

DECISION MEMORANDUM
DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2014-0006-DNA
Las Cienegas NCA Pronghorn Supplementation
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Las Cienegas NCA

Project Description

Arizona Game and Fish Dept. (AGFD) proposes to supplement the existing Sonoita and San Rafael Valley pronghorn populations, which currently exists at about 60 individuals with five bucks. About 30-45 pronghorn would be captured in Prescott Valley and, if a capture in New Mexico is also successful, extra individuals from New Mexico may be released after other areas have their quotas. Herd numbers in the Sonoita Valley are decreasing, and fawn recruitment is too low to increase the population. With the low number of bucks, the herd is also susceptible to problems associated with inbreeding and no natural immigration occurs from other populations to increase genetic diversity. Preferred locations of pronghorn supplementation are areas where existing pronghorn are located, indicating that habitat conditions and water sources are favorable for the supplemented individuals. Therefore, AGFD is proposing release of supplemental pronghorn on BLM land, as well as private and state land, as needed.

Approval and Decision

Based on a review of the project described in the attached Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) and Las Cienegas NCA staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the Las Cienegas Resource Management Plan (approved July 2003). The DNA is based on the Las Cienegas Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed.

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the attached Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed at Tucson Field Office, 3201 E Universal Way, Tucson AZ 85756 within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

In accordance with 43 CFR 2931.8 (b) this decision remains in effect pending appeal unless a stay is granted. If you wish to file a petition (pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) (request) for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (Department of the Interior, Office of the Field Solicitor, Sandra Day O'Connor U.S. Court House #404, 401 West Washington Street SPC44, Phoenix, AZ 85003-2151) (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

/s/ Vi Hillman
Vi Hillman, Field Manager, Tucson Field Office

Date

Attachment: Form 1842-1