



NORTHWEST ECONOMIC
A S S O C I A T E S

MEMORANDUM

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TO: Edward Maillett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FROM: Krieg Brown, ENTRIX, Inc.
DATE: January 3, 2006
RE: Estimated Economic Impacts of the Final Critical Habitat
Designation for the Coachella Valley Milk-Vetch

The November 2005 Final Economic Analysis of Proposed Critical Habitat Designation for the Coachella Valley milk-vetch (Final EA) assesses the potential economic impacts associated with the proposed designation of critical habitat for the Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*) as described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in the Proposed Rule.¹ The Final EA is consistent with the designation as described in the Proposed Rule and therefore does not reflect changes made to the proposed critical habitat in the Final Rule.

The Final EA details potential economic impacts of milk-vetch conservation efforts in the lands described in the Proposed Rule of \$7.8 million in undiscounted dollars, or \$4.2 million in present value terms using a discount rate of seven percent. Annualized costs are estimated at \$400,000. The Service has excluded from final critical habitat all of the lands described in the Proposed Rule. That is, the Service has not designated any lands as critical habitat for the milk-vetch.² As a result the economic impact of conservation efforts for the Coachella Valley milk-vetch within the final critical habitat area is zero.

¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, December 14, 2004, "Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae* (Coachella Valley milk-vetch)," *Federal Register*, Vol. 69, No. 239, pp. 74468-74491.

² For descriptions of the rationale for these exclusions please reference the Designation of Critical Habitat for *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae* (Coachella Valley milk-vetch): Final Rule, published in the *Federal Register* on December 14, 2005, Vol. 70, No. 239, pp. 74112-74136.