance Group Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation Yuma Area Office  
7301 Calle Agua Salada  
Yuma, AZ 85364

**Janet Napolitano**  
Governor

Re: Cultural Resources Survey Report for Hunters Hole Restoration Project, Yuma County, AZ  
**SHPO-2008-1484 (37673)**

**State Parks Board Members**

Dear Mr. Torpey:

**Chair**  
**William C. Scalzo**  
Phoenix

Thank you for consulting with our office pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 regarding the above referenced federal undertaking. I have the following comments on the supporting survey report titled **Cultural Resources Survey for the Hunters Hole Restoration (July 2008)**:

**Arlan Colton**  
Tucson

Three hundred and fifty-eight acres of the 475-acre project area were surveyed. One hundred and twenty-three acres were excluded from survey because of standing water, heavy vegetation and safety issues identified by the Border Patrol.

**Reese Woodling**  
Tucson

The survey identified multi-component artifact scatter AZ X:9:13(ASM) and seven isolated prehistoric and historical-period artifacts. Geomorphological investigations by Thomas Bullard, Ph.D. revealed that the artifacts had been re-deposited by recent high-energy channel flow. Based on this information, we concur with your determination that AZ X:9:13(ASM) is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places due to lack of integrity. The isolated artifact occurrences also are not Register-eligible due to lack of integrity.

**Tracey Westerhausen**  
Phoenix

**William C. Cordasco**  
Flagstaff

**Larry Landry**  
Phoenix

We concur with your finding of no historic properties affected.

**Mark Winkleman**  
State Land Commissioner

Based on several e-mails from Reclamation archaeologist Renee Kolvet, we understand that in response to Quechan Tribe's concerns, the agency will have archaeological monitoring done of pond construction. Please inform us of the results of construction monitoring.

**Kenneth E. Travous**  
Executive Director

We appreciate Reclamation's continuing cooperation with our office in complying with the requirements of historic preservation.

**Arizona State Parks**  
1300 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Sincerely,

Tel & TTY: 602.542.4174  
www.azstateparks.com

800.285.3703 from  
(520 & 928) area codes

General Fax:  
602.542.4180

Director's Office Fax:  
602.542.4188

  
Jo Anne Medley  
Compliance Specialist/Archaeologist  
State Historic Preservation Office

OFFICIAL FILE COPY - YAO		
RECEIVED	10/15/2008	
ACTION	CODE 1 5 2008	
REPLY DATE		
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10/23	JW	7200 7210
Classification		
Project No.		
Per ID		

2008-1484  
9-8001

cc: Renee Kolvet, BR Archaeologist, Boulder City, NV







**QUECHAN INDIAN TRIBE**  
*Ft. Yuma Indian Reservation*

P.O. Box 1899  
Yuma, Arizona 85366-1899  
Phone (760) 572-0213  
Fax (760) 572-2102

December 18, 2008

Bureau of Reclamation  
Lower Colorado Regional Office  
Ms. Renee Kolvet  
PO Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006

Dear Renee,

On Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, I met with the Cultural Committee to discuss the proposed collection of the pottery within site AZ X:9:13 of the proposed Hunter's Hole Restoration project.

The Committee has requested that the pottery be left in its current state with none of the pieces being collected. They have also inquired as to the agency's interest in this particular site since it is ineligible. In other projects they have been told that the ineligible sites do not matter or do not require mitigation and they are often left to be destroyed. The Committee feels the agency's concern over this ineligible site is somewhat hypocritical as they have made requests in the past to mitigate other ineligible sites and were denied.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (760) 572-2423.

Sincerely,

Bridget R. Nash-Chrabasz  
Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: James Garrison, Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

12/29/08

RS for 12/29/08 2870  
2621  
RK 12/29/08 2632

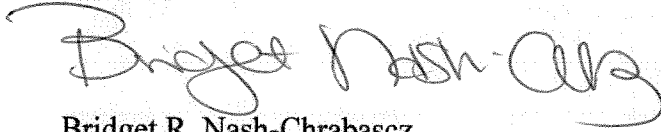
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Thank you for your prompt assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (760) 572-2423.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bridget R. Nash-Chrabasz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".

Bridget R. Nash-Chrabasz  
Historic Preservation Officer/Archaeologist

**YUMA CROSSING NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA  
HUNTERS HOLE UPDATE STAKEHOLDERS MEETING  
JULY 11, 2008**

**COMPLETED AND ONGOING WORK ON THE HUNTERS HOLE PROJECT**

- 1. SOIL SAMPLING AND DELINEATION FIELD WORK HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. WETLAND DELINEATION MAPS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACOE) BY MID-LATE JULY 2008. THIS WORK IS FUNDED THROUGH A PRIVATE FOUNDATION GRANT.**
  
- 2. THE SOIL SALINITY AND DEPTH-TO-WATER TABLE MAPS ARE COMPLETED. THIS WORK IS FUNDED THROUGH A PRIVATE FOUNDATION GRANT.** (SALTS ARE VERY LOW IN THE AREA. WITH AVAILABLE SURFACE WATER WITH WHICH TO IRRIGATE ON A LONG TERM BASIS, WE CAN PLANT AND MAINTAIN ALL RIPARIAN SPECIES THAT WE PLAN TO USE ON THE PROJECT, IN THEIR SUITABLE PLANTING ZONES)
  
- 3. AN AWPf GRANT APPLICATION FOR \$648,000 FOR PHASE ONE OF THE HUNTERS HOLE PLAN HAS BEEN SUBMITTED. THE PROJECT TEAM WILL BE NOTIFIED ABOUT THE GRANT AWARD IN NOVEMBER 2008.** (HERITAGE AREA SUCCESS RATE ON AWPf GRANTS HAS BEEN VERY HIGH)
  
- 4. THE PUMP CONSTRUCTION, FUNDED WITH AN EXISTING RECLAMATION GRANT, HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THE PUMP IS CURRENTLY UP AND RUNNING.**
  
- 5. NATURAL CHANNEL DESIGN IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE HEC-RAS ANALYSIS FOR THE CONCEPT DESIGN AND SHOULD HAVE THAT COMPLETED BY MID-LATE JULY. THIS WORK IS FUNDED THROUGH A PRIVATE FOUNDATION GRANT.** (THIS WORK IS NEEDED TO ASSESS THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE "INNER" LEVEE.)
  
- 6. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) IS PLANNING ON DOING THE MULCHING, SEEDING AND SOME PLANTING IN THE BURN AREA SOMETIME IN THE FALL OF 2008.**

- 7. THE PROJECT TEAM COMPLETED THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN PLAN AND SHOWCASED IT AT THE APRIL 2008 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN YUMA AND AT A JUNE 2008 ARIZONA-MEXICAN COMMISSION MEETING. THIS WORK IS FUNDED THROUGH A PRIVATE FOUNDATION GRANT. A FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE IN MEXICALI IS PLANNED FOR THE SPRING OF 2009. (GIS MAPS ARE COMPLETED FOR THE MEXICAN SIDE FOR PRO-NATURA, SO THEY HAVE ACCURATE ACREAGES AND CAN USE THE MAPS FOR THEIR PLANNING AND DESIGN PURPOSES.)**
  
- 8. THE PROJECT TEAM IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH MEXICAN AGENCIES TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN PLAN CONCEPT.**
  
- 9. AN INTERNATIONAL RESTORATION WORKSHOP GRANT HAS BEEN AWARDED TO THE HERITAGE AREA BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. TENTATIVE DATE FOR THIS FREE WORKSHOP: THE WEEK OF JANUARY 26, 2008.**
  
- 10. RECLAMATION IS TAKING THE LEAD ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROJECT, WORKING WITH BLM AND FPC. IT SHOULD BE OUT FOR REVIEW BY LATE FALL/EARLY WINTER 2008. THE HERITAGE AREA WILL BE THE 404 PERMIT APPLICANT. (THE BOR HAS COMPLETED THE CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY AND IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON COMPLETING COMPLIANCE.)**
  
- 11. WHEN COMPLETED ALL REPORTS AND PLANS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED VIA EMAIL TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS.**
  
- 12. THE NEXT STAKEHOLDERS MEETING IS TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR LATE NOVEMBER 2008.**

## **LIMITROPHE PROGRESS REPORT**

- January 2007      Walton Family Foundation funds consensus-building and conceptual plan for Hunters Hole
- June 2007      Stakeholders, including Federal and State Agencies, Sheriff and Border Patrol, endorse concept plan.
- November 2007      Walton Family Foundations funds permitting, design documents, outreach to Mexican NGOs, grant writing, and international conference.
- April 2008      Heritage Area and Pro-Natura complete and unveil joint bi-national restoration plan at “Common Ground” conference held in Yuma. High-level Mexican officials attend and express support.
- May 2008      Bureau of Reclamation-funded grant of \$140,000 (providing ground water well to recharge Hunter’s Hole) is implemented
- June 2008      Heritage Area and Pro-Natura publish joint “Action Plan” for Implementation.
- July 2008      Congressman Grijalva and Senator Kyl submit \$9 million Authorization request for Hunter’s Hole in Water Resources Development Act bill.
- September 2008      Bureau of Land Management uses \$60,000 of its own funds to clear non-native vegetation from area. Seeds with native grasses
- October 2008      Joint effort by Heritage Area and Pro-Natura undertaken with 35 volunteers to enhance land on both sides of international project.

November 2008 Arizona Water Protection Fund awards \$700,000 in funds to begin restoration work in Hunter's Hole.

December 2008 EA Documentation, Wetlands delineation, and 80% design complete.

### **AGENDA FOR 2009**

January 2009 B-National Restoration Technical Workshop in the Field  
Funded by the National Park Service

April 2009 Second Annual "Common Ground" Conference slated for  
Mexicali (Date Tentative)

May 2009 Secure 404 Permit from USACOE for Hunter's Hole

Feb-May 2009 Mexican restoration to begin with support of Temporary  
Worker Program

June 2009 Arizona Mexico Commission in Yuma (Date Tentative)

Fall 2009 Construction to begin with AWPF funds on Hunter's Hole



from the ground up do not correspond to known flycatcher preferred habitat. We suggest a revision of this discussion to reflect the physical parameters of the habitat that would be created and maintained.

Similarly, the design for marsh habitat on a 3:1 slope is not clear in the document. The new channels are designed to be 30-60 feet wide and 6-10 feet deep, with a 3:1 (run: rise) slope. This would create 10.25 acres of marsh for Phase I. We are unclear on the proposed width of this marsh fringe, as well as the amount projected to be at waters' edge (to be suitable for black rail) or less than one foot deep (for Yuma clapper rail). Use of bulrush instead of cattails also decreases the value of this marsh habitat for Yuma clapper rail. Since extant clapper rail habitat would be lost during the restoration and potentially not replaced, the effects to clapper rails should be more fully discussed. The effects analysis on page 31 may not be accurate in describing the future use of the site by clapper rails.

We also have a few minor comments on the text of the document.

Page 8, first paragraph: please change "425" acres to "435" acres.

Page 25, second paragraph: the first sentence notes that the area was dominated by invasive riparian and wetland vegetation, yet there was considerable native riparian present and the existing cattail marsh appears to be recovering after the fire. Please review this paragraph.

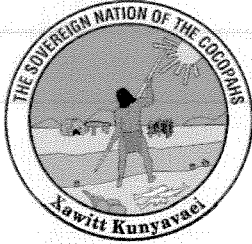
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this draft EA. If you have any questions, please contact Lesley Fitzpatrick at (602) 242-0210 (x236) or me at (x244).

  
for Steven L. Spangle

cc: Regional Supervisor, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Tucson, AZ  
Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Tucson, AZ



Adm 13.00 - Hunters Hole Restoration



CCR-027-07-012

**THE COCOPAH INDIAN TRIBE**

**Cultural Resource Department**  
County 15<sup>th</sup> & Avenue G  
Somerton, Arizona 85350  
Telephone (928) 627-4849  
Cell (928) 503-2291  
Fax (928) 627-3173

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RECEIVED 3/30		
ACTION CODE		
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DATE ACTION TAKEN		
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		7360
March 27, 2009		
CONTROL NO.		
FOLDER NO. 1087217		

Julian DeSantiago  
Environmental Planning & Compliance Group  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Yuma Area Office  
7301 Calle Agua Salada  
Yuma, AZ 85364

RE: Response for the Draft Environmental Assessment – Hunters Hole Restoration Project

Dear Mr. DeSantiago:

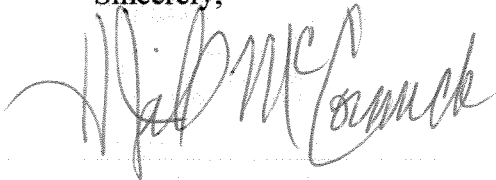
The Cultural Resources Department of the Cocopah Tribe would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Hunter's Hole Restoration Project. At this time we would like to make these comments:

1. The project lies within an area of known Cocopah habitation for centuries, and as such the possibility of undiscovered cultural remains is great. Having said this, the tribe would appreciate an effort to keep the ground disturbance to a minimum during the completion of the project
2. During any excavation activities associated with the various phases of the project we recommend that cultural monitors be present as a mitigation measure for the possibility of undiscovered cultural materials.
3. Dedicate a portion of the Phase I or II areas to propagation of Arrow Weed. This species is highly valuable to the Cocopah culture and in recent years the availability of

Arrow Weed has been significantly decreased. Arrow Weed is a highly beneficial native species that would fit into the proposed restoration plans.

We hope that our concerns and recommendations will be given full consideration by the Bureau of Reclamation and that a good faith effort to address tribal concerns will occur. If you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact the Cultural Resource Department. We will be happy to assist you with any future concerns or questions. Again, thank you for your efforts in this matter and we look forward to working with you on future projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Jill McCormick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "H".

H. Jill McCormick  
Cultural Resource Manager



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Yuma Area Office  
7301 Calle Agua Salada  
Yuma, Arizona 85364

IN REPLY REFER TO:

YAO-7210  
ENV-7.00

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, United States Fish and Wildlife Services, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ 85012-4951  
Attention: Ms. Lesley Fitzpatrick

**From:** Sean Torpey  
Manager, Environmental Planning and Compliance Group

**Subject:** Informal Section 7 Consultation for the Proposed Hunters Hole Restoration Project (Project) in the Lower Colorado River's Limitrophe Division (River Mile A2.5)

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended, please consider the attached Environmental Assessment for the subject Project as our Biological Assessment. The proposed Project would restore the Hunters Hole backwater area (approximately 95 acres) by re-establishing approximately 26 acres of open water, 13 acres of marsh, 23 acres of cottonwood/willow vegetation, and 33 acres of mesquite dominated habitat within the site. The proposed Project is located along the lower Colorado River's Limitrophe Division, below Morelos Dam.

Based on the analysis of potential effects of the proposed Project, we have determined that the Project "may effect, but not likely to adversely affect" the Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*), and the Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). We ask for your concurrence with our determination of effects for these species, based on implementation of management and mitigation measures that will avoid and minimize impacts to endangered species by working outside the nesting season during Phases II and III of the Project.

As always, we appreciate your timely responses to such requests. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Julian DeSantiago at 929-343-8259 or by email ([jdesantiago@usbr.gov](mailto:jdesantiago@usbr.gov)) with any questions or comments regarding this request.

Attachments

cc: Ms. Karen Reichhardt  
Bureau of Land Management  
Yuma Field Office  
2555 East Gila Ridge Road  
Yuma, AZ 85365  
(w/att)

Mr. Troy Smith  
Acting Habitat Manager  
Arizona Game and Fish Department  
9140 East 28 Street  
Yuma, AZ 85365  
(w/att)